

### The Bar is raised yet further in the Devilish Field of Triples Conducting

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
St Paul, Jewellery Quarter  
Tuesday, 14 July 2015 in 2h42  
**5040 Spliced Triples** (3m)  
1920 each Carter, Stedman; 1200 Titanic;  
299 com, atw

Composed by [E W Martin](#)

- 1 Alan S Burbidge
- 2 Mark R Eccleston (C)
- 3 Paul E Bibilo
- 4 Jonathan P Healy
- 5 Richard L Jones
- 6 Stephen M Jones
- 7 Richard B Grimmett
- 8 Jonathan Thorne

The first peal of '2s, 4s, 6s, 8s'.

It was in 1990 that the late Eddie Martin, when writing to his friend and co-devotee of Triples ringing, John McDonald, suggested that this fiendish concept might be approached. Eddie had just composed a peal of Titanic Triples with common bobs and singles, the first such composition not needing special calls. He had been enticed to the challenge by Anthony Smith's article in the RW on the principle and by the peal Anthony had produced. In giving his new peal to John, Eddie had remarked "What does occur to me is the fiendish thought that it is possible to splice Titanic, Stedman and Carter's and thus have a 5040 based on 2s, 4s, 6s and 8s. Since you are the only person on this planet that might tackle such a thing is it worth my looking at the possibilities any further?"

Eddie did produce the peal he mooted. I assume it was shortly after his 1990 letter. John did not call it, although a couple of years before he had called a peal of 4s, 6s and 8s (Stedman and Carter's).

However, on Tuesday 14 July at St Paul's, Birmingham, Mark Eccleston, genius of Triples conducting, called Eddie's peal flawlessly and brilliantly and set yet again a new target for the ringing fraternity to espy from afar.



What makes the 2s, 4s, 6s and 8s so difficult is the constant attention and absolute accuracy demanded throughout the whole 5040 changes; not only to call the changes of method (there are 299 of them) but to call at precisely the right time. Changing to Titanic Quick, for instance, and two changes later to Carter 4, and then immediately to Stedman slow does not permit any margin of error! And the number of calls, at 830, (420 bobs and 410 singles) allows no time for relaxation.

The peal contains 1920 rows of Stedman, 1920 of Carter's and 1200 Titanic and is an exact ten part. It was immensely satisfying to ring and stands as a tribute to Eddie. Very often in the past composers have produced work they believed would never be realised (for example John Carter believed Scientific Triples would never be rung) and from what has been said above Eddie clearly thought his 2s, 4s, 6s and 8s had a slim chance, but it is so good to see it accomplished now and by such an impeccably talented and gentlemanly conductor as Mark.

ASB 15 July 2015

## **Ringling Master's Report Arthur Reeves**



I always like it when a plan begins to bear fruit, so I am very excited to report on a project which a number of Guild members have been busily working on. You may be aware that the University of Birmingham has opened up a new school in Selly Oak, down the road from Selly Oak church. What is particularly unique about this new state school is that the school has dedicated enrichment slots within the school day. Having already struck up a working relationship with some of the staff at the school, I discussed with them the possibility of forming a ringing club on a Friday enrichment slot.

So, on the very first two days of starting secondary school, 125 new Year 7 students took part in a ringing induction session. They experienced ringing up the tower with a session run by Clare McArdle, Simon Linford, Andrew Else and Phil Ramsbottom; change ringing on handbells led by Chris Mills and Andy Carr; and a presentation by Stef Warboys to bring all of their experiences together.



Our initial group of 10 students has started and although it is early days we are very excited by the whole project. A huge thanks to all those

who are supporting the project each week and to the Selly Oak band for hosting us each week. We have had a start-up donation to get us going, so a public thanks to the Guild member who has enabled us to get started. More news to come in the near future!

In other news, the focused practices on higher numbers have continued with practices at St Paul's and Aston. The range of methods rung has been kept deliberately narrow so we can focus on our striking. I will be reviewing these practices in the New Year to ensure we are reaching the right balance between meeting the high level of striking and accuracy achieved at the practices whilst ensuring those who will benefit from being involved are gaining most.

Youth news will be reported elsewhere, but I am grateful to Gillian Eastwood who will join myself and Tom Horton in organising youth practices and activities. Between the three of us we will strive to ensure that we can offer a more developed range of opportunities to our young ringers.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to ring with the Sutton Coldfield ringers at their practice night recently, as well as joining Sunday service ringing at King's Norton, Knowle and St Paul's. My aim over the next year or so is to get out and visit all Guild towers and as many members as possible.

## The St Martin's Youths

Eight young ringers represented the Guild at the **National Youth Striking Competition** on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> in Oxford. Grace Blick, Bethan Pinnock, Ian Wharton, Jason D'Arcy, Richard Pinnock, Tom Horton, Rio Peynado and Sam Locock rang confidently, producing a solid piece of ringing. Ably conducted by Richard, the band rang some very nice Whittingtons and Queens in rounds and call changes and were awarded a "Grade C" – a solid result.

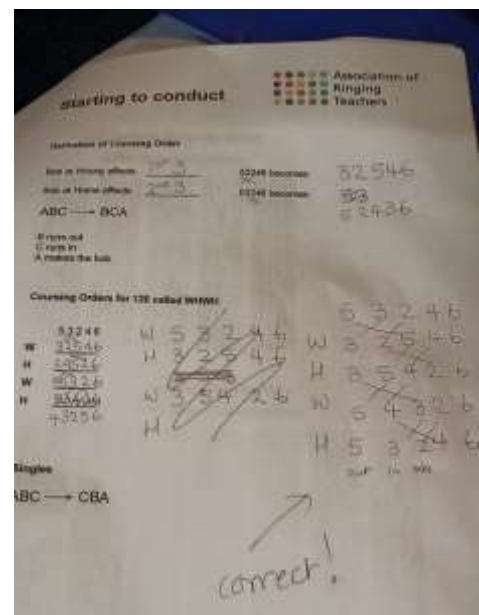
However, the team enjoyed more than just the competition. They were able to ring on the 12 at Christ Church Cathedral, at St Mary Magdalen and Lincoln College as well as taking part in a "handbell workshop" to learn the basics of ringing handbells. Final congratulations to Tom Horton, who won the treasure hunt (with a little help from his sister and mother!). A great day was had by all.

Practices have resumed after our summer break, during which we enjoyed an outing to Boldmere and Aston in July. Using public transport, we enjoyed Frisbee and a picnic lunch at Sutton Coldfield park in between ringing, which included Grandsire Triples with a (mainly!) young band. Our first practice for the term was in September, which was well supported. Gillian Eastwood is coming on board to help us develop the opportunities we can offer to the young ringers in the Guild. Our next practice is being moved forward, due to half term, so will be on Wednesday 21st October at

St Paul's from 7.30pm-9pm (note change of time) – please get in touch with the Ringing Master if you or any young ringers you know might be interested in joining us.

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July 5th saw Simon Linford run an **"Introduction to conducting"** course at St Paul's. The course, written by Simon to support the developing curriculum of the Association of Ringing Teachers, was designed to induct those new to conducting. The aim was for everybody to leave being able to conduct two courses of Plain Bob Minor, but the course did much more than that. Simon taught us the theory of coursing orders with attempts to apply these in practice, with the intention of using coursing orders to correct mistakes. The course was very well planned and structured, to the extent that the helpers – including one who has conducted peals of Stedman Triples – went home feeling they'd learnt something new!



## Terence Ralph Hampton

Terry was born in Birmingham in 1928, not far from the church of St Michael, Boldmere, and it was here that he learnt to ring. When the ban on wartime ringing was lifted in 1943 many of the pre-war ringers had been called up to serve in the armed forces. So a call was made by the vicar, Canon Brown, for boys (no mention of girls in those days!) to come forward to be trained as bell ringers. This resulted in about twenty lads, many from Children's Church including Terry, turning up to see what ringing was all about. Tuition started under the supervision of William (Bill) Anker and George Swan, both experienced ringers from Erdington Parish Church. After a few weeks the numbers dwindled to about a dozen boys who subsequently provided the nucleus of the band of ringers who rang at Boldmere for VE Day and post war. Terry learnt to ring very quickly and was soon elected tower captain.



The team of ringers that learnt to ring at Boldmere in 1943 with the vicar. Terry is standing on the vicar's left and Dennis Clive, who still rings at Aldridge, is front left."

Terry's first peal was Stedman Triples on an inside bell in November 1945 conducted by his tutor, George Swan. His second peal, one of Stedman Caters, followed soon after. Most of his early peals were in sporadic bursts suggesting that he was away from Birmingham for long periods, probably doing national service. In 1948 he came to the attention of George Fearn, Ringing Master at Birmingham Cathedral and a prolific peal ringer and organiser. From then on he was a regular member of the Thursday night peal band at Birmingham Cathedral, the Monday night band at Bishop Ryder's church and was often attempting two peals a week.

He went on to ring more than 1100 peals, all on tower bells, none of which he conducted, which was rather surprising for one who had been tower captain and called many quarter peals.

Terry was prominent in the Guild, becoming Secretary in 1971, Central Council representative in 1975 and a Life Vice President in 1989. He rang in two National 12 Bell Contests for the Guild and the team finished in first place on both occasions. He is therefore one of the few people with a 100% success record in this event.

Terry was not keen to talk about his work with Dunlop Tyres. He did attend most of the Formula One races and we understood that he had something to do with assessing the tyre wear after a race and it was assumed that his work was commercially confidential. He

retired from Dunlop in 1983 and in 1986 he and Ann moved to Devon where he became an active member of the St Brannock Society.

He died on 4 August 2015 and the funeral took place at Dewsbury Moor Crematorium on Thursday 13th August 2015. He leaves his wife Ann, a son Paul, daughter-in-law Maggie, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

John Anderson with assistance from Dennis Clive, Mark Eccleston, David Reeves and David Willis

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
Cathedral Church of St Philip  
Monday, 24 August 2015 in 3h 21m

**5016 Stedman Cinques**  
Composed by [W. R. Haynes](#)

- 1 David J Baverstock
  - 2 Eleanor J Linford
  - 3 Arthur J Reeves
  - 4 Susan E Marshall
  - 5 Mark R Eccleston
  - 6 Jonathan Thorne
  - 7 Jack P Gunning
  - 8 Stephen W Horton
  - 9 Andrew J Rawlinson
  - 10 William R Haynes (C)
  - 11 Michael P A Wilby
  - 12 Gordon R Birks
- Rung in memory of Terry R. Hampton

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The **Surprise Major practices** held over the summer were a great success. The practices were held on Wednesday evenings at Edgbaston, which is the night that BUSCR would practice if it wasn't the summer holiday. In a change from last year, the six practices were progressive, with the first couple of weeks

consisting mostly of single methods with some 'simple' spliced, but then adding in more difficult single methods and increasing the proportion of spliced. An average of 16 people attended each week. We are looking at adding future such practices when BUSCR are not practicing.

**Dan Calvert**, student at Aston University has returned for his second year having joined the ranks of peal ringers over the summer holidays, having rung his first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major. He has also now been elected as Master of BUSCR (see his report later in this issue.)

**Smethwick** ringers were delighted to have a return visit recently from **Sister Maureen CSF** who used to live in a house belonging to the order in Gillott Road. Maureen was moved to another house situated in Lincolnshire about 5 years ago. She has been able to keep ringing, and has now rung nearly a 100 quarters.

And Rebekah Horton conducted her first QP:

**Smethwick**, West Midlands  
Old Church  
Thursday, 13 August 2015

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Janet A Horton
  - 2 Matthew Turley
  - 3 Rebekah G W Horton (C)
  - 4 D Rose W Horton
  - 5 Stephen W Horton
  - 6 Thomas M W Horton
- Celebrating Rebekah's 23rd birthday and the 10th anniversary of her first quarter peal.  
1st as conductor: 3



## **Owen Cawser 1929 – 2015, RIP**

In September 1996, the St Alphege Guild of Ringers issued a general invitation, via the Parish Magazine, for funds to cover the cost of installation of a new flat 6th bell to produce a true musical octave when ringing bells 2 to 9.

The appeal was successful and the bell was cast on 5th December at Taylors Bellfoundry, Loughborough. It was delivered to Church and blessed in the presence of ringers and donors during the 9.15 service on Mothering Sunday, March 9th 1997.

Following the service, the bell hanger installed the new bell in a vacant pit in the bell frame following the re-positioning of the ladder up to the base of the spire above.

After a dedication service on 19th April, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was successfully accomplished.

The major donor towards the cost of this bell was the Cawser family (Owen, May and their three daughters). It was with some sadness that we learned of Owen's death on 16th June this year. He was the son of Ted Cawser, a renowned Midlands Peal ringer. His funeral was on Tuesday 30th June attended by Clive Day, Richard Cann and Will Davies representing the Guild of Ringers.

A successful, half muffled, quarter peal was rung at Solihull prior to evensong, on Sunday 12th July, in thanksgiving for his life and generosity.

**Richard Cann, Solihull**

**Solihull**, West Midlands

St Alphege

Sunday, 12 July 2015 in 43m

**1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Triona M Jowett
- 2 Linda M Whitehead
- 3 Keith D Whitehead
- 4 Michael G Dodson
- 5 Richard J Cann (C)
- 6 Clive Day

Rung half-muffled in thanksgiving for the lives of Owen Cawser (1929-2015), joint donor of our flat 6th bell with May, his wife, and their three daughters and Reg Elliott (1934-2015), lifelong cycling enthusiast and friend of 2 and 3.

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**Ro and Steve Shipley's Ruby Wedding** was marked with a quarter peal:

**Knowle**, West Midlands

SS John the Baptist, Lawrence and Anne  
Sunday, 27 September 2015 in 41 mins  
(9-3-7)

**1260 Stedman Triples**

- 1 Rowena Shipley
- 2 Rebecca Drysdale
- 3 Halisi Drysdale
- 4 Judy Yates
- 5 Ann Smart
- 6 A J Barnfield
- 7 Stephen Shipley (C)
- 8 Karen Shipley

For Harvest Festival evening service and to mark the Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Rowena and Stephen. Also remembering Pte George Linden, former chorister at Knowle, 2nd Battalion in the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), killed in action at the Battle of Loos on 28 September 1915, aged 23.

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



The 10 quarter peal programme is proving to be as popular as ever and during the last three months there have been a few “firsts” to report, namely;

- Rose Horton – first of Stedman Caters
- Angie Wakefield – first of Grandsire Caters and Little Bob Royal
- James Stanton – first of Little Bob Royal and Kent Royal

and this is in addition to the many others involved who are able to get more practice at 10 bell ringing.

The programme is open to any Guild member who would like to take their first steps up to ten bell ringing, either on a “one off” or a regular basis. Entry level is ringing the treble to Plain Bob or Grandsire Caters so if you feel you’d like to give it a go, then please do get in touch via [phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk](mailto:phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk) “

**Revd Anne Hollingshurst** has been appointed Suffragen Bishop of Aston.



The ringers at **Aston** are starting to get ready for next year’s hosting of the National 12 Bell Striking Contest Final with works to the ringing chamber. The walls have been re-whitewashed, and a complete re-wiring is about to start to remove all old extraneous cables and install new lighting.

The **handbell ringers at St Chad’s** have had a relatively quiet three months, but made up for it with this quiet performance:

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
RC Cathedral of St Chad (The Ullathorne Room)  
Thursday, 24 September 2015 in 2h 16m  
**5040 Stedman Triples**  
[Composed by A S Burbidge](#)  
1–2 Paul E Bibilo  
3–4 Charles A S Webb  
5–6 Mark R Eccleston  
7–8 Alan S Burbidge  
10 part (238 calls)  
Rung silent and non conducted



A happy practice at Perry Barr, with regular visitors

Notable performances at Birmingham Cathedral in the last three months included Jonathan Thorne's first peal on 12, and a welcome return to the Cathedral of 'Cyclic Spliced'.

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
Cathedral Church of St Philip  
Monday, 20 July 2015 in 3h 29m

**5057 Stedman Cinques**

Arranged by [Richard Grimmett](#)

- 1 Mark R Eccleston
  - 2 Eleanor J Linford
  - 3 Paul McNutt
  - 4 Michael P A Wilby
  - 5 Richard B Grimmett (C)
  - 6 Jonathan Thorne
  - 7 Jack P Gunning
  - 8 Stephen M Jones
  - 9 Dickon R Love
  - 10 Paul E Bibilo
  - 11 Paul Needham
  - 12 Gordon R Birks
- First on twelve : 6

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
Cathedral Church of St Philip  
Monday, 14 September 2015 in 3h 25m

**5016 Spliced Maximus**

6m : 1056 each Ariel S, Phobos S, Zanussi S,  
880 Maypole A, 792 Deimos A, 176 Slinky  
Differential Little TP. 109 com, atw

Composed by David J Pipe

- 1 Paul E Bibilo
  - 2 Mark R Eccleston
  - 3 Paul Jopp
  - 4 Dickon R Love
  - 5 Christian M Peckham
  - 6 Jack P Gunning
  - 7 Paul McNutt
  - 8 Simon J L Linford (C)
  - 9 James P Ramsbottom
  - 10 Colin M Lee
  - 11 Thomas W Griffiths
  - 12 Michael P A Wilby
- First Spliced Maximus: 6  
First Cyclic 6: 4, 9

Ringling at **Nether Whitacre** has continued despite everyone's issue of falling numbers to be able to just about ring for all services and for once we have not missed a practice all year (Quentin Howell writes). We have also managed to ring a local quarter peal after a hiatus of a few years and had Julie manage a peal for herself.

**Nether Whitacre**, St Giles  
Wednesday, 2 September 2015 in 44min

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 John Rogers
  - 2 Hazel Fellows
  - 3 Julie Tarling
  - 4 Ian D Thompson
  - 5 Quentin D Howell (C)
  - 6 Richard Dale
- Rung to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the VJ treaty on this day in 1945 and the release of local man, James Whiskens of the 5th Battalion of Bedfordshire and Herefordshire regiment, who was captured in the fall of Singapore on 15th February 1942

**Nether Whitacre**, St Giles  
Saturday, 25 July 2015 in 2h 47m

**5040 Minor**

2M: 4 extents Plain Bob, 3 extents Cambridge S.

- 1 Ian D Thompson
  - 2 Geoffrey W Randall
  - 3 Stephen W Horton
  - 4 Julie A Tarling
  - 5 Simon P Rogers
  - 6 Michael Chester (C)
- First Peal: 4.



The **Sutton outing** went to St Andrew's Rugby (where there is an 8 in one tower and a 5 in the other!), Clifton on Dunsmore, Brinklow and Monks Kirby.

Here at least Gillian listens carefully to Paul McEvilly!



Meanwhile **Boldmere and Erdington Parish** had a joint outing in July by minibus around Worcestershire, visiting Salwarpe, Barbourne, Grimley and Hallow. The trip was organized by Ed Laughton, with Debbie Jenkins at the wheel.



The ringers at Grimley



VE Day ringing at Sutton

**Casey McLellan** has left us to return home to America but sent the following note of appreciation:

“When I first decided to come to England from America for three months on a mission to learn as much about bell ringing as possible, I had no idea where I would end up. I am very thankful I made my home base in Birmingham and did the majority of my practical learning there.

I arrived in Birmingham shortly after 3 am on Saturday, June 27th and started lessons at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing just seven hours later. I was highly impressed with the instruction and resources that the school offers. All of the tutors and helpers who worked with me gave insightful comments and constructive criticism as soon as it was needed. During the weeks I stayed in Birmingham, I found a well organized practice night in the area for every night of the week. I was also able to meet the members of the youth team and join them for a day of ringing in Oxford which was a great trip. All of these

opportunities to ring with skilled ringers gave me the practice and experience I needed to prepare for my first two quarter peals, rung at St. Paul's during my final two weeks.

But the most important thing I found in Birmingham was the welcoming, friendly, and supportive atmosphere everywhere I went to ring. My favorite memories are of tagging along for Sunday service ringing in the city towers followed by handbells and lunch in the pub. I knew I was in the company of highly talented ringers as well as wonderfully generous and friendly people.

From my experiences these past three months, I think Birmingham is a fantastic place to learn to ring, and I encourage all keen learners to take full advantage of the numerous resources available.



## **BUSCR News**

It's a new academic year for BUSCR and with it, a new batch of freshers! Firstly, I'd like to welcome all the new members of BUSCR to Birmingham and hopefully they will support BUSCR over the years.

As an incentive to recruit more freshers and especially those that are complete beginners, we hired the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry and set it up for the University of Birmingham Fresher's fair. Impressively 4 students managed to be at the University by 7:30! It took 3 hours to set the contraption up. By 11:00, we were ready to welcome freshers into the wonderful world of change ringing!

We had a lot of interest and many freshers had a go on the bells! We just hoped that we had done enough to encourage people along to our practices on Wednesday evenings! Thank you to the following members of the SMG: Jane Boyle, Mark Eccleston, Catherine Taylor, Matt King and Clare McArdle.

BUSCR were also represented at Birmingham City University's Fresher's Fair. With no mobile belfry, getting people interested was harder, but there was some interest at BCU. Many thanks for Simon Linford for organising this.

The plans for the term until Christmas (only 11 weeks away!) will be to help the new freshers and the current members to progress in change ringing in whatever direction that may be. One big change to the practice night is the

introduction of a handbell and learner practice, which will start at 19:00, with the main BUSCR practice starting at 19:30. Arthur Reeves has kindly organised a tower grab in order to welcome the freshers to the ringing in Birmingham outside BUSCR.

To conclude, I would like to thank the students, the alumni of BUSCR and the local ringers who support BUSCR and who have made BUSCR what it is today – a great bell ringing society to progress change ringing!

### Daniel Calvert. Master of BUSCR.

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

#### Level 1

Casey McLellan  
Gillian Cottam

#### Level 2

Casey McLellan  
Adam Knight-Markiegi

#### Level 3 LTR

Casey McLellan

**Sophie Keeble** rang her first quarter peal:

### Harborne, West Midlands

St Peter

Sunday, 19 July 2015

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Sophie Keeble  
2 Rebekah GW Horton  
3 Tracy Stevens  
4 Stephen W Horton  
5 Michael Rigby  
6 Clare McArdle (C)

First quarter peal at first attempt: 1

29 July was a special day for some members of the **Harborne herd**. After 3 days of sheep spotting in London and Bristol their herding instincts brought them to Barrow Gurney in Somerset. There they rang a quarter peal. Nothing noteworthy about that..... maybe..... Somehow, the planets in the solar system had aligned just right and it turned out to be the 100th quarter peal for Tracy and Rose and 120th for Tamsin.

### Barrow Gurney, Somerset

BVM and St Edward King and Martyr

Wednesday, 29 July 2015 (11–0–19 in F#)

### 1320 Shaun The Sheep Treble Place Minor

1 Christine Andrew  
2 Tracy Stevens  
3 D Rose W Horton  
4 Clare McArdle  
5 Tamsin Lane  
6 Francesca L Cinderey (C)  
100th quarter peal: Tracy Stevens and Rose Horton. 120th quarter peal: Tamsin Lane Rung after completing the "Shaun in the City Challenge" - 120 Shauns in London and Bristol.

Baarilliant experience - congratewelations to all.

