



# Middlesex Bell News

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## Good news for Bell News

*Prudence Fay writes:* At almost the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, there was a puff of white smoke, and **Anthony Davey** agreed to take on the task of editing *Middlesex Bell News*. I know the whole Association is grateful to him for this. His editorship will begin in March, and he will be looking for lively news and snippets for **the June issue**, which goes to press at the end of May. I am sure you will all help him as much as you've helped me during my 14-year stint. Thanks to you all, and especially to proof-reader *extra-ordinaire*, Pauline Dingley

## Hurry, book now!

*Stephen Mitchell writes:* The Association of Ringing Teachers (**ART**) is holding its annual conference on the weekend of 3-4 March at Royston, Herts. It is open to anyone with an interest in ringing-teaching and -leadership. On 3 March there will be presentations about safeguarding, insurance, and risk assessments. March 4 will be run by the Central Council, and will focus on the use of simulators and related technology.

## Long-length ringers

*Benjamin Meyer writes:* On Sunday 14 January, the band at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, noted that one of its members, **John S. Barnes**, was marking 70 years of

Sunday-service ringing. At the end of the service, John gave a brief talk to the congregation about his ringing career. The band then rang a specially organised quarter peal of **1270 Spliced Maximus**, composed by Lucinda Woodward; and a celebratory lunch followed the quarter.

John first rang for Sunday service as a boy, at Caston, in Norfolk, where he learned to ring. He was elected to the St Martin's band in 1991; and 27 of his 70 years' service ringing have been there. To date, he has rung 504 peals.

*John Manley writes:* A peal of Stedman Caters rung at Harrow on the Hill on 11 February, called by Michael Palmer, marked a milestone of mine: **60 years of peal-ringing** since my first peal at Heavitree in 1957. Rung half-muffled, the peal was also in memory of Hilda Billings; and marked 100 years since the deaths of two WWI soldiers from the parish, Arthur Barnard and Frederick Savage.

## In memoriam

*Monica Trow writes:* **Charles Turnbull**, who died on 28 January, was a valued member of the band at St Nicholas's, Chiswick, and he also rang at St Giles in the Fields, in Holborn. He was Deputy Tower Captain at St Mary's, Barnes, where he started to ring at the end of 1999. Making rapid progress, he rang his first quarter peal in March 2000, and rang inside to Cambridge S. Major in September 2001. His total was 264 QPs.

Charles, who was born in 1952, was called to the Bar in 1975. He retired as an Upper Tribunal Judge (Administrative Appeals Chamber) in June 2017. His record in assessing social-care claims will stand as his legacy, and will help people for years to come. He was a keen tennis player, and he had recently taken up the recorder. He will be sadly missed by the bands he rang with, whose members extend their sympathy to his wife Judy, son Andrew, and daughter Rebecca.

## Well done, Barnet

*Janet Betham writes:* On 20 January, St Mary Magdalene, Enfield, hosted the annual **N&E social**, which took the form of a quiz ingeniously devised by David Bird, a St Mary Mags ringer. More than 50 people took part.

The first round was original and entertaining: flavours of crisps had to be identified, becoming harder as each packet tasted more and more like the last! There followed rounds of general knowledge queries, including, unusually, questions on aspects of the colour blue. Welcome respite came half-way through with a delivery of pizza boxes, followed by delicious desserts provided by the Enfield ladies.

Thanks to David Bird, to Angela McLellan for keeping the score (the Barnet contingent won), and to the Mary Mag's band for an enjoyable and friendly evening that raised, with the raffle, £405 for the BRF.

## Visitors, take note

*Alan Taylor writes:* The bells of **St Barnabas's, Pimlico**, are now readily available for visiting bands. But they must be made up of experienced ringers. No stay-benders, please. Get in touch with me if you would like to ring there, at [alantaylor@alantaylor.co.uk](mailto:alantaylor@alantaylor.co.uk)

At **St Clement Danes** for many years the arrangements for letting in visiting bands have been undertaken mostly by one person. This has now become impossible. In order not to reduce the amount of ringing that takes place, we will now have to charge for staff (they will all be bell-ringers) to cover when bands are visiting: £25 for an hour and a half. The peal fee will be raised to £8 per ringer, and lost peals will cost £15 per hour.

Please email requests to [scd\\_bells@btconnect.com](mailto:scd_bells@btconnect.com)

## Looking back and looking forward

*Tom Lawrance writes:* On a sunny afternoon on 27 May last year, 7 teams assembled at St Mary at Finchley to perform in the **Middlesex 8-bell Striking Competition**. They included two bands from Foster Lane; the Middlesex Ladies; Stepney; and the Master's band; but it was St Margaret's, Westminster, narrowly holding off St Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn, who took the trophy for the first time.

The judge, Clive Moon of Hexham Abbey, had travelled down from Northumberland that morning, with his border collie assistant.

The post-contest venue, The Catcher in the Rye,

proved to be not at all phoney; and the hard core continued on to the Vy Na restaurant. Thanks to Daniel Griffiths and his team for another successful day. This year's competition will be held on 26 May, at St Mary's, Staines, at 3.45 p.m.

## Sorting Stedman

*Tricia Shannon writes:* Half a dozen students recently had the privilege of attending a two-part **Stedman Triples workshop** at All Saints', Fulham, under the tutelage of Lady Stedman herself, Lucy Woodward. The two sessions were scheduled in early December and late January, to allow what was covered at the first session to sink in; and when we assembled for the second time, we all felt a great deal more confident.

The first session kicked off with some deep theory, which was fascinating (in theory) but seemed to go right over my head. And it wasn't just the students who had their work cut out — some helpers benefited from Lucy's expertise, as they were challenged to call specific touches for different people.

However, it was the hands-on practice, with a stellar band around us, and the expert guide behind us, that really made the difference. By the end of the second session, everyone was ringing touches, and everyone also had a go at Stedman Caters, which was an unexpected treat. The more confident we became, the more the bits of theory from the first session fell into place. Many thanks to

Lucy, and David, and all the helpers, and to Clyde Whittaker for organising it all. My fellow students and I pledged to arrange a follow-up session and some quarters. Let's do it!

## Vote for the ladies

*Bridget Campbell writes:* On 5 February, a quarter peal of P. Bob Doubles was rung by a Middlesex ladies' band at Great Stanmore on the eve of the **100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act of 6 February 1918**. This advance in women's rights in Great Britain and Ireland gave the vote for the first time to some women — those over 30, who held a certain amount of property. It is said that suffrage was granted to women owing to their contribution to industry and farming, replacing men who had gone to war. It was also a result of women's fight for voting rights by means both peaceful (the Suffragists, from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century) and militant (the Suffragettes, from 1903).

The QP band was: 1) Pauline Chandler, 2) Sonia Field, 3) Elizabeth Bowen, 4) Bridget Campbell (c), 5) Charmian Baker, and 6) Sarah Clark

## Summer School

Aviva has granted the MCA another £1,000 to run an **August week-long ringing-teaching school** as we successfully did last year. The organising team will be led by Alec Gray. Offers of support, please, to Clyde at [Clyde.Whittaker@btopenworld.com](mailto:Clyde.Whittaker@btopenworld.com)

## The MCA AGM

*Mike Palmer writes:* Hosted this time by the S&W District, the **Association AGM** will be held on 28 April, at St Andrew's, Uxbridge. The programme will be: *General ringing:* 3.30 p.m.; *Service:* 4.30 p.m.; *Tea:* 5 p.m.; and *Meeting:* 5.45 p.m., with ringing afterwards.

**The Inter-District Striking Competition for the Roger Bailey trophy** will be held at Hillingdon from 2.30 p.m. onwards, on the same day. The test piece will be a touch of Plain Bob Caters, and the ringing will be judged by Chapman Knott and Rebecca Gingell.

*Stephen Mitchell, the General Secretary, adds:* The implications for the MCA of the new **data protection regulations**, particularly concerning how we collect, hold, and use information about our members, will be an important item on the agenda at the AGM.

As this goes to press, I am not aware of any vacancy among MCA officers; but we have three vacancies for Central Council reps.

## One installation ...

*Paul Norman writes:* St Barts' bells rang out over Smithfield on 11th February to celebrate the institution, induction and installation of our new Rector, the Revd Marcus Walker. The service was led by the Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, acting Bishop of London, and attended by the Dean of Westminster representing our patron, and by City liverymen. A reception followed in the Great Hall of Bart's Hospital. Fr Brooke Lunn, who was a

chorister at a previous Rector's installation in 1945, called us some changes in his distinctive style.

## after another...

*Linda Foddering writes:* In a further move towards the completion of the **Norwood Green bells project**, we now have a new fitted carpet and underlay, which make the ringing room much warmer.

On Tuesday 13 March, the church's new Priest-in-Charge, the Revd David Bookless, will be licensed at a service at 7.30 p.m.

## Singing and all kinds of ringing

*Margaret Peirce writes:* The **Ringers' Advent Carol Service** brings together ringers from all the London societies, plus representatives from our neighbouring societies, Kent, Essex, and Surrey. Last year's service was held on 7 December at St Clement Danes, and music was central to it, as always. Directed again by Gregory Rose, Advent hymns and carols were sung by the excellent Ringers' Choir, and by the congregation: clearly ringers are also singers! The St Vedast Handbell Ringers rang an arrangement of 'Joy to the World', and also accompanied the choir in Gregory's beautiful arrangement of 'Ave Maris Stella'.

The organist was Leigh Simpson and the lessons were read by representatives of most of the Associations present. The service was conducted by the Resident Chaplain, the Revd David Osborn. The lovely bells of

St Clement Danes were a great draw for the general ringing before the service; and the ASCY rang a touch afterwards. Many of us then gathered in the Knights Templar in Chancery Lane for a convivial evening.

## Officers 2018-19

### I had a dream

*Mike Wigney writes:* I thought the **S&W District's ADM** at St Peter's, Staines, on 13 January had elected a whole list of **new officers**, all aged under 30. Then I woke to find that the familiar names were still in place: *Chairman*, Peter Kemp; *Ringing Master*, Mike Palmer; *Deputy Ringing Master*, Dorothy Barker; *Secretary*, Mike Wigney; *Training Officers*, Roger Forster and Richard Jones; *Treasurers*, Jill Wigney and Janet Baker; *BRC reps*, Richard Jones and Ray Pearce. £40 was raised for the BRF.

### The line-up changes

*Prudence Fay writes:* At the **N&E District's ADM** on 17 February at St Augustine, Kilburn, 17 new members were elected. The **officers** are: *Chair*, Margaret Peirce; *Ringing Master*, Helen Porter; *Secretary*, Lucy Chandhial; *BRC Reps*, Michael Kisch and Martin Sutcliffe; *Training Committee*, Angela McLellan, Hans Rashbrook, Tue Sando. The *Assistant Ringing Masters* are Martin Sutcliffe, Martin Clode, Stephen Jakeman, and Colin Cherrett; *Assistant Secretaries* are Janet Betham, and Janet Drake. The *Independent Examiner* is James Laken.

# Calendar

Date	District	Event	Venue	Time
Wed 7 Mar	N&E	District 10-bell General Practice	St Clement Danes	6.30-8.30pm
Fri 9 March	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 10 Mar	S&W	District Ringing Meeting	Stanwell	2.30-4pm
Sun 11 Mar	N&E	District 10-bell Method Practice	Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 13 Mar	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Wed 14 Mar	N&E	District 5- and 6-bell Practice	Holloway	7.30-9pm
Fri 16 Mar	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice ( <i>see below</i> )	<b>NB:</b> Hayes	7.30-9pm
Sat 17 Mar	N&E	District Quarter-Peal Day	District-wide	All day
Wed 21 Mar	N&E	<b>New</b> District Midweek Practice ( <i>see below</i> )	Tottenham ( <b>tbc</b> )	10am-12 noon
Fri 23 Mar	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Twickenham	7.30-9.15pm
Fri 23 Mar	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Sun 8 April	N&E	District 10-bell Method Practice	Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 10 Apr	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Tues 10 Apr	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Thur 12 Apr	N&E	District 5- and 6-bell Practice	Highgate	7.30-9pm
Fri 13 Apr	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 14 April	S&W	District Ringing Meeting	Pinner	10.30am-noon
Wed 18 Apr	N&E	New District Mid-week Practice	<b>Tba</b>	10am-12 noon
Fri 20 April	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Hayes	7.30-9pm
Sat 21 April	MCA	Janets' and John's Jaunt ( <i>see below</i> )	North Kent	All day
Fri 27 April	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Fri 27 April	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Hillingdon	7.30-9.15pm
<b>Sat 28 April</b>	<b>MCA</b>	<b>Association 10-bell Striking Contest (<i>see p.3</i>)</b>	<b>Hillingdon</b>	From 2.30pm
<b>Sat 28 April</b>	<b>MCA</b>	<b>Association AGM (<i>see p. 3</i>)</b>	<b>St Andrew, Uxbridge</b>	From 3.30 pm
Sun 29 Apr	N&E	District 12-bell General Practice	Shoreditch	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 8 May	S&W	Tuesday-morning Practice	Isleworth	10.30am-noon
Tues 8 May	S&W	District 6-bell Practice	Norwood Green	8-9.15pm
Fri 10 May	MCA	Association 12-bell Method Practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6.30-8.30pm
Sat 12 May	S&W	District Ringing Meeting	Hampton	10.30am-noon
Sun 13 May	N&E	District 10-bell Method Practice	Hackney	2.30-4.30pm
Tue 15 May	N&E	District 5- and 6-bell Practice	Tottenham	7.30-9pm
Wed 16 May	N&E	District Mid-week Practice	<b>tba</b>	10 am-noon
Fri 18 May	S&W	District Surprise Major Practice	Harlington ( <b>tbc</b> )	7.45-9.15pm
Sun 20 May	N&E	District 6-bell Striking Contest	Wood Green	2-5pm
Tue 22 May	N&E	District 10-bell General Practice	St Clement Danes	6.30-8.30pm
Fri 25 May	S&W	District 10-bell Practice/QP attempt	Fulham	7.30-9.15pm
Fri 25 May	N&E	District Surprise Major Practice	St Saviour's, Pimlico	7-8.30pm
Sat 26 May	MCA	Assoc. 8-bell Striking Competition	St Mary's, Staines	From 3.45pm
Wed 30 May	N&E	District 6-bell Method Practice	St Katharine Cree	6.30-8pm
Sun 3 June	S&W	District 6-bell Striking Competition	Cranford	From 2.30pm

**N&E Training for 2018:** *Clyde Whittaker writes:* Dates and venues for this are not yet fixed, but our programme will offer training on four levels: foundation skills, intermediate, advanced, and a programme to help teachers, or those running practices. Suggestions and offers of help welcome: contact Angela McLellan at [angelamclellan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angelamclellan@hotmail.co.uk) or me at [Clyde.Whittaker@btopenworld.com](mailto:Clyde.Whittaker@btopenworld.com)

**N&E New initiative, 21 March:** a practice on the **third Wednesday of the month** to suit those who are not office-bound. Morning ringing arranged to suit whoever comes, and venues will vary. Lunch afterwards is suggested.

**The monthly S&W Surprise Major practice at Harlington** will be held at Hayes in March and April, as above, because of work in the tower. May could also be affected — watch for further information.

**Janets' and John's Jaunt, on 21 April:** *Janet Drake writes* this will be to North Kent, with ringing at Downe and West Wickham. Details of trains and times and lunch venue to follow.

NB: Events you may want to ring for: **St George's Day, 23 April; and the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, 19 May.**

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey, editor, at [Anthony@smoketree.eu](mailto:Anthony@smoketree.eu): next deadline, 15 May 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) (email as above); James White (S&W) [jw\\_home@ntlworld.com](mailto:jw_home@ntlworld.com).

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