

The new bells at **St Mary's Moseley** rang for the first time on 17<sup>th</sup> October. There is no doubt they are a great ring and a real credit to all those involved with the project. The band and friends are pictured below:



A weekend of ringing events to commemorate the contribution to ringing of **Rod Pipe** will be held in Birmingham on the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup>. Ringers from around the country will be the guests of the bands of St Martin's and St Philip's Cathedral (Rod's principal towers) and the Guild.

Although the programme of events is yet to be finalised, the main social gathering will be at the Birmingham Council House on the Saturday evening.

The re-ordering of the ringing chamber at St Martin's will now be dedicated to Rod's memory, being a project on which he was very interested.

Quarter peal week in 2013 is going to be expanded to a **Quarter Peal Month** to co-incide with this event, with the aim being to ring a quarter peal in memory of Rod in every single tower in the Guild. The main focus of QP activity will be the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> i.e. the main commemoration weekend.

**St Barnabas Erdington** are ringing again after a break of two years while building work was undertaken. An arson attack all but destroyed the church five years ago, but it has undergone a spectacular rebuilding. The bells rang for the re-opening service on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Practice nights are now on Tuesdays 8-9 p.m. and Sunday morning ringing 9.30-10. Margaret Hunt would welcome anyone who can help build up the band again. We are hoping that the Guild practice on 16<sup>th</sup> February will be at St Barnabas.

A very successful **Adult Learners Outing** saw about 25 members from 10 different towers visit St Paul's Birmingham, Wednesbury and Bilston (pictured below), with all travel by tram. There was marked individual progress and a great time had by all. The next ALO, by public transport again, will be on Saturday 18th May.



Some of those on the outing continued to **Wolverhampton**, for the Guild's December practice. It was a bit thin on attendance, but all 12 bells were rung well, and four of those who came on the outing rang on 12 for the first time.

**Jack and Anna Gunning** celebrated the addition of Benedict Philip to their family on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The date has been set for the next Ringing World National Youth Contest – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in York. The **St Martin's Youths** will of course be entering again and Simon Linford is Chief Judge for his third (and final) time.

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

*Level 1*

Catherine Pinnock  
(returned to ringing after 30 year break)  
Rob Pinnock - first lesson September

*Level 3*

Peter Lewis  
Tom Horton  
Catherine Vernon  
Rose Horton

**Rose Horton's** progress over the last six months is worthy of special note. She learned to handle a bell just about to rounds six years ago but gave up. After restarting in June, she has now rung six Quarter Peals, her first being treble to Grandsire Doubles in October. She has rung treble to minor and triples and covered to doubles and triples. It will not be long before she will ring inside to Grandsire Doubles.

Charles Webb (St Chad's) called Alan Burbidge's "**Impossible One-part**" composition of Stedman Triples on handbell at St Chad's in November. It is difficult for anyone not immersed in the world of Stedman Triples to realise quite how difficult this is, but it shot to the top of the leaderboard of highly rated performances on RW Bellboard.

**Northfield's** Saturday morning **learners practices** go from strength to strength under the direction of Andy Carr. All are welcome to the practice which runs from 10-12 with a decent break for tea and cake in the middle. They are generally 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays and the next one is on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Andy Carr is keen to make members aware that Northfield bells are available for peal attempts. The booking system introduced by the PCC which had put people off applying has been simplified and made much more "ringer friendly" – it should not be seen as a barrier.

**Edgbaston** won the 8 bell contest which preceded the Guild's October meeting. Four teams entered, all ringing changes, and the contest was expertly judged by Stuart Hutchieson from Abbots Bromley.

A peal was rung at **Kings Norton**, the footnote for which says it all"

"In thanksgiving for the life of Ray Aldington, Tower Captain here for 42 years, following the interment of his ashes in the churchyard."

The local band was represented by David Flint and Catherine Taylor.

**Richard Cann** called a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples at Solihull to mark the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his election to the local band, the St Alphege Guild of Bellringers, a milestone that was also marked with an article in *The Ringing World*.

**ITTS Certificates** being presented by the Guild Master to Arthur Reeves (St Martin's) for Module 1:



and Tracy Stevens (Harborne) for Module 2 and full membership of ART:



Discussions have started re the possibility of a major restoration project (and maybe even an augmentation) at **Castle Bromwich**. The bells have not

had major work to them for a long time and are due a pretty major overhaul. Couple that with a burgeoning number of learners, the discovery of a Tower Fund with some money in, and an enthusiastic young Ringing Master, and the possibilities are exciting.

**Quarter peal week** saw a number of notable firsts as follows:

Peter Lewis (Har): 1<sup>st</sup> treble to Triples  
Tracy Stevens (Har) & James Stanton – 1<sup>st</sup> of Spliced (4 Spliced S Major)  
Gill Postill (Shirley) – 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Spliced  
Ruth Sanderson (BUSCR)  
– 1<sup>st</sup> as Conductor

Other notable quarters in the period:

Rosie Stewart (Knowle)  
1<sup>st</sup> quarter  
Keith Whitehead (Solihull)  
100<sup>th</sup> quarter

The annual “**Training Day**” is no more, and has been replaced with more frequent half day workshops instead, following the success of that format on the last Training Day. These courses will be free to Guild members, and carry a charge of £5 for non members, with Guild members having priority of course. Please give requests for courses to Tony Daw.

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

A number of members have had personal peal ringing achievements. These include:

- Jonathan Thorne (St Paul’s)  
- first away from tenor
- Chris Mills (City)  
- 500<sup>th</sup> peal
- Mark Eccleston (City)  
- 100<sup>th</sup> different 12 bell tower

### **BUSCR News**

The **58th BUSCR Dinner** will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Edgbaston Palace Hotel. The guest speaker is Ryan Mills, currently studying at York. Tickets from Helen Roberts or Chris Mills.

BUSCR had a tour in November to welcome the First Years. They visited Selly Oak and Smethwick before returning for evensong ringing at BUSCR’s home tower, Edgbaston.

Emily Tamhne organised quarter peal attempts instead of the usual practice night during quarter peal week. 5 successful quarter peals were rung. Elizabeth and Emily provided delicious food part way through the evening.

30 members have so far participated in “**Sunday Spliced**”, the series of peals of Spliced Surprise Major organised by Simon Linford on Sunday afternoons. The aim is to increase participation in ringing spliced and to make good use of the excellent rings of eight with which the Guild is blessed. If you would be keen to ring some spliced next year let Simon know.

The **125<sup>th</sup> Henry Johnson Dinner** is fast approaching - 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Council House. Clare McArdle is the Chairman of the Dinner. Tickets from Chris Mills or Stephanie Warboys.

### **Forthcoming events:**

If your tower does not have a copy of the calendar on the notice board then ask why not! However here are the next few events:

- 19 Jan Beginners handbells at St Paul's, 9-12
- 19 Jan Guild practice, Solihull
- 23 Jan Youths practice, St Paul's 7pm
- 2 Feb ITTS Module 2 St Paul's
- 9 Feb Ringing up and Down St Paul's 9-12
- 16 Feb Guild practice, Erdington Parish
- 23 Feb Henry Johnson Dinner
- 27 Feb Youths practice, St Paul's 7pm
- 2 Mar Calling call changes St Paul's 9-12
- 16 Mar Guild practice, Hampton in Arden
- 23 Mar 12 bell Eliminators (Birmingham are at Towcester)
- 23 Mar Training event tba
- 27 Mar Youths practice, St Paul's 7pm

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!

