

# Les Cloches des îles

The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers  
Newsletter of the Channel Islands District



February 2012 - Issue No. 54



## Editorial

Thanks to everyone who sends in articles, in this busy old world it's not always easy to find the time to do it. But it's your contributions that make this newsletter what it is.

I'd also like to thank everyone for their very supportive comments about the production of the newsletter. I've taken some recommendations on board and as you can see I've increased the font size of the text. As it seems more copies are now being read online, it makes sense to drop the two column format which only really works for the printed format.

I live in Guernsey on a housing licence which expires at the end of September, we don't expect it will be extended so it's back to the UK for us. This creates a vacancy!! yes I hear you say "I'd love to become the new editor of "Les Cloches"!"

Seriously, any takers, please drop me an email or let your tower captains/ secretaries know.

If you have any comments either about content in the newsletter or the experience of reading it online, do email me at [jenrains@hotmail.com](mailto:jenrains@hotmail.com)

Jenny Rains

PS. request from the District Ringing Master, a new 'classified section'

Peter Bevis & Helen McGregor are delighted to be moving on 5th Oct to:

Wells House  
Longis Common  
Alderney  
GY9 3YB

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## District Outing Sat March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Mini bus to meet flights arriving about 8.45 - 9am Eastleigh
- North Stoneham(10) 9.30 – 10.15 tbc
- Warnford (6) 11.- 11.45 tbc
- East Meon 12 – 1pm confirmed
- Lunch White Lion , Soberton
- Soberton (13 cwt 8) confirmed
- Shedfield (13 cwt 8) 3.30 – 4.15 Very probably OK but tbc
- Arrive airport approx 4.45pm to drop off ringers returning to Jsy/Gsy & have a cup of tea
- Bishopstoke (10) 6 – 7pm confirmed
- Supper & bed – we are staying at Premier Inn, Southampton airport.
- Sunday morning
- St Mary's Southampton City Centre (21cwt 10) 9.30 – 10.15 (service ringing) tbc
- Bitterne Park (8cwt12) 10.25 – 11am (service ringing with local band) tbc
- St Barnabus (3 cwt 6) 11.15 – 12 noon
- Minibus to Southampton airport for 1pm Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>

Please let me know to expect you so that I can make efficient car/minibus arrangements. Please book own flights & accommodation. Thx [Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk](mailto:Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk) or 01481 822252

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## Manifesto for 2012/13

I was appointed District Ringing Master Sept 09. I wasn't sure what was expected of me and I don't think you knew what you were getting.

The district exists principally to facilitate every individual ringer to achieve more at a district event than can be achieved in their own tower. Obviously this must start at the top and trickle down. I am very grateful for the support of the most experienced ringers in the district, so that those with less experience can progress and they in turn give a hand to the least experienced. I feel real progress is being made in this regard with the instigation of a Surprise Major practice as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday events. We have enjoyed an annual training weekend in Reading , a quarter peal day, an outing to the UK and regular monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday training/practice days.

Going forward, the format and location of these events needs to be kept under review to ensure maximum attendance across the board. I need YOU to email or write to me with why you do or don't attend any particular district event. I look forward to hearing from you.

The District will this year enter a team for the Guild 8 bell striking competition and will ring a District peal of Diamond Delight Major at Town Church in July for the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen. Your district is alive and well! I intend to stand for re-election as District Master in Sept 2012, please vote for me for more of the same.

[Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk](mailto:Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk)

Helen McGregor, Wells House, Longis Common, Alderney GY9 3YB

## **DISTRICT AGM and STRIKING COMPETITION Alderney September 24th**

On Friday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Alderney were delighted to welcome 5 Jersey ringers, a Guernsey ringer and wife, and the judges for supper in Gloria's restaurant, the band's regular watering hole. An excellent supper was enjoyed by all and then it was home to our beds for a good nights' sleep – ready to do battle the following day.



Alderney, hosts of 2011 striking competition

The Guild Vice Master – Mike Till and his wife Lucy - together with the remaining ringers for the 4 teams of Guernsey ringers and one remaining Jersey ringer arrived on various planes and a boat during the Saturday morning. The general ringing in the morning allowed all to have a go on 'their' bell ready for the competition.

12noon saw us gathered in the church for the ringers' prayer and the competition draw by The Revd Stephen Masters. Some efficient stewarding kept the teams rolling through the belfry and we got through the competition in just 1 ¾ hrs. Good use was made of even this time as sandwiches were purchased and eaten in the Church grounds, listening to the other teams and drinking copious tea and eating large quantities of cakes courtesy of the Alderney band – resplendent in their team shirts.

\*The Alderney band are very pleased with their lucky polo shirts :-)) and are happy to share the secret of their recent striking competition success - their shirts came from:

<http://www.thesportslocker.co.uk/ringing/>

The meeting took place in the church and then we adjourned to Philippa and Paul's garden for even more tea, the District 30th birthday cake (thank you Duncan), a play on the Alderney Wombel and the results.





Everyone who attended the Annual Striking Competition



Duncan's cake

Our judges were John and June Wells from Reading – John was one time master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, they are both frequent participants in the National 12 bell competition and both have made a number of recent visits to the Channel Islands when they have been of enormous assistance in progressing our ringing.

John made some general comments, complimenting all teams on completing their test pieces which he said in all cases meant that the bands had pushed themselves just hard enough to achieve good striking at the upper end of their respective repertoires – and were to be congratulated on that. John described the Alderney bells as sedate. He also indicated that he wasn't going to penalise call change bands if they didn't share the leading equally. June gave the points indicating that they had unanimously agreed the order of the teams and that they had averaged the points awarded by each of them.

Town Church rang first: Bob doubles, rather unsettled and a pedestrian speed. They used the rounds well to settle, became unsettled in the method but finished well. Would have been a good 240 changes had they been required to ring that length. Scored 88

Vale rang next: Grandsire doubles, brisker pace, good confident and rhythmic ringing however the bells became inconsistent away from the lead. Scored 33

St John: the front bells needed more positive handling, accrued minor faults, rang lots of rounds but were better once they went into changes. Scored 51

Alderney team2: Plain bob doubles. A better pull off, confident and rhythmical ringing, unsettled by the first bob but subsequently some very clean patches. Scored 32

Alderney team3: This was a scratch team as current rules permit max 2 teams per tower. Plain hunt doubles. Faults throughout, never came cleanly into rounds but by comparison the back rounds were quite nice – well set up by the back bells. Score 112

St Pierre du Bois: Scratch team as it included a number of children still benefitting from 'minders' – tho in the event no help was required ☺. A few too many changes, which of course meant a higher than necessary score. Score 124

Visitors: Scratch team of Mike Till (rep from Guild) and June Saint (supporter not in any other team), Peter and Justin from Jersey, Phil from Guernsey and Stephen from Alderney. Very professional with a

sense of humour – they rang a different piece in the practice session from their test piece. Confident, tenor set a good pace. Scored 20

Forest: rang Grandsire doubles. Very hesitant. Almost collapsed at one point and did well to recover but never really settled. Faults throughout, mainly caused by holding up on the front and bells piling in on top. Scored 136

Alderney team 1: Grandsire doubles, nervous pull off, generally inconsistent, the pace was so slow worried they may actually stop! Score 97

Since it is not permissible for any scratch team to be placed we had:

First – Alderney 2



L - R, Jane Fraser (1), Philippa Arditti (2), Peter Bevis (4), Stephen Rossiter (5), Helen McGregor (3) & Pam Pearson (6)

Second – Vale

Third – St John

The judges presented the certificates to the top 3 teams and then it was even more tea and cake and wombelling. Finally the visiting ringers made their way home by boat and plane after what everyone agreed had been a great day.



After supper the following ¼ was rung  
Sat Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 2011. St Anne Alderney, 1272 London S minor

1. June Saint (supporter)
2. June Wells (Judge)
3. Mike Till (Guild rep)
4. Duncan Loweth (Guernsey)#
5. E John Wells (Judge)
6. 6. Stephen Rossiter (Alderney)# First surprise minor. Rung to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Channel Islands District



Various founders of the Channel Islands District  
(who attended the striking competition)



## **First Peal for Jack**

Jack Page, aged 14, lives in Reading but has rung hand bells with Helen and Peter for about 5 years, he also now rings tower bells.

Jack is a keen fan of Alderney - coming here every year for at least 3 weeks, he has also travelled to Guernsey to support the District Days. The affection in which he is held by the Alderney ringers is clearly evident from the shirts worn by the majority of the peal band.

Jack's mother will be instantly recognised by the training weekend ringers - the wonderful host for our Fri and Sat eve suppers.

### **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Caversham**, Berkshire

St Peter

Sunday 9 October 2011 in 2 hrs 47 mins (8 cwt)

**5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

Composed: Roy T Harris

- 1 June D Wells
- 2 Jenny M Page
- 3 Helen M McGregor
- 4 Jack Page
- 5 E John Wells
- 6 Peter JR Bevis
- 7 Stephen A Rossiter
- 8 Douglas J Beaumont (C)

First peal, 4.





## Oct 2011 – 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday District Day



The highlight of this weekend was definitely Phil's learners ringing rounds on 10 at St Peter's practice, well done everyone.

Peter and I had gone on to St Peter's from Town Church surprise practice. Sadly although 9 ringers attended they didn't overlap so we just failed to have any surprise major – but the spliced Cambridge and plain was fun, as was the London minor.

Esme, Molly, Joe, Anne and Sallyann

Stedman doubles on the back 5 was quite excellent- well done John (David) for some beautiful tenor ringing.

Saturday morning started back at Town Church and we covered some theory of coursing bells –coursing before and after – and then plain hunt on 8 to see the 'tram lines' of bells before and after. Bastow and treble bob on 8 was useful too.

It was great to see Ed at the surprise minor session at Vale – More Cambridge and Plain, London and Norwich and Annable's London.

Final ringing was at St Peter's, having successfully rung Cloisters Doubles to perfect their double dodges in 4/5 some ringers had their first attempt at Stedman doubles. Others rang Stedman doubles when they hadn't rung it for a few years.

The district day concluded with a ¼ of Grandsire Triples at St Peter's – rung to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the District. – very well done Duncan – a faultless performance even though it was first blows in Grandsire Triples ☺

HMMcG

### 87 years young

Maurice Stupart first visited Alderney on holiday in 1971 but it was only in 1989 that he was able to come here to live permanently. As an accomplished ringer he gave enormous support to the local band, and was tower captain for 12 years until May 2008. Maurice has been steadfast in his support of the current band, an invaluable ringer quietly nurturing our many new recruits. The recent success of the band – winning the Channel Island District striking competition – would not have been possible without all the extra practices Maurice willingly assisted with.

St Anne, Alderney 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011

1272 St Clement's College Bob Minor - rung as an 87<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to the ringer of the 2.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Helen M McGregor | 4. Philip Maddocks     |
| 2. Maurice Stupart  | 5. Peter Bevis         |
| 3. Philippa Arditti | 6. Stephen Rossiter(c) |

## GEORGE WILLIAMS' NOTEBOOK (continued) by Derek Jackson

In the previous issue we were back in April 1888, recording {*the first peal on bells at Christchurch following a failure on the day of the dedication 12/11/1885 when "a mischievous boy got meddling with the chiming hammer"*} now read on.....

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1889 report includes the 1<sup>st</sup> 10,000 rang by The Guild 10,080 in 14 methods at Capel Conducted by David Jordan {*The band rang one extent each of York Surprise, Durham Surprise, Rochester Surprise, Chichester Surprise, Worcester Surprise, London Surprise, Wells Surprise, Superlative Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Violet Treble Bob, College Exercise, College Pleasure, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob in 5h 18m, a remarkable achievement for a country band*} Another peal I well remember (Bob T. at Privett Apl 22/89) as I was refused a day off for this date I think about the only point blank refusal for a holiday I ever had, well Sir I says if you refuse I will take a day and look for another job which I did and also another day on the following Thursday of same week when I journeyed to Ryde I of Wight & rang in peal of G T with all local men in honour of wedding of daughter of Vicar of Ryde. {*On 25/04/1889 George called Holt's Ten-Part in 3h 9m. Apart from himself, all the band were ringing their first peal*} {*George again makes no reference to the 10 Guild peals prior to that at Privett, not even to the first on the bells at Hambledon on 27/01/1889*} The following month I left Box Mill but remained at Midhurst

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several months as had several bands then under instruction. It was during this time I rang my first peal of Superlative whilst spending a week at Oxford.

A week was also spent amongst Guildford friends in August when several peals were arranged Bob T at St. N coming off {*George calling Johnson's composition in 3h 6m, the first in the method by all except the conductor*} Holt's original at Godalming lost in last 3 leads by 7<sup>th</sup> man done up we were travelling about then on high bicycles {*Better known to us as penny farthings, with solid tyres*} On the morn of Aug 26<sup>th</sup> myself and Mr. H White met at Alton & cycled on to Farnham, rang the first peal of Sted by a resident band in the County {*George called Thurstans from No.7 in 2h 54m, with Henry White on the treble*} cycling back to Brockbridge

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Soberton to sleep, well do I remember friend Harry tumbling into the nettles when attempting to dismount at the last hill fairly done up – oh no nothing nothing else – this is [over 23 {*Crossed out*}] nearly 38 years ago mind & we had ridden over 60 miles in addition to the peal. {*On the display card about Droxford, above, it mentions that George did much travelling on his penny farthing, peddling each week the 16 miles to Holy Rhoad in Southampton where he could ring plain courses of Grandsire Triples*} The next day the 28<sup>th</sup> {*Actually 27/08/1889*} was also eventful for several of our Guildford friends had arranged to meet us at Soberton for a peal this meant a 14 mls drive each way from Petersfield – no Meon Valley line at that time of day mind you {*The Meon Valley line, between Alton and Fareham, opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1903. It was famous for the viaduct with 4 x 56 feet steel spans above West Meon village, the longest tunnel in Hampshire, 1058 yards in length,, and for the A272 even today tunnelling under the very high embankment near Privett. The history of this line fails to mention the use of Soberton station by George and his ringers for many peal attempts! Alas the line closed to passenger traffic on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1955*} Well we met & rang the peal {*He fails to mention that the inevitable Holt's Ten-Part was called by Henry White on the second, his first of many as conductor*} and our Guildford friends had ample time to catch their return train, but I was told one of the company more

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anxious than the rest to make sure of getting back, and getting uneasy by [talking of {Crossed out}] sundry stoppages on the road insisted on the driver obeying his orders at Westmeon, the consequence being that instead of taking the direct route of 8 miles through Eastmeon, they took a circuit of about 12 via Westmeon Hut & Privett arriving at Petersfield to find the last train for Guildford had left. There may be someone here able to describe the consternation which followed but I believe as I have been told that all spent a fairly good night at Petersfield & arrived safely at Guildford by 1<sup>st</sup> train in the morn. (*The line from Portsmouth to Waterloo, via. Petersfield and Guildford was, and is, frequently used by ringers attempting peals or attending practices. Electrified since July 1937 it was in 1889 steam powered by the London and South Western Railway since its opening on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1859. George frequently recalled how John J. Jones, one of his peal band and printer of all early Guild Reports, would describe the "Battle of Havant", fought on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1858. Apparently the line from Havant to Portsmouth was built on top of the old Portsmouth to Arundel Canal by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. When L.S.W.R. extended their line from Godalming to Havant in 1858 they assumed running rights over L.B.S.C.R.'s tracks into Portsmouth. On 28<sup>th</sup> December they sent a train of trucks packed with L.S.W.R's 'heavies', including two of John Jones tenor ringers, to join the tracks together. The L.B.S.C.R's 'heavies' meanwhile disconnected the track behind this train, then the track in front, after which battle commenced. Peace was restored on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1860 with this section of track owned and maintained jointly.*)

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Myself & friend Harry spent another good night at Brockbridge cycling as fresh as larks in the morning for Farnham 25 miles where an excellent struck peal of Grandsire was tapped off in the evening.

*{28/08/1889, Holt's Ten-Part in 2h 54m. The footnote reads "Mr Barnett started to call this peal, but gave way to G.W." This is peal number 61 in the Guild Peal Book, four of which are recorded out of sequence. It is number 54 in George Williams' own peal book. Of the 61 in the Peal Book 10 do not appear anywhere in Guild Reports}*

*{Again George fails to mention that he and Martha moved to Brighton in 1889 and lived there until they returned to Hampshire at Easter time 1905. As principal conductor of the St. Peter's Company his peal total had increased from 54 to 650}*

This brings me to over the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 peals by the Guild during a space of about 10 years I will conclude now by only just mentioning that you will find the 1<sup>st</sup> peals rang in the more advanced methods by the Guild are as follows

DN Crawley Sept 12/91 *{George conducted his own composition of 5088 in 3h 1m}*

Sup S Crawley May 5/94 *{George conducted Henry Dains' 5088 in 2h 56m}*

*{The last entry in the third Guild Peal Book is for 14/11/1896, followed by many blank pages}*

Camb S Soberton Oct 3/98 *{George conducted Middleton's 5056 in 3h 6m}*

London S Portsea July 8/99 *{George conducted Washbrook's 5088 in 3h 20m on the old octave, augmented from the six in the old church of St. Mary's, Kingston in 1889. Alas this peal, and one other, were omitted from the relevant Guild Report. They were printed in the 1901 Report and numbered 340A and 343A. Due to this, and previous omits, peals from 1902 onwards in Guild Reports should have 10 added to their printed number}*

The 1<sup>st</sup> peal of DN rang in Hants was

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Dec 26/1892 on the fine ring of 8 at Christchurch Priory & now aug m<sup>d</sup> to ten. *{Conducted by George in 3h 27m on the tenor, he records it in his Peal Book as Dains's 5024. The Guild Peal Book records it as 5040}*

I hope some of these remarks may have been interesting to some of our young ringers and by which

they will understand the difficulties we had to encounter 30 years ago. Fancy some of you not having an opportunity to stand in a peal till over 26 years of age, am afraid you would lose heart but thank goodness I did not or should not be here today and I may say when away from home my most enjoyable time is amongst ringers. Remember these few remarks are mainly on the fascinating side of peal-ringing but I say

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speaking as a church Bell ringer I always make a point of turning up to ring for each service on a Sunday, just in the same way as I go to my daily occupation, and I think its no [more {Crossed out}] less than any incumbent can expect of his ringers that they endeavour to attend one of the services. And I think if a ringer is a conscientious thinker he will feel it his duty on principle.

G Williams

Elected a performing member 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1880

Attended 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting 28<sup>th</sup> July 81

*{ I feel that I must make two additions to George's notes since he fails to mention two memorable, handbell peals which he conducted. Details are below, and their significance is obvious }*

1. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**First Peal with a lady in the band. NOT** rung for the W.D.G.. From George Williams' peal book.

Brighton, Sussex

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild

On Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> 1892 in 2 Hrs. 11 Mins.

At the residence of George Williams, 49, Clifton Street,  
On "Handbells retained in Hand"

A Peal of Grandsire Triples 5040 Changes  
Holt's 10 part

Mrs. Geo. Williams	1 & 2
Thomas Blackburn	3 & 4
George Williams	5 & 6
Alfred P. Goddard	7 & 8

Conducted by Geo. Williams

This is the first Peal ever rung with a Lady taking a pair of bells

Umpire E. C. Merritt

George Williams 126<sup>th</sup> peal

*{It is recorded in the display card about Droxford, above, that Harvey Reeves, the editor of "The Bell News", not only made much of this peal the following week but also presented Martha Williams with a full set of 12 handbells. I have consulted the Guild Minute Books in the Record Office and that covering the 1950 A.G.M., attended by 80 members at Portsea on 1st July, records that Mr. V.P.A.C. Scardifield, nephew of the late G. Williams, but not himself a ringer, presented the handbells to the Guild. By then they had been augmented to 16 by George in order to produce a lighter octave. Now-a-days these handbells reside in the George Williams Memorial Library, available on loan to any paid up Guild member. In accepting them the Guild Master, Mr. George Pullinger, stressed that they should be present at Guild A.G.Ms. and Dinners.*



*Also recorded in the Minutes is the discussion about memorials to George and to the fallen in W.W.II. For the latter there was no reply from the Provost to the offer to augment the Cathedral from 8 to 10. Charles H. Kippin had proposed the augmentation of All Saints, Basingstoke from 9 to 10, having conducted a peal of Grandsire Caters there in February 1946 followed by Kent Major with a cover in October. The former caused a furore amongst the Exercise, and the latter apoplexy! For George's memorial an offer to augment Droxford from 4 to 5 had been rejected by the Vicar. It was agreed that the bookcase mentioned above be constructed to house George's books and Martha's handbells, that a nationwide appeal be made for financial contributions, and that the first Guild Librarian be appointed, Mr. A. York Bramble. You will note that the dedication took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1953}*

1897 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Brighton, Sussex.

First Double-Handed, Handbell Peal for the Guild. From George Williams' peal book.

Brighton, Sussex

The Sussex County Association, The Royal Cumberland Youths and the Winchester Diocesan Guild.

On Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1897 in 2 Hrs. 16 Mins.

At the residence of George Williams, 2, Grove Street,  
On "Handbells retained in Hand"

A Peal of Grandsire Triples 5040 Changes  
Holt's 10 part

Frank Bennett	1 & 2
George Williams	3 & 4
Keith Hart	5 & 6
Harry Weston	7 & 8

Conducted by Geo. Williams  
Umpire Mrs. Geo. Williams

This is the first double-handed peal by "The Winchester Diocesan Guild"

First peal with a pair by F. Bennett.

First peal on H.B. by K. Hart & H. Weston.

George Williams 295<sup>th</sup> peal

*{I have discovered that the above peal does not appear in the Guild Peal book. Up to this date handbell peals were recorded for our Guild with some participants ringing only one handbell. Until the first meeting of the Central Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1891 there were no directives concerning legitimacy of performances, resulting in single handbell peals and some long lengths recorded on tower bells with men swapping ropes midway}*

Tuesday, 02 November 2004

## Fri Nov 25 & Sat 26<sup>th</sup>

Peter and I are fully into the rhythm of the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday's now ☺ We are helped hugely by the kindness shown by Tim Smith – having his spare room at our disposal is of enormous benefit and we are extremely grateful.

Kicking off with Friday afternoon Surprise session at Town Church is always much anticipated, happily we rang 3 leads of Bristol, a good course of Cambridge and a number of part courses of Cambridge spliced with Little.

Sadly our Superlative didn't come round but was very good while it lasted.

On to St Peter's local practice where we had an impromptu handling/style filming session using Peter's iPad – the camera never lies so there were no arguments – and lots of good rounds and call changes and various methods in the second half of the evening.

Saturday morning started at Forest and with the very welcome support of Sue, Paul, Phil and John we were able to put all the less experienced ringers through their paces, bob doubles and bob minor of course, lots of treble bob to watch as we rang some good surprise minor.

On to St Peter's where I was delighted to be in the band when Anne Dorey had her first stab at treble bobbing, all the watching paid off and Anne rang very well indeed ☺. Sadly our touch of Stedman triples proved to be too adventurous ☹.

After lunch we were at Town Church and so on her own bells Judith's bob doubles was unrecognisably superior to the mornings attempts ☺. Cloisters doubles and bestow gave the treble ringer something new to think about.

Sadly Peter and I had to leave half way through the session to catch an early flight back to Alderney, the later flight had proved to be very popular with Christmas shoppers and we hadn't been able to get seats – note to self – book November tickets earlier next year. I was grateful to John for taking over running the ringing ☺.

HMMcG

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Our lovely customers Alderney Bellringers recently purchased some new embroidered tops. The Channel Island District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild was formed in 1980 with the first district striking competition taking place in Alderney in 1981. Alderney won in 1981, 82, 84 & 87 but not since.

Following the recent purchase of the team shirts Alderney were delighted to again become victorious in the competition - beating off stiff competition from 4 Guernsey teams and a Jersey one. A brilliant win!

## December 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th Training Weekend in Reading 2011

The Alderney contingent flew into Southampton at 12.30, to be met by Stephen. In a reversal of last years travel arrangements, Steve took the gentlemen and luggage to Reading – leaving Philippa and I to have plenty of elbow room to knit on the train.

Rendezvousing with Jane at the Premier Inn we headed around the corner to St Giles. Supported by the friendly Reading ringers, Philippa rang courses of both Cambridge and Yorkshire Major. Jane had a go at a course of Bristol, Philip rang Stedman Triples and Paul covered for triples on his heaviest yet bell ☺.

Duncan, Jo and Heidi arrived after a while and then we had lots of rounds, some more surprise major and grandsire triples.

That evening's quarter of 1282 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal at St Lawrence was happily uneventful.

1. Joanne Druce, 2. June Wells, 3. Jane Le Conte, 4. Helen McGregor, 5. Jack Page\*, 6. Peter Bevis, 7. Giles Winter, 8. Kelvin Britton, 9. John Wells, 10. Stephen Rossiter (c) \* First Royal

Those not ringing the quarter sampled the delights of Christmas shopping in the Oracle. We joined up for a delicious casserole supper at Jenny's then "home" to the Premier Inn.



supper at Jenny's

Saturday morning we were collected from our accommodation and ferried to our training towers.

At Tilehurst there was Triples, plain and surprise major and spliced surprise Major. A quarter of minimus was rung over lunch by some ringers who weren't hungry:

1272 Minimus 2m

1. Jane Le Conte, 2. Pam Pearson, 3. Duncan Loweth and 4. Peter Bevis (c)

At Shiplake we rang plain hunt on 5 and 7, plain bob doubles, grandsire triples, and raising and lowering. June Saint's refreshments were superb – tea and coffee and wonderful homemade cakes at BOTH towers ☺.

Saturday evening's quarter was 1280 Rutland Surprise Major at Caversham – hats off to Jane and Duncan

who had never rung a blow in the method before that day.

1. June Wells, 2. Jane Le Conte\*, 3. Helen McGregor, 4. Jack Page, 5. Duncan Loweth\*, 6. Peter Bevis, 7. John Wells, 8. Stephen Rossiter (c) \* First Rutland



outside Caversham church

Chinese takeaway back at Jenny's and then some hand bell ringing to finish the day – I am pleased to report that after 20years of irregular practice my 3-4 to Yorkshire S Major is starting to take shape😊.

Sunday morning service ringing was at two Reading churches: Caversham, Jenny and Jack's home tower, then St Mary's , Peter and Helen's old home tower. This was followed by lunch with the Reading ringers in the Oracle.

The final ringing was on the 12 bells of St Laurence's - yet again the Reading ringers turned out to support and because of this we were able to ring very good touches of Grandsire Caters, plain hunt on 9 and rounds on 12.

The help and support of the Reading ringers was outstanding – we couldn't have attempted the weekend without it and it is of such tremendous encouragement to our District members – words fail me except to say

**THANK YOU READING😊....**

PS. I include Acton and Cookham in "Reading" obviously my geography is as bad as my Yorkshire in hand.

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### **Venue for District 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays**

*Can I mention a thought which I would like to be discussed at next AGM in September please?*

*It is a fact that normally the only inter-island travellers to District 4<sup>th</sup> Sats on Gsy are Peter & me*

*I have long been unhappy that Jersey gets so little benefit from the District 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays ☹*

*Should more of the District Saturdays take place on Jersey? Does Jersey want some regular District 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday practices?*

*I am told that frequently I am asking for too much ringing on Guernsey – is this a possible solution?*

*Be warned: if Alderney get augmented then I will also be lobbying for some 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays to be on*

*Alderney ☹...maybe on rotation..Ay/Gsy/Jsy/Ay/Gsy/Jsy etc - it will need to be alphabetical otherwise I'll get lost...just a thought...*

**HMMcG**



## Entering the 8 Bell Striking Competition

It has been a while since the Channel Islands entered a team for the Guild 8 bell striking competition. Last year I asked for volunteers and got nowhere – this year I have decided on a more targeted approach. For an 8 bell team we need a group of people used to ringing 8 bells together – St John's Jersey is the strongest 8 bell band we have on the Channel Islands so I decided to use their nucleus as the starting point, then to graft on the best from Alderney and Guernsey in the hope that the final band would ring well together.

In January I went to Jersey with Peter & Stephen from Alderney. We were made very welcome by St John's & we were able to recruit 4 ringers willing and very able to ring a touch of Grandsire Triples at East Meon on July 7<sup>th</sup>. On Alderney we benefit from having 3 ringers very used to ringing together, on 8 bells and whose old home tower – St Mary's Reading - is not dissimilar in weight to the competition venue. An experienced 8 bell Guernsey ringer who has rung a lot with the Alderney and Jersey ringers completes the team. This is NOT about choosing the best 8 strikers in the District, that won't make a team. This is a group of 8 ringers who will get the best out of each other.

Consideration has been given to balancing the band eg we can't all want to ring round the back/front. A major consideration is the need to have confidence in each other's ability, to feel we are both supporting the other ringers & being supported by them in equal measure in other words we must be a happy team in order to perform well.

Between now and then we will practice at East Meon on the District Outing on March 24<sup>th</sup> and hope to meet up on a couple of the District 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays/Summer meeting. We will all arrive in UK for a final practice together on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. If you are passing East Meon on 7<sup>th</sup> July please come & support YOUR team – otherwise just wish us luck.

The team: Peter Routier, Justin Read, Judy Collins, David Clare, Helen McGregor, Stephen Rossiter (c), Peter Bevis & Jane Le Conte

All I have to do now is order the polo shirts  
Helen McGregor, District Master

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## CI Birthday celebrations 2011

As reported in the last edition of "Les Cloches", the District Committee suggested that the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of our own District, should be marked by ringing a ¼ peal in every tower in the District, around the date of the AGM. This was (eventually!) achieved. In all, 10 quarter peals were rung (See tower quarter peal lists in this issue, and the "Ringing World" Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2012, pp77 & 79) 45 ringers, including 9 founder members attended the District AGM & Striking competition held in Alderney on 25<sup>th</sup> September. (The Striking competition is described elsewhere by the Ringing Master.) Duncan Loweth, a Vale ringer, produced one of his usual masterpieces – a blue cake with each of the seven ringable towers depicted by a yellow bell with its name, and the whole enclosed with a border made up of four genuine touches of Doubles (Plain Bob, Grandsire, St Simon's and Stedman). It was cut by founder member Anne Fraser, the present District Chairperson.

## **GUIDELINES**

*David Strong, Guild master, has produced the following Guidelines for those who have wondered about standing for a District Officer position, but want to know a bit more about what each job entails before committing themselves. Please read carefully and consider if you might be willing to stand for one of these posts. (We do not have an Executive Committee Representative in our district as our membership is under 100.)*

*Remember that in the Channel Islands we elect our officers yearly at the September AGM, and that each island must be represented.*

*Please note that I will NOT be standing for re-election as District Secretary.*

*Nicky David*

### **District Officers - what the jobs entail**

The following suggestions may help new District Officers, and Members who are thinking of becoming District Officers.

#### **All Officers**

- 1 Put simply, your job is to further the Objects and Aims of the Guild - essentially that is to encourage more and better ringing, good bell maintenance and safe practice.
- 2 All Districts organise meetings, practices and events. You will be involved in the planning of these.
- 3 Good communications within the District are always important. Simply talking to as many people as possible at District events helps enormously, and issuing a District newsletter or maintaining a District website is a real bonus.
- 4 District members may come to you for help and advice on matters concerning the bells and ringing in their tower. So it helps if you know who to turn to both in the Guild and elsewhere. The Belfry Stewardship Committee can give assistance on hardware matters, and all the Guild Officers are always available for advice.

#### **Ringing Master**

As Ringing Master you organise the ringing at District meetings and practices. To do this as well as possible you will need to learn what you can about the skills and aspirations of District ringers and bands. You will also probably be the person to take the lead in organising District training events and in encouraging District members to participate in Guild education events. Organising quarter peals and/or peals for a District festival may also fall to you, as may finding a judge for the District striking competition.

#### **Treasurer**

As Treasurer you must collect subscriptions, issue receipts, keep accurate records, look after the money and draw up annual accounts. The Guild Treasurer will send you details every year of what is required and is available to give advice at any time. Once a year you will have to complete the membership lists for the Guild annual report.

#### **Secretary**

As Secretary you implement the District programme and act as the focal point for communication. You receive letters, emails and telephone calls, and disseminate information to the appropriate people as quickly and effectively as possible. Issuing a regular newsletter may be helpful if no one else does this. You prepare the agendas and write minutes for District meetings. Once a year you will have to write the annual District report and update the District and tower details for the Guild annual report.

### **Chairman**

As Chairman you should chair District meetings in an efficient and friendly fashion. You should also co-ordinate the work of the other Officers and make sure nothing is left undone. In addition, you can also act as a figurehead and public relations person if no one else fills that role.

### **Executive Committee Representative**

As EC Rep you should attend the two meetings that take place each year. These meetings deal with all sorts of matters relating to the running of the Guild and the awarding of bell restoration grants. You will bring your own views and the views of your District to the Committee, and afterwards you will report back to your District and fellow Officers.

## **TOWER REPORTS AND PEAL RECORDS FOR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT**

### **ST. ANNE'S, ALDERNEY TOWER REPORT**

The second half of 2011 has been very exciting at Alderney. Firstly we have been delighted to welcome Stephen Rossiter as a new member of our band. Stephen will already be known to many of you as one of the District tutors on the Reading courses that Helen has run. Stephen is also a personal friend and we have rung together for more than half my life. To have him move to Alderney is a great pleasure. Those who know Stephen will be aware that his wife, June, is an equally fine ringer. June is tidying up loose ends in Reading and then we anticipate that she will join Stephen on Alderney. Both June and Stephen have regularly represented Reading in the National 12 Bell Striking Competition and are superb ringers on all numbers of bells. Even more important for our band is that they both love teaching ringing and June bakes fantastic rock cakes!

We were pleased to welcome the District to Alderney in September. Doubtless the details of the District striking competition will be reported elsewhere, but Alderney are naturally thrilled to have won the completion for the first time in more than 20 years.

Our senior member, Maurice Stupart ("Grandpa" to the band), turned 87 in December, a good age for any ringer. Maurice remains one of our best and most enthusiastic band members and naturally wanted to take part in the quarter peal of St Clements Bob Minor that we rang for him. Maurice rang in 16 quarters in 2011, including quarters of Surprise and Stedman. What an example to us all!

The Alderney augmentation is progressing slowly. The matter has now been placed into the hands of Lovell Ozanne, the church architects. This feels like embarking on a campanological version of Jarndyce and Jarndyce, the notoriously slow Chancery case from Bleak House. But on the bright side, we have now landed six Saxilby Simulators, the frame is almost complete (a steel frame is being fabricated on Alderney) and they are due to be installed into the Methodist Church hall as the Beresford Ring, to honour the author of the Wombles, Elisabeth Beresford, in March.

## ST. ANNE'S, ALDERNEY QUARTERS/PEALS

### Quarters

We are very pleased to have rung 25 quarters in the second half of the year, giving us a total of 34 for the year. Of the tower bell quarters, 8 were of minor and 13 of doubles. Bristol minimus was rung again. It is such fun. The London Surprise mainly comprised visitors, but we did manage quarters of Cambridge and Norwich surprise with many of the ringers being from the local band. Where we have really improved, is in the range of doubles rung, with most being in more than one method. We even managed a quarter of Stedman, being a first for the majority of the band. Jane Fraser, a member of our winning striking competition band, continues to make great progress, ringing her first quarter of minor in November. Of special note also is Philippa's first inside of Surprise Major, necessarily at Town Church rather than here in Alderney.

Sunday 24 July 2011	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Tuesday 9 August 2011	1260 Plain Bob Major (Handbells)
Wednesday 10 August 2011	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Wednesday 10 August 2011	1260 Plain Bob Royal (Handbells)
Thursday 11 August 2011	1272 Norwich Surprise Minor
Thursday 11 August 2011	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major (Handbells)
Friday 19 August 2011	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Saturday 20 August 2011	1260 Doubles, 4m
Saturday 20 August 2011	1260 St Simons Bob Doubles
Sunday 21 August 2011	1292 Bristol Minimus
Monday 22 August 2011	1260 Stedman Doubles
Monday 22 August 2011	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Tuesday 23 August 2011	1260 Doubles, 11 m/v/p
Saturday 24 September 2011	1272 London Surprise Minor
Wednesday 28 September 2011	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Friday 11 November 2011	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Friday 11 November 2011	1260 Doubles 2m
Saturday 12 November 2011	1260 Doubles 2m
Saturday 12 November 2011	1260 Doubles 4m, 1p
Tuesday 15 November 2011	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Wednesday 23 November 2011	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Wednesday 7 December 2011	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Wednesday 14 December 2011	1260 St. Clements College Bob Minor
Tuesday 20 December 2011	1260 Doubles (6m)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	1260 Plain Bob Doubles



## **ST. JOHN'S TOWER REPORT**

Things are improving at St. John's despite a few headwinds.

Firstly, Robin suffered a stroke in August last year which put him out of action for a few months. From a selfish point of view, this meant we were short of one of our most experienced ringers for the Alderney striking competition. On the subject of the competition, we had a wonderful time in Alderney and not disappointed with our performance. I am pleased to report Robin's truly amazing recovery and rehabilitation, and he is now back ringing at his usual high standard.

We have also missed Stuart Reeves who had an accident at work and broke a foot. Stuart too is back at ringing. Despite being a member of the St. Mark's band, he is a regular supporter of the St. John's practice and service ringing.

We are very fortunate to have acquired a new ready-made ringer to the band by the name of Richard Harris. Richard has been a massive boost to the team.

On the whole practice nights are well supported and we have been able to attempt more stretching methods and touches. We perhaps need to be more mindful about the quality of our striking at times! It's also been good to have such a good turnout on Sunday mornings; we now regularly ring eight. It's a shame the same can't be said for numbers in the congregation!

Finally, a number of us are looking forward to attending the District outing in March which makes a pleasant change to our usual apathetic nature towards these events!

## **ST. JOHN'S QUARTERS/PEALS**

### **St. John's, Jersey Quarter Peal Records**

Friday, 12 August 2011 (7cwt)  
1280 Bristol S Major

1. June Saint
2. June Wells
3. Louise Ellis
4. Helen McGregor
5. Jack Page
6. Peter Routier
7. Stephen Rossiter
8. John Wells (c)

First in method 5

Wednesday 2 November 2011 in 40 (7cwt)  
1260 Doubles

1. Judy Collins
2. Mike Halsey
3. Justin Read (c)
4. Richard Herrisier

5. David Clare
6. Anne Fraser

Rung to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Channel Islands District within the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild

1<sup>st</sup> mixed: 2

## **ST. MARK'S TOWER REPORT**

Our practice nights on Fridays are not as regular as we would like, however we do seem to manage to ring nearly every Sunday. There are some new young learners as a result of a church open day and we look forward to them joining us at practices.

We have visitors who are always welcome and we appreciate their help.

We all thank Stuart Reeves, the Tower Captain, for all his dedication both as Captain and doing an excellent job of maintaining the bells so they ring so nicely. Unfortunately he has been out of action after badly breaking his foot. He is now back and has stepped down as Tower Captain. We have some young blood leading the tower as David Clare has taken over now he is back from University.

**Richard Herrisier has joined us at St Marks and has introduced hand bell ringing again at both Jersey towers. He is a great asset to Jersey ringing.**

Jo

## **ST. MARK'S QUARTERS/PEALS**

### **St. Mark's, Jersey Quarter Peal Records**

Friday, 12 August 2011 (9cwt)

1440 S Minor (2 m)

1. June Wells (c)
2. Jack Page
3. Helen McGregor
4. Stephen Rossiter
5. John Wells
6. Peter Ellis

First in these methods 2

Friday, 19 August 2011 in 45 (9cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Peter Routier
2. Jo Routier
3. Jack Worrall (c)
4. Stuart Reeves
5. Ben Smith
6. David Clare

Rung half muffled in memory of those tragically killed in St Helier last Sunday

Sunday 4 September 2011 in 44 (9cwt)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Stuart Reeves
2. David Woodward
3. Peter Routier
4. Anne Fraser
5. Lucinda Woodward
6. David Clare (c)

First as conductor in method

Sunday 25 September 2011 in 42 (9cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Marilyn Payne

Peter Payne

Jack R Worrall (c)

David Clare

Stuart J Reeves

Peter J Routier

Rung as a Ruby Wedding Anniversary compliment to 1 & 2

This quarter also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Channel Islands District within the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild

## **VALE TOWER REPORT**

Here we are again at the start of another year.

Another busy six months for us at the Vale. We have again rung for both morning and evening services with the occasional midweek service. We didn't hold a social event of our own this six months but a number of us joined the Town ringers at La Grande Mare during Tennerfest.

Our quarter peals have had a number of first in them as can be seen from the list. Of note were the two jointly conducted quarters of Plain Bob in which Nicky conducted in a quarter peal for the first time. To Sue on her first of All Saints actually on All Saints Day and to Joe on his first of St Simons and, at the Town Church, his first of Plain Bob Triples. You will note that the last three quarters gave John, Nicky and myself our 50<sup>th</sup> quarter peal this year.

2012 will prove to be a busy year for us. Although the number of weddings is at an all time low our Rector has challenged us to ring 60 quarter peals in this Jubilee year! Whether we can achieve that is another matter. As I write this – rung 2 failed 2!

Mike Bubb

## **VALE QUARTERS/PEALS**

10<sup>th</sup> July                      1260 Doubles in 11 methods

24<sup>th</sup> July                      1260 Plain Bob Minor (all singles) first all singles Paul Lawrence and Duncan Loweth

31 <sup>st</sup> July	1260 Minor in 3 methods. David Ely's annual quarter with us. 500 <sup>th</sup> as conductor Mike Bubb
8 <sup>th</sup> August	1320 London Surprise Minor
14 <sup>th</sup> August	1260 Grandsire Doubles. To welcome to the Vale Father Terry Moat – Vicar of Choppington our link parish.
11 <sup>th</sup> September	1269 Grandsire Doubles. To celebrate the 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Channel Island District. Five founding members of the district rang in this quarter.
18 <sup>th</sup> September	1260 Plain Bob Doubles. Jointly conducted. First calls in a quarter peal Nicky
29 <sup>th</sup> September	1260 Plain Bob Doubles. Jointly conducted
16 <sup>th</sup> October	1260 Plain Bob Minor. First minor Joe.
1 <sup>st</sup> November	1260 All Saints Doubles. First in method Sue Park.
8 <sup>th</sup> November	1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles. First in method inside Joe.
13 <sup>th</sup> November	1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles. Half muffled for Remembrance.
4 <sup>th</sup> December	1260 Grandsire Doubles
11 <sup>th</sup> December	1260 Doubles on 11 methods
18 <sup>th</sup> December	1260 Grandsire For service of lessons and carols. 50 <sup>th</sup> quarter this year Mike
24 <sup>th</sup> December	1260 Plain Bob Minor For annual Christingle Service. 50 <sup>th</sup> quarter this year Nicky
31 <sup>st</sup> December	1260 Plain Bob Minor – all singles. 50 <sup>th</sup> quarter this year John

## **TOWN CHURCH REPORT**

Before writing the report for the Cloches I always check back on previous copies to remind myself of events and happenings over the previous 12 months. I find it useful to compare what is happening in other Towers with our own at Town Church.

Common themes are Recruitment, Improvement and Enjoyment! And sure enough, we fit into the common theme.

Our main concern at present is the recruitment of new members. At the beginning of 2010 we did consider an Open Day as an aid to recruitment. However, after speaking with members of other Towers we realised that this type of event, while good for PR, is not successful in recruiting new members so that idea was not pursued. Sue recalled that when the Town Church bells were originally installed an advertisement was placed in the Press for ringers so we opted for this method of recruitment again. For £162 we had an advert in the Globe over three weeks followed by one in the Press plus a bonus article for free! Our Tower funds are not that large but we considered this a reasonable outlay.

Over the month of the advertising we had 9 responses from people of all ages who were interested in ringing but after outlining the commitment required that number settled at three and we are very pleased to welcome our new ringers:

Josh Cottam

Mark Pizzy

Sue Conley

While Mark has rung previously while living in the UK all have made considerable progress and importantly, are enjoying their ringing. We are very pleased and appreciative that Mark is able to join us for Sunday service ringing. Unfortunately for us, Josh also sings in the Church choir so a bit of a clash with engagements while Sue will be ready to join us before too long.

Our new members will boost our Tower membership to 10 and will, I hope, give us a good base to

build on.

One of the main ways to improve ringing is by ringing (or attempting to ring) quarter peals. In theory, we have 6 Tower members who can ring in quarter peals but when factoring in family commitments, holidays and bouts of sickness the actual occasions when we can get together for a quarter attempt is rare. Thankfully, ringers from the Vale band are on hand to help out for which we are always really grateful. Dean Lee is also back on the scene to help us out when he can as is Richard Pearson.

We still manage quarter attempts most Wednesdays when we ring at lunch time. Although in contrast to the previous year, we seem to have lost more than we have completed! However, the consolation is that our striking has improved and has not diminished our enjoyment or enthusiasm. Apart from enjoying our ringing we also took advantage of the Tennerfest and had a fine evening out at La Grande Mare in the company of other ringers from around the island.

**Paul Lawrence**

## **TOWN CHURCH QUARTERS/PEALS**

8th August 2011  
District Band  
Surprise Major Sliced  
Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative, Rutland

17th August  
Guernsey Band  
Plain Bob Doubles

31st August  
Guernsey Band  
Reverse Canterbury Doubles

5th October  
Guernsey Band  
St Martins Rung to celebrate the 30 th anniversary of the founding of the Ci District.

12th October  
Guernsey Band  
Single Oxford Minor

16th October  
District Band  
Guernsey Surprise Major

16th October  
District Band  
Cambridge Surprise Major

26th October  
Guernsey Band  
Plain Bob Triples

13th November  
Guernsey Band  
Plain Bob Triples

16th November  
Guernsey Band  
St Clements / Plain Bob Minor

14th December  
Guernsey Band  
Grandsire Doubles

21st December  
Guernsey Band  
Plain Bob Minor



## **ST. PETERS and FOREST TOWER REPORT**

What a difference 6 months makes, it seems that I have been telling everyone that we have been struggling for years now. I must admit that finding myself the youngest at our practice nights was not giving me great hope for the future! But at last our recent Intake of younger band members has given a completely different feel to Friday nights. The three 11yr olds (Molly, Esme and Joe) have given a vibrant feel to practice nights and are all making super progress and are now regular Sunday service ringers. They are now tackling Treble and tenor to doubles methods on the front 6. The two mums (Ann and Sally Ann) are doing brilliantly too. They are managing to keep pace with their children at the moment, and also tackling treble and tenor to doubles methods. Having 5 more ringers to choose from has reduced the pressure when band members are on holiday or break limbs, as Janet did a few months ago. (We will be pleased to have her back, fit and well.)

Recent service clashes between St Peters and Forest have been well covered. Forest practices have on the other hand continued to be poorly attended and we have had to cancel a few due to lack of support. I hope that can be turned around soon. Quarter peals are still not being achieved but I hope to have some firsts to report in 6 months time.

We all enjoyed our outing to Alderney for the striking competition. All 5 of my new recruits came along, enduring the very claustrophobic Victor Hugo ferry, while most of our ringers opted for the plane journey. While the competition came about a month early for the new learners to take part, we needed one ringing so that we could enter a team for Forest and a team for St Peters. Esme volunteered, and rang superbly well, far surpassing expectations, as she had only been ringing for 3 months! I stood next to her during the test piece, just in case, but was not actually needed.

Another off Island event of the last 6 months was our annual Herm trip, for the carvery at the white house. This is always a popular outing and this year was no exception. We didn't manage the summer b-b-que this year, but hopefully it will be reintroduced next year.

Hoping I am still reporting continued progress in the next newsletter.

Phil Le Conte

## **ST. PETERS and FOREST QUARTERS/PEALS**

### **St Peters**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011      1260 Grandsire Triples      For the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CI District

1 John Lihou      5 Duncan Loweth

2 Helen McGregor      6 John David

3 Peter Bevis      7 Phil le Conte(c)

4 Tim Wainwright      8 Mike Collins

1<sup>st</sup> Triples inside for Duncan Loweth

### **Ste. Marguerite de la Foret**

20<sup>th</sup> August 2011      1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles

1 Michele de la Huliniere      4 Duncan Loweth

2 Helen McGregor      5 Phil le Conte(c)

3 Peter Bevis      6 Mike Collins

1<sup>st</sup> away from cover for Michele Huliniere

12<sup>th</sup> October 2011      1260 Plain Bob Minor      To commemorate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CI District

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 Joe Allen   | 4 Paul Lawrence   |
| 2 John David  | 5 Peter Gallienne |
| 3 Nicky David | 6 Michael Bubb(c) |

## **WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS**

### **CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT**

Dates for your diary

(Details of each event will be circulated nearer the time)

#### **SPECIAL EVENT RINGING FOR 2012**

I'm sure it hasn't escaped your notice that there are several important national events taking place this year, notably the Queen's Jubilee, and the Olympic Games. In good ringing tradition, they provide ample opportunity for "special" ringing.

The District Ringing master is already planning a District peal attempt at Guernsey's Town Church on July 21st for the Jubilee. Your towers may wish to celebrate independently. Listed below are some dates which you might like to consider:-

- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Queen's Accession date
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June National w/end of Jubilee celebrations  
 Please let Helen know your Jubilee plans:-).....Please can we try to have all towers on Channel Islands ringing at 3pm on Sun June 3rd to coincide with the River Pageant? Do we know if the Channel islands are lighting any beacons on Tues 4th June? The Central Council has asked for as much ringing as possible on Tues June 5th - how about it?
- 15<sup>th</sup> July Olympic torch passes through St Peter Port & St Helier
- 27<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August London Olympic Games  
 (Consider the Martin Creed project, to ring as many bells as possible for 3 minutes at 8am on 27<sup>th</sup> to mark the final leg of the Olympic torch's journey to the Olympic Stadium)
- 29<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. Paralympic games

You may have also heard about two new compositions, "Five Rings Triples" and "Five Rings Double". These are not truly methods, and cannot be rung as quarter peals or peals as they are "false", but you might want to try ringing them for fun – they are available on the Guild website.

Guild Master, David Strong, is suggesting that any special ringing done for the Queen's Jubilee is collated by the Guild and sent to Her Majesty together with a message of congratulations. This will be discussed at the next Guild Executive meeting in March.

## THE REST OF THE YEAR – GUILD & DISTRICT DATES

- February 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> District Quarter Peal weekend
- March 10<sup>th</sup> Guild Executive meeting, Southampton
- March 24<sup>th</sup> District Officers' Forum, Southampton
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25th District outing to Guildford (See agenda further forward in newsletter)
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Guild inter-tower 6 & 8 bell striking competitions  
Guild Dinner, Winchester  
District teaching/Practice day, Guernsey
- May 26<sup>th</sup> District Practice/Teaching day, Guernsey
- June 16<sup>th</sup> District Summer meeting, Jersey
- July 7<sup>th</sup> Guild AGM East Meon, Hants & Guild 8 bell Striking Competition
- July 28<sup>th</sup> District Practice/Teaching day, Guernsey
- August 25<sup>th</sup> District Practice/Teaching day, Guernsey
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> District AGM & striking competition, Guernsey (Town Church),  
Helen has invited Alan Regin to judge the striking competition and is delighted to announce that he has accepted.
- October 27<sup>th</sup> District Practice/ Teaching day, Guernsey
- November 17<sup>th</sup> Guild Executive meeting, Southampton
- November 24<sup>th</sup> District Practice/ Teaching day. (Venue to be announced)

\*Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to these dates, some alterations may be necessary as the year progresses.

However, **PLEASE PUT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!**