

Les Cloches des Îles

August 2015 – Issue No. 61



Congratulations

Most Midges
for all

New Arrival

Donkey's Bells

Winker?



Evacuation

Learning the
ropes

CI Outing to
Birmingham

100 Peals



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

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As someone who has taken on many responsibilities within bellringing I sometimes find it hard to remember that it is first and foremost a hobby to be enjoyed! One can get bogged down with responsibilities from organising events and ringing to simply having to turn out for practice when you are tired and busy – it's no fun when it becomes a chore. But it is always the interaction with other ringers which reminds me why I love ringing so much.	3	Spring Meeting and Striking comp.
Whilst ringing a handbell peal for my daughter's Christening, I later found out, my sister-in-law said 'It's not very sociable is it?' I can see why she thought this as she watched us all sat in silence, staring into space, lifting our hands up and down with each change. Of course she does not appreciate the nods and smiles of interaction we shared throughout but she is still right, the ringing itself is rather withdrawn most of the time.	6	ADY at ODG Handbell Day
However, I'm happy to be able thrust this issue of Les Cloches at her to show we are rather more sociable than she thinks with BBQs, outings, meals, cake, celebrations, drinks and much more. Good work everybody!	7	CI outing to Birmingham
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Spring Meeting Jersey April 5th 2015

Helen M McGregor

Clear weather for a District meeting ??– we must have got the date wrong!!

The judge - Barry Fry – was on time😊

The Alderney ringers had chartered a private plane to make 2 trips over from Alderney and even secured a Jersey non-ringer to spend the day on Alderney to help defray the cost.

Sadly the Guernsey team had been depleted by new babies, holidays and weddings so that it wasn't possible to field a complete team (they were to be supplemented by Justin, Stephen & Peter B for the test piece) although they were able to fly over they had to take the boat home otherwise they would have had to leave almost before they arrived!

Jersey did a magnificent job of meeting all the flights, catering all-day hot drinks, a super lunch & yummy tea, masterminding the raffle, and arranging handbells

Breakfast in the cafe behind St John's had us all reaching for our diaries as we were agreeing what methods we would be able to manage that day...3 leads of Bristol was going to be popular with trainee treble bob hunters, Justin fancied a course of London, Gsy wanted a touch of DNCBM, & Ay were not prepared to be drawn on other methods until AFTER they had rung their bob major😊

General ringing was initially dominated by Ay as they were both almost complete & keen to have a final practice. Gsy arrived later but also had an opportunity to try out the bells before the competition. There was no draw as Jsy needed to ring first because David needed to row across the Channel, Ay were happy to go second as they were the only other band capable of being 'placed', Gsy were content to ring 3rd as they had 'foreign' ringers in their team so were to be considered a scratch band, finally the District team were to ring 4th as always.

All teams rang the test piece through to the end😊

Then it was just pure fun....1 lead Cambridge major & stand. 1 lead Cambridge major and the Little bob to bring it round, 3 leads Cambridge Major, touches of DNCBM, touches of bob major, plain course London Major, touch Stedman Triples, touch Grandsire Doubles, Hannah's first plain hunt on 5...jolly busy fitting everything in but made much easier by the ready supply of refreshments

Lunch was marvellous & extremely efficient next to the bells - advantage of a ground floor ring☺

Handbell ringing had Richard putting us through our paces – plain Bob Major, Little bob Major, Cambridge minor, then suddenly it was time for the meeting

The meeting is minuted elsewhere but I would like to record here the win by Jsy, second place to Ay and 3rd place to Gsy. Jersey rang well clearly beating both the other islands but I am not being biased when I say that Ay surprised the other islands with their ringing & well deserved their second place (never embarrassing to lose to Jsy), Gsy paid the price of not having had a team to practice with back home so now their only way is UP☺. The District team gave a good performance and a hugely useful practice for July 4th Guild Competition. The District team comprised Jane, Richard (standing in for Duncan), Peter R, Helen, Tim, Peter B, Justin & Stephen

The raffle had been very well organised by Hannah & William – so much so that just over £100 was raised, which together with the lunch surplus of £50 doubled the ££ available for Youth travel Grants for September meeting on Gsy☺

More general ringing & sticky buns for tea then soon it was time to get everyone back to the airport.

Many many thanks to all who travelled to Jersey for a wonderful day of friendly competition, mutual support & good food

HMM^cG



Jersey 1st



Alderney 2nd



Guernsey Scratch



The Alderney band at ODG Handbell Day

Helen M McGregor

The link between Alderney & Reading remains strong :-)

Since both Jack & Steve retain houses there and with Helen & Peter having hosted the ODG Handbell Day there for a number of years in the 80's & 90's it was obvious that we were going to be all together at Jack's Reading home for the ODG Handbell Day in 2015. With Peter, Steve & Helen each scoring a separate Yorkshire S Major qtr (but only by ringing with very steady bands!!)

26 Redlands Rd,
Reading
Sat 4th April 2015
**1250 Yorkshire S
Major**

1-2 Peter Bevis
3 -4 June Wells
5-6 Graham Firman
7-8 Jack Page (c)

26 Redlands Rd,
Reading
Sat 4th April 2015
**1280 Yorkshire S
Major**

1-2 John Wells
3-4 June Wells
5-6 Jack Page (c)
7-8 Stephen Rossiter

26 Redlands Rd,
Reading
Sat 4th April 2015
**1344 Yorkshire S
Major**

1-2 Marcia Dieppe
3-4 Helen McGregor
5-6 Graham Firman
7-8 Robert Newton (c)

It will be Jack's challenge to get us through it with all 3 in together in the summer!!

Please note – my qtr was longer than theirs – does that make mine a better result? :-)

HMM^cG



CI outing to Birmingham & Worcs, Thurs Feb 18 – Sun Feb 21st 2016

Thursday

Depends when people arrive but Northfield (10) early evening, dinner at large nearby Wetherspoons. Other towers can be put in before to make up the day

Friday

Probably go for a public transport tour of some of the better southern suburb towers, i.e. Yardley (8), Shirley (8), Solihull (12), finish in Moseley (6 and 10). Party at Simon Linford's home.

Saturday

St Paul's (10), St Chads Cathedral (8), St Philips Cathedral (12), finish at St Martin's (16), walk to the Woodman for the evening.

Sunday

Start with three excellent 8s - Edgbaston, Harborne, Handsworth. Then probably Aston (12) and the Bartons Arms for lunch. Worcester Cathedral Evensong 4pm then Training Centre, OSM to finish & a great pub next door apparently :-)

Please email helen@tullochfarm.co.uk so that I keep interested ringers advised of updates or phone 07781149905 but I prefer an email please.

HMM^cG

Congratulations

Sue Le Feuvre



Congratulations to Helen Tucker and Colin Ozanne who were married on Saturday 30 May 2015.

A band representing every tower on the island, and made up of ringers who had all rung many times with Helen (and would really love to again!) rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at St Peters to celebrate.

We all wish them well in their life together.

SLF

Alderney Performs in 3rd Annual Performing Arts Festival

Helen M McGregor

We are now getting quite slick with our Tower Open Days, usually having 2 a year, linked to an island festival. Obviously having a large ringing room and stairs that go right up to the bells helps hugely in making the experience accessible, informative, interesting & safe- with the tea/coffee, homemade cakes and handbells in the church being very popular too.

They are of course quite a bit of work to arrange but practice makes perfect, keeps our profile up, raises a small amount of cash, gets all the band involved and usually catches us a new recruit☺ This event was no exception – 2 weeks after the Open Day Caroline Maud is now almost putting the strokes together, rings either stroke in rounds, has ordered a team shirt, signed up for ITTS & avidly studies her ‘New Ringers Handbook’.

We were delighted to have Amy Madden & Sue Le Feuvre over from Guernsey – we hope they felt well used – organising the handbells and taking lovely photos. Peter & I hope to return the compliment at TC's Open Day June 7th

If you missed this year's Alderney Performing Arts Festival then can I recommend you try to get here next year,
www.alderneyperformingartsfestival.com great fun and there really is something for everyone

HMMcG



Alderney ringers Donald Hughes and June Banister during the Tower Open Day May 23rd

New use for a sally?



Nicky David

Seen by John & Nicky David in the precincts of Durham Cathedral in April

ND

Evelyn Anne Loweth

April was an excellent month for me, the arrival of my beautiful baby girl Evelyn Anne gave me a brilliant excuse to do lots of ringing in celebration of her safe arrival.

Many others also rang for her for which Gemma and I are very grateful.

On Day 5 she had her first go at handbells and she certainly seems to appreciate change ringing as the sound of ringing, whether it is handbells, tower bells or mobel, soothes her and she often starts to wriggle as soon as the bells stop.



She was born on 5th April 2015 and was christened on 26th July 2015.

Guernsey, CI

Roseville

Monday, 6 April 2015 in 37min
(8C)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Jane Le Conte

3-4 Amy Madden

5-6 Duncan Loweth (C)

Rung in celebration of the birth of
Evelyn Anne Loweth on 5th April
2015, daughter of 5-6.



Oxford Diocesan Guild

Tilehurst, Berkshire

15 Lytham End

Tuesday, 7 April 2015 in 2 hours
38 minutes (15)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Composed by C K Lewis

1-2 June D Wells

3-4 Kenneth R Davenport

5-6 Bernard F L Groves

7-8 Jack E Page (C)

9-10 E John Wells

Rung to celebrate the birth of
Evelyn Anne Loweth.

First peal as conductor on hand
bells.

**Winchester & Portsmouth
Diocesan Guild**

Reading, Berkshire

26 Redlands Road

Wednesday, 8 April 2015 in 37
minutes (9 in Bb)

1264 Plain Bob Major

1-2Peter JR Bevis

3-4Helen M McGregor

5-6Jack E Page (C)

7-8Stephen A Rossiter

Arranged and rung especially to
celebrate the birth of Evelyn Anne
Loweth. Rung by an Alderney
band.

Guernsey, CI

Town Church

Wednesday, 8 April 2015 in 47min
(11cwt)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1Nicky David

2Sue Park

3Sue Le Feuvre

4John David

5Duncan Loweth (C)

6Joe Allen

Rung in celebration of the birth of
Evelyn Anne Loweth, born on 5th
April 2015, daughter of - 5



Vale, Guernsey

St Michel du Valle

Wednesday, 8 April 2015 in 40
minutes (6-2-23 in B b)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1Helen Rolf

2Nicky David

3Paul Lawrence

4John David

5Michael Bubb (C)

Rung to welcome Evelyn Anne
Loweth born 5th April. Daughter
for Duncan and Gemma.

Alderney, Channel Islands

Wells House

Thursday, 9 April 2015 in 37 mins

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2Philippa Arditti

3-4Helen M McGregor

5-6Peter JR Bevis (C)

Rung to celebrate the birth of
Evelyn Anne Loweth.

Vale, Guernsey St Michel du Valle

Sunday, 26 July 2015 in 40 mins

(6-2-23 in B b)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1Helen Rolf

2Nicky David

3Sue Park

4John David

5Michael Bubb (C)

6Olivia Palmer

Rung prior to the Parish Eucharist
to welcome Evelyn Anne Loweth
into God's family during the
service.

**Society of Royal Cumberland
Youths**

Guernsey, Channel Islands
The Billie and Leslie Norman
Rooms

Sunday, 26 July 2015 in 2h 20m (8
in C)

5056 Plain Bob Major

Composed by F Nolan Golden

1-2Peter J R Bevis

3-4Helen M McGregor

5-6Jack E Page (C)

7-8Duncan R Loweth

Rung to celebrate the christening
of Evelyn Anne Loweth.

First peal in hand: 7-8.

100th peal, 1-2.

Guernsey, CI

Town Church

Wednesday, 29 July 2015 in 50
min (21cwt)

1260 Grandsire Triples

1Rob Gorton

2Paul Lawrence

3Sue Park

4Duncan Loweth (C)

5Jane Le Conte

6John David

7Mike Bubb

8John Lihou

Rung to celebrate the Christening
of Evelyn Anne Loweth on 26th
July 2015



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Helen M McGregor

In the first week of June the Alderney band have hosted visits from the Beavers and also from the combined Cubs/Scouts.

On each visit the boys had the model bell explained, watched demonstration ringing, saw the bells, rang mobil on ipads, had a go at handbells and 3 scouts rang some backstrokes.

Our youngest novice ringer - 11year old Aaron Hallett - has had his height marked on the wall in the belfry and the cubs were told that they had to be as tall as Aaron is now before they can learn – all the boys were impressed with Aaron's skill at ringing.

The boys expressed genuine interest and were a joy to have in the tower.

HMM^cG



Aaron and Aileen explain mobil to Scouts



First Quarter

Helen M McGregor

The Alderney band are delighted that a 'First Quarter Peal' has been scored at first attempt - a very creditable performance. Dani started ringing about 18 months ago but the demands of 2 small children, a husband on shifts and a Labrador puppy mean attendance at practice can't be regular. However Dani has an exceptional sense of rhythm and has made good use of the many opportunities we have on Alderney to ring with the computer simulator, her first quarter was a delight :-)

Alderney, St Anne

Weds 24th June 2015, in 42 mins (13 - 1 - 0 in F#)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Aileen Wilson
2. Philippa Arditti
3. Helen M McGregor
4. John Mackey
5. Peter J R Bevis (c)
6. Daniela Hill

First Quarter, 6



Photo L-R: John, Philippa, Aileen, Dani, Peter & Helen

Are you a winker?

Peter JR Bevis

There are some ringers who take exception to ringers who look at the floor and expect a wink and a nod every time you dodge with them. You must have met at least one such ringer. They are, by and large, inexperienced ringers who lack confidence or who are ringing beyond their experience. To wink, or not to wink? That is the question.

The answer to this conundrum is, as usual, "it depends". And what it depends on is whether you know for certain that you are indeed dodging with the person that you are winking at. The artful dodger is following the coursing order as the touch progresses and knows that the weak ringer who is searching for an answering smile is indeed their dodge partner. This can be helpful. However the bodger dodger, who is simply guessing that the person they found in the right place to dodge with is genuinely supposed to dodge them is asking for trouble. Sometimes they will guess right and sometimes they will guess wrong. Nothing is guaranteed to fire out a touch better than encouraging a weak ringer to dodge in the wrong place or with the wrong bell.

So, if in doubt. Don't guess. Ring your bell in the right place - use your ears more than your eyes - and let the conductor do their thing.

PJRB

Witches Cauldron

Helen M McGregor

4 Alderney ringers spending time at Tulloch, near Fort William found a wonderful spot for a handbell quarter...the Witches Cauldron in Glen Arkaig. Many many years ago Cameron clansmen were having their cattle plagued by a witch who had taken the form of a cat. She was chased to these magnificent waterfalls and jumped to her death into the deep pool at their base - known henceforth as the Witches Cauldron.

Glen Arkaig, Highland

The Witch's Cauldron

Tuesday, 21 July 2015 in 37m (12 in F)

1264 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Peter J R Bevis 3-4 Helen M McGregor

5-6 Jack E Page (C) 7-8 Stephen A Rossiter

Most midges for all.



Alderney ringers signal the evacuation (again)

Helen M McGregor

75 years after the island of Alderney was evacuated the Alderney ringers were again called upon to send the signal!! There is no history of change ringing on Alderney prior to May 1979 & so in 1940 we presume the sexton used the Ellacombe apparatus to make the islanders aware that the ships to take them to England had arrived and that they were to go immediately to the harbour. The cargo ships had docked in the early hours of 23rd June 1940, and the church bells rang around 06.45. During their crossing to Weymouth each ship crossed the Channel alone. No naval escort had been dispatched to accompany them.

As the 1939-1945 war progressed, so the need became greater for the Germans to find more raw materials with which to manufacture munitions. Not surprisingly, the bells came in for attention. Each was removed from the tower, thus enabling the belfry to be used as a machine-gun post. Four bells were shipped to France to be melted down for munitions, and were stored in a field near Cherbourg. One bell, however, was on a wooden gantry outside the main church door and the other was at Braye harbour, waiting to follow the others to Cherbourg. Upon the occupation of the Cherbourg area by British troops, Captain Tudor, the Cherbourg Garrison Engineer identified the bells, some of which were damaged, and in due course they were brought back to Alderney.

The bells were hung on low trestles near the gateway leading to Victoria Street. It was then that they were “clocked” by the simple means of pulling ropes attached to the clappers, the ringer having to run from one bell to the next!

In 1953, the sum of £4,000 was raised by the people of Alderney for the restoration of the church. Messrs. John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough quoted £1,370 for shipping the bells to their foundry, recasting and retuning them, and returning them to Alderney. Her Majesty the Queen Mother sent silver to be auctioned in aid of the bells.

Just before Christmas in 1953 the re-cast bells were rehung in the original 1850 oak frame, suitably repaired after being damaged by the occupying troops.

On the 23rd June 2015 at (the more civilised time of 11.130am) we partly lowered these bells (which are now our back 6) for 10 minutes of very fast rounds as the children from St Anne's school were loaded onto the Victor Hugo in an evacuation re-enactment.

<http://www.itv.com/news/channel/update/2015-06-27/alderney-re-enacts-the-islands-evacuation/>

HMM^cG

Alderney's Momentous Question, a narrative poem by E Parry

Sunday, June 23rd 1940

Three had crossed the Channel
Under the cover of night,
And had entered Old Braye Harbour
In the early hours of light.
Quickly they sent their message
To the people who slumbered still,
Till aroused on that June-day morning
By the bells of the church on the hill.
And fast the sexton rang the bell
Transmitting the message he had to tell
That one hundred and twenty minutes
Were given for all to say
If they'd remain in Alderney,
Or if they'd sail away.

Wildly the bells of St Anne's rang out
At six on that Sabbath day –
Three ships had arrived in the harbour below,
Where for only two hours they'd stay.
One hundred and twenty minutes
Was all the time they gave
To fourteen hundred British folk
They had been sent to save,

One hundred and twenty minutes! Not much in the span of life,
For a man to leave home and all he possess'd
And go down to the sea with his wife.
Crowded in hold and deck-
God keep them all from danger
Of torpedo, mine, or wreck.
The first ship's gone! She's off!
Amidst a loud Hooray!
And there's many a tear and pain at heart
As they bid goodbye to Braye.
The hundred and twenty minutes are up!
And the ships have sailed away.

The breakwater and Fort Albert
Are soon left behind,
And the ships are steering north
In a calm sea and gentle wind.
All eyes are turned for a last final look
On a fast receding isle,
And the ships speed on, for the journey's long
To Weymouth – sixty mile.
But the eyes of everyone are fixed,
With a gaze that does not tire,
On their church, St Anne's that still stands out
With its solitary lonely spire.
Its bells have rung its farewell peal
To its people now parted from home,
Who have set their face to the silent north
As the ships speed through the foam.
One hundred and twenty minutes were given
For all to say 'Yes' or 'No',
And the answer came unflinchingly.
'We'd rather leave all and go.
Shall we stop and work for the Bosche?
Grow food, or farm for our foe?'
The Momentous Question was answered-
And the Northern Isle said – 'No!'

Aaron earns his shirt

The Alderney band were delighted to award 11yr old Aaron Hallett his ringer's polo shirt on Monday 29th June. Just 3 months after first climbing the tower steps Aaron delighted the Alderney band with a near perfect display of bell control by ringing excellent rounds on 6 bells. It is only since the augmentation that Alderney has had bells light enough for children to ring so Aaron is definitely the youngest ringer there has ever been on Alderney, and we are all delighted with his progress.

Helen M McGregor



HMMcG

New Competition

Helen M McGregor



I would like to sponsor a competition for photo of 'ringing' as far from CI as possible in every edition? **Prize = bag of Maltesers** to ringer submitting photographic proof of their far flung 'ringing' exploits :-)

Donald on a yacht in Malta, June 29th, practicing his bob doubles on his iPad :-)

According to Google Malta is 1,263 miles from Alderney - beat that!!!

HMMcG

Inter District Striking Competition Shedfield Sat July 4th

Helen M McGregor

For the fourth consecutive year the CI have entered a team in the Guild inter-district 8 bell. By far the trickiest part was overcoming Flybes attempts to prevent the Gsy ringers getting to the UK, we managed only by chartering an Ay private pilot to take 2 x Ay ringers to Gsy & picking up 3 Gsy and then taking us 5 to UK where we were joined by Steve, Peter R & Justin. We rang 224 changes of Plain Bob Triples, never having rung the touch together in a practice☺

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jane Le Conte | 5. Justin Read |
| 2. Helen McGregor | 6. Peter Bevis |
| 3. Duncan Loweth | 7. Stephen Rossiter(c) |
| 4. Tim Wainwright | 8. Peter Routier |

Judged by Tessa Beadman & Leigh Simpson we were placed 5th out of 7 Districts. The winners were Portsmouth with 27 faults, then Southampton with 38, Winchester 42, Alton & Petersfield 44, CI 53, Basingstoke 72 & IOW 79.



Helen holds the trophy during tea before the results announced :-)

The comments of the judges applauded our tenor ringer as “keeping control of the speed of the ringing” – clearly they knew a great tenor ringer when they heard one Peter Routier was the only ringer to get picked out this way☺

Knowing that our weakness stems from an inability to ring together as often as we would like we arranged to ring a quarter together after the competition

HMM^cG

Shedfield, Hampshire, St John the Baptist

Sat 4th July 2015, **1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Jane Le Conte | 4. Peter J Routier | 7. Justin A Read |
| 2. Helen M McGregor | 5. Duncan Loweth | 8. Stephen A |
| 3. Tim Wainwright | 6. Peter J R Bevis | Rossiter (c) |

Rung by members of the Channel Island District on the day of the W&P Guild AGM

ITTS Module 1 Course in Swanage

Sue Le Feuvre

It was probably bad timing on my part to move back to Guernsey just after Pip had presented Module 1 in Guernsey but when I saw a course on offer in Swanage it seemed an easy option to go over by Condor on Friday and back on Sunday morning.

Booking the course was easy; I clicked the “request a place” button and Andy Ingram phoned to check details such as who my mentor would be. Booking Condor was less easy; it took me numerous attempts on the website before I managed to confirm and pay for the tickets. And accommodation in Poole was easy. I always use Trivago, mainly because when I lived away and tried to book Guernsey accommodation, they seemed to be the only site that understood that Jersey or Southampton was not an option for a stay in Guernsey. High on the list of available accommodation was The Antelope, which had a decent review from someone in Guernsey. So all ready to go.

When I realised I was booked on the first day on the Liberation’s service I did have a few niggling doubts but I could never have dreamed how it would turn out! As I was leaving the house to catch the (delayed) ferry, I had a text to say my return on Sunday had been cancelled due to bad weather. For a moment I considered cancelling but instead phoned the Antelope and booked an extra night. Having checked in I popped into Condor office to re-book my return on Monday.

Fast forward to Saturday morning and I found the bus station with no problems and bought a return ticket to Swanage (£8.10). Were visitors to Guernsey really complaining at a £2 bus fare?

The course was presented by Andy and Sallie Ingram, who I had met before, probably at the Bradfield Course. Because they were still completing their training or probationary period as tutors we had the bonus of Pip Penny also being there. 3 for the price of one is a pretty good offer!

I'd been going along to Duncan's Tuesday afternoon ringing with the boys and girls since I returned to Guernsey so was pretty familiar with the various techniques ITTS offer in their toolbox. What I hadn't realised was that Duncan had tailored it to suit his students so was surprised when nobody understood that "cricket" was the position that hands should be in to get that final important flick at the end of each stroke. Well everyone that was there that day now knows what we call it in Guernsey!

It was an excellent day and I always enjoy ringing with different people and visiting other towers so well worthwhile going.

I'd totally lost track of what day it was and only realised that the next morning was Sunday when I heard bells. It took me ages to track down the church from the sound of the bells; presumably because the sound was deflected by the buildings and when I finally found it the bells stood. I thought I was too late but read the notice board and realised there was still about 45 minutes before the service started so put my nose through the door. I was greeted by the lady vicar who was delighted to hear I was a visiting ringer and took me up and introduced me to the tower captain. They were very welcoming so if anyone is willing to risk taking Condor to Poole and fancies a ring you will be welcomed with open arms.

It was several days until I managed to get back to Guernsey but I guess we're all sick of reading the tales of The Liberation.

I have now registered my first learner so will soon be on my way to becoming an ITTS teacher.

SLF

Congratulations



Learning
the Ropes

The following learners have achieved **Level 1** in Learning the Ropes:

June Banister	St Anne, Alderney	21 st March 2015
Daniela Hill	St Anne, Alderney	24 th June 2015

A Long Weekend in Alderney, incorporating Duncan and the boys weekend there...

Sue Le Feuvre

I enjoyed my handbell weekend in Alderney so much that I wanted to go back for more. That is more ringing but especially the Monday evening practice because I knew it would end with a meal at Gloria's.

So to sample all the ringing options I started on a Thursday afternoon, which meant I had the afternoon to while away before the handbell practice. Ever since I noticed Tim's fitness watch winking at everyone across the tower I knew it was only a matter of time before I had to have one; and when I realised that I could have straps in every colour of the rainbow, with matching or contrasting coloured security bands I was hooked. What I hadn't bargained on was also getting hooked on reaching my target every day. I have my target set at 6 miles daily so on a fairly small island like Alderney I did have to do quite a bit of wandering around to achieve that. I also have a running challenge to post a photo a day as a 365 project so after Helen dropped me off at Catherine's cottage I headed on down to Braye Bay to take photographs.

While down there I decided that maybe it was time to have chunks of colour in my hair again so walked back up the hill to look for a hairdresser who might be able to do it. I decided that if I could find someone to do it that week then I would move to Alderney permanently. The lady in the first hairdresser I walked into looked slightly bemused when I asked whether she had Wella colour; she didn't but said she used an excellent Italian product. I said that was fine as long as she had purple and had an appointment available that day or the day after. She definitely perked up a bit at the mention of purple and when I said I wanted random big chunks she was positively excited; excused herself to her client and got the shade charts out. She totally ignored my comments that maybe we should see whether she had a free slot before spending a lot of time pouring over the colours; but she told me when I went back about half an hour later that as soon as I mentioned chunks of purple she was determined she would find the time because she rarely (more likely never?) gets a chance to be so random with people's hair. I was delighted with the result; although it is a little less purple that I've had in the past. I've been back a few times now

and of course you will all know that I am now an Alderney resident. Gill has a lot to answer to...

Then it was time to walk out to Helen's for supper followed by handbell practice. I was offered a lift of course but turned it down because I wanted to walk. I'd never really taken much notice of how to get to Wells House so did have a few moments of panic on the way there; I actually have a history of getting lost, though that was mostly around Scunthorpe when the only place I really knew was the village of Scotter so had to make long detours so I could approach everywhere from Scotter. Well, actually also in the north of Guernsey as well when I famously couldn't find my brother's house. But I was right this time and arrived just in time for a delicious vegetable bake.

I really enjoyed the handbell practice but admit that I might progress better if I actually go the Guernsey practices!

Friday was a free day and with hindsight maybe I should have taken it easy in preparation for the boys' arrival but instead managed to walk eleven and a half miles around Alderney taking photographs. By evening I was exhausted but managed to crawl down to Nellie Gray's for a duck curry.

On Saturday I walked to Wells House again to meet up with Duncan and the EC boys and the serious business of the weekend started with croissants for breakfast before the normal Saturday tower practice; then back to Wells House for lunch. We obviously didn't work the boys hard enough on Saturday morning because they really weren't hungry at lunchtime. Maybe the fact that they all had big breakfasts before leaving Guernsey and then a second on arrival in Alderney had something to do with it? But they were happy having mock fights with sticks out in the garden. At least we thought it was sticks but later investigation showed that a big heap of fence posts had been moved so maybe it was lucky that they all survived.

The afternoon ringing was all about the boys and they certainly kept the helpers busy. The star of the afternoon was Patrick. Moving the Tuesday practices from the Vale to Town Church had just come at the wrong time for him and he was struggling slightly. But put an Alderney rope in his

hand and he blossomed. Helen rang with him for a while and then I took over and he was so competent and confident that I had him following one other bell in preparation for rounds. By the end of Saturday he was having a go at covering to plain hunt and on Sunday afternoon we had him ringing a bell for half dozen strokes then moving to the next lightest and so on. Well done Patrick.

Alderney also have a new young learner; Aaron, who had his very first lesson on Saturday. He seemed to progress well and was really keen to come again. Now the question is... was the attraction ringing bells or the seemingly endless supply of chocolates, cake (thank you so much Duncan; your cake was a delicious masterpiece!), and biscuits?

Saturday ended with fish and chips at Wells House and handbells. We had hoped the boys would be more interested in ringing handbells but they had been parted from their iPads for long periods while ringing in the afternoon so I can imagine withdrawal symptoms were kicking in. Or maybe they were just tired out!

On Sunday we joined the Alderney band for service ringing then off to the Georgian for hot chocolate. The quote of the day goes to Will, who sadly had been unable to ring tower bells because he recently had his appendix out. When Helen asked him how his appendix was he, he said it wasn't there. Well he was right! And I assume that also meant that he was feeling OK. Which was really more than we could say for poor Louis who had a lousy cold and a headache. It really isn't the same when he rings without his cheery running commentary.

Then we headed to Le Cocq's to buy bread, cheese ham etc for lunch. Daniel spotted some Tabasco that he knew his dad loved so bought him a bottle as a present. When I went back to Catherine's cottage later that evening I was surprised to see Daniel grinning at me from her computer where they were Skypeing but he told me that his dad was delighted and had some Tabasco with his evening meal.

Duncan and Peter spent the afternoon ringing handbells with Will, who I understand made tremendous progress. The rest of us rang all afternoon

and Josh and Jake made great progress both at covering and plain hunt so I think there will be a few first quarters coming up very soon!

This Sunday afternoon session was actually very good for my own personal development, because with Duncan away ringing handbells I was the only one who really knew how the boys had been progressing and what they were hoping to achieve or be prodded to achieve so I was able to give this information to Helen. I've always resisted running a practice when away on tower outings and the like on the basis that my strengths are not in acting as tower captain or ringing master. But while nobody need read this as a takeover bid for a tower I think it's something else I'd cope with OK if the TC/RM wasn't at a practice I regularly ring at.

Sadly, it was then up to the airport for the Duncan and the boys. I hope they enjoyed their weekend as much as I enjoyed ringing with them.

SLF

Believed to be the first ever handbell peal on Alderney

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Alderney, Channel Islands

Wells House

Wednesday, 29 July 2015 in 2h 2m (11 in G)

5040 Minor (7 Methods)

7 extents: 1. Armitage is the name Bob, 2. Cambridge Surprise, 3. Oxford treble Bob, 4. Kent treble Bob, 5. St. Clements College Bob, 6. Double Bob, 7. Plain Bob.

1-2 Peter J R Bevis

3-4 Helen M McGregor

5-6 Jack E Page (C)

Believed to be the first ever handbell peal rung on Alderney. Rung on the occasion of Jack Page's 18th birthday. Most methods in hand: 1-2 and 3-4. First minor in hand, 5-6.

My last visit to Alderney

Sue Le Feuvre

I've visited Alderney many times since that fateful January handbell weekend when I fell instantly in love with the island, the people, the lifestyle and of course the ringing but I thought that my June visit when I arranged to rent a flat down at the Arsenal and got provisional agreement for the photography project I wanted to do, would be the last until I moved. But then I was invited to ring a QP of PB Major with ringers from a visiting peal band providing stability....

The plan is to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Homecoming this December with a peal rung by an all local band. Helen is therefore making good use of all visitors to increase our familiarity with the correct rhythm/speed/ropesight and QPs are planned with all visiting bands between now and then. Aileen and I were the first take advantage and we were both delighted to score the quarter. Ruth Curtis took Aileen under her wing and Andrew Mills looked after me. Many thanks to them and all the band.



Helen and Peter headed off to the District striking competition early on Saturday morning, (where they came 5th out of 7 with a very respectable score. Well done Channel Islands!) so the Saturday morning practice was



run by Andrew Mills. The menu included 4 leads of Cambridge Major, (I wish it had dawned on me on Thursday evening when Helen was running through the theory that we would ring it on Saturday. I thought I had another couple of weeks to learn it), Cambridge Minor, Grandsire Trips, Kaleidoscope, PB Doubles and more; something especially for each one of us.

But the star of Saturday was Aaron. He rang rounds and call changes on the 12 like a pro. And he was proudly wearing the ringers' polo shirt which he was awarded on 29 June for ringing rounds on 6 bells. Well done Aaron!

SLF

Ringling at Les Clloches d'Ane

Sue Le Feuvre

I was doubly delighted when Anne Dorey forwarded an email to me asking whether anyone would like to have a ring on the mini ring which Mick and I had put in the old chapel at Douit d'Israel. Not only was I keen to ring them again but I was also curious to look around the house and see what changes had been made since we sold it.



There aren't really any experienced mini bellringers on the island but I managed to get 4 people to join Bob and me and give it our best shot. Bob is a visiting ringer whose son has bought the house just up the road from the converted chapel and he was having a barbecue this afternoon. So while we were struggling to get control of the bells and ring rounds a small



crowd had gathered outside the window and were eagerly looking in at us. I think they were more impressed by our efforts than we were because after we very nearly got a 120 of Bob Doubles to come round we got a round of applause. Certainly not deserved!

But we had great fun trying and I got to look around the house...

SLF

Town Church Exhibition

Duncan Loweth

With the sea front in Guernsey closed every other Sunday during the summer months it seemed the ideal opportunity to get Joe Public up the tower.

Being tucked away in the church meant the punters needed to be rounded up from the street. Once Janice Firth and Nicola Gava had stirred up interest we were inundated with people keen to climb the stairs. After the first few groups we had got our patter pretty slick with a quick demo of rounds and plain hunt before giving them a quick go of the ropes and finally a trip up to see the bells.

Downstairs, in the church, were demonstrations of handbells and a chance to have a go and an exhibition of the history of the bells in the Town Church and of ringing in general. An old cannon ball and human bones, both found in the roof of the tower were on display alongside the ancient clappers from the previous peals of bells. Big boards of photos and information including a newspaper article from just after the 1913 peal of bells were installed when an unknown person snuck into the tower to have a go on the bells not realising that the chiming hammers were engaged he gave a mighty heave on the tenor rope which chipped metal off the soundbow followed by a hasty escape by hanging off the guttering to drop onto a ladder leaded against the wall some feet below.

A handful of people came to practice following the exhibition but none have stuck with it. But although new recruits would have been wonderful, the purpose of running the exhibition was more to raise the profile of ringing in the island which we certainly did. Everyone who came down the stairs said how impressed they were with the bells and the ringers.



Peal boards, muffles, rope on display

St Anne, Alderney – Tower Report

Stephen A Rossiter

Here on Alderney the number of ringers at practice fluctuate as so many of us have obligations in UK – on a good night we have a stab at Surprise Major other times we work on St Clements Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles, touches of bob doubles, reverse bob doubles, cloisters, treble bobbing on 6 & 8, hunting on 3 & 5 & 7 & call changes on 12

At the end of January we were delighted to welcome the Guernsey Handbell Band to Alderney – a weekend where everyone was stretched to some extent. In February & May we rang on the 100th anniversary of the death of 3 WW1 casualties from Alderney. In March we were delighted to again host the Elizabeth College ringers – Donald had insisted we contact our lapsed Womble children to make it a ‘Young Persons Weekend’, sadly only one answered the call but now Aaron wears his St Anne’s polo shirt with pride as he confidently rings the treble of our middle six – a real credit to Heather’s patience. The highlight of April was undoubtedly our performance in the 8 bell striking Competition on Jersey – again we had achieved the impossible – a Sunday Service standard touch of Bob Major with half of the band never having rung so much as a qtr peal on 8 – in terms of effort we definitely came first!!! On 2nd May we rang call changes on 10 to welcome the latest Royal Baby. Also in May we took part in the Performing Arts Festival, with our Open Day now quite a slick operation - though we will have to up our game now we have witnessed the Town Church Open Day Extravaganza. In June we rang on the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of Alderney – again giving the signal to leave, this time for the re-enactment by the school children.

Only 1 peal band this half year, the College Youths rang a peal of Bristol Max – we happily exploited them quite shamelessly and they formed 3/4’s of a band for Philippa and Helen to enjoy a quarter of Yorkshire S Major in addition to their support of our Saturday morning practice

Now that Donald has decided to count his place his ringing is making huge progress!! John now calls touches of bob doubles, Victoria’s treble bobbing on 6 is quite excellent, Jane is ringing bob minor inside, Heather has mastered the bobs in Cambridge minor, June can hunt the treble for a plain

course of bob doubles, Anne-Isabelle can treble for a touch of bob doubles. Aileen is gradually letting go of her 'comfort blanket' 2. 'Alderney' Sue is pulling less hard & keeping her knees straight and managing plain hunt. Caroline can nearly put the 2 strokes together. Through it all Maurice cheerfully rings whatever is called for – rounds and call changes or Cambridge Minor – an example to us all. Unfortunately Trevor damaged his Achilles tendon so hasn't been able to climb the stairs, Peter Bennion's carpal tunnel op site became badly infected so couldn't ring, Maddy undertakes too many jobs & Pam has had a phenomenal number of trips away, but all in all we are progressing nicely.

First quarters are always a great joy for any band and we are very proud of Dani Hill's performance as tenor cover for a quarter of bob doubles on 24th June.

Sue Le Feuvre has been commuting between Guernsey and Alderney with a view to relocating here & we are delighted to have such a competent ringer move to Alderney. In addition to her method capabilities Sue has benefitted both from attending the ITTS1 course and from assisting Duncan with teaching handling on Guernsey – she is a very welcome addition to our Aileen/Heather/Helen handling tutor trio. We have ordered the technology to enable us to ring several bells concurrently on the simulator - so that up to 6 ringers can be ringing their own method simultaneously. We usually have a computer night on Tuesday evenings and we hope this will become standard when the box of tricks arrives.

Handbell practices continue to provide an excellent stress-free environment for theory sessions. Aileen has been ringing Stedman Doubles on the tenors (enabling Peter to learn trebles and Helen the 3/4) which had the bonus of allowing Aileen to practice the slow work in advance of trying it in the tower – it obviously worked as she has now rung it at St Anne's. 'Alderney' Sue is using her handbell mastery up the tower to untangle the mysteries of plain hunt & plain bob. A focus evening at Wells House saw both Heather and 'Guernsey' Sue ring plain courses of St Clements in hand.

SAR

Alderney – Quarters and Peals

<u>Friday, 31 July</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1264 Plain Bob Major</u>
<u>Wednesday, 29 July</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1440 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Wednesday, 29 July</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>5040 Minor (7 Methods)</u>
<u>Saturday, 4 July</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>5042 Swindon Surprise Maximus</u>
<u>Friday, 3 July</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1280 Plain Bob Major</u>
<u>Wednesday, 24 June</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Doubles</u>
<u>Friday, 12 June</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Tuesday, 9 June</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Wednesday, 27 May</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Wednesday, 6 May</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Doubles</u>
<u>Saturday, 25 April</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus</u>
<u>Friday, 24 April</u>	<u>St Anne</u>	<u>1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major</u>
<u>Wednesday, 15 April</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1320 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Thursday, 9 April</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Sunday, 1 February</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1344 Plain Bob Major</u>
<u>Sunday, 1 February</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1260 Plain Bob Minor</u>
<u>Sunday, 1 February</u>	<u>Wells House</u>	<u>1344 Plain Bob Major</u>

Vale, Guernsey – Tower Report

Mike Bubb

Another very busy six months for us at the Vale.

We have rung for all of the morning and the rare evening services. As I mentioned last year evening services are getting fewer these days which means we have been ringing most quarter peals prior to morning service. More below.

The first six months are usually quiet on the social front and this has been no exception.

So on to ringing.

I am pleased to report that Lisa, who started learning earlier in the year

has made very good progress. That time when everything suddenly comes together arrived. A first foray into call changes has been made. First quarter peal? Well yes before the year is out.

How many times this year have you used your muffles? Well at Vale they have been used for five quarter peals. My thanks to John for putting them on and taking them off the bells – especially when the funeral had been on a Friday and we have had a wedding the next day!

Congratulations to Nicky on ringing her 800th quarter. 1260 Grandsire Doubles one of our favourites.

We look forward to welcoming the District to Vale for the ADM on 19th September.

My thanks to the Vale ringers for their loyal support. Without that we would not be able to ring Sunday by Sunday calling the faithful to worship and reminding others that the Church is still there...

MB

Vale, Guernsey – Quarter Peals

18 th January	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 6 variations
31 st January	1260 Doubles in 5 methods and 10 variations. Celebrating Father Kevin's 15 years as Rector of the Vale
15 th February	1260 Grandsire Doubles
22 nd February	1260 Doubles in 6 methods and 4 variations
1 st March	1260 Grandsire Doubles. 800th quarter Nicky
8 th March	1260 Doubles in 1 method and 3 variations
15 th March	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 8 variations
26 th March	1260 Doubles in 1 Principle and 3 methods. Half muffled in memory of the 150 passengers and crew on Germanwings flight 4U 9525. Also for the re-internment of the remains of King Richard 111
2 nd April	1260 Plain Bob Doubles.
8 th April	1260 Grandsire Doubles. Rung to welcome Evelyn Anne Loweth

29 th April	1260 Grandsire Doubles. Rung half muffled in memory of Mike Harvey
3 rd May	1260 St Simons Bob Doubles. Rung to celebrate the birth of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.
15 th May	1260 Plain Bob Minor. Rung half muffled immediately after the funeral of Audrey Clover. Also remembering Anne Marquis.
6 th June	1260 Doubles in 4 methods. An 18th birthday compliment to Joe
9 th June	1260 Doubles in 4 methods. Rung half muffled immediately after the funeral of Margaret Tostevin.
15 th June	1260 Plain Bob Minor
21 st June	1260 Grandsire Doubles
26 th June	1260 Grandsire Doubles. Rung half muffled immediately after the funeral of Sybil Roberts.

St Peter's and the Forest, Guernsey – Tower Report

Anne Dorey

We have made some progress in the last six months. Having Sue Le Feuvre as a regular inside ringer has enabled us to practise more methods and so Judy Hall is getting proficient at PB doubles and Anne Dorey is tackling PB minor and Stedman. Unfortunately for us Sue has now moved to Alderney. We thank her for her help over the last few months.

Phil Le Conte and Peter Gallienne continue as tower captains and steeple keepers and without them the band could not function. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their dedication to bell ringing – football and stripping engines permitting!

Rene Batiste remains a stalwart of the band despite a problem with her hands which sometimes makes handling the bells difficult and Mike Collins is a regular on the tenor for which we are very grateful.

Early in the year we advertised for more recruits and three of these are still ringing. Barbara Garfield and Angela and David Russell are progressing well and we hope will soon be regular Sunday service ringers

in the second half of the year.

We have fourteen weddings to ring for this year, sometimes two or even three on the same day and generally manage to find a local band but are grateful for the help of ringers from the other bands on occasion.

The island practices at St Peter's on the fourth Saturday of the month are usually well attended and a chance to ring methods that we may not otherwise be able to ring. It is also good to hear all ten bells being rung which doesn't happen very often. Our thanks go to Tim Wainwright for organising these sessions.

Two peals have been rung at St Peter's by visiting bands in the last few months and the church was very grateful to receive the peal fees. Sorry. forgot to mention the fete!

We have run a zip slide at St Peter's fete for several years but this year decided to do something different. We set up a game stall using plant pots as bells and hiding small gifts underneath. Choosing a card led to a matching one next to a bell - with luck - and the winner lifted the bell to take the gift. It worked quite well but needs quite a lot of small gifts!

AD

St Peter's and the Forest, Guernsey – Quarter Peals

Saturday, 25 July	St Marguerite de la Foret	1320 London Surprise Minor
Sunday, 5 July	St Marguerite de la Foret	5040 Minor
Saturday, 30 May	St Pierre du Bois	1260 Plain Bob Triples

St. John's, Jersey – Tower Report

Justin Read

All is good at St. John's (can you tell I'm writing this after a gorgeous weekend weather wise and a particularly fine touch of Stedman to boot). Whilst we still remain short of young learners, we have one rising star. After some handling tuition from Helen earlier in the year, Hannah has

quickly progressed and can now competently plain hunt to Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. During one practice night it was commented that the touch would have been very passable for a striking competition. Her next milestones will be her first quarter peal and perhaps competing in the striking competition in Guernsey in September. It will certainly do her good to ring with some different ringers and on different bells.

We were pleased to welcome Simon Linford and his daughter Charlie during the Easter holidays. For those new to ringing in the Channel Islands, Simon lived on Jersey for many years and was, in his time, captain of St. John's and District Ringing Master. The weather was beautiful, and we had some great ringing so they are keen to return. On the practice night we were joined by Helen and Peter which enabled us to have a very advanced practice, including among other things London S. Major.

We also enjoyed hosting and in particular winning ☺ this year's eight-bell competition. To have so many ringers together for an event is taken for granted in the UK but requires time, effort (and not an inconsiderable amount of money) to achieve the same in the Channel Islands. Everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves and we are grateful for those that made the effort to travel from our sister Islands of Guernsey and Alderney.

Next year's trip to Alderney is already giving us a logistical headache but we are determined not to allow the weather to decide the winner! And for most of us it will be the first time we've rung on Alderney's new bells.

Finally, there is talk of installing an additional peal of bells in St Helier's Town Church to commemorate the end of the First World War. Initial investigations appear positive, with politicians and clergy keen on the idea, although things have gone a little quiet recently - time will tell if this project gets off the ground.

JR

St. John's, Jersey – Quarter Peals

Saturday, 9 May 2015	1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Saturday, 11 April 2015	1272 Spliced Surprise Minor (5 Methods)
Sunday, 15 February 2015	1260 Doubles (2m)

Town Church, Guernsey – Tower Report

Duncan Loweth

Since the last issue of Les Cloches we have sadly lost Sue Le Feuvre to the Northern Isle. Although her time as our Secretary and Treasurer was short she served the positions well and we will miss her. Thankfully, and without too much arm twisting, we have filled the offices with Janice Firth taking Secretary and Jenny Dunning Treasurer.

Since February we have had two Foci of the month each month, ranging from Kent to striking and Double Grandsire to setting at back stroke. I particularly enjoyed the London Minor and the wrong hunting, but it has been especially joyful to see over the course of a month various individuals each month making a huge stride forward in their ringing as a result of their hard work and persiverance. I honestly think, if you are open to giving something a go and trying to think about something in a new way anything is ultimately possible.

Many thanks to Paul for organising the Wednesday quarter peals.

The social side of Town Church has been alive and well with an enjoyable Quiz night at the Houmet Tavern (details below) and a slightly damp BBQ in July at which Paul and John showed their skills at boules.

We will be losing our clappers for maintenance in mid September. Practice will continue as normal on the simulator and service ringing will be replaced with Ellacombe ringing.

DL

Ring Any Bells?

Lin Lawrence

On the evening of Tuesday 24th of March, a group of intrepid Town Church ringers, plus assorted partners/hangers-on, ventured to the Houmet Tavern for an evening of wining, dining and yes, you've guessed it- quizzing! I'm not convinced that that part wasn't kept as a deep dark secret by those in the know, from some of us who went as lambs to the slaughter, to face the seasoned experts of the Tavern regular quizzers. There was much hand wringing, brow beating and cries of "it's on the tip of my

tongue” from some of the more elderly members of the party, but nevertheless, all our four teams managed respectable scores and a most enjoyable time was had by all. It doesn't hurt to be reminded sometimes that social events such as this can act as team cement, and not just in the world of quizzing. The results for those who are interested were as follows
 Tail Ends 38 points (10th place) Pull the Other One 44 points (7th place)
 Cambridge Little and Plain 48 points (5th place) Dead Heads 50 points (3rd place)
 The last placed team had scored 24 points and the winners 53 points. So, great results all round and thanks to Duncan for organising the evening, not to mention my subsequent headache!

LL

Town Church, Guernsey – Quarter Peals

Wednesday, 29 July 2015	1260 Grandsire Triples
Wednesday, 22 July 2015	1272 Spliced Minor
Wednesday, 15 July 2015	1344 Plain Bob Major
Wednesday, 8 July 2015	1260 Doubles (3 methods)
Thursday, 2 July 2015	5088 Double Norwich Court Bob Major
Wednesday, 1 July 2015	1260 Plain Bob Triples
Saturday, 6 June 2015	5024 Bristol Surprise Major
Wednesday, 8 April 2015	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Sunday, 29 March 2015	1260 Grandsire Triples
Sunday, 1 March 2015	1260 Plain Bob Minor

Elizabeth College, Guernsey

Duncan Loweth

The College band have progressed nicely over the last 6 months. We now ring exclusively at the Town Church, selfishly for me it is quicker to get home to the baby than having to drive the school bus back from the Vale Church.

In March we enjoyed the third annual school trip to Alderney with 6 of the boys. It is remarkable how much progress can be made when they get to ring for several hours in one go; if only I had time to have a weekend practice for them every week.

In the last few months the boys have been practicing plain hunt on 5 and called changes. I'm a little concerned that in September, if we get a few new Year 7s, we might have too many boys for them each to make progress, however, the more experienced are just getting to the point where they can ring rounds steadily for a weaker student so hopefully they can start to all ring together more often and get many more goes in the session that way.

Handbells have been popular at Beechwood, although we often seem to attract the children who are already doing 20 different afterschool activities, so it is hard to shoehorn ringing into their schedule – but those that do are loving it. One week only one child turned up and I jokingly said we could ring a quarter of minimus – cool as a cucumber she said we should and despite being a little trippy she kept going without ever seeming phased – thank goodness I didn't joke about a *peal* of minimus!!

Without a service in the Town church in the Lent and Trinity terms we were not expecting an opportunity to 'perform' until the new academic year starts in September. However, the Director of Music invited us to do something with handbells at the Junior end of term concert in June. Sebastian Hazzan (13), William Stoddart (13) and I (28) rung a plain course of Plain Bob Minor. Chatting to some of the audience afterwards they said they could see the heat waves of concentration rising from our heads. Assuming we are invited into the Christmas concert we plan to ring Yule Kegmeg (as described in Richard Herrissier's account of the Guernsey handbell weekend in July).

Assuming the boys are available we intent to ring in September's striking competition which will be a good focus for the boys to think about their striking and listening skills. Maybe one day we will have enough boys to enter the RW youth competition, but we will have to see how many boys come back after the 8 week summer vacation.

DL

Guernsey, CI Beechwood

Monday, 27 April 2015 in 37min (8C)

1272 Plain Bob Minimus

1–2 Beatrice Haynes (age 8) 3–4 Duncan Loweth

First quarter peal 1-2

Guernsey – Handbells

Duncan Loweth

Following the arrival of baby Loweth the weekly practice has been held at my house just incase I am needed for baby duties. To be honest I suspect some ringers come for the baby cuddles more than the ringing!

It has been very interesting that all three of my recent learners of tower bells all agreed to come to handbells from the very beginning and have all missed fewer handbell practices than tower bell session. They have certainly achieved far more in hand in the same time as they have in the tower and perhaps it is this that has made them more committed to the handbells – or perhaps it is the atmosphere which often feels more relaxed for the learners as there is less chance they will kill themselves with a handbell than hang themselves or others with an ill-judged pull of the rope, likewise as we can stop when the ringing goes wrong, chat about it and start again at that point to iron out the issues. I'd strongly recommend at least a brief introduction to handbells to all new learners to the exercise.

Our more experienced ringers are now steady in courses of Little Bob minor, and we are getting to grips with Kent and St Clements.

Janice rang her first Quarter Peal one practice when unbeknown to us nobody else could make it. We rang a QP for the arrival of Evelyn Anne Loweth and scored other QPs with visitors.

With so many people away during August we decided to take a break and re-group in September. I particularly enjoyed our end of term 'fun lesson' where we didn't ring Bob minor once and instead dabbled with various odd bell methods including Grandsire doubles, Yule Kegmeg, Plain Hunt Triples and Erin doubles.

DL

25 July	Fer a Cheval, Les Amballes	1264 Plain Bob Major
15 June	San Baronto	1272 Plain Bob Minimus
	Janice's first QP	
1 May	Doon Foot	1272 Spliced Plain Minor (2m)
	Jane's first spliced in hand and first as a retiree, 5-6	
29 April	San Baronto	1272 Spliced Minor (2m)
6 April	Roseville	1260 Plain Bob Minor
	Rung for the birth of Evelyn Anne Loweth	

100 peals

Peter JR Bevis

Saturday, 6 March 1982 was a very ordinary day for most people, but for me it became the day I rang my first peal, Grandsire Caters at St Mary Walthamstow. A month later I was at it again, same method, but at St Clement Danes, the RAF church in London, ringing for Douglas Bader, the WW2 pilot, who had died the day before. I was hooked and rang four peals that year and 15 the following year. In 1984 I rang a peal at St Mary Enfield, the only day I ever scored two peals in a day and met a very young Stephen Rossiter, the "local", and he has proved hard to shake off ever since. I have gone on to ring over 30 more peals with Stephen, a total beaten only by Helen.

It will come as no surprise that most of my peals have been of simple stuff, the most popular choice being "Yorkshire and score". The more interesting methods have proved the most memorable though. Peals of surprise major such as Eastcote, Cassiobury, Hackney, Fordham and my 99th peal, Jade, were all great fun. So too was the peal on handbells which was rung in a car driven by Stephen around the M25 motorway in one complete circuit (Stephen carefully matching his speed to the composition to arrive back at our start as the bells came round). Completing the standard 8 with the unloved Pudsey (of course) and then finding myself in another peal of it a week later. Spliced surprise has always been my favourite, but only 14 peals of it, up to 10 methods. However two of those peals were of Pitmans 4, which leaves out the easy methods from the standard 8 and so is much more fun to ring.

Of course introducing others to peal ringing is an important duty for us all and I have rung with 12 first peelers including that celebrated young ringer Jack Page and both Stephen Rossiter and his wife June. Sunday 26th July, 2015 was my 100th peal, plain bob major in hand to celebrate the Christening of Duncan Loweth's daughter, *Evelyn Anne*. Now to get started on the next hundred.

PJRB

Helen & Peter's 60th birthday & 35th wedding anniversary ringing – 18th July

Helen M McGregor and Peter JR Bevis



Peter & I were both born in 1955 & married in July 1980. We already had one peal of bells at Tulloch and in early July Mathew Higby installed a second, lighter set. Together with handbells I realised we could ring 3 concurrent peals to celebrate our birthdays and wedding anniversary☺

The conductors were charged with finding methods or peal compositions with appropriate numbers of changes for the occasion. The peals were rung for the three societies with which we have been most

closely associated – The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, the Scottish Association & the ODG.

The participation of Alderney ringers Philippa, Jack & Stephen was crucial to the plan & very much appreciated

HMM^cG & PJRB

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Tulloch, Highland, Tulloch Ringing Centre

Saturday, 18 July 2015 in 3hrs 8m (7-2-4 in B b)

5035 Stedman Cinqes

Composed by Janet E Archibald

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. June A Saint | 7. Peter W Hill |
| 2. June D Wells | 8. John P Loveless |
| 3. Joanna K Dorling | 9. Stephen A Rossiter (C) |
| 4. Tina R Stoecklin | 10. Simon J Gay |
| 5. Patricia M Newton | 11. Alan Regin |
| 6. Linda M Garton | 12. Christine R Hill |

1st Stedman:1

Scottish Association

Tulloch, Highland, The Last Tower

Saturday, 18 July 2015 in 3h 10m (1–15 in A)

5152 Jade Surprise Major

Composed by Alan G Reading

1. Philippa A Arditti
2. W John Grainger
3. Ruth M Marshall
4. Helen M McGregor
5. Simon H Aves
6. Peter J R Bevis
7. Colin P North
8. Michael J Clay (C)

First Peal on the Bells.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Tulloch, Highland, Tulloch Lodge

Saturday, 18 July 2015 in 2h11 (12 in F)

5060 Spliced Kent Major

5056 Kent Treble Bob, 4 Kent Little Court. 1 com.

Composed From W Hudson

- 1–2 Robert H Newton
- 3–4 Jonathan S Frye
- 5–6 Jack E Page (C)
- 7–8 E John Wells

Tulloch, Highland

Tulloch Lodge

Saturday, 18 July 2015 in 55m

1980 Minor (2m)

1440 Emerald Delight Minor, 540

Plain Bob Minor

1–2 Angela H Deakin

3–4 Jennifer A Holden

5–6 Jonathan S Frye (C)

Arranged to celebrate the 60th

birthdays and 35th wedding

anniversary of Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis

Tulloch, Highland

Tulloch Ringing Centre

Sunday, 19 July 2015 in 47m (7–2–4 in B b)

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 June A Saint

2 Philippa A Arditti

3 Helen M McGregor

4 Simon J Gay

5 John P Loveless (C)

6 Peter J R Bevis

7 Linda M Garton

8 Tina R Stoecklin

**Society of Royal Cumberland
Youths**

Tulloch, Highland

The Last Tower

Sunday, 19 July 2015 in 2hrs 42m (1–1–2Jack E Page
1–15 in A)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by A J Cox

1Helen M McGregor

2Linda M Garton

3Alan Regin

4Joanna K Dorling

5Christine R Hill

6Jack E Page

7John P Loveless (C)

8Peter W Hill

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Tulloch, Highland

The Last Tower

Sunday, 19 July 2015 in 2h 36m (1–
1–15 in A)

**5184 Spliced Surprise Major (8
Methods)**

8 methods: 768 each Rutland,
London and Bristol, 576 each
Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire,
Superlative and Pudsey. 144com.

Composed by Norman Smith

1E John Wells

2June D Wells

3Joanna K Dorling

4Stephen A Rossiter

5Patricia M Newton

6Robert H Newton

7Jack E Page (C)

8Alan Regin

Tulloch

Tulloch Lodge

Monday, 20 July 2015 in 40 mins

1312 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1–2Jack E Page

3–4June D Wells

5–6E John Wells (C)

7–8Stephen A Rossiter

Tulloch, Ringing Centre

Highland

Tuesday, 21 July 2015 in 41m (3)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1Nicola Lever

2Helen M McGregor

3June D Wells

4Jack E Page (C)

5Stephen A Rossiter

6E John Wells

First Quarter, 1.

Glen Arkaig, Highland

The Witch's Cauldron

Tuesday, 21 July 2015 in 37m (12 in
F)

1264 Plain Bob Major

1–2Peter J R Bevis

3–4Helen M McGregor

5–6Jack E Page (C)

7–8Stephen A Rossiter

Most midges for all.

Tulloch, Highland
Tulloch Ringing Centre
Wednesday, 22 July 2015 in 38 mins
(3)

1440 Emerald Delight Minor

1E John Wells
2Helen M McGregor
3June D Wells
4Peter J R Bevis
5Stephen A Rossiter
6Jack E Page (C)

Arranged to celebrate the 60th
birthdays and 35th Wedding
Anniversary of Helen McGregor and
Peter Bevis

Tulloch, Highland

Tulloch Lodge

Thursday, 23 July 2015 (12 in F)

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1-2June D Wells
3-4Helen M McGregor
5-6Jack E Page (C)
7-8E John Wells



Handbell Weekend on Guernsey

Richard Herrissier

Duncan Loweth's daughter's christening turned out to be an occasion for bells to be rung in celebration. But because the CI District Ringing Master was invited, it also turned out to be a training weekend for quite a few (mostly) Guernsey Ringers. The first to arrive was Richard H who came by

ferry from Jersey on the Friday morning, the ferry was unexpectedly on time, depositing Richard in Town at 11 in the morning. Sue Le Feuvre had returned from Alderney to attend the festivities, and she took Richard for lunch while they awaited the arrival of Helen and Peter from Alderney (via Scotland and Birmingham). They had picked up Jack Page along the way, another regular and welcome visitor to our islands. Jack, by the way, is due to start at the University of Birmingham this autumn, where he has enrolled to study 12 bell methods, although the University naively thinks he will be studying Geography.

Because the ferry from Jersey was unpredictably early, the Fly-may-Be plane from Birmingham had to be late, and it was, by three long hours. That put paid to the afternoon session, which meant that the evening session had to be twice as busy. Amy had sent her husband away from the island on some pretext or other, freeing her house for the sound of handbells late into the night. Jane Le Conte knocked out her second quarter peal of plain bob major on the tenors, while Amy and Rob Gorton and Duncan worked their way towards Single Court Bob Minor (via Little Bob, Reverse Bob and Double Bob) and with a view to understanding the structure of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which had been designated the method of the weekend.

After a brief pause for some sleep, there was a quarter peal of London Minor at Forest followed by a practice at St Pierre du Bois on Saturday morning, where Double Norwich and Grandsire Caters were the methods of the month. Amy then opened up her house again to never ending enthusiasm for improvement in hand bell ringing, led by our own dear Ringing Master. Judith Laine also joined the throng. The quarter peal of Plain Bob Royal proved to be a pair of bells too far and so consolation was found in a plain course of Kent TB Major. The Double Norwich lessons continued and several plain courses were rung. Plain hunting on 16 proved to be too much for the elderly and easily confused, but plain hunting on 12 was an interesting foray for some into the higher numbers. Yorkshire Major was the challenge for the more advanced ringers, a challenge which was met with determination until the method finally submitted to a plain course.

Other highlights of Saturday afternoon included a demonstration of

Kegmeg lead by Richard H. In the part of the East Midlands where he had learned to ring, there is a tradition of ringing a bizarre version of Grandsire Doubles on handbells during the darkest days of winter. The bells start and end in Kegmeg. Younger ringers may not know that Kegmeg is one of the traditional changes like Queens and Whittingtons. Kegmeg is 125463. But 'Yule Kegmeg' is Grandsire Doubles starting from and ending in Kegmeg with the additional twist that eight blows are struck at handstroke and six at backstroke:

12546333,
125463,
21564333,
251463,
52416333,
542613, etc, etc,

Try it; it will lighten up your winter!

Richard then went back to the ferry terminal where the ferry had returned to its pattern of lateness. (A real bargain at \$50 million!)

RH

Judy's Pre Bradfield Course

Sue Le Feuvre

When Helen heard that Judy had booked herself on the Bradfield Ringing Course to learn Bob Doubles she had no hesitation in offering her a pre-course course in Alderney.

Judy may have been surprised to find a welcoming committee at the airport (Helen, Jack and me) and to be taken immediately into the tower to start ringing on tied bells. And from there to Wells House for lunch. She may have pictured a leisurely lunch sipping coffee and admiring the view of France. She probably never imagined that this was a



working lunch, with theory during the meal and then straight upstairs to have a handbell thrust in her hand. Judy said she had never actually seen a handbell before; well by the end of the trip she was more than familiar with them!

Then the normal Monday evening practice and a very welcome meal at Gloria's.

Then on Tuesday another packed day. We started with handbells at my flat down at The Arsenal on a really cold windy day; not that the weather had deterred Judy from starting the day with a swim down at Braye. During this session Judy was introduced to double handed handbell ringing and was able to ring a course of plain hunt minor. Maybe another ringer for Duncan's handbell group? I rang the 3-4 for PB Minor for the first time so a very useful session.

Then back up the tower, where we were originally going to have more tied bell practice but since something was happening in the church, opted instead to walk plain bob minimus. After another working lunch, which was too short to even get the handbells out we were back in the tower for a Bob Doubles practice. At the end of that we had a go at walking through Bob Doubles, at first simply walking but then striking a handbell as we moved. It was really god fun but did help cement the information of where you pass the treble and how that helps. Jack made a superb treble with his shocking pink polo shirt.

I hope Judy found these couple of days useful and enjoyed them and I'm sure that the intense practice was good grounding for the real Bradfield Course next month. We hope Judy will write to let us know how she gets on at Bradfield. Enjoy it Judy.



SLF

Youth Travel Fund

A new initiative to assist young ringers travelling to ring (& thereby learn) at towers away from their home island

Rules for Youth Travel

1. A young ringer is defined as a ringer who has yet to celebrate his/her 19th birthday (on the date of travel) & who is in full time education
2. The grant is only available for travel to District events e.g. (but not ltd to) District meetings, District outings, District training days,
3. The fund will be replenished annually at the Sept ADM with an amount being proposed by the treasurer & to be agreed by the membership present
4. Applications to be sent to the secretary a minimum of 2 months prior to the date of travel giving name, date of birth & event travelling to & total cost of the travel envisaged.
5. Applications will be considered by the full committee
6. Applicants will be limited to one grant per year
7. The committees decision is final

On April 25th 2015 we allocated £150 to Youth Travel, plus £102 from raffle and £50 lunch donations = £302 in the kitty available for grants for youth travel until September 2015 ADM when further funds may be allocated

Tower captains – email your requests for funding to Jane please

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS - CHANNEL ISLAND DISTRICT

TREASURER'S REPORT - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2015 show a satisfactory increase in the District's Total Funds / Cash at Bank of £445.84 with total funds standing at £3,149.87.

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year shows an excess of income over expenditure of £103.84 compared to the excess the previous year of £388.45.

However, it should be noted this excess for the year is after the transfer to the newly created Youth Travel Fund of £150. The Travel Fund also benefited further by £192 from the following:

The proceeds of a raffle held at the District Spring Meeting of	102
The profit made at the lunch on the day of the Spring Meeting of	50
Helen McGregor donating her winnings from the LTR 50/50 Club draw	40
This leaves the Youth Travel Fund with a balance of	£342.

The District's Total Funds have thus increased in the year by the amount referred to in the opening paragraph.

As is well known the District's income is derived from Members' subscriptions so that, unless the level of subscriptions is amended, the income will vary from year to year according to the number of members and the category of membership. The comparison from year to year is shown in the income and expenditure account and analysed further in the table of Memberships and Subscriptions forming the second page of the accounts.

Your Committee proposes there be no change for 2016 to the overall level of the subscriptions charged to members in 2015.

Michael J Halsey
Honorary Treasurer
19 September 2015

Proposals for the ADM

In light of the 'new' routine of only 2 District meetings a year instead of 3, with the reduced opportunity for ringing together that this allows, I propose we remove the Service from the ADM programme. The opportunity needs to be taken for folk to ring with others so their own ringing may be advanced. Given costs and difficulties of travel we need to maximise any gatherings to that end.

Proposed: Helen McGregor, seconded Mike Halsey

Who can make up a band for the District 6 bell striking competition? & who can ring for the 8 bell? We need to discuss at AGM so please consider points below

Can Elizabeth College team enter a band every September? & also can these ringers be eligible for selection to the Guernsey Inter-island team. Elizabeth College boys practice at TC on Tuesdays, they do not routinely ring at TC (or anywhere) for Sunday service.

The 6 bell rules currently state: This will be a six-bell competition with teams representing towers to be chosen by the tower captain. Members of each team must be fully paid up members of the Guild **and be a regular and active member of the Sunday Service band of the tower they represent.**

Our 8 bell rules state: Members of each team must be fully paid up members of the Guild **and be a regular and active member of a Sunday Service band in the island they represent.**

So what do we think? Do we want to facilitate Elizabeth College to participate in 6 bell & for their members to be eligible for 8 bell selection? If so we need different criteria for eligibility

An examination of other striking competition rules reveals:

The National 12 bell competition has eligibility as:
Applications shall be invited from centres at which twelve bell ringing is organised and practised.

For the Tewkesbury Shield we have:

All participants shall be Ringing or Full Members of the Association, Guild or Society they represent.

W&P Inter tower 6 bell:

All ringers in each team must be regular members of the tower's Sunday Service band, and be Guild members.

W&P inter tower 8 bell:

All ringers in each team must be regular members of the tower's/towers' Sunday Service band, and be Guild members

However the Guild is currently encouraging each District to operate more independently so I wouldn't expect them to interfere in any decision we take on this point

<http://www.wp-ringers.org.uk/newsite/news/newsdetail.asp?recnum=414>

The committee recommends taking a leaf out of the National 12 bell book I.e. acknowledge that Elizabeth College is a centre at which ringing is organised and practised – they have a wombel (& handbells) in College & so we propose to amend both 6 bell & 8 bell rules to be in line with National 12 bell competition eligibility criteria. It is therefore proposed to replace red text above with red text below for the 6 bell : Members of each team must be fully paid up members of the Guild. **Teams to be eligible if they emanate from centres in which bellringing is organised and practised.**

& for the 8 bell : Members of each team must be fully paid up members of the Guild. **A ringer will be eligible for selection if they emanate from a centre in which bellringing is organised and practised.**

Composition of teams

Helen M M^cGregor

Currently we have:

Each tower may enter up to two teams of which no more than two ringers may be common to both teams.

If Jersey is a combined band then they should enter as JerseyA & JerseyB and have no more than 2 ringers in common. If however they are still claiming to be 2 separate bands - albeit with the vast majority ringing at both towers – then they are flying in the face of the SPIRIT of the competition which clearly states that if one tower enters 2 teams they should have no more than 2 ringers in common. By entering separately as St Marks and St John's and having 4 ringers in common they are cheating. Forest & St Peter's go to great lengths to stick to the letter of the rules it is disappointing that Jersey won't.

I propose we amend the rules to:

Each tower may enter up to two teams. No team can have more than two ringers common to any other team (their own tower's second team or a neighbour's)

I respectfully submit that this amendment is fully in line with the wishes of the original draughtsman!!

HMM^cG

CI Spring Meeting 2016

As agreed at Spring Meeting 2015 the Spring Meeting for 2016 will be held on 23rd April 2016 on Alderney

The 8 bell striking competition piece will be the same touch as at the Spring 2014 meeting i.e. 224 changes of Grandsire Triples:
16 leads Plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, single (repeat)

The judges will be John & June Wells

Welcome

Declaration of AOB

Apologies for absence

Minutes of ADM 2014 and matters arising

Treasurer's report including proposal regarding unchanged district subscriptions

Ringling Master's report

Election of new members

Election of officers

Chair, Secretary, Ringling Master, Treasurer, Report Editor

(All standing for re-election)

Role of a church service as part of the ADM day

Request to publish tower members' names on CI District website

Eligibility to ring in / make up bands for the district striking competitions.

Dates of 2016 meetings

AOB

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