



*Elizabeth Kinney is a U.S. qualified Professional Engineer based in Minneapolis, with specialist knowledge and experience of the design of buildings under conditions of shake, such as earthquake. She also works on historic structures. Bell News is very grateful to Elizabeth for finding the time to explain:*

## Why doesn't my tower rock itself to pieces ?



As a structural engineer by training and a historic preservationist by calling, I have learned a thing or two about old church towers. When Bell News recently asked me why a local church bell tower doesn't fall over, I thought I should investigate. St. Anne's church tower in Highgate dates back to 1853, holds 8 bells ranging in weight from 153 to 611 kilos, carried 60 ft off the ground. When all 8 bells are rung, that tower rocks, and it's not a slight movement! This disconcerts the vicar, the churchwardens and certainly not least, the ringers in the tower. However, the tower itself is blandly unconcerned, with no cracks and no stones falling off the tower or steeple.

From a structural engineering perspective, in the design or analysis of a building there are two conditions with which we are concerned. The first is to compare the maximum forces the structure will see to the maximum strength of the building. This ensures that the building doesn't fall down. The second condition has to do with serviceability - whether the building sways too much, vibrates or otherwise causes discomfort or anxiety to people using it. This second condition is often the more restrictive factor in a buildings design. While a church bell tower can have plenty of strength, it could well be failing in serviceability.

People are quite sensitive to very small movements or vibrations, in the order of 0.1mm. You may well have noticed even new buildings designed to the latest building code that vibrate under foot traffic. The floor of one office in which I worked shook with every footstep of each person going by - much to the chagrin of my fellow structural engineers. The building, while feeling somewhat unsettling, was quite safe.

There have been many studies of church towers and how they behave when their bells are pealed. One study of 19 towers in the north of England took measurements of tower movement in 26 different positions up the tower. The maximum movement detected was 1.26mm at the top of St Cuthberts, Chester-le-Street which has a spire 43.5m high. This amount of movement was an outlier though, and most deflection was in the order of 0.1 to 0.3mm. The authors of the study noted "This contrasts strongly with the subjective opinions of the lay observer, who might commonly estimate movement of several millimeters, because of the very high sensitivity of the human frame to vibrations." Our perception of a building's sway is often exaggerated beyond the movement which actually occurs.

One way to determine the structural distress on a building is to measure the strain it encounters. This can be conservatively estimated by dividing the movement at a location by the height of the building at that point. The largest value measured in the studies was 0.00003, thirty parts in a million or  $30 \times 10^{-6}$ . If the tower at St. Anne's had strain of 0.00003, this would equate to a 0.54mm movement at a height of 60 feet. This is five times the movement that people can detect, so it is not surprising the tower feels like it might collapse. A more typical value was about 0.000012, or just over twelve parts in a million,  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$ . Despite their somewhat rigid and at times fragile appearance, current consensus allows for stone masonry towers to have a permissible strain value of 0.0002, or  $200 \times 10^{-6}$ . Comparing the measured values of strain to the permissible value of  $200 \times 10^{-6}$ , there is clearly plenty of reserve capacity!

While there are instances where towers have been considered so "lively" that the bells have been lowered to reduce the forces they exert, I hope this brief explanation clarifies why church towers are more resilient to vibrations from their bells than they might initially seem. With sufficient upkeep and loving care by their bell ringers and the occasional checkup by a structural engineer, these bell towers will last for centuries to come.



*"I bet putting on muffles would stop it."*

## Training opportunities

*Guy Wells, N&E Training officer*

Training opportunities are planned as follows:  
Sat 29th January

Early Minor Methods #1 (Plain Bob; Little Bob; St Clements).

We plan to run a theory session via Zoom on a week-day preceding this Saturday (day to be agreed.)

Sat 26th February (TBC)

Ring up and down in peal with Edmund Wratten.  
(Note – the date may have to be moved to Sunday 27th February. Watch for email updates).

*Sonia Field, S&W*

Based around our eKenton hub we have the following regular ringing events:

**First Wednesday** of the month:

In-person foundation skills training,  
2 - 4 pm St Martin's, Ruislip.

**Third Sunday** of the month:

In-person foundation skills training; 4 - 6 pm All Saints, Harrow Weald

**Wednesday**, All Saints, Harrow Weald, 11am, ringing after the service.

In the pipeline for 2022: Second Wednesday of the month: in-person foundation skills training; 7.45 - 9.15 pm St Martin's, Ruislip

**It is essential** that new members contact Sonia ([sonia.field@hotmail.com](mailto:sonia.field@hotmail.com)) before coming, as timings are still settling down post-pandemic and may change, and also spaces are limited.

## Slow course methods for learners

*Lesley Belcher, Chair ART*

Slow course methods have one working bell ringing a simple, repetitive pattern – the slow course bell – while the other ringers ring the method. You only need three ringers who can ring a method – the others ringing the treble, tenor and the slow course bell.

The more experienced members can join in and ring something that might be new to them. Some slow course methods are quite challenging!

Have a look at the Slow Course Toolbox. A simple method like Brecon Place Doubles has long leading with seconds made over the treble, whilst others such as Welford Bob Doubles have more challenging slow course work. We've graded the methods from entry level to really tricky. Why not have a go and try something new?

<http://ringingteachers.org/resources/Method-Toolboxes/slow-course-methods>

## London 12-bell competition

*Stephen Mitchell*

The London 12-bell competition took place on 23rd October at Bow (<http://www.london12bell.org.uk/>).

Our Association's band came in 6th in a field of 10. Our neighbouring Association (Surrey), beat us fairly narrowly, but we were pleased with our ringing (no method mistakes at all in three courses of Stedman Cinques) and to come 6th in a tough field. In particular we were pleased to be placed higher than the band of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, who had won the previous two competitions!

Our band included four people who had never rung in the competition before, as well as two with considerable experience (Lucinda Woodward and Dave Bassford) who also rang for the winning band (St Paul's Cathedral).



Next year the competition will be at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 22 October. That is an even bigger challenge than Bow was, so we are already starting to prepare for it.

## Advent Carol Service 2021 cancelled

*Greg Rose; Julian Cass; Bridget Campbell*

Sadly it is again not possible to hold the London Ringers' Advent Carol Service this year, but you may wish to listen to last year's virtual Advent Carol Service on: <http://www.bellringing.london/london-bellringers-advent-carol-service-2020>

We hope to resume a real Advent Carol Service again in 2022.

## Enfield St Andrew

*Chris Trawin*

Congratulations to Emma Cracknell of Enfield St Andrew and Matthew Lodge, who were married at the Parish Church of All Saints, Shillington, Beds on 23rd October. Friends from St Andrew's joined members of the local band to ring the couple out on Shillington's early-17th century five (18-2-0). We wish them all the very best for their future together.

## Janets' Jaunt

*Elliott Johnson*

Essex was the destination for this autumn's Janet's Jaunt; visiting the towers of St. Mary the Virgin, South Benfleet and St. Clement's, Leigh-on-Sea. With everything crossed we made our respective journeys to South Benfleet holding out for dry (-ish) weather.

So far so good as the ringing at our first tower commenced. We received a warm welcome from the tower captain and volunteers who served teas, coffees and cakes. We were also shown a Cockerel Wind Vane in the church which had recently been featured on the BBC's 'Repair Shop'; a clear source of pride for our hosts and of delight to view by those of us on the Jaunt!



And so the ringing commenced on the six bells. Both amusing and certainly frustratingly, bell number four was so light set that it seemed the ringer had only needed to place their hands around the sally for the bell to begin its toll. It certainly tried to take its toll on a number of ringers who struggled to get the bell to stand, however this did not cause too much bother and the ringing was successful.

We said goodbye to our hosts and commenced the five mile walk to Leigh-on-Sea.



Our hopes of dry weather were soon dashed when the heavens opened, but we soldiered on, taking in the scenery of the coast which boasts a boat on the shore which was involved in the evacuation of Dunkirk (thank you South Benfleet tower captain for informing us!)

On to Saint Clements. An uphill walk followed lunch and the ringing began, entertaining those at the fete in the church. We were able to listen to the bells of this 8-bell tower from the roof (listening interrupted by the strong winds), but the ringing went smoothly and the day of ringing was brought to a close. A short visit to a local tea and cake shop, and a train journey back to reflect on a successful day! Twenty in attendance and £132 raised for the Bell Restoration Fund.

A huge thank you to Janet Drake and Janet Betham for leading a wonderful and very well organised day; I'm sure we're all looking forward to the next one in Spring 2022.

## In Memoriam Jim Ramsay

*Ed Gormley*

With the words "Let us go up the tower to the ringing chamber, and let us make the bells ring out in God's name" on the morning of Saturday 11th September the bells at the St George the Martyr Church, Borough High Street rang a quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Triples in memory of Jim Ramsay (1949 - 2019) on the 22nd anniversary of his marriage to Lorna.



## St. Anne's, Highgate

*Bell News staff reporter*

On 30th October the Highgate band and friends rang at Fobbing, Stanford-le-Hope and Basildon. The glass tower at Basildon had one pane boarded up where a brick had been thrown through the window. Although the audience in the town square on this occasion showed less hostility to the Highgate band's performance, the tower appeared to twist, rather than rock during ringing, which some of the band found disconcerting.

Thanks to Janet Betham for admirable organisation and arrangements.

## The Lord Mayor's Show, 13th November

*Jo Harris & Wendy Crampton*

Our day began with an early morning train ride - it felt like a huge adventure to sally out into London after being locked away for over a year, trying to dodge Covid,. At Blackfriars we left the train to be greeted by the expanse of the River Thames and the glorious London skyline, shimmering in the cold steely sunlight of a November morning.

The streets were silent, the traffic blocked, as we followed our maps to St Mary-le-Bow. We had the time to notice things we would perhaps have missed had the streets been busy - a totem pole of head shapes, a huge statue asking "What" with St Paul's Cathedral in the background. We passed the College of Arms and wondered what our own would look like.

With still an hour and a half to spare we found a place to sit, drink coffee and watch the world go by, where we were treated to handsome, tall young soldiers in Bearskin hats, who kindly posed for photos with children - on reflection the soldiers were probably not much older than the children themselves.

We saw people carrying placards that told us they were ophthalmic opticians, and others who had large cut outs of spectacles which they would carry around the whole route. Lots of smartly dressed men in pin striped trousers hinted at the Masonic Lodges nearby who would also be parading. Horses trotted past, their riders looking smart in assorted uniforms - police and army mixed together.

Now the pavements were filling with excited people waiting for the show to begin. We joined the others, and met a lovely young couple Ben & Jemma with baby Seb in a pram; Ben had the keys to the tower, so we made our way through the low doorway and up the narrow spiral steps to the ringing chamber, with a warning to mind our heads at the top. The doors to the balcony at the front and the wonderful private rooftop garden (the preserve of the vicar, who told the charity Mind that during lockdown when he was feeling low "*My roof garden has had exceptional levels of attention and shows it!*") were thrown open to allow a flow of air through the chamber.

Gradually the room began to fill with about 30 ringers - some who knew the bells of old, and others, like us, for whom this was a new experience. It took three people to raise the tenor (2131kg), the ringer standing on a box high above the ground. By 10.30am the bells were up and it was time for the ringing to begin. We were cautioned that the bells were not the easiest in the world, but they were definitely rewarding (though in 1856 the bells were silenced for a couple of years by the protestations of Mrs Elizabeth Bird, an eccentric neighbour who feared that the noise of the bells might end her life.)

It was such a joy that ringers of all abilities had been made welcome to join in by Dave Bassford, the Master of the Association and organiser of the event. From those who asked for a little help with handling the bell initially, through to seriously accomplished 12 bell ringers, some of the finest in the country, everyone was considered and catered for due to his thoughtful planning and placement of bands - quite a feat when there were some ringers he didn't know personally - but everyone gained from the experience and the ringing ranged from Rounds & Call Changes to Stedman etc. One thing was a constant, the beautiful sound of the magnificent bells. We were also able to climb up further and view the bells through the half glass door - fingers in ears very much recommended when they were in action.

When not ringing the favoured place to be was out on the balcony which gave a view of the parade passing by - so many different organisations represented by bands, floats, costumed people, coaches and horses, an amazing and special sight.

Sadly I am sure there were fewer people watching on the street as there are so few overseas tourists right now - it will be interesting to see how busy it is next year - because we will be back next year, we enjoyed it so much we must go to ring again. At last the red and gold horse-drawn coach, the oldest ceremonial vehicle in the world still in use, carrying the 693rd Lord Mayor, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, the first Irish Lord Mayor, was spotted, and we made sure he was treated to the sound of the Great Bells of Bow as he made his way past on his way to St Paul's Cathedral.



*Steve Beard, Dave Bassford, Wendy Crampton, and Judith Roberts*

All too soon the bells were rung down in peal. Some of us were heading off to sightsee, some for a quick lunch before ringing at Cripplegate in the afternoon - and dear Dave was organising that, and THEN ringing a peal of Stedman Cinques at St Paul's to mark the occasion, talk about a busy day! We ate a picnic lunch on a roof terrace with St Paul's as our backdrop, a welcome break before the fun of the afternoon began....

## Ring Out for the Climate

Linda Georgiades

Stephen Jakeman was inspecting Norwood Green bells on Wednesday 20th October while I was chatting with our curate Anne Bookless. She'd received an email from London Diocese asking if Church bells could ring out on Saturday 30th October at 6pm for 30 minutes to coincide with the international Climate Change Conference 'COP26' in Glasgow.

Anne confirmed with the priest-in-charge, Dave Bookless (yes, her husband!) and we were all keen it should be advertised widely.

Anne posted on Instagram that St Mary's was joining churches around the world, following the ancient tradition of ringing bells at a time of national crisis, in this case to raise the alarm on the need for COP26 to take urgent action to avert catastrophic climate change. She quoted the organiser: *'The current threat is greater than the threat of invasion by the Armada, Napoleon, and Hitler rolled into one, as it is a global threat on a vast, possibly uncontrollable scale, in which the prime enemy is ourselves'*. WOW, that was powerful and really hit home with me. There was also a notice on the gates to the church when our band arrived.



We rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor, conducted by Bridget Campbell. We are so lucky at Norwood Green to have support from such an enthusiastic curate and vicar, thank you.

## Learning to ring

*New learners are the lifeblood of the Exercise.*

*Previous issues of Bell News have highlighted successful recruitment at Hampstead and eKenton.*

*Two recent recruits and five junior members from Enfield and Edmonton now share their experiences:*

*Lizzy Davidson, Harrow Weald*

For a number of years I have wanted to learn to ring tower bells. I had made tentative enquiries at my local churches only to find that it was a bit of closed shop or an electronic bell situation. But when I mentioned to my cousin that I wanted to learn...she said she could help! So some way into lockdown I was introduced to online ringing via Ringing Room. This was a huge learning curve because, as a complete novice, I had no prior experience about what was going on behind making bells ring in a particular order or how that happened. I learned a lot and enjoyed the Sunday eKenton sessions.

Early in September I was finally able to join an in-person practice in a tower. It was brilliant! I was made to feel very welcome. I watched to try to understand what was going on; it was clearly not the same as pressing a button on my mouse! But having an understanding of 'rounds' and ringing terminology helped me to understand how it related in the real tower.

The time came for me to have a go, and my first attempt was a bit of a shock. I had just seen all these tiny slim ladies pulling ropes effortlessly - when it came to my turn to chime a down bell, I was surprised at the amount of effort needed to get things going!! But being shown the correct techniques, with encouragement and help I found that I could do it! Later I had a go at backstrokes, and pulling off the first handstroke. It felt like I had a million things to remember at the same time but it was so exciting that I am looking forward to learning more with this fabulous group of people!!!

*Peter Bennett, Highgate*

Learning to ring during the pandemic - without touching a rope!

For our wellbeing, bands were banned, and sallys and bobs had to keep their distance. Ringers were meeting over the internet, joining virtual towers in cyberspace; hand strokes and backstrokes were substituted with computer keystrokes. No rope required, a flick of the finger on the keyboard was all that was needed; it did not matter if you were on the treble or the tenor, sally or tail end, the action was instantaneous.

Newcomers were welcomed and I soon felt included. One of the first things to learn was the "handstroke gap" and then soon we were "ringing" virtual rounds and practicing plain hunt. Seasoned bellringers were also newcomers to this unreal world as we were all learning together - some learning to dodge others learning to unmute.

I soon discovered I could join in, simply by finding the right page in the book and sight-reading the blue line. A "cheat", I know, and several people told me I

would have to memorise it before ringing in the tower. This time was stimulating and fun, challenging, rewarding and quite sociable. Within months, I was “ringing” Grandsire and Stedman, Doubles and Triples, bobs and singles; and still without touching a rope!

As restrictions eased and we began to meet in real life, it was quite fun (if not funny) to discover that people I had come to know on the screen did not always wear spectacles and were not all the same height!

Those ringers who had been the least active in the Zoom world resumed positions of experience and mastery, while someone like me, having never touched a rope, found myself emphatically on the starting line.

One-to-one training sessions were followed by practice nights, and now sometimes Sundays. My immediate challenge is to attain a basic proficiency and ring my part. There is so much to master, and I shall never stop learning, but what I have learned more than anything, is that there’s no substitute for time at the end of a rope.

### ***Edmonton/Enfield Juniors summarise their experiences of learning to ring:-***

#### **Thoughts on learning**

*By George Hunt (aged 17)*

In January 2019, I signed up for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award at school, but couldn't think of anything for the Skills section. Mum suggested I try bellringing. Our local tower, Enfield St Andrew, was really helpful. I joined their practices and very quickly I was able to ring on my own and join in service ringing. Three months flew past and I just kept going.

I visited other towers, including a ringing course in London, and even rang during my lunch hour when on Work Experience in the City.

Since starting, my little sister has also learned to ring and we've both rung for several weddings in different towers, which is good fun and we get paid.

This year I've been busy studying for my A-levels, but I still ring when I can for special occasions. I would like to thank my tower for all their support.

#### **New vicar's installation service at Edmonton**

*By Gerard Evans (aged 13)*

On Thursday 2nd September, we rang for the installation of the new vicar at Edmonton. We moved our Tuesday practice night to Thursday so we could ring for a whole hour before the service. We rang lots of rounds and call changes on eight, which sounded very nice.

The service was led by the Bishop of Edmonton and the Archdeacon of Hampstead. During the service, the Archdeacon led the vicar to the back of the church to

chime the Angelus Bell. This was to announce that she had taken over the parish. My job was to stand by the bell rope so I could show her what to do.

The installation service was a new experience for me but I think that everything went really well and we ended the evening with refreshments in the church hall.

#### **Re-opening of church gardens at Islington St Mary**

*By Adam Brett (aged 14)*

On Sunday 19th September seven of the Enfield / Edmonton ringers went to Islington St Mary to support the local band for the re-opening of their newly refurbished church gardens. The Mayor of Islington was there to open the gardens and the Bishop of Stepney led the re-dedication ceremony.

We were already ringing for the 10 o'clock service at Edmonton and so we had to dash to St Mary's to ring up before their service started at 11 o'clock. We got there just in time. Although the bells are a similar weight to the bells we are used to, the ropes were longer and a little stiff, but we managed to ring them up okay.

At the end of the service, the congregation went outside for the re-opening ceremony. We watched some of the ceremony from the balcony. As soon as the Mayor cut the ribbon, we all hurried back inside and started ringing. By this time, two of the local ringers had joined us, so we rang rounds and call changes on eight.

The ringing went very well, considering that we were not used to the bells. Once we had finished ringing, we went back downstairs, where there were refreshments laid out in the church. We all had sandwiches and loads of cake! The Mayor came over to talk to us; he asked us lots of questions about ringing and we had fun telling him all about it.



Afterwards we all travelled home together in the one big car. There was a lot of noise and laughter in the car on the way home. We had a lot of fun!

## Open Days

*Alec Gray:*

On Saturday 4 September **St Boltolph's Aldgate** took part in the annual Open House festival. After an absence of over a year, it was wonderful to be doing what we all enjoy - ringing our bells and opening the tower and our lovely church to members of the public. Tower Captain Tim Mills gave his introductory talk to visitors and then many were able to ascend the tower to see ringing in action.

We were disappointed that visitor numbers were significantly down compared with past years. Very few other buildings in the City were open this year which I am sure impacted upon the visitor numbers to the Aldgate area.

Grateful thanks to all those who came to ring, acted as stewards, served the refreshments and behind the scenes, all those who made delicious cakes for sale. Our refreshment stall and it really was a stall this year, outside the church under the protection of a gazebo, with signage created by Hans Rashbrook, made £125 for the BRF.

Well done and thank you everyone. We now look forward to next year when hopefully, things will be a little more like normal and we can welcome even more visitors to our church and tower.

*Steve Jakeman and Carrie Rutherford*

At **St John at Hackney** we have not taken part in the Open House week for a very long time and it was a very informal affair but busy given the virtual lack of the usual publicity. The key message was that Hackney was open, and the tower as part of the offer, from 11 to 4pm.

We didn't really know what to expect – last year there hadn't even been an Open House London, and this year... well who knew how many people would be out and about, using public transport and visiting buildings? Plus the listing didn't even mention bells, so we were relying on the church tour-givers to direct interested visitors to the tower.

In the end, this worked well – tours ended by bringing people into the tower and leaving them with us. We had a mixture of interests and ages, and for the morning session ran a visitor-led session where we just asked what they knew about bell-ringing and built on that. We were able to use our traditional small wooden model as well as cameras in the belfry to illustrate and demonstrate how full-circle ringing works.

After lunch, when traffic started getting heavier, we settled down into a pattern of a group talk, a demo, and a chance to have a go for those who wanted to.

We didn't keep a count, but estimated number of visitors was probably around 75 adults and ten children, some of whom we allowed to chime our two lightest bells.

*News from Edmonton/Enfield Juniors:*

## Open House London at Edmonton

*By Jason Brett (aged 12)*

On Sunday 5th September we opened the tower at Edmonton for Open House London. The event was organised by the 'Friends of All Saints Edmonton' and they kept us busy all afternoon. After they had finished showing each group of visitors around the church, they sent them to the tower! Five of our ringers, including three of our junior members, were there to welcome them.

We chatted with each group of visitors and explained some basic details of ringing, and then demonstrated the process of ringing up, rounds and call changes, and ringing down again. With the bells safely down, some of our guests had a go at handling the ropes, making coils and chiming the bells. We showed them what to do. They were then given a tour of the belfry and we talked to them about the bells and history of the tower.

Some of the local visitors had been hearing the bells for much of their lives but had never had the opportunity to see them being rung or to have a go for themselves. It was a fun and very satisfying afternoon and we all enjoyed it.

## Open House London at Enfield St Andrew

*By Eleanor Hunt (aged 15)*

On Saturday 4th September, Enfield St Andrew was open to the public for Open House London. Unfortunately we could only open for a couple of hours in the morning as there was a wedding in the afternoon.

There were four of us ringers on duty, and a steady trickle of visitors kept us busy throughout the time we were there. They listened to a talk about the tower, the bells and ringing in general, and then we gave them a demonstration (rounds and call changes).

Sadly we weren't able to take visitors up to see the bells this year because of all the scaffolding in the belfry, but we showed them pictures and diagrams. Everyone seemed very interested and I had a great time.

## And finally...

This year there has not been the usual Ringers' Advent Carol Service.

In its place, by courtesy of Dr. Carter, Bell News is able to supply the following Do-It-Yourself carol concert:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GUP-EpCv\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GUP-EpCv_Y).

## CALENDAR

Date	Distr	Event	Location	Time
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Planned events - any changes and more details will be sent via email to the Middlesex Association email list nearer the date of each event. If you are not already on the list and would like to be, send an email with your preferred email address to [mcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:mcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com).

Date	Distr	Topic	Location	Time
Sat 4th Dec	S&W	District planning and ringing meeting	St John, Hillingdon	09:30 – 12:00
Sun 12th Dec	N&E	10-bell method practice	Limehouse	14:00 – 16:00
Tue 14th Dec	S&W	Daytime practice – all welcome	Isleworth	10:30 – 12:00
Fri 17th Dec	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:30 – 21:00
Sat 18th Dec	N&E	Christmas ringing TBC	St Margaret's, Westminster	16:00 – 17:30
Mon 3rd Jan		Guildford Guild open towers	Guildford area	All day
Sat 8th Jan	S&W	Annual District Meeting and ringing	St Mary the Virgin, Hayes	15:00 – 19:00
Sun 9th Jan	N&E	10-bell method practice	St John at Hackney	14:00 – 16:00
Tues 11th Jan	S&W	Daytime practice – all welcome	Isleworth	10:30 – 12:00
Fri 14th Jan	MCA	12-bell method practice	St. Magnus-the-Martyr	18:30 – 20:30
Sat 15th Jan	CCCB	Young Change Ringers event	Birmingham	
Sat 15th Jan	N&E	District planning & ringing meeting	TBC	14:00 – 17:00
Fri 21st Jan	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:30 – 21:00
Sat 29th Jan	N&E	Training – early minor methods	TBC – see email update	TBA
Tues 8th Feb	S&W	Daytime practice – all welcome	Isleworth	10:30 – 12:00
Fri 11th Feb	MCA	12-bell method practice	St. Magnus-the-Martyr	18:30 – 20:30
Sun 16th Feb	N&E	10-bell method practice	Limehouse - TBC	14:00 – 16:00
Fri 18th Feb	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	19:30 – 21:00
Sat 19th Feb	N&E	Annual District Meeting and ringing	TBA	14:00 – 18:00
Sat 26th Feb	N&E	Training – ringing up and down in peal	TBC – see email update	TBA

### 10-bell practice

This practice is intended for members wishing to ring 10-bell methods, but may offer opportunities for ringing 8-bell precursor methods.

### Anniversaries to plan for:

Sun 6th Feb                    70th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to the throne.

Wed 16th Mar                150th anniversary of foundation of the Football association.

See <https://cccbr.org.uk/bellringing/things-to-ring-for/ttrf-historic-events/> for more fun ideas.

### Guildford Guild

This event, the first for 15 years, will take place on 3rd January 2022, the Bank Holiday. 27 towers will be open to all comers. It is up to individual members whether to join, but there is likely to be a party from our Association, so put the date in your diary and look out for emails. See <http://guildfordguild.org.uk/route-announced-for-open-towers-day-on-3rd-jan-2022/> for details.

Items for inclusion in *Middlesex Bell News* to Anthony Davey at [BellNewsEditor@bellringing.london](mailto:bellnewseditor@bellringing.london).

Next deadline Friday 25th February 2022

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)