

# St Albans District Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 2 – July 2022

## District Outing

We had a very good turnout for the District Outing (June Meeting) – as our Secretary **Anne Pegum** reports:

### **St Albans District Summer Outing, 24 June 2022**

Despite concerns, the day of the St Albans District summer outing dawned bright and mostly sunny. Ringers from nine towers (Ridge/South Mymms, Redbourn, St Stephen's, St Peter's, St Michael's, Sandridge, Harpenden, Hatfield & North Mymms) gathered at St Nicholas Church, Norton and just inside Hertfordshire for the first stop on our Summer Outing. Interestingly, access was via a vertical, wooden ladder (firmly attached to the wall) onto a galleried ringing chamber. We rang a mix of methods and call changes with support given as needed. Then off to Bedfordshire. Our next church was St Mary in Henlow, with a ringing chamber up spiral stairs and initially a bit stuffy until we worked out how to open the window. More methods, touches and call changes on nicely hung bells.

Next up was St Leonard at Old Warden which was a fascinating church with lots of dark, carved wood (including snakes/serpents), leather (on the ceiling beams) and a half gallery on one side. Apparently, there is no regular band of ringers which probably accounts for the way the bells rang but a ground floor ring made access easy even if we did have to move heavy wooden pews out of the way and back again. We also took a photo at this point with the church porch as background.



*L-R: Dianne, Sue, Alison, Rosie, Richard, Christine, Rob, Peter, Neil, Christine, Anne, Richard, Graham, Andrew Agg, Mary, Vivian, Cheryl, Tommy, Nicholas, Andrew Farnham*

It was time for lunch so back to Southill where the White Horse not only catered for our large group but also a wedding party and produced really good food with a smile. Our next stop was to ring bells at St Andrew's in Ampthill where we were joined by the Vicar, Dominic Holroyd, who had previously served at Welwyn and the Abbey so was known to some of our group. Up a spiral staircase the ringing chamber proved tight for our group but various methods, touches and call changes were rung. Our final tower was the ground floor ring at All Saints, Campton with nice bells and another interesting church. An enjoyable day, the weather held up and some of our newer ringers had the chance to experience different bells. Thanks to Vivian Nutton for making all the arrangements.

## **Ringling for Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

*By Anne Pegum*

Sunday, 5 June 2022 started as usual for the Ridge/South Mymms ringers with 8.45 am service ringing at Ridge followed by the ringers setting off in various directions, some to ring for service at Radlett, some to ring at Aldenham and others to attend church services. With 45 minutes between ringing, the Ridge Radlett Ringers Rally had time to call in at a local bakery and collect hot chocolates/coffees and a croissant or bacon roll, which on this occasion I certainly took advantage of. Between service ringing and the end of the service I drove back to Barnet, bought croissants for the family's breakfast, collected Stephen, my husband, and drove back to Radlett. Meanwhile Sheila had collected her husband, Derek, from Potters Bar.

We all met up, with some extras, at Radlett when their service ended at 11.30 and spent the next 50 minutes ringing methods (including Grandsire, Bob Doubles and Stedman) and call changes. Not sure how much those gathering for a Jubilee lunch on Radlett's main street could hear. Then it was back in the cars for the reverse Radlett Ridge Ringers Rally. The weather by now was drying up, luckily for us, as it was time for lunch at the Old Guinea on an outside table after we had mopped the tables and chairs dry.

Time for our next ring on the Jubilee outing so off we went in the cars to South Mymms; here the villagers were having a Jubilee celebration on the green just up the road from the Church and we were ringing as part of the event. Here we were joined by Sean, who had been ecumenically picnicking elsewhere, Julie, who stayed in Radlett for lunch, and Malcolm, who had been ringing elsewhere. More Grandsire, Stedman, Cloisters, Bob Doubles and call changes were rung.



*Back row: Jeanette, Sheila, Malcolm, Graham, Daniel, Sean, Anne and Adrian  
Kneeling: Louise, Cath and Julie*

We also had time to belatedly eat some birthday cake, having been joined in the ringing chamber by our two extras, and take a photo to remember the day.

And so to our final ring. Back to Ridge, where the village was having its Jubilee celebration, to which we were able to add some joyful ringing as a sound track and even manage a couple of touches. A very enjoyable day; in all we rang five times in three towers, for two services and three Jubilee celebrations .

A Jubilee quarter at Sandridge was also rung:

**Sandridge, Hertfordshire**

St Leonard

Friday, 3 June 2022 in 40m (6–0–18 in Bb)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

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

Hana Booth joined us earlier to ring rounds and call changes

At **Harpenden on Sunday 5 June** , there was some general ringing for the Platinum Jubilee

Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge

Andrew Agg

Jackie Agg

Agneta Burton

Christine Carter

Andrew Cripps

Christine Darby

Andrew Farnham

Jane Fransella

Anne Harper

John Harper

Charles Herriott

Rachael Herriott

Gillian Lacey

Harry Long

Nicola Long

Di Parrott

Liz Pocock

Charles Pocock

Service ringing in the morning and ringing before the St Nicholas Jubilee Party in the afternoon.



## **News from St Paul's Walden**

By Tim Liddell

Last autumn I decided to restart the ringing at my local church in St Pauls Walden, which had ceased during lockdown.

Although I had been a member of the church, I'd never got involved in the ringing having stopped



First service of ringing, at Easter. L-R:  
Phil Wasmuth, Alex Cunningham, Tim Liddell,  
Nikki Brooke, Rob Castle, Nick Muir, Phil Beavis

when I left home more than 30 years previously and being churchwarden was busy with the services. I returned for my first ring for a wedding last summer and realised how sad it would be if ringing of the bells was lost to the community. So, I persuaded a few of my friends in November to give it a go and surprised to see how enthralled they were it. Bob Crocker initially helped me, having guided me as a young ringer in Kimpton, as well as Shelagh Cox (St Ippolyts) who has continued to support me every week. Interest grew as it became a regular topic of conversation at our local pub,

The Strathmore Arms, and soon I had

growing number of learners. Several broken stays later and teaching for 8 hours a week we managed our first service ring at Easter, which was written up by my sister for the Ringing World as she joined us from Malvern, Worcester to help us.

I now have 12 new ringers at varying stages of learning (with 6 others having not continued), and we manage a reasonable set of rounds on a Friday evening and are starting to do one service a month.

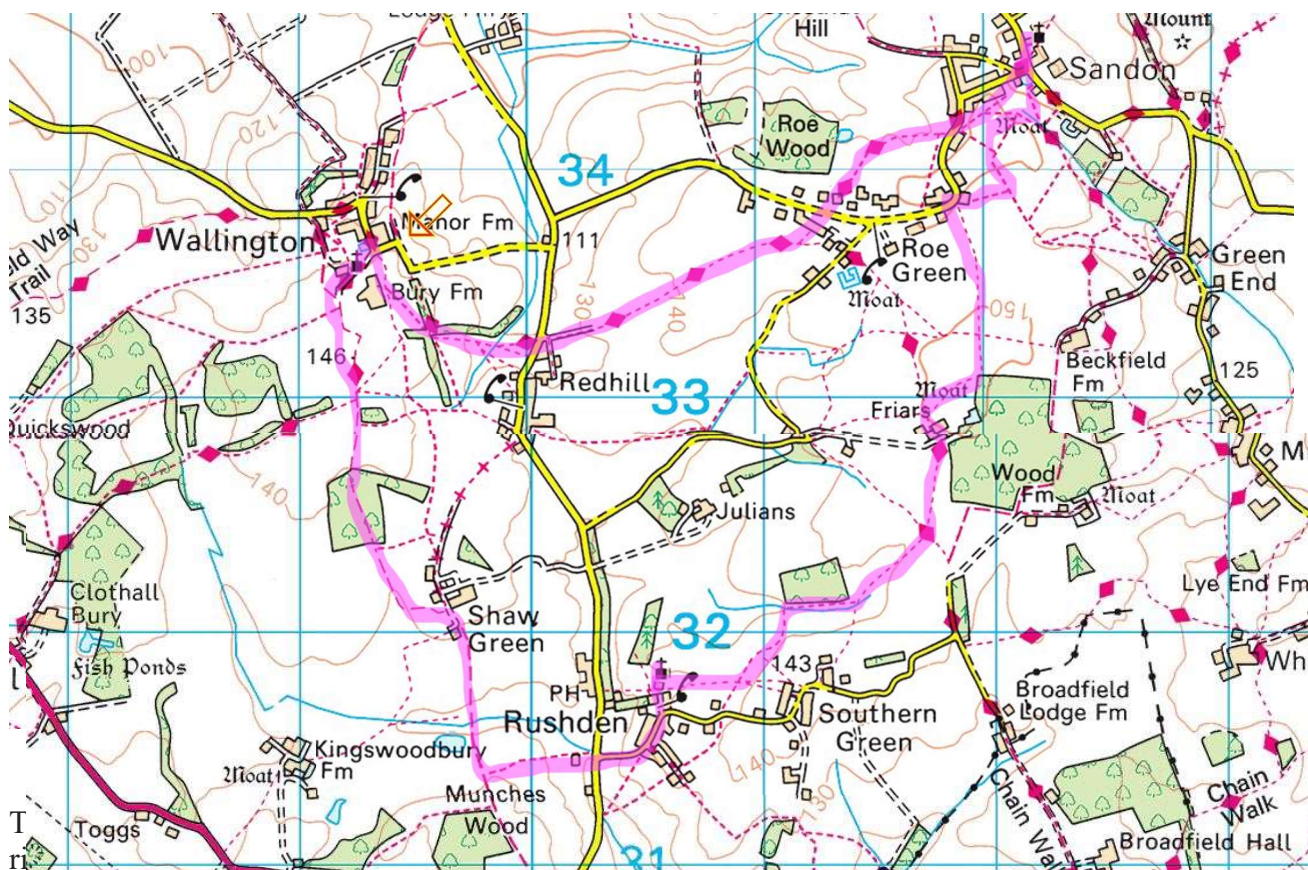
It has been fun and rewarding challenge, with a huge thanks to Shelagh and Bob for their support. The fact I can still remember to ring after so many years absence is recognition to the amazing teaching I had from Sue and Ken Newman, whose legacy I hope to be able continue in St Pauls Walden, the neighbouring tower to Kimpton which they led for many years.

## **Hatfield Ringing-Walking Outing May 2022**

By Rob Goss

The Hatfield ringers decided to arrange a walking-ringing day in North Hertfordshire so we selected three six bell towers namely Sandon, Wallington and Rushden and about a nine mile walk. We were delighted that Virginia came all the way down from Lancaster to join us for the day. We met at Sandon and rang these easy-going ground floor ring of six bells.

We left our cars in the parking area on the green opposite the church and set off for Wallington.



The weather forecast for Saturday 7 May had been very promising the day before so we set off with only minimal wet weather gear. **It rained continuously all the way to Wallington (!)** – however after ringing at Wallington, the rain stopped and by the time we'd walked to Rushden the sun was shining and spirits were high.

At Rushden, there was a Vegan/Vintage Day in the village and the locals made us very welcome and many enjoyed a very good vegan curry for lunch.



**Ringling at Rushden**



**Vintage cars on display at Rushden Fete.**



**The Hatfield Ringers outside Rushden church including Ron & Judith from Lemsford and Virginia who now lives near Lancaster.**

**From left: Fran, Kath, Sue, Rob, David, Graham, Judith, Ron, Mary, Virginia and Dianne.**

The walk back to Sandon was in lovely sunshine and near Sandon we went past a large old oak tree and Virginia suggested a tree hug. Unfortunately, the photographer had already walked on ahead and so the photo opportunity was missed – but no doubt those who participated felt calmer and happier after the hug.

Hopefully we'll do a similar outing next year – everyone welcome!.



## **County Training Event**

Advancing can be hard, especially if you only get to try something once or twice in a week, then by the time you come back next week, you've forgotten what you've learnt. The HCACR (county association) is offering a full weekend's course on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October.

This will offer you the chance to gain experience in three main areas, Plain Hunting at Northaw (which is only just outside our District) and at Thorley (near Bishop's Stortford). For those wanting to practice Plain Bob then try Apsley End or Langleybury and for Grandsire you should go to Weston. Starting on Saturday the 15th October and ending on the 16th, there will be theory and practice, offered at the minimal price of £20 (£10 for under 18s)

For more information and to book your place, head to <http://www.hcacr.org.uk/training.php>. Please note spaces are limited and will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

**2022 TRAINING  
15TH & 16TH OCT**

**HERTFORD COUNTY  
ASSOCIATION**

Offered by Hertford County  
Association of Change Ringers

Courses Available are:  
Plain Hunt and moving on at Northaw and Thorley  
Plain Bob Doubles at Apsley End and Langleybury  
Grandsire Doubles at Weston

Places are limited and on a first come first serve basis and  
are £20 per person for the whole weekend.

Application forms and further details can be found on  
<http://www.hcacr.org.uk/training.php>  
Applications to be submitted by 19th August 2022

## **Obituaries**

### **John Hugh William Beardwell**

*By Adrian Beardwell*

John started ringing in 1978 at Christ Church Radlett, he always claims it is because his oldest son Adrian wanted to sing in the choir, John felt the congregation would prefer to hear Adrian ring, rather than sing.

John started to learn to ring with his two oldest sons Adrian and Julian. John became hooked into ringing and was regularly attending the practice at St John the Baptist Aldenham and St Stephen's St Alban's.

John took over as Ringing Master in 1984, with a novice band. During the summer of 1985 we had on average 3 weddings a week and starting with call changes in the spring, by the end of the summer as a tower we scored our first quarter peal as a tower band.

John's two younger sons Hugh and Philip also learnt to ring and with the support of Bob Ogden making up the numbers he was able to ring a quarter peal with all his sons. In 2009 Fabrizio, John's Grandson, started ringing bells and Fabrizio scored his first quarter with John in 2011.

John had to step down as ringing master after 33 years of service in 2017 after having had a heart-attack. He continued to ring and helped to re-establish ringing practices at St Margret Ridge and St Giles South Mymms. Due to ill health John stopped ringing in 2018 but continued to take an active interest in hearing about ringing up until life called stand.

The Funeral was on Tuesday 19 July at Christ Church Radlett A dozen or so ringers were present from a number of towers including Sandridge, Radlett, The Abbey, Ridge/South Mymms and Aldenham and methods rung included Plain Bob, Stedman & Grandsire Doubles.



### **Sue Newman**

*By Judith Titmus*

In 1970 Ken and Sue Newman moved into the area and discovered that for some time there had not been a band to ring the bells at St Peter and St Paul, Kimpton. This was due to the previous vicar stipulating that the bellringers must attend church services and, as the ringers did not wish to be dictated to in this manner, the Kimpton band all resigned, and the bells fell silent.

Ken and Sue, being keen ringers, decided to rectify this situation and recruit and I was amongst the first group of 6 lively teenagers who showed interest - and the rest is history.

The number of youngsters and adults who have been taught by Ken and Sue to participate in this challenging and sociable activity are too numerous to know, but many are still ringing actively to this day, and it is to both of them we all have much to be thankful for.

Over many years the original group of 6 grew as their friends and family members became interested and Sue decided that it would be a good idea for the band to start visiting other towers. The first such outing was a half day in east Hertfordshire in the spring of 1972.

This proved to be very successful and there followed a few day outings slightly further afield.

Sue was ambitious and suggested a weekend outing – the first of which would become an annual event.



Sue Newman  
8 January 1943 to 9 June 2022

This first outing was maybe a little too early in the season – during the Easter holidays, camping in Suffolk. Sue and Ken took their caravan and prepared and served hot food, whilst the rest of us (youngsters!) camped.

It was freezing cold and so cold that the first night we hardly slept. Fortunately, Don and Helen Price (who had recently moved from Kimpton to Reydon) had invited us to visit and handed everyone blankets so we were all much warmer and slept well the second night.

Future outings were organised in the summer, initially the same set up ...camping (with Sue providing delicious hot meals she'd prepared at home and reheated in the caravan), but as we all got a little older (and preferred more in the way of home comforts) accommodation standards went more upmarket, initially university accommodation, followed by bed and breakfasts (which proved to be of unknown standards including some similar to Fawlty Towers set ups!) and for many years now we have used Premier Inns and Travelodges which offer a more consistent standard of accommodation! These outings have continued annually (apart from the Covid years 2020/2021) and are all due to Sue and Ken's commitment to the Kimpton band.

Sue and Ken also organised 3 canal boat ringing holidays with Sue very much in charge of organising the towers round the boating itinerary.

Sue was Tower Captain 6 times between 1974 and 2011 and, as well as teaching and encouraging learners, was keen to help the more advanced (and promising!) ringers move on to learn a wider variety of more advanced methods as well as achieving a high standard of striking. She was also very patient and appreciative of those who were content to ring only rounds and call changes and plain hunt as they were also the loyal Sunday service ringers.

Whilst Sue was Tower Captain between 1980 – 1982 the bells were augmented from 6 to 8. The work was started on Easter Monday 1981 and much of this was carried out under volunteer labour. Sue was very involved in helping remove the existing oak frame and re-assembling the new steel frame which had been removed from a redundant church. By October the original 6 bells were re-hung in the new frame and were rededicated on 24th November at the annual village thanksgiving service. The 2 new bells were installed in December and the old year rung out on the 6 and New Year rung in on the new 8. The inscription on the second is 'I am the New Man' – a legacy to Ken and Sue Newman.



Sue also had great enthusiasm for handbell ringing and every October handbell practices were organised in the run up to Christmas so we were ready to ring Christmas carols at the Christingle service, Kimpton and Ayot carol services and the crib service on Christmas Eve. Sue strived for perfection and as well as the practices being fun, a high standard was achieved and favourable comments received from the congregations of both churches.

Until the first lockdown and recent health issues Sue regularly attended practices and Sunday service ringing and was a much valued and respected member of the Kimpton band who will be sadly missed.

Sue's well attended funeral service was held at Kimpton church on Tuesday, 28th June. A Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung before the service followed by open general ringing. Further open ringing followed as Sue was laid to rest in the churchyard.

### **Kimpton, St Peter & St Paul**

Tuesday 28 June 2022

#### **1372 Plain Bob Triples**

- 1 Dianne E Crowder
- 2 Judith E Titmus
- 3 Mary E Goss
- 4 W Robert E T Goss
- 5 Alan G G Smith
- 6 Vivian Nutton
- 7 Robert J Crocker (C)
- 8 Ron E Titmus

Rung in memory of Susan J Newman on the day of her funeral, ringer at this tower for over 50 years.

The previous week, another Quarter peal was rung at St Peter's remembering Sue Newman:

### **St Albans, St Peter**

Thursday, 16 June 2022 in 49m (24-0-3 in Eb)

#### **1280 Pudsey Surprise Royal**

1. Christine C Darby
2. Alan M Shepherd
3. Julie Grimwade
4. Angela Blackburn
5. Ann Evans
6. Andrew M Reeve
7. Stephen W Penney (C)
8. Alan GG Smith
9. Claire C Nicholson
10. Richard Sales

Remembering Sue Newman

## **Kimpton weekend Outing 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

By Rob Goss

First tower was at **Halesowen**, West Midlands. Rachel was married here (before she took up ringing) and she was the fourth generation of her family to be married at this church. Her parents, her grandparents and her great-grandparents were all married here. Rachel's parents came along to see what church bell ringing was all about and they certainly enjoyed watching us ring. It was a long, steep climb up the spiral staircase but the 16 cwt eight were a pleasure to ring.

Up next was **Rowley Regis (10 cwt, 8)** – not as heavy as the previous tower but they went well and after a couple of false starts we rang half a course of Yorkshire. The rain had eased a bit by the time we got to **Netherton (13 cwt, 8)**. These bells also went well and I recall that the staircase up to the ringing chamber had a 1970's carpet fitted! At **Brierley Hill (14 cwt, 8)**, parking was a bit tricky and several of us parked in a cul-de-sac several hundred yards away. This church had an enormous upper gallery/balcony around three sides of the church with the ringing chamber on the west gallery. On the south side there was a rather alarming notice stating that particular section of the gallery was unsafe to walk on. However, yet another good ring of bells and enjoyable to ring.

Lunch was at The Eagle & Spur in Cookley. The pub did very well and served generous portions to the 14 of us seated together at a long table.

The only six bell tower of the day was just a short drive from the pub. Access to the ringing chamber at **Cookley (5 cwt, 6)** was via a short stone staircase on the north side of the tower direct from the church yard.

Most of us stayed in the Travel Lodge at Droitwich and we walked a couple of hundred yards in the rain to The Robin Hood for a very convivial meal.

The following morning, we rang for service at **Wychbold (10 cwt, 6)**. The floor in the Ringing chamber sloped alarmingly down to one corner which was very disconcerting – but we were assured that the tower was perfectly safe.

After brunch at the converted cinema in Redditch Wetherspoons, we rang at **Ipsley (9 cwt, 6)** and we then made our way to the final tower of the weekend – which was perhaps the most memorable.

The bells at **Ullenhall (3 cwt, 8)** were challenging! They were hung anti-clockwise in a very slender tower with all the ropes extremely close together in a tiny ringing chamber. A ladder to provide access to the bells came down diagonally across the ringing chamber right next to a couple of the ropes. There was no room for anyone in the ringing chamber other than the eight people ringing. The bells were tricky to ring and anon said that they sounded like 'noisy buckets'. The chap who let us in was very enthusiastic and he allowed those who were interested to climb into the belfry to view the buckets.



The photo was taken outside Ullenhall. Absent are Rachel (who joined us just for the Saturday) and Gordon & Sue who had to leave earlier in the day). Many thanks to Adam Crocker for organising the outing.



## **RWNYC Results!**

The Ringing World National Youth Contest was held in Exeter on Saturday 2nd July.

Our Hertfordshire team managed by Jen Johnson came equal 4<sup>th</sup> in the Method Ringing category. A very commendable result especially as this is the first time that Young@Herts have entered the 'Method' category rather than the 'Call Change' category.

1st	Sussex Young Ringers	9/10
2nd	Lancashire Lads and Lasses	8/10
3rd	Yorkshire Tykes	7.5/10
=4th	Oxford DG	6.5/10
=4th	Young@Herts	6.5/10
=6th	Leicestershire Foundry Foxes	5.5/10
=6th	W&P Youths	5.5/10

The Young@Herts meet once a month and St Albans District youngsters under the age of 18 are always welcome. Contact Jen Johnson ([youngathertsbells@gmail.com](mailto:youngathertsbells@gmail.com)) for details.

## **Quarter Peals**

**Lemsford, St John the Evangelist**

Saturday, 30 April 2022 (3–2–4 in Eb)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Ron E Titmus
2. Judith E Titmus
3. Dianne E Crowder
4. Mary E Goss
5. W Robert E T Goss (C)
6. Jonathan D Bottoms

In memory of Gillian Bottoms (mother of 6) who was a Member of this church for many years.

**Lemsford, St John the Evangelist**

Wednesday, 13 July 2022 (3–2–4 in Eb)

1320 Doubles (3m)

1. Bernard P Quinn
2. Judith E Titmus
3. Dianne E Crowder
4. W Robert E T Goss
5. Robert J Crocker (C)
6. Ron E Titmus

Rung as a wedding compliment to Eleanore Titmus (daughter of 2 and 6) and Martin Layton who were married at St Edmund's Church, Dolton, Devon on Saturday, 2nd July 2022.



**Thomas Groves** rang his first Quarter with his Mum Cheryl back in November 2021:

**St Peter's St Albans**

Sunday, 21 November 2021 in 43m (8–1–21 in Ab)

**1260 Doubles (2m)**

720 Grandsire, 540 Plain.

1. Cheryl Groves
2. Ann Evans
3. Andrew M Reeve
4. Rosemary E Sales
5. Richard Sales (C)
6. Thomas Groves

For Evensong and the switching on of St Albans Christmas lights.

First quarter peal aged 15 - 6.

First quarter since the age of 15 - 1.

...and he's now rung two more quarters on the same day.

**North Mymms, Hertfordshire**

Monday, 27 June 2022 in 46m (12–3–0 in F#)

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

1. Thomas Groves
2. Roger Baldwin
3. Ann Evans
4. Andrew M Reeve
5. Rosemary E Sales
6. Brian D Crawley
7. Richard Sales (C)
8. Russell A Brown

First quarter on 8 bells - 1

**South Mimms, Hertfordshire**

Monday, 27 June 2022 in 44m (11–0–12 in G)

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1. Cheryl Groves
2. Thomas Groves
3. Ann Evans
4. Andrew M Reeve
5. Russell A Brown
6. Richard Sales (C)

First quarter away from cover - 2.

Well done Tommy!

Editor Rob Goss  
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