

St Albans District Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 3A – August 2012

Woolford Cup and Coburn Trophy

St Albans District were unable to raise a team for the 8-bell **Coburn Trophy** this year – we had seven ringers at one stage but despite some last minute e-mails and phone calls – we did not quite get a final volunteer. The competition was held at Braughing on 9th June and there were five teams from three Districts (Western, Northern and Bishop's Stortford). Western District won ringing Plain Bob Major.

At the **Woolford Cup**, two teams entered and two 'scratch' teams were assembled from those present.

Judge – David Harris

Result

First place	Team 4	35 faults
Second place	Team 3	46 faults
Third place	Team 2	50 faults
Fourth place	Team 1	62 faults

Team 1 – Team Laurence

- 1 – Joan Badger
- 2 – Carol Evans
- 3 – Louise Bourton
- 4 – Laurence Bourton
- 5 – Dominic Holroyd
- 6 – Barry Mack

Rang - Call changes.

Judges' comments:

Quick recovery after every change – within 2 or three blows. Patches of uneven ringing all the way through, but sometimes very good and the band did well.

Team 2 – Mixed Bags

- 1 – Deirdre Watson
- 2 – Katherine Butler
- 3 – Janet Penney
- 4 – Ann Evans
- 5 – Richard Butler
- 6 – Stephen Penney

Rang – Cambridge Surprise Minor

Judges' comments:

A bit uneven to start with, but settled towards the end. Quite good ringing. Reasonably slow pace – peal speed approx 3hrs 1 min

Team 3 – St Albans Cathedral

- 1 – Deirdre Watson
- 2 – David Hodgskin
- 3 – Janet Penney
- 4 – Brian Watson
- 5 – Stephen Penney
- 6 – Gracie Fitzsimmons

Rang – Grandsire Doubles

Judges' comments:

Some good ringing although slightly syncopated on occasions. Perhaps a little too quick at times with someone pushing – better towards the end. Peal speed 3hrs 4mins

Team 4 – St Albans, St Peter

1 – Judith Mack
2 – Katherine Butler
3 – Deborah Butler
4 – Ann Evans
5 – Barry Mack
6 – Richard Butler

Rang – Plain Bob Doubles

Judges' comments:

Tried to get a move on – sometimes almost cartwheeling. Tendency for one or two bells to push too much with bells almost rolling over each other. Improved towards the end and the ringing was absolutely superb. Peal speed 2hrs 51mins.

St Peter's, St Albans won the cup and so both St Peter's and the **Abbey** will therefore go on to represent the District at the **Kimpton Cup** in September.

200 Club

You may have seen something about this in an e-mail that went round a few weeks ago but in case you missed it – here it is again.....

To all Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers members from our County Secretary (David Gambling).

The recent AGM voted to expand the existing 100-club to allow new members and increase the income of the Bell Restoration Fund. In future it will be the 200-club. The membership will be doubled, the prizes will stay the same but two numbers will be drawn each month. The odds of winning are the same as now. All existing subscriptions are unchanged. If all numbers are sold the bell Restoration Fund will benefit by an extra £500 per year. We must sell all the new numbers to run the club properly.

Please try to persuade as many of your members as you can to reserve one of the new numbers - 101 to 200 are now available (although 177 has already been reserved). Anyone can take out a subscription, it is £10 per year. You can take out more than one number and increase your chances of winning. The new regime will start in the January 2013 draw.

Procedure:

Notify me either directly (dgambling@gmail.com) or through your District Secretary that you would like to take one of the new numbers. If you're quick you can specify your number.

The prize draw is as follows:

- 2 x £25 for 10 months of the year.
- 2 x £100 at the Kimpton Cup in September
- 2 x £150 at the AGM in April

HELP YOUR COUNTY BELL FUND – Buy a £10 Ticket!

Existing members can pay by increasing their standing order at their bank, new members are encouraged to set up a new standing order for £10 before 1st January 2013. Cash and cheques may also be used.

Standing orders to: Bank sort code 40-52-40 account number 00018570.

Electronic funds transfers to this account are ok too. Please ensure you put your name and 200-club number as a reference (eg John Smith 96) on the standing order or paying-in slip so that we can identify who's paid.

Regards

David
HCACR Hon Sec

HCACR Annual Subscriptions – Increase Explained!

At its January meeting the HCACR General Committee agreed to propose an increase of £1 in the annual subscription (50p to pensioners & students) to try to maintain the value of the subscription in the light of the rising cost of bell restoration and maintenance. There has been no increase in subscriptions for seven years and a review was overdue. Only a General Meeting can change the subscription. Each year at the AGM, the Association normally transfers any surplus income after expenses to the Bell Restoration Fund. This usually equates to half the subscription fee from 600+ members going into the bell restoration fund.

This proposal to increase subscriptions by £1 was put to the AGM on 28th April and a lively discussion took place. There was strong support for an increase and discussion focussed on the size of the increase and how it should be used. The proposal to increase the subscription was supported and an amendment to the proposal was made suggesting an increase of £3 to £10 for the full sub, and therefore an increase of £1.50 to £5 for pensioners or those in full-time education. If tax-payers gift-aid their subscription the £3 increase will realise £3.75, the full subscription £12.50.

Another argument in favour of the increase was that the additional income could be used by the County to undertake other activities which it has so far not had the funds to do, such as taking a more active role in teaching and providing courses and equipment.

The main objection to the increase was that it is a levy on the subscription to increase the Bell Restoration Fund. It was suggested that if the Bell Restoration Fund needs more money it might be more productive to have a concerted effort or a specific campaign to increase donations directly to the Bell Restoration Fund rather than rely on an increase in subscriptions to raise funds. There was not general agreement that people would voluntarily give money to the Bell Restoration Fund.

The amended proposal to increase the full subscription by £3 was eventually passed by a majority of the 76 members at the meeting, 4 voting against. Therefore the annual subscription from 1st January will be £10 for full members, £5 for pensioners or those in full-time education.

The Committee is committed to giving meaningful grants to towers where any bell-related work is done, and this increase will enable the Bell Fund Trustees to continue to award such grants for the next few years and fund other bell-related activities.

David Gambling HCACR Hon Sec

APRIL District Outing (Saturday 21 April 2012)

The beautiful spring morning was witness to the slightly unusual beginning of our outing this year, as the first tower of the day was St.Michael's St.Albans, one of the lovely eights in our own District. As we ascended into the belfry the churchyard gardeners were out in force below and it would be good to believe our ringing was a pleasant accompaniment to their morning's activities. However, as the spliced surprise came to grief and fired out maybe this was a hope too far and they may have welcomed the peace and tranquillity to which we returned them as we left for Redbourn and our next tower.

The belfry of the ring of six at Redbourn was warm and welcoming and the bells easy going and a delight to both ring and hear. At 12.15 lunch time had arrived and while some returned to St.Albans for wedding ringing a group of us headed for the Visitors' Centre on Dunstable Downs. It was a joy to sit with warm bacon rolls, chips and hot drinks whilst taking in the panoramic view over the downs. We just had time to fit in a few minutes walk on the downs where we were able not only to view our next tower in the distance but also the wind management structure close to the visitors' centre which caught and channelled the wind underground and up the hill to assist in cooling the building in the summer and warming it in the winter months.

At 2:15 pm we arrived at Edlesborough where the ground floor ring of six was, shall we say, not the easiest of the day but they were managed well by all. The inside walls of the church displayed some elegant Victorian paintings in the medieval style the finest of these being 'Christ in Glory' over the Chancel arch.

Tottenham was our following tower and by now our numbers had grown to well over twenty. The enjoyable ring of eight awarded us some good ringing and this time the spliced surprise came round unimpeded!

The penultimate tower of the day was the ground floor ring of six at Tilsworth. It was now 4.30 pm and the position of the afternoon sun shining through the window behind the ropes offered the ringers on the 3rd and 4th the extra challenge of needing to look at the floor whilst ringing. Arguably saving the best until last, we ended our ringing endeavours on the splendid 23cwt ring of eight at Dunstable Priory. An unusual but melodic touch of Stedman Triples was achieved which presented some taking part with ample opportunity to practise their singles. At 6.15pm and the ringing for the day now through, 'goodbyes' 'see you soon' '(in the morning!)' 'Don't forget the quarter' were all passed among friends before they set off along the highway. For some the evening was planned to continue with a meal at the Chequers Inn at Redbourn. A reserved table for nine, succulent food and welcome drinks all served to round off a delightful day for all.

Throughout the day we enjoyed the company of ringers from a variety of towers across the District and covered a wide range of ringing levels.

All those who took part in the outing would love to say a great big 'Thank You' to Ann Evans for arranging the whole day. She even managed to keep the rain away (well for most of it!)

Janet Penney
St.Albans Cathedral

Ringers visit Dorset, Friday 13th - Sunday 15th April 2012

When Ben and Rosemary Duke left St Albans last May they promised the ringers that they would organise the 2012 spring outing to Dorset. True to their word they did!

Normally our spring outing is a one day event but we were invited for an extended weekend, hence the absence of ringing for services at St Peter's on the Sunday. We were joined by two past members of the band, Alex Olah and Jim Hills, with their wives, who have also retired

away from St Albans. The group size fluctuated but in all 22 ringers, 3 non-ringers and one baby (future ringer?) joined us at some point over the 3 days.



Not only did Ben and Rosemary organise the itinerary, making arrangements with all the towers we rang at, they also availed their 3 spare

bedrooms, the study for a camp bed and part of their driveway for Alex and Camilla's camper van.

On the Friday we travelled west from Bloxworth to 5 towers on the Purbeck Peninsula: - Wareham, Corfe Castle, Kingston, Worth Matravers and Swanage. It was a dry, bright day, ideal for the combination of ringing, touring and of course eating and drinking. The views from the pub garden at Kingston down on to Corfe Castle and the sea beyond were stunning. After ringing at Swanage Ben suggested a walk along the beach but only 4 people opted for this, one even managing a paddle, but for the majority Rosemary's offer of a cup of tea back at their home was far more appealing. Whilst consuming what seemed like gallons of tea two large casseroles were put in the oven to heat up and before long we were all tucking in. The new kitchen which was only fitted the week before was well and truly christened. Indeed the new oven proved just as good as the one in Chiswell Green at baking chocolate cake, Rosemary's signature dessert for ringing teas!

On Saturday the weather started very dull and became rather wet. The first tower of the day was Brynston School Chapel. The chaplain was preparing for a wedding and gave us an enthusiastic welcome. He was keen to disclose some of the fascinating history of the church and would have kept many of us downstairs listening had Ben not started chiming a bell to summon us up the tower! After ringing here we travelled the short distance in to the busy town centre of Blandford to ring on the 8 bells there. Had it not been pouring with rain the bakery and market here could have provided a lunchtime picnic to be eaten at Kingston Lacy House (National Trust) but in the event all travelled on to Wimborne and found pubs and cafes. Ringing at Wimborne Minster was rather special as it is now Ben and Rosemary's home tower. The bells, though heavier than our own, and slightly more difficult to strike well, have a rewarding sound. We then negotiated road blocks and one way systems to get to another ring of 10 bells at Poole. The last tower of the day was Oakdale. Access to the ringing room was via an open spiral staircase at the back of this modern church. The architecture and use of natural light here was very interesting and unusual. After ringing Ben and Rosemary had organised an evening meal together at a local pub.

Sunday saw a reduction in numbers. Two of the group had to get back to Leeds for the start of the University term and another had to pack and prepare for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition which was to start early on the Monday. Those remaining in Dorset had a leisurely morning and then ventured over to Brownsea Island where after failing to spot any red squirrels they decided to engage in an activity they were more accustomed to – ringing! By special arrangement they rang the bells for the 3pm service which is held at St Mary's every Sunday. There can't be many Sunday services where the only mode of transport to the church is a ferry! Thanks to Ben and Rosemary, this was an outing to be remembered.

Judith Mack,

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Radlett had a Street Party in the Shopping Parade at noon on the Sunday.

John Beardwell writes: We rang the bells during the first half hour, finishing with chiming the tenor so that a novice ringer could join in. We also rang a Quarter Peal before the celebration Evensong in the Parish Church on Sunday 10th

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Tony Graham
- 2 Adrian Beardwell
- 3 Bob Ogden
- 4 John Beardwell
- 5 Claire Soffair
- 6 Julian Beardwell

Rung before Evensong for Churches Together in Radlett and Aldenham to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Another District Quarter Peal was rung at **Essendon**

Tuesday, 5 June 2012 in 45mins (15cwt)

1280 Bristol S Major

- 1 John S Rank
- 2 Stephen W Penney
- 3 Richard Sales
- 4 Claire C Nicholson
- 5 John J Ford
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 David Kemp (C)
- 8 Trevor W Groom

Rung to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

A PEAL was rung at **Sandridge**:
Sunday May 27th in 2 Hours and 29 minutes,
5040 Plain Bob Minor.

- 1 Judith Titmus
- 2 Julia Pentelow *
- 3 Dominic Holroyd
- 4 Vivian Nutton
- 5 Robert Crocker (conductor)
- 6 Keith Waples

*First peal of Minor inside.

For the Diamond Jubilee and also an 18th birthday compliment to Dominic.

Also at **Sandridge**:

June 3rd,

1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

- 1 Peter Martin-Flaven
- 2 Julia Pentelow
- 3 Trevor Hawkins
- 4 Dominic Holroyd
- 5 Vivian Nutton (conductor)
- 6 Martin Cross *

*First quarter peal.

June 16,

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Peter Martin-Flaven
- 2 Trevor Hawkins
- 3 Richard Hayes
- 4 Julia Pentelow
- 5 Vivian Nutton (conductor)
- 6 Martin Cross

*First quarter away from the tenor. Rung following the wedding of Vanessa Regester and Matt James and as part of the district quarter peal day.

THAMES PAGEANT

Earlier this month more than a thousand vessels of all shapes and sizes took part in the spectacular Thames Pageant in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On board the lead barge – in one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river – was St Albans District Ringing Master, **Stephen Penney**.



Stephen was part of an eight-man (plus one-reserve) team selected from The Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY). The group was aboard the Ursula Katherine, a barge with a purpose-built tower holding the eight Royal Jubilee Bells specially cast by the Whitechapel Foundry in east London, with each bell named after a member of the Royal Family.

Stephen described this historic experience: "Ringing bells on a moving barge is not the easiest thing to do. The movement of the barge is unpredictable particularly when going under bridges and the wind

affects the ropes, which blow about very easily causing the bells to drop suddenly. Despite these difficulties on the trial run we rang a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, taking just over 3 hours, the first ever on a river for tower bells.”

On the day itself, the group arrived at Woolwich Pier determined that the rain and cold would not dampen their spirits. They began shortly after 2.30pm as they travelled from Battersea to Tower Bridge. Ringers from all over London (and the rest of the UK) also rang at towers along the banks of the Thames.

The bells rang out for an hour and half, until the barge reached Canary Wharf. There the banks of the river were still lined with spectators who called for more, and Stephen and the team were happy to oblige.

“It was peculiar to say the least to be at the centre of such a momentous and historic occasion while being tucked away at the bottom of a barge unable to see much of what was going on! But the chance to prominently demonstrate what is usually such a hidden, visually at least, art is not something that comes along very often, and it was a privilege to be able to do so while overcoming some unique challenges.”

The bells have now made their way to the 17th century parish church of St James Garlickhythe in the heart of the city.

Millions around the world watched the historic event.



Sudoku Corner

	7	5				8	4
6			1	7			9
	4		8				1
5		4			6		
		7		9	1		4
		6		4	3	9	
			5		4		8
3			8		1		
4	8		1			5	

		1	5	2			
		8			9		1
	9			1		5	
	5			3			
					6	8	3
		9		8	7		
9	1			3		8	
4			6				3
			2	9			4

DATES for YOUR DIARY:

NEXT DISTRICT MEETINGS:

AUGUST 18th
SEPTEMBER 15th

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