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On the cover

Our front cover this week returns to the scene of our very first full photograph front cover on 20th October 2017, issue 5556. **James Wray's** distinctive photograph of Truro Cathedral in Cornwall was shot on a Tomiyama 6x17 panoramic medium format camera using Lomography's redscale film. James's image has been selected to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day on 15th August.

The Cathedral, dedicated to St Mary, was constructed between 1880 and 1910 after the creation of the Diocese of Truro in 1876. It is a Gothic Revival ecclesiastical building designed by John Loughborough Pearson and was officially consecrated in 1887. As was mentioned in the image of the week on 26 June, it is one of only three cathedrals in the British Isles to have all three of its towers crowned with spires.

Truro boasts a classic John Taylor & Co. ring of ten cast in 1909 that

was augmented to 12 in 2011. The tenor weighs 33-3-10 in the key of D \flat major. Taylor also provided an extra treble and flat sixth when they augmented the bells to facilitate a lighter diatonic ring of ten in the key of G \flat major (tenor 14-1-12). The ringing bells hang in the north west tower of the cathedral.

In addition to the ringing bells, there are six chiming bells in the south west tower that formerly hung in the old parish church of St Mary, the site of which the Cathedral now occupies. Four of these bells were recast in 1904 by John Taylor & Co. as a clock chime. A proposed bourdon bell for striking the hours has never materialised.

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Submit your photos on *BellBoard* (log in and click 'Add photo') or to frontpage@ringingworld.co.uk. If we use your image we'll award a £25 prize and a free copy of that issue.



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Performance donations

The Ringing World Board and staff are determined to weather the current Covid-19 storm, but do not have endless funds available.

While we are currently stemming the annual reduction of subscribers, the loss of performance donations since the suspension of ringing has hit us hard. These donations are highly valued and make a significant contribution to our financial well-being.

We have been able to continue publishing a 24-page issue each week, through the editorial team's hard work and a desire to support the ringing community through the pandemic. So we have not saved any costs by omitting the printed peal and quarter peal performances.

While the number of donations received with performances has not reduced, the number of performances has. We are therefore asking you to raise the donation per performance. It has stood at 50p a ringer for some years now, and the Board has

reluctantly decided to raise the suggested peal and quarter peal donation to 75p a ringer. We understand that some may be facing difficult times financially, hence the small suggested increase.

In 2015, we launched a 70% challenge for the number of performances with accompanying donations at the suggested rate. We generally hit about 50–60% counting only assigned donations; if unassigned donations are included the figure is slightly higher, but we still hit 70% only about 1–2 months a year.

We are very grateful to those many ringers who already support us with donations, either with performances sent for publication or as freestanding donations.

An increase in subscriptions would also provide welcome stability, so please encourage new subscribers, either online or for the paper copy!

DAVID GRIMWOOD
Chairman, The Ringing World Ltd

Is gender in ringing a thing?

One of ringing's great attributes is the way it provides opportunities for different ages and types of people to come together. It creates a bond that transcends our differences. The ability to strike a bell and not go wrong is not affected by whether you are young, old, male or female.

So why is it that when I look around the tower during peals at Birmingham Cathedral I usually only see male ringers? Why do I have so few peals my peal book with female conductors? Why can I not think of more than a handful of female composers? Why, when women were admitted to join the College Youths, did I get pushed off the front bells in the 12 bell contest band?

And yet when you look at the participants in the Ringing World National Youth Contest, there seem to be as many girls as boys. Is it just that times are changing and that the youth of today will address this imbalance in the future? Or is there something in the way ringing is run that creates some sort of barrier to female progression in areas such as composing, conducting, back bell ringing, and the rarefied world beyond the Black Zone? If it is the latter, then something needs to be done about it because the Central Council has a Strategic Priority of making sure no ringer meets a barrier to their own progression, and being female is looking like it might be a big one.

A few weeks ago, I shared an index of quarter peal compositions by composer and asked the simple question "what do you notice about this?" (There were virtually no female names.) It unleashed a tsunami of opinions and experiences, predominantly from women, which made it abundantly clear that this barrier is very real indeed. Since then, there has been a fascinating research article from Lynn Scales on "lady conductors" and Mary Jones wrote an interesting piece which talks to the differences between the genders. It was clear that to many women ringing is a "male-dominated" culture where male progression and leadership is encouraged more than it is for female equivalents. Some of you will disagree with this observation, some will suggest this is simply representative of the broader culture and others will respond with "well that may be, but it works OK". Given the strength of feelings on this subject, we want to look at this in detail to understand it more. We want to be sure that everyone interested in learning to ring gets a fair chance and the opportunities to develop – to ring the bigger bells, to conduct and to take on leadership positions. The retention of our learners is too precious not to nurture each and every one.

So I asked Julia Cater to set up a small working group to explore this topic, and in her words, this is what they are going to do:

"First – we are going to look at the data to see what is currently showing up. We start by looking at how the gender balance is through the early stages of ringing through to more advanced levels. This article will appear in

The Ringing World in the next few weeks.

We will then look at how the genders move around the ringing circle, how they participate in quarters and peals, how they conduct, compose and take on leadership positions. All the while, we will be asking for stories and experiences that will serve to inform us about how ringing really is for people and to gather qualitative information to support this data (with confidentiality maintained). We have a specific website designed specially to gather and curate the findings and the stories so, whichever gender you associate with, please take a look and let us have your thoughts about this topic. Have there been moments which have caused you to feel discouraged due to your gender? Have you noticed a lack of opportunity that has affected your motivation? Have you longed for a role model in a certain area?

"What is the point of this? We are not stirring things up simply to complain. We are not looking to tear down statues of male ringing heroes. But we are looking at gaining a fresh view of how it really is so that we can identify new strategies and take on new approaches. Simply increasing our consciousness when we place our hands or encouraging learners to learn to conduct might make a difference. Increasing opportunities for some will naturally enhance diversity and inclusion and will increase the expertise as it flows through the pipeline from learner to advanced. It is the right thing to do. Can we afford not to look in this area?"

I am excited at what this group is doing – exploring our culture in a discursive, open and participative way – a piece of action research if you like. Although I had come to realise that gender was "a thing" in my ringing experience, I had never sat back and analysed exactly why it was.

After watching Julia's recent talk on heavy bell ringing, our 13-year-old daughter Charlie announced that she wanted to focus on heavy bell ringing. That is inspiration at work. If the barriers to the progress of women ringers are real and identifiable, then it could take a generation to break them down. We owe it to Charlie and others like her to do just that.

SIMON LINFORD
President CCCBR

Website: <https://www.womeninringing.info>

Names of group members:
Bryn Reinstadler, Dorothy Hall,
Elva Ainsworth, Julia Cater, Lucy Warren,
Kira Chase, Tina Stoecklin

The Central Council's latest guidance on ringing safely can be found at cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus. This is updated every Friday evening, with recent changes marked at the top of the page.

Editorial

This week's issue starts with the second part of Gareth Davies's article on the historic rise and fall of ringing for elections. Again we print several pieces of correspondence on the Central Council's proposed motion to register small societies, though also responses to several other items published over the last few weeks.

This weekend marks the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, and as predicted back in May there is not much normality to our ringing. But we hope that many towers will be able to mark it in some way.

Our final two features are fairly diverse – moving from spliced royal to AC/DC!

Finally a quick congratulation. When the ringing suspensions came into place in March we paused our series of articles on the 2020 Ringing World Pathways. We intend to extend the 2020 pathways so they can be completed (or started) in 2021, and will resume the articles in due course. But congratulations to Dylan Thomas in Wellington, New Zealand, where ringing has resumed already, for being the first person to complete our red pathway.

BBC Radio 4's *Bells on Sunday* is broadcast every Sunday at 05:43 and repeated the following Monday at 00:45.

The August towers are:

(9th: St Dunstan's, Stepney)

16th: St Mary's, Redcliffe, Bristol

23rd: St Nicholas, Sandhurst

30th: St Mary's, Ilmington

You can listen again at:
www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/bellsonsunday

In this issue:

	<i>page</i>
Bellringing for parliamentary elections part 2	<i>Gareth Davies</i> 800
Letters to the Editor	802
Registered Small Societies – Final Proposal	<i>Clyde Whittaker</i> 805
CCCBR YouTube Competition July – Best striking on 8 bells and above	<i>Wendy & Graham Bloom</i> 806
Confessions of a Ringing Room cheat	<i>Sue Marsden</i> 807
Westley Awards 2020	808
Staying Power	<i>Stephen Bell</i> 808
The Secrets of the Shirt Box	<i>Sue Trevor</i> 809
Of royal interest? Some spliced royal ideas	<i>Sam Cave</i> 810
Peal Reports	812
What's Hot on BellBoard	813
Quarter Peal Reports	813
Obituaries – Margaret Lewis	815
	<i>Eric J Sterland</i> 815
Notices	816
A very famous Taylor bell – AC/DC's Hell's Bell	<i>Mike Milsom</i> 817
Puzzle Page	818
Thought for the week	<i>Chris Marshall</i> 819
The image of the week	820

Bellringing at parliamentary elections between 1600 and 1900 (or how to make money from politicians) – Part Two

Anatomy of an election: the opportunities for ringing by Gareth Davies

Last week we explored the origins of bellringing for parliamentary elections in the early seventeenth century, how it grew to become a regular feature of such contests by the middle of the eighteenth century and was providing a significant, if occasional, income for the ringers. This week we look at the different stages of the election process at which bells were employed and begin to consider why such ringing eventually disappeared.

Eighteenth and nineteenth century elections were very public affairs in which the whole community participated, even though few men had the vote. There were very distinct periods of activity and at each stage there were opportunities for the bells to ring, from the initial canvassing of voters to the final chairing of the successful candidates. Some of those stages were cruelly satirised by William Hogarth in 1755 in his series of paintings known as ‘The Humours of an Election’.

Canvassing

Once it was clear that an election would be called, potential candidates started sounding out their preferred constituency. Few lived in the area they hoped to represent, so it was vital to visit, canvass the voters, and assess the chances of being returned. It was important to get the voters’ attention on arrival and what better way to do that than by having the church bells rung. At Cricklade in Wiltshire in 1774, ‘Henry McCullough Esq ... was ushered into that town by musick, dancing and bell-ringing’. The ringers there clearly had plenty of earning opportunities because the report noted that, ‘this is the fifth gentleman who has already canvassed the borough ...’. As part of his efforts, McCullough also performed another of the usual rites and ‘... gave an elegant entertainment to the electors’.

Elaborate dinners were frequently held for known supporters and those whose voting intentions might be swayed by free food and drink. Part of the payment the Cambridge ringers received in 1780 was for announcing dinners hosted by all three of candidates for the two county seats. As at Cricklade, canvassing could last some while, with opposing candidates arriving at different times. In Cambridge the sitting Tory



Polling as depicted by William Hogarth in his 1755 series ‘Humours of an Election’

members for the borough seats paid four guineas when they canvassed in September 1774. Their radical opponents paid five guineas for the bells at Great St Mary’s when they canvassed two weeks later. Nine of the twenty-one days on which Bengeworth bells had rung in 1837 had been at the canvassing.

Nomination

If his reception whilst canvassing suggested to the potential candidate that he had a chance of success, he would then go forward to be formally nominated. Nomination days were full of ceremonial. With banners, flags and musical bands, the supporters of opposing parties would march in procession to the open-air venue where the hustings had been erected. During the election held at York in 1826, the Yorkshire Gazette estimated that the population of the city had more than doubled with the arrival, for the nomination, of 25,000 freehold voters from across the county. The Minster bells rang to welcome the arrival of the High Sheriff who was due to oversee the proceedings the next day.

In every constituency interminable speeches were invariably made in support of each candidate as they were formally proposed and seconded, though the crowd noise often meant that even the newspaper reporters standing close by were hard-pressed to hear what was being said. It was not at all unusual for both sides to pay the ringers on nomination day, though there could be particular local customs. At Bridgwater in Somerset it was the practice for the



Hogarth depicts the traditions of canvassing

Liberals to have cannons fired, whilst ‘the Conservatives claim the church bells’.

Polling

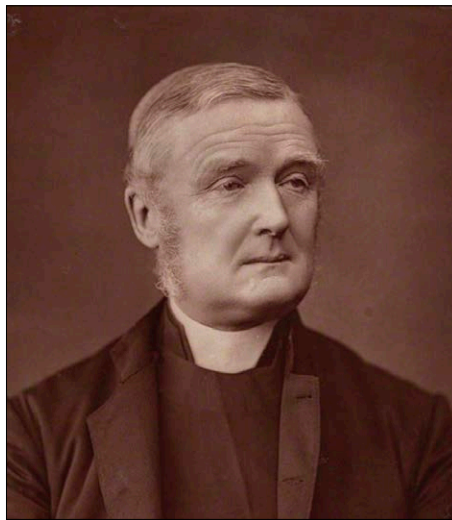
Even at the nomination stage it was not unusual for candidates to withdraw, if they felt that public and voter sentiment was running against them. If there was no contest, then there was no poll. However, if there were still more candidates than seats, polling would take place over a number of days. Prior to 1785 a poll could legally be open for up to forty days before a result was declared. That would have been exceptional and most were closed when the returning officer felt that voters had had a reasonable chance to register their preference. As with the nomination, polling was a very public process. At the end of each polling day the number of votes cast so far for each candidate would be announced. Candidates continued campaigning if they felt they still had a chance of victory and the longer the poll lasted the more opportunities there were for the bells to ring. At county elections it was not unusual for leading landowners to process into the county town with a retinue of tenants ready to vote for their landlord’s preferred party, and for the bells to ring as they passed by each church. At the West Worcestershire election of 1852, General Lygon provided breakfast at his home at Madresfield for one thousand of his supporters before they all travelled the six miles to Worcester, whitened by clouds of dust so that by the time they arrived ‘... it was not very easy to distinguish the natural colour and complexion of man or horse’. They then processed through the town accompanied by ‘bells from the different Churches ringing merry peals’.

Declaration

Ringing before and after the declaration of the election result was probably the most common ritual of all. The size of the crowds usually demanded that this was also an outdoor event. When the mayor tried to announce the results of the Cambridge borough by-election in 1863 he couldn’t make himself heard until the ringers at Great St Mary’s were prevailed upon to stop ringing. And in 1880 it was rumoured in the waiting crowd that the Conservatives were so confident of victory that they had set the bells ringing before the result was announced. There was much hilarity when they lost and it was believed that they had accidentally paid to celebrate the victory of their opponents. However, as the Cambridge Youths’ accounts show, it was, in fact, the victorious Liberals who eventually paid the bill.

The chairing

The declaration was usually followed by the ‘chairing’. Originally the successful candidates were literally carried around the town hoisted up in chairs. Later, they found more dignified ways of travelling on horseback or by carriage. As with Manners-Sutton election in Cambridge in 1839, such processions could last hours and offered an opportunity for each church to ring its bells as the newly-elected members passed by. There were occasions on which the chairing did not take place. Bad weather could dampen enthusiasm for protracted



Revd James Fraser, Bishop of Manchester 1870–1885, who said that election ringing had ‘struck shame to his heart’

celebrations. Or, as happened at Cambridge in 1831, the new members might feel it prudent to leave the town as quickly as possible after the declaration to avoid physical violence. Being elected by a small electorate was no guarantee of public popularity. Graham and Trench were the sitting MPs and had previously voted against parliamentary reform and for Catholic Emancipation, both unpopular views in Cambridge at the time. So unpopular that, as soon as their re-election formalities were completed, they ‘beat a hasty retreat from Cambridge’, leaving the townspeople to burn their effigies on Parker’s Piece where the polls were usually held.

On that occasion the bells were either silent after the declaration or the ringers were not paid. That was very unusual. By the 1830s bellringing had become such an integral part of the election process that it usually went ahead even if the chairing itself was cancelled – sometimes providing the only marker that the election had concluded.

Decline and fall

Given the steady growth of election ringing over two hundred and fifty years and its ubiquity by the 1830s, there was no reason to suppose then that the custom wouldn’t continue for another few centuries. And yet, just fifty years later it had almost entirely disappeared.

The [lack of] impact of belfry reform

It would be tempting to assume that the disappearance of election ringing was a consequence of the campaigning of the nineteenth century belfry reformers to limit the use of church bells to sacred purposes. There is no doubt that election ringing was one of their targets and some clergymen were more successful in preventing it than the squinting vicar of Wallingford. The Revd Woolmore Wigram, one of the more ardent belfry reformers, quoted an early example from 1808 when ‘the Vicar of Greenwich gave notice, before the polling-day, that neither party would be “allowed to celebrate their victory on the church bells.”’

In the 1840s the Revd Henry Ellacombe included ‘political matters, such as elections’ in his rules for the ringers in the parish of Bitton. They were one of several types of secular event for which the bells were not to be rung. At the time, Bitton was in the West Gloucestershire county constituency and the elections for the seat were held in the small market town of Dursley. The necessity for such a rule at Bitton confirms that it was not just at the voting venues that ringing for county elections had been taking place. It also featured during the canvass at other towns in each constituency. Whilst the bells in Cambridge rang during the voting process itself at the 1830 county election, those in Wisbech had already sounded out when one of the candidates canvassed there. Lord Osborne arrived in the town on the 22nd September and ‘the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells which continued during the day to respond to the frequent and hearty cheers of the assembled multitude.’

Ellacombe was in a minority in banning election ringing. By and large there seems to have been little challenge to the practice from most church authorities, and any thoughts of impropriety about using the bells for such purposes certainly seem to have passed by the wider public. Whilst some readers may have agreed with the *Cambridge Independent Press* in 1839 that it was ‘Tory Sacrilege’ that ‘One of Mr Manners Sutton’s flaunting flags was waving yesterday from the steeple of Great St Andrew’s Church’, no one commented on the fact, or appeared to think it inappropriate, that the church bells in the same tower had also been ringing.

The influence of the belfry reformers increased in 1870 when Ellacombe became editor of the bellringing column of *Church Bells* and used the new publication to promote their views. Election ringing was by no means a regular subject of discussion in the column but it was raised by correspondents from time to time. It came to particular prominence in 1874 following the publication of a letter in the *Manchester Times* from Alfred Watkin, the Mayor of Manchester, who had just overseen

XXVIII. The use of the Bells is to be confined strictly to ecclesiastical purposes, as they were always intended to be: that is, they are not to be rung for any political matters, such as elections; nor lawsuits, or trials, and such like; nor for any clandestine or run-away marriages, nor marriages elsewhere than at the Church; nor for prizes; nor to be fired or clashed, excepting twelve rounds on the 5th of November evening; if they are, the whole of the thirty shillings will be withheld: nor for any unusual special purpose, without first obtaining the consent of the Minister and one Churchwarden, which the foreman is to do BEFORE he gives any notice to the Ringers.

Revd Henry Ellacombe’s 28th rule for the Bitton ringers banned ringing for elections. *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, 1850

the election proceedings there. He complained that the cathedral bells had started ringing at one o'clock in the morning and demanded to know on whose authority they had been rung. He had been staying overnight in a nearby hotel and, unable to sleep, had sent the porter to remonstrate. The ringers had told him what the churchwardens later confirmed, that the bells were rung on the orders of a member of the Conservative party who had paid them 'to go and ring like blazes'.

The well-publicised Manchester furore sparked a number of correspondents to submit their own election stories to *Church Bells*. A Derbyshire curate related how he had foiled the intentions of the local Liberal supporters at the same election. He had locked the tower and removed the bellropes to prevent any ringing for the arrival of their candidates, having previously agreed with the churchwardens 'that the bells should be rung for no political demonstration'. On the day, though, he seems to have been more offended that one of the men seeking access to the belfry was a religious dissenter, than he was about the election ringing *per se*.

Given weight by the involvement of the mayor, the ringing at Manchester was clearly an embarrassment to the cathedral. Over the following eighteen months, the Bishop, James Fraser, took various opportunities to address the subject, explaining that election ringing at both Manchester cathedral in 1874 and at Blackburn in 1875 had 'struck shame to his heart'. His sermon at an inauguration service, for the bells at Lytham St Anne's in 1875, attracted particular attention and was reproduced in *Church Bells*. In it he argued that 'the Church of England was too precious an institution to be committed to the tender care of any one political party.'

One party is victorious, and its spirit rises, and the first thing they think of doing is to set the church bells ringing to announce their triumph. At the last Manchester election there was a very great deal of dissatisfaction with some body—I don't know who—going in the middle of the night and ordering the Cathedral ringers to celebrate the return of three Conservatives. This naturally, more or less, offended the sentiments of the supporters of the Liberal candidates.

Despite this episode gaining some notoriety, there was still little sign that the clergy as a whole were concerned about election ringing. Indeed, the vicar of Blackburn went into print to deny that he had any issue with his ringers over marking Mr Thwaites's success at the by-election in 1875. There were numerous accounts of ringing at elections in newspaper reports and parliamentary records throughout the middle of the century. At the 1860 general election, for instance, bells rang across the country, from Londonderry to Dover and Bodmin to Gateshead. Despite the efforts of the belfry reformers, they continued to do so through the 1870s and early 1880s. Amongst many other places, they rang at Bridgwater in 1870, Poole in 1874, Worcestershire West, Boston, and Gloucester in 1880, and at Cambridge in each year from 1879 to 1882.



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Registering Small Societies

SIR, – In the context of the Central Council being a facilitating body rather than a ruling or governing body, I have been trying to understand the advantages of introducing a new membership category of "Registered Small Societies". The obvious disadvantage seems to be that it would make an already over large representative body bigger. There may be other less obvious disadvantages as suggested by Linda Garton (p.676) and Robert Lewis (p.778).

Simon Linford wrote (p.647), "Registered Small Societies would have to accept the Council's rules/policies/decisions" (I think he means Standards rather than Decisions), and "Each Registered Small Society would be approved by the Executive in accordance with the Standing Orders". So the registering process itself would impose a small administrative burden on both sides. Simon goes on to say that "Registered Small Societies would enjoy all the benefits of Council membership, meaning that they could send someone to speak and contribute to Council meetings." But, in fact, small societies already enjoy all the benefits of Central Council's work; all the advice that the Central Council publishes is freely available via the CC website, as is the fundamental work undertaken by the Technical and Taxonomy workgroup on such things as the Framework for Method Ringing, Methods, Compositions and *Dove's Guide*. None of this is restricted to members of affiliated Societies. So that means the only "advantage" would be speaking at Central Council meetings.

Chris Mew wrote (p.707), "the concept of smaller societies should be encouraged, to bring them within the organisational family of ringing. By so doing, this would give recognition of their respective roles and, should the Church or other bodies require, be able to verify their validity." I have no idea

what this means. How, for example, would the Church be able to verify the validity of the role of the St Mary Abbots Guild or the Amersham Guild by the fact of them being registered with the Central Council? Chris goes on to say "Perhaps the most important opportunity is to encourage the recognition of those smaller groups which make a significant contribution to the recruitment, training and retention of young ringers", citing University Societies as an example.

Well, yes of course, such activities are vitally beneficial to ringing and, in the case of University Societies, many alumni are actively engaged in this way. But are small societies discouraged from continuing to recruit and train by the fact of not being affiliated to the Central Council? That is not how altruism works.

The thrust of Phillip Barnes's arguments (p.778) in favour of registering small societies seems to be that it would add weight to the Central Council's ability to represent ringing and ringers in external discussions. This is a tricky one; no matter how much the Church of England, for example, would like to have a single authority to deal with, the Central Council does not have that mandate from ringers. I doubt that any member of the Central Council believes they have the authority to control what ringers can or should do. The CC guidance on ringing during the present COVID-19 pandemic strikes a commendably sensible balance in this context (and it is available to all ringers regardless of whether or not they are members of an affiliated Society).

Simon Edwards (p.778) feels that the wants and needs of the affiliated Societies of which he is a member are often very different from those of small societies. Although he does not give any specific examples, he might be right. And the wants and needs of the Singapore ringers (p.754) will surely be very different due to their distance from other centres of ringing. But at the same time, I find it difficult to imagine how either the Lilliputters Guild or the Singapore ringers could say they have been neglected when it comes to training opportunities and social interaction with established ringers.

I tend to the conclusion that registering small societies would be a poor solution to an ill defined problem.

PETER BLIGHT

Islington, London N5

A mountain out of a ... small society

SIR, – I am sorry to take issue with Robert Lewis's latest letter (7 Aug, p.778). He is clearly very concerned about the Small Societies proposal and I strongly suspect his mind is set.

In his second letter, Robert suggests that the Central Council will be regulating or monitoring the activities of one of (presumably all) the potential new small societies. Given that the Council has no history of "policing" the activities of affiliated societies (beyond the historical expectation that they would abide by

its Rules and Decisions), I am not sure why he thinks we should start now. Does he expect us to do the same at meetings of whichever District of the Middlesex County Association (and London Diocesan Guild) in which he rings? I suspect not.

In fact the kinds of issues he raises could just as easily arise within one of the currently affiliated societies (and have done so in the past) and I would expect the Council's response to be the same no matter what size of society we are dealing with. It has got nothing to do with small societies.

It's more likely that, rather than policing anyone, Robert expects the CC to be a representative body for ringers, striving to do its best for all ringers and to be a coherent voice in dealing with relevant bodies outside ringing. In that I entirely agree with him but reiterate that a broader range of opinions can only enrich the Council's work and its relevance to ringing.

I'm afraid I don't generally believe in "no-brainers" so when the proposal was first mooted I "gave the tyres a good kicking" to see if it made sense and didn't carry undue risks. My conclusion was that it was a good idea that was entirely consistent with the spirit of the Council Review Action Group (CRAG). To spend two or three years agonising over it without a clearly expressed fundamental objection would not be consistent with the spirit of CRAG however.

Let's not make a mountain out of a ... small society.

PHILLIP BARNES

Platt, Kent

More inclusive

SIR, – Usually this time of year I am, in time-honoured fashion, enjoying the hospitality of the community at Cropredy where Fairport Convention hold their annual reunion. The Festival has undergone transformations along the years, to make it safer and more inclusive, and while some villagers will enjoy the comparative peace they might expect this year coronavirus has halted us in our tracks, others will perhaps miss the income and fundraising opportunities. The bells of St Mary's Church were restored and augmented assisted by raising funds from festival goers and fans, the second is inscribed with the band's name and bellringing opens the Festival with Fairport's acoustic set just across the fields, including the song 'Festival Bell'. It's a community event, with the school, the village hall, the WI, the church and more all playing a part cooking breakfasts and selling produce. I'm mindful how welcoming the tower captain Stephen Day and his wife Brenda are, how they have seen my ringing progress, albeit slowly, from when I started learning and I discovered by ringing the bells that weekend I too could be part of the community for that weekend, supporting the church's excellent concerts and breakfasts, as they like many other rural churches are fundraising for essential repairs and modernisation.

When I first attended an ART Conference, in Old Basing, Hampshire, during one sticky-note exercise, I bravely put 'scary' and

'intimidating' on my notes, as that is how I saw the experienced bellringers I had come across, I knew nothing of the Central Council. Jumping in the deep end I set to find out more, and now we see a change at last, to make it more inclusive, proposing to welcome smaller societies under its protection, opening up its work to more people. I'm a touring member of the Roving Ringers and we will look at the admissions criteria to see if this is something the society might be interested in. I welcome this inclusivity, to strengthen the Council, to broaden its reach as it evolves, like we all are, to meet the changing demands of society.

Fishbourne, Sussex ALISON EVERETT

Change ringing in Chinese

SIR, – I was intrigued by the statement in brackets in the middle of David Smith's letter on p.754 (about the media attention on the opening of the bells at St Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore). I wonder whether he can let us see what the Chinese character for change ringing looks like, find out for us how it was constructed, composed, or chosen, and tell us how it should be pronounced in one of the forms of Chinese which is used in Singapore?

A German text which I have looked at says that change ringing in German is called 'Wechseläuten'. Can any readers provide other examples of words used by native speakers to represent 'change ringing' in any other languages?

JOHN PUSEY

Oxford

(John copied his letter to David, who replied as follows.)

'In turn bell sound'

In reply to John Pusey, the term used by the Chinese-language newspaper was, rather like the English 'change-ringing', a compound word. It consists of four characters: 交替钟声 (followed by 'change-ringing' in English characters the first time it was used). I'm grateful to my Chinese-speaking daughter-in-law for the following information. The first two characters mean 'alternating' or 'in turn' and the second two mean 'bell sound'. So a fairly literal translation would be 'sequential bell ringing'. The pronunciation of course depends on which spoken language is being used, but the English rendering of the Mandarin version is 'jiao ti zhong sheng' or, with accents added which I believe give some indication of the tonality, 'jiāoti zhōng shēng'.

Brisbane, Australia DAVID SMITH

A sympathetic Dean

SIR, – I read with interest – and a little sadness – about the unsympathetic Dean of Wells who refused permission to erect a tablet in memory

of those who died in service of their country (24 July, p.741), and I was struck by how much things have changed in 75 years.

The current Dean of Wells Cathedral – John Davies – is so much more than merely 'sympathetic' to ringing. His first curacy was at St Nicholas (Pier Head) in Liverpool, and his second parish was Melbourne, Derbyshire. He is a man who loves bells and bell ringing: he was very grateful that we rang a quarter peal for his installation, and since then he has asked us to ring for many 'extra' services. He is also a man who knows what good ringing sounds like, and he notices when ringing is not up to scratch ...

More than sympathetic, he is a champion of bell ringing. He has allowed us to start our practice night earlier as an experiment in getting the most benefit for the local band from our monthly practice, and has recently allowed us to trial additional practices to cater for visitors who wish to ring at the Cathedral. As part of this trial, the monthly Friday night practices will (when ringing resumes) become 'closed', open only to elected members of the band and friends. In this way the enthusiastic but relatively inexpert local band can focus – with support from elected friends and invited helpers – on extending its repertoire from well-struck call changes and plain hunt to ringing well-struck Grandsire and Plain Bob for services. Visitors will be welcomed at the 'open' practices on Saturday evenings, which will be scheduled to be held approximately every six weeks.

The only disadvantage to the very good relationship that we have with the Dean is that I have more work to do in recruiting ringers for all those the extra services. A happy torment!

ANDREW DEAMER

Wells, Somerset

College Bob Minor

SIR, – I write in response to Brian Harris's query about College Bob Minor. There indeed were other versions called College Bob, five in total, numbered, not too surprisingly, from I up to V. These first appeared in the 53 London peals composed by 'F.S.' which appeared in Stedman's *Campanalogia*, which he entered with the Stationers' Company on 5th September 1676, and which was published in 1677. Since those 53 'peals' include Stedman's Principle, we can safely assume that Fabian Stedman was the composer of these methods.

None of the College Bob methods were published in the 1702 *Campanalogia Improved*, nor in the 1788 *Clavis Campanalogia*, Shipway's *Campanalogia* (1816), or Hubbard's *Elements of Campanalogia* (1845).

Details of when these methods were first known to be rung are given in Arthur Whiting's typescript index to Minor methods. The first known 720 of College Bob I was rung at Cavendish, Suffolk, in 1913, at which time it was given the name Cavendish Delight. The figures were given in the *Ringing World* on 8th August 1913, when it was said to have

been rung ‘just recently’. There is no mention of either College Bob II or College Bob III, so Arthur Whiting had not found any record of them being rung, but College Bob IV is there, and it is noted that this was rung in a peal at Bocking, Essex, on 23rd January 1892 under the name of Bocking Treble Bob, and that the first peal in the method was rung at Packington, Leics., on 27th April 1961 under the name of College Bob IV: the foot note gives a reference ‘4D.21’ relating to the Central Council Collection of Doubles and Minor methods. Alan Glover has kindly checked this for me in the Central Council library, and has written back: ‘College Bob IV appears in ‘Collection of Legitimate Methods’ Section I of 1907, which includes ‘all legitimate minor methods except such as have 5th place without the treble in 6ths’. It is number 20 and the only one of the 28 4D methods to be named. It is renumbered 21 in the 2nd edition of CCCBR Doubles and Minor methods of 1931.’

In view of the publication of the method in the 1907 collection, it is not surprising that the method appears for the first time in the fifth edition of *Diagrams*, published in 1908, information also kindly provided by Alan Glover.

As for College Bob V, Arthur Whiting notes that it was first rung in a peal of spliced treble bob minor at Taxall, Derbyshire, on 14th June 1958, under the name Luton Surprise (a few notable ringers in that peal!) The first peal in the method was at Ossington, Notts, on 16th March 1963, when it was called Stormy Weather Surprise.

JOHN EISEL

Hereford

Flawed assumption?

SIR, – Introducing her recycled puzzle “Eight-Bell Towers” on p.770 (31 July), Angela Newing suggested that most present readers of *The Ringing World* weren’t born when she previously set it in 1974. That seems highly unlikely.

Writing on p.727 (24 July) about the proposed reconstitution of The Ringing World Ltd as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), its Chairman, David Grimwood, drew attention to the long-term decline in subscriptions, with “an average loss of 76 per year over the last thirty years” (almost 2,300 in total, an overall reduction of around 45%). Its principal cause has presumably been the inevitable loss of existing older subscribers who have died, at a much greater rate than the acquisition of younger new ones needed to replace them.

With an uncharacteristic lack of intellectual rigour, Professor Newing didn’t mind the gap highlighted by Simon Linford on p.357 (10 April), where he referred to the “25–50 age group missing in so many areas”. For

E-MAILED LETTERS

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the *RW*, the situation is perhaps even more challenging than it is for the Exercise as a whole. Thankfully, there are many enthusiastic younger ringers (not just from ringing families) eager to take part in the RWNVC and other activities. But their generation is more accustomed to obtaining information from YouTube and other online sources than traditional printed media.

Does the *RW*’s Board have an understanding of the demography of the current subscriber base? Is it able to confirm or refute the questionable assertion made in passing by Angela? I’d be delighted to be wrong, but very surprised if a majority of readers are, as she implied, under the age of 46 years. (And it seems not wholly inconceivable that the number of those who are might be run a close second, or perhaps even exceeded, by those who’ve subscribed for that long!)

Welcome though it is, I’m not convinced that broadening the Ringing World’s membership as a CIO, beyond current members of the Central Council, will go very far in bridging the demographic gulf.

Swindon, Wiltshire

BRIAN HARRIS

Lady conductors

SIR, – Regarding Lynn Scales’s article last week (p.776), I am pleased to report that my first peal with a lady conductor was my first peal.

JOHN GWYNNE

Warwick

Greetings from St Kitts

SIR, – I am sure that Elizabeth Johnson will be pleased to know that her interesting article about the Leeward Islands (22 May) has been forwarded to St Kitts and Nevis. My friend was delighted to read the article and send it on to family in SKN (as the locals call the Islands) as well as family here in UK. It was of particular interest as a relative, now an octogenarian, was for many years Choir Mistress at St George’s Cathedral, as well as largely responsible for music events on the Islands. She came to England to study for her music degree. Later, she was awarded an MBE for her services to music.

SHIRLEY BOLTON

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

Bells for virtual services

SIR, – Following on from Tony Kench’s letter (26 June, p.626) and Graham Long’s letter (7 August, p.779), the bells of Crondall, Hampshire have been heard before the streamed main Sunday service every week during lockdown by our vicar playing a recording of plain hunt. Back in March I realised we did not have a suitable recording but I did have sound files for each bell as used by our simulator. It was then a relatively

simple task to record Abel ringing plain hunt using the sounds of the real bells. There were some comments about not liking the perfection of the ringing which is encouraging for when we do start real ringing again! A YouTube video of the bells is linked from the church website: www.assm.org.uk.

Crondall, Hampshire

KEVIN FOX

Wedding ringing tales

SIR, – Barbara Taylor (31 July p.755) wonders of others’ wedding mishaps. Three at Bilston in the far-distant past came to mind.

The comedian Jim Davidson was once a prominent guest and caused consternation at the point where the officiant enjoins those “... who know any just cause ...” by jumping-up and interrupting, making as if to say something then thinking better of it! Shades of a much-later Vicar of Dibley episode!

The approach to church is by way of a narrow one-way system, crossing, then re-crossing the deeply-cut former GWR line with both crossing corners high-walled and blind, and with on-street parking to within one car-length of the corner, visible only upon entering both. The bride’s stretch limousine was stranded halfway into the first corner for half an hour and although only one minute’s walk from the church door, she insisted on arriving in style after the “offending” car’s driver returned from shopping to allow the limo room to continue.

Most memorable though was the occasion when it was rumoured that the groom’s brother, on-the-run after absconding from a prison transfer, would try to attend at some point, in disguise we presumed. In those days we rang before and after and were just about to pull-off as the couple exited when a huge hullabaloo made us rush to the window, in time to catch sight of six plain-clothed officers barging through the throng before haring after a fleeing figure. Many years later, Del Boy coined a riposte to Rodney which couldn’t have been more appositely applied than then!

Bilston, Staffordshire

REMI HODISTER

Ron Johnston

SIR, – Bob Dennis’s letter reminded me of the one and only time I met Ron in St Peter’s, Colchester, in rather unusual circumstances. I had arrived late to a full tower and was welcomed by the captain, Dick Furminger, who asked my name and whether I rang. Upon hearing ‘John Manley’, there was a burst of laughter (apparently, John C Manley came from that area). Shortly afterwards there was an almighty spat between Harry Millatt and Ron Johnston with the latter storming out of the tower! I have no idea what the row was about, and Ron did return towards the end of the practice, but I don’t think I actually rang with him.

JOHN MANLEY

Aldermaston, West Berkshire

Registered Small Societies – Final proposal

by Clyde Whittaker

My last article on the Central Council’s plan to connect more effectively with smaller ringing societies (17 July p.710) mentioned that we have been in ‘listening mode’ and touched on some useful contributions to the recent consultation which ended on 19th July.

The resulting proposal, now published on the Council’s website and submitted for consideration at its September meeting, incorporates much of the feedback received, but before turning to the detail, it’s perhaps worth reminding ourselves why this proposal is being tabled and how it fits into the Council’s overall strategy.

Making the Central Council more representative

In March of this year, Simon Linford published the Council’s *Strategies for 2020 and Beyond*, setting out key areas of focus for the Council’s work over the next few years. Alongside strategies to find new sources of recruits and to make sure ringers don’t meet barriers to their own progress is the aspiration that the Council should be more inclusive and representative of all ringers.

The broader and more diverse its membership, the stronger the Council, and it is clear that the Church of England values the Council’s role in promoting a network of strong, interconnected societies.

The objectives set out in *Strategies for 2020 and Beyond* follow the path of reform approved at the Council’s Edinburgh Meeting in 2017, with its aim to ensure that the Council “is in better contact with and more relevant to ringers in general”.

The aim of inclusivity is core to the Council’s charitable purpose to represent the interests of bell ringing and to promote cohesion and mutual support among ringers and bell ringing societies.

The more representative the Council is, the better placed it will be to develop stronger relationships with the Church and other stakeholders who will be critical to the future of ringing in the years ahead.

The Council already has strong connections with its Affiliated Societies, mainly larger territorial guilds, to whom its trustees are ultimately accountable, but to achieve its objectives it needs to reach out to the other, mainly smaller, societies which are not affiliated, and to individual ringers.

The greater of these challenges centres on the Council’s relationship with individual ringers. In recent years, much progress has been made to broaden awareness of the Council’s work and involve people from all parts of the ringing community. Those now involved in the Council’s initiatives include ringers who in past years would not have

considered volunteering. A logical extension of this is to develop a form of direct connection to individual ringers, and Simon will set out the way forward on this objective at this year’s Council meeting.

The Registered Small Societies proposal addresses the third and smallest piece in the jigsaw.

The Council’s current rules allow bell ringing societies to affiliate if they have 75 or more members (25 for societies operating outside the British Isles). Although the definition of society membership is quite broad, this still means that only around one in two bell ringing societies are currently connected to the Council. These smaller societies cannot be overlooked. Whilst the Council remains keen to pursue the option of a direct membership scheme, ringing is primarily a team activity performed by groups and achievement of the Council’s strategic objects also depends on its success in connecting with all societies and promoting mutual support among societies themselves.

Opening the Council to smaller societies

The final proposal to be put before Council Members in September addresses this challenge by making better provision for smaller ringing societies without disturbing the existing structure of affiliation, meaning the Council’s accountability to its existing Affiliated Societies remains undiluted. It does this by establishing a Register of Small Societies, to which smaller societies may belong. An admissions policy, set out in the Standing Orders, ensures societies applying to register are fit for inclusion and that each application has the overwhelming support of the Council’s Affiliated Societies. Whilst Registered Small Societies exercise no votes, they can each send one representative to participate at Council Meetings.

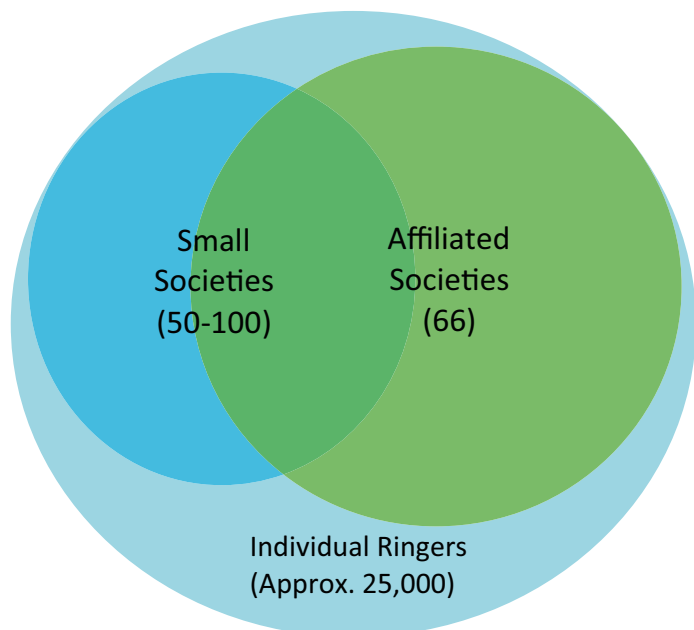
In return for registering, small societies will be able to establish stronger connections with the Council and with larger guilds, influence the Council’s thinking (their representative may submit motions and speak at Council Meetings), and demonstrate adherence to best practices (for example on safeguarding).

They will also benefit from more effective Council support (the Church of England will only permit the Council to intercede on behalf of its member societies).

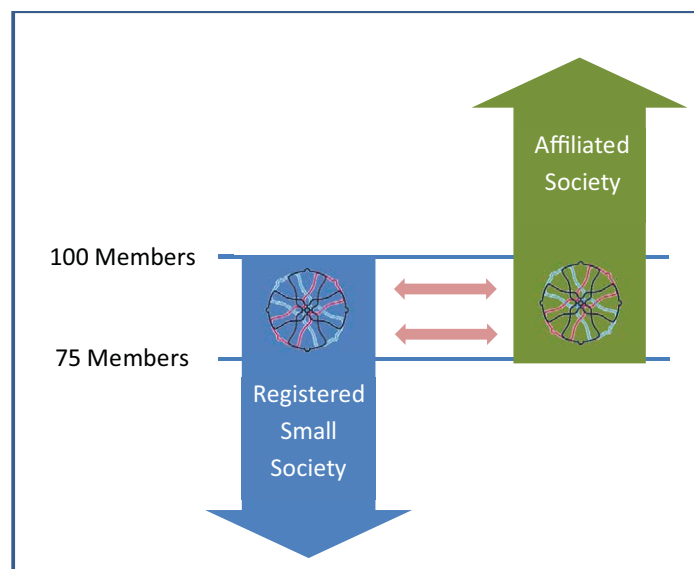
Existing Affiliated Societies should see better connections with smaller non-territorial societies, demonstrating the value of closer association. Registering as a Small Society will also be open to any Affiliated Society in danger of losing their affiliation through declining numbers, overcoming the current situation which requires societies to withdraw from the Council completely if their membership goes below 50.

Additional checks and balances

A key point made by a number of those responding to the consultation was that to benefit from the participation of smaller societies, the Council needs a registration process which is robust. The admissions process in particular needs to be open, consistent, and offer the right



Reaching out to ringers – the three areas of focus



Catering for both small and large – the place of Registered Small Societies alongside larger Affiliated Societies

opportunity for scrutiny. The final proposal delivers this through the three controls.

First, there are clear admissions criteria. A small society wishing to register must have a written constitution and duly appointed officers, a safeguarding policy, and must be able to demonstrate that its activities will not unreasonably frustrate any other society. When approving an application, the Executive must satisfy itself that these criteria have been met and a Registered Small Society must adhere to them throughout its registration.

Second, to provide the right level of scrutiny, each application will be subject to a notice period and Council Members will have the power to ‘call-in’ any application which they feel should be determined at a full Council meeting.

Third, the Council will have powers to remove a registration in extreme circumstances. These powers are unlikely, if ever to be used, but are necessary all the same and will give Council Members confidence that the register will achieve its objectives and that everyone understands their obligations.

These safeguards are set out in the draft Standing Order S2, which can be found on the Council’s website at <https://ccbr.org.uk/about/governance/registered-small-societies/> and is due to be considered by the Council’s Executive later this month.

Council meetings

A separate objective of reform agreed at Edinburgh was to make Council Meetings simpler, shorter and more effective, but could welcoming smaller societies frustrate these aims?

Annual Council Meetings are already becoming smaller with the numbers attending in 2019 one third below the historic peak of 2009. Compared with the eight-hour Council Meeting of 2005, the 2019 meeting took place at lightning speed, finishing in 3.5 hours. Future Council Meetings will focus more on essential business along the lines of the Annual General Meetings of most charities. It is the other events over the Council’s annual weekend, including the many informal conversations which take place between meetings, which are equally if not more important in shaping Council thinking. The presence during Council weekends of some representatives from smaller societies is therefore to be welcomed and not feared.

Further questions

Based on the recent consultation and the additional work which has since taken place, we can be assured that the proposals to be presented on 5th September are both sensible and workmanlike. However, it’s right that there is also ample opportunity between now and September for these proposals to be scrutinised and any questions asked.

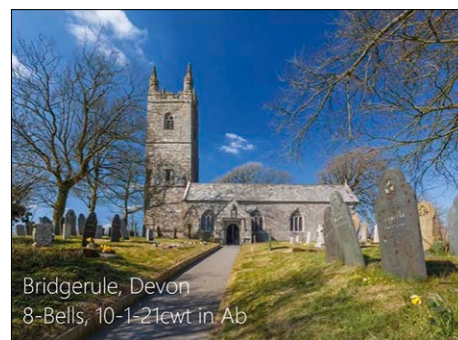
The final proposal, including the draft wording for Standing Order S2, can be found on the Council’s website at <https://ccbr.org.uk/about/governance/registered-small-societies/>, along with a Briefing Note which answers most questions.

Further questions, thoughts and suggestions are welcome to SmallSocieties@ccbr.org.uk.

The Central Council YouTube Competition July – Best striking on 8 bells and above



Wendy & Graham Bloom



Devon Call Changes at Bridgerule:
The YouTube Competition July Winner

This was indeed a challenging competition to judge, with some outstanding pieces amongst the 21 entries. The wide range of numbers of bells, ringing styles and occasions on which they were recorded was a welcome reminder of the rich variety of our Exercise, and we appreciated good ringing, some magnificent peals of bells and seeing many old friends.

Firstly we listened to all the submissions, focusing on accuracy, consistency and rhythm, seeking out that almost impossible to define “sparkle” that distinguishes the very best ringing. As Matt Hilling found in the six-bell competition (see 12 June, p.577), there were multiple contenders that achieved those heights and we needed repeated listens of our highest scoring entries to identify the winner, albeit by the very narrowest of margins.

Our winner is “**The bells of Bridgerule, Devon**”. The Devon Call Changes showcased were superbly rung, almost faultless for the first half of what was by far the longest video submitted, and hypnotic in their consistent excellence.

Just pipped at the post was the “**Handbell Performance at the Ancient Society of**

College Youths Anniversary Dinner 2019”, a mesmerising touch of Spliced Maximus which is singularly impressive for being rung immediately surrounded by a critical audience of hundreds!

Our choice for third place was that of “**St Paul’s Birmingham – Reading’s 12**”

Thank you to Simon Linford for inviting us to judge. We have enjoyed it. It’s good to know we’ve been forgiven for being in the winning team the first year he reached a National 12-Bell Final; after all, he’s exacted his revenge on multiple occasions since then.

WENDY and GRAHAM BLOOM
Leeds Minster

The winning piece can be found by going to <https://ccbr.org.uk/youtube-competition/>.

The August category is “**Best video demonstrating change ringing not on tower bells**”. This may showcase some videos already entered from earlier rounds, particularly handbell piece, although perhaps there is something to be made from the word ‘demonstrating’ to do something a bit different.



Ringers performing ‘Stannary’ call changes at Bridgerule

Confessions of a Ringing Room cheat

Not many good things have come out of Lockdown, but Ringing Room (other online platforms also available) is undoubtedly one of them. Thousands of ringers all over the world are using it as a way to keep contact with their bands and many are making new ringing friends from far and near. Learners who could not plain hunt before Covid struck can now ring all sorts of methods.

Although there are some ringers who do not see the attraction of 'ringing' by pressing a computer key, many others are keyboard enthusiasts, and online ringing has many advantages:

- You do not need to travel to a practice, thus saving on fuel and time
- You can eat and drink while ringing
- You can ring while sitting down
- No ringing up or down
- The ropes are always the correct length, and there are no oddstruck or awkwardly-going bells
- You can wear what you like with no need to stick to 'ringing friendly' clothes
- No spiral stairs to climb
- No restriction on how long you ring: the neighbours will not complain if you ring a minute after 9pm has struck
- Your bad knee/shoulder/elbow/wrist etc will not protest whenever you ring
- You don't get blisters
- If you use a pseudonym, no-one knows who you are (so won't know who to blame when the touch fires out)
- If you go wrong, sit very still and people will assume you have 'frozen'
- You won't get refused permission to ring at a particular tower because there is a wedding rehearsal taking place (or those in charge don't like the bells being rung)
- It won't be cold when winter comes
- You can ring with your eyes closed
- **You can cheat and no one will notice**

There are probably many more advantages, but I will concentrate on the final one: You can CHEAT. And no one else will know you are doing so. Fantastic though it might be to be able to ring from the comfort of your armchair, with a whisky/gin/orange juice to hand, most people will admit that it is not easy. It is TOTALLY different to tower bell ringing and requires very different skills. For those ringers who gave up counting places years ago and know where they are by a process similar to osmosis, as they can see all the ropes in a kind of wave both above or below them, having to religiously count One Two THREE Four Five Six (with the emphasis on the place you are in) does not come easy. Seeing the ropes suddenly change from hand to back means traditional ropesight does not work (and it can even be hard to remember which is which). There

is no natural rhythm of handstroke and backstroke to help you. Ringers who used ABEL by pressing a key find it easier than those who did not, but I was never able to manage this (though I do admit I did not persevere for very long before deciding it was too difficult). It's no coincidence that quite often, beginners in method ringing, and even those who have done no change ringing before lockdown, find it easier than experienced ringers (apart from handbell ringers, and they are just abnormal!).

My early attempts were fraught with problems; I got lost frequently as I forgot where I was, especially if there was a hesitation causing a gap in the ringing; my brain would not remember what position I was in for longer than a normal hand or backstroke would take on real bells. Luckily, in those early days, others were as bad or worse. It did get easier the more I did: I remembered which stroke was which, and could hear where I was without any problem (as I can on tower bells) but it still required the utmost concentration and that was only ringing fairly basic methods.

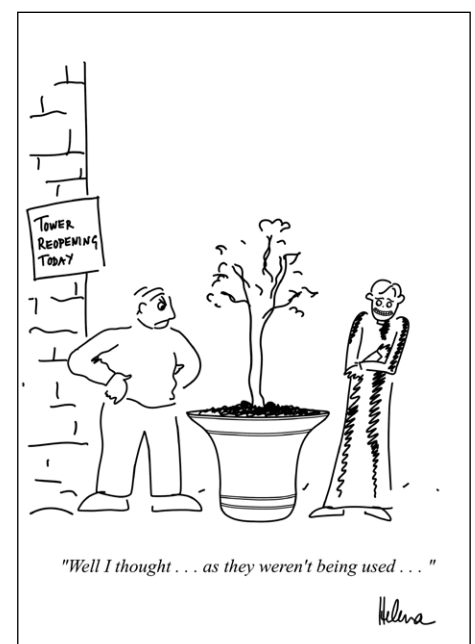
Like those who regularly play computer games, I needed a CHEAT. At first I tried counting my place on my fingers, which sort of worked, but only if we were ringing on six. As people became used to this new way of ringing, higher numbers became more common, and the methods became more advanced. 'Let's try Yorkshire' filled me with dread as not only was it easy to forget which place I was in, I would forget where I was in the method as I found it hard to see when I interacted with the treble or my course bell.

Finally I came up with the answer. Actually two solutions, depending on the complexity of what was being rung. My first 'Cheat' was to write out the numbers 1 to 8 (if we were ringing Major) and simply move my pen along the line as we were ringing. I still had to count, but I didn't forget where I was. One of my problems was working out whether I had double dodged or made two blows in the same place, but by varying where I made my 'dot' with the pen I could keep track of this; the top of the number signified the 2nd dodge (or place). I began to cope much better; it now usually was not me who caused the conductor to call 'Stand'. But I still found some things difficult; Cambridge frontwork seemed to last forever and I would get lost half-way through, and with complex methods, I still needed to concentrate so hard on counting where I was that I sometimes forgot where I was in the methods. I started to write out the frontwork in full and moved my pen down the line, and then it occurred to me I could do this for the more tricky methods we were now attempting; Bristol, for example. I carefully drew out the line in full on my lined paper and just worked my way along.

An even more advanced cheat is to find the method in full on my phone, which also tells me which bell I should be dodging with, and is helpful with learner bands when attempting Bob Minor. I can say which bell should be leading, or who should be dodging with me. A word of warning though: just make sure that the webcam only shows your head and shoulders, or switch it off, claiming you don't have enough bandwidth because the children are watching Netflix. And I found I could still look at the screen as well as my paper with its line of numbers or the phone with the figures of the method, so I got better at seeing bells above and below me and even who I was dodging with. On lower numbers I am even able to ring without counting where I am, though this usually only works for methods I know very well so I know the 'tune'.

So, there you have it. Confessions of a Ringing Room cheat. Many is the time in the tower I have told learners that they cannot have the line on the floor in front of them, as they cannot both ring the bell and look at the ropes and the paper on the floor. But this is not real ringing and the old rules no longer apply. Needs must; I am not ashamed of needing to cheat (though I wish my brain was more super-charged so I would not need to). Some may disapprove, but I can't see a return to normal practices, peals or quarters for a good while yet, so Ringing Room is all we have. Given time, I may be able to do without my 'crutches', but for now, it means that more touches are successful than they would be if I just relied on counting. If more people cheated, perhaps even more touches would come round. Or perhaps they are already doing so ...

SUE MARSDEN



Westley Awards – views from the judging panel

As announced in last week's issue, the winner and runners up of the 2020 award were announced on Wednesday 29th July 2020 on a Zoom webinar. Tom Westley presented a cheque for £100 and certificate to the winner of the award, along with certificates to those who were highly commended. Nominees were all from England – Manchester to Cornwall and across to Kent. We hope in future to hear from those involved in belfry maintenance elsewhere!

Winner

- Sue McClaughry – Calstock, Truro Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Highly Commended

- Lucas Bent – Walthamstow, Essex Ass. (nominated by Katherine Marshall)
- James Joynson – Stichcombe, Gloucester & Bristol DA (nominated by Chris Cooper)
- Josh Richardson – Dunsfold, Guildford DG (nominated by Chris Rogers)
- Edward Walker – All Saints, Nottingham, NUS (nominated by Evie Newton)

Reflections on the nominations

We were very pleased to receive eight nominations this year, especially since all ringing ceased due to Covid-19 just at the point that we opened nominations. This meant that those making a nomination could not access any records or take photos in towers where the work had been done. We realise that many potential applicants may have been unable to prepare an application form this year, but may be able to do so in future. Hopefully everyone will be able to continue their activities in towers and learn more about belfry maintenance as soon as it is safe.

The first major finding was that all but one of the nominees were under the age of 25! A couple are still school students, one of whom started his involvement "hands on" in a tower when only nine years old. Two are active in towers while university students so they themselves are likely to see the benefit of their efforts for only a relatively short period, but hopefully will leave a legacy for others and continue their work in towers elsewhere. This young age profile is a very welcome and positive development. The application forms clearly show how these young people are showing great enthusiasm for their work in towers, plus the commitment and time that they are spending learning about "what goes on upstairs", how it works and how they can improve the bells that they enjoy ringing. As last year we received just one application from a female ringer – interestingly she too is also a member of the Truro Diocesan Guild.

The judges found the 2020 applications difficult to judge; how did they offset greater maturity with youthful enthusiasm, support for professional bellhangers in major projects with smaller-scale yet significant improvements in the go of a long-neglected ring of bells? Also, some cases were very well written and presented a clear case, while the information in other forms was more limited, perhaps because of the difficulty in meeting to discuss projects underway, to access records or take photographs.

While the judges awarded "highly commended" to four young people, they were still very impressed by the three other applicants for the work that they are doing. They encourage

all the nominees to keep up the good work, learn more about belfry maintenance and continue to share and encourage others to do likewise! Well done to them all!

Major projects to routine repairs

The nominees this year have worked on various projects from essential repairs to assisting professional bellhangers in more substantial projects to rehang rings of bells. One applicant has already become a Bell Restoration Officer in their diocesan guild.

Why had nominees become involved in maintenance work? As last year, this was through sheer necessity when there was no one else able to undertake essential work, perhaps when a new band was being formed. For many of the young people it was simply their own interest and enthusiasm to do more than just ring the bells, often encouraged and helped by fellow ringers.

As well as major rehang projects, much of the work undertaken was to improve the "go" of the bells – replacing bushes, repairing pulleys, clappers, sliders, ropes and stays. Other routine activities like putting on and removing muffles safely and securely are all an important part of supporting ringing. Less routine was the removal of a very large volume of debris that had regrettably built up in a belfry over a period of many years! The judges were pleased to see that some activities were to consider the sound of the bells either inside or outside the tower. Most importantly, a few nominations mentioned how work had been done to ensure that ringing was safe, both for ringers and also for other church users in ground floor rings.

Many of the nominees are sharing their knowledge and project progress with others, both ringers and non-ringers. Some of this is through more traditional routes such as written articles for newsletters and magazines. Others however are exploiting newer technologies such as cameras in belfries, putting videos online and using social media.

Learning about church bell maintenance

So how were these newcomers to belfry maintenance learning the skills? Most commented that they were learning by watching and helping others with the experience and knowledge – either other volunteers from their own local area or professional bell hangers. In addition, most had supplemented their knowledge by visiting a bell foundry or other towers, searching online, following social media etc. Relatively few had been on tower maintenance courses – *is that because there are not enough suitable that are available, or because there is no need for such events?*

Future plans

We hope that this award will become an annual event. Perhaps in future years, we will receive applications from Scotland, Wales, Ireland or even further afield! The Stewardship & Management Workgroup is building a "network" of people interested in church bell maintenance; all the nominees have been invited to join this and anyone else interested in doing so should contact the Workgroup Leader.

PENNY TAYLOR, TONY CRABTREE, DAVID ROSKELLY, ALEX FISHBURN and PETER WOOLLAM (Members of the judging panel)
ALISON HODGE (Stewardship & Management Workgroup Leader (smlead@cccbr.org))

Staying power



I read with interest the letter by Tim Samson (17 July, p.706) describing the placement of a spring between the slider and the slider stop-block. I did a similar thing at Ponteland a few years ago using rubber blocks and have been pleased with the outcome. The eight bells (tenor 6cwt) are easy to handle, but inevitably the middle and treble bells are quite quick turning when first learning bell-handling. I wanted to reduce the small amount of cumulative damage that can occur each time the stay is bumped because a learner catches the sally slightly too late or misses it completely.

Using super-glue, I attached rubber blocks to the vertical face of the stop-block along the line where it is contacted by the slider. The rubber blocks were approximately 18 × 18mm in cross section and the same length as the width of the stop-block.

The photograph shows a rubber block being compressed by the slider against the stop-block when the bell is set in the up position. The force on the slider compresses the rubber to a thickness of about 9 or 10mm. Provided the bell has a reasonable initial depth of 'set' then this slight reduction in travel of the slider is not a problem. If necessary, the set can be deepened slightly by chamfering the corner(s) of the stay by a few mm at the point of contact with slider. This will not materially affect the strength of the stay.

Obviously, success depends on selecting a rubber element with the correct proportions and hardness (stiffness) appropriate for the weight of the bells; in this case the bells ranged from 2 to 4cwt. The hardness of the rubber was such that I could squeeze it to half its thickness between my thumb and finger. Being an incorrigible hoarder, I was rewarded for having the rubber 'kicking' around in my garage – it was a 'solution waiting for a problem'. So, I'm sorry I can't give details of the specification or of a supplier. If any of your readers are interested, I could do a simple compression test on the rubber to get an estimate of its stiffness.

This simple technique may not be suitable on heavier bells; however, its advantage is that it doesn't require any modification of the fittings and is completely reversible by simply removing the rubber blocks. So, start looking out for and hoarding surplus rubber, and give the above a try.

STEPHEN B BELL
Ponteland, Northumberland

The Secrets of the Shirt Box

by Sue Trevor



The shirt box in which newspaper cuttings were kept



Flying Officer John Harold Marvin

On Sunday 2nd February 2020 my ‘Ringing Family’ and I went to St Botolph’s in Shepshed, Leicestershire, and rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor in memory of my father. I say “in memory”, but in fact I have no memories of him. Flying Officer John Harold Marvin was an RAF pilot, killed in a plane crash in Somerset six months before I was born, and for 64 years that was all I knew. Then a little over 12 months ago I decided to see what more I could find out. Ringers and ringing have played a huge part in this journey.



Grave of John Harold Marvin in Shepshed churchyard

To cut a long story short(-ish), using newspaper cuttings my mother had kept in a battered old shirt box, I located, through Google Maps, the address of an eye-witness to my father’s crash, with whom I then made contact. The plane, a Gloster Meteor, had come down in his father’s orchard a short while after taking off from RAF Weston Zoyland, near Bridgwater. Unaware of the ‘can of worms’ this was going to open, I arranged to meet this kindly man and he took me to the crash site, even pointing out the oak tree against which the plane eventually came to rest.

Before returning home I visited the church of St Mary, Westonzoyland and was surprised to find a memorial to the Meteor pilots lost from the air base: some 17 of them in under three years. Eleven of them are buried in Westonzoyland cemetery but my father’s body was returned home to Shepshed.

On a subsequent visit I was determined to ‘grab’ the tower, and I have been made very welcome by the ringers of St Mary’s both at Sunday services and several local practices. Through them I met a local historian who is compiling an archive on the pilots of Weston Zoyland, and then through him I contacted an ex-airman, now retired and living in Australia, who served at the same time as my father. His personal recollections were hugely interesting, informative and thought-provoking.

Over the last twelve months my research has taken me – with supportive friends – to a number of ex-RAF stations and museums. This included RAF Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire where we were able to drive down the main runway (now disused!), a runway my father would have used many times when he was stationed there. Other sources of information included The National Archives at Kew and the Air Historical Branch of the RAF

On Remembrance Sunday 2019 I was privileged to join in the half-muffled ringing on the lovely bells of St Mary’s (a 19cwt 6) and then, later in the day, take part in an Act of Remembrance in Westonzoyland cemetery, laying a wreath on the grave of the co-pilot who was killed in the same accident.

Thus, encouraged by friends, I arranged a band to ring the quarter peal on the 65th anniversary of my father’s death. In doing this we also remembered the many other young pilots who lost their lives during the early years of jet flight.

Without ringers and ringing this story would be less complete and I thank those who have shared this journey with me.

Shepshed, Leics. 2 Feb, 1260 PB Minor: Joy Pluckrose 1, Geoff Pratt 2, Sue Trevor 3, Steve Colley 4, Gerald Trevor (C) 5, Sam Trevor 6. Rung in memory of RAF Flying Officer John Harold Marvin, 1929-1955, on the 65th anniversary of his death in a flying accident. Father of 3, grandfather of 6. £3

Reprinted from p.194.



Meteor pilots of 56 Squadron at RAF Waterbeach ca. 1953. Flying Officer Marvin is 2nd from right



Left to right in ringing order: Joy Pluckrose, Geoff Pratt, Sue Trevor, Steve Colley, Gerald Trevor (C) and Sam Trevor

Of royal interest? Some spliced royal ideas

by Sam Cave, St Mary Abbots, Kensington

Introduction

Ten-bell ringing can seem a bit of a niche these days when so many keen ringers migrate directly from surprise major to ringing on twelve. As a result of this progression path there can be a ‘gap in the market’ for the kind of compositions of spliced royal that have become popular on both eight and twelve bells – namely cyclic n-parts in various guises. This gap has been filled, in terms of peal compositions, with many exciting works by David Pipe, Richard Pearce, Don Morrison and others – but what of the humble quarter-peal?

There are many reasons why a band might want an ‘interesting’ quarter-peal composition. They may want a challenge, they may be hankering for something ‘a bit different’, they may be working up to peal attempts of certain compositions, or they may be made up of people that do not want, or are unable, to ring peals but still want to experience the kind of music and ringing made available by these sorts of compositions.

The aim of this article is to show some possible quarter-peal constructions on ten-bells that access the kind of cyclic music that has traditionally been the territory of peal compositions. I look at three types of structure: using link methods, half-lead splicing and plain and little methods. The compositions are otherwise of treble-dodging royal methods – mostly standard surprise methods, but also including a few more exotic ones. Another aim in describing these compositions, and in many ways a more important one, is to give encouragement and confidence to curious people who would like to have a go at constructing quarter-peal compositions to meet their own needs.

I should say that in this article, for the purposes of clarity, I will use the terms lead-end and lead-head in their technical sense to indicate the handstroke and backstroke of the treble’s full lead respectively.

Shrinking the 9-part

Cyclic composition structures are a very neat way of packing music into a piece of ringing due to the fact that all nine part-ends are rotations of rounds. A row that contains a musical run – generally considered to be four or more consecutive bells coming together at either the beginning or end of a row – in the first part of the composition has a very high chance of also containing a musical run in the subsequent parts. Consider this example of the ‘famous’ 6-bell run 567890, and the rows that occupy its position in the other eight parts.

Part-end	Row	Contains a run of 4 or more consecutive bells?
(1)234567890	xxxx 567890	Y
(1)902345678	xxxx345678	Y
(1)789023456	xxxx023456	Y
(1)567890234	xxxx890234	N
(1)345678902	xxxx678902	N
(1)023456789	xxxx456789	Y
(1)890234567	xxxx234567	Y
(1)678902345	xxxx902345	Y
(1)456789023	xxxx789023	N

As you can see, two-thirds of the parts of a cyclic composition would contain a musical run of four or more bells in the position occupied by our original row. In this way cyclic compositions are proliferation machines for musical content.

A standard way of producing a cyclic part-end on ten bells is to call the tenor to run out four times, thereby producing the lead-head (treble’s backstroke lead) 1902345678. Repeating this calling nine times, with the observation bell changing to the bell in tenths place at each part-end, gives all the cyclic rotations of this row, ending with rounds. If Plain Bob Royal is chosen as the method then the calls come in consecutive leads, and the whole composition takes 1440 changes

to ring – an acceptable length for a longish quarter peal. Obviously, choosing a surprise method, even from the same ‘call spacing efficient’ lead-head group such as Westminster, would double the length to 2880 changes – totally bonkers for a quarter!

This illustrates one of the main challenges with constructing quarter-peal lengths on higher numbers of bells. A 1280 of surprise royal is only thirty-two leads long, and this is not much time to get to the music and back to rounds!

Link methods

A very popular way to construct a shortcut to cyclic courses in peal compositions, *link methods* can certainly help in our quest for concision. They work by exploiting a feature shared by the plain course of all regular methods: the lead-end (treble’s *hand*-stroke lead) 1098765432. This cycle of backgrounds comes before the lead-head (back-stroke) 1907856342 or 1089675623, depending whether seconds or tenths place is made as the lead-end change.

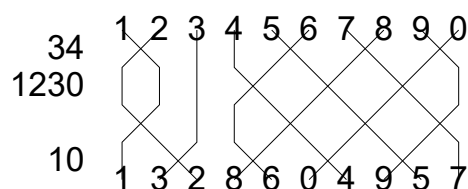
The plain course ends in rounds, obviously(!), and so these two rows are inextricably linked together through the construction of regular methods.

<i>Lead-end somewhere in the course</i>	1098765432
<i>Course-head</i>	1234567890

Link methods manipulate the lead-end 1098765432 to produce a cyclic rotation of rounds at the course head, and thereby facilitate a nine-part composition.

	<i>Plain Course</i>	<i>Possible Link Method Example</i>
<i>Lead-end achieved</i>	(1)098765432	(1)876543209
<i>Course-head produced</i>	(1)234567890	(1)902345678

If we can devise a short enough link method we can get to a manipulated lead-end very quickly and therefore get straight to the cyclic music. Here is an example I found by fiddling around in a notebook on a train journey.



St Mary Abbots Differential Little Place

As you can see, two leads of this link method produce the following relationship:

	<i>SMADLP (link method)</i>	<i>Plain course equivalent</i>
<i>Lead-end used</i>	(1)320987654	(1)098765432
<i>Course-head = Part-end</i>	(1)456789023	(1)234567890

Once the cyclic lead-end is achieved we are in a cyclic course and guaranteed the goods, musically speaking. From here we can wend our way to the part-end by adding whatever methods we like. We simply need to keep our eye on bell 3, as we will reach the part-end when it becomes tenths place-bell. This can be done by trial and error, incorporating whichever methods you fancy, or by calculating which bells should ring pivot leads to further enhance the music (à la David Pipe; see his article in the 7 Feb issue, p.140) and planning the lead-head groups of the methods to match. Many compositions are possible on this plan and I give two here, one with standard methods (Bristol, Cambridge and Plain Bob) and one more exotic, to show its flexibility. These compositions have the added bonus of guaranteeing ‘all the work’.

1332 4-Spliced Royal

Composed by Samuel C Cave

1234567890
 S 1328604957
 S 1239078564
 B 1302896745
 B 1083624957
 C 1648507392
 P 1456789023

9 part.

Contains 720 Bristol Surprise; 360 Cambridge Surprise; 180 Plain Bob; 72 St Mary Abbots Differential Little Place (S); 35 com; atw. 4 56s (0f,4b), 124 4-bell runs (44f,80b), Backgrounds.

1332 5-Spliced Royal

Composed by Samuel C Cave

1234567890
 S 1328604957
 S 1239078564
 G 1083624957
 L 1860435279
 A 1795243608
 T 1456789023

9 part.

Contains 360 Anglia Surprise, Goldfinger Surprise, Thurnham Surprise; 180 Lyme Regis Bob; 72 St Mary Abbots Differential Little Place (S); 44 com; atw. 8 56s (6f,2b), 152 4-bell runs (76f,76b), Backgrounds.

Another kind of splice: half-lead splicing

It's no problem if link methods are not your style, as cyclic quarter-peals are still up for grabs by embracing splicing at the half-lead as well as at the lead-end.

Janet Archibald has produced some wonderful compositions exploiting the relationship between the half-lead and the lead-head. Here is an example:

1440 5-Spliced Surprise Royal

Composed by Janet E Archibald

1234567890
 F 1648203957
 A 1573920486
 Y 1907856342
 B1 0987654321
 U2 1789023456

9 part.

Contains 360 Anglia, Frenchay, Yorkshire; 180 Bristol (B1), Upwood (U2); 44 com.

B1 = First half-lead of Bristol

U2 = Second half-lead of Upwood

9 56s (6f,3b), 2 65s (0f,2b), 150 4-bell runs (68f,82b), Backgrounds.

This composition uses the fact that Upwood Surprise Royal, and many methods like it, relies on mutually exclusive groups of bells working together on the front and at the back for their construction. In Upwood, each of these groups is independently reflected between the treble's back-stroke lie and its next back-stroke lead. Here is an example from the final lead of the plain course of Upwood; the front and back groups of bells are bracketed and separated for clarity.

Half-lead (back-stroke)	(5432) (09876)(1)
Lead-head (back-stroke)	(1)(2345) (67890)

If the half-lead were different then the lead-head produced would be different too. We can't insert a new half-lead into Upwood but we can ring the first half-lead of another method that contains the half-lead row we want. Many methods contain backgrounds at the half-lead and in Bristol it occurs when the tenor rings the pivot lead. If, when the tenor is third's place-bell, we ring half a lead of Bristol to produce backgrounds and then half a lead of Upwood, to make use of its reflective property, we can get a cyclic part-end.

Half-lead given by Bristol	(0987) (65432)(1)
Lead-head produced by Upwood	(1)(7890) (23456)

Incidentally, if you consider the lead with the half-lead splice as being one complete lead of an irregular method then this plan also produces 'all the work' compositions. In fact, it would be possible to replace the half-lead splice with a lead of a suitable pre-existing irregular method as in this peal composition, also by Janet Archibald.

5,040 Spliced Surprise Royal (7 methods)

Janet E Archibald

234567890 Rutland
 426385079 Austerlitz
 643527890 Bristol
 456739208 Cambridge
 795048623 Cambridge
 089273564 Bristol
 820396745 Austerlitz
 083624957 Rutland
 302896745 Upwood
 239078564 London No.3
 927350486 Anglia
 860435279 Anglia
 795243608 London No.3
 574962830 Upwood
 456789023

9 part.

Contains 720 Anglia, Austerlitz, Bristol, Cambridge, London No.3, Rutland, Upwood, with 107 changes of method, all the work. Contains 22 0987. 90+126 LB4 inc 32+36 LB5.

As before, the other methods included in the compositions discussed here can be adjusted to taste, and other methods besides Bristol and Upwood can produce this kind of cyclic shunt via a half-lead splice.

In praise of Little Bob

Some of the compositions in this article make use of plain methods as this is, of course, a good way to shorten things. Beyond this, many plain methods can be very musical in their own right. Plain Bob on even stages is one of the most musical methods in the world, and I think it's a shame to always discount plain methods in favour of treble dodging ones. A much-maligned method is poor old Little Bob! It can be so often seen as boring, too formulaic and 'kid's stuff' to be left behind as soon as possible. On the contrary, Little Bob can be very useful in getting quickly from one place to another and is a great resource. It is also a fun challenge to ring if spliced in one lead at a time.

In January 2016 Christopher Poole and Mark Davies created a wonderful construction for a peal composition of spliced royal by alternating the nine cyclic part-ends at hand-stroke and back-stroke.

5079 Spliced TD Royal (4 methods)

Christopher J Poole arr. Mark B Davies

4m: 1359 Precambrian; 1240 Bristol, Remus (R), Sgurr A'Chaoarachain. 54 COM, ATW.

234567890
 032547698 (0,0) BSPR. RPPPPPPRP. P
 902345678 (9,9) RSBBS. BBBBBS. SSR
 809325476 (8,8) RRR. RRRSP. P
 789023456 (7,7) RSBBS. BBSSSSBB. SRRR
 687093254 (6,6) RRR. RPPPPPPRP. P
 567890234 (5,5) RSBBS. BBSSSSBB. SRRSBB
 465870932 (4,4) SR. RPPPPPPRP. P
 345678902 (3,3) RSBBS. SSS. SSSBB
 (243658709) (2,2) SR. RPPPPPPRR. P

Numbers (x,x) in brackets denote the bell making the bobs in that course.

The structure works by calling each bell in turn, starting with the tenor, to make the bob twice. The alternation of hand-stroke and back-stroke part-ends adds extra interest to the ringing and I was keen to shrink this idea for quarter-peal lengths. The calls belong in pairs and the challenge was to shorten the length between the calls making up each pair. Little Bob provided the answer to shrinking this concept because of its lead-head group.

If we go into Little Bob immediately after calling the tenor to make the bob for the first time then the tenor will be in position to make the bob for the second time after one lead of Little Bob – i.e. after only eight rows! The basic structure of this composition then becomes:

x . I . y

repeated 9 times

where:

x = some method/s to get the tenor in position to make the bob

I = Little Bob

y = some method/s to get to the part-end

This feature of the Little Bob lead order allowed me to shrink the concept devised by Davies and Poole as follows.

1,271 Spliced Royal (6 methods)

arr. Samuel C Cave

234567890	1	2	3	4	Methods
032547698	-	-	-	-	A . I . L
902345678	-	-	-	-	NYU . I . U
809325476	-	-	-	-	YN . I . AA
789023456	-	-	-	-	NYU . I . U
687093254	-	-	-	-	A . I . L
567890234	-	-	-	-	NYU . I . U
465870932	-	-	-	-	YN . I . AA
345678902	-	-	-	-	NYU . I . U
(32547698)	-	-	-	-	A . I . (L)

Contains 320 Upwood Surprise, 280 Anglia Surprise, 240 Lincolnshire Surprise(N), Yorkshire Surprise, 119 London No.3 Surprise, 72 Little Bob, with 36 changes of method.

I would also like to give a mention to another composition by Janet Archibald for its judicious use of Little Bob. It also uses calling positions beyond middles, wrongs and homes, and makes great use of the methods chosen to pack in the music.

1272 5-Spliced Royal

Composed by Janet E Archibald

234567890	S	M	T	F	W	V	X	H	Methods
63452			s						ALAAAY . B
42356		ss	s					-	Y . YLAYY . YA . YL .
342907856				s		s		-	YA . LI . BBYAI .
234567890					S		s	-	YA . LI . BBYAI .

Contains 440 Yorkshire Surprise; 400 Anglia Surprise; 200 Bristol Surprise, London No.3 Surprise; 32 Little Bob (I); 27 com. 21 56s (16f,5b), 102 4-bell runs (59f,43b), Backrounds.

Conclusions

It may seem strange but I would like to begin the conclusions with a few caveats to the above. I have tried here to describe the basic features of each kind of construction and provide a look ‘under the bonnet’ at what makes them tick. In the case of my own arrangements the specific methods used to flesh out the structures have not necessarily been chosen for ‘musically optimal’ reasons in every case, but rather for familiarity. I am also certainly not making the claim that my example of a link method is the most elegant or sophisticated ever devised! All of the compositions and arrangements shown here were crafted to fill a need, hopefully in an interesting way, using a mixture of standard methods and the methods that our band at Kensington had been ringing together. The compositions that we rang, and attempted(!), together were certainly great fun and very rewarding, and in many ways that is the most important thing.

In a funny way this caveat is one of the points of this article! I wanted to get across the idea that nobody should be put off from putting together compositions because they are concerned about not necessarily producing ‘the best’ or ‘most musical’ thing ever rung. Just dive in and make something that your band needs or wants and that you think would be fun to ring.

The composition structures shown here can, of course, be used to get comfortable with the feeling of cyclic ringing and build up to peal attempts but that is not of interest to everyone. I wanted to show that quarter-peals are rewarding, interesting and exciting in their own right and can be a playground for the curious and reflect the most exciting technical innovations in our art.



peals@ringingworld.co.uk

Handbell Peals

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

HONLEY, W Yorks,
Sundial House
Sun Jul 12 2020 2h19 (9)
5088 Yorkshire S Major
Comp. J W Holdsworth
1-2 Oliver M Austin
3-4 Paul B Hunter
5-6 Samuel M Austin (C)
7-8 Andrew J Rawlinson

LOWER BROADHEATH,
Worcs, Greencroft House
Wed Jul 29 2020 2h21 (13)
5056 Yorkshire S Major
Comp. J W Holdsworth (No.7)
1-2 David Jenkins
3-4 Alex F Byrne
5-6 Malcolm P Taylor
7-8 Adam R Crocker (C)
In memory of Roger D R Brown.

CHESTER D.G.

WYBUNBURY, Ches,
44 Church Way (garden)
Mon Jul 27 2020 2h18 (11)
5056 Plain Bob Major
Comp. C K Lewis
1-2 David N Young
3-4 C Paul Cheshire
5-6 Frank R Morton (C)
7-8 John R Scott

DERBY D.A.

LITTLE EATON, Derbys,
5 Brooks Hollow
Mon Jul 27 2020 3h12 (15)
5040 Bristol S Maximus
Comp. J R Fisher
1-2 Tim J Peverett
3-4 John R Fisher (C)
5-6 Stuart C W Hutchieson
7-8 Paul Jopp
9-10 Simon C Melen
11-12 Christian M Peckham

G. DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

WHIMPLE, Devon,
17 Bramley Gardens
Sat Jul 25 2020 2h21 (15)
5088 Kent TB Major
Comp. J W Holdsworth (No.2b)
1-2 Oliver Coldrick
3-4 Lynne P Hughes
5-6 Matthew J Hilling (C)
7-8 David Hird
1st since March for all.

Compositions
submissions and
questions should
be sent to:
compositions@
ccbr.org.uk

EAST PECKHAM GUILD

OSPRINGE, Kent,
SS Peter & Paul (southern porch)
Mon Jul 27 2020 2h17 (20)
5040 Plain Bob Minor
(7 diff exts)
1-2 Adam D Moore
3-4 Barnaby R Larter
5-6 Daniel R Jarvis (C)
1st away from tenors: 1-2.
Heaviest bells to a peal for all
& probably the 1st on the bells.

LICHFIELD & WALSALL ARCHDEACONRIES SOC.

ABBOTS BROMLEY, Staffs,
1 Preedys Close
Sat Jul 18 2020 2h38 (11)
5152 Yorkshire S Major
Comp. Bernard H Taylor
1-2 Elizabeth Hutchieson
3-4 Stuart C W Hutchieson (C)
5-6 Paul Jopp
7-8 Ruth Jopp
1st of S Major in hand since
1996: 7-8.
1st of S Major in hand away
from 7-8: 1-2.
1st inside for all the band
since March. £2

LINCOLN D.G.

STOW, Lincs,
The Old School House
Thu Jul 30 2020 1h55 (11)
5040 Plain Minor
(6m: (1) Reverse, St Clements,
College, Double B; (2,4,5,6,7) Plain
B; (3) Buxton B)
1-2 Christopher P Turner
3-4 Susan A Faurll
5-6 Christopher J Sharp (C)
£1.50

OXFORD D.G.

TILEHURST, Berks,
15 Lytham End
Mon Jul 27 2020 2h20 (15)
5120 Spliced S Major
(3m: 1760 each Cambridge,
Yorkshire; 1600 Lincolnshire. 84
com, atw)
Comp. P G K Davies
1-2 June D Wells (C)
3-4 Kenneth R Davenport
5-6 Bernard F L Groves
7-8 E John Wells £2

TILEHURST, Berks,
15 Lytham End
Wed Jul 29 2020 2h18 (15)
5104 St Clement's College B Major
Comp. E John Wells
1-2 Marcia L Dieppe
3-4 June D Wells
5-6 Kenneth R Davenport
7-8 E John Wells (C)
Celebrating the birth of
Elodie Rhiannon Hope Rice,
great granddaughter to the
conductor. £2

STANFORD IN THE VALE,

Oxon, 24 Spencers Close
Wed Jul 29 2020 2h27 (15)
5048 Spliced Plain Major
(2m: 4208 Plain; 840 Little. 10 com, atw)
Comp. D L Thomas (No.473e)
1-2 Lindsay Powell
3-4 Joe D R Norton
5-6 David L Thomas (C)
7-8 Lisa Ryan
A 90th birthday compliment to
Bob Smith on 25th July.
1st Plain & Little Major: 7-8.

GUILD OF ST CUILEÁIN

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Tue Jul 28 2020 2h13 (11)
5152 Spliced S Major
(10m: 672 each Buckfastleigh,
Chesterfield, Pudsey, Whalley;
448 each Bristol, Essex, Glasgow,
London, Richmond; 224 Belfast. 139
com, atw)
Comp. S D Chandler
(arr. D F Morrison)
1-2 Janet E John
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Graham A C John
7-8 Jack E Page (C)

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Sat Aug 1 2020 2h23 (11)
5040 Plain Bob Major
Comp. Cornelius Charge
1-2 Daniel J Page
3-4 Colin G Newman
5-6 Jack E Page (C)
7-8 George J Hart

READING, Berks,
26 Redlands Road
Sun Aug 2 2020 1h36 (9)
5040 Surprise Minor
(7m: Bamborough, Bacup, Lightfoot,
Rossendale, Netherseale, Annable's
London, Norwich)
1-2 Colin G Newman
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Jack E Page (C)

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH D.G.

AWBRIDGE, Hants,
The Clock House (west patio)
Fri Jul 31 2020 2h24 (8)
5056 Plain Bob Major
Comp. C K Lewis
1-2 John A Dodd
3-4 Maureen J Hanney
5-6 Frank R Morton (C)
7-8 E C Gareth Higgins

What's Hot on BellBoard?

A weekly round-up from *BellBoard*, including the five performances that received the most likes in the last week
Will Bosworth

Joint first place this week for two different marathon handbell performances. Julian Howes explained how the 'Standard 176' Treble Bob Minimus methods work in his article at the end of May ('Exploring Treble Bob Minimus', 29 May p.532), and he and Linnet become the first people to ring all of them, naming the final sixteen unnamed

methods in the process. Colin Newman and Daniel and Jack Page 'peal the house' with six peals in a day, covering all 42 regular Thirds Place Delight Minor methods. (Trying to explain what 'delight' means in just a few words is likely to raise more questions than it answers – sorry.) It's a second week in the top five for number three. Ruth Suggett completes her 'lockdown challenge' at number four with a quarter peal in hand. Number five was submitted with a photo of well-prepared 'minder' Helen Maynard with an umbrella on the sand dunes of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, as the rain came down

on the band behind her. (Did you know that 'umbrellaed' is a word?)

Just outside the top five, Flick Warwick's first quarter in hand was rung to celebrate the wedding of Harry Blamire and Richard Smart in Dorchester, Dorset. A peal in Grandpont Nature Park was first in hand for Adam Rebick and Jonathan Mills. Several performances were rung in memory of Di Bridle and Roland Backhurst. Geoff Cowling and Lynn Scales rang a quarter of 86 minimus by Facebook Messenger, claiming the most minimus methods rung in a quarter peal. In Tetsworth it was Daphne Joslin's 100th birthday, with a handbell quarter rung to celebrate. On Jersey, a band with an average age of 14.6 rang a quarter of Bob Minor in hand, with a first as conductor for Hannah Read.

Guild of St Cuileáin

Reading, Berkshire
26 Redlands Road
Saturday, 8 August 2020 in 1h42
(8 in C)

5040 Delight Minor (7m)

7 methods, 1 extent each: Warwick, Ludlow, Wath, Carisbrooke, Kentish, Edinburgh, Oswald.

1-2 Colin G Newman
3-4 Daniel J Page
5-6 Jack E Page (C)

With this peal, this band has now rung an extent of each of the 42 Thirds Place Delight methods from the 147 Regular Treble Dodging Minor methods in the same day, across 6 peals, in 6 previously unpealed rooms in the house and on 6 different rings of 6.

First peal in the room (study).
6/6.

👍 42

University of Bristol Society

Batheaston, Somerset
Vale View Cottages
Wednesday, 5 August 2020 in
1h20 (10 in A)

5040 Treble Bob Minimus (176m)

Arranged by J O Howes

1-2 Linnet R C Tutchner

3-4 Julian O Howes (C)

Rung to celebrate the ringer of

1-2 achieving First Class Honours in

Mathematics MSci and the

ringer of 3-4 Upper Second Class

Honours in Physics MSci, both at

the University of Bristol.

Most Minimus methods yet

rung - the Standard 176: all

Treble Bob Minimus methods

comprising 48 rows in the course

(each row twice).

Also believed to be the most

methods rung for the Society.

16 new methods rung.

👍 42

Guild of St Cuileáin

Berwick-upon-Tweed,
Northumberland
Town Walls, Brass Bastion
Sunday, 2 August 2020 in
2h54 (18)

5138 Bristol Surprise

Maximus

Composed by A G Reading

(No.2)

1-2 Paul N Mounsey

3-4 Graham A C John

5-6 Thomas J Hinks (C)

7-8 Graham G Firman

9-10 Katharine J Firman

11-12 David G Maynard

2,000th peal: 9-10.

1,000th peal together:

7-8, 9-10.

100th peal of Bristol S

Maximus in hand, the first

to reach this milestone:

9-10.

👍 41

The Willows, Bardwell,

Suffolk
Sunday, 9 August 2020
(5 in F)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Ruth Suggett

3-4 Lesley H M Boyle

5-6 Nikki R Thomas (C)

First quarter in hand

1-2. Ruth's 'lockdown

challenge' having never

rung handbells she has

used both Abel and

Ringing Room, this is only

the third occasion she has

rung actual handbells.

👍 18

Guild of St Cuileáin

Holy Island,

Northumberland

Sand dunes

Monday, 3 August 2020

in 1h49 (13)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7m)

1 extent each Durham,

Westminster, Netherseale,

Norwich, Primrose, Bourne,

Cambridge.

1-2 James S Croft

3-4 David G Maynard

5-6 Thomas J Hinks (C)

👍 18



quarters@ringingworld.co.uk

In Memoriam

Watford, Herts. (15 Harford Drive) 30 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: S Kathleen M Baldwin 1-2, Roger Baldwin (C) 3-4, Stuart Brant 5-6. Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Elizabeth Bowen, ringer at St John the Evangelist, Great Stanmore & secretary of the Hertford County Association 2003-2009. **£1.50**

Please email the Editor (editor@ringingworld.co.uk) if you think In Memoriam performances should be held from publication pending an obituary.

Miscellaneous performances

Hereford. (2 Cathedral Close) 27 Jul, 720 PB Minor: Richard Pullin (C) 1-2, Clare Bellis 3-4, William N Evans 5-6. Longest length on handbells: 3-4,5-6 & as C on handbells. Rung on the St Peter's, Bromyard bells.

Horningsea, Cambs. 26 Jul, Call Changes: Tricia Rowland 1, - 2, Becca Foreman 3, Barbara Le Gallez (C) 4, - 5. For Morning Prayer, the farewell service for Revd Alun Ford. With thanks & good wishes to Alun from the band. 1st post-lockdown ringing here & for all. **£1.50**

Kinver, Staffs. 24 Jul, 15 Minutes Call Changes: Kelise K L Hamilton 1, Hattie Clayton 3, Anna Clayton 5, Diane J Awkati (C) 7, Mo Awkati 8. Dedicated to Revd Debs to thank her for her ministry in Kinver & Enville & for her friendship & to wish her every happiness as she takes up her new post of vicar in

Shropshire. Also to Glenys (Senior warden at St Peters) & John Cutler for their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 25th July & to thank them for all they do for us all at our church. **£2.50**

Thurcaston, Leics. 25 Jul, Called Changes: Jacob Peace 2, Judy Hunt 4, Peter Hunt 5, Morgan Williams 7, Howell Williams (C) 8. Fifteen minutes ringing to announce to the Parish that the Church was open for private prayer on Saturday 25th July after being closed since March due to Coronavirus; two bubbles of two plus one individual, wearing face masks & socially distanced. **£2.50**

Waddington, Lincs. (S Michael) 26 Jul, Rounds and Call Changes: - 1, Angela Holt (C) 2, - 3, Kevin Pridgen 4, - 5, Keith C Butter 6. 1st service ringing since lockdown. Rung for Evensong. With thanks to the three Central Branch committee members who inspected the bells after the prolonged break in ringing. **£1.50**

Distributed quarters

Ringing Room, England. 27 Jul, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Gareth Davies (Reach) 1-2, Alan Winter (Cambridge) 3-4, Marjorie Winter (Cambridge) 5-6, Simon Humphrey (Wetton) (C) 7-8. Last rang together 49 years ago, all but one day: 5-6,7-8. 1st double-handed tower bell Q for all.

Ringing Room, Fincham, Norfolk. 29 Jul, 40 Plain Bob Doubles: Abigail White 1, Sally Taylor 2, Brian Redgers 3, Pam Wakeling 4, Anne Carpenter (C) 5, Anne Carpenter 6. Sally's first attempt & success at ringing Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell, having progressed on Ringing Room from being able to ring call changes. Well done to Abigail as well, as she has also progressed on Ringing Room.

Ringing Room, Oxon. 26 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Lisa Ryan (Stanford in the Vale, Oxon) 1-2, David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 3-4, Zoë Williams (Stanford in the Vale, Oxon) 5-6.

Ringing Room, Oxon. 26 Jul, 1280 Minor (3m): Lisa Ryan (Stanford in the Vale, Oxon) 1-2, Jonathan C Mills (Oxford) 3-4, David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 5-6. 100th as C in 2020: 5-6.

Ringing Room, Sth Lincolnshire. 29 Jul, 1320 S Minor (2m): Sylvia M Taylor (Helpringham) 1, Jane McKee (Thurlby) 2, Diane Faux (Stamford) 3, Mike Maughan (Hanthorpe) 4, Jim Benner (Bourne) 5, Barry Jones (Bourne) (C) 6. **£3**

Ringing Room, Thurlby. 27 Jul, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Sylvia M Taylor (Helpringham) 1, Jane McKee (Thurlby) 2, Diane Faux (Stamford) 3, Jim Benner (Bourne) 4, Mike Maughan (Hanthorpe) 5, Barry Jones (Bourne) (C) 6. Specially arranged for Terry Maddison (TC at Thurlby), wishing him well on his 80th Birthday today. **£3**

Ringing Room, UK. 22 Jul, 1280 Yorkshire S Royal: Samuel M Senior (Southampton) 1-2, Adam D Rebick (Oxford) 3-4, David L Thomas (Abingdon, Oxon) (C) 5-6, Craig M Robertson (Dunfermline, Fife) 7-8, Jonathan C Mills (Oxford) 9-10.

Ringing Room, UK. 24 Jul, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Maurice Calvert (Calverley) 1, Daniel T Calvert (Calverley) 2, Nicholas J Green (Shrewsbury) 3, Sue Neal (Low Bentham) 4, John Harpole (Basildon) 5, Andy Sutherland (Ilkley) (C) 6. **£3**

Ringing Room, UK. 27 Jul, 1320 Spl S Minor (6m): Jill Wigney (Bovey Tracey) 1-2, Ian Mills (London) 3-4, Mike Wigney (Bovey Tracey) (C) 5-6. 1st Beverley S Minor in hand: 3-4. **£1.50**

General quarters

Alderney, Channel Is. (Channel Islands Ringing Centre, Wells House) 26 Jul, 1260 Doubles (4m): June Banister 1, Aileen Wilson 2, Helen M McGregor 3, Aaron Hallett 4, Peter J R Bevis (C) 5, Jeremy Penrose-Stupart 6. Arranged & rung to celebrate the birth of Finley Ryan Rossiter on July 14th, a second grandchild for June & Stephen. **£3**

Anstey, Leics. (2 Church Lane, Anstey) 26 Jul, 1280 Kent TB Major: Jo L White 1-2, Mark J Pendery 3-4, Luke G Groom (C) 5-6, Lewis D Benfield 7-8. 1st in m: 7-8. **£2**

Aston Rowant, Oxon. (The White House) 27 Jul, 1400 Kent TB Royal: Christopher Tuckett 1-2, Angela Darvill 3-4, Patricia Newton 5-6, Kenneth Darvill 7-8, Robert Newton (C) 9-10. A Birthday compliment to the C. **£2.50**

Aston Rowant, Oxon. (The White House) 31 Jul, 1344 Yorkshire S Major: Christopher Tuckett 1-2, Patricia Newton 3-4, Janet Menhinick 5-6, Robert Newton (C) 7-8. **£2**

Beeston, Notts. (1, Sunnyside Road) 30 Jul, 1280 Spl Major (6m): Emily E Hall 1-2, Roger J Lawson 3-4, Ian Vincent 5-6, Christian J Brown (C) 7-8. To note the closure of the Hemsley, the former staff club, of The University of Nottingham. **£2**

Bristol. (Victoria Park) 31 Jul, 1264 PB Major: Philip Moyle 1-2, Adam Bennett 3-4, Matt Dawson (C) 5-6, Ed Marchbank 7-8. 1st Major in hand: 3-4. With best wishes to Adam on his imminent move to Liverpool.

Cheltenham, Glos. (25a Alma Rd - The Bicycle Ring On Tour V2) 1 Aug, 1260 Doubles (5m): Stuart Tomlinson 1, Barbara Pettit 2, Harry Stephenson 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Reg Hitchings (C) 5, Isabel Hitchings 6. Socially Distanced Version. 350th together: 1.5. 50th together: 2,3,5,6.

Cheltenham, Glos. (25a Alma Rd - The Bicycle Ring On Tour V2) 1 Aug, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Reg Hitchings 1, Isabel Hitchings 2, Barbara Pettit 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Harry Stephenson 5, Stuart Tomlinson (C) 6. Socially Distanced Version. 100th together: 2,5 & 1,2,5.

Cheltenham, Glos. (25a Alma Rd, The Bicycle Ring On Tour V2) 30 Jul, 1260 Finstwhaite Bob Minor: Isabel Hitchings 1, Mike Hartley 2, Ben Gooch 3, Stuart Tomlinson 4, Barbara Pettit 5, Reg Hitchings (C) 6. Socially Distanced Version. 1st in m for all.

Chester. (46 Green Howards Road) 20 Jul, 1260 St Clement's CB Minor: Ben Kellett 1-2, David T G Jones 3-4, Paul B Hunter (C) 5-6.

Chester. (46 Green Howards Road) 20 Jul, 1264 PB Major: David T G Jones 1-2, Roy LeMarechal 3-4, Paul B Hunter (C) 5-6, Christopher M Bennett 7-8.

Colpitts Grange, Northumb. (Forge Cottage) 30 Jul, 1264 PB Major: Clair Crowther 1-2, Pat Sewell 3-4, Kris King (C) 5-6, Jim Crowther 7-8. 1st in hand: 1-2. 1st Major in hand: 7-8. With best wishes to Julia Cater for her imminent big Birthday!!

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 1 Jul, 1280 Lindum S Major: Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins (C) 7-8.

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 1 Jul, 1312 Belfast S Major: Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins (C) 7-8.

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 10 Jul, 1312 Whalley S Major: Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins (C) 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins 7-8. **£12**

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 21 Jun, 1282 Cambridge S Royal: Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins (C) 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins 7-8, Murray-Luke Peard 9-10.

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 27 Jun, 1260 Scientific Triples: James Perrins 1-2, Bill Perrins 3-4, Thomas Perrins 5-6, Esther Perrins (C) 7-8. 1st Scientific: 1-2,5-6. 1st Scientific in hand: 3-4,7-8.

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 29 Apr, 1280 Spl Treble Dodging Major (12m): Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins (C) 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins 7-8.

Eastwood, NSW. (4 Spencer St) 8 Jul, 1280 Eastwood S Major: Esther Perrins 1-2, Thomas Perrins 3-4, James Perrins 5-6, Bill Perrins (C) 7-8.

Goldhanger, Essex. (9A Church Street) 28 Jul, 1320 S Minor (6m): David L Sparling 1-2, Andrew R C Kelso 3-4, Paul A Cammiade (C) 5-6. Most methods in hand: 3-4.

Great Longstone, Derbys. (The Vicarage) 28 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Jenny M Croft 1-2, Thomas J Hinks 3-4, James S Croft (C) 5-6. A 60th Birthday compliment to Chris Seaman.

Hamilton, New Zealand. (Cathedral) 26 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Pam McAdam 1, Judith M Horne 2, Mary Sluter 3, Wendy Tyrrell 4, David A Horne 5, John Barnard 6, Frank Sluter (C) 7, Daniel Watson 8. Rung for Quintin Burslem in recognition of 29 years service as a bellringer at the Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter. **£4**

Kirby Muxloe, Leics. (Bloods Hill) 1 Aug, 1376 Kent TB Major: Jo L White 1-2, Graham R Hayward (C) 3-4, Lewis D Benfield 5-6, Mark J Pendery 7-8. 1st Kent away from tenors: 5-6. **£2**

Oxford, Oxon. (Grandpont Nature Park) 23 Jul, 1320 College Bob Minor: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. 1st in m for all.

Oxford, Oxon. (Grandpont Nature Park) 27 Jul, 1272 Gainsborough Little Bob Major: John G Pusey 1-2, Adam D Rebick 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8. 1st Gainsborough: 7-8. Rung to mark the birth, on 13th July, of Arthur Clive Beaumont, son of Rachel & David & first grandchild of Helen Beaumont (ex Abingdon).

Oxford, Oxon. (Grandpont Nature Park) 27 Jul, 1272 Kent TB Minor: Lisa Ryan 1-2, Adam D Rebick 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6.

Oxford, Oxon. (Osney Island (The Very Lonely Rooster)) 30 Jul, 1260 Double Oxford Bob Minor: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. 1st on a boat: 5-6.

Oxford, Oxon. (Tow path opposite Aston's Eyot (The Very Lonely Rooster)) 30 Jul, 1308 Spl Bob Minor (3m): Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. 1st in these methods for all.

Reading, Berks. (26 Redlands Road) 22 Mar, 1260 PB Minor: Colin G Newman (C) 1-2, Daniel J Page 3-4, Jenny M Page 5-6. Marking Jenny's retirement.

Reading, Berks. (26 Redlands Road) 26 Jul, 1264 PB Major: Jenny Page 1-2, Stephen Rossiter 3-4, Peter Ellis (C) 5-6, June Saint 7-8. Early 21st Birthday compliment to Maggie Page. 350th as C. **£1**

Reading, Berks. (26 Redlands Road) 31 Jul, 1260 PB Royal: Thomas R Sherwood 1-2, Jack E Page (C) 3-4, Daniel J Page 5-6, Colin G Newman 7-8, Anna E Sherwood 9-10. 1st on 10 handbells: 1-2.

Rodmersham Green, Kent. (Maypole Bells) 23 Jul, 1260 PB Doubles: Graham Cuthbert 1, Ollie Watson 2, Jim Attwood 3, Chris Trafford 4, Adam Moore (C) 5, Martin Hooker 6. 1st on the Maypole Bells.

Tenby, Pems. (64 Clicketts Court) 22 Jul, 1272 Double Bob Minimus: Susan Thomas 1-2, Ellis N Thomas (C) 3-4. To celebrate the wedding of Sarah Thomas & Stephen Thompson on 24 Jul 2020 at St Mary's Church, Angle, Pems.

Tonbridge, Kent. (2A Cranford Road) 30 Jul, 1260 Minor (2m): Ann Jenner 1-2, Ray Taylor 3-4, Stanley Jenner (C) 5-6. **£3**

Wellington, New Zealand. (The John David Ring) 29 Jul, 1320 Primrose S Minor: Janet Grocott 1, Andrew Dicks 2, Ruth Lightbourne 3, Derek Williams 4, Christopher Jarman 5, Dylan Thomas (C) 6. 300th Q on the bells.

Worcester. (Cathedral, College Green) 26 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Adam R Crocker 1-2, Alex F Byrne (C) 3-4, Darran Ricks 5-6. To celebrate the birth of Daisy Grace Ricks in Melbourne, Australia, first niece for Darran. 1st in hand: 5-6.



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Charity Registration No 270036

Executive

Notes of the meeting held on Sunday 26 July 2020 at 8pm by video conference.

Present: Simon Linford (President), David Kirkcaldy (Deputy President), Mary Bone (Secretary), Andy Smith (Treasurer), Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett, David Smith and Clyde Whittaker. They were joined by Vicki Chapman (Public Relations Officer).

1. The Executive considered responses to the consultation on the proposed small societies rules and standing orders; the proposals had been improved and simplified as a result. A motion would appear on the Agenda for the annual meeting.
2. The Executive discussed a paper on "Volunteering with the Central Council" which had been prepared by Vicki Chapman. This will be circulated by the Public Relations Officer.
3. The Executive had a preliminary discussion on the possible state of ringing after the coronavirus pandemic; as and when the situation became clearer the Council should be prepared to invest in recovery.
4. As part of the Executive's commitment to good governance, members agreed that the workgroup review (26 June note) would include the overall structure which had operated since June 2018 (and in "shadow" from autumn 2017) to see if any adjustments were needed in the light of experience.
5. The Treasurer briefed the Executive on the current financial position. All affiliation fees had now been paid.
6. The Executive confirmed that Conflict of Interest declarations made by the trustees according to the new Policy (26 June note) would be placed on the website.
7. The Executive confirmed that the annual meeting would commence at 10.30am on Saturday 5 September. Guidance on a Zoom meeting would be prepared for members and the Executive would hold at least one practice session beforehand. The Secretary briefed members on the nominations received. Workgroup leaders would be consulted about additional sessions which might be held during the autumn.
8. The next meeting of the Executive with workgroup leaders will be held by video conference on Sunday 23 August.

MARY BONE
Secretary

Feedback

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EXECUTIVE OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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editor@ringingworld.co.uk

Margaret Lewis (1932–2020)



Margaret Lewis was born on 23/8/32 (a palindrome, she boasted) and learnt to ring at Shirley (Birmingham) in the late 1940s. She attended grammar school in Solihull where her headmaster (and maths teacher) was the late Edgar C Shepherd, a well-known ringer and author of bellringing books.

Margaret started work in central Birmingham in the same office as Joan Beresford (Summerhayes) and they became lifelong friends. The two young ladies would travel by train after work to practices all over the Midlands, often returning home on their respective last trains and buses. She later began working for the Civil Service in central London, ringing regularly at Kingston (on the old anti-clockwise ten), Isleworth, Wimbledon and Putney (where she helped greatly with their many struggling youngsters). For three years she served as a committee member in the Surrey Association.

In the mid-1960s Margaret moved into a flat in Farnborough, Hampshire and began regular ringing there and at Aldershot, though she would never officially join either band, preferring to remain an “unattached” Guildford

DG member all her ringing life. Later, for a short while, she rang at Farnham.

Margaret rang all the standard methods on eight bells and enjoyed the occasional bit of ten-bell ringing. She rang numerous quarter peals but a total of only 19 peals (six for the Guildford DG), having decided after her last at Farnborough in 1968 that they were a “waste of time”. She rang one handbell peal – of Plain Bob Minor, sitting in a car whilst on holiday in County Donegal, Ireland!

She frequently enjoyed ringing holidays. She became friends with Florrie Wyman (of Sussex) who organised some of the first-ever week-long ringing holidays and whilst on those trips she made friends with more ringers from Sussex and especially West Somerset, where she often spent other holidays. She organised a few weekend outings herself and always allowed time for a bit of sightseeing as well as ringing. She was a (secret) tower-grabber and if a new tower became available, Margaret would be there! Margaret also arranged day outings: in Greater London on August Bank Holiday Monday; and elsewhere, always on the first Saturday in December, ending with a party and sing-along back in her Farnborough flat, to which friends came from far and wide. Additionally, Margaret was a strong supporter of Wilson’s Wanderers – she approved of a “good tea”, a feature of these annual days out, always held on a Wednesday in August.

Margaret took great delight in not having a television. After retirement she was a group leader in the U3A, running discussion groups and the like. She liked a good argument.

Always fiercely independent, she became everything “her way”, in later life she became harder to get on with and more and more of a recluse. She had disagreements at many of the towers she rang at and gradually isolated herself from most of her ringing friends, giving up regular ringing around 2005. When she moved into her final care home she kept its location a guarded secret so she could not be contacted except through her solicitor, who maintained a list of “approved contacts”. Even her taxi-driver (a ringer) wasn’t allowed to pick her up from, or take her right home, to maintain the secrecy.

Margaret died on 7th July 2020, aged 87.

MARTIN TURNER *ET AL*

Eric J Sterland 1930–2020

Eric was born in Birkinstyle, Derbyshire in 1930. He moved with his family to Morton, Derbyshire in 1935 and attended Morton Junior and Stonebrook Senior schools. He completed his seven-year apprenticeship to become a bricklayer and became site foreman in charge of several building sites, one of which was the building of a new swimming baths at Chesterfield. He continued working in the building industry and became a government Clerk of Works and was involved in building County Courts, in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester, various telephone exchanges and other buildings.

In 1946 William Swain of Morton taught Eric to ring a bell and he joined the newly formed band of teenage ringers at Morton’s Holy Cross

Church. The teenagers were then left alone by their tutors and change ringing had to be learnt by reading Ropesight and other ringing books, and more importantly attending friendly practice nights at neighbouring churches, which were available every night each week. Bicycles were the usual means of transport to get to practice nights at neighbouring churches. Eric and several ringers from Morton attended the AGM of the East Derbyshire and West Nottinghamshire Association (EDWNA) at Swanwick on Easter Monday 1950. A tea was provided in the Church room served by a team of ladies including one young lady. After the tea, the young lady left the room alone and the Morton lads made a hasty departure attempting to follow her. Only Eric was successful in finding her. After courting her, Eric married Joan Walvin at Swanwick in October 1954.

In May 1947, the Morton ringers were asked to ring for a Wedding at the Church on the 31st. It was decided that the ringers, including Eric, should attempt to ring a quarter peal after the Wedding. On the day the quarter was successful – two extents of Plain Bob Minor were rung, a first for all and my first as conductor. This success suggested an attempt to ring a full peal. This was arranged for the 1st August and included Kenneth Greaves, who was on leave from the RAF. On the day a peal in two methods was successfully rung, a first peal for all and first for me as conductor.

Eric served in the RAF for his National Service. Afterwards, Eric bought a plot of land in Swanwick and in his spare time he built his own house. When completed, Eric and Joan spent the rest of their life together there. By this time he was ringing the bells at Swanwick and was made Tower Captain. He also fulfilled various offices in the local ringing societies and later was made a life member of both EDWNA and the Derbyshire Diocesan Association (DDA). In 1967 Eric was made a member of the College Youths. He briefly represented the EDWNA on the Central Council. Eric also gained a reputation for organising excellent ringing outings by coach. He rang 72 peals, 6 as conductor, one with the College Youths, 47 for the EDWNA, mostly on six bells. I was also a member of the band at Morton, which is where I met Eric, and through our mutual interest in bell ringing we became lifelong friends. His legacy in bell ringing continues through his son John and grandson Edward. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

BRYNLEY A RICHARDS

SECOND-HAND BELLS WANTED

We have a large number of enquiries for single bells for augmentations, for complete rings of bells and small bells for chiming

Please contact:

**The Secretary, Keltek Trust, The Kloof,
Lower Kingsdown Road, Kingsdown, Corsham,
Wiltshire SN13 8BG**

email: bells@keltektrust.org.uk
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Rates from 1st January 2020

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Meetings on Saturday September 21

LACR. AGM. The LACR AGM will now take place on Saturday 12th September 2020 at 2pm. Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions this will be an ONLINE Zoom based meeting for essential business only. For more information on participation see www.lacr.uk or contact General Secretary beth.ingham@mac.com. 3005

NOTICES

We print Notices as submitted so please ensure that what you send as the text of your notice is exactly what you intend to appear, and is clearly readable.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD BY JOHN CLARK (p.794)

M	I	N	I	M	U	S		O	R	D	E	R
I	E	O	A		D	O	A					
D	O	U	B	L	E	D	O	D	G	I	N	G
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SOLUTION TO ANOTHER EASY PUZZLE (p.794)

Anthem, Cambridge, chaplain, clapper, headstock, method, minimus, Oxford, royal, steep, warden, Yorkshire.

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Death notices

Notices reporting the death or funeral details of any ringers, or people well known to the wider ringing community, will be printed free of charge, up to a maximum of 30 words.

If you wish to exceed this limit, or print a second notice, our standard notice charges will apply. We accept notification of deaths up until 11.30am on press day (generally Tuesday) and always try hard to accommodate them.

Please email the Editor (editor@ringingworld.co.uk) if you believe performances rung in memoriam should be held from publication pending an obituary.

If readers of *The Ringing World* were asked to name famous Taylor bells there are a large number to choose from. One bell, cast in 1980, is considered to be “the” cult-status bell by hundreds of millions of people worldwide, even if the majority don’t know it came from Taylor’s.

I’m referring to the AC/DC bell of course, and Jed Flatters wrote an article in 2005 when the bell was 25 years old. This was in response to a conversation on a transatlantic plane between himself, Steven Cake (a John Taylor employee at the time) and a journalist from the heavy metal music magazine *Metal Hammer*. This journalist enthused about the bell and the album that was coming up to this anniversary, so Jed decided to research the history of the bell.

The rock band AC/DC was formed in Sydney, Australia in 1973 and was made up of the brothers Malcolm and Angus Young, both ace guitarists who were Scottish, along with their lead singer Bon Scott. The bass player was English and the only Australian was their drummer. Their *Highway to Hell* album released in 1979 was very successful, but tragedy struck in February 1980 when Bon Scott, who was left overnight in the back of a car to sleep off a heavy drinking session, choked to death. Uncertain whether to disband, they announced, “We will do one more album for Scott and then see after that”.

This memorial album was *Back in Black* and they auditioned and set on a new lead singer, Brian “Jonna” Johnson, from Newcastle. He had a distinctive high screechy voice and could also write lyrics. When Malcolm phoned him to offer him the job on 29th March he thought it was a wind-up by one of his friends! The recording was done at the Compass Point studio in Nassau, where there was a six-week slot from mid-April. Whilst there at the studio urinal, Angus thought, “Hang on, why don’t we get a big f*****g bell?”

I took the initial phone call from Light and Sound Design, a company in Birmingham, who wanted a big bell, note C, with the AC/DC logo visible from the back of a large auditorium. This meant a 60 inches bell weighing two tons, but we only had six weeks to produce it, so they settled for a one-ton bell, note E, measuring 48 inches. They didn’t want the bell to be grey so it was agreed we would

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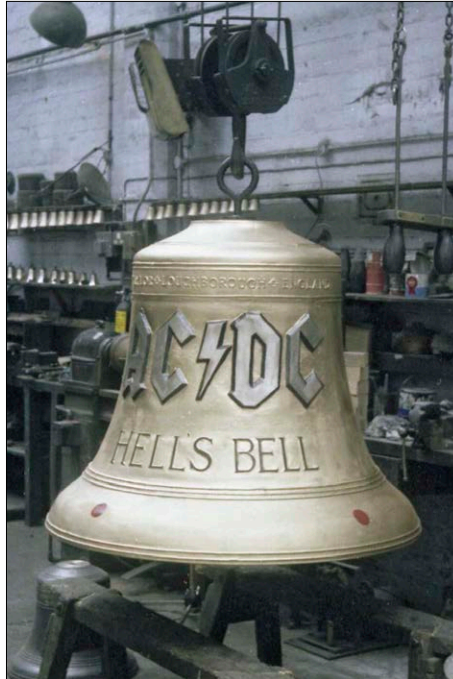
A very famous Taylor bell – AC/DC's Hell's Bell

by Mike Milsom

paint it gold and polish up the very large logo and put on the inscription "HELL'S BELL". When it was tuned, their recording engineer, Tony Platt, brought a mobile recording studio to the bellfoundry, and I tolled it for the recording which was desperately needed as the album was being mixed in New York. The day before he arrived we polished up the logo and painted the bell.

The album was released in July 1980 and the first shock for the LP purchasers was the completely black album cover. The next shock was that the first track on side one was Hells Bells with the very professional recording of the accurately tuned bell. For the recording of the album, the bell was dropped in pitch to note A, the keynote of the song, so it sounded more majestic. It slowly tolled thirteen times at five second intervals with just the bell for the first four strokes. At live concerts the recording was put out over the sound system before the band joined in and fans were enthralled to see the bell slowly lowered down to just above the stage. It was then lowered down a bit more so that Brian Johnson could hit it really hard with the equivalent of a small sledgehammer that Taylor's supplied the band with in very large numbers over the years.

The album was an instant rave success and was in the US top 100 albums for 131 weeks. Sales of the LP, CD and downloads are said to be more than 50 million and in December 2019 it was officially certified 25 times platinum. When the album was released, its sales and the combined sales of the band's other albums soon achieved one million records every month for 18 consecutive months. The official video of the 1980 Hells Bells performance is on YouTube and if you



The Hell's Bell at Taylor's Bellfoundry

watch it you will be added to the 179 million people who have viewed it so far. Their Back in Black World Tour culminated in the bell being taken to the Monsters of Rock Festival at Castle Donington in August 1981; they took it there again in 1984 and 1991. The official video from Monsters of Rock Festival, with the bell centre stage, has been viewed a mere 51 million times.

They took it on tour again for their 1981 to 1982 For Those About to Rock World Tour and then we were told that Angus wanted the bell to swing over their heads for their Fly on the Wall Tour in 1983. This entailed a custom-made frame, a balanced horseshoe headstock, wheel, motor and chain drive. As they wanted the bell to toll in time with the Hells Bells song, we had to put in an electro-magnetic clapper with a rope coming down from the frame and a hidden bell push at the bottom of the sally. Brian could then press this any time he liked.

We had now doubled the weight, apart from the swinging forces. Because of this, where the gantries could take the weight, they started the bell swinging just before the introduction and Brian pulled on the rope, which must have had a bungee bit added, so it looked as if he was swinging the bell. After about twenty seconds they switched off the motor and the bell and rope were lifted back up. During this 54-concert tour in the US and Canada the chain broke one night when they hadn't checked the tension but fortunately none of the band were hit. For the European leg of this world tour they went back to using the bell on its own, with Brian clouting it again. It was a lot more theatrical.

For their Razors' Edge World Tour starting in 1990 they took the bell with them again,

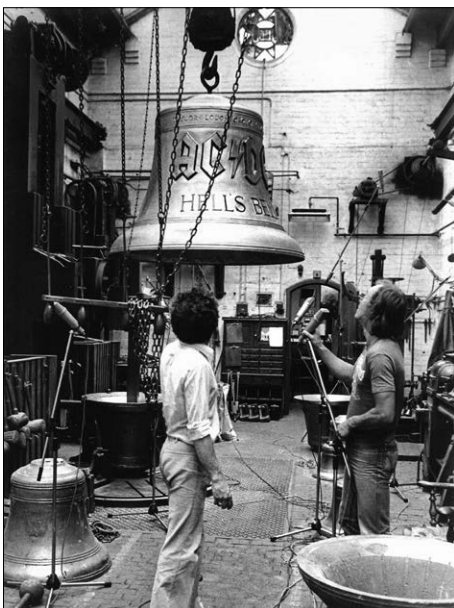
and on 24th September 1991 they had their last European concert in Barcelona. They were then told that Boris Yeltsin, who had just survived a coup, was organising a Monsters of Rock Festival in Moscow on the 28th, and they wanted AC/DC to close the concert with a two hour slot in the evening. After they realised this was not a joke, three Russian Antonov transport planes came to Barcelona to fetch the band, sound engineers, road crew and all the equipment for the concert at the Tushino airfield. The crowd in the afternoon started at 750,000 and peaked in the evening at 1.6 million. At live concerts Angus was the first band member to start playing and the others followed. He normally came in on the fifth stroke of the recording of the bell, but not always. For this concert, Angus waited until the bell had tolled ten times and Brian subsequently hit the real bell really hard.

From 1998 to 2010 the Hells Bells track was played extremely loudly when a famous baseball player named Trevor Hoffman, from the San Diego Padres team, came onto the pitch at home games. He was a "closer" or "fireman", a player who only comes out to try and improve the score when their team is only in front by a small number of points.

Jed was told that at one stage the bell was at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame which is a museum in Cleveland and gives prestigious awards to outstanding performers, recording engineers and producers. AC/DC went there in 2003 to receive their award and the band performed one of their songs on the large stage.

In the last decade Tony Platt has given many interviews, on and off camera, regarding the recording of the album, and the bell is a frequent topic of conversation. In a magazine interview in 2014 he narrated, "The guy who made the bell was the guy who hit the bell on the record" and he described how he used 16 microphones for the recording. In another interview he mentions that he was in a large US auditorium where the UK band Motörhead was going to give a concert. He was amazed to hear the Hells Bells song played very loudly as a final sound check by their engineers. They told him that if the bell and the guitars sounded superb everything was fine!

In 2014 Malcolm Young was suffering from memory loss so he left the band and he died in 2017 from dementia. In 2019 the original drummer and Brian Johnson (who had left in 2016 because he was becoming deaf) were spotted outside a recording studio AC/DC frequently used in Vancouver. Angus told a music journalist that they were "playing around" with guitar riffs by Malcolm that had been recorded but never used, and Brian had re-joined the band. Might this be a "Back in Black 2" album, and will they dust off this very famous Taylor bell forty years later?



The Hell's Bell at Taylor's Foundry in 1980, Mike Milsom (left) with AC/DC recording engineer, Tony Platt (Photo by David Humphrey)

Killer "Change" Sudoku

No.4 – moderate

Killer "Change" Sudoku. The clues are the small numbers that equal the total of the numbers you place in the (dashed) cages. Numbers cannot repeat within cages. Standard Sudoku rules apply (each 3x3 box, every row & every column must contain the numbers 1-9). When complete the highlighted squares, read clockwise from one of the highlighted squares, will be a musical change on 8 bells. You don't need to work out what the change is to solve the puzzle, but it will make it easier if you do.

(Full rules & solving strategies for Killer Sudoku can be found on Wikipedia.)

14			10		12	15	13	
18	18					6	10	
			7	14	10			
6	7				8	17	14	
	15		11	17				3
17					8	11		
12	4	12				20		
		17	13	8	15			
8						15		

Permugram 3

by Richard Pullin

	Letters				Numbers					
Rounds						1	2	3	4	5
Row A									4	
Row B										
Row C				T						
Row D										
Row E										

Clue for Row A: In the right direction.

Clue for Row B: Green lungs.

Hint: Remember that repeated letters must be written the correct way round.

Methodokus

Complete the grid. Each row contains every bell once. Each bell can move at most one place from its position in the row above. Each puzzle has only one solution, the first lead of a named method, but method familiarity isn't necessary to complete any of the puzzles.

MARK B DAVIES

Methodoku #25

EASY

No more than two blows in one place.

1	2	3	4	5
	1			
		1		
			1	
	4			1
2				1
		3	1	
		1		
	1			
1			4	
1	5			

Methodoku #26

MEDIUM

by David Bagley

No more than two blows in one place.

All bells do the same work.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			3		
4		6			

Methodoku #27 HARD

No more than two blows in one place.

Double, palindromic symmetry

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1						
		1					
			1	5			
4				1			
					1		
						1	
							1
							1
			7				1
						1	
					1		
				1			
		1					
			1	8			
1			3				
1							

Instructions

- Fill in all the boxes.
- All rows are anagrams of each other.
- The letter and number rows correspond.
- Rows A and B are a recognizable word, name or phrase.
- There is a clue for Rows A and B to get you started.
- As you move down each row, the bells are always re-ordered in the same way.
- The bell rows are NOT a method!

Back Down The Pub

“Did you see the agenda for the CCCBR AGM? Interesting what is not there.”

“Trimming the sails when there is a hole in the boat.”

“Three big holes and a lot of little ones more like. There is the long-standing problem of the age profile, the impact of the virus and plans for post-viral recovery, and the closing of churches. None of that seems to have a slot.”

“That is the trouble with formal societies; too much time, focus and energy is needed just to keep the internal machinery running. What would you do?”

“What we need to do now is set up a system of data collection for information about ringers and towers. The centre needs to have regularly updated information about the numbers of ringers, their capability, willingness and availability along with details about ringing for services, practices and training. Each cluster co-ordinator could do a weekly on-line return. For towers we need to know which locations are open and available, ones with limited availability and ones that are closed. That could come from the cluster co-ordinators and centrally from the church. Importantly we need to know which towers are in danger of closing, or having restricted access, and when any changes to status might occur. I guess that the information about which locations are at risk might be available somewhere but it could well be a problem getting hold of it; power needs to speak with power. We need to keep ahead of the game. It will be no good waiting until someone notices bells being loaded onto a scrap wagon.”

“What do you think about the Small Societies initiative; will that bring salvation?”

“I am OK with the idea of being inclusive but there is either going to be endless troubles over rejected applications or a very large number of attenders at the AGM. The obvious solution to total inclusion and broad representation is an individual membership organisation with direct links between members and the centre; cut out all the administrative clutter.”

“I don’t think anyone is listening. They have all wandered off outside to sit in the sun.”

“Just you and me for the next round then?”

“Not for me thanks, I was thinking of joining them.”

AJB

Magic moments of a being a bellringer

This week Beryl Reed shares her ten magic moments.

1. Learning to ring with all teenagers, when the Vicar asked my eldest brother – only 19 – to start a new team in 1948. Only five of the six bells were ringable at that time, and two experienced ringers from Newark-on-Trent helped Peter with the training.
2. On Sundays, with no cars on the road, cycling with Peter to ring at 9am for Newark’s 9.30 service – 91 steps! And later at home, St Giles, Balderton, at 10.30. for Matins.
3. The excitement of the bells being rehung in 1952, with a frame for eight. And later, in 1962, when two trebles were added to make our pretty octave.
4. Listening to Newark’s heavy ten, with nine bells fully muffled and the Tenor’s backstroke open, for King George VI’s funeral day. Mesmerising.
5. Being offered a rope for a peal of Stedman Caters. I had rung only six peals before, three of minor and three of doubles. Suddenly peals were more interesting.
6. Ringing 8-spliced on the back eight at Lincoln Cathedral on practice night.
7. At home, ringing the first all-local peal, Grandsire Triples. The conductor, my husband, the only one who had not learned to ring at Balderton.
8. On holiday in America we joined the practice night at Raleigh when there were only five bells. We taught two of the band to ring St Simon’s Doubles, and with a capable treble ringer rang a touch.
9. The privilege of ringing at Westminster Abbey, half a course of Cambridge Royal, when on the Central Council attending the AGM in London.
10. Ringing a quarter peal with our great-grandson, Tyler, when he was eleven, with Mum and Grandad making four generations.

BERYL REED

Balderton, Newark

What would your ten magic moments be?

Thought for the week

My family have dragged me, not quite screaming, into the 21st century. I now have an iPad and an email address! Much, I may say, to the astonishment of friends. No longer can I claim to be ‘the last of the Dinosaurs’. Admittedly, my expertise is pretty limited – I cannot get my mind round all this ‘zooming’ business, for example – but I can Facetime family and send the odd email. This last is the reason why the family persuaded me to go in for this technology, so that we could have better family contact during lockdown. Luckily, a granddaughter had a spare iPad and so here I am, no longer ‘last of the Dinosaurs’.

There are, of course, many ways in which this technology has been, and is, of help and benefit during the lockdown. Ringers have been meeting in a variety of ways, and I see that, for example, Ringing Room performances are being recorded in this publication. Mentioning this publication, I must congratulate all concerned in the superb front and back cover photographs that have appeared in recent weeks – they are a lockdown joy.

I suggest that, good though all this is, there is no substitute for real personal contact, to being able to hug your grandchildren, for enjoying a pint in the pub after practice without distance rules, for being able to hear again the glorious singing of our cathedral choirs, for belting out a cracking hymn yourself, and certainly when it comes to ringing, there is no substitute for being in the tower with the rope in your hands. Roll on that day. Cheers.

CHRIS MARSHALL

Chris Marshall is a member of the Guild of Clerical Ringers.



The online Dove’s Guide for Church Bell Ringers can be found at:

dove.cccb.org.uk/home.php

Updates to your tower’s information (such as change of practice night) are really helpful to potential visitors.

Also – do please supply full details of your bells and frame if not already shown.



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CORRECTION

We apologise that the name of the winner of the Westley Awards for Church Bell Maintenance was misspelled in last week’s report (p.775). Congratulations to Sue McClaughry, not Sue McLaughry. More details of the winner and highly commended applicants on p.808.



A rainy day in London photographed by **Phil Hope** is our image of the week. It was taken while he was ascending the stairs to the Sky Garden of 20 Fenchurch Street a.k.a The Walkie Talkie. Phil tells us that it wasn't a great day for photos so he took three shots at different exposures and then did an HDR merge. He then cranked up quite a few of the sliders so that's why it looks more like a picture for a jigsaw puzzle than a photograph! How many London towers can you spot?

Alderney ringers build a float

The Alderney ringers were delighted to be taking an active part in this year's annual Alderney Week festival. On Monday 3rd August our float (pictured) was awarded a very creditable third place and our Open Day – on Wednesday 5th – had over 40 visitors

ascend the tower to listen to an explanation of the role of stay and slider (with model bell), watch rounds on six, see two bells change places, understand how our 'music' is written and then have a tour of the bells to see the only peal of 12 in the Channel Islands.

HELEN MCGREGOR



Wimbotsham bells

In September of last year, the three bells in the church tower of St Mary the Virgin, Wimbotsham, Norfolk were left hanging precariously after a fire gutted the building. An abseiling company were on site this week to remove the bells while complying with social distancing.

One of the bells dates from the 14th century, another from the 15th century, while the tenor is a 1726 casting by Thomas Newman. They needed to be lowered as the fire had left them in an unsafe position.

The abseiling company helped carry out the removal, as social distancing rules meant workers could not operate within the small bell tower.

The operation went smoothly and ten minutes was all the time needed to safely lower the bells. Church Warden Philip Wing noted that for those watching the bells being lowered, it was the first time the oldest bell had been seen at ground level for hundreds of years.

Following their safe removal, the bells are to be handed over to Soundweld where they will have their cracks repaired. Repair work on the tower may take a couple of years. An investigation into the cause of the blaze is ongoing.

CHRISTOPHER TEASDALE