

Editor's Foreword – Andy Clark

Hello and welcome to this Q1 newsletter. How are we in April already?! Plenty of positive news to report, including the Birmingham team's success at the recent 12-bell eliminator in Bristol, but also a sad time as we remember Nell Mackay and Andy Carr, who both made a significant contribution to the St Martin's Guild and will be sorely missed.

Ringling Master's Report – Arthur Reeves

At the AGM in January, I spoke about what I see as the next stage in the direction of the Guild. That is that Guild activities have to work more in line with what members are doing in their home tower. Over the last few years we have developed a wide range of practices which occur on a regular basis. I'm always impressed when I send the monthly digest of what we offer, and I hope members are too. However, whilst focused practices have their place and people undoubtedly benefit from them, if members rely solely on those practices then progress will be limited. Therefore, in looking to the future, I'm aiming to align Guild activities more closely with what is going on in practices and, ultimately, work to enhance what is offered across the Guild on practice nights. This is a long-term and challenging aim. Guild officers are currently working on two initiatives to get this rolling.



The first is the monthly "X Practice" where local towers host and the Guild supports to ensure that members get a chance to practice something they want to work on. Harborne hosted in February, focusing on Double Dublin. We've been to Sheldon in March for Stedman Doubles and will head to Tanworth-in-Arden in April for Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples. The idea is that these are methods that are rung at practice nights normally at those towers, but an extra focus practice with some additional support means those skills can be honed and enhanced further.

Secondly, from April we embark on Swap Week. Five towers have so far opted to take part, where they will disband their nightly practice once a month and for that week will host a specific focus practice supported by other Guild members. For example, a tower may host a Doubles practice night on Monday, another tower hosts a Surprise Major (PPE compliant of course!) on Tuesday and so on. Full details of this will be sent out soon from one of us. March saw Guild officers beginning to support and make contact with those towers. We will run this as a trial for a few months and review.

That doesn't mean that we will not continue to offer a full menu of focus practices, which continue to go from strength to strength. Recent practices have included Plain and Little Bob Minor, St Clements Minor and a theory session on running a successful practice as well as the usual Thursday monthly practice and Brumdingers. Thanks to all involved in organising and running these. Guild AGM day saw almost 50 members getting together at Knowle to discuss Guild affairs and the Henry Johnson Dinner (see article later in the newsletter) was a great opportunity for members to get together with ringers from around the country. Finally, we have put together the schedule for 2019 which includes the following key events. Place these in your diaries – you wouldn't want to miss out!

- Saturday 4th May: BSoBR Away Day
- Saturday 18th May (afternoon): 6-bell striking contest
- Saturday 13th July: Guild walking tour
- Saturday 12th October: Guild trip to York
- Saturday 7th December (afternoon): Guild Challenge Day

Workshops and Quarter Peals – *Phil Ramsbottom & Jonathan Townsend*

It was suggested that the 9th January event was a “refresh the toolbox” workshop aimed at anyone who ever runs an elementary practice. This turned out to be very well attended and included two members from the Wishaw band (nice work Brenda!). Most of the usual exercises such as whole pull and stand, same again then moving right, fading in, setting at backstroke among others were given a good airing and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.



On 13th February, there was an entry level “bob calling” workshop starting with Bob Minor. We’ve all been there where a band grabs hold to ring and when the ringing master asks if anyone would like to call something, everyone immediately stares at the floor! Four attendees benefited from the event who soon found themselves calling basic nine and ten-lead touches from almost any bell as well as some theory about how to extend or vary these.

Moseley, West Midlands

St Mary

Tuesday, 5 March 2019 in 49m

1277 Stedman Caters

Composed by James P Ramsbottom

- 1 Simon Linford
- 2 D Rose W Horton
- 3 Heather Griffiths
- 4 Phil Ramsbottom
- 5 James P Ramsbottom (C)
- 6 Dave Bassett
- 7 Steve Horton
- 8 Jonathan B Townsend
- 9 Tony Daw
- 10 Clare S Townsend

Tuesday 5th March saw a quarter of Stedman Caters scored at Moseley, largely as a refresher for some of the band. A further quarter also of Stedman is planned for 22nd May. Should anyone feel like taking one pace forwards, please do get in touch.

A further conducting workshop was held on 13th March, still covering bob calling for Plain Bob but also adding in Little Bob and St Clements, with the same rules, but different lines. One brave soul ended the evening by calling all three methods in a touch of spliced - well done Dave Bassett!

Due to demand, there’s a final (for now at least) conducting workshop on 10th April if anyone would like to get in touch.

A Stedman and Grandsire Caters focused practice is planned for 24th April should anyone be interested in coming along to that. Please do get in touch though so I can manage numbers.

Henry Johnson Dinner – *Tim Martin*

The 131st Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner was held on Saturday 23rd February 2019 with Alan Regin MBE acting as the Chairman. This year the dinner returned to the Banqueting Suite in Birmingham's impressive Victorian Council House in Victoria Square, much to the relief of those attending. Around 100 ringers were present, both local and distant St Martin's Guild members plus many supporters and friends from around the country, many of whom regard the evening and indeed the whole weekend as one of the key events in the national ringing calendar.

Unlike some dinners where the speeches are somewhat of an afterthought, to be endured rather than enjoyed, the tradition at the Henry Johnson is rather the reverse where the speeches, from well-known ringing personalities, are an interesting and entertaining part of the evening.

As is traditional, the proceedings opened with the Chairman proposing a toast to the memory of the late Henry Johnson reminding those present of something about the history of Henry Johnson himself. Born in Lichfield in 1809 he was drawn to Birmingham like so many of his generation as the Industrial Revolution took hold. He learned to ring at Aston and rang his first peal there in 1830. He went on to have a great influence on the development of ringing in Birmingham and more widely. He was a respected composer and many of his compositions were published in "Bell News" which served to establish his fame as a ringer nationwide. He was held in such high regard that the first dinner was organised in his memory by Sir A P Hayward - one of the founders of the Central Council.

The welcome to guests and visitors was proposed by Jack Page, surely one of the next generation of great ringers if not one already - he is even a member of BUSCR! Jack found it somewhat difficult to distinguish between members and guests now that the St Martin's Guild has removed its residence qualification for membership and thrown itself open to likeminded ringers everywhere. In an amusing speech he managed to make everyone welcome whilst revealing that he had almost disqualified himself by forgetting to pay his subs before being reminded by certain "Guild heavies".



The response was given by Ian Campbell on behalf of the guests. He recalled his first visit to Birmingham to ring two peals in 1968 and he complemented the Guild on its bells, its ringers, the welcome that it extended to all and the local and national friendships that were cherished by ringers as a result. Ian paid particular tribute to the work being carried out by the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing led by Clare McArdle and made the extremely generous donation of a set of handbells to the School for use in their work. This set had come into his possession wrapped in newspaper dated 1933 as a gift from the family of a former East Riding ringer.

For up to date information and latest calendar use the website <http://www.stmartinsguild.org/>

The bells were then rung to a fantastic touch of Bristol Maximus by Henry Pipe, Alfie Pipe, David Pipe, Jack Page, Michael Wilby, and Alistair Cherry, probably the first time they had been rung to Maximus. Further musical entertainment was provided by James Ramsbottom with Chris Kippin on keyboard in a variety of WW1 songs, reflecting the overall theme of the evening.

Alan Regin then reflected on the work that he had carried out maintaining and updating the Rolls of Honour of ringers who lost their lives in WW1 and read out the names and brief biographies of the former members of the Guild recorded as making the ultimate sacrifice. The rendition of The Last Post on handbells was particularly poignant.

Linda Garton proposed the continued prosperity of the St Martin's Guild in a witty speech where the main action took place in Heaven where there seemed to be a surprising amount of ringing taking place and where God was found musing on how he could be more like Simon Linford. Finally the Guild Master, Simon himself, responded by paying tribute to this year's Chairman for his achievements in ringing over the years, his peals at home and abroad and in particular the great service he had rendered to the Exercise in the painstaking work to research and update the records of those ringers lost in the First World War.



Remembering Nell Mackay – Richard Andrew

17th September 1925 – 26th September 2018

Back in September the Guild lost one of its oldest members when Nell Mackay passed away at the grand age of 93 at her home in Tanworth in Arden.

Nell (she preferred 'Nell' to 'Nellie') was born in the centre of Birmingham and was a Brummie through and through and proud of it. The eldest of five children, she spent much of her time with grandparents as her unmarried mother was in service. At the age of fourteen when the Second World War started, she was adopted by a childless couple who were known to her family and they moved out of the city to Earlswood because of the bombing.

She was keen on gardening and working on the land, so she joined the Land Army, working at farms in Knowle and later Oldberrow near Ullenhall. However, being only slightly built and never very robust, she suffered greatly from the cold and harsh conditions and was invalided out of the Land Army after three years. She was then transferred to work in the city centre on the buses as a conductress.

After the war she took up a position at Singer Sewing Machines based in New Street, initially working as a demonstrator for their machines both in the shop and visiting customers at home, but later transferred to a more suitable position in the service room for customers' orders.

After leaving Singers she worked for a short time at the Reservoir pub in Earlswood, where she met her future husband Malcolm, who was the manager and nearly 30 years her senior. They married in 1955 and moved to a cottage in Wootton Wawen. After six years of marriage they were expecting their first (and only) child, Jayne, but sadly Malcolm died of a heart attack before she was born.

Tanworth in Arden, Warwickshire

St Mary Magdalene

Friday, 2 November 2018 in 44m

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Bridget Osmond
- 2 Rowena Shipley
- 3 Judy Yates
- 4 Alan E Hartley
- 5 Richard Andrew
- 6 David R Ingram
- 7 Stephen Shipley (C)
- 8 Andrew R Pike

In celebration of the life of Nellie (Nel) Mackay, a long-standing member and ringer at this church, who died on 26 September 2018 in her 93rd year.

Unable to stay in the cottage, Nell and Jayne moved to a caravan in Wythall, then a narrowboat moored by the Blue Bell on the Stratford Canal and eventually the council rehoused them in a bungalow in Tanworth in 1964. Over the next few years they had several further moves including a couple of locations close to the Welsh border near Hay on Wye, but were eventually rehoused in 1976 in Tanworth, this time in Aspley Heath, and they have lived there ever since.

During this period, Nell had a varied selection of jobs such as school dinner lady, cleaner and doctor's housekeeper. After taking a shorthand and typing course at Redditch College, she helped to instigate a central filing system for a building company in Stratford, and also worked as a Purchase Ledger Clerk for Halfords.

Nell spent a lot of time laying out the garden at the house at Aspley Heath and was a member of the local gardening club for more than 25 years, once giving a talk to its members. She also passed on her knowledge and skills at painting, pottery and sewing to others in various classes.

Nell was on the PCC at Tanworth church for over nine years and stitched two of the altar kneelers. She was also responsible for the tapestry which now hangs in the upper room of the church, doing the research and design work for this. The squares which make up the tapestry cover a variety of subjects, including scenes

from Tanworth village. Nell stitched many of the squares herself and organised various women in the village to do a number of the other squares.

In October 1982 Nell was a member of the new ringing recruits for the local band who were taught to ring by a group of ringers including members of the St Martin's Guild. Learning to ring was an ambition fulfilled and gave her an immense amount of pleasure. She had in fact enquired about learning to ring 30 years earlier in the 1950s when she was a guest at a wedding, but had been told that "it's not for ladies" so had not been able to follow it up at that stage. Once she had learnt to ring in 1982, she then rang for the next 30 years at Tanworth along with her daughter Jayne who learnt at the same time. She rang in a number of quarter peals as well, both at Tanworth and Wootton Wawen.

In recent years she had not been in the best of health and eventually had to give up ringing in 2015. She passed away on 26th September 2018 and her funeral took place in a packed church at Tanworth on 30th October. The quarter peal in the panel was rung in her memory later that same week.

Thanks go to her daughter Jayne who supplied the tribute, given at the funeral, on which much of this write-up is based.

Stedman at Solihull – *Keith Whitehead*

We've been working on touches of Stedman for some time at St Alphege but needed some assistance to help us progress. So in February, we hosted the X Practice, requesting Stedman Caters. This went pretty well and several of us felt a good deal more confident afterwards. We also volunteered St Alphege for the three month "swap week" trial, so when this was deferred and we were offered a quarter peal prior to our normal practice instead, we jumped at the chance to ring Stedman Triples. This was successful with Linda Whitehead ringing her first quarter peal of Stedman. Most of the non-St Alphege ringers stayed on for our normal practice afterwards, which enhanced the experience for our non-quarter peal ringers too. This assistance was much appreciated and we'll be looking for more opportunities to progress our Stedman. Perhaps a quarter peal of caters next?

Solihull, West Midlands

St Alphege

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 in 46m

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Lucy Gwynne
- 2 Mike Dodson
- 3 Linda M Whitehead
- 4 Clare McArdle
- 5 Keith D Whitehead
- 6 John Gwynne
- 7 Simon J L Linford (C)
- 8 Jen D Hickman

First of Stedman: 3

Brumdingers – *Simon Linford*

The Brumdingers continue to meet every Thursday evening, with up to nine youngsters attending. Their ringing is progressing, although we often dream of a more child-friendly ring of bells. With the help of slightly older Kunal and Rio from Perry Barr, passable rounds on 10 was recently achieved!

We entered Brumdingers for the youth group category in the ART Awards. They were awarded the Runner Up prize, which came with a cheque for £150, to be spent on something that will further the group's progress. Charlie and Orson are pictured with the certificate. A lifetime's supply of Tunnocks caramel wafers has been deemed unacceptable...

The treble stay finally went, having been getting more and more deep set over previous weeks. The final break was however rather dramatic! A new girl had just come for the first time and Charlie and I were demonstrating a bell ringing while the others showed her what was happening upstairs using the model bell. I rang the bell up and set it gingerly - it was even more deep set than usual so I pulled it off and handed it to Charlie to ring full circle. She then went to set it but the stay was clearly not there! Rope shoots off to ceiling, everyone screams and Clare jumps in to explain to parents that this is an unusual situation. Charlie retired hurt.

As the bell was now set at backstroke, Malcolm, Clare and I applied all our strength to heave it back over in one pull to the handstroke, much to the excitement of the large assembled crowd of parents. I then don't know what went through my mind when I went to set the first handstroke and over it went again!

Hopefully the new girl Sue will come again - she was definitely keen, and on only her second ring, when we got her to ring some backstrokes to rounds on the treble, she confidently shouted "Look to, treble's going, she's gone" having only heard it said once.

We need some focus now. The Guild six bell contest and then the Ringing World National Youth Contest are on the horizon, and having entered last year barely able to field a band who could ring unaided, we are hoping for a bit more of an independent performance this year.



Stedman Celebration – Richard Grimmett

Wednesday June 5th marks the 200th anniversary of the first Birmingham peal of Stedman Triples which is only the second true peal to be rung in the method on seven bells. The peal was rung at St Andrew's, Shifnal with the band consisting of six ringers from Birmingham and two from Shifnal. The composer and conductor, Henry Cooper, also came from Birmingham and called the peal from a seat outside the rope circle.

A repeat of this historic occasion will be attempted at St Andrew's, Shifnal (on the original bells in the original tower) on Wednesday 5th June 2019 by a Birmingham band. It is also planned that Birmingham ringers, Shropshire ringers and Stedman Triples-lovers in general will be able to celebrate this anniversary over the weekend of June 8th / 9th.

Until such time as numbers are better understood it will not be possible to publish the exact timetable for the weekend. However peals and quarter peals will take place, as well as an informal social gathering with probably a light buffet on the Saturday evening. The peals and quarters (probably all of Stedman Triples) will focus on giving opportunities to participants. Members who wish to ring their first quarter or peal of Stedman Triples, or call their first quarter or peal of Stedman triples, should make us aware of their interest and we will try to ensure their requests are catered for. For those members who feel they are not yet ready for the elevated heights of Stedman Triples, please fear not - if there is demand then we look to hosting workshop(s) geared towards you. There may also be some exhibition ringing.

Plainly all of this will not be possible without the support of our more experienced ringers, and I hope they will all be able to participate to the full in helping make this a successful weekend for all participants.

To help me out with the planning please send an email to stedman@grimmitt.org indicating your wish to take part, mentioning the type of activities you would particularly like to be involved in, and whether you will come to an evening social on the Saturday.

The 100 Club – Clare McArdle

The latest results are outlined in the table below. Well done to the winners and thanks to all for participating!

January	1	No. 4	David Flint	£45.50
	2	No. 53	Tony Daw	£13.65
	3	No. 89	Brenda Thomson	£4.55
February	1	No. 33	Clare McArdle	£46.00
	2	No. 78	Chris Mills	£13.80
	3	No. 23	Richard Lewis	£4.60
March	1	No. 12	Margaret Burling	£46.00
	2	No. 20	Eleanor Linford	£13.80
	3	No. 18	Margaret Burling	£4.60

Memories of Andy Carr – Sarah Vernon

We lost Andy Carr on 28th January 2019 to an illness that robbed him of his desire for life. Tragically he took his own life in St Laurence Church tower where he had been tower captain since 2011.

Andy was an enthusiastic, welcoming and encouraging tower captain. He built the ringing team from a low base of five in 2011 to a committed and cohesive team of ten plus several learners in 2019. He took the role very seriously and set about improving his own skills to be able to lead ringing and teach learners. He taught many ringers to handle a bell and then move on to change ringing. He volunteered at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing on Saturday mornings. He encouraged visiting ringers from other towers to ring at Northfield at practices and Sundays. He is remembered at both Kings Norton and Selly Oak towers for the help and encouragement he offered when those bands were struggling. He strengthened the Northfield band by involving more ringers in calling changes, methods, running practices and bell maintenance. His infectious personality and sense of humour contributed to the fun and supportive atmosphere in the tower.

Andy celebrated 50 years of ringing in the Summer of 2018 by ringing a quarter peal of Cambridge Royal. In the early part of 2018 Andy announced that this was his ambition. He asked me if I would like to ring in the quarter and we both prepared by joining St Paul's practices to ring Cambridge Royal. We duly rang the quarter peal on August 26th 2018 (please see the 2018 Q3 newsletter article). This achievement meant a lot to Andy and I am proud to have rung with him. The rest of the Northfield ringers also wanted to mark this milestone and show their appreciation for Andy as their tower captain by presenting Andy with a bell shaped "spider" with a commemorative plaque. The spider now graces the ringing chamber – the bell ropes hang from it raised up high out of the way of the public.

Andy spent much of his 50 years ringing providing the Northfield band with a strength and continuity that was invaluable. He also served St Laurence Church in other ways - in the choir, as a handy man, serving communion and as a stalwart of the Church community organising events.

The whole Church community is still mourning his loss. The ringers fondly remember his sayings which include describing the ringing as "tenacious" after a judge's comment about Northfield's performance in a St Martin's Guild striking competition and calling for the band to aim for "75%" - again a reference to striking competition scores. We remember Andy every practice when we use the clip to keep unused bell ropes together out of the way, when we unhook the bell ropes from the bell-shaped spider and when we see his smiling photo on the bell chamber walls. We want to continue what he achieved with a focus on teaching and supporting learners, creating a thriving, friendly band and maintaining close ties with the church. So long, Andy, we miss you and wish you were still with us leading our practices and Sunday ringing, welcoming all comers and making us laugh.



<p>Northfield, West Midlands St Laurence Tuesday, 12 February 2019 in 52m</p> <p>1277 Grandsire Caters Composed by Richard I Allton</p> <p>1 Clare McArdle 2 Simon J L Linford (C) 3 Sarah Vernon 4 Wendy A Haslam 5 Philip M Haslam 6 Andy Clark 7 Catherine R Taylor 8 Stephen W Horton 9 Tony Daw 10 Roger J Lawson</p> <p>Rung half-muffled immediately after the funeral of Andy Carr, Tower Captain, by past and present members of the local band, Guild officers and members</p>	<p>Birmingham, West Midlands St Martin Tuesday, 12 February 2019 (39–1–19 in C)</p> <p>1344 Orion Surprise Maximus</p> <p>1 Clare McArdle 2 Susan J Healy 3 Stephanie J Warboys 4 Mark R Eccleston 5 Arthur J Reeves 6 Luke G Groom 7 John S Warboys (C) 8 Eleanor J Linford 9 Alistair J Cherry 10 Anthony M Daw 11 Simon J L Linford 12 Michael P A Wilby</p> <p>Rung in memory of Andy Carr on the evening of his funeral</p>
<p>Shirley, West Midlands St James the Great Thursday, 14 February 2019 in 41m</p> <p>1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major</p> <p>1 Colin Baugh 2 Gwen Albrow 3 Gill Postill 4 Rowena Shipley 5 Michael Dodson 6 Julie Tarling 7 A J Barnfield 8 Richard Andrew (C)</p> <p>1st in method: 2 Also rung in memory of Andy Carr of Northfield who died recently. Andy was a supporter of surprise practices at Shirley</p>	<p>Wednesbury, West Midlands St Bartholomew Saturday, 23 February 2019 in 3h 2</p> <p>5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal Composed by Richard J Angrave (No. 113)</p> <p>1 Maurice F Edwards 2 Anthea S Edwards 3 Jack E Page 4 Alistair J Cherry 5 Philip A B Saddleton 6 Richard I Allton (C) 7 Colin G Newman 8 Paul Jopp 9 Thomas W Griffiths 10 Gordon R Birks</p> <p>Rung in memory of Andy Carr, Tower Captain of Northfield. Rung on Henry Johnson dinner day</p>

For further performances for Andy, please see: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/memoria.php?id=10399>

For up to date information and latest calendar use the website <http://www.stmartinsguild.org/>

Congratulations to William Mills on his 90th birthday! Rowena Shipley

Following his 90th birthday on 30th January, William and the band from Knowle rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on Saturday 2nd February.

This was particularly creditable as the ringing chamber was icy cold and it steadfastly stayed that way throughout!

William is a loyal and regular member of the Knowle band and climbs the awkward staircase to ring for Sunday services and practices.

After the quarter peal and photos, William, his wife and a dozen other local ringers repaired to a local pub for a celebratory lunch.

Knowle, West Midlands

SS John the Baptist, Lawrence and Anne
Saturday, 2 February 2019 in 44m

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Judith Taylor
- 2 William Mills
- 3 Jill Erskine
- 4 Ruth E Shepherd
- 5 Ann Smart
- 6 Stephen Shipley (C)
- 7 Andrew R Pike
- 8 A J Barnfield

Rung as part of the 90th birthday celebrations for William (2)



What is this ART? *Lesley Belcher (ART Chair)*

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) seems to be one of those “marmite” things. It definitely divides opinion, which has always seemed a bit strange to me because in its simplest form ART boils down to a couple of day courses. Last year ART ran over 60 such courses for almost 600 ringers and there were over 190 accreditations. The numbers speak for themselves – ringers come on the courses and accredit because they want to, not because they have to – and they wouldn't do it if they didn't think it was a good thing to do.

However, I'm being a bit disingenuous, as ART is much more than its courses. Take for example the first few months of the year which are always busy with both the national ART Awards and the ART Conference (both open to all ringing teachers). A great picture of some of the pupils from Colerne School, Wiltshire with their certificate and soon they will be deciding which ringing project they will fund with their £400 prize money.

The ART Conference provides an opportunity for ringers from all over the country to listen to speakers talking about a wide range of topics. Some speakers are well-known (we couldn't go to Worcester without hearing from Mark Regan) whilst others are new to ringing and gave some thought-provoking and sometimes uncomfortable insights. In the words of one delegate: “The ART Conference was a breath of fresh air. A room full of ringers, but enthusiastic ringers, motivated ringers, ringers who want to make ringing better. People who believe it's not just about bell ringing, it's actually about bell ringers. Can't wait for next year!”

So, if you're undecided about ART why not have a look at our website. There's a couple of videos of teachers who've been on our courses explaining why they found them so useful. And have a look at our other schemes, workshops and products. Hopefully you'll find something that interests you.

ART Conference 2019 – *Clare McArdle*

The Guild was well represented at the Association of Ringing (ART) conference, held this year at Worcestershire County Cricket Ground over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd March.

Mark Regan started proceedings off with one of the keynote presentations, entitled “Ringing in Worcester – the Future”, which began by taking us back three centuries to when Worcester's bells replaced a 20cwt 8, realising the vision of one Richard Cattley. Mark ended by asking us to imagine ringers 100 years from now returning – what visions of ours would amaze them?

Later in the day Simon Linford and Clare McArdle presented “LtR Plus and Pickled Eggs”. ART's LtR Plus scheme, to help ringers move on from the basics once they have completed all five levels of Learning the Ropes, has been relaunched and it is now open to anyone. It is a modular scheme guiding learners through a range of methods from Doubles to the Core Seven Pickled Egg methods. The stepping-stones provided by the LtR Plus scheme are designed to help get ringers across the barriers that often prevent them moving from basic skills to advanced skills.

The ART Awards rounded off the proceedings on Saturday. Again the Guild was well represented, not least by Stephanie Warboys, the ART Awards Organiser. Brumdingers were runners up in the Sarah Beacham School & Youth award – Simon now has the difficult task of persuading them not to spend all of the prize



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money on caramel wafers... Tim and Jenny Sunter received a Highly Commended in the Learning the Ropes Contribution award (see photograph).

On Day two, a workgroup day led by the CCCBR Volunteers and Leadership Group, the Guild was represented by James Ramsbottom, one of our CC Reps and a member of the V&L Workgroup. The keynote presentation of the day, "A Vision for the Future of Youth Ringing", was delivered by David Hull.

For a small Guild, we certainly made an impact.

National 12-Bell Striking Competition Eliminator – *Andy Clark*

And finally, well done to the Birmingham team who won their 12-bell eliminator, at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. The test piece was 252 changes of Stedman Cinques. The full results are set out in the table below, with Birmingham pushing home team Bristol into second place.

We look forward to the Summer and the final competition, to be held at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 22nd June. For those who don't know, the tenor at Exeter is 72cwt, so the Birmingham team will certainly need their Weetabix! Best of luck to all involved.

Rank	Team	Rang	Peal Speed
1	Birmingham	2nd	3h54
2	Bristol	6th	3h43
3	St Paul's Cathedral	1st	3h51
4	Chilcompton	4th	3h50
5	Hursley	3rd	3h41
6	Chester	5th	3h43