

# Les Cloches des Îles

August 2016 – Issue No. 63



New bells

Flurry of firsts

200 peals

Muckle Flugga

Alderney 8  
bell win

Alderney  
new born

Record next  
year

30 peal  
progress



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

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## New bells on Alderney

**Helen M McGregor**

Alderney has ANOTHER new peal of bells - this time a lovely new set of 8 Whitechapel Handbells. Most appropriately we christened the back 6 with a quarter peal on Sue's birthday.

Alderney, Channel Islands

Wells House

Wednesday, 3 February 2016 in 30 mins (12 F)

**1320 Plain Bob Minor**

1-2 Peter J R Bevis (C) 3-4 Helen M McGregor 5-6 Sue Le Feuvre

First Quarter on Sue's new bells.

**HMMcG**

## **Furthest Distance Prize**

The Malteasers go to Judy Collins for this photo taken in New Zealand.

A close second from John and Nicky David in Canada.



## **Birmingham ringing trip**

**Paul Lawrence**

Planes, trains, automobiles with a lot of walking plus the bonus of some great ringing and before you know it, you'll have experienced a long weekend in and around Birmingham.

Remarkably we all met up as planned at the Premier Inn in Birmingham – something that we rarely achieve when organising events around the islands!

Helen ensured that we all knew the schedule and meeting up times and then it was time for a bit of sightseeing. A trip to the museum to check out the Staffordshire Hoard – if you haven't seen it, well, you can look forward to viewing (for free!) the best collection of junk available from history! To set the scene for the coming days, in the evening we all took a train to Northfield and Weatherspoons where some fortified themselves with beer and curry before walking on to our First ring at St. Laurence's church. A warm up on this very good ring of 10 was just what we needed.

And so to the pub across the road before heading back on the train to the Hotel and a good night's sleep in preparation for a busy Friday of ringing and travelling.

The restaurant attached to the Premier Inn was closed for a refurb so we

opted for breakfast at the cafe Nero opposite the Hotel. The posh ones set off in their cars to head for St. James in Shirley while the rest of us hardy ones hiked down Town to catch a bus. Simon had mentioned that we could buy ourselves a cheap group ticket to travel on the bus for a day. So, that's what we did which certainly made for inexpensive touring – a good start to our day.

The ringing chamber at St James was very cozy with a low ceiling but, none-the-less, a very nice sound on a ring of 8. Steve conducted a band to ring the standard 8 (?) methods which produced some really good ringing. Leaving St. James and retracing our steps we took the bus to Solihull. First stop was for lunch at the Masons Arms very conveniently situated opposite St. Alphage Parish Church, our next ringing venue. We were pleased to see Simon, Harriet and Richard join us here.

This was our first ring of 12 presenting a challenge for some, so the presence of the very experienced ringers in our midst was much appreciated, enabling the less experienced to benefit and enjoy the opportunity of attempting to ring methods on 12.

Leaving St. Alphage, we were lead by Simon to the station for travel back to Birmingham Moore St. before boarding a bus out to Mosely Village for our next ring at St. Mary's. With excellent timing we were early – so time for a well earned cuppa in the village to warm us up.

Out into the cold and dark for a short walk to the 6 bell tower of St. Annes. We had a bit of a wait to be let in so were thoroughly chilled by the time we made it up the tower. The bells were not particular easy to ring and didn't sound that good either but then they had a hard act to follow after the previous towers. On the other hand, maybe we had just had a long and full-on day resulting in our motivation waning – the party at Simon's held more allure!

Now, the instructions to find Simon's house indicated a 10 min. walk but it was twenty minutes or so later before we finally arrived! However, we were very warmly welcomed by Simon and his family who treated us to a super spread. Much appreciated hospitality and an enjoyable, very sociable evening was enjoyed by all.

Suitably revived we made our way back to the village to catch a bus for the return to Birmingham and a short(ish) walk to the hotel.

Saturday morning and off with some trepidation to the ring of 12 at St. Philip's Cathedral across the road from the hotel – a bonus as only a short stroll!

Now, Simon had given us prior notice that the ringing needed to be of a good standard, so no pressure there then. The issue is the location of St. Philip's right at the top of what looks like the highest point in the City so the bells can be heard far and wide. As far as I know we did OK?

A change to the schedule had us heading for the train again traveling out to Aston and another 12 bell ring at Aston Parish church. The ringing chamber was in the process of being decorated as it is to be the venue for a 12 bell competition – also memorable for finishing the chocolate brownies, that Simon thoughtfully brought in and which we had failed to eat the previous evening.

Retraced our journey back into the City and lunch at the Old Contemptible pub. A very leisurely lunch and good beer before heading off on foot to the 8 bell RC Cathedral of St. Chads. Another “cozy” ringing chamber but some good ringing.

Once more on foot we headed off to the much anticipated 16 bell tower at St. Martins in the Bull Ring Centre of the City. Unfortunately our time here was cut short to around 30 mins. but an amazing 30 mins it certainly was. Ably led by Simon we all managed to get some call changes to sound reasonable which was quite an achievement.

A “Simon” short walk took us to the Woodman where Simon had arranged for a buffet to be served – plus some very good and much deserved beer and social gathering.

Sunday brought a treat – a ride in a car out to Edgbaston to join the local ringers for their service ring. Quite a relaxed and enjoyable experience followed by a civilised sojourn in the cafe next to the church.

Others in the group went out to Northfield, Harbourne and Handsworth to supplement local ringers for service rings. Helen and Victoria also went

across to St. Philips to join in their service ring – very brave and impressive move!

Back into the City and had an interesting time navigating the one way system to find our way to St. Pauls, a 10 bell ring.

For Jane and Paul this was the end of their weekend – time for a last walk to collect bags and head off to the airport by train for the return home.

**PL**

**Jane Le Conte**

Thanks must go to Helen and to Simon Lindford for organising a thoroughly enjoyable trip and to those experienced ringers who supported the less experienced to ring on higher numbers. Birmingham turned out to be a great centre and I would have loved more time to enable us to get to know the city. I promised myself a return to St Philips to properly look at the stunning Burne -Jones stained glass windows, but didn't manage to do so, so a return trip must be on the cards.

This was not a ringing trip for the faint hearted, with one six, 2 eights, 4 tens, 2 twelves and a sixteen, but those in charge of the ringing made sure that we rang within our capabilities and with strong bands around us. There was a lot of Grandsire, on all numbers, a good bit of Stedman (Cinques was a real challenge for me!!), some Surprise – one of the highlights for me was successfully negotiating a half course of Cambridge Royal - and some pretty unsuccessful attempts at Double Bob; good to see as we were struggling with it at Town Church at the time!

The other highlight of the weekend for me was ringing on the 16 at the Bullring. If you've ever stood in a ringing chamber and been confused by the 10 or 12 ropes hanging there, then this was an experience! Someone had the brainwave of having a different coloured sally on every 4<sup>th</sup> rope, so as long as you knew your 4 times table, negotiating through the maze of ropes was so much easier than it would otherwise have been. This large, imposing, wood panelled ringing chamber was enough to make one anxious but I think we all had a real thrill from ringing on these fine bells.

It was good to catch up with Simon who contributed so much to CI ringing during his stay on Jersey and to share a sociable, fun weekend with good bells and good friends. I would encourage any CI ringer to go on one of these trips. You won't have to ring outside your comfort zone, but the opportunity to ring with more experienced ringers on different numbers and different bells can only improve your ringing ..... plus it was a fun way to enliven a cold and dismal February.



**JLC**

## **Our Day in Worcester**

**Helen M McGregor**

Not everyone was able to take part in our final day of ringing – Worcester Cathedral, Training Centre and Old St Martin's – here is my take on our last day

The current bell tower is Worcester Cathedral's third tower. The first fell down in 1175 and the second was taken down because it was unsafe. The present tower was completed in 1374. The stone work internally is 14th century in date but the exterior of the tower was re-faced in the 19th century as part of the Victorian restoration. I was pleased to note that the present tower was strengthened in the late 1980's/early 1990's, to ensure it is safe for the next 200 years.

As with many cathedrals we had to sign in (& out) in case of fire☺ Then we made the ascent. Worcester Cathedral is home to a glorious ring of 12 (48cwt), the fifth heaviest peal in the world. Additionally there are 3 semitone bells & all 15 were cast by Taylors in 1928. The semitone bells make it possible to ring combinations of bells in different keys. We were told that the Harmonic Minor Ten is unique to Worcester, produces very haunting ringing and is rung on Good Friday, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday and New Year's Eve. With help from the locals and Simon we rang a couple of touches of call changes on 12 and a service touch of Grandsire Caters – all very demanding but hugely satisfying. The acoustics were perfect and the sheer weight of metal swinging overhead generated the most mesmerising music.

The ringers were encouraged to remain in the tower rather than disturb the worshippers at evensong by trooping out – but that was absolutely no problem at all. Going higher up the tower we could look in on the bells and finally onto the roof of the tower and viewing platform – a staggering 235 steps up from the ground we were rewarded by



spectacular views over the city centre, River Sever, county cricket ground, Pitchcroft racecourse, Malvern Hills and countryside beyond. During the civil war in 1651, it was said that the future King Charles II viewed the Battle of Worcester from the top of the tower.

Down from the ringing room is the training centre – 8 dumbbells individually linked to laptops running Abel. The dumbbells were wooden wheels with a lump of metal hung where a bell would be. These provided a very realistic simulation of ringing a bell. Obviously cheaper than casting 8 bells, but requiring the same frame strength as real bells. Obviously no problem hanging them in a tower which is already home to 16 tonnes of bell metal. They were undoubtedly more realistic than Higby Dumbbells (which has the weight spread around the rim of the wheel) but not everyone has a spare very strong bell tower!!

Our final ringing was in Old St Martin's – a short walk from the cathedral.

Cast in 2011 this 6 ½ cwt ring of 10 had every sally a different colour ☺.  
Here we rang rounds on 6, grandsire caters and a very lovely touch of  
Stedman caters

What a weekend!! – tremendously challenging ringing keeping us focused  
on our striking & style all weekend but equally hugely satisfying because  
we rose to the challenge at every tower☺ I would never have been brave  
enough to ask/take us to the Bullring or Birmingham Cathedral or  
Worcester Cathedral but we didn't disgrace ourselves even once and came  
away much more confident ringers than before – well done and huge  
thanks to all who took part in one of the best, most interesting and  
satisfying outings I have ever been on.

HMMcG

### **Firsts fortnight news from Alderney**

**Helen M McGregor**

We were delighted to have such an interesting focus for our practices here  
on Alderney & we got off to a flying start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March – A Double  
First for **Aileen Wilson** with a tower bell qtr of Cambridge S Minor being  
her First Quarter of Surprise on Tower Bells, and later that evening she  
rang the 5/6 for a qtr of Plain Bob Major in hand her First Handbell  
Quarter Away From Tenors, In addition **Victoria McAllister was the**  
**treble for the Cambridge & that was a first quarter of treble bob for**  
**her☺**

Alderney, Channel Islands

St Anne

Tuesday, 1 March 2016 in 45mins

**1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1 Victoria McAllister

2 Aileen Wilson

3 Helen M McGregor

4 Heather Winder

5 Peter J R Bevis

6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

First treble Bob:1 First surprise:2. For

St.David's Day

Part of the W&P Firsts fortnight.

Alderney, Channel Islands

Wells House

Tuesday, 1 March 2016 in 43mins

**1264 Plain Bob Major**

1–2 Peter J R Bevis

3–4 Helen M McGregor

5–6 Aileen Wilson

7–8 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

1st away from tenors: 5-6

Part of the W&P Firsts fortnight.

2nd March, **John Mackey** enjoyed his first go on the Wells House simulator  
4th March, a tower bell Qtr Ipswich S minor was first in method for **Philippa Arditti**, and also today Alderney was the venue for **Graham Nobbs** first ever handbell Qtr – he rang the tenors to bob minor and called it too!.

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild  
Alderney, Channel Islands  
St Anne  
Friday, 4 March 2016 in 43mins  
**1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor**  
1 Vivien Nobbs  
2 Philippa Arditti  
3 Helen M McGregor  
4 Peter J R Bevis  
5 Graham A Nobbs  
6 Stephen A Rossiter (C)  
1st in method:2  
Rung to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer  
Part of the W&P Firsts fortnight.

Alderney, Channel Islands  
Wells House  
Friday, 4 March 2016  
**1260 Plain Bob Minor**  
1–2 Peter J R Bevis  
3–4 Helen M McGregor  
5–6 Graham A Nobbs (C)  
First in hand, 5-6

Alderney, CI  
Wells House  
Saturday, 5 March 2016 in 40min  
**1260 Plain Bob Minor**  
1–2 Viv Nobbs  
3–4 Helen M McGregor  
5–6 Duncan Loweth (C)  
Remembering Ken and Madeline Croft and Don Exell.  
Rung in the W&P's 'firsts fortnight'.  
First in hand: 1-2

**Viv Nobbs**, our Guild Master whose idea The Firsts Fortnight was of course, enjoyed her first go on a simulator with Abel moving ropes here on Alderney.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March **June Banister**– rising star of Alderney band (now a level 3 ITTS certificate holder), scored a first when she rang inside for 2 plain courses of bob doubles without stopping.

Not to be outdone by her husband: **Viv Nobbs** rang her first ever handbell qtr when she rang the trebles to bob minor.

**Aaron Hallett**, (aged 12 & very slight) rang our 13cwt tenor on his own for the first time on Sun 6<sup>th</sup> March whilst ringing with IoW & Guernsey youngsters practicing on Alderney

Mon 7th March Before practice: **Sue Le Feuvre** rang her first qtr of Ipswich S Minor

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Alderney, Channel Islands

St Anne

Monday, 7 March 2016 in 43mins

**1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor**

1 Vivien Nobbs

3 Sue Le Feuvre

5 Stephen A Rossiter (C)

2 Helen M McGregor

4 Peter J R Bevis

6 Graham A Nobbs

1st in method: 3

Part of the W&P Firsts fortnight.

During practice: **Aaron Hallett** rang the tenor in rounds on 10 for the first time. **June Banister** rang the treble to a touch of Grandsire caters & also (not to be outdone by Aaron) rang our tenor for the first time – cover to plain hunt on 5

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> March Our final Firsts Fortnight success was **Peter Bevis** scoring a first with his first peal of surprise in hand by ringing the trebles to Cambridge S Minor.

**Society of Royal Cumberland Youths**

Reading, Berkshire

5 Rushmoor Gardens

Sunday, 13 March 2016 in 2h13 (size 12)

**5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1–2 Peter J R Bevis

3–4 Helen M McGregor

5–6 Duncan Loweth (C)

200th peal: 3-4.

First surprise in hand: 1-2, 5-6. 5/30

An even more interesting fortnight than usual here on the Northern Isle

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

**Town Church Firsts**

**Duncan Loweth**

In February, looking towards firsts fortnight at the Town Church we realised that a large majority of our ringers would be away at different

times and we would struggle to achieve our firsts in our normal ringing slots.

However, keen to rise to the challenge we all compared diaries and put together a plan of action.

The fortnight started with **Judith Lainé** ringing her first QP of Grandsire Doubles.

Guernsey, CI

Town Church

Wednesday, 2 March 2016 in 43min (11cwt)

### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1 Duncan Loweth (C)

3 Judith Lainé

5 Mike Bubb

2 Sue Park

4 Paul Lawrence

6 Jane Le Conte

Rung in memory of Colin Nicholson, former Tower Captain of this tower.

Rung for Firsts Fortnight. First in method: 3

The next attempt had to be changed at the last minute and became Eynsham Doubles – a first in variation for all – **Duncan Loweth, Mike Bubb, Jane Le Conte and Sue Park**. Our thanks to Mike Bubb from the Vale calling it for us.

St Peter Port, Guernsey

St Peter Apostle and Martyr, (Town Church)

Thursday, 3 March 2016 in 46min (11cwt)

### **1260 Eynsham Doubles**

1 Judith Laine

3 Sue Park

5 Michael Bubb (C)

2 Jane Le Conte

4 Duncan Loweth

6 Janice Firth

1st in variation by all. Ring as part of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers firsts fortnight. A birthday compliment to Gemma Loweth.

In the second week **Jenny Dunning** rang her first QP on the treble which was called by Forest ringer **Anne Dorey** who picked up her first as conductor.

Guernsey, CI Town Church

Monday, 7 March 2016 in 50min (11cwt)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Jenny Dunning

3 John Lihou

5 Duncan Loweth

2 Judith Lainé

4 Anne Dorey (C)

6 Janice Firth

Rung in the W&P's 'firsts fortnight'.

First away from tenor - 1

First as conductor.

**John Lihou** rang over over 720 changes treble bob hunting to Cambridge for the first time, but sadly the QP fired out 5 min before the end.

**Duncan Loweth** rang his first QP of surprise in hand before Sunday service ringing as a practice for a peal attempt after service ringing. The peal also being first surprise in hand for **Peter Bevis** of St Anne, Alderney. After a quick nap and a bite to eat the peal band rushed to St Giles, Reading to ring **Duncan's** first QP of London S Major. Many thanks to the Reading ringers for their assistance.

Back in Guernsey **Colin Sills** rang the treble to Grandsire doubles for the first time in a QP.

Reading, Berkshire  
5 Rushmoor Gardens  
Sunday, 13 March 2016 in  
38min (12F)  
**1440 Cambridge  
Surprise Minor**  
1-2 Peter J R Bevis  
3-4 Helen M McGregor  
5-6 Duncan Loweth (C)  
First surprise in hand: 5-6

**Society of Royal  
Cumberland Youths**  
Reading, Berkshire  
5 Rushmoor Gardens  
Sunday, 13 March 2016 in  
2hrs 13min (12F)  
**5040 Cambridge  
Surprise Minor**  
1-2 Peter J R Bevis  
3-4 Helen M McGregor  
5-6 Duncan Loweth (C)  
200th peal: 3-4  
First surprise in hand: 1-2  
and 5-6. 5/30

Reading, St Giles  
Sunday, 13 March 2016  
**1280 London S Major**  
1 June A Saint  
2 June D Wells  
3 E John Wells  
4 Helen M McGregor  
5 Duncan R Loweth  
6 Peter J R Bevis  
7 Joanna E Knight  
8 Stephen A Rossiter(C)  
1st in method: 5  
Part of the W&P Firsts  
fortnight.

Guernsey, CI  
Town Church  
Sunday, 13 March 2016 in 43 min (11cwt)  
**1260 Doubles (2m)** 6xGrandsire 4.5xPlain Bob  
1 Colin Sills 3 Jane Le Conte (C)  
2 Nicky David 4 Anne Dorey  
Rung for Passion Sunday

5 John David  
6 Janice Firth

Having rung the tenor for several first QP over the fortnight **Janice Firth** had not yet picked up her first in the tower. Handbells were the answer where first she rang her first course of Little Bob Minor followed by first of Spliced (Plain and Little).

With various of the band off Island we were lucky that enough were back by the last day to attempt a QP of Barrow-upon-Hummer which has been our special method in the tower for the last couple of months. Considering we had not practiced it for several weeks we rang it very steadily and it was a first in method for all – **Duncan Loweth, Paul Lawrence, Jane Le Conte and Sue Park.**

Guernsey, CI  
Town Church

Tuesday, 15 March 2016 in 46 min (11cwt)

**1260 Barrow-upon-Humber Bob Doubles**

1 Joe Allen	3 Jane Le Conte	5 Paul Lawrence
2 Sue Park	4 Duncan Loweth (C)	6 Judith Lainé

First in method for all. Rung in the W&P's 'firsts fortnight'.

Rung to celebrate the installation of Vice Admiral Ian Corder CB as Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey.

We're very grateful for the help we received from ringers from other towers in Guernsey and further afield in scoring our firsts over the past 15 days.

**DL**

**Firsts at Vale Church**

**Mike Bubb**

At our practice on Monday we embraced Firsts Fortnight . First of all we rang an extent of Allestree Doubles – that's Grandsire with Antelope bob's and singles followed by Nick David calling an extent of Grandsire Doubles from a non observation bell. Details of both can be found on Bell Board.

**MB**

**Helen & Duncan at Loughborough 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

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

When Duncan & I were asked by Pip Penney to lead a 'How to teach Handbells' workshop at the ART conference it seemed such a great idea 😊 of course when we had to prepare the powerpoint presentation, come up

with handouts and group exercises it was less exciting☺

Working together Duncan & I put together a more than half way decent presentation, then we had an email from Pip to say that they were expecting over 90 delegates at the conference – gulp!...she went on to say 9 had signed up for our workshop – phew☺

We were surprised to discover that of our 9 only 2 could actually ring handbells themselves so were well placed to teach others. The remaining 7 couldn't actually ring handbells at all so we had to do a quick overview in order that they could follow the plan that we were explaining. Happily we quickly got a plain course of bob minor out of the non-ringers showing perfectly how satisfyingly quick & easy it is to ring methods in hand – we couldn't have planned it better if we'd tried.

Duncan & I were pleased to watch the casting of 2 bells while we were at the foundry, we then rang a quarter of minimus together over lunch & they have asked us back next year for 2 days –to actually teach handbells on Day 1 and then run the 'How to teach Handbells' on Day 2 – so we must have done alright

Meanwhile we are working with ART to develop a Learning to teach Handbells module to run alongside their very successful Learning the Ropes scheme

**HMMcG**

**200 peals**

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

**Society of Royal Cumberland Youths**

5 Rushmoor Gdns, Reading. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in 2hrs 13mins

**5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1-2 Peter J R Bevis, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Duncan R Loweth (c)

200<sup>th</sup> peal 3-4, First Surprise in hand 1-2 & 5-6, 5/30

To ring my 200<sup>th</sup> with Peter was always my plan but to have it both his & Duncan's first surprise in hand was a real bonus. You could have cut the concentration with a knife, we could have lost it at any moment if 2 people had 'wobbled' simultaneously – happily we were all determined for

Duncan to inch closer to his 30 in a year and for me to score my 200<sup>th</sup>. It is always very important to me to ring with friends who are supportive of the others in the band – a smile goes a long way in ringing, and this was certainly the case on 13<sup>th</sup> March. We were left very much in awe of Duncan's ability to call the peal – it seems to be our lot to be overtaken by able young ringers ☹ but what a delight to witness that progress first hand –well done Duncan☺

Why do I ring peals? They always seem like a great idea when I am invited, of course as the date approaches I begin to think of all the things I would rather be doing but then when it is over the sense of achievement is tremendous...unless of course you make a real pig's ear of things as I have done ONCE (never again)...10 spliced S Major at Bow-in-the-road, John Hawes calling it (he never stood up a peal if there was any chance of getting it round) and although my 8 spliced is pretty reliable adding 2 new methods at the same time was disastrous – once I got a start wrong I was so flustered that I got the 2 new methods utterly intertwined in my brain and I just couldn't separate them – it was truly awful ...of course Peter has hardly mentioned it since.

My first peal was in Nov 1981, the treble to Cambridge Major at Spitalfields, just over 2 years after starting to ring. My first handbell peal was in 1989. I have now rung 115 towerbell peals and 85 in hand. My peal ringing has been crawling along for 35 years with usually 3 or 4 peals a year but then of course we installed bells at our home in Tulloch and augmented St Anne both events caused a surge in peal totals & the final flurry has been the initiative of First Peal 2015, when I rang 11.

Undoubtedly the most difficult tower bell ringing I have ever managed was the peal of Bristol S Max at Tulloch 2 years ago – dubbed 'the impossible line' as I carried my A5 parchment scroll with me everywhere for 6 months, my homework paid off and there was no repeat of Bow-in-the-road fiasco. In hand I can manage the tenors to Yorkshire S Major quite well now and can hold-my-own & stick to my lines in the face of quite severe provocation from the rest of the band – it wasn't always the case & my first peal of S Major in hand is still known as The Dead Dog Peal – my mentor had assembled such a strong band we reckoned afterwards that they could have tied my handbells to a Dead Dog and still got it round!

Far and away the proudest moment in my peal ringing career was the First Peal by a local band for Homecoming on Alderney last December. We had taught Pam, Aileen & Victoria to ring. Though they had both learned elsewhere and been ringing for years it was Heather's first peal & it was only Philippa's third. For Peter & me it was our 76<sup>th</sup> together – my highest scoring peal 'partner' of course & as it was called by our great friend Stephen (my second most popular peal 'partner' at 57 together) we knew we were in safe hands. Most of the rest of the Alderney band had been helping out at special practices so it was very much a team effort - AND it sounded GLORIOUS.

What next? Yorkshire S Major in hand on an inside pair, the 3-4 of course. Planned for July with Jack – fingers crossed as I fear I will keep him on his toes☺

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

## **Royal Ringing**

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

In addition to a qtr peal of Norfolk S Minor and one of Grandsire triples (getting ready for Saturday), the Alderney band took great delight in ringing 'Queens on 12' for the lighting of the Alderney beacon for the 90th birthday of HRH The Queen. With 14 ringers in attendance we had to do it more than once :-)



Photo: left to right  
Pam Pearson, Heather Winder,  
Philippa Arditti, Aileen Wilson,  
Trevor Blades, Maurice  
Stupart, Victoria McAllister,  
Aaron Hallett, Donald Hughes,  
Sue Ewart, June Banister,  
Helen McGregor, Peter Bevis &  
Stephen Rossiter

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

## District meeting – Sat Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

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

It was Alderney's turn to host the Spring meeting. The judges for the 8 bell -June & John Wells - arrived in time to help us ring for the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of HRH The Queen – a quarter of Norfolk S Minor and a qtr of grandsire triples (in preparation for Saturday). Jane made it in from Guernsey on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> , joined us for fish & chips with simulator & a handbell practice. Paul & John had planned to arrive on Friday too but were delayed by fog so arrived with the rest of the Guernsey ringers on the Saturday morning. A quick simulator session accompanied by croissants and then we headed for the tower. Sadly no Jersey ringers were able to come



Stephen Rossiter being the Channel Islander with the most experience of 12 bell ringing was asked to run the general ringing, he did a great job. We rang bob doubles, call changes on 12, plain hunt on 9 & 11, a touch of Stedman triples & Stedman caters, a touch of DNCBM, Cambridge Major, Grandsire caters, Little Bob max, 3 leads of Kent royal – a great mix. Judy & Barbara rang rounds on 12

very well indeed, Aaron had his second only go at bob doubles in the tower then he spent 30 mins 'ringing' Stedman doubles on mobil, he'd been told if he can score better than 8/10 he can have a go for real – he managed an 8.1 on mobil so earned his go – his Stedman Doubles was so impressive he got a round of applause from everyone. Donald rang the treble to plain bob triples very well indeed☺

The draw required Gsy to ring first, with Alderney ringing second & finally the District team rang last. All the teams rang well and with only 3 teams the whole competition took only 35 mins - & then it was back for more general ringing, the meeting, more general ringing & then tea in Philippa's garden. The raffle for the Youth Travel fund raised £63

The results: The District team performed the best but they don't get to win, it was a close call but Alderney just pipped Gsy to the trophy.

Alderney team: Victoria, Aileen, Philippa, Heather, Helen, Peter, Stephen (c), Pam

Guernsey team: Judith, Duncan, Jane, Paul, Phil, Mike, Tim (C), John.

District team: Stephen, Tim, Jane, Duncan, Helen, Mike, Peter, Pam



Then it was more general ringing.....after taking the day-trippers to the airport it was supper & handbells. Jane was put through her paces with St Clements Bob Minor

On Sunday Jane & John from Gsy together with the judges boosted the Alderney service ringing – a bob course of Grandsire caters, beautiful call changes on 12 & a touch of Stedman triples, coffee in the Georgian and more handbells. All told Helen, Peter & Jane scored a handbell qtr of St Clements and plain bob minor, then Peter, Helen, John & June rang a qtr of Yorkshire S Major and finally Aileen revised her tenors to Yorkshire S Major

A very successful District Meeting – tho Jersey were sadly missed



HMM<sup>c</sup>G

## 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Peal

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

Alderney ringers Helen, Peter & Jack helped Steve celebrate his 50th birthday in good ringing style - a peal of 5050 changes called by Jack

### Oxford Diocesan Guild

Reading, Berkshire

St Laurence

Monday, 2 May 2016 in 3hrs 20mins (23-0-20 in D)

### 5050 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by Graham A C John

1 E John Wells	5 Joanna E Knight	9 Douglas J Beaumont
2 June D Wells	6 Helen M McGregor	10 Peter R Ellis
3 Bernard F L Groves	7 Peter J R Bevis	11 Colin G Newman
4 Jack E Page (C)	8 Stephen A Rossiter	12 Stephen R Smith II

Specially arranged as a 50th Birthday compliment to Stephen Rossiter  
First on 12 as conductor

HMM<sup>c</sup>G

### Birth Announcement

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



Alderney ringers Aileen, Helen & Peter are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their third grandson Edward Neil McGregor Wilson. 7lbs 10oz on 30/3/16 at PEH; a brother for James & Henry.

Henry with James holding baby Edward

HMM<sup>c</sup>G

## Charity Walk

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

A number of Alderney ringers took part in the May Bank Holiday annual coast walk/run on 30th May & raised £71 for Youth Travel Fund.

Entrants could choose 5 miles or 10 miles and to walk or run the course. Taking part were Steph Russell, Anne-Isabell Boulon, Catherine Bevis, Aaron Hallett & Helen McGregor.

Aaron took the prize for youngest entrant for the 10 mile circuit :-)

Photo shows Catherine Bevis, Helen McGregor & Aaron Hallett at the start.



HMM<sup>c</sup>G

## First inside

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

Peter, Aileen, Helen & Heather will attest - Aaron just rang a stupendous 1st qtr bob doubles - trip free and very very well struck - the boy has either been exceptionally well taught or has outstanding natural ability & works hard at his ringing:-)

Alderney, Channel Islands

St Anne

Tuesday, 5 July 2016 (13-1-0)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Helen M McGregor

3 Amy Jones

5 Peter J R Bevis (C)

2 Aaron Hallett

4 Aileen Wilson

6 Heather Winder

First inside, 2

He has now passed level 4 ITTS

HMM<sup>c</sup>G

## **Five Days of Ringing for Elizabeth College Students**

**Sue Le Feuvre**

### **The Week Began on June 24th**

Today was the first morning of activities week for Elizabeth College students. Today we had 5 boys; two who've been ringing for a couple of years, one who had a couple of handling lessons already and two complete beginners.

Good progress made by all; the beginners can now ring with minimal intervention, the improver has improved his handling and practised rounds on the simulator. The other two practised plain hunt on the simulator in preparation for the district striking competition in Jersey in September.

### **Day 2 – Motivation by chocolate**

We had another very successful morning. Another new recruit this morning who was handling with very little intervention by lunchtime. The other three who started recently were making first attempts at the Mars Bar Challenge (setting at 20 consecutive hand and back strokes), though so far they're only reaching about 4 or 5 so time to stock up on the chocolate bars...

All 4 newbies had a go at ringing rounds on a single bell with the simulator and also rounds on 5 with real ringers. A little help from "Sir" was needed but they made a really good start.

The 2 experienced boys practiced plain hunting the treble to Bob Doubles on the simulator. They are twins so plenty of rivalry and competition there.

The idea is that all the boys ring for the school service at the church on Thursday morning and I think they'll make an excellent job of it. Well done everyone!

## **Day Three – How many times can you stand your bell?**

Amazing what boys will do to get their hands on a Mars Bar. As soon as “Sir” mapped out the plans for the morning Peter put a box in place and looked hopefully around for an adjudicator to count how many times he could stand the bell. And the others weren’t far behind him. None of them made it to 20 yet but getting around 9 or 10 is very good going for anyone’s third morning of ringing.

The plan for the twins was to practice plain hunt on 5 on the simulator but to Grandsire rather than Plain Bob. We had more helpers today so we were also able to ring more rounds with the beginners and Grandsire for the twins. So that the novices were separated we pulled off in Queens or Tittums rather than rounds. The boys did very well though some of the adults took some convincing about the order they were supposed to be ringing in...

I booked my flight to the Bradfield Course before going to the tower so thought I better revise my calling so I don’t have to admit that I couldn’t call a 120. Very clever not to tell us at this stage what group we’re helping in so I have to revise the lot. This morning was of course Grandsire for each of the twins. And a very proficient performance from both of them. You’d never know it was their first attempt at plain hunt to Grandsire for the first time today. They better be careful; Duncan has challenged himself to ring 30 peals this year. At this rate they won’t be offered first QPs on the treble but first peals.

## **Day 4 – Focus on using the Simulator**

Just three adults with the six boys this morning so the plan was to use the simulator more. The twins started off ringing the treble to St Simon’s which they found to be much more of a challenge.

Meanwhile Peter’s sole aim in life was the Mars Bar Challenge. After a couple of trial pulls to get the feel he looked determined and started in earnest. As he passed ten and then fifteen I was really feeling nervous for him but no need. Twenty stands in a row and a round of applause. It turns out he doesn’t like Mars Bars so traded his in for some chocolates from the tin. Amazing progress for someone who hadn’t touched a bell rope until

last week. His challenge then was to pull less hard so the bell wasn't always right at the balance.

We spent much of the rest of the morning with the simulator; two learners ringing rounds with simulator filling in. Then one at a time the learners rang rounds and then call changes with adults and the twins on the other bells. Jake had a go at calling changes which worked well until he gave the perfect demonstration of why the tenor normally stays at the back in call changes.

All in all it looks as if their service ringing tomorrow will be very respectable.

Then finally some ringing up and down. I'm relieved that they all very quickly learned to take coils because if anything is going to get my arms crossed over its having to ring the handstroke and control the tail end.

### **The final day – Ringing for the Service**

The culmination of an amazing week and today we were focused on ringing open for service. A lot of ringing up and down was involved since we had to ring the bells down, put ties on, ring up again, practice the performance, ring down again, remove the ties and ring up again! Happily there were plenty of boys more than willing to show off their newly learned skills though for some reason they wouldn't go near the tenors.

The practice went well so after a can of coke for energy we were ready for open ringing. We began with call changes in which our four new ringers rang in turn. Jake called the changes; and different calls each time. Then plain hunt on five which included the twins.

When another ringer arrived to tell us he had heard us ringing as he walked through town and was so impressed he just had to come and tell us, we decided to end with two bursts of rounds on eight with two beginners in each time.

Pretty impressive for four boys who have only been ringing a week.

There are special practices arranged for them throughout the summer until the regular Elizabeth College Tuesday practices resume in the autumn. And of course they will be welcome at any of the tower practices.  
**SLF**

## **Jersey competition**

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

For the avoidance of doubt I can confirm that Sept 17th ADM & 6 bell will be at **St John's**, Jsy. The judges are Jo & Giles Winter from Reading.

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

## **Seafront Sunday and Le Viaer Marchi**

**Sue Le Feuvre**

Duncan must be the king of good ideas. But unlike many of us who either have no ideas at all or have lots of brilliant but totally impractical ideas he thinks his ideas through and makes them become plans. And once the plan is hatched he is the first to roll up his sleeves and get on with it. Also, luckily for him, but maybe less fortunate for us, he has the charisma to persuade us not only to go along with the ideas but to actually volunteer to help!

He has already achieved great strides forward with sound control in the tower enabling us to ring more often without attracting complaints from the neighbours but he has further ideas and these need funds to progress. So a raffle seemed a good solution. Costs were kept as low as possible with tickets all being printed and perforated by Duncan and as many prizes as possible donated but then as many tickets as possible had to be sold. Judith must have the largest family in the world or the most friends because she managed to sell an amazing number of tickets to them but with the rest of us knowing fewer or less generous folk we



had find a bigger market. Hence the idea of taking the Wombel to Seafront Sunday and Le Viaer Marchi.

On both occasions we were extremely lucky with the weather since the forecast on each day was not favourable.

We had the pitch right outside the Information Centre on Seafront Sunday and there were power points so we could connect Abel and have sounds. There was a fair amount of interest though we maybe sold fewer tickets than we'd hoped. It was mainly children who had the courage to try ringing with so many people milling around and Duncan had it down to a fine art with how quickly he could move a queue of children, with each having a ring.

Duncan, you could go for the World Record for the most children to ring a dumbbell in one hour. There must be a money making opportunity there but I don't have the practical skills to turn it into a plan!

There was a lot of rain in the days leading up to the Viaer Marchi and even on the day itself but it was decided to go ahead and hope for the best. There was no electricity so we wouldn't have the laptop; this meant there would be no "ding" but at least less to move in the event of a sudden downpour. But luck was with us again and the sun shone eventually.

Our pitch was slightly back from the main action so less people stopped by to have a go on the Wombel but Duncan did a pretty good job of engaging with people as they walked past from the carpark. For engaging with read selling raffle tickets to! But our star raffle ticket seller of the evening was Janice. She worked the crowd like a good 'un and came back to us two or three times with pockets crammed with cash.

It was pretty tiring standing for hours but it's good to be involved. And we have plenty of tickets if anyone would like to buy one, or more....

**SLF**

## St Anne, Alderney – Tower Report

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

We are continuing to ring on the centenary of the death of every WW1 Alderney serviceman. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July had half-muffled ringing at noon for:

**Montagu Middleton BARNEY**, 2nd Lt in 253 coy Royal Engineers (b. 24/5/1889 d. 27/4/1916). Montagu was the Son of Montagu T. and Gertrude E. Barney, of Pacific Grove, California, U.S.A.; husband of Phyllis Honour Barney (nee Le Brun), a school teacher living at The Rectory, Alderney. He was killed in action & is buried at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais

*Private Edward William Pippard*. 10310. 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. Son of Alice Eliza Pomroy (formerly Pippard), of St. John's Rd., St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and the late Alfred John Pippard. Killed 8 July 1916. Aged 22. Born St. Sampson's, Enlisted Alderney. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Edward Pippard was in the 2nd Battalion which landed in Belgium in October 1914 and which took part in the First Battle of Ypres.

**Driver Edwin R Underdown** remembered on the Alderney War Memorial died 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916

35 performances listed on Bellboard this half-year display a healthy mix of both tower & hand activity ☺

The Open Day during the Performing Arts Festival was poorly attended because of a clash in the programme ☹ we will remember to avoid the Saturday afternoon next year.

We very much enjoyed watching & ringing with the Devon Call Change band that visited us – a real eye opener on how wonderful call changes can be when rung so precisely.

The start of the quarter peal we rang on 3<sup>rd</sup> June for BBC Music Day was filmed by BBC Radio and can be viewed at: <http://alderneybells.com/the-bells/plain-bob-doubles/> Because of the wide angle of the lens all bells can be followed through a 120 changes and so the recording has already

formed the basis of a couple of theory sessions.

We had half a dozen visitors come to our Saturday practice during the Fly-In weekend in addition to a number of other visitors (regulars and first-timers) through the year.

The St Anne's school Activities Days didn't have any new children signed up however we made great use of Aaron for 2 days, it was wonderful to watch both his repertoire & confidence increase hugely.

Trevor & June are on the verge of mastering touches of bob doubles, Anne-Isabelle is getting to grips with plain courses of bob doubles. Donald finds plain hunt on 7, 8 & 9 easier than on 5 & 6 – which is great news for our higher numbers sessions. John is enjoying St Clement's bob minor and John and Jane are both now ringing bob major. Our treble bobbing on 6 is very good & our treble bob on 8 is sounding better & better – can we risk TB on 10? – maybe with our next visiting peal band☺. Our interesting minor repertoire is growing – too slowly to please Peter - but definitely heading the right way. Special methods have included Single Oxford, Ipswich, Norfolk, Stansted & Double Court keeping Philippa, Heather & Aileen on their toes.

Victoria, Aileen, Helen & Peter rang a delightful peal of bob minor at Forest (with Paul & Duncan from TC) making (we hope) a useful contribution to Duncan's 30.

After learning on the simulator Helen B has transferred to tower bell ringing very well indeed & can now ring rounds. We welcomed a ready-made novice – Olivia Hall – who finally moved to Alderney at the end of July. Sue Ewart is planning a return to the belfry now acupuncture is resolving the pain in her arm muscles & 2 brand new recruits – Stuart & Barbara – are waiting to commence tuition in mid-August.

We lost Sue Le Feuvre when she ~~was kidnapped by St Peter's & Forest~~ returned to Guernsey, thank her for her contribution to the Alderney ringing scene & wish her well back home.

The highlight of this half years ringing though must be **winning the inter-island 8 bell competition**. It was the appropriate reward for all very hard work expended by Stephen & the other experienced ringers in the band, but we couldn't have done it without the help of our trusty 'reserves' – Maurice, Jane F, June B & John M without whom we would have had even

less practice before the Big Day.

Having the simulator is continuing to make a huge impact on rate of progress at every level of the band & we would encourage every tower to have one!!!

**HMM<sup>c</sup>G** – Training Officer

#### St Anne, Alderney – Miscellaneous performances

18 July 2016	720 St Clements Bob Minor
27 April 2016	560 Plain Bob Triples
21 April 2016	30 Rounds and Call Changes

#### St Anne, Alderney – Quarter Peals

19 July 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
18 July 2016	1260 Plain Bob Minor
5 July 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
3 June 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
24 May 2016	1264 Plain Bob Major
21 April 2016	1320 Norfolk S Minor
21 April 2016	1260 Grandsire Triples
13 April 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
8 March 2016	1260 Plain Bob Triples
7 March 2016	1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor
4 March 2016	1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor
1 March 2016	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
10 Feb 2016	1260 Doubles (3m)
3 Feb 2016	1260 Grandsire Doubles

#### Alderney – Handbell Quarter Peals and Peals

28 June 2016	Wells House	1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor
11 June 2016	Aurigny Maison	5040 Minor (2m)
22 May 2016	Wells House	1264 Plain Bob Major
24 April 2016	Wells House	1260 Minor (2m)

24 April 2016	Wells House	1280 Yorkshire S Major
22 April 2016	Wells House	1260 Spliced Plain and Little Royal
20 April 2016	Wells House	1272 Spliced Minor (3m)
12 April 2016	Wells House	1260 St Clements College Bob Minor
5 April 2016	Wells House	1260 Plain Bob Minor
9 March 2016	Wells House	1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor
5 March 2016	Wells House	1260 Plain Bob Minor
4 March 2016	Wells House	1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 March 2016	Wells House	1264 Plain Bob Major
16 Feb 2016	Wells House	1260 Plain Bob Minor
14 Feb 2016	Wells House	1260 Plain Bob Minor
13 Feb 2016	Wells House	5040 St Clements College Bob Minor
12 Feb 2016	Wells House	5056 Plain Bob Major
3 Feb 2016	Wells House	1320 Plain Bob Minor

## **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.

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

Whilst our quarter peals have been few and far between so far they have included some exceptional ringing. Pete conducted his first of St Clements College Bob. On a personal note three quarter peals were rung for happenings in our family Plain Bob Minor open in memory of my mother who passed away just after Christmas, Grandsire Doubles to welcome my granddaughter Haley, and St Thomas Doubles of welcome my grandson Thomas!

In celebration of Harry White's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday we rang methods/variations spelling out his name and, as a farewell to Matthew Barrett, our curate, we rang two extents of St Matthew in his farewell quarter peal.

We also rang and all local peal as a farewell to our Rector on his

retirement. A last minute drop out of one of the band forced us to ring on the back five. But it was a good peal and it was Helen Rolf's first. Well done to Helen.

As most of you know I did not stand for election as Guild Treasurer at this year's AGM. After 30 years it is time to let someone else do the job. For this and services to ringing I was rewarded by being elected a Life Member of the Guild.

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

10 <sup>th</sup> January	1260 Plain Bob Minor
31 <sup>st</sup> January	1260 Doubles in 11 methods
14 <sup>th</sup> March	1260 Doubles in 6 methods and 5 variations. Specially arranged as an 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Harry White. The methods/variations spelt out Harry White.
24 <sup>th</sup> March	1260 Plain Bob Doubles. 850 <sup>th</sup> quarter Nicky David
27 <sup>th</sup> March	1280 Doubles in 1 method and 5 variations
10 <sup>th</sup> April	1260 St Clements College Bob Minor. First in method as conductor Peter Gallienne
21 <sup>st</sup> April	1260 Doubles in 5 methods
9 <sup>th</sup> May	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
29 <sup>th</sup> May	1260 Doubles in 1 method and 8 variations
11 <sup>th</sup> June	1260 Grandsire Doubles
18 <sup>th</sup> July	1260 St Thomas Doubles
24 <sup>th</sup> July	1260 Doubles in 3 methods and 3 variations.

## **Vale, Guernsey - Peals**

### **Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

#### **5040 Doubles in 7 methods**

Treble	Helen Rolf	4	Peter Gallienne
2	Nicky David	5	Michael Bubb (conductor)
3	John David		

First peal Helen

Rung as a farewell to Kevin Northover as he retires as Rector of the Parish

30<sup>th</sup> March 2016      5040 7 Surprise Minor – visiting band

10<sup>th</sup> June 2016      5040 7 Surprise Minor – visiting band

## **St. John's, Jersey – Tower Report**

**Justin Read**

There is very little to report from St. John's. We are getting perilously short on numbers although continue to support ringing between the two Sunday services. The current vicar at St. John's is due to leave during October, so we await to see who replaces him. At present we ring between the traditional and contemporary services.

Hannah continues to make good progress with her first quarter inside to Bob Doubles in May, having now rung three quarter peals. William is becoming more confident at call changes on six.

We are considering changing practice nights to Tuesdays with the hope that more ringers will be available, as on occasion we have been unable to get six ringers together to make a practice worthwhile.

**JR**

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

12 April 2016      1344 Superlative Surprise Major

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

30 May 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
22 April 2016	1260 Plain Bob Minor
15 April 2016	1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor
1 April 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
27 March 2016	1260 Mixed Doubles (3 Methods)

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

**Anne Dorey**

We continue to fulfill our primary purpose of ringing for the morning services at the Forest & St Peter's although these days we have six ringers at St Peter's instead of the eight we used to have. We do however manage to muster a band of eight for the weddings at St Peter's, although sometimes with the help of other tower members to whom we are very grateful. This year we have had two weddings to ring for at the Forest & eight at St Peter's, some of which are still to come.

Our Wednesday afternoon practices at the Forest have been successful with at least eight or more people attending and we will continue with them for the time being. The U3A class, which also takes place on Wednesday afternoons, has dwindled to one at the moment because of holidays and other commitments but we are hoping that it will pick up again in the autumn.

Last month we enjoyed a barbecue in Judy and Andy Hall's garden in the Frie Baton. It was a lovely evening and a beautiful setting and after our meal we had a game of boules which caused some hilarity and surprised some people with skills they didn't know they had! We all had a very enjoyable time and are very grateful to the Hall's for their hospitality.

**AD**

## **Forest, Guernsey – Peals**

2 July 2016	5040 Plain Bob Minor
29 March 2016	5040 Minor

## **St Peter's, Guernsey – Peals**

20 April 2016	5040 Doubles (3m)
29 March 2016	5040 Isleworth Surprise Royal

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

**Duncan Loweth**

The past 6 months have seemed to have raced by! February began the new structure of quarterly foci rather than monthly as we were struggling to be sure to ring the focus method in a calendar month with people off island here and there. The structure has worked well with a good crack at Barrow upon Humber, a mixture of grandsire and plain bob work, which we managed to quarter in March. Judith got her head round the half hunt in Grandsire and we had a good go of Ipswich and Primrose but struggled to ring it every week which slowed us down. Next we attacked King Edward Surprise Minor (Cambridge with a 36 half lead) which proved to be much more manageable than we expected, the Canterbury family and double bob. We are now looking at principles and reverse methods.

Our successes in Firsts Fortnight are detailed elsewhere but I will say here how impressed I was how ambitious people were in their targets for the fortnight and the determination and hard work which they put into achieving them was second to none.

We have lost Colin Sills back to the mainland, but have gained Sue Le Feuvre back to the island.

## **Town Church, Guernsey – Quarter Peals and Peals**

29 June 2016	5040 Doubles and Minor (6m)
26 June 2016	1260 Plain Bob Minor
12 June 2016	1290 Grandsire Doubles
11 June 2016	5088 Guernsey Surprise Major
3 June 2016	1260 Doubles (1m,10v)
1 June 2016	1260 Doubles (3m)

25 May 2016	1260 Doubles (1m3v)
22 May 2016	1260 Plain Bob Minor
18 May 2016	1260 Minor (2m)
15 May 2016	1260 Doubles (11variations)
9 May 2016	1260 Mixed Doubles
1 May 2016	1260 May Day Doubles
27 April 2016	1260 Minor (2m)
17 April 2016	1260 Grandsire Triples
30 March 2016	5152 Lessness Surprise Major
27 March 2016	1260 Stedman Triples
20 March 2016	1260 St Clements College Bob Minor
15 March 2016	1260 Barrow-upon-Humber Bob Doubles
13 March 2016	1260 Doubles (2m)
7 March 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
3 March 2016	1260 Eynsham Doubles
2 March 2016	1260 Grandsire Doubles
14 February 2016	1260 Doubles (2m)
10 February 2016	1260 Doubles (3mv)
7 February 2016	1260 Plain Bob Doubles

## **Elizabeth College Youth Group**

**Duncan Loweth**

With a few new recruits we have had a good mixture of handling, called changes, hunting and doubles methods each week.

We seem to be constantly training for competitions at the moment with 4 of the group taking part in the South East England Youth Striking Competition in April and afterwards we have been focused on getting up to standard for the district 6-bell in Jersey.

When all of the band are learning together it makes progress slow but I've been impressed how quickly they have got to grips with hunting, with a few moving on to ringing Plain Bob doubles. Jake and Josh signed up for the summer project week and made light work of the simulator, hunting to

touches of a variety of doubles methods and working up to the high 7s and low 8s out of 10.

Our QP efforts have fallen by the way side – utterly my fault as I’ve been too busy with family, work and the town church band to find time to arrange extra ringing for the College group. Something we must go back to after Jersey as many are ready to move onto the next level in Learning the Ropes after their QP.

The group have started to get over their nerves with a fantastic Sunday morning in June when the College provided the choir and ringers for the 10.30am service. They have always wobbled when they know they’re being listened to but that day was their absolute best ringing.

**DL**

## **Guernsey Handbell Group**

**Duncan Loweth**

We’ve found the past 6 months rather hit and miss now there are only 3 regulars, Jane, Janice and myself. On weeks where we are all available we’ve made excellent progress on our rhythm as well as becoming more proactive in our Bob Minor. We’ve rung rather a lot of peals to help out with my 30 in the year target and each time they have got better and better.

Jane and I have rung St Clements with Helen and Peter but trying to do that together and teach it to Janice from scratch has taken some time – thankfully nowhere near as long as it took us to get confident at Plain Bob, so there is hope we will be able to extend our quarter peal repertoire soon.

5 August	Guernsey (Doonfoot ), CI	5040 Plain Bob Minor
25 June	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5070 Doubles and Minor (2m)
22 June	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5040 Minor (2m)
19 June	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5040 Plain Bob Minor
31 May	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5040 Plain Bob Minor
15 April	Guernsey (Fer à Cheval ), CI	5040 Plain Bob Minor
30 March	St Sampson (San Baronto)	5088 Kent Treble Bob Major
25 March	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5040 Minor (3 methods)
26 February	Guernsey (San Baronto), CI	5040 Plain Bob Minor

## **St Anne's School Activities Days**

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

Sadly we had no new children come to the belfry in Activities week ☹️ I suspect the heatwave on July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> saw them reconsider their options and go to the beach instead – but we had great fun with Aaron who has extended his repertoire greatly

We started with: Aileen, Heather, Philippa, Peter & Helen ringing a lovely 720 St Clement's with Aaron on the treble – totally at ease with the different order coming back – his wonderful sense of rhythm carrying him along seemingly effortlessly

A one hour practice session of bob minor – helped by Donald, Maurice, John, Jane, Aileen, Heather, Peter & Helen saw Aaron ring his first touch of bob Minor

Lunch on the simulator at Wells Ho cemented his theory so the afternoon quarter peal of bob minor was very smooth – thank you Helen, Aileen, Heather, Victoria & Peter

Handbells with Aileen & Helen rounded off a busy first day for Aaron  
Tues 19<sup>th</sup> July started out on the simulator at Wells Ho with Donald & Aaron vying for the better score, then it was half muffled WW1 ringing with Maurice, Aaron, Heather, Helen, Aileen, Jane, Peter & Donald  
After lunch it was a qtr peal bob doubles with Aaron on the 3 for the first time, plus Helen, Peter, Heather, Pam and Trevor. This was Aaron's 6<sup>th</sup> qtr peal but first quarter without a footnote

The whole band are delighted with Aaron's progress as evidenced by their support for what turned out to be Aaron's very own personalised Activities Days.

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

## **A trip to Canada with a little ringing**

**John David**

Canada is a large country with many bells, not many, however, hung for ringing. Dove mentions only eight towers with ringable bells, a six, four 8s, two 10s, and a 12. We think we are isolated, but there the distances between towers can be measured in days, not minutes. During a month's holiday, Nicky and I were able to ring in a quarter of the available towers.

Vancouver has two cathedrals, both in the downtown area. The Anglican one is at present undergoing enlargement and will have a new tower and spire. Unfortunately they will only have four French bells. The Roman Catholic Cathedral church of the Holy Rosary has a 17 ¼ cwt 8 in the SW tower. When the church was new in 1900 a chime of seven bells, the largest nominally 2100kg [c41 cwt], was supplied from the Paccard foundry in France. It seems that they did not meet with approval (they did not seem to fit in any known scale, being 1,3,4,5,6,6b and 8 of an 8 in C) and they were sent off to the Llewellyn and James foundry in Bristol, who kept the 2, 3, and 4 of the original seven as the back six of the ringing eight which they sent to Vancouver with a steel frame. L&J used an unusual design of clapper pivot, in which the top of the clapper is divided and fits each side of the crown staple, not strange to me as I learnt to ring on an L&J ring in Bristol. A general refurbishment took place about 1990, including rehangng the bells on ball-bearings. The upstairs ringing chamber is approached as at St Mark's in Jersey up a series of staircases. Ringing included plain bob, grandsire, and Stedman, assisted by ourselves and a couple of visitors from Cambridge. Afterwards we adjourned to the White Spot, the local pub.

Their nearest Canadian towers are Mission, 40 miles to the East, and Victoria on Vancouver Island, 60 miles to the SW. The next nearest is Calgary, some 420 miles to the East. We think we are isolated....

Another bell was seen at the Maritime Museum, outside the door without explanation but probably a buoy bell. The inscription says Marine and Fisheries, it was cast by the Chaplin-Fulton Mfg. Co of Pittsburg in 1898. It looked about 10cwt.

From Vancouver we stopped in Jasper and then went on to Toronto – four nights on the train. Toronto Cathedral has a ring of 12 in the west tower. We were not there for practice night, but did see the remarkable spiral staircase to the ringing chamber.

Train again to Ottawa, where there are no ringable bells but quite a lot of others. We did see (briefly, as the lift passes by) and hear the Gillett & Johnston carillon in the Peace tower of the Parliament buildings. The clock bells sound remarkably similar to Big Ben as was their intention. French bells seem common in that part of Canada; the Paccard foundry is

well represented.

From Ottawa to Quebec, which has two rings of 8 bells. We rang at the Anglican Cathedral in the Old Town, the oldest ring of bells in Canada (Mears 1830). Some of Toronto's bells are older, but they have been imported from elsewhere. Here they ring in English but (except in deference to those not particularly fluent in the language) chat in French. This leads to instructions like "Rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb double dodge four five down rhubarb rhubarb". The enthusiastic band were grateful for our presence as it enabled them to practice their Grandsire triples before the North American Guild meeting at Quebec the following weekend. Practice finished, instead of the pub we chatted in the ringing chamber with fresh mango juice laced with rum.

Quebec back to Montréal "The city of a hundred bell towers" (Mark Twain), which did once have ringable bells. – 2 10s, 20cwt in St Patrick's Cathedral, and 52 cwt (second only to Wells) at St Francis. Both were converted to chimes many years ago.

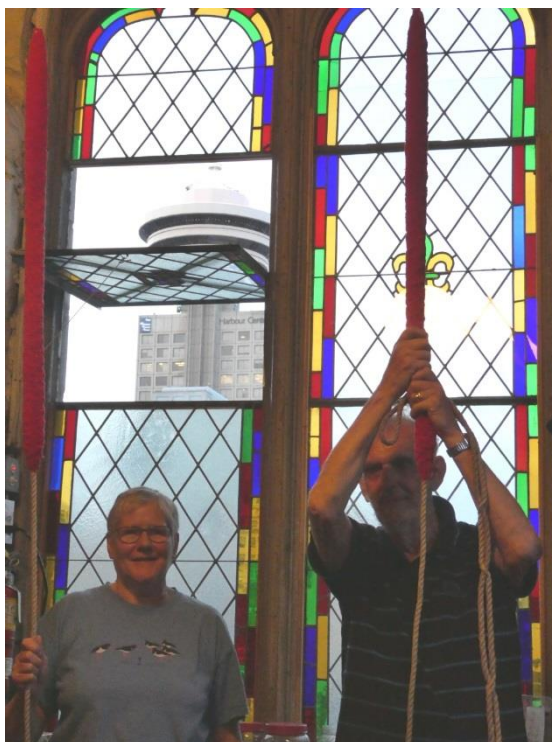
From Montreal to Halifax, another overnight train. No ringable bells there but chimes and at least one carillon.

*Over the hills (the Rockies are big ones!) and far away...*

From the Vale Church tower to Vancouver tower, according to Google earth, is 4771.68 miles. We would therefore like to enter Helen's Maltesers competition (see Cloches October 2015 p19)



The Quebec band with visitors. Guernsey ringers will recognise Isabelle Couture, who visited us last year, next to Nicky



Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, from the Harbour Tower, and the Harbour Tower from the ringing chamber

JD

## BBC Music Day

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

The Alderney ringers were delighted to score a qtr with 79 1/2 years age difference between the treble & the tenor - for BBC Music Day. Photo has the band standing in order

Alderney, Channel Islands  
St Anne

Friday, 3 June 2016 in 47 mins

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Aaron Hallett

2 Heather Winder

3 Aileen Wilson

4 Helen M McGregor

5 Peter J R Bevis (C)

6 Maurice Stupart

Rung for BBC Music Day. 200th Q of PB Doubles, 6. Treble is junior member and Tenor is senior member of the band, aged 12 and 91 respectively.



HMM<sup>c</sup>G

## Muckle Flugga, the impossible lighthouse

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

26 years ago Helen & Peter were involved in a handbell quarter peal on Green Island, off the southern tip of Jersey, 25 years ago the same band rang a quarter on Great Blasket Island - the most westerly point of the British Isles. Then they had a rest from their compass points ☹

The Shetland Islands are a subarctic archipelago of 100 islands, 18 of which are inhabited. The Shetland Islands have been Scottish since they were mortgaged to Scotland in 1469 by King Christian 1 of Denmark & Norway when his daughter Margaret became engaged to King James 111, he being unable to pay the dowry by any other means. Subsequent attempts to redeem the mortgage have been fended off by Scotland. Unst is the most northerly inhabited Shetland Island and therefore the most northerly point of the British Isles.

In 1854 the Crimean War meant that ships were required to negotiate the waters round Shetland and the Admiralty called in the Stevensons to survey sites. David Stevenson encountered terrible weather, and saw the effects of storms in the north of Unst. He was adamant that 'the seas around the Shetland coast made building a lighthouse in the area impossible, impractical, dangerous, too expensive, and any ship that took that route was mad anyway'. The Admiralty wouldn't take 'no' for an answer, Stevenson made 2 recommendations for possible sites on Unst itself, but Stevenson was again overruled – the Admiralty required the lighthouse to be built on Muckle Flugga (Old Norse: mikla flugey, large steep sided island).

Initially a temporary light was installed but in 1858 the



permanent lighthouse was completed. The lighthouse was automated in 1995 and with that the regular trips to supply & relieve the lighthouse keepers came to an end. We had left it too late to ring ON Muckle Flugga ☹ we would satisfy ourselves with ringing on the headland overlooking it ☺

Jenny, Jack & Daniel Page happily agreed to accompany us to ring within sight of Muckle Flugga. The headland overlooking Mucke Flugga is reached by parking a car at the shore station of the lighthouse – where the keepers of old spent their off-duty weeks - then undertaking a 4 mile walk along the most spectacular coastline - almost touching very brave puffins confident in their protected status as residents of an RSPB reserve , watching all manner of other birds we couldn't name – and finally Muckle Flugga came into view. Fog had been threatening during our walk so we took our photo ahead of our ringing – which in the event was most fortunate! 2 minutes after we had started the first midges found us, 5 minutes in & the first midges had gone home and told the others that there was a herd of hairless rabbits just standing around waving their hands up and down but seemingly unable to scratch themselves – the midges thought Christmas had come early☺ immediately the quarter finished Peter threw his bells down and RAN away home – putting as much distance between himself and the other carbon dioxide manufacturing mammals as possible – we had been eaten alive☹

Other ringing: Helen & Peter were delighted to be made Honorary Members of the Page 3 Society for a peal of mixed doubles on the Last Tower, at Tulloch before we set off for Shetland. We rang a quarter peal of Bob Royal on the ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick, we rang 3 leads of Kent Royal at Sumburgh Lighthouse – the most southerly point of the main island of Shetland. We rang a plain course of Little Bob Royal on Fetlar, the most eastern of the Shetland Islands. We scored a qtr of Yorkshire S Major in our cottage on Unst. We rang a qtr of Bob Royal at Mousa Broch – the best preserved Iron Age Broch in the world, sited on Mousa, one of the 82 uninhabited Shetland Islands. On 29<sup>th</sup> July Jack called a date touch for his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday – 1997 of Bob Royal.

Back at Tulloch the Page 3 Society rang a tower bell peal on the back 5 of the 12 – Stedman Doubles – completing the family doubles – cinques for Helen ☺

Non-ringing 'mosts'? Jenny & Helen swam at Skau – the most northerly beach on the British Isles .

Unst, Shetland, Hermaness Nature Reserve

Sunday, 24 July 2016 (15C)

### **1260 Plain Bob Royal**

1–2 Peter J R Bevis                      5–6 Jack E Page (C)                      9–10 Daniel J Page

3–4 Helen M McGregor    7–8 Jenny M Page

Rung within sight of Muckle Flugga and Old Stack, the most northerly part of the British Isles.

The band believes this quarter to be the most northerly quarter peal rung in the British Isles.

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

### **30 Peals Challenge**

**Duncan Loweth**

In the last issue of Les Cloches I was behind schedule having only rung 1 peal in January with the target 2 or 3 each month. Thankfully the last 6 months have been very productive although not without a couple of losses here and there. My great thanks to all those who have rung with me so far and/or are booked in for upcoming peals. I have found that organising peals is a million times harder than actually ringing them, particularly tower bells as they require more people and more coordination.

I've noticed a huge increase in my ringing ability in the past 6 months – particularly in hand and conducting. There was a slight concern that all 30 peals would be Bob Minor in hand as I wasn't really capable of much else, particularly as I'd have to call the bobs too. In February and March I was spending at least an hour a day practising St Clements, Kent and Cambridge on Mobil for handbells. Thankfully the penny dropped and I've got much better at not getting lost on the two blue lines.

Here is a run-down of the peals so far

2) A weekend trip to Alderney started with Bob Major in hand. Very scary as I had to call it – thankfully the only trip was near a course end so was one of the few moments I knew where to put the tenors back on track. My first conducting major in hand.

3) The next day we rang St Clement's Bob Minor in hand. It trundled along very nicely, Peter and I absentmindedly speeding up the pace as confidence

evolved into cockiness. In the 5th extent a hiccup threatened the peal but thankfully it was close to a part end which, being the same as plain Bob part ends, meant I knew which bells should be where. The last extents were markably slower, with Peter in particular keeping the pace low to maximise chances of success. It must be the first time I've known Peter to be the one trying to slow the ringing down rather than speed it up! A first for me again, first in method in hand. Also the first of the 30 rung for the Cumberlands.

4) The second peal in the 30 by the Guernsey band. Only slightly faster than Janice's first attempt but much more rhythmical which made it very enjoyable to ring albeit rather exhausting. I found it particularly mentally tiring calling it from the 3/4 and keeping my own line in my head as well as a vague idea of what the other pairs should be doing to constantly check we were on track. It is much easier to call from the tenors and no mistake!

5) Longer ago than the 30 peals challenge had been conceived Helen and I had arranged a weekend in the UK to attend the ART AGM and conference to ring a workshop on teaching handbells. The plan right from the beginning was to ring a peal with the reading ringers on the Sunday and this slotted nicely into the 30. Unfortunately, nearer the time the Sunday was needed for a practice session for the reading 12 bell striking competition band. A peal was not going to fit. Thankfully Peter had also come to the UK and so handbells would come to the rescue.

A slight spanner in the works was that this peal would be Helen's 200th and we all agreed it needed to be something significant and we would rather leave it than ring Bob Minor. Since the February peals I had kept up my daily practice on Mobel but I was still not 100% on Cambridge. It looked like we might leave the peal for another day. On the Saturday night we had Steve and rang a course of Yorkshire a lead at a time. Having not prepared at all for it I did not expect to get far but miraculously I could see the two lines weaving together. Some sort of penny had dropped! I wondered if this revelation in Yorkshire might have helped my Cambridge minor. I stayed up an extra hour and rang an extent on Mobel twice before bed. There was a chance we could get it!

Late morning service ringing meant we had time for a cheeky QP after breakfast and we decided to tryout the Cambridge as a tester for the peal.

It fired out quickly as I'd forgotten to silence my phone and an alarm sounded loudly. Thankfully we had time to start again and it just motored along beautifully.

Service ringing complete we headed back to Steve and June's house whilst they headed off to their practice. We started... we kept going... we finished. It was magnificent. Utterly a team effort, each of us trying to drift away in turn but the other two nudging them back on their line. It could easily have fired out in a heartbeat but we were on form. The next time we got together we struggled to ring one extent which shows that we must have been in the zone that day.

A first of surprise in hand for both Peter and I. Helen's 200th and the first peal in Steve and June's house (and that morning's QP was the first quarter too). Both June and Steve were pleased that the house had finally been quartered and pealed and even more glad that they had not been ringing in them!

6) On Good Friday Peter had some hours to kill between flights (possibly arranged as such to enable another attempt - they are very generous like that) and Helen flew over for the day to make a minor band. We had hoped to ring major with Amy but sadly timings did not work to juggle the peal, two babies and church commitments. Instead we scored another Cumberland peal of minor.

In March/April a group of ringers from Derby toured the bailiwick pealing all the towers. We had arranged an extra peal at the town church with 4 locals but it never settled down so after an hour it was stood up and we then rang a lovely quarter of stedman triples - a first for myself and Ben.

7) Later in their visit we rang a peal of Kent major in hand. I find it quite scary ringing with people I don't know but once we started I felt happier that they were quite forgiving of occasional trips and that they made a couple too so as not to make me feel bad. The post peal chat proved most useful as we arranged another attempt on Stuart's mini-ring.

8) The school holiday proved very useful as I stayed on in the UK with the baby (who enjoyed time with her grandparents) whilst Gemma had to fly back to the island to perform in Les Mis. Stuart's mini ring was very nice and the peal was steady and uneventful. My first on a mini-ring.

9) Arranging week day peals is tricky as the pool of available rings shrinks during working hours. Amazingly I had found 7 others to join me at Morville, Shropshire on Tuesday morning. A lovely, newly augmented 8 were a delight to ring. Very steady Yorkshire skipped along until the penultimate course when the treble missed a 1/2 dodge. It would have been with me and it did throw me into doubt which I resolved after a couple of blows, but two other ringers had also been thrown by the treble's early appearance and we're both off their lines. My heart sank - but the conductor was instantly upon them and the ringing, mercifully, settled down. The tower contact insisted on a photograph of the band for the peal photo album he keeps for the tower before serving up homemade shortbread which was extremely welcome and exceedingly good. The first of the 30 on tower bells.

10) For me I had a long drive from the south of Shropshire to the north of Cheshire for the next peal - tenors to Kent Royal. The Kent major had been scary - this was butt-clenchingly terrifying. I had never rung a blow before in hand and barely rung any Royal either. I had practiced it a couple of times of Mobil but that was it! Thankfully my brain was not too cooked from the Yorkshire that morning and I did a pretty decent job on the tenors.

3 peals in two days was good but hopefully the next day would furnish 2 more. Sadly it was not to be. The morning peal was a mini ring in Keele. Very different from Stuart's. Heavier and much quicker relative to the weight difference. But it was going well, we had rung extents of London, Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge and Kent. Sadly in the 5th extent the treble missed the Sally and the bell went over the balance. Unable to regain control the peal was lost. The afternoon would have had a peal of minor in hand but half way through the blood sugar level of one of the ringers went too high and that too had to stop too.

11) Three peals was good work for the week, but was there scope for more during the school break. Some quick emailing got the Guernsey band together for the Friday. It started beautifully. The first half was a lovely rhythm and a good, quick pace with few trips. The second half we had all run out of steam and it was gruelling to get to the end - but we did and hopefully next time we will get further before our stamina starts to wain.

I'm utterly impressed with the progress of the Guernsey handbell ringers. It was Amy's first in the 30 and her first as a mum.

12) The following week we rang the back 6 at st Pierre du Bois, which were Hard work with a capital H. Another gruelling peal for everyone involved but it is amazing how the sense of achievement afterwards can peek you back up again.

13) Jane, Janice and I got together for the next peal rung for the christening of Amy's son Blaise. It was going very well until an insistent visitor came banding on the door, then the living room window during the 5<sup>th</sup> extent. The ringing was lumpy for the rest of the extent but we calmed down and finished the peal nicely.

14) Another trip to Alderney for some St Clement's and Plain with Aileen and Helen. After a few practice goes we got into the swing and rang the peal without any excitement. We were delighted to ring to celebrate the birth of Mike Bubb's granddaughter Hayley.

15) The W&P had arranged to make June a peal festival which sort of came to nothing in the end – but we didn't know that and in Guernsey we mustered ourselves together for several extra peals. The first was a farewell to Colin and Debbie, Colin having been a dedicated member of the Town Church band for several years. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> extent the television burst into life – amazingly we managed to keep our cool, I was coursing and waited until I was crossing in 5/6: I rang the handstroke, jumped up and jammed the off button on the side of the set and was back down in time for my backstroke! Sadly I had forgotten to turn on the big light and as the evening drew in we were going to end up ringing in the dark. At the half way single I jumped up again and mashed my knuckle into the light switch. The second half was mercifully uneventful!

16) Helen and Peter were very kind to fly over for another peal. Some nice Cambridge and then eye-wateringly fast plain bob.

17) Jane and Janice are very good to keep agreeing to all these peals! This time we added a plain course of Grandsire to make a 5070 for Colin's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

18) As well as all these handbell peals I'd managed to convince a Guernsey Tower bell band to go for a peal in place of the usual quarter peal on a Wednesday lunch time. More impressively they agreed to ring the back six! A lovely peal which started in Bob Minor and then glided into doubles.

19) Helen had arranged an Alderney band to come over for a peal on Guernsey and I obliged by agreeing to find a 6<sup>th</sup> ringer and call it. But on the day I was rather exhausted and Peter agreed to call it instead making it his first as conductor.

20) Back in the UK (Evelyn having fun with the grandparents again) and another trip to Stuart's mini-ring. Sadly the band were not as good at major as they are at minor, the method was sound (Plain bob) but the striking and rhythm were lacking. Stuart had to talk a lot of people through: 'closer at back', 'hold up the handstroke', etc. I was concerned all the way through that he was going to stand it up, but it did keep getting better and then have a bad patch, he probably would have stood if it hadn't been for the need to score for the 30 challenge.

21) Alan Reign was kind to organise several peals in Greater London. The first was 7 minor methods – first blows for me in the Beverly and Surfleet. Rather warm but at least we had a fan blowing.

22) Later the same day we rang Lessness S Major – first blows in method for me. Despite three fans it was sweltering and uncomfortable.

23) If I had thought the last two peals were uncomfortable I was utterly, utterly mistake. We rang Superlative S Major in a tower with massive windows, none of which opened. It was like a green house and for over half the peal the sun was beaming directly on my back. I was drenched by the end with sweat dripping off me most of the way through. At least we were all similarly gross at the end so I didn't feel too bad. I made a few trips which I blame on the distracting heat!!

With only 7 left and 5 months it's looking good.

**DL**

## **Alderney ringer wins 12 bell**

**Helen M McGregor**

The Alderney band are delighted that their very own Jack Page was in the Birmingham Band which won the National 12 bell Striking competition at Aston on June 25th, ringing Cambridge S Maximus - well done Jack :-)

**HMMcG**

## **Letter to Les Cloches**

**Mike Winterbourne**

After some arm twisting, I seemed to have ended up as the Guild Master, fortunately for only 3 years.

This year there has been a significant change of officers and those who have retired had between them a huge amount of experience. They have generously offered to help the new team settle in.

Thank you all for your consummate skills used to benefit the members of the W+P Guild of Ringers

The new team:

Pete Jordan, Vice Master from Basingstoke

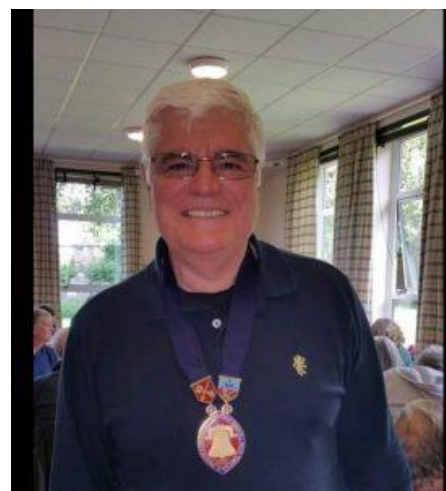
Ros Brandwood, Guild Treasurer from Burghclere

Mo Routh is acting Guild Secretary until a replacement can be found.

For the full list of Officers

<https://wpbells.org/guild-officers/>

I have a soft spot for the Channel Islands as my father took part in the relief of Guernsey and some of his army mates married local lasses. This gave our family an excuse to visit the island. My wife and I chose Guernsey for our honeymoon and we have had the pleasure of visiting the Channel Islands on several occasions with family and friends. Our visits to Alderney and Jersey gave me the opportunity to visit the whole set with ringable bells. We have celebrated many Special Occasions on the Channel Islands, including both our Silver and Ruby wedding anniversaries.



The majority of my visits included ringing and I found the Island ringers friendly, enthusiastic and welcoming.

I am planning to join you for your AGM in September and look forward to meeting old friends and developing new friendships.

See you soon

Best Wishes

Mike

MW

### **Date set for World Record Ringing on Alderney 2017**

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

The record breaking peal band who scored 21,216 of Cambridge S Max at South Petherton in October 2015 – the longest ever peal on 12 bells -

<http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=993142>

- are hoping to score 25,000 of Bristol Max on Alderney on **Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017**

I plan on making it a great training week for Channel Island ringers – **anyone care to join us?** Open Day Sat Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, General ringing and Quarters in abundance through the week, Record ringing will be piped down to the church for display on big screen. Handbells and tower bells of course.

We are expecting: Alan Reading, Andrew Mills, David Pipe, John Hughes-D'Aeth, John Thurman, Matt Hilling (C), Michael Wilby, Paul Mounsey, Paul Tiebout, Philip Earis, Roy Le Marechal, Tom Griffiths, umpires, supporters .... and you??

Please let me know if you are interested in joining us

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

## **Treasurer's report - for the ten months ended 30 June 2016**

**Mike Halsey**

Your Committee approved the Treasurer's suggestion to alter the reporting date of the District from 31 August to 30 June. This change is to enable the financial statements to be prepared, audited and circulated well in advance of the Annual District Meeting by including them in the summer edition of Les Cloches des Iles. Additionally, the end of June falls more naturally within the current activity of the District, mid-way between the customary dates for the striking competitions, and will normally simplify the accounting with the absence of debtors and creditors at the reporting date.

The financial statements for the ten months ended 30 June 2016 show a satisfactory increase in the District's Total Funds / Cash at Bank of £465.25 with total funds standing at £3,615.12.

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year shows an excess of income over expenditure of £354.94 compared to the excess the previous year of £103.84.

It will be remembered that the excess in the previous year was after the transfer to the newly created Youth Travel Fund of £150. During the period under review, the Travel Fund also benefited further from the following:

The proceeds of a raffle held at the District Autumn Meeting	£94
The proceeds of a raffle held at District Spring Meeting	£63
Donations from the Alderney ringers taking part in the annual coastal walk	£76
Hon. Treasurer's expenses waived	£2
Total	£235

Grants from the travel fund were made as follows:

to Aaron Hallett of Alderney to attend the 2015 Autumn Meeting	£25
to four Guernsey ringers William Stoddart, Jake Colton, Josh Colton and Olivia Palmer who represented the District and the Guild at the Guildford Association youth striking competition on 2nd April in Epsom.	£100
Total	£125

These movements leave the Youth Travel Fund with a balance of £452 compared to £342 at 31 August 2015.

The District's Total Funds have thus increased in the year by the amount referred to in the third 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 financial statements.

The Guild reduced the amount levied for the Guild Bell Restoration Fund from £4 to £2 for full, senior and junior members of the District. The benefit of this to the District may be seen in the income and expenditure account.

Your Committee proposes there be no change for 2017 to the subscriptions charged to members in 2016.

Michael J Halsey  
Honorary Treasurer  
17 September 2015

Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers – Channel Islands District

Memberships and Subscriptions

Subscriptions	2016					2015				
	Full	Senior	Junior	Probationary	Life	Full	Senior	Junior	Probationary	Life
Guild subscription	8.00	5.50	4.50	2.00	-	6.00	3.50	2.50	2.00	-
Channel Island Levy	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	-	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	-
Bell Restoration Fund Levy	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	-	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	-
	16.00	13.50	6.50	2.00	-	16.00	13.50	6.50	2.00	-
<b>Members</b>										
St Anne	9	12	1	5	-	8	8	1	5	-
Vale	3	4	1	0	-	3	6	1	1	-
Town	4	8	0	2	-	6	7	0	1	-
Forest	1	1	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	-
St Pierre du Bois	6	6	2	0	-	5	5	2	0	-
St John	2	4	0	2	-	3	5	0	1	-
St Mark	4	2	0	0	-	3	2	0	0	-
Unattached	1	0	2	6	-	0	0	2	9	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Guild Subscriptions</b>	<b>CI Levy</b>	<b>Bell Restoration Fund Levy</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Guild Subscriptions</b>	<b>CI Levy</b>	<b>Bell Restoration Fund Levy</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full	30	240.00	180.00	60.00	480.00	29	174.00	174.00	116.00	464.00
Senior	37	203.50	222.00	74.00	499.50	34	119.00	204.00	136.00	459.00
Junior	6	27.00	0.00	12.00	39.00	6	15.00	0.00	24.00	39.00
Probationary	15	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	17	34.00	0.00	0.00	34.00
Life	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>500.50</b>	<b>402.00</b>	<b>146.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>342.00</b>	<b>378.00</b>	<b>276.00</b>	<b>-</b>

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

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 10 MONTHS 30th JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
	10 months ended 30 June		Year ended 31 August	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
Subscriptions from members:-	Number		Number	
Full	30	240.00	29	174.00
Senior	37	203.50	34	119.00
Junior	6	27.00	6	15.00
Probationary Members	15	30.00	17	34.00
Life Members	-	-	-	-
	<u>88</u>	<u>£ 500.50</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>342.00</u>
Channel Island Levy		402.00		378.00
Guild Bell Restoration Fund		146.00		276.00
Interest Received		0.00		0.22
		<u>£ 548.00</u>		<u>654.22</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>£ 1,048.50</u>		<u>996.22</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Half of subscriptions received to Guild Treasurer		250.25		171.00
Guild Bell Restoration Fund		146.00		276.00
Judges expenses - striking competitions		295.00		287.00
Expenses - District Chairman		0.00		0.00
Expenses - District Treasurer		2.31		8.38
ITTS tutor's expenses		0.00		0.00
Transfer to Youth Travel Fund		0.00		150.00
Miscellaneous expenses		0.00		0.00
		<u>£ 693.56</u>		<u>£ 892.38</u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>£ 354.94</u>		<u>£ 103.84</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AT 30th JUNE 2016**

	<b>at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>at 31 August 2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank - Lloyds Bank, Alderney	<u>£ 3,615.12</u>	<u>£ 3,149.87</u>
<b>YOUTH TRAVEL FUND</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	342.00	0.00
Transfer from income and expenditure account	0.00	150.00
Donations received	235.31	192.00
Grants made during the year	<u>(125.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Balance at the end of the year	<u>£ 452.31</u>	<u>£ 342.00</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	2,807.87	2,704.03
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	354.94	103.84
Balance at the end of the year	<u>£ 3,162.81</u>	<u>£ 2,807.87</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>£ 3,615.12</u>	<u>£ 3,149.87</u>

I have carefully examined these accounts, compared them with the relevant vouchers,  
and hereby certify these accounts agree with the records

Louise Read  
Chartered Accountant  
District Auditor

17 September 2016

## Channel Islands District ADM

Jane Le Conte

17/09/2015 Vale Church, Guernsey

The names of those present are recorded in the attendance book.

**Apologies for absence:** Sue Park, Paul Lawrence, Renee Batiste, Phil Le Conte, Maurice Stupart, Philippa Arditti, Joe Allen, Chris Totty and the Jersey ringers who were unable attend due to cancellation of the Condor sailing – David Clare, Robin Pittman, Peter Routier, Richard Harris, Justin Read, Louise Read, Hannah Read, Judy Collins, Tim Knight, Anne Frazer.

The Chairman welcomed all present

**Declaration of any other business:** Victoria McAllister wished to discuss complexity of methods rung on meeting days.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** There were no inaccuracies noted and the chairman signed them as a true and accurate record

**Matters arising:** none

**Treasurers report:** This had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. There were no questions.  
Peter Bevis proposed adoption of the report, seconded by Donald Hughes; the majority of the meeting voted for.

### **Ringling Masters report:**

*Firstly I must apologise to Jsy: In the latest edition of Les Cloches, with reference to Jsy coming 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 6 bell competition on Jsy in Sept 2013 – when they fielded 2 teams with only 8 ringers. I said they had cheated. I apologise, my pen ran away with me – I am very sorry. Mike please relay my apology to your fellow islanders*

*A quick run through of the highlights of this last year then:*

*For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we were able to enter the inter-District striking competition team came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7 in Guild 8 bell competition – a much better showing than in previous years, looking fwd to doing even better 2016 Gsy have been maintaining special ringing every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday well done to*

*Tim & Jane– I can say to Jsy & Ay that if they are passing through Gsy on a 4<sup>th</sup> Sat they would be very welcome*

*Jsy had planned to have 12 ringers in the competition today and that I hope shows improved recruitment & retention on Jsy – they are to be congratulated for that effort*

*Ay has had 1 first pealer so far this year – well done Aileen -& we hope to have at least 3 more by the year end. Can I encourage Jsy & Gsy support the Central Council led initiative to achieve 300 first peelers by the end of the year?*

*The handbell groups on both Ay & Gsy are going from strength to strength – well done Duncan. If Jsy were here I would be telling them to make better use of Richard's handbell tuition skills – Duncan & I would be delighted if Richard were to move to Ay or Gsy - it's ironic to have him on Jsy with no-one wanting to learn handbells there*

*Looking fwd: Simon Linford has offered to arrange a CI outing to Birmingham Feb 18 – 21<sup>st</sup>, 19 people have already expressed interest so please let me know if you are planning on coming too – it should be very good fun*

*I am already looking fwd to the Spring meeting on Ay April 23<sup>rd</sup> – the 8 bell competition will be Grandsire Triples judged by John & June Wells. Hope you all make it there & Jsy too.*

John David queried why a touch was specified for the inter-island competition, when it wasn't for the inter tower 6 bell competition. The chair answered by saying the aim was to have a focus for island ringers to bring everyone up to a similar standard, and to making the judging task easier for the judges. Should the membership feel that this is not satisfactory, the committee would look at it.

### **Election of new members:**

The following were proposed by Donald Hughes and seconded by Sue Le Feuvre and elected unanimously:

Barbara Garfield, St Pierre du Bois, Guernsey.

Stef Russell and Caroline Maude probationary members, June Bannister, full member, St. Anne, Alderney.

### **Election of officers:**

All officers stood for re-election and there were no nominations from the floor

Guild master, Viv Nobbs took the chair for the election of chairman - Stephen Rossiter was proposed by Peter Bevis, seconded by Judith Laine

The following were proposed by Donald Hughes, seconded by Nicky David

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Ringmaster – Helen McGregor

Secretary – Jane Le Conte

Treasurer – Mike Halsey

Report Editor – Duncan Loweth

They were elected 'en bloc'.

### **Role of a church service as part of the ADM:**

As proposer, Helen queried whether in the absence of the Jersey contingent, the meeting could vote on a major decision like this. After some discussion, and as the meeting was quorate the decision was made that the meeting could take a vote on this item.

Helen spoke in favour of the proposal, stating that the removal of a service from the day would maximise the time available for ringing. Mike Halsey seconded the motion.

Mike Bubb said that he felt there was plenty of time during the day for ringing and the service enable ringers to worship together as well as ring together. He was disappointed by the number of ringers who did not attend the service.

Pam Pearson agreed with Mike; she said the church is an integral part of ringing life; the service is a time for reflection and a chance to commemorate ringers lost by death.

Heather Winder felt she owes the church for providing a hobby she loves, and that attending service is a way of paying back for that.

Donald Hughes said he came to attend a district meeting; he contributes by his role as tower secretary and sees the service as separate entirely from the day.

Peter Gallienne pointed out that money to maintain the bells come from the parish, who in return, expect an involvement in the church.

Nicky David criticised the arrangement of a 10 bell quarter peal for the morning of the meeting as it was not to the benefit of the general membership, it did not fit into the aims of the meeting taking the

opportunity for ringing to be advanced,, so challenged the use of an excuse to remove the service to allow more time for ringing.

Duncan Loweth pointed out that the removal of 10 ringers from the morning practice freed up more time for those who needed practice on the bells prior to the competition. When the quarter was organised it was done in a way that ensured adequate experience was available to support the general ringing.

As there were no more comments from the floor the vote was taken:

In favour of the proposal: 9     Against: 17     Abstentions: 2

Therefore the service will be retained as part of the ADM day

**Status of the Elizabeth College band:** Helen McGregor reminded the meeting of the discussion paper regarding this which she has written for 'Les Cloches'. She explained that that Elizabeth College pupils ring at the Town Church for practice but not for services. The current striking competition rules state that team members should be 'regular active Sunday Service ringers of the tower they represent'. Therefore the Elizabeth College team can only enter as a scratch team this year. Helen asked the floor whether there was a desire to alter this rule so that they could enter as a team in their own right next year.

Pam had concerns that this would open the competition to a plethora of teams which would make the day even busier.

Janice Firth pointed out that if this became a problem, today's decision could be reversed at a later date.

Stephen agreed but pointed out it would be unfortunate to once again prevent them from entering in the future. The decision should be taken with regard to changing the wording as outlined by Helen. More than 12 teams would be a challenge for the judges, and may determine the number of scratch teams able to enter. Therefore if the change is made, he would like the committee to be able to make a decision on the number of scratch teams on the day. He stated he felt that Elizabeth College ringers brought another dimension to the district and should be included, possibly under umbrella of Town Church.

Peter Bevis agreed with Stephen, stating he would rather see each tower limited to one team rather than not allow Elizabeth College to compete. He said the criteria for the National 12 bell competition was that teams are composed of ringers who ring together regularly.

Nicky David quoted from the W & P's objects regarding the role of ringers, and the fact that our district rules require competition bands to be made up of Sunday Service ringers which accords with Guild objects. Whilst

commending Duncan for recruiting and training the young ringers she expressed concern that the rule change that would allow them to compete whilst not service ringers, would encourage a division between those who ring for service and those who ring solely for their own gratification.

Referring to Helen's article, Nicky challenged the assertion that Elizabeth College could be viewed as a ringing centre, and also dismissed the rules regarding the Tewkesbury Shield as not being relevant as we are considering a district competition and not one open to all. She also stated that the Paul Taylor Trophy was presented to be competed for 'by local churches'. She suggested that the Elizabeth College band should be encouraged to ring for services rather than change the rules to accommodate them.

Duncan clarified for the meeting that Elizabeth College is listed as unattached members in the guild report and feels it important for them to be able to compete in their own right. He stated that he does encourage them to ring for service and they all have at times. Some attend churches with no bells or have no means of getting to Sunday service ringing- they are aged 11-13 so this is different from adult ringers. He pointed out that ringers are a 'dying breed' and he was trying to create the feeling in school that ringing is a mainstream activity in the way that fencing is.

Victoria stated that since the current trophy is given for church teams there would need to be another trophy for teams like Elizabeth College to compete for.

Janice responded that it would be unwelcoming and unkind not to treat them as equals

Pam said that rules for adults should hold for children and so Elizabeth College ringers should be affiliated to the Town Church.

Stephen said that in his view we need to move ringing forward to ensure its survival in the next 50 years and the CI District can do this by allowing the boys to compete.

Will Stoddart, one of the Elizabeth College band, thanked Mr Loweth for giving him the opportunity to discover bell ringing.

Viv Nobbs, Guild Master, said she saw both sides of the debate. She pointed out that the guild's most recent action plan, agreed at this year's AGM includes plans to arrange a striking competition and 'festival' aiming to encourage attendance. This would be open to non tower based bands who would receive a certificate, but the trophy would be presented to the best tower based team.

After further discussion regarding the wording of the proposition, the

following was proposed by Helen and seconded by Donald Hughes:  
'A team will be eligible to enter the CI District striking competition if it emanates from a centre in which ringing is organised and practised'.

The vote was as follows:

For: 20      Against: 5      Abstentions: 4

The chair stated that if this rule change results in an influx of teams, the committee will deal with this as it arises.

### **Request for membership names to be posted on the district website:**

Mike Halsey explained he has asked members to give their permission to do this, but had little response. After discussion which aired legal requirements and other difficulties, Mike dropped his proposal as being too complicated to pursue.

### **Alteration to rules regarding the youth subsidy:**

John David proposed that the wording re eligibility for the subsidy be altered from a ringer '..... who is in full time education' to '.....is not in full time employment'. John pointed out that not all young people who are not employed are in full time education. The proposal was seconded by Peter Gallienne and carried nem com.

### **Dates of next meetings:**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 Alderney, meeting and inter island 8 bell striking competition (Method Grandsire Triples)

17<sup>th</sup> September 2016 -ADM and inter tower 6 bell striking competition, St Johns, Jersey

### **Any other business:**

Victoria deferred her request for more complex methods to be rung at meetings for discussion at a later date.

The chairman thanked Father Kevin Northover for the use of the Vale bells; Father John Luff for conducting the service; the Vale ringers for lunch and to all for attending.

He then thanked the judges, Hugh and Mo Routh from the Alton and Petersfield district and invited them to present the results.

Comments:

Team 1: (Town Church) Good long rounds to allow the ringers to settle. Nice rhythm, steady tenor and a particularly good middle section. Peal speed 2.54

Team 2: (Vale) A slightly hesitant start, but settled. Last 3 leads were very good. Peal speed 2.45

Team 3: (Vale scratch) Good leading and speed. A lot of trips, particularly at the half leads

Team 4: (Scratch) good steady tenor. Very few faults in the middle section. Peal speed 2.45

Team 5: (Elizabeth College, scratch). A very good effort by a team of apparently learners who were nervous

Team 6: (Alderney Puffins) Nice ringing with no major mistakes and sections with few errors. Peal speed 2.50

Team 7: (Forest/St Peters) Slow and steady ringing, a bit hesitant at times especially towards the end. Peal speed 3.00

Team 8: (Alderney, Blonde Hedgehogs. ( Faults accrued at the beginning and in middle section, but a good recovery in the last leads. Peal speed 3.02

#### Scores:

Town Church	- 23 faults
Vale	- 26 faults
Scratch	- 26 faults
Alderney Puffins	- 28 faults
Forest/St Peters	- 31 faults
Vale scratch	- 87 faults
Alderney Hedgehogs	- 91 faults
Elizabeth College	- 103 faults

**JLC**

#### **Message from our Immediate Past Master**

**Viv Nobbs**

Greetings and thanks for all your support and great hospitality I've received from Channel Island ringers during my term as Guild Master. I'm sure that you will welcome and support Mike Winterbourne, Master, and I hope to see you again soon in my capacity as Guild Public Relations Officer.

**VN**