



# Middlesex Bell News



Issue 105

March 2021

[www.bellringing.london](http://www.bellringing.london)

This issue features the events which the Association and District officers have devised to keep members in practice, in touch, and entertained. Our thanks to them for their energy and imagination. See the Calendar for details of forthcoming practices, training, and social events.

Mike Wigney has completed his uploading and analysis of MCA peals from 1882 –see Appendix.

## Membership Subscriptions

*Illustration removed*

*Jill Wigney, Membership Secretary, reminds us:*

2021 subs are now due - £10 for Ordinary members and £5 for Ordinary Junior members. If you have not yet paid yours but would like to do so, please email me for information at:

[MembSecretary@bellringing.london](mailto:MembSecretary@bellringing.london)

## Annual Report 2021

*Illustration removed*

*Jill Wigney, Report Editor, writes:*

Every member will receive the PDF version by email. Paper copies will be posted to every tower captain and to all members who requested one last year. If you would like a paper copy but have not yet requested one (or requested one but did not receive one last year), please email me with your current address.

[Reporteditor@bellringing.london](mailto:Reporteditor@bellringing.london)

## Bell Restoration Fund

*Lucy Chandhial writes:*

The Bell Restoration Fund, usually referred to as the BRF, plays an important part in the Association. The BRF supports suitable projects across London for securing and hanging bells, and for the improvement and repair of bells. The existence of the BRF and its support for a project can make it much easier to obtain funds from other grant-awarding bodies, since they usually want to see evidence of local support.



*John Taylor & Co*

One of the best ways to support the BRF is to join the 200 Club. You pay £5.00 per month (more if you like) for a chance to win £50 each month, or, once a year in April, £1,000. In recent years the BRF has benefited by around £6,000 p.a. from the 200 Club subscriptions – a very worthwhile sum.

Other events, such as the Murder Mystery in January, also raise money for the BRF, but during lockdown the number of occasions for fund-raising has been reduced. For this reason increasing membership of the 200 Club is encouraged.

If you are not already a member, the form to join is at <http://www.bellringing.london/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Individual-Application-Form-January-2015.pdf>

Good luck !

## Annual General Meeting

*Stephen Mitchell reminds members:*

The Association AGM will take place on Saturday 24th April at 5p.m. over Zoom. Details will be distributed to the MCALDG email list.

This is a date for the diary, providing an update on the route for return to normal ringing.

After the AGM Dave Bassford and Lucy Chandhial intend to convene a virtual striking competition in RingingRoom. Email them for information about entering a band for this fun event.

## MURDER MOST FOUL

*Lenka Nadejova, Bell News Crime Reporter, writes:*

Elegant church spire. Ancient, robust bell tower with history seeping through the stones. Steep narrow stone spiral staircase with rope handrail. Old creaky wooden horizontal flap door, hard to climb through. But a sense of achievement when you do.

Rather smallish dusty room, freezing cold in winter, blisteringly hot in summer. Group of chatty old friends, discussing latest news as you come in. Struggle, joy, hardship, laughter, sense of achievement, appreciation of your friends' hard work and progress, and of people who help you through your first steps. Scenes we all love and cherish, which seem like a distant memory these days. And by the look of it, it may stay that way for quite a while still...

And here comes Lucy Chandhial, inviting us to get together and work as a team once more...

### A Murder Mystery!



A murder of one of us!

When I got the invitation to take part in solving the crime, I thought it a bit unusual, but as we are not exactly

busy these days, why not? And boy, wasn't I glad I did.

Lucy created the plot, prepared the murder scene and characters, briefed victim and witnesses - active participants - and then there were us. Investigating team of about 27 'sergeants' who, despite the pretty useless professional DCI (sorry, Alec!), managed, after all, to solve it! OK, we had to interrogate the witnesses multiple times. Some techniques were on the border of cruelty, some clever, (too clever sometimes if you ask me!) and we got there in the end! Killer convicted, sent down and time to celebrate one and all.

The plot was artfully crafted, leading to an outcome unexpected until the very last minute. The bravura performances of the principal actors would grace any pro troupe.

We all helped to raise much needed funds for the BRF in appreciation of Lucy's hard work. So if anybody asks you to help solve a Murder Mystery, just go for it. I promise, you will not regret a second of it.

### Virtual Advent Service 2020

The Bellringers' Virtual Advent Service was arranged by Bridget Campbell with Greg Rose, and circulated on Christmas Eve. Our thanks to Bridget for the work she put into this heart-warming event. See <http://www.bellringing.london/london-bellringers-advent-carol-service-2020/>.

## S&W District ADM

*Mike Wigney, S&W Secretary, reports:*

The online ADM for the S&W district on January 30th attracted 32 ringers, up from 21 in 2020. The meeting was short and covered the formal business quickly. Mike Palmer was elected Chairman and Master, with Bridget Campbell as Deputy.

Mike and Jill Wigney continued in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Richard Jones and Roger Forster stood down as Training Committee representatives, and Sonia Field was re-elected to this role. Richard Jones and Ray Pearce were both re-elected to be BRC Reps.

Under AOB, Dave Bassford announced his invitation to a striking competition to be held on Zoom on Association AGM day, Steve Jakeman's report of BRF activity in the district was read out, and Bridget announced that district 8-bell practices will resume on Zoom and RingingRoom.

There was a general discussion on activity around the district and the many online training events being arranged by the Association Training Committee, as well as a number of other opportunities outside the district and Association. The only firm date was for an online Quiz on March 13. See elsewhere for details!

### Mathematics of bell ringing

On 5th January Sarah Hart, Professor of Mathematics at Gresham College, gave a fascinating lecture on the mathematics underlying the Exercise. The audience fortunately did not need knowledge of much more than primary school arithmetic.

A brisk run-through the principles of change ringing and permutations proved that to ring all possible changes on 19 bells would take so long – 7 billion years - that the Sun would expand and engulf the ringers before they had finished. Much more followed.

A transcript of the full lecture is at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/maths-bellringing> and is recommended.

## N&E District ADM

*Lucy Chandhial, N&E Secretary, reports:*

The N&E District ADM was held online on 20th February with Janet Drake in the Chair. 41 members attended with 7 apologies for absence.

The officers, other than Martin Sutcliffe who stood down as one of the Assistant Masters, were willing to continue in office and were re-elected unanimously.

The training and social programme for the March – May period was outlined, and members were encouraged to take part – details on the website, the training page, Bell News and mcaldg emails.

Sonia Field has taken on the role of Ringing Recovery champion; contact her for information: [S&WTrainingRep3@bellringing.london](mailto:S&WTrainingRep3@bellringing.london).

## Holocaust Memorial Day

*Steve Jakeman writes:*

For Holocaust Memorial Day, organised by LB Hackney, at St John at Hackney I rang, with Ruth watching, for 5 minutes before and after the borough online event. At St Matthew, Bethnal Green, Chris Weavers rang the tenor bell.

*Helen Schofield reports from Islington:*

Our churches are closed at present but we thought that, given the solemnity of the occasion, it would be suitable to arrange for a single bell to be chimed in each church involving just one ringer and with all suitable Covid-19 precautions.

St James Prebend Street and St Mary's Upper Street joined forces on Wed 27th January to ensure the tolling of a bell for 5 mins before and after LB Islington's on-line event for Holocaust Memorial Day. Thanks to Mark Herbert (before) and Janet Drake (after) for St Mary's and Ginny Johnson (both) for St James.

Immediately after the chiming for the Memorial, we prepared for the induction of the new vicar at St Mary, Islington. Deborah Bolton, Janet Drake and Helen Schofield opened the ringing room trapdoor and attached an additional length of rope to the No 4 bell to enable it to be chimed from the ground floor.



*St Mary's, Sept 9th 1940*

The new vicar, the Reverend James Hughesden, was able to chime as part of his induction service on Sunday 31 January. He had a preliminary go at chiming and Deborah and Helen returned before the service to take him through another practice. We think it went OK!



*St Mary's in 2020* [www.Islingtongazette.co.uk](http://www.Islingtongazette.co.uk)

The service was with only the officers of the church present and the Bishop presiding from her living room.

## Ann Lesley Dodd

1946-2020 St Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill

*Bridget Campbell remembers:*

Excelling at ballet, Lesley Mould joined the London Festival Ballet, now English National Ballet. She danced at the London Coliseum and Royal Festival Hall, toured abroad, enjoyed solo parts, and opportunities to dance alongside ballet greats such as Dame Margot Fonteyn.

On attending services at St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill, she met Douglas Dodd and they married there in 1982. Committed bell-ringers and hand-bell ringers, they rang for their own wedding! Climbing and descending fifty circular steps in a wedding dress is another of Lesley's accomplishments.



From 1979, Lesley rang in a range of QPs at St Mary's, usually as treble, starting in 1981 with Grandsire Doubles and including Grandsire Caters in 1988. She was Secretary and Treasurer of the Bell-Ringing Guild of St Mary's from 1982 to 1988. She reluctantly stopped bell-ringing following a serious hand injury in 2005.

Lesley organised ringers' day outings by coach so parishioners could join in the visits to churches, and ringers' narrow-boat holidays, with Doug determining the good pubs at each stop. They also hosted many New Year's Eve socials and ringing.

Dancing career over, Lesley took organising roles, including at The National Theatre, before reading for an English degree. Volunteering at St Luke's Hospice's Harrow shop led to her establishing the hospice's Fundraising Department in 1996. She introduced its annual long distance walk, known affectionately by participants as "Lesley's Walks", ending her reign with The St Cuthbert's Walk in 2016 when she retired. Lesley organised the annual sold-out fund-raising hand-bell concert.

Lesley passed on 26 December 2020 at Northwick Park Hospital after a brief illness. At her funeral, the tenor tolled for her arrival, and a piano recital of Chopin's Les Sylphides Waltz, her first solo for the Festival Ballet, was played.

## St Martin's, Ruislip; an e-journey

Sonia Field tells us how it's done:



At the start of lockdown, I created a virtual tower called eKenton to cater for ringers in the north of S&W Middlesex.

The first few meet-ups let us get to grips with technology. Those weren't the only teething problems. With call changes, I initially needed to say 'change now' to prompt everyone to alter position at the correct stroke. *RinginRoom* on top of all day working online was overload for some but any 'spaces' were immediately snapped up by eKenton

members who were keen to attend an extra weekly practice.

The extra eKenton practices are becoming a daily feature. As well as the regular Friday afternoons, there now seems to be some gathering online almost every day...a WhatsApp chat comment stated: 'We have been having a little practice because we are super keen.' Excellent! A couple of members have recruited potential new ringers and are taking responsibility for teaching the initial online basics.

Meanwhile Dave Bassford, ringing master of the Middlesex Association, dropped in one evening and has become a permanent band member. We all teased him about his dedication when he holed up on the M4 to zoom in via his car phone so as not to miss a practice! Dave introduced Chris Rimmer and subsequently Alistair Smith, two of his fellow St. Paul's Cathedral ringers, to the Ruislip practices. They too have stayed. The support of three experienced ringers has enabled us to progress faster and with more confidence, which has been rewarding for everyone. Recently Will Bosworth, editor of *Ringin World*, has also provided invaluable support.

By using incremental teaching steps there were several 'light bulb moments'. 'Counting places' was grasped. We became confident at Plain Hunt...and moved on to some Plain Bob theory. The dodge took a while to master, but with our three experts to aid us, we got there. Recently we attempted Plain Bob Royal. I noted a fleeting look of surprise on everyone's faces! But with a reminder about 9/10 dodges, the band had a jolly good stab at it. Impressive!

We rounded off the year with a striking competition – any doubles or minor method permitted.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting window with a grid of participants. On the right, a document titled 'Bands Striking' is open, displaying a list of teams and their members. The document content is as follows:

Team Wendy - All Saints		Team Karin - St Martins	
Sonia	Bell 1	David	Bell 1
Karin	Bell 2	Marilyn	Bell 2
Wendy	Bell 3	Rachel	Bell 3
Katy	Bell 4	Karin	Bell 4
David	Bell 5	Judith	Bell 5
Jo	Bell 6	Wendy	Bell 6

Team Jo - St Martins		Team Katy - St Simons	
Karin	Bell 1	Jo	Bell 1
Marilyn	Bell 2	katy	Bell 2
Jo	Bell 3	Rachel	Bell 3
Alistair	Bell 4	Alistair	Bell 4
Sonia	Bell 5	Judith	Bell 5
Katy	Bell 6	Wendy	Bell 6

Team Rachel - All Saints		Team Sonia - PB6	
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Despite this event being held as an in-house 'fun' occasion, we were all surprisingly nervous. Chris, our judge, said *Ringin Room* seems to lend itself to more consistent ringing, in part due to the lack of handling differences between the front and back bells, compared with a physical tower, but he noted that one mistake often produces a further wobble, just as in an actual tower. Peal speeds were provided for the teams and Chris explained the relationship between this and sustained rhythmic ringing.

Jo Harris's band was placed first with a total of 9 faults, a well-deserved win; though with only 5 faults separating the first and ninth-placed bands, this was closely fought! The only downside to the event was the inability to retire to the pub afterwards. But the venture was an excellent learning experience and a fantastic end to what has really been an extremely challenging year.

# Bellringers' Carols and Christmas Tune Celebration in RingingRoom

## December 19th 2020

*Jane Ralley writes:*

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Tennyson wrote “Ring Out Wild Bells” in 1850 at Waltham Abbey. The poem mourns the premature death of a friend and wishes for a better year to come. It is read out on New Year’s Eve at the watchnight service at St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley and at many other churches. The words seemed very appropriate for this Christmas, where nothing was normal. His words still rang true 170 years later at an afternoon of musical Christmas celebration for bellringers arranged by Janet Betham on 19th December 2020

First an animated Christmas card ringing bells of many forms in everyday life: an alarm clock, a bicycle bell, a church bell, a cowbell, a doorbell, a chiming grandfather clock; ending with handbells in a village hall, all to the tune of “Jingle Bells”, then Fred Gramman's magical arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon (<https://vimeo.com/464095442>) by solemn ringers in long white and green surplices at the American Church in Paris, with Hampstead ringer Megan Staley at the centre of the action.

Janet sent us all “Carols By Numbers” to the familiar tunes. Interesting limitations were thrown into this 12 bell mix, however, by the lack in Ringing Room of sharps and flats (accidentals) needed for some carols. Janet had transposed all the music into the key of RR for 12 bells. Discussions in the meeting considered the possibilities of using all 16 bells, but concluded that this would still be insufficient. A project for next Christmas, outdoors in the snow though!

We listened to Alana Levandoski's lovely guitar rendition of the Tennyson poem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbnslydaYYg>, and then “Carol of the Bells” by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych. The song is based on a traditional folk chant telling the story of a swallow bringing good news of a better year into the household.

The next two YouTube clips were watched with some sadness as they featured Debbie Malin who died suddenly and unexpectedly last year, greatly missed by all ringers who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Debbie's group, The Handbells of St John of Hackney, first played a Ring Cycle by Mark Wagner. It sparkles like silver and is also amusing to watch as the youngest ringer (Cass) is seen counting diligently and enthusiastically for the whole of the 5-minute piece (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVzQhN8o5eE&t=298s>)

They then rang a candlelit Unto Us a Child is Born and Good King Wenceslas, both very atmospheric: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDKkrFtA4TM>.

Jess Pumphrey had only recently begun to play the recorder but, undeterred, gamely asked for some carol requests, both of which were played impromptu with skill and verve. After a final session of carols on the handbells in RingingRoom, we topped off with a very energetic Hallelujah Chorus:

(<https://www.facebook.com/ForteHandbellQuartet/videos/the-hallelujah-chorus/1690816540928646/>) by the Forte Handbell Quartet, all swapping bells at speed and dashing up and down the line to reach the correct bell in time to play it – nailbiting for the final chorus and well worth watching!

The session was wound up in good spirits with another animated Christmas card showing a Teddy Bears' handbell practice playing The Holly and the Ivy as a final act.

Thanks to Janet, and to Lucy Chandhial and Guy Wells for technical help, for a lighthearted conclusion to a year in which towers have remained “dark” and subject to health restrictions. Let us hope for more of the jollity and sweet sounds we experienced in this meeting in the year to come.

## **AND FINALLY ...**

*An anonymous correspondent writes:*

Lockdown and the lack of ringing for me, a non-ringing spouse, has been a mixed blessing.

Whilst I have enjoyed more time with my spouse (i.e. not up a bell tower) overall I feel that I have lost out because:

1. I have lost the free time I had whenever my spouse was out of the house ringing; and I've suffered because of her ...

2. pleas for help (i.e. “how do I ...” in ringing room. An ironic request as I know nothing about connecting to and using ‘RingingRoom’ and have zero interest in learning how to ring a virtual bell (in RingingRoom) or even a real bell (with the exception of door bells).

## CALENDAR

Date	Distr	Event	Location	Time
<b>Practices and events</b>				
<p>Dave Bassford will lead two practices each month - on the first Friday evening of the month and on the third Sunday afternoon of the month. The Association General practice using Zoom and <a href="http://www.ringingroom.com">www.ringingroom.com</a> is open to all with no previous RingingRoom experience needed, for all levels of ringing experience.</p> <p>To join, email <a href="mailto:Lucy.chandhial@yahoo.co.uk">Lucy.chandhial@yahoo.co.uk</a> - for the zoom link. The zoom link will work for all of these practices so you only need to email once and then you can join anytime.</p> <p>A number of social events is being planned. The expected dates are shown below, and further information will be sent out on the Association email distribution list. If you are not already on the list and would like to be, send an email with your preferred email address to <a href="mailto:mcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com">mcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com</a>.</p>				
Fri 5th Mar	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	19:00-20:30
Sat 13th Mar	S&W	Online quiz & social	Zoom - see mcaldg emails	evening
Sat 20th Mar	MCA	Social event online TBA	Zoom – TBC, see mcaldg emails	15:00 17:00
Sun 21st Mar	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	15:00-16:30
Fri 2nd Apr	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	19:00-20:30
Sat 17th Apr	MCA	Janets' Jaunt – depends on the rules	TBA, see mcaldg emails	TBA
Sun 18th Apr	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	15:00-16:30
Sat 24th Apr	MCA	Annual General Meeting	Zoom, details to follow	17:00-18:00
Sat 24th Apr	MCA	Virtual Striking Competition	Zoom & RinginRoom TBC	18:00-1830
Fri 7th May	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	19:00-20:30
Sat 15th May	MCA	Social event TBA	Probably outside, see mcaldg emails	15:00 TBC
Sun 16th May	MCA	General practice	RinginRoom	15:00-16:30
<b>Training</b>				
<p>Training will be provided by experienced tutors during lockdown.. To see what's on offer and book your place, go to <a href="https://bookwhen.com/mcaldg">https://bookwhen.com/mcaldg</a>. This user-friendly booking site shows you what training courses are available, and who the tutor is, and details about the course, with a large blue <b>SELECT</b> button on the right to book your place. All places are free. If in doubt, email the course tutor.</p>				
Fri 12th Mar	MCA	How to ring heavy bells	Talk by Julie Cater	19:00-20:30
Sat 20th Mar	MCA	Listening skills	Talk & exercises, Clyde Whittaker	10:00-11:30
Sun 28th Mar	MCA	Breaking into Treble Bob Hunt	Practical exercises, Dave Bassford	15:00-16:30
Fri 9th Apr	MCA	Women in Ringing	Talk by Kira Chase	19:00-20:30
Sat 17th Apr	MCA	Breaking into Calling III	Putting people right, Dave Bassford	10:00-11:30
Sun 25th Apr	MCA	Breaking into Cambridge Minor	Practical exercises, Steve Jakeman	15:00-16:30
Fri 14th May	MCA	Ringing with a disability	Talk, Steve Coleman & Terina Riches	19:00-20:30
Sat 15th May	MCA	Plain Bob Minor	Practical exercises, Steve Jakeman	10:00-11:30
Sun 23rd May	MCA	Ringing up in peal	Talk by Steve Coleman	15:00-16:30

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey at [anthony@smoketree.org](mailto:anthony@smoketree.org)

Next deadline Friday 21st May

The newsletter is proof-read by Janet Betham (020 8340 1368), [jrbetham@hotmail.com](mailto:jrbetham@hotmail.com).

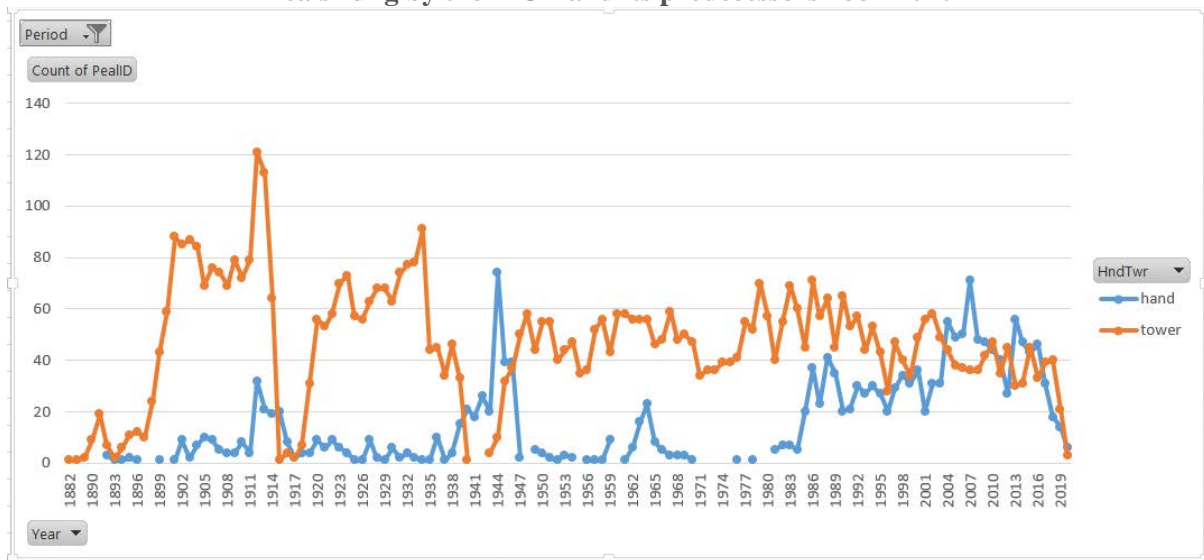
Website material should be sent to Webmaster: James White (S&W), [mail.James.white@gmail.com](mailto:mail.James.white@gmail.com), or to Anthony Davey (N&E).

## Middlesex Peals 1882 to 2020

*Mike Wigney summarises his work:*

I am pleased to announce that all peals rung since 1882 by the MCA and its predecessors are now recorded in Bellboard. Of the 8031 peals recorded, 15 were subsequently found to be false, and 83 were rung prior to Whit Monday 1897 (31May), leaving 7933 true peals rung for the MCA (&LDG added 1903).

**Peals rung by the MCA and its predecessors 1882-2020**



As is clear from the chart above, peal ringing in the Association has had its ups and downs.

### 1882-1897

The predecessor associations, the South and West Middlesex Association and the Middlesex Association (=N&E) get going. Lots of Grandsire and Oxford Bob Triples, Bob Major, and some of minor.

### 1897-1914

The Pye era part one. Encouraged by Arthur T King, the founding Secretary of the Association, William Pye arranged and called many peals, initially mainly of Stedman, but soon adding in Superlative, then London and Bristol. Perhaps surprising, but Cambridge Major was a later addition, only becoming popular from 1912.

### 1914-1939

After the enforced interlude of the First World War, we reach part 2 of the Pye era. Stedman and Superlative are down, and Cambridge (Major and Royal) and Bristol take over as the even-bell methods of choice. Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob and Double Norwich continue to be popular.

### 1940-1946

Whilst the Second World War and the ringing ban stopped towerbell ringing in its tracks, this period saw the rise of an exceptional band at Enfield led by John Thomas and his wife Amy. Starting from scratch they rang over 200 handbell peals, and as soon as the ban was lifted they rang a towerbell peal of Stedman Triples at Edmonton, first towerbell peal for all except John and Amy. Sadly for the MCA, they moved away to Worcestershire at the end of 1946.

### 1946-1980

By 1947, towerbell ringing was up and running again, and peals were back on the MCA menu. Edmonton saw 50 peals in the first ten years, with many of their young handbell ringers going on to show off their skills in the tower. Willesden was also up and running, with Alick Cutler (another ex-Edmonton man) taking over from the Kilbys as tower secretary, and ringing very many peals, often in new Surprise methods. Slightly further northwest, we see John Mayne ringing many peals at Harrow Weald and Stanmore, also taking over in the '60s as the main conductor at Willesden. At the other end of the spectrum, the six-bell towers of Cranford, Brentford (lost in 1971) and Stanwell were popular.

The late '50s and early '60s saw a number of peals where one ringer rang two towerbells - Chris Fynes (14 peals), Frank Blagrove (8), Frank (3) and Tony (1) Price. Tony and the two Franks rang a peal of Bob Minor on 29Apr1961 which was the first 6-bell towerbell peal with only 3 ringers. They then followed this up on 22Aug1964 with a peal of Major (with Tom Chapman, not an MCA peal), again a first all double-handed peal.

In the mid-60's we see the start of the regular peals at Windsor with Frank Blagrove. The handbell spike in the early 60s is when John Mayne was Association Master, and so rang many of his Harrow handbell peals in this period for the MCA.

### 1981 to 2020

Perhaps the main feature of this period is the period from 1985 to 2012 where Roger Bailey rang a large number of handbell peals at Imperial College (the Huxley building) and latterly at Kensal Green. Over these 27 years, Roger taught and honed the skills of a great many handbell ringers who had the fortune to pass through London.

John Mayne continued to ring and call peals until ill-health restricted him largely to handbells (generally rung for the Herts Asscn) from 2005. Many peals were rung by Frank Blagrove who amassed a total of nearly 500 MCA peals at Windsor.

### Conclusion

Below are various tables of leading towers, ringers and methods. Please treat them with care since there are errors and omissions in all of the RW, MCA reports, Pealbase and Bellboard. Whilst I have corroborated several sources, I can't guarantee 100% accuracy.

If you would like a copy of the spreadsheets behind this data, please let me know. I also have spreadsheet versions of the complete peal records of five of the great early MCA ringers – William, George and Ernest Pye, Bertram Prewett and Charles T Coles.

Mike Wigney, February 2021.

## Top towers for MCA Peals

	Period	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	Total
Willesden, St Mary		14	146	226	146	64	26	622
Windsor, St John the Baptist		1	1		101	251	176	530
Harrow Weald, All Saints			3	49	145	104	17	318
Isleworth, All Saints		46	39		28	20	56	189
City, St Botolph, Bishopsgate,		3	171	3	2	1	1	181
Hillingdon, St John the Baptist		21	8	16	44	47	27	163
Southgate, Christ Church		104	15	3	10	5	4	141
Edmonton, All Saints		43	15	50	3	5	2	118
Acton, St Mary		23	27	26	2	15	14	107
Walthamstow, St Mary		40	56	3		1		100
Uxbridge, St Andrew		43	24	7	5	14	4	97
Holborn, St Giles in the Fields		30	26	13	4	11	11	95
Uxbridge, St Margaret		10	16	1	28	37	1	93
Cranford, St Dunstan				37	24	11	4	76
Chiswick, St Nicholas		5	15	5	7	24	16	72
Staines upon Thames, St Peter		13	18	2	17	10	7	67
Barnet, St John the Baptist		34	19	3	4	2	3	65
Southwark, Cath Ch of St Saviour		11	33	14	3	1	1	63
Westminster, St Margaret		19	15	10	9	6	4	63
Hackney, St John at Hackney					9	19	34	62
Westminster, St Clement Danes		25	13	1	7	4	12	62
<b>Total MCA - all towerbell peals</b>		<b>1392</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>6067</b>
<b>Total MCA - all handbell peals</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>1866</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1575</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1539</b>	<b>7933</b>



## Ringers with more than 300 peals for the MCA

	MCA Peals			MCA peals as conductor			Total peals, all Associations		
	Total	hand	tower	Total C	hand	tower	Total	hand	tower
Pye, William	<b>1113</b>	126	987	<b>857</b>	109	748	<b>1969</b>	174	1793
Bailey, Roger	<b>1105</b>	794	311	<b>601</b>	473	128	<b>3032</b>	1364	1668
Blagrove, Frank T	<b>1068</b>		1068	<b>765</b>		765	<b>1744</b>		1744
Pye, George R	<b>862</b>	130	732	<b>120</b>	15	105	<b>1879</b>	178	1701
Lock, Thomas J	<b>759</b>	35	724	<b>46</b>		46	<b>2225 +</b>		
Mayne, John R	<b>711</b>	80	631	<b>563</b>	78	485	<b>4462</b>	1593	2809
Shade, Isaac G	<b>661</b>		661	<b>1</b>		1	<b>1450 +</b>		
Coles, Charles T	<b>637</b>	9	628	<b>193</b>		193	<b>1014</b>	12	1002
Prewett, Bertram	<b>635</b>	72	563	<b>132</b>	5	127	<b>952</b>	73	879
Pye, Ernest	<b>559</b>	109	450	<b>17</b>	7	10	<b>1006</b>	154	852
Pearce, Richard A	<b>515</b>	444	71	<b>369</b>	335	34	<b>2213</b>	805	1408
Cutler, Alick	<b>508</b>		508	<b>0</b>			<b>732 +</b>		
Mitchell, Stephen J F	<b>472</b>	194	278	<b>88</b>	83	171	<b>1258</b>	340	918
Sanders, Reuben	<b>470</b>		470	<b>0</b>			<b>650 +</b>		
Roberts, Charles W	<b>461</b>	104	357	<b>251</b>	66	185	<b>780 ++</b>		
Davis, James E	<b>433</b>		433	<b>84</b>		84	<b>550 ++</b>		
Blight, Peter J	<b>363</b>	247	116	<b>0</b>			<b>969</b>	296	673
Mayne, Dorothea M	<b>357</b>	5	352	<b>1</b>		1	<b>3243</b>	1113	2130
Blagrove, Monica	<b>329</b>		329	<b>0</b>			<b>434</b>		434
Trimm, Michael J	<b>328</b>	237	91	<b>70</b>	54	16	<b>1831</b>	587	1244
Blackwell, Ruth M	<b>324</b>	260	64	<b>0</b>			<b>1399</b>	428	971
House, Alfred J	<b>318</b>		318	<b>10</b>		10	<b>765</b>		765
Nudds, William J	<b>316</b>	10	306	<b>10</b>		10	<b>501</b>		
Thomas, John	<b>314</b>	242	72	<b>156</b>	131	25	<b>1061</b>		
Trollope, J Armiger	<b>308</b>	27	281	<b>70</b>	13	57	<b>600 +</b>		

Other ringers with >80 MCA peals as conductor are Ernest C S Turner (299 peals, 153 as C), Richard Speed (171, 95), Steve Jakeman (161, 88), David C Brown (157, 87) and Sidney Wade (130, 86)

Methods rung to peals for the MCA 1897-2020							
	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	Total
<b>Fourteen</b>			1	2	2	1	6
<b>Sextuples</b>						1	1
<b>Maximus</b>	5	32	8	11	31	15	102
Cambridge	2	27	2	2	3	10	46
Bristol				2	9	1	12
Yorkshire		1		3	2	1	7
Spliced Surprise (2-110m)		1			6		7
Kent	3	1	2		5		11
Other	0	2	4	4	6	3	19
<b>Cinques</b>	87	45	17	3	5	15	172
Stedman	87	44	13	2	5	11	162
Grandsire		1	4	1		4	10
<b>Royal</b>	46	73	51	66	166	172	574
Cambridge	20	43	4	11	32	38	148
Yorkshire		3	3	5	14	16	41
London			2	5	10	18	35
Lincolnshire				1	11	12	24
Bristol				2	10	6	18
Middlesex		5		1	2		8
Other single surprise	3	0	3	9	28	13	56
Spliced Surprise (2-129m)		1	1	2	11	24	39
Kent	19	8	14	4	14	23	82
Oxford	1	1	2		13	9	26
Plain Bob	3	7	19	13	12	10	64
Other	0	5	3	13	9	3	33
<b>Caters</b>	235	105	77	55	57	103	632
Stedman	220	88	48	24	20	69	469
Grandsire	15	14	29	27	36	32	153
Other	0	3	0	4	1	2	10
<b>Major</b>	638	707	609	702	1026	994	4676
<i>See separate table below</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Triples</b>	517	235	95	107	114	90	1158
Stedman	324	134	38	31	24	10	561
Grandsire	160	96	53	49	56	44	458
Plain Bob	12			12	21	19	64
Oxford	21	2	2	9	2	3	39
St Simon's				2	8	3	13
Middlesex					2	6	8
Other triples	0	3	2	4	1	5	15
<b>Minor</b>	41	55	118	103	93	134	544
Cambridge		7	2	12	10	12	43
Spliced Surprise (6-135m)				4	12	31	47
Surprise (2-7 methods)	1	1	8	6	23	22	61
Other single surprise	0	0	9	7	3	2	21
Treble bob & Delight	1	2	6	6	2	8	25
Plain Bob	10	18	35	30	23	7	123
Other (2-7 methods)	29	27	57	38	19	48	218
Grandsire Minor	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Spliced Plain (2-483m)	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
<b>Doubles</b>	6	6	27	5	10	13	67
Grandsire	6	5	1		1	2	15
Other single method	0	0	5	3	1	3	12
Multi-method (2-105m)		1	21	2	8	8	40
<b>Minimus</b>						1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	1575	1258	1003	1054	1504	1539	7933

<b>Methods rung to peals for the MCA 1897-2020 - MAJOR</b>							
	<b>1920</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total Major</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>4676</b>
Cambridge	31	131	41	53	96	86	438
Superlative	195	62	23	11	36	29	356
Bristol	83	100	27	21	57	67	355
London	104	80	30	34	31	27	306
Yorkshire		13	26	50	91	91	271
Lincolnshire		6	4	12	30	54	106
Rutland		3	15	15	24	28	85
Pudsey		5	2	6	17	20	50
Glasgow			2	5	19	12	38
Belfast				3	14	6	23
New Cambridge	16	2		1	1		20
Uxbridge			1	3	6	5	15
Wembley		1	3	3	1	4	12
Lessness				1	1	8	10
Spliced Surprise (2-45m)		48	45	92	183	245	613
Other surprise (5-9peals)	4	7	23	14	15	35	98
Other surprise (<5 peals)	1	5	155	212	120	49	542
Kent TB	49	48	38	13	36	25	209
Oxford TB	7	10	7	4	21	6	55
Spliced Kent & Oxford		1	4	5	9	7	26
Plain Bob	78	79	114	107	123	114	615
Double Norwich	68	82	39	10	38	26	263
St Clements		2		5	24	23	54
Little Bob		7	7	3	8		25
Spliced Plain (2-45m)		2	2	2	15	9	30
Other major	2	13	1	17	10	18	61