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[Setback to restoration of ringing at St. Mary's Clapham](#)

Posted: Mon, 28 Dec 2015 14:30:35
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Monday, 28 Dec 2015

The tower at St. Mary's Clapham has had assorted unsightly cracks for decades but ringing had remained possible as various consultants employed by the Church over the years had not called for it to be curtailed or ceased.

Ringing was tailed off around the Millennium, mainly due to lack of ringers, but then the recently completed repairs to the spire were necessary.

It seemed that the previous "status quo" regarding ringing would soon be back again, because even the recent works did not include comprehensive remedial work to the tower's cracks.

Unfortunately, the Church has now received a report from the Structural Engineers which says the tower appears stable in its present condition but it goes on to say that the cracks need to be ".....addressed in the near future and certainly before any consideration is given to recommencing bell-ringing in the tower.....".

Ringing can't, therefore, be allowed to recommence after all.

Ringing previously proposed for the Rededication on 17th January will have to be limited to a little chiming, and that full-circle ringing is being deferred indefinitely. The engineers recommend a sequence of inspections, monitoring and analyses leading to, presumably, extensive conservation repairs to all the cracked areas. No timescale is suggested by the Engineers, and, in any event, there will be the issue of another significant financial burden for the Church.

At some point it is still intended to have the chiming facility reinstated, although this is deferred pending the advice of the consultants as to where in the grand scheme of things this work can be fitted in. It may be that we can achieve an interim solution of chiming regularly pending the obviously major additional work now being suggested.

Mike Shelley

[A Christmas Celebration](#)

Posted: Mon, 21 Dec 2015 14:27:35
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Monday, 21 Dec 2015

The Northern District hosted a celebration of the community of bell ringers on Saturday 19th December. The invite extended to ringers from the Middlesex and Guildford areas as well as everybody in Surrey. With the date falling on the weekend before Christmas, with numerous alternative events not least a significant ringers wedding at Southwark Cathedral, it was likely that many ringers would have competing priorities. Nevertheless numbers grew as the day progressed to around 60 people at Battersea.

The day started with general ringing at both St Gabriel and then St Saviour Pimlico before a leisurely walk along the River Thames to St Mary Battersea for the main event. After general ringing this took

the form of a 'Dickensian' carol service. This featured the talented London University Hand Bell Ringers, a variety of readings, Christmas Tale with piano accordion accompaniment by Chris and Jo Drew, as well as some well-

known carols with support from a ringers and friends choir. Mince Pies and mulled wine in the Crypt then followed, with the pub afterwards for the remaining hardy souls.

All who attended appeared to enjoy the day and many asked whether it would be repeated in future. The Northern District Annual District Meeting takes place at Benhilton on 16th January 2016. Do come along and have a say on the events you would like to see organised in the next 12 months.

Chris Ridley



[Kingston Ringers Christmas Tree](#)

Posted: Mon, 21 Dec 2015 14:47:51 +0000

Monday, 21 Dec 2015

A number of churches have started to adopt decorated Christmas trees both to celebrate Advent as well as raise funds for charities. When the Vicar suggested a similar scheme at Kingston upon Thames it was inevitable that a Ringers' Tree would form part of the display. The theme was based around bell shaped decorations, but with a talented band the boat was pushed out and included rope and sally decorations by

Diane Pratt. Her son, Philip Pratt, is of course the proprietor of Avon Bell Ropes so we now know where he gets his inspiration from.

As well as raising funds for charity this is a great way to promote ringing amongst the non-ringing community, especially over the festive period during which church bells play such a prominent role. Is this something for all Association towers to think about for next year?



[First Peal for Barbara!](#)

Posted: Wed, 16 Dec 2015 22:19:46 +0000

Wednesday, 16 Dec 2015

Many congratulations to Barbara Ghezzi for ringing her first peal earlier today in Barnes!



Barbara, a Richmond ringer who learned to ring just over a year ago with us in Barnes, covered to doubles for her first quarter peal on 29th November this year. She did so well, we then challenged her to attempt a peal before the end of the year to be part of *FirstPeal2015*. So today, less than weeks later, she achieved this (despite a little jetlag after flying back from Japan the day before)! Many thanks to the band (left to right) Chris Ridley, Richard Anthony, Chris McLean (conductor), Oli Thompson and Rod Bickerton photographed here with Barbara.

Training Day, a students perspective

Posted: Wed, 16 Dec 2015 21:56:43 +0000

Wednesday, 16 Dec 2015

Ann Beirne from Merstham shares her experience of the recent Bletchingley training day.

Sitting at home now, babysitting the grandchildren, I am thinking "Wow! What a great day I've had" and really appreciating all the hard work that must go into organising the training day. I wish they were more frequent than every six months but the organisers would be flat out...

Having had the date in my diary since the beginning of the year, the application forms were out. Lots of choice ranging from Bell handling to Plain Bob Minor. I wanted to push myself so took advice from Alison McCormick and chose Plain Bob Doubles (PBD). Fortunately my selection was offered. During the Godstone tower practice preceding the event the chat was all about who was on what training. It was encouraging that all but two of the people at the practice were attending as students or helpers.

Finally Saturday arrived, up early, sun shining, ginger cake baked, I am excited however by the time I arrive at Bletchingley village hall the rain is falling and I feel rather anxious and doubting my ability for PBD. With a very warm welcome and cup of tea I queue for registration then meet with Noel Gibbin, the PBD group leader. I am amazed at how many faces I recognise amongst the one hundred or so students and helpers in the hall. A very friendly community.

At about 9:30 Kate Flavell, the Master of the Surrey Association introduced the event with recognition and notices of future events. With that and the last minute dash to the loo we were off to our designated tower at St Peter and St Paul church, Nutfield, just a mile down the road.

Group Leader Noel Gibbin (Caterham St. John)

Five students – Jan Herd (Caterham St. John), Mark Davies (Charlwood), Luigi Vincenti (Waterloo), Rosalyn Dale (Oxted), and me.

Seven helpers – Charles Turnbull (Barnes), David Whitehead (Addington), Lawrence Davies (Wimbledon), Nolan Marchand (Waterloo), Oli Thompson (Nutfield), Richard Wallis (Godstone), and Simon Beirne (Merstham).

Noel started with introductions: helpers with between 2 and 40+ years' experience; and students with a variety of aspirations and experience, in plain hunting, touches... we warmed up with a few call changes on the six bells, making Queens and back.

Now down to the subject of the day. Why did my parents call me Ann? Oh well, first up and PBD from the 2. I sort of knew the circle of work and with Noel's guidance I managed a plain course, with much searching for the correct bells to follow though (my rope sight is not there yet) and mashing/clashing the dodging. Two more goes to try to improve and then I hand over to the next student in line. During the other students' rope time I take as much opportunity as possible to stand behind one of the experienced ringers. Between each session Noel gives tips and advice on techniques for learning. I get a "magic moment" when I realise the meaning of the little number notation on the blue line diagram and that the sequence of work is the same for the two, three, four and five. By the end of the morning session I feel fairly confident that I know what I should be doing, unfortunately the brain struggles to transfer this break-through of knowledge to the body.

In the pouring rain we walk to the nearest pub, the Queen's Head, for well-earned and welcome refreshments.

Ninety minutes later we return to the tower, in the pouring rain for the afternoon session, minus one student and one helper. So even more rope time in store.

Some waning of energy was creeping in but the huge bar of chocolate gave the needed boost to manage a further three goes of PBD each. Having observed the number 4 bell for a few rounds I was compelled to have a go: woo-hoo!, more progress than I expected as I managed to get through a couple of courses. Nowhere near perfect, but making headway.

Sadly the training session came to an end and following feedback form completion we made our way back to Bletchingley village hall. Once again a very welcome cup of tea and many familiar faces to share our achievements, stories of frustration and challenges of different towers - stiff and bouncy ropes, odd struck bells and loads more. The centre tables have a huge spread of cakes including walnut and date, ginger, lemon drizzle, Victoria sandwich, fruit cake and many more, I really do need to replace some of the energy I have expended during the day, don't I?

There is a real buzz in the hall as people mull over the vast selection of tutorials and training books as well as the range of Association clothing available to order, plus the last few china mugs. Paul Flavell, the training officer concludes the event with words of thanks to the helpers, organisers and students.

This is a fantastic event and opportunity for bell ringers across the Surrey Association and I thoroughly recommend it to all. My enthusiasm is high and I am sure I convey the thoughts and thanks of many others during the day with a great appreciation for all the work in organising and running the event.

The perfect ending to the day was a few rounds next door on the ten bells of St. Mary's. My first time ringing plain hunt on 9 and for others Cambridge Minor amongst many others.

Looking forward to the training follow up event on January 9th and the Wimbledon training day in March next year. What shall I do?

Thank you again to the training committee for their organisation and to the leaders and helpers for their dedication in supporting "us" students.

[Update from St. Mary's Clapham](#)

Posted: Wed, 16 Dec 2015 22:06:15 +0000

Wednesday, 16 Dec 2015

Michael Shelley updates us on the restoration work at St. Mary's Clapham and plans to recommence ringing.

I'm sorry I've not given you an update about St. Mary's for a while, but I hope the following is of interest.

The major works to the spire did overrun a bit but most of the scaffold has now been taken down from around the tower. The Architect has advised me that the Contractor has completed the repair works. He has a site visit / inspection next week to "review progress", and, hopefully, all the internal scaffold should be gone by the end of next week.

I'm therefore assuming that I will be able to visit the tower at some point on the weekend of 19th-20th to get the bell-related things back in some sort of order. I'll raise and lower each bell during the fitting of the ropes etc. but that will be the only "sounding" of the bells for the time being.

The overrunning of the works has left insufficient time to get back to "normal" ringing for Christmastide, but I understand that the Rededication of the tower/spire will be held after the 12:00 service on 17th January. I will restart publicity in the next couple of weeks about the desired re-commencement of ringing and the recruitment of a new band etc but it may well not be the best time. My short piece for the Surrey's Northern District newsletter a few months ago got zero response.

However, my short-term priority is to find some experienced ringers for the Rededication. I wonder if you would be interested and available?

In view of St. Mary's unique history, both in church bell ringing generally and within the Catholic Church in particular, I am asking Nigel Goodship if he, and possibly one or two of his Guild of St. Agatha colleagues, would be available for the Rededication. I'm also trying to find a couple of ringers from the last St. Mary's band, if at all possible.

I'm still likely to come up short, the current Sunday band at Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, includes some good students from the St. Saviour's, Pimlico ringing centre, and one or two might be interested in participating alongside some experienced ringers for the Rededication.

Regarding the regeneration of a "home band" for St. Mary's, I'll write separately to the SA in a few days to re-try generating some support for a recruitment etc exercise after the New Year along with the local publicity amongst local interest groups and the public..

I have Fr. Richard's agreement to the Church ordering the proposed catch-up maintenance on the bell installation, but don't yet know when his PCC approval would be obtained so when these works will be carried out is therefore still uncertain.

Michael

michael [dot] shelly [at] btinternet [dot] com

Cambridge by Christmas – Episode 3

Posted: Sat, 12 Dec 2015 05:42:46 +0000

Saturday, 5 Dec 2015

On Saturday 5th December, 6 students arrived at St. John Divine, Merton, for the third and final instalment of the "Cambridge by Christmas" course.

Having worked our way through St. Clements and Kent Treble Bob, it was now time to tackle Cambridge Surprise Minor itself. As per the previous courses, our instructor Anne Rueff, asked us to give an appraisal of our current level and where we wanted to be at the end of the session. We ranged from having yet to ring a plain course to having already rung touches. We all shared one thing in common - the need for more rope time.



The students with tutor Anne Rueff, left to right – Nolan Marchand, Milica Reardon, Anne Rueff, Sheila Marsh, Rosemary Henderson, Daniel R Smith and Jackie Harrison

For the first half of the morning we rang with one learner and five helpers. Whilst it did mean quite a bit of standing around, this was not wasted time as we could follow the other ringers. By half-way we had all managed to ring plain courses successfully at least once - our reactions ranged from relief to jubilation! The half-time tea/coffee break was accompanied by chocolate birthday cake to celebrate Michael Uphill's birthday.



Happy birthday Michael!

After the break, Anne announced she was placing us with two learners at once; this felt that it might have been a step too far but her confidence was not misplaced as we all managed to complete plain courses or in some cases touches with only a few words of "advice" in our ears. As is often the case when learning, things were starting to slow down and feel less frantic as we became more competent.

Seemingly very soon, it was time to wrap up - at just about the right time before overload set in. Anne congratulated us on our progress and encouraged us not to leave the method but to continue with it until we had completely "got" it. A number of the learners already have quarter peal attempts lined up. We learners thanked Anne and the other helpers for their time and encouragement: Cambridge Minor is not an easy method, but it becomes a lot more possible when ringing with a band of strong ringers. We were all very grateful for the time given by the helpers throughout the 3 sessions. And so we went away knowing that with a little more application and practice we can proudly call ourselves surprise minor ringers.

Dan Smith (Kingston)



The helpers with tutor Anne Rueff, left to right – Anne Rueff, Patrick Wills, Michael Uphill, Kate Desbottes, Niki Tompkinson, Kate Flavell, Paul Flavell, Shirley McGill and Ron Diserens

The final course of three sessions took place at Merton on 5 December where all the students learned how to ring Cambridge Surprise Minor after ringing St Clements and Kent TB Minor in the earlier sessions. All the students have made very tangible progress and the idea of three lessons with progressive method advancement clearly works and is an excellent model for future courses, especially if we can combine that with practices and quarter peals to really reinforce the training message for the students. We are indebted to Anne for organising and running this course for us.

Paul Flavell
Surrey Training Officer

[Bletchingley Training Day 2015](#)

Posted: Sun, 15 Nov 2015 18:21:29 +0000

Sunday, 15 Nov 2015



Concentration at Bletchingley

The weather was grey gloomy and wet for the most part on 14 November, but it didn't stop some 57 students and 61 Helpers allocated across nine groups taking part in the Training Day. The Groups were as follows:

Group Tower Leaders

Rounds and Call Changes Betchworth Anne Anthony

Kaleidoscope Caterham St John Vicky Williams

Plain Hunt (1) Merstham Mike Wigney

Plain Hunt (2) Buckland Andrew Howell

Plain Bob Doubles (1) Limpsfield Patrick Wills and Kate Desbottes

Plain Bob Doubles (2) Oxted Anne Rueff

Plain Bob Doubles (3) Nutfield Noel Gibbin

Grandsire Doubles Lingfield/Godstone Jeremy and Sheila Cheesman

Young Peoples Group Bletchingley Caroline Prescott and Jason Hughes

The Groups had excellent Leaders to bring the best out of the students and helpers, including the Young People's group of 16 students ably managed by Caroline and Jason. This made a total of around 130 people involved yesterday, an excellent result for the Association.

All the groups reported a degree of progress with their various students and the direct feedback from the Leaders and the Groups has been very favourable. Thanks to those who supplied the feedback forms. There is some valuable feedback which should give us pointers of how to improve things in next year's training events.

The challenge for us all is to ensure the students we saw yesterday are given the opportunity (and take their own opportunities) to practise and consolidate what they learned yesterday. There is a follow up method ringing course 10.00 -12.30 on Saturday 9 January. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this (venue to be confirmed).

Next Year's Training Day is on Saturday November 5th. We realise that this might clash with those involved with the Brockham bonfire, but this date avoids the issues we find with towers wanting to muffle bells for Remembrance Sunday.

See the separate report written by Daniel Hughes on the Young People's Group.

Paul Flavell



The Rounds and Call Changes Group at Betchworth

On Saturday November 14th I attended the annual training day at Bletchingley with 17 other young learners (10-18). In the morning we did call changes on 8 and 10 bells and also plain hunt on 7 bells and rounds. It was nice to hear that it was the first time some of us had ever rung on 10 bells and also that it was nice to be ringing with people roughly our own ages. I thought it was a really nice way to gain ringing confidence. One of the company said that it was nice to learn not just the 2 but the 5 and other bells. I think it was made such a great event due to the teaching and help from all of the helpers. (Caroline Prescott, Chris Stanley, Jason Hughes, Bob Cooles, Carole Cooles, Emma Booth and Heather Griffith). I thought that Chris really helped me gain confidence; I still don't know why he has so many zips on his leather jacket!

In the afternoon we stayed at Bletchingley but we broke into 2 smaller groups and one stayed in the tower and rang on the bells but the other group went out and had some fun with the hand bells.

Daniel Hughes, Addington St Mary's



The Young People's Group at Bletchingley

[Announcing Fellowship Grants](#)

Posted: Sun, 08 Nov 2015 14:35:05 +0000

Sunday, 8 Nov 2015

The Surrey Association is pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative to support local ringers.

Since its earliest days one of the central aims of the association has been to promote fellowship amongst ringers and foster goodwill with the general public. To further this aim grants of up to £200 will now be made to local ringers from the associations general funds.

Here's just a few of the ideas we had of things you could do with a fellowship grant:

- Holding social events and outings;
- Improvement of ringing chambers;
- Installation of belfry cameras and monitors visible to the public;
- Production of local publicity material;
- Gifts for individuals whose contribution to local ringing is worthy of recognition by the association;
- Expenses for attendance at national events where the association would not otherwise be represented such as the Ringing World young ringers striking competition.

All ideas are welcomed and provided they align with our aim of 'promoting fellowship and fostering goodwill' the Surrey Association will be pleased to provide a grant.

Full details of the scheme and how to apply are available at the link below, alternatively contact any member of the general committee or email me at [communications \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:communications@surreybellringers.org).

Chris Baldwin
On behalf of the General Committee

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/fellowship-grants>

Cambridge by Christmas – Episode 2

Posted: Mon, 09 Nov 2015 11:57:41 +0000

Saturday, 7 Nov 2015

On Saturday 7th November, 6 students arrived at Cheam, for part 2 of "Cambridge by Christmas".

Overall the students seemed more confident than they had done so a month earlier when several confessed that they thought the goal of ringing Cambridge by Christmas might be a bit too ambitious. However, all had made very good progress since the St Clements session in October and three students had been fortunate enough to have rung a quarter of Kent before this second session which was focusing on Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor.

Anne told us to pick which method we wanted to ring and to let her know if we had had any particular problems when practising for this session so that she could help with individual issues.



As these methods take a little longer to ring, after the first turn, Anne invited two students to ring together, with one on the treble while a second student rang inside, so that we all had plenty of rope time and good practice in treble bobbing as well as ringing inside.

Everyone had clearly made very progress but then thoughts turned to the month ahead. To most of the students who had taken a peek at Cambridge (in spite of Anne having told us NOT to before the course) this does still look rather daunting. However Anne encouraged us to learn one lead at a time and ring a single lead or two to begin with rather than attempting the whole thing and crashing through it so we all left feeling eager to move on to Cambridge and looking forward to the final session at Merton on December 5th.

Jackie Harrison



Surrey Storm Southwark

Posted: Thu, 05 Nov 2015 23:23:56 +0000

Thursday, 5 Nov 2015

An invitation from the Southwark Cathedral Guild to join their mid-week practice on 4th November 2015 attracted a lot of interest across the Association. This was particularly pertinent as the BRF has recently agreed to a grant of £20,000 towards the cost of a major restoration of this ring of bells.

The current ring of 12 bells mainly date from 1735 but with a few bells having been recast at a later date. With a tenor weight of 48 cwt they are large compared with an average Surrey tower, and the long draught of the ropes quickly identifies whether a ringer has a 'good style' or is to be seen chasing after their sally across the belfry. Charles Dickens made a visit to the belfry himself and recorded what he saw in the weekly journal 'All Year Round' on the 27th February 1869. His detailed account in that journal highlights the habits of the day. For example, the visit to a public house after the practice notes 'The first thing that strikes the visitor on opening the door is that the Ancient Society of College Youths are good and heavy smokers. The smoke is so dense that for some time it is difficult to make out surrounding objects; the only way of avoiding inconvenience is to light up oneself, which accordingly, every newcomer does without loss of time'.

The Southwark Ringing Master, Hannah Wilby, warmly welcomed everybody to what is the Association's Cathedral. At the start of the evening practice there were 52 ringers in the belfry with many more waiting at the bottom of the tower. It is estimated that over 80 ringers were present at the practice in total with many having their first ring on 12 bells. Hannah organised the bands ensuring that everybody had a go, although the number of visitors meant that individual ringing time was limited. To reduce numbers in the belfry and allow those waiting access, some visitors took the opportunity to climb the stairs to the top of the tower and see the fantastic views over a brightly lit London with its many prominent buildings. They could also hear the bells of St Paul's Cathedral ringing in the distance as a Society of Royal Cumberland Youths practice was taking place there at the same time. The view from the open gallery part way up the tower was admired by some and quickly crossed by others who were less keen on the height, but appreciative of the magnificent view of the Cathedral's interior.

In keeping with 1869 the ringers adjourned to a local hostelry at the end of the practice (these days it is the Market Porter) where Association members from both Districts chatted - many of them meeting for the first time. Although the practice had been extremely busy it was agreed the venture had been very worthwhile. One Battersea ringer posted a photograph at the end of the evening on Facebook with the caption 'Southwark Cathedral bell tower. Biggest belfry I have ever been in'.

Chris Ridley



[Seven Up – the 7th London Twelve Bell Competition](#)

Posted: Tue, 27 Oct 2015 13:31:39 +0000

Tuesday, 27 Oct 2015

A new striking competition was established in 2009 as a fun event to encourage all twelve bell ringing centers within the M25. As such it was aimed at local bands as well as the more 'prestigious societies'. The idea was conceived by Jason Hughes who was the original Chairman for the competition with Michael Uphill in charge of

the bulk of the organising as Secretary. Alan Hughes of Whitechapel Bell Foundry was approached and agreed to provide a splendid trophy to be competed for annually. Since then the competition has become a firm date in the ringing calendar.

The 7th competition was held on Saturday 24th October at St Giles, Cripplegate – a far from easy ring of bells – with 251 changes of Erin Cinques as the test piece. Andrew Mills with assistance from his wife Sharon judged the competition and admitted it had been an easier task than the previous week when he had rung in the record peal of 21,216 Cambridge Surprise Maximus. The day was also notable for being another superbly organised event with the Butcher's Hook and Cleaver, in West Smithfield specially opening for the day. This was Michael's last year as Secretary and he was warmly thanked for his efforts over the years to ensure the competition became a successful annual event.

The programme booklet for the day took the fun theme of a horse race brochure with the previous form of teams highlighted together with their predicted odds of winning. As usual poor betting returns were given for the College Youths, Cumberlands, Cornhill and St Paul's Cathedral bands given their past performance. But the outcome was far from certain with one of the key bands being noted for previous performances that 'ranged from brilliant to below [expected] standard'. It was pleasing that a band from Surrey, namely Croydon (Surrey) had entered for the first time. Kingston had previously entered a band in the first ever competition back in 2009, and South Croydon were a regular entrant up until 2013 - the latter band has been made up of members from the regular South Croydon peal band so did not in general represent a resident Surrey entry. Southwark Cathedral has also entered every year since the competition started, usually showing the strength of the band there by entering two teams. This year the split was between the younger ringers (i.e. those aged under 28) and the more mature.

This new Croydon (Surrey) band emerged from newly established practices based around the two Croydon towers over the last year. These were organised by Caroline Prescott with Shirley McGill running the practices themselves. While the Association continues to hold general practices for introductory 12 bell ringing, these advanced practices are aimed at members who were keen to improve their ringing at or above the level of Stedman Cinques.

On the day of the competition the Croydon (Surrey) band came 7th out of 10th (very apt given this was the 7th annual event competition) and a pleasing result for their first attempt. Southwark Cathedral managed 6th and 10th respectably, the older band obviously being the wiser when it came to peal speed tactics! All performances were creditable given the top places were inevitably fought over by the top London based bands.

The Middlesex ringers were congratulated on being the best improvers, the Croydon (Surrey) band were complemented on their leading, and the College Youths on making a clean sweep on both this and the National 12 Bell striking competitions in 2015. Alan Hughes then presented the trophy to Katie Town (Master ASCY) and David House (conductor of their test piece).

For the record the results table was:

Position	Team	Rang	Peal Speed	Mark
1 st	Ancient Society of College Youths	8 th	3h 31mins	92%
2 nd	Society of Royal Cumberland Youths	9 th	3h 25mins	89%
3 rd	St Michael's Cornhill	6 th	3h 31mins	87%
4 th	St Paul's Cathedral	10 th	3h 24mins	80%
5 th	Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild	5 th	3h 21mins	78%
6 th	Southwark Cathedral (Seniors)	3 rd	3h 25mins	64%
7 th	Croydon (Surrey)	4 th	3h 24mins	63%
8 th	University of London Society of Change Ringers	1 st	3h 30mins	60%
9 th	St Martins-in-the-Fields	7 th	3h 24mins	58%

10 th	Southwark Cathedral(Juniors)	2 nd	3h 19mins	56%
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[A Striking Triumph for North and South!](#)

Posted:Sun, 18 Oct 2015 17:42:00 +0000

Sunday, 18 Oct 2015

Putney were the hosts for the 2015 Surrey Association method striking competitions.

Six towers entered in all. All six entered the six bell competition and four moved onto the eight bell. The towers represented were:

Battersea, Putney, Croydon Minster, Wimbledon, Kingston and Redhill.

The eagle eyed of you will notice some transfer action occurring during the afternoon!

Judges for the day were Steve Mitchell and Helen Herriott, we thank them for their time and positive comments.

During the afternoon, constant food supplies and a topical quiz devised at the last minute by Chris Ridley meant that time soon passed and the results were in.

The Taylor Trophy for 6 bell ringing was won by Redhill.



The Pat Cannon trophy for 8 bell ringing was won by Wimbledon.



The quiz chocolate trophy was won by Putney.

Special congratulations to Lawrence Davies who recently celebrated 40years ringing at Wimbledon, he will now need to organise a trophy cabinet!

Striking competitions induce mixed feelings in many. They do provide an opportunity for us to really listen to our ringing and try our best. More importantly though, they provide time for us to meet, talk and compare notes on how things are where we ring.

By meeting as an Association, we can build our regional ringing community and provide experiences perhaps not available locally.

Thanks you to all who came and especially to Putney for hosting.

Caroline Prescott

See the full photo album on our [Facebook page](#).

[The ART of good handling or "So you want to be a teacher do you?"](#)

Posted:Thu, 22 Oct 2015 06:57:42 +0000

Saturday, 10 Oct 2015

Reviews of the Integrated Teaching Training Scheme Module 1 day courses arranged by the Surrey Training Group and given by Graham Nabb of the Association of Ringing Teachers at St Peter's Limpsfield, 9th Oct and St Mary's Barnes, 10th Oct 2015



Limpsfield course tutor and participants



Tutor and course members in Barnes

"This was a day to remember and savour; it was a wonderful experience that every ringer should complete at some stage in their development. It was like holding a mirror up to yourself. I think it would make a super component of a ringer's development and perhaps every new ringer should go through a teacher training course to hammer home what it is they have been taught and what it is they are attempting to do."

"I can say without hesitation that my scepticism was entirely misplaced. My overriding feeling at the end of the day was that I had come away with a whole raft of suggestions which will enable me, with practice in implementing them, vastly to improve my teaching."

"The knowledge gained from these courses should give our members the momentum and motivation and enthusiasm to work together to teach learners and become accredited Ringing Teachers, improve the standard of teaching bell handling in the Association, and achieve the main objective of recruiting new learners who can become competent and confident members of Surrey towers."

We all know handling forms the basis of ringing and that mastering this basically divides the would-be ringers into those who go on to ring and those who clang along or just give up. It is absolutely crucial to bell ringing and probably governs whether there will be a next generation to continue the legacy of yesteryear. This course is very much a call to the bell-ringing establishment and to be honest I did wonder why I had signed up for it.

So here I was learning how to teach "handling" surrounded by the ringing elite of the District, and masquerading as "one of them". However, by the time Graham had got to the second or third slide of his presentation my anxiety at this pretence was relieved, for here was someone talking my language – the language of the beginner, the novice, the "old" novice too, the one who was told he should have started 40 years ago!

It was transformative; "Learners find various ingenious ways of getting it wrong"! Yes! "Adults are concerned about failure" YES! "You have to ensure learners know what you are talking about" YES! "If you can do something right once you can do it again with practice" YES! And so it began; I was hooked.

Graham divided the theory of teaching "Handling", a huge subject, into three parts.

Part 1. The skills needed to be an effective teacher, many of which had been explored and refined by physiotherapists, whose work involves co-ordination between mind and body. How many times do you have to do something before it becomes automatic? (Answer at the end of the article but have a guess). Ringing is a "big" task so break it down to its individual steps, to biteable bits that can be diagnosed intensively and practiced until accomplished; it is vital to get the muscular memory for correct ringing in place from the start, wrong habits being so difficult to correct. Remember, a beginner is like a blank canvas and whatever you put onto it as a teacher is difficult to remove.

Part 2. So how do you become a good teacher? How do people learn? How do you encourage and reward, for the modern way is for effort to be rewarded by achievement? New young ringers will expect this as their entire educational experience will have been within such a framework, "bangs for bucks", and "old" learners will appreciate it too; no one resents a compliment and everyone wants to feel they are a useful part of the team. People want to enjoy their ringing and everyone wants to know why they cannot "do it" – so how do you help them? What sort of prompts can you provide for them; audible, visual, physical? See Part 3.



Graham demonstrates one of the many teaching exercises



We then try to teach each other

Part 3. How to solve common handling problems. There they all were, just as fresh as they were in our learning days; gravity doesn't change, Newton's Laws of motion operate regardless of how many times we attempt to break them and you still can't push on a rope. Well the answer is to observe closely, analyse carefully, correct sympathetically, encourage appropriately, repeat patiently (i.e. practice) and keep going – onwards and upwards. The object is to prevent bad practice from becoming part of the ringers' method, prevention being so much easier, and so much less painful, than cure.

But it wasn't all talk as each of these Theory sessions were separated by a solid hour of practical hands-on teaching, and the methods were so clever and so simple. Have you any idea how much can be taught without a bell but just a length of rope, or with the bell safely below the balance? Attend the next course. Well I knew I wasn't very good at ringing but as for teaching! Read on. Fortunately for this, my first teaching practice, and this was the amazing thing, it clarified at a stroke how much more I had to think about my own ringing. I can think of no other way of crossing that threshold than of teaching someone else. I should have expected it, after all I taught for 40 years and there is nothing like teaching to show whether you know what you are talking about.

This was a day to remember and savour; it was a wonderful experience that every ringer should complete at some stage in their development. It was like holding a mirror up to yourself. I think it would make a super component of a ringer's development and perhaps every new ringer should go through a teacher training course to hammer home what it is they have been taught and what it is they are attempting to do.



Graham giving more tips

The class was immensely grateful to Graham for the enthusiasm and clarity he brought to the subject: these are sessions that should be filmed as they would make ideal videos. Graham is an excellent speaker and a natural communicator and works like a magician at the end of a bell with coils, tails and sallies just doing what they were supposed to do.

There are a number of attractive publications suitable for new ringers including Discover Bell Ringing and Teaching with Simulators available from ART. And the answer to how many times? 2000 to 10,000; you have been warned!

Michael De Freitas



Attentive course members at Limpsfield

It was to an extent out of curiosity, and I confess also with a degree of scepticism, that I presented myself at Limpsfield on a Friday morning for Module 1 (teaching bell handling) of the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme, devised by the Association of Ringing Teachers, and brilliantly delivered by Graham Nabb.

Would I learn anything that I had not already been told or worked out for myself? Would it actually enable me to teach handling any more effectively, safely or enjoyably? Or would I be given a load of instructions which would make the process of teaching unnecessarily complicated?

I can say without hesitation that my scepticism was entirely misplaced. My overriding feeling at the end of the day was that I had come away with a whole raft of suggestions which will enable me, with practice in implementing them, vastly to improve my teaching.

Particular highlights, for me, were:

- the breaking down of the mechanics of ringing into many smaller parts (not just handstroke and backstroke), and getting each part right;
- the extent to which some of those actions can be practised holding a rope and without actually ringing the bell
- the amount which can be taught by ringing a bell up only to a point well below the balance, and then down again, thus removing the risk and fear of the dreaded broken stay
- The number of different ways (e.g. demonstration, explanation, physical prompts, verbal prompts) which there may be to help correct a particular problem, and the need to adapt the solution to the particular ringer.
- Suggestions for correcting the age-old (and potentially dangerous) problem of a bell which is coming down, causing the rope to flap about.
- The need to persist with getting each action right, so that faults do not become ingrained.

Those who devised this Module have clearly given a huge amount of thought to the most efficient means of handling, and how to teach it, and have also drawn on a wealth of experience. Their analytical approach was just what I wanted. Every recommendation had a reason, superbly explained and demonstrated by Graham Nabb, and there was nothing which was not firmly rooted in plain common sense.

Charles Turnbull

We're delighted that some 30 Surrey Association members took part in the ITTS Module 1 training over these two days. Our grateful thanks to Graham Nabb of the Association of Ringing Teachers for his wonderful practical and theoretical presentations.

The knowledge gained from these courses should give our members the momentum and motivation and enthusiasm to work together to teach learners and become accredited Ringing Teachers, improve the standard of teaching bell handling in the Association, and achieve the main objective of recruiting new learners who can become competent and confident members of Surrey towers.

Our grateful thanks to the Limpsfield (in particular Lynda Boast and Marianne Bell) ringers for being so welcoming with an excellent meeting room, teas, coffees and lunch, and also the Barnes (in particular Trisha Hawkins and Eddie Hartley) ringers for their fantastic hospitality, providing bells, meeting room and a great lunch. It all helped to make the courses run smoothly and all the more enjoyable for the delegates.

Paul Flavell

Surrey Training Officer

[Cambridge by Christmas - Episode 1](#)

Posted: Tue, 06 Oct 2015 12:01:55 +0000

Saturday, 3 Oct 2015

Five intrepid students (the sixth was working in Geneva) met with several willing helpers and tutor Anne Rueff at Nutfield on October 3rd for the first instalment in the popular Cambridge by Christmas course.



To start with, Anne explained that to ring methods like Cambridge Surprise Minor competently, it was necessary to go through a learning process to understand how methods work and how important the treble is in the method. The students had been set homework by Anne prior to the course to learn St Clements as it is a good method for looking for where the treble is and also good practice for dodging on the front. They were to concentrate on striking, leading, and getting it to sound right!

All the students had to be able to ring Bob Minor competently to qualify for the course, and some had already had experience of ringing St Clements, including a couple of quarter peals. It was clear there was some nervousness to start with, but as the students rang several touches of St Clements their confidence and ringing improved with each touch. At the end all the students also rang touches of Little Bob as this is a good introduction to doing treble bob work and also more practice at looking for the treble.

The next instalment will concentrate on Kent T B Minor at Cheam on 7th November.

Many thanks to Anne for arranging and running the course and to all the helpers and students which make the course so worthwhile and productive.

Paul Flavell (Surrey Training Officer)

The students with tutor Anne Rueff

Left to right:

Rosemary Henderson, Nolan Marchand, Anne Rueff, Milica Reardon, Jackie Harrison and Sheila Marsh

[Wickens Family Day](#)

Posted: Sat, 26 Sep 2015 18:02:48 +0000

Saturday, 26 Sep 2015

On 29 August 2015 the family of Frederick Wickens of Charlwood held a Family History Day and invited all the family together in the Parish Hall. Diane Pratt (née Wickens) shares the day with us in the attached article.

[Wickens Family Day](#)

[Northern District outing to Whitechapel Bell Foundry - Sept 19th](#)

Posted: Mon, 21 Sep 2015 21:37:44 +0000

Monday, 21 Sep 2015

On Saturday September 19th the Surrey Association met at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The tour, which lasted approx 2 hours, took in the workings of the foundry (complete with goat hair and horse dung) as explained by the current, 3rd generation owner who had a lively and humorous delivery, even when explaining the Pythagoras Theory in relation to bell tuning!!

Many people turned up to this event organised by Chris Ridley, to hear this fascinating piece of history, (Whitechapel was chosen for it's situation in the 1570's as it was in the middle of the countryside) some like me, were 1st timers to the foundry, others were returning for a repeat tour.

After a hearty lunch at The Crosse Keys in Gracechurch Street, (which was in itself worth a visit, the breathtaking art deco space which was once the headquarters of HSBC). Even more people arrived to join us for an afternoon of ringing. The towers were St. Katherine Cree, St. Giles Cripplegate, St. Lawrence Jewry and the wonderful Jubilee 8 ring at St. James, Garlickhythe.

This was a great opportunity to get together with ringers of all ages and abilities, meet new ringers and to grab new towers.

Thank you so much to Caroline Prescott and family for organising this event which everyone clearly enjoyed.

The day coincided with the City of London Open Day, so we saw many places open to the public as we walked through the city on what was the perfect sunny Autumn day. A day of meeting friends and ringing bells in the sunshine, two of life's pleasures.

Thank you again for organising this great day out.

Hilary Jacques

[Surrey across the water](#)

Posted: Tue, 22 Sep 2015 16:57:54 +0000

Saturday, 19 Sep 2015



An autumnal treat was the Northern District and friends outing to the City of London. After some wet weather the week before we awoke on the 19 September to sunshine and what proved to be a very warm day. The tour took place during the City of London Open Day. This gave participants the opportunity to mix visits to public buildings with ringing on the tour, although we needed to take care that non-ringers did not assume they could join us in the ringing at some towers.

A tour of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry started the day with 32 in attendance. While the foundry established in 1570 is recognised as the UK's oldest manufacturing company it can trace its origins back to the 15th century. The tour party were entertained by the proprietor Alan Hughes, to a very informative and humorous tour. We found out how tower bells are cast, tuned and then fitted for ringing. The latter part of the tour was similar but with an emphasis on musical handbells.



On the way to the lunch time venue we passed St Andrew Undershaft, which although it no longer has a ring of bells, is famed for being the resting place of Fabian Stedman who invented the well-known method most probably in the latter part of the 17th century. A plaque to his memory hangs in the porch and as this is one of the few undisturbed graveyards in the City it is likely his remains remain buried there.

After a good lunch at the Crosse Keys Wetherspoon's pub in Gracechurch Street we made our way to the first ring of the day at St Katherine Cree. This ring of six was put to good use after some initial problems with retrieving the key were resolved. We then made our way to ring on the 12 bells at St Giles, Cripplegate located in the heart of the Barbican. The church records include the marriage of Oliver Cromwell, military and political leader, at the church in 1620. Other famous parishioners have included the poet John Milton and at times William Shakespeare. For a number of those attending this was their first experience of 12 bell ringing. Although some participants had left at this stage to visit other places on the Open Day we had been joined by other Association members to swell numbers to over 40. The District Master is to be congratulated for continuing to manage the ringing with her usual aplomb, ensuring everybody had at least a quick ring. The next tower was the magnificent 8 bells at St Lawrence Jewry next to the Guildhall. Here tea, coffee and biscuits were available for those needing some further sustenance. Finally, everybody made their way to St James Garlickhythe to ring the Royal Jubilee bells. This ring of bells was rung from a barge which led the Queen's flotilla of boats during the Jubilee celebrations in 2012 before being installed in the church.

A hardened few completed the day with some refreshment at the Olde Watling in Bow Lane. It is understood they were the last there at closing time before moving on for a final drink back at the Crosse Keys until that closed for the evening as well. The Croydon band as usual headed back home after the Olde Watling to have their usual end of day curry.



A collection towards the London churches steeple fees raised slightly more than required which has allowed a surplus of £39 to be given to the Surrey BRF.

[Oxted ring for the longest reigning Monarch](#)

Posted: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 09:10:14 +0000

Saturday, 19 Sep 2015

On Wednesday 9th September 2015 the St. Mary's, Oxted ringers rang to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning British monarch. The band was, from the left, Rosalyn Dale, Ian Griffiths, Nick Carruthers and Nikki Paintin. Also ringing was Stuart Murden. We managed a very respectable plain hunt on 4 with cover.



[Third Place for Surrey Team in the Essex Trophy Competition](#)

Posted: Mon, 14 Sep 2015 08:45:10 +0000

Saturday, 12 Sep 2015



A team from Surrey came a very creditable third with a score of 91% in a very high quality Essex Trophy competition at St Nicholas Guildford today. The results were as follows:

Essex	93%
Guildford	92%
Surrey	91%
W & P	88%
Sussex	82%
Kent	76%

The Surrey team was: 1 Sheila Cheesman, 2 Michael Uphill, 3 Anne Rueff, 4 Shirley McGill, 5 Chris Giddings, 6 Noel Gibbin, 7 Paul Flavell, 8 Gavin Bennett, 9 Ryan Noble, 10 Jeremy Cheesman.

The photos show the band in order of ringing from front left. The judges were Lucy and David Woodward from Kensington who said the Surrey ringing got better with age, like a good wine, and was generally enjoyable to listen to!

Paul Flavell

[Bell handling training event, Colliers Wood, 5th September](#)

Posted: Mon, 14 Sep 2015 08:27:59 +0000

Saturday, 5 Sep 2015



In my limited experience of bell ringing, there are a few 'must do's. One must keep hold of the tail end at all times, in the left hand (non-dominant). And grasp the sally with both hands. And, unless provoked, one should remain silent.

I have been ringing for a little over three years, and have a small collection of handling 'quirks' that I have wanted to remove - the worst one is that I haven't made the correct transition of right hand to tail end. I am not alone in this, I know. Another thing that I am gradually sorting out is a basic fear - no, let's call that an over-healthy respect of - the rope. So, presented with the idea that I might become a 'trainer' seemed rather too soon and rather worrying - how can I train someone when I don't do it 'properly' myself? What do I do if it all goes horribly wrong? How would I manage to chatter confidently to a beginner if I'm gibbering over where to put my own hands?

So, invited to a session on 'bell handling' specifically designed for me (or so it seemed), I jumped at the chance to spend my Saturday morning at Collier's Wood with the lovely Chris Stanley. With the words 'oh, he'll sort you out!' ringing in my ears, and a lack of sleep caused by nervous excitement ... I duly turned up to find one other victim, plus Paul Flavell handling a notepad and camera.

The result so far? Not that I can bring myself to believe this quite yet. I have rung the bell with one hand on the sally, the other on the tail end, and with those bits in the wrong hands. I have gripped the hand of a 'learner', while attempting to chatter at the same time, and handling the sally too. I have had a go at sorting out a learner who has gone a bit wrong including telling him to LET GO. I have let go of the tail end. Totally. And ignored it all for one 'cycle'. And rescued it. From the other side of the room. OK, that last excitement has rather taken over my memory and obliterated a lot of what else went on, so I am looking forward to seeing Paul's notes.

I have such a lot to practice now, including a bit of work on that rope handling problem I have. I am so glad to have done this morning's session as it will prepare me for the ITTS day next month in such a practical way, as well as giving me a big confidence boost over that darned moving rope!

Many thanks to Chris, to Paul for organising it and to Mike Shelley for being an excellent co-participant.

Felicity Hardman

Ask any ringer if they can teach someone - they will probably say 'yes'. Ask them to deconstruct good technique and describe the steps to learning quickly and safely - they probably can't.

Most ringers exhibit imperfect technique, but excuse idiosyncrasies because their experience lets them get away with it. To the beginner, the difference between the good technique that a good tutor tries to instil and what the beginner sees going on around them in the tower is a confusing hindrance.

If you'll ever show anything to a beginner, go on a short course that highlights best practice for demonstrating and, hopefully, teaching beginners good bell handling.

Chris Stanley's impressive but short course at Colliers Wood was brilliant. With his legendary "tippettes", he demonstrated practical ways of introducing raw beginners to good bell handling and advancing them to competency quickly, safely and in ways which will increase their interest rather than putting them off for life.

Learned so much. Shame so few enrolled. The up side was 1:1 instruction on everything up to and including crisis management of those things that will invariably go wrong at some point during teaching. What a missed opportunity for all those who couldn't be bothered.

Mike Shelley



[Michael Uphill circles Barnes to peals after 52 years.](#)

Posted: Fri, 04 Sep 2015 19:26:40 +0000

Friday, 4 Sep 2015

What's the record length of time for circling a tower to peals? MJU rang his first peal at Barnes, 5056 Superlative Surprise Major on May 25th 1963, his first peal of Surprise Major:-

1. Brian H Coatsworth
2. Christopher F Mew (c)
3. Michael J Uphill
4. Charles W Ottley
5. Jean L Lavender
6. Robin J Lee
7. Stewart F W Kimber
8. A Patrick Cannon

A farewell to Jim Harrold (tower captain), Mary Heath of the local band and her father, Christopher Heath (Rector). (The previous month ringers of 1-5 had taken part in Mary Heath's first and only peal, Grandsire Triples, rung at Putney.)

This and Michael's next seven peals at Barnes (including four of Barnes Surprise Major, one rung earlier this year) were all Surrey Association peals, calling two of Grandsire Triples from the 7th.

52 years after the first, he circled the tower with his 9th by ringing the 2nd to an ASCY peal of 4-Spliced S Major on September 3rd. Has anybody ever taken longer to circle a tower to peals?

[The association's casualties in 1915](#)

Posted: Thu, 03 Sep 2015 16:24:57 +0000

Thursday, 3 Sep 2015

In a follow up to his article in [edition 5](#) (Autumn 2014) of the newsletter David Underdown continues his research into the lives of association members who served during the first world war.

Remarkably it was almost a year from the association's first two casualties until the next. This is largely because the Surrey Territorial Force battalions were sent to India to relieve regular battalions for service on the Western Front, there was certainly no lack of volunteers from amongst the membership, at least 60 members had volunteered by September 1915 (there are still a number of men for whom their enlistment date is yet to be established), 152 would serve in total.

It was during 1915 that larger numbers of members of the association began to enter theatres of war as their units completed training. Many of the units raised following Lord Kitchener's famous appeal for men were among these, and in particular 24 Division contained a large proportion of men from the south east of England (I've written before about John William Russell who was a signaller with this division). This division arrived in France at the end of August, and immediately began moving up to the front line. Another unit formed around this time was the Guards Division – though of course most of its constituent units were of long standing, however, each of the regiments of Foot Guards also raised new battalions for the war effort, and in 3rd Guards Brigade the newly arrived 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards also contained an association member.

Other than Russell, Ernest Attwater of Streatham was in 24 Division with 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, and others may have been with artillery and other supporting arms. William Maynard of Redhill was with 1st Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) and Joseph Abbott of Merstham was in 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards.

The huge build up that was taking place was aimed towards what is now known as the Battle of Loos, which began on 25 September 1915. It was on that very first day of battle that William Maynard was killed, one of 317 deaths in the battalion during the course of the battle (out of an initial nominal strength of about 1000). 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards did not suffer so heavily, but on 27 September, Joseph Abbott was among their casualties. Both are remembered on the Loos Memorial, neither having a known grave.

William Maynard was the son of William Maynard senior and Elizabeth, nee Whitmore who had married around 1884. William was born on 3 July 1887, and baptised at St John's Redhill on 21 August. At the 1891 census, and for several years after, the family lived at 8 Lower Road, Meadvale. A sister Lilian was born 25 June 1890, brother James George was born 24 September 1891 and another sister, Elizabeth Kate "Kitty" was born 12 December 1894. By 1901 it seems that his mother was ill, while the 1901 census records the rest of the family at 8 Lower Road, Elizabeth seems to be at the Victorian and Surrey Homes, Bognor. Sadly she died later in the year, and was buried in the churchyard of St Mary, Reigate on 18 September 1901. In 1901 William junior is recorded as working as a grocer's errand boy.

William senior remarried quite soon afterwards (it was not easy being a single father with young children), to Annie Back (31) at St Matthew, Redhill, on 1 November 1902. More family tragedy was to follow, Annie had a son (a half-brother to William junior), Harold Herbert Back Maynard, on 3 December 1905, but sadly he was buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, Reigate, on 15 September 1906. Annie had another child, a daughter, Eveline in 1908. The family had now moved to 75 St John's Redhill.

By 1911 William junior had become a carpenter and joiner, and the family were now living at 1 Lavender Cottage, Masons Road, Redhill. When he actually started ringing isn't clear, but he is reported as ringing the treble to a Grandsire triples at Redhill on Sunday 8 January 1911, along with W Streeter, E Harman, A Gear, A Bashford, G Croucher, H Card and H Edwards. Other reports suggest that Redhill were only just trying to build a band at this stage.

With the outbreak of war, William did not join up immediately, and it was only on 12 or 13 January that he travelled to Guildford to enlist with the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). He trained with 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion in Rochester until around April when he was posted to the 1st Battalion in France. He would probably have seen action at the Battle of Aubers in May, and then a relatively quiet time until the launch of the Battle of Loos on the day of his death. His war gratuity, just £3, was paid to his stepmother.

Joseph Abbott was the son of Alfred Abbott and Amy nee Gibbs – their marriage was registered in the East Grinstead registration district in the second quarter 1874, and Joseph was born in Merstham in the third quarter 1874. By the 1881 census the family were living at 6 Orchard Road, Merstham, Alfred (28, from High Wycombe) was a general labourer, Amy, now 29, was originally from Worth in Sussex. By 1891 Joseph was a 16-year-old shop porter, and the family were now living at Monson Road, Redhill.

Joseph married Lizzie Peers in the 4th quarter 1899. By 1901 the couple were living at Park Stile, Merstham. Joseph was now a labourer in the lime works, and they had also had a son, Alfred Joseph, then just a few months old. Another son, Jack, followed in 1905, followed by a daughter, Ivy May in 1907, then two more sons, Albert Edward and James in 1909 and 1910 respectively. By 1911 Joseph was a lime burner, and the family

were living at 4 Quarry Cottages, Merstham. The census details also tell us that the couple had had two other children who had died before the census was taken.

Again, Joseph did not immediately rush to the colours immediately on the outbreak of war. It was around November 1914 that he enlisted in Redhill. 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards had been formed at Marlow around September, it's not clear whether he was posted to that battalion immediately, or trained at a depot first. The battalion was posted to France on 14 July 1915, joining Third Guards Brigade, Guards Division on 19 August. Just over a month later they were in action. Joseph was killed on 27 September. He made a soldier's will, leaving everything to Lizzie. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry shows that she remarried quite quickly, and registration data shows that this was in early 1918. She married a man named Arthur Wood, quite possibly the man who was living with his parents, 3 brothers and a nephew at 1 Quarry Cottages in 1911.

While a small pension would have been paid to her while she remained a widow, such remarriages were not uncommon when women still had young children to provide for. There is no mention of Abbott's ringing activities in the ringing newspapers before the war.

More detailed entries for each man will appear on <http://halfmuffled.wordpress.com> on the anniversary of their deaths. I've also been building up their profiles on the Lives of the First World War website, Maynard's is at <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/2989514> and Abbott's <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/2286>

Plain Bob Minor Training Event

Posted: Sat, 22 Aug 2015 15:26:04 +0000

Saturday, 22 Aug 2015

On Saturday 1st August Shona Falconer, Nick Harper, Peter Taylor, Megan Marlow and Nolan Marchand attended the Plain Bob Minor training, held at Addington. There were a good number of helpers to support Paul Flavell's first event as Surrey Training Officer.

Addington was an ideal tower to practise ringing Minor as all the bells were easy to ring and hear. The course leader, Shirley McGill, made sure everyone introduced themselves and this certainly made the atmosphere more relaxed for learning. Shirley then explained the basics of Plain Bob Minor which I found easy to understand. We started by ringing a plain course with one learner at a time, with a different strong band. After each plain course Shirley gave constructive feedback, this was great as the feedback was consistent to each person. These plain courses were repeated a couple of times with each learner having a good practice.

Before moving onto a touch of Plain Bob Minor we had some refreshments. This was a chance to have a chat, (not just about Plain Bob Minor) before Shirley explained what happens to the bells at a Bob and a Single. Most of the group felt confident to practise a touch which included singles, with support. Time then ran out, but I felt this was the right amount of time given before Plain Bob Minor meltdown!

I had a great time and feel sure Shona, Nick, Peter, Megan and Nolan came away with a better understanding of ringing Plain Bob Minor. Let's hope they look for opportunities to practice this.

Linda Foddering



Training Group Update

Posted: Sat, 22 Aug 2015 15:33:58 +0000

Saturday, 22 Aug 2015

The Training Group, which includes the Northern and Southern District Masters, members of the association who take an interest in training, and is chaired by the Association Master, has arranged a number of events and can so far report as follows on the progress:



Docklands Training Day (20 June)

There was a ver successful session arranged by Caroline Prescott where some 20 students took the opportunity to practise with experienced helpers. Caroline had the brilliant idea of splitting the students into three groups – elementary, intermediate and advanced, so each student was able to ring exactly the call changes or method they needed with much success. We will try this system at the Bletchingley Training Day (see below).

The groups rotated around three towers – St George in the East, Rotherhythe and Bermondsey, each of which had provided local helpers in addition to helpers arranged by Caroline. We finished by meeting up for a drink at Rotherhythe and all agreed this had been an excellent session for the students. We made a careful note to ensure there was sufficient follow up after the event. (??)

Plain Bob Minor, Addington (1 August)

Shirley McGill held an excellent training session on ringing plain courses and touches of Plain Bob Minor for Shona Falconer, Nick Harper, Nolan Marchand, Megan Marlow and Peter Taylor. Shirley combined a mainly practical session with some useful theory to help students really understand what they were doing, ringing competently and understanding signposts which will help them when ringing. There were nine competent helpers which really helped the students' progress.

Future events – see the [courses](#) page on this site for more details.

Teaching Bell Handling with Chris Stanley (5 September)

This course is a good introduction for those new to teaching ringing, or wishing to improve their teaching skills.

Cambridge by Christmas with Anne Rueff (3 October, 7 November, 5 December)

The Cambridge by Christmas course is designed by Anne Rueff to take students to Cambridge Surprise Minor via St Clements Minor and Kent TB Minor and has been successfully run in previous years. We already have a

full complement of students booked for this but anybody wishing to take part should contact either Anne or myself in case there are any last minute available places.

Integrated Teacher Training Scheme Courses (9 and 10 October)

We are looking forward to the courses by Graham Nabb, an experienced and motivational speaker on teaching bell handling. So far some 24 Surrey Students and Mentors have signed up, but there are a few places left at Barnes on 10 October. Please contact me if you wish to participate. A Module 2 (teaching elementary change ringing) course has been booked with Graham on 9th April 2016.

Bletchingley Training Day (14 November)

The application forms will be coming out soon, so please apply if you are a student and specify what you would like to practise/learn so we can organise this. Also we need lots of helpers please to make the day worthwhile for the students, so please offer to help when the forms come out. There will be a follow up training event for Bletchingley Day Students on 12 December.

Paul Flavell
Surrey Training Officer

020 8942 1662
training [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk

Frederick Alan Benn

Posted: Fri, 14 Aug 2015 11:28:33 +0000

Friday, 14 Aug 2015

Battersea Ringers are extremely sad to report that Fred Benn, a life member of the Association, died on Monday 10th August 2015.

Fred was the longest serving ringer at Battersea having joined the Band at St Mary's in 1964. At the time his friends at school, Michael Uphill and Bob Cooles, were ringing at St Mary's Putney.

Although Fred moved away to Plaistow in the early 1980s when he married Brenda, he maintained his membership of the Battersea band and was faithful in his attendance on Monday nights and on other occasions such as Sunday evening quarters, occasional weddings and outings.

Always encouraging of learners and proficient himself he was a key member of the band. Not very enthusiastic about ringing peals, although he did ring a couple, he was much more interested in quarters, particularly if they advanced someone along the road to technical skill. With a wide interest in all that goes on in the world his conversation was always stimulating and sought after.

We will miss him very much.

These are some thoughts about Fred from the Battersea ringers.

I'll miss his patience and humour and all his football talk...

So very sad that Fred has gone. He was a lovely man, very kind and so helpful to other ringers and with such a wide range of interests. How he will be missed.

I can imagine his presence in the belfry on Mondays. He will be hugely missed, not just for his unique sense of humour and his larger than life personality, but also for the huge contribution he made to the ringing at St. Mary's over more than 50 years.

Fred was a wonderful man from my point of view. He was kind, reliable, with an enquiring mind.... I loved his knowledge of old Battersea and without any side. Telling me how he moved from one condemned building to the next building which also got condemned. I shall treasure my memories of him.

Please remember him in your prayers.

Caroline and the Battersea ringers

Young Ringers outing to London 8 August 2015

Posted: Fri, 14 Aug 2015 12:04:26 +0000

Friday, 14 Aug 2015

Saturday 8th August saw a further new style event for the Association. The aim of the day was to invite some of the younger ringers from Surrey and the surrounding counties to ring together in some of London's more famous towers.



With the help of Ben Meyer and the University of London ringers, we had a very prestigious tower list.

Despite many being away on holiday, the day was well attended by around 20 young ringers from Surrey, Sussex and Guildford. Although there was some parental support, the priority when ringing was to the younger members of the group.

We met on the portico of St. Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square where we rang for 2 hours before the celebrations for Brazil Day got well under way in the Square! Chris Rimmer ran the ringing for us here, with plenty of rounds and plain hunt on the 12. Erin Cinques was the party piece of the ringing here.

For lunch the group divided up. Some took the opportunity to visit local galleries and shops. Others opted to sit in St. James's Park to eat picnic food. After a somewhat confusing icebreaker game of "whizz bang" (I still do not understand it!!), we tried our hand at the "Human Knot!" As you can see from the photo below, we provided plenty of entertainment for the tourists in the park!!



Our next tower was St. Clement Danes. Rebecca Meyer ran the ringing for us here. An easier ring for many, Cambridge Surprise Royal was the peak of our achievements here.

Our last tower of the day was St. Mary-le-Bow on Cheapside. A very challenging ring for even the most experienced of ringers, Ben was very encouraging of all those who wanted to ring. We were also allowed on to the roof to see amazing view across London as well as the bells in action on the way up.



Two of the young ringers from Redhill had this to say:

Georgie: This was my first go at ringing on twelve bells and to have the opportunity to do it in some of the most famous churches in London was both challenging and fun. It was a great day.

Megan: Initially I found ringing on 12 bells challenging as the strokes need to be held up more but I found it was a good experience. Ringing in London was exciting because I have only rung there once before.

My thanks go to Ben Meyer for his help in this venture, and to those who came to give their support. The intention is to run further events for young ringers in the future.



[Going to university?](#)

Posted: Fri, 14 Aug 2015 18:25:18 +0000

Friday, 14 Aug 2015

If you've just had your A level results and plan on going to university in September then

😊 CONGRATULATIONS 😊

We know it's a busy time but we recommend you take a look at the [University Bell Ringing Societies & Guilds website](#) to find out about how you can make new friends and continue to enjoy your ringing whilst at university.

[Her Majesty the Queen - 9th September celebrations](#)

Posted: Fri, 14 Aug 2015 20:05:35 +0000

Friday, 14 Aug 2015

You probably know that on the 9th of September Her Majesty the Queen will become the longest serving British monarch ever. This is a great opportunity for celebratory ringing events and we encourage everyone to take part in ringing something special to mark the occasion.

If you have some ringing planned then please publicise it in your local community and share the details with us either by email to [communications \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:communications[at]surreybellringers[dot]org[dot]uk) or on our [facebook page](#).

[An Afternoon in the Far North](#)

Posted: Wed, 08 Jul 2015 21:04:17 +0000

Wednesday, 8 Jul 2015

June 20th saw the Northern District venture into the very top of our allocated area. With organisational collaboration with the Docklands' ringers, an afternoon with a difference was organised. We visited Rotherhithe, Bermondsey and St. George in the East, Stepney.

Three towers were open throughout the afternoon. Three groups of ringers travelled round visiting each tower at particular times so they did not overlap. Participants were grouped according to ability to allow concentrated focus on specific areas. The aim was to combine the fun of an outing, with the method focus of a training day.

The visit to Rotherhithe proved very popular as they were having an open afternoon. Even though we gave the live band a bit of competition, they were pleased to see us with plenty of people visiting the tower to see what we were up to. The BBQ was well frequented (as was the Mayflower pub) at the end of the afternoon.

I would like to thank all who attended. As with all these events, we often have more learners than experienced ringers. If you are able to support events please do, you will be appreciated!

Caroline Prescott

Joint Forces

Posted: Mon, 06 Jul 2015 15:26:14 +0000

Monday, 6 Jul 2015

Kingston, Battersea and Waterloo road join forces to ring for a priesting service at Kingston on 4th July.



Redhill triumph at the Call Change Striking Competition

Posted: Sun, 05 Jul 2015 21:09:46 +0000

Sunday, 5 Jul 2015

The competition was held at Oxted on a sunny afternoon on the 4th of July 2015. Six teams entered representing four towers in the Association. Cosy sofas, tea and homemade Bakewell cake meant we were well settled in for a session of ringing and chat.

Chris Ridley was the competition judge, sitting under a tree in the churchyard, grateful of his jacket once the sun went in.

Results could be achieved in two sections, striking 80% and artistic merit 20%. Redhill were the winners of the afternoon obtaining 88% for their performance. This was a tremendous performance for the Redhill band who become the first Southern District team ever to win the trophy.

In many ways however all entrants were winners. A majority of the participants had never entered a striking competition before. By entering a competition like this in what we hoped was a friendly, supportive and fun way, we hope all will feel able to come and join in again. Being able to take some small pride in the way we can ring together can join us all in our celebration in the ringing of bells.

The lure of the pub next to the railway station prove too much for some....how else to finish a sunny day with friends and ringing!

Putney hosts the Six Bell and the Eight Bell Competition on Saturday 17 October so, perhaps, you can start thinking about entering that in your tower?



[Quarter Peal Week 2015 - At the Double](#)

Posted: Sat, 06 Jun 2015 09:43:53 +0000

Saturday, 6 Jun 2015

This year there were 16 successful quarter peals for the Quarter Peal Week - double the number of 2014.

Particular congratulations to Marie Helene Weech who rang her first at Wandsworth and to all the others who achieved "firsts". Click [here](#) for all the details.

[Magna Carta 800 - June 14th](#)

Posted: Sun, 31 May 2015 11:24:24 +0000

Sunday, 31 May 2015

Magna Carta 800

The main event for ringers everywhere (but particularly in Surrey) in June is the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John in 1215. To my shame I only realised quite recently that Runnymede is in Surrey! As it is so close to Windsor I had always thought it was in Berkshire, and indeed there are theories that the Great Charter was in fact sealed at Wraysbury, on the other side of the river, but there isn't room here to go into all that.

Ringers are encouraged to ring at 3 pm on Sunday 14 June, to coincide with the LiberTeas event where everyone around the whole country is urged to organise or attend a local event, to create a simultaneous moment of reflection and celebration of their freedoms and rights. And of course to listen to the bells ringing, or be ringing them! If you can't join in at that time and date please do ring for liberty over that weekend at some point.

Kate Flavell

www.liberteas.co.uk

[Snap and Ring](#)

Posted: Sat, 30 May 2015 20:14:58 +0000

Saturday, 30 May 2015

On Saturday 23 May, a few ringers from the Southern District met on Reigate Hill, armed with cameras to shoot some some photography before the Southern District Allcomers practice. See a write-up below from Cari, as well as the fruits of our labour.

I'm planning to organise themed sessions a few times a year before a District practice, as an opportunity to get together outside of a tower. If you have a hobby that you'd like to share, please contact me.

Andrew Howell, Southern District Master.



I wasn't sure what we had been invited to, but decided to go along at least for the walk.

Reigate Hill is a lovely place to walk, especially at this time of year when it is all very green. However, it was bright but hazy, not conducive to contrasty or landscape photography. Clearly, Andrew and Steph had done this before and so soon after we had had an ice cream at the kiosk and a bit of a walk and chat, they set to taking close up photography of all they could find that might be of interest on a picture.

This reminded me of my college days and I really enjoyed following suit and secretly getting some ideas from them!!! I have been wanting to re start my more creative side for a while now, so it was great to have this unexpected incentive.

When we got to the fort, there were a lot of interesting shapes with iron railings, doors and hinges, old doors and historical images. Andrew took these from an interesting perspective. Roger is an excellent view photographer so he was not in his comfort zone but he enjoyed looking at things from a different point of view. He enjoys Photoshop after the event. This was a bit sophisticated for me and Steph who just enjoy taking the initial shot and deleting any that are not worth keeping.

Apart from this, we enjoyed the walk and getting to know each other. If you came and just wanted the walk, this would have been fine. We all went at our own pace.

Afterwards we enjoyed the practice at Kingswood. I think everyone had a chance to fulfil their own level of ringing and it was friendly and well organised.

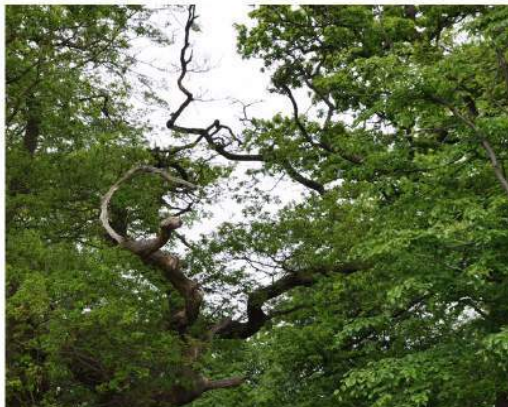
Cari Bridgen



BY
ANDREW
HOWELL



BY
CARI
BRIDGEN





BY
ROGER TOMPSETT



BY
STEPH
RUEFF



[#firstbellfieforall](#)

Posted:Thu, 21 May 2015 22:51:18 +0000

Thursday, 21 May 2015

A quarter peal at Redhill for the Surrey Association quarter peal week was celebrated with a band selfie.

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=464269>



[Most local ringers in a quarter at Richmond for a long time](#)

Posted:Thu, 21 May 2015 22:20:45 +0000

Thursday, 21 May 2015

A quarter peal of grandsire triples was rung at Richmond on Wednesday the 20th May for the Surrey Association quarter peal week. It was notable as being the most local ringers in a quarter at Richmond for a long time.

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=464190>



[Congratulations!!](#)

Posted:Mon, 18 May 2015 20:28:03 +0000

Monday, 18 May 2015

Well done to Marie Helene from Holy Trinity Wandsworth who rang her first quarter peal on May 16th for Surrey quarter peal week!

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42 minutes

1. Marie Helene Weech
2. Chris Ridley
3. Caroline Prescott
4. Linda Foddering
5. Bob Cooles (cond)
6. Jonathan Startup



[Gordon Peters - A distinguished visitor from the past at the Surrey Association AGM at Barnes](#)

Posted: Tue, 12 May 2015 16:28:17 +0000

Tuesday, 12 May 2015

As usual I glanced around those who had gathered at the very happy event at Barnes (thank you, Barnes!) and as usual senior members predominated. I guessed that I knew most of those present. I had a wander round during and after tea to see as many as I thought might be at least slightly interested in chatting to me. It was only in the pub afterwards, in conversation with Jason Hughes, Shirley McGill and the Cheesmans that I realised, to my great disappointment, that I had missed out on seeing somebody who, unbeknown to them, and probably to most others present, had been one of the Associations leading ringers in the 50's and 60's - Gordon Peters. He had told them that he had not rung for 40 years, that he was now living in Brixton (for how long I don't think he said) and that his nearest tower was probably Streatham, though he had not been there. He told Jeremy Cheesman that he remembered doing a lot of ringing with his father. How I wished I had known he was there! Did he speak to others? Did he leave an address or phone number with anybody?

When I was learning to ring, at Putney, the ringing room table held all sorts of books that soon became essential reading. First and foremost was the tower's "quarter peal book," open at the page of the latest local band quarter rung the night before, almost always containing a "first" of some description, and the subject of much excitement during the practice night as Chris Mew's early exploits in conducting and bringing the quarters to successful conclusions were described. And next was the "Surrey Association" report for 1958 (the 1959 report not being published until May 1960!) containing the names of all of the important people who, I had been assured, would help me to progress my ringing, most importantly of all, the Northern District Officers: -

Master	G P T Peters
Hon. Sec.	W Parrott
Treasurer	H N Pitstow
Committee	N Bagworth, C Champion, Rev. C Marshall

The names are almost inscribed in my memory. During the early part of the year, because of the May publication date of the report, the District officers listed were those elected at the beginning of the year before last (that has now changed for the better!) so Ted Collins had already succeeded Gordon as District Master (in January 1959). But I saw and rang with him at several meetings, not least the annual joint meeting between the Northern District and the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild, always held at his local tower,

Leatherhead, on the old August Bank Holiday Monday. At one of those meetings I also rang with Alf Winch and George Marriner, two of the grand old men of Leatherhead.

Bill Parrott, who later became a really good Association secretary before moving to Bath where he died only recently, was always very encouraging. He once arranged, and asked me to call, a "youth" attempt for a peal of Bob Minor at Addington in which, at 14, I was the oldest member of the band. We didn't get very far. Bill's daughter, Sally was in it as was Peter Munday, now of Abergavenny, but I'm ashamed to say that I cannot recall who the others were – possibly some of the Wimbledon starlets of the day.

Harold Pitstow of Banstead, despite being responsible for earning for a certain Westminster tower the soubriquet, "The Bunker" was, in his own way, very encouraging at the local level.

Norman Bagworth, Alan's father, who lived in Wimbledon, regularly supported our practices at Putney and again, in his own way, was a great help.

I hardly knew Colin Champion. He was listed, at the time, as a St Leonard's, Streatham ringer but I think he had originally been a Southern District member and that his time in the Northern District was quite brief before moving to Sussex. He clearly kept up his Southern District connection because many years later, in 1985, he returned for a peal (his first and only peal) of Cambridge Royal that I called at Reigate, organised, I think, by Keith Game.

At that time I did not know Chris Marshall, who was curate at Leatherhead, and he moved to Somerset very shortly after I started ringing. He became Vicar of Wiveliscombe, to where another great Leatherhead legend, H V "Brig" Young had retired, and later, through one of those delicious coincidences constantly thrown at us by this great art of ringing, taught Peter Valuks to ring, who was to find himself many years later, in London and succeeding me as Ringing Master of Southwark Cathedral.

How did Gordon know that the AGM was "on" at Barnes? Unless I missed it, no notice was given in the Ringing World (What an outrage!) So did he see it here? If you did, Gordon, please get in touch!

Michael Uphill

[Surrey Association has a new General Master](#)

Posted: Mon, 11 May 2015 16:23:24 +0000

Monday, 11 May 2015

At the Association AGM held on the 9th of May in Barnes Patrick Wills stepped down as General Master having completed his term of office. Patrick is replaced as General Master for the next 3 years by Kate Flavell from Kingston.

Photo below shows new General Master Kate Flavell receiving the masters badge of office from Bob Cooles, Association President, at the 2015 AGM.



Change Ringing for the Future, a Central Council Consultation

Posted: Fri, 08 May 2015 10:14:02 +0000

Friday, 8 May 2015

Comments are invited on the attached paper which will be discussed at the Central Council's annual meeting on May 25th.

Change Ringing for the Future

Comments should be forwarded to one of the Surrey Associations Central Council representatives by Wednesday 20th May please:

Jeremy Cheesman: jeremycheesman [at] btinternet [dot] com

Kate Flavell: kateflavell [at] f2s [dot] com

Paul Flavell: flavells [at] f2s [dot] com

Richard Wallis: richard [dot] wallis [at] gmail [dot] com

Please study this paper as soon as possible and let them know what you think.

Full details of the Central Council's annual meeting are available in a special Ringing World supplement which can be downloaded from <http://cccbr.org.uk/council/meetings/2015/2015-RW-supplement-for-CC.pdf>

AGM Reminder

Posted: Sun, 03 May 2015 14:42:09 +0000

Sunday, 3 May 2015

The association AGM will be held on Saturday 9th May at Barnes. Full details including agenda and copies of reports are available on the events page.

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/events/annual-general-meeting-2015>

Kate Flavell rings at 3000th tower

Posted: Sat, 02 May 2015 16:51:43 +0000

Saturday, 2 May 2015

Kate Flavell achieved a significant milestone by ringing at her 3,000th tower on Thursday 30 April.

Tower number 3000 was Horton in Ribblesdale, a recently augmented four to six in the lovely Yorkshire Dales. Horton is popular with hill walkers as a base to climb Pen-y-Ghent (694 metres), one of the Yorkshire Three Peaks, the others being Wharfedale and Ingleborough. It was champagne all round on Thursday evening to celebrate.

The picture of Horton in Ribblesdale church has Pen-y-Ghent in the background.





[A trip to Dordrecht](#)

Posted: Sun, 26 Apr 2015 14:25:45 +0000

Sunday, 26 Apr 2015

A trip to Dordrecht

Dordrecht is a very pretty town in the Netherlands with beautiful 17th and 18th century merchants' houses with ornate gables amid canals and harbours, quite unspoilt by tourism or modern development.

Why is Dordrecht of interest to ringers? About 8 years ago, a Dutchman, Paul de Kok, visited the UK and chanced to meet Jim Phillips at St Pauls Cathedral, where he was shown the bells. Paul and his family also met Alan Frost who taught them all to handle a bell (very well from what we have seen). Paul decided he needed a set of bells at home in Dordrecht, so he and his son Harm Jan installed a small ring of 8 (tenor about 75kg – 1.5 cwt) in 't Klockhuys, a small building at the west end of the Grote Kerk (the left hand side of the entrance in the photo).

The bells, by van Bergen, sound rather light and shrill, but they handle beautifully, have stays, and feel more like a 4cwt eight than a mini ring because of additional weights attached to the headstocks on screw threads. The weights can be adjusted by nuts to optimise the swing timing with the other bells (see the photo). The clappers are also balanced to ensure a good strike and minimise odd struckness. The bell fittings are insulated from the bell frame by rubber pads to prevent sound travelling through the frame and this is very effective.

The bells have become very popular with visiting ringers from the UK as they are so available for peals and so easy to ring, with some mad ringers attempting six peals in a day!

Our group from the UK had a very enjoyable weekend at 't Klockhuys, with wonderful hospitality provided by Paul and his family all weekend. We rang a peal and two quarters as well as fitting in lots of general ringing including touches of Paul's favourite spliced Double Norwich and Bristol Surprise Major! There was even some time for a little sight-seeing around this lovely town.

The 12th century Grote Kerk, built in brick, is a magnificent church with an unfinished 62 metre tower leaning slightly to the north. The tower contains a wonderful carillon of over 60 bells. Six of the bells are hung for swing chiming, the lightest of these bells is over one tonne and the heaviest over nine tonnes! The large but supple ropes for these bells hang down from the ceiling bosses and also split out into two or three tails for multiple ringers! Because the bells are counterbalanced, they are relatively easy to swing and chime.

Our party were taken up the tower by the very nice carillonneur, Boudewijn Zwart, and our group were allowed to swing chime the bells for a few minutes, one of the highlights of the weekend! The sound of the bells in full swing is completely magnificent!

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpHwrcDSPr8> for a demonstration (all the bells are ringing a few minutes into the recording).

Boudewijn also demonstrated the carillon with interesting tunes and an impressive improvisation on God Save the Queen.

We had a great weekend and would fully recommend any ringers from the UK interested in visiting Dordrecht to arrange a trip with Paul de Kok (details on the website <http://change-ringers.eu/>).

Paul Flavell

Kingston upon Thames





[Young Ringers' Afternoon at Collier's Wood \(21 March 2015\)](#)

Posted: Thu, 09 Apr 2015 14:39:30 +0000

Thursday, 9 Apr 2015

My sister Susannah and I first tried ringing at a church fete last summer, and decided we would like to learn how to do it properly. Since then, once a week we've had lessons at St Mary's Church Wimbledon, St John the Divine in Merton and Holy Trinity West Hill. When Caroline Prescott invited us to go to a young people's ringing session at Christchurch Collier's Wood, we jumped at the chance to try out a new tower and meet some other young bell ringers.



After introductions between us, we started off with some rounds to warm up and get the feel for the bells. The bells at Collier's Wood are actually really nice and so that was pretty fun. After a short refreshment break of Haribo and homemade cookies (thank you Caroline!), we started up again by ringing in various states of chaos. First on one leg, then reverse rounds (with the 6 as the treble) and finally called changes going to Queens and back.



Other things we did included ringing with our backs to each other relying on sound alone to stay in time, and ringing up/ringing down competitions to see who was fastest. Unfortunately it wasn't me! It was a lot of fun and I think all of us really enjoyed it, so a special thanks to our teachers Phil, Ed, Emma and Asher. I will definitely go back again the next time an opportunity arises!



Adam Brandt, Wimbledon Ringer, 13

Thanks to Phillip, Ed, Asher and Emma for supervising the afternoon.

More dates to follow!

[The Two Bs Win the 2015 Quiz Night](#)

Posted: Thu, 02 Apr 2015 21:05:13 +0000

Thursday, 2 Apr 2015

Congratulations to a joint Buckland/Betchworth team on winning this year's Quiz Night. A challenging set of questions were set by Martin Higgins but a victor emerged. All in all over 150 people sat down to a question filled evening and fish and chip supper (other options available) making it the largest Quiz Night ever.

[Merton Meet for March](#)

Posted: Mon, 23 Mar 2015 12:22:06 +0000

Monday, 23 Mar 2015

The ringing session held on 21st March at St. John's Merton turned out to be quite busy in the end! A last minute influx of people (which was great!!) meant we were a bit squished in the tower.

The aim of the session was to reinforce things learnt on the recent Association training day, and to some extent I think that was achieved.

That said however, we hope those who attended enjoyed the session. In hindsight we should have opened another tower to allow learners more rope time, but as I was unsure as to definite names for helpers I was concerned there may not be sufficient experienced help available.

Onwards and upwards. If you attended the session and would like to comment, please feel free!

Thank you to all who attended, sorry for the clash of date with the rugby, although it was on a big screen in the Trafalgar, as our finish time was England kick off time!

ndmaster [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Caroline Prescott)



[Sponsored Bell Push](#)

Posted: Mon, 23 Mar 2015 12:58:44 +0000

Monday, 23 Mar 2015

Chris Stanley and friends undertook a Sponsored Bell Push on 7th March!

In total they covered 6 miles and visited 5 pubs - all for essential refreshment of course!

Chris writes that the band at Merton are aiming to raise a further £2,000 so that they have sufficient funds to buy the missing trebles. They hope to reach their target in time for the new bells to be cast later this year.

They will then need a further £11,000 to hang them. The idea is that with the bells present in the church, it will be easier to raise the money.

Getting the old bell out of the church on its magnificent trolley:



At the top of Wimbledon Hill - a well earned rest after a bit of a puff up the hill:



Somewhere en-route near Wimbledon Common, shortly before they bent the front axle making it incredibly difficult to steer:



Spring Newsletter

Posted: Sat, 14 Mar 2015 18:03:52 +0000

Saturday, 14 Mar 2015

The spring edition of the Surrey Association newsletter is now being distributed to towers and is available online [here](#).

This time we have a bumper edition including introductions from our new district masters, details of how ringers across the country are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal, how you can put your striking to the test and much much more.

Look out for a copy in your tower or download it [now](#).



A Striking Challenge from Roger Booth

Posted: Fri, 27 Feb 2015 13:56:25 +0000

Friday, 27 Feb 2015

Would your local Sunday band like to improve it's striking and have the chance to win a cup and a bottle of Champagne?

At Isle of Dogs we lie at the junction of four districts in four different Associations, so although there are a lot of towers nearby we are a bit out on a limb, and not at the centre of anything. Therefore we are challenging any local Sunday service band in either the Lewisham District of the Kent Association; the Northern District of the Surrey Association, The North and East District of the Middlesex CA & London DG and the South West District of the Essex Association to enter a new and innovative competition.

At Isle of Dogs we have invested in the latest ringing simulator technology, including a large screen to make use of the moving ringers features, so that people can learn and practice by both listening and ropesight. We have also been working with Graham Nabb of the Association of Ringing Teachers, Stuart Bamforth of the Whiting Society, Chris Hughes of Abel and Derek Ballard of Beltower to develop this technology still further. The latest release of Abel was issued last week and one of the latest enhancements is a suite of much improved striking analysis tools.

At Isle of Dogs we have sensors on all eight bells, so we can record a band ringing a touch on any number of bells (up to 8), and play it back afterwards, with a graphic display. We can also import the file into 'Hawkear' the CAS Striking Analysis software used by the National 12 Bell Striking Competition, and mark the faults or allocate a % score. We can also give the band a printout showing how accurately each bell struck (see attached examples).

Therefore we will be holding a completion throughout 2015. The rules are quite simple:

- It is open to any regular local Sunday service band in the four districts listed above (no 'manufactured' bands)
- The competition will be on six bells
- The band must ring at least 120 rows of rounds, call changes, kaleidoscope or any method, plus at least 10 whole pulls of rounds before and after.
- The band must come one Wednesday evening to our practice at Isle of Dogs between 8.00 and 9.15pm and will be given two chances to ring a test piece.
- One band a week, so bands need to book with me beforehand
- Results will be published on a website, so we hope to build up a 'league' table.
- Bands can come as often as they like, so even if you slip down the league, you will be able to try again in order to regain 1st place.
- Each band will receive a printout of their two test pieces.
- The band with the lowest number of faults/highest percentage score by Wednesday 16th December will receive the bottle of Champagne in time for Christmas, and the cup to hold for a year.

So, talk to the other members of your local band, and if you want to have a go, please get in touch and book a Wednesday evening slot.

If your band are practicing for a striking completion (on up to 8 bells) we are also happy for bands to come at some other time and spend as long as you like practicing, and we will show you how to use the software. This

will, of course, not count to the challenge cup competition, and there will be a modest charge towards our tower funds.

Alternatively we have a tied bell practice on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 and 8.00pm and you can come and have a go and improve your striking and see what else the software can do, with our other learners.

Christchurch Isle of Dogs is 3 minutes' walk from Island Gardens DLR station, close to Canary Wharf, so is very accessible and are an easy going 11cwt ring of eight.

Roger
07411 181583

[Analysis from Abel](#)

[Peal Weekend 2015](#)

Posted:Thu, 26 Feb 2015 12:30:17 +0000

Thursday, 26 Feb 2015

Peal weekend is an annual event held in February to celebrate the anniversary of the first Surrey Association peal at Kingston in 1881.

This year 6 peals were organised with 3 achieved. The successful peals were rung at Buckland, Caterham St. Mary and Wandsworth West Hill. Detail of these can be found on Bellboard (see links below).

[Caterham](#)
[Wandsworth](#)
[Buckland](#)

Our Association has never been a great one for large numbers of peals but this weekend gives those who would not normally ring peals an opportunity to have a go - whether it is a step up, Surprise Major for example, or a first on 8.

There were some notable highlights this year with the peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Caterham being the first in method for Edmund Mottershead, first inside for Surprise for Andrew Howell and Michael Uphill's 1st of Yorkshire as conductor for 31 years! At Wandsworth Colin Friend achieved his first of Grandsire Triples.

My thanks go to the towers that allowed peals and to the conductors. And, of course, the ringers who made up the bands.

Peal weekend next year will be February 20/21st 2016 but there is no need to wait that long. This year the Surrey Association is supporting the [First Peal 2015 campaign](#). If you want to ring your first peal, or know someone who does, but need some help getting an band together please let me know.

Shirley McGill

[Northern District practice at Putney](#)

Posted:Sun, 22 Feb 2015 19:35:18 +0000

Sunday, 22 Feb 2015

The Northern District kicked off their 2015 programme of practices meeting at Putney on Saturday 21st Feb. Ringing to suit all abilities included 4 spliced, Stedman triples, Bob major, Bob triples, Rutland and rounds and call changes.

The next practice will be on Saturday 21st March so why not come along. Keep an eye on the [website for more details](#).



[Barnes winter outing](#)

Posted: Sun, 22 Feb 2015 20:05:44 +0000

Sunday, 22 Feb 2015

The Barnes winter outing on the 31st Jan this year to south Cambridgeshire achieved something they believe to be a first; a touch of Plain Bob Doubles with half the ringers in wheelchairs!

Accomplishing this astonishing feat at St Catherine's Litlington were Jem Finch from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, our own Mike Wigney from Chiswick, and Tony Crowther, from Broxbourne, Herfordshire.



This story is an extract from an entry on the Barnes Blog

[Pam Humphries](#)

Posted: Mon, 16 Feb 2015 17:40:19 +0000

Monday, 16 Feb 2015

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Pam Humphries on Sunday 15th February. Pam was the keystone of ringing at St. Dunstan's Cheam.

A memorial service for Pam has been arranged on Wednesday 11th March at 12 noon at St. Dunstan's. Ringing from 11:30 and after the service.

[Abel at Isle of Dogs](#)

Posted: Thu, 05 Feb 2015 14:54:58 +0000

Thursday, 5 Feb 2015

In November a team from BBC TV and Radio came to do a piece about [Abel, the ringing simulator software](#), which has been upgraded to show videos of real ringers rather than cartoons of ropes or bells. This means that with a large enough screen you can teach ringers at all levels to ring by a combination of ropesight and listening. Up until now simulator software only enabled the teaching of listening skills, which limited its' usefulness. At Isle of Dogs we have a projector and a 6 foot wide screen on the opposite wall, so we now have a virtual reality simulator and you don't need a band of experienced ringers to teach people realistically how to ring rounds, call changes, kaleidoscope, plain hunt etc.

The radio version of the 'Click' programme was finally broadcast on Tuesday. You can hear it at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02hrf5q#playt=0h19m29s>

We are not sure when the TV version of 'Click' containing our piece is due to be aired, but it should be soon. It is broadcast on various BBC channels.

I wrote an article about the latest version of Abel which appeared in the Ringing World on 12th December 2014. This attracted quite a lot of interest and Stuart Bamforth of the Whiting Society, Graham Nabb of the Association of Ringing Teachers and myself have been working with Chris Hughes the author of Abel on further enhancements which will help make Abel even more useful in teaching new ringers and the teaching process even more efficient.

This includes an interface with '[Hawkear](#)' the striking analysis programme used in the national 12 bell competitions. From the end of February when the next release is issued, bands will be able to come to Isle of Dogs and have their striking analysed and take away a printout - very useful if you are practicing for a striking competition!

If you would like to see how this all works, or find out how to set this up in your own tower, we have a tied practice at Isle of Dogs on Wednesdays from 6.30 till 8.00pm (Except Ash Wednesday). This is followed by an openpractice from 8.00pm (our six new ringers have made a lot of progress in just a few months, but would now appreciate more practice with real ringers!).

Roger Booth

[Thanks from Pam Humphries](#)

Posted: Mon, 26 Jan 2015 16:47:04 +0000

Monday, 26 Jan 2015

Pam Humphries would like to thank all those who came to Peter's Thanksgiving Service on 7th January 2015. Your generosity raised an amazing £765 for Epsom and Ewell Phab - a fitting and worthwhile charity. Thank you.

www.phab.org

[Ring your first peal in 2015](#)

Posted: Mon, 19 Jan 2015 15:03:12 +0000

Monday, 19 Jan 2015

This year is the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal in 1715 at St Peters Mancroft in Norwich. To celebrate this event the Surrey Association is supporting a national initiative called 'First Peal 300' which aims to get 300 first pealers this year, that's double the usual number.

Caroline Prescott started the Surrey effort achieving her first peal on the [10th January at Guildford Cathedral](#).

Our annual peal weekend is on the 20th February and an excellent opportunity to ring a first peal. Please contact [Shirely McGill](#) if you'd like to ring a peal but don't know where to start.

Who will you encourage to ring their first peal this year?

[Northern District Elects New Master](#)

Posted: Mon, 19 Jan 2015 12:13:45 +0000

Monday, 19 Jan 2015

The annual district meeting of the Northern District was held at Kingston on Saturday 17th January. At the meeting Shirley McGill stood down as Master having completed her term of office and is replaced by Caroline Prescott.

The Northern District committee for 2015 is:

District Master: Caroline Prescott

Secretary: Shirley McGill

Asst Secretary: Jeremy Cheesman

Committee members: Paul Flavell, Hilary Jacques, David Whitehead

At the meeting Paul Flavell presented a paper on future training challenges which expands on the article General Master Patrick Wills wrote in the latest edition of the newsletter. The membership is invited to consider and comment on the ideas in the paper which is available [here](#).

We are also hosting an online forum for comments and discussions on these proposals which can be found at www.surreybellringers.org.uk/have-your-say

[Merry Christmas and Happy New Year](#)

Posted: Wed, 24 Dec 2014 17:30:19 +0000

Wednesday, 24 Dec 2014

2015 promises to be a year of change with two new District Masters and a new General Master. Keep informed by looking at this website, via Yahoo Groups, RSS feed, Facebook, Twitter, etc..

However, before then all are welcome on the Southern District Outing on Monday (29). Look at the events section for all the details.

[Peter Humphries](#)

Posted: Sun, 21 Dec 2014 21:20:15 +0000

Sunday, 21 Dec 2014

It is with great sadness I have to report that Peter Humphries of Cheam (formerly of Croydon) has died.

His funeral will be at St Dunstan's Cheam on Wednesday 7th January at 12 noon.

We shall be ringing beforehand from 11.30am. Please do join us then.

Sheila Cheesman

[Half a century and counting...](#)

Posted: Mon, 24 Nov 2014 17:44:30 +0000

Monday, 24 Nov 2014

50 years ago I went along for my first ringing lesson at St Mark's Worsley. To mark the occasion, a group of us returned to Lancashire to celebrate the anniversary. On 23rd September we rang a quarter peal of 1250 Stedman Caters, especially arranged by Lucinda and called by Jeremy. I rang the bell on which I had learnt. I was particularly pleased that Jane Owen (nee Reynolds) was able to join us with her husband Brian. I had known Jane in those early ringing years, as she and her father, Frank, came to help the "young learners" at Worsley.

It was he who made me aware of a ringing community outside my home tower. Without that encouragement my life might easily have missed ringing. Who knows what other path I might have followed!

We rang three other 10 bell quarters during the trip and celebrated with champagne and other more traditional refreshments.

Thank you to friends for supporting my little trip down Memory Lane.

Sheila Cheesman

Worsley, Lancashire

St Mark

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 in 47 minutes (24 cwt)

1250 Stedman Caters

1 Kate Flavell

2 Sheila Cheesman

3 Jane Owen

4 Gillian Leale

5 Brian Owen

6 Robin Leale

7 Jeremy Cheesman (C)

8 David Woodward

9 Lucinda Woodward

10 Paul Flavell

[Able Seaman Alfred Bashford](#)

Posted: Sat, 01 Nov 2014 23:13:55 +0000

Saturday, 1 Nov 2014

A quarter peal was rung at Nutfield to commemorate the death of local ringer Able Seaman [Alfred Bashford](#) who was killed in action aboard H.M.S Good Hope on 1st November 1914.

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=354973>

Albert Bashford is one of 24 members of the association who died in the first world war and whose names appear on the Surrey Association roll of honour together with the names of 128 members who served and survived.

We also remember Walter Eric Markey of Burstow who died on 31st October 1914, killed in the defence of Gheluvelt, Belgium. He was the first member of the Surrey Association killed in the war.

Full details of the Surrey Association roll of honour can be found on the [halfmuffled](#) website.

[Striking success at Epsom Common](#)

Posted: Sun, 19 Oct 2014 20:12:13 +0000

Sunday, 19 Oct 2014

Surrey Association ringers gathered at Christ Church Epsom Common on Saturday 18th October for the annual 6 and 8 bell striking competitions. Some excellent ringing with tea and cakes laid on by our hosts made for a highly enjoyable event.

The six bell teams were, Coulsdon, Croydon Minster, Epsom Common and Kingston. Judges Frank and Catherine Lewis presented the trophy to Shirley McGill of Croydon Minster.



(Teams photos show Kingston top left, Coulsdon middle left and Epsom Common bottom left. Croydon Minster are top right)

Croydon and Kingston then went head to head for the Pat Cannon 8 bell trophy. A friendly but challenging competition ensued with Croydon only narrowly holding onto the trophy they won last year at Richmond.



["And so it came to pass" - the Barnes summer outing](#)

Posted: Sun, 28 Sep 2014 19:59:56 +0000

Sunday, 28 Sep 2014

The Barnes Summer Trip, held in July this year, inspired this account by Charles Turnbull as a thank you to Mike Wigney for organising it.

The ringers are summoned to Evesham

And it came to pass that the Master sent forth word that the ringers should follow him unto an inn or hostelry at Evesham, in the County of Worcestershire, and thence to practise the art or mystery of bell-ringing in Holy places round about. And there came, from North Barnes and South Barnes and other distant parts throughout the land, four-and-twenty ringers, who made their way to Evesham, as they were bidden. And among them were holders of high office in the Tower at St. Mary's, Barnes[1], and venerable former holders of such high office[2], and ringers of great repute and skill from other parts[3], who came to teach, and others who came to learn, and yet others[4] who knew not why they had come; such was the power of the Master's word.

One of their number is guided by voices

And one of their number[5], when he saw the tasks which his Master had appointed for him, was sore afraid, and said to his Master: "Master, thou hast appointed us to visit three-and- thirty Towers in five days, and I will not know my way thither". And his Master answered: "Fear not. Go forth until thou seest a house with a sign saying "Halfords", and enter that house and seek guidance. And he did as his Master bade and thereafter was guided by a voice, which said unto him "turn left" and "turn right", and he obeyed, and was guided to each Tower as his Master had foretold.

And that same ringer, when he saw that he was obliged to conduct a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles, said: "Master, I must make 66 calls of "bob" or "single", each in its appointed place, and I am sorely afraid." And his Master said: "Be not afraid, for I will send a voice to guide thee, and all will be well." And the ringer went up into the hills, in order to walk alone, that he might prepare himself for what was to pass on the following day. But on that day, when he began to ring, he was confounded and knew not when or what he should call, and so was struck dumb. But, as his Master had prophesied, there came another voice[6] which said "bob", and "single", and then began to speak in tongues, with all manner of advice which he comprehended not. But the others heeded the voice, unto the end of the quarter peal, and all was well.

Plague and pestilence banished

And another of their number[7] had been sorely afflicted by the dropsy, and said to his Master: "Master, I am stricken with weakness, whereof none of the wise men in the land have been able to discover the cause, and I am too weak to ring what thou hast appointed." And the Master said unto him: " Rise, take up thy rope and ring." And he did so, and behold his strength was restored, even unto the ringing of five quarter peals within two days.

And another of them[8], on arriving at Evesham, was stricken by pestilence[9], such that the others were afraid to go near him, and the Master said: "Fear not, for whoever is with me shall come to no harm". And it so came to pass.[10]

The Bell Tower at Evesham and the light 5 at Didbrook

And when they came to the Bell Tower at Evesham the Master said: "Which one of you will carry me unto the ringing Chamber?" And one of them[11] took the Master on his back, and carried him up the steps, as though he were no more than a sack of corn, and the others marvelled and said one to another: "His yoke is easy, and his burden is light". And when he had set the Master down the Master said to him: "now go and ring the mighty tenor bell, which hath five-and-thirty hundredweight", and he did as his Master bade, and was greatly pleased. But when, later, they rang a quarter peal of doubles at Didbrook, whereat the tenor weighs but a seventh part of that at Evesham, his rope leaped about as though possessed by demons and would not obey him. And there issued from the Master the command "Stand!", and, lo, the demons departed from the bell, and the rope stood trembling and snorting[12], in the manner of a horse newly broken. And the ringer said: "Master, you have rung more than a thousand quarter peals, and I have carried you on my back all these days, and yet you have not granted me one more quarter to add to my meagre total. And the Master said: "Unto him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

The ringers go among the people

And four of their number being appointed to ring a quarter peal of Major on hand bells, one of them[13] was filled with apprehension and said : "Master, my left hand knows not what my right hand doeth." And the Master answered: "Follow me". And they followed him to a public house where the people were given to drinking and all manner of unworthy conduct, and into a small room in that house, in order that the people might hear what they did. And when the people heard the eight bells ringing they left off their drinking and listened. And when they had finished ringing, and the people saw that only four of them came forth from the room, they were filled with wonder and said: "Is that not she whose right hand knows not what her left hand doeth?"

The feeding of the ringers

And on one day in the evening the ringers were partaking of meat cooked with all manner of spices from the Orient, and each ate and drank what he pleased, and one of them said: "Master, I know not how I shall pay what is proper." But the Master said: "Eat in peace, and all will be well". And each paid in turn for what he had eaten, until it came to the turn of him who had spoken, who was last because he had tarried at the table[14], and lo it appeared that there was nothing left for him to pay, and he marvelled at his Master's works.[15]

And on the following day they sat down together at lunch and bade the owner of the public house bring them bread and cheese. And there were some among them who were stricken with great hunger and were troubled that it would not suffice, but the Master again said: "eat and drink in peace". And each ate his fill, and when they had finished there was still bread and cheese remaining, sufficient to fill an entire plate, and they rejoiced and gave thanks.

The vision

And one of them[16] suffered from boils on one of her hands, such that she could no longer ring, and was mightily downcast. And she said to the Master: "Shall I ring in gloves?" But the wise men and women among them shook their heads and were full of scorn, and said that it was impossible. But there came to another of them[17] that night a vision of a person wearing gloves as white as snow, and he made his way to an apothecary and purchased gloves of cotton, and took one himself, for his own hand, and gave the other to she who was similarly afflicted. And she said to the Master: "Master, this glove is for my right hand, but it is my left hand which is affected". And he said: "Take the glove from your right hand and put it on your left", and she did as she was bidden and, lo, the glove fitted and she was able to ring that which had been appointed for her.

The failed quarter peals of Bob Minor and the conductors' rewards

And it came to pass that some of them, being appointed to ring a quarter peal of St Clements Minor, found themselves compelled to ring Plain Bob Minor instead. And when some of those same ringers saw that the Master had appointed them to ring yet another quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor on the following day, they were sorely disappointed. But the Master said unto them: "I have chosen you specially, for one of you is to conduct his first quarter peal of Bob Minor." But even though the conductor[18] made all his calls in their rightful places, the others went wrong and blamed each other. And he said to the Master: "Master, I am chief engineer for an oil company, and when I say to another "go" he goeth, and when I say "come" he cometh, and yet these ringers heed me not." And when he heard what had passed the Master was vexed, but the conductor said unto him: "Master, forgive them, for they know not what they do". And the Master forgave them and said to him: "Thou has been faithful over a few things, and I will make thee master of many things." And as his Master had promised, on the next day he rang his first blows of Lincolnshire Surprise Major in a quarter peal thereof.

And when the ringers again heeded not the calls of one of them, being a person of authority[19], in a quarter peal of Bob Minor, the Master was again vexed and said to them: "you shall ring Plain Bob Minor until the end of your days, until you show that you can heed her calls." And so it was that on the next day, instead of allowing them to ring what they pleased[20], he condemned them again to ring a quarter peal of that method, and they heeded her calls, right to the end.

The puzzle

And on the last evening at supper one of them[21], to test the others, gave them the following problem:

A bridge is due to be blown up in 18 minutes, and 4 people must get over the bridge at night, and have but one torch between them. The bridge will bear the weights of no more than two at once and they walk at speeds whereby they take 10, 5, 2 and 1 minute respectively to cross. How should they proceed?

There were among them one with a First Class Degree from Oxford[22], and another wont to perform calculations of hideous complexity in engineering[23], but even they could not fathom a way to get the people across in less than 18 minutes. But there was one[24] who was wont to accompany the questioner, and was constantly by his side, and (as was also her wont) had not been listening to what he had been saying. And when the test was put to her she answered it immediately. The others were amazed and went and hid their faces with shame. And the Master said: "Did I not say unto you, that out of the mouths of"

The dismissal

And so on the fifth day, when they had accomplished the greater part[25] of what the Master had laid down for them, the Master gathered them around him, and said: "Go forth into the world and ring, as your Master and others have taught you." And so they all departed from Evesham, and returned whence they had come, each unto his own Tower, there to spread the Master's word.

Footnotes

- [1] TH, Captain
- [2] EH, AH-S
- [3] Including JC, SC, JI, TN and GT
- [4] Including the author
- [5] CT
- [6] JC
- [7] FR-D
- [8] AH-S
- [9] Aka the common cold.
- [10] In case of subsequent infection unknown to the author, blame AH-S.
- [11] MM
- [12] The snorting may have come from MM, also suffering from the lurgy.
- [13] unidentified
- [14] In order subsequently to polish off the remains of FR-D's curry.
- [15] However, MM subsequently collared CT for some money.
- [16] JH
- [17] CT
- [18] MC
- [19] TH
- [20] I.e. general ringing.
- [21] TN
- [22] Too ashamed to be identified
- [23] Ditto
- [24] GT
- [25] 17 quarter peals from 25 attempts.

[Beginners Day Out: Saturday 26th April 2014](#)

Posted: Fri, 05 Sep 2014 14:53:14 +0000

Friday, 5 Sep 2014

An outing for novice bell ringers took place to give beginners an opportunity to ring at different towers. The outing was arranged for those of us who had been ringing for less than two years. As a novice myself I was glad of the opportunity to get more practice with lots of helpers and their guidance to hand.

The whole day was organised by Patrick Wills and led by Kate Desbottes.

We visited three towers on the Surrey/Kent borders namely St Andrews at Limpsfield Chart, St Mary's at Leigh and finished at SS Peter and Paul in Edenbridge.

The start at St Andrew's was stimulating due the tower access via an unusual slightly wet metal rod step ladder that firemen would have felt at home using! Fortunately the bells were relatively easy for us to manage in comparison to the ladder. 6 bells, 10.55 cwt. Tenor.

It was useful to have time for each six beginners to settle in with their bell handling at each tower, ringing in rounds or call changes. It was interesting to spot the differences in how the novices were developing their ringing styles. In my case it was: "you seem to wave your right hand at us after your handstroke!" demonstrated to me with a flapping hand that I was looking like a landed fish! This was not news to me or Alison McCormick (my teacher) of course, but with enough helpers saying it something has stuck in the brain eventually when I'm ringing.

Of course we all learn at different speeds but novices Megan and Georgie (Redhill tower) showed us how learning as teenagers is so much faster.

On to the next tower at St Mary's in Leigh, with a prime village setting on raised ground with lovely views. An ancient pillar predating the current church is preserved in the church while outside is a modern "Grand Designs" new build house in contrast. This tower has 6 bells also, 8.5 cwt. Tenor.

Lunch was leisurely at "The Old Eden" in Edenbridge. Michael Chase (Coulsdon tower) had the "large mussels" choice from menu, to help his pulling power later he explained. On the whole we all enjoyed our menu choices. Bell ringing certainly stimulates the appetite, I notice!

The final tower (SS Peter and Paul at Edenbridge) was unusual as the ringing chamber floor had a large hole in it so you could watch any arrivals at church pass beneath us. The bell chamber itself was like a square minstrels' gallery. Perfect for "flour bombing" people below apparently! The heaviest bells were found here. 8 bells, 14 cwt. tenor.

We all enjoyed the day out and we beginners valued the practice and were very grateful to the helpers, organisers and the specific tower key holders who gave us their time and patience.

Suzanne Otto (Godstone)

Group photo [here](#)

[WW1 Centenary Ringing at Putney](#)

Posted: Sat, 23 Aug 2014 18:33:20 +0000

Saturday, 23 Aug 2014

Putney ringers were asked by the vicar to toll the tenor half-muffled for an hour during the evening rush-hour on Monday August 4th. An hour on a hot evening is quite a task for an individual so a half-dozen members of the band volunteered to do it in relay, taking over from each other every five minutes.

One such was our pastoral assistant, David Adamson, who has recently learned to ring and, who, in connection with the event, had created a "First World War" display in the church for members of the congregation and passers-by to quietly sit and ponder. David is bound next month for Mirfield. Yorkshire ringers please welcome him!

The church is situated at the south-eastern end of Putney Bridge which is currently undergoing major repair. It can be crossed only by a narrow section of the eastern footpath, separated from the rest of the bridge by a high hoarding, this adding to the atmospherics by creating a crossing similar to a WW1 trench, as one passer by recorded in an email to the parish office: "I would just like to say how moving it was to have the church bell peeling as we all crossed the bridge after work this evening. It resonated particularly as we all had to file past in single file across the bridge. Please thank the bell ringers".

MJU



[WW1 Centenary Ringing at Caterham](#)

Posted: Fri, 08 Aug 2014 19:37:51 +0000

Friday, 8 Aug 2014

As the hour of commemoration drew near, fifteen church bell ringers from towers across the district gathered at St John's Church in Caterham, to join with the local tower ringers to play their part in the nationwide act of remembrance, marking the start of The Great War. At 11pm,

Bill Johnson, at 82, the oldest of the St John's band, read a special prayer before the Tenor Bell, which is the heaviest in the tower, was tolled 58 times; each strike of the bell representing the name of a life lost, inscribed on the WWI War Memorial plaque in the church.

Led by the Tower Captain, Noel Gibbin, the ringers waited patiently to make their contribution to the tolling of the Tenor. One member of the St John's band, Ian Hutchinson, who was unable to be present as he was in France, and whose family represented 3 generations of service in the Armed forces, managed to listen to the tolling of the bell via his mobile phone. All the ringers felt privileged to be involved in the solemn act of remembrance and to provide that link with Caterham's past.

Milica Reardon
St John's Ringer

Tower Captain, Noel Gibbin, with the youngest ringer Alice Gibbin (19), preparing to toll the Tenor Bell



[A Battersea Bonanza](#)

Posted: Sun, 20 Jul 2014 15:29:23 +0000

Sunday, 20 Jul 2014

The Northern District summer meeting in June was held at Battersea where a bonanza of fun was promised and duly delivered by the local band. Highlight of the afternoon was an informal striking competition with bands formed randomly with names drawn from a hat (well a bowl actually). Three teams rang a touch of grandsire triples. A BBQ feast, one of the shortest business meetings on record and some excellent general ringing made this a day to remember and a new format for future meetings perhaps.

Winnig team



General Ringing



Call Change Striking Competition

Posted: Sun, 13 Jul 2014 10:57:12 +0000

Sunday, 13 Jul 2014

This year's call change striking competition was held at Holy Trinity Clapham common where teams from Croydon Minster, Coulsdon and Redhill took part in a friendly competition for the Sid Saban trophy.

The trophy returned to Croydon Minster but an outstanding challenge by Redhill made them the team to watch for next year.



The Redhill band: (L-R) Steph Rueff, Kate Desbottes, Anne Rueff, Valerie Roopun, Suki Edge-Partington, Megan Marlow.

[Putney ringers' May weekend](#)

Posted: Sun, 13 Jul 2014 17:58:42 +0000

Sunday, 13 Jul 2014

One of the things that used to make us "tick" at Putney was our annual weekend away. It gave an opportunity to have some relaxed ringing for which we always invited former members of the band and other friends to join us.

Having missed this for several years, MJU's offer to arrange one this year was enthusiastically accepted. We went west, staying at The Old Whyte Harte, Ringwood. After a pub lunch at Yetminster on the Friday afternoon we rang at four towers to 'complete' Dorset for David Hughes. On the Saturday we rang at six towers, commencing with the fine eight at Cranborne, followed by Tollard Royal and a pub lunch at Shaftesbury kindly arranged by John and Gill Hunt.

One of the highlights of the day was Fontmell Magna, which followed the two Shaftesbury sixes. MJU has ancestors here from the 15th century and here, in retirement, live Dick and Jennie Jones; Jennie the former tower secretary and Dick a former curate at Putney, where, in the early 1960's, he was a member of the "Philistines" - the church hockey club - with Jim Uphill, MJU's older brother. Jim, although not a ringer, joined us for the weekend especially to enjoy this reunion.

The Fontmell Magna ringers, led by Jennie, very kindly gave us tea and cakes in church after the ringing and the reunion was such that we lost track of time and landed, very apologetically, nearly half an hour late at Bryanston where Philip Rioch had almost given up on us. His welcome was warm nonetheless and ringing for the day ended with Stedman Triples on this melodious octave. Dinner at HQ was enjoyed late into the evening.

On the Sunday we were warmly welcomed to join in service ringing on the fine eight at Ringwood and repayed that welcome by inviting each of the local band to have a go at something with us, which they all enjoyed as much as we did. A weekend for which we had enjoyed glorious weather, countryside, bells and good company closed with afternoon ringing at the picturesque church at Minstead, where many of MJU's maternal ancestors were married, and at Lyndhurst. All were agreed that we should not allow the "Putney weekend" to lapse again.

MJU



Putney ringers and friends at Bryanston School Chapel.

Michael Uphill, Cherry Steward, Gordon Gibb, Sam Ede, Paula Greenwood, Neil Skelton, Pete and Ann Tuppen, Tony Clayton, Steve Day, Phill, Sarah and Evie Hughes, Heather Bletchly, Ian Campbell, David Hughes. Behind the camera - Brenda Day.

[Dedication of the new bells at St Johns Merton 13/7 2pm](#)

Posted:Thu, 03 Jul 2014 21:52:49 +0000

Thursday, 3 Jul 2014

The dedication of the new peal at St Johns takes place on Sunday 13 July at 2pm. The Surrey Association BRF have supported the efforts of Chris Stanley and the parish of St John's in acquiring and hanging the bells and the service conducted by the Archdeacon of Lambeth is the culmination of six year's work and falls in the year the church celebrates it's centenary.

http://www.stjohnsw19.org.uk/SJ_centenary_poster.pdf

[Scoutabout 2014](#)

Posted:Sun, 06 Jul 2014 19:54:30 +0000

Saturday, 28 Jun 2014

Scoutabout is an extraordinary event that only happens once every three years - more than 5,000 Scouts and Guides aged between 10 and 14 from all over Surrey participate in a weekend of fun, learning and activities at the South of England Showground at Ardingly in West Sussex.

Early in 2013 Milica Reardon, a ringer at St John's Caterham (and also a Scout leader), suggested that bell ringing would be an excellent activity to offer at Scoutabout 2014. The idea was discussed at the General Committee meeting in March 2013 and everyone was supportive. To cut a long story short, the Charmborough Ring was duly delivered to Ardingly at 13:00 on Friday 27 June by Peter Blight of the Charmborough Bell Trust. By 15:00 Peter (assisted by Kate Desbottes, Ed Muller, Vicky Williams and me) had assembled the tower and the bells were ringing.

At 10:00 on the Saturday a team of "instructors" was ready and waiting for the first participants. With 200 other activities on offer it was impossible to know how much interest there would be in "uncool" bell ringing. But after

a slow start - possibly because of the wet weather - trade picked up, and by lunchtime 64 Scouts and Guides had had their first experience of ringing a bell full circle. The weather improved in the afternoon, and a further 141 people had participated by the time the tower was closed for the day at 18:30.

In spite of a later (10:30) start on Sunday, 101 people had rung a bell before the tower was closed at 13:00, making a total of 316 participants over the two days.

The closing ceremony (at 15:00 on Sunday) was remarkable, with more than 5,000 Scouts, Guides and leaders in the main arena. The bells were rung as the groups' flags were paraded through the assembled mass, and again during the closing prayers.

Dismantling the tower began as soon as the arena was clear, and was accomplished in less than two hours, in spite of a problem with the electric winch.

Was it worth the effort? Yes, it was. Whether any of the participants take up bell ringing is anyone's guess - but as a PR exercise it was excellent. Would I do it again? Yes, but I'm pleased it happens only once every three years!

My thanks are due to the following people who worked so hard over the three days: Alexia Beale, Alice Gibbin, Alison McCormick, Dave Pelham, Ed Muller, Jeremy Cheesman, John Young, Judith Pelham, Kate Desbottes, Mark Hodgson, Noel Gibbin, Sheila Cheesman, Suki Edge-Partington, Vicky Williams, and (of course) Peter Blight.

See the Gallery on the Association website and the [Charmboroughwebsite](#) for a selection of photographs.

Patrick Wills

[Meeting up with old friends](#)

Posted: Sun, 08 Jun 2014 15:25:00 +0000

Sunday, 8 Jun 2014

We caught up a bit with Kathie and Keith Matthews this week on a trip to Dorset. Myself and Jeremy and Kate and Paul Flavell were pleased to join them at the Lyme Regis practice - and of course the pub afterwards.

Keith and Kathie were very much part of the ringing scene in Surrey until Keith had an enormous stroke in the mid 1990's. They stayed in Surrey for a while after that but then moved to Devon. He rang at Limpsfield Chart and she was an unattached member. You may have seen that the Westminster Abbey ringers, of which he was a member, went to Lyme Regis to ring a peal for Keith's 60th birthday, just before Christmas last year.

Andrew Nicholson joined us in the pub, back from a visit to the Scilly Isles. Andrew is <http://nicholsonbellhangers.com>. A well established and popular company and person. They are involved in the project at Merton.

Sheila Cheesman





[Battersea Bonanza 21st June](#)

Posted: Sat, 31 May 2014 22:19:54 +0000

Saturday, 31 May 2014

This years Northern District summer meeting will be hosted by the Battersea band who promise a bonanza of beer, burgers and some bellringing for all to enjoy.

[Reserve the date and please come along.](#)

[Poster](#)

[Ringing World AGM 2014](#)

Posted: Thu, 29 May 2014 18:57:40 +0000

Thursday, 29 May 2014

On Monday, this year's AGM was held at Bearstead in Kent. It was particularly relevant to Surrey because David Wallis (Godstone) joined Surrey members Bill Hibbert and Richard Wallis on the Board of Directors. With Middlesex ringer but regular Surrey visitor Adrian Udall also a Director, the Association might be considered overly represented! Don't forget to visit the [Ringing World website](#) to become a subscriber if you are not already one!

[Quarter Peal Week 2014](#)

Posted: Mon, 26 May 2014 18:40:25 +0000

Monday, 26 May 2014

Quarter Peal Week celebrates the founding of the Association on 17 May 1880. This year eight quarter peals were rung during quarter peal week which ran from Saturday 10th May.

Sunday, 18 May	Barnes, St Mary	1260 Mixed Doubles
Sunday, 18 May	Lingfield (St Peter & St Paul), Surrey	1260 Doubles
Sunday, 18 May	Redhill, Surrey	1320 Cambridge S Minor
Friday, 16 May	Barnes, St Mary	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Thursday, 15 May	Kingswood (St Andrew), Surrey	1296 Oxford TB Minor
Thursday, 15 May	Nutfield (SS Peter and Paul), Surrey	1320 Bourne Surprise Minor
Thursday, 15 May	Redhill, Surrey	1260 Grandsire Doubles
Sunday, 11 May	Kingston upon Thames (All Saints), Surrey	1368 Grandsire Caters

[AGM 2014 News](#)

Posted: Sun, 11 May 2014 16:59:12 +0000

Sunday, 11 May 2014

Welcome to Robert Cooles as the Association's new President. Following Eric Godfrey's move to Loughborough, Eric stood down after 18 years in post.

It was also farewell to a Public Relations Officer but hello to a Communications Officer - and to Chris Baldwin as the first postholder. Finally, Rosemary Lilley stood down after 14 years as BRF Chairman with no direct replacement as Robin Leale will now be the BRF's sole representative on the General Committee.

Next year's AGM is on Saturday 9 May at Barnes - all are invited along.

[Quiz Evening 2014 Result](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 Apr 2014 09:37:08 +0000

Friday, 18 Apr 2014

Congratulations to Betchworth on regaining the Trophy after defeating Godstone in the tie break and 17 other tables that evening. In fact, the top five teams were separated by 1.5 points and the bottom 2 by 0.5 points!

To see what you missed out, click below for the questions and scores:

[Round 1](#)

[Rounds 2 to 4](#)

[Rounds 2 to 4 - Sheet](#)

[Rounds 5 to 8](#)

[Scores](#)

[20 Years at Caterham St. Mary's](#)

Posted: Sat, 05 Apr 2014 16:58:17 +0000

Saturday, 5 Apr 2014

It was Mothering Sunday 1994, in a quiet corner of Caterham, when the sound of bells first started calling the worshippers at St. Mary's Caterham to church for the first time. The event marked the culmination of an 18 month project to install eight bells in the church. Six of the bells came from All Saints Church, Hamer in Greater Manchester, where the bells were sold to raise money for the church after an arson attack and then donated to St. Mary's by the Surrey Association. The other two were new bells, cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and donated by parishioners to make up the current ring.

20 years along from this momentous occasion, it was decided that in true St. Mary's tradition, we should hold a celebration for the many people who have been involved with St. Mary's over the years. So on the afternoon of the 29th people gathered in St. Mary's Church Hall for a ringers' tea and to listen to a half peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major. Invited were many of the people who were involved in the installation project along with many of the people who have been involved with ringing at St. Mary's across the 20 years. Including the project mastermind, Keith Gatman, members of the BRF at the time, members of local bands of Caterham St. Johns, Merstham and Godstone, who helped to train up the initial band and various people who helped out with the installation itself along with the people who helped furnish the chamber. Over the 20 years many ringers have come and gone, with four of the original band still ringing at St. Mary's; Frances Clementi, John Clarke, Irene Schofield and Kris Daniels.

After 20 years Frances continues to be our Tower Captain, running a 'Democratic Dictatorship!' Providing many of the brilliant ideas behind the most memorable of celebrations at St. Mary's, whether for Christmas or Birthday

or Anniversary alike. The character of St. Mary's has hardly changed (so I'm told). Practice nights are not really about the ringing, although some does take place (sometimes!), but more about socialising and having fun. It is this ethos which has sustained ringing at St. Mary's through the first 20 years and it is this style which will hopefully sustain ringing here long into the future.

Ross Weddell (St. Mary's Ringing Master)

Caterham St. Mary's

Saturday, 29 March 2014 in 1:29 (12)
2624 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Andrew Howell
- 2 Susan Gibbin
- 3 David Hills
- 4 John Lindsay
- 5 Christopher Stanley
- 6 David Wallis
- 7 Ross Weddell (C)
- 8 Noel Gibbin

1st Major as Conductor 7

Half peal band along with Keith Gatman (the mastermind behind the original project!)



[St George's Day ringing](#)

Posted: Tue, 25 Mar 2014 19:29:47 +0000

Tuesday, 25 Mar 2014

This question has been asked:

I spotted on a Facebook group a suggestion for everyone to ring to celebrate St George's Day all at the same time, with this link to a website www.ringingforengland.co.uk However someone commented that St George's day this year is on the 28th not the traditional 23rd April as it clashes with Easter week*. There seems to be a bit of a divide here! If my tower rings it will be at a time to suit us ringers, but where does the Surrey Association stand on which day people should ring on?

Details are also in the Newsletter directing individual towers. The answer is "do as you wish" but I expect most people will still count Wednesday 23rd April as St George's Day.

*Editors note: The difference this year is because the 23rd April falls on the Thursday of Easter Week. This will make no difference to the secular St. George's Day. However, the church does not celebrate any other "Feast Day" in Easter Week. Therefore the Church celebrates the "Feast of St George" on the first available day in the following week, that is Monday 28th April.

[An evening out with my personal trainer](#)

Posted: Mon, 24 Mar 2014 22:32:43 +0000

Monday, 24 Mar 2014

My trainer, Alan Brown and I (Maggie) attended a special 12 bell Monday night practice at St. Peter's Church South Croydon- I had not been before- so was excited going to a new church, as bells are always different, and this was special as it was a 12 bell tower.

We climbed the spiral steps to the ringing chamber where we found a gathering of around 15 people waiting to start ringing. There were ledges and steps/boxes and all the sallies were at different heights, but Shirley McGill, the captain, sorted me out by placing me on some middle bells to start with, (Alan kept a close eye on me). It was like playing musical chairs inbetween as the room was big enough to have seats in the middle!!

Some of us less experienced ringers rang first with the experienced ringers. We rang rounds and then later we progressed to call changes. Shirley made sure we had lots of ringing and the two hours went very fast. When we were not ringing, the more experienced ringers rang Stedman, Grandsire and Cambridge.

The 12 bells sounded really great; almost turning into a different musical instrument, as they blended so well together and all the ringing was very good. Definitely a good rhythmic experience!!

I would recommend a visit to these practices by anyone who does not have an opportunity to ring on 12 bells- there was one ringer who came from a 4 bell tower.

Everyone was so friendly, patient and chatty, I even mentioned to someone to come to my tower to get more experience on different bells and the possible chance to ring on 10 bells if we get enough ringers.

Thanks to Alan once again for persuading me to come along, it really was a memorable experience. We even had the view of the twinkling lights of Croydon through the windows.

Maggie Geary

(Beddington)

[Alan Streeter](#)

Posted: Wed, 26 Mar 2014 18:42:19 +0000

Saturday, 22 Mar 2014

In the early hours of Saturday 22th March 2014 Alan Streeter passed away at home following a long struggle with Cancer.

Late last year, Alan stood down after 25 years as tower captain at St Peter & St Paul Nutfield. We have all missed him over the year and our thoughts are with Freda and the family.

His funeral will be at 11:00 on Monday 7th April 2014. It was his wish that the bells ring out loud and true, not muffled, in celebration of his life.

[Wimbledon Training day, a students experience.](#)

Posted: Sun, 16 Mar 2014 15:29:50 +0000

Sunday, 16 Mar 2014

The annual Wimbledon training day was held this year on Saturday 1st March. Student ringer Michael De Freitas writes about his experience of the day.

Bell ringing is not a subject normally discussed at 8.45 in the morning but the journey to St. Mary's in Wimbledon turned our conversation to methods we use to memorise "methods". By chance there had been a small item in the national press the previous day reporting that facts transmitted verbally have far less chance of being recalled than those associated with a tactile or similar stimuli; it seems we remember facts from words in a different way from facts from other sources – pictures, sound, feel and so forth. Nothing new there, as every old lecturer will know "Talk and chalk" is best – and professionals of a certain age will tell you how much they valued their "full set of notes" lovingly copied from the blackboard; plenty of tactile and similar stimuli there! Well – this bell ringer fits the norm, having nothing between the ears to which verbal instructions containing more than one idea will stick; apparently monkeys have the same problem - perhaps not the best reflection at the start of a Training Day.

"That will be £5 dear – Grandsire is it? Then you'll be at Colliers Wood, all day. Group 8." And there was Group 8, well, 6 of us, but where was Colliers Wood? Three cars, no maps and no idea how to get there, but two Satnavs; "Easy". Car one, with Satnav-one, made a break for it and was off whilst car two was stuck in the car park with car three patiently waiting. Off at last; "Turn left then turn right." "Eh?" "After point-2miles turn right." "What?" "Turn right then left." "That's wrong." "You have reached your destination!" We stop. To the right the spire of St Mary's, a mere stone's throw away, rises from behind the roofs of Parkside Gardens; nothing stirs, curtains are drawn, gates are closed, cars are stationary, and not even a basement contractor is moving. The car following is given a friendly wave, Satnav-two is mildly reproved, "It does this sometimes", firmly reprogrammed and off we go again; this gets us to Wimbledon. "Keep right", so we do; again "Keep right" and with that we slip effortlessly into the Wimbledon one-way orbital system conveying us back to where it was entered. Travelling in the wrong direction and unable to do anything about it felt very much like my experience to date with method ringing. Second time round and now we keep left to be immediately rewarded with "Ground truth", a sign to Colliers Wood! Spirits lift as we streak away. Car two is still behind, to everyone's surprise and Satnav-two is strangely silent, to everyone's relief, squeaking loudly only when we all seen had Christ Church, our goal.

Built in 1874 this compact little church was damaged by a flying bomb in 1944 and repairs were not completed until 1953. Described as having a Gothic style it has a rather fresh appearance despite its age. It has 6 bells, dating from 1884, that were restored in 1934 and again in 2001. The tenor is 34" and 7cwt (Bflat), and the treble is 25", 3¾cwt (G). The ringing chamber is small and freezing; we take off our coats and soon wish we hadn't. Despite its temperature we are in a place that is much loved by its residents; each sally has a different colour that is co-ordinated with a beautifully varnished and painted box just of the right size. The spider has its bell numbers neatly affixed and the library holds the diaries for each year from 2000.

Introductions follow – always an awkward moment; how to describe one's incompetence – here the bell ringing books have no advice to offer; if we cut the pride can we avoid the fall? (The answer's "No"). Then it's "off", each student in alphabetic order. And once again we students realise how lucky we are – 8 other ringers – good ringers too – have given up their Saturday to stand in the cold so that we can learn our lines. How patient and how perceptive they are; individual weaknesses sharply observed but gently remedied – not a feather ruffled; these people are wonderful! We each had our own hurdles, the dodges of course, rhythm, and rope-sight, and doing it all at the same time – in real time; mine was timing and passage "you're going in the wrong direction – you're going out!" I knew what that Satnav must felt like. How well we were talked through our difficulties – "you're coming down to the front, now make 3rds, 4/5 down coming next" and so on; now these were words that did mean something to me; the right language in contrast to "when 2 takes you off lead" and so on, which at present mean nothing to my little grey cells. How did they know that was the way to talk to me? Amazing.

We had a solid two hours of this with number 3 being the bell of choice, although braver souls tackled 4 and 5, before a welcome break for lunch at the "Charles Holden". Charles Holden? Here was an interesting man – refused a knighthood, twice, for services to architecture. He was responsible for many of the London Underground Stations built between 1920's and 30's including Colliers Wood (opposite the pub) and 55 Broadway, and a building of similar stature, the Senate House of London University in Mallet Street. Many war memorials for 1st World War cemeteries in Belgium and France were also of his design.

The session after lunch built on what had gone before and although lunch had had a certain effect, progress continued to be made. Amazing details were uncovered including my handling; there was something wrong with shortening of the rope: "watch my hands". Nothing seems to slip their gaze. It is against such a combination of rich talent generously given, coupled with patience beyond compare that leaves us students feeling so short in our response; could we not do better in return?

By then we were all getting tired; chocolate-time had arrived and Cadbury's worked its wonders; it saw us through to 3.30 when we were all rather glad it was at an end. Everyone had had a good run; we were all at "information overload" and needed to consolidate our gains. Whoever thought up Training Days should be recognised; they are a brilliant part of the bell ringing calendar.

Coming back, one of the Trainers described the debt he owed to Training Days and how it was his pleasure to "pay-back" in return; I found that very humbling being still so much on the receiving end and having not given too good an account of myself during the day. Perhaps one day I will be able to say the same for myself; I expect many students feel that way. And how did Satnav two do on its return? That I cannot tell you as I took the train – Colliers Wood being close by.

Foot note; the research on memory was undertaken by the University of Iowa and published in the journal PLOS ONE; an open access peer review journal.

Bigelow, J. and A. Poremba. 2014. Achilles' Ear? Inferior Human Short-Term and Recognition Memory in the Auditory Modality. PLOS ONE Published: February 26, 2014; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0089914

[A personal account of peal weekend 2014](#)

Posted: Fri, 28 Feb 2014 14:42:23 +0000

Friday, 28 Feb 2014

Chris McLean provides a personal account of ringing in this year's peal weekend.

Having narrowly missed peal weekend last year owing to work commitments, I was certainly keen to take advantage of the ringing opportunities available this year. Back in 2012 I was quite successful, by extending the 'weekend' from Thursday night to Monday morning it was possible to ring in 6 attempts – all of which were scored. This year, I had less time to play with but I was able to arrange 4 attempts and ring in 5. Again I was fortunate and all of the attempts were successful. My peal weekend commenced on Thursday evening with an attempt of 7 surprise minor at the excellent light six in Buckland. This was only the 10th peal on these bells this century, given how well the bells go, this does seem a surprisingly small number. For me this was probably the hardest peal of the weekend, ringing 7 surprise minor methods, including several that I seldom ring, was always going to be challenging, especially given the speed at which Buckland can be rung. The ringing was subject to a re-start when a person unexpectedly opened up the belfry door and proceeded to make enquiries about the church. This led to me losing my way and getting swapped over with another bell. How I managed to stay on any line at all was something of a miracle as the experience was considerably distracting and the method – Wooler, Carlisle above Hull, was challenging, I had not rung it since 2010. I wonder how many choir practices and music rehearsals are interrupted in this way. I suspect very few, as people probably have more sense. Sadly the idea that bell ringing may be a special performance, performed by skilled individuals who are operating potentially dangerous machinery, and is therefore worthy of being left uninterrupted is not widely understood by the general public. Doubtless this contrasts starkly with the era when peals made it into the local and sometimes national press. Nevertheless after the re-start all was well and a very respectable peal was duly scored. It took under two and half hours and might have been quicker still had the tail end of the tenor bell not started unravelling. However, as the ringing slowed I was relieved as having a moment's more thinking time was no bad thing. Recently I have rung with several ringers used to ringing on a mini-ring. They are all very accomplished and I am certain that this has much to do with being able to ring well during high-speed ringing. If you can mentally keep up with challenging ringing at high speed you inevitably are going to have 'more time on the bell' when you are ringing on slower tower bells. I think this analogous to the international sportsman who has 'more time on the ball' than less talented club players. I can imagine then, one way to improve as a ringer is to practice on a mini-ring.

Following success at Buckland I moved onto the Friday evening peal at the delightful church in Capel, with equally delightful bells. Again it is a little surprising that so few peals have been rung here over the years. The Felstead records show 25 peals being rung between 1877 and 1899, with only another 64 being rung since 1901 and including a mere 5 this century. It is interesting to note how in the 19th century ringers were able to manage one a peal a year there on average from 1877. Since then a peal has been scored only every two years or so. This is such a pity given how nice the bells are, they are another really pleasant ring of 6 and at 7cwt are bit 'weightier' than Buckland. Here the peal speed was just over 2 and half hours. In many respects this was my most pleasing of the weekend. It was in 6M & 9V of doubles and included a first peal attempt for Brenda Ramsden. Brenda was joined by Tom White and Jane Wheeler, both of whom have rung fewer than 10 peals each and it was Jane's first since 2012. On the tenor was Gail Terry who was keen to move on from peal number 13 which she rang in 2005. This relatively inexperienced band was successful and this was a great

achievement. Brenda rang very well indeed and made very few mistakes. Jane rang the treble faultlessly and provided great stability for the inside ringers. Gail kept the pace up on the tenor and provided a consistent rhythm. It is always really nice to be involved in ringing like this when those taking part rise to the challenge and succeed. Four members of the band had been able to practice with a half-peal a fortnight before the peal attempt and this had proved helpful. Certainly if someone is a little unsure if peal ringing is for them, then a half-peal might provide a useful insight into ringing beyond quarter-peal length. Brenda remarked after both the half-peal and the peal that neither had seemed that long. This was the first peal attempt to be made successfully by a Southern Branch ringer, during the peal weekend, since Kate Desbottes' in 2008 at Carshalton. The last time a first attempt was made successfully by a Southern Branch ringer in a Southern Branch tower during the peal weekend was in 2005 by Stephanie Rueff at Buckland. Hopefully Brenda will emulate these talented ringers and go on to ring many more.

Saturday was intended to be an 8 bell day however, owing to illness we met seven, for Grandsire Triples at Chelsea Old Church so we proceeded to ring Plain Bob Minor with a cover bell. This is an unusual arrangement but the decisions of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers allow peals to be rung on 7 bells – these can be of minor, triples, or combined minor and triples and the cover bell may also be varied during the ringing of minor. Needless to say we kept things as orthodox as possible and rang with the tenor behind and omitted the second. Two new members were elected to the association for this attempt, Colin Friend and Louise Booth of Bermondsey made their Surrey Association peal debuts. Colin was due to cover for the Grandsire, so covering for the minor was not much different. Louise rang inside as planned and completed her first peal of pure Plain Bob Minor. For all the ringers apart from the conductor it was a first peal on 7 bells – even for Michael Moreton with over 2000 peals to his name this was an unusual first. He recollected an even more unusual peal – a handbell peal of doubles on 5! The church is very interesting and well worth a look around, it also has one of the most fabulous church halls imaginable. The bells have a nice quality to them and probably would have been a real delight to ring Grandsire Triples on. The present ring of 8 was installed in 1977 by the Whitechapel foundry. The metal for seven of the bells came from the bells of Immanuel Church, Streatham, one existing bell, the third, was recast in 1957 and retained, this bell is thought to date back to Elizabethan times. The Streatham bells were removed in 1976 as the tower had become unsafe for ringing and the parish needed to spend money on other more pressing repairs and restoration projects. This 8 bell ring with a tenor nearly 16cwt in weight were sold, melted down and recast for Chelsea. Photos of their removal can be found on the Immanuel Church website. Only one peal was rung at Immanuel Church following WWII, this was

of Plain Bob Major in 1966. The peal at Chelsea was only the 15th on the present ring and the first not on all 8 bells. The only other peal of Plain Bob rung at the church was of Plain Bob Major rung in 1785 by the College Youths. This was on the bells that were re-cast by Thomas Janaway in 1762 and four of them were sold in 1824, it seems ringing ceased in the church in 1822. No other peals were rung on these bells. In the afternoon I crossed the Thames enduring a wintry shower and howling gale and rang at Battersea. These bells are the only surviving complete ring of 8 cast by Janaway. In 1777 he recast the existing 6 and added 2 new bells. Peals have been rung on these bells since 1777 although in recent times only 2 attempts per year have been allowed owing to the numerous residences nearby. 27 peals were scored here in the 18th century and another 65 were rung in the 19th century. In both 1910 and 1911, seven peals were rung each year. Perhaps back then the local inhabitants would have enjoyed the performances – towards the end of this peal someone knocked very loudly on the church door trying to demand that the ringing cease. I wonder if the ringers of the 1910 and 1911 era had to contend with such occurrences. This peal was a novel one as we rang a new method, a variation of Lincolnshire Surprise Major with an unusual alternative to 5 dodges on the front. The method was named Z Battery Battersea Park Surprise Major and was conducted by David Salter of Ipswich he completed the 'alphabet as conductor' for the tenth time.

The Sunday attempt was at Mitcham and was of Yorkshire Surprise Major. These are a rather fine sounding 8, although they take a lot of effort to strike well, perhaps as a combination of some odd-struckness and an occasional tendency to drop. I was certainly feeling quite weary by the time this peal started and these bells are probably best rung early during a peal weekend's proceedings to ensure the band are not too jaded and can deliver the attention this ring deserves. I wonder how the major rehang went in 1952. It is interesting to note that this was only the 3rd peal on the bells since WWII and the rehang. Twenty peals were rung on the bells in the 1930's and prior to WWI the peal ringing here was really prolific. There were 2 peals in the 18th century and after the bells cast by Thomas Mears II were installed in 1820 peal ringing ticked along with 25 more peals on these bells over the next sixty years or so, these were usually of Grandsire Triples. From 1880 peal ringing at Mitcham really took off with nearly 40 peals being scored by the end of the century. In the following 14 years nearly 60 more peals were added in what must have been a golden age for peal ringing in the area. The main methods rung at this time were Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major, although the first peal of surprise major rung on the bells was of London in 1900. Prior to this only 95 other peals of London Surprise Major had been rung and this was only the second one to be rung in the Surrey

Association territory, the first was being two years earlier at Putney. The Mitcham peal took place on the 17th February 1900, a date that ties in well with for future peal weekends and perhaps is one to commemorate during future peal weekends! I certainly would be pleased to ring another on these bells.



Mitcham peal band: L to R: Rod Bickerton, Chris Ridley, Ron Diserens, Chris McLean, Tim Forster, Oli Thompson, David Salter (c), Richard Anthony

[Peal weekend 2014](#)

Posted: Sun, 23 Feb 2014 13:56:03 +0000

Sunday, 23 Feb 2014

The annual Surrey Association peal weekend was held over the weekend of February 15/16. There were 9 peals attempted, 8 scored.

Congratulations to Brenda Ramsden on her first peal and to Gail Terry, returning to peal ringing after 9 years.

Thanks to all those who turned out, to the conductors for steering us to success and to the towers for allowing us to ring

Shirley McGill

The Surrey Association

All peals rung for the Association Peal Weekend

Nutfield, Surrey

SS Peter & Paul

Thurs Feb13 2014 2h53(11)

5040 Surprise Minor(7m)

1 extent each London, Primrose, Westminster, Bourne, Beverley, Cambridge & Norwich.

1 Shirley E McGill

2 Gillian A Leale

3 Anne L Rueff

4 Stephen R Aldridge

5 Michael R Crockett

6 Ian R Fielding (C)

Buckland, Surrey

S M V

Thurs Feb 13 2014 2h25(4)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

1 extent each Wooler, London, Hull, Carlisle, Westminster, Cambridge & Norwich.

1 Michael R Crockett

2 John E Hawes

3 Shirley E McGill

4 Christopher R McLean

5 John B Keeler

6 Ian R Fielding (C)

Capel, Surrey

St John Baptist

Fri Feb 14 2014 2h34 (7)

5040 6m & 9v Doubles

42 extents: 1 – 6, 9 & 10 St Simon's Bob, 7 & 8 St Simon's and St Osmund Bob, 11 – 14 & 16 St Martin's Bob, 15 St Martin's and Eynesbury Bob, 17 – 24 Plain Bob, 25 Little Birch, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 & 42 Grandsire, 27 Hoarwithy, 29 Aconbury, 31 Newborough, 33 St Helen, 35 Longparish, 37 Kings Caple, 39 Fownhope, 41 Wormelow Tump

1 Jane Wheeler

2 Brenda Ramsden

3 Christopher R McLean (C)

4 Thomas S White

5 Roderic K Bickerton

6 Gail M Terry

Rung for St Valentine's Day and the 7th anniversary of Jen and Alfie

First peal attempt: 2

First tenor to a peal: 6

Most methods and variations to a peal: 4

Redhill, Surrey

St John the Evangelist

Sat Feb 15 2014 2h 49 (14)

5088 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp: S Jenner

1 Shirley E McGill

2 Sheila M Cheesman

3 Lee Pinnington

4 Michael R Crockett

5 Anne L Rueff

6 Alexander J Britton

7 John B Keeler (C)

8 Stephen R T Pocock

Chelsea Old Church, Greater London

All Saints

Sat Feb 15 2014 2h58 (11)

5040 Plain Bob Minor

7 extents

1 Michael P Moreton

2 Oliver H J Thompson

3 Thomas P Wood

4 Louise Booth

5 Christopher R McLean

6 David G Salter (c)

7 Colin Friend

First on 7 for all except 6. After meeting short.

Bermondsey, London SE16

St James

Sat Feb 15 2014 3h4 (14)

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp: JS Warboys
1 Peter J Blight
2 Angela Blackburn
3 Phaedra Sawbridge
4 Penelope J V Sharpe
5 Paul J Flavell (C)
6 Thomas L Nagel
7 Christopher Ridley
8 Ryan S Noble

Battersea, Greater London

St Mary

Sat Feb 15 2014 2h58(14)

5056 Z Battery Battersea Park Surprise Major

1 Lee Pinnington

2 Michael R Crockett

3 Shirley E McGill

4 Oliver H J Thompson

5 Adrian R Udal

6 Thomas P Wood

7 Christopher R McLean

8 David G Salter (C)

First in the method, a variation of Lincolnshire: -3-4-5-6-4-5-236.2.7 LH2

Mitcham, Greater London

St Peter & St Paul

Sun Feb 16 2014 2h50(15)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp: EW Martin

1 Christopher Ridley

2 Ronald F Diserens

3 J Richard Anthony

4 Oliver H J Thompson

5 Christopher R McLean

6 Timothy R Forster

7 David G Salter ©

8 Roderic K Bickerton

Rung after morning service, also remembering the composer who died recently

[Obituary: Kevin Taber](#)

Posted: Fri, 03 Jan 2014 14:01:23 +0000

Friday, 3 Jan 2014

It is with regret that I announce the death of Kevin Taber of Chew Magna, Somerset.

Kevin was a member of the Croydon Parish Church ringers and was Tower Captain there in the late 1970's/early 1980's until he moved to Bristol with his work. Kevin continued his ringing, joining the St Mary, Redcliffe band and was instrumental in the resurgence in ringing at Chew Magna. At one time there was a full set of ropes from Croydon on those bells!

There will be a memorial service at Chew Magna at 3pm on Tuesday 7th January 2014

Shirley McGill

<http://bath-wells.org/obituary.php>

[A quirky coincidence of '1302'](#)

Posted: Mon, 30 Dec 2013 12:22:22 +0000

Monday, 30 Dec 2013

Quirky statistics often feature among the enjoyable aspects of our recreational ringing.

The tower of St Mary's, Putney is the only medieval structure in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The Bishop West Chapel, a chantry chapel built for and by Nicholas West, a Putney boy who became Bishop of Ely, is the only Tudor structure in the Borough. They were additions to a church commenced on the site in the 13th century. The first recorded event to take place there was an ordination service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Winchelsea, during a tour of his province in 1302.

These structures were incorporated into the rebuilt and enlarged church of 1836, when the old six bells were recast and augmented to eight, at Whitechapel. This ring was recast at Loughborough in 1972 when I was ringing master. On the day that some of the bells were to be tuned, Tony Clayton, himself a former ringing master of Putney, who was working at the foundry but away on business at the time, telephoned to ask Peter Hayward what weight the new tenor had come out at. When the reply came "13-0-2" Tony thought it was a joke until realising that Peter would not have known the significance of those numbers in the history of Putney Church. These bells were destroyed, along with the church in the fire of 1973 and recast again, into the present ring, in 1982.

So, as my personal peal count approached the number 1302, I thought to ring it at Putney would be a pretty neat thing to do. I made no special arrangement but, quite by chance, a day or so after having rung number 1301, I had a circular email from Chris McLean trying to drum up support for a peal attempt on December 28th. I replied that I would be pleased to ring and if it were possible to go to Putney on that day, I had a fairly special reason for doing so. The bells were available, as was Sarah Hughes, soon to step down as Putney ringing master, so the successful peal completed not only my own quirky statistic but also enabled us to thank Sarah, with the ringing of a peal in which she herself took part, for her own 13 years as ringing master. Paula Greenwood steps up to the plate from the New Year!

Michael J Uphill

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=316758>

[Surrey rings Stedman](#)

Posted: Sat, 23 Nov 2013 21:27:00 +0000

Saturday, 23 Nov 2013

Saturday the 16th of November was the 300th anniversary of Fabian Stedman's burial. Several Surrey towers marked this occasion with quarter peals.

Saturday 16 November 2013 [Godstone \(St Nicholas\), Surrey](#) 1260 Stedman Doubles

Sunday, 17 November 2013 [Streatham \(St Leonard\), Gtr London](#) 1296 Stedman Triples

Sunday, 17 November 2013 [Kingston upon Thames \(All Saints\)](#) 1300 Stedman Cinques

And Benhilton marked the occasion with a touch of 300 changes:

Tuesday, 19 November 2013 [Benhilton \(All Saints\), Surrey](#) 300 Stedman Triples

[Peter Burnett](#)

Posted: Fri, 25 Oct 2013 19:58:05 +0000

Friday, 25 Oct 2013

It is my sad duty to inform you that last Monday 21st October 2013 Peter Burnett passed away peacefully in hospital.

Although his health had prevented him from ringing for some time now, he regularly joined us at the Queens Head after our Tuesday night practice.

We will miss him greatly, and our thoughts are with Lesley.

The funeral will be 11:00 am Saturday 2nd November 2013 at St Peter and St Paul Nutfield. We will ring him in half muffled and ring him out on open bells.

If you are interested in ringing for the service or for a quarter or peal at a later date please let me know.

Vicky Williams

Addington say farewell to Eric Godfrey

Posted: Sun, 20 Oct 2013 14:40:03 +0000

Sunday, 20 Oct 2013

Eric Godfrey our Tower Captain, has been ringing at St Mary's for fifty years and has led the ringing since 1965. He was introduced to ringing by his wife Margaret, who learnt to ring at Wimbledon. They moved to Selsdon when they married in August 1962. (celebrating their golden wedding last summer) At first Eric joined a fitness class while Margaret was at practice nights but he was persuaded to learn to ring and has been an avid ringer ever since.

As a statistician Eric has kept meticulous records ringing a total of

38 peals (21 as conductor)
1183 quarter peals (742 as conductor)
18 handbell quarters

At an amazing 2804 different towers in England!

Eric has served as Ringing Master, Secretary and is now President of the Surrey Association of Bell Ringers. He has been the Treasurer of the Central Council which allocated £3 million to about 100 churches who bid for new bells for the Millennium.

Eric has been a dedicated leader teaching at least 100 ringers and has always shown great patience with learners. He arranged outings each year to different churches to give us more experiences handling different bells. Recently our group have spent weekends away often staying with former ringers. In 2005 we held a special service to celebrate Eric's 40 years as Tower Captain.

Margaret and Eric are moving to Loughborough near to their daughters Alison and Judith. He will be sadly missed but we thank him for his tremendous contribution to the life of St Mary's.

Sheila Davison

On Monday 14th October ringers and friends gathered to say farewell to Eric Godfrey as tower captain at St. Mary Addington.



Tercentenary of Fabian Stedman's death - 16th November

Posted: Thu, 03 Oct 2013 09:26:45 +0000

Thursday, 3 Oct 2013

Fabian Stedman is probably the most famous ringer and he had an enormous influence on the development of change ringing by publishing the first books on the subject. He was buried on 16th November 1713.

All ringers are encouraged to mark this anniversary by ringing on or as close as possible to Saturday 16th November 2013, and to use the event to seek as much publicity as possible for your ringing, local bands and for ringing in general. Find out more by going to <http://cccbr.org.uk/stedman/>

If you want to mark this occasion with a quater peal of Stedman but don't think your tower has the resources we can arrange some inter-tower collaborations, talk to your district master or other committee members.

[Surrey host the Essex Trophy](#)

Posted: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 16:31:34 +0000

Tuesday, 17 Sep 2013

The annual Essex Trophy 10 bell striking competition was held at Beddington, Surrey on Saturday 14th September 2013.

5 bands competed representing Essex, Guildford, Surrey, Sussex and Kent. The results in order of ringing were:

Essex Assn (3hr 6m peal speed) 59%

Guildford DG (3h 13m) 58%

Sussex CA (3h 22m) 62%

Kent CA (3h 15m) 69%

Surrey Assn (3h 17m) 64%

The Surrey band, pictured below, finished in 2nd place.



From left to right. Back: Ryan Noble, Stephen Aldridge, Michael Uphill, Robin Leale, Jeremy Cheesman. Front: Anne Rueff, Sheila Cheesman, Shirley McGill, Gillian Leale, Michael Morton.

The history of the competition and details of the previous winners can be found on the Essex Association website: http://eacr.org.uk/essex_trophy/eacr_essextrophy.shtml

There is a video of the winning half course of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal being rung by the team representing the Kent C. A. on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otdrVk710h8>

The Kent C.A. team was:

1. Graham D Heath (Maidstone)
2. David P Hilling (Eynsford) (Cond.)
3. Elizabeth A Barnes (Wrotham)
4. Alexander J Britton (Stone-by-Dartford)

5. Peter V D Swift(Beckenham)
6. Mark Chittenden-Pile(Ashford)
7. Damien S Smith(Ashford)
8. Michael A Birkbeck(Maidstone)
9. Colin J E Wyld(Chislehurst)
10. David P Macey(Beckenham)

[Announcing the new newsletter](#)

Posted:Fri, 13 Sep 2013 10:36:46 +0000

Friday, 13 Sep 2013

The first edition of the new Surrey Association newsletter is now being distributed to towers and is also available for you to read [online](#).

Combining the two separate district newsletters into a single edition for the whole association gives us a great opportunity to promote the work of the Surrey Association in supporting local ringing and share more widely the experiences, achievements and aspirations of our members.

In planning this newsletter we've tried to keep the features you liked about the district newsletters and continue the tradition for good quality, informative and easy reading that has been established over many years. We hope you like the results and would love to hear your opinions, especially if there's anything you think we can do better next time.

One important change we've made with the print edition is to reduce the number of copies each tower receives to save on waste and lower production costs. We understand from feedback we've had that the newsletter is often read in the tower so one copy is shared amongst many. There has also been increasing interest in reading and sharing the newsletter online. If the number of copies provided for your tower is insufficient please accept our apologies and let us know, we will make sure you get more next time.

The newsletter is written, edited and produced entirely by volunteers and we are always looking for more helpers. If you can write an article, take a photograph, pen a poem or draw an illustration please think about contributing and if you're a wizard at desktop publishing a few hours of your time every few months would be invaluable to us. It's a great way to contribute to the association without having to worry about blue lines and good striking.

Chris Baldwin, Editor.

Feedback, contributions and volunteers please email [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup@surreybellringers.org.uk)

[Reigate features on Age UK internet radio](#)

Posted:Mon, 09 Sep 2013 14:32:08 +0000

Monday, 9 Sep 2013

The bells and ringers of St. Mary's Reigate were recently featured in a piece broadcast by Age UK on their website.

Click on the link below to listen to the piece, it's just 4 minutes long.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/the-wireless/the-wireless-player-page/?feature=4668f7bd-c88f-413f-8948-8c898d8380b0>

The Age UK website is here www.ageuk.org.uk and the piece is currently featured in the travel and lifestyle section.

[Surrey ringers at Westminster Abbey for a royal peal](#)

Posted:Thu, 29 Aug 2013 09:45:33 +0000

Thursday, 29 Aug 2013

Putney and Southwark ringer, Michael Uphill, took part in the peal of 5000 Cambridge Surprise Royal celebrating the Royal Birth, rung at Westminster Abbey amidst a blaze of publicity. In accordance with instructions from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, the start of the Abbey peal coincided with 41 and 61 gun salutes from Green Park and Tower Hill at 2.00pm on the day after the birth. The press was allowed into the ringing room before and for the start of the peal which was broadcast on several networks. Surrey honorary life

member Jeremy Pratt, Michael's successor as Deputy Conductor of the Abbey Company, had the honour of conducting the peal and his emphatic "Go Cambridge Surprise Royal" was a feature of the broadcasts.

Barely five minutes after the conclusion of the peal, Michael and David Hilling were interviewed live on BBC Radio 5's "Drive" programme by remote feed to Peter Allen in the studio, a breathless technician having raced up the 125 steps and arrived breathless in the Ringing Room to hold the microphone for the interviews. There was other widespread news and television coverage with members of the band giving interviews on their local radio stations for several days afterwards.

Photo in Abbey ringing room. MJU, Radio 5 technician, David Hilling.



[Anne is 458th in the world to achieve this](#)

Posted:Thu, 08 Aug 2013 21:27:39 +0000

Thursday, 8 Aug 2013

On Tuesday 6 August, Anne Rueff of Redhill achieved one of her lifetime goals - to climb Mount Everest?, to swim the English Channel? No - to ring 1000 peals! And she was the 458th person to reach this milestone. Congratulations.

Hopefully more of a write up will be written in due course, but two sides issues were that the band had rung more than 26,300 peals between them (including 4 "4,000 pealers") and on Tuesday it was restarted after 20 minutes when a ropebroke.

For the full details of the performance on Bell Board, [click here](#). (You could always log in and "Like It" - 13 people have done so as of now)

[25 years as tower captain at Kingston](#)

Posted:Sun, 04 Aug 2013 16:18:38 +0000

Sunday, 4 Aug 2013

For some years now Kingston ringers have been fortunate enough to be invited to hold a barbeque at the home of one of our number. This year the event at Robin and Jill Leale's house was turned into a celebration of Paul Flavell being tower Captain for 25 years, and all living previous captains were invited. This made quite large gathering of 38. A suitable celebratory cake had been commissioned, that was much admired, for both its appearance and taste.

Geoff Paul, Paul's predecessor, spoke saying he had been very pleased to hand over the onerous responsibilities to Paul, but hadn't realised that would mean we would all be lumbered with him for 25 years! Paul said he had enjoyed (nearly) every minute, especially the Kingston outings to islands, including memorably Lundy and Brownsea, and other exotic locations, and that he enjoyed the camaraderie of ringing, especially at Kingston, where we are all fairly tolerant and there is no bullying. He also said that it would be great to hand over the tower in a good state to a new captain when one could be found!

The pictures show some of the happy crowd, many of whom had just enjoyed a quick dip on a warm evening.



Tower Captains, left to right: Paul Flavell (1988-), Geoff Paul (1982-1988), Martin Lazell (1980-1982), Jeremy Pratt (1978-1980), Bernard Stone (1967-1978), David Wilkins (1962-1964)



Large Group, back row: Dinos Georgiades, Linda Foddering, Robin Leale, David Robinson, Jeremy Pratt, Bernard Stone, Jeremy Jeffreys, Chris Brown.

Next Row: Jonathan Wilkes (Rector), Geoff Paul, Tim Joiner, Anne Pratt, Jane Lazell, Martin Lazell, Paul Flavell, Patrick Trafford.

Next row: David Wilkins, Richard Andrew, Deborah Bishop, Adrian Wheeler, Alison Wheeler, Nicky Trafford, Dan Smith.

Next row: Judith Robinson, Diane Pratt, Tony Bishop, Greg Rata, Nick Rata.

Next row: Rona Joiner, Anthea Rata, Jacqui Bale, David Jackson.

In front: Maggie Paul



Photographer: Kate Flavell

[A Quarter Peal to Welcome Croatia to the European Union](#)

Posted: Thu, 01 Aug 2013 13:32:57 +0000

Thursday, 1 Aug 2013

Members of the Surrey Association recently took part in a quarter peal to welcome Croatia to the European Union.

Gillian Leale provided us with the full story.

Sunday 30 June was a sultry summer evening. We gathered at Christchurch Hampstead to ring a quarter peal of Stedman Triples to celebrate the accession of Croatia to the European Union on 1 July 2013. We were greeted by the Croatian ambassador and his wife, a reporter from the Ham and High local newspaper who shepherded us up to the ringing gallery to take a photograph, and thirty or more members of the British Croatian Society who had come to watch and listen. So no pressure, you understand. Happily we were successful. Most members of the band claimed to have enjoyed the ringing (they are glorious bells); others of us were just grateful to have navigated the potential pitfalls without mishap.

The quarter peal was the final event in a six month long festival called "Welcome Croatia", organised by the British Croatian Society in partnership with the Croatian embassy in London and ministries of culture and foreign affairs in Zagreb. The ringing was greeted with genuine enthusiasm and some emotion by those who came to listen and to celebrate over a glass of wine afterwards. This may seem puzzling to a British audience, given current public disillusion with the EU. But Croatia is a small country still deeply scarred by the war of independence that followed its secession from Yugoslavia in 1991. For Croatia, EU membership is a big deal: it provides assurance that its independence can be sustained, and recognition of its long history as an integral part of Catholic Europe.

The quarter was organised by Sue Unsworth whose husband Peter was a prime mover in the Welcome Croatia festival. They live in Hampstead, as do the Croatian ambassador and his wife – so the Christchurch bells were a natural choice, and Michael Royaltan-Kisch made us very welcome. Five members of the band came from All Saints Kingston (still Sue's home tower); they were joined by Michael, and Jeremy and Anne Pratt (Jeremy was once tower captain at Kingston).



From left to right: Jeremy Pratt (conductor), Michael Royaltton-Kisch, Sue Unsworth, Gillian Leale, Robin Leale, Dr Ivan Grdesic (Croatian ambassador), Anne Pratt, Elena Grdesic, Paul Flavell, Geoff Paul.

[Ringing for the Royal baby](#)

Posted: Tue, 30 Jul 2013 10:56:17 +0000

Tuesday, 30 Jul 2013

Have you been ringing to celebrate the Royal baby? Send us details and we'll feature them in the next newsletter. Email [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup@surreybellringers.org.uk)

The Cheam ringers successfully rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles to celebrate the birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge. Well done also to James Reed (far right) for ringing his first quarter peal.

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=296698>



[First Quarters for James and for Simon at Merstham](#)

Posted: Sun, 28 Jul 2013 20:56:43 +0000

Sunday, 28 Jul 2013

The past two Sundays have been busy times at St Katharine's. Congratulations to Simon (not 11) and to James (11) on ringing their first quarter peals on successive Sundays.

Sunday, 21 July 2013 in 42 minutes

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Brenda Ramsden
- 2 Richard Wallis
- 3 Nick Dallison
- 4 Diane Reynolds
- 5 Nigel Goodship (C)
- 6 Simon Beirne

First quarter-peal: 6.

First quarter-peal 'inside': 3.

Rung as a birthday complement to Gill Buchanan.

Also rung to celebrate the second wedding anniversary of Nick and Sandy Dallison.

Sunday, 28 July 2013 in 46 minutes

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 James Goodship
- 2 Nigel Goodship
- 3 Louise Pink
- 4 Carolina Goodship
- 5 Alison McCormick
- 6 Alan Pink (C)
- 7 Richard Wallis
- 8 Margaret Shelley

First quarter: 1.

By a band of James' and Matthew's parents and godparents.

[Bletchingley practice night changes to Wednesday](#)

Posted: Sun, 28 Jul 2013 10:26:58 +0000

Saturday, 27 Jul 2013

With effect from 1st August, Bletchingley practices will be moving to Wednesdays. Same time, same place, different evening!

Southern District Autumn Outing on 28th September 2013

Posted: Fri, 19 Jul 2013 15:40:55 +0000

Friday, 19 Jul 2013

This year's Autumn Outing will be to Sussex via the Bluebell Railway. We need members to commit to this event in advance by providing a deposit of £15 per person by no later than 1st August. See [here](#) for more details!

All Saints, Wandsworth

Posted: Sun, 14 Jul 2013 20:20:31 +0000

Sunday, 14 Jul 2013

As some will know, the bells at All Saints which have been silent for over 30 years have recently, with generous assistance from the BRF, had work carried out to enable light ringing. For the time being they are being rung only on Sunday mornings from 10.00-10.20, while we gauge the impact both on the fittings and on our neighbours.

Members in the area are welcome to join us for Sunday morning ringing. If you are planning to do so, please contact me to check that ringing is taking place, and also to ensure that you can get in to the church.

Jonathan Startup

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/towers/wandsworth-all-saints>

Surprise Major Practices are a great opportunity

Posted: Sun, 14 Jul 2013 16:46:58 +0000

Sunday, 14 Jul 2013

Under the stewardship of Northern District Master Shirely McGill a monthly surprise major practice has become a regular feature of the local ringing calendar and a much needed opportunity for ringers at this level to improve their skills. Chris McLean talks about his first visit to one of these practices.

June saw the monthly surprise major practice taking place at Carshalton. It was the first of these practices I had been to this year – work commitments prevented earlier attendance, as did an evening peal rung on the 3rd Friday in May in place of some quarters I could not fill (it was quarter-peal week) overlooking the surprise practice! Attendance then at the June practice was all the more imperative, especially as a number of the usual attendees were away. I was very glad that I turned up as it was an excellent practice.

Carshalton is a good choice for such a practice conveniently located in the 'border' territory between the northern and southern branches, with good road and rail access, a number of venues for postring, refreshment and a Rector who is keen on the bells being rung. In addition the bells are easy to ring and hear and they sound nice too. On the downside the belfry is not spacious and the 'mezzanine' seating area is a little cramped and both would benefit from a bit of a belated spring clean; also with only one opening window ventilation is sub-optimal. Perhaps it will be a blessing in disguise as there is no practice in July as there is the joint 12 bell practice at South Croydon and it might be possible to take some measures to improve airflow for August. As for the practice itself this was very skilfully run by Gillian Leale who provided each attendee with an appropriate amount of rope time, with 'minders' as required, and watching time as a great deal can be gained from following someone else ring a method that you are learning or revising.

Clearly though the more methods in your repertoire the more you can get to ring; if you have come along to practice your Cambridge then this is what you will do, perhaps as much as 2 plain courses' worth if you are lucky or 2 half courses if the practice is busier. If you have come along to practice your Superlative but can confidently ring Cambridge and Yorkshire the chances are you will ring a course of Superlative and you might make up the numbers when the other methods are rung too. Of course someone is needed to ring the treble but it is often helpful to have this done by someone familiar with the inside work. With each plain course taking around 7 – 8 minutes to ring, it is easy to see that during a 90 minute practice getting through 10 plain courses takes some doing, so time has to be managed effectively and this puts a lot of pressure on the ringing master. Using half courses and 3 leads of Bristol is a way of making the most of the limited time available.

In June we rang Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative, Bristol and London as individual methods and Yvonne Cooper practiced 3 spliced which she has now rung to a quarter-peal. The practice concluded with 8 spliced which I was lucky enough to ring in. Sadly I will miss the August practice but will have much to revise for September as there is much I am rusty on and it has been a long time since I rang the likes of Glasgow and Belfast which I gather have been rung on previous third Fridays this year.

Overall these practices achieve two main goals: they are a very useful way to ring new methods that you are learning but cannot ring on a normal practice night and they provide the opportunity to practice methods that you know but seldom get a chance to ring – the opportunity for ringing spliced surprise also exists. As ever events such as these could not occur without the support of those skilled, experienced ringers and conductors who turn out and make the ringing possible – they do not need the practice themselves but without them the practice would not be possible.

Chris McLean

Kim Doubles

Posted: Sun, 14 Jul 2013 20:11:21 +0000

Sunday, 14 Jul 2013

The Carshalton band bade farewell to one of its members in July with an unusual quarter peal.

Kim rang at Carshalton during the 1990's but with family and career commitments she took a break and returned in 2009 and has been a stalwart ringer since then. Sadly for us Kim decided to retire to Cornwall and commences a new chapter in her life in those parts this summer – our loss is Cornwall's and the Truro Diocesan Guild's gain as no doubt ringing will feature in her plans once she is settled in.

As a keen Stedman ringer Kim may find she has the chance to ring the principle with none other than John Pladdys himself. Retiring from school music teaching Kim and her husband will be getting into the holiday letting business at their new property in Darley Ford which is about six miles north of Liskeard, about midway between Launceston and Liskeard as the crow flies. Perhaps there will be scope for Kim to accommodate ringing holidays in the future! Of course all of this will have to fit in with Kim's other pursuits which include music and sailing, retirement may not be restful!

To send Kim off in good order we decided to ring the first ever quarter peal of the variation Kim Doubles. This is a Grandsire variation featuring 5 different calls per extent and prior to our Monday practice touches, only one extent had been rung before during a peal at Hascombe in 2011. After a couple of weeks of practice a quarter-peal was entirely feasible and was duly rung on Kim's last Sunday in Carshalton. This was the beginning of some tower festivities as Rosemary decided to host a summer barbecue – the band aims to have a social event every six months or so (although the previous one was in quarter-peal week) – to follow on from the quarter-peal and it also coincided, approximately, with Rosemary's birthday. For added good fortune the weekend weather was the best of the year and it was also possible to follow the good fortunes of Andy Murray in the final in relaxed company.

Nearly all of the band members and regular supporters were able to attend and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by those present. Chalkie did sterling work on the grill, cooking for about 20 people, and all the ringers contributed to the dishes on offer. The quarter-peal band posed for a photo but that was as formal as proceedings got. The following day was Kim's last practice with us and was rounded off with a trip to the nearby, excellent, Hope Public House, for a farewell drink; luckily Kim likes cider and with a beer festival in progress several choices were on offer. The Carshalton ringers hope to keep in touch with Kim and as other band members have connections in the vicinity it is likely that we will keep abreast of her progress in those parts. Needless to say she will be very welcome if she ever has cause to pop back to Carshalton.

All Saints, Carshalton 1320 Kim Doubles – 11 different callings

- 1) Kathleen Chilcott
- 2) Rosemary Lilley
- 3) Christopher McLean (c)
- 4) Kim Sudell
- 5) Alan Millidge
- 6) Michael Chilcott

Rung between High Mass and Holy Baptism, prior to the ringers' summer barbecue on Wimbledon Men's Singles Final Day, also as a birthday treat for Rosemary Lilley and as a farewell to Kim Sudell who retires to Cornwall next week.

First quarter-peal in the variation. First quarter-peal with asymmetric calls by all except 3. Chris Newbold & Catherine Davis wish to be associated with this quarter-peal.

www.campanophile.com/view.aspx?163588

Chris McLean



Ringers for the quarter are shown in the photo, in the order that they rang, treble ringer at the front, tenor ringer at the back.

[12 bell practice on Friday 19th July](#)

Posted: Fri, 12 Jul 2013 11:11:50 +0000

Friday, 12 Jul 2013

A reminder that the joint Districts' 12 bell practice will take place at South Croydon on Friday 19th July, see <http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/events/joint-district-12-bell-practice>.

If you haven't been to one of these practices before why not give it a try? If you are relatively novice then as long as you have good bell control and can ring in rounds (without needing to be rescued from time to time) this is a good opportunity for you to ring on higher numbers. There should be plenty of help and guidance on hand.

Those who wish to be a little more adventurous will hopefully be able to ring Caters or perhaps some Maximus, but we need experienced ringers to join us for this. Please help to make the evening a success by supporting this practice.

[Southern District dominate Call Change Striking Competition](#)

Posted: Sat, 06 Jul 2013 18:34:01 +0000

Saturday, 6 Jul 2013

The Southern District numerically dominated today's Call Change Striking Competition with Bletchingley, Coulsdon and Merstham towers competing against Croydon Minster.

They also dominated the scores with the highest number of faults! Therefore, congratulations to Croydon Minister on retaining the newly expanded Sid Saban Trophy (new shields have been added for another seven year's winners names to be included).

In order of ringing, the scores were:

- Merstham - 35
- Coulsdon - 59
- Bletchingley - 30
- Croydon Minster - 19

[Central Council Meeting 2013](#)

Posted: Thu, 04 Jul 2013 11:16:29 +0000

Thursday, 4 Jul 2013

The Guildford Guild put on an excellent weekend for the Central Council over the late May Bank Holiday. For us it started with a quiz in Merrow on the Saturday evening, which we didn't win – we achieved a respectable mid-table position. Sunday morning was service ringing then the AGM of the Ringing Foundation in the afternoon. There is a great need for ringers everywhere to support the Foundation financially to ensure that the teaching of ringing improves and more young people are encouraged to learn. This theme was continued in the main Council meeting on Monday, when there was quite a long discussion of the Future of Ringing Project. Following work by the Recruitment and Training Forum, proposals were discussed concerning an immediate need for outreach to ringers across the country and to this end moves are afoot for regional meetings. These meetings are aimed at grass roots ringers and will fulfil several purposes, particularly to listen to expectations and needs at local level. It is also intended to improve awareness of what the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme involves, what the Council provides in the way of services already and to engage local support both personal and financial. The Council is seeking to arrange a good geographical spread with the help of local associations and details will be made known as soon as possible.

The various motions that had been proposed and which were detailed in the Ringing World supplement (enclosed with the April 26 edition) were all passed, including admission into affiliation with the Council of the Barrow and District Society. This society covers part of the area also covered by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and not everyone approves of smaller societies within larger ones being affiliated in their own right, but I believe that the more ringing leaders are prepared to join with the work of the Council the better it generally is for all ringers. Some of the motions passed concerned changes of terms of reference for committees, and there was some feeling that there is growing to be close similarities between the work of the Education and Ringing Centres Committees. This will be looked into over the next year.

The Committees and Stewards of the Council's assets presented their reports and new members were elected to most committees. This was the last year of the triennium and next year we expect the introduction of around 20% of the Council members, or some 40 new members, all keen to roll up their sleeves to help with the Council's work, I hope! The meeting ended in good time for everyone to get home at a reasonable time.

There was a dinner on the Sunday evening, attended by the Bishop of Dorking and the Mayor of Guildford. Unusually for a formal dinner like this I thought the food was very good and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening, including the mayor, who stayed quite late. Guildford Guild members prepared lunch for 80 of the Council members at the meeting, and very good it was too – again unusually. Someone from Chester – last year's hosts – commented that it was loads better than they had managed in a smart hotel – sandwiches and crisps!

Surrey Central Council members are hard at work, you will be glad to know. I have one year left as President, Paul Flavell is Chairman of the Compositions Committee, Jeremy Cheesman is an independent examiner and Richard Wallis is finance director at the Ringing World, who also held a short and uncontroversial AGM over the weekend.

Now the next year's work starts, which will be reported on in 2014. Council members are hard at work all year and the AGM weekend is a chance to meet up with old friends and report on what we have done all year, very like our very own association AGM.

Kate Flavell

[Libby LeBihan](#)

Posted: Wed, 19 Jun 2013 13:34:02 +0000

Wednesday, 19 Jun 2013

It is with sadness I have to report that Libby died on Friday 14th June aged 47 shortly after being diagnosed with cancer.

Libby stopped ringing about 15 years ago. In the 1990s she was on the Northern District committee and served as secretary for three years.

The Funeral Mass will be at All Saints Benhilton on Wednesday 3rd July at 2pm

There will be ringing open to all on muffled bells prior to the service. It would be helpful if you would let me know if you'd like to be involved with this.

Sheila Cheesman

[Northern Stars June Edition](#)

Posted: Sun, 16 Jun 2013 16:27:45 +0000

Sunday, 16 Jun 2013

The latest edition of the Northern Stars, the quarterly newsletter of the Northern District, is now being distributed to towers. You can also read it online, click on the link below.

http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_documents/NS201306_web.pdf

[Northern District half yearly meeting](#)

Posted: Mon, 10 Jun 2013 11:53:20 +0000

Monday, 10 Jun 2013

The half yearly meeting of the Northern District will be on Saturday 15th June at Cheam.

See the [events](#) page for more details.

[Quarter Peal Week 2013](#)

Posted: Thu, 23 May 2013 14:32:20 +0000

Thursday, 23 May 2013

Quarter Peal week is an annual event in May marking the founding of the association in 1880. This year there was a healthy 23 quarter peals rung by members of the association. There was a wide variety of ringing from the 1272 of minimus by a Surrey Association band at Puttenham conducted by Chris McLean to the 1299 of Stedman Cinques at Southwark Cathedral conducted by Michael Palmer.

The Northern District committee rang 1260 of plain bob doubles at Cheam in which new committee member Hilary Jacques achieved her first quarter peal. Well done Hilary. There were several other firsts and notable achievements.

Particular thanks go to Chris McLean, Robin Leale and Jeremy Cheesman who between them conducted the majority of the quarters.

Full details of the quarter peals are sourced from Campanophile and reproduced below.

Carshalton, Surrey

All Saints

Thursday 9 May 2013 in 41 mins (11)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

One extent and one 540 changes

- 1 Kathleen Chilcott
- 2 Jane Wheeler
- 3 Susan Bailey
- 4 Michael Chilcott
- 5 Alan Millidge
- 6 Christopher McLean (c)

Rung for Ascension Day Mass and to make an early start on Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

Barnes, London SW13
Friday 10 May 2013 in 45 mins
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Trisha Hawkins
2 Eddie Heath
3 Jan McHugh
4 Edmund Hartley
5 Tom Nadel
6 Hugo Tracy
7 Robin Leale (C)
8 Gillian Leale
For Surrey Association QP Week

Carshalton, Surrey
All Saints
Saturday, 11 May 2013 in 43 mins (11)
1320 2 Plain Minor
one extent of St Clements College Bob and one 600 changes of Plain Bob
1 Susan Bailey
2 Brenda Ramsden
3 Rosemary Lilley
4 Alan Millidge
5 Oliver Thompson
6 Christopher McLean (C)
Rung for Morning Mass, as a birthday compliment to Jane Wheeler and during the Surrey Association Quarter
Peal Week on Annual General Meeting Day
Most minor and first with St Clements College Bob: 2

Southwark, London. SE1,
Cathedral Church of St Saviour & St Mary Overie
Sunday, 12 May 2013 in 60 mins (48 cwt)
1299 Stedman Cinques
1 Sheila M Cheesman
2 Hannah L Wilby
3 Mary E Gow
4 Stephen B Yates
5 Michael J Palmer (C)
6 Stephen J F Mitchell
7 D Robert C Sworder
8 Jeremy D Cheesman
9 Ryan S Noble
10 John Manley
11 Luke O Camden
12 John R Ware
For Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey
All Saints
Sunday, 12 May 2013 in 52min (18-3-27)
1296 Stedman Caters
Composed by L J Woodward
1 Kate Flavell
2 Mike Bangham
3 Jill Leale
4 Rona Joiner
5 David Robinson
6 Andrew Bolton
7 Paul Flavell
8 Robin Leale (C)
9 David Jackson
10 Tim Joiner
For evensong and in memory of Margaret Flavell who died on 24 April aged 96 years

Colliers Wood, Surrey
Monday 13 May 2013 in 39 mins
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Kristen Frederickson
2 Trisha Hawkins
3 Rod Bickerton
4 Linda Foddering
5 Jeremy Cheesman (C)
6 Edmund Hartley
First away from cover: 1
For Surrey Association QP Week

Mortlake, London SW14
Monday 13 May 2013
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Michael de Freitas
2 Edmund Hartley
3 Gillian Leale
4 Trisha Hawkins
5 Robin Leale (C)
6 Roderick Bickerton
First away from cover: 1
For Surrey Association QP Week

Barnes, London SW13
Monday 13 May 2013 in 41 mins
1260 Mixed Doubles
(720 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob.)
1 Freya Fraser
2 Edmund Hartley
3 Andrew Harvey
4 Roderick Bickerton
5 James White (C)
6 Trisha Hawkins
For Surrey Association QP Week

Merton Park, Surrey
Monday 13 May 2013 in 44 mins
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Trisha Hawkins
2 Edmund Hartley
3 Nicholas Harper
4 Rod Bickerton
5 Jeremy Cheesman (C)
6 Linda Foddering
First inside: 3
For Surrey Association QP Week

Richmond, Surrey
Monday 13 May 2013
1260 Plain Bob Triples
1 Gillian Leale
2 Edmund Hartley
3 Andrew Harvey
4 Robin Leale
5 Linda Foddering
6 Trisha Hawkins (C)
7 Roderick Bickerton
8 James White
For Surrey Association QP Week

Cheam, Surrey
St. Dunstan

Monday, 13 May 2013 in 43 mins (11 cwt)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Hilary Jacques

2 Jill Leale

3 Mike Bangham

4 Chris Baldwin

5 Jeremy Cheesman (C)

6 Shirley McGill

First quarter peal 1

By Northern District Committee for quarter peal week

Seale, Surrey

St Lawrence

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 in 43 mins (7)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Christopher McLean (C)

2 Brenda Ramsden

3 Richard Wheeler

4 Jane Wheeler

5 Oliver Thompson

Rung during the Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

First quarter peal on five bells: 2 & 3

Seale, Surrey

St Lawrence

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 in 43 mins (7)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

one extent and one 540 changes

1 Brenda Ramsden

2 Oliver Thompson

3 Jane Wheeler

4 Richard Wheeler

5 Linda Foddering

6 Christopher McLean (C)

Rung during the Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

Puttenham, Surrey

St John the Baptist

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 in 39 mins (5)

1272 3 Minimus

being 20 extents each of Plain and Double Bob and 13 extents of Double Canterbury Place

1 Brenda Ramsden

2 Linda Foddering

3 Christopher McLean (C)

4 Oliver Thompson

Rung during the Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

First quarter peal of minimus

Compton, Surrey

St Nicholas

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 in 43 mins (4)

1260 1M & 10V Doubles

one 60 changes of Grandsire and one extent each of Newborough, Little Birch, St Helen, Fort de Loncin, The Long Man, Ekeren, Barley, Ladbrooke, Daffodil and St Quintin

1 Philip Gorton

2 Oliver Thompson

3 Christopher McLean (C)

4 Jane Wheeler

5 Richard Wheeler

6 Brenda Ramsden

Rung during the Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week

Most methods and variations to a quarter-peal: 5

Carshalton, Surrey
All Saints
Saturday, 18 May 2013 in 43 mins (11)
1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
1 Jason Hughes
2 Richard Anthony
3 Gillian Leale
4 Anne Anthony
5 Roderic Bickerton
6 Christopher McLean
7 Robin Leale (C)
8 Paul Flavell
Rung for Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week and after the church fete

Bletchingley, Surrey
St Mary the Virgin
Saturday, 18 May 2013 in 50 minutes (16-1-22)
1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
1 Richard Wallis
2 Jean Kimber
3 Jill Leale
4 Sheila Cheesman
5 Kate Desbottes
6 Anne Rueff
7 David Finch
8 Robin Leale
9 Patrick Wills
10 Jeremy Cheesman (C)
Rung during the Surrey Association Quarter Peal week

Beddington, Surrey
St Mary
Saturday, 18 May 2013 in 50min (18-2-12)
1259 Grandsire Caters
Composed by P J Flavell
1 Kate Flavell
2 Jean Kimber
3 Catherine V Davis
4 Jill Leale
5 Richard Anthony
6 Anne Anthony
7 Roderick Bickerton
8 Jason Hughes
9 Paul Flavell (C)
10 Chris McLean
For Surrey Quarter Peal Week
Wimbledon, Greater London; SW19

St. Mary
Sunday, 19 May 2013 in 41 mins (10-3-16)
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 Sylvia Davies
2 Lawrence Davies
3 John Coatsworth
4 Judith Pelham
5 Clara Jackson (C)
6 Quentin Jackson
In Memory of Mavis Brocklehurst, wife of person who taught Judith to ring.
For Surrey Quarter Peal week

Merstham, Surrey
St Katharine
Sunday, 19 May 2013 in 42 mins (13 1/2 cwt)
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Nick Dallison
- 2 Ian G Mills
- 3 Diane Reynolds
- 4 Jack Pease
- 5 Nigel Goodship (C)
- 6 David St Marcus

First quarter-peal, 6.

First quarter-peal away from cover, 1.

For Surrey Association Quarter-Peal Week.

Carshalton, Surrey

All Saints

Sunday, 19 May 2013 in 48 mins (11)

1320 2 Minor

600 changes of Cambridge Surprise and one extent of Plain Bob

1 Kathleen Chilcott

2 Rosemary Lilley

3 Michael Chilcott

4 Kim Sudell

5 Alan Millidge

6 Christopher McLean (C)

Rung for Solemn Evensong and Surrey Association Quarter Peal Week, also to celebrate the birthday of John Sudell and the career of Jamie Carragher

Barnes, London SW13

Sunday 19 May 2013 in 41 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Michael de Freitas

2 Monica Trow

3 Edmund Hartley

4 Trisha Hawkins

5 Mike Wigney (C)

6 Eddie Heath

For Surrey Association QP Week

Merton Park, London SW19.

19 May, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Helen E Dawson 1

William J Dawson (C)

2 Niki M Tompkinson 3

Duncan Hay 4

Andrew S Robinson 5

Peter Smith 6

In memory of the passing of Bill Smith on 13 April 2013, father of 6. In celebration of the marriage of Charlotte Flack (who learned to ring at Merton), stepdaughter of 5, to Chris Cammack on 28 April 2013.

[Lingfield outing - Ring Camden \(on VE day\)](#)

Posted: Fri, 10 May 2013 14:08:00 +0000

Friday, 10 May 2013

On Wednesday 8th May bell-ringers from Lingfield, Surrey rang all the bells in the London Borough of Camden to mark the approaching end of her year of office for the current Mayor of Camden, Cllr Heather Johnson. The Lingfield ringers include the Mayor's sister.

They did the same tour 12 years ago, but only had three towers to visit then. So there is a second reason for celebration as there are now five churches with bells in Camden.

A third reason to ring is that 8th May was the anniversary of VE day. On that day in 1945 the bells began to peal again, after a long silence, to celebrate the end of the war in Europe.

Fourthly, they hoped to raise awareness of ringing in Camden and perhaps encourage some sponsorship for the new young team at St Mary's, Kilburn.

The bells of Camden

1. St Giles in the Fields, 8 bells: Tenor 14-0-16
2. St Mary's, Kilburn, 6 bells: Tenor 9-3-22
3. St Martin's, Gospel Oak, 6 bells: Tenor 12½cwt
4. St Anne's, Highgate, 8 bells: Tenor 12cwt
5. Christ Church, Hampstead, 8 bells: Tenor 24-0-5

Brad Hepburn, Escort to the Mayor of Camden, posted a short video of the ringing at Gospel Oak on Youtube:
<http://youtu.be/IA9JjL2GpQ8>

[Association AGM and Quarter Peal Week](#)

Posted: Mon, 06 May 2013 17:32:37 +0000

Monday, 6 May 2013

The association AGM is being held on Saturday the 11th May at [Putney](#). All members are welcome to attend. This date is also the start of our annual quarter peal week during which all towers are encouraged to ring a quarter peal to celebrate the founding of the association in 1880.

Further details of both events can be found on the events page [here](#).

[Ringing for St George's Day](#)

Posted: Mon, 22 Apr 2013 20:48:15 +0000

Monday, 22 Apr 2013

Tuesday 23rd April is St George's and I know many of you will be ringing to celebrate this day. To help us prepare a special St George's Day article in our next newsletter, we would be grateful if all tower correspondants could email details of what you rang and who rang with you to [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup[at]surreybellringers[dot]org[dot]uk)

Many thanks,

Carolina Goodship

[New Recruits for Redhill rose to the challenge to ring for Easter](#)

Posted: Thu, 11 Apr 2013 22:49:12 +0000

Thursday, 11 Apr 2013

Last Autumn, following Andrew and Jane Holland moving away from the area, I took over as Tower Captain at Redhill. My immediate priority was to recruit and train new ringers, so I put a notice in the church weekly news sheet (which I compile!) and by the beginning of November I had one adult and 5 children in training. Two more adults joined over the next few weeks. I said to the new ringers that their target was to ring for services by Easter.

Thursday practices have been very busy, and with the help and support of regular visitors as well as our own band, progress has been steady. Some have been elsewhere for extra practice, and six are now beginning to ring rounds, the other two having had lengthy breaks for holiday and work commitments.

On Maundy Thursday, all six rang before the evening service - a great achievement. Well done to them for their efforts, and huge thanks to the regular supporters, and our own ringers. Practices are still very busy, but anyone who is willing to help ring rounds is very welcome to join us. And we do ring other things as well.

Anne Rueff



Photographed (left to right) on Maundy Thursday: Sophie, Georgie, Suki, Megan, Jan and Harry (see larger image on the [Gallery](#))

[April Northern District Practice - Thames Ditton](#)

Posted: Tue, 09 Apr 2013 17:11:25 +0000

Tuesday, 9 Apr 2013

The next Northern District practice is on Monday 15th April at [Thames Ditton](#).

District practices are an opportunity for us to support tower practices providing a chance for local ringers to extend their normal repertoire and give others the chance to visit the tower, ring new bells and for us all to meet other members. Everyone is encouraged to attend and the ringing is always varied and adapted to the abilities of those present.

[Tower Poster](#)

[Recollections of the March 2013 Wimbledon Training Day \(Group 4b\) Plain Hunting](#)

Posted: Fri, 05 Apr 2013 15:30:24 +0000

Friday, 5 Apr 2013

By 9.0am the hubbub in the Fellowship Hall of St Mary's Wimbledon of ringers gathering their Groups and confirming their travel arrangements mirrored perfectly the emotions that go through this learner's head prior to setting off on plain hunt. First find who you are with then how you are to travel. "Do you know where you are going?", "Who are you following?", "When do you think you will arrive?" "No! him – not her" "Don't stop there but keep going" and so on. Yet out of this apparent chaos our Groups coalesce and, as if by magic like chicks following their mother hen, order emerges (unlike this learner's plain hunt) and we head for our towers; 4b is going to St Mary the Virgin at Merton.

What a delight! A wonderful church of Saxon foundation, known to be at least 927 years old and witness to the further inheritances bequeathed by the Normans and those who followed. The parish church of Admiral Lord Nelson no less and jewel in the county of Surrey. Here there are six bells, the oldest being 1450 and inscribed "Sancta Margareta Ora pro Nobis", all housed in frames that date from the 15th century. And so we started. Our Group Leader, Anne Rueff, outlined the Standing Orders of the day; "No talking over me, no more than one person speaking at any time, get stuck in and don't wait to be asked" – well, that was the Helpers; all eight of them who, despite these strictures, were still smiling! As for us four students, it was clear that this was going to be a "good day"; with this level of support we were going to be get a la carte service – and so we did.



First the bells were raised and then we were assessed, each of us doing our bit; it was clear we had been well matched as our difficulties were common to all four of us. Anne talked us through our paces and the band supported us with nods, winks and similar aids that somehow land you in the right place at the right time (why isn't it always like this?). Soon the first break-through

came; over to Anne. "You count firsts' place - seconds' place - third's place - fourths' place - fifths' place but try saying fifths' place - fourths' place - thirds' place - seconds' place - firsts' place - LEAD!!" Better to count OUT saying firsts' place - seconds' place - third's place - fourths' place - fifths' place and come back saying five- four- three- two- one." Brilliant! Not only does this slow you down going out and speed you up coming back BUT it also reminds you which way you are going – just in case you have forgotten (and why is this so easy to forget?).

Soon it was elevenses and we were joined by the gardeners who were working in the grounds; gorgeous carrot cake appeared mysteriously, washed down with very good coffee and good company. Then off again with more of the same but, in addition, this time standing behind the places we wished to ring from later – and indeed that way much was learnt to extend our repertoire. Mid-day was eventually upon us and the team finished off with a quick burst of "something interesting" which sounded beautiful and impressed us all, including the gardeners who, in their innocence, complimented us learners on our performance! "If only....." It was lunch time.

Here another facet of the level of detail in planning these days became manifest – an ideal watering hole had been identified with ample space, a good menu, inexpensive fair, quick service, fine ale and ample loo's; just what was wanted. Too comfortable really as soon it was off to All Saints at Benhilton.



Here a slight hiccup emerged, the only one of the day, for we were met by the Assistant Tower Captain much agitated by the fact that the church was not yet open, however he knew the good lady who kept the keys and sped off to find her. Meanwhile a perambulation around the church yard confirmed the ground was on the deposit known as "Clay with Flints" that is found on top of the Chalk; indeed the church itself is beautifully faced overall with flint. Soon the keys for the back door had arrived and we were "in" – past the toilet, the storage cupboard, along the dark book lined corridor, through the vestry, past the portraits of Henry Newman, the hanging thuribles, their boats of incense and the acolyte candles all ready for "action" on the following day,

passed the font of holy water, filled full to brimming, and on through the small door into the church.

Wow! This is some church; designed by Teulon and serving the strong Anglo-Catholic tradition that is so quintessentially "English" and such a joy to behold. On past the wonderful stained glass windows – there's no time to stop – and up, up, up through the spiral staircase into the tower (someone mentioned 50 steps – it seemed endless). And what a tower; the stairs lead into the snuggest and most beautifully proportioned ringing room. There were 8 bells above which had to be raised and so it was that we were introduced to their beautiful tone; they are big bells, heavier than Merton and wonderfully sonorous - how the tower quivered to their sound. Then it was over to us.

Here we repeated our paces but this time the stumbling bad handling of the morning had largely gone and rhythm was being felt – now it was all about "fine tuning" at the back and on the turn, and some confident trebling on Grandsire Doubles. All good progress which at times actually sounded as it should, but by this time our Helpers had been ringing for over 4 hours and a certain weariness was entering the day; in fact all were flagging, Helpers and students alike. But Anne was prepared for this and had ready in her bag the answer in the form of that elixir of bell ringing youthfulness – chocolate; lots of chocolate. The large bar was held aloft and all eyes were fixed upon it, then peeled and broken, but only then was the deal spelt out; "No ringing – no chocolate". It was one of those simple decisions so typical of bell ringing (in or out?). Tired limbs moved, frames were raised and soon we were back in action and off again; "once more please – for old-times sake". Eventually the bewitching hour of 3.30pm struck and that was that; for us the day had ended and it remained only for the bells to be brought down.

Journeying back to Wimbledon there was time to reflect on how lucky we learners are to have all this knowledge, all this skill, all this time and effort provided for nothing – just passed on for the love of bell ringing, by those who treasure this beautiful aspect of these islands. It really is a mantle being handed to the next generation and learners though we are, there was on our return a deep seated and heartfelt wish amongst us that in our turn we too will be able to rise to the challenge and pass on what we have received. This sense of warm thankfulness embraced us as we wound our way back to tea at Wimbledon, tired, satisfied but inwardly glowing like the first rays of the glorious sunset that were closing the day.



Michael de Freitas

[Towers Map Page is Reinstated](#)

Posted: Thu, 04 Apr 2013 09:08:07 +0000

Thursday, 4 Apr 2013

I'm very pleased to say that our map page has been successfully restored. Do please take a look. Click on the link below to go directly to the page.

[Surrey Association Towers Map](#)

Carolina Goodship

[Croydon Minster are Quiz Champions](#)

Posted: Fri, 29 Mar 2013 20:40:34 +0000

Friday, 29 Mar 2013

Congratulations to the five-person team of Croydon Minster who won the 2013 Surrey Association Quiz.

There were 18 teams this year and 130 people in the Banstead Institute answering some tough questions from Quiz Master, Richard Wallis. They got easier during the evening! The food from Seine Rigger was superb as usual and a convivial evening was had by all.

[Click here](#) for the questions and answers. [Click here](#) for the score sheet.

[6 Bell Striking Competition](#)

Posted: Sat, 30 Mar 2013 12:39:27 +0000

Saturday, 16 Mar 2013

The Association Six Bell Striking Competition took place at Addington on Saturday 16 March. Sadly, the event was supported by only three towers: Addington, Croydon Minster and Kingston.

After the draw, and as soon as the judge (Anne Anthony) was in position in the church hall, the first team climbed the stairs and rang a 240 of Grandsire Doubles. Croydon rang next, and also played safe with Grandsire. Addington were bolder and rang Plain Bob Minor.

When Anne returned to the church to give the results, she explained that she had had a problem judging the third team. This arose because they had not rung for the preliminary period of three minutes (as allowed by the rules) and had only rung one whole pull on the treble (instead of the obligatory two) to indicate that they were beginning their test piece. Therefore she had assumed that their test piece was their practice, and had not started judging it. Only when it passed the three minute mark did she realise what had happened. However, Anne said that her failure to judge the piece had not affected the results.

Patrick Wills thanked the Addington band for allowing the use of the bells, and for providing excellent tea and cakes. He then thanked Anne for agreeing to act as judge, and introduced her by giving some interesting biographical details – including the fact that 126 of her 393 peals have been on twelve bells, and that 22 have been of Bristol Maximus. He also mentioned that she had only rung one peal of doubles (which, she commented, was one too many!)

Anne gave some very interesting and helpful comments about the ringing before announcing the results as follows:

1st – Kingston, 8½ faults; 2nd – Croydon Minster, 56 faults; Not judged – Addington

Patrick then presented Kingston's tower captain, Paul Flavell, with the Taylor Trophy.





Peal Weekend 2013

Posted: Fri, 01 Mar 2013 16:27:05 +0000

Friday, 1 Mar 2013

Peal weekend this year ran from Thursday February 14th to Sunday February 17th. There were mixed fortunes this year and not such a high turn-out but overall it was well supported and worthwhile. The absence of Chris McLean was a significant factor as he usually organises so much for this event and there were some losses which made our overall total less impressive but I would like to thank all ringers who supported this and all the towers which made us welcome.

Highlights of the weekend: Kate Desbottes rang 6 spliced major and Geoff Strawbridge rang his first peal. Gainsborough lost its reputation as 'Lincolnshire with trips'. Chelsfield and Bletchingley were without major incident and had some good ringing.

It was freezing cold at Merstham but we put the effort in to score a reasonable peal. We lost Rutland at Streatham after a spirited attempt and Omega at Ashted was just not going anywhere - it was called round after a quarter peal length.

Total: 7 peals scored and 1 quarter peal.

Please note: Next year's Peal weekend will be the third weekend in February (14-16th).

Shirley McGill

SURREY PEAL WEEKEND 2013

All Peals for Surrey Association

CHELSEFIELD, Kent, St Martin of Tours

Thurs Feb 14 2013 in 2h 51 (10)

5056 Spliced Surprise Major

5 Methods: 1088 Cambridge; 1056 London; 992 Bristol; 960 Pudsey, Superlative; 121 com; atw

Comp: N R Aspland

- 1 Ian R Fielding
- 2 Ronald F Diserens
- 3 Shirley E McGill
- 4 P Jonathan Franklin
- 5 Anne L Rueff
- 6 Ian G Campbell
- 7 John B Keeler (C)
- 8 Richard M Hobbs

BLETCHINGLEY, Surrey, SMV

Fri Feb 15 2013 in 3h9 (16)

5040 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal

Comp: BD Constant

- 1 Michael P Moreton
- 2 Shirley E McGill
- 3 Anne L Rueff
- 4 Sheila M Cheesman
- 5 Ronald F Diserens
- 6 J Richard Anthony
- 7 Ryan S Noble
- 8 John E Hawes
- 9 Benjamin J Meyer
- 10 Ian R Fielding (C)

MERSTHAM, Surrey, St Katharine
Fri Feb 15 2013 in 2h 57 (13)
5120 Bristol Surprise Major
Comp: AJ Cox

- 1 Stephanie J Pattenden
- 2 James W Belshaw
- 3 Anne L Rueff
- 4 Geraldine R Forster
- 5 Benjamin J Meyer
- 6 Shirley E McGill
- 7 Ryan S Noble
- 8 Ian R Fielding (C)

WANDSWORTH, Gr London
Holy Trinity, West Hill
Sat Feb 16 2013 in 3h 3 (15)
5024 Spliced S Major
6m: 672 Bristol, 992 Cambridge, 896 Lincolnshire, 768 Rutland, 832 Superlative, 864 Yorkshire; 79 com, atw
Comp: P G K Davies (arr JWB)

- 1 Patrick M Wills
- 2 Michael R Crockett
- 3 Kate J Desbottes
- 4 Sheila M Cheesman
- 5 J Richard Anthony
- 6 Anne M Anthony
- 7 James W Belshaw (C)
- 8 Stephanie J Pattenden

PUTNEY, Gr London
S Mary
Sat Feb 16 2013 in 2h 55 (13)
5024 Cambridge S Major
Comp: J W Parker

- 1 Michael P Moreton
- 2 Linda S Foddering
- 3 Michael R Crockett
- 4 Benjamin J Meyer
- 5 Timothy R Forster
- 6 Phaedra Sawbridge
- 7 James W Belshaw (C)
- 8 Geraldine R Forster

BERMONDSEY, London SE16
St James
Sat Feb 16 2013 in 2h 58 (14)
5088 Gainsborough Surprise Major
Comp: R D S Brown

- 1 Patrick M Wills
- 2 Gillian A Leale
- 3 Ronald F Diserens
- 4 Kate J Desbottes

- 5 Shirley E McGill
- 6 Anne L Rueff
- 7 Lee Pinnington
- 8 John E Hawes (C)

COLLIERS WOOD, Christ Church, SW19

Sat Feb 16 2013 in 2h30 (6)

5040 Doubles (4m - 840 changes of St Martin, St Simon, Plain Bob, 2,520 changes Grandsire)

1. Geoff Strawbridge
2. Rachel Y Chung
3. Kerrigan X Smith
4. Alexandra L Stanley
5. Christopher M J Stanley (C)
6. Nick Kermatzis

First peal: 1

Most methods: 2, 3

Also: Quarter Peal

Ashtead, St Giles, Sun Feb 16 2013

1344 Omega S Major

1 Oliver Thomson, 2 Ron Diserens, 3 Lee Pinnington 4 Chris Ridley 5 Alex Britton 6 Tim Forster 7 Quentin Armitage 8 John Hawes (C)

[1000 Peals for Anthony Cotton](#)

Posted: Sun, 17 Feb 2013 14:51:44 +0000

Sunday, 17 Feb 2013

Over the weekend of 15 to 17 February, former Oxted ringer Anthony Cotton rang his 1000th peal and celebrated his fortieth birthday in his new home area around Derby. Some people from Surrey joined him.

For more details, [click here](#) to access the "event" on BellBoard.

[Roger Bailey](#)

Posted: Wed, 23 Jan 2013 16:00:00 +0000

Wednesday, 23 Jan 2013

We are saddened by the news today that Roger Bailey has passed away. Roger was an active ringer in the Middlesex Association and an unattached resident member of the Surrey Association.

Further information can be found on bellboard at www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk

[Four hundred peals at South Croydon for Michael](#)

Posted: Tue, 15 Jan 2013 20:56:01 +0000

Tuesday, 15 Jan 2013

Congratulations to Michael Moreton on ringing his four hundredth peal on the bells of South Croydon. The full peal details are:

South Croydon, St Peter

Thursday, 10 January 2013 in 3.29 (30)

5042 Cambridge S Maximus, Composed by J H Fielden

1 Alan J Frost

2 Ronald F Diserens 3

Stephen J F Mitchell

4 Michael P Moreton

5 Shirley E McGill

6 David E Rothera

7 R Mark Esbester

8 Thomas F Lawrance

9 Michael J Uphill (C)

10 Simon S Meyer

11 Stephen R T Pocock

12 James A Smith

The thoughts of the band are very much with Roger Bailey, long-time supporter of ringing at South Croydon, at this time. 400th peal on the bells - 4

[Surprise Major Practices revived](#)

Posted:Wed, 02 Jan 2013 10:18:20 +0000

Wednesday, 2 Jan 2013

Following queries and disappointment that the popular Surprise Major practices had ceased, I have planned three practices with an aim to revive them.

Where? Carshalton

When? Fridays January 18th, February 15th and March 15th 2013

What time? 7.30 -9.00pm

Please note that only surprise major will be rung - standard 8 initially.

Please support this if you are keen to learn or keen to provide expertise.

Shirley McGill

[Problems at Esher](#)

Posted:Sun, 30 Dec 2012 16:24:12 +0000

Sunday, 30 Dec 2012

Unfortunately, it seems the remedial work carried out to the tower earlier in the year at a cost of around £360,000 has been to no avail: on Saturday 22nd December 2012 it was discovered that the persistent and heavy rainfall overnight had resulted in the pits of the 7 and tenor being awash, with water leaking into the ringing chamber and extensive puddling on the floor. The sally of the tenor was wringing wet. Quite understandably the tower captain, Jennifer Meade, was bitterly disappointed, as this had serious implications for Christmas servicingringing.

It is recommended that for the time being you liaise with Jennifer before attending a practice or for service ringing.

[Northern Stars December Edition](#)

Posted:Wed, 05 Dec 2012 23:21:58 +0000

Wednesday, 5 Dec 2012

Copies of the December edition of the Northern Stars are now being distributed to towers.

If you've not seen your copy yet, have left it in the tower or want to see what it looks like in full colour you can get the digital copy from the website here: <http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/ringers/newsletter>

The next edition will be in March so please send us your news, pictures and articles. Everyone is invited to contribute. email us at: [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup@surreybellringers.org.uk)

[Ring for fitness](#)

Posted:Wed, 05 Dec 2012 23:12:08 +0000

Wednesday, 5 Dec 2012

It's official, regular bell ringing can improve participants' core strength, stability, balance and endurance. This is the conclusion of a recent study commissioned by the Churches Conservation Trust with the Ringing Foundation and the Docklands Ringers which includes the Surrey Association towers of Rotherhithe, Camberwell and Bermondsey.

Follow the link [here](#) for more details and see the [BBC News website](#) for the latest press launch (12 Dec 12).

If you are reading this as a result of the recent news reports and interested to know where you learn to ring, go to our [learn to ring](#) page.

[The Wandering Bobs: Seven years on and still going strong](#)

Posted:Thu, 29 Nov 2012 12:38:12 +0000

Thursday, 29 Nov 2012

The Wandering bobs had their origin in a conductor's training session led by Iain Anderson. I think Iain had the idea that we would spend a happy Sunday afternoon studying the mysteries of coursing orders etc. and then go off and call a quarter peal. Well some of those attending might have been able to but for me I could see the possibility of calling a quarter peal like a dim and distant prospect such as found by looking down the wrong end of a telescope.

However it did occur to Kath Chilcott and I that perhaps there was a gap in the market for those who were interested in calling (nowhere near conducting yet!). Thus was formed the Wandering Bobs, although some wit remarked that perhaps the Wayward Bobs might be more appropriate. It was for ringers who were either members of towers where no-one was able to call touches, or towers where there was a plethora of conductors, and beginners never got a look in. No-one was to shout at anyone and the whole point was to have fun.

We have now been wandering for seven years. We meet once a month on the third Monday of the month from 10.30-12.30. As implied in the title we wander from tower to tower during the year, trying to balance up towers in the Northern District with those in the South, sometimes visiting eight bell towers, but more usually sticking to six bell towers.

The first meeting was an afternoon session, but as everyone complained about the school traffic, we hastily moved it to the morning, and added lunch afterwards for those who were available.

At the first meeting I think pretty well everyone tried called a 120 of bob doubles. Nothing came round, except for a lovely little touch of 20 changes called by John Squirrell. In fact over the years John has kept us endlessly entertained by his amazingly short touches.

It has been hard work but we have been very blessed by those who have turned up to help, including Deborah and Tony Bishop, Eric Godfrey, Alan Streeter, and, in the early days, David Finch, who still visits us whenever we ring at Newdigate, which we do every August when the school is on holiday.

Have we progressed? Well our meeting this month included a bob course of Cambridge Minor, touches of Bob Minor, Morris' 240 of Grandsire, a 100 of Bob Doubles, and attempts, (not altogether successful) of Spliced St. Simon's, St. Martin's St. Osmund and Eynesbury, and Spliced Plain, Little and St. Clements Minor. However we shall keep trying and one day we may yet be successful.

However there are changes in the pipeline. I am retiring as tower organiser and Pamela Rider will be taking over as organiser, with continued help from Kath Chilcott. Pamela's details will doubtless appear on the website in due course.

Sue Bailey

For details of forthcoming events see the [Events](#) page. Our next meeting will be at Buckland on the 17th December.

[A Quarter Peal of Celebrations](#)

Posted:Sat, 17 Nov 2012 23:10:04 +0000

Saturday, 17 Nov 2012

Remember, remember the 6th of November, I always told my younger sister. Why? Because it's my birthday.

I've known for the past five years that Jill Wigney had the same birthday and we have rung for our birthdays together. In 2010 I attended the launch for Michael Uphill's book *Tales from the London County Crypt*; it was on 5th November I was excited with the fireworks and that I would be celebrating my birthday the next day. Sarah Percival was also enjoying the party and the fireworks - and it was her birthday the next day too!

In October 2011 Jill and I rang for a wedding at St Clement Danes. We were discussing our significant birthdays for the next year (60 and 50), and when Ruth Simon heard that our birthday was in November she enquired about the date. She was also celebrating her birthday on 6th November. Michael Sprackling told me his birthday was on the same day too. WOW! I felt we must mark the occasion together, with a quarter peal.

So, on Tuesday 6th November 2012 we rang a well struck quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles at Clapham Common, Holy Trinity, London SW4. 1260 changes for Jill and Sarah's 60th birthday and if you added the birthday ages together you would reach 312 years. Jill and Mike Wigney were married 13 years ago on 6th November, so it was essential that Mike was there and he was doubly useful as conductor.

After some champagne and blowing out the candles on our birthday cake we thought it would be a good idea if next year we could ring on 8, 10 or even 12 bells, all with ringers who have the same birthday: 6th November. So if that is you, please get in touch and I'll book a tower.

fodderi5 [at] aol [dot] com (Linda Foddering)

Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, London SW4 (6cwt)
Tuesday 6th November 2012, 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Jill Wigney
 2. Mike Wigney (C)
 3. Linda Foddering
 4. Ruth Simon
 - 5 Michael Sprackling
 - 6 Sarah Percival
- 60th birthday compliment to 1
13th wedding anniversary to 1 and 2
50th birthday compliment to 3
64th birthday compliment to 4
78th birthday compliment to 5
60th birthday compliment to 6

...all on the day!

Photos of the ringers are on the [Gallery](#)

Roll of Honour

Posted: Sat, 10 Nov 2012 20:23:59 +0000

Saturday, 10 Nov 2012

David Underdown has created a blog in which he will be telling the stories of the men named on the First World War roll of honour of the Surrey Association of Church Bell Ringers, at least so far as he's been able to uncover them. Some men are still yet to be identified.

The roll was written up at the end of the Sixth Volume of the association's peal books. A scan of the five pages which comprise the roll can be found on the association's [website](#). The first two pages list the 24 members of the association who died during the course of the war. The remaining three pages list the other 128 members who served and survived. The hand written roll was probably created by one of those 128, Jesse Beams of Ewell (for many years also the village postman, following in his father's footsteps both in that role and as a ringer). Certainly the ringing newspaper, *The Ringing World*, reporting a Surrey Association meeting in 1914 (shortly before the outbreak of war) recorded that he was responsible for writing up the fifth volume, and during the first few years of the war it also carried regular adverts from him to write up peal and quarter peal certificates. He's also the only man for whom a full forename is given on the roll, rather than one or more initials.

The names in the roll were collected from the various towers from which the members came, and were first published in the association's first post-war annual report. Both that typescript list, and the final roll, appear to contain a number of errors. This has contributed to the difficulties in identifying some of the men, along with the destruction of many army records through enemy action in the Second World War.

The 24 men who did not survive are also commemorated on the roll of honour of the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers, which is kept at St Paul's Cathedral. Not all are listed as Surrey Association members or under their Surrey towers. It is also obvious that there were other men who were ringing at towers in the Surrey area were killed but who were not Surrey members. However, their deaths must still have affected the Surrey ringing community, so he will also be providing information about these men.

David's blog, halfmuffled, can be found [here](#).

[Thank Frank for this one](#)

Posted: Sat, 10 Nov 2012 20:06:14 +0000

Saturday, 10 Nov 2012

Chris Stanley writes about a notable peal recently rung at Colliers Wood.

It all started many years' ago when I heard that Eric Taylor of Gloucestershire had rung a peal comprised entirely of people he'd taught. Ever since then I've wanted to do the same. However, this is not as easy as it may sound. Just consider the qualities of a peal ringer: method capability, stamina, concentration, and of course the ability to strike. Despite being a prolific teacher, I've had to accept that many learners will never ring a peal in their lifetime. I once counted the number of people I'd taught to handle a bell in some way. It was well over 300. This included Surrey summer schools, training days, and tower open days where people just had a go. However, when I totted up the number of ringers I'd genuinely taught all the way from start to methods ... and who were still ringing ... and who were willing to ring a peal ... and who were good enough to strike it ... and so on ... it was quite limited. I was beginning to think I'd never do it.

Over recent years at Colliers Wood, we've seen a number of talented ringers emerge. Many of you will know Kerrigan Smith, who rang his first peal within a year of his first lesson. Nick Kermatzis is less well known but quickly developed a feel and an ear for ringing by rhythm. More recently, Sasha and Rachel have demonstrated their abundant ringing talents. With a bit of persuasion, they all agreed to go for a peal. I just needed one more. A casual FaceBook note to Helene Wigginton (now resident in Switzerland) revealed a window of opportunity when she would be visiting the UK. I grabbed it and we now had a band, and a good quality one into the bargain.

Just turning up to attempt the peal was a big milestone. We set off and quickly settled. The ringing got better and better over the first hour. Very few trips and the striking had settled nicely. Everyone was ringing with great confidence. The next half hour was nicely relaxing and I completely forgot it was a first peal attempt for three of the band. In fact, the first pealers had only previously rung four quarters each. Helene hadn't rung a bell since Easter. Not surprisingly, these four looked quite tired as we entered the final hour. Nevertheless, everyone was still ringing well. Kerrigan looked like he could go on forever which was a great confidence booster. I announced that there was half an hour to go and asked everyone to concentrate hard. This seemed to help and we finished error free.

Everyone was well chuffed to have scored and the tower buzzed with excitement as we stood. Sasha and Rachel had completed a hat-trick of Colliers Wood learners who'd rung a peal within a year of their first lesson. And Nick had won Kerrigan a long-standing bet – I think I owe him a Traf curry. Since my first teaching experiences as a teenager at Queen Charlton, I've always wanted to realise this ambition. It was a great feeling to shout that's all. One of the most memorable peals I'll ring for sure.

The recent QP organised by Frank Seabright was particularly timely and poignant (see Campanophile article).

Frank taught me to ring at Merton. Now I've rung one just down the road with five people I've taught. Thank you Frank, 'father and grandfather' of this Colliers Wood band.

Details of the peal are on [BellBoard](#)

Chris Stanley

Chris's crew: back row: Helene, Kerrigan, Nick; front row: Sasha, Chris, Rachel



[St. Paul's triumph at Croydon Minster](#)

Posted:Thu, 01 Nov 2012 18:38:17 +0000

Thursday, 1 Nov 2012

10 bands from across London competed in this years London 12 bell striking competition held at Croydon Minster on Saturday 27th October. The St. Paul's band won the Whitechapel trophy.

Some pictures and a link to the full results are on the Croydon Ringers website [here](#).

[Eight bell striking competition 2012](#)

Posted:Sun, 21 Oct 2012 15:16:04 +0000

Sunday, 21 Oct 2012

The Surrey Association 8 bell striking competition was held on Saturday 20th October at Cobham. Three bands competed for the Pat Cannon trophy; Croydon Minster, Kingston and Wimbledon. The striking was judged by Mike Bale from Epsom.

Croydon Minster took home the trophy with Kingston taking second place.

1st place band: Croydon Minster



2nd place band: Kingston



3rd place band: Wimbledon



THE LONDON 12-BELL COMPETITION COMES TO SURREY

Posted: Fri, 12 Oct 2012 09:56:43 +0000

Friday, 12 Oct 2012

Now in its fourth year, The London 12-bell competition has rapidly become a "must attend" in the diaries of many ringers, most of them connected with 12-bell ringing in the Greater London area. The event has attracted well over 150 ringers and supporters for its first three years. All towers or centres within the M25 where 12-bell ringing regularly takes place are eligible to enter. The event continues, also, to be enthusiastically supported by Alan Hughes of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, donor of the trophy, which is currently held by the ringers of St Michael's, Cornhill for their excellent half-course of Cambridge Maximus at Shoreditch last year.

After three years in central London, the competition moves south and is to be held on our patch, at Croydon Minster, known to most of us as St John's, Croydon, on Saturday October 27th. Ten teams are taking part, namely: -

ASCY
Middlesex County Association
St. Paul's Cathedral
SRCY
South Croydon
Southwark Cathedral 1
Southwark Cathedral 2
St Martins in the Fields
St. Michael's, Cornhill
University of London

The welcome from the new chairman, Stephen Mitchell, takes place in the church at 10.45am.
(The first chairman, our very own Jason Hughes, has retired to spend more time with his growing family and, of course, Liverpool FC! The competition was Jason's brain-child and it was he who persuaded Alan Hughes to donate the fine trophy.) The draw follows immediately following the welcome and ringing commences at 11.30am. The judges this year are Robert and Patricia Newton and Tom Hinks.

As most of us should know St John's tower contains a glorious 1936 Gillett and Johnson twelve, just under 37cwt, and hung by local ringer, Ted Collins. As well as being tower captain at St John's for many years, Ted was both Northern District Master and Association Master. He also supported ringing at St Paul's Cathedral for some time after the war and became Master of the ASCY in 1952. So he would have been eligible to ring for at least three of the competing teams had the competition existed in his time!

Croydon bells, after 75 years use, have become rather difficult to strike well, so will present quite a challenge to the participants. The competition touch this year is two courses of Stedman Cinqus.

Refreshments and beverages will be available throughout the day in the adjacent church hall and from 5.00pm the nearby "Green Dragon" will serve beer AND food to ringers who will benefit from a 15% discount. Northern District Master and St John's tower captain Shirley McGill has worked hard to put all of the arrangements into place.

You don't have to be a 12-bell ringer to come along, listen to a glorious ring of bells being rung well and join in with and enjoy the company of friends old and new over a pint of beer or cup of coffee. (You will know many of the participants!) St John's is easily accessible to most of us in Surrey so come along and join in the fun. You will all be most welcome.

Michael Uphill (Competition Secretary)

Published in 'The Ringing World' issue 5295 and reproduced with permission.

[September edition of the Northern Stars](#)

Posted: Thu, 20 Sep 2012 16:01:59 +0000

Thursday, 20 Sep 2012

Copies of the September edition of Northern Stars are now being distributed to towers.

If you've not seen your copy yet, have left it in the tower or want to see what it looks like in colour you can get the digital copy from the website here:

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/ringers/newsletter>

The next edition will be in December so please send us your news, pictures and articles. Everyone is invited to contribute.

email us at: [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup@surreybellringers.org.uk)

Are you on facebook? If you want to keep up with the latest news and event details and find links to the wider community of bellringers visit the Surrey Association page and click the like button:

www.facebook.com/surreybellringers

Today's Minor Intermediate Practice Canceled

Posted: Fri, 14 Sep 2012 13:02:50 +0000

Friday, 14 Sep 2012

I am sorry to inform you that tonight's Minor Intermediate Practice at Nutfield is not taking place, due to lack of support.

Practice will resume with the 12th October event. So please put this date in your calendar and come to ring a selection of minor methods progressing on from Bob Minor.

Olympic Serendipity Ticket

Posted: Sun, 09 Sep 2012 22:13:28 +0000

Sunday, 9 Sep 2012

The eight bells of St George the Martyr, Borough, near London Bridge, rang out on the morning of Friday 27th July 2012 in a triumph of determination of Olympic proportions, and in true sporting tradition there was a team of dedicated supporters behind the keen performers.

Suzanne Creighton, who works at Guy's Hospital, discovered the 'All the Bells' ringing project in an Olympic update for people who had lost out on Games tickets earlier this year. She approached Fr Ray Andrews, vicar of the nearby church of St George the Martyr, and he happily agreed for his dormant bells to be rung. Suzanne's enthusiasm was so infectious that she soon gathered a clutch of colleagues to ring the bells with her. The only slight problem was that none of them had ever rung a church bell before!

With a gentle steer from Southwark Cathedral in the direction of the University of London Society, the novices soon found themselves learning with the UL band at St Olave's, Hart Street, until eventually the time came to have a go on their chosen bells. On just three short occasions they had a chance to practice at St George the Martyr under the tutelage of Dominic and Rhiannon Meredith, along with various helpers from UL and Southwark Cathedral. By the big day their enthusiasm had spread and they had been joined by two learners from nearby St John's Waterloo.

On the Friday morning everyone arrived in good time and great spirits, and all had a go – some with assistance, and some already ringing on their own. Thanks to all who helped and to all who rang, and massive congratulations to our new ringers!



Photo Caption - Back row: Jonathan Slack, Ben Meyer, Joe Taylor; Middle row: Tom Nagel, Peter Jasper, Thomas Wood, Terry Bryan, Dominic Meredith, Joan Xavier, Trisha Shannon; Front row: Delroy Osbourne, Joy Crumly, Jaeyoon "Janie" Yi, Suzanne Creighton

(The novices were Suzanne, Joy, Joan, Terry and Janie, with Del and Joe more advanced. The rest were helpers.)

You can also hear the ring on [YouTube](#).

This article first appeared in the Ringing World 10th August 2012.

New Regular ringing practices begin at St George's

From Wednesday 5th September there will be a regular practice to develop the new band at St George the Martyr, Borough High Street, starting at 17:30 to accommodate helpers who will then be moving on to their regular practice at Southwark Cathedral. Extra helpers who don't need to rush off will be most welcome! The church is diagonally opposite Borough Station. Trisha Shannon



[A summers day out with the youth of Surrey](#)

Posted: Sun, 09 Sep 2012 19:38:50 +0000

Sunday, 9 Sep 2012

Phillip Ridley reports on a good day out along the river.

It's lunchtime on the 28th July and the belfry of St Mary's Battersea awaited the arrival of the young ringers of Surrey Association. As the ringers started to arrive at 1pm, the enthusiastic greetings and conversations meant that ringing didn't quite commence on time but OH WELL we had a positive start!

We promised a very supportive Bob Cooles some good ringing so we got underway by taking it easy with simple methods such as "plain bob major, grandsire triples and Yorkshire". Stimulated by our success thus far we all decided to push the boat out "a tad" and rang 3 leads of Bristol Major followed by some 8 spliced kindly called by Tim. Everyone was pleasantly surprised that we made it to the end of the 8 spliced, even with a slightly dodgy moment coming out of London into the Superlative! This wide variety of methods by the end of the first of three towers meant that everyone had already learnt something new or "blown away the cobwebs" by ringing something they hadn't rung for quite a while! After an hour of ringing at Battersea we had some time to enjoy the "Olympic Family Sports Day" being held in the church grounds. This proved rather entertaining with scenes of Peter Jasper on the surfing simulator, a bellringers tug of war competition, and taking on the church choir in another tug of war competition! After our fitness regime and a spot of lunch, we got our passports ready as we crossed the border into Middlesex from Surrey and to Chelsea Old Church for some more ringing. This rather quaint little set of bells was a well-received tower grab for some of the Surrey ringers. After a warm reception from Keith Hood, we were left in the capable hands of Mr Jasper who ran the ringing and again pushed everyone that little bit out of their comfort zone so they felt they had tried something new but the ringing was still of a reasonable standard. Again this ranged from some ringers having their first blows (and doing extremely well) in plain hunt on 8 and others refreshing their minds with Cambridge and London Surprise Major.

After expressing our thanks to Keith for the bells, we set off down the river to St Mary's Putney. We all took slightly different routes as people had different young person railcards and oyster card deals. Upon arrival there was a jazz band playing and a bbq so we took some time out and sat by the river until the social event came to a close and we could start ringing. This proved to be a good time for discussion of the future of young ringers in the Surrey Association and what we can all do to keep young ringers meeting up across the county. Various future events were suggested along with people volunteering to organise them. However none of this was set in stone, so watch this space to see what happens!

Finally the band had stopped playing and we made our way up the tower to start ringing. The first touch was extremely exciting with sooty becoming the star conductor of Grandsire Triples! His style was an interesting one as he conducted via Peter Jasper (left ear indicated single, right ear indicated bob). Alas while attempting to call the "Direct Line Touch" (plain, single, plain, single, plain, single.....plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, bob), he lost track of which single he was on! But never fear...this is Sooty! To resolve the situation he simply called a magic bob and by shouting "Izzy Whizzy Let's Get Busy!", and the touch magically came round! Following this rather exciting touch some more fairly standard ringing took place before we hit the pub for some food and drink!

Overall, a day of fun and laughter and a perfect example of a fun day's ringing! We hope this is the first of many exciting future young ringers events in the Surrey Association area. If any ringers aged 35 or under would like to join us on our events then check out our "[Surrey Youths](#)" facebook page!



Young Ringers Summer Holiday Practices - Capel, Newdigate and Buckland

Posted: Mon, 03 Sep 2012 22:50:43 +0000

Monday, 3 Sep 2012

Ten young ringers from the Northern and Southern District met up in the last week of the summer holiday to ring at three towers in deepest Surrey. A full report will be posted shortly but a selection of photos are now on the [gallery](#).

Many thanks to Michael Uphill for organising another very successful event and to all those who came along to help.



Bell Ringing for the Paralympic Games

Posted: Fri, 24 Aug 2012 17:19:15 +0000

Friday, 24 Aug 2012

The London 2012 Olympic Games may be over but the Paralympic Games are just about to start and we are being encouraged to ring our bells and welcome the competitors to London.

Four flames in one - four separate flames were lit on the 22nd August by scouts and mountaineers on the highest peaks of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over the next 5 days the flames will be carried to London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast and then onto Stoke Mandeville, the home of the Paralympics, where it will be combined into one flame on the 28th August. From here, the flame will be carried in a 24 hour relay to the Olympic Park.

When to ring - Surrey ringers are being encouraged to ring between now and the 29th August to support the flames as they travel across GB, and on the day of the Opening Ceremony on the 29th August.

As with the Olympic Games, this is another wonderful opportunity to involve as many young ringers as you can whatever their level of ability.

Recording the Events - Thank you all for emailing me details of when you rang during the Olympic Games. The [webpage](#) is being updated regularly as the information is received. If your tower is not listed, please email me as soon as you can saying when and what you rang. Photos are welcome too, and don't forget to email me details of ringing for the Paralympic Games.

profficer [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Carolina Goodship)

[Summer Holiday Ringing for Young Members](#)

Posted: Wed, 15 Aug 2012 11:46:31 +0000

Wednesday, 15 Aug 2012

Michael Uphill has organised 3 days of ringing during August with plenty of helpers to get young ringers more practice over the summer holiday. On the 14th August, six ringers joined us at Limpsfield Chart, Godstone and Nutfield and the ringing ranged from call changes & plain hunt to more complex methods such as Single Oxford Minor and St Simons.

Four youngsters took advantage of the second of the three summer holiday events at Barnes, West Hill, Wandsworth and Wimbledon on August 16th, assisted by eight slightly/rather more experienced adults.

The lower than hoped for attendance enabled each to have a greater share of the ringing. Peter from Wimbledon rang touches of Stedman Triples and called touches of Grandsire Doubles. Alex from West Hill, Wandsworth worked on his Grandsire Doubles and covering while George from South Croydon plugged away at his Bob Doubles. But we were really kept on our toes by Joe from South Croydon, who, two days previously, with his mate James had rung three new methods, Stedman Doubles, St Simons Doubles and Single Oxford Bob Minor. Not only did he progress to ringing "affected" touches of Stedman Doubles. He also got us learning (!) and ringing New Bob Doubles which we successfully completed twice and Frodsham Bob Minor. We just about managed to finish the first attempt of the latter. Alas the strain was just too much for a band with combined experience of about 250 years and we didn't quite manage to complete the second attempt!

The President of the Central Council was heard to say that she was not entirely certain that Frodsham Bob Minor would catch on in Surrey but who knows!

There is another opportunity to join in on Thursday August 30th with a programme, still provisional at present, of Capel (1.30pm), Newdigate (2.45pm) and Buckland (4pm). Watch this space for confirmation. At present we have 6 youngsters and 7 helpers signed up for the afternoon. Contact [Michael Uphill](#) if you would like to come.

Carolina Goodship

[Ringing during the London 2012 Olympic Games](#)

Posted: Fri, 10 Aug 2012 11:25:43 +0000

Friday, 10 Aug 2012

With the London 2012 Olympic almost at a close, here are some of the ringing highlights from towers around Surrey.

The Olympic torch travelled to many parts of Surrey between the 20th and 26th July before making its way down the River Thames from Hampton Court to the Olympic Park at Stratford on the 27th July. Most of the 16 towers along the route of the torch rang to celebrate its arrival and some were photographed and reported by the local media.

Many more towers made a brilliant effort to ring on the day of the Opening Ceremony with full circle ringing and chiming taking place at 08:12 as well as quarter peals and peals later in the day. At St John's Redhill, Jane

Holland chimed Rounds, Queens, Titums, Kings and the theme from Chariots of Fire on the Friday morning; and at Esher around £500 was raised as local parishioners aged between 5 and 65 chimed the bells in a sponsored fund raising event.

On the first full day of the Games, ringers on the route of the cycle road race completed their own mini marathon as they negotiated their way passed closed roads and huge crowds to reach their towers and ring for the competing cyclists. In London, the Southwark Cathedral ringers took part in a simultaneous peal with St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

To read more about towers who rang at the various events, click [here](#).

In a first for St Paul's Cathedral, an all female band rang a peal of Stedman Cinques on the 5th August for the women's Olympic marathon. Congratulations to Shirley McGill, northern district master, who was one of the ringers in the band.

And finally, listen out for the bells at St Margaret's Westminster in Parliament Square on the 12 August. The Surrey Association will be attempting a peal of 2012 Stedman Caters conducted by Michael Uphill. The band will be made up of resident Surrey ringers and will include Gavin Bennett (Southwark Cathedral), Jeremy and Sheila Cheesman (Benhillton), Andrew Clarke (Rotherhithe), Gillian and Robin Leale (Kingston), Chris Ridley (Battersea), Michael Uphill (Putney & Southwark Cathedral), and Peter Valuks (Southwark Cathedral). Good luck to you all.

profficer [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Carolina Goodship)

[12 bells on a summers evening](#)

Posted: Sun, 05 Aug 2012 10:13:40 +0000

Sunday, 5 Aug 2012

Yvonne Cooper reports on the recent joint districts 12 bell practice.

This Joint Practice was held on a beautiful evening in July and I hope you are reading these comments in an equally lovely Autumn. There were 27 who came to ring, including a visitor from Toronto. South Croydon proved a good central tower and people travelled from many parts of the Association, from Southwark Cathedral to Lingfield and Horley and from Dorking to Caterham.

Michael Moreton welcomed the five people who arrived just before 7 pm and had us ringing call changes on the back six. Then the ringing room started to fill up and we moved on to ringing on 12. During the evening method ringing was interspersed with call changes and plain hunt which proved a good mix.

Actual volunteers to call changes on 12 were strangely absent so apart from one occasion it was left to the Southern District Master to call them. Everyone seemed to enjoy the call changes and it was encouraging to see Linda, a very new ringer from Caterham St Mary, ready to ring just back strokes in the rounds and call changes. Coming from the 8 at her local tower to 12 must have seemed somewhat formidable. However she seemed undeterred. Congratulations to her. The Plain Hunt flowed nicely.

There was a plain course and a touch of Grandsire Cinques and a couple of touches of Stedman. It proved to be not such a good evening for Stedman, which never really settled down on either occasion. Three leads of Kent proved easier. I left just before the end but I understand that the evening ended with half a course of Cambridge Max which was quite good.

It seemed to be an evening when old friends met up and new acquaintances were made. There were opportunities for all, as people were asked what they wanted to ring. If you didn't visit on this occasion think about coming next time. If you are an experienced ringer perhaps you could come prepared to volunteer to call changes on the 12! If, like me, you wondered if it was worth the effort to visit to ring on 12, you might have an opportunity to ring a method on 11 for the first time. I rather enjoyed it. If you want to ring rounds and call changes or plain hunt you can do that. Just come and enjoy yourself whatever you want to ring.

Thank you to Michael for making the tower available and to Kate for taking the practice.

Yvonne Cooper

[The Training Officer speaks on BBC Surrey](#)

Posted: Sun, 22 Jul 2012 09:30:49 +0000

Sunday, 22 Jul 2012

On the morning of Sunday 22nd July, the Association's Training Officer, Kate Desbottes, was interviewed on BBC Radio Surrey. Although the subject of the interview was "Ringing for the Olympics" Kate managed to cover a variety of topics, including the nationwide fellowship of ringers, and training. For the next five days you can listen to the interview on BBC iPlayer by clicking on the link [here](#). Kate's interview starts at about 2 hours 25 minutes 30 seconds (2:25:30) into the programme. Use the "slider" at the top of the page to go to the correct point.

[Godstone and Bletchingley rings bells to welcome torch](#)

Posted:Sat, 21 Jul 2012 14:15:11 +0000

Saturday, 21 Jul 2012

Sally Nancarrow of BBC Surrey visited Godstone on Friday 20 July and wrote an article that starts:

One of the youngest bell ringers in Surrey began his school summer holidays by helping to welcome the Olympic torch into the county.

As the torch relay crossed the border from Kent, 10-year-old James Goodship was among eight bell ringers who rang at St Nicholas Church, Godstone.

The ancient parish church sits in the Surrey Hills, above the village green where thousands of people gathered to see the torch.

They included hundreds of children from local schools who, like James, were allowed to leave early on the last day of term to join the celebrations.

[Click here](#) for the full article on the BBC website.

Also, Ed Muller, Tower Captain of Bletchingley, was interviewed on the Surrey Breakfast with Nick Wallis (BBC Southern Counties Radio) that morning. You can listen to it at around 8.49am on the BBC iPlayer. [Click here](#).

[Are you Ready for the Olympic Games? Be Inspired: Be Involved!](#)

Posted:Tue, 17 Jul 2012 12:00:14 +0000

Tuesday, 17 Jul 2012

Our website has recently updated its page with information about ringing for the 2012 London Olympic Games. Click [here](#) to go directly to the page. The page gives ringers information of when to ring during the torch relay, the Opening Ceremony and the during the Games itself.

So don't miss out on this great opportunity to be part of the celebrations and make sure your tower is ringing during the Games.

If you have any questions, do get in touch.

profficer [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Carolina Goodship)

PS Details of when to ring for the Paralympic Games will be sent out in early August.

[11/12 Cheesman partnership quarter at Southwark](#)

Posted:Tue, 10 Jul 2012 14:10:43 +0000

Tuesday, 10 Jul 2012

Jeremy and Sheila Cheesman rang the 11th and 12th in a quarter peal at Southwark recently, a first on these bells for both of them.

<http://www.campanophile.com/view.aspx?145563>



[Call Change Striking Competition 2012](#)

Posted: Tue, 10 Jul 2012 17:07:54 +0000

Tuesday, 10 Jul 2012

Colliers Wood hosted this years call change striking competition on Saturday 7th July where 5 teams competed for the Sid Saban trophy.

Bands entered from Benhilton, Colliers Wood, Croydon Minster, Docklands and Wimbledon and our judge was Dominic Meredith from Beckenham.

The trophy was won by Croydon Minster.



Stephen Aldridge receives the trophy from judge Dominic Meredith on behalf of the Croydon Minster band

[More tales from deepest Wales](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jul 2012 12:56:54 +0000

Wednesday, 4 Jul 2012

Due to popular demand, Heather Griffiths has prepared a follow up to "[Puff the Magic Dragon Bob Minor](#)", published in 6 Feb 2012. Heather has just completed her first year at Aberystwyth University and recounts her experiences with the university ringers.

In my previous article, I reported that the Welsh Colleges' Society of Change Ringers' Dinner Dance was approaching. Since then, a lot has happened in the Aberystwyth University Society of Change Ringers (AUSCR) calendar.

This year, the annual Dinner Dance was held in the City of London. For many members, this was a convenient point at which to converge. Sadly, this was not the case for the Aberystwyth ringers; a long car journey lay ahead which, due to unfortunate timing, included snow. Despite this, we made good progress until we were within five miles of the hall in which we were staying; at this point, judging by the number of times I saw the same buildings, we did three tours of central London. Never in my life have I seen so many road works and one way streets! However, we eventually made it, and convened with others in the agreed pub.

As is always the case with Welsh Colleges' tours, the weekend was most enjoyable. Saturday morning consisted of ringing, with the AGM taking place after lunch. In the evening, the aforementioned Dinner Dance took place, consisting of a three course meal, speeches and a disco. Sunday morning ringing consisted of a choice of towers, before lunch and farewells. The weekend was a great success, until it was time to go home; in short, the car broke down and we ended up on the train. Oh well – "worse things happen at sea".

It is worth noting we returned to Aberystwyth with an extra companion by the name of Rhys the Fflys, Cardiff's sheep. Each institution has their own mascot which traditionally accompanies them on tours. Much to the dismay of the mascot keeper, however, this mascot is frequently central to friendly rivalry; where possible the mascots are kidnapped by other universities, to have a "holiday" in other belfries. Aberystwyth is represented by Cader and Idris, two enormous dragons. I was fairly sure their size would mean they are



immune to kidnappings, thus agreeing to be mascot keeper of the latter dragon, however have since been assured this is not the case.



I'm pleased to announce Idris is yet to have a "holiday" while under my watchful eye, primarily as he did not attend the Welsh Colleges' Easter Tour in Norwich in April due to logistical issues, though I am sure it is only a matter of time before this achievement is ruined.

After AUSCR's AGM and committee elections at the end of February, the newly elected master volunteered to organise a tour around south Wales, in the vicinity of Llansteffan. In order to return to Aberystwyth for Sunday ringing, we were away for only one night, leaving Aberystwyth on Friday afternoon and returning the following evening. During the course of the weekend, we rang a quarter peal and competed in the St. David's Guild striking competition. (The St. David's Guild is the west Wales equivalent of the Surrey Association.)

The next event is the Welsh Colleges' Summer Tour, a five day cycling tour around Lincolnshire in July. Thereafter, preparations begin for the Freshers' Fayre at the end of September. No doubt I'll be involved in this, encouraging Freshers to join this active society and embrace the chance to have fun, make new friends and develop a new skill.

In a nutshell, I've thoroughly enjoyed my first year of studying and university ringing, and am looking forward to the opportunities the next two years present. What more could you want?

Quiz question: What is Cader Idris?

Heather Griffiths

[June edition of the Northern Stars](#)

Posted: Fri, 29 Jun 2012 08:58:46 +0000

Friday, 29 Jun 2012

Copies of the June edition of Northern Stars have been distributed to Northern District towers and, for the first time, a copy has been sent out to each tower in the Southern District.

If you've not seen your copy yet, have left it in the tower or want to see what it looks like in colour you can get the digital copy from the website here:

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/ringers/newsletter>

The next edition will be in September so please send us your news, pictures and articles. Everyone is invited to contribute and we'd particularly like to hear about any ringing you take part in that's related to the Olympics.

email us at: [thenewsgroup \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:thenewsgroup[at]surreybellringers[dot]org[dot]uk)

Are you on facebook? If you want to keep up with the latest news and event details and find links to the wider community of bellringers visit the Surrey Association page and click the like button:

www.facebook.com/surreybellringers

[Battersea celebrate the Jubilee](#)

Posted: Wed, 06 Jun 2012 20:16:45 +0000

Wednesday, 6 Jun 2012

It is over 400 years since Elizabeth 1 ordered the church bells along the Thames to ring out as she passed on her way to Richmond Palace. Chelsea Old Church was rather lax on that occasion and each ringer was fined one shilling (5p or about half a weekly wage) for not ringing. A full band was therefore assembled on Sunday 3rd June at St Mary's Battersea on the day of the Jubilee River Pageant, not to avoid a similar fine, but to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2.

Battersea was fortunate in being situated only slightly downstream from where the Queen and other members of the Royal Family boarded the launch from HMS Britannia to take them to the Royal Barge Spirit of Chartwell, which together with the Royal Jubilee Bells on the Ursula Katherine, were too high to fit under the early bridges on the Thames Pageantroute.

Prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings a quarter peal of Stedman Triples was to be attempted, but the London Philharmonic Orchestra on the barge moored next to St Mary's Church were warming up which drowned out the sound of the bells in the belfry. A last minute switch to Plain Bob Major to cope with the interruptions proved to be successful with a quarter peal achieved to start off the day's proceedings. The

ringers then toasted the Queen's health (see photograph) before getting ready for the main part of the day's celebratory proceedings.

About twenty minutes later the Royal party arrived at Chelsea Harbour jetty and were watched by those in the church yard and the assembled ringers. As the Royal launch left to a fanfare of trumpets to start the River Pageant the bells of Battersea pulled off. To mark the occasion we rang rounds followed by all the bells firing with the tenor, then back into rounds before hunting into Queens and then firing in Queens. It appeared the Royals recognised the Queens, named of course after Elizabeth 1 heard the change while proceeding down Cornhill over 400 years ago, and waved to the tower.

To avoid interrupting the musical barges in the flotilla and to give the BBC broadcasters in the churchyard a break, following anxieties they had expressed the day before after finding out the bells would be ringing, the ringers took a further break until half-way through the programme when 30 minutes of general ringing took place with local ringers taking part in a range of methods from rounds and call changes to Diamond Jubilee Surprise Major.

At the last boat in the flotilla passed the church the bells commenced what was to be a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples to conclude the proceedings. The composition was of course 1260 changes to mark the year and Jubilee.

The ringing was of a high standard throughout the day and all the local ringers were congratulated on the effort and practice put in to make the day the success it was. For the record the details of the quarter peals rung were:

1344 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Phillip Ridley
- 2 Mariko Whyte
- 3 Robert Cooles
- 4 Simon Goldrick
- 5 Peter Jasper
- 6 Martin Hadley
- 7 John Goldrick
- 8 Chris Ridley (C)

Prior to the commencement of the River Pageant to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2.

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Charlotte Kirwan
- 2 Mariko Whyte
- 3 Martin Hadley
- 4 Peter Jasper
- 5 Nick Gander
- 6 Chris Ridley
- 7 Phillip Ridley (C)
- 8 Kevin Perkins

At the conclusion of the River Pageant to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2.



[Jubilee peal at Southwark](#)

Posted: Wed, 06 Jun 2012 20:35:58 +0000

Wednesday, 6 Jun 2012

Southwark cathedral ringers celebrated the Queens Jubilee and took part in the festivities of the river pageant by ringing a specially composed peal.

Cathedral Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie, Sunday 3 June 2012 in 3hr47 (48 cwt)

5007 Stedman Cinques

Composed: M J Uphill

- 1 Sheila M Cheesman
- 2 Heather M Forster
- 3 Janet E Archibald
- 4 Rachael C Smith
- 5 Michael J Uphill (C)
- 6 Christopher N McCarthy
- 7 Christopher P Giddins
- 8 Benjamin J Meyer
- 9 Ryan S Noble
- 10 Luke O Camden
- 11 Peter Valuks
- 12 Matthew E Rayner

Rung during the River Pageant, and prior to Choral Evensong for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at which the Diamond Jubilee Window was dedicated.

First Cinques: 7



[Quarter Peal Week 2012](#)

Posted: Sat, 16 Jun 2012 16:58:00 +0000

Friday, 1 Jun 2012

Another week and a bit of ringing marking the foundation of the Association in 1880 was completed. Several firsts and notable performances can be spotted amongst the successes. Click [here](#) for the complete list.

These should appear in The Ringing World in due course.

[The Annual General Meeting at St Katharine's Merstham](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 May 2012 15:39:16 +0000

Friday, 18 May 2012

Merstham hosted this year's meeting, on Saturday 12th May, commencing with ringing and a service at St. Katharine's Church followed by tea. Being the Southern District Centenary year, the local band put up the bunting for the Association and served up a superb and sumptuous ringing tea.

Sheila Cheesman completed her three years as General Master and Patrick Wills of Coulsdon was proposed and duly elected to take up the post. As Patrick was on holiday in New York a message from him was read out at the meeting, this is available here: <http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/news/new-masters-introduction>.

Michael Uphill also completed his three years as Training Officer and in a lively and slightly controversial address reflected on his tenure and offered his views on 'moodles' (not noodles). Kate Desbottes takes over the role of Training Officer.

Kate Flavell, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and a ringer at Kingston, gave a short talk on the work of the Council and the Ringing Foundation.

The importance of securing the future of change ringing by recruiting and retaining more young people was a theme of both speakers. There are challenges to overcome, not least in the popular image of bell ringing, the increasing competition for young peoples time and attention and heightened concern for child protection. The discussion highlighted the different shades of opinion on the right way forward but also recognised that we all share a common desire to see change ringing flourish.

For those interested in more of this debate Michael has written to the Ringing World with his views, so keep an eye on the letters pages. Kate reminded members of the account Paul Flavell wrote on last years national conference on the future of change ringing, which we published on our website, and also recommended to everyone the 2012 Central Council Supplement to the Ringing World.

<http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/change-ringing-future-wellesbourne-conference-2011>

<http://cccbr.org.uk/council/meetings/2012/CC-2012-RW-Supplement.pdf>

More than 20 new members were elected and several life memberships awarded at the meeting. Chris Kimber was one of the youngest members to receive this recognition having first become a member at the age of 9. It was also good to see old friends, Keith Matthews and Andy Brown, from Devon and Cornwall respectively, who came up for the meeting.

The meeting closed with an opportunity for further ringing at St. Katharine's

Copies of the 2012 report are being distributed to all towers. Information on how to obtain additional copies is on the website <http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/about-us/publications>





[The New Master's Introduction](#)

Posted: Sat, 12 May 2012 21:17:14 +0000

Saturday, 12 May 2012

Patrick Wills was elected General Master at today's AGM. He had passed on a message that was read out and is reproduced here:

It was a great embarrassment for me not to have been at the AGM on 12th May when I was elected General Master of the Association. This was entirely my fault – a “double booking” in my diary resulted in me being on holiday in New York on the day of the AGM!

To say that I am honoured to have been elected Master of this Association would be an understatement. It is quite daunting to follow Sheila Cheesman, who has been a superb Master and has led the Association (with only a short break) since 2004. There have been some dramatic changes in that time – notably developments in the use of IT (think simulators and web sites) – and we should all be grateful for Sheila's wisdom, patience, and tact in guiding the Association through these exciting times. Her act will be a difficult one to follow!

When I look at the list of Past Masters I see the names of ringers who have become legends; the names of ringers who were (or are) great conductors; the names of ringers who have been inspirational leaders of the Association; and the names of ringers I have never heard of! I suspect that in 50 years' time, when people look at the list of Past Masters, my name will fall into that final category. However, I do hope that during my term of office I can put forward some ideas and initiatives which will further the Objects of the Association.

As I see it, the most pressing need is to recruit more ringers – and particularly young ones. With the help of the Training Committee I want to make a determined effort to have 150 new members of the Association by May 2015. That's an average of just two new members in each active tower in the Association. That must be achievable, surely?

In the last year I have visited most of the towers in the Southern District on their practice nights (and I propose to do the same in the Northern District in the next twelve months). I am sorry to say that what I have experienced in some towers does not fill me with confidence for the future. Practices are often unstructured, with no attention paid to striking. It will be a long, hard struggle to change this – particularly as some tower captains seem unaware that there is a problem. Perhaps if we actively encourage more towers to have combined practices with other nearby towers the situation will improve. I would welcome your views on this.

Over the last few years we have begun to see the breakdown of the “North – South Divide”, with more events encompassing both Districts. I believe that boundaries are artificial things, created purely for administrative purposes, and I would like to see more people crossing those boundaries – in both directions. To help this happen I would like to see one copy of each edition of “News of the South” sent to each tower in the Northern

District (and vice versa for “The Northern Stars”). Similarly, I propose to explore links with all the adjoining associations, with the aim of holding joint meetings and (possibly) joint training events.

In conclusion, this year the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games give us a unique opportunity to put our ringing well and truly in the public eye – let’s make the most of that opportunity!

That’s All – for now!

Patrick

Using call changes to improve striking

Posted: Fri, 11 May 2012 10:05:16 +0000

Friday, 11 May 2012

Using call changes to improve striking was the theme of a training event held on May 5th at Carshalton. In this article course leader Michael Uphill tells us about the course and we hear from one of the students, Elizabeth LeMoine.

Introducing the Devon Short Peal

I chose this subject – and its particular format – for my final event as Training Officer because I believe it has much to offer ringers at all levels.

In a recent television interview the internationally celebrated Chinese pianist, Lang Lang, spoke of his need to practice his scales daily, sometimes for up to an hour. For ringers, “rounds” are our scales. They are essential but to practice them for up to an hour would be torture. Nevertheless rounds must be rung to enable the establishment of evenness and control.

There are far too many ringers who have little idea of what evenness and control is, let alone how to achieve it, because they have never been taught to listen to their own bell or to ring to a rhythm. How many times have we heard a fellow ringer say, “I know that my striking is awful, because I just can’t hear my own bell properly”?

Are you one of these? Or are you, perhaps, somebody who sometimes gets asked to “mix them up a bit” but don’t really have much of a clue as to how to do so? How many times have we all been ringing call changes where the “mixer up” gets mixed up him (or her) self, resulting in long periods stuck on the same row and everybody thinking, “Get this over with as soon as possible”. When boredom sets in the ringing quickly deteriorates.

This is where the Devon “short” or “queens” peal comes in. Here it is.

123456	315246	532416	254136	421356	143526	132546
123546	351246	523416	245136	412356	134526	123546
132546	352146	524316	241536	413256	135426	123456
135246	352416	524136	241356	413526	135246	

The bells are called into queens. The treble is then called one place at a time to the back, followed by 3,5,2,4 until the bells are back in queens. Then back to rounds. It is a very simple, structured formula in which, as each bell moves to the back, the others, who are otherwise static, strike over it before it passes them and then revert to the bell that they were previously following. Each bell has an equal spell at leading and “hunting” to the back. I use the word “hunting” because, as will be seen in the middle five columns above, the sequence of changes for each bell leaving the lead is the same as hunting to the back. The stability created by each of the other bells remaining static, and following the same bell throughout (except when leading and when the “hunting” bell is passing through) is a great aid for establishing rhythm. Becoming familiar with the “peal” and following the same bell for most of the time helps ringers enormously in their ability to hear their own bell. Good leading and covering is, of course, essential. Properly used and sympathetically conducted the “peal” provides a really useful basic exercise in control, striking, listening and rhythm.

I commenced the morning with a brief account of how I became interested in call-changes when I visited Fulham, Putney’s neighbouring tower, at that time a “stony” (call-change) tower and was introduced to the above by John Bell of Brixham, Devon, who was working in London and ringing at Fulham. I then put on the screen a number of photographs of various sportsmen “running with the ball” and asked the students “What is going on here? What would a television commentator be describing?” I then moved on to the columns of figures reproduced above and soon teased out of the group that the “hunting” bell was the equivalent of the sportsman

running with the ball. The answer to the age-old question of “calling up” and “calling down” became, to continue with the sporting idiom, a “no-brainer.”

The “hunting” bell – “the man with the ball” – does not get a mention from the commentator (conductor) who calls “down.” What commentator would describe the bystanders and not the action? The conductor who calls “down” is rather like the man who goes to the Folies Bergere to look at the audience. (No offence intended to all you “callers down!”). We even got one dyed-in-the-wool caller “down” to agree that it made sense, that it was much easier, but that he’d never get his “lot” to change!

It was a great morning, which progressed in high spirit with, I believe, seven ringers calling this “peal” for the first time. I hope they will all now look up the full version, the famous Devonshire Competition touch – the “60 on thirds” – which is in the Ringing World Diary (page 24 this year) and conducted to similar rules. Perhaps we’ll even have such a competition in Surrey one day. I’d be there!

Michael Uphill

A students review

It was a pleasure being offered the last opportunity to take advantage of Michael Uphill's expertise as Training Officer Saturday 5 May at Carshalton, where I was one among a group learning to conduct a Devon Short Peal and finding out how this useful piece can be employed to improve listening and rhythm. In a supportive atmosphere almost everyone had a go at conducting whilst colleagues provided ringing. After watching others carefully, when it came to my turn I found it easier than expected, no doubt due to the excellent preparation we were given. I have only the most basic experience of conducting call changes, but with responsibility for one of the towers where I ring, I need to increase my repertoire and ability to conduct and am keen to help other ringers improve their listening and striking. There was some very solid ringing and everyone improved their listening skills. I am sure our tutor would be pleased to know that I put my new skill into practice first thing the next morning, conducting a Devon Short Peal for Sunday service at my home tower. How to encourage learners to hear their bell, and how as conductor to hear and make gentle corrections to striking were my objectives and it was good to spend a morning focusing on these skills whilst learning something about a distinctive ringing sub-culture.

Elizabeth LeMoine

The Devon "short" or "queens" peal

The bells are called into queens. The treble is then called one place at a time to the back, followed by 3,5,2,4 until the bells are back in queens. Then back to rounds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	4 to 5
1	2	3	5	4	6	2 to 3
1	3	2	5	4	6	2 to 5
1	3	5	2	4	6	1 to 3
3	1	5	2	4	6	1 to 5
3	5	1	2	4	6	1 to 2
3	5	2	1	4	6	1 to 4
3	5	2	4	1	6	3 to 5
5	3	2	4	1	6	3 to 2
5	2	3	4	1	6	3 to 4
5	2	4	3	1	6	3 to 1
5	2	4	1	3	6	5 to 2
2	5	4	1	3	6	5 to 4
2	4	5	1	3	6	5 to 1
2	4	1	5	3	6	5 to 3
2	4	1	3	5	6	2 to 4
4	2	1	3	5	6	2 to 1
4	1	2	3	5	6	2 to 3
4	1	3	2	5	6	2 to 5
4	1	3	5	2	6	4 to 1
1	4	3	5	2	6	4 to 3
1	3	4	5	2	6	4 to 5
1	3	5	4	2	6	4 to 2
1	3	5	2	4	6	5 to 2
1	3	2	5	4	6	3 to 3
1	2	3	5	4	6	5 to 4
1	2	3	4	5	6	

Ringling for the Olympic Torch Relay: News Update

Posted: Tue, 08 May 2012 10:38:07 +0000

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

With just under 2 weeks to go until the Olympic Flame arrives in the UK on the 18th May, now is the time to plan your ringing during the Games.

We have a dedicated page on our website with a list of suggestions of when to ring. Click [here](#) to find out more.

London 2012 have published a detailed [map](#) showing the route of the torch. From this website you will be able to see how close the torch will pass by our churches. Do have a look and, if you haven't done so already, please let me know if you are planning to ring for the torch relay. It will help me as I get in touch with the local papers and radio stations.

profficer [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Carolina Goodship)

[Coulsdon bells are back in action!](#)

Posted: Sun, 06 May 2012 14:26:57 +0000

Sunday, 6 May 2012

After a silence of more than six months, Coulsdon bells rang out again for the morning service on Sunday 6th May.

A new ringing chamber floor has been installed above the old one, and stainless steel straps have been used to hang the old floor beams from the new ones, thus preserving the ancient floor structure. The new floorboards have been screwed down, rather than nailed, so that they can be taken up easily for viewing by interested parties (we don't expect a long queue!).

So, if you would like to ring some doubles methods, why not come along to Coulsdon on a Tuesday evening, with effect from 15th May? We practise from 8.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and you will be made very welcome.

Patrick Wills, Tower Captain

[International Women's Day Ringing Celebration](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 Apr 2012 21:09:02 +0000

Friday, 13 Apr 2012

In celebration of International Women's Day on the 8th March 2012, ladies from across the Association and further afield, came together to ring, eat cake and raise money for good causes. Those who took part had a really good time meeting up with old friends and making many new ones.

A total of seven quarter peals were attempted at Carshalton, East Molesey, Wandsworth and Cranford (Middlesex Association) and we are pleased to report that five were successful. Among these were a number of firsts. So, congratulations to Susan Bailey and Linda Foddering for conducting their first triples quarters, congratulations also to Caroline Flockton for conducting her first minor quarter peal, and congratulations to Barbara Hicks and Pamela Rider who rang their first triples quarter.

Finally, congratulations to Phraedra Sawbridge for organising the day and to all those who generously donated tea, cake and raffle prizes. We are also especially grateful to all the tower captains of our venues for so kindly waiving their tower rope fees for this cause. Just over £550 was raised on the day and will be forwarded to Welcare Carshalton.

Carolina Goodship

Details of quarter peals completed on 8th March 2012 for International Women's Day:

All Saints, Carshalton

1260 Grandsire Triples in 46 minutes

- 1 Jane Wheeler
- 2 Rosemary Lilley
- 3 Kathleen Chilcott
- 4 Carolina Goodship
- 5 Susan Bailey (Conductor)
- 6 Linda Armitage
- 7 Linda Foddering
- 8 Mary Tester

First Triples as Conductor.

1260 Plain Bob Triples in 46 minutes

- 1 Jane Wheeler
- 2 Stella Shell
- 3 Rosemary Lilley
- 4 Carol Wilkinson
- 5 Susan Gibbin
- 6 Lesley Barclay
- 7 Linda Foddering (Conductor)

8 Susan Bailey
First Triples as Conductor.

St Mary the Virgin, East Molesey
1260 Grandsire Triples in 44 minutes

Composed: P J Flavell

- 1 Barbara Hicks
 - 2 Monica Trow
 - 3 Pamela Rider
 - 4 Nikki O'Halloran
 - 5 Jane Marsters
 - 6 Caroline Flockton
 - 7 Phaedra Sawbridge(Conductor)
 - 8 Mary Tester
- First triples for 1 and 3

Holy Trinity, Wandsworth
1312 Plain Bob Major in 48 minutes

Composed: P J Flavell

- 1 Jane Wheeler
- 2 Stella Shell
- 3 Lesley Barclay
- 4 Carol Wilkinson
- 5 Jinny Kufluk
- 6 Susan Bailey
- 7 Niki Tompkinson
- 8 Linda Foddering(Conductor)

St Dunstan, Cranford (Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Louise Dixon
- 2 Monica Trow
- 3 Dorothy Barker
- 4 Phaedra Sawbridge
- 5 Caroline Flockton(Conductor)
- 6 Nikki O'Halloran

First minor as Conductor

[Association 12 bell practices - an opportunity not to be missed!](#)

Posted: Tue, 10 Apr 2012 16:24:57 +0000

Tuesday, 10 Apr 2012

As ringers at a 4 bell tower we recently had the opportunity to try something different and ring at a 12 bell tower. The occasion was a Surrey Association all-comers practice night at St. Peters, South Croydon, and as novice ringers we set out with some trepidation. Our fears were unfounded; we were welcomed with open arms. When asked how many bells in our tower, our answer of 4 was greeted with much good humoured laughter! We were then thrown in the deep end – given a bell and were instantly involved in rounds. It took a couple of rounds to get our bearings but then we were off! When we weren't involved in the rounds, we sat and listened to some wonderful method ringing on 12 bells.

This session catered for the novice and for the more experienced bell ringers. As fairly inexperienced ringers we were put at ease by being given a 'minder' which was a comfort, and the experienced ringers were more than happy to ring with us and help us out. It was a fantastic experience, both to ring on 12 bells and to listen to the methods being rung. Should the opportunity arise again we would happily take part!!

Tracy St Clair and Sue Turner from Outwood.

Editors note: The next Surrey Association 12 bell practice is scheduled for 23rd July 2012 at St. Peters South Croydon.

[Kingston are 2012 Quiz Champions](#)

Posted: Mon, 09 Apr 2012 19:16:29 +0000

Monday, 9 Apr 2012

Congratulations to Kingston who won a three way tie at the end of normal time in this year's quiz. The tie break question was "How old was the Queen Mother when she died?" and they were just 10 days out. Wimbledon were second closest to claim the silver medal and Reigate claimed the bronze. All in 19 teams and over 130 people joined together at Banstead for the annual quiz on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

If you are interested, [click here](#) for the round 1 questions and answers, [click here](#) for rounds 2 to 9 and [click here](#) for the pictures for round 5. Finally, [click here](#) for the scoresheet.

[Lucy Smith donates her hair to charity](#)

Posted: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 19:17:53 +0000

Wednesday, 28 Mar 2012

One of the youngest ringers in the area, Lucy Smith from Limpsfield, is donating her hair to the charity www.littleprincesses.org.uk. Her hair will be used to make a wig for a child who has lost theirs due to cancer treatment.

Lucy only needs to donate 17cm (7 inches) of her hair to make a wig, but she has decided to go one step further to raise money for Cancer Research, and will be shaving her head.

Lucy attends Oxted School and will be taking her GCSE exams this summer. Since the school does not normally permit extreme hairstyles, she needed special permission from the school for the haircut.

You can get more information and support Lucy by donating via the website <http://www.justgiving.com/Lucy-Smith11>.



[6 bell striking competition results](#)

Posted: Tue, 27 Mar 2012 17:06:36 +0000

Tuesday, 27 Mar 2012

This year's Association Six Bell Striking Competition was held at Limpsfield on Saturday 24th March with six teams taking part representing both Northern and Southern Districts.

The Kingston Doubles band won the day and were presented with the Taylor Trophy by guest judges John and Judy Couperthwaite from the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

The full result was (in order of ringing):

Kingston Doubles - 25 faults

Beddington - 48 faults

Caterham St John - 56 faults

Kingston Minor - 33 faults

Croydon Minster - 32 faults

Bletchingley - 50 faults

Photo shows Robin Leale collecting the trophy on behalf of the winning band.



[Northern Stars Erratum](#)

Posted: Tue, 27 Mar 2012 17:16:02 +0000

Tuesday, 27 Mar 2012

Training Event: "Using call changes to improve striking"

This training committee morning is scheduled for Saturday 5th May, but NOT at St Mary's, Wimbledon as incorrectly published in "Northern Stars". It will take place at All Saints, Carshalton, from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

This is Michael Uphill's final contribution in his role as Training Officer (though there will be more to come afterwards!).

A Poster will appear soon after Easter, together with an explanatory article.

The morning is NOT for beginners, but for established ringers who have difficulty hearing their own bell, have difficulty sticking to a rhythm, want to be able to call changers without getting lost, or want to be able to offer constructive help to improve the ringing that they are conducting. And a lot of other things as well!

If it sounds as though it is for you, put the date in your diary now, and watch out for the poster and web-site article.

MJU

[Ringing for the Olympic Torch Relay - detailed map published](#)

Posted: Mon, 19 Mar 2012 19:58:56 +0000

Monday, 19 Mar 2012

London 2012 have just published a more detailed map showing the exact route and timings of the Olympic Torch Relay. We have updated our [webpage](#) with the new information for those interested to ring for this event.

If you would like to see how close the route of the torch relay will be to your church, click [here](#) to go directly to the London 2012 Olympic Torch Map, and enter the postcode of your church.

Carolina Goodship

[The Ringing World National Youth Contest](#)

Posted: Sun, 18 Mar 2012 22:43:25 +0000

Sunday, 18 Mar 2012

The second Ringing World National Youth Contest will take place from 10am on Saturday, 30th June 2012 at St Paul's Church, Birmingham. This eight bell striking contest is an exciting opportunity for bands of ringers aged under 19 years (on 30th June) who may choose to ring Call Changes, Triples or Major.

<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/other-articles/755-rwnyc-2012.html>

Chris Stanley is organising a group to go to Birmingham on 30 June as part of this National Youth event. Ringers under 19 are invited to sign up. Helpers will be required so oldies are also welcome.

Please email Chris soon as, according to the organisers, spaces are limited: [batty \[dot\] cmjs \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:batty@cmjs@gmail.com)

[Be Inspired : Be Involved](#)

Posted: Fri, 16 Mar 2012 13:55:25 +0000

Friday, 16 Mar 2012

How will you be marking the historic events of 2012? For many of us it will be a year to remember as we ring out our bells in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

To help us plan for these events, there are two new pages on our [Events](#) section. Click [here](#) for details about ringing during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and click [here](#) for details about the 2012 London Olympic Games. Information can also be found in the March 2012 issues of the Northern Stars and NOTs.

Ringing for England 23rd April

Libby Alexander from the Ringing for England Campaign is asking if we can all ring at 6pm on 23rd April, St Georges Day. If you are taking part, please email [gensec \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:gensec@surreybellringers.org.uk) (Richard Wallis) so he can collate all the information.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2nd to 5th June

There is a long tradition of English church bells ringing out to celebrate significant royal events, and so it is of no surprise that bells will be a key part of the official celebrations. Details of the River Pageant and how bell ringers can be involved are set out on this [page](#).

[profficer \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:profficer@surreybellringers.org.uk) (Carolina Goodship) will be collecting details of all ringing taking place during this weekend for the Surrey Association. Just send an email saying when and what you rang.

2012 London Olympic Games

23-26 July Torch Relay

27 July Games Opening Ceremony

28-29 July Cycle Road Race

29 Aug - 9 Sept Paralympic Games

Details of ringing for the torch relay, opening ceremony and the road cycle are on this [page](#). Information about ringing for the Paralympic Games will be given later in the year.

In line with the Cultural Olympiad's vision of involving young people, we are being encouraged to involve as many young ringers as we can whatever their level of ability.

Be Inspired Be Involved

Whatever you ring and whenever you ring, the important thing is to be involved. The PR Committee will be collating details of all ringing during the Games. So if you rang a touch, quarter or a peal, please let us know.

Any questions or comments, email [profficer \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:profficer@surreybellringers.org.uk) (Carolina Goodship).

Caterham F1 Team Celebrated

Posted: Sat, 10 Mar 2012 20:13:38 +0000

Saturday, 10 Mar 2012

Being brought up in Caterham means that the town is rather special to me. It is also rather unique for two of my passions:

- In bellringing, no other town in the world had no rings of bells in 1974, but just 20 years later had two rings of eight. In 1975, the bells of St Mary the Virgin, Lambeth were moved to St John's, Catherham after the former church closed. Then, in 1993, following a severe fire at All Saints Hamer, their six bells were moved to St Mary's, Caterham and augmented with two new bells.
- In Formula One, Caterham is the only town in the world with a Constructor named after it - thanks to Caterham Cars obtaining the manufacturing rights from Colin Chapman and Lotus to the Lotus 7 and creating the Caterham 7 sports car.



So, on the morning of Saturday 10 March 2012, one week before the first Grand Prix of the 2012 Season, in Australia, some ringers gathered to mark this event and to wish the team luck in the 20 races this year.

I am pleased to say that both were successful:

Caterham, St Mary 1260 Grandsire Triples in 48 minutes: Susan Gibbin 1, Noel Gibbin 2, Diane Reynolds 3, Jane Holland 4, Richard Wallis (C) 5, Matthew Rose 6, David Wallis 7, Frances Clementi 8.

Caterham, St John 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major in 48 minutes: Jane Holland 1, Noel Gibbin 2, Matthew Rose 3, Diane Reynolds 4, Susan Gibbin 5, Richard Wallis 6, Nigel Goodship 7, David Wallis (C) 8.

Both rung to mark the formation of the Caterham Formula One team and to pass on best wishes for the forthcoming season.

Richard Wallis



Back: Frances Clementi, Matthew Rose, Noel Gibbin

Middle: Susan Gibbin, Jane Holland, Richard Wallis

Front: David Wallis, Diane Reynolds, Nigel Goodship

[Towers map page offline](#)

Posted: Sat, 10 Mar 2012 20:46:22 +0000

Saturday, 10 Mar 2012

Regular users of the website will have noticed that our interactive map, showing the locations of all our towers, has been offline for a few weeks. The map page was linked to Multimaps (now Bing maps). We are currently in the process of sorting the problem and hope to have a new map page back online in the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, towers can be searched using the [directory](#).

Carolina Goodship

[Peal Weekend 16-20 Feb 2012](#)

Posted: Fri, 24 Feb 2012 09:58:28 +0000

Friday, 24 Feb 2012

This year's Surrey Association peal weekend attempted 16 peals of which 14 were scored. A quarter peal of 8 spliced was rung at Charshalton after the loss of the peal.

A big thank you to all those that took part and to the towers for accommodating us. Also thanks to the conductors who steered their bands through some stickier moments.

Shirley McGill

Full details of the peals rung will appear in the Ringing World and are provided below.

BUCKLAND, Surrey, SMV

Thurs Feb 16 2012 2h33(5)

5040 Minor

5 methods: 1440 Cambridge Surprise, 2 extents Plain Bob, 1 extent each of St Clements College Bob, Double Oxford Bob & Lakesend Bob Minor

- 1 Jane Wheeler
- 2 Thomas Wood
- 3 Oliver H J Thompson
- 4 Roderic K Bickerton
- 5 Stephen R Aldridge
- 6 Christopher R McLean(C)

First minor: 1

Most methods: 2

OUTWOOD, Surrey, St John the Baptist

Fri Feb 17 2012 2h39(4)

5160 11 Minimus

10 extents: Reverse Court, 15 extents each of Single Court, Double Court, St Nicholas, Reverse St Nicholas, 20 extents each of Canterbury, Reverse Canterbury, Double Canterbury, 25 extents of Reverse Bob and 30 extents each of Plain and Double Bob.

- 1 Thomas Wood
- 2 Oliver H J Thompson
- 3 Andrew J Holland
- 4 Christopher R McLean(C)

First minimus: 1, 2 & 4
Most methods: 1 & 2
25th for the association: 2
Rung in memory of Harold Rogers

EPSOM COMMON, Surrey, Christ Church

Fri Feb 17 2012 2h38(8)
5024 Bristol S Major

Arranged: J W Belshaw

- 1 James W Belshaw (c)
- 2 Sheila M Cheesman
- 3 Ian G Campbell
- 4 Ronald F Diserens
- 5 Anne L Rueff
- 6 Ryan S Noble
- 7 Geraldine R Forster
- 8 John E Hawes

In memoriam Harold W Rogers

STREATHAM, London SW16, St Leonard

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h37(12)
5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp: D Jones

- 1 Patrick I Wills
- 2 Kate J Desbottes
- 3 Janet E Archibald
- 4 Penelope J V Sharpe
- 5 Ryan S Noble
- 6 Gavin D Bennett
- 7 Michael R Crockett
- 8 David G Salter (C)

PUTNEY, London SW15, St Mary

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h53(12)
5056 Superlative Surprise Major

Comp: C H Hattersley

- 1 Shirley E McGill
- 2 Clara P Westlake
- 3 Lee Pinnington
- 4 Michael P Moreton
- 5 Alexander J Britton
- 6 Catherine N Merlane
- 7 Christopher F Mew (C)
- 8 Stephen R T Pocock

Rung in memory of Harold W Rogers.
First in method – 2

NUTFIELD, Surrey, SS Peter & Paul

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h38(11)
5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Comp: D Salter (no 8)

- 1 Vicky Williams
- 2 Oliver H J Thompson
- 3 Monica M Trow
- 4 Christopher R McLean
- 5 Roderic K Bickerton
- 6 David G Salter(C)

First TB hunting: 1
 50th for the Association: 4
 In memory of Harold W Rogers.

CRANLEIGH, Surrey, St Nicolas

Sat Feb 18 2012 3h5(17)
 5088 Lessness Surprise Major

Comp: Stanley Jenner

- 1 Ronald F Diserens
- 2 Anne L Rueff
- 3 Stephen R Aldridge
- 4 Anne M Anthony
- 5 J Richard Anthony
- 6 Christopher R McLean
- 7 Andrew J Holland
- 8 John E Hawes (C)

1st in method 3,4,5,6,7

COLLIERS WOOD, London SW19, Christ Church

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h36(6)
 5040 Doubles

3 methods: 14 extents each of St Simons, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob, Plain Bob

- 1 Lois Saville
- 2 Kerrigan.X.Smith
- 3 Alexandra L Stanley
- 4 Nick Rata
- 5 Christopher M J Stanley C
- 6 Greg Rata

First peal: 6
 Most methods: 2 and 4

CATERHAM VALLEY, Surrey, St John Evangelist

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h58(17)
 5024 Lincolnshire S Major

Comp: J W Belshaw

- 1 Jane Holland
- 2 Stephanie J Pattenden
- 3 Ronald F Diserens
- 4 Anne L Rueff
- 5 Stephen R Aldridge
- 6 Andrew J Holland
- 7 James W Belshaw (C)
- 8 Michael R Crockett

BERMONDSEY, London SE16, St James

Sat Feb 18 2012 2h54(14)
 5120 Bristol S Major

Comp: A J Cox

- 1 Michael P Moreton
- 2 Shirley E McGill
- 3 Lee Pinnington
- 4 Catherine N Merlane
- 5 Geraldine R Forster
- 6 Christopher Ridley
- 7 Stephen R T Pocock
- 8 Ian R Fielding (C)

WANDSWORTH, London SW15, Holy Trinity

Sun Feb 19 2012 2h56 (15)
5120 Spliced S Major

8 methods: 896 Rutland, 704 Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, 640 Cambridge,
576 London, Superlative, Pudsey, 448 Bristol, 87com atw

Comp: P G K Davies

- 1 Stephen R T Pocock
- 2 Shirley E McGill
- 3 Anne L Rueff
- 4 Anne M Anthony
- 5 J Richard Anthony
- 6 Jonathan E Martin
- 7 Lee Pinnington
- 8 Ian R Fielding (C)

First 8 spliced: 6

ASHTEAD, Surrey, St Giles

Sun Feb 19 2012 2h50 (14)
5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp: E Bankes James

1. Alexandra L Stanley
2. Sheila M Cheesman
3. Ronald F Diserens
4. Michael R Crockett
5. Christopher Ridley
6. Ryan S Noble
7. Christopher M J Stanley (C)
8. Phaedra Sawbridge

OCKLEY, Surrey, St Margaret

Sun Feb 19 2012 2h47 (13)
5040 1 Method and 25 Variations of Grandsire Doubles

Being 42 extents: 1 – 3, 7, 13, 19 & 37 Grandsire, 4 – 6 & 10 – 12 Wilde, 8 St Quintin, 9 Ladbroke, 14, St Lucy, 15 Zennor, 16 – 18 River Leen, 20 Iron Shirt, 21 Geronimo, 22 – 24 HSD, 25 & 30 Little Birch, 26 Hoarwithy, 27 Aconbury, 28 St Helen, 29 Longparish, 31 Daffodil, 32 Dull Knife, 33 Black Kettle, 34 Wild Hog, 35 St Anne, 36 Middleton Stoney, 38 Bluebell, 39 Kings Caple, 40 Little Wolf, 41 Wormelow Tump, 42 Little Horse

- 1 Monica M Trow
- 2 Jane Holland
- 3 Christopher R McLean (C)
- 4 Andrew J Holland
- 5 Roderic K Bickerton
- 6 Oliver H J Thompson

First covering: 6
25th for the association: 2

For Quinquagesima Sunday

WALWORTH, London SE17, St Peter

Mon Feb 20 2012 2h29(4)
5056 Rutland S Major

Comp: I R Fielding

- 1 Janet E Archibald
- 2 Richard M Hobbs
- 3 Ronald F Diserens
- 4 Anne L Rueff
- 5 Phaedra Sawbridge
- 6 Christopher R McLean
- 7 Shirley E McGill
- 8 Ian R Fielding (C)

First in method: 5

Also: CARSHALTON, Surrey SM5 3PD, All Saints

Fri Feb 17 1440 Spliced S Major (8 methods)

- 1 MP Moreton
- 2 R Diserens,
- 3 A Rueff
- 4 J Hawes (C)
- 5 S Aldridge
- 6 R Noble (1st 8spliced)
- 7 M Uphill
- 8 I Campbell

[Southern District Centenary Clothing](#)

Posted: Sun, 12 Feb 2012 21:18:47 +0000

Sunday, 12 Feb 2012

There have been some further requests for clothing bearing the Centenary logo. We will look at placing another order soon provided there is sufficient demand. If you are interested, please contact sdmaster [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Kate Desbottes) by 4th March 2012. There will be the opportunity to purchase clothing bearing the Association logo in the summer.

[Southern District Celebrates with Style](#)

Posted: Sat, 11 Feb 2012 20:58:08 +0000

Saturday, 11 Feb 2012

Following the successful quarter peal attempt on 27th January to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Southern District, a very special Centenary dinner was held at the Grumpy Mole, Brockham. A selection of photos taken during the evening are now on the [Gallery](#).

Celebrations continued on to Saturday 28th January with tea and birthday cake served at the start of Allcomers' Meeting in Buckland.

First though, Shirley McGill was asked to judge the final of the 2011 Friendly Striking Challenge. The trophy was awarded to Ed Muller of Bletchingley. Well done to all who took part and especially Bletchingley, the winners.

After the winner had been announced, the Southern District Master, Kate Desbottes, cut a beautifully decorated birthday cake and a very excellent (and



slightly alcoholic) Black Forest Gateau for us all to enjoy. Larger photos can be found on the [Gallery](#).



A programme of anniversary celebrations throughout 2012 has been prepared and full details can be found on page 3 of the Southern District newsletter ([Issue NotS 130](#)).

[New Masters Badge](#)

Posted: Tue, 07 Feb 2012 18:18:56 +0000

Tuesday, 7 Feb 2012

You may have heard that the new badge has arrived and Kate Flavell presented it to the current Master on Saturday 21st January at the Northern District ADM at Addington. Kate was a major donor as she wanted to mark her office as the President of the Central Council with something to her local Association. It's a badge that can be worn with a pin (as shown) or on its' blue ribbon (more appropriate for a male Master).

A close up of the badge is also on the [Gallery](#).

If anyone else would like to contribute, we'd be most grateful. Cheques to be sent payable to 'The Surrey Association' to Richard Wallis. Please email [gensec \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:gensec[at]surreybellringers[dot]org[dot]uk) (Richard) if you need his postal address.

Sheila Cheesman



[Training Day – A Group Leader's Experience](#)

Posted: Tue, 07 Feb 2012 18:26:27 +0000

Tuesday, 7 Feb 2012

As we approach the Wimbledon training day Chris McLean considers the challenging question of how to make the most of these days.

Twice a year the association runs two major training events, one in the north based at Wimbledon in March and one in the south in November based at Bletchingley. Both events are well established and have been part of the association's regular activities for years – the first time I took part was almost 20 years ago. They represent fundamental parts of the ringing calendar in Surrey and for the event organisers they bring to fruition months of planning, meetings and toil – the vast majority of which is, I suspect, unseen work done in precious spare time borne out of dedication and no small sense of duty. Consequently those taking part have much to be grateful for and the vote of thanks given to the organisers at the traditional and, thoroughly enjoyable, 'tea and meeting' held afterwards is richly deserved.

So how best to make the most of all the efforts involved? This question has no simple answer. I do not claim to be able to answer it. Perhaps it is one we should all simply ask ourselves as part of our preparation before taking part in the day itself. Preparation is important and easily overlooked. I have been a group leader before and a helper on a number of other occasions. I have seen others lead groups in a way far superior to my efforts and I have led groups despite having helpers far better placed than me to take the lead. Whilst the best possible might not be leading the group they nevertheless can and do make an invaluable contribution and can help the leader to develop into the role – a sort of informal 'training the trainers' whilst on the job. In this way it is not only the learners who make progress on the day. Indeed one important aspect of these days for me is that the helpers get something out of the experience too. This is not always easy to do and may not always happen but providing helpers with opportunities and challenges to do something they would not normally do in their own ringing can be a way to achieve this. However, the 'main effort' is directed upon the learners, but delivering this can be a real challenge.

For me this November's group was the toughest challenge I have had to date. But why was this? Considering it over the ensuing days led me to conclude it was challenging because I had 5 learners all at completely different levels attempting to ring Grandsire Doubles; ranging from having, literally, just learnt the line through to competent to ring touches, hoping for sustained practice prior to a quarter-peal inside. If all 5 had been at the

same level I suspect the Challenge would have been much easier and more could have been achieved. In an ideal world a group of learners wanting to practice more touches would probably constitute the dream group as the sessions could be spent ringing touches with learners who had already moved beyond the basics and much progress could be made with tangible results. However, ringing of this arguably intermediate nature, would probably take place on what would be billed as a more advanced doubles ringing course. Having 5 learners all at the same stage of getting to grips with the method would also be a nice luxury, but instead what often seems to happen in a Plain Bob or Grandsire Doubles group is that one or two learners are there 'in error' and they would be better suited to another group.

Sometimes this happens as a result of organisational juggling, possibly on the day, but it can also occur as result of a learner applying for or being directed to apply for a course that does not suit them. Tower captains need to bear this point in mind, if your learner is failing to progress with method ringing, ask the question, why is this happening? If the answer is lack of sustained practice then the training day might be part of a solution. However, the answer might include poor bell handling, a lack of ability to reliably plain hunt or a lack of ability to master dodges in plain hunt – if such problems exist then the learner might be better served by applying for the bell handling, plain hunt or Kaleidoscope groups respectively. Anne Rueff and Michael Uphill also offer bell handling sessions for those looking to address a problem with their technique. Another great, but sadly greatly under used, resource is the Surrey Association's 'Improve Surrey Ringing Task Force'. Details of this can be found on the association's webpage – follow the training tab, it could not be simpler. This is a great concept but has only been 'mobilised' to Richmond, Beddington and Charlwood – why are so few towers taking up this offer? If at your practice there is method or an aspect of ringing that is proving elusive the 'Task Force' can help, they can provide that critical mass of ringers with the expertise required to achieve a particular objective. Towers applying for this assistance will be sent a friendly group of motivated and experienced ringers who will offer constructive help. It is not some daunting inspection, nor will practices be 'taken over', it is bespoke assistance, a bit like calling out the ringing equivalent of the RAC! Looking back at my group I suspect some of the learners may apply to re-visit Grandsire Doubles on the 2012 training days, a series of visits from the Task Force to their practice nights might obviate these re-applications and achieve far more for the learners. Food for thought!

Training days are a vital part of the Association's activities and, with willing volunteers to arrange them, will remain so. However, they serve to supplement other activities, not replace them. Getting out to practices other than one's own is an important way to make progress and too few people take this opportunity. The basics are learnt on practice nights and the skills needed to make the leap from rounds and call changes to method ringing are considerable. If these are deficient they need to be addressed, Kaleidoscope can help, but Kaleidoscope twice a year on training days will not be enough.

Over a century ago a certain Mr Trollope noted pertinent observations about ringing – these are as true today as they were then. In the third paragraph of his introduction in the booklet entitled 'Grandsire', Trollope tells us that 'Instead of the teacher trying at the beginning to make his pupil just capable of taking part in some simple method, hoping that time and practice will eventually make up deficiencies and remove defects, he should concentrate from the first on those things which are essential to the ringers' art.' The three qualifications an accomplished ringer must possess being listed as: 'the ability to handle a bell so to have full control of it; a sense of rhythm so that the bell can be struck satisfactorily and the ability to find one's way unerringly along any path which a method may set.' How many learners are taught to ring quickly and slowly, taking rope in and letting rope out, holding the bell on the balance at both strokes as well as setting the bell at both strokes as part of their bell handling training; how many attempt plain hunt facing away from the circle or listen to ringing other than when they are taking part and how many attempt plain hunt going into changes at backstroke, or with a starting sequence other than rounds? These concepts are but a few aspects that some might consider worth trying as adjuncts to learning.

Trollope did not have access to concepts such as Kaleidoscope or the Surrey Association's 'Task Force' if he did I wonder what he might suggest was the best way to make the most of the biannual training days?

Chris McLean

Eds note: This article has been previously published in both the Northern Stars (Dec 2011) and News of the South (Jan 2012) magazines.

[Puff the Magic Dragon Bob Minor - in deepest Wales!](#)

Posted: Mon, 06 Feb 2012 10:50:03 +0000

Monday, 6 Feb 2012

As many of you will know, Heather Griffiths from Oxted is now in her first year at Aberystwyth University. Here is Heather's write up about her first term, ringing with the Aberystwyth University Society of Change Ringers. (Oh and if you're interested in ringing Puff the Magic Dragon, here's the [blue line](#).) Carolina G.



Arguably the decision I would continue bell ringing at university was not made by me; a local ringer emailed the ringing society's master in advance to warn of my arrival. There would be no escape!

On arrival at the Society's Fayre, which took place during Freshers' Week, I was greeted with organised chaos. Every society wants you to become a member, and will continually pester you with flyers and sweets until you eventually agree and sign up. After a great deal of careful searching, I located the AUSCR – Aberystwyth University Society of Change Ringers – stand, which was inevitably located in the very corner of the crowded room. After some brief introductions, and an explanation of my ringing ability, I was handed the method line for 'Puff the Magic Dragon Bob Minor', before scuttling off to have a look at other societies I may be interested in joining.

At the first practice night, I was introduced to the ringing band, and those new to ringing who signed up at the Freshers' Fayre were given the opportunity to have a go. Sadly many of these 'newcomers' did not return, however Aberystwyth has a regular core of ringers comprising of both locals and university students. After the practice itself, the band retired to the pub, conveniently located next to the church. The ice-breaking continued over chips and drinks. At the end of the evening, I was invited to return on Sunday for the service ringing, which takes place between 9.15 and 10am. Now admittedly this early morning is rather painful for students, however the prospect of breakfast in Wetherspoons afterwards does help ease the pain!

In addition to practices and Sunday morning ringing, I was given the opportunity to attend the Welsh Colleges' Society of Change Ringers Autumn Tour. Although a little nervous, I agreed to attend. My nerves were, however, redundant; the weekend was great fun! It was a superb opportunity to meet ringers from other universities. The weekend consisted of ringing at five churches on the Saturday and three on the Sunday, a meeting, card games and camping in a church hall. I also met a ringer who knew Dad, so it really is a small world! In mid-February I am due to be attending their annual Dinner Dance.

Overall, I would encourage anyone attending university to consider joining the ringing society. Ringing is a social event which will give you a fantastic opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. There will certainly be lots to keep you busy and provide a break from studying!

Heather Griffiths

[A farewell quarter for John Hawes](#)

Posted: Tue, 31 Jan 2012 17:57:15 +0000

Tuesday, 31 Jan 2012

A quarter peal was rung on 21st Jan at Nutfield to mark the end of an era as John Hawes moves to Derby to take up his new post as Head Verger at Derby Cathedral. As an enthusiastic promoter of quarter and peal ringing in the local areas John's departure will be felt by many and we all wish him good luck in his new job.

Nutfield, Surrey

St Peter and St Paul

Saturday, 21 January 2012 in 43m (11-2-2)

1272 Spliced Delight Minor (6 methods)

Charlwood, Edinburgh, Kentish, Neasden, St Albans, Wragby

1 Jane Holland

2 Alice Martin

3 Jonathan Martin

4 Andrew Holland

5 Ian Wiltshire

6 John Hawes (c)

<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=120118>

27th January 2012 - 100 years old today!

Posted: Fri, 27 Jan 2012 16:43:13 +0000

Friday, 27 Jan 2012

Today is the Southern District's Centenary birthday.

To commemorate this, we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples at Bletchingley this morning. Do visit [Ringing World Bellboard](#) and give us the thumbs up! The quarter peal was rung by 8 Southern District ringers, conducted by Ron Diserens and successfully completed in 47 minutes. Well done to all who took part.

[Ringing World BellBoard Launched](#)

Posted: Mon, 16 Jan 2012 23:53:15 +0000

Monday, 16 Jan 2012

The Ringing World is pleased to announce the availability of BellBoard, the first step in the development of the Ringing World's new online resource.

BellBoard has been created by Richard Smith from Cambridge, on behalf of the Ringing World. Richard is a highly skilled and experienced programmer running his own IT company. Although such a facility has been under discussion for some time at The Ringing World, work started on the initial version of BellBoard three days ago, triggered by the ongoing loss of the Campanophile website. In this three day period, the complete records of [peals.co.uk](#) and all Campanophile data from August 2011 and prior have been made available for any user to search for free on BellBoard. Further, the site has been set up for individuals to register as a user, post peals and quarters for public viewing and submit these details to the Ringing World.

The Ringing World currently receives the majority of peal and quarter peal submissions from Campanophile. In the short term, the loss of this facility impacts our business and escalates the risk that our peal and quarter publications will be incomplete or out of date. We hope that the Campanophile service will be restored and have made every effort to connect with and support the Campanophile team to assist at this time, but now believe that the Ringing World must take action. We know that the ability to share, store and view information instantly is essential for many ringers today and we consider that it is now time for the Ringing World to use its skills and resources to ensure that this will remain possible.

Although this initial offering acts primarily to mitigate the risks arising from the difficulties faced by Campanophile, our vision for the website extends far beyond its current form. The Ringing World has the engaged the very best skills and has the resources and ambition to develop and maintain a facility which will serve the ringing community for many years to come.

You can access BellBoard on www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk. As you can imagine, this has been developed very quickly and we hope that you will understand that this is very much the first release which we will continue to develop in the coming weeks and months.

[Surrey Ringers Avoid Cold Turkey](#)

Posted: Thu, 05 Jan 2012 12:40:14 +0000

Thursday, 5 Jan 2012

After the indulgences of Christmas Day what better way for ringers from the Northern Branch to celebrate the second day of Christmas than with a spot of ringing in the country? This year afforded the opportunity for some quarter-peal ringing. For the past two Boxing Days I have been fortunate enough to take part in a peal attempt at Nutfield and in 2009 to arrange some quarter-peals at towers in the 'Surrey Hills' during the ensuing bank holiday. However, with an overseas work trip looming large I had not envisaged being at home for Christmas and was out of contention for the peal and any other festive ringing. The Nutfield Boxing Day peal is now something of a local tradition with three consecutive successes and this year it was rung by a largely local band – a great achievement. Consequently my plans for this year were, out of necessity, somewhat last minute. I had considered arranging 4 attempts but 3 in a day turned out to be the preferred agenda and it proved to be a very enjoyable and leisurely arrangement.

The first quarter was at Ewhurst. This venue was selected as John Hawes was yet to ring a quarter on these tricky bells and with his departure from the area imminent scoring here was particularly special. Arguably this was not much of a tribute for someone who has arranged and promoted a great deal of ringing that I have benefitted from considerably during the past three years but in its own understated way it is perhaps befitting. John will remain connected to the Surrey Association with regular visits to the area but I have no doubt that his departure will be palpable. I suspect this will be evident enough and a review of the association's tally and quality of peals and quarters, of treble dodging minor especially, at the end of 2012 will provide its own numeric testament. Ewhurst are an interesting set of bells, their odd-struckness makes ropesight difficult and it took a good fifteen minutes to get accustomed to them. Ringing here demands a good sense of rhythm and constant discipline to manage the odd-struckness – a fascinating challenge. Access was also interesting – the local ringers were away and opening up involved collecting keys from a window ledge in the village and a key that goes in upside down in the belfry door! With two ringers available only for the morning attempt the afternoon was devoted to surprise minor and featured an interesting 552 palindrome arranged by Paul Flavell.

The nearby towers of Ockley and Capel were logical choices and fortunately both were available. Ockley are a fine sounding moderately heavy six and are a treat to visit. As a ground floor ring in an unlocked church with no clock hammers to worry about, visiting bands have an easy time of it. Likewise, apart from a small climb, Capel are equally accessible and with a low ceiling and lighter weight, provide an interesting contrast to Ockley. Capel churchyard featured an interesting display of decorated Christmas trees by the lychgate. The bells here have been recently refurbished but having only rung them once before I cannot say if they are any different.

Unsurprisingly the afternoon's ringing took place after a good pub lunch at the Inn on the Green, Ockley – the leftovers can wait for another day!

Chris McLean

Photo and details of quarter peals below.



Ewhurst, St Peter & Paul, 1280 DNCBM

1 Kate Flavell 5 Paul Flavell
 2 Gillian Leale 6 Anne Anthony
 3 Richard Anthony 7 Robin Leale
 4 Christopher McLean 8 John Hawes (c)

Ockley, St Margaret, 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Paul Flavell 4 Richard Anthony
 2 Gillian Leale 5 Robin Leale
 3 Anne Anthony 6 Christopher McLean (c)

Capel, St John Baptist, 1272 Durham Surprise Minor

1 Richard Anthony 4 Anne Anthony
 2 Gillian Leale 5 Christopher McLean
 3 Paul Flavell (c) 6 Robin Leale

[Video Training Day on Saturday 7th January 2012](#)

Posted: Wed, 28 Dec 2011 15:48:41 +0000

Wednesday, 28 Dec 2011

The response for the Video Training session at both Beddington and Bletchingley has been very good and consequently both venues are now fully booked. I therefore regret I am unable to offer any more appointments.

Final confirmation of appointment times will be sent to attendees shortly.

Ian Griffiths

[SOUTHERN DISTRICT CENTENARY DINNER](#)

Posted: Sat, 10 Dec 2011 21:59:58 +0000

Saturday, 10 Dec 2011

Don't delay! The Southern District Centenary Dinner will be held on Friday 27th January 2012 at the Grumpy Mole in Brockham, but please be aware that you must give your name and menu choices to Bernard Hawkins by Wednesday 14th December 2011. Click [here](#) for further details.

[Come Bell Ringing with Charles Hazlewood](#)

Posted: Thu, 08 Dec 2011 11:08:48 +0000

Thursday, 8 Dec 2011

Charles Hazlewood is a renowned conductor who set himself a challenge to create a musical composition involving church bells. If you missed last night's documentary on BBC Four (at 1am!), you can view it on iPlayer over the next 6 days. It's an excellent programme so if you have a spare hour, do watch it.

Click on the link below to go directly to the iPlayer's webpage:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01803s3/Come_Bell_Ringing_with_Charles_Hazlewood/

Below is an extract from the BBC about the programme and Charles Hazlewood:

For over 1,200 years church bells have called the faithful to worship, helping people celebrate triumph and commemorate tragedy. But the fact that they are one of the largest and loudest musical instruments in the world is often overlooked. This is something musical innovator Charles Hazlewood wants to change - he wants to see if church bells can be used to make original music in their own right.

Choosing Cambridge for his musical experiment, Charles immerses himself in the world of bells and bell ringing. He tries his hand at ringing church bells, handbells and even a carillon - an instrument which resembles an organ made out of bells. He discovers why church bell ringing sounds the way it does and tries out some radical techniques - pushing the boundaries, he re-rigs a whole church tower so it can play a tune.

At the culmination of his investigations Charles devises and performs an extraordinary piece of music which involves three separate church towers and 30 handbell ringers gathered from across the eastern counties.

[Winter Outing](#)

Posted: Sun, 27 Nov 2011 20:23:16 +0000

Sunday, 27 Nov 2011

Details of the Southern District Winter Outing on Thursday 29th December are now available. Click [here](#) for the programme for the day.

[Clothing - place your order now!](#)

Posted: Sun, 27 Nov 2011 20:06:40 +0000

Sunday, 27 Nov 2011

The details of the clothing currently available, with the Southern District Centenary logo only, have already been sent out to all towers correspondents. The deadline for orders is Saturday, 3rd December 2011. Do not delay! Click [here](#) for more information.

[DFP: next practice](#)

Posted: Sun, 27 Nov 2011 20:14:04 +0000

Sunday, 27 Nov 2011

Please note that the next DFP will take place on Monday 9th January 2012. This will be at Buckland, commencing at 7.45p.m.

The Plain Hunt methods will be: Plain Bob, Double Bob, Single Oxford, Double Oxford, St Clements, and Hereward.

The Treble Dodging methods will be: Oxford Treble Bob; and Norwich, London, York, Rossendale, and Carlisle Surprise.

Please do come along!

[Putney choirboys celebrate 50 years of peal ringing](#)

Posted:Thu, 24 Nov 2011 12:11:56 +0000

Thursday, 24 Nov 2011

Alan Millidge and Michael Uphill were choirboys together at St Mary's, Putney in the 1950's, learned to ring there together early in 1960, joined the Association together at the Northern District Nomination meeting at Immanuel, Streatham on November 26th that year, and rang their first peal together, 5040 Plain Bob Minor, conducted by Chris Mew, who had helped to teach them to ring, at Brentford on November 18th 1961.

On November 19th 2011 they celebrated the 50th anniversary of that first peal with one of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Putney, again conducted by Chris Mew. Alan had not rung a peal for 10 years and, in fact, had not rung at all for several years. what a talent! Get him ringing again, somebody!

Michael Uphill

Peal details: www.campanophile.com/view.aspx?132341

[Ringing resumes at Kingston](#)

Posted:Sun, 20 Nov 2011 20:23:05 +0000

Sunday, 20 Nov 2011

The tower rewiring is now complete and the ringers are very pleased with the result. The entire installation has been replaced and we now have fully functioning sockets and excellent lighting top to bottom, as well as ceramic heaters in the ringing chamber.

Ringing is now back to normal on Sundays and Wednesdays, the only exception is that there is no practice on December 14th due to a carol service.

Please check Sunday evenings with the gillianleale [at] waitrose [dot] com (tower secretary).

[Change Ringing for the Future – A national debate](#)

Posted:Sat, 19 Nov 2011 22:17:02 +0000

Saturday, 19 Nov 2011

Paul Flavell recently attended a conference on 'Change Ringing for the Future' held at Wellesbourne in Warwickshire. The conference, initiated by the Central Council, brought together interested parties from all over the country to discuss how the art of bell ringing could be secured for future generations.

Over 100 delegates representing 27 societies enjoyed a stimulating day of discussion and ideas. A summary of the day is provided here and Paul's detailed account of the proceedings is available on the Surrey Association website.

www.surreybellringers.org.uk/change-ringing-future-wellesbourne-conference-2011

It is both a fascinating read and a call to action, a challenge to all of us to contribute more to the future of ringing.

The conference was asked if ringing was keeping track with society. Our total numbers are dropping and an increasing proportion of ringers are over 50. If current trends continue the number of ringers would drop to 20,000 in 20 years leaving many towers silent.

Other organisations have rebranded themselves to appeal to a new and younger audience and it's vital we change the image of bell ringing to be more attractive to the public and recruit and retain new members.

Branding means many things, it's a recognisable and attractive national logo, good recruiting material and advertising of ringing events in national and local media together with better focus and visibility on the internet. It also involves reaching out to local communities and selling the benefits of bell ringing as a physical, team orientated and fun activity.

It was noted that parents are happily taking their children to dance and music lessons and paying for the privilege, because they are trained and qualified people with a formalised learning program. This should also apply to ringing. An issue that kept being raised in discussions is the lack of consistent standards for teaching in the country. It is essential to 'train the trainers' to a recognised standard, probably in ringing centres or on

specific courses. The difficulty is some tower captains could resent being told they had to take the training course; this would need careful handling at a local level.

Many young ringers attended the conference and their views and opinions were sought on how to make ringing more attractive. It is clear that the image of bell ringing as an activity for pensioners carried out in dark and dusty places needs to change.

What do you think we should be doing in Surrey to secure the future of change ringing? We would like to hear your views and ideas, especially those of our younger ringers.

www.surreybellringers.org.uk/contact-us

Five Rings Triples

Posted: Thu, 17 Nov 2011 15:18:57 +0000

Thursday, 17 Nov 2011

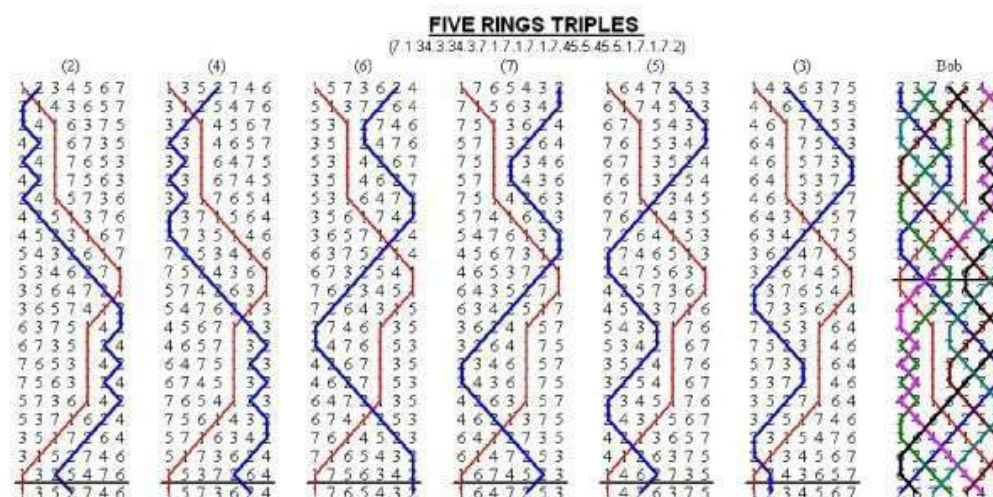
The New Music 20X12 project is part of the Cultural Olympiad. Twenty new pieces of music have been commissioned, each lasting about 12 minutes. One piece, commissioned by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, has been composed for church bells and is called Five Rings Triples. The first "performance" is advertised as being at midnight at the start of the year 2012 at Kingston upon Thames, as part of our usual ringing in the New Year. As President of the Central Council and a Kingston ringer I was under pressure from the sponsors to provide a "First Performance" date and time and couldn't think how to ask any tower to commit to performing it before having seen it, so rashly committed Kingston to do it. Radio 3 (one of the sponsors of New Music 20X12) asked if they could record our "final rehearsal" for possible broadcast on 1 January and they are coming to a practice in December to make the recording. We have now heard that they are going to open their 2012 broadcasting with our ringing – at midnight on 1 January, the same time as Kingston ringers will be ringing it! Also this piece is receiving additional publicity, as it will be the very first of the 20 new pieces to be performed!

If you think you've already "performed" Five Rings Triples, think again. All you have done is rehearsed it, as these new works are for performances in 2012! But it would be great if lots of towers could also join in by ringing it as part of their ringing in of the New Year and on suitable Olympic occasions during 2012. If you haven't seen the blue line see below or look on the Central Council's website (cccbr.org) under "What's new" for 10 October, or for 19 October for Five Rings Doubles. These could also be good things to ring if the Torch Relay is coming past your tower.

All 20 new pieces will be performed at the Southbank Centre in London over the weekend of July 14/15 2012. Five Rings Triples will be rung on a mini ring and there will also be the chance for people to "have a go". If you would like to be a part of this event please let me know, you need to be able to ring Five Rings Triples confidently and able to ring and strike well on a mini ring. There will be time to get your eye in before any performance.

Kingston ringers have also been interviewed about this project and Christmas ringing more generally for the Roger Royle Christmas Day morning show on Radio 2. So if you're awake and busy opening your own or your children's Christmas presents between four and six am you might like to listen in!

Kate Flavell



Touch is 396 changes: PPPPPB x 3 and it is a 145 bob. So all bells are affected by the bob.
NB This is not a true "method" in view of the five treble blows in one place. It is a piece of music.

[Ringing has stopped at Coulsdon](#)

Posted: Sun, 13 Nov 2011 19:04:53 +0000

Sunday, 13 Nov 2011

Sadly, ringing at Coulsdon has had to stop because there is currently no ringing chamber floor! Earlier in the year the church architect discovered that the ends of the timber beams supporting the floor were very decayed, and after looking at all the alternatives (including ringing from the ground floor) the decision was made to replace the floor. As an interim measure scaffolding was placed in the base of the tower to support the floor, and ringing was allowed to continue.

On 14th October however, all the floorboards (there were two layers of them) were taken up so that the architect and a structural engineer could assess the condition of the beams and come up with a detailed plan. When the plan has been produced and the PCC have approved it, a faculty will be applied for. The Rector is hopeful that the work will be completed by Easter 2012.

[Yvonne Cooper's unlucky break](#)

Posted: Fri, 11 Nov 2011 21:58:11 +0000

Friday, 11 Nov 2011

Yvonne Cooper had a fall after bell practice on Tuesday 8th November outside the Nutfield tower, and broke her right wrist. This means we will not be seeing her in any ringing chambers for a little while. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

[Training day photo challenge](#)

Posted: Tue, 08 Nov 2011 18:40:27 +0000

Tuesday, 8 Nov 2011

To help us promote the association and the activities of local ringers we are always looking for good quality photos featuring Surrey ringers, our bells, towers and history.

To coincide with the training day on November 12th the PR committee would like to issue a challenge to all those taking part to capture the day with their cameras and send us your pictures.

A selection of the best pictures will be featured on the website and as part of our soon to be launched facebook page.

We expect the day will provide a wealth of photo opportunities so we'll be looking forward to seeing some creative and inspirational pictures. Your only constraint is to ensure they are based on the theme of bell ringing in Surrey.

Details of how to submit your photos will be available on the website at: www.surreybellringers.org.uk/photo-challenge.

BBC Britain in a Day - Saturday 12th November

Posted: Tue, 08 Nov 2011 18:48:40 +0000

Tuesday, 8 Nov 2011

Britain in a Day is a unique portrait of twenty-four hours in the life of the UK, filmed by you. On Saturday 12 November 2011 pick up a camera and record your thoughts, hopes and aspirations, then upload your film to the Britain in a Day channel on YouTube. You'll be helping to create an amazing archive and your film could be included in an historic BBC documentary in 2012. Get started at the Britain in a Day channel.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00kqz5p>

If you are taking your camera to the training day in response to our photo challenge or out doing your own ringing you may be interested to know Saturday is the BBC 'Britain in a Day' event. It would be great to see bell ringing in Surrey featuring in this unique portrait of life in the UK.

If anyone submits a video to the BBC recording their day ringing please let us know and we'll feature it on the Website.



Happy birthday Pam

Posted: Fri, 21 Oct 2011 19:26:45 +0000

Friday, 21 Oct 2011

Last week Pam Humphreys from Cheam celebrated her 80th birthday and the local ringers held a celebration in the tower to mark the event.

Sheila Cheesman writes, "she made a delicious fruit cake (marzipan and iced). There was champagne and fruit juice to wash it down with. The whole Cheam band turned up during the evening – rather a squash in the belfry!"



Southwark win the Pat Cannon Trophy

Posted: Tue, 18 Oct 2011 10:47:02 +0000

Saturday, 15 Oct 2011

The Surrey Association 8 bell striking competition was held on Saturday 15th October at All Saints Benhilton.

Paul Flavell provided us with an account of the ringing.

Six intrepid teams, all from the Northern District, assembled on a lovely clear Autumn afternoon at All Saints Benhilton for the Surrey Association Eight bell Competition. It was good to see six teams and several younger members taking part in the competition, and there was plenty of tea and cakes to go round which made for a very enjoyable occasion.

Several brave souls climbed to the top of the tower to admire the views over the City, Wembley arch, Croydon and even as far as Kingston, feeling slightly queasy when the bells were ringing due to the noticeable tower sway.

The judge, Alex Britton (Southwark), was safely ensconced behind the tower with a liberal supply of tea and cakes and a light for when it got dark. He commented that the speed of the ringing influenced the final number of faults, and he was pleased that he unanimously agreed with himself on the result. All the towers rang Grandsire Triples with the exception of one which rang Bristol Surprise Major.

The order of ringing changed significantly from the original draw due to non complete bands. It was interesting to see the glum or confident faces of ringers descending from the ringing chamber after ringing their test piece.

The results were:

1 st	Southwark	Peal speed 3hrs 7min	35 faults
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Amused the judge by ringing Little Bob in the practice and Bristol SM for the test piece. There was the occasional blip and a major crunch halfway through which incurred a cluster of faults, but otherwise very polished ringing.

2 nd	Kingston:	Peal speed 3hrs 17min	46 faults
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More measured ringing, good rhythm but with minor glitches. All the team singing from the same hymn sheet although a few faults were picked up through stretching changes out. Nice to listen to.

3 rd	Croydon	Peal speed 2hrs 54min	49 faults
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This team meant business – most of the time! The faster ringing however did not exclude clips (faults) and there were a couple of method mistakes. Nice piece of ringing.

Alex presented the trophy to Southwark captain Peter Valuks, assuring us that he was unaware which method Southwark were ringing! Peter stated that it was a great honour to receive the trophy donated by Pat Cannon, and that he had been in awe of the great man when Pat had visited Peter's home tower when he was a boy.

Sheila commented that it was the first time that Southwark had entered the competition for some years – and then they won the trophy! She congratulated all for taking part and looked forward to the rematch in the Southern District next year.

Paul Flavell





[Change of time for the Southern District Allcomers' Meeting at Godstone](#)

Posted:Wed, 05 Oct 2011 11:49:02 +0000

Monday, 10 Oct 2011

Please note that this month's [Allcomers](#) will start at 10.30 a.m.and NOT 7.30 p.m. as previously advertised.

[University Beckons](#)

Posted:Tue, 04 Oct 2011 09:46:10 +0000

Tuesday, 4 Oct 2011

Each year we say goodbye to some of our aspiring young ringers as they set off to university for the first time. This year we say goodbye to Heather Griffiths and Rhea Sood from Oxted who set off for university last week. We wish them all the best and hope to see you back soon for Christmas. Click on the [Young Ringers page](#) to read the full story of their celebrations (and the wasp who interrupted the quarter peal attempt).

Summer Ringing for Junior Members Also on the Young Ringers page, are details of the [summer holiday ringing](#) that took place in August. With the assistance of a good number of helpers, 10 students took part in a three day ringing programme at several towers across the Association. Ringing included a wide range of methods, call changes as well as help with handling. The event was a big success and there is already talk of holding more events next year. If you are a junior member and missed out this year, send an email to [surrey \[dot\] training \[at\] yahoo \[dot\] com](mailto:surrey.training@yahoo.com) (Michael Uphill) saying you're interested to take part in future events for young ringers and we'll make sure your name is added to the list.

[Four Times a Winner - Carshalton celebrate with Lucky No. 46!](#)

Posted:Thu, 29 Sep 2011 08:51:17 +0000

Thursday, 29 Sep 2011

The Carshalton ringers are celebrating their 4th win this year in the Numbers Club Draw. The Draw took place at the very well attended Northern District practice at Ewell on the 20th September. So well done to Carshalton who have clearly invested well.

If you are interested in joining the Numbers Club, click [here](#) to read more and to download an application form. The Numbers Club is a monthly draw for cash prizes to help to raise money for the BRF. So why not have a go and help support the BFR. You must be an Association member and be over 18 years old.

[Northern Stars September Edition](#)

Posted:Wed, 28 Sep 2011 15:42:04 +0000

Wednesday, 28 Sep 2011

The September edition of the Northern Stars has just been published and will be appearing in your tower soon. This month we feature the very successful summer training event held for young ringers from across the District. There is also the normal round up of news, events and topical articles.

If you can't wait to see it in your tower you can now read it [online in colour](#).

We welcome contributions for publication in the newsletter and on the website. Tell us about ringing at your tower, your outings, anniversaries, celebrations and achievements and send us some photos as well. You can send articles to any member of the committee or submit them online through the website at [send us your news](#).

Cut off for publication in the next edition of the newsletter is 1st December 2011.

Keep in touch and get news from the website delivered to your email inbox. Find out about our [news feed](#) service and [subscribe today](#).

[Capel bells to be refurbished](#)

Posted: Sun, 18 Sep 2011 19:41:14 +0000

Sunday, 18 Sep 2011

The bells at Capel are currently out of action whilst they are being refurbished. All practices will be held at Ockley until further notice.

[Cambridge by Christmas](#)

Posted: Wed, 14 Sep 2011 13:37:50 +0000

Wednesday, 14 Sep 2011

Would you like to ring Cambridge by Christmas?

Anne Rueff has again agreed to run a course with the aim for all students being able to ring plain courses of Cambridge Surprise Minor by Christmas.

Click [here](#) to read full details about the event and who to contact to sign up.

[Bletchingley Practice Night Alteration](#)

Posted: Fri, 26 Aug 2011 15:08:48 +0000

Thursday, 1 Sep 2011

From mid September Bletchingley is changing its practice night to a Wednesday evening 19:30 - 21:15.

There will be NO Monday night practices on the 12th September, or there after. The first Wednesday night practice will take place on the 14th September.

The change is being made to enable our regular service ringers to participate in other Surrey Association events held on Mondays without a conflict of interests.

[Ringing Worlds looking for a good home.](#)

Posted: Wed, 31 Aug 2011 08:34:10 +0000

Wednesday, 31 Aug 2011

During a tidy up of Cheam Belfry recently it was decided to dispose of the collection of Ringing Worlds. Thus we have years 1998 to 2008 inclusive, all complete apart from a couple of missing copies in 2001. If you would like to acquire these please let me know. There is no price tag, but should a donation to the Belfry Repair fund be forthcoming it would be gratefully received.

Please contact Jeremy Cheesman at [ndassec \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:ndassec[at]surreybellringers[dot]org[dot]uk) if you are interested.

If necessary delivery can be arranged, or they can be collected.

[Summer Holiday Ringing Programme](#)

Posted: Wed, 03 Aug 2011 21:49:59 +0000

Wednesday, 3 Aug 2011

With the holiday season in full swing, this is just a reminder that there are plenty of ringing activities this month for all ages and all abilities. So if you are looking for something to do, or if you'd like to try something new, read on. Full details of all the events can be found in [List of Events](#) on the website.

In the second and fourth weeks of August, Michael Uphill has arranged three mornings of ringing for the Junior members and ringers in full time education. A detailed programme can be found on the [Young Ringers](#) page

and the [Events](#) page. If you haven't signed up yet, contact [surrey \[dot\] training \[at\] yahoo \[dot\] com](mailto:surrey [dot] training [at] yahoo [dot] com) (Michael Uphill) as soon as you can. Michael also needs volunteer helpers, so please do help even if its just for one morning.

Junior members are also welcome to ring at any of the other events happening this month, depending on your ability. Ringing practices that welcome those of all abilities include the annual [joint practice](#) with the Guildford at Kingston on Saturday 6th August (a chance to ring on 12 bells), and the [AllcomersPractice](#) at Oxted on the 27th August, ringing on 6 bells.

For more specialised ringing events, Chris Stanley will be leading a half day course on 6th August on [teaching ringing](#). We all know that teaching ringing requires some very special skills, and this event is a opportunity to learn the do's and don'ts and receive some excellent hands on tuition and advice. Check with [patrickmwills \[at\] sky \[dot\] com](mailto:patrickmwills [at] sky [dot] com) (Patrick Wills) if there are spaces available.

On the evening of Monday 8th August, the DFP will be holding their monthly practice at [Buckland](#). If you're interested to practice more advanced methods on 6 bells, this is the place to be. Contact [dfp \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:dfp [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk) (Diane Pratt) for more information.

The Wandering Bobs will be meeting in the morning of Monday 15th August at [Newdigate](#). The group meets monthly to practice basic conducting to double and minor methods. Contact [wanderingbobs \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:wanderingbobs [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk) (Sue Bailey) for more information.

Finally, there is a special practice for those wishing to ring Surprise Major methods, on the 19th August at [Wimbledon](#). Contact [ndsec \[at\] surreybellringers \[dot\] org \[dot\] uk](mailto:ndsec [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk) (Clara Westlake) for more information.

Carolina Goodship

[BBC Radio Surrey item - listen here!](#)

Posted: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 20:29:56 +0000

Friday, 15 Jul 2011

[updated report 18th July 2011]

True to their word, BBC Surrey Breakfast aired three minutes of chat and ringing from the belfry of St Nicholas, Godstone. The report was part of the "Breakfast" discussion on Surrey's plans for the 2012 Olympic Games.

If you missed it this morning, then don't worry because BBC iPlayer will allow is to hear it again (and again). Well done to all who took part.

[Radio Interview at St Nicholas, Godstone 12th July 2011](#) The report starts at 1:26:40 into the programme.

Following on from the article, [Learning the Ropes](#), in The Daily Telegraph, BBC Radio Surrey visited Godstone tower on Tuesday lunchtime to record a brief item. Hopefully they will present us in a good light (and use the second lot of ringing!) but you can hear for yourself around 7.20-7.25 on Monday (18) morning.

In case BBC Radio Surrey isn't your station of choice, it can be found on 104.0 or 104.6FM or the BBC website (live or iPlayer).

[Ringing for the Archdeacon of Croydon's Farewell Service](#)

Posted: Mon, 11 Jul 2011 19:47:24 +0000

Monday, 11 Jul 2011

On Sunday 17th July 3 pm, there will be a farewell service at Southwark Cathedral for the Archdeacon of Croydon (the longest serving Archdeacon in the Church of England).

Open ringing will take place before the start of the service from 2.15pm. Whilst this might be of interest to anyone in the Croydon Archdeaconary, all ringers are welcome to take part.

If anyone is interested to ring, please let me know so we can ensure there are enough people.

[jackson \[dot\] da \[at\] btinternet \[dot\] com](mailto:jackson [dot] da [at] btinternet [dot] com) (David Jackson)

[Croydon retain the Sid Saban Trophy](#)

Posted: Mon, 04 Jul 2011 19:44:48 +0000

Monday, 4 Jul 2011

Four bands entered the Association's Call Change Striking Competition this year. Bletchingley hosted the event last Saturday afternoon and were joined by bands from Beddington, Bermondsey and Croydon.

Michael Uphill was the judge who started with a twist - showing that you could almost ring the Devon Call Changes of 60 on 3rds in the eight minutes and minimum 16 changes required by the rules. After comments on each band Michael announced the results in reverse order: Beddington and Bermondsey in joint third (47), Bletchingley second (38) and Croydon first (35).

[Godstone features in The Daily Telegraph](#)

Posted: Sat, 02 Jul 2011 08:40:31 +0000

Saturday, 2 Jul 2011

On Easter Monday, Ceri Radford and photographer from The Daily Telegraph visited Godstone tower. This is the basis of an article in today's paper - page 15 of the Weekend section. There will be a fuller account of the day Fleet Street visited a village in Surrey in the next NotS.

[Northern Stars June Edition](#)

Posted: Sat, 25 Jun 2011 12:16:32 +0000

Saturday, 25 Jun 2011

The June edition of the Northern District newsletter, the Northern Stars, has been distributed to towers. Make sure you get your copy. As well as the regular round of news and events from around the district there is a report on the Association AGM at Banstead and find out who rang a touch of bob minor in the middle of a marathon and who cycled 1,310 miles to raise money for their tower.

The next edition of Northern Stars will be published in September, contributions to the editor please by 10 September.

[Summers Hols are Coming: Calling all Young Ringers](#)

Posted: Fri, 17 Jun 2011 18:51:19 +0000

Friday, 17 Jun 2011

Last August we held a few events for our younger ringers and hope to do the same, or more, this year. This is open to all full-time students. (But adult ringers please read on as well!).

This is how to join in:

Get permission (if required) to send me an email detailing when you are going to be free during August. (i.e. which of weeks-commencing 1st, 8th, 15th or 22nd) and get this to me within the next 3 weeks (i.e. by July 7th.) I will then immediately notify all who have responded which week has been selected so that you can put it in your diaries.

When sending your email, please also let me know what you would like to take part in:

- Quarter Peal attempt(s)
 - A morning's general ringing
 - A day's general ringing.

If you would like to take part in a quarter peal attempt, let me know, after discussing with your tower captain, what you would like to try; whether you would like this to be at your own tower (You could ask your tower captain if this would be possible), and whether you have any pals or other local ringers who would like to be included. If you are opting for general ringing only, please similarly give me an idea of what you would like to achieve.

Adults: We will need some help with this so it would be good to hear from any of you who would be able to help. Please email along the same lines as above.

Let's make this even better than last year. We will again finish the week by enjoying some lunch together, the cost of which will be met from the training budget (so parents don't worry - the bank won't be broken!)

surrey [dot] training [at] yahoo [dot] com (Michael Uphill) (Training Officer)

[Colliers Wood and Epsom Common to host this month's district business meetings](#)

Posted:Thu, 16 Jun 2011 14:51:38 +0000

Thursday, 16 Jun 2011

Just a reminder that this Saturday (18th June) [Colliers Wood](#) will be hosting the Northern District Half Yearly meeting. Ringing will take place from 3pm followed by evensong, tea and meeting. Click [here](#) for more details.

The following week the Southern District will be holding its Summer Business meeting at [Epsom Common](#) (25th June). Ringing will take place from 3pm followed by a short meeting and then barbecue. Again, click [here](#) to find out more about the event.

Do come along and support both events and add your voice to the meetings.

Carolina Goodship

[Les Murrells of Benhilton](#)

Posted:Sat, 04 Jun 2011 13:04:16 +0000

Saturday, 4 Jun 2011

We're sorry to hear that Les Murrells from Benhilton died on Tuesday 31st May. Les had rung at Benhilton for over 40 years as well as contributing a huge amount of work for the restoration in 1970. He was a regular attendee at Northern District meetings. The funeral will be at Benhilton on Friday 17th June at 10am. There will be open ringing from 9:15am.

[Croydon Minster](#)

Posted:Mon, 30 May 2011 11:16:43 +0000

Monday, 30 May 2011

Croydon Parish Church has become Croydon Minster. This elevation in status was confirmed on the 29th May at a service by the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun. The title being bestowed upon Croydon is a reflection of the Church's work in the community, the history of the church and the Church as a centre for civic services.

www.croydonminster.org

A peal of Stedman Cinques was rung to mark the occasion.

www.campanophile.com/view.aspx?122188

[Ringing suspended at Esher](#)

Posted:Sun, 29 May 2011 18:11:48 +0000

Sunday, 29 May 2011

It has recently been announced that the long awaited restoration work to the spire of Christ Church Esher starts this week (30 May).

All ringing is therefore suspended till further Notice.

This is likely to be until November but this will be confirmed when work is nearer completion.

The Esher band intends in the meantime to meet and ring with the band at Christ Church Epsom Common.

15 New Honorary Life Members

Posted: Tue, 24 May 2011 21:51:22 +0000

Tuesday, 24 May 2011

This year's AGM at Banstead was rather special because 15 members have completed 30 years membership of the Association and were elected as Honorary Life Members for such an achievement.

Pictured: Nigel Goodship, Francis Ring-Davies, Sue Reilly, Margaret Shelley

Front row: Anne Parr, Richard Horn, Trevor Crowhurst, Leslie and Peter Burnett

Not pictured: Roger Grieve, Norma Henderson, David Sayce, Michael Sutcliffe, Michael Wallis, David Whitehead.



The Royal Wedding: Twelve good men and true. And a bucket!

Posted: Sat, 21 May 2011 19:55:08 +0000

Saturday, 21 May 2011

Michael Uphill was entrusted with the task – indeed awarded the great honour - of conducting the ringing before the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in Westminster Abbey on April 29th. Former northern district regulars Nigel Thomson and Jeremy Pratt, now both honorary life members resident outside the county, also took part.

The twelve members of the Westminster Abbey Company of ringers appointed to ring for the day had to assemble at the South Gate of Dean's Yard at 8.30am for the issue of security passes. A few nervous minutes were then spent in our rest area at Number One, Dean's Yard before making our way across to the Abbey where we had to be in the tower by 9.00am. We had to wear jacket and tie for the few yards walk across the back of the Abbey to the NW tower entrance to avoid offending the sensibilities of early guests. Once inside the tower, we were able to change into more comfortable ringing garb. But also, once there, we were not allowed to leave, the two non-peal ringers until an hour after the end of the wedding and the peal band until after the peal's conclusion.

So there we sat for an hour and a quarter with our packed lunches, a BBC monitor and a bucket awaiting our first duty. (Those who have found themselves in a confined space for an enforced period of time may use their imagination as to the use to which the bucket was put! Mercifully it was placed discreetly in the Flag room – the room in the NW tower below the ringing room.)

The original instruction had been for us to commence ringing at 10.30am, just after members of Foreign Royal families had been escorted to their seats in the lantern and just as members of our own Royal family were due to start arriving.

It is customary, at the Abbey, to compose individual touches for special occasions and, having been given the high honour of "conducting the bride in," I had composed a touch of 665 Stedman Caters which would come into rounds just before her arrival. The touch included the "Queens" change (1357924680) scheduled to occur at the time of Her Majesty's arrival at 10.45, followed, a course later, by the "Kings" change (9753124680). However, on the Thursday before the wedding, the instructions were amended. We now had to ring from 10.15, the scheduled time of arrival, at the Abbey, of the bridegroom, Prince William and his best man, Prince Henry. I re-composed the touch to allow for the extra time and ended up with one of 1013 changes.

As we pulled off at 10.15 a huge cheer erupted from the crowd outside but this was probably as much to do with the arrival of the princes as to the commencement of the ringing. Later, unfortunately, Her Majesty missed out on "her" change, as the re-composed touch brought it up slightly earlier than originally planned!

Two ringers "rested" for this touch and one of these, Nigel Thomson, was appointed to watch the monitor and give me the signal to call "stand" as the bride entered the Abbey. The pre-wedding ringing successfully accomplished, we settled down with our packed lunches to watch the service on the BBC monitor.

At the conclusion of the service we had to go straight into the peal – 2-Spliced Royal (Get it?). The methods were London and Bristol. Had we known in advance that the happy couple were to be given the titles "Duke and Duchess of Cambridge", London and Cambridge may have been a better choice – but nowhere near as exciting! Ringing "out" had to commence as the bride and groom arrived at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior. Ringing therefore commenced before the crowds outside had sight of the couple so this time we knew that it was the bells that had signalled the huge cheer that went up!

The first few minutes were thrilling with all of the hubbub from outside but we soon settled down into the ringing of a good peal. After half an hour or so, the Davids, Woodward and Dearnley who had rung the bride "in" but were not ringing in the peal, made their quiet exits from the ringing room. About an hour later a BBC technician came in to dismantle the TV Monitor but was – very politely, but urgently – asked by the conductor to leave the room immediately. He returned very apologetically at the end to complete his own task. For the peal Michael rang the 2nd, Nigel the 7th and Jeremy the 9th.

More than 50 years of ringing have left me with happy memories of ringing for many special occasions. I do not know whether I will still be about when Prince William is crowned. But to have had the great honour of conducting the ringing before his wedding will always be one of the most special.

Michael Uphill

[An anniversary quarter peal](#)

Posted: Thu, 19 May 2011 22:06:37 +0000

Thursday, 19 May 2011

On May 1st a Surrey band rang a quarter peal of Stedman Caters at Beddington to celebrate the Ruby wedding of Dan and Ann Dawson-Taylor and to congratulate Dan on his 75th birthday.

Details of the quarter are [here](#).



[The Numbers Club - Two Draws](#)

Posted: Sun, 15 May 2011 16:12:24 +0000

Saturday, 14 May 2011

The quarterly and annual draws were duly made at the Association AGM at Banstead on 14 May. The quarterly prize of £86.79 was won by Jackie Harrison of Richmond with No 123, and the annual mega prize of £242.11 went to the Carshalton Ringers with No 46. Many congratulations to those lucky ringers and commiserations to all of our gallant losers - your turn will come!

[Walton-on-Thames bells back ringing again soon](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 May 2011 10:43:18 +0000

Friday, 13 May 2011

The bells at St Mary's Walton-on-Thames are to be reinstalled in June and the rededication and thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday 26th June 2011 at 6.30pm.

There will be open ringing from 5.30pm until 6.30 and everyone is welcome to the ringing, the service and to a reception afterwards in the church hall.

There were times when we thought we may not get to this point but gladly we invite you all to help celebrate. Please let me know if you plan to come along so I know how many cakes to bake.

hilary [at] greenfinch [dot] plus [dot] com (Hilary Brooks)

[Surrey Website is One Year Old](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 May 2011 10:13:01 +0000

Friday, 13 May 2011

The new Surrey Association website was launched a year ago at the AGM in Beddington. Since then, a team of contributors have been hard at work adding news and events, and keeping the website up to date.

We've had a lot of good feedback over the year (mostly positive!) and made changes to some pages to make it easier to find information. Here are just a few of the improvements that we've made since the launch 12 months ago.

Tower Announcements: Notices about changes to the regular practices can now be displayed on the [website](#). So, in addition to sending an email to the Yahoo



group, you can also copy the notice to towerannouncements [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk for it to appear on the website.

Send Us Your News: Surrey has a strong tradition of supporting its ringers in training events, special peals and quarter peals, ringing outings and social events. The website has a dedicated section to report news about our ringing community and we've made easier for you to send news to us. So do let us know about special events in your tower, ringing achievements etc that you would like to share. Simply go to "Ringing Community" and the "[Send us your news](#)". Here you can write you news on the form provided, or you can email and attached photos, and send it to thenewsgroup [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk.



Young Ringers: Our page for [Young Ringers](#) has been active for 6 months now and received some good contributions from some of the younger members in our ringing community. If you have young ringers in your tower, please let them know about this new page. It shows how ringers can get involved and gives details of special events. This page is just a start and we're looking for more young ringing contributors to help add information and keep this page up to date. Just send an email to youngringers [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk.

Stay Informed with RSS: Events and news posted to the website also can be sent directly to your email Inbox, mobile and/or your web browser so you always know what's happening. RSS feeds have been added to the [News](#) and [List of Events](#) pages. You can subscribe to the feed in various ways including dragging the url of the feed into your news reader or add the feed to your email Inbox. For more information and advice, go to the [RSS Feed Subscribe](#) page which appears in the footer of the website.

Carolina Goodship

[Tower Leadership Discussion - Croydon 7th May](#)

Posted: Wed, 11 May 2011 11:07:11 +0000

Wednesday, 11 May 2011

On the morning of Saturday 7th May a number of Tower Captains and a few interested parties met in the church hall at St John Croydon to take part in a discussion on Tower Leadership.

Michael Uphill opened the introduction with a few quotes, the first two from wikipedias as definitions of leadership and the last from a young surrey ringer:

"Leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen."

"The process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task".

"Far too often ringers indulge in a race to the bottom – practice nights dragged down below the lowest common denominator, no focus or desire to improve, constructive feedback shunned with frown and wrinkled lip and progress a dirty word."

Michael continued, "How do we change the attitudes summed up so eloquently by that young man?"

By persuading each other that we must do better and by sharing ways in which we CAN do better.

In recruitment, in teaching bell-handling, in the running of Sunday ringing, in practice and social ringing, in the maintenance of an enthusiastic /interested local band and the maintenance of the bells, belfry and ringing room in good order. It is these various parts of local band life that were to be the topics for open and frank discussion this morning.

Getting to the substance of the session, [Paul Flavell delivered a presentation](#) based on his experience at Kingston Upon Thames and lead us through and interactive discussion along the way. Topics fell under eight sections:

- Managing the ringing
- Diplomacy
- Administration

- Steeplekeeping
- Teaching new learners
- Fund raising
- Recreational events
- Thinking for the future

Interestingly diplomacy not only had it's own section but it also appeared in managing the ringing, with the need for politeness and the avoidance of shouting. One opinion from the floor was that it was not the volume per say that caused the problem, but rather the tone and/or nature of what was said.

Service ringing is our 'stage' performance for the church and to the wider community. It should be our very best ringing, managing expectations, placing bands, and focusing on striking all play a part in achieving our best performance.

Practice nights pose different challenges. Understanding everybody's capabilities and aspirations is key to running a practice in such a way as to give everybody a good ring and sending them home feeling satisfied.

"Making friends not enemies!" was the opening phrase for diplomacy. It went on to identify a number of people that ringers need to maintain good relationships with.

The thorny topic of Annual General Meetings arose under administration, as did the issue of who appoints a tower captain – the clergy or the local band. More controversially should tower captain tenure be restricted in duration, either with possible reelection or an enforced rotation, in the same manner as association officers and many PCC roles are managed. Many strong view were held about this with little consensus.

Steeplekeeping - Should areas above the ringing chamber be designated "a permit to work area", which would mean a legal restriction on who could authorize work in these areas and who needed to asses any risk involved. It was felt that in some circumstances this might have some merit.

The age old issue of band recruitment, retention and training got a good airing along with that of tomorrow's tower captains. In modern parlance referred to a succession planning.

The only image of a tower captain found on the Internet was of a stern man dressed in armor and stood in a medieval dungeon, this provided a backdrop for a discussion of the qualities required in a Tower Captain. Of which, a diplomat who is able to delegate, and a good communicator who can provide constructive feedback are some of the less commonly seen qualities.

Following a break for coffee Eddie Hartley presented a video on how CCTV can be used for Public Relations and in training.

We concluded with further discussion and a consensus that it had been a useful session in which to share experience and exchange ideas.

[Peter Vaulks Big Cycle Ride - half way point reached!](#)

Posted: Wed, 11 May 2011 21:15:32 +0000

Wednesday, 11 May 2011

Many of you will be aware that I am currently on a big cycling adventure - PV's Big Ride. The basic idea is to visit all the compass points of the UK mainland. I did the SE and E points on Palm Sunday weekend as a warm up, and am currently doing the remaining six clockwise. I started on the day of the Royal Wedding with the Lizard, taking in Land's End the following day, and will taking up to three weeks and a little under 1,400 miles to reach Duncansby Head.

I have a [website](#) which includes a blog that I'm updating on the ride (phone battery and signal allowing), and the Google map of the ride is being updated including a pointer showing my progress. I'm currently taking a three day break to attend my father's funeral, but will be resuming the ride from Dumfries on the 10th May.

I am doing this to raise money for a re-hang of Southwark Cathedral bells to both improve the go and correct the odd-struckness, and make them fit for the start of their fourth century in the tower. Please donate by following this [link](#).



Many thanks,

Peter



[Bletchingley Ringers Outing](#)

Posted: Sun, 08 May 2011 10:34:56 +0000

Sunday, 8 May 2011

This year on Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May, the Bletchingley Bell Ringers went for their annual outing to West Sussex, where they rang the bells in five church towers – St. Mary Slaugham, St. Mary Fittleworth, St. Giles Graffham, St. Peter Lodsworth and St. Mary Petworth. Eighteen went on the outing - fourteen ringers and four camp followers (of which I was one). The first four towers all had a ground floor ring but the last tower required the climb of a stone staircase of 36 small, steep spiral steps, quite a normal hazard for bell ringers. All the bells had a nice sound to them and were easy to ring.

Two of the bells at St. Mary Slaugham were from an original peal cast by Thomas Janaway in 1773, 7 years before he cast the ring of eight bells for Bletchingley. The oldest bell rung on the outing was at St. Mary Fittleworth, cast in 1350 (over 660 years ago!). St. Peter Lodsworth also had three old bells, cast in 1602, 1606 and 1648.

St. Mary Slaugham was light and airy inside but it had a strange seating plan. Although the altar was in the East end of the chancel, as is normal, most of the seats for the congregation were 'in the round', facing the North wall, and the pulpit, lectern and organ console were aligned accordingly.

At St. Mary Fittleworth, the Chancel was roped off with a notice "this area is alarmed". Unfortunately the curiosity of one of the bell ringers, not a Bletchingley ringer I hasten to add, was too great and he found that the Chancel was indeed alarmed !?!

Among other items of interest found on the outing, Sir Edward Elgar occasionally played the organ at St. Mary's Fittleworth and E.H. Shepherd, the illustrator of Winnie the Pooh, lived near St. Peter Lodsworth and is buried in the churchyard there.

There was time for food between the ringing. Coffee was taken at St. Mary Slaugham before the ringing started, lunch was at the Foresters' Arms, Graffham after the ringing at St. Mary Fittleworth and a picnic tea, complete with masses of cakes, was taken in the churchyard of St. Peter Lodsworth before the final ring at St. Mary Petworth.

The outing was greatly enjoyable, thanks to the planning of Val and Ed Muller who had arranged it all – thank you Val and Ed (Ed has been Tower Captain in Bletchingley since 1974!). In the evening, most of those on the outing went to Val and Ed's home in Rabies Heath Road for a social evening which included a take away curry.

Nigel Price

[Surrey Ringers Takes Part in Royal Wedding Ringing at Westminster Abbey](#)

Posted: Fri, 29 Apr 2011 19:39:02 +0000

Friday, 29 Apr 2011

Michael Uphill, training officer of the Surrey Association, was one of the band members who rang at Westminster Abbey for the wedding of His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales with Miss Catherine Middleton today, 29th April 2011. Also included in the band were Nigel Thomson and Jeremy Pratt who are both honorary life members resident outside the County.

The ringers were apparently asked to arrive at the Abbey by 8.30 am and be in the tower from 9am. Then just after 10am, Michael successfully conducted a touch of Stedman Caters immediately prior to the start of the marriage service. Although not quite a full quarter peal, the band were asked to ring for a strict 45 minutes, timed to finish with the arrival of the bride at the Abbey. Nigel Thomson gave Michael the signal of her arrival.

At the end of the service, the ringers rang a peal of 5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (2m: Bristol and London No.3). The band included Michael Uphill, Nigel Thomson and Jeremy Pratt.

Full details of the [peal](#) and the touch of [Stedman Caters](#) can be found on [Campanophile](#).

Michael said that it was a truly memorable day.

(news item amended on 3rd May from original posted on the 29th April)

[April's Numbers Club draw](#)

Posted:Wed, 27 Apr 2011 21:32:50 +0000

Thursday, 28 Apr 2011

The April draw was made at the Quiz Evening last Wednesday and the winner of the £25 prize was Jo Drew of Battersea with No 77. Congratulations to Jo on her second win - she was the winner of our second ever draw back in July 2006. Owen Drew has won twice also - what a lucky family!



Now I'm sure you're all agog for the great occasion of the year when we draw the annual mega prize of over £200 at the AGM at Banstead on 14 May, not to mention the quarterly super prize of £80 or so. There's going to be international interest in these draws - we're expecting requests from BBC and ITV to cover the event, not mention the Surrey Comet, and several of our previous winners will be flying in from the West Indies to join in the celebrations - incidentally they're still struggling with Barbados Surprise Major, so let's hope that one of our expert conductors will be among the winners - so be sure to book the date, and there's still time for you to buy another number and double your chances.

[Peter Valuks Sponsored Cycle Ride is Blessed at Southwark Cathedral](#)

Posted:Mon, 25 Apr 2011 18:54:45 +0000

Monday, 25 Apr 2011

On Easter Sunday Peter Valuks was blessed by the Bishop of Southwark as he sets off for Cornwall for his 1200 mile sponsored cycle ride to Duncansby Head, the most North Easterly point on the UK mainland.

Peter Valuks blessed by Bishop Christopher



You can follow Peter's progress on his [website](#) which will contain a journal of the cycle ride.

Good luck, Peter!

Click [here](#) to view the first news item about Peter's sponsored ride on 16th April.

[Epsom Common - Quiz Winners at last!](#)

Posted: Wed, 20 Apr 2011 22:52:40 +0000

Wednesday, 20 Apr 2011

Congratulations to Epsom Common who won the 2011 Inter Tower Quiz held earlier this evening at Banstead. Seeing off 20 other teams, they got ahead and stayed ahead of the three Bs (Betchworth had won the past two years) and the rest. All in 150 people gathered for the now traditional Holy Week event - more than a quarter of the Association's total membership!



All the final results are available [here](#).

[AGM 2011 at Banstead](#)

Posted: Tue, 19 Apr 2011 20:14:31 +0000

Tuesday, 19 Apr 2011

All the relevant details for the AGM on Saturday 14 May have been posted to tower correspondents now. If it doesn't appear in your tower after the Holy Week break, do ask him or her where it is!

If you can't wait, all the information is also available on the [Events page](#) of this website.

The information pack sent to towers also includes the updated clothing order form and information on what is available in which colour. Prices may have risen slightly with the VAT increase but they are still an excellent way to look smart but thinking of value for money as well. [Clothing order forms](#) are also on the website if you'd prefer to make your selection in the comfort of your own home.

[Peter Valuks's big cycle ride](#)

Posted: Sat, 16 Apr 2011 10:49:30 +0000

Saturday, 16 Apr 2011

From 29th April until 20th May 2011, Peter Valuks, Master at Southwark Cathedral, will be cycling solo approximately 1,200 miles to raise money for a re-hang of the historic 12 bells at the Cathedral. These works are needed to ensure the bells, which were cast and hung in the tower in 1735, continue to ring into their fourth century.

Peter will be cycling on his own, carrying a tent to sleep in and will not have any logistical support. The cycle ride will start at Lizard Point in Cornwall, will visit Lands End and John O'Groats and finish at Duncansby Head. The idea of the ride is to visit the furthest points on the British mainland to the S, SW, W, NW, N and NE. Peter will be visiting the SE and E points of the British mainland on his final training ride on the weekend of 16th and 17th April. More information on the event, the bells, the appeal and a journal of the ride which will be updated with progress can be found [here](#).

Please consider giving to the appeal via the [Virgin Money Giving](#) page.

[Training event -Tower Leadership Discussion](#)

Posted: Sat, 02 Apr 2011 18:31:36 +0000

Saturday, 9 Apr 2011

If you are a resident member, next time you go to ring at your local tower the notice board should have a poster and a notice about the above event. Make sure you see it!

The event is intended to, and should be an opportunity for leaders of successful towers to share their expertise and experience with others; for those who would like to get a few tips on improving their tower leadership skills to do so; or for some of "the led" to float a few ideas of their own. If the exchanges of ideas provide inspiration to improve local ringing at a single Surrey tower then they will have been worthwhile.

And the very existence of the morning has already got some tower captains - and others - to put their thinking caps on. I have received much valued comment and advice about the structure of the morning which may, as a result, vary a little from the notified format and may last a little - but not much (!) longer. Please keep the ideas coming in.

We are particularly keen to get some ideas from our younger members. What attracted/attracts you to ringing? How could we make it more interesting and exciting for you? How can we recruit more ringers from your age group and keep them interested? When do you think YOU might be ready to take on a tower office?

Please come along on Saturday 7 May and share your own thoughts with us!

Michael Uphill -Training Officer

[25 Years of Ringing](#)

Posted: Sat, 16 Apr 2011 15:12:48 +0000

Friday, 1 Apr 2011

It was twenty five years ago in February and March 1986 that Godstone was first visited by three young lads (!) who started to learn to ring. Matthew Rose, David and Richard Wallis were the three and between them they have been involved in many of the Association's events and organisation over the years.

Richard celebrated the anniversary weekend in particular with celebratory quarter peal of Setdman Triples at the pace where it all began followed by a lunch for the band and friends at the Whyte Harte.

[Ringing at Clapham RC suspended](#)

Posted: Fri, 25 Mar 2011 14:48:02 +0000

Friday, 25 Mar 2011

I have just had a call from the church advising that following an inspection of the tower, the architect has advised that, due to its poor state, no ringing can take place at the moment.

As a result, ringing from this tower has been suspended until further notice. Unfortunately this includes ringing for the Centenary Open Day on Saturday 26th March which was scheduled from 11am to 12 noon.

Irene Rich

[Association 6 bell striking contest](#)

Posted: Mon, 21 Mar 2011 17:29:53 +0000

Monday, 21 Mar 2011

The Association annual 6 bell striking competition was held at Cheam last Saturday, the 19th March.

With eight bands participating in the event there was plenty of time for both ringing and socialising. The final result was a win for Croydon St. John's whose touch of Grandsire doubles only narrowly beat the Kingston minor bands touch of Cambridge. Beddington were placed third and the other towers taking part were (in no particular order) Kingston doubles, Benhilton, Battersea youth, Battersea senior and Wimbledon.

Our thanks to the Cheam ringers for hosting this years event and to Jason Hughes who spent a chilly afternoon interred in Cheams ancient Lumley Chapel whilst he judged the ringing.

Photographs taken by Diane Pratt of the eight bands are in the gallery and can be found at the links below.

[Battersea youth](#) [Kingston doubles](#) [Kingston minor](#) [Benhilton](#)

[Beddington](#) [Battersea Senior](#) [Wimbledon](#) [Croydon](#)

(tip: click on the thumb nail to see a bigger picture)

[Northern Stars March Edition](#)

Posted: Thu, 17 Mar 2011 22:50:55 +0000

Thursday, 17 Mar 2011

The March edition of the Northern District newsletter, the Northern Stars, has been distributed to towers. Make sure you get your copy. As well as the regular round of news and events from around the district there is a profile of our new Master, Shirley McGill, a kaleidoscope of learning and discover how Kingston tamed their wayward tenor.

The next edition of Northern Stars will be published in June, contributions to the editor please by 6 June. There is a particular request for pictures from your ringing events so don't forget to take your camera with you next time you go ringing.

[Farewell to Bishop Nick](#)

Posted:Sun, 13 Mar 2011 23:10:51 +0000

Sunday, 13 Mar 2011

On Sunday 13th March a quarter peal was rung at Croydon St. Johns for the service of farewell for the Bishop of Croydon, the Right Reverend Nicholas Baines, Bishop Elect of Bradford.

Croydon, Surrey

St John Baptist

Sunday, 13 March 2011 in 53m (15-3-13)

1344 Stedman Triples

- 1 Shirley McGill
- 2 David Hodge
- 3 Anne Rueff
- 4 Ron Diserens
- 5 John Hawes (c)
- 6 Alex Britton
- 7 Roddy Horton
- 8 Chris Baldwin

<http://www.campanophile.com/view.aspx?117615>

[Radio 4 Bells on Sunday from St. Mary's, Barnes.](#)

Posted:Mon, 07 Mar 2011 21:27:50 +0000

Monday, 7 Mar 2011

This weeks Radio 4 Bells on Sunday featured St. Mary's, Barnes.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00z2r52/Bells_on_Sunday_06_03_2011/

[SURREY ASSOCIATION PEAL WEEKEND 18-20th February](#)

Posted:Mon, 07 Mar 2011 12:15:03 +0000

Monday, 7 Mar 2011

Members and friends of the Surrey Association attempted 13 peals over the weekend – unlucky for some, as they say! But 9 peals were scored in a flurry of peal ringing activity and my thanks go to all participants and to the host towers.

We look forward to nextyear!

Shirley McGill

WALWORTH, LondonSE17

St. Peter

Fri Feb 18 2011 2h25(4)

5088 Belfast Surprise Major

Generated: Byroc

- 1 David E Cloake
 - 2 Ian K Bushell
 - 3 Anne Rueff
 - 4 Julia A Lysaght
 - 5 John E Hawes
 - 6 Michael R Crockett
 - 7 Shirley E McGill
 - 8 Ian R Fielding (C)
- 1st in method: 4 & 6.

OATLANDS PARK, Surrey
St Mary
Fri Feb 18 2011 2h53(12)
5024 Rutland Surprise Major
Composed: N Smith
1 Simon J Davies
2 Julia A Lysaght
3 Ronald F Diserens
4 Michael P Moreton
5 Stephen R Aldridge
6 Michael R Crockett
7 Christopher R McLean
8 John E Hawes (c)
1st in method: 5 & 7
1604th tower bell peel: 4

REDHILL, Surrey
St John Evangelist
Sat Feb 19 2011 2h 53(13)
5024 Pudsey Surprise Major
Composed: P J Flavell
1 Jane Holland
2 Julia A Lysaght
3 Stehanie J Rueff
4 Roderic K Bickerton
5 Michael R Crockett
6 Andrew J Holland
7 Anne L Rueff
8 John E Hawes (c)
1st Pudsey : 3

EPSOM, Surrey
Christ Church
Sat Feb 19 2011 2h55(9)
5024 Lincolnshire S Major
Composed: J W Belshaw
1 Patrick M Wills
2 Anne M Anthony
3 Kate J Desbottes
4 Clara P Westlake
5 Stephanie J Rueff
6 Nicholas J Hartley
7 James W Belshaw (c)
8 Andrew J Holland
To mark Kate Desbottes' birthday anniversary.

BLETCHINGLEY, Surrey
St Mary the Virgin
Sat Feb 19 2011 2h59(16)
5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal
Composed: Traditional
1 Shirley E McGill
2 Julia A Lysaght
3 John E Hawes (c)
4 Roderic K Bickerton
5 Gavin D Bennett
6 Stephen R T Pocock

7 David Jackson
8 Michael R Crockett
9 Ian G Mills
10 Ian R Fielding
Circled tower :3

WANDSWORTH, GrLondon
Holy Trinity, West Hill
Sun Feb 20 2011 2h58 (15)
5056 Bristol Surprise Major
Composed: R Baldwin
1 Roderic K Bickerton
2 Julia A Lysaght
3 Ronald F Diserens
4 Shirley E McGill
5 Anne M Anthony
6 J Richard Anthony
7 Michael R Crockett
8 Ian R Fielding (C)

CARSHALTON, Surrey
All Saints
Mon Feb 21 2011 in 2h47 (11)
5088 Dereham Surprise Major
Generated: BYROC
1 Ronald F Diserens
2 Michael P Moreton
3 Anne L Rueff
4 Michael R Crockett
5 P Quentin Armitage
6 James W Belshaw
7 John E. Hawes (c)
8 Ian G Campbell
100th peal :4
150th peal on the bells.

BATTERSEA, GrLondon
St. Mary
Sat Feb 19 2011 2h52 (13)
5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed: R Baldwin
1 Robert J Cooles
2 Simon J Davies
3 Mariko H Whyte
4 Thomas P Wood
5 Thomas J Paul
6 Peter M Jasper
7 Nicholas J Hartley
8 Ian R Fielding (C)
25th peal: 7
Rung for the birth of Samuel Stephen Cooles.

HASCOMBE, Surrey
S Peter
Fri Feb 18 2011 2h24 (4)
5280 changes of 44 Variations of Grandsire Doubles. 44 extents: including the following new variations to the

calling of BPBPSPx2 (one asymmetric call per sixty changes) using combinations of the following calls, Supercallifragilisticexpialodocious Bob, Demvihja Single, Demvihja Extreme, Demvihja Omit; Grandsire Bob, Antelope Bob, Newark Bob, Wollaton Bob; Grandsire Single, Antelope Single, Newark Single and Wollaton Single:

1. 178 at, ta, x, f, g Kim;
2. 178 at, ta, x, f, h St Simon's Feastday;
3. 178 at, ta, y, c, g Russian Doll;
4. 178 at, ta, y, c, h Virgin Atlantic;
5. 178 rs, sr, x, c, g The Musical Mrs Clancy;
6. 178 rs, sr, x, c, f Thankful Villages;
7. 178 rs, sr, x, c, h Aer Lingus;
8. 178 rs, sr, x, f, g Ancoats;
9. 178 rs, sr, x, f, h Saddleworth;
10. 178 rs, sr, x, g, h Boole;
11. 178 rs, sr, x, g Turing;
12. 178 rs, sr, x, c Dijkstra;
13. 178 rs, sr, x, f Dan-Air;
14. 178 rs, sr, x, h Church;
15. 178 rs, sr, u, c, g Oasis Hong Kong;
16. 178 rs, sr, u, c, f Eccles;
17. 178 rs, sr, u, c, h Chris Newbold Might Savour It;
18. 178 rs, sr, u, f, g British Caledonian;
19. 178 rs, sr, u, f, h Chris Newbold Might Adore It;
20. 178 rs, sr, u, g, h Oldham;
21. 178 rs, sr, u, g Babbage;
22. 178 rs, sr, u, c Toft Monks;
23. 178 rs, sr, u, f Berners-Lee;
24. 178 rs, sr, u, h Flybe;
25. 178 rs, sr, w, c, g Easyjet;
26. 178 rs, sr, w, c, f Milnrow;
27. 178 rs, sr, w, c, h Lovelace;
28. 178 rs, sr, w, f, g Colne;
29. 178 rs, sr, w, f, h Holcombe;
30. 178 rs, sr, w, g, h Ryan Air;
31. 178 rs, sr, w, g Bolton;
32. 178 rs, sr, w, c Mice on the Moon;
33. 178 rs, sr, w, f Sinister Cherub;
34. 178 rs, sr, w, h Knuth;
35. 178 rs, sr, y, c, g Barham;
36. 178 rs, sr, y, c, f Irresistible;
37. 178 rs, sr, y, c, h Centurion;
38. 178 rs, sr, y, f, g King Edward VII;
39. 178 rs, sr, y, f, h Empress of India;
40. 178 rs, sr, y, g, h Rodney;
41. 178 rs, sr, y, g Triumph;
42. 178 rs, sr, y, c Ocean;
43. 178 rs, sr, y, f Nelson;
44. 178 rs, sr, y, h Black Templar;

- 1 Jane Wheeler
- 2 Stephen R Aldridge
- 3 Christopher R McLean (C)
- 4 Thomas P Wood
- 5 Roderic K Bickerton

Rung for the Feastday of St Simon.
First peal of doubles: 2 & 4

[Were you lucky in the Numbers Club draw?](#)

Posted: Fri, 04 Mar 2011 19:13:08 +0000

Friday, 4 Mar 2011

The March draw was made at the Southern District ADM at Redhill last Saturday and the winners of the £25 prize were Carshalton Ringers with No 50. Congratulations to those lucky ringers who had not had a win since December 2008 despite being one of our best customers with ten numbers!

Last year we paid out £744 in prizes. Currently there 121 numbers in the draw. So an investor who pays £12 per year for one number can hope to win £744 divided by 121 each year, which is about £6, which is 50% of his investment! Now can anyone tell me where you can find a better investment than that in these hard times? - the Premium Bonds pay less than 1%!

Best wishes to all our far-sighted investors and good luck in the April draw.

Robin Leale (Numbers Club Administrator)

[Thanks and Welcome at the Southern District ADM](#)

Posted: Sat, 26 Feb 2011 20:00:48 +0000

Saturday, 26 Feb 2011

John Squirrell was thanked for all his many and various efforts as District Master for the past year. The District then welcomed Kate Desbottes to the post of Master leading the District into its Centenary year of 2012.

A fuller report will appear in due course - though it was pleasing to note the list of new members went onto a second page (but then so did the list of apologies!).

[Thinking Ahead to the Southern District Centenary in Jan 2012](#)

Posted: Fri, 25 Feb 2011 23:36:11 +0000

Friday, 25 Feb 2011

The Southern District was formed on the 27th January 1912, with 5 founding churches Burstow, Charlwood, Horley, Reigate, and Redhill and on the 1st October 1912 the Southern District rang its first Peal - Plain Bob Royal at Reigate.

How would you, the members, like to celebrate this event?

A short while ago the Southern District Committee asked for suggestions from you as to what form our celebrations might take. Thank you for your responses. Although the idea of augmenting bells at a tower or restoring bells that have become unringable would be a very memorable achievement, it was felt that work on this scale should be initiated from within the local parish and is beyond the scope of our celebrations.

Now we need you to tell us which of the suggestions you would like to see happen and which you would most like to take part in.

[Click here for the list of suggestions](#). Please put a cross in the appropriate box to indicate how strongly you would support that suggestion. When you have completed the form could you either:

1. hand it to your Tower Correspondent for posting in one envelope, or
2. download this form from the SA website, complete it, and email it back to the sdmaster [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Kate Desbottes) by the end of March.

Please remember that any event will not just need the support of the members, by attending, but also to help organizing them.

Please vote for items that you personally would like to attend.

VOTE for yourself - not for what you think others might like!

[February's Numbers Club](#)

Posted: Sat, 26 Feb 2011 20:02:05 +0000

Monday, 21 Feb 2011

The February (quarterly) draw was made at the Northern District meeting at Holy Trinity Clapham this evening and the prize of £86.24 was won by Paul Flavell of Kingston with No 18. Many congratulations to Paul, who was heard to say recently that he couldn't afford to retire yet - how quickly things can change, thanks to a canny investment!

Talking of retired people, you may have noticed looking around that there are many more of these in the Northern District than there are in the Southern District. The reason for this is simple. It is because, out of the total numbers so far sold in the Numbers Club, 84 have been bought by Northern District members, 25 by Southern District members, and 12 by others. So let's be hearing from the Southern District please so that you also can be sitting back and enjoying the sunshine!

Best wishes to all our sagacious investors and may your retirement be long and happy!

[Oxted's Special Quarter Peal](#)

Posted:Thu, 10 Feb 2011 11:31:41 +0000

Thursday, 10 Feb 2011

On Sunday 30th January 2011 the Rector of St Mary's at Oxted, Alan Mayer took his last service before retirement. Five of the Oxted ringers with the assistance of Richard Wallis (which was much appreciated) rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles to mark the event. The ringers were particularly pleased to have been able to achieve this as it shows a significant step forward in the ability of the band. The band was:

1. Sarah Phillips
2. Heather Griffiths
3. Brenda Ramsden
4. Ian Griffiths
5. Richard Wallis (Conductor)
6. Nikki Paintin.

This was the first quarter peal for Nikki. Heather and Sarah have previously received the Violet Potter award. A photo of the band is on the [gallery](#).

Ian Griffiths

(Webmaster): Many congratulations to all who took part in this quarter peal. If there are any other young ringers who have recently rung their first quarter peal or peal, or are about to attempt one, you may also be eligible for the award. Applications should be made to the General Secretary within 3 months of the peal or quarter peal. Click here for more [details](#).

[Special ringing to celebrate Bermondsey's 20th Anniversary](#)

Posted:Sun, 06 Feb 2011 18:13:55 +0000

Sunday, 6 Feb 2011

On 19th February the Bermondsey band is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The band was formed in February 1991 after the old ring of bells was replaced.

There will be open ringing before and after a service of thanksgiving for the bells and ringers. The service will be at 5pm and visitors are very welcome to come along and join us.

Morag Todd

[First World War roll of honour research](#)

Posted:Tue, 01 Feb 2011 09:54:54 +0000

Tuesday, 1 Feb 2011

Having started out helping Alan Regin look into the names of those ringers listed on the [Central Council roll of honour](#), I see that, in the Surrey Association we have our own [roll](#) which can be viewed from the "[Brief History](#)" and "[Library](#)" pages of this website.

Since I happen to work at The National Archives, I've started working through the list, which shows tower, surname, initials and unit, trying to reconstruct little more information about the men named. Unlike the Central Council roll, the Surrey roll shows all the members of the Association who served, including those who returned. 152 members of the Association are listed, 24 of whom did not return. The majority I'm pretty sure I've managed to identify from combination of official sources: military records, census returns and records of births, marriages

and deaths. Some, I'm struggling with - and there's always the chance I've got some wrong. It does not help that 60-70% of army records were destroyed by German bombing in the Second World War.

I'd be very grateful if people could check the transcription below against tower records, and let me know if I seem to have gone astray, or can fill in any missing details. Also, if there are any photos of these men in your towers, I'd be grateful for a copy. And if anyone can outdo the fine stone memorial that Mitcham should apparently have in their ringing chamber, it would also be interesting to hear. The centenary of the outbreak of the war will be upon us in just over 3 years, and it would be good to be able to put at least a little more information around these names by then.

david [dot] underdown95 [at] imperial [dot] ac [dot] uk (David Underdown)

Ashtead (St Giles):-

Sydney Reddick, Lance Sergeant, Royal Fusiliers, 26th Battalion, Died of Wounds 1918
Hedley James Wyatt, Sergeant Instructor, Royal Fusiliers, 25th Battalion
George Albert Cook, Corporal, City of London?, 21st Battalion
William Henry Corbett, Royal Marines Artillery, HMS Achilles

Banstead (All Saints):-

[Robert Ingate?] George, Private, Royal Army Service Corps
Frederick George Woodiss, Sergeant, Grenadier Guards, Wounded 1917

Beddington (St Mary):-

[Albert?] Boxall, Private, Suffolk Regiment
Stephen Walte, Godin, Lance Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps
[Thomas Arthur?] Talbot, Corporal, Royal Engineers

Benhlilton (All Saints):-

John Webb, Sergeant-Major, Army Service Corps, Died November 1918
Sidney Frank Rayner, Private, East Surrey Regiment, Killed November 1918
William or Walter Hodges Private, Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, Wounded 1914
[George?] Rayner, Private, Royal Fusiliers

Bletchingley (St Mary):-

William Mayne, Private, Royal Defence Corps
George Potter, Private, Area Employment Artizan Company
William Inwood Mayne, Sergeant, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Leonard Francis Goodwin, Private, Labour Corps
Frederick George Balcomb[e], Sapper, Royal Engineers, Inland Waterways and Docks
William [I or John?] Wilson, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps
Thomas James Coppard, Private, Queen's?, 5th Battalion
[Horace] Gordon Kirby, Signaller, Royal Garrison Artillery
Harry Thomas Wren, Private, Manchester Regiment, 16th Battalion
John [William] Weeke [Weeks], Driver, Royal Field Artillery
S[ty]dney [Thomas] Plumridge, Private, 10th Lancers

Burston (St Bartholomew):-

Albert Arthur Stoner, Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery, Killed
Charles Herbert Varo, Royal Garrison Artillery, Died of wounds (also associated with Monks Eleigh, Suffolk)
[Walter Eric ?] [William E] Mark [Markey?], Royal Garrison Artillery, Killed
George Robert Kew, Queen's?, Missing
Albert Harman, Sergeant, Royal Garrison Artillery
Fred[erick] Harman, Corporal, Royal Garrison Artillery
Maurice [John] Sherlock, Royal Field Artillery
John Sherlock, Royal Army Service Corps
William [Herbert] Humphrey, Air Mechanic 2nd Class, Royal Air Force
[Leslie Walter?] Penfold, Royal Air Force
Harold [William] Kew, Royal Irish Rifles

Carshalton (All Saints):-

Frank Pickering, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 16th Battalion, Missing
[Henry?] Stanley, Royal Army Service Corps

Croydon (St John):-

E Elliott, Corporal, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 9th Battalion
Cyril Frederick Johnston, Royal Fusiliers, Public Schools' Battalion

Croydon (St Peter):-

[Robert?] or [RICHARD FRANK WARD] or [Reginald] Brough, Air Mechanic [?], Royal Naval Air Service
W Rowe, Sapper, Royal Engineers
L F Garfath, Sergeant, Royal Air Force

Charlwood (St Nicholas):-

G[eorge?] Ellis, Sergeant, Royal Air Force
Sidney Herbert Ellis, Private, Royal Sussex Regiment
George Wickens Jun, Corporal, Royal Air Force
Oliver Sippetts [Sippet?], Corporal, Leinster Regiment
Arthur Knapp, Private, Royal Army Service Corps

Dorking (St Martin):-

A Baker, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Ernest James Pressling [Presling?], Private, Middlesex Regiment
William James Hills, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, Prisoner
Albert or Arthur Carr, Sergeant, Royal Flying Corps
John Russel, Lieutenant, Royal Engineers
J Sitch, Sergeant, Royal Field Artillery

Egham (St John) :-

[Percy Edward?], Gigg, Lance Corporal, City of London?, 7th Battalion, Wounded
Ernest George Richard, Filewood, Private, East Surrey Regiment, 6th Battalion
F Perkins, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps
[William James?] Seammell [Scammell?], Private, Labour Corps

Epsom (Christchurch):-

[Francis Walter or William?] Robinson, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 55th Brigade
Arthur John Fisher, Private, Bedfordshire Regiment
Frederick James Mann, Corporal, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Alfred Albert Mann, Driver, Royal Field Artillery
Thomas Henry R Harris, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
George Francis/George Frank Oakshott, Private, Royal Fusiliers, Wounded
Richard Kendall, Corporal, Bedfordshire Regiment, Wounded 3 times

Epsom (St Martin):-

Joseph Morgan Lamprill, Sergeant, Machine Gun Corps, Disabled
Alfred David Young, Private, East Surrey Regiment
Albert Claude Coleman
Frederick Ernest (1891 Census has Emert Coldiron!) Coldman
[William John?] Hart, Private, Labour Corps

Ewell (St Mary):-

Frederick Charles Lauer [Laver] [Laner], Private, Royal Army Service Corps, Wounded
Jesse Beams, Private, Essex Regiment, 16th Battalion

Godstone (St Nicholas):-

Arthur Frederick Roberts, Middlesex Regiment, Killed
John Robert Humphrey[s], Sergeant, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
William Thomas Beeson (jr), Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
William Henry Humphrey[s], East Surrey Regiment, 1/4th Battalion?
Arthur David Humphrey[s], Royal Corps of Signals

Hersham (St Peter):-

George Basil Edser, Royal Irish Rifles, 2nd Battalion, Killed
Ernest James Hamblin, Auckland Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Killed
John Loveridge, Private, East Surrey Regiment, 4th Battalion
William Alfred or William Edward Woodrow, Captain, Royal Engineers and Royal Defence Corps

Horley (St Bartholomew):-

Ernest Stephen Lanaway, Private, Royal Fusiliers, Wounded
Frank Sadler, Sapper, Royal Engineers

Kingston-on-Thames (All Saints):-

John Harley Bridges Hesse, Major, Royal Army Service Corps
George Edward Naish, Corporal, Royal Army Medical Corps
John Henry Howes, Private, MGA?
William Duffell, Private, RLDC [Royal Defence Corps]

Leatherhead (St Mary and St Nicholas):-

Alfred Henry Winch, Private, Labour Corps
William Ernest Otway, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
Arthur Charles Otway, Corporal, East Surrey Regiment, 5th Battalion
George Harry F[ordham?] Marriner, Signals Sergeant, East Surrey Regiment, 5th Battalion
Thomas Newnham, Sergeant, Welsh Regiment, 1st Battalion
Harry Marks, Private, Rifle Brigade

Limpsfield Chart (St Andrew):-

Edward Ernest Tidy, Private, Royal West Kent Regiment, 2nd Battalion
Henry Frederick Hylton Tidy, Driver, Royal Engineers
Percival Charles Tidy, Private, Royal West Kent Regiment, 5th Battalion
Thomas Firmager, Sapper, Royal Engineers
Arthur Firmager, Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
Charles William Clinch, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

Merstham (St Catherine):-

Joseph Abbott, Private, Grenadier Guards, Killed
Ernest Morley, Bedfordshire Regiment, Killed

Mitcham (St Peter and St Paul):-

Douglas Walter Drewett, Private, Cameron Highlanders, Killed at Pontruet
Benjamin Arthur Morris, Private, Coldstream Guards, Killed
Stanley Smith, Private, East Surrey Regiment, Killed
Frederick John Tilley, Quarter Master Sergeant, Royal Field Artillery

Albert John Calver, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery
 William Henry Joiner, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
 Sydney Amos Foster, Private, Rifle Brigade Mitcham (Christchurch):-
 Alfred Robert Brewin, Private, London Regiment, 23rd Battalion, Wounded
 William Crossley, Sergeant, Royal Air Force
 Hector James Dewdney, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, Wounded
 Horace Charles Druett, Lieutenant, East Surrey Regiment
 Harold James Druett, Private, Tank Corps
 D Hall, Private, East Surrey Regiment
 Joseph Thomas S Jennings, Private, East Surrey Regiment
 Arthur Martin Jennings, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps
 Alfred Miller, Sapper, Royal Engineers
 Percy Lewis Parslow, 1st Class Air Mechanic, Royal Air Force
 Arthur Malcolm Parslow, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps
 John William Parslow, Sergeant, City of London Regiment?, 15th Battalion, Wounded
 Percival Charles Rabbetts, Sergeant, Royal Sussex Regiment

Nutfield (St Peter and St Paul):-
 Alfred Bashford, Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS Good Hope, Killed
 William Cheeseman [Cheesman/Cheeseman], Bombardier, Royal Garrison Artillery
 Albert Edward Cheeseman, Private, Royal Engineers
 [Al]Bert? Wood, 2nd Class Air Mechanic, Royal Air Force
 A Huggett, Private, Labour Corps
 George Sydney Elphick, Corporal, Royal Army Service Corps

Redhill (St John):-
 Albert Streeter, Sergeant, Machine Gun Corps, Died of Wounds
 Harold Dennis, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, Killed
 William Maynard, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, Killed
 Harry William or Henry Edwards, Royal Army Service Corps, S/S?
 William Streeter, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

Reigate (St Mary Magdalene):-
 Henry John Dewey, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps, Drowned
 William Frank Smith, Corporal, Royal Horse Guards, Killed
 [Harold?] Bennett, Private, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
 Henry Frederick Ewins, 2nd Class Air Mechanic, Royal Air Force
 George Frederick Hoad, Sapper, Royal Engineers
 Henry Albert Hoad, Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery
 James Henry Judd, Private, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

Streatham (Immanuel):-
 Ernest Attwater, Lieutenant, Machine Gun Corps, Killed (also associated with Cuckfield, Sussex)
 William E Mardell, Sapper, Royal Engineers
 Robert Basil Foreman, Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 3rd Battalion
 George Jordan Lidiard [Liddiard], Private, East Surrey Regiment
 H[erbert?] F[rank?] Daniels, Royal Air Force

Streatham (St Leonard):-
 William Charles Lee, Lance Corporal, Suffolk Regiment, Killed (also associate with Sudbury, Suffolk)
 [George Edward?] Mitchell, Lieutenant, Royal Garrison Artillery, Wounded 1918
 Frank Norman Attwater, Sergeant, Royal Sussex Regiment
 Isaac James Attwater, Private, Royal Army Service Corps (brothers of Ernest of Immanuel, probably also associated with Cuckfield)
 A Bradley, Private, Machine Gun Corps
 James William Chapman, Private, Royal Army Service Corps

Wimbledon (St Mary):-
 Richard Rapson, Sapper, Royal Marines Engineers
 Willis Austin or his brother William Ewart de Vulder, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
 S[ty]dney Thomas? Or Stephen? Howard, Sergeant-Major, Royal Air Force

Northern District elects a new Master

Posted: Mon, 24 Jan 2011 18:52:03 +0000

Monday, 24 Jan 2011

The Northern District elected Shirley McGill to be our new Master at the recent Annual Meeting held on Saturday 15th January at [Streatham, St. Leonard](#). Shirley takes over the role from Gillian Leale who has stood down at the end of her term. All the remaining committee members stood for reelection unopposed and were duly elected for another year.

Gillian was warmly thanked for her work as District Master by Association President, Eric Godfery and applauded by the assembled members.

Ringling in Streatham's smart newly refurbished ringling chamber was very well attended both before and after the meeting with a wide variety of methods rung.

The highlight of the afternoon though has to be the tea served by the Streatham ringers, hot soup, sausages and a selection of sandwiches and cakes were enjoyed by everyone.

[Peal Weekend 18th - 20th February](#)

Posted: Mon, 10 Jan 2011 21:04:35 +0000

Monday, 10 Jan 2011

Peal Weekend is almost upon us (Friday 18th - Sunday 20th February) and Shirley McGill is keen to hear from all those who are planning to ring a peal.

Tower correspondents should receive a poster with details in due course, but in the meantime, please email [semcgill \[at\] blueyonder \[dot\] co \[dot\] uk](mailto:semcgill@blueyonder.co.uk) " [target="_blank">Shirley](#) or phone her (020 8406 3083) with details of your band as soon as possible.

[Ringing World Art Competition](#)

Posted: Sat, 08 Jan 2011 23:46:03 +0000

Saturday, 8 Jan 2011

The Ringing World is running a competition for young artists aged 16 and under on the 26th March 2011. Entries will be displayed at the Inspired by Bells exhibition at the [Royal Opera Arcade \(ROA\)](#) Gallery, Pall Mall, near Trafalgar Square.

Full details of how to take part are given on the [Young Ringers page](#) of the website.

The closing date for entries is Saturday 12 March 2011.

Carolina Goodship posted on behalf of Helen Udal (Curator Inspired by Bells)

[The Northern Stars December Edition](#)

Posted: Sat, 18 Dec 2010 18:54:42 +0000

Saturday, 18 Dec 2010

The December edition of the Northern District newsletter, the Northern Stars, has been distributed to towers. Make sure you get your copy. As well as the regular round of news and events from around the district there is a report of celebrations and a book launch in Putney, a bell ringers view on Advent and meet a man who had a certificate to prove it..

[Whiting Donation to the BRF](#)

Posted: Sat, 11 Dec 2010 08:19:30 +0000

Saturday, 11 Dec 2010

The BRF has recently received a cheque for £100 from The Whiting Society, a group whose main interest is to encourage ringing on five and six bells, particularly in methods beyond the standard ones.

One of the Surrey Association's long-standing members, Tony Bishop, is a pillar of The Whiting Society and the author of a number of its publications, and it is in recognition of his work for the Society over the years that this generous donation has been made.

Details of the Society's publications, which are of great interest to all five and six bell ringers, can be found on their [website](#). Most of the books published by the Whiting Society are also available from Lawrence Davies's [book stall](#).

Robin Leale (BRF Secretary)

[Were you born after 26 March 1992?](#)

Posted: Tue, 30 Nov 2010 12:06:19 +0000

Tuesday, 30 Nov 2010

If the answer is yes, would you be interested in taking part in the young ringers striking competition on Saturday 26th March 2011?

The event will be one of several being organised by the Ringing World to celebrate its centenary on the 26th March 2011. The striking competition will take place at St Saviour's church, Pimlico, London (not far from Victoria station). The criteria for entering is that you should be under the age of 19 on the 26th March 2011.

I'm organising a Surrey Association young ringers team to enter the competition. I'm looking to form a squad from whom the team will be selected. The test piece will be call changes or a method, to be decided by the band. I'll try and get the squad together for some practices beforehand including one at St Saviours during the February half term.

This will be a fantastic opportunity, so if you'd like to be involved in this venture, or if you know anyone who might be, email me as soon as you can.

master [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk (Sheila Cheesman)

[Numbers Club draw for November](#)

Posted: Sun, 28 Nov 2010 15:36:44 +0000

Sunday, 28 Nov 2010

The November draw was made at the Southern District meeting yesterday and the winner of the quarterly prize of £84.03 was Alan Streeter of Nutfield with No 65. Many congratulations to Alan for winning two quarterly prizes in a row - the first time this has happened! I hear that Cliff Richards' villa in Barbados is up for sale Alan, but we all hope that you won't be deserting dear old Nutfield.

As Nutfield ringers were the winners two months ago, this makes it three times out of the last four that the prize has gone to Nutfield! Clearly this can't go on, so the further you are from Nutfield the more numbers you should buy for next time, I'm sure you'll agree!

[Report on Northern District Nomination Meeting](#)

Posted: Thu, 25 Nov 2010 12:42:15 +0000

Thursday, 25 Nov 2010

The Northern District annual nomination meeting was held at Holy Trinity, Wandsworth last Saturday, the 20th November.

The meeting followed the normal format with ringing followed by a short service taken by the Rev. Greg Prior followed by tea, a short meeting and more ringing for those who wanted it. There was a reasonable turnout for the ringing and those present were able to enjoy Stedman, Cambridge, Double Norwich and some Bristol as well as Grandsire and Little Bob during the course of the afternoon and evening.

Besides the normal business matters the main purpose of the meeting was to receive nominations for the Northern District Committee in 2011. Gillian Leale completes her term as Master in January and nominations are invited for this position. Only one nomination, Shirley McGill of Croydon St. Johns, had been received prior to the meeting and there were no further nominations from the floor.

All other officers and members of the committee are standing for re election in the new year.

Further nominations for officers and committee members are welcomed and should be sent to the Master or Secretary to be received no later than the 18th December.

Election of those nominated will take place at the ADM which will be held on the 15th January 2011 at Streatham.

In other business. Jeremy Cheesman read out an email from Chris Stanley on progress with fund raising for the long term project at St. Johns Merton. Chris was unable to attend the meeting because he was taking part in a fund raising concert at the church. Nearly half of the £150,000 needed has been raised which includes the £20,000 to be provided by the BRF.

Robin Leale reported that the proceeds of Michael Uphill's recently published book are being donated to the BRF and £360 has already been received from sales in the past fortnight.

Sheila Cheesman asked for nominations for a Surrey band to enter the young ringers striking competition being held in March next year as part of the Ringing World centenary celebrations. Members of the band must have been born after 27 March 1992 to be eligible.

Robin Leale advised that £43 had been collected in contributions for tea and had been generously donated to the BRF by the local ringers.

Next meeting is the Christmas meeting at Battersea on Saturday 18th December starting at 19:30.

[Walton ringers - all change again!](#)

Posted:Wed, 24 Nov 2010 10:00:59 +0000

Wednesday, 24 Nov 2010

The Friday practice at Walton-on-Thames moved to Oatlands because of the restoration work in progress at Walton. Sadly that has all had to change again as Oatlands neighbours objected to the bells being rung after eight pm. Luckily, Weybridge and East Molesey have come to our aid and offered us a practice night from 7.45 to 9.15 on a Friday in addition to their own.

So that we do not discommode either of them too greatly in having to lock and unlock etc, we are going to be ringing at [Weybridge](#) for the first two Fridays of the month and [East Molesey](#) for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Fridays.

Our grateful thanks to Jane and Neill for allowing this and our thanks to Bruce as we enjoyed our brief stint on his bells.

Hilary Brooks

[Training Day - Bletchingley 2010](#)

Posted:Fri, 19 Nov 2010 10:10:56 +0000

Friday, 19 Nov 2010

This year's Bletchingley was another successful day for most of the participants, with a few more lessons learned for the future; the slight "downsides" being the size of Irene's call-change group at Buckland in the afternoon, caused by the transfer to her of the residue of a similar "morning only" group and insufficient help for Chris Stanley's "handling clinic."

But really positive feedback was received from most of the others, particularly the Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Triples groups and the new, experimental Kaleidoscope group. My thanks to Vicky Williams for suggesting this.

My grateful thanks, too, to all who took part, particularly the group leaders and their hard-working helpers. And the weather! Remember the storms and floods of last year? At least we had a reasonably clement day to enjoy and a "buzz" in the Village hall at Bletchingley both at morning coffee and afternoon tea for which warm thanks were accorded to Frances Clementi and her helpers for keeping us well fed and watered.

A few statistics. Total attendance this year was 105 consisting of 53 students and 52 helpers, the second largest gathering since the millennium year, last year's "Bletchingley" being the largest. Student numbers were up again but by a more modest 12.5% this time. Helpers were considerably down and this is why we struggled with some groups. For my first two training days I had personally asked rather more helpers than I had time to do this time. Is this the reason for the drop in numbers of helpers? There were one or two rumblings about communication. Members from two towers said (not to me!) that they had received "no information" about the Training Day despite its date and format having been published in the annual report, on programme cards, on the web-site, at district meetings and in no fewer than four circulars, including posters, to tower correspondents, resulting in a record number of students. I really do believe that those enthusiastic enough to want to make progress will make sure that they get all the information they need!

We have an exciting programme of events coming up in the new year (see events pages). Make sure you get informed about them and stake your claim to a place. make a particular note now of the Tower Leadership discussion planned for the morning of May 7th followed by a buffet lunch. Good tower leadership is going to be absolutely crucial to the future of our art and I hope that the exchange of ideas and tips that will result from this discussion will serve our Association well.

Michael Uphill

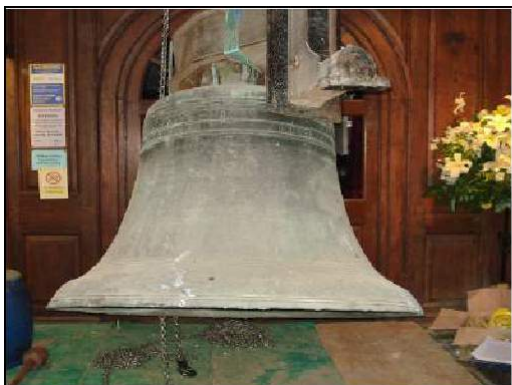
Association training officer

Walton Rehang News Update

Posted: Wed, 10 Nov 2010 16:39:35 +0000

Wednesday, 10 Nov 2010

The bells are currently being taken out and will taken to Nicholson by the end of this week.



This photo is of the tenor which was removed today. Its diameter is 49 inches, weight 21 cwt and cast 1651 by the bell founders Bryanus Eldridge.

The work is being carried out by Nicholson's with the help of volunteer labour force. Although the bells are out of action, the ringers are continuing their regular weekly practice at Oaklands.

Fund raising included abseiling down the tower. Click [here](#) for a Youtube preview of this fund raising event.

Croydon regain The Pat Cannon Trophy

Posted: Sun, 24 Oct 2010 07:17:55 +0000

Sunday, 24 Oct 2010

Four bands gathered at Caterham St Mary for this year's Eight Bell Striking Competition. The Benhilton Practice Night band rang first and completed their Grandsire Triples with the Caterham St John/Godstone band similarly following. Kingston rang Cambridge Surprise Major third with Croydon completing the afternoon with Grandsire Triples.

Sheila Cheesman had started the afternoon by commenting on "The first shall become last and the last shall come first" and that is how it turned out when Michael Moreton gave the results and some anecdotes. So, Croydon regained the Pat Cannon Trophy with 29 faults from last year's winners Kingston with 58.

The winning team



Shirley receives the trophy from Michael



[October's Numbers Club draw](#)

Posted: Sun, 24 Oct 2010 15:51:38 +0000

Sunday, 24 Oct 2010

The monthly draw was made at the Southern District meeting at Caterham yesterday, and the £25 prize was won by Gillian Leale of Kingston upon Thames with No 13.

Jill very kindly agreed to take unlucky number 13 back at the beginning of the Numbers Club, and she's very pleased that her choice has at last paid off after a long wait. So don't despair, everything comes to those who wait! As I've told you before, you will all win if you wait long enough! In fact I'm quite sure you will win before they finish ringing the extent on 24 handbells which I'm told is going to commence on my 75th birthday (and more importantly the 100th birthday of the Ringing World) on 26 March 2011.

Anyway the best of luck to all our ever hopeful investors with the bumper quarterly draw which will take place at the Northern District Nomination Meeting on 20 November.

[Southern District Striking Challenge Result](#)

Posted: Sat, 23 Oct 2010 20:24:16 +0000

Saturday, 23 Oct 2010

And so the five bands from the previous rounds gathered at Caterham St John on Saturday evening to ring for The Richard Wallis Trophy and a bottle of champagne. The draw for the order in which to ring actually came out in practice night order so Caterham St John rang first, Newdigate next and then Merstham, Godstone and Walton on Thames.

Andrew and Jane Holland were the judges sitting in the Morrisons' car park. After short deliberations the bronze medal position went to Caterham St John, silver to Merstham and the Trophy to Godstone. Congratulations to everyone who took place in this year's Challenge and roll on next year.

[Finalists announced for the Southern District Striking Challenge](#)

Posted: Thu, 14 Oct 2010 10:53:09 +0000

Thursday, 14 Oct 2010

The preliminary rounds of the Friendly Striking Challenge have now been completed. Congratulations to all who took part. The final will take place at [St John's Caterham](#) on 23rd October at 7pm (same evening as the District Practice).

Competing in the the finals will be:

Caterham St John's (last year's winner!)
Newdigate

Merstham
Godstone
Walton-on-Thames

Do please come along and listen to the (short) competition and then join in the District Practice - there will be something for everyone to ring. Do please encourage others in your band to come along. Refreshments will be provided.

John Squirrel

[Walton-on-Thames is Moving to Oatlands](#)

Posted: Mon, 11 Oct 2010 11:22:53 +0000

Monday, 11 Oct 2010

The last practice at St Mary before the rehanging project starts will be on Friday 15th October. The last Sunday ringing will be in the evening on 17th October. From the 22nd October, the band will continue to practice every Friday at [St Mary Oatlands Park](#). Anyone wishing to join the ringers for their last Walton ringing or in Oatlands will be very welcome.

We wish the Walton ringers all the best with the rehang project. Work should be completed around Easter time 2011. Click [here](#) to read more about Walton's fund raising successes.

[Ringing suspended at Burstow](#)

Posted: Tue, 05 Oct 2010 19:08:24 +0000

Tuesday, 5 Oct 2010

Due to excess tower movement, ringing is currently suspended at Burstow. It will resume once remedial work has been carried out.

[The Pat Cannon Trophy](#)

Posted: Fri, 01 Oct 2010 13:35:25 +0000

Friday, 1 Oct 2010

Our next 8 bell striking competition is to be held on Saturday the 23rd October at St. Mary's Caterham and this is the prize for the winning team. I remember Pat Cannon and grew up with him demanding good ringing and striking. I also remember how he loved to ring Double Norwich Court Bob Major at any opportunity. As this Trophy was presented to the association to remember him and maintain his standard of ringing, it would be lovely to have more teams competing in the competition. Please support the Association and this competition and who knows your team may be going home with this trophy!

Entries to Richard Wallis gensec [at] surreybellringers [dot] org [dot] uk by Tuesday 19 Oct.

Diane Pratt

(reproduced from the September edition of Northern Stars)



September's Number Club

Posted: Tue, 05 Oct 2010 19:06:53 +0000

Wednesday, 29 Sep 2010

The September draw was made at the Northern District practice meeting at Merton Park last Monday and the winner of the £25 prize was Nutfield Bellringers with No 94. Congratulations to those lucky ringers and commiserations to all the rest of you - don't worry, your time will come!

You will I'm sure remember that Alan Streeter of Nutfield was the winner of last month's bumper prize. Clearly our little yellow balls currently have a preference for the Southern District and for the Nutfield area in particular. That being so I strongly recommend that if you ring within three miles of Nutfield, ie at Bletchingley, Merstham, Redhill or Godstone, and you haven't yet bought a number, then now is the time to do so, before the little balls' penchant for that area drains away.

September edition of Northern Stars

Posted: Wed, 22 Sep 2010 14:28:01 +0000

Wednesday, 22 Sep 2010

The latest round up of news and articles covering the events, people and towers of the Northern District has been issued. Copies are being distributed to all towers.

Back copies of the magazine can be viewed online [here](#).

CLIMBING TO SUCCESS for the Bell Restoration Project

Posted: Sat, 18 Sep 2010 12:06:27 +0000

Saturday, 18 Sep 2010

We were very lucky indeed on Saturday Sept 11th when the charity abseil took place from the top of the tower of St Mary's Walton-on-Thames. Fifty eight people accomplished the climb up through the tower, onto the roof and then frighteningly backwards off the top.

Every instinct tells you not to lean backwards from a ledge 18m up but you do it anyway and the buzz was incredible. Everyone who did it was wreathed in smiles afterwards. None more so than the two persons who had to try twice before they got up enough courage to step backwards over the edge of the parapet. Many people who professed to be frightened of heights undertook the abseil simply because it somehow felt safe doing it from our own tower!!

Four of our church ministers did it; the curate, Steve Bailey was amongst first off the top and staggeringly raised over £750 in sponsorship from the congregation, hopefully to support him. Mike Bale, Guildford Guild Ringing Master, accomplished his jump before going on the ring in the Essex competition. I think they were very glad to see him arrive in one piece.

Every person was applauded when they reached the bottom and had a recorded interview from which we hope to make a short DVD.

The final total is not yet known but a huge thank you to everyone who took part and to their marvellous sponsors who made it all worthwhile. The day was managed very professionally by 'Hatt Adventures' in Brighton and they now have a photo link on their [website](#).

The faculty petition has now been applied for and we hope to start work in November. The work will take up to fifteen weeks, so the bells will be back in, and a great deal easier to ring, by Easter.

Hilary Brooks

Third again in The Essex Trophy

Posted: Sat, 11 Sep 2010 17:18:14 +0000

Saturday, 11 Sep 2010

The Surrey band were third in this year's Essex Trophy ringing Cambridge Surprise Royal. Congratulations to home team Essex on their win. Kent were second and Guildford, Hertford and Sussex made up the six places.

The Surrey band were in order from the treble, Diane Reynolds, Jill Leale, Irene Rich, Sheila Cheesman, Anne Rueff, Mike Moreton, Roger Grieve, David Wallis, Robin Leale and Jeremy Cheesman (see [photo](#) on in the gallery). We got off to a nervous start but the second half of the course of Cambridge Royal was excellent.

Afterwards the judges remarked that we might have done extremely well if the ringing had been so good throughout.

Thank you to all the band for making it such a pleasant day out, to the Reigate ringers and church for our practice and for many Surrey members who sent us good wishes.

Next year we go to Hertfordshire on 10th September.

[August's Numbers Club draw](#)

Posted: Thu, 09 Sep 2010 17:54:53 +0000

Saturday, 28 Aug 2010

The grand quarterly draw took place at the Southern District meeting last Saturday and the winner of the prize of £85.13 was Alan Streeter of Nutfield with No 65. Many congratulations to Alan and commiserations to all of our less fortunate investors - your turn will come!

Indeed it could come sooner than you might think if you follow our usual helpful advice. We have now had 54 draws and believe it or not a number ending in numeral 1 has only ever come up once! And the really good news is that No 131 is currently available and even more surprisingly we are selling it for the normal price of £12!!

[Surrey Young Ringers' Week](#)

Posted: Mon, 23 Aug 2010 13:55:39 +0000

Monday, 23 Aug 2010

One of the things the training officer enjoyed as a youngster was taking part in outings, quarters and peals during the school summer holidays. So, as an experiment, we invited our young ringers to get in touch with their ideas for quarter peals that they would like to attempt. Unfortunately there were only two "takers" but nevertheless the following quarters were arranged and successfully and enjoyably completed with some very good ringing achieved, each one having being requested by the "students".

LONDON, EC, St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street, August 16th, 1319 Grandsire Cinques: Shirley McGill 1, Gillian Leale 2, Anne Rueff 3, Stephanie Rueff (First quarter peal on 12 bells) 4, Sarah Taylor 5, Sheila Cheesman 6, Michael Bangham 7, Michael Uphill 8, Robin Leale 9, John Hawes 10, Leon Thompson 11, Jeremy Cheesman 12. Afterwards, Michael Bangham generously provided refreshment for members of the band to celebrate his birthday.

BENHILTON, All Saints, August 17th, 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: Michael Uphill 1, Michael Moreton 2, Thomas Wood (25th quarter) 3, Michael Bangham 4, Sheila Cheesman 5, Shirley McGill 6, Robin Leale 7, Jeremy Cheesman © 8

CARSHALTON, All Saints, August 17th, 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major: Jeremy Cheesman 1, Michael Moreton 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, Thomas Wood (First of Cambridge Major) 4, Shirley McGill 5, Michael Bangham 6, Robin Leale © 7, Michael Uphill 8

WANDSWORTH, Holy Trinity Church, West Hill, August 17th, 1260 Stedman Triples: Robin Leale 1, Sheila Cheesman 2, Thomas Wood (First of Stedman Triples) 3, Michael Moreton 4, Shirley McGill 5, Jeremy Cheesman 6, Michael Uphill © 7, Michael Bangham 8

However, there were a few other youngsters not yet up to quarter peal ringing for whom we were able to arrange a couple of sessions.

The first of these was at St Peter's, Croydon on Wednesday 18th, during which Joe Wakeling (treble) and James Fox (tenor) rang their longest touch yet, 360 Bob Doubles and this was followed up by James (who is a little older and therefore quite naturally has a little more stamina) ringing the treble to 500 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Finally on Friday 20th, we met for a full morning session at St John's Caterham, courtesy of Noel Gibbin. There we had Noel's ringing family, Susan and their daughters Alice and Ruth and four youngsters from St Peter's, South Croydon. Joe Wakeling, and his younger brother, Oliver, were



brought along by their dad, Tony, himself a ringer at St Peter's. Michael Moreton brought along James Fox and George Gillams. Each had three goes at something of their own choice. All of the youngsters had a go at calling some call-changes. James and Joe both rang Bob Doubles "inside" for the first time. One of St Mary's, Caterham beginners, Laurie, was also able to join in for a few lots of rounds. There was help on hand from Robin and Gill Leale, Jeremy and Sheila Cheesman, Michael Bangham, Ross Weddell and Tom Wood. Many thanks to them all!



After two and a half hours of almost solid ringing we went to the "Pilgrim" and had an enjoyable lunch together. James closed the proceedings by leading the four Croydon boys in a lovely little speech of thanks to the more experienced ringers for guiding them through the morning.

So, I think, a very worth-while experiment, quite a lot achieved. Perhaps on the back of it we might be able to encourage a few more youngsters to join in next time.

Michael Uphill

["Olympic" Record Set at Southwark Cathedral](#)

Posted: Mon, 23 Aug 2010 10:51:22 +0000

Saturday, 21 Aug 2010

On August 21st Michael Uphill "circled the tower" at Southwark Cathedral to peals for the 5th time. Congratulations to Michael on this monumental achievement.

During the celebrations at the "Market Porter" afterwards, late evening conversation turned towards some sort of article for the Ringing World and the unanimous verdict of the band was that Michael should write a story himself. So here is Michael's enjoyable write up which you'll see shortly in the newsletters and "RW". He adds, "If any of it, to use a phrase from Charles Dickens' famous account of his visit to the College Youths at Southwark, "...savours a little of patting oneself on the back," I apologise in advance, unreservedly".

The story starts 49 years ago almost to the day when my long association with Southwark Cathedral tower commenced with my first ring there, on August 23rd, 1961, my 50th tower! Fast forward four years to July 3rd, 1965, the 60th anniversary of the inauguration of St Saviour's as the Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Southwark at a service attended by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. We had been asked to ring a peal to mark the occasion. I was going to ring the tenor at the age of 17. The story is taken up in Chapter 7 of my book, "Tales from the London County Crypt (to be published in October – watch for "RW" ads – there had to be a plug, didn't there!).

"My ... first attempt at Southwark Cathedral was on July 3rd 1965. This, by request of the Cathedral Authorities, was an attempt being made by Monty Meyer's Sunday evening company to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Diocese... Alas, after an hour and forty minutes, the emergency telephone (connecting the vergers' vestry with the ringing room) rang and Hadley Hunter's attempt to continue ringing and answer the telephone at the same time brought the ringing to a precipitate conclusion. A film crew was filming at the west gate of the churchyard "A Study in Terror", in which Sherlock Holmes tracks down Jack the Ripper, and had asked the vergers to stop the bells. Vergers today know better! The film is occasionally aired on late night television and I make a point of staying up and watching the angry crowd scene at the Cathedral gates just so that I can shake my own fist and curse the film director!"

We subsequently and successfully re-ran this peal, so my first at Southwark, to which I rang the treble, was on February 26th 1966 conducted by Chris Rogers. 73 have followed, 43 of Stedman Cinques (Cond.14), 14 of Cambridge S. Maximus (4), 12 other peals of Surprise Maximus (including the first of Bristol Maximus on the bells in 1974) and 5 others, including Cambridge Minor on the back six in 1987, the largest bells rung to a peal of Minor. 26 have been rung with the Surrey Association, 21 with the ASCY and 15 with the LCA. I have rung peals at the cathedral with over 300 ringers. In 1983 I became the first ringer to circle the tower to peals of Stedman Cinques and Surprise Maximus.

Peals were rung, at various stages of their ministries, to honour Provosts Hugh Ashdown, Ernest Southcott, Harold Frankham and David Edwards and Bishops Mervyn Stockwood, Ronald Bowlby (now in his retirement at Shrewsbury, a friend of my younger sister, Joan) and Roy Williamson; and to mark seven Royal/national occasions/anniversaries.

For the "record setting" peal, I invited a mix of members of the Southwark Cathedral band that it has been my great privilege to conduct for its two appearances in the National 12-bell striking contest, at Worcester and St. Paul's Cathedrals, and a few of my longest standing ringing friends. Ian Fielding adapted Robert Dennis' classic 5001 Stedman Cinques to provide a bit of excitement, including reverse rounds, in the middle and a peal containing some really good and enjoyable Stedman Cinques was rung.

Andy Bradford was "spot-on" on the tenor, ringing it as well as I have ever seen it rung (I mean that) which brings me to a final little story, of the meeting at which Andy was elected to the College Youths. The business conducted, is, of course, supposed to be confidential but, I am told, I can always be counted upon to be indiscreet when necessary. A past master of the venerable society objected to Andy's election because he thought his style of ringing was "too agricultural." I like to think that I defused a potentially embarrassing situation by offering a "defence" which I commenced with the words, "As somebody with a bit of an agricultural style myself..."

Well done Andy! And well done, and thank you, everybody else as well.

Michael J Uphill

Photo of the happy looking peal band is in [Gallery](#). They are (from left to right): (Seated) Ian Fielding treble and cond, Shirley Mc Gill 2, Louise Palmer 3, Sheila Cheesman 4, (Middle Row) Chris Sheasby 5, Mike Moreton 6, Leon Thompson 7, Nigel Smith 8, (Back row) Michael Uphill 9, David Maynard 10, Chris Mc Carthy 11, Andy Bradford tenor.

[Cambridge Maximus at St. Magnus the Martyr](#)

Posted: Fri, 23 Jul 2010 13:54:47 +0000

Friday, 23 Jul 2010

Since this is a bellringing site here's a link to a bit of bellringing we made earlier this week.....

[Click here](#)

I recorded the cambridge maximus at the joint district 12 bell meeting on my iPhone and was so pleased with the results I thought I'd share it (credit due entirely to the wonderful bells and a decent band of ringers, I just stood holding my phone).

I had to cut the beginning to get it inside the youtube 10 minute limit but an mp3 of the whole recording can be downloaded from [here](#).

If anyone has links to videos, recordings or pictures of ringing in the association or by association bands on tour please send them to us so we can publish them on the site for all to enjoy.

Chris Baldwin

To post news onto the website, send an email to buckruddles [at] googlemail [dot] com (Vicky Williams) (Southern District) or chris [dot] baldwin [at] o2 [dot] co [dot] uk (Chris Baldwin) (Northern District).

[July's Numbers Club](#)

Posted: Fri, 23 Jul 2010 20:33:35 +0000

Thursday, 22 Jul 2010

The July draw was made at the very successful joint ND and SD practice meeting at St Magnus the Martyr on 21 July, and the winner of the £25 prize was Richard Wallis with No 56. Many congratulations to Richard on his second win in the past year!

You may like to know that out of the last eight winning numbers, no less than seven have been even numbers. So we're clearly due for an odd number next month, so if your's is an even number you should hurry along and buy an odd number to go with it, otherwise you might be left out. On the other hand it may be that the balls are biased towards even numbers, so if your's is an odd number you would be well advised to buy an even number to go with it. We hope you appreciate this helpful advice.

Best wishes and good luck in next month's bumper quarterly draw!

Robin Leale (Numbers Club Administrator)

[Packed Out at St Magnus](#)

Posted:Wed, 21 Jul 2010 22:27:20 +0000

Wednesday, 21 Jul 2010

38 ringers from both Districts and farther afield gathered together earlier this evening for the annual London 12 Bell practice. Departing after a number of years visiting Southwark Cathedral, a change seems to have breathed a breath of fresh air into the event as it was good to see many new faces as well as a fair number of the regulars. Rounds and call changes up to Cambridge Maximus with some Grandsire and Stedman were successfully rung during the evening.

[Call Change Striking Competition 2010](#)

Posted:Tue, 06 Jul 2010 13:04:35 +0000

Saturday, 3 Jul 2010

The Surrey Association annual call change striking competition took place on Saturday the 3rd July at Addington.

Three bands competed for the trophy this year. The result was:

- 1st Croydon
- 2nd Beddington
- 3rd Wandsworth, Holy Trinity

Many thanks to our judge Quentin Jackson, to the Addington band for hosting us and to Richard and Clara for organising the event.

(photos coming soon)

This competition is open to all towers in the association and should appeal to bands at all levels but the turn out in recent years has been disappointingly low. This year was no exception. The southern district was notably absent, where were you all? What kept you away? Your committee members would like to understand what we can do to improve turnout at this event.

[Master's Champagne Weekend!](#)

Posted:Tue, 29 Jun 2010 11:38:05 +0000

Tuesday, 29 Jun 2010

A weekend of celebration began on Saturday 26th June when our master, Sheila Cheesman, attended a special lunch in honour of Maggie Paul's 75th birthday. The occasion was attended by most of the Kingston ringers and friends at Maggie and Geoff's home with plenty of champagne being served.

Later that day was the Southern District barbecue at Buckland. No champagne this time but some rather fine Hepworth beer, purchased at the local shop, emerged from the cool box to be enjoyed with most excellent burgers and sausages, also locally sourced and expertly cooked by brothers David and Bernard Hawkins.

Sunday was Sheila's birthday (age has not been revealed!) and after a quick trip to see the new grandchild, Sheila went to Mortlake where a quarter was scored prior to the opening of the new tower staircase and restored tower. The opening ceremony was performed by none other than Sir Trevor McDonald. Afterwards, champagne and cakes were served in the churchyard and an interesting conversation took place with Sir Trevor.

Later, following England's exit from the World Cup, Sheila consoled herself with smoked salmon and a brut Cava acquired when Jeremy rang for a special service at Rotherhithe a few weeks ago.

Sheila said, "It was an excellent weekend. Thank you to all for their welcome and generosity. I'm on the wagon for a few days now!"



June's Number Club draw

Posted: Tue, 29 Jun 2010 20:07:05 +0000

Monday, 28 Jun 2010

The June draw took place at the Southern District Summer Business Meeting on 26 June, and the £25 prize was won by Beddington Bellringers with No 116. Many congratulations to those fortunate ringers, who bought five numbers only recently. This only goes to show what some of us have long suspected, which is that the more numbers you have the more likely you are to win! So hurry along and buy another number soonest if you want to get as lucky as Jean and her happy team!

I was telling you last month about the chances of winning the national lottery, and how it's much better to have your money in the Numbers Club. Well I've now heard that there's more chance of having two ducks come down your chimney in the middle of the night than there is of winning the lottery!

Really? Is that true? Right, I'm off to buy a ticket!

Best wishes to all our canny investors.

Robin Leale (Numbers Club Administrator)

Southern District Summer Meeting and BBQ

Posted: Fri, 16 Jul 2010 23:57:58 +0000

Saturday, 26 Jun 2010

It was a great day all round, starting with climbing the beautiful wooden spiral staircase to the very cosy bell tower of St. Mary the Virgin church. Here everyone that could squeeze in (many having to wait on th

e stairs) was made to feel welcome and a fair few ringers had their turn(s) ringing various methods, call changes and/or rounds - depending on their ability. I was lucky enough to have several attempts at nurturing my basic skills at Plain Hunt with the talented Jeremy Cheesman by my side whispering tips in my ear to help me ring the method - without doing it by numbers - Boy it's hard to un-learn bad habits!! All in all I felt pretty good about my ringing that day and it was great to ring with so many advanced ringers. It was soon time for the 'serious' bit of the Summer Business Meeting and the bells had to be rung down and the tower locked up. But that was not the end of the sound of bells in Buckland...



The team on the barbecue had cooked up a great feast and as many were munching on a burger or 2 (soon after a fleeting visit by the Red Arrows overhead) a van pulling a small trailer appeared next to us on the village green. In what seemed like no time at all a group of men had assembled an interesting contraption with 6 bells on top. I had heard of these 'Mini-rings' but had never seen one in the flesh. Another first for me that day was to actually have a go on the mini ring - which was easier said than done to start with. However, saying that, it did take me a little quicker to (almost) 'master' the technique of ringing the small bells of a mini ring than the somewhat larger bells of a church tower - both of which have very different styles of ringing. This was a strange, almost unnatural, sensation - and that's someone who hasn't got church bell ringing ingrained into them saying that! Once again many people took turns 'having a go' and for some it was also their first time. Rounds were rung and some even managed a few call changes. The mini-ring had a lovely gentle sound to it which reminded me of an old fashioned musical box but we were soon reminded of who was boss as a few ringers had sneaked back up St. Mary's tower and started competing with us for attention. The bigger bells were obviously more assertive but both kinda complemented each

other so I would call it a draw!

The day soon came to an end but I went home feeling satisfied with a good day out with a few more tips to think about each time I ring. Thank you to all who made me feel welcome and helped me try to improve my skills and techniques - It's much appreciated and I look forward to next year's barbecue!

Nikki Paintin

[New BRF Grants](#)

Posted: Sun, 27 Jun 2010 08:05:42 +0000

Friday, 25 Jun 2010

At the recent General Committee, two new grants were agreed: £1,000 to Cheam for a two part project which includes new pulley wheels, and some work on the clappers, plus work to strengthen the foundation of the belframe in order to make the bells easier to ring. Also, £300 to Caterham St John's, towards having their clappers re-bushed. All towers are eligible to apply for a grant - follow the Bell Restoration link from the home page for details.

[June edition of Northern Stars out now](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 Jun 2010 21:58:29 +0000

Friday, 18 Jun 2010

What links a BBC sound engineer on the trail of a bell tuner, a historian doing a spot of detective work, a beginner conquering her worries about bob doubles and a naval man who swapped church bells for ships' bells. They are among the fascinating cast of characters in the summer issue of Northern Stars, the newsletter of the northern district. You'll also find out which tower is the brainiest and how conductors can add to their repertoire by following the guide to a range of lesser known minor methods. Make sure you receive your copy this month.

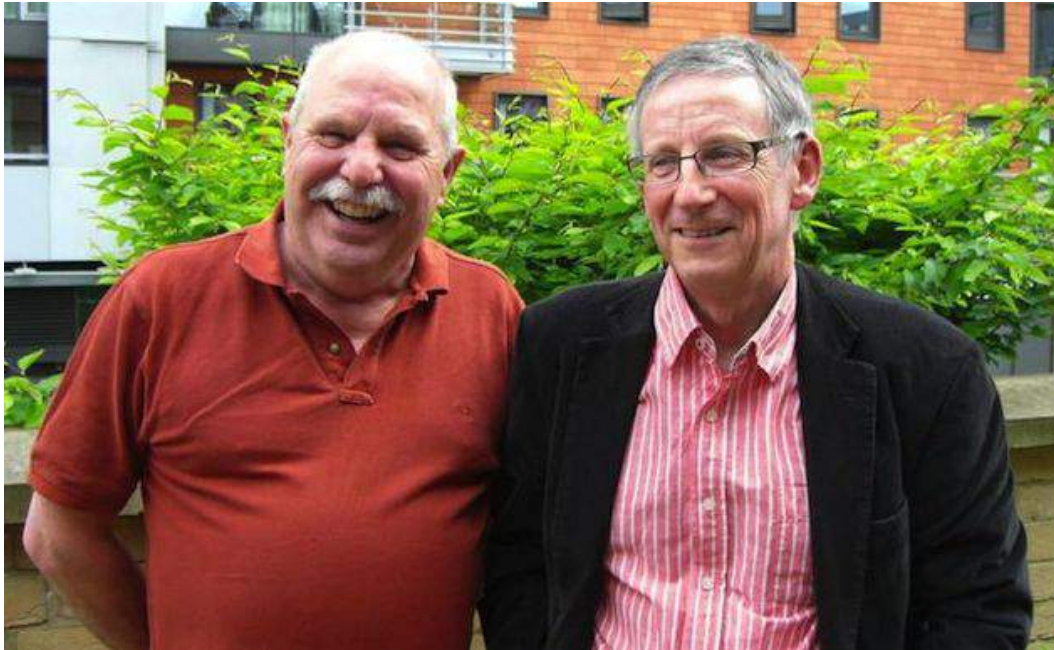
[50 Years of Ringing Celebrated](#)

Posted: Sat, 12 Jun 2010 09:13:13 +0000

Saturday, 12 Jun 2010

Early in 1960 some members of the choir at St Mary's, Putney began to learn to ring under the leadership of Tony Clayton assisted by Chris Mew, Brian Bull and the late Leonard Allen. Two of these, Michael Uphill and Alan Millidge "made it" as ringers and first rang rounds on April 1st 1960. The week before going on their first outing, Tony thought it would be a good idea for us to have a ring on different bells, so our very first "grab" was St Mary's, Barnes on Tuesday, April 26th 1960.

In keeping with the theme of "learning," Michael (now the Surrey Assn's training officer) arranged a quarter peal at Barnes with past and present members of the training committee, joined by local ringer Tricia Hawkins, and Grandsire Triples was successfully rung to mark this special anniversary. The quarter was also dedicated as a "thank you" to the former members of the committee, Susan, Clara and Sarah for their work on the committee.



By happy coincidence, a few days later we had one of the occasional reunions arranged by Chris Mew for former Putney ringers and associates and Alan and Michael were reunited to celebrate their anniversary. Also present were former Kingston supremo Margaret Lewis and Noel Waite, returning to Putney after a gap of more than 40 years.

[Website live for one month](#)

Posted: Wed, 09 Jun 2010 22:15:27 +0000

Wednesday, 9 Jun 2010

The new Surrey Association website has now been live for exactly one month. Following the taster of statistics included in a Yahoo Groups message a while ago, some people expressed interest in them. So here goes:

- 919 unique visitors have visited 2,060 times.
- They looked at 18,092 pages / 152,708 hits.
- The busiest day was 9 May with 103 visits with 1 June next with 86 visits. The average number of visits a day is 66. 25 visits were for more than 1 hour.
- The RSS feeds for Events and News were the most popular pages.
- Internet Explorer has 68% of the browser share, Firefox 14% and Safari 9% (June only figures as May was skewed by the PR Officer!).
- 403 times the site was accessed from a Google search with "Surrey Association of Bellringers" being the most popular searched phrase.
- The site was linked 100 times from Dove but most people either had it in their Favourites, typed the web address in or used a link from an e-mail.

So it's a good start for the first month. Don't forget, if you have some interesting news that you would to add to the news page, email buckruddles [at] googlemail [dot] com (Vicky Williams) (Southern District) or chris [dot] baldwin [at] o2 [dot] co [dot] uk (Chris Baldwin) (Northern District).

[40th Wedding Anniversary Celebration](#)

Posted: Tue, 08 Jun 2010 20:08:01 +0000

Monday, 7 Jun 2010

Ten friends gathered at St Bartholmew, Horley on Sunday afternoon to ring for a special occasion - the 40th wedding anniversary of Robin and Kay Grant. After a plain course, eight remained to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples. This surprise for Robin worked out perfectly as he was just about to ring Hazel Spring to ask

who was ringing when she phoned to let him know of the secret arrangements. The happy couple then met the band at the successful conclusion of the quarter and then most adjourned to The Six Bells.

[Quarter Peal Week Successes](#)

Posted:Sun, 06 Jun 2010 19:59:50 +0000

Sunday, 6 Jun 2010

Fifty five successful quarter peals were rung within and without the Association this year. An extended period (even beyond the 9 days of a Surrey Association week) allowed many more ringers to take part at a time to suit them. Some have already appeared on Campanophile whilst a full list will appear in The Ringing World in due course.

If you can't wait that long, [click here](#) for the list of successes.

[Central Council News](#)

Posted:Sat, 05 Jun 2010 07:13:43 +0000

Saturday, 5 Jun 2010

This year's Central Council meeting was held in Derby. The main item on the agenda was a rule change for Honorary Members to be replaced by Additional Members and Ex Officio Members. This passed with no comment. It is particularly relevant for the Association because, in addition to its four representatives, over the years it has and had a number of Honorary Members in a variety of important roles - Bob Cooles, Eric Godfrey and Chris Ridley amongst others.

All in all, it was one of the shortest meetings for years. Unfortunately there were vacant positions on some committees with no volunteers coming forward from the 200+ members present at the meeting. The comment from the Vice President, our own Kate Flavell, asking why people were there if they didn't want to serve drew loud applause but no further nomination! A full report will appear in The Ringing World in due course.

[Numbers Club - Super May draws](#)

Posted:Tue, 11 May 2010 19:28:45 +0000

Tuesday, 11 May 2010

The draws for the quarterly prize and the annual megaprize took place at the AGM yesterday. The winner of the quarterly prize of £82.11 was Chris Ridley of Battersea with No 30, and the mega prize of £214.97 was won by John Couperthwaite of Farnborough with No 98. Many congratulations to these lucky winners. We hope that they will keep in touch from their retirement villas in the Carribean. And remember, next time it could be you!

Now then, is there anyone out there who does the national lottery but isn't yet in the Numbers Club? Surely not! Don't you know that you've got a better chance of guessing someone's telephone number than you have of winning the lottery? Whereas we've only got 117 numbers in the draw and we've already had 52 winners! And you help the BRF at the same time! So it stands to reason that if you haven't bought a number yet you should immediately fill in the attached application form and send it off with your cheque so as to be in the June draw. Go on, have a go!

Best wishes to all our sagacious investors.

Robin Leale (Numbers Club Administrator)

[Annual General Meeting](#)

Posted:Sun, 09 May 2010 14:07:31 +0000

Sunday, 9 May 2010

Around 60 members and friends joined together at Beddington for the 2010 AGM on Saturday 8 May. Following a wedding, afternoon ringing was a bit of an adventure after the ball of the tenor clapper sheared off. The service included a talk from the curate highlighting the similarities between ringing and the church using the Central Council's recruitment leaflet.

Following a sumptuous tea, the meeting opened with a live video link to the General Master (in Toronto for a nephew's wedding) and cutting the ribbon to launch the new website. Carolina Goodship then showed off the new features of the website before usual business resumed. All business and re-elections of existing postholders was completed in just under an hour before ringing continued. A selection of photograph of the ringers tea and meeting are on the [Gallery](#).

[Annual Report published](#)

Posted:Wed, 21 Apr 2010 21:19:33 +0000

Friday, 7 May 2010

The 2010 Annual Report has been published. There is one copy for every member and it will be available at the AGM. Additional copies of this 80 page publication can be purchased for just £2 (including p&p - we don't make a profit from sales) from the General Secretary, Richard Wallis.

[Coulsdon Bells Back In Action](#)

Posted:Fri, 30 Apr 2010 17:55:38 +0000

Friday, 30 Apr 2010

Good news! Following the installation of a scaffolding tower to support the ringing chamber floor the bells at Coulsdon are back in action.

The floor can now be examined in greater detail and a scheme devised to repair or replace it. Fund raising will then begin and, in the fullness of time, the work will be carried out and the scaffolding removed.

[Southern District Outing](#)

Posted:Sun, 25 Apr 2010 13:06:54 +0000

Sunday, 25 Apr 2010

Around 20 people joined together at Grayshott and towers throughout the day for the first of three Southern District Outings this year. You missed out on a treat but you'll be able to read a fuller account in May's News of the South.

[Numbers Club - April](#)

Posted:Sun, 25 Apr 2010 19:20:21 +0000

Thursday, 22 Apr 2010

The April draw was made at the Northern District practice meeting at Richmond last evening, and the winner of the £25 prize was Simon Fraser of Rotherhithe with No 33. Congratulations to Simon on his fourth win since the club started!

Now for some very important news!

Next month, at the Association AGM, we shall be having not only the quarterly draw for a prize of £70+, but THE ANNUAL MEGADRAW for a prize in excess of £200!!!!

Yes you heard me right - 200 smackers!!

So the only sensible thing to do right now is to buy a number if you haven't already got one, or buy another one and double your chances if you have. The deadline for getting in on the May draw is 30 April, so you've just got time to fill in the attached application form and send it back right away. You'll be kicking yourself if you miss out!

The very best of luck to all our canny investors!

Robin Leale (Numbers Club Administrator)

[Quiz Evening](#)

Posted:Wed, 21 Apr 2010 17:57:07 +0000

Monday, 12 Apr 2010

Well done to Betchworth/Buckland on retaining the trophy. Epsom Common were again second! 19 towers and over 130 people took part at the most supported Association event of the year. The Quiz had an Eggheads theme this year with multiple choice and sudden death questions in each of the subjects that feature on the

BBC2 programme. Each of the people featured in the Photos round had been on the Celebrity Eggheads specials.

[Numbers Club - March](#)

Posted: Sun, 25 Apr 2010 19:21:57 +0000

Friday, 2 Apr 2010

The March draw took place at the quiz night, at 90 minutes to midnight on 31 March (just in time!) and the £25 prize was won by Eddie Hartley of Barnes with No 90. Congratulations to Eddie and commiserations to all of the gallant losers. I promise you your turn will come, so don't ever give up!

[Six Bell Striking Competition for The Taylor Trophy](#)

Posted: Wed, 21 Apr 2010 17:52:00 +0000

Thursday, 1 Apr 2010

Congratulations to Kingston Minor on retaining the Trophy at Buckland at the Competition on Saturday 27 March. Thanks to Catherine and Frank Lewis for judging. Seven teams took part this year - a good number though still some way from the modern record of eleven teams.

[Peal Weekend - 19 to 21 February](#)

Posted: Wed, 21 Apr 2010 18:05:00 +0000

Wednesday, 31 Mar 2010

The first peal rung for the Association was Grandsire Triples at Kingston upon Thames on 18th February 1881. To mark and celebrate that occasion, the Association introduced a Peal Weekend over a decade ago so that efforts could be concentrated in that weekend to encourage members to attempt a peal. Over the years the event has varied from very high profile to a more low key affair. This year Shirley McGill co-ordinated the Weekend and eight out of ten attempts were successful. Thanks to Shirley McGill.

[Scouts at Caterham St John](#)

Posted: Sun, 25 Apr 2010 13:01:21 +0000

Monday, 22 Mar 2010

On Tuesday 2nd March, the 3rd Caterham (St. John's) Scout Troop went down to St. John the Evangelist Church, Caterham.

We split the troop in half, one half went with Noel Gibbin (the Tower Captain), where he demonstrated how the bells worked, then showed us the bells at the top of the tower. When we came down we all pulled a bell. The two halves swapped over and Father Jerry gave a very good talk about the various different things in the church.

END