

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Paul's bells

The St Paul's Jewellery Quarter band dinner, held on 28<sup>th</sup> November was an extra special occasion because it marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the ring of 10 that have become such an important ring of bells to the St Martin's Guild.

More recent members of the Guild may not conceive of a time when St Paul's did not exist, but it was a bold proposal from Richard Grimmett, then Master of the Guild, that led to the creation of the ring of bells, the school room and teaching facilities.

St Paul's Church was built in 1776, though the spire was not completed until 1823. It was intended for the tower to have a peal of bells, but the money was not forthcoming and the tower remained empty save for an hour bell and two small quarter-bells for the clock.

In 2005 the Guild celebrated its 250th anniversary.

To mark the event and to ensure the continued

prosperity of bell ringing in Birmingham, a joint project between the Church and the Guild was launched to install a ring of ten bells and to found a school to train future generations of bell ringers.

"The Voice of St Paul's" was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham on Friday 25th November 2005, and the first peal on the bells was rung that day.



At the dinner, which was held at Opus restaurant, Richard Jones presented Richard Grimmett was presented with a print of a watercolour of St Paul's tower in appreciation for his vision and effort in carrying through the project which has now been of benefit to so many. Earlier that day a peal was rung on the bells, the 139<sup>th</sup> since the bells were installed.

**Birmingham (St Paul)**, West Midlands  
Saturday, 28 November 2015 in 3h 1m  
**5039 Grandsire Caters**  
Composed by R W Pipe  
1 Christine Mills  
2 Richard B Grimmett (C)  
3 Angela D Wakefield  
4 Richard L Jones  
5 Victoria J M Wilby  
6 Frances Dodds  
7 Graham R Kelly  
8 James P Ramsbottom  
9 Anthony M Daw  
10 Jonathan Thorne

To mark the 10th anniversary of the installation of a ring of bells in this tower. Rung by Sunday service ringers from the St Paul's Society, on their annual dinner day.



## October ALE

The latest **Adult Learners Event** or ALE followed in the footsteps of previous events, with 25 ringers enjoying three different towers. Quite a few of the attendees had been at the School in the morning.

The first port of call was St Editha's Tamworth, a wonderful medium-weight ring of 10. Of particular interest was the Abel-based simulator they have in the ringing chamber which is complete with the latest innovation of projecting video of the other ringers on a screen. It was noted that the style of the ringers on the projected screen was not as good as we aim for at the School!

We then went on to the ring of eight at Shenstone, before going on to the final tower at St Luke's Cannock, which is where Guild Master Simon Linford learned to ring when his father was Rector.

Before ringing at Cannock, Simon took the party to the local Wetherspoons which is called "The Linford Arms". This was originally Simon's Uncle Charles' hardware shop and timber merchants, now converted into a much more profitable establishment!

The next ALE will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, again in the afternoon after School.

## Ringling Master's Report

### Arthur Reeves

You'll be pleased to hear this will be a short report, since I've covered it all recently in the AGM report previously sent round!

The main news reported at the AGM covered the higher numbers enhanced practices. These will continue, with a focus on introducing more ringers to 10 bell ringing as well as developing our skills with more complicated methods. Do get in touch if you feel this might be something for you. The criteria is competence on 8 bells.

The Selly Oak school project has started its second term. We are now exploring ways to encourage the students to ring elsewhere, so hopefully we will see the fruits of our labour coming together soon! Gillian and I report on the St Martin's Youths below.

Finally, it remains my intention to ring at all Guild towers throughout my tenure. In my first year, I've managed 13 despite a slowdown in the



later part of the year. Most recently, I enjoyed joining the Solihull practice. I look forward to ringing with as many of you as possible over the next year!

**Mid-week practices** – this is a new innovation which started in November. Roy Followell from Coleshill originally asked whether there could be any daytime practices for those retired or otherwise free during the day, and wanting to develop their ringing. They are now regular events always happening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month and running from 10.30 to 12, followed by lunch for those able to stay. St Mary's Moseley is going to be a regular venue, but with alternatives when bells are not available. At the second practice at Perry Barr, there were 24 ringers present, with touches including Cambridge Major and Stedman Triples, although the main focus will remain on more entry-level eight bell ringing.

The news from **Sutton Coldfield** is that because of a major re-ordering of the church which has been 10 years in planning, the whole church including the tower is now closed and in the hands of building contractors. It will become a building site and out of bounds until all work is completed and the church returned to the PCC and Rector probably not until September.

So, sadly, this means that there will be no ringing in 2016 until the works are completed later in the year.

## The St Martin's Youths Gillian Eastwood

There are some really exciting plans for our St Martin's Youths this year, with a wider range of opportunities available for the young ringers



in our Guild than ever before. I have now taken over the Wednesday night monthly practices, open to all young ringers in the Guild, which will have a renewed focus on method

ringing (first focus for January: Plain Bob Doubles). The Guild will be organising a series of focused workshops and quarter peals designed for young people, where fewer youths will be invited to ring a focus method with adult helpers. This will go alongside what we have always offered regarding outings, including a joint Worcester, Gloucester and Birmingham outing in the Easter and the youth Striking competition in London on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We are proud to report that two of our young ringers rang their first quarter peals recently – Rio Peynado and Rachel Deakin. Both put in credible performances ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles.



Rachel Deakin (centre) with supporting cast of Jennifer Deakin, Gillian Eastwood, William Regan, Paul Bibilo, and Arthur Reeves (lens man)



Rio Peynado (right) with supporting cast of Ian Wharton, Arthur, Gill, Thomas Horton, and Paul

The Youths enjoyed an outing in December organised by the Worcester ringers where we rang at Tewkesbury Abbey and Worcester Cathedral – read the recent Ringing World for the full report!

Finally, any young ringers (Under 21's) who want to do some more ringing with other young ringers should get in touch with Arthur or me and will be added to the mailing list.

35 members attended the **October meeting** which was excellently hosted by Knowle. Earlier in the afternoon there had been two 'workshops' to give focused tuition in a couple of areas of demand. Firstly Arthur Reeves ran an entry-level 7 and 8 bell ringing workshop at Knowle, where plenty of Plain Hunting, Bob Triples and Bob Major enabled participants to get more confidence in ringing above six, particularly some members who are coming to the end of the School programme and are looking to move on.

Concurrently at **Barston**, Simon Linford ran a workshop on ringing up and down in peal, a process acknowledged by all participants before, during, and after two hours practice as being very difficult! We were pleased to see three of the Barston local ringers there, and great progress was made.

At the meeting we remembered Life Vice President Terry Hampton, and also Gordon Lane, who died the day before the meeting.

### **Gordon Lane** **By Roy Followell**

Gordon was born in 1930 in Lea Marston, just outside Coleshill. He left school at 13 after his father died. In 1952 he founded the Kingsbury Handbell Ringers which are still going strong today and renowned everywhere.

Gordon was a talented engineer, having run an agricultural engineering business. This skill

was applied to various bell projects. He played a key part in taking out the old eight bells and wooden frame at Coleshill (which were, until 1977, hung anti-clockwise) and their replacement and augmentation into 10 in a new steel frame for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. He also took the bells out of Kingsbury tower and fitted the steel frame to his own design, so if you ring there think of Gordon because that is all his work. I believe he even made the blue spiral stairs up to the ringing room.

I first met Gordon in the summer of 1988 when I went up to Coleshill tower where I was introduced to him and he asked me if I would like to have a go. He sort of looked after me and taught me to ring. I was taught well and now I have time and am trying to build on that.

Though not actually a Guild member, Gordon was tower captain at Kingsbury for many years and was a great friend to St Martin's Guild despite being more actively involved with the Midland Counties Guild.

A great ringer and a great engineer. RIP.



A peal at Birmingham Cathedral was dedicated to Gordon's memory:

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
Cathedral Church of St Philip  
Monday, 19 October 2015 in 3h29  
**5088 Bristol Surprise Maximus**  
[Composed by M R Eccleston](#)  
1 Dickon R Love  
2 Mark R Eccleston (C)  
3 Paul E Bibilo  
4 Susan E Marshall  
5 Jack E Page  
6 Jack P Gunning  
7 Gwen Rogers  
8 James P Ramsbottom  
9 John P Loveless  
10 Laura M Davies  
11 Philip Rogers  
12 Gordon R Birks  
Rung in memory of Gordon Lane.

**James Ramsbottom** achieved one of the peal ringing goals he set himself at the start of the year, which was to call a peal on handbells. This being Birmingham, it has to be Stedman Triples!

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
RC Cathedral of St Chad  
Thursday, 10 December 2015 in 2h 15m  
**5040 Stedman Triples**  
[Composed by A S Burbidge](#)  
1–2 James P Ramsbottom (C)  
3–4 Charles A S Webb  
5–6 Mark R Eccleston  
7–8 Alan S Burbidge  
First handbell peal as conductor

Meanwhile **Jack Page**, new recruit at BUSCR, slipped into the local handbell scene with his first of Stedman Triples:

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
RC Cathedral of St Chad  
Thursday, 15 October 2015 in 2h 16m  
**5040 Stedman Triples**  
[Composed by Andrew Johnson](#)  
1–2 Jack E Page  
3–4 Charles A S Webb  
5–6 Alistair J Cherry  
7–8 Alan S Burbidge (C)  
First of Stedman Triples 1-2

Young **Henry Pipe** continues to impress with his ringing progress. Grandson of the late Rod Pipe, Henry came up to Birmingham in December and became the youngest person to ring a peal of Orion.

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
Cathedral Church of St Philip  
Monday, 21 December 2015 in 3h25  
**5088 Orion Surprise Maximus**  
[Composed by A G Reading \(No.2\)](#)  
1 Stephanie J Warboys  
2 Mark R Eccleston  
3 Henry J W Pipe  
4 David J Pipe (C)  
5 Dickon R Love  
6 Graham M Bradshaw  
7 James P Ramsbottom  
8 Gordon R Birks  
9 Jonathan P Healy  
10 Paul E Bibilo  
11 Simon J L Linford  
12 Michael P A Wilby  
First Orion (aged 12): 3  
100th on this bell: 2  
Congratulations to Hannah and Kevin Taylor on their recent marriage.

(Hannah is Michael Wilby's sister)

And two regular attendees of St Paul's practices made progress in Spliced Surprise Major:

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
 St Paul, Jewellery Quarter  
 Tuesday, 8 December 2015 in 2h 56m  
**5184 Spliced Surprise Major**  
 768 Bristol, London, Rutland. 576 Cambridge, Lincolnshire. Pudsey, Superlative, Yorkshire. 144 com.  
 Composed by Norman Smith  
 1 Chris Mills  
 2 Richard L Jones  
 3 Jack E Page  
 4 Graham R Kelly  
 5 Jack P Gunning  
 6 James P Ramsbottom  
 7 Michael P R H Woolley  
 8 Richard B Grimmett (C)  
 First of spliced : 4. First of 8 spliced : 7.

caters. Whilst there were a few inevitable loses, 16 quarter peals have been scored in total, in a range of methods: These were:

Stedman Caters	4
Cambridge Royal	2
Plain Bob Royal	1
Plain Bob Caters	3
Little Bob Royal	1
Grandsire Caters	3
Erin Caters	1
Kent Royal	1

Quite a few "firsts" in all this of which the significant ones are:

**10 Bell Quarter Peal Programme Review of the Year Phil Ramsbottom writes ...**



It had long been thought that something needed to be done within the Guild to introduce ringers to elementary 10 bell ringing as well as provide more opportunities for those who can ring on 10 but lack regular practice. The Guild provides very well for ringing up to spliced surprise major and high stuff on 12, - but not much in between.

The first quarter peal in the programme was at Aston in December 2014, and we finished off the first full year with a quarter at St. Martins in December - both of these were Stedman

- 1st on 10 – Tom Horton, Matthew King, Angie Wakefield
- 1st on 10 inside – Rebekah Horton, Angie Wakefield
- 1st of royal inside – Malcolm Paulson
- 1st of PB caters inside – Julie Winterbourne, James Stanton
- 1st of Little Bob inside – Angie Wakefield, James Stanton
- 1st of Treble Bob on 10 - Rose Horton
- 1st of Grandsire Caters inside – James Stanton, Gillian Eastwood, Daniel Calvert, Angie Wakefield, Matthew King
- 1st of Stedman Caters – Malcolm Paulson, Gillian Eastwood, Rose Horton, Angie Wakefield, Matthew King
- 1st of Kent Royal - James Stanton
- 1st Grandsire Caters as cond. – Arthur Reeves
- 1st PB Caters as cond - Catherine Taylor

The Erin Caters also had quite a few firsts but no one was quite sure how many!

As was the plan, the quarter peals have also provided plenty of experience for ringers who can ring on 10, but may not necessarily get much practice.

Please do get in touch if you would like to be included on the emailing list for these fixtures. The programme needs ringers who are keen to break into 10 bell ringing, (trebling to Grandsire or Plain Bob caters is the entry level), ringers who would like to gain more experience on 10, and a few high flyers would also come in handy from time to time.

*phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk* “

**Birmingham Cathedral** always has a heavy programme of services over the Christmas period and places heavy demands on ringers, with many services during the day and early evening. Secretary Gill Postill co-ordinates ringers for all these additional services and for every service except Christmas Day, when the City centre's ringers are shared between four towers, all 12 bells were rung and a good standard was maintained. To give a flavour, the total list was

Sun 29th Nov Grand re-opening service after the restoration work, 11am **15**

Mon 7th Dec. Santa Lucia service. 6pm **13**.

Sun 13th Dec Welcome to Bishop of Aston 3.30 **13**

Mon 14th Dec Tercentenary Carol Service 5.40 **12**

Wed 16th Dec Chaplaincy Carol service 5.40 **14**

Mon 21st Dec BBC WM Carol Service. 1.00 **14**

Wed 23rd Dec Nine lessons and carols. 5.00 **13**

The two quarter peal machines, **Harborne and Knowle**, both chalked up 11 quarter peals during the period, mostly for evensong.

At Knowle, firsts included:

Keith Whitehead – Stedman Triples

Julie Terling – Grandsire Triples

with quarters also remembering five local residents who died in 1915 in the Great War

At Harborne, firsts were:

Eileen Keeble – first quarter

Mike Keeble – first quarter and first tenor cover

Catherine Pinnock – first treble bob

Jenny Sunter – first cover

Tim Sunter, first quarter and first tenor cover

Christine Barnell – first minor inside

Tim, Jenny, Mike and Eileen have all achieved their first quarters after attending the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing.



## BUSCR News

### Dan Calvert writes ...

To introduce new BUSCR members to ringing outside Edgbaston, BUSCR had a trip into the city centre towers, ringing at St Chad's RC Cathedral, St Paul's and St Philip's Cathedral. The afternoon was eventful and I think everyone who attended the ringing enjoyed it. Many thanks to the local ringers supporting this trip, especially Arthur Reeves who organised it.

BUSCR were represented by 3 members at last year's NUA (Northern Universities Association), hosted by Leeds University Society. The group rang at Burley, Skipton, Keighley, Bingley, Saltaire (Striking competition, where a joint BUSCR and NUSCR (Nottingham) band rang some Bingley Delight Minor!), Guiseley, Calverley, Leeds RC Cath and Leeds Minster. The highlight of the weekend was the ceilidh. Hopefully, we will have more members representing BUSCR this year in Sheffield.

A week after the NUA, 8 current BUSCR undergraduates rang a peal of Plain Bob Major. This is believed to be the first undergraduate peal for BUSCR and shows how good the current band is.

Congratulations to Hannah Bristow for ringing her first peal and to Jenny Robertson, for her first peal on 8. There are plans for a peal of Stedman Triples with the same band before the end of the academic year!

### Edgbaston, West Midlands

St Bartholomew

Friday, 20 November 2015 in 2h58 (

### 5184 Plain Bob Major

Composed by Donald F Morrison (2806)

1 Jack E Page

2 Jenny G Robertson

3 Tobias B Dando

4 Hannah M Bristow

5 Daniel T Calvert

6 Laura M Davies

7 Alistair J Cherry (C)

8 Michael PRH Woolley

First peal: 4 First on 8: 2

Rung by a band of current undergraduate students.



The **61st BUSCR dinner** will be held at the Highfield, Edgbaston (near St George's, Edgbaston). Date: Saturday 5th March 2016. Time: 1830 for 1900. Please contact me or Hannah Bristow for more information and to buy tickets.

We will soon be having our AGM, so this might be the last newsletter paragraph I write, depending on the votes at the AGM. I am also pleased to announce that Edgbaston has a full set of stays! Hopefully the stays remain there for a long time!

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

Level 1

Kara Larson (St Anne's Moseley)

Jonas Munoz (BUSCR)

Martin Tallett (Aston)

Level 3

Mike Keeble (Harborne)

Jenny Sunter (Smethwick)

Tim Sunter (Smethwick)

Level 4

Christine Barnell (Harborne)

Level 5

Catherine Pinnock (Harborne)

And finally, **Harborne** tower set new standards for Christmas decoration with a tree that filled most of the rope circle.



Forget baubles and gift wrapped mini chocolate bars, this tree had bell wheels ropes and ringing diagrams!

