

RINGING CIRCLES

FARNHAM DISTRICT

December 2020



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TOWER OF THE MONTH:
ST LAWRENCE, SEALE



"The Churchwarden's Accounts began in 1559. The entries 'Ringing for the King and grease for the bell ropes' alternated with 'Bread and drink for the ringers'"

Editors: Clare Le Marie, Kevin Fox, Cathie Fitzgerald, Stu Aitken

MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT RINGING MASTER

Welcome to this edition of Ringing Circles and with a continued distinct lack of ringing activities to report on, I hope you find this an interesting read. Since the last edition, there has only been sporadic socially distanced service ringing, and only at a few district towers. See later in this newsletter for a full roundup. Some towers managed to toll on Remembrance Day, but sadly not many.

Many Congratulations to Zofeyah, Leona & Rebekah Aspinwall from Crondall, who have taught themselves to ring handbells during lockdown, and have progressed from plain hunting to a 720 and now to a quarter peal (details on page 28) registering 90 likes on Bellboard. This is a great achievement. The regular 'Highfield' band has also been keeping busy on Handbell Stadium, now venturing into 10 bell ringing.



I would like to welcome Steve Reeds as the new tower captain at Worplesdon, following the sad death of John Collier.

It's become pretty clear that ringing will not be getting back to anything like the old 'normal' for some considerable months. Perhaps after this lockdown some short Sunday ringing will again be possible. Do remember to check the bells before ringing if they have been silent for any length of time. At Grayshott, my own home tower, the bell chamber has been invaded by several families of white doves, and the resultant 'mess' - has rendered the bells temporarily un-ringable.



Those of you with access to Bellboard, there is now a 'Virtual Hub' which contains ringing resources, details of future events relating to virtual ringing and online ringing-related activities. It can be reached at bb.ringingworld.co.uk/virtual-hub.php or by clicking 'Virtual Hub' on the main Bellboard menu. It has four sections. (1) News (2) Useful links to ringing resources available from across the internet, including links to the main Central Council and Association of Ringing Teachers resource collections (3) Featured video - a selected YouTube video, and (4) Upcoming virtual events, with details of online talks and ringing practices that have been entered in the diary.

I hope you are all able to have a Happy Christmas, sharing the festive season with at least some of your family, and please keep safe...

Stu Aitken

DISTRICT RINGING PROGRAMME

Currently all district ringing is suspended. Even when ringing in our own towers is permitted it is likely that District Teachers events will not be practical for some time.

The ADM will be held on Sat 23rd Jan 2021 over Zoom. Details will be emailed out to tower contacts and the District Google Group.

Called Home: John Collier, a Ringer for 61 Years & Tower captain for 50

Although a quiet person, most people in the District knew John and many could remember him as a boy. Over the years, John taught many people to ring and as many will know, he had infinite patience. "It'll come, It'll come" was his mantra. He taught pretty well all of the ringers in the Worplesdon, St Mary's recent regular Friday night band: Steve Reeds, Sue Smith, Paul Smith, Mary and Romy Smith and of course his wife, Lynn, all of whom have excellent striking. He was taken at 74 when he died unexpectedly of the cancer which had spread through him.

Born in Worplesdon, he learned to ring at St Mary's, having sung in the Choir until he was 13. We don't know who taught him to ring but he took to it well and was out ringing every night of the week and rang countless Peals and Quarters. He became tower Captain at Worplesdon at age 24!

Of course, all this ringing was curtailed somewhat when he met Lynn, marrying in 1976 and they moved to Aldershot for the next 46 years. They had 2 children:

- John, now in Japan teaching Karate (yes!) and English as well as making furniture
- Jo, who lives locally in Basingstoke and is one of those wonderful Carers

A devout Christian, John, as Verger (among the many things that John and Lynn did for St Mary's), advised many an Incumbent what to do and how to do it. An everlasting memory of John was at weddings he bounded up the spiral stairway, slightly puffing, still wearing his robes and uttering those immortal words "Right, get 'em going" as he grabbed hold.

John worked for Vokes Bellows, an Engineering Company in Pirbright who made large Industrial bellows for all kinds of machinery and Engines where thermal expansion needed to be accommodated. Your writer may even have dealt with him 50 years ago when buying Bellows for a Desalination Plant in the Bahamas.

A keen railway enthusiast, John seemed to know all the railway stations and lines in the South of England, where to change and for the more local lines he even knew the timetables. Many weekends, as volunteer steward on Trains 'Going North (Flying Scotsman) and West'. As a treat, Lynn was invited along, he was all heart!. Many a child may have seen him on the Bluebell Railway and the Watercress line when they became a tourist attraction.

A good man who is sadly missed!

John Bauld

Called Home: Don Gribble, former Tower Captain at Grayshott

It is with sadness that I have to report the death on the 18th November 2020 of Don Gribble. He had been a ringer at Grayshott for nearly 40 years, joining the Guild in 1978, and took over as tower captain from Rita Moore in 2014. He was District Secretary from 1998 to 2000. One of the things I shall remember him for were his extraordinary practical skills. Early in the new millennium, he decided that it would be an improvement to raise the floor of the ringing





chamber by about 7 feet. Prior to this, it was like ringing in a tank, with a long draft and, with the ringers well below the level of the windows, it was always dingy and cramped, with little space to sit out. By raising the floor, the windows now light the ringing chamber, and the alcoves can be used for suitably cut-down pews for sitting out. It took vision to realise what an improvement this would be as well as considerable ingeniousness to work out how to make it a reality. Compared to building from scratch a two-storey extension to his house, the starting point for that being to devise his own timber scaffolding, I suppose altering the ringing chamber was by his standards, a piece of cake, but nonetheless it is a project that will benefit the ringers for many years to come, completing the majority of the work himself.

Don rang only one peal, covering to Stedman Triples in 2000, the peal being rung on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St Luke's church. He made a peal board for this, which was actually a wooden kitchen cupboard door with the details painted on it - a simple and low-cost way to record a peal.

Don and Mary were always generous hosts, and the Grayshott ringers and hangers-on have had many summer parties in their spacious garden. Although Don hasn't rung for the past couple of years, he maintained a keen interest in how things were going up in the tower. He will be sorely missed.

Jonathan Deane

Called Home: Diana Wood Died 13th Sept 2020, one-time Crondall ringer

Diana was born before WW2 in Hook. Her father was in the forces resulting in the family living in Egypt before the war and Scotland during it, after which her father was posted to Aldershot, with the family living in Fleet. In 1974 Diana married Alan, a farmer on the Isle of Wight, but a few years later they moved to Crondall.

She loved Scottish music and had a passion of playing the bagpipes, although as she used to say, not particularly well but with lots of enthusiasm! She and Alan were keen walkers, and she was very knowledgeable on the countryside and gardening matters and loved all animals particularly her various pets. Diana was sociable and held sherry parties in her cottage, and after two glasses she would become life and soul of the party displaying a superb, wry sense of humour.



Alan became tower captain of All Saints, assisted by Diana, and between them they kept the ringing at Crondall going through difficult times with challenging bells and a tower in a poor condition due to water leaks and vast amounts of pigeon droppings. It has been said that without their energies ringing at Crondall would have quite likely stopped. She was a member of the guild from 1981 to 2004.

She was pleased when the bells were rehung and augmented and continued to brighten up the ringing room by regularly providing flowers neatly arranged in a vase in the ringing room. Diana was one of those ringers with lots of 'character'!

Kevin Fox

Called Home: Roland Backhurst

Roland Backhurst was born in Badshot Lea on October 1st 1947, weighing in at 11 pounds on the kitchen scales. His education began in the village, then via Farnham to Heath End where the headmaster encouraged him to go to Farnborough Tech to take his A levels. This led to a Physics Degree and Post Graduate research at Surrey University and later, lifelong membership of University of Surrey Society of Change Ringers.

On a weekend excursion to a Battle of the Bands competition in Brighton he met, amid hundreds of people, Marilyn Reay - a ringer from Ash who, by chance, had travelled down to support the same act. As their friendship blossomed 'Roly' would collect Marilyn on his motorbike after practice at Ash and, one evening in 1967, was persuaded to 'come and try' by the then tower captain Peter Smart. This began a lifelong fascination for the exercise. Practice nights around the District were visited, with Roland often providing a motorcycle ferry service for Marilyn and her friends. Soon both quarter and full peals were accomplished.



Now married to Marilyn and with the first of their 3 children, his career in the defence industry meant a move to Wells in Somerset in 1972 and, 10 years later, to Butleigh near Glastonbury.

As a member of the Central Council Towers and Belfries committee, he was a major contributor to the new Manual of Belfry Maintenance. This has proved to be a 'best seller' amongst ringers, so next time you open your tower copy, to keep your bells in good order, Roland will still be there to help you on your way. Roly died on July 27th 2020.

Marilyn Backhurst

Called Home: Robert Andrew Routh

18th June 1924 - 21st October 2020

Robert Andrew Routh was born on 18th June 1924 at Castle Camps Rectory, 15 miles South-East of Cambridge. He learnt to ring at Beaconsfield in the late 1930s where his father was Vicar, in the family tradition - his father and Grandfather being ringing vicars.

Andrew went up to Magdalen College, Oxford in 1946, and during his time there he became an active member of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers, ringing four peals for the society.

During his career teaching Biology at Bedales School, Steep, Hampshire, Andrew taught more than 150 pupils from Bedales, and others from the village, to ring at Steep tower during the 59 years that he lived in the village. He was made a Life Member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild of Ringers in 2005 after fifty years membership. He continued ringing after his move to Farnham in 2014, aged 90, at St Andrew's Church, and only had to stop following his first stroke in 2017.

He moved to Pax Hill Care Home in Bentley later that year, where he settled happily, and died peacefully following another stroke on 21st October.

R Hugh Routh

NATIONAL 12-BELL STRIKING CONTEST

Guildford Cathedral has the honour of hosting the National 12 Bell Final on June 26th, 2021. Teams from all over the country will be coming to Guildford to compete with each other for the prestigious Taylors Trophy. This is a fantastic event for the ringing community. We can spend the day listening to ringing, enjoying good company, eating great food and sampling the beer tent!

Planning continues for the event although obviously there is a lot of uncertainty at the moment as to when 12-bell ringing will resume – this may affect the format of the event. However, the objective remains the same: to deliver a great 12-bell final for all ringers and supporters.

We are working hard on the plans to have volunteers from around the whole of the Guild helping out on the day: watch out for more news on this early in 2021. There are roles to suit everybody – we hope as many of you as possible will be keen to come along and help out – and have a great day as well!

In order to provide some excellent facilities on the day, we are also going to be doing a bit of serious fundraising to help towards the costs. Normally, we would be thinking about holding barn dances and quiz nights, but because of the Covid situation, we will be holding some virtual events instead. These are likely to be in early 2021, so look out for more news on these – as well as raising some funds, they will be great fun! Please see the poster for first event.

Do please keep in touch. Follow @12bellguildford on Instagram or National 12 Bell Final Guildford on Facebook. Don't worry if you are not on either, we'll endeavour to keep you updated. Something to look forward to in 2021!

Nigel Smith & Caroline Prescott

NATIONAL 12 BELL STRIKING CONTEST

Guildford Cathedral

SATURDAY JUNE 26th 2021



**12 BELL
CONTEST
GUILDFORD
2021**

A major ringing festival at the centre of our Guild.

The Cathedral ringers need your help with this!

There will be fundraising.

Watch out for an online quiz and virtual raffle.

Can you volunteer to help with the contest day?

A great day out, various attractions,

excellent ringing

... and maybe attend the beer tent!

Further information will be announced soon!

Please save the date

NATIONAL 12 BELL STRIKING CONTEST

Guildford Cathedral

“Help Make it Happen”

Online Quiz Night for All (General knowledge only so bring the family!)

January 9th 2021, 8-10pm - £5 per person to enter

Entries to and further information: carolineprescott@btinternet.com

Join in, great fun for all on a dark January evening

FEATURED TOWER: SEALE

The village of Seale lies at the bottom of the southern slope of the Hogs Back, close to the Pilgrims Way. The original church was built in the twelfth century as an outpost of Waverley Abbey, which stood on the banks of the River Wey, southeast of Farnham.

The sixteenth century tenor, which was recast in 1608, is thought to have been brought from Chertsey Abbey, which was dissolved in 1537 and then demolished. There were two mentions in the 1500s of ringing for Queen Elizabeth I taking place: in 1558 the defeat of the Spanish Armada and her coronation were celebrated and in 1591 when the Queen was staying once again at Farnham Castle, the summer residence of the Bishop of Winchester.



The Churchwarden's Accounts began in 1559 and show that the bell ropes constantly needed to be renewed; the entries 'Ringing for the King and grease for the bell ropes' alternated with 'Bread and drink for the ringers'. Most water was undrinkable in those days as it was very likely to contain many dangerous pollutants due to the lack of sanitation, so the normal drink for everyone, men, women and children, was beer of various strengths, as the brewing process involved very high temperatures. Hop growing became a very important business in the Farnham area and many grew their own crop of hops for family use.

A north transept was added in 1832, but in 1861 the church was rebuilt, although many of the medieval features, such as the south porch were incorporated in the building. There were only three bells at Seale, but despite this the tower involved itself in the Winchester Diocesan Guild of Ringers' events: in 1886, when the annual festival was held at Farnham, the towers split into groups and rang at various churches; Bagshot, Cranleigh, Shalford and Bramley came to Seale.

The parish decided in 1873 that they should have six bells. At the time the ringers had to stand in the body of the church to ring, so it was decided to raise the tower by an additional ten feet, so that a ringing chamber could be inserted. Three additional bells were hung in the newly extended tower, opening up more opportunities for the ringers to attempt new methods.

The parish was divided in 1866, when the northern half was split off and became the parish of Tongham, while in 2004 the three parishes of Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough came together under the umbrella of the Rector of Seale.

Cathie Fitzgerald

Reflections on ringing at Seale, Kevin Green

I first started ringing at Seale Church at the age of fourteen, we were a fairly new band and would ring rounds and call changes and occasionally plain hunt. My biggest achievement during my teenage years was to cover for a visiting band ringing my first quarter to plain bob



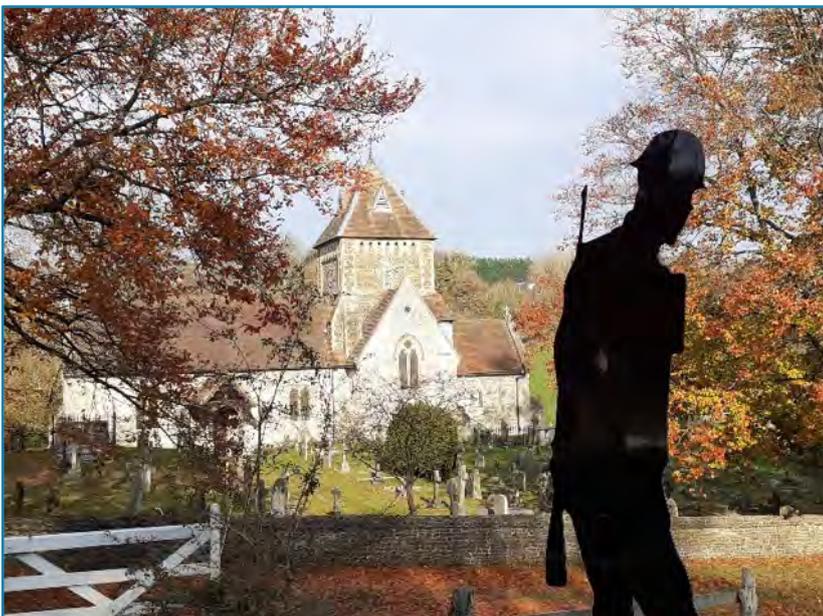
doubles. At eighteen I thought bell ringing wasn't "cool" and also my family moved away from the village.

Some twenty years later and still best friends with the boy that introduced me to ringing in the seventies, we decided to see if we could still ring, I contacted the vicar and was told to contact a man that used to be tower captain at Guildford Cathedral as he was starting a new band as there hadn't been one at Seale for many years.

Moving on twenty five years, and I have been tower captain for the past five years. My three daughters all ring and occasionally come up the tower when they're in the area. Over the years we've had a band of twelve ringers and some six band members under sixteen. We would practise twice a week with a tied practice for the younger ringers.

Today we are a band of just two ringers, myself and Jane who is a GP, and for obvious reasons we have been unable to ring since March of this year. Before lockdown-1 we were having shared practice nights with Compton and Puttenham, these seemed to work quite well, and we hope to get back to this, once things improve.

Reflections on ringing at Seale, Jacci Corney



Little did I know nine years ago that a chance meeting whilst on a dog walk would result in an introduction to the bell ringers at St Laurence Church, Seale. The Bell Captain at that time, Tim Wellen, the current Bell Captain, Kevin Green, Sheila Wellen and the whole team warmly welcomed me and provided excellent tuition for which I will be forever grateful.

I was surprised how much I enjoyed both the concentration and exercise that was involved in ringing and made reasonable progress. Such

was my enjoyment that I wanted to share it with others and had the pleasure of two good friends joining the band, one of whom, Jane Dempster, continues to ring.

I became secretary two years later and hosted our AGMs at my home. Every year we went on a tower outing – always challenging but enjoyable! An annual barbeque also helped cement friendships with memories of ringing that will last a lifetime.

My most memorable moment was successfully completing my first quarter peal followed by ringing on Remembrance Sundays prior to the services at Seale which commence at the war memorial. Other highlights include a visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

Sadly I also have fond memories of our treasurer, Michael Osborne, who was taken from us far too soon and who is so sorely missed.

Recently I have enjoyed ringing on practice nights with members of Philip Gorton's team at St Nicholas Church, Compton, and I have for many years enjoyed ringing with Andrew Baxter, Tower Captain of St John the Baptist, Puttenham. I have also always enjoyed ringing with Frank Rice at Witley, whose words of wisdom still ring in my ears! and with Judith and Sue (Ash) and Clare and Mike (Aldershot) who have helped us out so many times when we have been short of numbers for weddings and funerals. And finally, a special thank you to Kevin for his patience and sense of humour!

I will be leaving Seale at the end of November after 30 years in our family home but hope to remain in the West Surrey/Sussex area. I intend to continue ringing in St Keverne, Cornwall when regulations permit, where I will be taking a short break before looking for a new home.

WORDSEARCH WINNER

When the National Lottery started back in 1994 there were four machines, called Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot and Merlin, and each week one of these was used to randomly select the winning numbers. Well, the Farnham District has its own machine, which for the sake of this article we shall call "Stu". There were three correct entries for the August RC Wordsearch Competition, and so with great excitement "Stu" was programmed to generate a random number in order to select the winner. Congratulations to Anne Daniels for being that winner, and she can look forward to the huge prize promised by Clare (it will be a surprise if this gets through Clare's proof-reading!).

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NUMBER CLUB

Recent monthly winners (£20): Sylvia Page (Aug), Derek Giddins (Sept), Alexander Dixon (Oct). Quarterly winner (£38): David Stone.

There are some numbers still available so if you would like to join please contact Helen Prescott (h.prescott@ntlworld.com).

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE GUILD MASTER

As I write we have just completed the first week of lock down v2, which has curtailed the hesitant steps that were taking place for the return to ringing. This is hugely disappointing especially as the Church of England had already signalled that they may have allowed a relaxation in the 2m distancing rule provided other measures (such as face coverings) were in place. This now seems like a pipe dream. The sad fact seems to be that infections are increasing in most areas, making it once again very difficult to keep bands together. Nevertheless, the safety and health of ringers has to be more important than being able to ring, even though there is evidence that the sound of bells has been very welcome in the communities we serve.



I think there is no hiding the fact that some ringers will not return to our towers when this becomes a possibility so recruitment must become a priority activity in future. With this in mind both the Central Council and ART have been working on resources for the successful planning of recruitment and retention, and there is now an excellent suite of articles and other resources available. A new area has been created on the Central Council website at ccabr.org.uk/resources/recruitment-and-retention/. Here you will find a complete downloadable resources pack for running workshops or simply for getting ideas to use in your own area.

One or two towers have reported some success in attracting the interest of non-ringers by posting a link to an excellent explanatory video on a community web site or to a Facebook group and then hosting a gathering on Ringing Room. Hopefully some of those who visit might be persuaded to take up "real" ringing in future. The video can be found here: <https://ringingroom.com/about>. I am delighted to call Kemp Brinson, who made the video, a friend and if you look very carefully at the clip of ringing at Trinity Church, New York, which appears near the beginning of the video, you may just be able to spot the back of my head!

Your Guild Executive Committee, who have been doing business largely by correspondence this year, held their first Zoom meeting last week which enabled us to offer grants from the Bell Restoration Fund to Dunsfold and Guildford Cathedral. The Cathedral have asked White's of Appleton to make sure that their bells are in perfect order for the National Twelve Bell Striking Contest which is due to be held there in June next year. The organising committee are proceeding to gear up for this event in the hope that it will go ahead, and in due course they will be looking for volunteers from within the Guild to help prior to the contest and also on the day. The Twelve Bell is the most splendid ringing event. While other ringers do the difficult bit of ringing the contest touch, those of us who are not gifted 12 bell ringers can enjoy a day of good company, good food and good beer. Do consider helping out if you can, I promise you will not regret it.

Today the sun has shone, and although it is cold I have enjoyed a walk on the Common near my home. Just now we have to be thankful for such small gifts. I hope you keep safe and well this winter and I look forward to being able to see you all soon.

Jackie Roberts (Guild Master)

TOWER NEWS

All tower contacts were asked to respond to a simple survey to give the overall picture for Sunday ringing, any tower/bell issues, virtual ringing, and any social virtual gatherings.

Church	Sunday Ringing?	Other Occasions	How many bells?	Maintenance Issues	Ringling Room / Contact	Comments
Aldershot	Yes	No	4/5	Tight Clapper	RR practice	Family bubble of 5
Ash	No	No	0	Bearings checked	Emails / phone	
Bagshot	Yes	1 Wedding	4	-	No	Clock problem
Crondall	Yes	1 Wedding 1 Funeral	4	-	RR practice & Virtual pub	Bells 1,3,5,6 Same family for 5&6
Farnborough	Yes	1 Wedding	4	-	No	Handbells for outdoor service
Farnham	Yes	No	4	-	RR practices	Tower now closed
Frensham	Yes	Tolling VJ day	4	-	RR practices	
Grayshott	No	No	-	Dove infestation	No	
Hawley	No	No	-	Stairs	RR practices	RR started in Sept
Pirbright	Ellacombe	2 Weddings	6 (all)	Ellacombe Chimes	Social zoom	Zoom for pub chat
Puttenham	Yes	No	1	-	No	
Seale	No	No	-	-	No	New Secretary
Worplesdon	No	No	-	-	No	New tower captain
Yorktown	No	No	-	-	RR practices	

Summary	Number	%
Sunday Ringing	8	57%
Ringling on other occasions	5	36%
RR practices	6	43%

Remembrance Day tolling
Five towers tolled a single bell:
Aldershot, Bagshot, Crondall, Frensham & Pirbright

Farnham

After several months of struggling with Ringing Room and dwindling numbers, the decision was made for us to move away from running virtual practices and more towards the social side. We are now focussing on the social side, holding the first of these meetings in November.

We did resume ringing in person for two Sunday services whilst adhering to government guidelines in August, however, this was sadly curtailed by a Structural Engineer's Report recommending that ringing cease until further inspections have been carried out.

Edd Sutch

Crondall

Ringing Room sessions continue to be well attended, with nearly everyone having rung things not previously done in the tower, and in some cases on a bell that they wouldn't normally be able to manage, such as ringing the 11th for plain hunt. Firsts include: Stedman Triples, touches of Plain Bob Triples, touches of Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Caters, and as mentioned plain hunt on 11. After the RR session we top up our glasses to have a virtual pub gossip.



Rebekah, Zofeyah & Leeona (age 14) Aspinwall have been self-learning Plain Bob Minor on handbells, and after a few attempts, on 7th November successfully rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor conducted by Rebekah on 3-4. This became the highest rated Bellboard performance for several days. Also Natanya (11) has been involved, with four of them ringing plain hunt on eight, something many of us were privileged to watch them ring during one of our Monday evening Zoom sessions. Our congratulations to them all for these brilliant achievements, as shown in the performances section.

Kevin Fox

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

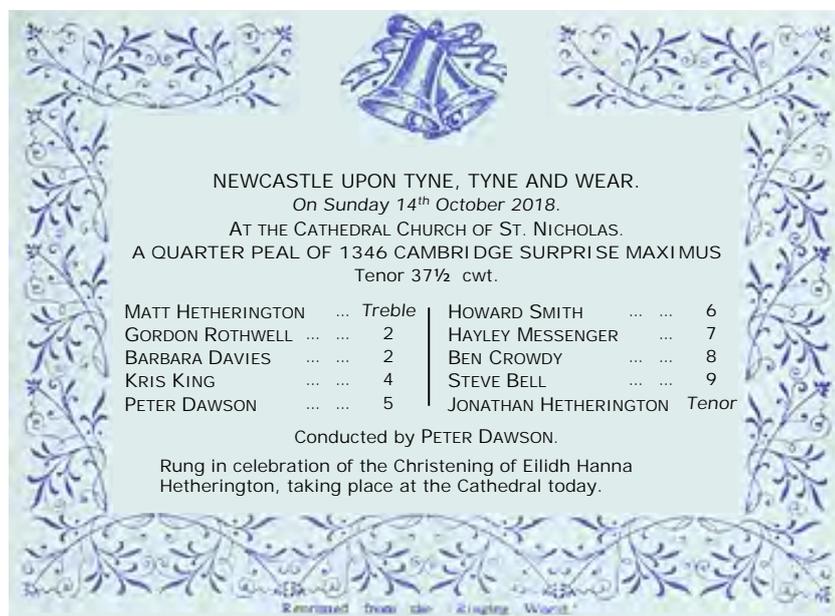
Ringing Circles informs and maybe entertains about happenings in our District and beyond. It is your newsletter, so please contribute if you can. Please send articles and news snippets to the District Secretary by mid-March for the April Ringing Circles.

Here are some suggested themes:

- News from towers and members, such as birthdays, births, deaths
- How I started ringing.
- Ringing families.
- A historical feature to do with your church, churchyard, town or village.
- Other hobbies or interests.
- Anything funny that has happened while ringing or in a tower.
- Ghostly? Detective? Poem? Limerick?
- Jokes and cartoons
- How practices are going when you use Ringing Room or any other system.

MEMORABLE QUARTER PEALS: PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

We asked a few ringers about a memorable quarter peal they have rung in the past, often they are rung to mark special events, signify in themselves particular achievements, or perhaps just have an amusing incident attached to them. Here is a selection:



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, TYNE AND WEAR.
On Sunday 14th October 2018.
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1346 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS
Tenor 37½ cwt.

MATT HETHERINGTON Treble	HOWARD SMITH 6
GORDON ROTHWELL 2	HAYLEY MESSENGER 7
BARBARA DAVIES 2	BEN CROWDY 8
KRIS KING 4	STEVE BELL 9
PETER DAWSON 5	JONATHAN HETHERINGTON	Tenor

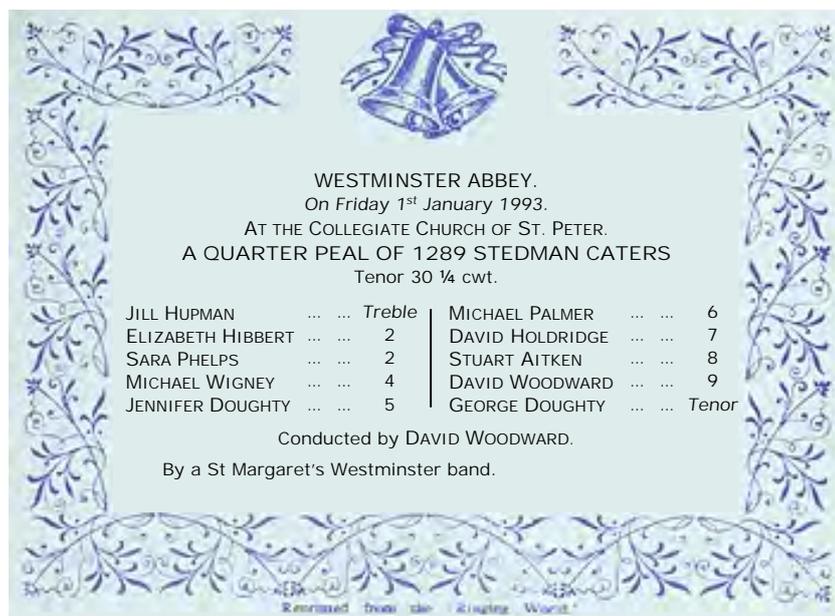
Conducted by PETER DAWSON.
Rung in celebration of the Christening of Eilidh Hanna Hetherington, taking place at the Cathedral today.

Reprinted from the Ringing World.

In recent years, possibly my most memorable was the occasion of our niece's baptism. My brother and his family live in Newcastle Upon Tyne, where Matt is secretary of the Cathedral bellringers. It was inevitable, then, that Eilidh's christening would take place in St Nicholas' Cathedral; a heavy but grand, industrial ring of twelve in a magnificent, crowned tower. And so a drive up on the Saturday morning before an early quarter peal immediately before the morning Eucharist, followed by a drive home again that Sunday

afternoon to get our own children back in time for school the next morning, meant for quite a demanding weekend! Being asked, with no notice, to ring the 37cwt tenor bell, and whilst wearing one's Sunday-best, albeit with tie and jacket removed, added to the pressure! But as Eilidh's godfather – an absolute privilege.

Jonathan Hetherington



WESTMINSTER ABBEY.
On Friday 1st January 1993.
AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1289 STEDMAN CATERS
Tenor 30 ¼ cwt.

JILL HUPMAN Treble	MICHAEL PALMER 6
ELIZABETH HIBBERT 2	DAVID HOLDRIDGE 7
SARA PHELPS 2	STUART AITKEN 8
MICHAEL WIGNEY 4	DAVID WOODWARD 9
JENNIFER DOUGHTY 5	GEORGE DOUGHTY	Tenor

Conducted by DAVID WOODWARD.
By a St Margaret's Westminster band.

Reprinted from the Ringing World.

When I lived in London, I was a member of the band at St Margaret's Westminster, next door to Westminster Abbey, sometimes called "the parish church of the house of commons". The band was largely comprised of ringers who either worked in striking distance of the tower, or who were retired, as most of the ringing involved lunchtime memorial services. Every year on the 1st January, the Abbey invites a tower in the UK to ring a quarter peal and in 1993 they invited their nearest neighbours. With some trepidation we started

to ring, our nervousness not helped by a number of the Abbey ringers sitting and watching our every move throughout the whole quarter. A memorable day, a good quarter scored, and a rather classy tick in the diary made.

Stu Aitken

On a very hot summer's day we arrived at East Ardsley near Leeds, a 20cwt eight for a quarter. Having rung them up, we realised they were very hard to ring, and therefore Grandsire Triples would be the order of the day, to keep it as easy as possible, with yours truly on the tenor. I decided it was so hot in the tower I took my shirt off to ring. By the end I was dripping and used the sink in the corner to 'freshen up', during which a new voice spoke, and turned around to find myself face to face with the vicar. He announced that he was delighted that we had rung the bells for his and his wife's Silver Wedding anniversary and invited us over to the vicarage for tea and scones with his wife. I have never felt more underdressed for a visit to a vicarage.

David Pearson

Going back a few years we had a family holiday to Australia which took up almost the whole 6-week summer break. I have 2 brothers in Newcastle, north of Sydney and one of my brothers, Jonathan was a ringer, and the idea of a family quarter came up. Lucy hadn't started to learn to ring yet, so a 5-bell quarter seemed a goer. The closest bells to Newcastle are in Maitland - a really rough, steel 6 and this would have been too much for the kids. The next closest place is Singleton. These are a relatively new ring, and the ringing times were quite limited. They agreed to a quarter, but it would have to be during the practice. We arrived and they were just finishing the tied part. The bells were untied and handed over to us. The tower was quite full of local ringers. Off we went. We had a false start. My brother went wrong and there was some confusion as when I said Jon 4/5 down our son John joined in. After that I referred to my brother as Ugly – my nickname for him. I really don't know what the locals thought, but a respectable quarter was scored. Sadly, it will never happen again. Jon has had to stop ringing for health reasons and Helen and John have also stopped ringing, so this was the first and only Arkless quarter and first with an audience for all of us!

Toby Arkless

EAST ARDSLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE.
On Tuesday 25th July 1989.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
Tenor 20½ cwt.

ADRIAN MALTON Treble	STEPHEN KNIGHT 5
ROWENA MARSHALL 2	ANTHONY BLOOMFIELD 6
EDWIN PARSONS 3	DAVID HULL 7
HERBERT GODDARD 4	DAVID PEARSON Tenor

Conducted by ADRIAN MALTON.
Silver Wedding compliment to Rev Keith & Mrs Mavis Williams.

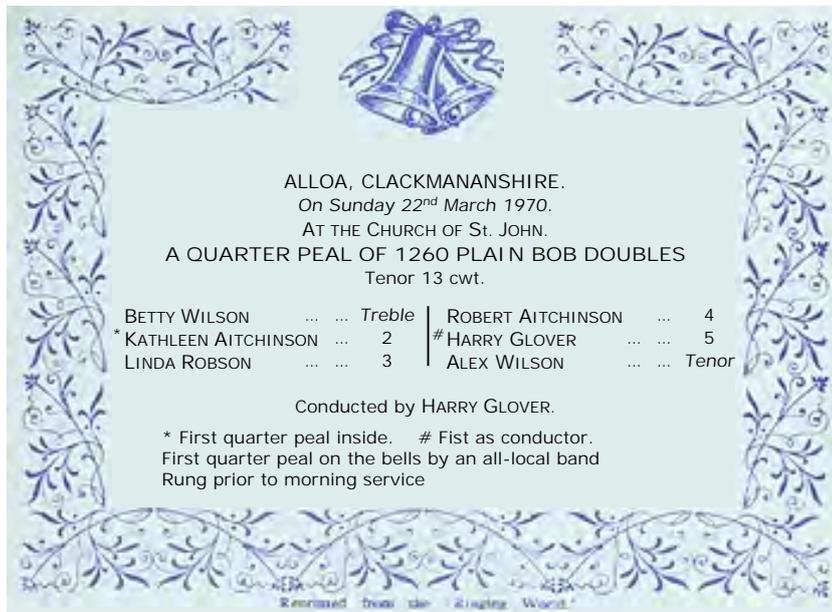
Reprinted from the "Ringing World."

SINGLETON, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.
On Thursday 23rd August 2007.
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1260 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
Tenor 9 ¾ cwt.

HELEN ARKLESS Treble	KATHRYNE ARKLESS 4
*JOHN ARKLESS 2	TOBY ARKLESS Tenor
JONATHAN ARKLESS 3		

Conducted by TOBY ARKLESS.
* First quarter inside
First Arkless quarter peal

Reprinted from the "Ringing World."



ALLOA, CLACKMANANSHIRE.
On Sunday 22nd March 1970.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
Tenor 13 cwt.

BETTY WILSON Treble	ROBERT AITCHINSON 4
* KATHLEEN AITCHINSON 2	# HARRY GLOVER 5
LINDA ROBSON 3	ALEX WILSON Tenor

Conducted by HARRY GLOVER.

* First quarter peal inside. # First as conductor.
First quarter peal on the bells by an all-local band
Rung prior to morning service

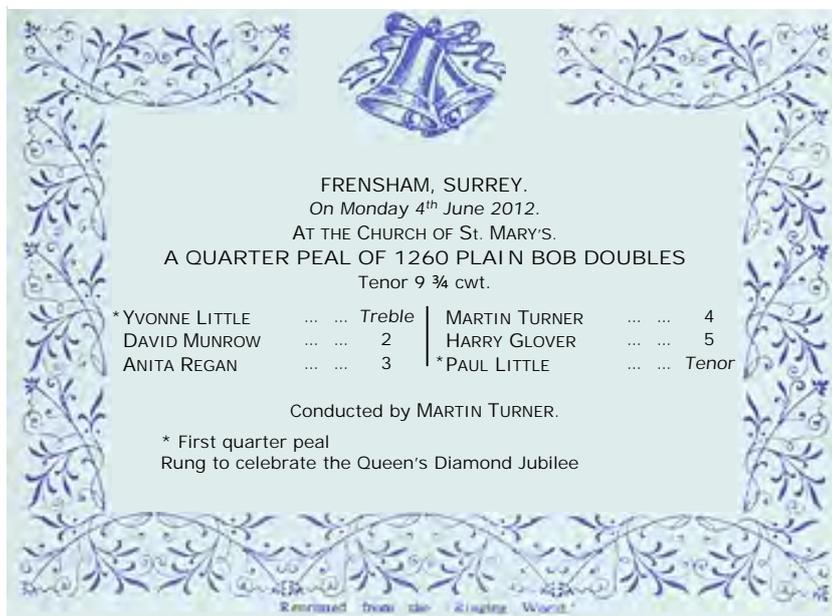
Remitted from the "Kington Word"

Liz, and I met through bell ringing at University in Edinburgh and married in 1967. Our first home was in Alva less than 4 miles from Alloa, where St John's Episcopal Church had a ring of 8 bells, but very few ringers and no service ringing. So, with Rev. Hannah's support we set about recruiting and training several willing parishioners, including Alex & Betty Wilson and Marion their daughter, Kathleen Aitchison and her son Robert, and Linda Robson. We progressed, and with help from Glasgow Cathedral ringers each of

our new recruits rang their first QPs. On 22nd March 1970 we rang our first all-local QP, which was also my first as Conductor.

After we moved south, Robert Aitchison took over as Tower captain in Alloa and went on to call QPs himself, and both he and Linda Robson went on to peal ringing too. Liz and I were well pleased, and believe we made a useful contribution to change ringing in Scotland.

Harry Glover



FRENESHAM, SURREY.
On Monday 4th June 2012.
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S.
A QUARTER PEAL OF 1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
Tenor 9 ¾ cwt.

* YVONNE LITTLE Treble	MARTIN TURNER 4
DAVID MUNROW 2	HARRY GLOVER 5
ANITA REGAN 3	* PAUL LITTLE Tenor

Conducted by MARTIN TURNER.

* First quarter peal
Rung to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Remitted from the "Kington Word"

I like a challenge. However, when our Tower Captain suggested my wife and I might like to ring a Quarter Peal to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee just nine months after we'd first set foot in a ringing chamber, let alone handle a rope, we naively thought: "what's the worst that can happen?"

Well, dear reader, I can tell you what that worst is - a (so far) friendly rivalry. We were lucky enough to score that first QP thanks to having a very strong band around us, but now we have regular arguments on whether

quality or quantity is the defining criteria. As regards quantity, I lead 15 to 8 covering for many, whereas my wife argues variety is more valuable as she has trebled and rung inside for her 8 and, indeed, has covered for one too. She maintains her contribution is of a higher quality. Who knows, but when we're ringing again, let the competition recommence.

Paul Little

HOW I STARTED RINGING

Andy Day, Yorktown

I was a late starter, being aged around 17 or 18 in 1969, and it was due to my girlfriend of the time, who lived in Stanwell. Being curious I went along to a practice to see what it was all about. I was intrigued and soon learnt to handle a bell; I was soon ringing rounds and call changes, followed by Plain Bob and Grandsire. I found that 'number crunching', for use of a better word, was reasonably easy for me and I started looking at touches and how coursing order changes when calls are made.

The tower captain decided to give up and I found myself in charge of the tower and band, so I had to learn very quickly: I was out ringing in the district 5 nights a week plus weekends for weddings and Sunday Service. I recall the first quarter peal I called of Plain Bob Doubles, where I called the same extent 10 times, using an interesting counting solution plus, of course, starting with the 60. I was very involved within the South and West District of the Middlesex Association and soon became an Associate Ringing Master; I was learning all the time.



This then changed in 1976 as I got married and moved to College Town, where I joined the Yorktown Band and, as you know, I'm still there. I am not a prolific peal ringer; I have only rung 44, but 20 of these were in the 1970s with the remaining 24 being: eight in the 1980s, 11 in the 1990s and only five in the 2000s, the last being 17 years ago. I have never kept a record of my quarter peals over the years but there are many, as I enjoy these more.

My first peal was at Windsor parish church in 1973, when I rang the tenor behind to Stedman Triples, conducted by Frank Blagrove. It was enjoyable but hard work for me and at the end we rang straight down, which was an extra effort after 3 hours. Further peals followed in that year: Grandsire Caters at Isleworth, Bob Royal at St Clement Danes and four peals of Grandsire Triples - at Ruislip, Bray, Twickenham St Mary and Harlington.

Early in 1976 I rang the 6 to Stedman Caters at Isleworth, but the conductor contacted us to say it was false and so we had to do it all again. So, on Monday 27 September, we rang the amended composition. This was 2 days after Deborah and I were married and we had moved into our house on the previous day!

In November I was invited to ring the first peal on the new bells at Willesden and rang the 5 to Cambridge Surprise Major. Another peal was Cambridge Royal at Hillingdon in 1977, where I rang the 5; it was conducted by Tom Lock. I remember that after 3h 15 we then spent 10 minutes ringing them down perfectly.

As my sister lives in Truro, we were always going down to Cornwall for weekends and holidays, so I used to ring at many towers while down there. The only peal I rang for the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers was at the Cathedral, where I rang the 8 to Grandsire Caters, conducted by Alan Carveth. At 3h 24 it was my longest peal and I can remember looking at the clock at 3h 15 (my previous longest) and saying to myself 'keep going, keep going'.

So after 44 years at Yorktown and recently being heavily involved with the new bells and their installation, I have seen many people join, learn and move on; it is such a shame that in the current situation we are unable to ring these wonderful bells.

HOW I STARTED RINGING

Harry Glover, Frensham

“Why did I start ringing and what has it led to?”

I was born in Widnes (then in Lancashire, now in Cheshire) and in my teenage years I lived in a small village called Hale, near Liverpool – not to be confused with (but it often was) the larger and more affluent one near Manchester.

A much earlier resident of Hale was John Middleton (1578 - 1623) a giant at 9ft 3in tall, and known as the Childe of Hale. It is said that he was so tall that he had to sleep with his feet out of the window of his small cottage! He is buried in Hale churchyard.



My stepmother was a keen churchgoer, and mewell, just occasionally. Early in 1963 an item in the Parish Magazine mentioned the need for more bell ringers, and I decided to go and find out more about ‘campanology’. On Wednesday evening 6th March 1963 I duly went to St Mary’s church and was shown the ropes so to speak by Jimmy Dunbavin and from then on, I was ‘hooked’. At that time, Hale had a ring of six Dobson bells, with a tenor of 10cwt. Sadly the church was burnt to the ground by vandals in 1977, and the bells were destroyed in the blaze. The church was subsequently restored in 1988, and now has a ring of eight bells, comprising six steel bells (formerly at Christ Church, Bootle) together with two bronze Eijsbouts’ trebles.

Somewhat unusually I rang my first Peal before my first Quarter! It was a half-muffled one of Stedman Doubles rung in Childwall on Good Friday 1965. My first Quarter Peal was of Grandsire Caters, in Glasgow in June 1969, so a full 4 years after my first Peal.

I went to university in Edinburgh and joined St Mary’s Cathedral band (10 bells (now 12), tenor 41cwt). After leaving university my first job was with Magnus Pike (some of our more mature ringers may remember him as ‘windmill arms’) in a whisky research laboratory in Menstrie, Clackmannan-shire – the ‘wee county’ as it was called, since it was the smallest in Scotland.

Whilst in Edinburgh I had met a young lady, Elizabeth Graham, a ringer at St Cuthbert’s church and in August 1967 she became Mrs Glover. We first lived near Alloa, where St John’s church had a ring of 8 bells, but with very few ringers and no service ringing as such. However, we were able to revive ringing there, and with help from Glasgow ringers several of our learners rang their first QPs, which gave us both a lot of satisfaction.

In my early career, I had several changes of jobs, and when working in Warrington, lived in Lymm and rang on the heavy 8 (tenor 30cwt) there. I rang several QPs in Lymm, but no Peals. Then it was north to Glasgow in 1972 (jobs in distilleries and breweries!) and lastly south to Surrey in 1981, where I joined the Frensham band, and first rang there on 11th September, 1981.

I have never been a prolific Peal ringer, and my second Peal wasn’t until 1971, a full 6 years after my first, and my third not till 1982. In all I’ve rung only 38 Peals: 2 for the Lancashire Association, 1 each for the Yorkshire Association, Winchester & Portsmouth Guild, Salisbury Diocesan Guild, Lichfield Archdeaconry Society, 1 ‘Non-association’ and the remainder for the Guildford Diocesan Guild.

To celebrate the 750th anniversary of Frensham church in July 1989, I was privileged to ring in the first Peal of Frensham Surprise Major, 5376 changes. It was composed and conducted by Terry Collins and rung in you've guessed - Frensham.

I have rung rather more Quarter Peals, but probably only about 400. However, at 'my peak' I did make it into the Ringing World's "Leading QP Ringers" list, ringing 108 in one year, 1994. My QP total includes some of Minimus methods and one (only one!) of Stedman Singles (not to be recommended!) rung in Winterbourne Stickland in Dorset, then a 3-bell tower.

What are my most memorable ringing moments?

There are many, but the five that first come to mind are: (1) Seeing ringers I've taught progress, with many going on to ring QPs and Peals; (2) Calling a QP of 11 Doubles methods in Seale in 1993; (3) Organising ringing outings and holidays, including a tour of New Zealand in 2000; (4) Ringing at St Paul's Cathedral in London in 1983; and (5) The view of the Rockies from the ringing room at Westminster Abbey, in British Columbia, not London!

GUILDFORD D.G.
FRENHAM, Surrey,
S Mary
Sun July 16 1989 2h58 (10)
5376 Frensham S. Major
Comp. A T Collins
1 Martin J Turner
2 Brenda A Mayle
3 Mike Pidd
4 Harry S Glover
5 Ian P Hastilow
6 Tom Page
7 John A Mayls
8 A Terence Collins (C)
First of Surprise: 4.
First peal in the method.
Frensham S. Major:
-38-14-1258-36-34-1458-
16.34.78
(i.e. 12, 5738264)
To celebrate the 750th
anniversary of this church.
Birthday compliment to Ray
Clist, father of 2nd ringer

RINGING ROOM EXPERIENCES

My first experiences with Ringing Room came in mid-April – not initially through a local practice but instead through a Facebook group. The 'Ringing Room Take Hold Lounge' was advertised through the Bellringers' Facebook group having been set up by a ringer from Australia. There are numerous weekly open practices advertised on this group covering most days of the week and through these I have met ringers not only from across the UK but also around the world. In late May I set one up myself on a Sunday evening and it has proven so popular that we now regularly set up breakout rooms to allow two practices to be run side by side – with over 20 regular attendees.

Ringing Room has certainly changed somewhat since its original launch as there were far more server issues as the number of users far exceeded the developer's expectations. Indeed, there were more 'towers' set up than exist in real life. The server issues have improved significantly however at peak times (7-9pm) there can often be slowdown. Additionally, issues can be caused by having a Wi-Fi connection rather than wired (Ethernet).

In terms of the ringing, it was certainly more difficult in the early days as the 'ropesight' in Ringing Room works quite differently to in a tower – you don't have the momentum of the bell to guide you and instead I found that I was religiously counting places all the time. The previously mentioned server and internet issues also means that you are often waiting for another bell to ring – or have bells crash all at the same time - which can cause long gaps and therefore the ringing to fire out. In time though I felt that I was developing a form of ropesight, and a later update to Ringing Room gave a different colour to the treble sally which helped.



As for methods I have now rung several Surprise methods that I am yet to ring in real life, in addition to what I would normally ring. There are also several ringers who have barely rung at all in a tower who are now ringing methods, with the obvious advantage in Ringing Room being that bell control is not an issue allowing more focus on a method. I have also rung two quarter peals which I have to say required quite intense concentration but felt like a significant achievement at the end.

In conclusion I think that even when we return to normal ringing the Ringing Room will continue to be a valuable resource to teach or consolidate methods as it allows you to ring with 'real' people and also there are not necessarily the time or distance constraints that you would have in a regular practice. The ability to ring with people from around the world through the Facebook group has also been a huge benefit.

Joseph Sharp, Crondall

THE CLIST RINGING DYNASTY

Introduction to Raymond Clist by Clare Le Marie

Raymond Clist was taught to ring at Aldershot by William Viggers in 1943, ringing his first quarter peal in 1944. In December 1944 he rang his first peal at the age of 15 – Stedman Triples at Aldershot. Just 2 months later he rang his second peal of Grandsire Triples at Farnham. After 3 attempts he was part of a team that rang a quarter peal at Aldershot to celebrate VE Day.

All of Ray's children were taught to ring, though only his daughter Brenda (now Mayle) has continued. She takes up the story..

Clist dynasty by Brenda Mayle (nee Clist)

Why did I start ringing? From a very early age I accompanied my father, Ray Clist, to Sunday service ringing - probably to allow my mum to sort out my 2 younger brothers in peace. We lived between Cove and Hawley from when I was under 5, until 1976, so Hawley and Yorktown were the nearest towers. My first pull on a rope was at Yorktown, then a downstairs ring. I would sit quietly until the bells were rung down, then was lifted up by dad, or others, to pull on the Sanctus bell just before the service. It was there I first met George and Muriel Coleman, Mike Church and Beryl Norris.

I remember us accompanying the Farnham District members once a month to Guildford Cathedral as each District provided a band to ring the bells for services, until there was a resident band. I would count all of the 144 steps going up



and down to the ringing room and the highlight of the day for me was to have a bottle of Cherryade whilst the adults had coffee after ringing.

I actually started to learn to ring in autumn 1966 when I went to senior school at the County High in Aldershot. Each Thursday I walked from school at Highfield Avenue to grans at Brighton road, where I would do my homework and have tea. Dad would meet me there or at the church for practice night. Tom Page was our teacher, assisted by Jack Bragg, Bill Viggers and Betty Stewart. Toms daughter Gillian was learning at the same time, and attended the same school, so we were able to motivate each other to improve. Once we were competent at handling on our own, we would try to catch each other out in 'Follow my leader' on tied bells whilst Tom was with another learner.

St Michaels was our 'family' church, with 6 of dad's family in Aldershot regularly attending services. Gran also helped clean the church and Uncle Maurice and his son Michael were servers. My cousin Valerie Clist also learnt to ring at Aldershot but had moved away by 1966. Dad and I attended ringing at Aldershot as his work allowed and I became a tower and guild member in 1968.

In summer 1972 I got a job on a dairy farm in Wethersfield, Essex, with Roy Threadgold a ringing farmer. When I arrived, he told me he had booked us both on a 'mystery' coach ringing outing from Gosfield. We travelled all the way back to ring at both towers in Basingstoke, and it was during the outing that I met the Mayle ringing dynasty from Suffolk. John Mayle was at Reigate Fire training college and we struck up a friendship the following year when he appeared at Aldershot one evening.

From late 1974 to autumn 1975 I worked and rang at Bramley near Basingstoke as well as around the Guildford area with John Mayle. In 1975 I went to college in Newton Abbott, Devon and became a regular member of the call change band at Highweek. I remember being invited to attend a striking competition - but it was just to sit and listen as they rang up, changes and down with perfect striking. For a couple of terms, I was fortunate to attend Heavitree, Exeter practices with another student - a mad blonde called Kitty.

I think my first quarter was planned for November 16th 1972 at Aldershot (1260 Grandsire Triples on Treble), but records from Hawley show I rang the 2nd to 1260 PB Minor on 8th November 1972. So, this was probably my first quarter peal.

I rang my first peal, aged 17, in 1973 at Belchamp St Paul, Essex, organised by John Mayle, with a VERY strong band around me (see below)

Belchamp St Paul, tenor 11cwts, on Sunday August 26th 1973, 2hrs 30 minutes

7 Minor methods, 5040 changes

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brenda Clist | 4. John P Loveless |
| 2. Peter Mayle | 5. John A Mayle |
| 3. Frank B Luftkin | 6. Adrian G Semken |

It wasn't until we moved to Lindford in 1982 and started ringing regularly at Frensham, Binsted and more widely within the W&P and GDG that I started to ring peals regularly. To date, if my records are correct, I have rung 152 peals of which 119 are for GDG with 94 of those rung between 1987 – 1992. My favourite method is Stedman, of which I have rung 23 peals and surprisingly my most pealed method is Stedman cinques (9). I have called (not conducted) just one peal of 7 Surprise Minor, from the Treble at Eversley on 9th February 1991.

I have rung just 2 peals with my father, a 'Family' peal on the then 5 at Bentworth on September 13th 1986 conducted by Alan Mayle with dad on the Treble me on 2nd, Peter, John

and Alan on 3,4,5. This was dads first peal for 20 years and he claimed his first of doubles. The other was for the 50th anniversary of dads first peal at Aldershot on 26th November 1994. He rang the same bell (treble) and the same method, Stedman Triples. An unusual first peal method choice, but he says he had to stand in for an absent ringer in 1944.

I was on the Guild Executive Committee from 1988 until 1993 when I became Guild Master until 1996. I am proud to be a member of the band that rang the peal at Christ Church Epsom Common, Surrey, on 10th February 1996, commemorating the first peal rung by a lady.

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major (N J Pitstow) in 3hrs 2 mins

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Joyce A. Parsons | 5. Brenda A. Mayle |
| 2. Joan Summerhayes | 6. Jackie Roberts |
| 3. Ruth Blackwell | 7. Beryl Norris (C) |
| 4. Judy E. Couperthwaite | 8. Anne M. Anthony |

Rung to celebrate the centenary of the first occasion that a lady ringer rang a tower bell peal. Rung by a resident Guildford Guild Band, including the Guild Master, Secretary and Treasurer.

My father moved to Witheridge, Devon in late 1970's and became a member of the local call change band but missed the challenge of method ringing. It was not until he moved to Trowbridge in 1986 that he got back to regular method ringing, and when he moved to Haddenham in Cambridgeshire in 2000 he was pleased to be welcomed at Fordham, as there was no active band in his village.

Before Covid-19 he was ringing regularly for practice and services at Stretham, but has not rung a quarter for some years, although he is always happy to help celebrate ringing events in the pub afterwards. A quarter peal was rung at St. James, Stretham, on Wednesday, 10 July 2019 to celebrate his 90th and Syrah Simcocks 12th birthdays. The photo is from his surprise 90th Birthday party.

1290 Mixed Doubles, Grandsire (570) and Plain Bob Doubles(720).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Catherine J Simcock | 4. Colin J Macdonald |
| 2. Phillip J Wilding (C) | 5. Phil Marshall |
| 3. Brenda A Mayle (nee Clist) | 6. Steve J Setter |

I do not actually remember my brothers learning to ring although Steve says he did, but he never got as far as method ringing as motorbikes soon took over as his preferred hobby.

I am a member at Frensham and Binsted and attend practices and service ringing, mostly at Binsted as there are fewer ringers there. In fact, at the moment there are only 3 of us (Jack and Anita Regin and I) capable of ringing up, changes and down. Over the years I have been involved with teaching learners including my partner Colin Day, at both towers. I hope that the restrictions on ringing are soon lifted as I fear we will lose a number of ringers through lack of practice. I am also looking forward to ringing more than Stedman singles again!

[Brenda Mayle](#)

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL LADY CHAPEL BELL

On the south side of the Guildford Cathedral's Lady Chapel is an open turret containing a small sacring bell. The Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers gave this bell in 1947, in memory of John Sparkes Goldsmith. Mr. Goldsmith was a founder member and the first secretary of the Guild - although he is probably better known as the founder, proprietor and first editor of the *Ringling World* until his death in 1942.

The front-page article of the *Ringling World*, December 12, 1947 describes its dedication:

'With December mists clinging with clammy fingers over the countryside, a little group of ringers climbed the eminence of Stag Hill, Guildford, to participate in a ceremony very near to the heart of most readers of this journal. Beneath the shell of the great Cathedral, whose building has been halted through the exigencies of the economic situation, is a crypt chapel with seating accommodation for 150 worshippers. This chapel was dedicated last Saturday, together with the bell to summon the faithful and to be a sacring bell at the celebration of the Holy Communion.

The treble seemed to utter three words, as after the dedicatory prayers by the Bishop of Guildford the Master of the Guild, Mr. A. E. Harman, rang it in the presence of the secretary and treasurer and other officers of the Guild: *' John Sparkes Goldsmith,'* by the Exercise for ever remembered as the founder and first editor of *' The Ringling World '*; by those in the Guildford Diocese as the first secretary of the Guildford Guild, a post he held for 10 years, afterwards becoming the guiding influence in its inner councils while holding the office of vice-president. Practically all in the little group assembled knew Jack Goldsmith intimately, and they expressed the wish that near the bell rope there should be a small plaque bearing his name. The bell is a memorial to his work in the Guildford Diocese, and has been subscribed to by his friends.'



After many years of constant use and exposure to the elements, it has now become impossible to ring the bell. An inspection by Whites of Appleton in August (delayed due to the exigencies of COVID restrictions) revealed that the wooden headstock is badly decayed, the chiming lever broken and much of the metalwork corroded.

Needless to say, the estimate to repair and rehang the bell is considerably greater than the £70 originally raised by the Guild in 1947. However, with the help of a generous grant from the Guild, it is planned to rehang it next spring. It will then continue to provide a fitting and working memorial to a man who did much for the Guild (and the wider ringing community).

Nigel Smith

WHAT ELSE DO YOU GET UP TO WHEN NOT RINGING?

Steve Markham, Crondall – Building and Flying PL793 "The Odiham Spitfire"

After being outbid in a WW2 spitfire sale in 1979, and again in 1995, it was third time lucky when in 2006 I bought a kit of parts from Supermarine and started building my own brand new aircraft. It is an 80 percent scale replica made entirely of aluminium and is about one quarter of the weight of an historic machine. This reduced weight and size means that it



has adequate performance using a 266 horsepower V6 engine compared with the 1000 HP V12 Merlin, and uses a lot less fuel. It will cruise at 175 knots, cover 30 miles per gallon, and has enough range to go non-stop to Rome with a 45 minute reserve.

The aircraft is a replica of PL793 a photo-reconnaissance Mk PRXI Spitfire that was based at RAF Odiham from July to September of 1944. It is now possible to see details of every flight it made. Who was the pilot? What was the weather like? And did it manage to get the photographs it was sent to get? PL793 went to France, Belgium, Holland and finally to Germany before the war ended. In September 1946 it was "Struck off Charge" which is a polite way of saying chopped up and melted down. That was a very sad ending for an aircraft that was the most successful of the No. 4 Sqn. Spitfires based at Odiham.



Fuselage upside-down

Wing

Cockpit

The aircraft parts are joined together by a total of ten thousand rivets most of which are flush in order to minimize air resistance and so maximize speed. The kit included just the airframe parts. The engine, propeller, instruments, radios, and paint were all extra and were for me to choose and purchase. A point of historic irony is that the 3 bladed variable pitch prop was made in Germany and the engine was made in Japan. Supermarine said it would only take 1100 hours of work to build, but I was well past 11,500 hours when PL793 was finally completed after 11 years work at my home in Odiham village. PL793 then went by road to RAF Odiham for taxi trials in the autumn of 2017.



The first flight was in the hands of a test pilot at Enstone airfield in late August 2018. That flight only lasted 7 minutes because the engine overheated soon after take off. A year of modifying the cooling system and a different test pilot flew it three times in 2019. The

temperatures were better but still reached into the yellow arc after fifteen minutes of flight. After another year of work the coolant was nicely in the green at 85C.

Throughout the eleven year-long build I had been collecting for the RAF Benevolent Fund charity which supports serving and previous members of the RAF and their families. People coming to my workshop to see PL793 being built were asked to make a donation. As this was coming to an end we held a 1940's themed "Odiham Spitfire Celebration Party" to raise a few thousand pounds. The day included some vintage aircraft flying in, a virtual reality parachute simulator, the Greywell Handbell Ringers playing the Dambusters March, and the Charmborough Ring of 6 bells (0-3-10 in D) for all to try out.



Long delays were then caused by January storms Ciara & Dennis which removed the Enstone hangar roof. PL793 was relocated to Popham airfield and in August this year I flew her for the first time myself. I still wear a big smile from that great occasion. After a further eight flights we are now about halfway through the required flight testing schedule and well on the way to getting a Permit to Fly. Only then will I be allowed to fly anywhere (Covid willing) and to take passengers.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION (R&R)

Before Covid you might have been concerned about dwindling numbers but are now downright worried. This is our 'hard times' and it is now that you need a plan in place for when restrictions lift. If you are struggling with numbers you need to put a little time and effort into building a recruitment strategy, an advertising campaign or just make some noise to keep ringing in the minds of the public.

The CCCBR has great resources and publicity materials for R&R here, <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/recruitment-and-retention/>, covering:

- Publicity Materials, including templates, flags, banners, posters and leaflets
- Workshop Resources Pack, including a presentation and notes
- Ringing World articles, covering R&R planning, raising awareness, getting new recruits, keeping everybody happy and key messages summary





Local radio, newspapers, websites and social media LOVE created content. Produce good quality photo and some words on anything that's happened such as an Open Tower, and hey presto! You have the beginning of publicity and a rising visibility in your local area. Couple this with questions like, 'Do you want to learn something so different it makes people go heh???' , plus an open tower and/or bookable taster sessions and you have the beginnings of your recruitment drive.

Deb Margason-Baker, CCCBR volunteer and leadership group

MATHEMATICAL RINGING CORNER – "NOAHS"

Vernon Bedford has suggested this fiendishly difficult puzzle.

Definition

Defining NOAHS as rows with the bells positioned so that there is 'Not One At Home', invites the question - how many rows on any number of bells is it the case that all of the bells are not in their home positions?

Question

How many NOAHS are there on eight bells?

Solution

Well you could write out all the 40,320 rows on eight bells, check each one to see if it qualified - and then add them all up! Alternatively, you could try a systematic approach. It's best to look at small numbers of bells and see if there is a pattern. Starting with just one bell there are no NOAHS, with two bells we have rounds where both bells are home and back rounds where both are not. The answer here is one row is a NOAH and one is not, so this is 50% of the total.

With three bells we have a total of $3! = 6$ rows. Of these clearly two rows will have the '3' at home, a further two rows will have the '2' at home (although one of these will have the '3' at home as well) and yet another two rows will have the '1' at home (exactly one of which will have the '3' at home and one the '2' at home as well). These two rows with '3' and '2' at home are not however different rows – they both occur in rounds, so we need to add one back!

So for three bells we have $6 - 2 - (2 - 1) - (2 - 1 - 1 + 1) = 2$ and this is 33.33...% of the total. The actual rows are: 231 and 312. Further analysis shows that the proportion of NOAHS approaches 36.78794412...% rounded to the nearest whole number, as the number of bells increases. But can you prove that?

For the solution email Vernon at vernon.bedford@mail.com

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

HANDBELL (AND VIRTUAL) QUARTERS

Sandhurst, Sunday 2nd August 2020. 1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 Janet Menhinick, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C)

A birthday compliment to Gillian Leale.

Handbell Stadium, Thursday 6th August 2020. 1440 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 John Couperthwaite (C), 5-6 Jackie Roberts

First in the method in hand: 5-6. Remembering Di Bridle. A Highfield performance.

Sandhurst, Sunday 9th August 2020. 1264 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Adrian Nash, 3-4 Janet Menhinick, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C), 7-8 Jackie Roberts

Handbell Stadium, Thursday 13th August 2020. 1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Jackie Roberts, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C)

First of Treble Bob on an inside pair: 3-4. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Saturday 15th August 2020. 1344 Little Bob Major
1-2 Adrian Nash, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C), 7-8 Nigel Mellor

A birthday compliment to Beryl Norris. First in method in hand: 1-2, 7-8. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Thursday 20th August 2020. 1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Jackie Roberts, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C)

First in the method on an inside pair: 3-4. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Sunday 6th September 2020. 1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Karen White, 3-4 Ian Redway, John Couperthwaite (C)

A Highfield performance. Rung after internet problems prevented an attempt for Major.

Handbell Stadium, Sunday 13th September 2020. 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C), 7-8 Adrian Nash

First in method in hand: 7-8. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Friday 18th September 2020. 1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 John Couperthwaite (C), 5-6 Jackie Roberts

A Highfield performance.

Sandhurst, Monday 28th September 2020. 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 Christopher Cole, 5-6 Janet Menhinick, 7-8 John Couperthwaite (C)

First of Surprise Major on handbells as conductor. Rung socially distanced in the garden.

Handbell Stadium, Wednesday 30th September 2020. 1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Jackie Roberts, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C)

A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Thursday 6th October 2020 1312 Double Norwich Court Bob Major
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C), 7-8 Ian Redway

Handbell Stadium, Wednesday 7th October 2020. 1280 Oxford Treble Bob Major
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Martin Turner, 5-6 John Couperthwaite, 7-8 Mike Pidd (C)

Handbell Stadium, Friday 16th October 2020. 1312 Double Norwich Court Bob Major
1-2 Adrian Nash, 3-4 Ian Redway, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C), 7-8 Martin Turner
First in the method in hand: 1-2. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Monday 2nd November 2020. 1376 Kent Treble Bob Major
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 Ian Redway, 5-6 Jackie Roberts, 7-8 John Couperthwaite (C)
First of Kent TB Major on an inside pair: 5-6. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Saturday 7th November 2020. 1344 Spliced Treble Bob Major (2m)
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Adrian Nash, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C), 7-8 Nigel Mellor
First using wallpaper scrapers: 7-8. A Highfield performance.

Crondall, Saturday 7th November 2020. 1440 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Zofeyah Aspinwall, 3-4 Rebekah Aspinwall (C), 5-6 Leona Aspinwall
First quarter peal on handbells and first rung by our family only and first quarter peal as conductor

Handbell Stadium, Sunday 8th November 2020. 1296 Little Bob Royal
1-2 Karen White, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C),
7-8 Ian Redway, 9-10 Adrian Nash
First virtual Royal by all. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Sunday 15th November 2020. 1312 Oxford Treble Bob Major
1-2 Karen White, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C), 7-8 Ian Redway
A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Tuesday 17th November 2020. 12723 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 John Couperthwaite (C), 5-6 Nigel Melor
First in the method on handbells: 5-6. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Thursday 19th November 2020. 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 Mike Pidd (C), 5-6 John Couperthwaite, 7-8 Jackie Roberts
A 60th Birthday Compliment to Toby Arkless. A Highfield performance.

Handbell Stadium, Friday 20th November 2020. 1440 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Jackie Roberts, 3-4 Ian Redway (C), 5-6 George Hart
A Highfield performance, for Tom Page's birthday. First virtual QP as conductor

Handbell Stadium, Saturday 21st November 2020. 1344 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Karen White, 3-4 Ian Redway, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C), 7-8 Tom Page
A compliment to Tom Page on his 92nd birthday. A Highfield performance

Handbell Stadium, Sunday 22nd November 2020. 1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Janet Menhinick, 5-6 Mike Pidd (C)
Birthday compliment to Tom Page. 1st virtual quarter: 3-4. A Highfield performance

Ringling Room, Sunday 22nd November 2020. 1344 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Martin Turner, 3-4 John Couperthwaite, 5-6 Adrina Nash, 7-8 George Hart (C)
92nd Birthday compliment to Tom Page. First in hand as conductor. A Highfield performance

Handbell Stadium, Wednesday 25th November 2020. 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major
1-2 Ian Redway, 3-4 Jackie Roberts, 5-6 John Couperthwaite (C), 7-8 Martin Turner
First of treble bob major on an inside pair: 3-4. A Highfield performance.

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