

Issue 113

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

March 2023

## Membership appeal

*Jill Wigney, Membership Secretary*

2023 subs are now due - £10 for Ordinary members and £5 for Ordinary Junior members. Payment can be made through your tower captain, or direct to the Association bank account. If you have not yet paid yours but would like to do so, please email me for information on how to do so at: [MembSecretary@bellringing.london](mailto:MembSecretary@bellringing.london) .

A membership application form can be downloaded from the web site. May I remind tower captains that this form should be completed by all prospective members being put forward for election please. New member welcome packs are only sent out to those who have completed this form.

## Annual Association Meeting

*Lucy Chandhial, N&E District Secretary*



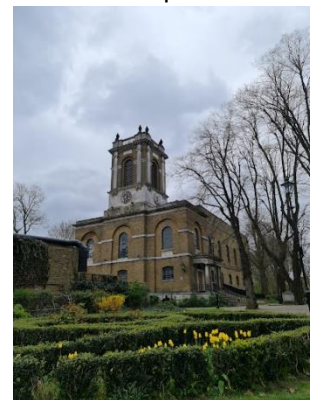
The Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 22nd April and this year it is hosted by the North and East District.

The day begins with the Inter-District Striking Competition, with two teams selected by the District Ringing Masters and a touch set by Steve Mitchell. This will be held at St Mary's, Upper Street and the judges will report the results at the AGM later in the day with the winners taking home the Roger Bailey cup. The inaugural competition for the cup was held in 2014 and was won by the first S&W band by a large margin, but the cup was awarded to the runner-up because a wrong call had caused S&W's band to 'cross'; better luck to all this time.

**All members** are invited to join the main events of the day at St Mary Magdelene, Holloway Road. We start with general ringing from 11:30, then a service and lunch before the meeting and we will finish with more general ringing to be finished by 4.30. This is an earlier timing than usual because Arsenal are playing at 3pm so the Holloway Road will be busier than usual from around 12:30 until 3 and again from 5 until 6-ish. Our timing means people miss the rushes.

It's 125 years since the foundation of the Middlesex County Association and we shall celebrate with called changes to **12573468**, touches of 125 changes of Grandsire Triples and of Middlesex Bob Triples.

10:30 - 11:30	Striking Competition	St Mary, Upper St, Islington, then
11:30 - 12:30	General Ringing	St Mary Magdalene, Holloway
12:30 - 1	Service	
1 - 2	Lunch	
2 - 3:30	Meeting	
3:30 - 4:30	General Ringing	



St Mary Magdelene, Holloway Road is close to Highbury & Islington station for Victoria line and Overground trains, not far from Holloway Road on the Piccadilly line. It is shown as Hope Church Islington for google maps with the post code N7 8LT.

## Reach out with social media ....

*Lucy Chandhial*

Did you know that the Middlesex Association has a Facebook group, a Facebook page and a Twitter account? Are you active on Instagram, YouTube or TikTok? Some towers have set up a ringers' website linked (with the incumbent's permission) to the website of the church. This enables the band to display video clips, reports of ringing and recruitment information of their choice.

Bellringing is a relatively hidden activity, so many people will hear bells without knowing exactly where they come from and often without realising that people are ringing the bells 'live'.

Part of recruitment comes from raising awareness, making it easier for people to know that bellringing is available for them to learn, something which could become a valued social and mental activity

If you would be interested to manage a new social media account for Middlesex Association bellringing, often called Bellringing London like the website, please contact Lucy ([Lucy.chandhial@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lucy.chandhial@yahoo.co.uk)) to agree some guidelines and get started.

## Master on BBC 4

On December 20th the music writer Laura Barton presented a programme on bells and change-ringing. Laura visited All Hallows in Twickenham where **Stephen Mitchell** and his bellringers demonstrated what's possible with a peal of ten bells. She even had a go.

Change-ringing feels at one, according to the poet John Betjeman and the musician Virginia Astley, with Britain's landscape. Laura related the timbre of the bells to the music of Jonathan Harvey whose *Mortuos Plango Vivos Voco* is drawn from samples of his son's treble voice and the largest bell at Winchester Cathedral.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001g8rt> .

Music from a range of genres, together with poetry by John Betjeman, a song from Virginia Astley, and a recording of St Paul's Cathedral's muffled bells on the day of the Queen's funeral, are all brought together in this fascinating discussion. Not all the music in this 30-minute episode will be to every member's taste, perhaps, but well worth listening.

## S&W annual district meeting

*Bridget Campbell, District Secretary*

The S&W district held their ADM on 14th January at the church of Christ the Saviour, Ealing. 20 members attended, and together with visitors enjoyed general ringing beforehand.

There were no changes to the district officers in post, so that Geraldine Forster continues as Chair and Mike Palmer as Master. There is currently no Training Officer, and any member willing to take on this

important function would be welcome; the task is mainly organisational and advanced ringing ability is not essential.

## Once in a lifetime birthday

*Mike Palmer, Master S&W District*

A weekend of celebrations marked the occasion of my 80th birthday, on Sunday 11th December.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December I rang in a specially arranged peal (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1567126>) of Stedman Caters at Hillingdon, with family and friends with whom I have rung during many years. This was a very good peal and I am grateful to Lucy Woodward for conducting it.



In the evening my family took me out for a meal, with 30 of the Hillingdon ringers reuniting past and present members. Despite very slight opposition from a football match, this was an extremely enjoyable occasion at which I was given many cards and presents. I was also presented with an engraved glass tankard by the Hillingdon ringers and a specially made birthday card with pictures of me as a baby, as a young boy, getting married, at work, on holiday etc all collected from family photo albums.

On Sunday afternoon local band quarter peals were rung at Harefield, Hillingdon and Hayes after which we shared some cake.

I felt overawed and humbled by the whole occasion and so grateful to my family and friends who made the weekend such an enjoyable and memorable birthday. Thank you all so much and especially my daughter Louise who arranged it all for me. I have recently been described as energetic. After this weekend I needed a rest!

## N&E annual district meeting

*Lucy Chandhial*

The N&E district gathered on 18th February at the church of St Matthew, Bethnal Green for a service, general ringing and the district ADM.

Janet Drake continues as Chair. Tom Britten took on the post of Master with Helen Porter elected one of five Assistant Masters. (One of those present commented "We must be an unruly lot in N&E if it takes five Assistant Masters to manage us when S&W don't have one").

Celia Workman becomes an Assistant District Secretary. Harry Baulcombe and Guy Wells become Bell Restoration Committee Reps. Thanks to all the officers who take on these essential jobs.

## London Bell Ringers' Advent Carol Service

*Sue Whittaker, Stepney - and member of the London Ringers' Choir*

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 29 November 2022 ringers from across London and Surrey met at the newly refurbished St John's Waterloo for the annual Advent Carol Service. I say annual but the last time we met in-person was in late 2019! This fine church badly damaged in the last war, rebuilt in the 1950s, has recently benefited from a £5.5m update. Trisha Shannon (Docklands Ringing Centre Secretary) arranged for the church to host the service.

Edmund Wratten, the tower captain, managed the general ringing on the ring of eight before and after the service ringing. The last touch before the service and the first touch afterwards were from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, courtesy of Bridget

Campbell (Middlesex S&W District Secretary).

The London Ringers' Choir, a scratch choir of singer ringers, came together to sing carols chosen, arranged and conducted by Professor Greg Rose who used to ring regularly at Stepney.



*Professor Greg Rose*

The organ was expertly played by ringing learner Norman Harper. The choir had two rehearsals the week before and then one an hour or so before the service. The on-the-day practice was punctuated by the general ringing; the organist, being quite close to the ringing room, could barely hear the choir! It gave a whole new meaning to the words of the final hymn 'Sleepers awake': *Let men and angels join in chorus* (i.e. the choir), *Let harp and cymbal add their sound* (i.e. the bells)!

The service began promptly - with the pre-service ringing stopping bang on time - and was led by The Reverend Canon Giles Goddard, vicar of St John's. The post-service ringing started as soon as the closing organ voluntary had finished - again, beautifully timed!

The six readings were read by representatives of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, the Ladies Guild of Change Ringers, the London University Society of Change Ringers, the Middlesex County & London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and the Docklands Ringers. So quite a spread, representing both sides of the river.

It was a lovely service which zipped along nicely with no hold-ups - and no sermon! Afterwards we adjourned to the Duke of Sussex pub nearby and a very small private function room for celebratory drinks.

## Ringling for the Coronation

At a planning meeting in December 2022, the Tower Talk team discussed inviting ringers to compose a sequence of ringing, or a set of call changes, that could be rung for the coronation by those at an early stage in their ringing career. Here's a couple of suggestions:

### *Wendy Crampton*

I'm sure that a very splendid and complicated 12 Bell method is being created to celebrate the King's coronation. But folk who have not yet mastered methods, or who aren't able to join in a Quarter Peal attempt, need something simpler. The routine below, combining foundation skills from the first three levels of the ART novice change ringer LtR scheme, aims to build confidence in new ringers and support their growth; and more importantly to ensure they are included and valued members of their band.

"Ringling for the King" attracts new ringers, see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-64718027> but even with excellent teaching, a novice may be able to ring only this kind of routine. Being able to pull off in well struck rounds before moving on to reverse rounds is a starting point. All of the components below require a focus on bell control and accurate striking.

If a novice is able to ring such a routine competently so that it sounds rhythmical, it can be a very motivating achievement, and an encouragement to progress further.



### *Sonia Field*

The row 321546 sounds rather good but doesn't (yet) have a specific name. Call it by:

Call 4 to 5, and 2 to 3 (as in Queens)	1 3 2 5 4 6
Call 1 to 3, then 1 to 2,	3 2 1 5 4 6
Call 3 to 2, then 3 to 1	2 1 3 5 4 6
Call 5 to 4, then 3 to 4	2 1 4 3 5 6

Finally move the tenor.

Call 5 over 6 giving	2 1 4 3 6 5
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Return to rounds by crossing the pairs.

## And finally...

"Jump in, the water's lovely" is the message from the N&E district Master to ringers hesitating to join in QP Week. Suggest what you'd like to ring, and have a go!

# CALENDAR

## March – May 2023

Date	Day	Distr	Topic	Location	Time
1st March	Wed	N&E	Minor methods practice	Southgate	7:00-9:00pm
2nd March	Thurs	S&W	Triples practice	St Mary, Hanwell	8:00-9:30pm
7th March	Tues	S&W	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	7.45-9pm
10th Mar	Fri	MCA	Association 12 bell method practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6:30 – 8:30pm
11th Mar	Sat	S&W	Second Saturday practice	Pinner	10:30-noon
12th Mar	Sun	N&E	10 bell method practice	Southgate	2:00-4:00pm
14th Mar	Tues	S&W	Daytime practice – all welcome	Isleworth	10:30am-noon
15th Mar	Wed	N&E	Daytime practice	St George in the East	10:00-noon
16th Mar	Thur	N&E	7 & 8 bell methods, and local band	St Mary, Islington	7:00-9:00pm
17th Mar	Fri	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington	7.30-9.15pm
18th Mar	Sat	N&E	Quarter Peal Week, starts with Social	City area (TBC)	3:00-8:00pm
24th Mar	Fri	N&E	Surprise Major methods	St Saviours Pimlico	7:00-8:30pm
24th Mar	Fri	S&W	10 bell practice	Hillingdon	7.45-9:15pm
25th Mar	Sat	N&E	Training course TBC	TBA	10:00-13:00
25th Mar	Sat	S&W	General practice	Cranford TBC	10:30-noon
25th Mar	Sat	N&E	Quarter Peal week social	TBA	6:00-9:00pm
26th Mar	Sun	N&E	Quarter Peal week ends		
30th Mar	Thurs	S&W	Triples practice	Hanwell	8:00-9:30pm
1st April	Sat	MCA	Janets' Jaunt (trains permitting)	Cookham & Wooburn	All day
5th Apr	Wed	N&E	Minor methods CANCELLED, HOLY WEEK		
8th April	Sat	S&W	Second Saturday practice - CANCELLED		
9th April	Sun	MCA	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>		
9th April	Sun	N&E	10 bell methods practice	Limehouse	2:00-4:00pm
11th April	Tues	S&W	Daytime practice – all welcome TBC	Isleworth	10:30am-noon
11th April	Tues	S&W	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	7.45-9pm
12th April	Wed	N&E	Minor methods practice	TBC	7:00-9:00pm
14th April	Fri	MCA	Association 12 bell method practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6:30 – 8:30pm
19th April	Wed	N&E	Daytime practice	Wood Green TBC	10:00-noon
20th April	Thur	N&E	7 & 8 bell methods, and local band	St Mary, Islington	7:00-9:00pm
21st April	Fri	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington TBC	7.30-9.15pm
22nd April	Sat	MCA	<b>AGM &amp; Striking competition</b>	Holloway & Islington	11:30-4:30pm
28th April	Fri	S&W	10 bell practice	Twickenham	7.45-9:15pm
28th April	Fri	N&E	Surprise Major methods	TBA	6:30-8:30pm
29th Apr	Sat	N&E	Training course TBC	TBA	
3rd May	Wed	N&E	Minor Methods practice	St Mary, Holloway	7:00-9:00pm
4th May	Thurs	S&W	Triples practice	Hanwell	8:00-9:30pm
6th May	Sat	MCA	<b>Coronation King Charles III</b>	All. See CCCBR website	
9th May	Tues	S&W	Daytime practice	Isleworth	10:30-noon
9th May	Tues	S&W	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	7.45-9pm
12th May	Fri	MCA	Association 12 bell method practice	St Magnus the Martyr	6:30 – 8:30pm
13th May	Sat	S&W	Second Saturday practice	Harrow Weald	10:30-noon
14th May	Sun	MCA	Bell Sunday (CoE focus)	All towers	All day
14th May	Sun	N&E	10 bell methods practice	St John at Hackney	2:00-4:00pm
17th May	Wed	N&E	Daytime practice	Barnet	10:00-noon
18th May	Thur	N&E	7 & 8 bell methods, and local band	St Mary, Islington	7:00-9:00pm
19th May	Fri	S&W	Surprise Major practice	Harlington TBC	7.30-9.15pm
20th May	Sat	N&E	District 6-bell striking competition	St Mary Magdalene, Enfield	2:00-5:00pm
26th May	Fri	S&W	10 bell practice	Hillingdon	7.45-9:15pm
26th May	Fri	N&E	Surprise Major methods practice	TBA	6:30-8:30pm
27th May	Sat	N&E	Training course TBC	TBCnthony	10:00-1:00pm
27th May	Sat	MCA	Informal striking competition	Uxbridge TBC	TBA
27th May	Sat	S&W	General practice	Cranford TBC	10:30-noon

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

**Next deadline Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

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