

Olympic Torch ringing. The morning after the night before (RWNYC previous day) 20 ringers turned out to ring at St Philip's Cathedral (0600) and then St Martin's (0616) as the Olympic Torch relay passed by. Ringing at both towers was mentioned on the BBC website. The torch then made its way to Solihull where its passage down the High Street and past St Alphege's was also accompanied by bells.

The day after Usain Bolt thanked Birmingham for hosting the Jamaican Olympic team, praise was heaped on the Birmingham organizers of the **Ringing World National Youth Contest**, in articles in the RW. James Forster (St Martin's) wrote the feature article.

One of the Guild's senior members, **Ray Aldington**, passed away on 25th September after a long illness. Ray served as Ringing Master at St Nicolas, Kings Norton for 42 years. Ray was elected a Life Member of the Guild at the last Standing Committee meeting in recognition of his long service to his tower. A peal will be rung in his

memory, and a plaque to mark Ray's long service as Ringing Master is due to be erected in the tower at Kings Norton.

10 members of the **St Martin's Youths** had a July outing to Kingsbury and Nether Whitacre, welcoming George, Craig and Andy (all learning at Kingsbury) for the first time. An energetic game of Frisbee at half time was more than the Frisbee could take, and it retired injured.



The noticeboard at Nether Whitacre sported a **QR Code**, which enabled smartphone users on the St Martin's Youths outing to go straight to the tower website. Is this the first tower to have a QR Code made available?

The inaugural **Summer Camp** was a great success. It set out to teach a group of young ringers from scratch in a week, and achieved that. Five came from the Birmingham cathedral choir, two from Perry Barr, one from Harborne, and the group were joined by other young learners from Harborne and Solihull. Teaching and other activities were at St Paul's and Harborne, following the ITTS "Learning the Ropes" scheme. Friday and Saturday saw other members of the St Martin's Youths join the new ringers for outings to Worcester, Hanbury and Dodderhill.



Course Director was Arthur Reeves. Tutors were Clare McArdle, Simon Linford, Andy Carr and Tony Daw, supported by James Forster, Chris Mills and Tracy Stevens.

Ultimately success of the Summer Camp will be retention, and this will be the focus of the organizing group over the next few months. There is no doubt

that the Camp has further strengthened the St Martin's Youths.

The following ringers have achieved ITTS scheme awards:

Learning the Ropes

Level 1

Richard Pinnock (Harborne)

Luke Bentley (Perry Barr)

Miles Stockton (Harborne)

Level 2

Jason D'Arcy (Harborne)

Rose Horton (Harborne)

Tawana Machiridza (Perry Barr)

Ian Wharton (Perry Barr)



ITTS accreditation

Module 1

Arthur Reeves (City)

Angie Dunsmith (Kings Norton)

Module 2

Tracy Stevens (Harborne)

Mentors:

Tony Daw (City)

Simon Linford (St Martin's)

The **Solihull ringers** have been pursuing a quest to ring at as many Churches with Alphege connections as they can during this Millennium year of his death. In June they had an outing which included Deerhurst (where St Alphege began his ecclesiastical career), All Saints Weston (where St Alphege was born), and then onto Bath Abbey and its St Alphege Chapel (where he was appointed Abbott).



The **Summer Social** comprised a Barbecue and Barn Dance at Moseley. About 65 members and friends attended, with catering from the Harborne Catering Crew, and beer by kind (eventual) permission of the churchwardens!

Castle Bromwich have done well with their recruitment process this year. After putting notices around the Church, and talking to people at Church events, they recruited five new ringers to help replace some who have moved off to

University. The majority of the ringers are aged 13-17.

With so many learners, progress hasn't been the fastest it could have been however all the recruits are now ringing by themselves, and will soon be moving onto ringing in rounds and call changes. They may even be able to compete in the youth competition next year!

Adam Brady has returned to Birmingham University following a year off. Adam was an active supporter of BUSCR and SMG activities and is welcomed back.

The installation of the new ring of 10 bells at **Moseley** started on 17th September and will take four weeks. It is hoped that practices and Sunday Service ringing will start again shortly. The picture shows the bells at the Foundry two days prior to their arrival in Moseley for installation.



Matthew King has taken over as Tower Captain at Perry Barr. At 20 years old Matthew is one of the youngest Tower Captains in the Guild. Mary Bradley has stood down after more years of service than she was able to remember. Perry Barr are now ringing regularly for Sunday Service.

A quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung at **Knowle** "to congratulate Stephen and Mark Shipley on cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End and Rowena Shipley who joined them at Chester, raising over £3,700 (to date) for Prostate Action and Marie Curie Cancer Care."

Around the same time **Richard Lewis** (Harborne) conquered Kilimanjaro (with a broken foot) in July. He and his son Matthew were raising money for Myton Hospice.

At **St Martin's** plans are afoot to re-order the **pealboards** in the ringing chamber and to move two notable ones (the 1881 long length and the 1887 Law Courts peal) downstairs to keep the 1758 board company. There under the tower there will also be a board giving brief details of the bells and the ringing tradition, making a point of interest to members of the public and of course to visiting ringers. Upstairs the famous

1820 board will be given a more satisfactory setting, and another objective of this scheme is to make room in the ringing chamber for commemorating certain peals since 1993 and in the future. More on this in the next issue.

With the same idea of bringing our ringing heritage to the notice of the public, a plaque commemorating the **first peal rung in Birmingham** is due to be placed in St Philip's Cathedral inside the church on the north wall of the tower. Richard Jones, who is coordinating the funding (to which the Guild and the St Philip's band are making substantial contributions), has had close involvement in this project and still hopes it will be completed by the end of the year.

The Guild now carries **Public Liability Insurance**, covering paid up members. Most Guilds and Associations carry this now, and the teaching of young ringers on the Summer Camp was the catalyst for our Guild getting cover in place. The cost is around £1.50 per member, which may well cause the Treasurer to be recommending an increase in subscriptions at the AGM.

Tamsin Lane (Harborne) has given birth to a baby girl called Max, who arrived at 8lb 6oz. Congratulations to Tamsin and Dan.

A band representing the St Martin's Guild entered the **Worthington Trophy** 10 bell striking contest at the end of September. The band was placed thus:

- 1 Chris Mills (Sutton)
- 2 Susan Healy (City)
- 3 Adam Brady (BUSCR)
- 4 Matt Hardy (Edgbaston)
- 5 Fran Dodds (Moseley)
- 6 Gordon Birks (St Philip's)
- 7 Tony Daw (City)
- 8 Michael Wilby (City)
- 9 Simon Linford (St Martin's)
- 10 James Forster (St Martin's)

The ringers of **St Barnabas Erdington** are still frustrated by the lack of news over when they will be able to ring their bells again. The church was almost destroyed by an arson attack in 2007, and although the restoration will be complete by the end of this year, no access has been gained to the tower since works began. Hopefully though, ringing may be possible early next year.

Chris Mills (Sutton) rang a peal at St Paul's Jewellery Quarter to mark the 50th anniversary of her first peal, causing

many to marvel at how young she must have been when she learned!

The **Society of Royal Cumberland Youths** held its triennial dinner at Birmingham's Council House in September. The dinner was attended by over 100 people including the following SMG members of the Cumberlands: Clare McArdle and Chris Mills (pictured), Janet Horton, Paul Mills (NRLM), and Life Members Maurice and Margaret Edwards. The Guild Master also managed to sneak in.



John Warboys (St Martin's) composed and conducted a peal of the Standard 41 Surprise Minor at the Cathedral which was special in being the shortest ever "all the work" (every bell rings every place bell of every method) peal of the 41. This is a particular compositional quest of John's. The significance of this achievement is beyond the scope of this newsletter, but was reported in the Ringing World.

Birmingham was well represented at the opening of the new ring of 12 bells at **Loughborough Bell Foundry** in the grand tradition of invited bands opening new rings of bells. A Birmingham band (with the odd import) delivered a scintillating course of Bristol Maximus to a large and highly appreciative audience.

The **Guild Training Day** was a great success. 13 students and about 20 helpers were spread across three towers, and much progress was made. Clare McArdle and Tracy Stevens took Rounds, Call Changes and Foundation Skills at Harborne, Tony Daw took Call Changes to Plain Hunt at St Paul's,



while Simon Linford's group at Northfield went from Bob Doubles through Bob Minor and beyond. More similar training events are now being planned for next year so the 'Training Day' will no longer just be an annual event.

Thomas Horton (Smethwick) has rung his first quarter peal inside – PB Doubles at Harborne.

The **BUSCR summer camping trip** to Shropshire was organised by Emily Tamhne. The group rang at 10 towers over the weekend and had some brilliant weather and a successful trip.



Now all the students are back for the new term, practices have restarted at Edgbaston. Ruth and Fran had a stall at the Societies Fair resulting in several new members, both experienced ringers and complete beginners. Events are currently being organised to welcome them to Birmingham.

The **58th BUSCR Dinner** will be held on 26th January 2013 at the Edgbaston Palace Hotel.

A number of members have had **personal peal ringing achievements.**

These include:

- Emily Tamhne (Edgbaston)
 - 1st Surprise Major inside
- Eleanor Linford (St Martin's)
 - 1st all ladies peal at St Paul's Cathedral
- Louis Suggett (BUSCR)
 - 41 Minor in hand
- Jack Gunning (Harborne)
 - 1st peal of 8 Spliced Major



Forthcoming events:

- 20 Oct – Guild practice Aston
- 10 Nov – start of Quarter Peal Week
- 17 Nov – Guild practice Harborne
- 15 Dec – Adult Learners Outing and
Guild Practice Wolverhampton*
- 5 Jan – St Martin's Youths outing
- 26 Jan – 58th BUSCR Dinner
- 23 Feb – 125th Henry Johnson Dinner

Towers have been put after ringers' names in order to give those who do not know everyone more of an idea of who is who and where. Some people ring at many towers, so this is just giving a general picture. Please don't get annoyed if you think other towers you ring at should be credited!