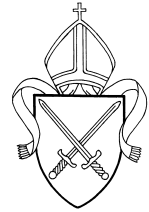


# Middlesex Bell News

Issue 92

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## Ypres S. Major is a crowd-pleaser

*Alan Regin writes:* The dedication weekend for the new ring of 8 bells in St George's, Ypres, was a great success, thanks to the help of more people than I can name here. Over 170 people travelled from the UK and Europe to be present, on 22 October, at the blessing of the bells, hung in memory of those who died in the Great War. The service was led by the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, the Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, to whom we express our thanks.

The church was very full, standing room only, donors and bell-ringers being joined by church members and VIPs from Ypres and beyond. The Charles T. Coles hand-bells were rung during the service, and the Ringers' Hymn was re-instated at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour!

Immediately after the service, the clergy and 8 ringers dedicated and named "The Bertram Prewett Ringing Room"; and straight after that the new bells rang out Ypres Surprise Major, to the delight of the crowd outside. Then more than 100 ringers tried the new bells, which sound great. Donors visited the ringing room; others watched on the TV screen in the porch, which is part of the information and education aspect of the project. The screen alternates between the belfry, with a great view of the bells, and of the ringing room, which is the most beautiful I have seen.

As well as articles in *The Ringing World* and *Old Glory*, Amy Harris filmed a report for BBC East Midlands over the weekend; and BBC Radio 4 was also due to play recordings of the bells on Remembrance Sunday.

## In memoriam

*Prudence Fay writes:* **Richard Casserley**, a ringer at St Giles in the Fields, Holborn, for nearly 40 years, died on 19 October, aged 80. He was well known to a wide range of ringers, many of whom gathered for his funeral service in St Peter's, Berkhamsted, his home tower, on 7 November.

At the Requiem Mass, Canon Timothy Pilkington, referred to Richard as a "one-off", and something of "an English eccentric". His ringing friends would surely agree with this. He was never without his disreputably battered briefcase, and was always to be found after practice with a pint, and most likely a pork pie, in the nearest pub. A steam-engine and railway enthusiast from childhood, he spent his working life on the railways also.

Richard was one of the top tower-grabbers in the UK (6,363; the last was Houghton, Hants, on 7 October), and also a prolific quarter-peal ringer: he rang, his friends estimate, 2,364 QPs, including 230 at Berkhamsted; more than 500 at St Giles; and 399 with the Chiltern Midweek Group, with whom he rang for more than 20 years. In QP ringing and tower-grabbing, he was

aided and abetted by the late Stella Shell, also a St Giles ringer, and by Colin Turner. He rang 13 peals, the first and last for the Railway Guild.

His records show that his first tower was Berkhamsted in 1971, where he learned method-ringing; and he joined the Thursday-lunchtime band at St Giles in the Fields in the mid-1970s. In February 1999 he was elected to the MCA, by which time he was already ringing master at St Giles (April 1997), taking over from Keith Matthews.

He held the post for 10 years, the main event during which time was the restoration of the bells in 2006. He took the lead in liaising with the Rector, the Revd Bill Jacob, and helped significantly to bring bells and ringers closer to church and congregation.

## Tulloch teaching

*Stevey Farnworth writes:* In late September, I spent a week at the **Tulloch ringing centre**, built on a farm in the breathtaking Scottish Highlands. It runs courses for beginners and for improvers, and has both a 12-bell and an 8-bell tower. The helpers were *brilliant!* I got my head around counting places, rather than numbers; and worked on the theory and practice of Bob Doubles, walking it, talking about it, and making a crib sheet. We also rang normal rounds, and then suddenly switched to reverse rounds. All the bells were nice and easy to handle.

I really recommend the Tulloch course.

## A day of new experiences

*Claude Pehrson writes:* The third annual **outing of St Andrew's, Enfield**, took us to Cambridge. Each church there has its own historical interest, and bells that present different challenges; so the day promised much. We assembled at St Edward, King and Martyr, a church perhaps most remarkable for the part it played in the beginnings of the English Reformation. Three of its six bells were cast in the 17th century — the oldest that most of us had rung.

St Mary the Great was a different proposition, not only as it is the University church, but also as it has 12 bells all cast and hung in 2009, which again made them unique in our experience. Theirs was a glorious sound, and we managed to ring rounds on all 12.

Then it was lunch, and on to St. Bene't (the Anglo-Saxon version of Benedict) and its six bells. The tower here is also Anglo-Saxon, and must be the oldest tower most of us had visited. Fabian Stedman was parish clerk here in the 17th century; but it seems he may not be the Stedman who was the composer. We rang a nearly perfect touch of Stedman Doubles here, anyway.

Some of us were ready for home, but the weather was perfect, so for others punting provided a Cantabrigian finale to the day.

## Two for the tenor!

*Lucy Chandhial writes:* An **unusual sponsored quarter peal** was organised on 17 September by Stephen

Jakeman, in a good cause. This was WaterAid, a charity that provides clean water and sanitation in third-world countries; the unusual element was that the tenor ringer, a Thames Water colleague of Steve's called Mark Smith, had had minimal training as a ringer. He rang the backstrokes for 43½ minutes, covering to a quarter of P. B. Doubles, while Steve rang the handstrokes; and more than £500 was raised for the charity.

## 28 quarters scored in 28 towers

*Mike Wigney writes:* Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the annual **S&W Quarter Peal Week** from 30 Sept to 9 Oct. In all, 35 QPs were attempted in the 28 towers, and 28 were successful. More than 60 ringers took part; and nearly £200 went to the BRF.

The quarters achieved included many firsts. *Luigi Vincente* rang his first QP on an inside bell; *Sophie Jermine* and *Ainsley Gilbert* rang their first of minor; *Matthew Stephens* his first P. Bob Minor; and *Bridget Campbell* her first Minor as conductor. *James Mercer* rang his first Stedman Triples, *Peter Richards* and *Oli Thompson* their first of Middlesex Bob Triples. *Georgie Northcote* rang her first on 8 which was also her first inside; *Dorothy Barker* rang her first Treble Bob on 8; *Jackie Harrison* her first Surprise Major inside; and *Peter Richards* rang both his first Surprise Major as conductor, and also his first as conductor on 8 in hand.

Also during the week, quarters were rung at Acton and at Isleworth to commemorate ringers who had died 100 years earlier, during World War I.

## Work in progress

*Roger Booth writes:* Ten of the students from the Summer School have attended Saturday-morning **follow-up sessions**, and all are now practising rounds and call-changes on 6 and 8. Those more advanced are working to complete Level 2 of the Learning the Ropes scheme. After Christmas, we intend to have one Level 2 group, and another learning to treble to a method (Level 3). By the N&E quarter-peal day in March, several students should be ready for their first QP.

If you would like to join our team of helpers, please visit the MCA website and click the link to the latest form. However little time you can manage, your support will be very useful to us.

## Six-bell winners

*Stephen Mitchell writes:* **The Inter-District 6-bell Striking Contest Finals** took place on the front 6 at St Dunstan, Stepney, before the Association Autumn General Meeting on 21 October. The judges were Adrian Sweeting and Peter Richards. **Acton** won the Association Plate for two 120s of Plain Bob Minor.

**Stepney** won the Rhodesia Plate for the best 120 not rung by the overall winners. Hillingdon, Aldgate, and St James's, Islington, also competed.

## A ‘Grand’ day out

*Philip Pearson writes:* **Janets’ and John’s Autumn Jaunt** took place this year on Saturday 14 October. The destination: beautiful Buckinghamshire. On a bright and unusually warm day, 15 eager ringers disembarked from the Euston train at Cheddington, and headed for the Grand Union Canal. The canalscape provided the expected ducks, swans, herons, blackberries, locks, narrowboats, and canoeists, with a few anglers thrown in (I mean, in addition, not pushed into the water). We shall skip reluctantly over much of what the ever reliable Pevsner writes of All Saints’, Marsworth, repeating merely that the tower is 15th century. He does not mention the 6 delightful bells (the oldest: 1662) rung from a mezzanine/minstrels’ gallery.

A hearty lunch was taken at the Red Lion, and some walkers even managed to leave room for dessert — our ramble back to Cheddington helped to work off a few of the calories. Arriving right on time at St Giles’s, we found another wonderful ring of 6, again in a mezzanine, and had time to ring call changes, plain hunt, Cambridge and Stedman.

The jaunt raised £106 for the BRF; and everyone who took part thanked the Janets and John for organising and leading such a grand day.

## Ringling on show

This year, two towers that opened for **Open House weekend** (16-17 September) offered the public different experiences. For old hands

at the event, **St Botolph’s, Aldgate**, *Margaret Peirce writes:* Tim Mills outlined the basics of ringing for visitors in groups which then went up to the ringing-room to see ringing in action. With 9 sets of talks and demonstrations during the day, nearly 200 people had a glimpse of what ringing is about. We served refreshments all day (profits to the BRF), and stewards were on hand to answer visitors’ questions.

For **St Andrew’s, Enfield**, which were first-time Open Housers, *Chris Trawin writes:* Because of the impracticality of providing round-the-clock ringing demonstrations, we focused on the building, with ringers working in shifts as tour guides. Visitors had an illustrated talk on the history of the tower, and a tour of the ringing room, the clock room and the belfry. Stars of the show were the bells!

On the Sunday, we welcomed about 40 members of our own congregation after morning service, and then a party from the local United Reformed Church. It was a very worthwhile weekend, and I would recommend it to any tower thinking of taking part in Open House next year.

## Go Grandsire

*Guy Wells writes:* An intensive Grandsire workshop was held on 28 October at Garlickhythe. We were greeted with ‘the bellringers breakfast’ (tea and biscuits), and then plunged into the theory with Louise Booth. The mysterious worlds of

‘bob’ and ‘single’ were laid bare as we drew multicoloured lines on our print-outs of plain courses, so as to see what ensues when one of those words is barked out. Then it was up to the ringing room to put it all into practice. The morning was very enjoyable and informative, and over too soon. Many thanks to Louise and her helpers.

## Briefly . . .

- For the second year running the MCA came 4<sup>th</sup> in the **London 12-bell Striking Competition** held this year at Shoreditch on 28 October. Congratulations to the band, which was organised and conducted by John Manley, the Master. The SRCY won, with Cornhill 2<sup>nd</sup> and St Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Stephen Haigh**, tower captain at St John of Jerusalem, S. Hackney, has moved to Chichester and handed the keys to Mark Wagner (07762 558412 or at stmoniker@gmail.com). *He writes:* Due to the kindness and advice of MCA ringers, and the tutelage of Steve Jakeman, I have had a lot of fun, and even progressed. Thanks to all.

- A successful **S&W outing to Surrey** saw 13 ringers visiting 6 towers: the ground-floor 8 at Cobham; the very light 6 at Stoke d’Abernon; the historic 10 at Leatherhead; the new 10 at Dorking; the fine, heavy 8 in Ranmore; and the easy-going 6 at Ockham.

- Many congratulations to **Peter Richards**, who on 24 August at Hart Street rang his first tower-bell peal — 17-Spliced Surprise Major!

# Calendar

Date	District	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 2 Dec	S&W	District Planning Meeting, then ringing	Isleworth	From 2pm
Thur 7 Dec	MCA	London Ringers' Advent Carols ( <i>see below</i> )	St Clement Danes	7.30pm
Fri 8 Dec	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 9 Dec	MCA	Training: Stedman Triples Part I ( <i>see below</i> )	Fulham	10am-1pm
Sat 9 Dec	MCA	'Christmas Shopping' Ringing ( <i>see below</i> )	St Margaret W'minster	4.30-6pm
Sun 10 Dec	N&E	10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 12 Dec	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Tues 12 Dec	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
<b>2018</b>				
Tues 9 Jan	S&W	Tuesday-morning practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Tues 9 Jan	N&E	District 10-bell Practice	St Clement Danes	6.30-8.30pm
Tues 9 Jan	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Fri 12 Jan	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 13 Jan	S&W	<b>Annual District Meeting</b> ( <i>see below</i> )	Ashford (tbc), then St Peter's, Staines	2.30-3.30pm From 3.45pm
Sun 14 Jan	N&E	10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Wed 17 Jan	N&E	7- and 8-bell Practice	Bow-in-the-Road	7.30-9pm
Fri 19 Jan	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington	7.45-9.15pm
Sat 20 Jan	N&E	Dist. Planning Meet'g and Social ( <i>see below</i> )	St Mary Mag., Enfield	4-9.30pm
Fri 26 Jan	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Twickenham	7.30-9.15pm
Fri 26 Jan	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Sat 27 Jan	MCA	Training: Stedman Triples Part II ( <i>see below</i> )	Fulham	10am-1pm
Mon 5 Feb	N&E	District 6-bell Practice	St Margaret, Edgware	7.30-9pm
Fri 9 Feb	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 10 Feb	S&W	District Ringing Meeting	Acton (tbc)	2.30-4pm
Sun 11 Feb	N&E	10-bell Method Practice	St John at Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 13 Feb	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Tues 13 Feb	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Fri 16 Feb	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington	7.45-9.15pm
Sat 17 Feb	N&E	<b>Annual District Meeting</b> ( <i>see below</i> )	Kilburn	2.30-8pm
Tues 20 Feb	S&W	District Triples Practice ( <b>NB: tbc</b> )	Christ Church, Ealing	8-9.30pm
Fri 23 Feb	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Fri 23 Feb	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Harrow	7.30-9.15pm

**London Ringers' Advent Carol Service:** there will be general ringing beforehand, 6.30-7.30pm; the service starts at 7.30pm; and the party afterwards will be at the Knights Templar in Chancery Lane. Do come along for all of it.

**MCA 'Christmas Shopping' ringing at St Margaret's, Westminster, on 9 Dec:** Because of security, entry to the tower will be via the vestry gate/door at the east end of the church, across the road from the Palace of Westminster. Please let John Manley (01895 633499) know if you are going to attend.

**Association Training, Stedman Triples, Sats 9 Dec and 27 Jan:** *Clyde Whittaker (07956 327675) writes:* Those wanting to attend this course must be available for both parts, should be able to ring Grandsire Triples confidently, and should know the line of Stedman Triples. The course will be led by Lucy Woodward, and will cost £15 for the two parts.

**S&W ADM, Sat 13 Jan:** the programme is: general ringing first at Ashford, 2.30-3.30pm. Further ringing at St Peter's, Staines, 3.45-4.30pm; service 4.30pm; the meeting at 5pm, then more ringing at Staines.

**N&E Planning Meeting and Social, Sat 20 Jan:** the programme is 4-5.30pm, meeting; 5.30-6.45, general ringing; 7-9.30pm, the social which this year will be a quiz. More nearer the time from Janet Drake, 0207 278 9930.

**N&E ADM, Sat 17 Feb:** The programme is: 2.30pm, ringing at St Mary's, Kilburn; 3.30-4, ringing at St Augustine's, Kilburn; 4 pm, service; 4.30-5.30pm, tea; 5.30pm, Annual District Meeting; 7-8pm, general ringing.

**NB: Prudence Fay writes: This is the 53<sup>rd</sup> issue of *Bell News* that I've edited, and the next one, at the beginning of March 2018, will be my last. If anyone is thinking about taking it over, I'd be glad to talk through what is involved. It usually takes me about 2 weeks at the end of each quarter.**

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Prudence Fay, editor, at [prudence@sandpfay.co.uk](mailto:prudence@sandpfay.co.uk), or by post to 5A Furlong Road, London N7 8LS. Next deadline, 15 February 2018. The newsletter is distributed by Janet Betham (020 8340 1368, or at [jrbetham@hotmail.com](mailto:jrbetham@hotmail.com)). Material for the website should be sent to your District Webmaster: Anthony Davey (N&E) [Anthony@smoketree.eu](mailto:Anthony@smoketree.eu); James White (S&W) [jw\\_home@ntlworld.com](mailto:jw_home@ntlworld.com). *Middlesex Bell News* is printed by Absolute Print, 50 Junction Road, Archway, London N19 5RD; 020 7272 2224.