

Les Cloches des Îles

August 2013 – Issue No. 57



Challenge Completed

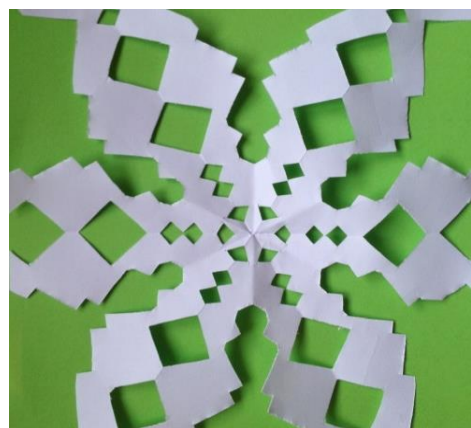
Method Snow Flakes



Ruby Weddings and
recent Engagements

Surprise 720s

A first on three



Guild AGM

New CI Cumberlands

Music of Campanula

Spring Meeting
success



School kids learn
quick



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

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There is such a diverse variety of aspects to ringing and the district has been involved in a great many of them over the last six months. As well as plenty of quarters and a few peals, new methods, new challenges and new ringers have all been embraced across the district.	3	February district day
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I remember when I first learnt to ring, if it was not said on the first day it was very soon after that you never stop learning in bell ringing, there is always something more to push onto. I know I have a reputation for doing plenty of the pushing, I have even brought Helen McGregor to the point of saying 'no' to more ringing, but I see the district as providing opportunities which are not possible or at least very difficult to achieve on one island alone. My experience has been of helpful and supportive ringers on all three islands and if anyone is desirous to ring something which cannot be done in your own tower just ask, as I have done, and you will be surprised what you will achieve. But you may get a reputation for being too keen!!	9	April district day
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My great thanks again to all those who have contributed articles and news. I have been pressing those around me at events I have attended to write them up for Les Cloches, the usual daunted, glazed look but nod of agreement is the reply. However, there are plenty more activities going on in the district and for us all to enjoy hearing your news please, please write a few lines (or nominate someone else too!).	39	Guild AGM and striking competition write-ups
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Keep ringing, Duncan	56	District contact information

District Day Fri Feb 22nd and Sat Feb 23rd

Helen M McGregor

I spent a very enjoyable early afternoon at TC with Judith working on tail end lengths/sally heights for fast, steady & slow ringing – culminating in some excellent touches of bob doubles once we were joined by other ringers at 4.30pm ☺

The late afternoon session was spent concentrating on Norwich S Minor, with particular emphasis on how to count the triple dodges on the back

That evening the local practice at St Peter's was busy as usual – visiting only once a month I see great leaps of progress which can only be the result of much hard work by Phil and his band – very exciting to be part of the band which had Molly hunting on 6 for Esme's first inside to bob minor

Forest on Saturday morning for Judith's raising in peal perfectly on 3, Harriet's inside for bob doubles, Esme's treble bobbing & Gemma's rounds ringing backstrokes – all good stuff.

Jane very kindly catered some lovely soup for lunch – much appreciated on a very cold & snowy day.

At TC we attempted a qtr of bob triples which although unsuccessful was wonderful practice – an excellent opportunity for some long length ringing unavailable on a practice night

The afternoon ringing at St Peter's was the highlight of the weekend though – building on the theory & demonstrations of the morning we ultimately scored many many courses of treble bobbing with Anne, Helen, Rene, Rob, Judith, and Duncan – with Jane as a floating helper. The piece de resistance however were the courses of Bastow Little Court – an absolute triumph☺

Many thanks to all for a most productive and enjoyable weekend

HMMcG

Challenge 60

Mike Bubb

The Vale Bellringers planned to ring 60 Quarter Peals in the year from 5th February 2012 in honour of HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We did it! The Rector laid down the challenge to ring 60 quarter peals in Accession year starting from 5th February 2012.

The task seemed daunting at the time. We agreed that, if possible, all of the quarters would be rung on a Sunday but for backup we held in reserve Monday's before practice. In addition there were the usual mid week services and of course jubilee weekend itself. We felt that it would be a challenge, but an achievable one, and that all of the band could participate.

The one stipulation was that there should be a majority of Vale ringers in each quarter.

Who rang? (in brackets are the number of quarters)

From the Vale – Mike Bubb (57) John David (59) Nicky David (52) Joe Allen(47) Duncan Loweth (21) Peter Gallienne (31) Colin Sarchet (27) Harry White (23) Robbie Sherwood (16) Pauline Marquis (4) and Helen Rolf (1).

We were assisted by Paul Lawrence (4) Sue Park (6) David Reeve (1) Tim Wainwright (1) Mark Pizzey (1) Judith Lainé (1) all from the Town Church and Dean Lee (4) and David Ely(3).



I conducted the majority (56) with John David (1) Peter Gallienne (2) and Joe Allen (1).

We rang all together 75,879 changes and it took us 40 hours and 13 minutes. We rang 48 of doubles and 12 of minor. The most popular method was Grandsire Doubles with 13.

We experimented with new methods. All those taking part had personal milestones – either first in method, first as conductor or even first quarter peal.

I was asked early in 2013 which was my favourite quarter peal. Well we hadn't rung that one yet. I think everyone's would have been that on 30th January 2013 when the final "that's all" was called and we had achieved our goal. My answer at the time was the one on 29th December after the wedding where out of the six ringers involved five had rung 50 or more quarter peals in the year – a remarkable achievement for us where the opportunity to ring away from home is restricted. Unlike UK ringers we cannot just jump in a car and ring around the country.

I must thank the dedicated Vale ringers and our friends from the Town and elsewhere for their enthusiasm, not forgetting the Rector for his support and encouragement to undertake this challenge.

Each week going to Town practice I was asked how far we had got. The best answer was on 31st January 2013 when I said – done!

MB

Not the recommended way to attach muffles!

John David



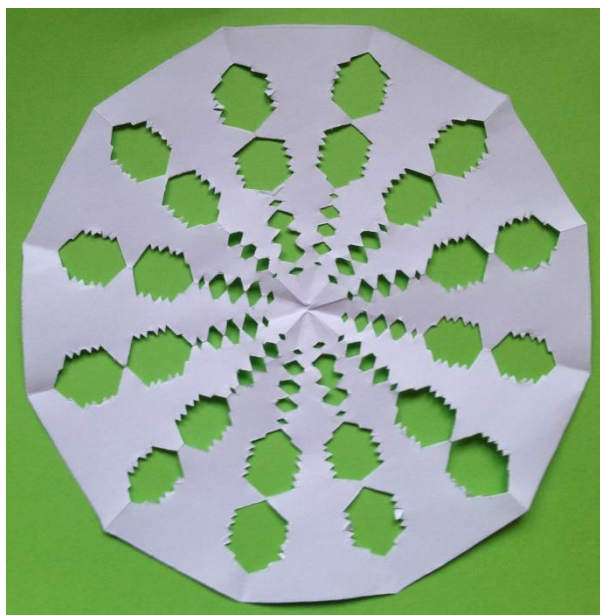
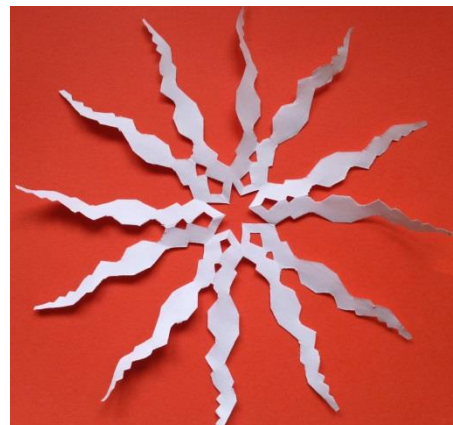
JD

Bell Method Snowflakes

Duncan Loweth

You're probably reading this in August so I hope you are not thinking about Christmas yet. However, maybe like me you find the months fly by in the blink of an eye, so soon you'll be clambering into the loft to get the box of Christmas decorations, wrestling a tree into a stand and adorning it with a multitude of baubles, tinsel and lights.

It's all very Christmassy but there is something missing. Bell ringing of course! So, here's a fun idea to make your Christmas more bell ringy – method snowflakes!

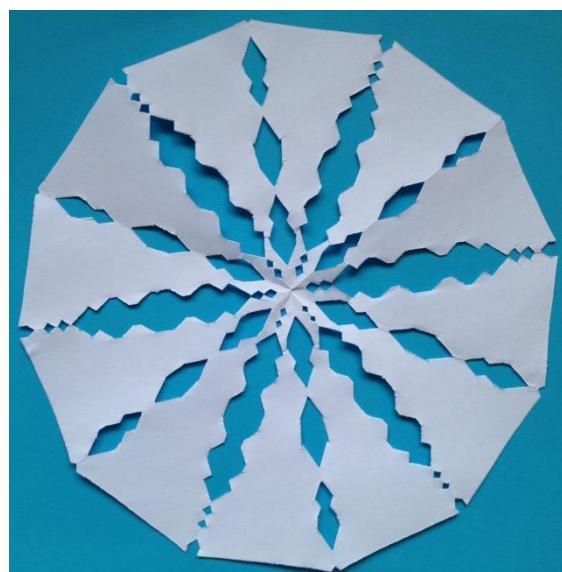


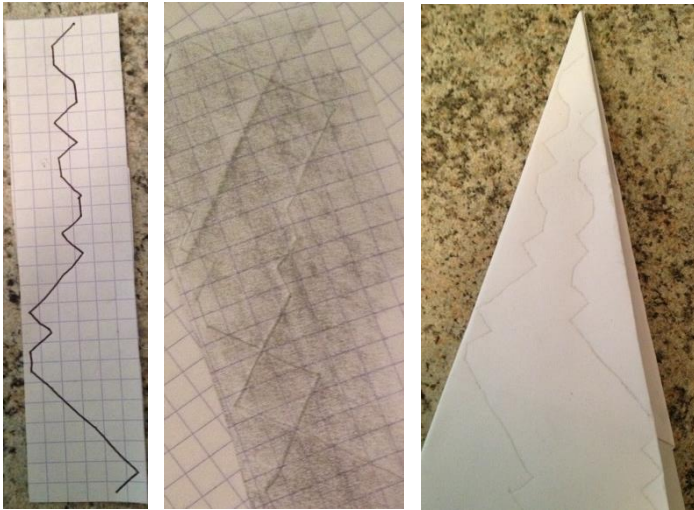
If you've made these before by folding up a piece of paper, cutting out shapes and opening it out then you'll have the general idea already. If you've never done this before then you've had a misspent youth for sure.

Snowflakes (that's the frozen ice crystal rather than the cocktail – equal measures of amaretto and vodka shaken, poured over ice and a half measure of chocolate liqueur floated on top by pouring it over the back of a teaspoon) have 6 fold symmetry so you're going to have to fold your piece of paper in half, into thirds and then half again. Of course you could just fold it in

half and then in thirds which would give you three fold symmetry which sometimes happens so we'll allow that. If you cut both sides of the wedge the same the resulting snowflake will have 12 fold symmetry, this is also permissible so don't worry about it.

Choose your favourite method(s) and cut the blue line into the sides of your wedge. You'll want to experiment with different methods; drawing a whole course will result in finer detail so for bolder shapes try drawing single leads.

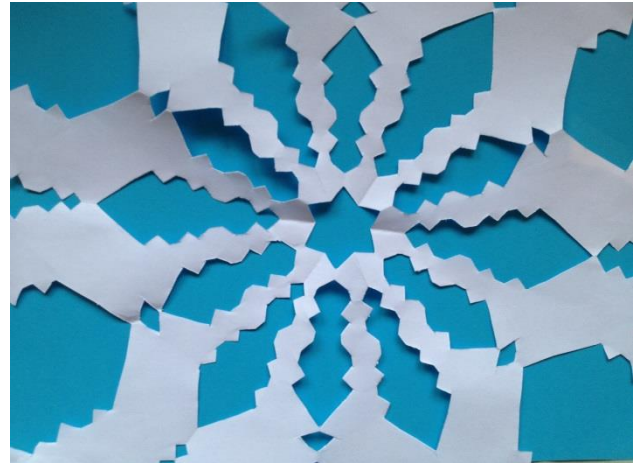




I found it difficult to draw methods evenly (my dodges in 3/4 were far too high, ruined the rhythm and the ringing was very lumpy) so I used squared paper to draw the lines out, scribbled the back with pencil and went over the top of the lines again leaving a faint outline to attack with my scissors.

Not only will you have some fantastic decorations but it is also great for learning your methods – do I go straight to lead after double dodging, that’s right, I need to do a place in thirds!

Next time you’re in a presentation try to steal some flipchart paper at the end to make some massive stars which you could cut out entire touches on.



If your appetite for a bell ringy Christmas is still unsatisfied try googling ‘bell method polyhedra’ and make some plain bob baubles.



Your towers and homes will look stunning with these campanologically Christmassy additions and I look forward to your photos to publish in the next issue of Les Cloches.

Merry Christmas
DL



Ruby Wedding Peal

Mike Bubb

Peals are rare at the Vale and even rarer when rung by a local band.

To celebrate John and Nicky's Ruby wedding we had permission from the Rector to attempt one. It was initially planned for 2nd March, the day before the actual day, but due to one of the ringers not being available we postponed it to 6th March.

We arrived to a cosy church - the heating being on to take the chill off the air. Bells rung up, ropes adjusted and off we went. First call - crunch - a senior moment from one of the ringers and a fire up - we had to stop. Deep breaths and off we went again. The extents rolled along. The high quality striking being maintained as we carried on to our goal. One nasty wobble in one of the extents of St Martins, which was soon sorted, and a cry of what are we ringing in one of the extents of Winchendon was the only time I had to say anything other than the method calls.

As we got closer to the end there was no sign of tiring from the ringers. Joe on the tenor maintained a superb beat for us to follow. As I changed from St Simons to Grandsire I hear a brief prayer from Joe (Grandsire was the last method and they knew we were close to the end) Final single and "thats all" was called. A big YES from Joe. We had completed the peal and he had rung his first.

What next. Well the Rector had asked for us to attempt one for the 60th anniversary of the Coronation. As they say - watch this space.

The Peal completed on Saturday, 16th March 2013 in 2hrs 41mins

5040 Doubles in 11 methods

2 extents Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place, 4 extents each Plain Bob, Eynesbury Bob, Huntley Place, St Remigius Bob, St Osmund Bob, St Martin's Bob, Winchendon Place, St Nicholas Bob, St Simon's Bob and Grandsire.

Bell ringers:

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

This was a Ruby Wedding compliment to John and Nicky David.

First peal for Joe Allen.

MB

District Weekend April 26th & 27th Guernsey

Helen M McGregor

Sadly fog prevented the arrival of 2 old ringing friends and their 13yr old novice-ringer son from UK. We had hoped that their son would particularly enjoy ringing with some of the Elizabeth college boys who meet every Tuesday at Vale and Young Joe from St Peter's. Anyway it was not to be - but Alex, Bailey and Young Joe joined Helen, Judith, Peter, Stephen, Rob, Duncan, Paul & Sue at TC from 2.30 – 4pm for some fun ringing ☺

It was disappointing that Duncan's friends had chosen a 4th Saturday to get married in UK but even after his departure at 4pm he remained with us in spirit due to the magnificent & very yummy Chocolate Cake he left for us to enjoy in his absence. Jane, Phil & Tim swelled the numbers for the 8 bell practice at TC and we had some excellent treble bobbing & Kent. The Yorkshire needed a bit of polishing tho ☺

The local practice at St Peter's was very well attended by the enthusiastic and increasingly proficient St Peter's ringers. It is always a joy to attend such a happy practice. Phil made good use of everyone who had gone on from TC and we had touches of bob doubles called by Esme, lots of bob triples and some good rounds and call changes etc

Saturday morning and we were back at TC with the chocolate cake☺ . Good to have Jenny & Harriet coming along to District practices, I hope that leaning on Harriet to ring in one of the afternoon qtrs hasn't put her off attending subsequent District practices ☺

Jane hosted everyone to a much appreciated lunch then it was off for more ringing.

The afternoon was a triumph (or 2)! – A wonderful quarter of Bob Triples when Harriet gave a magnificent performance on the treble

St Pierre du Bois, Saturday, 27 April 2013 in 45 mins (11)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Harriet A Payne

2 Helen M McGregor

3 Jane Le Conte

4 Phil Le Conte

5 Tim Wainwright

6 Peter J R Bevis

7 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

8 Paul Lawrence

1st away from cover: 1. To mark the induction of Rev'd Mark Charmley to the parish of St. Pierre du Bois.

Some of the band stayed behind to help ring for the service while the remainder went on to Forest for a quick pep talk on ringing Norwich S Minor prior to the second quarter of the day

St. Marguerite de la Foret, Saturday, 27 April 2013 in 43 mins

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Sue Park

3 Jane Le Conte

4 Paul Lawrence

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

1st in method 2 & 4.

Next we have to get Paul & Sue to ring spliced Cambridge & Norwich – watch this space!!

Finally (almost) finishing the chocolate cake we enjoyed a final chat before crossing the road and flying back to Alderney.

Huge thanks to all the Guernsey ringers for looking after us so well all weekend. We were provided with accommodation, transport & food – you can't get much better than that ☺

Helen, Peter & Stephen

HMMcG

Engagement

Duncan Loweth



I was very fortunate on the 18th May 2013 when Gemma Wickersham accepted my marriage proposal! Gemma has been in Guernsey for just over 12 months and originates from Milton Keynes. She is a Financial Advisor by trade but a violinist by passion and regularly plays in the Guernsey Symphony Orchestra. Gemma has had a few goes at bell ringing and can plain hunt on 6 in hand and Helen McGregor has got her ringing the whole pull on her own in the tower. Our marriage will be at the Vale Church, Guernsey in July

next year. We are both very grateful for all the best wishes and quarter footnotes we have received.

DL

Engagement ringing

Helen M M^cGregor

5 Alderney ringers were over-nighting in Reading when we heard the news of Duncan's engagement so it was an easy task to find 3 more ringers who knew Duncan (a regular attendee at CI training weekends in Reading) for a superb quarter peal:

Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 19 May 2013 in 52 mins (26)

1280 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Roger Baldwin

1 June A Saint

2 June D Wells

3 Jack Page

4 Helen M M^cGregor

5 Kelvin R Britton

6 Peter J R Bevis

7 E John Wells

8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

To celebrate the engagement of Duncan Loweth to Gemma Wickersham on 18th May 2013. With best wishes from all the band.



HMM^cG

Calling 720s of regular minor methods

Dear Duncan,

In Jersey, we are working our way through quarter peals of the 41 regular surprise minor methods. We were not sure of the rules for calling a 720 of 6ths place methods. This confusion arose because the standard calling is 'in out in' X3, but in some of the methods the 'out' comes before the 'in' and in the others, vice versa. Actually the real confusion was caused by the fact that I am 'a bear of very little brain' and advised David Clare to call 'out in out' X3. This works, but produces 65s at backstroke which made people think that something was wrong. So, I wrote down from first principles how to call a 720 of any regular surprise minor method and the result is the attached short document. Do you think that the readers of 'Les Cloches' would be interested in such a statement of the obvious? If so, please feel free to publish. If not, then my afternoon was not completely wasted, as I am now sure about how a 720 is called (everybody else, it seems, already knew!).

All the best,
Richard Herrisser

Richard,

Thank you, I didn't already know so it's useful for me!

Regards,
Duncan

Richard Herrissier

There are many ways to call a 720 of a regular minor method, this short piece explains the traditional, simplest way of doing so leaving the tenor unaffected and without '65's at backstroke. In any regular minor method, plain or treble bob, there are five lead ends in a plain course. The occurrence of the following numbers at the lead end is part of the definition of 'regular', the lead ends occur in four possible sequences:

A	B	C	D
123456	123456	123456	123456
135264	156342	164523	142635
156342	142635	135264	164523
164523	135264	142635	156342
142635	164523	156342	135264
123456	123456	123456	123456

2nds Place Methods

When calling a simple 720 (i.e., tenor unaffected by the bobs) of a regular 2nds place method, the calling position ‘wrong’ or ‘W’ (when the tenor is in 5ths place at backstroke at the lead end) always occurs before the calling position ‘home’ or ‘H’ (when the tenor is in 6ths place at backstroke at the lead end). The calling of four bobs W, H, W, H will produce two courses of any method. The omission of any one of the four bobs will produce a row after two courses with the tenor in the home position and with three bells out of their home position. The repetition of this twice (three times in total) will produce rounds. In a treble bob method, this touch will be 720 changes long, in a plain method it will produce 360 changes, which can be doubled by calling two ‘singles’ at lead ends 360 changes apart. It is traditional to call this 720 by omitting the bob (H) when the fifth is also in its home position (i.e., in 5ths place at backstroke). This produces a 720 (or 360) without ‘65’s at backstroke and with 56 together at each part end. The four simplest callings of the 720s of seconds place methods with treble bob hunts are as follow:

A	B	C	D
123456	123456	123456	123456
123564 (bob W)	156342	164523	142635
136245	142635	123564 (bob W)	164523
164352	123564 (bob W)	145623	156342
145623	164352	136245	123564 (bob W)
145236 (bob H)	145236 (bob H)	145236 (bob H)	145236 (bob H)
145362 (bob H)	136524	162345	124653
156423	124653	145362 (bob W)	162345
162534	145362 (bob W)	123645	136524
123645	162534	156423	145363 (bob W)
134256 (no bob)	134256 (no bob)	134256 (no bob)	134256 (no bob)
repeat twice	repeat twice	repeat twice	repeat twice

6ths Place Methods

When calling a simple 720 of a 6ths place method (i.e., tenor unaffected by the bobs), the same lead ends occur as in 2nds place methods and in the same four sequences. There are two simple calling positions (i.e., tenor unaffected), the ‘in’ or ‘I’ when the tenor is in 2nds place at the backstroke lead end and ‘out’ or ‘O’ when the tenor is in 3rds place at the backstroke of the lead end. You will see from the four sequences of lead ends that the I occurs before the O in two of the four sequences (C&D) and the O occurs before the I in the other two (A&B). The calling of four bobs, at both ‘I’s and both ‘O’s will produce two courses of any method. The omission of any one of the four bobs will produce after two courses a row with the tenor in the home position and with three bells out of their home position. The repetition of this twice (three times in total) will produce rounds. In a treble bob method, this will be 720 changes long, in a plain method it will produce 360 which can be doubled by calling two ‘singles’ at lead ends 360 changes apart. It is traditional to call this 720 by omitting the bob (O) when the fifth is also unaffected by the bob (the 1st possible bob in A&B, the 4th possible bob in C&D - see diagram below). This produces a 720 (or 360) without ‘65’s at backstroke and with 56 together at each part end.

The four simplest callings of the 720s of sixths place methods with treble bob hunts are as follow:

A	B	C	D
123456	123456	123456	123456
135264	156342 (no bob)	164235 (bob I)	142635
156342 (no bob)	142635	152364	164235 (bob I)
164235 (bob I)	135264	143652	126435 (bob O)
143652	164235 (bob I)	126435 (bob O)	142563
135426	135426	154326	154326
152364	126435 (bob O)	163542 (bob I)	135642
126435 (bob O)	135642	125463	163542 (bob I)
163542 (bob I)	142563	134625	156234 (no bob)
134625	163542 (bob I)	156234 (no bob)	125463
142356	142356	142356	142356
repeat twice	repeat twice	repeat twice	repeat twice

So,

To call a 720 (without ‘65’s at backstroke) of any 2nds place minor method with a treble bob hunt, call the tenor ‘Wrong’ ‘Home’ ‘Wrong’ three times.

To call a 720 (without ‘65’s at backstroke) of any 6ths place minor method with a treble bob hunt, call the tenor ‘In’ ‘Out’ ‘In’ three times.

For plain methods the same formulae apply (but repeated five times not twice, i.e., a total of six blocks of two courses) with the addition of two singles 360 changes apart.

RH

Proposal for future District Meetings, to be discussed at ADM Sept 21st on Jsy

Jane Le Conte

Helen wishes the ADM to discuss her proposal re the change in district meetings. This is an attempt by the committee to make district meetings more inclusive and to attract more attendees. There are some interesting proposals here and they merit some consideration. Please read and inwardly digest and then contribute to the discussion at the ADM

JLC

Original Proposal (emailed around to towers in early June)

Helen M M^cGregor

Dear All,

Thoughts from the Master

1. Attendance at Spring meeting not great :-)
2. Alderney soon to join Jersey & Guernsey to have enough bells to practice 8 bell ringing
3. Guild always send a rep to our ADM in Sept.
4. The District always pays for a judge for the 6 bell

This leads me to propose something quite radical!!!

Should we move our 6 bell inter tower competition to the Spring meeting, judged by independent outsider funded by District. At our ADM in Sept can we have an inter- island 8 bell competition. 3 teams ringing same piece of (alternating annually) triples/major, judged by Guild rep in a friendly competition. The island team can be the responsibility of the District Officer for that island, or their nominee.

I personally don't think it fair to ask Guild rep in Sept to judge maybe 10 teams ringing lots of different methods, however much more straight forward to judge a max of 3 teams ringing the same piece. Let's make some use of the Guild's attendance at our ADM!

Please can we have good discussion about this at Sept ADM? Obviously will need a clear majority at ADM before such a major change could be effected. This proposal is intended as an item for discussion and definitely not a foregone conclusion, I am confident there will be many views for and against - let's have them :-)

Update

I have so far received only views in favour of 6 bell inter-tower competition in Spring Meeting (external judge) and 8 bell inter-island competition in Autumn Meeting (Guild judge). This change to our settled pattern **MUST** be fully aired at ADM Sept 21st in Jersey. If you are unable to attend please make your views known to Jane Le Conte, janeleconte@hotmail.co.uk

The 4th Saturdays on Guernsey have been fun but sadly no-one was able to come from Jersey; usually only 3 Alderney ringers came over and there were a limited number of Guernsey ringers able to attend regularly – though I am hugely grateful to Jane, Duncan, Sue, Paul, Tim W, Judith, Phil, Anne and Renee for their unfailing support, encouragement and assistance. Being accommodated by Tim S every month has been a huge benefit which I would like publicly to acknowledge. A number of people have indicated that greater support may be gleaned for less frequent events than monthly. The final nail in the coffin of the Guernsey 4th Saturdays is the augmentation on Alderney. In good conscience I cannot any longer cancel the Alderney Saturday morning practice to swan off to Guernsey to ring. I feel the 4th Saturdays have definitely resulted in closer links being forged between Alderney & Guernsey ringers but we must now move on.

If I may for a moment assume that we will have a 6 bell & an 8 bell competition then I would propose for each island to host ONE event every year – the third meeting to have a focus on training eg ITTS or Judging a striking competition or raising & lowering in peal etc COMBINED with quiz/supper with raffle as I would like some fundraising within the District to be able to offer support for young ringers' travel. I do urge all ringers to make every effort to attend all 3 events.

Dates/Venues for 2014

2014 is the year for Ay to host the all-important 6 bell. Shall we then proceed alphabetically around the 3 islands? We hold our ADM on 3rd Sat in Sept – Sept 20th. Please can we fix dates for other meetings now?

Spring, Alderney: Inter tower 6 bell, external Judge.

Summer, Guernsey: Training (organised by District Ringing Master) & social organised by local ringers

Autumn, Jersey: ADM, friendly 8 bell inter-island* 224 Grandsire Triples**. Guild judge. Sept 20th

*A small wooden bell is going to be carved from a piece of the original Ay bell frame, the Ay band offer this to the District as the trophy for the 8 bell.

**Rules for Inter-Island 8 bell to duplicate rules for Guild District 8 bell – rounds not marked, 4 mins practice etc but the committee will specify the method & touch. For the first year we could perhaps specify the touch that the District team rang for this year's Guild competition – plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, single, repeat

Dates/Venues for 2015

Spring, Gsy: Inter tower 6 bell, external Judge.

Summer, Jsy: Training (organised by District Ringing Master) & social organised by local ringers

Autumn, Ay: 8 bell to be 224 Major; method & touch to be specified by committee and announced at Spring Meeting.

HMMcG

Spring meeting - 25th May weekend on Guernsey

Helen M McGregor

What a roller coaster weekend ☺
Kicking off with a great quarter at Forest:

St. Marguerite de la Forest,
Friday, 24 May 2013 in 42 mins

1320 Surprise Minor (2m),

720 Norwich; 600 Cambridge

1 June A Saint	4 Peter J R Bevis
2 Paul Lawrence	5 Duncan Loweth
3 Helen M McGregor	6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)



To celebrate the engagement of Duncan Loweth to Gemma Wickersham.

Then we were joined by visitors from Isle of Man for wonderful S major practice – 3 leads of Bristol silent and non-conducted, whole course of Bristol, 6 leads of London, half a course of Cambridge and 3 separate whole courses of Yorkshire – brilliant fun

After a chip supper we headed off to St Peter's for Phil's busy local practice, everyone more advanced than last month and just as friendly.

Saturday morning general ringing at Forest was Morning Exercise Delight, Water S minor (London with 6th place lead end), Wells, Norwich, Stedman, plain hunt on 5 & covering & bob doubles.

The short business meeting heard Anne Fraser tell us that Jersey had cancelled the mini ring which had been under consideration for the Guild AGM in July due to concerns over poor take up from the Guild.

Paul & Lin Lawrence provided a most enjoyable lunch at their home & then it was off to St Peter's for 2 quarter peals:

St Pierre du Bois, Saturday, 25 May 2013 in 43 mins (11 cwt)

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 Peter Gallienne	5 Helen M McGregor
2 June A Saint	6 Phil Le Conte
3 Paul Lawrence	7 Duncan Loweth
4 Peter J R Bevis	8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

1st Surprise Major:3

Paul's first quarter of Surprise Major was a TRIUMPH ☺, we all congratulated him at the end – very well done Paul, all your homework paid off☺

St Pierre du Bois, Saturday, 25 May 2013 in 44 mins (11 cwt)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Esme White

5 Mike Bubb

2 June A Saint

6 Duncan Loweth

3 Helen M McGregor

7 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

4 Rob Gorton

8 Phil Le Conte

1st inside for triples: 4

Rob's first triples inside was very impressive – major next month I think please Rob.

We then headed off to the coast for an ice cream and a snooze in the sun before dinner but Duncan had other ideas – handbells-by-the-sea:

Portelet Harbour, Saturday, 25 May 2013 in 45 mins

1264 Plain Bob Major

1–2 Peter J R Bevis

5–6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

3–4 Helen M McGregor

7–8 Duncan Loweth

1st Major on handbells: 7-8

To celebrate the engagement of Duncan Loweth to Gemma Wickersham.



The evening meal had been organised by Paul Lawrence & was held in The Imperial Hotel. 14 ringers with some family enjoyed a wonderful evening, chatting & discussing the weekend's achievements. The Alderney contingent certainly slept VERY well that night – we were totally rung out!!



Many thanks to Jane for all the organising, Paul for lunch, Tim & Duncan for accommodating us all & Duncan for all the lifts – tremendous fun☺

HMMcG

A first on three for all

Harriet Payne

I have recently become a fan of the parish of Torteval. For someone not from Guernsey this quiet corner of the island has a rather intriguing appeal and the opportunity to venture into it rarely presents itself, and so when the prospect of ringing the bells at Torteval Church arose I jumped at the chance.

In the past my only experience of Torteval was the occasional long scenic route back from a beach trip on the West coast, although I do always remember saying to dad when he asked which route we wanted whether that way would take us past the church with the fairy-tale spire. This was all I knew of it, the fact that I liked the look of the spire, although I might hasten to add that I never actually bothered to ask what church it was and didn't even know we were in the parish of Torteval at that point!

It wasn't until earlier this year when I had to travel to Torteval Church Hall for a Morris Dancing practice that I put two and two together and realised where I was. This intrigue coupled with the fact that I had just driven down some glorious country lanes in the Saturday morning sunshine sparked my fascination for the parish.

This enthusiasm combined with the status of ringing on a fifth tower on Guernsey meant that when Duncan mentioned to me the prospect of ringing at Torteval, I couldn't think of a reason not to, I should of course mention that at this point I was not aware that the bells don't have stays! So with the diaries having been consulted, it was decided that a sunny Saturday morning in May would be the day. With a ringing start time of 9.30 it was an early rise (for those of you from Town Church who are wondering why I agreed to ring so early when you're used to constantly hearing me moan about getting up on a Sunday, I should add that I had to in order to get to work in the afternoon). I should also mention that I was the first one there as I didn't want to incur Duncan's wrath having been warned to be there at 9.20 sharp for a 9.30 off and then was left waiting for the others to arrive! No matter, as it gave me an opportunity to chat to David, the Church Warden at Torteval who had very kindly arranged for us to ring the bells.



I sat on a wall waiting in the sun and looked up at the magnificent spiral, so unique on the island and I fear unknown for non-locals and for non-scarecrow festival goers. As I was there I was wondering whether it was possible to go up the tower and walk outside at the base of the spire and was secretly hoping that there would be an opportunity to do so once we were up the tower.



Upon the arrival of the rest of the group; consisting of Rob, Gemma and Duncan we were taken up the stairs to the ringing chamber. Now having never been in a tower that is not regularly used for ringing I don't think it really occurred to me that there wouldn't be lovely benches and tea making facilities on site, as it was there was a dark dusty area with a bucket of water where the leaks were caught in the winter and three bell ropes hanging forlornly in the stoney space. We then continued up the stairs to where the bells were hanging and were informed that the treble is the medieval bell dating from 1432 and the second was cast, we think in Guernsey, to match, with the tenor being a bell adopted from the decommissioning of St Barnabas; although this meant that they were not a three designed to ring together, this seemed of little importance relative to the excitement of it all.



From where we were standing next to the bells the staircase continued up and considering my earlier musings I thought I would casually mention this; "does it continue up, can you go out on the tower?" I was delighted when my tactfulness appeared to have paid off and we were able to continue up the tower. At that point Gemma, decided to decline on the higher ascent, not being good

with open high spaces, a decision which I could totally understand considering as the staircase did look as if it could collapse at any moment, let's just say it was a means to an end I don't think anybody hung around on there for too long! So having reached the top and with David having given the door a good kicking in order to get it open, we stepped outside to some spectacular views. I'll admit I'm not brilliant with my



Guernsey geography so I'm not entirely confident in giving you compass directions or anything but sights included a marvellous view out to sea, St Peter's church, a distant view of St Saviour's Church spire and also a view out to Lihou Island. It is probably a good thing that the view was so eye-catching as the concrete, I'm going to call them turrets [crenellations], not sure if that's the correct terminology, did have a regular gaps in between them where there was nothing to stop you from falling straight off, you definitely do not want to be looking down or thinking about what might happen at that point, I can see it as a sequel to 'The Nine Tailors' now. We then made our way back down to the bell chamber and to what we were there for, and probably what you have been waiting to hear about; the ringing.



We cleared away the bucket of water and turned to the ropes. The bells are normally used, but they are chimed not rung, and as a result they have tied extra-long rope onto the tail ends in order that they can be chimed from down in the church. David had requested that we didn't untie these ropes, which was fine, except it meant that once the slack had been pulled up, you were left with quite a length of tail end coiled on the floor and when combined with the lack of stays this was actually quite a dangerous proposition. Although confident on bells I know, on ones I don't I can get quite panicky especially on light flighty bells and so the prospect of ringing these was actually making me quite nervous, definitely more so than being up the tower with no barrier as I had been moments before. This is the reason that I have not been keen to learn how to ring up or down because the bell goes all flighty and I feel like I'm not in control and this stresses me out. Duncan began by ringing up the tenor, however, he then had to hold on because of the lack of stay and as I couldn't ring up one of the other two this meant handing the bell to me, up, in order that him and Rob could ring up the 1 and 2.

So I held on to the tenor as they proceeded to do so, however, the problem was due to the extra tail was lashed to the bottom of the sally leaving a massive clump of rope harbouring the movement of your hands down to the tail end causing the danger of losing control and the bell going over the balance. This indeed, happened to Rob (don't worry it was to happen to all of us throughout the course of the morning) and he had to let go as the rope was pulled up, catching Rob's hand as it did so. On seeing this Duncan then had to ring his bell back down in order that he could pull the treble back and ring it down, I'm not entirely sure how he did this but it worked. By this point my arms were getting extremely tired as I had been holding the tenor while this had been going on, and again as those of you at Town will know my arms are incredibly weak things, so Duncan also took the Tenor back off me and rang it back down. We were now back where we started and even more nervous than before we started.

Thus, in order that we didn't waste the time we had, Duncan came up with a new plan of chiming the bells in rounds and trying a bit of plain hunt. This was something that we could all have a go at, despite mine and Gemma's inexperience (as I don't ring down). With Duncan there pointing out the order of the bells our only slight issues were delays in getting the bell to chime and a few double chimes which sometimes confused the pattern, but with a bit of practice I would say we definitely got to a point of chiming a successful plain hunt on three. Now, the question was, had we built up our confidence enough in order that we were willing to try and ring the bells.

Although I wouldn't describe the general group feeling as awash with enthusiasm we did give it a go, I especially felt that I would have been disappointed if we had left without trying. Of course, we were going to need a new plan as to how to ring, what with the clump of tied rope and the long tail end, thus Duncan proposed that due to the lightness of the bells we could almost treat them as similar to the wombels [Saxilby Simulators which are very light], the practice bells, and ring with just one hand catching the sally and one hand on the tail end keeping them like that. Of course, what worried me in this plan was that it would mean I would have to hold the weight of the bell with only one hand, I can hear you asking how weak I am considering the weight of the bell but please do not underestimate how tired my arms get. The other problem with Duncan's plan was that it would require me to ring the bell up, having only ever done this once before, this wasn't exactly entirely appealing, but we didn't do it in rounds, I had a go with Duncan and Rob there if I was to panic at any point. I then held my bell, I was on the 2, while Duncan rang up the treble and Rob the tenor. Right, this was it we were there all with a bell up ready to be rung, could we do it. We pulled off and with some getting used to the weight and the rhythm of the bells for a couple of pulls,



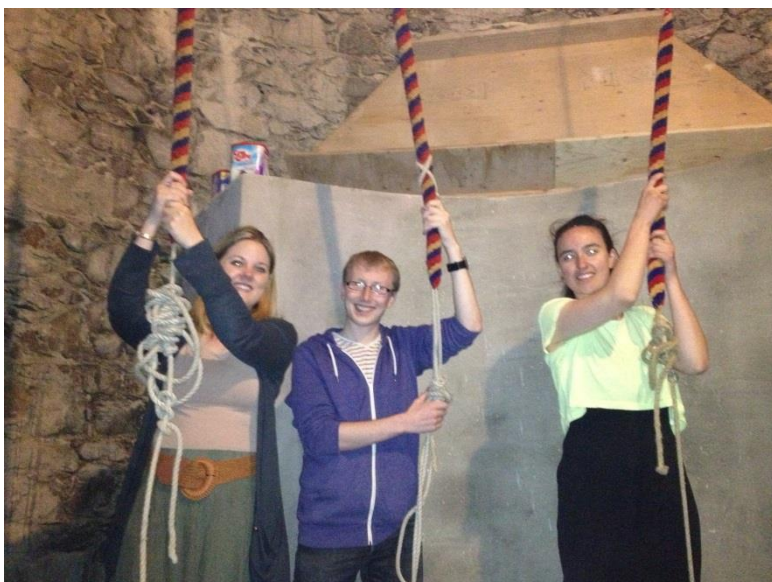
there was a definite audible sound of rounds. I felt a massive sense of achievement despite the fact that all we had managed to do was ring rounds on three bells, taken out of context I'm not sure that would even warrant describing to someone. We held the bells, looking at each other triumphantly but not wanting to say anything in case of tempting fate, then the next question, do we want to try plain hunt? Well, why not we were on a role. After a quick recap of the order of the bells, we pulled off, there were a few clashes and I apparently forgot how I would normally ring and tried not to change every hand and back stroke but with a few tweaks and a few attempts, again you could hear it, a distinct hunt pattern. We had achieved what we came to!

Now, I'm not sure precisely what happened next, but we were ringing, presumably giving plain hunting another go, when to my left I saw Duncan being pulled off the floor as he grabbed onto his bell, I assume that his bell went over the balance but instead of letting his bell go he, in fact, grabbed onto it and stopped it, then because I had turned to see this I got distracted and am not entirely sure what happened to my bell but I remember the tail end of rope whipping through my hand giving me rope burn and then me reacting and grabbing the sally. I'm not sure what happened to my bell but upon grabbing the sally my bell was now down so I think I must have effectively rung it down in one stroke when I grabbed on, Duncan now had his under control but was still up and Rob had been calmly holding the tenor up while this had been going on. Duncan then chirped up with , "I was just about to say shall we ring down while we were ahead?" Considering my bell was already down and Duncan had managed to rip some skin off his finger while controlling his bell, we decided this was probably the best plan and the two of them rung down the treble and tenor.

As we still had some time left, we turned back to chiming as this was something we could all do and was far less dramatic. We definitely mastered chiming plain and reverse hunt even if I was a bit slow at chiming the tenor, seeming to only be able to chime it by stopping the bell from going up so if it was my turn to chime when the sally was coming down I was often unable to chime at the right moment. We were then coming to the end of the time we had up in the tower and with some sore hands but successful ringing under our belts we headed back down the tower, with a sense of high achievements at ringing some difficult bells, ringing some old bells and also collecting a fifth tower on Guernsey, an honour which I'm sure only belongs to a select few (I, of course, have no evidence to back this up.)


We thanked David for access to the tower and the bells and made our way with a great story to tell of the day, this was, of course, until Duncan proposed to Gemma later in the day and I would say, maybe slightly eclipsing our ringing performance!

HP



Campanula

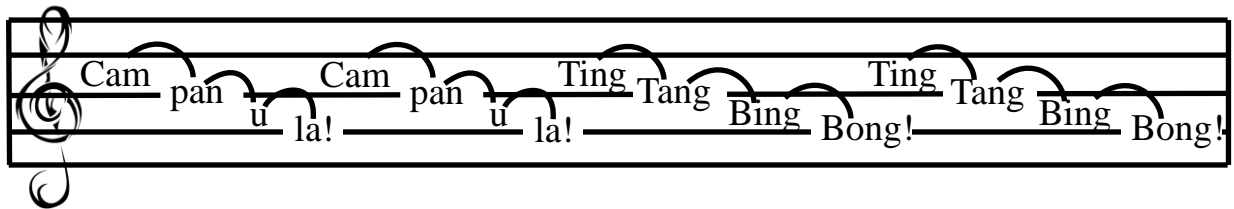
Anne Loweth



Dawn breaks; the air is still, the dew thick upon the grass.
The wren sings loud and strong atop the arch of bramble;
Blackbirds chuck and cluck along the hedge.
The sun, already bright, sets leaves alight with lime and yellow.

Such peace; such quiet joy to walk the garden paths
With measured steps and contemplative mood.
To stand – still; eyes closed; face tilted to the warming rays.
Then listen. Listen – beyond the birds; beyond the curl and whisper of the leaves.

Can you hear them? Silent, yet strong in voice
If your ears are open to their call.



The notes ring true – Nature's call to praise all God's creation.

Above the rest – the highest note: sweet and pure from Harebells, atremble in the
lightest breeze.

Fragile, nodding heads above the rabbit-nibbled grass.
Ting-tang! Ting-Tang! Praise Him! Praise Him!
Once heard, how could you not have noticed them before?

Listen again – beneath this runs the counterpoint;
Mellow tenor, round and sound of tone, rolling out from rich and tended soil.
An early-rising bumblebee alights within an azure dome,
Tilts Our Lady's Bells to sound her voice, and hums and thrums along.

Underneath all notes, strong and sure, the garden's heart beats true,
Canterbury Bells – Bing-Bong! Bing-Bong!
Arise! Arise! Awake and come to worship!
Ring out, Campanula, to weave a psalm for Lauds, the morning prayer.

AL

A May Day on Alderney

June Saint

On Bank holiday Monday 27th May, Duncan Loweth took a return flight to Alderney to join other ringers to ring some quarter peals on the bells at St. Anne's.

Always wanting to push the boundaries, Duncan was not short of ideas and our first Quarter was to be Little Bob Minor. The only way to get a true extent (720 changes) is to vary the treble. A neat composition of 1320 changes was found changing the treble at a single by making the bells in 1/2 dodge. This took a lot of concentration, but was most enjoyable to ring.

The second attempt was Water Surprise Minor. This is a variant of London Surprise Minor except instead of a 1/2 lead end you ring a 1/6 lead end. As most of the bells are wrong hunting at the lead end in London, this change makes bells dodge in 4/5. In the end this proved too challenging and we were unsuccessful with the quarter, but it was good practice.

After a break for lunch and some handbell ringing, it was back to the tower for a quarter of Morning Exercise Delight Minor, otherwise known as Boat Race. In this method you ring Cambridge below the treble and Oxford above the treble. A good quarter was scored, a first in method for all.

Duncan then travelled back to Guernsey while the rest of us helped with the learners practice followed by general ringing and then dinner at Gloria's.

What a perfect way to spend your bank holiday.

JS

1320 Little Bob Minor Variable Hunt. Composed by Glenn A A Taylor.

1 June A Saint;	4 Duncan Loweth;
2 Philippa A Arditti;	5 Peter J R Bevis;
3 Helen M McGregor;	6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
1st in method for all.	

1320 Morning Exercise Delight Minor.

1 June A Saint;	4 Duncan Loweth;
2 Helen M McGregor;	5 Peter J R Bevis;
3 Philip Maddocks;	6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)
1st in method for all.	
1st Birthday compliment to James Wilson.	

VALE, GUERNSEY – TOWER REPORT

Mike Bubb

The first six months of 2013 as always seem to have flown by. As mentioned in the last Les Cloches we were success full in completing the Rectors challenge to ring 60 quarter peals in the twelve months ended 5th February 2013. With that completed we have slowed down! But more of that a little later.

Olivia, who learnt to ring as part of Duncan's Tuesday learners has now become a valued member of the band ringing for a short time before Treasure Seekers (Sunday school to all us older generation) and has been helping on a Friday night to ring up the bells for the plethora of Saturday weddings which we have this year. So that is our Saturdays taken for a good part of the summer.

26 quarter peals have been rung up to June. No first quarters but we did have first in method when we rang Twinham (a first in method for all) and first in variation when we rang May Day (a first in method for Joe and Nicky) . We have also stretched Joe with him having rung a quarter in seven methods. We are getting more adventurous having rung Stoke Doyle for the first time in a quarter (A mixture of Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob bobs) and Stedman was scored this year only the fourth time at the tower since 1971!. Unfortunately we seem to be on short each time to ring minor but we did ring one in two methods when Denise's' father was over. Grab the visitors when you can!

But we did score a peal! How do you celebrate a ruby wedding especially when it is of two of the band. Other than a near disastrous wobble in one of the extents of Winchendon and a cry of "what are we ringing in one of the extents of St Nicholas it went like clockwork. Joe kept a superb beat from the tenor. No wavering at all. I watched each quarter come up at the 40 minute per quarter. A superb effort for a first peal.

We did attempt another for the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation but that was brought to a premature end when someone came in and started asking us where the Rectory was! We had big signs saying do not disturb the ringer! We just didn't recover. We did start again but that was it even a quarter was beyond us.

Our good friends Andrew Haseldine and co rang a peal a couple of weeks after our last attempt. Always good to see them.

16th March 2013

5040 Doubles in 11 methods in 2hrs 41 minutes

2 Extents Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place
and 4 extents each Plain Bob, Eynesbury, Huntley Place, Ste Remigius Bob,
St Osmund Bob, St Martins Bob, Winchendon Place, St Nicholas Bob, St Simon's Bob
and Grandsire

Treble	Paul Lawrence
2	Nicky David
3	John David
4	Peter Gallienne
5	Michael Bubb (conductor)
Tenor	Joe Allen

First peal Joe.

A ruby wedding compliment to John and Nicky David

14th June 2013

5040 Surprise Minor (One extent each Northumberland, Alnwick, Sandiacre,
Warkworth, Bamborough, Nertherseale and Bourne) in 2hrs 46 minutes

Treble	Kay Bartholomew
2	Julie Haseldine
3	Ruth Stokes
4	Simon Edwards
5	Andrew Haseldine
Tenor	Christopher Stokes (conductor)

MB

VALE, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

6th January 2013	1260 Doubles in 11 methods 57 of 60
13th January 2013	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 7 variations (most methods/variations Joe) 58 of 60
20th January 2013	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 8 variations (most methods/variations Joe) Included Stoke Doyle for the first time in a quarter at Vale 59 of 60
30th January 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles 60 of 60 THE FINAL ONE!
6th February 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles
10th February 2013	1260 Plain Bob Minor
13th February 2013	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 8 variations
17th February 2013	1260 Minor in 2 methods
23rd February 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles ring half muffled in memory of Canon Victor Collas
25th February 2013	1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles
3rd March 2013	1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles. First in method Joe
10th March 2013	1260 Doubles in 1 method and 3 variations
18th March 2013	1260 Doubles in 2 methods.
25th March 2013	1260 Plain Doubles
31st March 2013	1260 Doubles in 6 methods and 7 variations
21st April 2013	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
24th April 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles Half muffled in memory of Suzanne Smith
28th April 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles
9th May 2013	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
12th May 2013	1260 May Day Doubles – first in variation Nicky and Joe
26th May 2013	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
2nd June 2013	1260 Doubles in 5 methods and 6 variations
5th June 2013	1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles. 16th birthday compliment to Joe. 24 of 60
9th June 2013	1260 Grandsire Doubles
16th June 2013	1260 Stedman Doubles. Rung in memory of Prisca Tremeer
30th June 2013	1260 Twineham Doubles. First in method Nicky, John, Peter and Mike
Total	26 Quarters

ST ANNE, ALDERNEY – TOWER REPORT

Stephen Rossiter

As I write this there are no bells hung for ringing at St. Anne's Alderney. Four of the six have been removed for re-tuning and will return together with six new bells to create the first 12 in the Channel Islands sometime in early October.

Ringling has been steady for the first six months of the Year. We continue to teach children on the Beresford Campanile on a Tuesday evening and now have three children who will be joining the main practice when we start up again at St. Anne's. By having a light six as well as the back six, we hope the children will enjoy ringing the "BIG" bells!!

The last practice took place on Monday 8th July, when we were joined by the bell hangers. At the end the bells were lowered perfectly in peal, to a rapturous applause by those in the tower!

10 Quarters have been rung on the island since the 1st January, including 2 handbell quarters. They have been listed at the bottom of this report, those of note are; Aileen Wilson's first on handbells, the variable hunt Little Bob Minor, the first quarter on the Beresford Campanile and of course the last quarter at St. Anne's.

On the lead up to the Guild AGM, Alderney Bells were available for ringing on the Wednesday and Thursday. Originally it was hoped we might have our new 12 by then, unfortunately this was not to be and maybe that was why we only had two visitors: Margaret Chapman who now lives outside the Guild and actually didn't go to Jersey and Bruce Purvis, the Guild Librarian. In true Alderney fashion we worked them very hard and they both rang in the first quarter on the Beresford Campanile and the last quarter at St. Anne's.



*The bells start
to leave
St. Anne's*

*A hard day's
ringing for
Margaret
Chapman*



ST ANNE, ALDERNY – QUARTER PEALS

Thursday 31 January	1260 Double Court Bob Minor
Thursday 25 April	1260 Doubles (4m / 1p)
Monday 27 May	1320 Morning Exercise Delight Minor
Monday 27 May	1320 Little Bob Minor
Wednesday 5 June	1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Wednesday 3 July	1260 Doubles (4m/1p)
Thursday, 4 July	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Total 7	

BERESFORD CAMPANILE

Thursday, 4 July	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Total 1	

WELLS HOUSE (in hand)

Friday, 1 February	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Thursday, 30 May	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Total 2	



The band who rang the last Quarter at St. Anne's. Left to Right; John Mackey, Margaret Chapman, Peter Bevis, Bruce Purvis, Helen McGregor, Stephen Rossiter

FOREST AND ST PETER'S, GUERNSEY – TOWER REPORT

Phil Le Conte

The recent rapid progress of the St Peter's and Forest Ringers seems to have slowed during the first 6 months of 2013. This is due in part to our lack of experienced ringers and the transition of ringers from the treble to inside ringing. This has led to a lot of hard work without many quarters to show for it. Having said that both the young girls (Esme and Molly) have managed their 1st quarters inside to Plain Bob Doubles, as well as hunting to Plain Bob triples. with Anne Cooper and Fraser getting ever closer to achieving the same goal.

St Peter's practices continue to be well attended, while we have had to cancel many Forest practices due to lack of support. Sunday service ringing has remained strong with call changes on 10 being rung regularly. St Peter's continues to be a popular venue for weddings. We rang for 4 in the 1st half of the year, and have a further 6 booked for the rest of the summer.

We have very little to report on the social front, with no trips away, and the Herm dinner and a skittles evening still to come. We did man the teddy bear zip slide again at St Peter's fête. Having decided we would reduce our price from 50p per go to 20p or unlimited goes for £1,00. Much to our surprise our takings doubled on previous years!

See you all again soon

PLC

FOREST, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

26/01/2013	1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1st Quarter Inside Esme White (Age 12)
17/04/2013	1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1st Quarter Inside Molly Cooper (Age 13)
26/04/2013	1320 Norwich Surprise Minor 1st in Method Sue Park and Paul Lawrence
24/05/2013	1320 Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Minor To congratulate Duncan Loweth and Gemma Wickersham on their engagement.
Total	4

ST PETER'S, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

26/01/2013	1260 Plain Bob Triples 1st on 8 bells Molly Cooper (Age 13)
26/04/2013	1260 Plain Bob Triples 1st Quarter away from cover Harriet Payne
25/05/2013	1250 Yorkshire Major 1st Surprise Inside Paul Lawrence Engagement compliment to Duncan and Gemma
25/05/2013	1260 Plain Bob Triples 1st triples Inside Rob Gorton Engagement compliment to Duncan and Gemma
Total	4

ST MARK, JERSEY – TOWER REPORT

David Clare

Due to an admin error, it seems I have a year's worth of news to report from St. Mark's!

Numbers are limited with the arrival of little Charlie Routier providing hope for the future! In the meantime, Jo can only join now and then, and we look forward to her joining full time again. As you will have heard, Jack Worrall suffered a stroke while in France recently. Reports of gradual recovery are promising, and we all wish him the best in his recovery.

Our ringing up and down has continues to improve a little, thanks to Richard's expertise. We have continued with varied practices that have included anything from Called Changes and Grandsire Doubles through to Spliced Surprise minor (which often includes doubles).

St. Mark's band was pleased with its performance at the district striking competition, and we look forward to trying to defend the title on home turf in September.

As always, thanks must go to all the St. John's ringers that support practices and Sunday service ringing. It is very much a combined band on Jersey.

Finally, may I say that all other Channel Island ringers are most welcome to join us for practices or Sunday ringing if they are visiting. We are very accommodating to visitors.

DC

ST MARK, JERSEY – QUARTER PEALS

July – December 2012

20 July 2012	1296 Surprise Minor (3m - London, Wells, Cambridge)
14 September 2012	1440 Mixed Doubles (2m - Grandsire, Plain Bob)
16 November 2012	1260 Mixed Doubles (3m - Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman) Jointly conducted by Jack Worrall, Stuart Reeves and David Clare as a farewell to Stuart Reeves
20 November 2012	1260 Stedman Doubles Rung as a 50th birthday compliment to Peter Routier (oh, and it was HM Queen Elizabeth II's 65th wedding anniversary)
30 November 2012	1320 Plain Bob Minor - Rung as Jack Worrall's 900th quarter peal
30 December 2012	1272 Norwich Surprise Minor
Total	6

January – July 2013

4 January 2013	1296 Surprise Minor (3m - London, Wells, Cambridge)
13 January 2013	1272 Surprise Minor (2m - York, Primrose)
25 January 2013	1296 Spliced Surprise Minor (2m - Beverley, Surfleet)
22 February 2013	1260 Mixed Double (6m - Stedman, Plain Bob, St Martins, St Simons, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury)
3 March 2013	1272 Surprise Minor (3m - Carlisle, Chester, Munden) - Rung to celebrate the birth of Charlie Routier
26 April 2013	1260 Plain Bob Minor - Rung as an 85th birthday compliment to Jack Worrall on the 70th anniversary of learning to ring
28 April 2013	1296 Surprise Minor (2m - Alnwick, Newcastle)
9 May 2013	1272 Durham Surprise Minor - Rung to mark the 68th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey
30 June 2013	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor - Rung to celebrate the Christening of Charlie Routier
4 July 2013	1320 Jersey Treble Place Minor
27 July 2013	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor - Rung to celebrate the birth of Prince George of Cambridge.
Total	11

ST JOHN'S, JERSEY – TOWER REPORT

Justin Read

All is good at S. John's although as ever we are desperately short of ringers.

We generally have enough to support practice nights and Sunday service ringing, but we are more or less reliant on everyone turning up. Our ability continues to range from simple minor and doubles to Surprise Major on a good day. It is often commented that we need just one more surprise major ringer to make a real difference.

High on our "to-do list" is to get an action plan together to recruit new ringers.

Visitor numbers remain quite low, and we are always grateful when Steve, Helen and Peter come over from Alderney. It makes a real difference to the practice, stretching us to London and Bristol on their last trip over.

Our nine year old daughter, Hannah, can now handle a bell and ring in rounds.

Sadly, Prisca Tremeer, passed away recently following a long illness. Whilst Prisca had not been ringing at St. John's for while she will be missed by those who knew and rang with her.

As ever, visitors from the other Channel Islands are always most welcome to join us for practice and Sunday ringing. If you need a lift from town it can be arranged.

JR

ST JOHN'S, JERSEY – QUARTER PEALS

Thursday 4 July	1250 Jersey Surprise Major
Total	1

TOWN CHURCH, GUERNSEY – TOWER REPORT

After all the excitement of the last twelve months the Town has had a fairly uneventful spring, and this has given us time to consolidate individual ambitions and achieve a few firsts.

Most notable ringing includes Paul getting his first quarter of Surprise Major (Yorkshire).

David Reeves conducting his first quarter of Plain Bob Doubles this to celebrate the birth of his second daughter Eilidh Elinor.

Brent Sharman of the Tuesday afternoon Youth Practice - tenor behind at the Town to his first quarter to commemorate the 450 anniversary of the foundation of Elizabeth College which he attends.

Judith trebled to her first Bob Major at St Peters.

Harriet rang her first quarter away from the tenor.

Rob rang his first quarter of Bob Triples

However, possibly the most important first of all was a quarter of Plain Bob Triples by an all “Town” band.

There is no doubt that help from other towers and the District practices have made all this possible so we would like to thank everyone concerned. At this point I would also like to mention the support and help that David Strong gave to our tower - always patient and supportive from teaching us how to teach learners bell handling to encouraging us to try new methods. We all wish him well for the future.

A recent project run by Duncan was a five day ringing course for the Elizabeth College activities week. The boys were very keen and interested and all did extremely well with most of them managing to ring solo by the end of the course.

Rob, maths teacher at the Mare de Carteret School, also held a similar activity at St Peters. In both cases the children were a real credit to their schools.

Some of our band continue to help Duncan teach a group of youngsters to ring with sessions held weekly at the Vale and Town. One way or another we are trying to do our bit to take care of the future of bell ringing!

We continue to be well supported on practice nights and pursue new Major and Triples methods, currently Oxford Bob Triples and Double Norwich. Sunday mornings are also well supported and we usually enough ringers for Bob Triples.

So, on the whole we feel we have come a long way but there is always the continuing challenge to improve our Striking!

SP

TOWN CHURCH, GUERNSEY – QUARTER PEALS

20th January	Plain Bob Doubles
1st conducting David Reeves	Town Band
26th January	Cambridge Surprise Minor
Conductor Duncan Loweth	District Band
30th January	St Clements Minor
	Guernsey Band
6th February	St Martin's Bob Doubles
To celebrate 61st year of QE 11 to the throne	Guernsey Band
27th February	Grandsire Doubles
	Guernsey Band
3rd March	Plain Bob Doubles
	Guernsey Band
17th March	Plain Bob Doubles
1st Quarter for Tenor Brent Sharman	Guernsey Band
28th March	Three Doubles Methods
	Guernsey Band
14th April	Plain Bob Triples
600th Quarter as Conductor for Mike Bubb	Guernsey Band
30th April	April Day Variations Doubles
	Guernsey Band
17th April	Plain Bob Minor
	Guernsey Band
2nd June	Plain Bob Triples
To Celebrate 60th Anniversary of the	First Quarter on 8 by a Town Band
Coronation of HRH Queen Elizabeth 11	
5th June	Plain Bob Minor
	Guernsey Band
15th June	Peal Cambridge Surprise Major
	W&P visiting Band
10th July 2013 To Mark the Centenary of the	Winchendon Places
Previous Town Church Bells	Guernsey Band
23rd July	Grandsire / Plain Bob Doubles
To celebrate the Birth of HRH Prince George of	Town Band
Cambridge	
Total	15 Quarters + 1 Peal

Nobody Enters Alderney Without A Go On The Ropes

Liz Wickersham



My daughter Gemma recently planned a Channel Island hopping holiday for the two of us. Before our adventure began we had a lovely meal with some of Gemma and Duncan's bellringing friends who were attending the District meeting, I had no previous knowledge of bellringing, but as these lovely warm people chatted with such passion and enthusiasm, I was intrigued by terms such 'Plain Bob, half peal, rounds, call changes and mathematical patterns'. The art of bellringing was clearly far more complex than I had ever imagined!

Helen McGregor kindly suggested that when we visited Alderney she would meet us at St Anne's and we could go into the Bell Tower for a few lessons. There were lots of new experiences awaiting me that day, including a flight on a Trislander! Helen very patiently explained the mechanics of the bells, before showing us the technique of holding the rope correctly, moving with it and catching the rope in the right place and at the right time. I soon realised there's a lot of skill making the bell chime at the right time! Helen was an inspirational teacher and when she invited us to the Methodist Hall to try the 'Wombels' we readily agreed. I was fascinated to find that these were six simulated church bells, using sensors feeding into a computer. There was a clear sense of comradeship and passion among the bell ringers and it was lovely to see the next generation of bell ringers having fun as they learnt. I would like to thank Helen for her time, patience and hospitality, which made my visit to Alderney very special.



LW

Investigation and Discovery with Elizabeth College Students

Paul Lawrence

With his usual enthusiasm, Duncan arranged for a group of eight 12/13 year old youngsters from Elizabeth College (where Duncan now teaches) to round off their Summer term "Investigating and Discovering" the art of Bell Ringing. The students had 5 sessions in the Tower at Town Church beginning around 0915 and finishing at 1230. From the outset, all of the students were enthusiastic, attentive and keen to learn so we were optimistic that by the end of the 5 days they would be able to ring a bell on their own and for some to ring rounds with other experienced ringers.

The other helpers on the course were John and Nicky David, Sue Park, Jane le Conte, Judith Laine, John Lihou and Harriet Payne popped in on the first day so that we could give a demonstration of ringing. The students were so impressed that they responded with a spontaneous round of applause!

As with all youngsters of this age group some were short and some were tall, some with absolutely no fear and some a bit more reticent but all absolutely wanting to achieve and ring a bell on their own.



On the 3rd day of the programme, Duncan mentioned “the Mars Bar Challenge”! The idea of a challenge certainly lit a fuse under some of the boys but over the final sessions they realised just how difficult it was to achieve. For those not in the know – the Mars Bar Challenge requires the ringer to stand the bell 20 times at hand and back stroke [in a row, starting counting again from zero if one is missed] with a Mars Bar as the reward for success! Two of the students actually managed a very creditable score of 16 so were rewarded with a Mars Bar for effort!



Duncan also introduced some Handbell ringing into the sessions to provide some variation so that by the end of the week the group had a fair

insight into the world of Bell Ringing. The week in the Tower concluded with the boys ringing rounds with the experienced band – some rang on their own while others either pulled the back stroke or hand stroke on their own.

For the boys, their week of Investigation and Discovery finished when they gave a successful presentation of their experiences back at Elizabeth College including ringing Plain Hunt Minor and Major and Joy to the world, all with one handbell each.

A successful and challenging week for Tutors and students but hopefully a few seeds have been sown for the future and even if we do not see any of the boys again they may well take up ringing later in life.

PL



Guild visit to Alderney July 4th & 5th

Helen M McGregor

We were, of course, disappointed not to have been flooded with Guild visitors – the one we did have we worked hard tho ☺

A non-Guild visitor Margaret Chapman arrived on Tuesday 2nd July; the mandatory Island Tour was followed by supper at Wells House and then Margaret came to Mind Games club where she helped us with our Wombel teaching.

Wednesday morning's general ringing at St Anne's was a terrific opportunity for Donald to finally get to grips with plain hunt on 5 – clearly he is a morning chap – we are considering now only holding practices in the mornings on our new bells to ensure Donald's continued progress ☺ We rounded off the morning's ringing session with a lovely qtr

Wednesday 3 July 2013 in 47 mins (13 cwt)

1260 Doubles (4m/1p)

300 of Stedman, 240 of each St. Simons, St. Martins, Grandsire and Plain Bob.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Helen M McGregor | 4 Peter J R Bevis |
| 2 Margaret E L Chapman | 5 Stephen A Rossiter (c) |
| 3 Philip Maddocks | 6 Donald R Hughes |

We rang handbells in the afternoon. Sadly an attempt at a qtr of bob major was overly optimistic – but we had fun & the cake was very tasty

- 1 – 2 Margaret Chapman, 3 -4 Helen McGregor, 5 – 6 Stephen Rossiter,
7 – 8 Aileen Wilson

7 ringers sat down to enjoy a good supper at the Georgian House Hotel that evening & more plans made for the following day.

Thursday dawned foggy ☺

General ringing from 11 – 1pm & then we rang for a 2 pm funeral service. We had expected Bruce Purvis (Guild Librarian) at 10.20am but the Red Carpet was starting to fade by 3.30pm when his flight eventually arrived. No time for an Island Tour just 'hello, I'm Helen. I hope you are OK for a couple of quarters?' Happily the answer was 'yes'

Beresford Campanile

Thursday 4 July 2013 in 43 mins

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Aileen Wilson | 4 Bruce S Purvis |
| 2 Peter J R Bevis | 5 Margaret E L Chapman |
| 3 Maurice Stupart | 6 Stephen A Rossiter (C) |

1st Quarter on the campanile

Thursday 4 July 2013 in 46 mins (13 cwt)

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 John Mackey
- 2 Margaret E L Chapman
- 3 Peter J R Bevis
- 4 Bruce S Purvis
- 5 Helen M McGregor
- 6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

Last Quarter on the bells before augmentation.



Delicious supper for 10 at Gloria's Bistro on Thursday eve– with Margaret & Bruce, both promising to return when we have augmented.

HMMcG

Guild visit to Guernsey July 5th

Judith A Lainé

As promised all Guernsey towers where open for visitors attending the District A.G.M. in Jersey.

Forest Church was the first open at 10-00am. And our three visitors of the day joined us there. Bruce Purvis, John Everett & Glenn Poyntz. Also our regular visitors from Alderney Helen, Peter & Stephen. During the day there where different Guernsey ringers joining us when they were able. It was a special day for ringing. It will be a long time before we can repeat. I was delighted to be able to give all day as was Jane. We rang some interesting touches at Forest then moved on to St. Peters. As we arrived late at the tower, we knew that no one else was to join us there where 8 people unfortunately not enough to ring all 10 so it was decided to go for a quarter of Bob Major. This was a surprise to me as I had only rung plain courses and was my first on 8. We got it and everyone was delighted it took 44mins and Stephen called it; he also kept me in line which isn't an easy thing to do, just ask my husband.

St. Pierre Du Bois

Tuesday, 7 May 2013 in 44 Mins (11 cwt)

1264 Plain Bob Major

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Judith Lainé | 5 Bruce Purvis |
| 2 Jane Le Conte | 6 Paul Lawrence |
| 3 Stephen A Rossiter (C) | 7 Helen M McGregor |
| 4 Peter J R Bevis | 8 John Everett |
| 1st Quarter on 8:1 | |



After that excitement we went for lunch at the very salubrious kiosk at the top of Portlet slip. Most of us were going out for dinner that evening so it was the best place. I celebrated with a double ice cream (Guernsey of course). After lunch we went to Vale Church, there again more interesting touches then on to Town Church to finish the day at 5-00pm.

My overall view of the day was a great success and those of us who couldn't go to Jersey for the Guild meeting were able to help out with the preamble. It is lovely to go around and visit all our towers and meet different people everywhere. Not once did we ring Bob Doubles so no practice for me. But was it a practice day?

JAL

Guild AGM Jersey July 6th

Jane Le Conte

You will all be aware of the ringing that was offered to visitors to the district prior to the meeting day itself. In the event both Alderney and Guernsey had one guild visitor. Alderney was fog bound until the afternoon but they made their visitor welcome nevertheless.

Peter, Helen and Stephen then accompanied him to Guernsey where another (non guild) visitor, who had hoped to make the most of the extra ringing, accompanied us around the local towers. Thanks to the locals who supported the day, we had a good ring in all 4 towers, with a pleasant lunch in the sunshine at a beach kiosk, thrown in for good measure.

Straight to the airport then, to fly to Jersey for the informal guild dinner; the tight schedule meant changing in the airport loo! Anne had made a good choice for the dinner venue and 40 sat down to an excellent and reasonably priced meal which was well received by the visitors. The atmosphere was enlivened by Andy Murray's semi-final win at Wimbledon which Tony Smith announced to great cheers from the diners.

The next day saw Anne and I busy at work in the kitchen of St John's recently refurbished parish hall, which proved a good venue for meeting and tea. This meant I heard little of the striking competition, but what I did hear indicated a good standard of ringing. 4 teams entered, one a scratch team, the others representing the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth district and CI district. The competition was judged by Peter Niblett with the results as follows:

Portsmouth	18 faults
Channel Islands	24 faults
Scratch team	40 faults
Isle of Wight	60 faults

A close result for the first 2 places and one that the home team felt was a fair result. The Portsmouth team was presented with a new trophy which was made by Graham Grant, a Winchester ringer.

The meeting saw many new faces joining the guild executive; Mike Bubb being one of the few not to stand down – he is now serving his 10th term as guild treasurer. The master elect is Vivien Nobbs from the Isle of Wight; vice master, Christine Hill and Hon. Gen. Sec is Maureen Rouh; there were, of course, some mutterings about Mike's harem!

At the end of the meeting, the new master paid tribute to the outgoing master, David Strong, formerly a ringer at the Vale. She simply thanked him for 'his wisdom, his guidance and his friendship'. This resulted in a prolonged standing ovation from all present. David was visibly moved, but declined to make a speech.

Tea was a triumph, thanks to all the baking Anne had done in the previous days. Someone commented that it was the best ringers tea she had seen for a long time, and some even took photos of the spread! Add to that the wonderful weather and hopefully the district made the trip across the channel worthwhile for those who came.

For those of you who wish to put the date of the next AGM in your diaries it is on July 5th 2014 at Goodworth Clatford in the Andover District.

For me, the big issue raised by the event was that it highlighted the low numbers of ringers in our district. Granted, the ringing in Guernsey fell on a working day, but the shortage of visitors did cause me concern that there would not be sufficient locals to man the towers for those who did want to ring. Indeed, without the Alderney contingent it would not have been possible. In Jersey, with 2 ringers on holiday, all the others were involved in the competition, the kitchen or child care and there was no-one available to open St Marks for general ringing in the morning as had been advertised.

There is no doubt that we are on the verge of numbers becoming dangerously low in the district and most of us are either retired or rapidly approaching that age. There are, thankfully some young ringers, notably at Forest/St Peters and the Vale Tuesday band. Duncan and Rob are to be congratulated on their activities week initiatives in Guernsey, but we need a lot more of these type of events before we can claim to have secured the future of Channel Island ringing. Viv, the new guild master has done a really good job of recruiting youngsters in her district and I hope we can pick her brains for ideas. Meanwhile, the future of this ancient skill in island towers is in our hands; let's act now before we become an endangered species!!

JLC

The Winchester & Portsmouth 8 bell striking competition.

Stephen Rossiter

With the Guild AGM and 8 bell striking competition taking place on Jersey, it made sense for the Channel Islands to enter a team. As we all know travel between the islands is becoming expensive and time consuming, so finding an 8 bell band that regularly rings together to enter the striking competition was not easy. It was important to use home advantage and the Jersey ringers put forward 5 people to ring. Helen, Peter and I have been to a few Jersey practices and it was decided to join forces and see if ringing at home could see the Channel Islands take the trophy.

The rules state that we must ring a minimum of 224 changes in either triples or major. A suitable touch of Grandsire was found and the band met once to practice two weeks before the competition.

Only 3 official teams entered this year, Portsmouth district, Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands. Some of those not taking part put together a scratch team to make the entries up to four.

We rang third and all felt very pleased with our performance and all attended the AGM to hear the comments and results.

Peter Nibblet was the judge and he delivered his comments as follows:

Team 1. - Scratch - Hesitant in the middle rows, tenor a bit slow, leading good.
40 faults

Team 2. IoW - Slowest band - peal speed 3hr 12mins. Rather unsteady ringing
60 faults

Team 3. CI, fastest ringing at 2.59. Very pleasant ringing only one clash in 7th lead
24 faults

Team 4. Portsmouth - peal speed 3.01. Only some small hiccups, very good ringing
18 faults

So Portsmouth were declared the winners.

We were very happy with second and are now planning to enter next year. Who knows we may even enter a band into the 10 bell one year

The band was as follows:

1 Louise Read	5 Peter Routier
2 Richard Herrissier	6 Justin Read
3 Peter Bevis	7 Steve Rossiter (c)
4 Helen McGregor	8 David Clare

SR

Email from the Hon Gen Secretary of W&P

Mo Routh

Hello all,

I wanted to express the Guild's thanks for the welcome we received in the Channel Islands for the AGM.

I wasn't able to be in either Alderney or Guernsey prior to the AGM weekend, but thanks to all those responsible for opening the towers. Thanks also to Anne and Jane for the dinner at The Hampshire Hotel, it was a very enjoyable evening and at very reasonable cost. I am unsure who provided all the food for the tea after the AGM but it was a veritable feast, and very much enjoyed by all there, so thanks also to all those who had a hand in making it.

Here's looking forward to eight years' time when we can do it all again!

Best wishes
Mo Routh
Hon Gen Secretary

MR

Email from John Everett

John Everett

Jane,

Thank you and the other Guernsey ringers for the warm welcome that you gave me on my recent visit to ring at your towers.

Regards
John Everett
Boreham Essex

JE

Channel Islands Ringers join the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Helen M McGregor

The second Saturday in July is traditionally the summer country meeting of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (SRCY). This year the SRCY summer meeting was in Scotland.

Peter Bevis, Helen McGregor & Stephen Rossiter have all been Cumberlands for over 20 years. We decided to attend this year's country meeting and to propose Duncan Loweth & Jack Page for membership too. We all drove to Tulloch, nr Fort William on Tues July 9th – Duncan's car quiz was a great success giving us lots to think about during the very long car journey. However, arriving at Tulloch at 9pm meant there was plenty of time for a quick quarter before bed.

Tulloch, Highland, The Ringing Centre

Tuesday 9 July 2013 in 33 mins (3 cwt)

1260 Doubles (8m/3p)

60 of Erin; 120 each of; Orpheus, Stedman, St. Osmund, Eynsbury, Winchendon Place, St. Nicholas, St. Martins, St. Simons, Grandsire and Plain Bob.

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

On Weds July 10th we were joined at Tulloch by Alan Regin, Jo Dorling and Geraldine & Roger Forster so an 8 bell quarter was achieved while Peter cooked supper

Tulloch, Highland, The Ringing Centre

Wednesday 10 July 2013 in 42 mins (7 cwt)

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Joanna K Dorling | 5 Roger Forster |
| 2 Stephen A Rossiter | 6 Geraldine Forster |
| 3 Helen M McGregor | 7 Jack Page (C) |
| 4 Duncan Loweth | 8 Alan Regin |

The Cumberland weekend properly started on Thursday 11th July with masses of ringing all over Scotland. At Tulloch we had general ringing in the morning then a peal in the afternoon. Friday morning was another peal attempt in the morning:

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths
 Tulloch, Highland, The Ringing Centre
 Friday 12 July 2013 in 3hrs 2mins (7-2-4)
 5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus
 Composed: R.W. Pipe

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Joanna K. Dorling | 7 Helen M. McGregor |
| 2 Ruth Curtis | 8 Stephen A. Rossiter |
| 3 Shirley E. McGill | 9 Claire F. Roulstone |
| 4 Richard L. Thumwood | 10 Alan Regin |
| 5 Timothy J. Peverett | 11 Ian Roulstone (C) |
| 6 Paul F. Curtis | 12 Ian G. Campbell |

Then it was off to Edinburgh for general ringing at the city churches before the all-important meeting. During the meeting Duncan and Jack were both unanimously elected to membership. Saturday concluded with a buffet and ceilidh.



After service ringing on Sunday the final ringing of the weekend was a lovely quarter peal at St Cuthbert's

Edinburgh, Lothian, St. Cuthbert
 Sunday 14 July 2013 in 48 mins (21)
 1259 Grandsire Caters

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Helen M McGregor | 6 Roger Forster |
| 2 Anne E Davies | 7 Geraldine Forster |
| 3 Michelle Sorell | 8 James Sanderson |
| 4 Duncan Loweth | 9 Stephen A Rossiter (C) |
| 5 Peter J R Bevis | 10 Edmund G M Smith |
- 1st on 10: 4

After which it was the long drive home :-(

HMM^cG

LMDC Ringing Group

Robert Gorton

La Mare De Carteret High School changed the focus of the 'Activities Week' for 2013; to learn a new skill or provide a service to the local community. I felt that this gave me a perfect opportunity to show a group of pupils that bell ringing is not at all like the Mars Bar advert! After the initial stunned silence when the pupils were told they would be bell ringing for 3 days, I was nervous that we would be fighting a losing battle to keep the pupils engaged. As it turns out we were lucky to have a group of children who, although apprehensive, were willing to give it a go and actually found themselves enjoying it.

We met at St Peter's Church on Tuesday 16th July, at this point the pupils were still under the impression they had drawn the short straw being part of this group. However, as soon as they started ringing and saw the level of skill required, they quickly became engrossed in the process. Competitiveness quickly set in, with all wanting to progress as far as they could. The pupils also tried their hands at ringing hand bells; the plain hunt sounded ropey (no pun intended!) but they managed a tuneful 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'!



The Wednesday afternoon saw us visiting Town Church, and on seeing the bells in the tower the pupils were amazed by the size, and reality set in that it was a large lump of metal they were swinging, and a sense of pride was felt by the group, as well as a few conquering a fear of heights!

I was amazed by the level of progress made in just 3 short days; by the end the majority were ringing hand and back unaided in rounds with just a minder standing by. This could not have been achieved without the fantastic support of Judith Laine, Paul Lawrence, Jane Le Conte, Phil Le Conte, Duncan Loweth and Sue Park, who so kindly gave their time to support this activity. I was also very grateful to the pupils themselves, as they all put 100% into the activity, and their behaviour was exemplary.



Watch this space for new recruits!

RG

Alderney Augmentation Celebrations & Training Weekend

Fri Nov 29th/Sat 30th & Sun Dec 1st 2013

We think the bells will be back on-island Oct 14th. Our vicar has decided that we are NOT to have a dedication service though he intends to bless the bells as soon as they land on Ay & before they are taken up the belfry :-). The Alderney ringers have decided to 'upgrade' the training weekend to include some augmentation celebrations and we hope to have the ringers hymn in morning service and perhaps have our ringing master read the lesson.

I am arranging one hour dedicated sessions on Fri 29th Nov - Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Yorkshire S Major, hunting on 9 & 11, rounds on 12, Stedman Caters and maybe even cinquies etc

General practice Saturday morning Nov 30th 9.30 – 12noon to mix it all together. Qtr peals on Sat afternoon – Stedman Triples, Bob Major, some of the standard 8 S Major & maybe Surprise Royal too – whatever is required.

Saturday eve: The Augmentation Dinner – The Georgian House 7.30pm

Sunday Dec 1st = service ringing 9.45 - 10.30am followed by morning service which we hope will have a ringing theme. Afternoon can be handbells/more qtrs.

A good number of Reading ringers will be on Alderney at the end of November to help progress the band from 6-bell ringers to ringers proficient on higher numbers :-).

Visitors include John & June Wells. Jenny Page, Marcia Dieppe & Viv Bloundel. They will be assisted by Stephen Rossiter, June Saint, Jack Page, Helen McGregor & Peter Bevis.

This event is mandatory for ALL Ay ringers :-). Ringers from Jsy & Gsy should be competent either in touches of bob minor or be a reliable plain hunter on 8 please. The support of more advanced ringers from Jsy & Gsy is vital – please come and help.

I'd be grateful for an email from anyone planning on joining us
Helen McGregor, Training Officer St Anne's

Helen@tullochfarm.co.uk

01481 822252 or (new) mobile no 077811 49905

HMM^cG

District Practice Day, Guernsey July 26/27th

Helen M McGregor

Peter, Jack & I flew over from Alderney on Fri July 26th, arriving at lunchtime we had time for some handbell ringing with Duncan before the 8 bell practice at Town Church. At TC we rang a touch of grandsire triples as prelude for the following days qtr, we rang Kent TB Major, spliced S minor (Cambridge, Norwich, London) and touches of Double Court.

Following a chip supper we went to St Peter's local practice and enjoyed bob doubles and bob triples, st simons bob doubles. Using our ipads to ring some plain hunt on 5 we encouraged listening & counting.

Forest on Saturday morning was lots of bob doubles, some treble bobbing, grandsire doubles, a touch of Cambridge with a single at every lead end, then 2 leads of Cambridge and then 4 leads of Cambridge minor – all good fun

Jane provided a very tasty lunch which did the trick as we were successful in both afternoon quarter peals:

St Pierre du Bois, Saturday 27 July 2013 in 38 minutes (11)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Helen M McGregor
- 2 Jane R Le Conte (C)
- 3 Fraser Wilkes
- 4 Peter JR Bevis
- 5 Phil Le Conte
- 6 Jack Page

First inside, 3. First as cover, 6.

St Pierre du Bois, Saturday 27 July 2013 in 44 minutes (11)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Tim Wainwright
- 2 Peter JR Bevis
- 3 Rob Gorton
- 4 Jane R Le Conte
- 5 Phil Le Conte
- 6 Jack Page (C)
- 7 Helen M McGregor
- 8 John Lihou

First in Method, 3.

HMM^cG

**Winchester & Portsmouth Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Channel Islands District**

**Minutes of the Annual meeting held at the Town Church, Guernsey on Sat. 22nd
2012**

1. **The Chairperson, Anne Fraser, welcomed** those present with special mention of the Guild Master, David Strong, the judges of the District Striking competition, Alan Regin and Jo Dorling the judges of the District Striking competition, and Vice President the Dean of Guernsey, the Very Revd. Paul Mellor, Rector of the Town Church.
2. The following **“Any Other Business”** received after circulation of the agenda, was declared:-
 - a) Michael Bubb – Dates of District events
 - b) John David – District Peals
 - c) Next year’s meetings, dates & venues
 - d) David Strong – the ITTS programme
3. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jack Worrall and Jo Routier, both from Jersey.
4. **In Memoriam** – none
5. **The minutes of the two previous meetings**, AGM September 2011, and Summer meeting, June 2012, had been previously circulated. The adoption of both sets of minutes as being a correct record of proceedings was proposed by Duncan Loweth, seconded by Philip Maddocks, and they were duly signed by the Chairperson.
6. **Matters arising** from both meetings:-
 - a) **District 30th anniversary peals.** Nicky David stated that 10 quarter peals had been arranged and successfully rung to celebrate the District’s 30th anniversary, with all towers represented.
 - b) **Alderney bells.** Peter Bevis informed those present that the augmentation project had been approved by the Church Architect and the Structural Engineer; however, they were still waiting for approval from the States of Alderney so that a Church Faculty for the work could be applied for. The project would not now be ready by July 2013 as had been hoped.
 - c) **Ringling for the Queen’s Jubilee.** All District towers had taken part in ringling for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations. Details had been sent to David Strong to collate and he had sent the details to Her Majesty, and received thanks in return,

which had been circulated to Tower Secretaries. David commented that the project had been well supported by the Guild; details of over 100 pieces of ringing had been sent to the Queen and 800-900 of the 1400 Guild members had taken part. He thanked members for their participation.

- d) **Guild Striking Competitions.** Nicky David explained that this item had been on the agenda of the June meeting, but as she was one of the ringers who were unfortunately stranded and unable to get to the meeting because of an accident at Jersey airport, it had not been discussed as planned. In recent years, the Guild Striking competitions had been poorly supported and this was discussed at the Nov. 2011 Executive meeting. Various proposals had been put forward and delegates were asked to discuss them at their District AGMs and then feed comments back to the March 2013 meeting, with a view to having final discussion and decisions made at the Guild AGM. As the CI District had already had their AGM, the item was put on the June District meeting agenda as there was still time to take any comments to the Guild AGM.. Obviously this did not happen, but Nicky informed the meeting that the outcome at the Guild AGM in July was that the 6 bell Inter-Tower competition would continue, but that the 8 bell one would be abandoned. The Inter-District 8 and 10 bell competitions would continue. It was also hoped to re-form a Striking Competition committee.
- e) **Communication in the District.** As Nicky David had been absent from the June meeting (see above) she wished to comment on the minuted remarks about poor communication between the Committee and the District which she felt were unfounded. She explained that all relevant items from the Guild sent to her as District Secretary, plus all District information concerning meetings, programme dates, etc, were always sent out promptly to every Tower Contact. Either these contacts were not passing the information on, or the recipients were not bothering to read it. In addition, details of the District programme were published in “Les Clôches” and on the Guild website. One particular criticism had been made concerning the change in date of the June meeting “at very short notice”. This change had in fact been noted (highlighted in red) in the Feb. and April editions of the “Dates for your Diary” circular, and in the February edition of “Les Clôches”.

Mike Halsey commented that in some instances in Jersey, information was being sent to the wrong person. Nicky commented that it was up to individual towers to inform the Secretary if there were changes in contact details; also it was important that anyone sending information round used the same contact. She cited the fact that most Vale members had only received the August edition of “Les Clôches” the previous week as it had been sent to a person other than the tower contact and so had not been sent on.

Anne Fraser requested that all Tower Captains spoke to her immediately after the District meeting to confirm who the Tower Contact was.

7. **Treasurer's Report.** Philip Maddocks presented a short report, stating that the accounts showed that the District was "in the black" with a balance of £2012 56 at the end of August 2012. It would not be necessary to raise subscriptions this year. There were no questions from the floor concerning the accounts, and they were adopted.

8. **Ringmaster's Report.** Helen McGregor gave the following report:-

"2012 was another good year for the District. In addition to all the 4th Saturdays we held a successful training weekend in November in Reading. The outing in March gave the District 8 bell striking competition team a chance to ring together & in July we managed a quarter of Diamond Delight for the Queen's jubilee

Sadly the quarter peal day in February was lost in a 5 day fog blanket and the Summer meeting in Jersey was a victim of the Blue Islands under carriage collapse
A more detailed account of our events can be found in Les Cloches

A real measure of the success of the District can be seen today with a wonderful 10 teams entering the striking competition - well done everyone"

John David commented that although there had been a lot of reports about preparations for the Guild 8 bell competition, there had been little feedback about the outcome, either from the Guild or the District. Helen reported that the CI team had placed 6th out of 7. A report would be sent to Les Clôches. John David replied that the result was an improvement on when he was last involved with the competition, and it was good that at least the District had taken part.

9. **Election of Officers.** The Dean was requested to chair this item of the agenda.

There was one nomination for each office, and these were elected "en bloc" as follows:-

Chairperson : Anne Fraser, proposed Peter Bevis, seconded Judy Collins

Secretary: Jane Le Conte, proposed Anne Fraser, seconded Richard Harris

Treasurer: Philip Maddocks, proposed Helen McGregor, seconded Maurice Stupart

Ringmaster: Helen McGregor, proposed Tim Wainwright, seconded Phil Le Conte
Anne Fraser gave notice that this would be the last year that she would hold the office of District Chairperson. She thanked the retiring Secretary, Nicky David, for her work during her term of office, saying that she knew it had not always been easy. She suggested to members that instead of making critical comments, they could consider standing for office themselves.

10. Election of new members

The following were elected, or converted from Probationary to full members :-

St. Anne, Alderney June Saint (ratification of election before a peal attempt 7th July 2012)

Vale, Guernsey Olivia Palmer

Danni King (re-election as Probationer)

Town Church, Gsy Jenny Dunning (Probationer)
St. Pierre du Bois, Gsy Sally Ann White
 Esme White
 Joe Berry
 Anne Cooper
 Molly Cooper
 Julia Wilkes
 Fraser Wilkes
 Finley Wilkes

The Guild Master presented those new members present with their membership certificates and badges.

Michael Bubb informed the meeting that Ed Hynard had requested that his membership status be changed from “unattached member” to being part of the Vale band.

11. **“Les Clôches”**(District Newsletter.) Anne Fraser informed the meeting that the former editor of “Les Clôches” Jenny Rains, had moved back to England, and therefore a new editor was required. Two people were willing to undertake the job, Duncan Loweth and John David. They left the room whilst an election by show of hands took place. Duncan Loweth was duly elected.

Jenny Rains was thanked for her hard work during her time as editor. Nicky David suggested that she be thanked in writing, and this was agreed.

12. **Guild AGM 2013.** This is to take place at St John, Jersey on July 6th. Anne Fraser said that there had been some confusion about the arrangements, particularly the social side of things. She asked for a show of hands as to the likelihood of CI ringers travelling to Jersey on the Friday, who might like to meet for an informal dinner, confirming that Jersey ringers were willing to provide accommodation to local ringers as far as possible. There was a good response from the floor.

Richard Harris suggested that as there would be a low density of bells in ratio to the number of ringers in Jersey that day, consideration should be given to hiring the Charnborough Campanile, and setting it up in one of the squares of St. Helier. This would not only provide more “ropes” for ringers, but would be a good PR exercise which might lead to new ringers. Obviously costs of hire and transport would be a consideration. It was suggested that insurance might be prohibitively expensive. David Strong stated that if the committee wished to seek financial support from the Guild, a proposal would need to be presented at the November Guild Executive meeting. Judy Collins suggested seeking local sponsorship.

13. **Future of 4th Saturday District practices.** Ringing Master, Helen McGregor had published details for this item in the February 2012 edition of “Les Clôches”, suggested that the monthly meetings be rotated round the 3 islands in turn. However, now that the Alderney augmentation project was delayed, she suggested carrying on as before for the time being. She also encouraged Jersey ringers to

attend the Guernsey meetings whenever possible, and people to attend Jersey practice nights if they were over there.

14. Any Other Business:-

- a) **Dates of District events.** Michael Bubb requested that more care/consultation be taken when setting dates for training days and outings. For example, the Reading training weekend this Nov./Dec. clashed with Advent Sunday and he thought that ringers should be in their own towers ringing for an important date in the Church calendar, rather than at a training. There had also been clashes with Guild events in the past. Helen McGregor replied that it was not always easy to find suitable dates but she would try to be more aware in future.
- b) **District Peals.** John David made the comment that he thought it a pity that when planning District peal attempts for special occasions, complicated methods with little chance of success were chosen. The District has many ringers capable of ringing peals in standard methods, such as Grandsire or Plain Bob. It would be better to ring something one knows well if the attempt has been arranged to mark an important occasion. Of course there should be opportunities to rise to the challenge of ringing complicated things but these should be left for other times, not attached to important events. He also commented that he thought it was a pity that none of the District Founder Ringers had been included in the peal attempt arranged for the District's 30th anniversary.

The Chairperson discouraged discussion on this item.

c) Next year's dates

As the Guild AGM is to be held in Jersey next July, Nicky David suggested that a Spring/Summer meeting should be held earlier rather than later, say May, and that the Guild AGM be treated as a Summer meeting. The District AGM & Striking Competition would be at St Mark's Jersey in September. Alderney was suggested for the Spring meeting but the rotation of venues would be checked.

- d) **ITTS Training scheme.** Details of this accreditation scheme for the training of teachers of ringing, and their pupils, have recently been circulated. The Guild Master was asked to comment on it. David Strong gave a brief overview of the scheme and explained that it was not a rigid course, but offered a varied approach to the teaching of ringers. It consisted of several modules and trainee teachers would be mentored. A course day would be held for each module, (which he conceded would not be very convenient for CI ringers) and satisfactory completion of the course would lead to accreditation. David said that the scheme was best viewed as a resource and

had not been adopted formally by the W&P Guild. Nicky David asked if it was envisaged that at some time in the future, all teachers of ringers would be expected to be accredited. A question was also raised about possible Insurance implications. David said there was no intention at this stage for accreditation to become compulsory, and doubted if such a thing would be likely to happen for at least 30 years.

15. The Chairperson **closed the meeting** by thanking everyone for attending, the Town Church ringers for their organisation and hospitality, Alan Regin & Jo Dorling for judging the Striking Competition, and the Dean for the use of the Church facilities and for taking the Service.

The meeting was followed by the results of the striking competition, which were given by the judges, Alan Regin and Jo Dorling of London.

Alan started his report by stating that their location in the Guille-Allès library had been a good one, but their listening skills had been tested when the clock bell had struck during a test piece! In addition, the fact that some teams chose to ring on the front 6, and some on the back, had resulted in different acoustics and a challenge to comparison between teams.

Over all there had been some very nice ringing of which the local ringers should be proud.

He then went on to comment on individual team performances and peal speeds, and to give some constructive criticism. This included making full use of the (unmarked) preliminary rounds, aiming for consistent leading and speed, and choosing the right speed for the bells. He added that it had been a challenge to mark the better teams. Jo then announced the results in reverse order:-

10. 115 faults Alderney B
9. 100 faults St Peter's B
8. 98 faults St Peter's A
7. 86 faults Forest
6. 81 faults Town Church B
5. 63 faults Alderney A
4. 58 faults Vale
3. 55 faults St John's
2. 53 faults Town Church A
- 1st 48 faults St. Mark's

The Paul Taylor shield was presented to the winning team.

ND

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