

# Les Cloches des Îles

February 2016 – Issue No. 62



Town Win

Folk Lore

Cola the Cat

Bells' Birthday

Open House  
Simulator

U3A

The Year for  
the Date  
Touch

Knitted  
Method

30 for 30<sup>th</sup>



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

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## ADM & 6 bell striking competition Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

Helen M McGregor

The Vale hosted the ADM & 6 bell striking competition on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately Jersey's travel plans were destroyed by Condor cancelling that days sailing leaving over a dozen Jersey ringers unable to attend. The good news though is that they used the opportunity to ring Hannah's first quarter peal 😊

St John in the Oaks, Jersey. On 19th Sept 2015 in 41mins (7cwt)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hannah Read       | 4. Peter Routier   |
| 2. Louise Read       | 5. Justin Read (c) |
| 3. Richard Hérissier | 6. Robin Pittman   |

Without the Jersey contingent the planned quarter of Bob Caters was scrapped and everyone made straight for Vale. The off-islanders & other visitors then had an opportunity to practice on the bells before the service, lunch & competition.

Alderney entered 2 teams – the Puffins and the Blonde Hedgehogs. The Vale, Town Church & Forest/St Peter's entered bands and then there were scratch teams entered from Vale, Elizabeth College and the Scratch team comprising the Guild Master & husband, Mike Halsey – the sole representative to make it to Gsy from Jsy, Stephen Rossiter from Ay and John Lihou and David Reeves from TC.

The judges were Mo & Hugh Routh from Steep in the Alton & Petersfield District & they did an excellent job in analysing the ringing & putting us in our place 😊

Town Church were judged the winners 😊. They scored only 23 points, had a peal speed of 2:54, made good use of their rounds & had a steady tenor





In second place was Vale. They scored 26 faults, their ringing was judged 'hesitant at the start but improved as it went on. They had a peal speed of 2:45

Third were Ay Puffins with 28 faults, a peal speed of 2:50. Rang bob doubles with a very steady rhythm.

In fourth place was Forest/St Peters, quite slow with a peal speed of 3hrs, a bit hesitant, scored 31 faults. Fifth were Ay blonde hedgehogs with 91, an inexperienced band who got in a bit of a muddle but made a good recovery

Scratch teams: The Guild Master scored 26, Vale 87, Elizabeth College 103  
The judges commented on how wonderful it was to have had so many entries – well done everyone for taking part

The Youth travel Fund raffle made £94 – thank you all for your wonderful prizes

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**

**Aaron Hallett**

I went to Guernsey on Saturday. The bells are very light. I went on a plane. I was very scared because I haven't been off the island without my mum before. I am excited to be going to Jersey next year. It was very good fun.

**AH**

Photo is of Alderney Band at Vale on 19th Sept



## First Quarter Peals on Alderney

Alderney, Alderney

St Anne

Wednesday, 5 August 2015 in 46m (4-3-16)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Jack E Page (C)

2 Heather Winder

3 Daniel J Page

4 Sue Le Feuvre

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 June Banister

First Quarter, 6.

Rung for St. Oswald's day.



Alderney, Channel Islands

St Anne

Wednesday, 12 August 2015 in 45 mins (13-1-0 in F#)

### 1260 Stedman Triples

1 Helen M McGregor

2 June A Saint

3 June D Wells

4 Paul J Wells

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 E John Wells

7 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

8 Donald Hughes

1st on 8: Tenor



As part of the continuing drive to familiarise the band with the rhythm of 8 bells we have yet another Ay ringer succeeding in a first quarter peal on 8 bells :-)

Arrangements are now underway to attempt a peal of Stedman Triples with Donald on tenor at Tulloch in October. If successful this will be Donald's first peal. [This became a peal of Bob Triples see page 20]

Anne-Isabelle has been on Alderney for 18 months with the Living Islands project, sadly she will be returning to her home near Rouen, France at the end of October [2015]. We wish her every success in the future and hope one day she will return to Alderney

Alderney, Alderney

St Anne

Wednesday, 2 September 2015 in 43m (4)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Anne-Isabelle

Boulon

2 Helen M McGregor

3 Sue Le Feuvre

4 Peter J R Bevis

5 Jack E Page (C)

6 Victoria McAllister

First quarter, 1.



Alderney, Channel Islands

Lyceum Cottage, High Street

Wednesday, 30 September 2015 in 36 mins

### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1-2 Peter J R Bevis (C)

3-4 Helen M McGregor

5-6 Maddy Winder

First Quarter, 5-6



St Anne, Weds 18th Nov 2015 in 45 mins (13-1-0 in F#)

### **1260 Plain bob Doubles**

1. Heather Winder

2. Aileen Wilson

3. Sue Le Feuvre

4. Helen M McGregor

5. Peter J R Bevis (c)

6. Trevor Blades





Last December the Alderney ringers asked Aaron what he wanted for his 12th birthday coming up on 28th Jan - he replied immediately - to ring his first quarter peal please :-)

We were very happy to oblige & he rang extremely well :-)

Alderney, Channel Islands

St Anne

Thursday, 28 January 2016 in 45 mins (13-1-0 in F#)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Helen M McGregor

2 Victoria McAllister

3 Heather Winder

4 Aileen Wilson

5 Peter J R Bevis (C)

6 Aaron Hallett

Rung for the 12th birthday of  
Aaron Hallett. First quarter, 6



HMM<sup>c</sup>G

### **Relaxing after Ringing – Alderney Style**

Sue Le Feuvre



How to get from Cambridge to Norfolk via Ipswich

SLF

## Reading Ringers Visit Alderney Again

Sue Le Feuvre

I've been on many ringing courses both as student and helper but this is the first time the course has come to me, Well, not actually to me but to Alderney. Helen again arranged for her friends from Reading to come over to Alderney for a week to help progress our ringing. Knowing Helen I realised that this would be an intensive week; what I hadn't bargained on was catching some bug that was running riot through the island which turned my brain to cotton wool. I wouldn't have rung any better without the bug but it would have been considerably less effort.

The basic aim of the week was to provide the ideal conditions for those of us who were about ready to progress beyond Plain Bob Major but handbells were also on the menu as was good food and good company.

In preparation for this week, QPs of Plain Bob Major were arranged with a visiting peal band for Aileen, Heather, Victoria and me. Then we were all asked to learn as many leads of Cambridge Major as we could.

The week started really well with a meal at the Mai Thai and on Saturday the main event began. We started with treble bob hunt on 8, then 10 and watched/listened to a demonstration on 12 and then we moved on to methods. We took turns to ring the treble and Victoria particularly excelled at trebling to three leads of Bristol. Those aspiring to Cambridge Major started with one lead and progressed to half courses.

Although the general focus was on Surprise Major, one notable achievement was Donald's first QP on 8 when he rang the tenor to Stedman Triples. At the time of writing he is hoping to ring his first peal at Tulloch, again covering to Stedman.



When not in the tower we were at Wells House either ringing handbells or having theory sessions. In the photograph you can see Helen using Daniel to demonstrate parallel dodging.

Handbell successes were my first attempt at Kent minor on the tenors, Jane's consolidation of Kent minor on tenors and trebles, and Daniel's first courses of Oxford.



The ringing and theory sessions were intense but were well interspersed with social events including a barbecue, a meal at Nellie Gray's and maybe the highlight which was the torchlight parade and firework display at the end of Alderney Week. The evening was slightly marred when a stray piece of burning firework hit June Wells on the head but the ambulance crew and doctor declared that she would survive without further intervention. So at least a safe ending to the display.

You know the famous quote from the 1966 World Cup Final "They think it's all over....". Well I thought so on Saturday morning when I turned up for practice at 9.30 expecting to practice ringing down with Donald, only to find that sadly (for them not us), June, June, Steve and John were fogbound on the island and would have time to ring a couple of courses of Cambridge Major with us before they left for the airport again.

Sadly (for us, not them) they got away that time so at the end of the practice I was sure it was all over but then Peter announced he had a plan!

Although we should be able to ring Cambridge Major on practice nights, it will only be possible when nobody is off island so in order to build on the progress of the last week Peter proposed that we learn the Cambridge family of Minor; starting with Primrose and Ipswich then Norfolk and... well I can't even remember the others at this point. Anyway, not to waste time letting us think about whether we were up for it the first practice was set for 2 o'clock that afternoon. We were ringing open for the VJ Day and the Feast of the Assumption so got away with only ringing plain courses of Cambridge that afternoon but as you can see in the photograph, the theory lessons started straight after Sunday morning service ringing when we were relaxing in the garden of the Georgian; while Helen demonstrated how to get from Cambridge to Norfolk, via Ipswich while stopping to pick a Primrose on the way. And as I write this we have already tried ringing a couple of leads of Ipswich at last Monday's practice and are now able to confidently ring Plain Bob Major and Cambridge Minor for Sunday Service.

We are so grateful that these excellent ringers were prepared to give up their time to help progress our ringing and hope they enjoyed the week as much as we did. I have certainly gained so much from the experience and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Thank you so much and please return soon.

## **While the Wife is away...**

**Duncan Loweth**

After a glorious 5 week holiday in the UK and France largely staying with Evelyn's grandparents I had to journey home by myself leaving the wife and baby in the UK for an extra week.

There were plenty of jobs to be done around the house... or I could do lots of ringing! I quickly realised that it would be quite possible to go ringing every day by simply organising a QP on Tuesday and Saturday and then attending all the island practice nights.

**Sunday:** A QP at Town Church before Evensong started the week off nicely.

**Monday:** Normal handbell practice – but why not try for a QP of minor before hand? Sadly we were not steady enough and it didn't get very far. Extra sad that Amy had to leave and nobody else turned up for practice at 6pm. Not a problem – Jane and I rattled off her first minimus in hand. A quick bite to eat then off to the Vale for their practice night. I was glad I went as I make 6 to ring methods, although there was a learner who was ringing called changes too.

**Tuesday:** Not any QP but a quarter of that month's special method – Double Grandsire! The 120 is false so has to be rung in 480 blocks, so two of those and the rest of normal Grandsire.

**Wednesday:** The plan was to ring in the usual Wednesday lunchtime QP at Town Church. By this point Jane and I were thinking we might get a QP every day of the week and decided to adopt that as the new challenge. Sadly the QP did not come round, either people swapped somewhere or was mis-called. Not all was lost – Forest practice that evening, if there were just 6 of us we could try a QP then! It was a good practice but by the time a 6<sup>th</sup> ringer turned up we were too late to start a QP. Well, having just decided our new plan of a QP a day it seemed churlish to quit straight away. So back to Jane's house for another QP of minimus in hand. This time Double Bob to keep things fresh.

**Thursday:** With our practice night a Town and myself back to normal school days the only option was to get the handbells out before going to the tower. Judith was roped in but not quite ready for Bob Minor in hand we tried her ringing the 5/6 to Bob Doubles. She did fantastically well – it

was Jane and I who are not used to turning around in 4/5 and having the 2/3 pattern meet and cross in 3/4 at the back which kept throwing us off. It wasn't going to work. But we had to get our QP! So Judith rang continuous dodging on the tenors with Jane and I ringing Bob Minimus in front. It was VERY useful for Judith, her rhythm got a lot better as the QP progressed. Sue Le Feuvre then rang the same in Alderney and found it equally useful. Helen and I have now included it on the ITTS Handbell programme we are developing as a tool to improve rhythm in hand. A quick look around Judith's salon which was being converted into a wing for her son and then quickly off to Town Church for practice night.

**Friday:** The St Peter's practice was not going to happen due to so many people being away, but having got in touch early we got together a small band and rung a very nice QP of doubles without a cover.

**Saturday:** All week I had been trying to raise a band for a QP on the Saturday morning – but to no avail. So, back to the fail safe of a QP of minimus in hand. The new Town Church method of the month was Bristol Minimus – having expected many people to be away during September so we had been learning to ring it in hand since the beginning of the week. We were not ready for a straight QP but we managed a course of Bristol before settling back into Plain Bob.

**Sunday:** Well Gemma and the baby returned at lunchtime, but I could still ring the usual evening service slot and we had managed to get together 5 of us to try the Bristol Minimus with a cover. Ringing it in hand all week was exceedingly useful as I was able to keep people straight.

A busy but enjoyable week. Thank you to all the ringers who stood up for QPs including those in the failed attempt and especially Jane who rang in everything and learnt Bristol Minimus in hand in a week!

Town Church

Sunday, 30 August 2015 in 45min (11cwt)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Olivia Palmer

4 Jane Le Conte (C)

2 Judith Lainé

5 Duncan Loweth

3 Paul Lawrence

6 John Lihou

Rung for the engagement of Adam Rollo and Anna Hankin.



San Baronto  
Monday, 31 August 2015 in 24min  
(8C)

**1272 Plain Bob Minimus**

1-2 Jane Le Conte  
3-4 Duncan Loweth (C)

Town Church  
Tuesday, 1 September 2015 in  
50min (11cwt)

**1260 Doubles (2m)**

2x480 Double Grandsire an 2.5  
extents Grandsire

Composed by Donald F Morrison  
(no. 3407)

1 Anne Dorey  
2 Jane Le Conte  
3 Tim Wainwright  
4 Paul Lawrence  
5 Duncan Loweth (C)  
6 Judith Lainé

First Double Grandsire for all

Doonfoot  
Wednesday, 2 September 2015 in  
27min (8C)

**1272 Double Bob Minimus**

1-2 Jane Le Conte  
3-4 Duncan Loweth (C)

Brook Cottage  
Thursday, 3 September 2015 in  
37min (8C)

**1272 Plain Bob Minimus**

56 continuous dodging behind  
1-2 Jane Le Conte (C)  
3-4 Duncan Loweth  
5-6 Judith Lainé

St Pierre du Bois  
Friday, 4 September 2015 in  
42min (11-1-0)

**1260 Doubles (2m)**

5 extents Grandsire, 5.5 extents  
Plain Bob

1 Judy Hall  
2 Jane Le Conte  
3 Peter Gallienne (C)  
4 Anne Dorey  
5 Duncan Loweth  
Rung to celebrate the life of Paul  
(Dil) Diligent, died 3/9/15

San Baronto  
Saturday, 5 September 2015 in  
22min (8C)

**1272 Minimus (2m)**

96 Bristol and 1176 Plain Bob  
1-2 Jane Le Conte  
3-4 Duncan Loweth (C)

Town Church  
Sunday, 6 September 2015 in  
45min (11cwt)

**1292 Bristol Surprise Minimus**

1 David Reeves  
2 Paul Lawrence  
3 Jane Le Conte  
4 Duncan Loweth (C)  
5 Judith Lainé

Rung half muffled in memory of  
His Excellency Air Marshal Peter  
Walker CB CBE, Lieutenant-  
Governor and Commander-in-  
Chief of the Bailiwick of Guernsey  
who died earlier this day.

First in method: 1,2.

First in method on tower bells: 3.

50th quarter peal: 5.

**DL**

## **Have you ever considered attending a ringing course?**

**Helen M McGregor**

If not why not?

In most other enterprises in life we take paying for tuition for granted. There is a financial cost associated with learning to drive, play the piano or swim. We are very lucky that locally ringing tuition is totally free –all that is expected from ringers is that they look over their shoulder occasionally & give a hand to those coming up behind.

How do you improve if you have reached the top of what your tower/island can teach you? How can you get more practice aimed at precisely your level when the tower captain has to balance the needs of the whole band? Mainland ringers will visit another tower in their District but Island life has its drawbacks and you may not have that luxury on a regular basis.

I want every ringer to maximise their potential & what better way to achieve this than for every CI ringer to travel to UK for a nationally run ringing course ☺

We are all members of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild & their courses can be found at:

<http://www.wp-ringers.org.uk/newsite/events/education.asp>

Other renowned courses can be found at:

<http://www.herefordringingcourse.org.uk/>

<http://www.bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk/>

Ask your tower captain for advice on which course would be best for you, or email me or your Island committee officer & we will do our best to advise you. Contact details for your island committee officers can be found at cibells.com

Can I tempt you to a pre-course course I wonder? Alderney have practices every Saturday morning & Monday evening and a range of ringers working on handling, plain hunt, bob doubles, grandsire triples, Stedman triples and surprise major so if you have a long weekend free we are always looking for an excuse to focus on one particular topic. We will provide accommodation – just bring your smile ☺

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**

## Daniel's Day Out in Guernsey

Sue Le Feuvre

The fourth Saturday in August was the last day of Daniel's visit so it was decided to spend the day in Guernsey.

I started to walk towards Wells House for a lift to the airport when I got a text saying Daniel wasn't quite ready. In fact, as Helen had called for everyone to get into the car it was discovered that he was still in bed! But big brother Jack packed his case and we got to the airport in plenty of time; though I suspect Daniel was still half asleep since when Jack started reading from the arrivals board... "Bristol, Gatwick, Newspapers" he did ask "Where's that?"

We started with a very respectable QP of Bob Minor at the Forest; Anne Dorey's first of Minor and then off to town to join the fourth Saturday practice; which had been moved from St Peter's due to a christening.



I certainly felt the benefit of the intense week of ringing with the Reading ringers since I was able to attempt a half course of Cambridge Major. Other ringing included Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and DNCBM. And then it was straight off to St Peter's for another very respectable QP; this time Bob Doubles on the front 6 for Judith.

Then to Jane Le Conte's for a wonderful lunch (many thanks Jane) and an afternoon of handbell ringing. I spent the afternoon in the dining room group with Janice and Judith, led by Helen. We had plenty of ringing but also lots of theory which I think we all found very useful. The lounge group were more advanced than us so were ringing beyond Bob Minor but when I walked past I heard them say that they were having a break! Not something Helen granted to the dining room group ;-))

All too soon it was time to head for the airport. Our Alderney flight was scheduled to leave before Daniel's Southampton but as has been so often the case this summer we were delayed. So we talked through a couple of courses of Ipswich to pass the time.

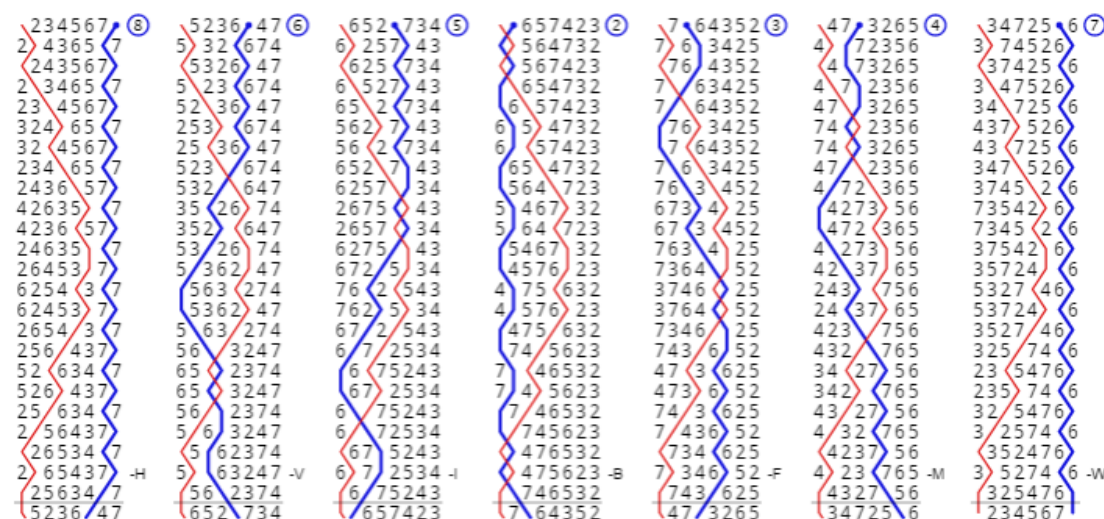


I hope Daniel enjoyed his final day in the Channel Islands as much as I did. Thank you Guernsey ringers for making us so welcome; for providing transport for us, to Jane for hosting handbells and providing a fantastic lunch and Judith for baking a splendid cake. We'll be back.

## Cat Ringing

**Helen M M<sup>c</sup>Gregor**

...working up to Richard Harris's  
Cat Little Surprise Major maybe??



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## Meetings of the Channel Island District.

**Richard Hérrissier**

It is a curious fact that the two annual meetings of the district are timed to co-incide with the equinoctial gales. The meeting scheduled for Sept 19 2015 saw a flat calm sea between the islands, and we were kept apart only by the notoriously unreliable service provided (or on this occasion, not provided) by Condor Ferries. The build-up to the meeting was anything but calm, occasioned by a 'high-pressure zone' around the proposals for some changes to the annual six bell striking competition. Those proposals were supported by an accusation of 'cheating', which provoked the storm (in a teacup, perhaps) even further. Happily, the District Ringing Master has apologised for that unfortunate (and entirely baseless) libel elsewhere in this edition.

I believe that there needs to be a discussion and an agreement about the primary purpose of the six bell striking competition. I was not here when the competition was established, but I had the good fortune to hear Jack Worrall's opinions on the matter, and they have helped to shape my own views.

When advocating changes to the rules, Helen argued in this publication that her proposals were 'fully in line with the wishes of the original draughtsman'. (This, by the way, is exactly the argument that she ignored in the issue of the religious service, where it was very clearly the intention of the original draughtsperson that there should be such a service.) In any event, Helen's interpretation of the wishes of the original draughtsman with regard to the striking competition is, in my view, wrong. The event is surely an opportunity to gather together as many ringers as possible of all ages and abilities. If the original draughtsman had intended this to be a striking competition in the traditional sense of the word, would they not have specified that everyone should ring the same touch of the same method? They did not. In all of the other competitions that Helen quotes to support her argument, the method and the touch are clearly stipulated. Consider for a moment why the original draughtsman might have wanted one band to ring call changes and another to ring spliced surprise minor and yet another to ring plain bob minimus with two covers? Precisely because they wanted to encourage as wide a participation as possible. Far from keeping to the inclusive spirit of the original rules, Helen's proposals

would have negated it.

In the Channel Islands, ringers are very isolated (Latin *isola* = island), even more so than on the alleged main land. The intention of this competition is, in my view, to encourage as many ringers, of all ages and abilities, to attend a day out (and the ADM) with people from the other islands, something that we can do only rarely because of the weather, and the low reliability/high cost of inter-island transport. Every ringer should be encouraged to attend, no matter how advanced or inexperienced they may be. They should come with their well-rehearsed touch and with the strongest band around them that can be assembled. It has been argued that the current rules could result in too many bands on the day. I would argue that there simply cannot be too many bands. How long does it take to ring a few rounds and 120 changes? Six minutes? Seven minutes? A new rule declares Elizabeth College to be a 'centre of ringing' and it could (I hope) be the first of many such centres. If it means that we end up with two dozen bands in the competition, would that be a problem? I would argue 'absolutely not'! It would be an indicator of resounding success! Elizabeth College could have entered as a 'scratch team'. But why should we encourage the idea that there are second class competitors in our competition? If we want everyone to attend, let everyone attend as equal partners. The day should be as inclusive as possible. It should be a grand day out for everyone. And, of course, the more people that enter the striking competition, the more people there are to attend the ADM.

The striking competition with its current rules is a useful and appropriate focus for the Annual District Meeting. It is not about winning, it really is about taking part. We should do everything we can to encourage as many ringers as possible to take part as fully and as often as possible. The proposals to change the spirit of the competition have, very sensibly, been withdrawn, and I hope that we will all continue to encourage the spirit of inclusivity for as long as bells are rung in these islands.

There are inevitably one or two things that should be tidied up. By timing our ADM and our striking competitions to coincide with the highest likelihood of bad weather, we are exposing ourselves to a high risk that people may not be able to get to the venue. Jersey ringers have been unable to attend the last two ADMs although, curiously, because of fog and Condor Ferries rather than gales. And Guernsey ringers were prevented



from attending the one before that because their plane crashed at Jersey airport. We have not had a 'proper' ADM for three years now. Although none of this supports my argument, it is nevertheless the case that gales are more common at the times of the two equinoxes, and gales definitely impede inter-island transport. The problem of finding times to suit everyone's needs is always vexing, but should we perhaps be looking at times of the year when gales are less prevalent? Or should we, at least, be prepared to reschedule the meeting when one of our islands is cut off from the others by weather or the vagaries of inter-island transport?

I cannot speak for the Alderney ringers, but from a Jersey perspective, the situation is not helped by the complications and expense of travel between Jersey and Alderney. It is not that Jersey ringers do not want to go to Alderney. Who wouldn't? It is just that they do not want to spend £180 (£720 for a family of four!) and a minimum of seven hours to get there and back! Who would? It is especially galling when the (non-existent) direct flight is about ten minutes to an island that can be seen thirty miles away, on the horizon. The Jersey ringers tried hard to overcome this problem in 2014. We explored chartering a boat, but the general view was that we would need a day to recover from sea-sickness before ringing. We tried to charter a plane, but the monopoly is held by the States-owned Guernsoflot Aurigny, who wanted a mere £3000 for the privilege. Justin Read spent dozens of hours finding private planes to fly us there, a plan that was thwarted on the day by fog, but we did try (very hard) to get there, and five of us did. Until the States of Guernsey re-instate direct flights between Alderney and Jersey, or until some enterprising soul starts a regular and not very bumpy ferry service, perhaps we should consider relocating the meetings scheduled to take place in Alderney, in the spirit of encouraging as many ringers as possible to attend?

**RH**

### **'Ils ont ouï les clioches des églises de pâraisse'**

**Richard Hérrissier**

There is a curious story concerning bells in the book Jersey Folk Lore by John H L'Amy, published in 1927. From the latter half of the 16th century onwards, a strange superstition seems to have existed among Jersey mariners, to wit, that the unfortunate sailor who heard the 'pealing of

submarine bells' between the port of St Helier and the Minquiers would never see land again. Whenever men were drowned in those waters, people would say, 'Ils ont ouï les clioches des églises de pâraisse' (they have heard the bells of the parish churches).

L'Amy tells us that the tradition originated in the removal of the church bells by order of a commission appointed by Edward VI in 1551, and their sale to a merchant in St Malo. It is said that the ship which was taking the bells to France foundered with the loss of all hands. This was a judgment, no doubt on the sacrilege and spoilation of the churches. The work of the Commission is thus described in 'Les Chroniques de Jersey':

'Pour extirper, ôter et abolir toutes Idolatries, Bigotries et Superstitions hors de ladite Isle de Jersey, à raison de quoy toutes les cloches des Eglises furent dévallées et minsent bas, sauf une cloche qu'on laissa pour chacune église, toutes lesquelles cloches furent vendues et minsent a l'usage du Roy'

(In order to extirpate, oust and abolish all idolatry, bigotry and superstition from the aforesaid Island of Jersey, all the bells of the churches were brought down, all except one bell for each church, and all the bells were sold and the money went to the royal purse.)

L'Amy tells us that they were known as the 'bells of the wind'. The fishermen would go down to the shore to listen and if the bells were heard, they would not leave the shore. If there was silence, they would embark without hesitation.

An element of the story is also recorded by Sir Henry Spelman, 1562 – 1641, an English antiquary, noted for his detailed collections of medieval records, in particular of church councils. Spelman says that a man called Sir Hugh Pawlet pulled down the bells of the churches of Jersey and, sending them to St Malo in Bretagne, fourteen persons were drowned. Whereupon it is a bye-word at this day in those parts when any east wind bloweth there to say, 'The bells of Jersey now ring'.

**RH**

## Channel Islands ringers go to Tulloch

Helen M McGregor

For the third year running a large group of ringers from Reading stayed at Tulloch for the October half term and spent a week stretching the abilities of the participants. This year the group included 9 Channel Islanders.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the week was Donald's first peal:

Tulloch, The Last Tower

30th Oct 2015, in 2hrs 43mins

### 5040 Plain Bob Triples

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Matthew Turner | 5. Duncan Loweth        |
| 2. Daniel Page    | 6. Helen McGregor       |
| 3. John Wells     | 7. Stephen Rossiter (c) |
| 4. Paul Wells     | 8. Donald Hughes        |

Steve had arranged a phenomenal programme of ringing in the Ringing Centre, the Last Tower & handbells. In addition to the numerous general ringing slots Philippa rang a qtr of Grandsire Caters, Aileen & Heather both rang a qtr of bob major. Helen, Peter & Steve rang qtr Yorkshire Max, Philippa rang a qtr of grandsire triples with Donald on the tenor, Stephen, Helen, Peter & Duncan rang a qtr of spliced DNCBM & Bristol, Aileen & Heather rang their first qtr of Plain Bob Royal, Philippa rang a qtr of Little Bob Max, Helen, Peter & Duncan rang a qtr Glasgow (Duncan's first), Philippa rang her first qtr of Stedman Triples – again with Donald on the tenor. Duncan, Helen, Peter & Steve rang a qtr Lincolnshire S Major, Peter & Duncan rang their first qtr Lincolnshire S Royal, & Heather rang her first qtr of treble to surprise major.

In addition to Donald's peal Philippa rang her first peal of surprise – inside for Yorkshire Major.

Unfortunately Heather & Aileen's peal of bob major was miscalled after an hour's excellent ringing and Duncan's first blows in Stedman Cinques was also miscalled as 3 of the front bells swopped after 45mins good ringing ☹

Helen & Duncan were disappointed when their peal of DNCBM was stood

up after 2 hours but they will try again for that in March in Reading on their way to the ITTS conference

Handbells: Duncan rang qtrs of St Clements Bob minor, called a bob minor, rang the tenors for his first qtr of royal in hand, and his first qtr of Kent major. Helen rang a qtr of Yorkshire S Major

Truly a roller coaster of ringing achievements 😊

Although Richard didn't ring any qtrs or peals he did sterling work in the general ringing slots, taught handbells & analysed the precise moment when the dumbbell 'struck' so that he could determine the necessary settings on the simulator. Richard was in fierce competition on the simulator with 2 of the other marvellous Surprise Max ringers present which set an excellent example to the rest of us.

Roll on Oct 2016

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**





## **Bells' Birthday**

**Helen M M<sup>c</sup>Gregor**

Nov 6th 2013 was the first time that the local ringers rang their new 12 bells. The original 6 had been taken out of the tower in July, some sent back to the UK but all had had their wheels & fittings serviced & a new galvanised steel frame replaced the old oak one.

When the old 6 were returned together with 6 new little 'sisters' they were hoisted up into the tower, 12 wheels & pulley blocks installed, new ceiling holes drilled for the extra ropes to drop through, some of the original holes were re-drilled to modify the circle for extra bells - it was marvellous to behold.

Then came the time when we were allowed to ring our new bells – they handled differently, the rhythm of the ringing was very strange to us, the random selection of ropes sent from the foundry felt 'funny', the carpet covering the enormous trap door had yet to be replaced, the sound balance hadn't been adjusted yet so they were all too loud, the circle of ringers wasn't quite round enough... it was a nerve wracking time...

Fast forward 2 years & new carpet and improved sound control between us and the bells make them easy on the ear in the ringing room, new ropes specially commissioned to match the wheel size improved the 'go' tremendously, the ropes now fall in a better circle, we have become familiar with the new rhythms and we have become confident in our ability to ring at least 8 bells to methods and our rounds on 12 settles well

....a cause for celebration.....

22 Alderney ringers (and families) enjoyed a very special supper at the Mai Thai restaurant on Fri Nov 6th 2015 to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of our very first ring on 12.

Happy Birthday St Anne's bells.

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**



## Some fun on a practice night

Helen M McGregor

On Alderney we have a regular visitor from Barnet who rings with us about 3 times a year and last weekend he told us about – 'start again Cambridge'. It works for any method but you have to pick something so we chose Cambridge s minor:

Catch hold & start ringing Cambridge, at a random backstroke the conductor shouts 'start again Cambridge' and the whole band has to start afresh ringing Cambridge from the very place bell they happened to have struck their backstroke in when the 'start again' call was made. Of course this includes the treble so it is variable hunt.

Peter called 'start again' at every half lead as this had the advantage of the ringer on the 4 only ever ringing 3rds, 4ths, dodge 3/4, 3rds, 4ths, dodge 3/4 over & over again:-) we were very pleased with ourselves when we (eventually) got it round.

I sent the idea to Jack and he has replied with:

Start ringing Grandsire and when any bell is leading e.g. 2, the conductor shouts "2" and the 2 is then the hunt bell, meaning that as soon as it leaves the lead, it's like starting all over again with a dodge or thirds, depending on what position you find yourself. I don't know any touches but it's good fun.

The other fun ringing is rounds and backwards rounds. Start with rounds and then call backwards rounds, so everyone holds up and the tenor rings normally, and backwards rounds is reached immediately. 1234567890, \*tenor rings normally and everyone holds up\* 0987654321

It's very good for bell control, and picking out those who can't find the balance :) I think the most difficult thing is changing from forwards to backwards every stroke, which requires very good control both hand and back.

I know Town Church are having good fun with variable hunt bob minor and wrong hunting – anyone else got something a little bit 'different' to report?

HMMcG

## **Youngest Ringer**

**Helen M M<sup>c</sup>Gregor**

Alderney ringers start early. Henry John McGregor Wilson - aged 18mnths - grandson of Alderney ringers Aileen, Helen & Peter - is seen here ringing rounds. His father reported that with a room full of toys to choose from Henry went straight for the handbells :-)



**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**

## **Record length peal band coming to Alderney**

**Helen M M<sup>c</sup>Gregor**

We have been approached by the band that rang 21,000 changes of Cambridge Max on 17th October 2015 - they now want to try for 25,000 changes – and they want to try for it on Alderney ☺

The vicar has said 'yes'. They will ring Bristol Max for our attempt & are now liaising with each other to agree a date - probably sometime in spring 2017

We can expect 12 ringers (obviously!!), 8 or 9 umpires and maybe about 8 friends and family to be on island for about 4 days, so we hope to have some qtrs with them of course

We will beef up the sound control, arrange for a video link from ringing room to a big screen downstairs in the church (all day tea & coffee and cakes), an open day the weekend before to explain to the island what is going on. This is a massive boost for CI ringing:-) a World Class band (probably the 12 best ringers in the world!!) coming here to ring our bells.

We will keep our sister islands posted on the date, you are all very welcome to join us of course & all help in maximising publicity etc gratefully received.

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**



## First Local Peal

**Helen M McGregor**

The first peal by a local band on Alderney was rung for the 70th anniversary of Homecoming. With three first peelers in the band and one first peal in tower it was a magnificent achievement and I know I am biased but I can honestly say no-one listening outside would have thought we were so relatively inexperienced. A triumph :-)

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

St Anne, Alderney

Tuesday, 15th December 2015 in 3hrs 15mins (13-1-0 in F#)

### **Plain Bob Triples**

composed by Roger Bailey (no 1)

1. Pamela E Pearson

2. Aileen Wilson

3. Philippa A Arditti

4. Heather Winder

5. Helen M McGregor

6. Peter J R Bevis

7. Stephen A Rossiter (c)

8. Victoria McAllister

First peal: 1, 4, 8. First peal in tower:2

First peal by an Alderney local band.

For the 70th anniversary of Homecoming



Photo: left to right back row: Heather Winder, Helen McGregor, Peter Bevis, Steve Rossiter, Victoria McAllister. Front row sitting: Pam Pearson, Aileen Wilson & Philippa Arditti.

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G**

## The Alderney Simulator

**Helen McGregor (training officer)  
& Peter Bevis (steeple keeper)**

Having augmented St Anne's from 6 to 12 in the summer of 2013 the band has been steadily growing and now numbers almost 2 dozen ringers. We have 4 hours of practice every week but still no-one gets enough rope time.

In October, seven Alderney ringers spent a week at the Tulloch Ringing Centre and made very good use of the Tulloch simulator so we decided to install a similar one on Alderney.

Matthew Higby had provided the Tulloch dumbbell so we obviously placed an order for an identical one to be installed in our home in Alderney. The design is simple and straightforward and all steel (apart from the weight which has a steel outer skin but is filled with concrete). The frame is one sided and includes a stub-axle type gudgeon, making it easy to assemble.

We collected the 'bell' from the dock at lunchtime & brought it home. We got it upstairs in three parts – each was heavy but fully capable of being manhandled by 2 adults. We screwed the frame down to the floor with coach bolts into the joists. Next we drilled out a hole through the floor, assembled all three parts and attached the rope. Finally we drilled a small hole to run the sensor cable down to the laptop and then we connected the laptop to a wall mounted TV which we had installed specifically to display the laptop screen. The whole process had taken a handy man & his wife just one afternoon.

The dumbbell provides a completely stress free ringing environment. Having such a short draught there is not too much rope to fly about.





Although the total weight of the dumbbell and frame is approx only 3½cwt, the dumbbell actually handles much like a 4 cwt bell. – it is not at all ‘flighty’. This is made possible by the heavy steel outer wheel rim creating a flywheel effect. This enables the forces produced by the swinging weight to be reduced & enables this size of dumb bell (dia 121cms) to be installed in a domestic location.

Our dumbbell ‘feels’ like a real bell so experienced ringers are content and yet it provides novices with an ever so slightly slower turning “bell” giving them more time to perfect their handling.

We chose to run the simulator with Abel software ([www.abelsim.co.uk](http://www.abelsim.co.uk)) as we are familiar & very happy with it – particularly now it has the moving ropes option. Abel provides clear feedback to the ringer on how they can improve their performance, the ‘review striking’ screen is very easy to interpret and can be used to deliver purely objective striking recommendations – no-one can argue with their score!!.

The moving ropes are optional so the purist who rings only by ear can do so without distraction, but displaying the ropes can be a very welcome aid for those who prefer to use a bit of ropesight. Ringers just wanting to see if they can remember the line can enjoy plain courses or touches and setting the ringing speed to very slow the program can also be used to explain what ropesight is to the complete beginner.

No-one locks their doors on Alderney so with an online calendar for ringers to reserve their slot the whole band can just drop in and ring for 20 minutes or 2 hours at their own convenience. If you were learning the piano and kept on turning up for your lesson without having practised, your teacher would be cross, learning to ring is just the same – every ringer must practise and now on Alderney everyone can.

Mathew Higby tells us: If you wish to install one or more in a tower, a dumbbell like this could easily be hung off the side of an existing bellframe or foundation beam. It is possible to vary the wheel diameter and weight to bring the swing speed into line with other bells (if you fancy a simulated augmentation) please see [www.bellhangers.com](http://www.bellhangers.com)

**HM<sup>c</sup>G & PB**

## **St Anne, Alderney – Tower Report**

**Helen M McGregor**

We have had a very busy 6 months here on the northern isle with both Jack & Daniel Page spending a significant period of the summer with us, a training week utilising the Reading ringers here in August, a handbell weekend with Town Church ringers here in November, & visiting peal bands being put to good use before their peals – all of which has boosted our repertoire hugely.

We have 45 performances listed on bellboard: Tower bell peals= 4, tower bell qtrs = 16, 2 handbell peals & 24 handbell qtrs – with two new handbell venues. Sue Le Feuvre's new handbells are arriving any day now so we expect to see The Arsenal appearing more frequently in future.

The latest ringing resource for Alderney - The Wells House simulator - is proving very popular with both novices and experts. Anyone yet to ring a qtr peal is required to bring a buddy otherwise it is Open House with the online calendar making sure there is no queue. Use of the simulator has done much to improve the rhythm of the band – much more 'listening' is going on up the tower and new methods are being mastered much more quickly as there has been ample time to practice them at Wells beforehand.

We have celebrated 5 first pealers achievements this year: Aileen on tenors for bob major in hand on 25th August, Donald on the tenor for bob Triples at Tulloch on October 30th and then Pam, Heather & Victoria for the Homecoming Peal which was also Aileen's first tower bell peal. Without doubt the local band peal for Homecoming has been a tremendous 'coming of age' for us – we now regularly ring touches of very nice sounding bob triples and bob major at practice. With a resident band capable of GOOD ringing on 8 we are now able to teach triples/major to the next group coming through the ranks – a fantastic achievement.

On 10th August we rang half muffed in memory of Donald's maternal grandfather, Charles Edwin Henry. He was a Company Quarter Master Sergeant with 1st /4th Bn Welsh Regiment who died on 10th August 1915. He is commemorated at Helles Memorial Gallipoli which Donald had visited during the Anzac 100th commemoration last Spring.



We also rang half muffled on the 100th anniversary of the death of the following Alderney soldiers in WW1:

On 25th Sept we rang for: Caporal Gustave Joseph Riou, of 248th Regiment d'Infanterie, he was from Alderney, died aged 42.

On 26th Sept we rang in memorial for: Caporal John (Jean) François Désiré Brochard, 161e Regiment d'Infanterie, France. He was the nephew of Richard Herivel of High Street, Alderney. A farm cowman or horseman. He was Killed in Action at St Hilaire le Grand sector, Marne. Aged 21 years.

We are continuing to teach using the LtR scheme, the structured approach

with individual log books to guide us is proving most beneficial, our recent successes are reported elsewhere.

We are of course delighted to have been chosen as the CI District tower for the RW 2016 calendar, we look just lovely as September ☺

HMMcG



**St Anne,  
Alderney**

12 bells, 13-1-0 in F#

St Anne's church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and consecrated in 1850. The tower had a ring of six bells cast by Mears of London in 1849.

On 23 June 1940, the bells rang out for the Islanders to board ships to take them to England, pending the German occupation of the island. During the war the bells were removed from the tower. Four went to Cherbourg to be melted down for munitions, one remained on a gantry outside the Church and one was at Braye Harbour awaiting despatch. After the war the bells were found and shipped back to Alderney. They were hung on trestles in the churchyard and chimed by strings attached to the clappers.

In 1953 John Taylor and Co. recast the bells, and in 2013 augmented them with six lighter bells. The tower is the only twelve bell ring in the Channel Islands and also contains a Sanctus Bell, cast in 1490.



## St Anne, Alderney – Quarters and Peals

28 January 2016	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
27 January 2016	(St Anne)	1260 Grandsire Doubles
26 December 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
15 December 2015	(St Anne)	<b>5040 Plain Bob Triples</b>
9 December 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Triples
25 November 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
21 November 2015	(Wells House)	1344 Plain Bob Major
18 November 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
9 October 2015	(St Anne)	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
7 October 2015	(Lyceum Cottage)	1264 Plain Bob Major
3 October 2015	(St Anne)	<b>5005 Stedman Cinqes</b>

30 September 2015	(Lyceum Cottage)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
27 September 2015	(Wells House)	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
26 September 2015	(St Anne)	<b>5042 Yorkshire S Maximus</b>
25 September 2015	(Flat 11, Albert Chambers)	1272 Plain Bob Minimus
25 September 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Triples
23 September 2015	(St Anne)	1260 St Simons Bob Doubles
22 September 2015	(Flat 11, Albert Chambers)	1272 Double Bob Minimus
9 September 2015	(Wells House)	1344 Double Bob Major
8 September 2015	(Wells House)	1952 Plain Bob Major
8 September 2015	(Wells House)	1260 Spliced Plain Major (3m)
8 September 2015	(Wells House)	1272 Minimus (5m)
8 September 2015	(Wells House)	1264 St Clements CB Major
6 September 2015	(Wells House)	1320 Bourne Surprise Minor
3 September 2015	(Wells House)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
2 September 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 September 2015	(Wells House)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
29 August 2015	(Wells House)	1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor
26 August 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
25 August 2015	(Wells House)	<b>5056 Plain Bob Major</b>
16 August 2015	(Wells House)	1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
13 August 2015	(Wells House)	1312 Kent Treble Bob Major
12 August 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Stedman Triples
9 August 2015	(Wells House)	<b>5040 Plain Bob Minor</b>
7 August 2015	(St Anne)	1264 Plain Bob Major
6 August 2015	(Wells House)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
5 August 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
5 August 2015	(Wells House)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
5 August 2015	(Wells House)	1280 Plain Bob Royal
3 August 2015	(St Anne)	1344 Plain Bob Major
1 August 2015	(St Anne)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 August 2015	(Wells House)	1264 Plain Bob Major

## St Mark's, Jersey – Tower Report

David Clare

We continue to potter along at St Marks, ringing whenever we have enough to make a band and challenging everyone, making sure we're a group where everyone is on their toes.

Hannah continues to progress well and after her first quarter (see St John tower report for more details) is now ringing touches of Plain Bob Doubles inside that would be passable at striking competitions. If she continues at this pace, she'll be the youngest person in Jersey to ring their second quarter in over 15 years! I'm unable to find the exact record at this time, but am confident she'll beat it by some way.

And what a difference a week makes! A week ago I would have reported that we hadn't rung any quarters at St Marks in over a year, 2015 being the first quarterless year this millennium. Now I can say, with great pleasure, that Mike Halsey has overcome the barrier of his first quarter inside for Cambridge. Mike has been studiously revising Cambridge for a few months now and, having been left with 6 ringers at a recent practice, we decided to just "go as far as we can". 42 minutes later, we had a quarter peal under our belt and Mike with a first in method. A real team effort.

We've also been able to keep Justin and Peter guessing - Justin's infamous switcharoo of Beverley and Primrose (an easy mistake!) and touches of Superlative minor ("upside down Cambridge") have meant more than one experienced ringer getting in a twist. Still good fun though!

Looking to the future, I'm keen to resurrect the challenge of ringing quarters of the standard 41 - we got half way through a couple of years ago and with some good timekeeping, we should be able to fit in times when a band can get together (even if we have to do it at St John \*sigh\*).

The trip to Alderney is already giving us a logistical headache but we are still working on whether we can get a band together.

Jersey, Channel Islands

St Mark

Friday, 22 January 2016 in 44 min

**1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1 Richard Herrissier

4 Robin Pittman

2 Mike Halsey

5 Peter Routier

3 David Clare

6 Justin Read (C)

First in method 2

DC

## **Forest and St Peter's, Guernsey – Tower Report**

**Anne Dorey**

The last six months have been a bit of a struggle due to a lack of members, and the Christmas services were a challenge with people away or ill. We were very grateful for the help we received from other tower members, especially Jane Le Conte, and to Peter Gallienne who rang carols at the Forest when we couldn't muster two bands. We managed to ring for all the services and continue to do so, although with six at St Peter's instead of the previous eight.

We have rung for 12 weddings, the majority at St Peter's, and have managed a band of eight, sometimes with the help of visiting ringers.

We have managed to hold most of our two weekly practices and are grateful to John and Nicky David who have been coming to help us out at the Forest on Wednesday nights and to Sue Le Fievre before she went to Alderney, enabling us to ring more methods and giving the learners a better chance to progress. Judy Hall is making good progress with Grandsire, Barbara Garfield is now ringing for Sunday services and Anne Dorey is learning to treble bob and ring Stedman.

We enjoyed a very pleasant tennerfest at the Grande Mare hotel in October and have also had some good practices accompanied by mulled wine and nibbles this winter. Our last Wednesday evening practice will be our AGM to be held on Wednesday February 17th at the Forest at 7.00 pm following a short practice at 6.30 pm. The following week our Wednesday practice will be held in the afternoon from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm following on from the U3A course which Phil Le Conte is going to run from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm. If this format proves to be successful subsequent Wednesday practices will continue to be in the afternoon.

We are grateful to Tim Wainwright for organising the monthly fourth Saturday island practices which gives us a chance to hear all of the St Peter's bells rung; a sound we don't often hear these days.

We wish all the island ringers a very successful 2016 and hope to gain some new and enthusiastic ringers during the year.

**AD**



## **Forest, Guernsey – Quarters and Peals**

17 December 2015	5040 Plain Bob Minor
21 November 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
20 September 2015	1295 Cambridge Surprise Minor
22 August 2015	1260 Plain Bob Minor

## **St Peter's, Guernsey – Quarter Peals**

4 September 2015	1260 Doubles (2m)
22 August 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles

## **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 evening services. Christmas was exceptionally busy and we were pleased to welcome David Ely for his usual Christmas visit.

The District was welcomed to the Vale for our annual meeting and striking competition. The weather was excellent so we were able to have lunch outdoors while listening to the competition. Congratulations to Town on winning.

We held our barbecue one of the rare sunny Sunday afternoons. A good time was had by all and we were especially pleased that Harry and Margaret White were able to join us.

So on to ringing.

Lisa, who started to learn earlier in the year rang her first quarter peal just before Christmas however the bad news is she has had to give up ringing due to a recurrence of a back problem. Robbie decided first to break a bone

in her ankle then, when all mended and just before Christmas broke a bone in her wrist. Glad to say all is mended and she is back to ringing.

The final count for having the Vale bells half muffled as 8. Surely we will not exceed that in 2016!

From the quarter peal list – Olivia rang her first quarter peal “inside” and as mentioned above Lisa her first quarter. Nicky, John and myself all rang over 50 quarters in 2015 and according to Alan Buswell’s analysis if quarter peals within the Guild we are the leading church tower for quarters.

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**

1st July	1320 Surprise minor in 2 methods – visiting band
19th July	1260 St Simons Bob Doubles
19th July	1260 St Clements College Bob Minor
26th July	1260 Grandsire Doubles.
16th August	1260 Doubles in 6 methods
23rd August	1260 Minor in 2 methods
5th September	1260 Doubles in 4 methods and 8 variations
9th September	1260 Doubles in 4 methods
12th September	1260 Plain Bob Doubles – visiting band
13th September	1260 Doubles in 7 methods and 4 variations.
14th September	1260 Doubles in 11 methods.
	Rung half muffled in memory of Air Vice Marshall Peter Walker
27th September	1260 Doubles in 3 methods and 8 variations.
11th October	1260 Doubles in 1 method and 2 variations.
	Olivia’ first quarter inside.
23rd October	1260 Grandsire Doubles. Rung half muffled immediately after the funeral of Lucy Domaille.
8th November	1260 Grandsire Doubles.
	Half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

13th December	1260 Doubles in 7 methods.
20th December	1260 Plain Bob Doubls. First quarter Lisa.
24th December	1260 Doubles in 7 methods.
27th December	1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

## **Town Church, Guernsey – Tower Report**

**Duncan Loweth**

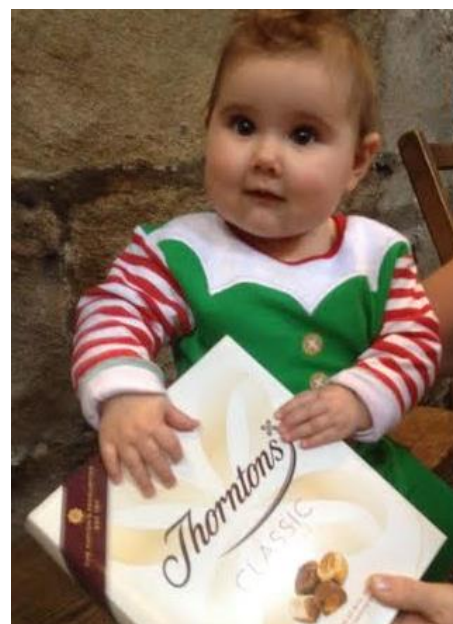
The last 6 months have been busy but exciting at the Town Church. We were very pleased to score Judith's first peal in the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with other notable achievements including a date touch and a QP of Bristol Minimus not to mention our triumph at the ADM striking competition. The Taylor shield looks very comfortable hanging on the tower wall. It was very fortunate that we had lost our clappers in the weeks leading up to the competition as we were practicing with the computer generated sounds. Even though we were all turning the bells over it still gives a print out of the striking and we were able to look at who needed to pull in their backstroke leads and who wasn't dodging properly. We would not have been nearly as good had we not made good use of that feedback from the computer.

The sound control seems to be holding up well as we have had no complaints despite a lot of ringing, many more peal attempts than usual and at all different times of the day and week. We are still mindful of our neighbours as the sound control does not make the bells silent, but it is good that we can be a little more flexible for visiting as well as local bands.

In October we held the first of a series of Quiz Nights to raise funds for some Higby simulators. The next will be in April, we will send round posters when the details are confirmed. With the funds of the first quiz we have upgraded the computer system on the current simulator and can now use AbelSim with a tied bell to great effect. The practice sessions for the Simulator Striking Competition proved to be extremely useful and popular and has given us more impetuous to get the funding together for the simulator bells.

An Aurigny 'grab-it' deal sparked a weekend outing to Alderney. Duncan, Jane, Judith, Janice, Paul and John flew out and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at the usual Alderney practice on Saturday morning and two Town Church run practices on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Judith dived into Plain Bob Triples and Major; John made huge progress with his treble dodging, Paul, Jane and I scratched our heads over 'Start-again Cambridge'; and Jancie, as well as doing well at St Anne, rang her first QP of major at Wells House. Paul proved to be a bit of a dark horse in hand by ringing a plain course of Bob Minor within 20 min of touching the bells for the first time.

As well as lots of ringing we have enjoyed several socials including a delicious tennerfest at Christies, Mince Pies and Port at Fr Christmas ringing and a Christmas Party in the tower. I'm pleased to say Evelyn won the Festive outfit competition, but due to her dairy allergies I had to eat the prize for her! And we even managed to ring – well chime, some carols on the Ellacombe before the Prosecco had gone to our heads.



The end of January saw the first of what we hope will be annual competitions at the Town Church on the simulator. The practice was very useful showing how most of us tend to be consistently late on our back strokes compared to our hand strokes. The day itself was delightful, getting a chance to ring together as well as catching up with the Alderney ringers.

Before we know it we will be touring Cheshire in the October half term. There are couple of seats left on the bus if anyone wants to join us. 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October.

We have decided to change our monthly foci to a longer list of quarterly aims. If you're in Guernsey on a Thursday night do come and help us ring Barrow upon Humber, Primrose, Ipswich, Stedman and Grandsire.

**DL**

## Town Church, Guernsey – Quarters and Peals

27 January 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
17 January 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
10 January 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
3 January 2016	1260 Doubles (3m)
20 December 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
16 December 2015	2015 Plain Bob Minor
28 November 2015	1260 Plain Bob Triples
25 November 2015	1260 Grandsire Doubles
11 November 2015	1260 Plain Bob Minor
7 November 2015	<b>5040 Plain Bob Minor</b>
6 September 2015	1292 Bristol Surprise Minimus
1 September 2015	1260 Doubles (2m)
30 August 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
26 August 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles

## St John, Jersey – Town Church

**Justin Read**

We said a fond farewell to Anne Fraser in December. Anne emigrated to Australia to be closer to her children and grandchildren who now live there. She is busy settling in to her new home and new life. Tim (ringer at St Johns) and his wife Jackie have already been over to visit her. Those linked to Anne on Facebook may be a tad jealous of the current Ozzie weather although Anne has complained at having to put on a cardigan one day.

In an attempt to recruit new ringers we invited BBC radio presenter to join our weekly practise. He was very enthusiastic and seemed to be a natural ringer. His piece was broadcast in mid January. I was also invited to pitch for new ringers on one of his colleague's shows on a Sunday morning. Both attempts appeared to have been well received, but our endeavours haven't been rewarded with a rush of new ringers yet.



Hannah (age 11) has made good progress, ringing her first quarter peal, treble to Plain Bob Doubles in September. She is now looking forward to ringing another quarter inside within the coming weeks.

William (aged 8) has mastered handling a bell on his own and can ring in rounds very competently.

Mike (aged older than Hannah) also recently scored his first quarter peal of Cambridge Minor inside.

The rest of us have been stretching the grey matter by ringing Superlative Minor – with varying degrees of success. In fact the analysis of what has gone wrong, whilst entertaining, has, on occasion taken longer than the ringing. We will persevere!

**JR**

### **St John, Jersey – Quarter Peals**

30 December 2015	1276 Surprise Minor (3m)
19 September 2015	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
31 August 2015	1280 Superlative Surprise Major

### **Elizabeth College Youth Group**

**Duncan Loweth**

We are very pleased that the District decided to allow Elizabeth College to take part in the 6 bell striking competition in future years. Hopefully enough boys will be free in September to make it to Jersey to enter a team.

We are looking forward to our annual trip to Alderney in March where we will be meeting up with some Isle of White youth ringers to practice for the Guilford Youth Competition which we are entering in April as a joint CI / IOW team.

With Olivia getting to grips with bobs and singles in Grandsire, Will learning Bob Doubles and 4 others learning to plain hunt, our practices are

busy but exciting. We are very grateful to Judith, Paul, Sue, Jenny and Jane who regularly turn out to help us plus a number of other 'grown-ups' who turn out to help us practice or ring for services.

The College boys rang for their Foundress Service in October, Carol Service in December and for Sunday Service when the College Choir sang the Eucharist in December.

In the past 6 months we have had lots of success including 3 passes of Learning the Ropes levels, a first QP and a first peal.

Winchester & Portsmouth  
Diocesan Guild  
Guernsey, CI  
Ste Marguerite du la Foret  
Thursday, 17 December 2015 in  
2hrs 46min  
**5040 Plain Bob Minor**  
1 Olivia Palmer  
2 Helen M McGregor  
3 Sue Park  
4 Jane Le Conte  
5 Duncan Loweth (C)  
6 Paul Lawrence  
First peal – 1

Guernsey, CI  
Town Church  
Sunday, 10 January 2016 in 46min  
(11cwt)  
**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**  
1 Judith Lainé  
2 Sue Park  
3 Olivia Palmer  
4 Jane Le Conte  
5 Duncan Loweth (C)  
6 Jake Colton  
Birthday compliment to Ruth  
Abernethy.  
First quarter - 6

**DL**

## **Guernsey Handbell Group**

**Duncan Loweth**

Our handbell ringing has come on leaps and bounds over the past 6 months. It feels very much like the penny has dropped for us. My own achievement in Tulloch of a QPs of Kent Major and St Clement's Minor has left me much more able to keep track when each hand has a different job to

do. Now when I look at Kent Minor and Cambridge Minor I can almost always stay one blow ahead of my hands.

Our Peal in December was a fantastic achievement. Amy's first peal contributing to the 300 in the year, Jane's first in hand and my first as conductor in hand. It was rather slow by handbell peal standards but gives us a good benchmark to improve upon.

Janice is the superstar recently taking the trebles for her first peal which although had it's moments also had some lovely, long patches of confident ringing; plus ringing her first QP of major in Alderney on the Town Church outing in November. We had planned a second peal but as Amy was in Hospital having her baby we decided that was a good enough excuse for her not to ring. Instead we rang a QP to welcome baby Blaise Oliver.

Helen McGregor and I are busy putting together a presentation for the upcoming ART conference on 'How to Teach Change Ringing on Handbells' and so we have been devising lots of new ways to make the transition from tower bells to handbells even easier. The perfect time to give it a go if you are at all interested!

29 January 2016	(San Baronto)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
25 January 2016	(San Baronto)	1440 Plain Bob Minor
20 January 2016	(San Baronto)	<b>5040 Plain Bob Minor</b>
18 January 2016	(San Baronto)	1440 Plain Bob Minor
15 December 2015	(Elizabeth College)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
21 November 2015	(Wells House)	1344 Plain Bob Major
18 November 2015	(San Baronto)	<b>5040 Plain Bob Minor</b>
28 September 2015	(San Baronto)	1272 Plain Bob Minimus
3 September 2015	(Brook Cottage)	1272 Plain Bob Minimus
2 September 2015	(Doonfoot)	1272 Double Bob Minimus
31 August 2015	(San Baronto)	1272 Plain Bob Minimus

**DL**

## 2016 – The year of the Date Touch

John David

2016 is a year whose like, as far as date touches are concerned, will not happen again in our lifetime.

Touches of 2016 changes can be obtained in whole courses in both Triples and Major\*, and in plain leads in Minor.

In Major, a date touch needs 126 leads, that is exactly 18 courses. A basic composition for many plain methods is Wrong followed by 6 Homes (BBSBBS), twice repeated.

For Triples, 144 leads, or exactly 24 courses – the extent with 6 and 7 unaffected – for example:

234567	W	H
4532	S	-
4352		S
5432		-
243567	S	

5 times repeated, bob for the first S wrong except in the 1st and 4th parts.

Minor will not work in whole courses, but at least it can be done in whole leads. A date touch needs two extents and 48 leads. The 48 leads can be represented by a 360 with a touch of 18 leads inserted with singles, e.g

W	I	H	23456
S	-	-	42625
-	-	-	24635
-	-	-	32645
S		-	45236
-			24536
-		-	53246
-			25346
-		-	34256
-			23456

Doubles is trickier. 2016 does not have 5 as one of its factors, so a date touch of doubles cannot be easily obtained. A date touch needs 16 extents and a touch of 96 rows – not obtainable in plain leads. However there is the useful and enjoyable method Alperton Little Bob, where the treble goes up only to 3rd place:

12345  
21435  
24153  
42135  
41253  
14523  
14253

One lead of this spliced into an extent of plain bob effectively removes three leads, 30 rows, replacing them with one lead of Alperton, result 96 rows.

More elegant would be to replace the middle two leads of each of the three courses of an extent of St Simons with two leads of Alperton – result 6 leads each of St Simons and Alperton,  $60 + 36 = 96$ .

\* I think this will not recur for 672 years – make the most of it while you can!

JD

## **U3A (University of the 3rd Age)**

**Phil Le Conte**

A Guernsey branch of U3A has recently been formed in Guernsey. Anne Dorey pointed this out to me a few months ago, after I suggested that all the members of the Forest band were either retired or semi - retired and so we could hold an afternoon rather than an evening practice.

The thought was that neither of our practices (Forest & St Peters) was well enough attended to warrant two evening practices a week. Anne has now got me registered as the convenor for a Bell Ringing group.



We have decided to start on Wednesday 24th of February. Those who have never rung before will have a lesson between 2 & 3pm so that they can learn to handle a bell alone. They will need to be U3A members but can come along to one practice to see if they like it before joining.

Anyone who is a bell ringer or a lapsed bell ringer will be welcome at a general practice from 3 till 4.30pm which will take the form of the existing practice, so that any newcomers will be able to ring with others. If this proves successful we will continue with the new practice as long as it is viable.

Any Guernsey ringers willing to help out please let me know.

PLC

## Congratulations

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



**Learning  
the Ropes**

Caroline Maude	St Anne, Alderney	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015
Aaron Hallett	St Anne, Alderney	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015
Jude Buckley	Elizabeth College, Guernsey	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

The following learners have achieved **Level 2** in Learning the Ropes:

June Banister	St Anne, Alderney	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2015
Janice Firth	Town Church, Guernsey	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Patrick Falla	Elizabeth College, Guernsey	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

The following learners have achieved **Level 4** in Learning the Ropes:

Olivia Palmer	Vale Church, Guernsey	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
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Congratulations to Helen McGregor on becoming an Associate Member of the Association of Ringing Teachers on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

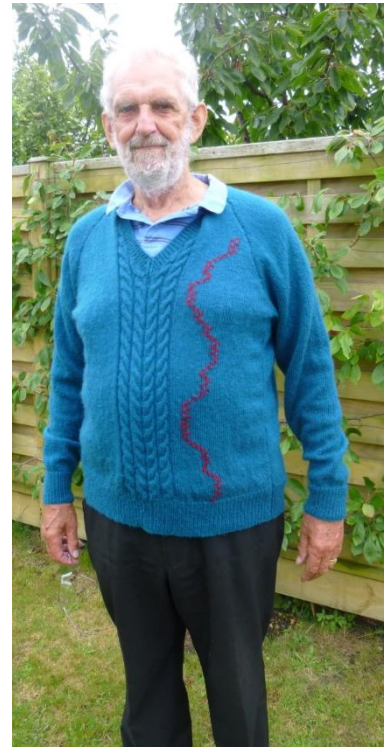
## A Labour of Love

Nicky David

Some of you may have recently seen John wearing a hand knitted jumper sporting a (maroon) “blue-line”.

The production of this, although conceived about 20 years ago, was indeed a “labour of love”. Why has it taken so long? Well, I am a slow and not very skilled knitter; I prefer crochet to knitting anyway, and for these reasons, like to knit small garments or other items in preference to adult sized garments.

The stimulus to making a start came about 3 years ago when the Cobo “Cellar wool shop” in Guernsey had a closing-down sale. When stocking up on yarn I thought would do for “baby” projects, I suggested to John that he might like to choose some wool to make the long promised “ringing jumper”.



Knowing I needed to add extra length in the body, and add some on to the arms (John’s mother always said they were “gorilla like”!), I purchased a good quantity which was providential – see below.

Next came the perusal of old patterns which could be adapted to include a panel for the “blue line”. I had to work out what width I would have, especially as the chosen pattern had a central cable section, and how much “blue line” I would be able to fit in between the welt and the shoulder. Between us we chose a major method, and John drew out the pattern for what there was room for – about 3 leads – on graph paper.

I knitted the easy part first, the back and the arms, then made a start on the front. The pattern panel wasn’t as difficult to do as I had expected, once I had got it positioned correctly. However, after a few rows, I realised it didn’t stand out very clearly, so undid it, and John redrew the “blue line” using 2 stitches for the line rather than one, and I started again. By this time, I had spent about a year knitting the jumper.

As the front grew in length, I began to have anxious suspicions that it was rather narrow, especially as the cable section was drawing it in. I realised that I needed all the slack I could get, so went “online” to look up how to do “mattress stich” which is the best for narrow and invisible seams.

At last the jumper was finished and I handed it over to John for a fitting. Horror of horrors! It was too small! What I hadn’t bargained for when I made the initial measurements was that (sorry John) I should have allowed for an expanding tummy as well as chest size! After all that work I was so discouraged that I threw the jumper to the back of a cupboard to lie forgotten for several more months.

Eventually, after some thought, I realised that all was not lost. If I undid the side seams (remembering that I had used an “invisible” and consequently almost impossible to see seam) and knitted a gusset at each side, I would be able to add several inches to the girth of the garment quite easily. I couldn’t work out the best way to do this, so I “phoned a friend” for advice.



She suggested adding in a piece like the underarm of a Guernsey and then a straight strip and agreed to come round to show me. Not only that, but whilst catching up on each other’s news, she unpicked the old seams!

After that, it didn’t take me very long at all to knit the requisite strips and sew the garment together again – thank goodness I had bought plenty of wool – and the garment was wearable. I will leave you to work out what method is depicted – if you can’t, the answer is on page 51.

**ND**

## **Town Church Simulator Striking Competition**

**Jane Le Conte**

Some facts have unexpected outcomes.....

Take, for example, the fact that Duncan seems to be impervious to the weather, rarely wearing a jumper or jacket over his polo shirt. Therefore, when the rest of us are huddled up and shivering, he is quite happy to stand and chat in the teeth of a gale or driving rain! On one such Thursday evening, walking back to our cars after the pub, we were discussing the merits of having a simulator in the tower and how it could be put to use. Standing under the trees at the bus terminus, the idea of the simulator competition was hatched and, in subsequent weeks, honed.

Our thoughts were to have a relaxed and sociable day when district ringers could meet and ring together, and as part of this day, use the simulator to gauge the standard of, and improve, their striking. Individual scores would not be announced and at the end of the competition, only the ringer with the highest score would be made known. Therefore, ringers would be competing with themselves only, and not with other ringers, hopefully meaning that more would be willing to compete.

To encourage ringers to take part, especially those not used to ringing with the simulator, practice sessions, open to all, were held on Saturday mornings through January. There was a good uptake and we soon discovered that ringing with AbelSim is quite unlike ringing with a 'live' band; no-one smiles, winks or grunts at you for a start and once your ringing causes a warning light for poor striking to be flashed on screen, it is easy to panic and for your ringing to deteriorate rapidly!

That said, there was a rapid realisation that this is a useful tool, not only for improving striking but for practising those pesky methods that seem to be just beyond one's ability.

On competition day, after general ringing in the morning, we had a light lunch in the church and whilst 2 cars were dispatched to the airport to collect 5 Alderney ringers, the first competitors took to the tower. We are grateful to Mike, Jenny's husband, acting as umpire, who oversaw each ringer, made sure the IT was behaving, and noted scores. (He was the only



person privy to everyone's score). We were delighted that 17 ringers took part, 8 covering to Plain Bob Doubles and 9 ringing inside to PB minor. In particular, it was great to see Aaron, buoyed up by his recent first quarter marking his 12th birthday, taking part in the competition.

Following the competition, there was time for more general ringing, and at the end of the afternoon, a quick ring on hand bells before returning the Alderney party to the airport.

Was it worth doing? Resoundingly 'yes'. It was a good day spent together as there are few enough opportunities to do so, but the challenge we set ourselves individually, to produce our best striking was fun and satisfying. Some were disappointed by their result, some were thrilled. None less than Judith who won the covering competition. Her face said everything, surprise mingled with delight, and her Town Church friends were delighted for her as she contributes so much within the tower. No-one would have bet against Peter winning the Minor competition, and so he did, promising to come to defend his title next year.

So we throw down the gauntlet now! Get practising, because this is a day we will repeat next year. We will learn from this year and make the competition element more streamlined next time, so that it doesn't take up so much of the afternoon's ringing session, and would be pleased to hear any other comments which will improve the running of the day. If ringers from other islands would like to make a weekend of it, we will provide beds wherever possible. Perhaps we could name it the 'Challenge Peter Day!'





## **30 Peals because I'm thirty**

**Duncan Loweth**

The original plan was to ring a few peals in the UK around my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in August – perhaps a 5030. Commenting on this to Amy Madden she looked at me and said in a dead pan tone 'surely you have to ring 30 peals'. Now she claims she was joking, but it's too late – the challenge has been accepted. She was good enough to agree to ring in the first two but managed to get out of the second by having her baby 5 weeks early!

So, one down, 29 to go....

**DL**

## **W & P DG website.**

**Jane Le Conte**

Perhaps you are aware that the Guild has revamped its website, resulting in an attractive, easy to use and informative site – [wpbells.org](http://wpbells.org). It is well worth a visit if you are interested in what is happening in the ringing world we are affiliated with.

If you had logged on just before Christmas you would have been greeted by the headline 'Channel Islands Storm Into The Lead With 14 Days to Go'. This referred to the total number of first pealers by district, with CI District topping the leader board with 7, one ahead of the Alton and Petersfield District.

Congratulations, not only to the district's first pealers – always a notable personal milestone – but to those who rang with them to make this possible.

Duncan has set up a link between the CI district and guild websites. The former is not used to its potential. Can I encourage you to post news on it, which will then be automatically shared with the rest of the Guild as well as our district? Anyone is able to do so, just ask Duncan for a log-in.

**JLC**

## Master's Message

Viv Nobbs

Thank you all for the lovely warm welcome we received when we came over to attend your ADM and Striking Contest in September. The weather was wonderful, as well, for our visit but once again, some of your own members had a challenge preventing them from attending - the transport system this time!

It was a great A.D.M. day including the meaningful church service, the lively meeting (I believe that strong, healthy debate means that members care - wonderful!) and our chatting to many members and Revd. Luff. We certainly enjoyed the splendid food!

Later in our visit, we were really spoilt: we were fed, watered and "Hand-belled" at Duncan's, followed immediately by a great practice at Vale. We were kept busy there and well refreshed with hot drinks and delicious cakes! On top of all of that we'd been able to ring a lovely quarter at Forest during our visit.

I enjoy seeing the effective way in which Channel Island ringers use a variety of tools to assist in not only maintaining church bell ringing but to take measures to ensure its well-being for the future. Keeping ringers motivated is essential and by using traditional methods, including hand bells, plus simulators and a variety of teaching methods and teaching material, it is all very positive indeed. There have been some great reports coming back to us overall and most recently, of course, the superb number of your First Pealers. Well done everyone!

The Youth Travel Fund is marvellous - I've used it as a good example to other Districts - very practical and what a strong and positive signal it sends out from District members to their younger friends.

Times are very exciting in ringing currently and we hope we can continue to encourage active and positive engagement between members across the Guild area.

This year we will continue in our efforts to stir up renewed enthusiasm for Striking Competitions as we believe there are many benefits to be had from them, not only the contest themselves but all of the preparations that can go into a band entering - the great team work, the bonding and the fun that can come out of it all. Youngsters particularly seem to enjoy the competitive engagement, plus any cake that's on offer!

Thanks to all Channel Island ringers who have taken the time and trouble to visit the mainland Striking Competitions - we hope it will be possible for this trend to continue. Please let me know if we can assist further e.g. with our hosting ringers in local homes. I can make no promises but I will do my utmost to arrange it. :-)

If all of the efforts and hard work - by many - result in better retention of ringers, a great reward!

I hope to be back in Alderney in March and, if all goes to plan, Guernsey again later in the year. Meanwhile, please continue to seek out ways we might help your District, via The Guild's Action Plan maybe and then at Executive Committee Meetings. If you'd like further information, please get in touch.

VN

**Answer to method on the knitted jumper:**  
Double Norwich Court Bob Major

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