

# St Albans District Newsletter

## Volume 20 Issue 1 – March 2015

### John Mayne.... 70 Years Membership of the Hertford County Association

*By Dorothea Mayne*

John Mayne first learnt to ring on hand bells during the Second World War when he lived in Harrow. He practised at home with his parents during the 'black out' and the family regularly attended the monthly hand bell meetings held at Bushey at this time when there was a ban on Tower bell ringing.

John joined the Hertford County Association at a meeting held at Bushey in November 1944. He rang his first peal for the Association just over a year later – Bristol Surprise Major at Bushey Heath. The band included his parents and the peal was conducted by Harold Cashmore.

John became a resident member of the Association when he moved to St Albans in 1966. He became a member of the St Stephens band in 1969 when the then Secretary of the band turned up on his doorstep one Sunday morning and invited him to join them and become their Tower Captain as their previous captain had resigned preparatory to moving away. John went to St Stephens that very Sunday evening. He remained Captain for over 40 years until prevented from continuing due to ill health.



#### QUARTER PEAL:

**46 Orchard Drive, St Albans, Herts**

November 28<sup>th</sup> 2014

#### **1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Prudence Fay	1-2
John R Mayne	3-4 (conductor)
Dorothea M Mayne	5-6

CONGRATULATIONS JOHN!

*To mark the conductor's seventy years membership of the Hertford County Association.*

### Changes at South Mimms

*By Andrew King*

After 25 years of Tower Captaincy at St.Giles church, South Mimms, Joan Badger decided to step down in December 2014 and offer the post to me.

Joan became the tower captain on the 6th of July, 1989 taking over from Theo Crowder. Joan has worked very hard over the years to recruit ringers and has taught a lot of ringers (including myself) and a number of people who wanted to learn to ring in the millennium. She is currently

the tower captain and church warden of St.Margarets, Ridge.

Joan has rung in many churches across the UK both on ringing holidays with her late husband David Badger and on day trips. I am very happy to take over from her at Mimms where the bells fell silent between 1914 until 1962 when the great Geoff Dodds helped to get them ringing again and I am very pleased to have five learners who are all keen to carry on this great tradition.

## **Shane Adrian Saunders 21 October 1955 – 18 November 2014**

*By Anne Saunders*

Shane grew up in Colchester with his Mum (Janet), Dad (Norman) and his brother Duncan. His cousins lived just down the road and they used to play together. He was also a Cub Scout. Being a clever boy, he went to Grammar School a year early. During school holidays he had jobs in the Army and Navy Stores and an Accountancy office. In 1972 he was offered a place at Clare College in Cambridge to read Mathematics, again a year early, and thoroughly enjoyed himself there, playing football as goalkeeper, joining a Rowing Club, cycling around the countryside and learning to ring bells at Trumpington, taught by Roger Kendrick. He liked to listen to classical music while he studied and retained his love of it. He also loved driving and his first car was a Beetle, which he drove around the country to go and watch Colchester United football club play.



After university, Shane moved to Hatfield, having got a job at British Aerospace, and started a career in IT. He joined the bellringers at Hatfield and made some great friends and had fun times. He was Ringing Master at Hatfield for several years and was also General Secretary of the Hertford County Association of Change-ringers for over 20 years. This involved spending many hours collating and producing Annual Reports, organising striking competitions, and attending Committee meetings, all of which he seemed to enjoy.

He met his wife, Anne, in 1979 and were married at Thorley in 1983. They lived in Welwyn Garden City and have two children - Philip, born in 1993, and Natasha in 1997.

On leaving British Aerospace, Shane worked for a while at GEC General Signal and then at Rank Xerox, where he was to spend most of his working life. He travelled quite a bit with his job - to Japan, Vancouver, Dallas and Los Angeles. He enjoyed playing 5-a-side football and the occasional cricket match with friends from Xerox.

In 2002 Shane and his family moved to Peterborough, where Shane rang bells at the Cathedral and was Ringing Master there for a while, as well as Branch Ringing Master. He also edited the Peterborough Guild Report for several years, using skills learnt during his work on the Hertfordshire one. He was pleased to be invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in 2004, presumably in recognition of his services to bellringing. He rang 108 peals in total between 1978 and 2004, and over 1000 quarter peals between 1977 and 2007.

Having a great work ethic, during a period out of work, he never gave up looking for another job. He did private maths tutoring for a while and was then lucky enough to get a job at TWI (The Welding Institute) where he was still working when he passed away, albeit on sick leave for the last few weeks.

Shane always enjoyed reading. As a child he would strain his eyes to read in bed after lights out, and as an adult was rarely to be seen without a 'Daily Telegraph', a 'New Scientist' magazine, a Sudoku book or a science fiction novel to hand. He was very knowledgeable and, if you asked him a question, you could always expect a long and descriptive answer. His life was hindered by illness since he became diabetic at the age of 17 and he suffered the long-term consequences of this in recent years, becoming increasingly limited in what he could do, but he always made the best of what he had and what he could still successfully achieve. He was independent and determined right to the end.

Twelve peals and quarters were rung in memory of Shane – here is a selection of a few of the more local ones.

**St Albans, Herts, 46 Orchard Drive**

December 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

**1440 Norwich Surprise Minor**

Dorothea M Mayne 1-2

Christine C Darby 3-4

John R Mayne (conductor) 5-6

**In affectionate memory of Shane Saunders on the day of his funeral**

**Hunsdon, Hertfordshire**

Friday, 19 December 2014 in 0h43

**1280 Hunsdon Delight Major**

1 John Rank

5 Clive Moore

2 Ann Evans

6 Richard Sales

3 Mary Bone

7 Graham Lay

4 Vicky LeFèvre

8 Fred Bone (C)

**By the Hunsdon Friday night band, in memory of Shane Saunders, former member of this band, who rang in the first peal in this method in 1984, in which ringers of 1, 3 and 8 also took part. Also in memory of Brenda Harris, of Benington, who died today.**

**Essendon, Hertfordshire, St Mary the Virgin**

Saturday, 20 December 2014 in 3h02 (15-0-13)

**5184 Bristol Surprise Major** Composed by Ian Butters

1 Robert J Crocker

5 Richard A Horne

2 John J Ford

6 David Kemp

3 Richard Sales

7 Stephen W Penney (C)

4 Russell A Brown

8 Adam R Crocker

**Rung in memory of Shane Saunders and Brenda Harris.**

**700th peal - 6**

**Great Amwell, Hertfordshire, St John the Baptist**

Friday, 21 November 2014 in 0:39 (6-3-24)

**1272 Tulip Delight Minor**

1 John J Ford

4 Roy Hornby

2 W Robert E T Goss

5 Claire C Nicholson

3 Bjørn E Bradstock (C)

6 Richard A Horne

**Remembering Shane A. Saunders a long-time member of this Friday night quarter peal band.**

## **Young @ Herts**

*By Jennifer Johnson*

Cast your minds back to July last year..... We sent our youth team, Young@Herts off to Worcester to represent the county in the Ringing World National Youth Contest. They came a fantastic joint second. I forget who won.....

Well they haven't been idle since then, and there have been two outings (Bucks and London), several quarter peals, and a quarter peal day (with 5/5 being scored, including loads of firsts). They are currently trying very hard to break the record for the youngest band to ring a quarter in the county. When I was part of this the average age was about 17, but the current record is 15 and a few months. I expect this record to be smashed very soon!

On Saturday 31st January we began our 2015 campaign at Welwyn. We were delighted to welcome 24 young ringers representing all six districts of the association to the open practice. This was hard work for ringing master James, who didn't know most people or what they could ring! Despite this, a lot of ringing was crammed into the hour's practice and everyone got several goes at call changes or plain hunt.

After a break for refreshments, the squad for 2015 was announced. The team of eight and up to four reserves will be selected from this squad after the April practice. All six districts have provided squad members this year. St Albans District is represented by Geneveive and Robert from St Peters, and Oliver from Ridge. We still have two spaces to fill to complete our squad of 16, and these will be allocated at our February practice (Bengeo, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am).

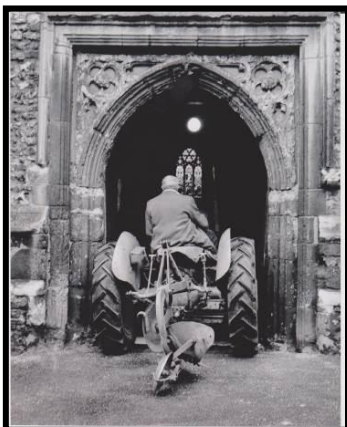
The standard of our young ringers is already higher than at this time last year, and our prospects for getting the trophy back are very good.

We will be selling merchandise again this year to cover some of the costs of entering a team in the contest. Polo shirts will be on sale at the same price as last year (£10), and new for this year, zip-up hoodies (price to be confirmed but around £17/£18). Look out for the poster towards the end of March. Orders can be placed during April.

All young ringers aged 18 or under will be made very welcome at the open practice, from 10-11 on the 4th (usually) Saturday of each month.

The Ringing World National Youth Contest is on Saturday 11th July in Oxford. Supporters are very welcome.

## **Tractor in Church**



This picture appeared on Facebook recently.

Taken at Hatfield in the early 1960's.

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