

Les Cloches des Îles

February 2014 – Issue No. 58



Tragic Loss of
Distinguished
Members

St Mark Retain
Shield

New Competition

School Simulator

CI Cumberlands

First 12 in the
District

Guernsey BME

Future Ringer Born



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

Editorial	Page	Contents
In reading the articles of news from the six 6 months in the district there is a strong sense of team work within towers, within islands and within the district as a whole. We have learnt new methods together, practiced on higher numbers of bells together, celebrated together and mourned together. As we look to the future we must continue to see beyond ourselves and our own towers and look for ways to progress as a whole.	3	Alderney augmentation
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In May we have the ITTS course (page 25) which we hope will inspire and enable more people in the district to teach basic handling. The more people we have who feel confident teaching the better able we are to train new ringers. I'm particularly pleased to hear of the endeavours to build ringing into the school curriculum in Jersey, children are not only quick to learn but being involved with schools we have a much larger public image with which we can attract people to the exercise.	19	Elizabeth College Simulator
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Duncan Loweth		

Alderney Augmentation

Helen M McGregor

Alderney now has 13 bells in the belfry :-)

One time Alderney ringer, Dorothy Leach, had bequeathed money to the ringers and so as it was we were able to contemplate some necessary restoration work - remedying rusty head stocks etc. Once we realised that some of our bells were going to go to UK for maintenance how natural was it that our thoughts would turn to augmenting the peal.

We found a donor for the augmentation, got permission from the States of Alderney (who own the building), accepted the quote from Matthew Higby & we were off!

The Bell-Free Alderney ringers kept their hand in with Wombles practices and quarter peals :-)

Alderney, Channel Islands, Beresford Campanile

Tuesday, 13 August 2013 in 50 minutes

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Aileen Wilson

3 Maurice Stupart

4 Peter JR Bevis

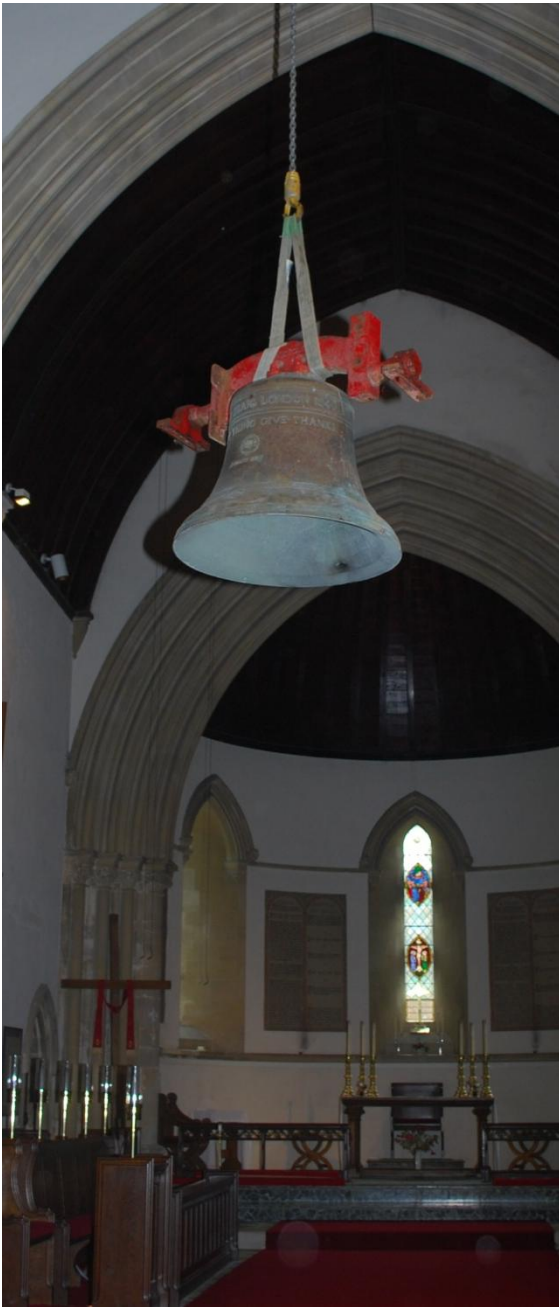
5 Jack Page (C)

6 Heather Winder

First Inside, 2.



The front 4 of our beautiful 6 were taken away in July to be returned at the end of October with 6 shiny little sisters and an ancient Sanctus bell the gift of a PCC in Ipswich. Matthew and his crew worked hard to meet the vicars deadline of Remembrance Sunday, but we managed it.



Thanks must be given to Donald for all his behind-the-scenes organisation

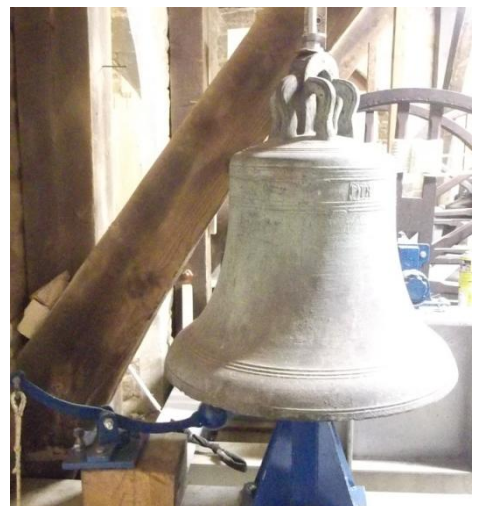
We now have a pretty peal of 12, (treble 3-1-1, tenor 13-1-0).

Already we have hosted the Reading ringers for a training weekend, The Cumberlands have come for the first peal, we have 3 peal bands booked for later in the year -each one will of course be a training opportunity for the local band - a mini outing from Guernsey is expected mid-Feb, the CI District has organised an inter-island 8 bell competition in May.....all wonderful consequences of our augmentation.

Full details of all the new bells can be found at alderneybells.com and many examples of our ringing are on YouTube, just search Alderney bells

If you are an Alderney ringer reading this - very well done on embracing the project so wonderfully, if you are a Guernsey or Jersey ringer we look forward to your visit:-)

HMM^cG



Farewell to Harriet

Sue Park



Harriet joined us a couple of years ago following University in York where she had learnt to ring. Call Changes were her standard repertoire at this point but with lots of encouragement and (coercion) she moved on swiftly and confidently to Bob Doubles and trebling on eight.

The leaving cake made by Duncan lists all the many activities Harriet is involved in as well as Bellringing (top of the list) Morris Dancing, Accordion Club, Eurovision Trivia, and Race Walking are all up there.



Harriet as a lively outgoing personality and will be missed (the tower will be significantly quieter) but we shall look forward to a visit from her hopefully at Christmas. We all wish her every success as she starts her two year graduate scheme with Centrica.

Good Luck Harriet from at the Town.

SP



6 bell striking Competition

Helen M McGregor

The District inter-tower 6 bell competition was hosted by Jersey this year on Sept 21st at St Mark's. 8 teams from the towers took part and we were also able to field a scratch team to give Christine Hill (Guild Vice master) and her husband Peter a chance to take part.

One time District chairman Colin Belsey and his wife Wendy, now living in Yorkshire but visiting Jersey for the beer-fest, kindly agreed to judge the competition. The judges were included in the pre-competition quarter rung at St John's which had the bonus of keeping them out of the way while we had some last minute practice

St. John in the Oaks, Saturday 21 September 2013 in 42 mins

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Tim Wainwright
- 2 Richard Herrissier
- 3 Justin Read
- 4 Wendy Belsey
- 5 Peter Routier
- 6 Peter J R Bevis
- 7 Colin Belsey
- 8 Stephen A Rossiter (c)

Rung in fond memory of Jack Worrall

After general ringing which permitted everyone to familiarise themselves with 'their' bell, a warm service in which we remembered Jack Worrall and a delicious lunch we had the competition. Ringing from call changes through plain hunt to bob doubles and grandsire doubles; the ringing was wonderful to listen to.

I have now placed the bands in the order determined by the judges:

1st, St Mark's with 29 faults. Grandsire doubles. Confidently ringing together, very few faults, good leading – fastest ringing of the day

2nd, St John's with 56 faults, good leading but there was a rocky patch in the middle

3rd, St Anne's with 75 faults, plain courses of grandsire doubles, a confident start, measured ringing which was pleasing to listen to

4th, Town Church with 88 faults rang bob doubles. Some regular clips but no major errors.

5th, Vale with 97 faults, the ringing improved when into changes but failed to settle into a rhythm but a good Sunday Service standard.

6th was the Scratch team with 124 faults narrowly beating St Peter's A in

7th place with plain hunt & 125 faults.

8th, St Peter's B ringing call changes scored 160.

9th Forest rang bob doubles but fired out so unfortunately had to be awarded max faults for every change short of the 120 required – scored 254

Well done to Jersey for winning and very very well done to St Peter's for fielding 2 teams away from home!! This has set me planning a novices competition for next summer ☺

Thanks to everyone for taking part

H M McG



6 bell inter tower striking competition rules

Helen M McGregor

A dispute arose at St Mark's last Sept about the period of time permitted for practice.

Here are the relevant rules:

- Each individual ringer, on entering the tower, may pull off his bell and adjust his rope if necessary
- Each team may practice rounds/changes for a maximum of 2 minutes and then stand

For the avoidance of doubt I take this to mean that if a team starts their practice, rings for 30 seconds then stops to adjust their ropes they only have 90 secs left to practice. It does NOT mean that having rung for 30 secs they can then adjust their ropes & have 2 minutes practice now everyone has the right length rope.

This interpretation is consistent with the normal meaning attached to the words of the written rules and is also consistent with the Guild 6 bell inter tower rules (as advised to me by Nigel Herriott)

HMMcG

1st annual CI 8 bell competition

Helen M McGregor

I am delighted to announce that the First Annual Inter-Island 8 Bell Striking Competition will take place on Saturday May 10th 2014 at Town Church.

The test piece to be 224 changes of Grandsire Triples, the touch being plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, single, repeat.

The rules for the competition will mirror the Guild 8 bell inter-district competition and will be circulated to the teams shortly. There will be 3 teams - one each from Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey. Teams to be organised by the Committee member(s) for that island or their nominated representative(s).

Limiting the event to 3 teams means plenty of time for general ringing, so even if you are not in a team please come and support your island team and enjoy some good ringing too :-)

HMMcG

Why are we setting a test piece for the 8 bell inter-island striking competition?

Helen M McGregor

I have been asked why are we setting a test piece for the 8 bell?

It should be taken as read that the committee will only choose a method/touch which each island is capable of putting forward a team for.

I prefer to have a level playing field – I don't want one island ringing plain hunt on 7 while another island is ringing Surprise major – how can that be fair?

I like the idea of the 3 islands sharing a focus method – I will be watching for quarters in the required method from the different islands & hope to play some part in each islands training sessions.

I very much want the 8 bell competition to have a different feel from the 6 bell – we are a small district & I need to keep the ringing 'alive' & interesting. When we change from requiring a triples test piece to a major one – or vice versa- then we will get the 3 islands changing their practice night focus - actually broadening their repertoire - forcing them to concentrate on something they may not like perhaps. If an island team is REQUIRED to ring eg bob major then they will HAVE to practice it whether they like it or not and OK they may not win the first couple of years but they will be better (broader) ringers at the end of it ☺

A set piece is going to make it far easier for a judge to compare 3 teams. Put yourself in the judges shoes - would you prefer to judge an 8 bell competition with all 3 teams ringing same thing or are going to ring who knows what? I think I could (maybe) judge a 6 bell competition with

teams ringing anything they like but for an 8 bell I would definitely want to know what they were going to ring. There are not many serious ringers with free weekends & catching one prepared to judge an 8 bell is tricky enough without making it even harder

Many competitions have set test pieces & I want 'my' CI ringers to experience as many different ringing scenarios as possible

For all these reasons I want at least the first year of the competition to have a set test piece. This is not carved in stone but a good place to start from – happy practising ☺

HMMcG

Another Cumberland on the Channel Islands

I am delighted to report that Peter Routier was elected a member of the prestigious Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in London on Saturday October 5th. Proposed by Stephen Rossiter and seconded by Peter Bevis the meeting heard that Peter had been taught by Jack Worral, rang regularly with Simon Linford when Simon was in Jersey, he has rung a good number of peals including 8 spliced S Major & London No 3 S Royal, was always in the Jersey 6 bell striking competition team (frequently winning) and also in the District 8 bell team.

A letter in support had been written by Alan Regin who knew Peter from Alan's various trips to CIs. Lucinda & David Woodward also recalled Peter's hospitality and warmth from their trips to Jersey.

Peter was unanimously elected

HMMcG

Cumberland Peal

Helen M McGregor

There being currently 6 CI members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths it was inevitable that we would attempt a peal of minor for the society peal weekend. We are delighted to report that the peal attempt was successful.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, Guernsey, Channel Islands

St. Marguerite de la Foret, Forest

Sunday, 17 November 2013 in 2hrs 33mins (5)

5040 Minor (4m)

(1) Norwich (2-3) Cambridge (4-5) St Clements (6-7) Plain Bob

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Jack Page

3 Duncan Loweth

4 Peter J Routier

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

For Society peal weekend

Rung open in celebration of the life of David Strong

We believe this to have been the first time a peal has been rung on CI for the Society by a band composed of ringers who are all members of CI towers.

HMMcG



In Memory of David Strong

Mike Bubb

David came to Guernsey in early 2002 to join Anne who in the previous year had taken the position of head of maths at La Mare de Carteret school. David had stayed behind in the UK while their youngest completed A levels.

Anne was already worshipping at Vale and ringing with us so it was natural that David joined us. He soon became an integral part of the band imparting his vast knowledge to us and moving us forward.

At the same time he was appointed organist and choirmaster of the Vale and split his time on a Sunday between ringing and playing. He retired as organist in June 2007. His legacy to the choir were numerous settings of “unison” hymn tunes converted to four part harmony together with a setting of the Sanctus and Benedictus which we still use during the parish Eucharist.

In all he rang 127 quarter peals at Vale and one peal. In one of his last quarters at Vale he circled the tower 20 times. He also rang many quarter peals at the other island towers.

David was always there to help ringers. Explaining things in words of one syllable rather than complicating matters. This made him an ideal teacher and he held ringing night classes on behalf of the Guernsey College of Further Education at Town Church.

He was elected the first vice master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild of Church Bell Ringers having earlier held the post of Report Editor. His meticulous nature ensured the report was of a high standard. At this time David and Anne decided to return to the UK and they settled down in Lockerley (6 bells) which is just outside Romsey.

David then went on to be elected Master of the Guild a role he held for six years (which is the maximum allowed for by the Guild rules). He took a great interest in Education and was a member of the Guild's Education Committee.

It was with shock that just before Christmas in 2012 I learnt that David had been diagnosed with bowel cancer. He managed to chair the Guild

Executive and Officers forum in March 2013 and it was wonderful that he felt well enough to go to Jersey for the Guild AGM which I know he had been looking forward to. He received a standing ovation as he passed the badge of office over to Viv Nobbs.

At the airport on the way back home we said goodbye to David little knowing that would be the last time we saw him. I had been due to visit him in the hospice on Friday 15th November but he passed away in the early hours of the morning. I did see Anne that morning spending time with her and her sister reminiscing.

David's memorial service was held at Lockerley on the afternoon of 30th November. The ringing beforehand started at 1.30 (it was a 2.30 service) with ringers queuing up to ring. The church was packed with ringers, friends and family. A fitting send off for a well loved man.

MB

Jersey, Channel Islands
St Mark the Evangelist
Friday 15th November
1296 Morpeth Surprise Minor
1 Louise Read
2 Richard Herrissier
3 Robin Pittman
4 Justin Read
5 Peter Routier
6 David Clare (C)
Rung in memory of Jack Worrall
and David Strong.

Town Church, Guernsey
Sunday 8 December 2013
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Judith Laine
2 Josh Cottam
3 Sue Park
4 Jane Le Conte
5 Paul Lawrence (C)
6 Mark Pizzey
1st quarter, 2.

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne
Saturday, 30 November 2013 in 55
mins (13)
1320 Plain Bob Maximus
1 June A Saint
2 June D Wells
3 Philippa Arditti
4 Kelvin R Britton
5 Helen M McGregor
6 Jenny M Page
7 Jack Page
8 Duncan Loweth
9 Peter J R Bevis
10 Marcia L Dieppe
11 E John Wells
12 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
1st on 12:3,8.
First quarter on 12 tower bells in
the Channel Islands.
Dedicated to the memory of David
Strong.

Society of Royal Cumberland
Youths
Guernsey, Channel Islands
St. Marguerite de la Foret, Forest
Sunday, 17 November 2013 in
2hrs 33mins (5)

5040 Minor (4m)

(1) Norwich (2-3) Cambridge (4-
5) St Clements (6-7) Plain Bob

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Jack Page

3 Duncan Loweth

4 Peter J Routier

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

For Society peal weekend

Rung open in celebration of the
life of David Strong.

Vale, Guernsey

Sunday 17 November 2013

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 John David

2 Sue Park

3 Joe Allen

4 Duncan Loweth

5 Michael Bubb (conductor)

6 Colin Sarchet

Rung open in celebration of the
life of David Strong, immediate
past master of The Winchester
and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of
Church Bell Ringers. One time
ringer and organist at this Church.
A good friend to us all. May he rest
in peace and rise in Glory. Nicky
David wishes to be associated with
this quarter peal.

Alderney, Channel Islands

St. Anne

Friday 22 November 2013

252 Plain Bob Triples

1 Aileen Wilson

2 Pam Pearson

3 Philippa Arditti

4 Helen M McGregor

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 Philip Maddocks

7 Stephen A Rossiter (c)

8 Victoria McAllister

The first ever touch on 8 bells
rung on Alderney.

Rung by members of the Sunday
service band - especially arranged
in fond memory of David Strong

Alderney, Channel Islands

Saturday 30 November 2013

168 Grandsire Triples

1 Tim Wainwright

2 Viv Nobbs

3 Rob Gorton

4 Duncan Loweth

5 Graham Nobbs

6 Marcia Dieppe

7 Kelvin Britton (C)

8 Jenny Page

In memory of David Strong
(Immediate Past Master of the W
& P Guild) rung at the time of his
Thanksgiving Service held at
Lockerley.

Alderney Bellringers' Augmentation Celebrations and Training Weekend

Helen M McGregor

The Alderney band were delighted that our new Guild Master – Viv Nobbs and husband Graham were able to join us together with our regular visitors: John & June Wells, June Saint, Jenny & Jack Page, Kelvin Britton & Marcia Dieppe and also 4 of our Guernsey friends: Jane Le Conte, Duncan Loweth, Rob Gorton & Tim Wainwright all made it over for the augmentation and training weekend at the end of November.

The bell hangers only having left Alderney at the beginning of the month the local band had already devoted much of every intervening weekend to tackling rounds and plain hunt on higher numbers – together with a brief foray into bob triples. However utilising all our visitors we were able to ring 2 leads of spliced surprise major, bob course of grandsire cinques, Yorkshire Royal, bob max, kaleidoscope Mexican wave on 12, and many many plain hunt on 7's and 9's ☺. The Alderney band are hugely grateful to all their visitors for coming to help us improve our repertoire on 8, 10 & 12.

It had been hoped that the computer simulator would have been in operation but sadly some of the wires had been damaged during the building work and replacements hadn't arrived so we only had 2 different volume settings – shutters open and shutters closed. Happily the sound proofing of the shutters and the false floor above the bells have drastically reduced the sound emanating from the tower – such that the complaints we received were all to the effect that the bells were now too quiet outside!!

On Thursday evening 4 of the organizers took the view that if it wasn't arranged by now then it was probably too late & rang a qtr of Kent TB Major in hand.

The training got underway at 12 noon on Fri Nov 29th and we rang all afternoon – either workshops or quarter attempts and by the end of the day we had 3 qtrs in the bag.

The visitors & their hosts ate spaghetti bolognese at Helen & Peter's, followed by a bellringers quiz - with mince pies and mulled wine at Rea's Bistro. First prize (Lindt chocolate bells) went to Guernsey Surprise

Minimus, second prize (chocolate bell tree decorations) went to The Clangers (a team of non-ringers) and third prize (more chocolate bell tree decorations) was won by Berkshire Belles. The very polite Alderney teams obviously considered it inappropriate to score too highly ☺. Aileen had organized a raffle which – together with the ticket £ raised a total of £340 for the Belfry Kitty.

The Saturday morning general practice was filmed by BBC cameraman David Earle with the footage making the headlines of the 6 o'clock news on Monday. Sadly the first quarter on 12 didn't have the necessary rhythm and was called round early.

Revitalised by tasty lunch the afternoon ringing was all successful – even the second attempt at the quarter of bob max. Viv reminded us that it was David Strong's memorial service that afternoon and so it was extremely appropriate to dedicate the first 12 bell qtr rung on CI to David's memory.



The highlight of the weekend however was the Augmentation Dinner at the Georgian House, with 34 guests attending we took over The Orangery in its entirety and had a marvelous evening – the food was delicious, the company was great and the handbell ringing was excellent – even the half course of Yorkshire S Major.



Sunday morning service ringing was attended by the editor of our local paper who interviewed a number of the tutors. Many of the ringers attended morning service where we were warmly greeted by the vicar who thanked us for all our hard work.

A quarter of Yorkshire Royal was rung after the service and was dedicated to those who had been involved in the incident in Glasgow where a

helicopter had crashed into a crowded pub. The vicar had reminded the congregation that Glasgow had been the wartime home of many Alderney evacuees.

The long afternoon Grandsire Triples workshop was very well attended and most productive – plain courses and touches being worked on by everyone. Maddy's birthday cake was extremely well received – providing some much needed brain food.

By Sunday evening we only had 3 visitors left but even so we enjoyed our fish & chips with handbells at Philippa's

Monday's practice night was an amazing evening – the handling session started at 4.30pm and then, keen to make the most of our remaining tutors, Kelvin, John W & June W, we had an excellent band turnout of 16 Alderney ringers – Julia, Maddy, Helen Martin, Helen McGregor, Laura, Peter Bevis, Steve, Pam, John, Philip, Maurice, Aileen, Heather, Andrew, Jane & Victoria. Only Peter Bennion was missing being off-island ☺

The final event of the weekend was supper at Gloria's where Kelvin circulated the estate agents particulars of a house he was going to view the following day!!! What better way to end the training weekend??

Huge thanks to ALL our visitors – we couldn't have done it without you.

Alderney, Channel Islands
Wells House, Longis Common
Thursday, 28 November 2013 in
48 mins

1312 Kent Treble Bob Major

Composed by Roger Bailey

1–2 Peter J R Bevis

3–4 Philippa Arditti

5–6 Helen M McGregor

7–8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

1st as conductor in method in
hand.

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Catherine's House, St Anne
Saturday, 30 November 2013

1344 Plain Bob Major

1–2 June D Wells

3–4 Jack Page

5–6 E John Wells (C)

7–8 Duncan Loweth

Alderney, Channel Islands
St Anne
Friday, 29 November 2013 in 48
mins (13 cwt)

1296 Plain Bob Major

Composed by James Smith

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Philippa Arditti

3 Jane Le Conte

4 Viv Nobbs

5 Graham Nobbs

6 Peter JR Bevis (C)

7 E John Wells

8 June D Wells

First quarter on 8 tower bells in
Alderney. First quarter on the
newly augmented bells.

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne

Sunday, 1 December 2013

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1 June A Saint

2 June D Wells

3 Jenny M Page

4 Kelvin R Britton

5 Stephen A Rossiter

6 Duncan Loweth

7 Jack Page (C)

8 Peter J R Bevis

9 Graham A Nobbs

10 E John Wells

1st surprise royal:6

1st quarter of surprise on the new
bells

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne

Sunday, 1 December 2013

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

1 June D Wells

2 Philippa Arditti

3 June A Saint

4 Duncan Loweth

5 Kelvin R Britton

6 Marcia L Dieppe

7 Helen M McGregor

8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

First Surprise Major:2

Rung in memory of Winifred Jean
Brady

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne

Saturday, 30 November 2013 in 55
mins (13)

1320 Plain Bob Maximus

1 June A Saint

2 June D Wells

3 Philippa Arditti

4 Kelvin R Britton

5 Helen M McGregor

6 Jenny M Page

7 Jack Page

8 Duncan Loweth

9 Peter J R Bevis

10 Marcia L Dieppe

11 E John Wells

12 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

1st on 12:3,8.

First quarter on 12 tower bells in
the Channel Islands.

Dedicated to the memory of David
Strong.

Elizabeth College Simulator

Duncan Loweth

Elizabeth College, Guernsey, has purchased and installed a Saxilby Simulator in their newly refurbished Music building. The simulator was purchased by donations by the Friends of Elizabeth College and the Old Elizabethan Association and installed in May 2013.

Having found it a home in the building it was then necessary to have a whole drilled through a thick concrete floor. Unfortunately the contractors drilled the hole wide enough for the rope but not the sally, making it impossible to ring. However, over the summer holidays the necessary adjustments were made and it has been up and running since September. A number of students have had a go on the bell, some of which have then attended the school practice at church. Joe Berry, Forest and St Peter's, used the simulator to do his Year 9 music performance assessment which was an excellent opportunity to introduce ringing to his classmates.

I'm currently working with the Director of Music to build ringing into the Music department's scheme of work. When the boys get more advanced in ringing it will allow them to practice methods and hone their striking.



My next plan is to get some real bells for the school, but that may take rather a lot longer to achieve...

DL

New Year Honours

Duncan Loweth

Our district secretary, Jane Le Conte has been recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list for her charitable work. As well as co-ordinating Home-Start Guernsey, a charity which recruits parents as volunteers who visit families experiencing stressful times, Jane also helped found the Guernsey Child Contact Centre and is a committee for the Guernsey Foster Care and Adoption Association. Jane received the British Empire Medal for her services to the community.

Jane has been helping support parents and children for nearly 20 years. She got involved with the Guernsey Foster Care and Adoption Association in 1995. Since then she has volunteered on the Adoption and Permanence Panel, helped found the Guernsey Child Contact Centre twelve years ago and has worked as Home-Start's senior local co-ordinator.

Jane's award also covered her commitment to the Channel Island District of Church Bell ringers in her capacity as secretary as well as her many years of ringing, and teaching ringing in the island.



DL

Guernsey, Channel Islands
San Baronto
Saturday, 11 January 2014
in 42 mins

1264 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Peter J R Bevis
3-4 Helen M McGregor
5-6 Duncan Loweth
7-8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

To celebrate the awarding of BEM to
Jane Le Conte, our District Secretary.

Town Church, Guernsey (CI)
Wednesday, 15 January 2014 in
44mins (11cwt)

1260 St. Clements College Bob and Plain Bob minor

720 St Clements College Bob Minor
and 540 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen McGregor 2 Sue Park
3 John David 4 Paul Lawrence
5 Dean Lee 6 Mike Bubb (C)

Compliment to Jane le Conte (CI
District Sec'y) who received a BEM
in the New Year's Honour List for
services to charity.

Elizabeth College Trip to ~~Alderney~~ St Peter's

Duncan Loweth

Following the success of last year's trip the Elizabeth College band of learners were looking forward to our school trip to Alderney in the first weekend of term in January, probably because of the promise of fish and chips as much if not more so than the ringing!

A spanner appeared in the works when Helen needed to be on Guernsey for most of January. Knowing how Peter Bevis is around learners there was no point going without Helen there, but that's no reason to miss an opportunity to ring. Thus Alderney became St. Peter's and a new tower grabbed by the boys. With plenty of bell handling and some smart sounding rounds the afternoon was a great success and the boys enjoyed themselves.

The Elizabeth college school trip has now been booked for late April.

Fortuitously, on the same weekend both Stephen Rossiter and Peter Bevis were able to fly over, and, as well as serving as rope fodder for the school practice, they helped the Guernsey ringers with some advanced ringing and a few quarters scoring 3.

We started on Friday evening with an advanced 8 bell practice. Unfortunately so many people had to work, happened to be ill, or be off island that we only mustered 7 ringers. However, we had a very enjoyable practice including touches of London SM; four of the Cambridge 6, Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich, and Norfolk; Stedman triples; Single Oxford Bob Triples; and some spliced minor methods.

Saturday saw an early start at 9.30 to ring some Double Norwich Court Bob Major. A few false starts were inevitable with 4 of the band looking to get their first quarter in method (and as it transpired their first touch in the method), but on the fourth attempt it settled down into a reasonably steady and very enjoyable quarter peal.

In the afternoon Sue Park scored her first quarter of Stedman doubles at Forest which was very steady and enjoyable to ring. With an hour before handbell ringers arrived for fish and chips and a handbell practice evening,

I did not have to twist their arms hard to ring a quarter of Bob Major in Hand.

The handbell practice was most useful as we have been making slow progression by ourselves, but with experienced ringers we all were able to improve our Plain Bob minor and major.

My great thanks to Helen, Stephen and Peter for supporting the school children in their practice and for supporting us grown-ups too.

DL

Guernsey, Channel Islands
St Pierre du Bois
Saturday, 11 January 2014 in 45min
1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major
1 Phil Le Conte
2 Paul Lawrence
3 Helen M McGregor
4 John David
5 Duncan Loweth
6 Peter J R Bevis
7 Michael Bubb
8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
1st in method: 2,4,5,7

Guernsey, Channel Islands
St. Marguerite de la Foret
Saturday, 11 January 2014 in 41min
1260 Stedman Doubles
1 Helen M McGregor
2 Duncan Loweth
3 Sue Park
4 Peter J R Bevis
5 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
6 Rob Gorton
1st Stedman Doubles:3

Guernsey, Channel Islands
San Baronto
Saturday, 11 January 2014 in 42 mins
1264 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Peter J R Bevis
3-4 Helen M McGregor
5-6 Duncan Loweth
7-8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

To celebrate the awarding of BEM to Jane Le Conte, our District Secretary.

Paul Arditti 1952-2014

Peter Bevis

Alderney lost a good and loyal friend at the end of January. Paul was a Ringer with the Alderney band which fitted well with his Christian faith, his love of people, his desire to serve the community and the fact that his wife, Philippa, is also a bellringer. Until last year Paul helped maintain the bells as "Steeple Keeper" and was as excited as any of us that we now have twelve bells. He was throwing himself into developing the skills necessary to ring the additional bells and rarely missed the Sunday call to worship.



On Saturday 25th January, the band rang a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus, the first such performance on the Channel Islands, as a celebration of Paul's life.

PB

Town Church, Guernsey

Wednesday 22nd January 2014 in 43 minutes

1260 Doubles in 1 method and 2 variations

One extent each St Helen, St Quintin and eight and a half extents Grandsire.

- 1 Sue Park
- 2 John David
- 3 Joe Allen
- 4 Paul Lawrence
- 5 Michael Bubb (conductor)
- 6 Colin Sarchet

Rung on the back six. First quarter for all using Grandsire variations.

Rung in memory of Paul Arditti, ringer at St Anne, Alderney, Member of the States of Alderney and Alderney representative in the States of Guernsey.

May he Rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths
Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne

Saturday, 25 January 2014 in 3hrs 18mins (13-1-0)

5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by R W Pipe

- 1 June A Saint
- 2 June D Wells
- 3 Joanna K Dorling
- 4 Jack Page
- 5 Helen M McGregor
- 6 Christine R Hill
- 7 Ian Roulstone
- 8 Peter J R Bevis
- 9 Claire F Roulstone
- 10 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
- 11 Ian G Campbell
- 12 Alan Regin



First Peal on the bells. First peal on 12 tower bells in the Channel Islands.
Rung to celebrate the life of Paul Arditti, ringer at St Anne's and member of
the States of Alderney.

Alderney, Channel Islands
St. Anne

Monday 27 January 2014 in 41 mins

1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Sue Belgrove
- 2 Philippa Arditti
- 3 Helen M McGregor
- 4 June D Wells
- 5 E John Wells
- 6 Stephen A Rossiter (c)

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Paul Arditti.

District Spring Meeting Weekend May 10/11th on Guernsey

Helen M McGregor

Provisional programme:

Saturday May 10th

First annual inter-island 8 bell competition **10 – 12 noon at Town Church**
Martin Turner has agreed to come to judge the 3 teams ringing a set piece of grandsire triples. Competition 10 – 10.30am, followed by coffee, business meeting & results.

ITTS – module 1 – venue St Peter's (tbc)

Theory 1, 12 – 12.30, Quick lunch, Practical 1, 1 – 3.30pm,
Theory 2, 3.45 – 4.14, Practical 2, until 5.15.
(Final session Sunday afternoon)

ITTS module 1 covers how to teach people to learn to ring. The course is available to anyone who is interested in teaching others to ring. THIS MEANS YOU. I want every CI ringer who is cheerful, a competent handler and who has a smidgeon of patience to attend this event. Fantastic method ringing skills NOT required. Good handling & a smile is all you need to bring with you on this course. If you have rung a quarter peal then your handling is probably good enough, feel free to email me to discuss.

Supper at local restaurant – venue tbc.

Sunday May 11th

Service ringing 'circuit' or Mentor Development Workshop.

A) The Role of the Mentor, B) Teacher Development
and C) Starting the Process.

Mentors are experienced ringers, locally respected for their existing teaching skills who will be available to support the new teachers. Mentors will develop their own skills as teachers but also be responsible for bringing on the next generation of teachers. Mentors will have to attend

ITTS 1 in order to be accredited as a mentor.

Final session ITTS module 1 on Sunday afternoon (approx 3 hrs)

More information on ITTS 1 and Mentoring can be found at:
Ringingteachers.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome Pip Penney, chairman of the Assoc of Ringing Teachers who will be delivering the ITTS module 1 & leading the mentoring workshop

Please let me know if you would like to join us for Mentoring &/or ITTS1.
Gsy ringers will aim to accommodate all visitors from Jsy & Ay

If you would prefer to ring some qtrs instead of attending either of ITTS/mentoring events please let me know – Peter B & Steve will be looking for ringers to make up bands BUT I want everyone to come for ITTS 1 so that they can support their tower captains in future recruitment exercises!!

Looking forward to seeing you May 10/11th

Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk or 077811 49905

HMM^cG

VALE, GUERNSEY - TOWER REPORT

Mike Bubb

Another very busy six months for us at the Vale. Both main services on Sunday are rung for as are for the odd mid week service and of course weddings. Usually a quarter peal is rung prior to the Evening service.

We held our annual barbecue on a balmy Sunday lunchtime. Thanks to John and Nicky for hosting. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

A fine, calm September's Day saw six intrepid Vale ringers plus 1 at the harbour awaiting the arrival of Condor Express. The last time we attempted the trip to Jersey by ferry most of us never got there. The boat arrived early! and we had very calm crossing followed by a nice walk to St Mark's. One thing we managed to do was confuse the striking competition judges with what was rung. Plain Bob Double it certainly wasn't.

So ringing wise what have we been doing. You can see that we haven't quite managed to ring 60 quarter peals as we did last year but have rung 48. During the last six months only one quarter of minor (St Clements – first in method Joe) but you can see we have been experimenting with various doubles variations, some of which we have rung quarter peals of (St Margaret's, St David and St John the Evangelist) and others have been utter failures. Four stand out for mention – three serious and one fun. The most poignant of them all was that of Grandsire Doubles rung open in celebration of the life of David Strong. It was a fitting tribute to David with excellent striking right through of which he would have been proud.

We were asked by the Guild to commemorate David's mastership with special ringing. This we did with a quarter of St David Doubles.

With no evening service on Remembrance Sunday our quarter for Remembrance was rung prior to practice on the 11th. Something different – half muffled Antelope which with the places in 4ths and 5ths sounded rather good.

Now for the fun one. If any of you have been near the Vale for our Christingle service you will know what over 350 people sound like in a confined space. Plain Bob Doubles was chosen and I suggest it was jointly conducted. Well I had thought the others might have call themselves

observation – it worked for the first three extents then Any how it was called round at the right time.

I mentioned above ringing in celebration of the life of David Strong. I have written a short item about David's time at Vale and my working with him during his Guild Mastership. I'm sure we all have our memories of David.

Best wishes to everyone for 2014.

MB

VALE, GUERNSEY - QUARTER PEALS

7th July	1260 Doubles in 6 methods and 5 variations
14th July	1269 Grandsire Doubles
23rd July	1260 Grandsire Doubles Celebrating the birth of the Prince of Cambridge
28th July	1260 Grandsire Doubles
7th August	1260 Grandsire Doubles
11th August	1260 St Margaret Doubles first in variation John, Joe, Peter and Mike
15th August	1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles
18th August	1260 Reverse St Bartholomew Doubles first in variation Joe
25th August	1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles
1 st September	1260 St Simons Bob Doubles
16 th September	1260 St Clements College Bob Minor. First in method Joe
29 th September	1260 Doubles 1v 3m (included St Michael)
5th October	1260 St David Doubles. First in variation John, Joe, Peter and Mike. 800th quarter Mike
6th October	1260 Doubles in 4 methods
11 th November	1260 Antelope Doubles. First in method Joe. Half muffled for Remembrance
17th November	1260 Grandsire Doubles rung open in celebration of the life of David Strong
1st December	1260 Plain Bob Doubles, conducted by Joe
12 th December	1260 Doubles in 3 methods
15 th December	1260 Doubles in 1 Principle, 5 methods and 16 variations
22 nd December	1260 Doubles in 1m 4v. For service of lessons and carols.
24 th December	1260 PB Doubles. Jointly conducted by John, Joe and Mike
27 th December	1260 St John the Evangelist Doubles. First in variation Nicky, Duncan, David Ely and Mike.

ST. JOHN'S, JERSEY – TOWER REPORT

Justin Read

With the number of Jersey ringers dwindling, the second half of 2013 was spent considering how best to recruit new learners. We successfully found two interested participants. Unfortunately one has gone travelling for a few months; she has promised to return to ringing when she gets back to the island but the other, Michelle, is making good progress and is able to handle a bell and ring in rounds. We have also seen the return of some "lapsed" ringers, namely Doreen and Ben - welcome back chaps!

We are not resting on our laurels with this early success and we are still seeking new recruits. We've written to one of the local secondary schools with a view to inviting a group of children to one of the churches (probably St. Mark's). This will include some history about the church, religious education element and also a chance to see the bells and have a go at ringing both tower bells and hand bells. If this works well we plan to extend the opportunity to other schools.

We're also in the process of installing a webcam in the tower so people can see the bells ringing without having to climb the tower.

Practices and Sunday service ringing have been well supported - on Sunday, the draw of coffee at the Café after St Johns helps, and on Wednesday it's off to Les Fontaines for a well deserved pint.

We rang a well struck quarter of Yorkshire in memory of Jack Worrall and a number of Surprise Minor quarters in our quest to complete the standard 41 again.

JR

ST JOHN, JERSEY - QUARTER PEALS

3 August	1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor
21 September	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
23 October	1296 Canterbury Surprise Minor
30 October	1296 Bourne Surprise Minor
15 November	1296 Morpeth Surprise Minor
30 December	1296 Lincoln Surprise Minor

TOWN CHURCH, GUERNSEY – TOWER REPORT

Paul Lawrence

In retrospect, the second half of 2013 has been a period of consolidation. As always, we continue to look for new members but we have built up the membership to a satisfactory level although some now find it difficult to attend practice on Thursday for various reasons. Sunday ringing continues to be well attended and it is unusual not to be able to ring all eight bells.

Harriet left the Island to take up employment in the UK but she did pop back into the Tower over Christmas to have a ring. Harriet is continuing to ring in the UK but we do miss her lively character in the Tower and wish her well in her new career.

We continue to receive a huge amount of support from ringers of other Towers and that has enabled us to improve our ringing and advance the methods that we can attempt. My thanks to Alderney ringers and particularly Steve Rossiter for getting me through my first QP of DNCBM which we rang at St. Peters.

In November, Duncan put together a band to ring a Peal of Plain Bob Major at Town Church. This was the first Peal that Duncan has called so congratulations to Duncan on that achievement. This was also the first Peal on 8 that Sue and I had rung so smiles all round.

Sue also gained another first ringing a QP of Stedman doubles at Forest Tower – like many ringers, we have tried, unsuccessfully, many times to get a QP of Stedman so Sue can now (quote) “retire from ringing Stedman forever!”

Other firsts – Josh and Judith rang their first QP inside with plain Bob Doubles.

Josh's first was quite poignant as we dedicated the QP to the memory of David Strong. David was a great mentor and influence in our Tower during his time on Guernsey and is sadly missed by all.

Jenny also had a first ringing tenor behind to Plain Bob Doubles and is now working on Plain Hunting for her next QP.

Congratulations to all on their achievements.

Wednesday lunchtime QPs continue and are really enjoyed by all who can make it along. We have had quite a good string of successes lately with various doubles method variations put together by Mike Bubb. Thanks to Mike for his conducting skills!

The QP we rang on Wednesday 22nd Jan was dedicated to the memory Paul Arditti, ringer and States member in Alderney.

Looking ahead - Sue, Judith, Tim and myself will be visiting Alderney on 15th Feb to try out the new bells.

The ringing trip to the Cambridge area to look forward to in October.
ITTS course in May.

A bit of Tower news – we have finally managed to mount a couple of Peal Boards in the Tower. One to record the very first Peal rung in 1995 and one for the last one that we rang in October. Thanks to Duncan for coming up with an economical method of producing the boards.

Last, but not least, our congratulations to Jane who received a BEM in the New Year's Honours List for her services to charity. We dedicated our first QP of the year to commemorate Jane's achievement.

Sunday 13 October 2013

5056 Plain Bob Major

1 Helen McGregor

5 Paul Lawrence

2 Sue Park

6 Duncan Loweth (C)

3 Jane Le Conte

7 Tim Wainwright

4 Peter J R Bevis

8 Stephen A Rossiter

To commemorate the 201st anniversary of the death of Guernseyman Major-General Sir Isaac Brock at Queenston Heights, Canada.

First on eight, 2 and 5.

First as conductor

PL

TOWN CHURCH, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

14th August	Plain Bob Triples	
21st August	Plain Bob Minor	
4th September	Plain Bob Doubles.	First inside For Judith Laine
8th September	Plain Bob Doubles	First Quarter For jenny Dunning
25th September	Plain Bob Doubles	
29th September	Mixed Doubles	
2nd October	St Clements Minor	
23rd October	St Simon's Bob Doubles	
10th November	Plain Bob Triples	
16th November	Grandsire Doubles	
4th December	Mixed Doubles	
8th December	Plain Bob Doubles	Rung in memory of David Strong. First quarter inside for Josh Cottam
15th December	Agricultural Bob Doubles	
18th December	Single Canterbury Reverse Pleasure Bob Minor	

ST PETERS & FOREST, GUERNSEY – TOWER REPORT

Phil Le Conte

Progress in our band has slowed somewhat in the latter half of 2013. As our learners advance beyond the elementary stages of ringing, and more work on methods is Introduced, so more time is needed to make steady progress. We had a problem with an imbalance of numbers at our two practices, with too many at one, and not enough at the other. In consultation with a number of our ringers it was agreed that from the beginning of January (for a trial period) the time of our wed practice would change to 6.30pm – 8pm. It is hoped that this will ‘ even out’ persons per practice so that each ringer has a more satisfactory handling time, and good progress can be continued.

Sunday service ringing has been maintained at a strong level,- although the St Peters morning service being moved forward half an hour(- now

starting ringing at 9am-) has not gone down well with the teenagers, as you can Imagine.

Quarter Peals in the last 6 months have been few and far between by our own ringers- none at the Forest, and of the four rung at St Peters one was a 1st for Fraser Wilkes inside to Plain Bob Doubles, and another was a 1st on treble for his mum Julia.

The striking competition saw the Forest Team decide to take on Grandsire Doubles,- despite the fact that the 3 could ring the method only as the observation bell,- a dangerous move,- for if a call is missed that bell would suddenly be plunged into an unknown part the method!- that was unfortunately exactly what happened! So after a good start we were forced to fire out. That team will be stronger next year. The two St Peters teams performed well, so we shall be looking forward to giving it another good try next year.

On the social front we had our annual meal out in Herm. We went later in the year than usual, going in the later part of August(warm calm summer nights were slow to start last summer,) but we had a great evening out with perfect weather.

Now it's back to work on making some progress, quarters of Grandsire Doubles and Treble Bob Hunting are in the pipeline, so I hope I have a little more to report next time.

See you all again soon

PLC

ST PETERS & FOREST, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

5 th July	1264 Plain bob Major 1st on 8 Judith Laine
27 th July	1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1st Inside Fraser Wilkes, 1st as cover Jack Page
27 th July	1260 Grandsire Triples 1st in method Rob Gorton
4 th August	1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles 1st away from cover Julia Wilkes

ST ANNE, ALDERNEY – TOWER REPORT

Stephen A Rossiter

We now have all 12 bells and they are joy to ring and listen to.

We continue to improve on higher numbers as the weeks go pass. The enthusiasm with which the existing ringers have thrown themselves into the challenge of ringing on higher numbers is delightful. The first practice on the new 12 took place on Monday 4th November, in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths were invited to ring the first full Peal on the bells in January. I am happy to report that this was successful and dedicated to the life of Paul Arditti, whose untimely death was a shock to all the band. The details of the peal are published elsewhere.

20 Quarters have been rung on the island since my last report, including 10 handbell quarters and 4 on the Beresford Campanile which was used whilst we had no bells in St. Anne's. They have been listed at the bottom of this report.

Quarters of note include, first on 12 for the tower and Channel Islands, Plain Bob Maximus, which was also a first on 12 for Philippa Arditti and Duncan Loweth, first of Surprise Major for Philippa Arditti and first Surprise Royal for Duncan Loweth, also Stephen Rossiter conducted his first Quarter of Kent Major in hand!

Jack Page joined us from the UK in the summer and although there were no bells in St. Anne's we made good use of him at the Beresford Campanile and on handbells. Jack also participated enthusiastically in the delivery of regular theory sessions addressing the challenge of higher numbers ringing.

SAR



The First Quarter peal on 12 in the Channel Islands – left to right:
Jack Page, June Saint, Duncan Loweth, June Wells, Peter Bevis, Philippa Arditti, Marcia Dieppe, Kelvin Britton, John Wells, Helen McGregor, Steve Rossiter, Jenny Page.

ALDERNEY – QUARTER PEALS

Quarters at St. Anne's

29th November	1296 Plain Bob Major
30th November	1320 Plain Bob Maximus
1st December	1250 Cambridge Surprise Major
1st December	1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
15th December	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
27th January	1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Quarters at Beresford Campanile

13th August	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
20th August	1260 Doubles (4m)
27th August	1260 Grandsire Doubles
15th October	1260 Plain Bob Minor

Handbell Quarters at Wells House:

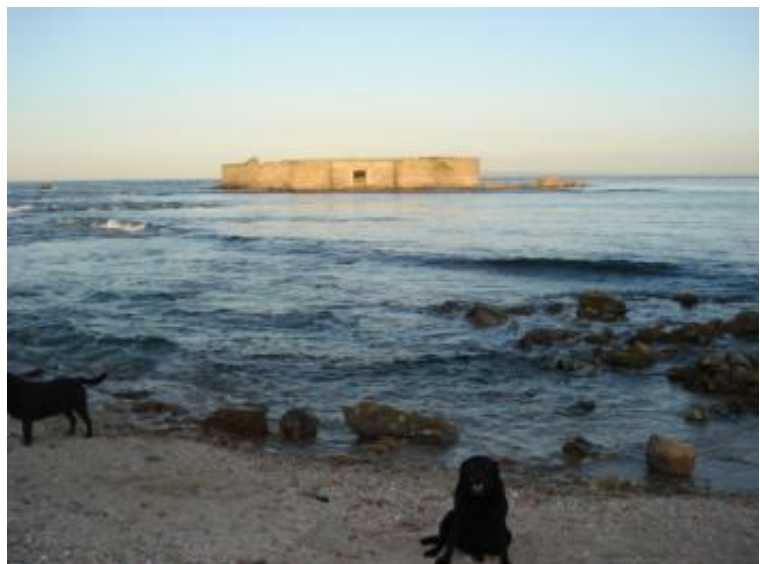
24th July	1260 Minor (2 methods)
29th July	1272 Minimus (4 methods)
8th August	1260 Plain Bob Minor
16th August	1260 Double Bob Minor
26th August	1344 Plain Bob Major
5th November	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major
28th November	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major
26th January	1264 Plain Bob Major

Handbell Quarter at St. Catherine's House

30th November
1344 Plain Bob Major

Handbell Quarter at Fort Houmet Herbé (pictured)

20th August
1260 Plain Bob Minor



ST MARK, JERSEY – TOWER REPORT

Richard Herrissier

Ringling at St Mark's stumbles on with highs and lows. Our joint effort with the clergy to recruit young ringers continues to be delayed. We will eventually set up an open day with a number of local schools. We are working our way through the 41 regular surprise minor methods and we have now ring twenty quarter peals - nearly half way there!

RH

ST MARK, JERSEY – QUARTER PEALS

15 November	1296 Morpeth Surprise Minor
22 November	1272 Cunecastre Surprise Minor
27 December	1260 Stedman Doubles

Angelic Vale Sunday Service Ringers

Duncan Loweth



Vale ringer Olivia Palmer played an angel in a short play put on by the Sunday school children during a family Eucharist in January but still made it to service ringing!

DL

A use for redundant bells

Mike Halsey

This is the font in the church of St Francis of Assisi in Prague which is in a small square on the eastern end of the famous Charles bridge. It happens to be the church where my wife's parents were married.

We have mislaid the short guide to the church but, as may be seen, the font was cast as a bell and was originally in a different church. It is very ancient, having been cast before 1492, when Columbus went off and found America. It was cast in tin. The guide who showed us round remarked I was the first person to have noticed it was a bell – I don't know how long she had been a guide as it is so obvious!

The church itself still contains an organ which Mozart played.



MH

An Alderney grandma's trip to Guernsey

Helen M McGregor

Every cloud has a silver lining. When my elder daughter was required to spend the last 6 weeks of her second pregnancy on Guernsey my immediate thought was 'if I go to help with my young grandson I can do loads of ringing' 😊

Although I have spent many happy hours at District meetings on Guernsey it has been a pleasure to attend local practices & service ringing as a simple visitor.

Forest practice night timings have been changed to 6.30pm start, which apparently is more suitable to the band. Esme W has mastered grandsire doubles and we had good hunting from Judy and Sally Anne.

Town Church practice had Jenny hunting for bob doubles, and we tried some Single Oxford bob triples in advance of Saturday's qtr attempt. The practice finished with a plain course of Stedman triples.

Friday night and Duncan had organised an advanced practice at TC from 4.30pm. Meeting with only 7 we worked on Ipswich = Cambridge S minor with hunting at half leads, Primrose which is Cambridge with hunting at lead ends and then combined it into Norfolk = Cambridge with hunting at half lead and lead ends – great fun. Finishing with Stedman triples without a cover gave us a chance to work on striking then off to cafe for fish & chips.

St Peter's practice was a good work out – Phil had us ringing all night but a wonderful variety – treble bobbing, grandsire doubles, bob doubles, sometimes front 6 (for young learners) and sometimes back six – it was a very happy energetic practice

Saturday Jan 11th & we scored quarters of DNCBM at St Peter's (first for Paul, John, Duncan & Mike), then Stedman doubles at Forest (first for Sue) and a handbell qtr at Duncan's. Sadly we lost the attempt of Single Oxford Bob Triples at TC but the youngster's practice at St Peter's saw real improvements in handling from Matthew, George & Daniel. Jenny had come to help and her hunting benefitted from the intense practice.

Service ringing at St Peter's was very presentable plain hunting on 7 and call changes. The Alderney band dream of being able to lower in peal as proficiently as St Peter's ☹

The following week was just as exciting – only with lots more handbells in the parish rooms at Vale with Jenny, Jane, Rob, Esme B & Duncan ☺ and then Vale adult practice on Monday eve and an incredibly busy children's practice on Tues eve – must have been a dozen youngsters – well done Duncan and helpers.

I very much enjoyed the qtr we rang at TC for Jane's well deserved BEM & Esme's first grandsire doubles was wonderful at Forest – a real credit to all Phil's hard work & Esme's application.

'Prize' for the most progress achieved in one night has to go to Fraser at St Peter's: after a short explanation first he rang the 3 observation in grandsire doubles, then he called himself to be observation & finally he rang a busy touch of grandsire doubles – wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't witnessed it myself.

My second grandson was born on Weds 22nd Jan – Henry John McGregor Wilson weighed 6lbs 13oz, not bad for 3 weeks early..so now it is back to Alderney.



Thanks for having me ☺

HMM^cG

Oxford Diocesan Guild
Reading, Berks
18 Sandhills Way Calcot
Wednesday, 22 Jan 2014 in 2h 35m (15)
5040 London No 3 S Royal
Composed by Graham A C John
1-2 Jack Page
3-4 June D Wells
5-6 Bernard F L Groves (C)
7-8 Graham A C John
9-10 E John Wells

Rung to celebrate the birth of Henry John McGregor Wilson

4th Saturday practices in Guernsey

Jane Le Conte

The idea of an island practice has been well received by Guernsey ringers, so the 4th Saturday morning of each month has been allocated to get people together in order to extend what we can ring.

The January practice was held to see if there was a sufficient interest; it turned out to be an enjoyable morning that will definitely be repeated. In all 13 ringers took part, meeting initially at St Peters where we rang Double Norwich, including some acceptable touches and 3 rang PB Caters for the first time. It took time to establish a rhythm on 10, but it did improve as we went on. This session was run by Tim Wainwright.

Then we moved on to Forest where Mike Bubb organised Badgeworth Minor - a variation on St Clements (new to us all), Antelope and Norwich. Tim and Mike have agreed to take charge for the next practice on 22nd February, however, anyone who wants to run a session is welcome to do so, and hopefully others will take the opportunity to learn some touches to call; the whole point is to enable everyone who attends to stretch themselves.

Obviously, any visitor from the other islands, or elsewhere, who find themselves in Guernsey on the 4th Saturday of the month will be welcome to join us; just check details with me beforehand.

JLC

Worcester Cathedral Ringing Centre

Jane Le Conte

Our guild master, Viv Nobbs kindly invited me to join her and others from the Isle of Wight on a visit to see the ringing centre at Worcester Cathedral last November. Although there are more towers in their district than ours, they experience similar problems of isolation from the mainstream of ringing; their ferry ride to the mainland may be shorter and cheaper than ours, but it is still a very real barrier to regular ringing on the mainland and Viv was keen to explore what is available to recruit and train new ringers and to look for ideas that could be taken home.

Worcester Cathedral is very much in the heart of the city; the nearest homes are only a matter of 100 yards from the building and across a busy roundabout is a (hideous 1960's) shopping centre, including the hotel we stayed in. Given there is no soundproofing, the ringers need to maintain a good relationship with the residents and spend time informing them exactly what ringing is due to take place, and why, which seems to result in considerable tolerance from the neighbours.

The bells there are the 5th heaviest ring of 12 and the ringing room and bell chamber are suspended in a Victorian timber construction known as the wigwam – which allows excessive movement and so makes the bells a challenge to ring. I was therefore not disappointed that we were not offered a ring there!

What we had gone to visit, the ringing centre, is housed on the floor below the ringing room and is also the clock room. The sheer size, the decorative arches and the Victorian timber work make this an impressive room indeed. On the walls, hung in pairs, are 8 dumb bells, weighted with railway bedplates, so that they 'go' like tower bells. Each dumb-bell has an associated laptop and pair of head phones; thus they can be rung as a ring of 8, but more usefully each dumb bell can be used to practice handling; or to learn to ring rounds or any method, using Abel.

The initiative has been driven forward by the Cathedral ringing master Mark Regan, who had, not only a vision, but a great deal of determination.

The ethos of the project is to draw together 'Church, people, heritage and education' and he has successfully 'sold' this to local head teachers, drawing a substantial number of recruits from local schools, some of whom are released in lesson time to attend the ringing centre.

The teaching relies on a number of ringers giving their time to teach and no ringer takes a learner through the whole process of learning. Mark believes that each ringer has their strong points when it comes to teaching and the pupil moves from one teacher to another as they progress.

We saw what can be achieved when we rang at All Saints practice night where we rang with a sixth former who not only handled the back bells very competently, but kept some of the rest of us right at the same time! He has reached the dizzying heights of surprise maximus in a few years.

For me, what came out of this trip is that most things are possible. Of course, in the islands we would not aspire to spend the large sums that Worcester have done, but there is no doubt that the drive that created the ringing centre has rejuvenated ringing there, with a new ring of 10 hung in 2011 and work going on to install a ring of 8 elsewhere in the city and on-doing recruitment and teaching to man the bells.

We, as all other districts, need to rejuvenate ringing and a clear sighted approach, dynamically presented, can be successful, as evidenced by Worcester.

The question is, who is the energetic person, with the time and the enthusiasm, who will take this forward in the CI District?!

JLC

A message from our Guild Master

Viv Nobbs

Please may I take the opportunity in your newsletter to greet all ringers once again. I've thoroughly enjoyed my trips to Jersey and Alderney in 2013 and I look forward to visiting again. On both occasions, I was given a very warm welcome - thank you. I know that Christine Hill, Vice Master, has enjoyed her trips to your District, as well.

The Guild A.G.M. trip was an excellent occasion and it enabled me to get to know more local ringers and to hear about their ringing hopes and aspirations.

The wonderful training session in Alderney on the new 12 was something very special indeed. So much ground covered in a few days and it was so well organised. I do need to revisit Alderney, as I don't recall seeing much apart from the airport, our lovely accommodation and the ringing room....we were kept busy - I'm not complaining and there were splendid meals, of course!

I'm very much looking forward to getting to Guernsey - maybe ring a few quarter peals?!?!

As I'm writing this, I realise that these are uncertain times for Channel Island ringers. Please be assured that our Guild will listen to your views and that we are committed to give appropriate support.

Generally, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me via the Guild's website: www.wp-ringers.org.uk

Please remember, as well, that we have our own Facebook group; I commend it to you - visit www.facebook.com and enter "Winchester and Portsmouth Bellringers". It's proved to be a wonderful site for advertising events and a great forum for lively debates on current topics. I don't use Facebook a great deal apart from the Guild's group - it's an invaluable way of communicating and engaging with other ringers.

District newsletters are a valuable line of communication with members, of course, and I'd like to congratulate the Channel Islands on their own newsletter.

With best wishes,
Viv Nobbs - Master.

VN

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