

## April – June 2014

The **Adult Leaners Event** in early April saw a coach load of 30 members do a tour of the Black Country, taking in the towers of Sedgley, Dudley and Netherton, as well as two famous pubs – the Beacon Hotel in Sedgley and Ma Pardoes in Netherton. A number of the helpers who have been on previous events noted quite how much the standard of ringing had improved, with the School having had a notable effect on quite a number of participants. This format is clearly a success and its frequency will be increased.



Squashing into All Saints' Sedgley

A helper recruitment campaign in April greatly increased the number of people on the roster for the **Birmingham School of Bell Ringing** at a time when the organisers were getting a little bit worried about the ability to expand it to the fourth tower. However that is a safe prospect and Tower D will start in September at Harborne. This will take those who have now

rung quarter peals on the treble to being able to ring a quarter peal inside.

The **Tewkesbury Shield** striking competition in May saw nine bands competing to complete a tricky touch of Plain and Little Bob Royal spliced. Seven bands were territorial, with two universities also represented. The St Martin's Guild band came a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the band comprising:

James Forster (St Martin's)  
Richard Andrew (Shirley)  
Laura Davies (St Martin's)  
Andy Clark (Shirley)  
Louis Suggett (Edgbaston)  
David Blick (Polesworth)  
Jonathan Healy  
Phil Ramsbottom (St Martin's)  
Tony Daw (St Martin's)  
Simon Linford (C) (St Martin's)



Tewkesbury Abbey

The Monday night peal band at Birmingham Cathedral became the third band to ring the “**Particles**” peal devised by David Pipe which is a quantum leap in how peals of Spliced are rung. The composition is not rung by the ringers knowing the lines but by knowing the structure of a 10 methods and ‘Blocks’, an innovation that caused the Central Council to have to change its rules on how a Method is defined. The following page is all the band would have in order to ring the Blocks. The peal shot to the top of the “Featured Performances” on BellBoard.

**St. Martin's Guild**

**Birmingham**, West Midlands

Cathedral of St Philip

Monday, 19 May 2014 in 3h18 (31-0-21)

**5016 Spliced Maximus (10 methods)**

1056 Gluon Little Alliance, 576 each Top Little Hybrid, Strange Differential, Plain Bob, 480 each Up Differential Little Hybrid, Down Differential Little Hybrid, 432 Lepton Little Bob, 336 Charm Differential Little Hybrid, 264 Baryon, 240 Meson Differential Little Hybrid; 215 com, atw

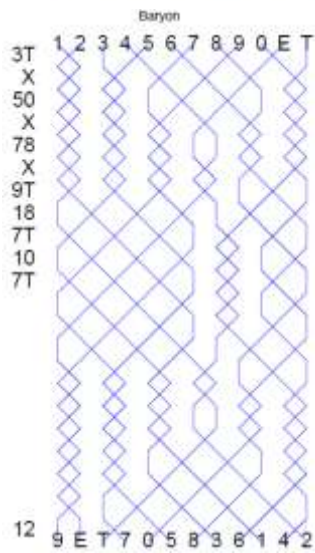
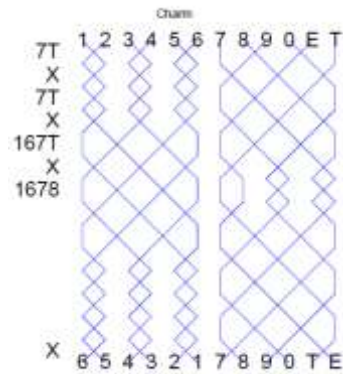
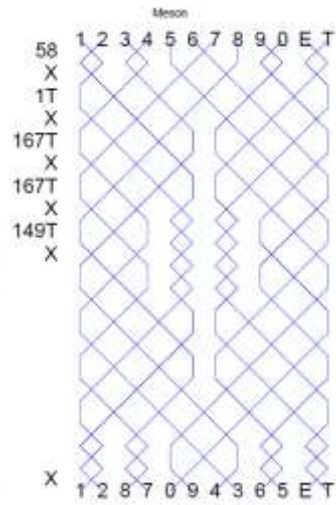
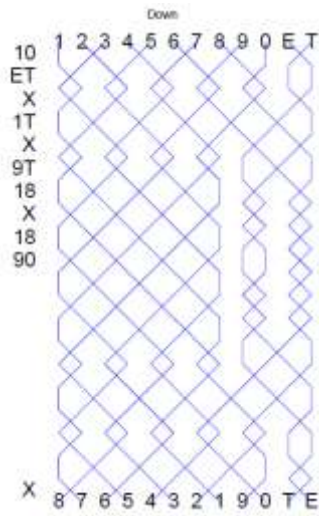
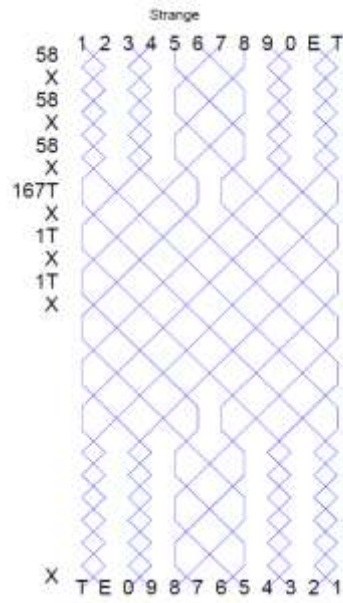
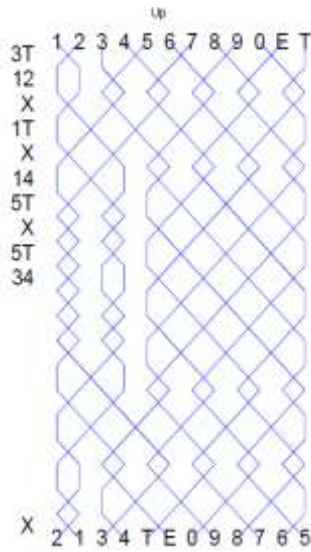
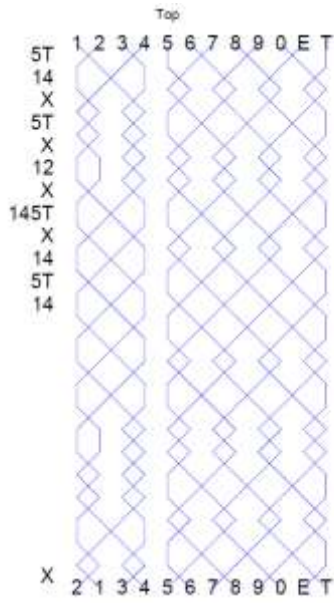
**Composed by D J Pipe (cyclic 12 part)**

- 1 Mark R Eccleston
- 2 Simon J L Linfood
- 3 Paul E Bibilo
- 4 Iain J Anderson
- 5 Stephen M Jones
- 6 David J Pipe (C)
- 7 Christian M Peckham
- 8 Stephen A Croxall
- 9 Colin M Lee
- 10 Alan G Reading
- 11 Thomas W Griffiths
- 12 Michael P A Wilby

In affectionate memory of Alan Flood.  
Also remembering George Fearn who died 40 years ago this week.

|              |           |       |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| 1234567890ET | Top       |       |
| -----        |           |       |
| 2134567890ET | Up        |       |
| 1234TE098765 | Strange   |       |
| 567890ET4321 | Down      |       |
| TE0987654312 | Charm     |       |
| 7890ET654321 | Meson     |       |
| 78563409TE21 | Charm     |       |
| 43658709TE12 | Down      |       |
| 90785634TE21 | Strange   |       |
| 12ET43658709 | Up        |       |
| 21ET90785634 | Top       | 10ths |
| 2T10E8967534 | Lepton    | 8ths  |
| 2T10E8973645 | Plain Bob | 6ths  |
| 2T10E9384756 | Gluon     | 4ths  |
| 2T1E30495867 | Gluon     | 2nds  |
| 213T4E506978 | Baryon    | 2nds  |
| 67859403E2T1 | Gluon     | 4ths  |
| 678905E4T312 | Gluon     | 6ths  |
| 67890ET51423 | Plain Bob | 8ths  |
| 67890ET12534 | Lepton    | 10ths |
| 67890ET12345 |           |       |
| -----        |           |       |

12 part



The **May meeting and 6 bell Contest** were hosted by Northfield. Five bands entered the contest, with the change ringing section being won by Harborne (Geriatrics) and the call changes being won by Northfield. Harborne (Youths) acquitted themselves well, as did three ringers from the School who rang in a Handsworth team and got their first experience of ringing under pressure, and ringing for 240 changes! Phil Ramsbottom from St Martin's was Chief Judge, and gave helpful and constructive comments, including alternative "Sunday Service" scores, as marks out of ten for overall performance.

At **Castle Bromwich**, the Heritage Lottery Fund application for help towards the £80,000 cost of rehanging and augmentation has been submitted. A year into the project and the trustees of the project continue their concerted effort to encourage visitors to the tower, with the aim of raising the awareness of local people to the plight of the bells in the hope that they might financially support the restoration project. The ringers piggy backed on the Castle Bromwich Heritage Weekend to show lots of people up the tower. Sadly a peal arranged for the Saturday morning came to grief from mechanical failure after an hour and a half of good ringing, and while the band drowned their sorrows in the beer tent, the local ringers took comfort from the fact that this further emphasizes the need for work on the bells!

While the bellringers have shown visitors up the tower over many years, it is reckoned that since the Garden Fete of 2013 over 500 people have

climbed the 99 steps to the top of the tower - and most have had a go at ringing the bells. This probably makes Caste Bromwich tower the most visited in the diocese (unless you know otherwise!).

Since ITV Central news reporter Victoria Davies came up to the ringing chamber at last year's Fete, the church tower has welcomed visitors on a number of open days and the ringers have arranged visits for half a dozen groups from local uniformed organisations, beavers, cubs, brownies, etc. And there are three more groups already booked to visit in September.

For more information visit see the bellringers' website - [cbbells.webs.com](http://cbbells.webs.com); we also post on Twitter @CastleBromBells and Google+ Castle Bromwich Bells.

The **Surprise Minor evenings** held on consecutive evenings in June, gave 12 members the opportunity to learn techniques for multi spliced Surprise Minor by ringing different methods above and below the treble. For many more used to helping others than pushing themselves, this was a serious use of grey matter, as the water got deeper and deeper, and the shallow waters of Cambridge Minor got further and further away. Simon Linford ran the sessions, ably assisted by Mark Eccleston and John Warboys. The 'students' (all experienced ringers by any definition) came along knowing four core methods, and finished having rung 19, mostly in spliced up to six at a time.



Fallon, faithful attendee of many a **Wishaw** Tower's Sunday ringing has produced her first litter for Guide dogs for the Blind and is the proud mother of six puppies.

Scaffolding news!

At **Smethwick** the works on the tower are complete and the scaffolding has come down. At **St Philips Cathedral** works on the tower are about to start and scaffolding go up.

The School has started ringing quite a lot of quarters as students pass through the various Levels of the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme.



Annette Jones first quarter

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

*Level 1*

- Sallie Morgan (Erdington)
- James McCone (Shirley)
- Jackie Taylor (Coleshill)
- Tim Sunter (Smethwick)
- Jenny Sunter (Smethwick)



Sallie Morgan picking up her Level 1 certificate at Handsworth.

*Level 2*

- Julianne Hormann (BUSCR)
- Christine Barnell (Moseley)
- Jeff Thomsom (Wishaw)
- Judy Nestor (Polesworth)

*Level 3*

- Roy Followell (Coleshill)
- Annette Jones (Wishaw)
- Andy Hardy (Wishaw)
- Julianne Hormann (BUSCR)

*Level 4*

- Catherine Pinnock (Harborne)

*Level 5*

- Catherine Vernon (Harborne)



**Fr Crispin Pailing**, former Rector of Perry Barr has taken up his new post as the youngest ever Rector of Liverpool's parish church – St Nicholas Pier Head.

The new St Martins Guild **peal book** has been printed, stitched and trimmed but has been held up by the binder not having access to a large enough goat skin. Hopefully a particularly fat goat will shuffle off this mortal coil shortly and have the honour of covering our new peal book.

The Guild's **new website** is now replete with content, although it still has some way to go before it is finished.

**Rose Horton** has decided that she wants to appear on the list of people ringing 50 or more QPs in a year that is published in the RW. However, she didn't decide she wanted to do this until the beginning of May at which time she had notched up 4 QPs for the year. There is a QP attempt every Sunday at Harborne so Rose made sure that Tracy was aware that she wanted to ring in every attempt from May onwards. On assessing the likelihood of achieving her target, Rose then realised, there was the small problem of her leaving for

University in September, with no idea of the "quarter pealability" of her prospective new surroundings. It was time to take matters into her own hands. She scouted round the most likely members of the Harborne band for volunteers and set 2 dates for "Rose's Quarter Peal Days" and the first one took place on Monday 30th June. A series of emails from Rose told us we needed to be at Edgbaston for a 9.00 am start and we would ring 3 quarter peals at 50 minute intervals. After suitable refreshments in The Bell, we were to ring a further 4 quarter peals at Harborne. We rang a total of 7 quarter peals, all different: Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge Minor, Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles, St Clements College Bob Minor, Mixed Doubles (3 methods) and Grandsire Doubles. There were a total of 10 different ringers involved and 4 different conductors including Rose. Congratulations to Rose for proving such an able organiser. No detail was left to chance and for those of us used to organising bands and ringing events it was fantastic to be able to just be "one of the participants". Rose should be justifiably proud of this considerable achievement.

There is still a way to go for Rose to achieve her target of 50 quarter peals this year, so a further 2 "Rose's Quarter Peal Days" are in the pipeline. Watch this space....



The **National 12 Bell Striking Contest** was won by **Birmingham** for an unprecedented 5th time in succession at Oxford on 28th June. Ringing Stedman Cinques, the band, which has only seen one change of personnel in that time (Susan Healy coming in to replace Gill Fielden this year), the band scored 87%, with the 2nd place team on 81% and the rest somewhat less. Over 700 people attended the Final, which has now become a major ringing occasion. The Birmingham band is always encouraged by the amount of friendly support that comes from members of the Guild, which is needed to offset those who think it must be someone else's turn to win!

**SS Peter & Paul, Aston** will be host for the **2016 Final**. The church had originally asked about hosting the Final in 2020 to mark the 900th Anniversary of the first stone building on the site of the current church, however after contacting the 12 bell committee it was discovered that a venue for the 2016 Final was a cause of concern. The church is also planning to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme around the first weekend

of July 2016, so after some quick discussion with Guild officers it was decided to step into the breach and provide a venue for the 2016 Final. Hosting the 12 Bell Final is a very large undertaking now, with the bar being raised higher and higher as more and more people attend, however the Guild will of course pull out all the stops.

### **BUSCR News**

The exam term has been a busy one for many BUSCR members and congratulations go to Francesca Cinderey, Louis Suggett and Ruth Sanderson who have now graduated, and Alan Reading who has finished his PhD. We also say goodbye to Julianne Hormann, who started learning to ring when she came to Birmingham from Germany last year and has now finished her year abroad. Since 4<sup>th</sup> May she has rung 4 quarter peals, covering to doubles and triples and ringing the tenor to doubles. Well done also to Michael Woolley who rang the treble to a peal of Grandsire Caters for his first on ten.



Band for Julianne's first quarter

Other peal ringing achievements in the quarter included:

**Birmingham**, West Midlands  
St Peter, Harborne  
Sunday, 13 April 2014 in 2h 44m (13)  
**5040 Grandsire Triples**  
Composed by J J Parker (12 part, 7th obs)  
1 Clare McArdle  
2 Janet A Horton  
3 Richard Pinnock  
4 D Rose W Horton  
5 Rebekah G W Horton  
6 Stephen W Horton  
7 Michael Chester (C)  
8 Michael Rigby  
First Peal: 5. First Peal Inside: 4  
First in Method: 3.

- James Ramsbottom 1<sup>st</sup> Stedman Triples in hand
- Laura Davies 1<sup>st</sup> Stedman Triples on inside pair

**Malcolm Paulson** has joined the ranks of the Guild's conductors:

**Solihull**, West Midlands  
St Alphege  
Sunday, 4 May 2014  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**  
1 Sand J Cooper  
2 Jen D Hickman  
3 Keith D Whitehead  
4 William G R Davies  
5 Linda M Whitehead  
6 Malcolm J Paulson (C)  
7 Richard J Cann  
8 Triona M Jowett  
First as conductor at first attempt.

**Knowle**, West Midlands  
Ss John the Baptist, Lawrence and Anne  
Sunday, 11 May 2014 in 43mins (9-3-7)  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**  
1 Rosemary Watts  
2 Jill Erskine  
3 William Mills  
4 Ruth Shepherd  
5 Rowena Shipley  
6 A J Barnfield  
7 Stephen Shipley (C)  
8 Judith Taylor  
To celebrate the Diamond Wedding, on May 5th, of William and Margaret Mills.



#### **Forthcoming events:**

Following on the Surprise Minor evenings, a series of six Surprise Major practices are being held over the summer, starting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July at Edgbaston and continuing for six successive weeks.

October meeting 11<sup>th</sup> - Shirley

In a change to previous formats, the meeting will be preceded by three early afternoon 'Workshops', targeted practices for you to choose from:

- Beginners handbells (Clare)
- First stages on eight bells (Tony)
- Surprise Royal (Simon)

Aug 28<sup>th</sup> – ITTS Module 1, St Paul's