

## Volume 24 Issue 1 – April 2019

### **District Meetings**

By Vivian Nutton (Hon Secretary)

The first three meetings of the year have been shown an increased attendance over 2018 with 21 members at the January **Annual District Meeting** at **Hatfield**, and even more to those at **Lemsford** in February and **Essendon** in March. The District officers were all re-elected and were joined on the Committee by Laura Hill (Sandridge). The meeting heard about the situation at **St Stephen's (St Albans)** where ringing by the local band has temporarily ceased. A number of parishioners have expressed an interest in learning to ring, and, at the moment of writing, are in the process of finding a suitable date for a first meeting.

Various local ringers have expressed their willingness to help either at St Stephen's or by providing extra tuition in their own towers. Once more is known, the Secretary will inform members about what is proposed in the hope that ringing can begin once more at this distinguished tower.

New members joining this year so far are: David Malpas (**Hatfield**), Daniel Skerratt (**Ridge**), Christopher Ball and John McLenahan (**Abbey**), Virginia Simpson (**Lemsford**) and Frances Leonard (**Sandridge**).

There will be no April meeting, as the date this year coincides with Easter Saturday, so that the next meeting will be on May 18 at St Paul's Walden, a tower (anti-clockwise 6) the District has not visited for some years. The June meeting will be at Ridge and the July meeting will take the form of a morning outing to towers in North Hertfordshire followed by a convivial lunch: details will be circulated to towers and individuals later.

### **The Meeting at Lemsford**

By Graham Figg (who rings regularly at Hatfield, South Mymms and Ridge)

The Lemsford bells are quite lightweight compared to my regular towers so when I arrived, I was grateful to be offered a solo ring on a medium weight bell before ringing started in earnest.

Although the ringing chamber is small and the meeting well attended, everyone was able to sit or stand safely whilst not ringing, with a few having to wait outside. In fact, it was impossible not to stand closely behind someone ringing and therefore closely observe what each bell is doing, a useful learning experience.

At 11 o'clock there was a brief break for refreshments followed by another hour of ringing. I think I must have had six or seven rings on all but the treble and No. 2 bell, all the time helped by experienced ringers including from my regular towers.



Richard Sales (District Ringing Master) supervising the ringing at Lemsford.

Having been to three district practices now, I'd heartily recommend them. Everyone seems to get a ring at a level they're comfortable with or slightly above to increase skills and confidence. Thanks to St. John's and the regular band for hosting and experienced ringers from across the county for organising the ringing.

## **1,000 Peal as Conductor**

### **Lemsford, Hertfordshire**

Saturday, 2 March 2019 in 2h 25 (3–2–4 in E  $\flat$ )

#### **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)**

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

1. Russell A Brown
2. Janet E Menhinick
3. Keith D Waples
4. Vivian Nutton
5. Michael J Dew
6. Robert J Crocker (C)

Robert's 1,000th peal as conductor.

## **First Peal**

### **Sandridge, Hertfordshire**

Sunday, 3 February 2019 in 2h 27 (6–0–18 in B $\flat$ )

#### **5040 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Christine Nutton
2. **Callum Hayes**
3. Judith Titmus
4. Robert J Crocker (C)
5. Vivian Nutton
6. Richard Hayes

First peal at first attempt 2

A farewell peal for the Rev. Em. Coley, leaving to become National Young Vocations Adviser for the Church of England.

## **First Quarter 'Inside'**

### **Sandridge, Hertfordshire**

Sunday, 24 February 2019 in 39m (6–0–18 in B  $\flat$ )

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Ron Titmus
2. Christine Nutton
3. Judith Titmus
4. Callum Hayes
5. Vivian Nutton (C)
6. Richard Hayes

First quarter inside 2.

Rung before Compline sung by the Fayrfax Consort.

## **A Farewell Quarter (and a First Quarter)**

At the end of March, Mike and Lesley Eames left the Green Man in Sandridge for a well-earned retirement after more than 35 years of running the popular pub. Alongside the astonishing number of charitable and community causes promoted there, they have always been very supportive of St Leonard's - and welcomed the ringers every Wednesday after practice!

As a sign of our appreciation a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung in their honour on Sunday March 24th. This was Laura's first Quarter Peal - congratulations to her - and means that all members of the Sandridge band have now rung a Quarter Peal.

### **Sandridge, Hertfordshire**

Sunday, 24 March 2019 (6–0–18 in B  $\flat$  )

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Laura J Hill
2. Julia Pentelow
3. Callum Hayes
4. Richard Hayes
5. Vivian Nutton (C)
6. Ben Quinn

First quarter 1.

Rung with thanks to Mike and Lesley Eames, retiring after more than 35 years as licensees of The Green Man, Sandridge.

## **First Quarter**

Our enthusiastic young learners Darcey Palmer (13) and Sarah Simpson (11) continue to make excellent progress. Sarah rings rounds and call changes and Darcey has already mastered touches of Bob Doubles inside. Our newest recruits, twins Fearne and Blake Palmer (11), have only been learning since the beginning of January and are already ringing rounds unaided. Lemsford bells are excellent for younger learners as they are light (3 cwt) and short draught which has enabled all our learners to make good progress quickly at our Monday night practices. Darcey is a regular and valued member of our Sunday service band.

On Sunday, 6th January Darcey rang his first Quarter Peal - his enthusiasm and commitment has enabled him to achieve this significant milestone!



**Emily Palmer, Darcey Palmer, Julia Pentelow, Judith Titmus, Bob Crocker, Roger Brown**

### **Lemsford, Hertfordshire**

Sunday, 6 January 2019 (3–2–4 in E b)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Darcey Palmer
2. Judith Titmus
3. Roger D R Brown
4. Julia Pentelow
5. Robert J Crocker (C)
6. Emily Palmer

First quarter: 1.

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