



Middlesex Bell News



Issue 98

June 2019

www.bellringing.london

Dorothy Barker



Dorothy Barker died on 6 April 2019 in her 80th year. She was one of the MCALDG's longest serving members, Assistant Ringing Master from 2014 in the S&W District, and a friend of us all. Dorothy was a capable ringer, diligent about the homework involved in learning methods. She found it difficult to hear her own bell amongst others, so relied heavily on ropesight and place-counting. She developed her own sophisticated systems for following the pattern of the ropes, for example in multi-call 240s of Grandsire Doubles. She rang several quarter peals at Sunbury on Thames with Dennis Brock, and fittingly rang her last quarter peal on the day of Dennis's 100th birthday celebrations.

Much of Dorothy's ringing entailed supporting new and inexperienced ringers to make progress. She organised monthly practices at Cranford and, more recently, at Isleworth. Those who attended these practices have affectionate memories of her kindly guidance. She was a keen tower collector, keeping precise personal records, and really enjoyed ringing outings, whether hectic open days in southern counties, or in recent years outings by boat with the Twickenham ringers to Thameside towers. Dorothy was a much loved member of the Middlesex Association, and will be missed especially by ringers in south west Middlesex.

Taking Control

Tue Sando, N&E Training Officer, reports:

On 4th May Joe Tilley ran a master class in Calling Call Changes at St Anne's, Limehouse. Ringers from all over London and from very different ringing levels attended. The exercises were varied from calling to Queens or Whittington's and back, to being given a random row and being asked to call it back to rounds.

Building confidence is the key word in the progression of any ringer. What better way to build learners' confidence than teaching them to raise their voices in the ringing room and give orders to their more experienced ringers?

Calling call changes is often underestimated, but is an intermediate skill that any wedding ringers should master. Our course aimed at giving everybody the confidence to grab a rope and take control for the next couple of minutes of ringing. Our ringers left with a spring in their step, eager to go back to their towers and try it out.

The rest of the year will offer many different courses, including how to memorise methods by better understanding how they are structured and a repeat of last year's successful calling & conducting classes with Dave Bassford.

Scouting for ringers of the future...

Sonia Field writes:

On 5th April, Harrow-on-the-Hill hosted 30 exuberant 3rd Kenton scouts and their leaders. Eight of our band turned out in support, ranging in ability from just at the point of putting both strokes together to extremely accomplished...and from 14 years through to senior, thus providing visitors with a good overview of what ringing can offer all ages and abilities.



Vikrum and Christopher

We talked the troop through the history of the Hill and the church, and a safety briefing (touch the rope **only when invited to**) and split them into two sections. Each section had a brief overview about bell ringing, we demonstrated on 6 bells, and

scouts then visited the bell chamber. They made an excursion on to the roof, and some tried their hand at backstrokes. There was also a Q and A opportunity with a couple of our young ringers. Here's the scout leader's feedback...

“Our noisy bunch of Scouts had an amazing time doing something that most of them were not even aware existed...! I will be letting the parents know about the opportunity to get involved as a Young Bell Ringer and maybe a few will want to get more involved.”



Scouts on the roof

A promising result, and well worth the effort.

Janets' Jaunt

Mary Ruth Mayo writes:

So there we were, about 20 of us, tramping through the gorgeous Surrey forests, fields and villages, the two children with us doing the walk three times with the boundless energy of all young puppies, and the nearly-but-not-quite teenager ringing her bells with a competence and confidence that I can only dream of (and me old enough to be her granny).

This was a treat I had not imagined when I first became a ringer three months ago; the combination of two favourite activities, tramping and bell-ringing ó well, three actually, because we had a very pleasant and jovial lunch in a village pub between towers.



Note: no pictures of the ringers because their permission was not obtained. Editor.

Make that four, because the Surrey villages are a treasure to visit in themselves. We walked from the station at Witley to the first tower of 8 bells in Chiddingfold, then, after lunch, walked some more to St Bartholomew's in Haslemere, with 10 bells. And the weather stayed fine ó winter-grey but dry.

Correction, make that five favourite things, which might sound a bit over-indulgent but felt like a blessing, because I have yet to meet a band of ringers who are not wonderful company to have fun with, especially in their generous support for a nervous novice. I can't wait for our next outing.



Attractive mats – and notice the pink shoes

16 ringers, two 6-year old children and one non-ringer raised £112 for the Bell Restoration Fund (see next item).

Keeping the bells ringing

Steve Jakeman, Bell Restoration Officer, describes the work going on behind the scenes:

Good progress has been made at **Acton**. The new wheels were raised in May in three lifts from the ground floor and now rest with the bells awaiting Whites of Appleton to fit them and also resolve the bearing problem with the 4th.

Harlington will soon be back in action. Nicholson Engineering return in June to complete the replacement of the cracked 5th through the generosity of the Keltek Bell Trust which has made available the redundant 2nd from Lindfield in Sussex.

An inspection was carried out at **St Andrew, Enfield**. The Parish is planning a major refurbishment of fabric and upgrade of facilities; the report will provide recommendations to ensure the bells are included in the multi-million pound vision currently being put together.

At **Sunbury on Thames** we are providing voluntary labour to assist Taylors with the broken 2nd gudgeon. Should be lots of celebrations being planned!

At the Association AGM a grant of £15,000 to **St Mary, Hampton** was approved. The new vicar is keen to train a band after an £80,000 restoration programme.

Money makes the bells go round...

Lucy Chandhial, 200 Club Secretary reports:

The 200 Club is the main way in which Association ringers can support the work of the Bell Restoration Fund. In the most recent year nearly £6,000 was provided by the Club to the Fund, more than half its total annual income.

This flow of funding is an essential support to the BRF, not least because grant-awarding bodies often require evidence of local commitment. And each month valuable prizes are awarded. Once a year the top prize is a stunning £1,000 ! Not yet a member ? Contact Lucy on lucy.chandhial@yahoo.co.uk.

League of Gentlemen thwarted

Tom Lawrance writes:

The Middlesex 8-bell competition took place on Saturday 25th May on a now traditional balmy afternoon at St George-in-the-East. A disappointing turn-out prompted a hastily convened 'League of Gentlemen' to challenge the Middlesex Ladies, along with two Foster Lane teams and St Giles-in-the-Fields.

The verdict was delivered in Turner's Old Star: Middlesex Ladies beat Foster Lane B by a whisker (the judge, Alban Forster, observing that method mistakes cost the latter the victory), thereby joining St Giles-in-the-Fields and St Margaret's Westminster in the ranks of 2-time winners of this competition.



The cup is presented to a worthy winner

A Call to Arms

Jo Harris writes:

Do you ever feel like your progress in ringing is two steps forward, one step back? If so I urge you to seek out a training session. I was nervous before attending at Harrow Weald on 10th March as I'm not an experienced ringer, and the dreaded words 'call changes' had been mentioned!

Our tutor David Smith addressed the fundamental handling skills required to make progress, including the importance of getting the bell up to balance and holding it there, *at either stroke, at any time*. Now don't get me wrong - I've practised these skills at my home tower, but in this training session David focused on pure handling perfection. Exercises included changing position, kaleidoscope skills, dodging, plain hunt on 3, 4, then 5 - but always being mindful of correct handling. I am now really looking forward to the next training session, even call changes!



Thanks to David Smith and to Sonia Field for organising this valuable and fun practice.

Inter-District striking competition

The Association 8-Bell inter-district striking competition for the Roger Bailey Cup took place at St Botolph, Aldgate on 27th April, judged by Mike Wigney. The set piece was 209 changes of Grandsire Triples. Mike said that these bells were a challenging eight, and all bands coped pretty well. The results were:

	Band	Conducted by	Faults
1st	N&E	Louise Booth	43 faults
2nd	S&W	Stephen Mitchell	47 faults
3rd	S&W	Mike Palmer	68 faults
4th	N&E	Dave Bassford	80 faults

Bobs and Singles

Jeremy Tucker writes:

Notes explaining the General Theory of Bobs and Singles, helping ringers to grasp the underlying principles, are under development, an easy, not to say chatty, read. Requests for a copy to:

jeremytuc@googlemail.com.

St Mary's Handbell Ringers, Harrow-on-the-Hill

David Smith writes:

On 9th March the Harrow District Caledonian Society, as part of their 90th anniversary celebrations, laid aside their bagpipes to host a performance by the handbell band at St Alban's Church, North Harrow. The selection of melodies featured *Scotland the Brave*, *Ye Banks and Braes* and *Loch Lomond*, a couple of well-known hymn tunes, and various old favourites.



A solemn moment

My personal vote for best on the day was for 'Oh dear, what can the matter be?'. The arrangement of this for handbells allowed the four-in-hand ringers of the lighter bells to show off their dexterity, while also giving the heavier bells some interesting and decorative ringing in the base line ó not dissimilar to the roll-ups in change ringing that are often deemed to add to the musicality of the touch.

As a visiting tower-bell ringer from Australia, I was honoured to be asked to join the band for one melody for a brief but no doubt crucial contribution of three dongs!

N&E District striking competition

Lucy Chandhial writes:

On Saturday 18th May eight teams from across the N&E district met at South Hackney for a challenging striking competition. With tea, coffee and biscuits served all afternoon and a book stall within the church raising money for the Bell Restoration Fund as well as spells of sunshine whilst listening to the ringing outside it was a pleasant social afternoon.

Clive Stephenson of Hornchurch in Essex listened from the churchyard and gave us the results. In the Novice competition Aldgate retained the cup they held last year with very well struck called changes, followed by the Isle of Dogs and St James, Islington.



Aldgate Novice Cup winners

Aldgate also won the Jersey cup with their method ringing band performing to a very high standard, followed by Kilburn and Hackney.



Aldgate Jersey Cup winners

The S&W district hold their 6-bell striking contest on 9th June, from which the three winners will face off with the N&E's champions, Aldgate, Kilburn and Hackney, in the autumn.

Diary Dates....

The **N&E District outing** to Cambridge on 20th July. All levels of ringing catered .

The **N&E Learners outing** will visit towers on the Tramlink from Wimbledon towards Croydon on 17th August. Learners and helpers very welcome..

The **Essex Trophy 10-bell competition** is being hosted this year by the MCALDG at Southgate on Saturday 14th September. Helpers needed to host.

The **Central Council meeting** will be at Goldsmiths University of London, SE14 6NW from Fri 6th September to Sun 8th September. London. All events open to ringers.

Friday - ringing in the afternoon and an informal dinner and quiz taking place in the evening.

Saturday ó service led by Canon Grimwood (CC member) at 17:30, formal dinner in the evening.

Sunday a.m. - Stephen Jakeman is kindly arranging opportunities to ring at London towers in support for Sunday Service ringing.

Sunday p.m. - there will be stalls, a mini-ring, and talks (Steve Coleman is expected to book your place now).

Volunteers for the Sunday are needed so please sign up at [London 2019](#).

Little Bob training

Elisabeth Bowen writes:

On Saturday morning 2nd March, six trainees attended a S & W district training session on Little Bob Major at Great Stanmore; we came from Harrow-on-the-Hill and the host tower. We had made an effort to study the method in advance and some of us already had experience of Little Bob Minor. We all made good progress, and can build on this base in future. Everyone felt that it was a very successful morning.



*The old church of Great Stanmore 1632 – 1851
Bushey Museum and Art Gallery*

Half way through we adjourned to the church for refreshments organised by Darina Scott who had baked a selection of scrumptious cakes.

We are very grateful to Mike Palmer for conducting the session, to the experienced ringers who assisted and supported our ringing with nods and advice, and to Revd. Matthew Stone, the Rector of Great Stanmore, for letting us ring.

Learners' Outing without travel

Karin Farnsworth writes:

Fired with enthusiasm after three inspiring in-tower training sessions, the Ruislip band on 27th February visited St Peter's, Bushey Heath for a lively evening's ringing with other local learners.

Sixteen people trying to squeeze into a rather compact ringing chamber was a bit of a challenge so we engaged in a variety of exercises in two groups, swapping at half time so that all had a chance to try

everything. Most of us had never encountered handbells but after a bit of faffing (technical term) we managed to ring a recognisable touch of Queen's.

There was heartless merriment over the Naming of Parts exercise, which soon exposed those who had not read page 5 of their little yellow Bell book (garter hole? What garter hole?). The evening ended for the courageous (or overconfident) with an attempt to ring down in peal, most of us managing to keep in time.

It was a learner's outing packed into a couple of hours; it's always good to meet and learn from other ringers so a small shift of perspective can dislodge longstanding difficulties so and those who had never visited another tower had the valuable experience of ringing a different set of bells.

And finally ...

Stevey tells the Editor:



The CCCBR recommended technique

I used monkey nuts to teach me my places, wrote No 1 to 8 on them, it helped a bit. I forgot about them for several months until I was cleaning my computer desk and could only see 3 monkey nuts left. Blooming mice nicked them.

Please see emails from the MCALDG (subscribe at tmcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com) and the website calendar (<http://www.bellringing.london/>) for amendments to the calendar below.

Date	Distr	Event	Location	Time
Wed 5th Jun	N&E	5/6 bell practice	Christ Church, Isle of Dogs	20:00-21:30
Sat 8th Jun	S&W	General ringing - TBC	Christ the Saviour, Ealing	10.30-12:00
Sun 9th Jun	N&E	10 bell method practice	St Anne's, Limehouse	14:00-16:00
Sun 9th Jun	S&W	S&W 6-bell Striking	St Mary, Harefield	from 14:30
Tue 11th Jun	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30&12:00
Tue 11th Jun	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Fri 14th Jun	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 15th Jun	N&E	N&E Fundraising @ Highgate	Pond Square, Highgate	12:00-17:30
Wed 19th Jun	N&E	Daytime practice	St Michael, Wood Green	10:00-12:00
Fri 21st Jun	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Thu 27th Jun	N&E	10 bell practice from rounds	St Clement Danes	18:30-20:00
Fri 28th Jun	S&W	10-bell practice/ QP attempt	TBA	19:45-21:30
Fri 28th Jun	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Wed 3rd Jul	N&E	7/8 bell practice	St Mary, Hendon	19:30-21:00
Tue 9th Jul	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30&12:00
Tue 9th Jul	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Fri 12th Jul	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 13th Jul	S&W	General ringing - TBC	Staines St Mary	10:30-12:00
Sun 14th Jul	N&E	10 bell method practice	Christ Church, Southgate	14:00-16:00
Wed 17th Jul	N&E	Daytime practice	St George-in-the-East TBC	10:00-12:00
Fri 19th Jul	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Sat 20th Jul	N&E	District Outing	Cambridge	all day
Fri 26th Jul	S&W	10-bell practice	TBA	19:45-21:30
Fri 26th Jul	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Tue 6th Aug	N&E	5/6 bell practice	St Mary, Enfield	19:30-21:00
Fri 9th Aug	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 10th Aug	S&W	General ringing	St Mary, Harrow on the Hill	10:30-12:00
Sun 11th Aug	N&E	10 bell method practice	St Anne's, Limehouse	14:00-16:00
Tue 13th Aug	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30&12:00
Tue 13th Aug	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Fri 16th Aug	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Sat 17th Aug	N&E	Learners outing	Wimbledon @ see note	all day
Wed 21st Aug	N&E	Daytime practice	St Augustine, Kilburn TBC	10:00-12:00
Fri 23rd Aug	S&W	10-bell practice	TBA	19:45-21:30
Fri 23rd Aug	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Sat 7th Sep	S&W	General ringing - TBC	St Mary, Hampton	10:30-12:00
Fri 6th- Sun 8th		CCCB Council Meeting –	See note in Bell News	
Sun 8th Sep	N&E	10 bell method practice	St Dunstan, Stepney	14:00-16:00
Tue 10th Sep	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30&12:00
Tue 10th Sep	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Thu 12th Sep	N&E	5/6 bell practice	St Andrew, Enfield	19:30-21:00
Fri 13th Sep	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 14th Sep		Essex Trophy 10-bell comp.	Christ Church, Southgate	TBA

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey at anthony@smoketree.eu

Next deadline Thursday 22 August 2019.

The newsletter is proof-read and distributed by Janet Betham (020 8340 1368), jrbetham@hotmail.com.

Website material should be sent to Webmaster: James White (S&W), james.white@gmail.com, or to Anthony Davey (N&E).