

The **ALE (Adult Learners Event)** at the end of May was very well supported. It took the form of a local tour, starting at Sheldon, then going on to Solihull, Packwood and finally Rowington.



John and Sue Rogers ringing at Solihull

This provided a great variety of experience, with members enjoying the very good 12 bells of Solihull, coming away from Packwood without having broken anything, and then coping with a long draught chancel crossing ring at Rowington.

There were over 30 ringers in the tower at Solihull, including a good number of experienced ringers who had been asked to help, and there were still 26 left by the end of the evening when the group made its way to the Fleur de Lys in Lawsonford to wind down.



Chancel crossing ringing at Rowington

The Birmingham band in the **National 12 Bell Striking Contest** was finally toppled from top spot after an unbeaten (and unequalled) run of five years. The contest at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, was won by the Ancient Society of College Youths with a score of 91%, with Birmingham coming a close second on 89%.

The Birmingham band's preparation for these contests is focused and extensive, including day trips to far flung towers just to ring for an hour and practice getting up to speed on strange bells as quickly as possible. For instance this year one Saturday saw the whole band driving to Leeds to ring, then across to Liverpool Pier Head, and back.

Ringling Master's Report

Arthur Reeves

In the last newsletter, I reported that the Guild was going to be represented at two striking competitions. I'm pleased to report that at the 10-bell Tewkesbury Shield the Guild came a very creditable second, one up on last year.



The band was, top to bottom:

Phil Ramsbottom

Bill Haynes, Jonathan Healy

Clare McArdle

Laura Davies, Mike Dodson

Simon Linford

Chris Mills, Tony Daw, Arthur Reeves



The test piece was a tricky three courses of Stedman Caters which was called by Bill Haynes.

Then in early July the St Martin's Youths rang in the Ringing World National Youth Contest – but more of that in the next newsletter.

The youths continue to meet monthly and it has been nice to see some new faces recently; as always, there is plenty of room (and cake!) for more! See the notice from the youths elsewhere in this newsletter for an update on what is happening over the summer!

The Guild has begun its focused practices on higher numbers, with two practices at St Martin's and Northfield. The standard of ringing has been very high with a key focus on striking. I would like to thank all the supporters, especially those at St Martin's, for ensuring the practices run so well. Places are deliberately restricted to ensure that those who attend can make the most progress, but I will be continuing to review the practices so please do have a word with me if you are experienced at ringing on 8 and have begun to ring on 10 and would be interested in more focus on ringing on higher numbers. The intention, in the long term, will be to replicate this model for 8 bell ringing.

Finally, I am attempting to visit as many guild towers as I can at their practice nights, as far as work commitments allow. It has been a pleasure to attend practices at Moseley, Selly Oak, Aston and St Paul's over the last few weeks. I hope to be able to meet more of you over the coming months.

RECORD PEAL

The 300th Anniversary of the building of St Philip's Cathedral is seeing many special events and celebrations this year. Amongst them was the following record peal rung by the Guild on Easter Monday.

Birmingham, West Midlands
Cathedral Church of St Philip
Monday, 6 April 2015 in 6h 58m

10082 Avon Delight Maximus Composed by Richard J Angrave

- 1 Paul E Bibilo
- 2 Mark R Eccleston
- 3 Adam A Brady
- 4 Katherine L Town
- 5 Simon J L Linford (C)
- 6 Alban D Forster
- 7 Stephen M Jones
- 8 Graham M Bradshaw
- 9 Paul Needham
- 10 John P Loveless
- 11 Thomas W Griffiths
- 12 Michael P A Wilby

Rung to mark the Tercentenary of the building of St Philip's.
1900th tower bell peal at St Philip's.
Longest peal in the method.

Umpires: John Fielden, John Anderson and Richard Angrave

Avon Delight Maximus is a particularly difficult and 'spiky' method, and ringing it for this long and with the degree of accuracy that was achieved was a stunning performance. Chief judge John Fielden in his report to the Ringing World thought it ranked highly in the list of outstanding peals to date.

The composition was highly musical and not trivial, but some of the trickier courses has been 'road tested' by the band and conductor in a previous peal attempt.

10082 Avon Delight Maximus Composed by Richard J Angrave No. 423					
23456	M		N	W	H
45236				1	1
43256		Y		1	SB
25436	BS	X		S	
54362	S			2	S
2436578ET90	S	Out. 5ths			
234657890ET		4ths.out			S
674523	S		S	S	
643527		Y	S		S
4586273		S8ths		2	
675849302		a			
345627890		b			ZB
34625		X			1
52643	1	Y		1	1
(42536)	2			S	

a = S8ths.S3rds.S5ths.7ths
b = S4ths.S2nds.Out
X = 6ths.Out.7ths
Y = Out.S4ths.S2nds.out
Z = 8ths place bob
43cru's inc. 19 56's & 8 65's;
14xTE09's at the back; 15x90ET's off the front.
298 LB4, 158 LB5, 63 LB6 at the back; 173 LB4,
79 LB5, 32 LB6 off the front (inc. the treble).
Includes TE0987123456, TE0987612345
& 10 leads of mega tittums c.o. TE098765432.]



Left to right: Front row 1-6, back row 7-12

The **Coleshill** ringers put on a very good show to host the May meeting and six bell Striking Contest. Panic had set in amongst the Standing Committee when with two weeks to go it was looking like just two teams, but a later rally of enthusiasm saw a total of 10 teams in the line up. Phil Gay from Keele kindly judged the contest, which saw five teams ringing Call Changes and five teams ringing a method.

The results were as follows:

Team	Drawn	Faults	Overall place	CC placing
Perry Barr	5	26	4	1
Smethwick	3	28	5	2
BSoBR	4	29	6	3
SMY	8	36	9	4
Coleshill	1	39	10	5
Team	Drawn	Faults	Overall place	Method placing
Harborne	9	4.5	1	1
St Paul's	10	7	2	2
Solihull	6	11.5	3	3
Northfield	2	26.5	7	4
Harborne 2	7	26.5	7	4

Congratulations to the 2 winning teams, especially to Perry Barr - first time winners of the Call Change trophy.

Solihull borrowed some equipment from Simon Adams at Taylors and measured the **oddstruckness** of all their bells. All proved to be within 10ms except for the flat 6th, which was adjusted to 2.5 ms. This is something other towers may like to think about as it makes bells easier to ring well.

St Martin's Youths monthly practices for July and August will take a break for the summer. The next practice will be Wednesday September 23rd at St Paul's, from 7.30-9pm (note the slight change of time). **There will be an outing on Thursday July 23rd** – details will be sent to the guild separately but contact the ringing master to express an interest.

Richard Pinnock became the first member since Mark Eccleston to learn to ring in Birmingham and go on to ring a 12 bell peal at Birmingham Cathedral. Richard rang his first on 12, Stedman Cinques, three years after learning to ring on the Summer Camp in 2012. He started going to Bull Ring practices to learn to ring on 12, and it paid off with an excellent effort at the Cathedral.

Birmingham

Cathedral of St Philip
Monday, 18 May 2015 in 3h 24m

5007 Stedman Cinques

Composed by M R Eccleston

- 1 Paul Needham
 - 2 Paul E Bibilo
 - 3 Susan E Marshall
 - 4 Michael P A Wilby (C)
 - 5 Simon J L Linford
 - 6 Richard Pinnock
 - 7 James P Ramsbottom
 - 8 Stephen W Horton
 - 9 Laura M Davies
 - 10 Thomas W Griffiths
 - 11 David M W Threlfall
 - 12 Gordon R Birks
- First on 12: 6

Summer Walking Tour

The Walking Tour was a new venture which was enjoyed by more than 30 members and friends.

Solihull and Moor Street stations were the starting point for most of the walkers, as we caught a train down to Stourbridge Junction for the start, and a short walk to the first tower, the light eight at Old Swinford. After an hour or so's ringing, and a hot drink from the church's coffee morning, the group set off for a few miles walking, as light drizzle started to fall.



Mike and Cynthia Dodson had done a huge amount of work in advance to make sure that everything went smoothly. A couple of alternative routes had been looked at, and the final route had been walked twice before to check the detail.

The weather was no deterrent – determined walkers come equipped for all

weather conditions, although by the time we had climbed over the hills to Clent, there were some quite damp people looking forward to a very welcome lunch!



After lunch and after ringing on the eight at Clent, with methods up to 8 Spliced Surprise Major, we set off again and the heavens opened! So much rain came down that we took shelter underneath anything we could find.

But after the rain came sunshine, and by the time we arrived at the final tower, we were dry, happy, and delighted to ring at this eight bell tower sitting next to Hagley Hall with deer in the fields, a cricket match in progress next to the church, and tea and cake being served in the church.

It had been a very good day out, well organized, well supported, enjoyed by all, and definitely in the calendar again for next year.



**10 Bell Quarter
Peal Programme
Phil Ramsbottom
writes ...**



Since the start of the programme last December we have scored 11 quarter peals out of 14 attempts with a total of 44 ringers taking part, many of whom had not really rung very much on 10 bells if at all. Methods have been Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman caters, Plain Bob and Cambridge Royal. I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has taken part in these and made it all possible this far.

However, we could do with more ringers coming into the programme, particularly those of you who would simply like to ring the treble to Grandsire caters and take those first steps into 10 bell ringing, - it is the very reason this programme exists. A few more experienced helpers would also be greatly appreciated. You are not committing to anything by having your name on the mailing list, you will simply be informed of the fixtures and can put yourself forward if you'd like to ring in any of them.

I look forward to hearing from some of you.
phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk

John and Sue Rogers (Coleshill) went to Holland in April (after making excuses for not attending bell school to Clare). Clare told them about the bells at Dordrecht and they were able to go along to Paul de Kok's "**Klockhus**" in Dordrecht. It so happened that there were some ringers there from Surrey that

weekend (ringing peals), so John and Sue were able to join in with rounds and call changes. And who should also turn up but Richard Andrew!



Birmingham City Council's award winning **Chelsea Flower Show display** has now been re-erected in the Cathedral church yard. It celebrates 300th anniversary of the Cathedral building and is quite stunning. The tower and bells are prominent features. Well worth a detour!



Solihull's tradition of ringing 'date touches' continued with 2015 Grandsire Caters. Date touches provide a challenge in getting exactly the right length, and after a run of years adding a short block of changes onto Plain Bob to achieve this, 2015 allowed Grandsire Caters to be rung.

Solihull, West Midlands
St Alphege
Sunday, 10 May 2015 in 1h 18m

2015 Grandsire Caters

Composed by Don Morrison

- 1 Jen D Hickman
- 2 Richard J Cann
- 3 William G R Davies
- 4 Linda M Whitehead
- 5 Keith D Whitehead
- 6 Malcolm J Paulson
- 7 Jonathan Evans (C)
- 8 Sandra J Cooper
- 9 Michael G Dodson
- 10 Clive Day

For Evensong and to celebrate the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte of Cambridge.
First date touch: 1

Amongst the peal boards at Birmingham Cathedral is one marking two significant 12 bell records that were set in the 1960s, when first the Surprise Maximus record was broken with a peal of 16,368 Cambridge Maximus and then the Stedman Cinques record was taken with a peal of 15,699.



Solihull date touches – the history!

2015 Grandsire Caters

2014 Plain Bob and Aileen's Little Bob

2013 Spliced PB Major and Grandsire Triples

2012 PB Major and Gainsbrough Little Bob

2011 PB Major and Middlesex Little Bob

2010 PB Major and Middlesex Little Bob

2009 Grandsire Doubles

2008 Spliced Little Bob Major and PB Triples

2007 *No record*

2006 PB Major and PB Triples

2005 Stedman and Grandsire Triples

2004 PB Major and Bastow Little Court

2003 PB Major and Kent Little Court

2002 Grandsire Triples

2001 Grandsire Triples

2000 Grandsire Caters

17th May saw the 50th anniversary of the first of those two historic achievements and a peal was rung to mark the occasion, with three members of the original band ringing (John Eisel, Alan Ainsworth and Rick Shallcross). To mark a 50th anniversary of such an attempt with original members conducting and ringing the tenor is pretty impressive!

Birmingham, West Midlands
Cathedral Church of St Philip
Saturday, 16 May 2015 in 3h21
5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by Roderick W Pipe

- 1 Stephanie J Warboys
- 2 Mark R Eccleston
- 3 Michael P A Wilby
- 4 Paul E Bibilo
- 5 Frances Dodds
- 6 Richard B Grimmett
- 7 John C Eisel
- 8 John H Fielden
- 9 J Alan Ainsworth (C)
- 10 Jonathan P Healy
- 11 Paul Needham
- 12 Frederick Shallcross



The **70th anniversary of VE Day** saw a national call for ringing of church bells, with plenty of press coverage. This was one of those occasions when bells were ringing and members of the general public actually knew why!

The following Guild towers rang

Friday 8th May (actual anniversary)
St Martin's

Saturday 9th May 11.00
Boldmere, Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Edgbaston
Erdington Parish, Hampton in Arden
Handsworth (BSoBR band), Harborne, Knowle (QP)
Northfield, Lapworth, Polesworth, St Philip's (QP)
St Paul's, Shirley, Smethwick, Solihull,
Sutton Coldfield

Sunday 10th May
Perry Barr

There was ringing for St George's Day, including this quarter peal at the Cathedral that saw Dan Calvert ring his first Stedman and first on 10.

Birmingham, West Midlands
Cathedral Church of St Philip
Thursday, 23 April 2015 in 53 mins
1275 Stedman Caters
1 Chris Mills
2 Michael G Dodson
3 Tony Daw
4 Daniel T Calvert
5 James P Ramsbottom (C)
6 Clare McArdle
7 Jane F Boyle
8 Steve Horton
9 Simon JL Linford
10 Phil Ramsbottom
Rung for St George's Day
First of Stedman: 4

From **Castle Bromwich** comes some disappointing news – Bill Dargue reports:

Sad to report that the Heritage Lottery Fund committee did not make a grant towards the restoration and augmentation of Castle Bromwich bells for the second time of asking. In two years we've raised half of our target of £100,000 and we were hoping the HLF would help us out with the rest. We await full feedback, but the one-liner was that our application failed to address the community beyond Castle Bromwich. Ah well - after a few pints last night, we'll pick ourselves up and start all over again!

You can read all about us on our website - <http://cbbells.webs.com/> and on Twitter @CastleBromBells

We also sponsor a history website for Castle Brom youngsters -

<http://historyofcastlebromwich.jimdo.com/>.

The marriage of Dan Earthquake and Tamsin Lane was celebrated with a quarter peal at Harborne



Harborne, West Midlands
 St Peter
 Sunday, 14 June 2015
1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
 1 Clare McArdle
 2 Catherine R Taylor (C)
 3 D Rose W Horton
 4 Rebekah GW Horton
 5 Janet A Horton
 6 Arthur J Reeves
 7 Tamsin Lane
 8 Michael Rigby
 First in method: 3
 Congratulating Tamsin Lane and Dan Earthquake on their marriage on 6th June

One of the new students at the ringing school is **Casey McLellan**, an American student who is studying different styles of bellringing around the globe. She will be staying in Birmingham until the end of September and during that time plans to learn as much as possible about English Change Ringing. Already she is enjoying her time in England greatly, and hopes to carry on Full Circle Ringing when she returns home to Miami, Florida.



Jonathan Thorne (St Paul's) rang his first peal of Stedman Triples and then followed it up with his first of Stedman Caters, along with Graham Kelly:

Birmingham, West Midlands
 St Paul, Jewellery Quarter
 Tuesday, 9 June 2015 in 2h55
5069 Stedman Caters
 Composed by M R Eccleston
 1 Christine Mills
 2 Mark R Eccleston (C)
 3 Jonathan Thorne
 4 Alan S Burbidge
 5 Richard L Jones
 6 Graham R Kelly
 7 Alistair J Cherry
 8 Victoria J M Wilby
 9 Paul E Bibilo
 10 Michael Chester
 First on 10: 3, 6.



The following ringers have achieved awards under ITTS and **Learning the Ropes**:

Level 1
 Adam Knight-Markiegi, Casey McLellan

Level 2
 Paul Mobey, Mike Keeble, Eileen Keeble, Sue Rogers, Stella Tew