

Middlesex Bell News

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And much more



Middlesex Bell News

All the news, articles, achievements, outings and history from members throughout the Middlesex County Association and the London Diocesan Guild.

Note from our President

Alec Gray

I hope you are enjoying the wonderfully warm summer. I missed the record-breaking heat in the southeast as I was on a 3-day ringing outing in Cumbria. Some great ringing, meals and super to catch up with friends. We even had a drop of rain. Staying in Kendal offered me the opportunity to try Kendal Mint Cake for the first time. Yes truly, I had never tasted it before but am now a convert.

Another highlight of the summer for me was the N&E District Striking Competition when we welcomed back to the District Tom Britten, former Ringing Master who was our judge for the day. This competition had an incredible 9 bands entering. The day ended with a 'Treasure Hunt' across central London organised by Lucy Chandhial. Our first stop was a visit to the 18-bell chime at All Hallows by the Tower where we were shown close up, the mechanism in the tower. Many thanks to Scott Orr who rings at St James, Garlickhythe for explaining everything to us. You may recall Scott contacted us all recently via the Middlesex email about All Hallows. If you haven't seen the chime do visit when there is an open day. Another fascinating part of the 'Hunt' was a visit to the Ellacombe Chimes at St Pancras Church, Euston Road. Two tower grabs for me during a most memorable afternoon.

Further afield this summer there has been the Ringing World National Youth Contest held this year in Birmingham. The Middlesex was not able to enter a band this year, but I know that Chris Trawin is keen to make this happen in the future. If you would like more information do get in touch with Chris. Contact details in the Annual Report.

The second national/international event was of course the National 12 Bell Competition, hosted this year in Bristol, the place where it all started 50 years ago. Do read the excellent article by our own Thomas Ashwin-

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Siejkowski which appeared in the Ringing World on 11th July 2025, giving his impressions of the day. I was not able to attend either of these events this year but already have the dates noted for next year. Closer to home we have our Autumn General Meeting on Saturday 11th October 2025 hosted this year by the South and West District. At this meeting I hope we will be able to fill the vacancy for our fourth representative on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers as well as the vacancy for the position of General Secretary. We know from a recent Central Council Zoom Meeting that we are not alone in lacking a General Secretary, but it is important that we fill this position. If that candidate is you, I promise we won't overload you!

I hope you are feeling rested in what is supposed to be the summer holidays and of course, enjoy your ringing.

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Ordination Service Ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral

Stephen Mitchell, Vice President

The Diocese of London holds its annual ordination service for deacons on the Saturday afternoon closest to the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, at St Paul's Cathedral, which this year was the 28th June. Since the turn of the century, and with breaks for bell restoration and then coronavirus, the Middlesex Association & London Diocesan Guild has regularly been invited to ring before and after the service. We have generally attempted a quarter peal of Grandsire or Stedman Cinques before (occasionally after) the service, and many have been successful. The full record of these performances is available on BellBoard.

The 12 bells at St Paul's are heavy (61 cwt) and challenging to ring, with long ropes in a large circle. Turning up there with hundreds of ordinands and their families gathering outside can be a daunting experience. Selecting and practising a band to take on this challenge falls to the Association Master. This year the service was on 28th June. Unfortunately, this was also the date of this year's National 12-Bell Contest Final in Bristol, for which our recently elected Master (Dave Bassford) had qualified to ring as a member of the St Paul's Cathedral band! He was therefore not available, so as retiring Master I took on this task for a final time.

We were fortunate to have Mark Liebenrood (who rings with the local band at Barnet, as well as with the ASCY and Southwark) available to conduct, and Tom Lawrance (who rings at St Vedast, Foster Lane and is a member of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild) available to handle the logistics and security involved in getting up the tower in time to ring! From this basis, I was able to sign up 10 experienced ringers of Stedman Cinques, four of us being past Masters of the Association.

St Paul's is not the sort of tower at which you want to turn up cold for a quarter peal, and the Cathedral Guild now invites us to book a practice in the run up. We were therefore able to hold a useful practice on a Saturday afternoon in April, giving us confidence for 28th June. We proceeded that day to ring a very respectable quarter peal of Stedman Cinques before the service (details in the link - <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1864497>). After the service, Linda Georgiades who was our reserve ringer for the day, joined us to ring short touches of Grandsire Cinques and Stedman Cinques. Altogether a very worthwhile experience of preparing to ring heavy and demanding bells and then doing so well under some pressure to succeed. I now look forward to stepping back to the ranks and helping the Master arrange the Association's ringing at St Paul's in 2026.

Celebrating Hanwell with John Barrance

Stephen Jakeman, Vice President

There have recently been two notable events at the lovely light 8 at Hanwell. The first was something Tower Captain John Barrance was keen to achieve, namely his 100th quarter in the tower, but we missed it due to the state of records! After some effort tracking down relevant information and entering the missing quarters onto BellBoard, we now know this happened on Sunday July 21st 2024 when one was rung in support of the summer season church open days. John has now rung 102 quarters at Hanwell and recently celebrated his 93rd birthday with his family up from Dorset so congratulations on both accounts. John tells me he learnt to ring at Dalston (which I am in awe of) taught by Albert Crouch but living in Ilford he rang in nearby towers such as Barkingside. He moved to Hanwell in 1965 but didn't ring again until 1976 after the new bells had been installed. John has been Tower Captain since 1983, taking over the reigns from his son David when he moved to Bedfordshire. During that time John has always taught new ringers which is why the band continues today, an example to us all. John was a District Representative on the BRF for some 15 years and I recall him and Frank Blagrove mixing bucket after bucket of cement when grouting in the new frame at Islington St Mary.

The second is the 50th anniversary of the first time the bells were rung on Thursday 6th August in 1975. This was the 'try out' by the Foundry Band from Whitechapel at which I

was present as I was a student in those days, rough-tuning handbells during the summer break. In those days there were sufficient foundry employees who rang to have a regular Thursday evening practice, particularly if the bell hangers were in town. I grabbed many east end and city towers that way (including Hackney). Hanwell was a completely new ring so there were no local ringers but no doubt plans to teach. To mark this event a quarter of Grandsire Triples was organised - the same method as the first quarter rung on the bells on January 20th 1976 called by A Colin Banton. The anniversary quarter was rung on the 6th August this year and the band included former employees of the Foundry, John Barrance and Steve Douglas from the current band, and local ringers.



Up Close with the bells at St. Paul's



Claire Sneddon, St Botolph's, Aldgate

One of the highlights of being a new bellringer member of the Middlesex & County Association (MCA) has got to be the rare chance to see 'behind the scenes' at St Paul's Cathedral to see the bell tower and the bells. On 26th July, almost 30 members of the MCA, new learners and 'helpers', met at St Giles, Cripplegate for some rounds and call changes, and for many of us, our first chance to experience 12-bell ringing. Then it was on to St Paul's.

Access to the tower is via the Geometric Stairs, which lead up to the Triforium, a hidden corridor running high above the nave. We were able to admire the Great Model, a large wooden model of the Cathedral's original design, pass shelves filled with chunks of medieval masonry stone, being all that was left of the Old St Paul's from the remains of the Great Fire in 1666, and take photos of the Cathedral floor from an excellent viewpoint.

Arriving at the tall octagonal bellringing chamber, we were welcomed by Dave Bassford and Michael Crockett, both members of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Ringers, who told us about the history of the tower and the bells. The 12 bells were cast by John Taylor and Co of Loughborough in the key of B flat. They hang in the northwest tower and form the second largest ring of twelve bells in the world by total weight, and the third heaviest ring of bells by tenor weight. The bellringing chamber was fascinating to explore with peal boards round the room, some marking dates linked to the monarchy and one commemorating the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. One board showed the four peals rung during the London 2012 Olympics, one each for the men's and women's marathon, as the route went past the Cathedral. The peal rung for the women's race was sounded by an all-female band, a first for St Paul's, while the fourth marked the closing ceremony. Dave pointed out that the tenor on each of the peal boards had two names credited and explained how it has a second rope attached under the sally, for two people. The bell is simply too heavy at 61cwt for one person to ring during a peal singlehanded.

The 40 members of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Ringers are of an exceptionally high standard. They ring the 12 bells for three services each Sunday, as well as many other services and occasions of celebration and remembrance, but that shouldn't put off any outstanding new bellringers from applying. Dave says the Guild is always on the lookout for new talent! After signing the visitors book, we were invited to climb the stairs to the top of the bell tower to admire the bells themselves. It's not an easy area to access but the view is incredible and close-up the bells are awe-inspiring and enormous. A huge vote of thanks to all those who organised this trip, particularly Janet Betham and Dave Bassford; it's the third year running that it's taken place, and it's something all of us will remember doing forever. Thank you!



St Paul's New Members' Outing

Samuel Quartey, St. Ann's, Stamford Hill

Saturday 26th July is a day that I will never forget. I got to ring at Cripplegate! They were a really hard ring of 12 but we still got decent ringing out of them. Although the 4th stay broke it was a lovely experience!

After that was the better tower, St. Paul's Cathedral, my favourite tower of the mini outing. After a lot of stairs to climb, we entered the ringing room. I was amazed how big it was and how carefully designed the peal boards were. I really liked when the opportunity came for ringing the tenor. The resonance of that bell was stunning! We took a trip to the belfry afterwards and that was nice too!

Thank you, Janet Betham for organising and Dave Bassford for running this new members' outing!

Editor's note:

On Tuesday 5th August 2025 Samuel rang his fourth Quarter Peal, and first away from cover. Rung to mark the 160th anniversary of the installation of the back six at Stamford Hill.

Samuel is 13 years old. Well done, Samuel.
You've a great ringing career ahead of you!

Stamford Hill, Greater London

St Ann

Tuesday, 5 August 2025 in 41m (7-3-1 in A)

1260 Doubles (2m)

360 Grandsire, 900 Plain Bob

1 Samuel Quartey

2 Angela McLellan

3 Owen P Jones

4 Ryan J Faulkner-Hatt

5 Stephen Jakeman (C)

6 Steve Johnson

*Right: Samuel Quartey and his
Mum, Sylvia, St. Ann's,
Stamford Hill*



Signposts to Better Ringing

Constance Redgrave, St Anne's, Highgate

How can anything be so frustrating and still so exhilarating at the same time? The last time I felt this was fifty years ago when I first started learning to play bass guitar. Thank the heavens for passion. I can't imagine what my life would have been like without those signposts along the way.

So just this week, I got to the end of a plain course of Plain Bob Doubles from the two for the first time. I love this so much. Four months ago, I backtracked, and it's been a painfully slow progress. Grandsire from the three was amazing but I realised I missed a step, and they promise that if I do this properly, a lot will open up from there. Count your places, get your speeds right and do not memorise the sequence! Learn it within the four pieces of work and you will ultimately have the other bells available in your head and be able to handle the bobs. Writing this reminds me of how challenging Plain Hunt was to learn. That seems a long time ago now. I have to remember it is human nature to forget the pain in the joy of the aftermath.

And other stuff is happening as well. I rang at my first wedding, and I did ok. I am learning Edmund's magic call changes where everything goes to the back, and you accidentally do cool stuff without even realising it. And then yesterday I got to ring for the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII at St Johns Hackney. What a brilliant way to say thank you to all the soldiers everywhere. I don't think we say it enough.

So, what's my life lesson at two and a quarter years? The outcome is irrelevant. It's the journey that matters and I am having a wonderful time. What more could I want?



N&E June Outing – St Albans

Brooks Hayes, St Botolph's, Aldgate

Torture, decapitation, and global luxation are not universal hallmarks for the summer solstice, but they are in Hertfordshire when it aligns with the St Alban's Patronal Festival. On 21st June, I arrived outside St Peter's Church to hear the commentator interviewing Janet Betham over the PA system how we ringers do what we do, and that we'll be at a couple of different towers throughout the day. This was a bright and early start to this year's N&E District June Outing.

My own church made a special pilgrimage to this festival; so, in addition to the ringing, I got to take part in the procession. From 12-foot-tall Roman centurions to detached eyeballs, the puppets and dancers were a sight to behold as we went down the hill towards St Alban's Cathedral and Abbey. Throughout the procession, the puppets would stop and re-enact the story of England's first saint. This started with Alban providing refuge to a fleeing priest, then went down to his trial where he was tortured and sentenced to death (triggering a 'spring of water' provided by the local fire brigade, which was most welcome in the 33° heat), and ended in front of the Cathedral with the beheading itself, which caused the executioner's eyes to pop out of his head.

In addition to the characters of the retelling, there were other representative figures, including puppets of the falcons whose birth and fledgling featured in a livestream on the Cathedral's website.

While I headed into the service, the band of 10 began its first ring at St Peter's. This ring of ten (24-0-3) rang

out over the town's centre to Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Grandsire Triples, and rounds on 10. The band then struggled up St. Stephen's Hill in the heat and were pleased to relax over lunch in the pub opposite the next church, St. Stephen's. This church has a significant connection to the festival, as it is believed to be built as one of the three churches receiving pilgrims on their way to pay their respects to St Alban's shrine at the Cathedral. There, after the service, I was able to join up with them. We rang some nice touches of St Clement's, Cambridge, and Norwich minor on a very ringable ground-floor set of 6 (8-2-4).

Having finished there, we then set off on our final mile of walking across Verulamium Park towards St Michael's Church. Stopping for a Mr Whippy on the way (other ice creams are available), we enjoyed an attractive view of the Abbey overlooking the lake on this warm and beautiful day of aestival bliss. St Michael's is right next to the Verulamium Museum, which is most appropriate as both this church and much of the Cathedral were built using salvaged Roman brick. The bells give their name to a local pub, 'The Six Bells', which is a bit anachronistic, seeing as they now have a ring of 8 (12-3-20). On said 8 we rang Grandsire Triples, Treble Bob hunted, and some Cambridge Major. At this point, it was getting quite warm, and we were all thoroughly tired from such an eventful day. But we had a very enjoyable ringing, and headed back through the city towards the station, appreciating the stands and games that had popped up for the occasion as we went. A special thank you to Janet Betham and Fiona Clode for organising this trip, as well as all the ringers who came to help make this outing a success.



Learning Something New

Lucy Chandhial, N&E District Ringing Master, 200 Club Secretary

How do you learn something new, or help someone learn something new, in bellringing?

Once upon a time there were three or four books that guided ringers whenever you needed to learn something new, such as the Beginner's Handbook and the Method Ringer's Companion. During Covid (especially) video tutorials were developed by various people to replace face-to-face teaching sessions for Plain Hunt or Grandsire Doubles, and many of these can be found on YouTube or with a Google search.

For the early stages of learning bell handling, and then bell control and into Plain Hunt, there are some excellent tool kits available from the ART website: <https://artonline.bellringing.org/> while the Education Column in the Ringing World is available on the CCCBR website: <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/learning-development/>

While some people definitely learn best in the tower, with the chance to watch and then try it themselves, many like to take time to become familiar with the next step before being expected to give it a go, so the articles and videos can really help. If you, or a learner in your tower, like videos then try Andy Cope or Duncan Ringing on YouTube for Plain Hunt.

Many people still swear by the pen and paper option to work out what's going on when someone calls 'Go', so investing some time with coloured pencils and squared paper can help you to understand why more experienced ringers know who to dodge with or who becomes the new hunt bell after a call.

As you go further, it becomes important to develop techniques for remembering key information. You cannot stop to check the book when someone switches you from Plain Bob Doubles to St Simon's, let alone if ringing spliced surprise so it's useful to start thinking through what happens without referring to notes as early on as you can.

An important part of ART training for teachers is to be prepared for different people's learning styles, so you cannot simply teach in the way that works for you. Think about using a learning styles quiz if it seems that learner and teacher 'don't speak the same language': <https://smartringer.org/wp-content/contentuploads/Learning-Style-Questionnaire.pdf>

Some bands actively set goals at the start of the year or each 'term'. As we start a new academic year consider whether you would like to set a bellringing goal, either as an individual ringer or as a band, and work towards it in the coming months, with a review at Christmas and Easter.



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Veronese Ringers Visit to Kilburn

Lucy Chandhial, N&E District Ringing Master, 200 Club Secretary

On an August Monday we were lucky enough to have a visit from two Veronese ringers who were in London to see a childhood friend. During our practice evening we established that bellringing is not well understood there either, many people assume everything is mechanical and some people complain about the noise, so they are using Instagram to publicise how they ring with some clever upstairs/downstairs videos.

<https://www.instagram.com/campanarissfermoerusti.co?igsh=MXdycW8yNGV5cjVjMg==>

We also realised that they are used to very slow-moving bells so our little eight felt very fast for them (and I kept the tail end in one hand as their style lets go of the rope completely on both strokes and that worried me!).

Whilst we learn patterns, so the bells are consistently ringing and changing order, they call out numbers so that each bell rings in turn in changing patterns. We tried this and the need to hold and wait on backstroke wasn't always easy but it's definitely a good exercise for bell control.

In Verona there is no sound control as the bells ring out through the pillars of the tower so helping people understand the skill and the history behind it is even more important than here.

It was a fantastic opportunity to exchange experiences and look at how we ring and how we could ring in new ways. It's likely they'll be back next summer to visit their friend so perhaps we can organise Veronese ringing for a wider group next time!



San Zeno basilica, Verona, Italy

Software Ringers?

Peter Bowman, Harlow, Essex

I'm a ringer in Harlow, Essex and I work in central London as a lead for a team of software developers. I'm often mentioned practices, quarter peals I've rung at the weekend or outings I've been on. We were recently looking to do a team social activity and one team member said they'd like to have a go at bell ringing. So after some enquiries we arranged to meet Dickon Love at Garlickhythe a little before their regular practice. He, with the help from many of his band who'd arrived early to help, gave us a potted history of the Royal Jubilee Bells and bell ringing in general before half of my team had a go at ringing backstroke, and the other half went up above the bells to see the bells being rung. The band then rang on all 8 bells as we watched the bells from above and finished with a course of Grandsire Triples with my team watching in the ringing room. We left to allow them to carry on with their usual practice. In my team we had some who took to the backstroke very readily, and although I'm not sure if any will take it up, they all enjoyed the experience and left with a good sense of what was involved and the complexities involved. Many thanks to Dickon and the Garlickhythe band for their warm welcome and the brilliant event they put on.

One of my team said: "My experience of bell ringing was fantastic! It was lovely seeing people of all ages form a welcoming community that could share a hobby and laugh together! I enjoyed trying to master the backstroke, and seeing the impressive live performance, with everyone so focused on their position, which resonated with my desire for challenge!"



N&E Mini Summer Outing to S&W District

Kaz Donald, Hendon

Saturday 16th August 2025

A small, yet intrepid, band of ringers set out from Waterloo Station. Martin & Fiona, Janet B, Colin, Em, Jay (newbie), and me (newbie). Our first stop was St Peter's in Staines-upon-Thames where we were joined by Sheila, a local new ringer. Good rounds and call changes were completed, with everyone moving around the bells. This was followed by 180 changes of Bob Doubles to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. Something very poignant to St Peter's as local men had served in the Burma Campaign.

We then took the 216 bus to Sunbury-on-Thames. Like school children we all sat at the back of the bus and the journey allowed us time to eat packed lunches and to get to know each other! We alighted the bus right outside St Mary's but as we were early we took the opportunity, in the spirit of all bellringers, to visit a local hostelry. Upon making our way back to St Mary's we found that our numbers had increased as Stephen, Helen and Geraldine joined us. Colin was in the hotspot for this tower. Stedman Triples and half a course of Cambridge on 8 were completed as were rounds and call changes. Before we knew it, we were back on the 216 heading for our next tower!



At St Mary's, Hampton we swapped out Sheila and added Ted, from Windsor, and Christine, another newbie and local ringer. Stephen was now putting us through our paces: rounds and call changes for the newbies. Next up was Middlesex Triples, with Em doing a marvellous job on the Tenor, finishing with Plain Hunt on 7 with Em still working her magic covering. And that was it! It's amazing how quickly the time goes by. Luckily for the peeps who were travelling by train, there was still time to add another beer to the mix before we made our way back to Waterloo. It was a fab day, and huge thanks go to Janet and Fiona for herding the cats and making sure we were always in the right place at the right time – something not necessarily reflected in my ringing! I'm very much looking forward to the next outing.

Treasure Hunt

Lucy Chandhial, N&E District Ringing Master, 200 Club Secretary



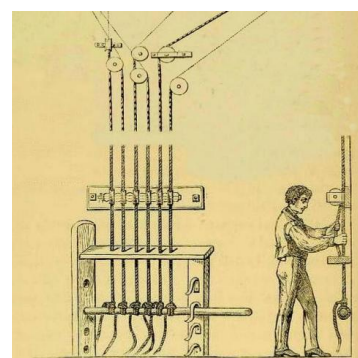
We've had barn dances, quizzes, musical performances and a virtual murder mystery so wanted another idea for a social this summer. I volunteered to prepare a bell-themed treasure hunt as I had a couple of stops in mind. My first task was to secure the 'ringing' stops and I was pleased that Scott Orr was enthusiastic about showing us the chimes at All Hallows. The second ringing stop took a few more tries until a church warden at St Pancras New Church was willing to show people the Ellacombe chimes. From here I had to consider how to get everyone from St George in the East to an end pub, via the two ringing stops but separated by tasks or routes to allow each team time. This proved harder than I imagined as different teams had a different overall speed vs saunter approach!

Researching the bellringing connections of famous Londoners was an enjoyable exercise on the Eurostar to work in Paris. I knew Betjeman had mentioned bells, but the Dickens connection was new

for me. Unsure how to 'prove' teams had visited the various points I looked for keywords which could fill a crossword and then juggled options to form a crossword grid.

Choosing the pub was easier! I found a community pub with Camra awards close to Kings Cross and visited one afternoon to assure myself that it was open, friendly and suitable. The mixed weather made it harder to enjoy the journeys between stops and the pub's outside street space but all in all people made the most of the event despite the showers.

Maybe next time it will be a barn dance again so offers of barns (or church halls) to Fiona please!



WW1 Roll of Honour – Wood Green Bellringers

Alan Regin MBE, Christ Church Spitalfields, Steward of the Rolls of Honour, CCCBR

Shortly after the Great War ended the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) decided that a Roll of Honour for Bell Ringers that died during the conflict should be created, to that end the Rev. Cyril Jenkyn MC (Oxford Diocesan Guild) who had served as a Chaplain during the Great War and was awarded a Military Cross for bravery assisting a Medical Officer near Mesnil, Somme, France, under shell fire 03rd September 1916 amongst other brave deeds.

Associations, Guilds and Societies that were affiliated to the CCCBR were written to and their returns were put into the original Roll of Honour, a leather-bound book with beautifully handwritten names on vellum pages during 1924. Of course, this meant that non-affiliated societies were not written to and, it would appear, many towers within the territory of the local Associations, Guilds and Societies were not contacted either leaving big gaps in the Rolls of Honour. The original Great War Roll of Honour contained 1,195 names and there were two addendums added 35 ringers from the Truro Diocesan Guild and 20 from the Kent County Association, making, 1,250 in total. There are now 1,718 names that we are aware of and while there will now be many that we will never know about we are still finding new names over 100 years later.

One main focus is using the British Newspaper Archive which frequently adds new titles and new pages. Every month I search the archive looking for potential new names, and my searches for new additions in June 2025 produced these two articles, both on the same page – see right, with apologies for clarity of images. Sadly, this is how they reproduced online.

With some assistance the following notes have been pulled together:

Corporal Frederick Harry James Johnson, Wood Green, Wood Green Parish Ringers. Died 06/11/1915 age 23. London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) 1st/16th Bn. "C" Coy. Service No.3117.

Commemorated at Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Belgium, Grave M. 12. One of four children, all boys, all surviving at the 1911 census.

Eldest son of Frederick William David Johnson and Mary Johnson (nee Turtill) who were married in 1891 in Suffolk, of 84 Trinity Road, Wood Green, Middlesex. At the time of the 1911 census, he was working

as an apprentice to a builder to learn this business, one assumes with his father who is described in 1911 as a builder & contractor. He arrived in France 17/08/1915. His Regiments war diaries are quite tricky to read but it describes 06/11/1915 as "a misty day" and mentions "2 other ranks killed" which I believe includes Corporal Frederick Harry James Johnson. He left his effects to his parents. The newspaper article which mentions his death describes him as "master of the bellringers" while another piece indicates that he was the first member of The Northern Symphony Orchestra to be killed during the war, they seemed to have performed at Allison Hall, Green Lanes, Harringay. The family inscription on his grave is interesting, it reads: NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS FERVENT IN SPIRIT SERVING THE LORD, Romans Chapter 12, Verse 11. The second eldest brother, Astley William Thomas Johnson, served in the Royal Navy throughout the Great War, joining up 19/10/1914 and leaving the service 18/02/1919 with a rank of Leading Telegraphist. The third eldest brother, Cyril Arthur Johnson, joined up 05/09/1914 and served in France from 18/03/1915 to 08/04/1915, he was wounded 02/04/1915, gunshot wound to his arm and was invalided out of the army 06/03/1916 as no longer physically fit for war service. His youngest brother, Frederick (also) Christopher Johnson served with the Royal Engineers as a Sapper and also survived the Great War. For information the other rank killed on the same day mentioned in the war diary, 06/11/1915, is, I believe, Rifleman William Harrison Evans of Wandsworth Common who is buried in the adjacent grave, M. 11, in Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Belgium. Born: Wood Green, Middlesex. Enlisted: Westminster, Middlesex. Resided: (1911 Census): 68 Truro Road, Wood Green, Middlesex.

ST. MICHAEL'S MEMORIAL SERVICE.

A touching memorial service was held at St. Michael's, Wood Green, on Sunday afternoon, in honour of the men of Wood Green who had laid down their lives for their country, and especially in memory of the following members of the church:—

Albert Davies, H.A.C.
Chas. F. Tate, 12th County of London Rangers.
Reginald Bidgood, 6th Battalion City of London Regiment, and
Fredk. H. Johnson, Queen's Westminster Rifles, all of whom were at one time members of the Vicar's Bible Class. C. Tate and R. Bidgood were choir boys in their younger days, and F. Johnson master of the bellringers. The service included sentences from the burial service, special prayers and intercessions, and the rendering by the choir of Spohr's anthem, "Blessed are the departed." The Vicar, the Rev. C. G. A. Midwinter, conducted the service. A collection was taken on behalf of the funds of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance. After the Dead March and the Last Post the congregation joined in singing one verse of the National Anthem.

TABLET UNVEILED.

The chief feature of the service at St. Michael's was the unveiling and dedication of a memorial tablet erected to the memory of Sidney Arthur Moore and Richard Henry Trim Moore, sons of Mr. S. H. Moore, sidersmen of the Church.

This tablet has been given by the Vicar, Churchwardens and Sidersmen, and is made of marble on an oak background. It bears the Arms of the Regiment—the London Rifle Brigade—in bronze.

Both soldiers were bell-ringers at St. Michael's, and died in May, 1915.

Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald

WW1 Roll of Honour – Wood Green Bellringers cont'd

Serjeant Sidney Arthur Moore, Wood Green, Wood Green Parish Ringers. Died 08/05/1915 age 23. London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) 1st/5th Bn. Service No.8557. Commemorated at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France, Grave VIII. C. 1. Born 1892. One of four children, all surviving at the 1911 census. Son of Sidney Herbert Moore and Victoria Moore (nee Trim) who were married 18/12/1890 at Christ Church South Mimms, Middlesex, of Park School, 43 Park Avenue, Wood Green, Middlesex – Park School was set up in 1890 by Sidney Herbert Moore and he retired from there in 1930, sadly his wife, Victoria Moore, passed away in 1931 and he died in 1936. At the time of the 1911 census, he was working as a re-insurance clerk. He arrived in France 04/11/1914. He was wounded 28/04/1915 at Gravenstafel, Belgium and died of those wounds at No.13 General Hospital, Boulogne, France. The Regimental Diary shows that they arrived in Gravenstafel, Belgium, on 26/04/1915, the entry for 28/04/1915 reads thus: "Fine. Shelling continued heavy & very accurate from four quarters N, NE, NW & SE", one assumes that Serjeant Sidney Arthur Moore was wounded during the shelling and was evacuated, via a casualty clearing station, to hospital in Boulogne. He left his effects to his Father, Sidney Herbert Moore. His brother, Richard Henry Trim Moore, also a bellringer also fell, CWGC shows that he died 30/04/1915 but other documents show it is more likely that he was killed on either 02/05/1915 or 03/05/1915, he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Both brothers are remembered on a memorial in St Michaels Wood Green church. Born: Wood Green, Middlesex. Enlisted: London. Resided: (1911 Census): Park School, 43 Park Avenue, Wood Green, Middlesex.

Rifleman Richard Henry Trim Moore, Wood Green, Wood Green Parish Ringers. Died 30/04/1915 is what CWGC shows but other information does indicate that it is more likely that he was killed on either 02/05/1915 or 03/05/1915 age 20. London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) 1st/5th Bn. Service No.9432. Commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 54. Born 1895 and baptised, a few years later, 20/04/1900 at St Michaels Wood Green, Middlesex. One of four children, all surviving at the 1911 census. Son of Sidney Herbert Moore and Victoria Moore (nee Trim) who were married 18/12/1890 at Christ Church South Mimms, Middlesex, of Park School, 43 Park Avenue, Wood Green, Middlesex – Park School was set up in 1890 by Sidney Herbert Moore and he retired from there in 1930, his wife, Victoria Moore, passed away in 1931 and he died in 1936. He arrived in France 04/11/1914. As mentioned, it does appear he was killed on either 02/05/1915 or 03/05/1915, the Regimental diary entry for 02/05/1915 mentions "Heavy shelling all day, small cottage 100yards in front in front of left Company set on fire", at 5.20pm "Heavy shelling on left & our front, gas seen issuing from German trenches" At 5.40pm "Bombardment still on. Gas blown off. Casualties very heavy" The final entry for 02/05/1915 reads "45 Killed, 8 Officers & 120 men wounded. Unusually the London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) 1st/5th Bn, actually, in a number of cases, gives details of those killed, appendix 35 of the May 1915 entry lists those killed in May, 9432 Pte Moore, R.H.T. is shown against 02/05/1915. The others recorded on that entry are generally shown on CWGC on 02/05/1915 or 03/05/1915. His Medal Card and Effects Register entries both give the date of his death as being 03/05/1915. He left his effects to his Father, Sidney Herbert Moore. His brother, Sidney Arthur Moore, also a bellringer also fell, 08/05/1915 and is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France. Both brothers are remembered on a memorial in St Michaels Wood Green church. Born: Wood Green, Middlesex. Enlisted: London. Resided: (1911 Census): Park School, 43 Park Avenue, Wood Green, Middlesex.

We now know of three more ringers remembered from a tower that many Middlesex County Association members will know.



Fingers in your Ears?

Anthony Davey, St Anne's, Highgate

Look tactfully at the ears of your fellow ringers. Many wear hearing aids. The first question the audiologist asks the client with tinnitus or hearing problems is "Have you been exposed to loud noise?" Most of us don't think of bells as loud and confidently say "Oh, no, I've never been clubbing, you know" and chuckle confidently.

But how loud are the bells we ring? The loudness of noises we hear is measured in Perceived Noise Decibels, PND or just decibels. Although this scale is logarithmic so that 80 PND is 10 times 70 PND, the human ear hears the loudness as only doubling the perceived noise level (PNL).

The CCCBR recommends that we should be exposed to not more than 75 PND when ringing. Any unfortunate steeple keeper who has forgotten to stop the tenor chiming while she or he is up in the belfry will know what a noise of 100 – 120 PND is like, and in *The Nine Tailors* Dorothy Sayers actually rang her victim to death in the belfry, poor fellow. What a way to go.

How many of us ever check the noise level in our tower? Very few is the answer, although your smart phone probably has a decibel meter app which will readily provide a reasonably accurate reading. Many ringers, particularly those with years of experience, are used to a raised noise level and a suggestion that a tower is noisy and that sound reduction should be considered may often be dismissed as unnecessary – "I need to be able to hear my bell", which may be code for "Sound reduction is for wimps" or "I'm very deaf".

If the noise level is much above 75 PND, sound reduction should be on the agenda. If it exceeds 80-85 PND sound reduction is particularly important for children and younger ringers, bearing mind that a PNL of 85 is heard as twice as loud as 75 PNL. Then the question is what to do about it?

This article is not the place for a detailed technical review of options, but the CCCBR website contains useful material at <https://cccb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Mike-Banks-noise.pdf>, and our Association has members with experience of addressing the issue. When dealing with noise reduction always bear in mind that sound is like mice – it gets through startlingly small holes, including rope holes and gaps around trap doors.

St Anne's Outing to East Sussex

Angela Elliott, All Hallows, Tottenham – Middlesex Bell News Editor

Way back on Saturday 12th July some of us went to East Sussex to ring at four churches, one of which, or so I'm told, was home, at separate times to both Andrew Reed and Lucy Chandhial. Actually, it was a St. Anne's, Highgate outing and included Amelia McBeath, Angela Elliott (oops, me), Angela McLellan, Andrew Reed, Anthony Davey, Cathryn & Eleanor Hunt, Christine Grant, Colin Friend, Dick Thompson, Em (Ruth) Mayo, Janet Betham, James Thomas, Louise Booth, Nick Gander, Colin Cherrett and Stephen Yates.

Some travelled to deepest East Sussex by car but some of us went by train, arriving at Hurstpierpoint with plenty of time, or so we thought, to catch the bus to Holy Trinity, our first port of call. These were a nice ring of 8 bells, 12cwt. Following this the rail enthusiasts cadged lifts from the car drivers, and we arrived in Ditchling at 11:30am to ring at St Margaret's 7cwt, 8 bells, hung counter-clockwise. The bells went very well, albeit it was a little confusing at first. We then all walked to The Bull for a really good lunch and sat in the sun frying.

Following our lunch we cadged further lifts to Uckfield, arriving at 3pm, to ring at Holy Cross, 11cwt, 8 bells. It was a very hot, very cramped ringing chamber, but we gave it our best and departed Uckfield in time to reach our final church, St Margaret the Queen at Buxted, 14 cwt, 8 bells. As there was a train from Uckfield back to London, I and three others opted to miss the last church and catch the train home, but I understand that the last church was in a lovely location, with a walk across a field to reach it.

All in all, it was a lovely if hot afternoon with friends old and new. Thanks to Anthony Davey for arranging it, and to all at St. Anne's, Highgate for your indefatigable get up and go.



*View from the ringing chamber,
Ditchling, St Margaret's*

Calendar

Calendar – September 2025 – End of December 2025

Email Updates: Changes and more details are sent via email to the Middlesex Association email list nearer the date of each event. Send an email to mcaldg+subscribe@googlegroups.com to be put on the list if not on it already.

Dates, times and venues subject to change. Please check with event organiser.

District	Date	Day	Information	Location	Time
N&E	03/09/2025	Wednesday	Minor Methods practice	Southgate	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	04/09/2025	Thursday	Triples and general practice	Hanwell	20:00 - 21:30
S&W	06/09/2025	Saturday	S&W Annual District Outing	Cheam area, 5 towers	All Day
S&W	09/09/2025	Tuesday	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	19:45 - 21:00
N&E	09/09/2025	Tuesday	QP Slot	Monken Hadley	18:30 - 19:30
MCA	12/09/2025	Friday	Association Cinques and Maximus Methods practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 - 20:30
N&E	14/09/2025	Sunday	Caters and Royal Methods practice	TBC	14:15 - 16:15
N&E	18/09/2025	Thursday	Plain Doubles to Major Methods practice	Stepney	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	19/09/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	Heston	19:30 - 21:00
N&E	20/09/2025	Saturday	Learners' Outing	Hertfordshire	10:00 - 18:00
N&E	26/09/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	St Giles in the Fields	19:00 - 20:30
S&W	26/09/2025	Friday	General practice	All Hallows, Twickenham	19:45 - 21:15
N&E	27/09/2025	Saturday	Training Course	TBC	10:00 - 13:00
N&E	29/09/2025	Monday	QP Slot	Kilburn, St Augustine	18:30 - 19:30
N&E	01/10/2025	Wednesday	Minor Methods practice	Southgate	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	03/10/2025	Friday	General Practice	Hillingdon	19:45 - 21:15
MCA	04/10/2025	Saturday	Janets' Jaunt	Tonbridge and Leigh	All Day
S&W	04/10/2025	Saturday	Stedman Doubles Practice	Fulham	10:00
S&W	07/10/2025	Tuesday	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	19:45 - 21:00
MCA	10/10/2025	Friday	Association Cinques and Maximus Methods practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 - 20:30
MCA	11/10/2025	Saturday	Association Autumn Meeting	S&W hosting	14:00 - 18:00
N&E	12/10/2025	Sunday	Caters and Royal Methods practice	Hackney	14:15 - 16:15
N&E	14/10/2025	Tuesday	Plain Doubles to Major Methods practice	Tottenham	19:00 - 21:00
N&E	16/10/2025	Thursday	QP Slot	Islington, St Mary	18:30 - 19:30
S&W	17/10/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	Heston	19:45 - 21:00
N&E	18/10/2025	Saturday	No third Saturday N&E meeting		
S&W	23/10/2025	Thursday	Triples and general practice	Hanwell	20:00 - 21:30
N&E	24/10/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	Pimlico (St Saviours)	19:00 - 20:30
N&E	25/10/2025	Saturday	Training Course (London 12 bell competition)		10:00 - 13:00
S&W	25/10/2025	Saturday	QP month to 23 November	All towers	
N&E	05/11/2025	Wednesday	Minor Methods practice	Holloway	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	07/11/2025	Friday	General practice	Hillingdon	19:45 - 21:00
MCA	08/11/2025	Saturday	Lord Mayor's Show Day	St Mary le Bow	10:30 - 12:30
N&E	09/11/2025	Sunday	Caters and Royal Methods practice	Hackney	14:15 - 16:15
N&E	11/11/2025	Tuesday	QP Slot (Half Muffled)	Stamford Hill (then Tottenham)	18:30 - 19:30
S&W	11/11/2025	Tuesday	QP attempt for QP month	Norwood Green	19:45 - 21:00
MCA	14/11/2025	Friday	Association Cinques and Maximus Methods practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 - 20:30
N&E	15/11/2025	Saturday	Winter Local Outing	TBC	12:00 - 18:00
N&E	20/11/2025	Thursday	Plain Doubles to Major Methods practice	Islington, St Mary	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	21/11/2025	Friday	Surprise Major QP attempt for QP month		
N&E	22/11/2025	Saturday	Training Course (300 years since the first peal of Plain Bob Royal)		10:00 - 13:00
S&W	27/11/2025	Thursday	Triples and general practice	Hanwell	20:00 - 21:30
N&E	28/11/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	St George in the East	18:30 - 20:30
N&E	29/11/2025	Saturday	10 or 12 bell general ringing practice	TBC	10:00 - 12:00
N&E	03/12/2025	Wednesday	Minor Methods practice	Southgate	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	05/12/2025	Friday	General practice	Hillingdon	19:45 - 21:15
S&W	09/12/2025	Tuesday	6 bell practice	Norwood Green	19:45 - 21:00
N&E	09/12/2025	Tuesday	QP Slot	Enfield St M	18:30 - 19:30
MCA	12/12/2025	Friday	Association Cinques and Maximus Methods practice	St Magnus the Martyr	18:30 - 20:30
N&E	14/12/2025	Sunday	Caters and Royal Methods practice	Hackney	14:15 - 16:15
MCA	15/12/2025	Monday	London Bellringers Advent Carol Service	Jewry (TBC)	TBC
N&E	18/12/2025	Thursday	Plain Doubles to Major Methods practice	Stepney	19:00 - 21:00
S&W	19/12/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	Heston	19:30 - 21:00
N&E	20/12/2025	Saturday	Christmas Ringing	TBC	14:00 - 17:00
N&E	26/12/2025	Friday	Surprise Major Methods practice	TBC	18:30 - 20:30
N&E	27/12/2025	Saturday	Training Course	TBC	10:00 - 13:00
N&E	29/12/2025	Monday	QP Slot		18:30 - 19:30

Items for inclusion in **Middlesex Bell News** to Angela Elliott at BellNewsEditor@bellringing.london

Next deadline Friday 19th December 2025

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