

Editor's Foreword – Andy Clark

Welcome! A few weeks ago, I was concerned there wouldn't be enough to fill a newsletter this time. It turned out I was wrong, and the inbox went into overdrive! I hope you find something of interest in this edition. As ever, thanks to all the contributors for this edition. The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice the new logo!

Ringling Master's Report – Arthur Reeves

Spring is certainly the month for striking contests. In May, two Birmingham based bands competed at the highly competitive Tewkesbury Shield striking contest. Huge congratulations to the St Paul's band who came second, with some superb ringing. The Guild band had some very positive comments (including that we'd rung some of the best changes of the day). Unfortunately, this wasn't sustained throughout and we came fourth. This seems to be becoming a pattern for both teams now, as this mirrored our exact placings from last year! The Guild 6-bell striking contest, also in May, saw eight teams compete against one another. St Martin's pipped St Paul's to victory, as did Eileen Keeble in the exceptionally popular cake contest!



In more recent weeks, the Birmingham band was successful at the 12-bell contest in Cambridge winning for an impressive 24th time out of 44 competitions (write-up to follow in the next newsletter). This really is testament to the dedication that this team has towards practicing and competing. It is pleasing also to reflect that most Guild members would recognise many, if not all, of those competing in the 12-bell. Part of the reason the St Martin's Guild is so successful, and can offer so many high-level opportunities, is because the more experienced ringers are more than prepared to support others with their ringing.

The Brumdingers were treated to a day in London in early July. The team were all awarded medals for competing in the competition, and had special mention as being the youngest band ever to compete. Supported by some of the older St Martin's Youths, the young ringers enjoyed ringing at several towers in London as well as eating plenty of ice cream whilst watching England beat Sweden at the Quarter Finals!

The last few months have continued to be busy with focused practices, many of which have been organised by Phil Ramsbottom and Jonathan Townsend. Phil, with Tony Daw, organised a theory workshop which proved particularly popular (and not only for the beer!). I think there is potential here for future sessions focusing on theory. Clare has also been co-ordinating a Module 1 course to continue building up the experience of tutors equipped to teach bell handling.

One slight negative has been a lack of attendance at 8-bell focus practices. Two practices have seen less than eight ringers turning out, which clearly cannot continue. I also said I would not continue things which were not working, as these clearly are not. Yet only a few months back, attendance attracted on average over 20 ringers. Is it held at the wrong time? Are people nervous by the marketed methods? Was it run poorly? Practices will be on hold over the summer and we will reflect on where the needs and wants of members are. In the meantime, please give feedback – either to me or Simon.

Things will quieten down slightly over the summer, so enjoy the weather (I hope in writing this I haven't jinxed anything!) and I look forward to seeing many of you around over the next few months.

Workshops & 10 / 12-Bell Ringing – Phil Ramsbottom & Jonathan Townsend



10 / 12-Bell Events

On Tuesday 24th April, ringers from across the Guild met at St Martin's ready for a quarter peal of Little Bob Maximus. An easy method was chosen to help make 12-bell ringing accessible for ringers who were either returning to ringing after a break of several years or new to ringing on higher numbers. Although not of the highest quality, the ringing demonstrated that 12-bell ringing can be achieved, practiced and improved by many ringers. Thanks to all who supported the event, with two 'firsts' being scored.

The May event was a specific Cambridge Royal and Stedman Caters practice for the benefit of four of those attending; one of whom has since scored their first quarter on 10 bells (well done Marianne), and another has a quarter arranged in August (good luck Andy!).

On Tuesday 26th June, the Guild welcomed two visitors to ring their 'firsts' at Aston. Both ringers are keen to become involved further with the Guild and we look forward to seeing them at future events.

As always, our grateful thanks go out to all the helpers who turn out to help and support these events and without whom we wouldn't get very far at all.

<p>Birmingham, West Midlands St Martin Tuesday, 24 April 2018 (39–1–19 in C)</p> <p>1320 Little Bob Maximus</p> <p>1 Jack E Page (C) 2 Helen R Jarvis 3 Susannah A Moore 4 Graham R Kelly 5 Julie A Tarling 6 Richard J Andrew 7 George R Harrison 8 Robin A Daw 9 Timothy M Martin 10 Phil Ramsbottom 11 Jonathan B Townsend 12 Anthony M Daw</p> <p>First of Maximus: 3, 7</p>	<p>Aston, West Midlands SS Peter and Paul Tuesday, 26 June 2018 in 51m (24–2–18 in D)</p> <p>1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal</p> <p>1 Phil Ramsbottom 2 Richard Andrew 3 Janet Horton 4 Heather E Griffiths 5 Marianne Fisher 6 Daniel Calvert 7 James P Ramsbottom (C) 8 Jonathan B Townsend 9 Tony Daw 10 Michael Wilby</p> <p>First Surprise Royal: 4 First Royal: 5</p>
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Workshops

April was a doubles-themed workshop which not only saw our students getting to grips with St Simon's and St Martin's (without learning blue lines), but also ringing them in spliced with bobs thrown in for good measure! What also became apparent during the evening was the need for some basic theory work on method structure and the terminology we use in ringing. This gave us an idea!

Sadly the May workshop was cancelled at very short notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

Following on from the April workshop, the June event was held in an environment totally alien to most ringers - a pub! The Wellington, to be precise. In terms of attendance, it was by far the best attended workshop ever. For any such future events we'll be having bouncers on the door to prevent overcrowding! Tony did a fabulous job demonstrating how methods are constructed, starting with plain hunt and place notation. Much terminology was explained such as lead ends, half leads, reverse methods and double methods and detailed answers given to the many questions from those attending. A very worthwhile evening and one which we will be repeating in the future.

Peal Report – *Mark Eccleston*

13 successful peals were rung for the St Martin's Guild between April and June 2018.

A 'Project Pickled Egg' (PPE) method, Lessness, was rung at Harborne on the 100th anniversary of the death of Private William Henry Keys who had rung a number of peals at Harborne, including the first by a local band in 1906:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1227452>

Jack Page called Noonan's fiendishly difficult one-part composition of Stedman Triples on the back eight at St Philip's. He followed this, a few weeks later, by calling Lancashire's 10-part Stedman Triples, a composition which contains no more than two consecutive calls:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1228081>

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1231040>

There have been a couple of handbell peals of Stedman Triples, rung by the St Chad's band:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1229311>

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1233097>

A peal of Bristol Major was rung at Castle Bromwich to celebrate the birth of Prince Louis of Cambridge. And a peal of London Major was rung at Knowle the following week:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1229665>

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1230227>

The 'Standard 41' surprise minor methods were rung in a peal at Honiley:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1230734>

Chris Mills achieved her 400th peal for the Guild with a peal of Bristol Major at Edgbaston; and she also marked a special birthday (more details later in the newsletter!) by scoring a peal of Stedman Triples with a St Paul's Sunday service band (this was also Alistair Cherry's first Stedman Triples as conductor):

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1232130>
<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1235753>

The St Philip's Monday night band scored a peal of 3-spliced Maximus, rung to celebrate the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1232828>

A 14-bell peal was rung at St Martin's in May, Stedman Sextuples, which included seven 'firsts'. A further attempt to ring a 14-bell peal in June was thwarted by traffic. The band meeting short decided to ring a peal of Bristol Maximus instead!

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1233810>
<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1236973>

Edgbaston, West Midlands

St Bartholomew

Friday, 18 May 2018 in 2h 48 (10–0–14 in G)

5088 Bristol Surprise Major
Composed by A G Reading

- 1 Christine Mills
- 2 Stephanie J Warboys
- 3 Graham R Kelly
- 4 James P Ramsbottom
- 5 Jack E Page (C)
- 6 Stephen W Horton
- 7 Mark R Eccleston
- 8 Alistair J Cherry

400th peal for the Saint Martin's Guild: 1

Ringling Remembers – *James Ramsbottom*

Most items in the Guild Newsletter tend to look back at the previous few months, but this one looks forward. It is about a very exciting national project called 'Ringling Remembers'. In case you've not heard about it before, it is a campaign to teach 1,400 new ringers by 11th November 2018; that number chosen as 1,400 ringers fell in the First World War.

Although I had heard of the project several months ago, it was not until I went to the Lancaster Central Council AGM that I realised just how big the drive was behind this project and just how far it had already come. The project has already found 700 ringers, but that still leaves another 700 to be found. This is where you can help – and it's surprisingly easy.

Any ringer who started learning or returned to ringing in August 2017 or later (yes, that's last year) can be counted as one of the 1,400. So the St Martin's Guild already has eligible people through the BSoBR, and I hope several others in towers around the Guild as well. All that needs to be done is register on the Ringling Remembers website, which can be found here: <https://a100.cccbr.org.uk/> The register button is in the top right-hand corner of the home page. It really is simple!

If you yourself are a new or returning ringer, or you know someone who is, then please help support this fantastic project. In November this year, bells across the World will ring to mark 100 years since the end of the Great War. It will be great to have so many new ringers joining in, and continuing to ring into the future.

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

St Alphege Bellringers Outing 2018 – Sand Cooper and Gillian Stead

Saturday 12th May dawned bright and sunny, with 20 bellringers having met in the OBH car park eagerly anticipating this year's outing to North Shropshire.

Imagine our surprise when a 35-seater coach turned up; two sizes bigger than the 20 seater mini bus we'd expected? With some very narrow streets to negotiate around Whitchurch and even a road unsuitable for heavy vehicles later in the day, Gillian and I had some quiet concerns. We needn't have worried though as our skilled drivers managed to get us exactly where we wanted to go! And we'd booked the weather too with a day of sunshine, staying dry all day. In fact we'd decided to adopt a May outing date in the hope of fine weather and to make the best of the longer days.



Whitchurch was our first tower and perhaps not as easy going as we'd expected. The tenor rang as though it were much heavier than it actually was but a good start was made to the day in what is the prettiest of market towns. From there it was off into the Shropshire countryside - next stop Prees. Lovely little six, with bells that were incredibly loud when the ringing room door was open. Not sure how the ringers manage there in the winter as the ringing room has a small window with no glass and only a wooden, badly fitted, door to it. They must freeze in cold weather!

Hodnet came next. We enjoyed this ring of eight, probably one of the best rings of the day in the only octagonal tower in the county and strangely no windows at all in the ringing room. It was rather like ringing in a cell. We arrived on time here only to find an overrunning band from Derbyshire. They rather cheekily

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rang a final touch, well after their finish time, despite us having arrived and waiting. We felt rather smug though to find that they had wanted to ring at Whitchurch but had been disappointed because we'd booked first and the tower only allows one visiting band a day. Well done Gillian, and now we all know why the bookings and the pre-visits happen so well in advance! We lunched at the Bear in Hodnett, with a super buffet followed by the organiser's gift to the band of Harry and Megan decorated cup cakes. Now, this was the Saturday before the big wedding. Imagine our relief when the wedding date was finally announced and we found it was the week after the outing. Goodness knows what re-arrangements might have been required had Harry and Megan decided to book our outing date!

On to Stanton on Hine Heath. The tiniest of villages, probably never before visited by a coach and yet, here, two turned up at once! Yes, the Derbyshire band had made it before us but fortunately they'd finished ringing this time. A beautiful village church and beautiful graveyard perfect for the team photo stop and with an obliging local ringer to take the photo we were all captured together. The coach couldn't get close to the church here. We always knew there would be a short walk but the farmyard animals that had been wandering around the road outside on our pre-visits were at least locked up this time. Word must have got round that the 'townies' were on the way!

And onto the six at Shawbury. Well this was an interesting tower, unlike Prees, and it was an absolute necessity to have the ringing door open to have any chance of hearing the bells at all. But that wasn't the odd thing about the tower. There always has to be a novelty tower on any outing and this was certainly it. Having got most of the band into the ringing room, we were told by the lady letting us in, that the floor of the ringing room could only take seven people at a time. So having cleared half the band out, back downstairs, what ensued was a relay of bands being prepped below, running up the short staircase to enter the ringing room as the ringing stopped and the previous band making a sharp exit back down. We managed to all have a good ring and fortunately, the band joined in the fun of being corralled by the font, waiting for the next ring. Thankfully the ringing room is open to the church so we didn't feel too disconnected.

From Shawbury, we made our way to Edgmond and the Lamb Inn for dinner. After five towers, we were ready for this pit stop before the short drive to the final church. A lovely eight and a ground floor ring so perfect for the end of the day. Felt by most of the band to be the best ring of the day, we managed to end on a real high. Here, we encouraged our 6' 5" coach driver to come and take a look. He was fascinated having seen nothing like it before. A colleague from the same coach company was also accompanying her first bellringers' outing that day and it would seem the two of them had been texting to compare notes. Our man seemed genuinely interested so we may even see him show his face in Solihull on the promise of showing him the bells and giving him a quick go. But at 6'5" I have to admit if he wants to learn to ring we'll be happy for him to learn at his own local tower as we've had our own challenges with tall learners!

So off home after a great day of fun, making good time despite a closed motorway and a trip quite literally all the way round a roundabout. Our band of weary ringers were already asking about next year and speculating as to where we might be going. They all know really - Gillian will be calling the shots and won't be letting the cat out of the bag until the arrangements are well under way...

Thanks to the band and our regular visitors for all their support.

Chris Mills' Milestone Birthday!

On Saturday 16th June, the St Paul's Sunday service band rang a peal of Stedman Triples to celebrate Chris Mills' 75th birthday. Well done to Chris on this milestone and well done to Alistair for calling his first peal of Stedman Triples. The photograph of Chris was taken shortly after the peal, as the band gathered in the Wellington for some post-ringing refreshment!

Birmingham, West Midlands

St Paul

Saturday, 16 June 2018 in 2h 45 (12–2–13 in F#)

5040 Stedman Triples

Composed by John Carter

- 1 Christine Mills
- 2 Richard L Jones
- 3 Frances Dodds
- 4 Jack P Gunning
- 5 Graham R Kelly
- 6 James P Ramsbottom
- 7 Alistair J Cherry (C)
- 8 Jonathan M P Thorne

Rung by a Sunday service band as a compliment to Chris Mills on the day of her 75th birthday

First peal of Stedman Triples as conductor



Central Council Meeting Weekend in Lancaster – *Richard Andrew (CC Rep for St Martin's Guild)*

This year's Central Council meeting weekend, held at Lancaster University over the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend from 26th to 28th May, had a rather different format from previous weekends. Instead of being based round a headquarters hotel with the main Council meeting being held on the bank holiday Monday, this time it was based in and around the campus of Lancaster University with the main Council meeting being split across two days. James Ramsbottom and I drove up to Lancaster on the Saturday morning, to attend the various meetings and other events happening across the weekend.

There were some extra ringing attractions to be found around the campus, such as the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry, and in another location the Carter Ringing Machine together with the Woodhouse Ringing Machine, which I had not seen before. These were being expertly maintained by Bill Purvis, the Steward of the Carter Ringing Machine, who was with us at the Henry Johnson Dinner back in February. For those who,

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like me, have not seen the Woodhouse Ringing Machine before, it rings methods up to a maximum of 8-bells rather than the 12 available on the Carter machine, but it is also capable of splicing methods together as well to a greater extent than the Carter machine.

The AGM of The Ringing World Ltd was held early on Sunday afternoon and was chaired by the Ringing World Chairman, Nigel Orchard. He thanked the Ringing World staff for their efforts, in particular Robert Lewis and Will Bosworth for continuing to produce a high-quality publication on a weekly basis. Regarding the future of the Ringing World, he did say that the Board were looking into the possibility of changing the frequency of publication from weekly to fortnightly in order to cut costs and also hopefully attract new subscribers. However, the Board would give at least 12 months' notice of any change to fortnightly publication if the decision was taken to do this. Nigel concluded by saying that as several key long-serving members of the Board, including himself, were keen to stand down soon, he would be interested to hear from anyone with the time, skills, commitment and new ideas to help carry the company forward.

The first session of the main Council meeting was held late on the Sunday afternoon in order to proceed through the mostly routine admin part of the meeting agenda. This included a report from Alan Regin, the Steward of the Rolls of Honour, who said that 112 new names were to be added to the Rolls very soon. Alan received a round of applause from the meeting for his MBE, awarded 'For services to Campanology and its Heritage'. There was also a report from the Stewards of the Dove Database, who informed us that they have successfully completed the move of the on-line Dove database to the BellBoard website, where it should now be on a more secure and reliable platform. They are also working on producing an updated printed version of Dove, as it is now six years since the last one was produced.

The remainder of the meeting, including the important decisions to be made on the main motion covering the proposed changes to the Council, was held on the Monday. Clyde Whittaker, who has been the coordinator of the team preparing the new Rules, introduced the Transition Motion which proposed the adoption of the Revised Rules and Standing Orders and went into great detail explaining their potential benefits. He thanked the Ringing World for publishing several articles about these and said that about 30 (mostly senior) Council members had responded with about 500 individual recommendations which had all been considered and fed into the rule revision process.

In the general discussion which followed, concerns were raised regarding the proposed Transition Motion and an amendment was proposed that the Council should refer the Revised Rules, Standing Orders and other provisions of the Transition Motion for consideration by an independent review group with a view to presenting provisions for adoption at next year's Council meeting. After substantial discussion by the meeting, with views expressed on both sides of the argument, this amendment was voted down and the original Transition Motion was then put to the vote, requiring a two-thirds majority in order to be passed. As 137 out of 162 members present voted for the motion, the two-thirds majority was comfortably exceeded.

This means that all the Revised Rules and Standing Orders have now taken effect and the new Council organisation is being put in place. Whereas the old Council structure basically consisted of about 15 committees with six officers and an Administrative Committee overseeing the organisation, the new structure will now consist of five Workgroups initially, overseen by an Executive board of eight trustees, four of whom are the main current Council officers (President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer).

In summary, the five new Workgroups and their principal areas of activity are as follows:

Volunteer & Leadership Workgroup	This group's remit will cover providing support to bell ringers to create and develop for themselves the teams, knowledge, resources and skills to enable ringing to flourish. It will bring together some of the activities previously covered by the Education and Ringing Centres Committees and will aim to offer and promote new approaches in priority areas such as Youth, Leadership and Recruitment
Historical & Archive Workgroup	This group will bring together the activities previously covered by the Libraries and Biographies Committees and also the Stewards of the Rolls of Honour and Ringing Machines. It will also work in conjunction with the Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup with reference to Peal Records
Communications & Marketing Workgroup	This group will basically cover the area of Public Relations including encouraging the growth and public appreciation of bell ringing and fostering the recruitment and retention of ringers
Stewardship & Management Workgroup	This group will aim to support ringers, the owners of bells, and other interested parties in all matters relating to the care of bells, ringers and those who visit bell towers (for example, belfry maintenance, bell restoration and tower stewardship)
Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup	This group will aim to build on the work previously carried out by the Council's former technical committees – Methods, Compositions, Information & Communications Technology, Dove Stewards and Peal Records (working in conjunction with the Historical & Archive Workgroup in connection with Peal Records). It will ensure that authoritative records and analysis of published methods, published compositions and significant tower and handbell peals are available, and will provide guidance, where requested, on methods, compositions and aspects of ringing theory

The above is only a summary of the changes to the Council which have been voted through at this meeting. For fuller details on the new Rules and Standing Orders you can use the following link to go to the relevant page on the Central council website:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/reform/rules/final-edition/presentation/>

One other effect of the changes is that the triennial nature of the Council is now abolished, so guilds and associations are free to elect their Council Representatives whenever and as often as they like. There has also been no change to the criteria used to determine how many CC Reps a particular guild or association is entitled to, so for now there is effectively no change in the size of the Council other than the fact that the class of Additional Members has now been abolished (there were only four of these prior to the meeting).

Work is also continuing on preparing a 'Framework for Method Ringing' which will be used to update and replace the relevant parts of the existing Central Council Decisions relating to method definitions, etc. once it has been completed. A report on current progress on this was given to the meeting by Tim Barnes, who is leading the team developing this new Framework. Further details on this, and how to access the consultation survey relating to it to provide feedback, can be found via the following link:

https://cccbr.github.io/method_ringing_framework/index.html

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As it is planned that future Council meetings will be held at a different time of year, next year's meeting is to be held on the first weekend in September 2019 and will be based in central London, using conference facilities in London University.

I hope that the above has sufficiently explained the main points covered at this year's Central Council meeting. As you can see, it has not been easy to summarise these!

If anyone has any further questions on any point please contact either James Ramsbottom or me and we will do our best to try and find an answer for you.

Grandsire Practice at Solihull – *Keith Whitehead*

A well-attended Grandsire Caters practice was held at St Alphege, Solihull on Saturday 19th May. Arranged by Mike Dodson, this was designed to bring together ringers who don't have enough others at that stage at their tower and those who don't have enough bells, so Shirley and Knowle were specifically invited. This mixture provided lots of ringers who rang plenty of short touches to cater (sorry) for all. The general consensus was that it was worthwhile - and what could we do next time...!

Ringling World National Youth Contest – *Simon Linford*

When the call for entries to the RWNYC was published, Brumdingers didn't actually have a team who had even rung rounds on eight, let alone call changes. Indeed, the most experienced of the Brumdingers had just started to ring simple call changes on six. We had a word with the organisers to see if they might be flexible for us, and then decided to go for it. The plan was to take five of the new ringers from Moseley, all of whom are 11, and then add in Sophie from Harborne plus Rio and Kunal from Perry Barr, all of whom have rung in the contest before for the St Martin's Youths.

Sophie, Rio and Kunal started coming over to Moseley on Thursday evenings after exams had finished. As we started building up to getting the Brumdingers ringing on eight, and then contemplating moving bells around, we added in the three more experienced ringers to help. Eight days before the contest we got the test piece all the way through for the first time. For the final practice before the contest we took the team to Harborne to experience ringing at a different tower – being used to St Mary's Moseley, Harborne were not universally appreciated, much to Clare's disappointment ("I hate these bells" – Caoimhe).

On the day, Sophie, Kunal and Rio were joined by Sara, Charlie, Orson, Sonny and Caoimhe, with Lex and Max in support. We had a 12:20 draw for our competition slot allowing for a cunning Linford plan. Instead of going on the morning tour of City of London towers, all of which would have been too difficult for the young Brumdingers anyway, I got the Docklands Ringing Centre in Bermondsey ("I hate these bells" – Caoimhe) all to ourselves for an additional practice. There we went through the test piece four times, including a full simulation of the 20-minute contest slot, a technique borrowed from the Birmingham 12-bell band.

Armed with more confidence than experience, the team and supporting crew made its way to St Olave's Hart Street ("I hate these bells" – Caoimhe) for our competition ringing. The competition is set up with three parallel heats, with bands knowing in advance their slot time so they can plan their day and not hang around at the towers. Although the rules do not allow adults, other than a row counter, up the tower, we negotiated a concession so that we had the four CATS in the ringing chamber (Clare, Simon and Tracy standing behind the least experienced three, and Arthur counting for our conductor Sophie). Team mascot Simba was also in attendance!

And they rang it! 168 call changes, including two required 'feature rows', no disasters, and a degree of competence that was beyond what we had set as a target. They came out into the churchyard sun to a big round of applause.

While the top six teams from the morning's qualifiers battled it out in the final at Garlickhythe, the afternoon was spent learning about the complexities of the East London transport network to visit



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Limehouse (10) and Rotherhithe (8) (no prizes for guessing Caoimhe's opinion), interspersed with diving into playparks and cafes, and huddling round phones watching the England match.

The results were held at 6pm at St Mary le Bow. The judges, including our own Alistair Cherry, were generous in their praise for all the teams, congratulating the Brumdingers for navigating the test piece and giving encouragement and things to think about for next time. It was noted that they were the team with the lowest average age (13). The judging is done using grades, and the Brumdingers were awarded a Grade D, which was what we had targeted for such an inexperienced team. They were not the only D, and one team was not graded as they fielded an ineligible player ("We weren't last!" – Charlie). The overall contest was won by the Sussex Young Ringers.

It was very noticeable how much older most of the teams are. The Brumdingers should get better and better. Sadly we lose Sophie next year; Kunal and Rio have couple more years left in them, but the youngsters could have seven more years of challenging for the title!



A Diamond Geezer? Janet Horton

Steve Horton (Ringing Master at Smethwick) turned 60 on June 25th and the family got together with three others to ring a celebratory quarter peal the day before. A slightly younger Steve can be seen to the right!

To date we have rung: 8 quarters on 6-bells; 3 on 8; and 1 on 10, with all 5 of us ringing.

Here is the league table of everyone who has rung a quarter with all five of us, together with an indication of who has had the misfortune to be locked up alone with us on the most occasions!



Harborne, West Midlands St Peter	Ringer	Number of Quarter Peals with "The Horde"
Sunday, 24 June 2018 (12–3–24 in F#) 1260 Grandsire Triples 1 Tracy Stevens 2 Rebekah GW Horton 3 Clare McArdle 4 Janet A Horton 5 Thomas MW Horton 6 Stephen W Horton 7 D Rose W Horton (C) 8 Tim Sunter Rung on the eve of Steve's 60th Birthday	Fran Cinderey	4 (2 on 6)
	Mike Rigby	3 (1 on 6)
	Tamsin Lane	2
	Clare McArdle	2
	Tracy Stevens	2
	Matthew Turley	2 (2 on 6)
	Mike Dodson	1 (1 on 6)
	Roy Dyckhoff (Janet's bro-in-law)	1 (1 on 6)
	Matt Hardy	1
	Diane Meacham	1 (1 on 6)
	James Ramsbottom	1
	Tim Sunter	1
	Catherine Taylor	1

Moseley Boredingers Day Out (16th June) – Robyn Tighe

After the usual 'has everyone got a lift?' shenanigans, 14 eager Boredingers set off good and early for the 60-mile journey to St Peter's, Minsterworth, next to the River Severn in Gloucestershire. The slightly overcast weather did not dampen our spirits and we arrived in good time as a bore can be 20-minutes early or 30 late. Ours was late, arriving gently with little notice, a small swell and desultory waves. We knew it was not going to be a big one but there's always next time although we may need to go at the potentially spooky time of a full moon!

David was well prepared for a wait however and set up his coffee bar on arrival!

We rang the tidy 6 uneventfully, in a small but charming ringing room.



Then we set off for St Mary Magdalene, Croome, just 40 minutes or so away. The weather was fine enough for those with picnics to sit outside and others bought delicious food and a beer in the National Trust cafe.

We had been warned about the challenging bells, with fixed headstocks making them more unwieldy. Ringing up certainly brought a glow to the ladies who tried! For anyone interested a quarter is rung every Sunday between 2pm and 3pm. Ignoring



vertigo, many of us went up onto the roof to enjoy the marvellous views, passing the ropes and bells on the way up.

Our last visit was to the ring of eight at St Augustine's at Dodderhill. Mark met us and kindly stayed to help John ring up the tenor (see photograph overleaf). It's one of those which needs good steady pulls and once you have started it, you cannot stop until it is up!



We all enjoyed these bells, even if a bit disconcerted at the sloping floor. Those of you on the ALE walk on 14th July (write-up in the next newsletter) will get a chance to experience this interesting feature whether you down a pint at lunchtime or not!

We had some fun recreating one of the photos which hangs in the tower (see black and white photograph). Mark even helped us go to the trouble of moving the original bench to the original place and Pauline insisted we had the rope hanging 'just so'.



We rounded off the excellent day in sunshine, eating cake and watching the spectacle of Stephen's drone filming around the tower. The results are shown below!



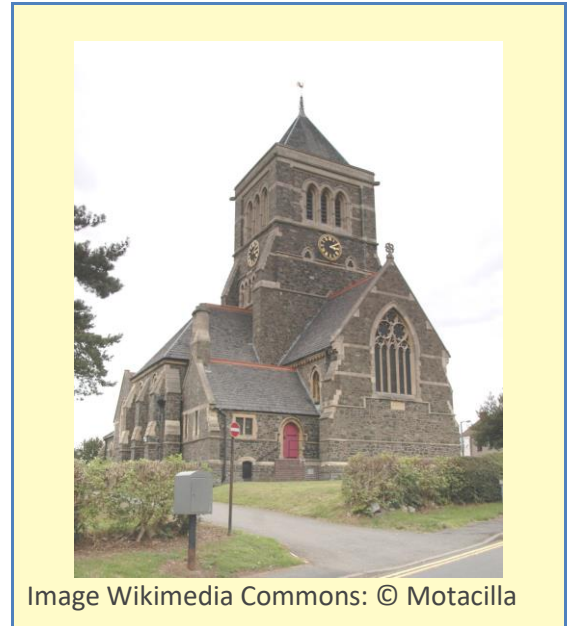
Boldmere & Erdington Parish Ringers' Outing – Dave Reeves

On Saturday 2nd June, 13 ringers from St Michael's, Boldmere and St Barnabas, Erdington accompanied by three non-ringing 'groupies', set off towards Leicestershire in a hired mini-bus ably driven by Colin Wright. Unfortunately two of our more experienced ringers could not be with us on the day and so our change ringing abilities were a little restricted. We were due to ring at four towers and, referring to Doves, it transpired that every bell at these churches had been cast by John Taylor's at Loughborough: the oldest in 1883 and the newest in 1971.

Our first tower (see panel) was St John the Baptist, Hugglescote, an imposing Grade II* listed, Victorian gothic church with a massive central bell tower and a commodious ringing room to match. There were eight bells here, all cast in 1900, with a tenor weighing 16 cwt. This gave us a comfortable ring including plain hunt on seven as they were only slightly heavier than our home towers.

From here we went on to St Peter's, Copt Oak, a quintessentially English, Grade II listed, country church. The tower houses six bells cast in 1889, with a tenor weighing just under 10 cwt. The ringing room here was quite cramped and on a mezzanine floor overlooking the nave although there was a curtain which could be drawn to hide the ringers from the congregation. We managed an extent of Bob Doubles on the back six here.

Lunch was literally next door at The Copt Oak pub that had been 'road-tested' a few weeks earlier by our outing organizer, Ed Laughton.



Re-vitalised, we headed to St James the Greater, Oaks in Charnwood, also Grade II listed. Here we encountered eight bells with a tenor weighing just over 10 cwt. Originally there had been six bells cast in 1883 but these had been augmented in 1971 to eight by the addition of two extra bells. These two treble bells were just over 2 cwt each and are mounted on a separate frame above the original six. Consequently they were a little 'flighty' and required careful handling. Here we managed another extent, this time of Grandsire Doubles.

Our final tower was St Botolph, Shepshed, a Grade I listed church founded in the 11th century. The oldest surviving part of the church, the west tower and spire, dates from the 13th century. Unlike the spiral staircases at the previous towers, here we had to climb a steep wooden ladder to gain access to the ringing room - but it was worth it! A complete ring of eight bells had been installed in 1949 with a 15 cwt tenor - very similar to our home towers. Here was a 'Rolls-Royce' installation. Even better the bells were already 'up', they had a good tone, handled well and gave us no trouble. We had a very enjoyable ring.

After ringing we had afternoon tea in the churchyard, courtesy of the well-organised amongst us who brought much-needed flasks and home-made cakes. The day had started overcast but in the afternoon the sun came out to provide a lovely end to a day of enjoyable ringing and good company.

Requirement for Members in Peals – *Simon Linford*

The new rules of the St Martin's Guild, which were adopted at the AGM in January, changed the requirements for peals which are counted as St Martin's Guild peals. The previous rule was that 50% of the participants in a Guild peal needed to be current or past full members of the Guild, with the rest of the participants being Non Resident Life Members.

As Non Resident Life Membership no longer exists, the test of whether a peal can be a St Martin's Guild peal is only based on the number of 'Members' in the peal. 75% of participants need to be Members (i.e. 5 in a 6-bell peal, 6 in an 8-bell peal, 9 in a 12-bell peal and 12 in a 16-bell peal). 'Members' includes all those paying the full annual subscription, plus elected Life Members.

Confusion is likely to arise particularly with peals which include ringers who have been members in the past, or who think they are Non Resident Life Members, but have not become Members under the new rules and who are therefore not paying the new annual subscription. Quite a few such people have become Members, particularly Monday night Cathedral peal participants, but many have not and might think they still qualify. If you are not sure whether the participants in your peal are members you can check by asking Simon, Clare or Tracy.

New Guild Merchandise – Clare McArdle

The Guild's logo has been modified to reflect the change in name agreed at the AGM in January. A new badge has been produced and is available to buy at £3.00. The badge is 25mm wide by 17mm high with a butterfly fastening.

New members, elected this year will be receiving a badge to welcome them to the Guild.

Our range of clothing, including, polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts and fleeces are also now available with the new logo. I am pleased to report that prices for clothing have been held: Polo shirts £18, T-shirts £18, Sweatshirts £20, and Fleeces £25.

To order, please contact Clare at guildsec@grimmitt.org

