

## Volume 18 Issue 1 – February 2013

### **Jill Reeves, David Badger and George Austin**

Sadly David Badger, Jill Reeves and George Austin passed away recently and our thoughts go to their families and loved ones.

#### **Jill Reeves**

Jill was born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1960 in St. Albans. She learnt to ring as a teenager at St. Leonard's Sandridge taught, like so many others, by Geoff Dodds. Jill was tower secretary at Sandridge for a time and it was there that she met Robert Crocker, whom she married in Sandridge church in 1983. Jill and Robert then became members of the band at Kimpton. Jill and Robert's son, Adam was born in 1990. Later, when Jill bought her own car, (of which she was very proud), she also became more independent and subsequently became a member of the band at Hertford.

Jill wasn't really a fan of peal ringing but managed to ring a total of 89 peals, the majority of which were between 1977 and 1988. Her first peal was rung at Sandridge on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1977 of Plain Bob Minor conducted by Robert Crocker. The seven peals she rang since 1988 were for special occasions, notably Adam's first peal and one for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, both rung at Lemsford. Her last peal was in November 2010 at her home tower of Hertford, St. Andrew, which was rung by a local(ish) band and the first peal on the bells for 25 years. It was fitting that the five ringers who rang with her in her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday peal were joined by Robert and rang a peal, conducted by Adam, at Sandridge on the morning of the service of thanksgiving for her life.

She may not have enjoyed ringing peals, but she was a very loyal supporter of the towers she rang at, and was always keen to promote the more social aspects of ringing, including instigating the popular Hertford Holy Week Ringers Meal. The Hertford ringers said that they will 'miss Jilly very much, especially on Sunday mornings when she was always bright, cheerful and the heart of the Hertford ringers'. She also enjoyed ringing with the Friday night quarter peal band at Great Amwell, which she always looked forward to at the end of a busy week at work. She was first in the queue to bag the treble as she said "Fridays are for relaxing and not for learning methods!" Her pre-ringing clothing adjustment routine will also never be forgotten by the Friday night quarter peal band, as it was a constant source of fun for everyone including Jill. Ringing for her was about fellowship and friendship: an opportunity to be part of a team.

In her professional life, she started off working as a Nursery Nurse in Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) at St. Albans and later at Hemel Hempstead, where she changed to the night shift in order to be at home with Adam during the day when he was growing up. During her time at SCBU, she helped numerous premature babies start their lives. A trip to the supermarket was never complete without a mother, whose premature baby Jill had looked after, stopping to give her an update on how their baby (who was probably a fit and healthy teenager by that time!) was getting on. They never forgot the help and support she gave them. In 2001, she changed

jobs and became a Community Nursery Nurse in Hatfield, supporting the Health Visiting Team. She was very popular in this role, and was especially proud of the mutual trust she built up with travellers on the sites she visited.



In 2010 Jill and Robert were divorced, and Jill found much happiness with her new partner Andrew Case, and they spent two short but happy years together before Jill died suddenly and unexpectedly on New Years Eve 2012 of a brain haemorrhage, whilst staying with Andrew in Hampshire. She was only 52 years of age. There was a family cremation on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Leonard's Sandridge on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The church was packed, literally a case of standing room only, which just goes to show how many people loved Jill, and how many lives she touched.

A.R.Crocker

**Editor's note:** When I used 'Bell Board' to search for peals and quarter peals in memory of Jill Reeves – I found that 17 peals and quarters had been rung all over the country and the list is below.

Date	Place	Number of Changes	Method(s) rung
26 January	Leeds	5042	Cambridge S Maximus
25 January	Sandridge	5040	Surprise Minor (7m)
24 January	Lemsford	5040	Doubles (11m)
20 January	Kimpton	1320	Plain Bob Doubles
14 January	Lemsford	1320	Doubles (4m)
11 January	Great Amwell	1320	Hertfordshire Delight Minor
10 January	Woburn Bedfordshire	1260	Grandsire Triples
6 January	Sandridge	1260	Doubles
6 January	Windsor, Berkshire	5058	Yorkshire S Major
4 January	Hatfield Heath Essex	5040	Surprise Minor (7m)
4 January	Swanmore Hampshire	1260	St Clement's College Bob Minor
3 January	Benington, Herts	1260	Stedman Triples
2 January	Tadcaster West Yorkshire	1260	Grandsire Doubles
2 January	Watford (15 Harford Drive), Hertfordshire	5040 (Handbells)	Surprise Minor(7m)
1 January	Campton Bedfordshire	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 January	Dunstable Bedfordshire	1280	York Exercise Delight Major
1 January	Stawley Somerset	5040	Surprise Minor (7 methods)

A selection of the above are given in full on Page 3

**Sandridge, Herts**

St Leonard

Sunday, 6 January 2013

**1260Doubles**

Grandsire, St Martin's, Plain Bob

1Peter Martin-Flaven

2Julia Pentelow

3Trevor Hawkins

4Dominic Holroyd

5Vivian Nutton (C)

6Richard Hayes

In memory of Jill E. Reeves, who learned to ring at Sandridge and was a former Tower Secretary.

**Lemsford, Herts**

St. John the Evangelist

Monday, 14 January 2013 (3)

**1320Doubles (4m)**

2 extents Grandsire; 3 extents each: St Simons, St Martins, Plain B.

1Roger D R Brown

2Julia Pentelow

3Judith E Titmus

4Vivian Nutton

5Robert J Crocker (C)

6Ron E Titmus

In loving memory of Jill Reeves

**Sandridge, Herts**

St Leonard

Friday, 25 January 2013 in 2h25 (6)

**5040Surprise Minor (7m)**

1 extent each: London, York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge, Norwich.

1Andrew F Case

2Bjørn E Bradstock

3Adam R Crocker (C)

4Robert J Crocker

5 Claire C Nicholson

6David Kemp

Rung prior to a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jill Reeves, mother of the conductor and partner of 1

**Kimpton, Herts**

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 20 January 2013 (10)

**1320Plain Bob Doubles**

1Gordon Hammond

2Sue Hammond

3Julia Pentelow

4Judith E Titmus

5Robert J Crocker (C)

6Ron E Titmus

In loving memory of Jill Reeves

**David Badger**

David learnt to ring in 1985, and rang for services at Ridge and South Mymms. David and Joan went on many day outings and ringing holidays, and rang at over 1800 different towers. He achieved 98 quarter peals. He will be sorely missed at South Mymms and Ridge.

The quarter peal below was rung in his memory:

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**St Nicholas, Marston, Oxfordshire**

Sunday, 23 December 2012

**1260Doubles (2m 1v)**

1. Anthony Hughes
2. Ailsa Reid
3. Hugh Deam (C)
4. Donna Murphy
5. Matthew Malek
6. Judy Kirby

Rung for service and in thanksgiving for the lives of Jack Jarvis and David Badger



## **George Austin**

George Austin died on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February aged 82. He learnt to ring at Hatfield in the late 1950's and was delighted when he completed his 50-year life membership of the HCACR in April 2009. He was a very private man and lived a bachelor's life at his house in Welham Green. I used to walk with him the few hundred yards from the tower to where we parked our cars and we'd chat about the ringing we'd just been doing and I often tried to engage him in other conversation but getting information out of George was not easy. It took me about 10 years to find out that he not only played Bowls but was also actually rather good at it and had represented his club at County level and was also a County Umpire. It took me another 10 years for him to reveal to me that in his early years he played cricket for Hatfield Park Cricket Club and used to bat at No.5 in the days when they used to play in front of Hatfield House. I didn't know until just a few weeks ago that he had not one but two younger sisters.

His sister told me that he left school at the age of 14 and did an Engineering Apprenticeship in South London. After two years National Service in the Navy he returned to Hatfield and worked as a toolmaker at De Havilland on the Comet Jetliner and later transferred to the Drawing Office. He retired in the early 1990's.

He spent many of his evenings at various practice nights especially Essendon, Northaw, North Mymms, Ridge and of course Hatfield. George was always keen and was able to ring a wide range of methods very competently but he also had great patience with learners and taught many people to ring in the St Albans District. He would have been delighted to hear that Jonathan rang his first quarter peal two days after he died.

Rob Goss

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
**1260 Doubles (5 methods)**

1. Claire Nicholson
2. W Robert E T Goss
3. Andrew Case
4. Bjorn Bradstock (C)
5. John J Ford
6. Jonathan Bottoms (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr)

**Rung in memory of George Austin**

**COUNTY TEN BELL PRACTICE**  
**23 February at All Saints HERTFORD.**  
**ALL WELCOME!**  
**7.00-8.30pm**

## **District Committee 2013**

**Janet Penney** has very kindly volunteered to be our **District Treasurer** and we thank **Andrew Agg** for all his help in this role over the past few years.

so the Committee for 2013 is as follows

Ringling Master	Stephen Penney
Deputy Ringling Master	Richard Sales
District Secretary	Claire Nicholson
District Treasurer	Janet Penney
County Committee Representative	Richard Sales
County Bell Fund trustee	Richard Sales
Newsletter Editor	Rob Goss
Committee Members	John Ford, Laurence Bourton and Ann Evans

## **New Members**

At the ADM in January last year the following **new members** were elected to the HCACR.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>
<b>Full members</b>		
Jeremy Tucker	Barnet	Anne Pegum
Robert Swarder	Barnet	Anne Pegum
Chris Male	St Albans, St Peter	Ann Evans
Anne Tinkler	St Albans, St Stephen	Stephanie Willcocks
Brian Day	Wheathampstead	Gill Clark
<b>Probationers</b>		
Riana Walsh	Harpenden	Charles Pocock
Jeff Smyth	St Albans Cathedral	Janet Penney
Chris Kirkbride	St Albans, St Stephen	Stephanie Willcocks
Emma Hawken	Wheathampstead	Gill Clark
Ben Quinn	Wheathampstead	Gill Clark
Carol Tizard	Wheathampstead	Gill Clark

If you have new ringers in your Tower– why not elect them at the next **meeting.....**

**The Annual District Meeting will now be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March.**

*Editor: Rob Goss*