

Volume 17 Issue 2 – March 2012

Beetles in the Belfry

If you decide to visit Welwyn on a Tuesday evening you will be sure of a very warm welcome from not just the local ringers but also the resident ladybirds. There are hundreds of them over-wintering in the Church and they seem to delight in exploring the Ringing Chamber and have been known to interrupt the ringing by flying down an open collar and landing on an unsuspecting ringer. It is not just Welwyn but St Peters and Ridge have also reported an invasion of Coccinellids (to give them their scientific name) and according to various web sites they should start to leave soon to find their favourite food (aphids).

Do you have ladybirds in your tower – are they the 7-spot variety or are they the invasive Harlequin from foreign lands that have been here since about 2004?



7- spot Ladybird



The Harlequin attending to its pupa

Essendon Meeting (February)

The Essendon Ringing Chamber was packed on the morning of February 18th with ringers from many different District towers including Essendon, Ridge, St Albans Cathedral, St Albans St Peter and Hatfield.

Boosted by ringers from the nearby Eastern District, a total of 30 people made it along on the day and so there were plenty of people helping and learning to ring their chosen method and Richard Sales had his work cut out to try and fit in all the requests from everyone there.

The Essendon ringers offered a plentiful supply of tea and biscuits in the Church Hall and there was also an option to learn to ring plain hunt on handbells for those who were waiting for their turn to ring.

Some of the feedback we received from the Essendon meeting.....

- *"I got the chance to ring something I had not done before."*
- *"Attendance was very good; it was encouraging to see so much support for the district."*
- *"Well structured and fast moving."*
- *"I thought there would be more Plain Bob Minor and Major but it was excellent practice thoughtfully organised"*
- *"It did what it said it would do, focus on Plain Bob."*
- *"Coffee and toilets available most welcome!"*
- *"Relaxed and encouraging"*
- *"Cold church (not that I lingered there)!"*
- *"Met new people, rang in a different tower, tried hand bells for first time."*
- *"People were not keen to ring on less than eight, so for those who wanted to ring Bob Doubles especially as well as Bob Minor, the opportunity was not necessarily there, even when requested."*
- *"Lots of people, clearly both benefiting & enjoying it."*

The Committee would like to thank all those who participated in our survey and thank all those who came along to help.

Kimpton Meeting (March)

With nine ringers for the first half of the evening and eleven for the second half, a wide range of standards was catered for from Call Changes and Plain Hunt up to 8-spliced Major.

APRIL District Outing (Saturday 21 April 2012)

You are invited to join other members of the district on a friendly and sociable tower outing. Beginning locally in Hertfordshire, we will travel over the picturesque Dunstable Downs into three Bucks and Beds villages and complete our ringing with the glorious bells at the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable. Why not end the day with a relaxing country pub dinner?

The Programme in a Nutshell

Time	Church	Bells
10.15	St Albans, St Michael	8
11.30	Redbourn	6
12.15	LUNCH –Options for Picnic, Café or Pub Lunch	
2.15	Edlesborough	6
3.15	Totternhoe	8
4.30	Tilsworth	6
5.30	Dunstable	8

Further details and bookings:

Ann Evans: annev432@gmail.com or 01727-824313

Dinner – at a pub near Redbourn (booking needed)
Ringing will be tailored to suit the ringing abilities of all participants.

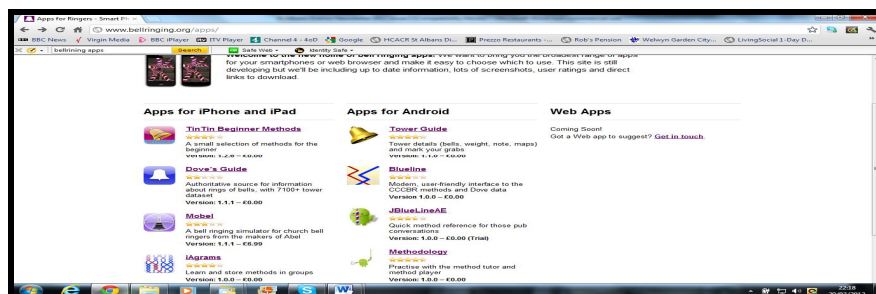
APPS for RINGERS

Have you seen this web site?

<http://www.bellringing.org/apps/>

If you cannot commit to the full day why not just join in the afternoon?

There are a number of Apps you can download including Dove's Guide – perhaps worth a look next time you are browsing.



Rod Flanagan

15th February 1945 – 23rd February 2012

Rod came to ring with us in late 2007. He was very regular coming to every Tuesday practice and all the Sunday service ringing that he was fit for. Since then he has been an inspiration to all of the Kimpton ringers. He showed such great enthusiasm for ringing even simple things such as a touch of Grandsire Doubles. He constantly thanked us when we rang these things and also for making him so welcome whereas it was us that was gaining from his happy face, his friendly manner, his witty friendship and the constant encouragement he gave to the learners and to the band as a whole.

He learnt several surprise methods and he was almost childlike in the pleasure he got from being able to ring them individually or eventually spliced getting to 8 spliced. He inspired the rest of us not to go wrong for his sake.

Even after his recent major operation and the smaller ones he always showed great determination to firstly handle a bell as soon as he could and then to gradually ring more and more with just the same enthusiasm. His last ring with us was in January 2012.

He is sorely missed by every member of the Kimpton band and by the band as a whole.

Sue Newman

MISSING FROM Issue 1.....

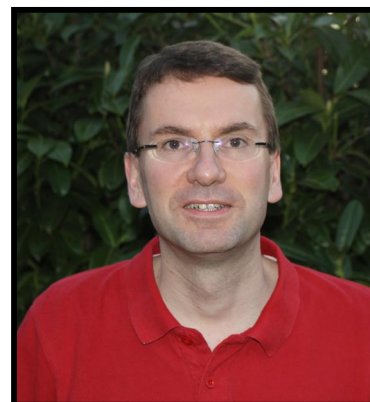
COMMITTEE MEMBER

- **Laurence Bourton (Ridge)**
- Learnt to ring at South Mymms in 2006/7.
- Likes Stedman, and I don't like Grandsire, or aubergines.



TREASURER

- **Andrew Agg (Harpenden)**
- Learnt to ring at Hitchin in 1982
- Likes helping learners make progress
- Dislikes – nothing really!
I am pretty easy going!



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