



Middlesex Bell News

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St Paul's Bells

Steve Jakeman reports:

The cleaned and refurbished bells were re-dedicated on 1st November. The Association & Guild were represented by the President (Geraldine Forster), Master (Dave Bassford) and myself (Bell Restoration Officer and Vice President). Along with the other donors, the Association was thanked in the service for the grant of £12,000 made from the Bell Restoration Fund. Afterwards we were kindly given the opportunity to ring in one of the three touches of Stedman Cinques.

There is still a lot of finishing off work to be done but the ringing was a good experience and we look forward to final completion of the project. Our congratulations to all involved in this awesome scheme.

12-Bell Contest

Stephen Mitchell writes:

On Saturday 27th October the Association entered the London 12-bell competition, ringing Cambridge Surprise Maximus to the Wrong (6 leads finishing with a 12th place lead end). We had no method mistakes at all and thought we had rung well, but the judges considered our striking to have an insufficiently even compass, due mainly to inconsistent leading. With a mark of 62% we came 7th, indicating the demanding standard required; even past winners the St Paul's band only managed 4th place!



Armistice Centenary

Across the world 3,013 ringing events linked to Ringing Remembers and the Armistice centenary were recorded by Bellboard. The Association played a full part in the commemoration both of those who were killed during four years of war, and of the day when peace was restored. Many towers were able to ring both for the 11 a.m. Armistice Day service, often half muffled, and at 12:30 with open ringing in celebration the coming of peace as encouraged by the British and German governments.

Ringing performances linked to Ringing Remembers ranged from tolling, rounds and call-changes to full peals, as each tower's band decided.

More than 1,400 ringers are known to have been killed in the First World War, and the Central Council set a target of recruiting 1,400 new ringers as part of Ringing Remembers. Over 1,700 ringers have been recruited already. Across the Association towers have experienced an inflow of recruits, many attracted by the Ringing Remembers publicity. Those

getting the bug have been encouraged by towers across the Association. Hence this issue of Bell News has a particular focus on recruitment and training.

Further training

Information from James White
Following up the London Bell Ringing Summer School, during the autumn we provided six sessions for the students; these proved very popular.

For the School Louise Booth and I are organising six more practices for any ringers who have recently learnt to handle a bell and who are now ready for rounds. As well as ringing rounds, there will be support to iron out handling issues, leading on to call changes, dodging and place-making.

Many applications have been received, but experienced ringers to ring rounds and basic change ringing exercises are needed. It is very rewarding to see the progress being made by students across these sessions! Sessions will be:

Clement Danes

Saturday 12th January
Saturday 26th January
Saturday 9th February
Saturday 23rd February

Location TBA

Saturday 9th March
Saturday 23rd March
All sessions 14:30 to 16:30.
Charge to students £4:00
Helpers - no charge!

The success of these sessions depends largely on helpers. To help at one or more sessions, please contact mlouisebooth@outlook.com or mail.james.white@gmail.com

S&W outing

Mike Wigney writes:

On a sunny day in mid October, 28 ringers and friends descended on SW Surrey for the S&W District outing. The first tower was the excellent new heavy 8 at Godalming. This was followed at the other extreme by the light 5 in the wooden spirelet at Hascombe. Some good ringing at Chiddingfold (8) led to a good but just-in-time lunch at the Swan. In the afternoon we rang at Witley (8), Compton (6) and Worplesdon (8).

Ringling ranged through lots of rounds and call changes to Surprise Major. It was encouraging to have such a good turnout, especially from new ringers recruited for Ringling Remembers. A good day all round !

N&E Learners' outing

Genevieve Algie writes:

On 15th September eighteen learners, teachers and ringers from nine N&E and one S&W tower met, working our way round Essex to hone our skills.

We were welcomed by members of All Saints in Chigwell Row (8), who lent a hand to give advice, before we moved on to St Peter's in South Weald (8). Here we had the opportunity to ring up, then not only to ring, but also to get views from the roof.

After a well-deserved lunch we visited St Nicholas in Ingrave (6) with its distinctive red brick tower. Our last ring was at St Margaret of Antioch in Stanford-le-Hope (8), which dates from the 12th century, before rounding off the day at the village pub with our tower hosts before making the trip back to London. Learners' outings give learners a lot of ringing and help it well worth it !

Many thanks to everyone that was able to attend, making it an enjoyable and valuable learning occasion!

The Best Laid Jaunts..

Hans Rashbrook writes:

Plans of best laid for a Jaunt around Haslemere were thwarted by a train strike. However 13 of us met at High Barnet Station on 6th October, and set off towards Monken Hadley and Enfield past the pretty houses along Hadley Green to St Mary's Church. Joined by 3 more ringers we rang called changes, Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Wet-weather gear on, we continued through the woods on Hadley Common. At Cockfosters we stopped at the Cock Inn for a lovely lunch and a welcome opportunity to dry off.

Then through Trent Park, and eventually the spire of St Mary Magdalene at Enfield was in sight. We arrived in time to dry off and admire the chancel's magnificent ceiling before ringing. With 2 more ringers, we rang called changes, Grandsire and Bob Triples, with some Cambridge Major to finish a good albeit wet day out.

Thanks to Janet, John and Janet for (re)organising the day so well, and everyone for their support which raised £107 for the Bell Restoration Fund.

S&W QP week

Mike Wigney writes:

This year's quarter peal week fell in the week leading up to Armistice Day. The main quarter peal days were in the opening weekend, when 11 quarters were successful, and three more later in the week. Notable were:

- Judith Roberts ó first quarter peal ó congratulations !
- Paul Newton ó first away from cover (another success from the Twickenham U3A band)
- Caleb Saunders ó first Kent Treble Bob Minor
- Bridget Campbell ó first Kent, first Yorkshire

Notable too were the quarters (at least 8) that got away,

including several people attempting a first quarter, or first for a very long time. Also the two 10-bell attempts were lost, including one which was lost one lead from the end with a slipped wheel.

Quarters are an excellent way to consolidate a method with an extended period of ringing, without the commitment of a full peal. We look forward to seeing plenty more as the Ringling Remembers campaign sees new ringers reaching the level where they can go for a quarter. Plus all of the re-runs !

N&E Half day outing

Susete Albertini, one of our newest ringers, writes:

On Saturday 17th November 24 ringers met for the N&E District's outing to 3 towers in Pimlico, happy and ready for a good afternoon.

First St Barnabas, 10 bells, 19 cwt and not often rung I rang rounds and call changes with Steve Jakeman minding me. The more experienced ringers rang up to Grandsire Caters.

After an hour's ringing we walked to St Stephen's Rochester Row, 8 bells 23 cwt. I liked its clock pendulum swinging in the middle of the ringing room !. I felt secure ringing rounds and call changes in a band of good ringers, with two minders ! We then walked to St Saviour's , 8 bells 7 cwt, where Colin Cherrett got me to ring some more rounds and call changes, Steve and Martin Clode taking care of me. What more could I ask for?!! The rest of the group rang Cambridge Major, Grandsire Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major. Afterwards to The Gallery pub nearby. Much talk about bellringing experiences - which seemed like another kind of bellringing lesson!

Thanks from us all to Janet Betham for organising the outing and Steve, Martin and Colin for running the ringing.

Happy Birthday, Dennis !

Anne Shepherd and others write:

St Mary's Church Hall, Sunbury, friends, and ringers gathered to his hundredth birthday. Dennis command in 1929, and rang his first King George V. Apart from his war Captain at Sunbury ever since, and In 2016 he was awarded the London for his great services to his

Over those years Dennis has hundreds of learners. In May five ringers he had taught over 50 and persistence are needed with percent wastage. The quickest to

From my observation while the early stages of bell handling safely. At one time he had a who were struggling in their own

Patience again. I think you could say that most of the ringers he has taught eventually ring in a tidy sort of elegant way. That is his aim. Probably if one was able to analyse their movements they would all be similarly concise. Dennis believes that recruitment is fed on word of mouth of success with previous learners. He has always created the really friendly welcoming and happy atmosphere which greets any ringers, beginners and visitors to Sunbury There is no magic bullet to bring in new ringers but a personality like Dennis can achieve a great deal !

In tribute to an inspiring man and a great ringer, towers across the Association and more widely rang 15 quarter peals for Dennis, including 100th Birthday and Dennis Brock Doubles at Birchington in Kent. Peals of Plain Bob Minor (St John at Hackney) and of Lincolnshire Surprise Major (Farnsworth and Kearsley) were recorded, and a peal attempt of Yorkshire (Sunbury), together with other shorter performances, were also rung. Many of these tributes included ringers trained by Dennis.

He says that his principle is "Nothing is going to get me down", and that infectious optimism is the attitude he conveys to ringers around him. From a German prison camp during the war, sick and short of food, he identified himself uniquely through the Red Cross to his family with the message "Keep the old bells a-ringing". He was confident that he would return to do just that. And he did, and he does, ringing a QP of Grandsire Triples on his birthday.

Thank you, Dennis, and Happy Birthday from all your many friends in the Association!

Bell Restoration

Stephen Jakeman, Bell Restoration Officer, writes:

There are currently three projects in progress that have received grants from the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF). That at **St Paul's** is essentially complete (see report page 1), and it was good to see several members of the Association in the congregation for the re-dedication service.

Harlington continues to move forwards and the cracked 7th is now welded. Work has now started at **Acton** to address the dilapidated wheels etc.

An inspection at **Bedfont** identified some pieces of work to keep the bells in good condition including re-bushing the 5th clapper. **St John at Hackney** and **St Margaret's Westminster** are now out of action due to planned building works. It is good to hear that **St Andrew's Enfield** are back in action after some temporary works to rectify a failed beam in the roof of the tower.

Sound Control

Anthony Davey writes; Many towers in the Association are now having to take greater

account of their neighbours' concerns about noise, and may have to give warnings about practices and QPs. Some are constrained to limit or ban peal attempts. For advice on installing sound control shutters, contact Stephen Jakeman.

The CCCBR recommends that within the ringing room noise levels should not exceed 75dB. Stephen can advise on practical measures to reduce sound. If rope boxes are required to muffle sound penetrating through rope holes, St Anne's Highgate can offer recent experience of construction and calibration.



St. Andrew's, Enfield Outing

Claude Pehrson writes:

On 27th August twelve ringers from St. Andrew's and three other towers went to the Stour Valley, famous for beautiful country, John Constable's painting and East Bergholt's bells.

St. James, Nayland (6, 15 cwt) and St. Mary, Higham (6, 9 cwt) provided contrasting heavy and light rings. St. Mary, Polstead (6, 9cwt) was a ground floor ring that proved to be easy enough to handle, and memorable for the splendid view over the valley.

After a good lunch at the Carrier's Arms in East Bergholt, of course we went to see the bells in their cage. The unfinished tower is still there, and a massive foundation it is.

St. Mary the Virgin, Bures (8, 21cwt) lost its steeple in a major fire in 1733, which melted most of the bells, now hung anti-clockwise. The heavy ring went well, leaving us free to concentrate on looking in the right direction! The local ringers provided very welcome tea afterwards. Our grateful thanks to them.

Ringings ranged from call changes, the usual Doubles Methods, to Stedman Doubles, Little Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor and Plain Hunt Triples. A fine day's outing.

Codicote ART M1

Sonia Field writes:

Seventeen students assembled for an ART Module One course at St Giles Church in Codicote, Hertfordshire. Lesley Boyle was our tutor. The day course covered teaching theory and practical bell-handling, to enable participants to feel confident about teaching learners from scratch.

M1 provides some theory of teaching with emphasis on how it applies to bell-ringing, and all the elements of teaching a complete beginner to handle a bell independently, including ringing up and down. In the practical sessions teaching techniques were

explained and demonstrated. We then practised these skills in groups with coaching from Lesley. We were encouraged to engage in discussion about these activities, (sometimes gaining tips to refine our own handling).

ART Module One is an excellent approach to teaching bell-handling. We really can teach handling from scratch.

Lord Mayor's Show

Stephen Jakeman writes:

Our annual visit to ring the challenging bells of St Mary Le Bow (12, 41 cwt) took place on Saturday 10th November to ring as part of the event. A wonderful turnout of over 30 members and friends provided a busy scene and it was good to see some new faces.

Lots of rounds but also plain hunt and two well struck touches of Grandsire Cinques added to the enjoyment. We stood for the two minutes silence at 11 and this was very moving. All being well we look forward to doing it all again next year - November 9th 2019 - a date for your diary.

Our thanks to Simon Meyer for making this opportunity available to everyone.

A holistic approach to recruitment and training

writes Michael Roylton-Kisch

In 2012 the BRF gave St Mary's, Kilburn a grant towards a ring of six, with the express intention of recruiting and training young ringers. We knew that retaining young recruits might require thinking beyond the constraints of teaching and the belfry to hold their interest. The band should stand alone as a youth enterprise and opportunity should be made available for the students quickly to acquire a sense of ownership and place. So the teaching programme has been weighted in favour of outings, social activities and incentives. Ringers are encouraged to call changes themselves and to dev-

elop their teaching skills during regular Sunday morning tied bell sessions, under the learned guidance of university student ringers from UL. It works.

The result? A critical mass of young ringers has been recruited from the congregation, the Sunday School, and friends, and retained. Some are now at university but all continue to ring and teach at Kilburn when home.

Stimulating simulating

Susan Reed writes:

On 24th November eight students met at St Mary Abbots to learn about ringing with simulators, led by Roger Booth, who has been involved with simulator technology from its early days.

Roger showed how simulators, particularly Abel, can be used in teaching and learning to help develop key ringing skills, especially listening. There was also some technical discussion of set-ups and sensors, and a brief review of alternative software, Beltower and Virtual Belfry.

With dumb-bells we faced the challenge of striking well with a simulator. Later we learnt how to set up on the computer different exercises, methods and screen views, and how to review striking (scope for encouraging learner competition there!). I for one left inspired to make more use of our simulators, both on my own account and for training current and future learners.

Many thanks are due to Roger, who travelled up from Alresford to run the course, to Clyde Whittaker, and to Stephanie Pattenden, who facilitated use of the tower and dumbbells, for a stimulating morning's simulating.

And finally...

Congratulations to Helen Porter, the N&E District Ringing Master, and the Association band achieving the most methods (483) ever rung in a seven extent peal of 5040 changes, rung uncondemned. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1259263>.

	Distr	Event	Venue	Time
Sat 1st Dec	S&W	Planning meeting and ringing	Hillingdon	09:30 ó 13:00
Mon 3rd Dec	N&E	London Ringers Advent general ringing	St Giles in the Fields	18:30 ó 19:20
Mon 3rd Dec	N&E	London Ringers Advent Carol Service	St Giles in the Fields	19.30 service
Sun 9 th Dec	N&E:	10 bell methods practice	St Anneø, Limehouse	14:00 - 16:00
Tues 11 th Dec	S&W:	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Wed 12 th Dec	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	St Mary Magdalene N7 8LT	19:30 ó 21:00
Wed 12th Dec	N&E	District daytime midweek practice	St Botolph, Bishopsgate	11:00 ó 13:00
Fri 14 th Dec	MCA	12 bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Fri 21st Dec	S&W	Surprise Major practice	TBC	19:45 ó 21:15
Fri 28th Dec	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 ó 20:30
Fri 28th Dec	S&W	District 10 bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30
Tues 8th Jan	S&W	Isleworth ó general daytime practice	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30 ó 12:00
Tues 8th Jan	S&W	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Wed 9th Jan	N&E	10 bell methods practice	Christ Church, Southgate	19:30 ó 21:00
Fri 11th Jan	MCA	12 bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Sat 12th Jan	S&W	Annual District Meeting	Ealing - TBC	From 15:00
Sun 13th Jan	N&E	10 bell methods practice	St Dunstan, Stepney	14:30 - 16:30
Wed 16th Jan	N&E	District daytime weekday practice	TBA	10:00 ó 12:00
Fri 18th Jan	S&W	Surprise Major practice	TBC	19:45 - 21:15
Sat 19th Jan	N&E	District planning meeting and social	St Mary, Hendon	16:00 ó 22:00
Tues 22nd Jan	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	All Hallows, Tottenham	19.30 - 21.00
Fri 25th Jan	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 - 20:30
Fri 25th Jan	S&W	District 10 bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30
Tues 29th Jan	N&E	General practice	St Giles in the Fields	18:00 - 19:30
Fri 8th Feb	MCA	12 bell practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 ó 20:30
Sat 9th Feb	S&W	Ringing meeting, all welcome	Chiswick (TBC)	10:30 ó 12:00
Sun 10th Feb	N&E	10 bell methods practice	St Anneø, Limehouse	14:00 - 16:00
Tues 12th Feb	S&W	Isleworth ó general daytime practice	All Saints, Isleworth	10:30 ó 12:00
Tues 12 th Feb	S&W	6 bell practice	St Mary, Norwood Grn	20:00 ó 21:30
Fri 15 th Feb	S&W	Surprise Major practice	TBC	19:45 - 21:15
Sat 16th Feb	N&E	Annual District Meeting	Edmonton	14:30 ó 20:00
Wed 20th Feb	N&E	District daytime weekday practice	TBC	10:00 ó 12:00
Fri 22nd Feb	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00 ó 20:30
Fri 22nd Feb	S&W	District 10 bell practice	TBA	19:45 ó 21:30

Planning and Annual General Meetings

All Association members are welcome to their District and Association meetings, and are strongly encouraged to attend. These friendly meetings are an important part of running the Association's activities, and provide excellent opportunities to meet other ringers socially as well as to ring. Members' views about practices, training and recruitment are essential if arrangements organised by Officers are to attract support.

Members, whatever their ringing skills, are also encouraged to offer their services for the various essential administrative jobs that underpin the activities of the Association.

Requests for training – just ask !

The training officers welcome requests for specific training requirements or help with any aspect of ringing. Contact

(N&E) Angela McLellan (angelamclellan@hotmail.co.uk) and Tue Sando (tue.sando@me.com),
(S&W) Roger Forster (rog.forster@btinternet.com) and Richard Jones (Richard216@aol.com).

Midweek Practices

Association members are encouraged to take part in the monthly daytime practices (S&W second Tuesday of the month, N&E third Wednesday), of the month. These practices are a good opportunity to meet others from across the Association and to gain wider experience.

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey, editor, at anthony@smoketree.eu. **Next deadline, Sunday 17 February 2019.** The newsletter is proof-read and distributed by Janet Betham (020 8340 1368), jbetham@hotmail.com. Material for the **website** should be sent to your District Webmaster: Anthony Davey (N&E) anthony@smoketree.eu; James White (S&W) jw_home@ntlworld.com.