



Middlesex Bell News



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Association Master

Dave Bassford writes:

øThe Masterö - the title may sound intimidating but really my job is to bring to bear some 40 years of ringing experience for the benefit of the Association and its members.



Rule 3 requires the Master to arrange all ringing at a general level and to co-ordinate ringing with the District Ringing Masters. That sounds a lot but actually it means that I organise ringing for the spring and autumn general meetings of the Association, and I run the monthly 12-bell practice. I also organise the Association ringing at St Paulø for the Ordination of Deacons each June and co-ordinate the entry for the Essex Trophy. I also sit on the Central and BRF Committees.

So much for my formal duties. For the Association AGM last March I was asked to provide ða simple touch of Grandsire Triplesö for the Roger Bailey Cup striking competition. This was a surprise to me: I had had detailed briefings from Geraldine and both Steves (Mitchell and Jakeman) about what being Master involved but don't remember ever being warned about this. I have never claimed to be an expert on odd-bell compositions but fortunately I knew the right person to ask for help and the touch did not seem to cause too much distress to the other bands.

I have been asked to attend training committee meetings unofficially, where I can, I hope, offer some insight based on experience. From time to time I teach at practices, where my day job as a schools SEN consultant may perhaps help me to understand and break down some of the difficulties that learners have.

The Association badly needs a thought-through plan for recruiting, training and supporting younger ringers. We are a long way behind the curve compared to many other associations and guilds in this.

After much discussion in the Central Committee, Clyde Whittaker and I agreed to investigate what is happening in individual towers and what others are doing around the country at Association level. We really need to hear from ringers across the Association about whatø happening in your towers. and what can be done to move things forward. **Please contact Clyde CCRepl@bellringing.london or myself Master@bellringing.london with your views.**

Harlington makes a welcome return

Bridget Campbell writes:

Members of the Association will be pleased to hear that the restoration project of the bells and their fittings at SS Peter and Paul, Harlington carried out by Nicholson Engineering has been completed with assistance from the Keltek Trust and the BRF.



The June practice was a well-attended general 8-bell ring. The July Surprise Major Practice run by Mike Palmer was a great success with thirteen ringers attending. Two new ringers focused on treble-bobbing whilst the rest worked through most of

the standard eight methods, with Steve Jakeman and Andrew Nicholson of Nicholson Engineering

providing valuable support. Andrew was present to undertake an inspection of the frame during ringing.

The intention is that the monthly Harlington Surprise practice will be re-established on each third Friday of the month. Please join us if you are available. We hope to ring spliced Surprise again!

Sir Joseph Bazalgette CB

Following the discovery by Chris Trawin that Sir Joseph Bazalgette had been christened at St Andrewø church, Enfield in 1819, a touch of 200 Grandsire Doubles was rung on 22nd August.

Sir Joseph became the Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1865, and is best known as the designer of Londonø drainage system, much of which survives in use today by Thames Water on behalf of Londoners.

That initial touch was followed up by a quarter-peal of 1260 Plain Bob Triples rung on 25th August, conducted by Steve Jakeman who has worked for Thames Water and some of its predecessor bodies for over 40 years. Steve says that he felt honoured to be invited to ring on the anniversary of this great man.

Enfield canal boat outing

Steve Mason, Enfield, writes:

For a few sunny days in May seven of us from St Andrew's Enfield and thereabouts went on a journey mixing the joys of boats and bells. Although I had done canal barge trips many times, the band (or crew) were of very mixed levels of experience in both boating and ringing.

We pick up a 70 foot narrowboat from Stourport, dropping down to the beautiful, wild River Severn. A couple of hours later we are moored up and on our way to the first ring at St Bartholomew's, Grimley (6, 12cwt).

Next day, going further downstream to Worcester where we pick up a Highgate ringer for the day, we turn off into the canal system for a city centre stop and ring at St Stephen's (8, 10 cwt) and St Swithun's (6, 13 cwt). This was an interesting ring ó 3, 4 and 5 were cast in about 1420 and the rest in the mid 17th century, with a correspondingly opaque sound compared with modern bells. St Swithun's is now closed for conversion to a concert venue and we were the last to be able to ring there for some time. Then back to the boat for a few hours cruising and an overnight mooring on the edge of the city.

On the third day, rising up through locks and rolling countryside, we get to Droitwich ready for evening rings at St Peter (6, 9 cwt) and St Augustine (8, 18 cwt). Next day the winding canal brings us to St Michael's Salwarpe (6, 11 cwt) for the last ring of our trip. Further down the cut we return to the Severn.

Day five - An early start takes us back to the boatyard and home. On our narrowboat we travelled 40 miles, worked through 42 locks, rang at five very varied towers, enjoyed some wonderful weather and some very good company. What's not to like?

Ringling on a narrowboat

Mike Wigney draws on his long experience of boating and ringing to advise:



Mike Wigney on 'Intrepid' at Grafton Regis

Stage 1 ó Find a boat. Several ringers and friends of ringers own a boat. Most of them are pleased to have it taken out more often, especially if you make a contribution towards its cost. Alternatively, there are plenty available for hire, either day boats or ones with accommodation for up to 12 people. Costs vary from quite reasonable to sky-high, so shop around.

Stage 2 ó Find some ringers. If you're on board for more than a couple of days, make sure that everyone gets on well ó it's a bit cosy, especially if the weather is poor.

Stage 3 ó Book some towers. There are lots of towers close to most of the canals. Allow plenty of time, on the canals you'll do about 2.5 mph and 5 or 6 locks per hour. And don't forget the handbells.

Stage 4 ó Most important. Do it. Enjoy!

N&E district outing

Jo Mortimer reports:

Four different towers in the heart of Cambridge, and the opportunity to walk, eat cake (*Details below. Ed.*), and punt. The city was heaving with tourists, and by students in gowns with proud families up for graduation ceremonies.

First Our Lady and the English Martyrs, a heavy 8 with a wonderfully vaulted ringing chamber open to the enormous Victorian gothic church. Our next, St. Andrew the Great, was hosting a free coffee-and-cake cafe' at the back of the high-ceilinged wooden-beam-and-pews church. Thus fortified, ringers had to heave out (and afterwards replace) three large sofas from the small, enclosed ringing chamber. The bells were a pleasant light 8.



Lucy Chandhial demonstrates Cambridge punting

After lunch, including cake, we rang the light 6 at the 14th century St. Edward, King and Martyr, royal peculiar and cradle of the English Reformation.

Another two-hour cake break followed. We enjoyed a riverside walk and watched people trying punting with varying degrees of confidence and skill.

Our final tower, the cathedral-like university church Great St. Mary's, was a wonderful 12 plus a flat 6th providing a lighter ring of 8. And what a glorious view from the roof - a perfect close to the day.

With thanks to Janet Betham for organisation and comprehensive itinerary.

Central Council meeting

Fri 6th ó Sun 8th September. There are many interesting events and a rare opportunity to ring at City churches.

Book to help and to take part at

<https://events.cccbr.org.uk/product/annual-meeting-2019/>

Fabian Stedman's principle

Deborah Gosden writes:

On Saturday 20th July, ringers of St. John's, Great Stanmore, together with visitors from nearby towers, gathered to learn the singles of Stedman doubles. Some could ring a plain course competently but not singles. Our tutor had provided information beforehand so that we all came along somewhat prepared.

After a theory session we rang several plain courses, including ringing from unfamiliar bell positions, and a few courses of Cloisters for those less conversant with Stedman. Fortified by a break for tea and cake we started to ring touches. I really enjoyed this session and feel that I progressed so much in just a few hours.

At our next evening practice we had a go at singles again, this time using Cloisters as our method to help consolidate our understanding of æat's ears and æoat-hangers without having to ring the whole of Stedman. I am thoroughly enjoying this new stage of ringing.

Dennis Brock B.E.M.



Surrey Advertiser/BPM Media

Dennis Brock's many friends and students in the Exercise were delighted that in the Queen's Birthday Honours he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Sunbury. Congratulations, Dennis !



S&W striking competition

Mike Wigney reports:

The S&W 6-bell striking competition took place on 9th June at Harefield, judged by Tony Crowther and Mark Hall from Hertfordshire.

Two of the usual favourites, Staines and Hillingdon, could not field a team, so the competition was much more open than usual.

It was good to have 3 call-change teams, as well as the two method bands. Results:

1 Ealing	Grandsire Doubles	25 faults
2 Chiswick B	Grandsire Doubles	46 faults
3 Twickenham	Call Changes	115 faults
4 Chiswick A	Call Changes	120 faults
5 Harrow	Call Changes	144 faults

Ealing, Chiswick and Twickenham will go on to the Association final on October 19th, joining Staines (last year's winners) to meet the N&E champions, Aldgate, Kilburn and Hackney.

Striking competitions are there to facilitate good ringing, and are social occasions. Why not join in?

Nothing plain about Bob Doubles

Lindsay Wakeman of St James, Islington writes:

This one-day course was intended for 5 students, but such was the response, it expanded into 3 separate events catering for 12 students.

This was a nicely paced, short day course with two sessions before and after lunch, held in two excellent towers. There were 5 learners, of mixed (PBD) ability, of whom I was the greenest I think!

In the morning session we rang the lovely bells of St Clement Danes. After a short intro to some theory we were straight onto the ropes, so to speak. The format was simple ó we each took strict turns in ringing the 2, with the rest of the 6 ropes taken by experienced ringers/helpers. Steve Jakeman stood expertly behind, and gave technical and moral support to the learner.

After a short lunch, we reconvened at St James Garlickhythe in the City, and had the welcome chance to ring on the Royal Jubilee bells ó they sound lovely, and were good to ring, albeit in a rather cosy ringing chamber!

We learners each took the 2 (and in some cases other inside bells too), and some were able to ring a touch (not me!). I found the course very beneficial indeed and can now find my way through a plain course of PBD - a big step forward. Next a touch. Yikes!

Many thanks to those who gave up their time on a Saturday ó especially Guy Wells who organised it and Steve Jakeman who led the sessions. Thanks too to those who kindly lent their bells to us. A jolly good course!

N&E learners' outing

Elliott Johnson writes:

On Saturday 17th of August over 20 learners, some on their first outing, convened at Wimbledon Tram Station with helpers and tutors. The first church was St Mary's Merton Park, a gentle ground-floor ring.



St Mary's unusual 'inset' belfry

The nerves of some learners in new towers were open for all to see. But the nervous looks on learners' faces often turned into faces of elation, and the joy of completing good rounds and call changes, guided by the steady hands and insight of the experienced ringers.

Next was St John's Merton. This 10-bell tower was a new experience for many on the day - what felt like fast rounds and even quicker call changes.

After a spot of lunch, on to the last two towers, St Peter and St Paul Mitcham, 8 bells, and finally Christchurch Colliers Wood, a 6 bell tower.



Outing members finished at Christchurch

. Sore arms and tired legs all round, but a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile day, finished by some with a very, very, very well deserved drink and a chance to talk about the day's adventure with friends old and new! Thanks from all of us to Lucy Chandhial who organised it (and us), and to Adrian Sweeting and Steve Jakeman who ran the sessions.

Putting the boss straight...

Katy Hulatt, Harrow Weald, writes:

On Thursday 25th July Steve Jakeman, the Association Bell Restoration Officer, and Guy Wells, with three of us locals to assist, performed acrobatic antics from a ladder whilst they fitted a ceiling boss to prevent a fraying sally ó even Father John seemed intrigued as to what was going on!

On the hottest day of the year, quick work was made of the repairs and we then tested Steve's handiwork by ringing a few rounds. Afterwards, we had a lovely walk around the nature reserve behind the church, discovering the Forest School and the pond which boasted a wide range of wildlife from dragonflies to goldfish.

With cold drinks to keep us going, we surprised ourselves by (finally) performing Plain Hunt on 6 on handbells in the sunshine.



Katy, Sonia and Jo go hunting in the sun

A looming thunderstorm brought our fun to an end as we frantically packed up just before getting soaked.

Inducting a new incumbent

On 18th July the Harrow Weald band rang for the induction of Rev. John Barker, a marathon runner with years of service in Eastern Europe, by Bishop Broadbent. On 23rd July the band of St Anne's, Highgate which also serves St Martin's, Gospel Oak, rang there for the induction of Rev. Carol Barrett Ford by Bishop Wickham of Edmonton. Rev. Barrett Ford was formerly chaplain of St John's College, Cambridge, where she was well known for giving pancake parties on Shrove Tuesday with 500 or more pancakes.

During the autumn bands will be invited to ring for the induction of the new vicar at Stamford Hill, and the new Rector at the 700-year old St Mary, Bow-in-the-Road. These occasions are always joyful, and enable ringers to provide a service to the churches where they have the opportunity to ring.

St Mary, Harrow on the Hill

Thomas Hoare writes:

To celebrate 925 years of St. Mary's Church, the Handbell Ringers presented St. Mary's through the Ages with readings of poetry, historical documents and short overviews, accompanied by handbell ringing.

The programme was divided into various sections, each concentrating on part of the church's history, with music selected to represent a popular song of the time, or simply to illustrate the feelings of the country during the period. Melodies ranged from the traditional folksong 'Oranges and Lemons' which the audience was invited to sing along to - to the rather satirical song 'The Vicar of Bray' and war-time film music in the form of Walt Disney's classic 'When you wish upon a star'.

This lovely annual event was well-constructed, and displayed the commitment and passion of the ringers and readers (the proceeds go to charity). As always, a sumptuous tea concluded the event!



A "sumptuous" tea indeed

Simulation at Oxted

Wendy Crampton writes...



On Monday 8th July one car left Harrow laden with

ringers followed swiftly by another from Bushey. Negotiating the M25, we reached Oxted with plenty of time to enjoy a picnic in the church grounds bathed in glorious sunshine.

Ian Griffiths (ian@signals-bells.eclipse.co.uk) has created six computerised simulators rigged up to the individual bells above, thus allowing six folk to ring independently of each other, working at their own speed on tasks requiring development. Each ringer wore a pair of headphones so only they and their helper could hear the computerised bell ring.

Our grateful thanks to Ian, Sonia Field and the helpers for an incredibly enjoyable and valuable day.

Dates for your diary....

The Essex Trophy 10-bell striking competition Sat 14th September at Southgate, 10:00 to 13:00.

London Open House Sat 21st-Sun 22nd September.

Aldgate Open House Sunday 22nd September.

Janets' Jaunt Sat 5th October, 6.5 miles Stansted Mountfichet to Manuden, Essex. Details of travel and lunch arrangements later by email and on the website calendar.

S&W District Outing Sat 12th October, the Amersham area, all day. All are welcome, see MCALDG emails and calendar for details.

Association Autumn Meeting Saturday 19th October. Striking competition 14:00-15:30 St Augustine, Kilburn, from 15:30 at St Mary, Kilburn ringing, service, tea, and meeting. Further ringing to 20:00. Full details to follow, see MCALDG emails.

S&W QP Week 2nd to 10th November.

London Ringers' Advent Carol Service Tuesday 3rd December, St Dunstan's, Stepney.

And Finally...



William Quirk, 13th Rixteth Scout troop, gave his particular reasons for enjoying ringing when the scouts went to Harrow-on-the-Hill in June:

'We were allowed to ring a bell in time with the professional team. When we rung the bell it was hard as it lifts you up which is really fun.'

Well.....up to a point, William.

CALENDAR

September – November 2019

Date	Distr	Event	Location	Time
Sat 7th Sep	S&W	General ringing	Harlington	10:30-12:00
Fri 6th- Sun 8th		CCCBR Council Meeting – London	See MCALDG emails for details	
Sun 8th Sep	N&E	<i>No 10-bell practice due to CCCBR</i>	<i>Council Meeting</i>	
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 striking competition	Christ Church, Southgate	10:00-13:00
Wed 18th Sep	N&E	Midweek practice - all welcome	Barnet	10:00-12:00
Fri 20th Sep	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Sat 21st Sep	MCA	London Open House	Towers to decide individually	All day
Sun 22nd Sep	MCA	and Open House	Aldgate ó see MCALDG email	From 12:30
Thu 26th Sep	N&E	10-bell general practice - all welcome	St Clement Danes	18:30-20:00
Fri 27th Sep	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 27th Sep	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45-21:30
Wed 2nd Oct	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	St Mary Magdalene, Holloway	19:30-21:00
Sat 5th Oct	N&E	J & J Jaunt	See MCALDG emails to follow	All day
Tue 8th Oct	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30-12:00
Tue 8th Oct	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Thu 10th Oct	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	St Mary, Islington	19:30-21:00
Fri 11th Oct	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 12th Oct	S&W	District Outing	Amersham area, details to follow	All day
Sun 13th Oct	N&E	10-bell method practice.	Southgate	14:00-16:00
Wed 16th Oct	N&E	Midweek practice - all welcome	TBA	10:00-12:00
Fri 18th Oct	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Sat 19th Oct	MCA	Association Autumn Meeting & 6-bell	Kilburn St Augustine & St Mary	14:00-20:00
Fri 25th Oct	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 25th Oct	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45-21:30
Sat 26th Oct	MCA	London 12-bell striking competition	TBA	TBA
2nd-10th Nov	S&W	Quarter Peal week	Towers and details TBC	
Fri 8th Nov	MCA	12-bell method practice	St Magnus Martyr	18:30-20:30
Sat 9th Nov	MCA	Lord Mayor's Show -	St Mary le Bow Cheapside	10.30-12:15
		and after Lord Mayor's Show	St Martin in the Fields	14:45-16:00
Sun 10th Nov	N&E	10-bell method practice.	Limehouse	14:00-16:00
Tue 12th Nov	S&W	Daytime practice - all welcome	Isleworth	10.30-12:00
Tue 12th Nov	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	All Hallows, Tottenham	19:30-21:00
Tue 12th Nov	S&W	6-bell practice	Norwood Green	20:00-21:30
Fri 15th Nov	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:45-21:15
Sat 16th Nov	N&E	District half-day outing	East London - afternoon TBC	
Wed 20th Nov	N&E	Midweek practice - all welcome	TBA	10:00-12:00
Fri 22nd Nov	N&E	Surprise Major practice	St Saviour, Pimlico	19:00-20:30
Fri 22nd Nov	S&W	District 10-bell practice	TBA	19:45-21:30
Tue 3rd Dec	MCA	London Ringersø Advent Carol Service	St Dunstan, Stepney	From 19:30
Thu 5th Dec	N&E	5 & 6 bell practice	St Anne, Highgate	19:30-21:00
Sat 7th Dec	S&W	District planning meeting & ringing	All Hallows Vicarage, Twickenham	09:30-13:00
Sun 8th Dec	N&E	10-bell method practice.	Southgate	14:00-16:00

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey at BellNewsEditor@bellringing.london

Next deadline Thursday 21 November 2019.

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