

St Albans District Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 1 – February 2012

WELCOME to your 2012 Committee!

RINGING MASTER



- Stephen Penney
- Home Tower: St Albans Cathedral
- Learnt to ring at Sandridge in 1989
- Likes: Stedman
- Dislikes: Tower Grabbing
- Committee Member since 2007

DISTRICT SECRETARY

- Claire Nicholson
- Home Tower: Hatfield
- Learnt to ring at Tring in 1986
- Likes: Rapid Fire Call Changes
- Dislikes: Stedman
- Committee Member since 2003



DEPUTY RINGING MASTER and GENERAL COMMITTEE REP



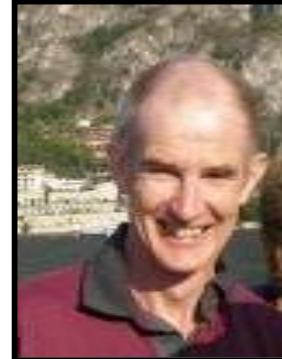
- Richard Sales
- Learnt to ring at Broxbourne in 1971
- Likes: Steam Trains, Old Maps
- Dislikes: Olives, Treasurer's Reports
- Committee Member since 2011 but has served on the Committee before.

TREASURER

- **Andrew Agg (Harpden)**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

- Rob Goss
- Hatfield
- Learnt to ring in Liverpool in 1974
- Likes: Double Norwich
- Dislikes: Always goes wrong in: Stedman



COMMITTEE MEMBER



- John Ford
- Essendon
- Likes: Smoking his pipe
- Dislikes: Not being able to smoke it in the pub

COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Ann Evans
- St Peter's St Albans
- Learnt to ring at St Albans St Peters in 1995
- Likes: Quarter Peals – especially Surprise Major
- Dislikes: The after taste of raw onions
- Committee member since 2012



COMMITTEE MEMBER

- **Laurence Bourton (Ridge)**

St ALBANS DISTRICT PROGRAM FOR 2012

Welcome to the new St Albans District Programme for 2012! We believe have produced a range of events throughout the year which will appeal to everyone of any ability. Whether you'd like to have a go at Treble Bobbing or Handbell ringing, if you'd like to improve your striking and rhythm, or if you enjoy outings and BBQs, you should find something that's for you. Or if you just like to have a few hours on a Saturday in the company of friendly local ringers then do come along. If you feel there's something we've missed, or you'd rather have more of something or less of something else, then do let us know!

I look forward to ringing with you all throughout the year.

Stephen Penney
District Ringing Master, 2012.

***NEXT DISTRICT
MEETING.***

- **February 18th** Essendon – Focus on Plain Bob (10 am-12 noon)
Claire has already sent round the invitation – everyone is welcome and although the focus is on Plain Bob – we'll be ringing methods including rounds and call changes.
- **March 17th** Focus on Treble Bob to Surprise (Evening)
- **April 21st** District Outing
- **May 19th** District Challenge and Woolford Cup (Afternoon)
- **June** Jubilee Weekend and Quarter Peal month
- **July 21st** Focus on Doubles to Caters (Morning)
- **August 18th** Focus on Small Bells (Evening)
- **September 15th** Walk and Ring
- **October 20th** Quiz Night
- **November 17th** Focus on Higher Numbers
- **December 15th** Christmas at Harpenden

SAD NEWS FROM MONKEN HADLEY

Please note that Richard Tayler our ringing master died on 21 January after a long illness. Our thoughts go out to his widow Maureen Tayler.

1,000 Peals for CHRISTINE

Congratulations to St Albans ringer Christine Carter. She rang her 1,000th peal at Cambridge on 7 January.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Great St Mary

Saturday 7 January 2012 in 3:20 (24 cwt)

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed: Frank T Blagrove

1 Michael H D O'Callaghan

2 Joanna K Dorling

3 Christine M Carter

4 Janet E Menhinick

5 E Jane Sibson

6 Peter J Blight

7 Ronald F Diserens

8 Andrew W Gordon

9 Graham A Duke

10 Derek E Sibson (c)

11 Colin J E Wyld

12 Frank W Rivett

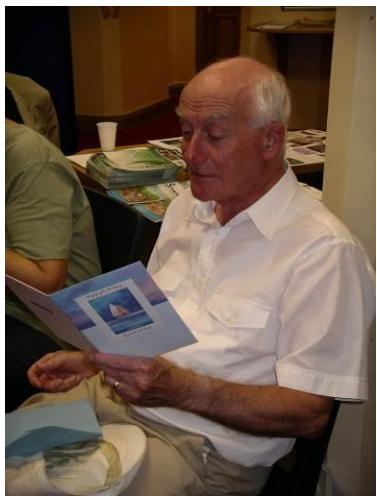
1000th peal: 3

CHANGE of PRACTICE NIGHT

Wheathampstead have changed their practice night from Wednesdays to **MONDAYS** with immediate effect



DON FELLOWS

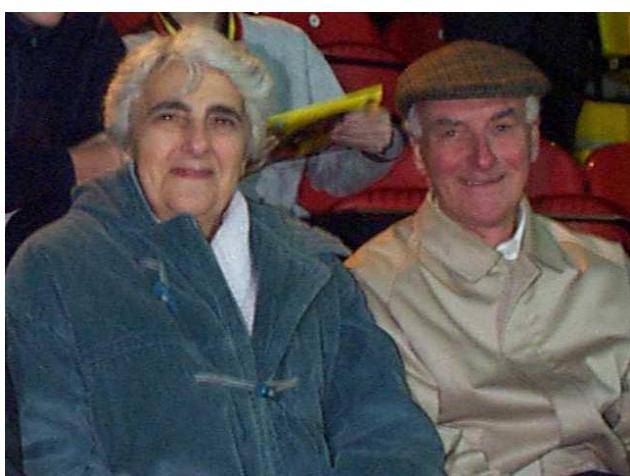


Friends and family packed the little church of Holy Rood, at Edwalton near Nottingham, for the service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Don Fellows who died on 21st January 2012. Don rang for many years in St Albans, first at St Stephen's and later at St Peter's, before moving away in 1996 following his retirement. Several family members offered their personal reminiscences and tributes to Don during the service, reflecting on his strong Christian faith, his grit and determination, his generous hospitality and loyal friendship, his enthusiasm for motorbikes (riding them, dismantling them and rebuilding them) and his enjoyment of the company of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including teaching them to play snooker and giving them advice on courting!

While at St Peter's, Don sat on the Fabric Committee and was a churchwarden, including during the period of the restoration of the bells in 1993. In his new parish, he continued to help in many practical ways: re-laying the path through the churchyard, fixing the lawnmowers and repairing the candlesticks.

Don encouraged new ringers and helped teach the learners at St Peter's, including several who are still ringing in the District today. When he moved to Edwalton, the band lacked experienced ringers so he helped its members consolidate and develop their skills and latterly, he had been the tower captain.

Even having moved, Don would join St Peter's outings, with his wife Eileen



and it was during the one to Nottinghamshire in 1999 that Neil and I first met them. The following year, the St Peter's band spent a week ringing in the Channel Islands and we got to know each other better. Thereafter, it was a pleasure to see them on a number of outings, as well as on a ringing holiday in Ireland in 2006. We also spent a couple of weekends with them in

Edwalton, when in addition to the local practice, Don took us ringing for services at West Bridgford and St Mary's in Nottingham city centre.

Don rang seven peals between 1962 and 2003, including one at St Stephen's and four at St Peter's, but a glance at the Campanophile website suggests that, over the last few years, he had been an enthusiastic quarter peal ringer, at least until quite recently, still achieving "firsts" at the age of 81.

Alison Evans

Don Fellows learnt to ring at Rushall (6) West Midlands and later when he moved to Hertfordshire became a member of St. Stephen's ringers, St. Albans from 1961 – 1970, before he left to raise a family. He then came back to ringing at St. Peters in 1983 where we were fortunate to have him as a valued member of the band as numbers were low. He took on teaching the learners, a job that requires patience, friendly attitude and commitment and Don had all of these qualities. He was also churchwarden and both he and his wife Eileen were members of the congregation. In December each year Don and Eileen would host the home band to a beer, bangers and mash evening after the practise.

They moved to Edwalton on the south side of Nottingham in 1995 where he took up ringing and one of the neighbouring towers at West Bridgford was where he was married. Several ringers were often made welcome especially if they were able to dig out his new fish pond. One of his other hobbies was his large collection of classic motorbikes which took up the entire garage.

Rosemary Sales

ST MICHAELS, ST ALBANS AND A VISIT FROM RORY McGRATH

As Tower Secretary, one gets used to fielding phone calls enquiring about ringing at St Michael's but, at the end of June last year, I received one that was different from all the others. It was from a film producer working on a programme about the history and archaeology of The Six Bells pub in St Albans. He wanted to know whether it would be possible to film the presenter of the programme having a go at bell ringing, on the grounds that this would be a good way of talking about the close historical links between the pub and the church. And the presenter? Rory McGrath.

The following day, I met the producer in the tower, showed him the church and the bells, demonstrated ringing up and ringing down and explained that it wouldn't really be possible for Rory to ring a bell in the normal way if he

didn't already know what he was doing but that he could have a go at chiming one in the down position. The band agreed that they were interested in pursuing the project but, although the film company had been working with the pub landlord for many months to make the necessary arrangements, they had left themselves only a fortnight before the planned date for filming to get permission from the church. The churchwardens made it clear that nothing could go ahead without their authorisation so I put "filming in church" into Google and found a link to the website for the Diocese of St Albans setting out a number of strict requirements which it said would need to be met before permission for filming would be given. Somehow, however, the film company managed to persuade the Archdeacon and the Vicar to give the go-ahead in what I suspect was record time!

The format of the show was that a couple of pits would be dug in the pub car park and a team of archaeologists would spend a week excavating and analysing what they found. To fit in with this, it was agreed that the film crew would visit the tower on practice night that week.

Rory was absolutely charming. He has a very good memory and made a point of learning all the band members' names. In the ringing chamber, he had a go at chiming the six, although once he got it swinging he had a tendency to catch the sally too early, stopping it from sounding. So he declared himself very impressed when we rang the bells up and then some changes were called.

In all, the film crew were with us for about three quarters of an hour, although in the final programme our bit took a little over a minute to watch! Pub Dig was aired in November on The History Channel but is due to be repeated on Channel Five in the spring. More information, including clips and photographs, is available at <http://www.history.co.uk/shows/pub-dig.html>

Alison Evans

