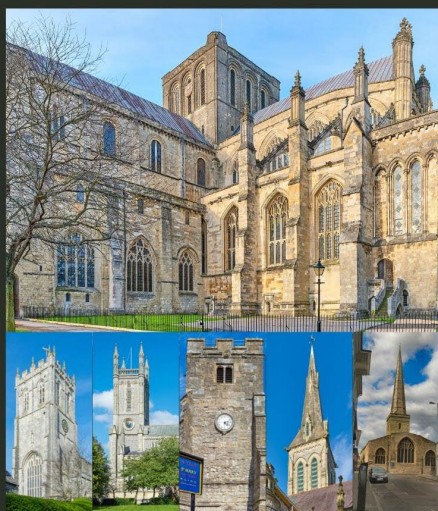
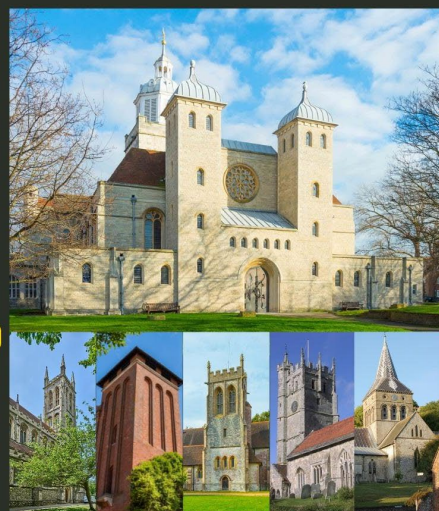




## Winchester and Portsmouth

Diocesan Guild of  
Church Bell Ringers



# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

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Please send any articles for future newsletters to:  
[comms@wpbells.org](mailto:comms@wpbells.org)

## August Practices at Winchester Cathedral

Every year the ringers at Winchester Cathedral kindly open their August practice nights to the Districts within our Guild.

For many, getting to ring on fourteen bells in this magnificent ringing chamber is the ringing highlight of the summer. Do not be put off by the higher numbers, the weight of the bells or the sheer number of steps. Whether you can ring Rounds or Surprise Maximus, your District's practice at Winchester Cathedral has something to offer you.

Here we see the different experiences from three of our Districts this summer:

**Alton and Petersfield (article also featured in *The Petersfield Post*)**

Fifty members of the Alton and Petersfield District bell ringers enjoyed a practice evening at Winchester Cathedral by kind invitation from its ringers.

It was hosted by tower captain Colin Cook and Steve Lamb of the cathedral bell ringers, and started with the visitors ascending to the belfry to see the fourteen bells in the 130ft bell tower.

Jessica Hornsby, Petersfield and Alton



Alton and Petersfield District Members

assistant ringing master, organised the evening's ringing of rounds and call changes, with some of the young ringers aged just fourteen and fifteen ringing the tenor bell that weighs in at 3,982lb (1,806 kg).

The more experienced ringers rang complicated Grandsire Cinques, a method usually rung on an odd number of bells.

Petersfield bellringer Carolin Welsh said: "All those attending felt it was a great privilege to ring at the cathedral and it is hoped the event can be repeated next year."

The oldest of the bells was cast in 1621, and the cathedral is one of the largest in Europe. It has many unique features that attract visitors including a Romanesque section of a wall from 1093 and late-Gothic fan vaulting from 1394.

**JESS HORNSBY**  
*Assistant Ringing Master, A&P District*

## Christchurch and Southampton

The Christchurch & Southampton District practice at Winchester Cathedral was held on Wednesday 10th August. This was one of the hottest days this summer, so I wasn't expecting a huge turnout. I can't remember the exact number who attended, but it was approximately twenty, which wasn't bad considering the extreme heat. This included a few of the Winchester Cathedral band.

Sadly, there was only a very small handful of ringers that had a reasonable amount of experience ringing on higher numbers, so the practice was a struggle to say the least. That said, the 'first timers' and those who had attended the last practice three years ago, performed much better than we could have hoped for. They all got the hang of ringing on higher numbers... following the bell in front closely, rather than leaving a six-bell gap as is so often the case when ringing at Winchester for the first time.

The most complicated method that we rang during the evening was a plain



*Portsmouth District Members*

course of Grandsire Triples on the back eight, which indicates just how short we were of experienced ringers. We also rang some Plain Hunt on nine bells, using the 'St Lawrence Ten' twice. The rest of the ringing was Rounds on ten, twelve, and once on all fourteen bells. We finished with some Call Changes on twelve bells, finishing up in 'Whittington's' before running out of time and calling Stand!

My sincere thanks to all those who turned up on this swelteringly hot evening, and special thanks to the Winchester ringers who helped us wherever they could!

**STEVE HOUGH**  
*Ringing Master, C&S District*

## Portsmouth

Forty-two ringers from the Portsmouth District (including some friends from some other districts) were able to attend this year's visit to Winchester Cathedral. Experience of the ringers ranged from a couple who have only been ringing for a matter of weeks, to those who ring peals of Maximus for fun at the weekends.

Once the clock bells were raised into their ringing position, we started with an exhibition touch of Grandsire Cinques. Then came the difficult task of working my way through the ringers! We seemed to have a lot of new faces this year, and so my job seemed harder than ever. Seeing new people is a good problem to have - it

means that District towers have been doing a good job at recruiting new ringers, and that towers have been encouraging ringers to attend the practice who haven't been before.

Whilst we did also ring some Plain Hunt on nine (on the middle ten), and Bristol S. Major on the back eight, the rest of practice was devoted to call changes on twelve and fourteen.

Before ringing the clock bells down, we did finish off by ringing all sixteen bells (yes, including the two semi-tone bells). Whilst that may not be to everyone's liking, it did make a big sound to conclude the night.

I headed off, but a number of ringers stayed on to take part in the belfry tour. Many thanks to Bruce for taking this aspect of the evening.

For those that have not made the visit to Winchester Cathedral, I do encourage you to do so. The bells, though perhaps require some respect, are relatively easy to ring. The room is spacious with plenty of spaces to sit and observe. The belfry allows space to walk around and view the bells from all angles.

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable evening, and perhaps got something out of it. I look forward to returning next August and seeing even more people!

**DAVID MATTINGLEY**  
*Ringing Master, Portsmouth District*

## A Message From The Master

Writing this, I find myself reflecting on the somewhat unexpected position of being Guild Master! On the morning of 11th June, I didn't wake up anticipating that just a few hours later I would be voted into the role to try to lead the Guild for the next three years. I suspect many of us in towers across the Guild find ourselves in Tower Captain, Tower Secretary or Steeple Keeper positions that we didn't necessarily seek or plan... but nonetheless we try to do our best to fulfil these roles, juggling them with everyday life and family responsibilities. The news of HM Queen Elizabeth's death brought many extra duties to those with positions of responsibilities within the



Guild, and I just want to thank each and every one of you for whatever part you played in the outstanding response, with tower members rushing to muffle bells and ring on this historic occasion at very short notice. Being a volunteer at a time when there is quite a high level of expectation to follow guidelines to the letter can be pretty stressful. So if you were someone who found yourself unexpectedly in this position, well done for whatever ringing or tolling you were able to achieve in your tower.

Last weekend, I attended what will likely be the last Channel Islands Annual District Meeting within the W&P Guild, as they transfer to the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers this Autumn. The completion of legal transfer of the Deaneries has taken longer than anticipated, but is now imminent. The Channel Islands towers have been affiliated to the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild for around fifty years, becoming an official District in 1981, and during this time, a strong association and friendship developed. The Channel Islands District has never been a "sleeping partner" despite the obvious challenges of distance, not only from the mainland, but also from each other. I know I speak on behalf of the entire Guild, when I say that we will miss every aspect of

## In Memoriam HM Queen Elizabeth II Press Release

A separate document will be released soon with details of our Guild's participation in this period of national mourning.

All ringing in memory of The Queen is listed on [BellBoard](#).

To link a piece of ringing to BellBoard, first submit it, and then select 'Mark in memoriam' on your performance's edit menu (denoted by a pencil icon).

If you wish to report on any performances that took place at your tower, you can send articles to our Public Relations Officer. [Viv Nobbs](#).

our association with the ringers from these beautiful islands, and we are very sad to see them leave. However, our very best wishes go to both them and the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, as they start their new relationship, and we wish them all every success.

**RACHAEL BARBER**  
*Guild Master*

## New Guild Website Update

We are making steady progress on the new website. Andrew is uploading the towers and iteratively identifying information that we need / want to add in addition to

what we have. We will also then be uploading the officers too.

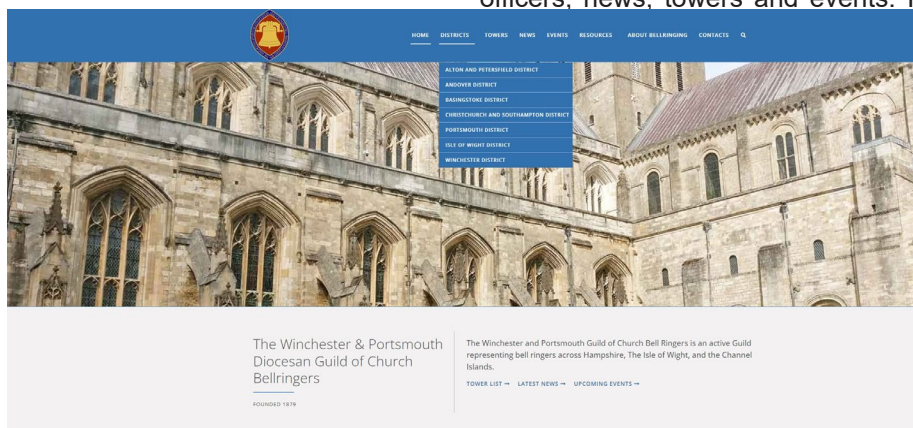
The District pages are all setup as templates now, with sections for officers, news, towers and events. It

is just a migration job. We are also working through the general content pages and have a bit more still to do.

It is still very much work in progress but aiming to have it live by early November when the current website subscription is due. We are hopeful that Peter will be able to back the old site up somehow and host it for a few months just in case we miss any content.

**PETER SHEPPARD**  
*Communications Committee and Web Developer*

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
*Webmaster*



# Vale Rings for the Liberation of the Channel Islands

## Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Vale, Guernsey

Sunday, 17 April 2022 in 42m

### 1260 Doubles (10m/v)

An extent each of St Martin's, St Leonard, St Paul, St Simon's, Eynsham, St Alban, Plain Bob, April Day, Kennington, and one and a half of Grandsire

- 1 Pauline Marquis
- 2 John David
- 3 Nicky David
- 4 Peter Gallienne
- 5 Mike Bubb (C)
- 6 Helen Rolf

For Easter

The ringers of the Vale Church, Guernsey, rang a [quarter](#) of 1260 mixed Doubles (12 m/v) for Easter. They rang for the 77th Liberation of the Channel Islands from Occupying Forces on [May 9th](#).

**MIKE BUBB**  
*Vale, Guernsey*



## Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Vale, Guernsey

Monday, 9 May 2022 in 42m

### 1260 Doubles (3m)

Three extents each Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place and four extents and 60 Grandsire

- 1 Pauline Marquis
- 2 John David
- 3 Nicky David
- 4 Peter Gallienne
- 5 Michael Bubb (C)
- 6 Helen Rolf

Rung to celebrate the 77th anniversary of the Liberation of the Island from enemy occupation.

## W&P Youth Ringing Team - Joint 6th in RWNYC

Many congratulations to all the members of the W&P Youth Ringing Team, who came joint 6th in the Method ringing category of the Ringing World National Youth Contest!

The Method ringing category allows teams to ring on six or eight bells, and the W&P Youths were specially mentioned by the judges for being the only team to enter by ringing on eight bells (Plain Bob Triples)!

Overall there were 23 teams of young

ringers from across the country taking part in the Contest. Seven entered the Method ringing category at Exeter St Marks, with sixteen teams entering the Call Changes category at Exeter St David's. Ringing at other towers in Exeter was arranged throughout the day, including at Exeter Cathedral. It was fantastic to see so many of our young representatives ringing on these majestic bells, with many taking their turn on the boxes to ring the back bells. The W&P Youth Team are a credit to our Guild, and their maturity and behaviour were exemplary.

Many thanks to Andy Ingram and all the adult helpers who made it possible for the team to enter. Their hard work at promoting Youth Ringing within the Guild is not just for this event, but is continuous throughout the year. I'd also like to particularly thank two of the Youth ringers, Emma Hornsby and Isla Ingram, for their warmth and encouragement towards everyone at the Youth Practices, which helps new participants to quickly feel included as part of the group.

If you have young ringers in your tower, do get in touch with [Andy Ingram](#) who can give you information about the Youth Practices.

**RACHAEL BARBER**

"I was particularly pleased that the steward in the competition tower complimented the band on their teamwork, commenting that they were the only team to help each other when there were minor method mistakes. This is a great group of young ringers to be involved with."

**ANDY INGRAM**



# Meet Your New Principal Officers!



## GUILD MASTER

### Rachael Barber

I learnt to ring together with my Dad when I was 13. My home tower was a steady 19cwt ring of 8 bells in the Guildford Diocesan Guild and, despite it not being the most 'trendy' activity amongst school kids in the 1980's, I loved ringing! It was a great thing to do with a parent; we would drive to practices testing each other's knowledge of the circle of work of Plain Bob Doubles and it was all great fun! Eventually my Mum started ringing too...she figured if she was going to wait in the car for me to ring on Sunday mornings, she might as well join us, and so ringing became very much a family activity.

Whilst at University in Norwich, I rang with the local band at St Giles on the Hill. The ringers here made me very welcome, despite being slightly unconventional for a bellringer in black 'gothic' attire at that time! I would give the elderly ex-Tower Captain a lift to ringing on Sunday mornings, and he'd tell me tales about ringing as a lad, and the rivalry between ringers at St Giles and Mancroft.

In 1993, I returned home and joined my parents ringing at a tower just over the border in the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild, who needed help to establish a new band of ringers...

and this is where I got my first opportunity to teach. We taught quite a few ringers at this tower, and always the sessions were filled with laughter and a sense of teamwork as we worked towards building the band and fundraising to restore the bells. As we were drawn into the wider ringing of the Alton & Petersfield District, I had the opportunity to help teach three youngsters to ring at Selborne. And this became my home Tower, and has remained so for the last 25 years.

Teaching is the one thing I love most about bellringing, and it was great to become a regular Tutor on the W&P Education Days and then on the Crowthorne and Bradfield Ringing Courses. And perhaps linked to this, is the other most important thing to me about bellringing - the people! I'm fortunate to have a delightfully kind and friendly band at my home tower, and to me it doesn't matter what we ring, but that we're ringing together. Ringing is a bridge between young and old, between people with different backgrounds and experiences. There's more to being a member of a band than just ringing, and I'm a great believer in finding space for every ringer whatever their skill level, and making towers welcoming places that people want to return to each week.

I'm not a prolific Peal ringer, only 35 to date, but personally quietly pleased with my Peal of 8-Spliced "all the work"! I'm a Tower Captain, Steeple Keeper, District Communications Officer, and have previously acted as District Ringing Master and Newsletter Editor. I'm happy to get up in the belfry to "hands-on" help with bell restoration work, and not bad at splicing ropes! I'm a Research Biologist by trade, working in pharmaceutical drug discovery. Ringing is such a diverse activity, and whatever your passion within the Exercise, I look forward to sharing the next three years with you all as Guild Master.

## HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY

### Steve Castle

After finding a 'visitors welcome' notice in the Abbey, I joined the Romsey band in 1974. About half a dozen of us benefited from being taught bell handling at East Tytherley, a lighter ring on plain bearings with a long-ish draught. After leaving school I rang in the East End of London and joined various characters in their "tower-grabbing" activities, which occasionally helped to highlight towers with bells in poor condition leading to their restoration. After only a few years I'd rung at about 2000 towers (a number which pales into insignificance when compared to the vast totals of some of my then, now famous, co-activists!).

After a seven year break, I joined the Southampton band in 1990 where I continue to be a member. In those days, the Ringing World banned the 'LGB' (now LGBTQI+) words and so, pre-social media, I launched an inclusion campaign in 1995. Soon afterwards the College Youths voted to admit women members. After an article ran in the Sunday Times and an item on Radio Five Live, the inclusion campaign was successful in 2001, leading to significant changes in the leadership of the Ringing World.

I've been asked what it is about ringing that I like so much to still be



ringing after nearly 50 years. I like the physical and mental challenge, performing publicly on heavy metal (copyright - Mark Place), making a contribution as a volunteer, both to that part of British culture where people are called to worship and to the Church, the team dimension of the local band and District, and the national network dimension of the Exercise. As a younger person it was wonderful to be part of a mixed age group - which assisted a sense of responsibility. As an older person it is wonderful to see the younger generation taking on responsibility in leadership roles. A few years ago our District Ringing Master was a person in their late teens / early twenties - this was good for us older ringers but also role-modelled for younger ringers across the Guild. Having been taught a skill, essentially for free, which can be employed in towers across the land and around the globe and received a life-time's support in this endeavour (also essentially for free) has been, and is, quite amazing, and something I value more and more highly the older I get.

I assisted the Guild once before as Secretary during 2004-7, and have been employed within the transport industry since 2006.



## HONORARY GENERAL TREASURER

### Robin Milford

I am Tower Captain at St Peter, Curdridge, in the Portsmouth District but also ring regularly at Botley, Upham and New Alresford. I was taught to ring by my late father at Havant in 1967, becoming a Life Member of the W&P a few years ago. I have rung two peals, and an unknown number of quarter peals (never kept count). I have previously been on the

Guild Social Committee, and am at present Treasurer of the Portsmouth District, and also run the Guild 200 Club (more members needed!). I am also a rather inactive member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and a regular helper on the Bradfield course and its predecessors. I retired (two years overdue) just over a year ago from what is now BAE Systems Naval Ships in Portsmouth Naval Base, originally Vosper Thornycroft, where I had been a ship structures design engineer for forty-six years.

## Twentieth Anniversary Quarter Peal

**O**n the evening of Wednesday 4th September 2002, at St Nicholas, Wickham, a rather relieved thirteen year old me heard her dad call "That's all", marking the end of her very first Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles. Little did I know then that I'd be feeling the same sense of relief for the next two decades, on the same bells, in the same method, with the same band!

As you can imagine, a lot can happen

in twenty years. For a start, getting the band together proved a little more difficult in 2012 and 2022, seeing as my dad, Steve, had moved into the neighbouring C&S District and my mum, Moira, had gone just a bit further into the depths of Norfolk!

The younger ringers of the band have also experienced several life changes in that time; our 2022 performance was slightly earlier than anticipated as Ben would be on his honeymoon

on the date itself (thank you for being available to ring during the busy run up to your wedding day!). I also appreciated the slightly earlier attempt due to being eight months pregnant at the time!

Thank you to the band for taking the time to come together and ring three times now. See you in 2032!

### LIZZIE COLLISS *Alverstoke*



2002



2012



2022

## Guild Peal Fees

**G**uild Peal Fees can now be remitted using the following online banking details:-

Account Name: Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Sort Code: 30-98-97

Account No: 84644363

Reference: Peal Date  
(DDMMYY)

Account Type: Business

Bellboard is the source by which peals rung for the Guild are duly identified.

To aid reconciliation, if the amount remitted covers multiple peals, please kindly send me a brief email with the appropriate detail (i.e Date & Place).

I would very much encourage the use of this new online facility in the first instance, but I am still happy to receive cash/cheques if you would prefer to pay this way.

Also a gentle reminder with regard to peals rung for the Guild, rule 21 states:-

- *Peals which are to be recognised by the Guild and have their details published in the annual report must be rung by bands composed entirely of members of the Guild other than probationary members, at least half of whom must be life and/or ringing members and/or compounding members who have transferred from ringing membership.*
- *An account of each peal including details of compositions on seven bells and above, together with the peal fee for each ringer participating, shall be sent to the Honorary Recorder of Peals within one month of the peal being rung.*

Thanks to Tony Smith, the Guild maintains a very comprehensive list of methods and compositions so it would be really helpful if the details, or a link to the composition, could be included with the Bellboard record. Any unnamed methods should also include the relevant place notation.

Many thanks.

**IAN CAREY**  
*Honorary Peal Recorder*

## Guild Insurance Webinar

A webinar was held on Saturday 18th June 2022 with a presentation given by Marcus Booth from Ecclesiastical Insurance (and a bell ringer) to provide an overview of the Guild Insurance cover and what this means for our members including, public liability, personal accident cover and insurance for bell maintenance.

For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation is available to watch below. If you are on a slow connection, you may need to download the recording before you start to watch it.

The slides from the presentation that Marcus went through are also available to download.

Visit the [Guild Website](#) for more details.

## Progress at Twyford

As of 25th August, the bells remain at White's of Appleton with no firm date for installation, although they are due back very soon.

If you come forward and volunteer to help the bell-hangers with the installation work, this will help reduce the shortfall on funding.

Offers of help should be forwarded to [Juliet Hawks](#), Churchwarden 07887 946830.

## New Guild Garments

**N**ow that towers have re-opened again after the Covid restrictions and lockdowns of the past couple of years, together with the huge amount of teaching and the welcome influx of new ringers, the time seems right to order some new sweatshirts and polo shirts, bearing the Guild logo. In effect, we have been able to keep the prices down to the 2016 levels, which is good news. Inevitably postage has increased, which is beyond our control, but I am hoping that we have left sufficient time to get garments to the towers without anybody needing to use the post.

[The Guild website](#) has the up-to-date order form (both [Word](#) and [PDF](#) versions) which contains all the details.

We have given as much choice as possible, but sadly not every colour is available in every size so you need to check carefully.

Ladies: the ladies' polo shirts are slightly tapered, but if (like me!) you prefer a slightly looser fit to allow ease of movement when stretching up, I suggest you consider the men's polo shirts as these are straight-sided and a more generous fit.

If you have any queries at all before you order, please let me know – contact details on the form or within the hyperlink below.

**[CHRISTINE KNIGHTS-WHITTOME](#)**

## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at Ryde

Ten ringers took part over two days:

- Thursday, between the times of 19:52 and 20:22, the bells sounded out across the town for all the community to enjoy, as beacons were being lit around the UK.

- on Friday, leading up to the time of the Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, 45 minutes of ringing started with the tenor being tolled 70 times and the other seven joining in immediately after.

All the ringers were delighted to ring for such a special occasion as part of the Jubilee events organised locally. The atmosphere in the Ringing Room was one of a 'Tower Party' and the home-made cake was much enjoyed.

Paul Robinson, our Tower Captain, said "I was pleased that a Ryde band was able to join the rest of the country in ringing at these times".

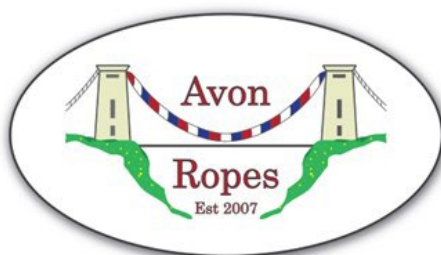
A letter, including records of the ringing, was sent to Her Majesty, The Queen, along with the ringers' congratulations and best wishes.



*Ringers' names from Left to Right: At back (holding tenor rope) Graham Nobbs then Richard Hunt, Helen Dear, Viv Nobbs, Adrian Burns, Angela Evans, Anne Deegan and Paul Robinson.*

A tower Press Release was issued to the local media and church publications and submitted to the Portsmouth Diocese... the piece was included in the Jubilee News section on the Diocese website.

**VIV NOBBS**  
**Ryde**



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## Travels with a Mobile Belfry

**W**hen we moved from London to Hampshire four and half years ago, we brought the Charmborough Ring with us as we currently own it, and planned to install it in the roof over the workshop at the rear of our new garage. However, in 2019 the ring was hired out 18 times in the season between March and October. We took it to places such as Essex, Gloucestershire, Canterbury Caerleon (South Wales) Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge. We also had to turn down a number of bookings, as more than one group wanted to hire the ring on the same day.

In addition to the demand for bookings, one of the other issues with the Charmborough Ring, and its predecessor the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry (LDMB) is that they both require a reasonably large vehicle to tow the trailers which are around 2.1 tons fully laden, and it can be difficult to find volunteers to take it to events. They both also take over an hour to erect. Therefore, a Mk2 design which would be lighter, and self-erecting with a hydraulic system, would help overcome these issues.

We therefore talked with our friends in the LDMB and Simon Linford, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) around three years ago about developing a Mk2 design. This would replace the Charmborough Ring with one based on a much lighter

aluminium structure. Covid slowed the whole process down, but thanks to the generosity of many ringers and ringing societies, and Taylors of Loughborough who offered both to design the structure on their CAD system, and to donate the bells and fittings, the Mk2 design is now a reality. It had its first outing at the CCCBR meeting in Nottingham over the weekend of 3rd & 4th September.

Although it is not yet in its final form as there are a few issues to sort out, including adding the trailer and hydraulics, the Mk2 ring will be available for hire from next year. It will be based in Loughborough as the Loughborough Foundry Trust was successful in obtaining funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the foundry buildings and improve its museum. Therefore, the Mk2 ring will be used as part of the museum's future outreach work with schools, as well as being available for other groups to hire.

The intention is that going forward the Charmborough Trust, to whom we loan the ring, and which deals with the income and expenditure from its operation, will co-ordinate bookings for all three mobile belfries. It will also promote more widespread use of mobile belfries and mini-rings at public events to help raise awareness of change-ringing. The Trust also want to make sure that all three rings are used more intensively

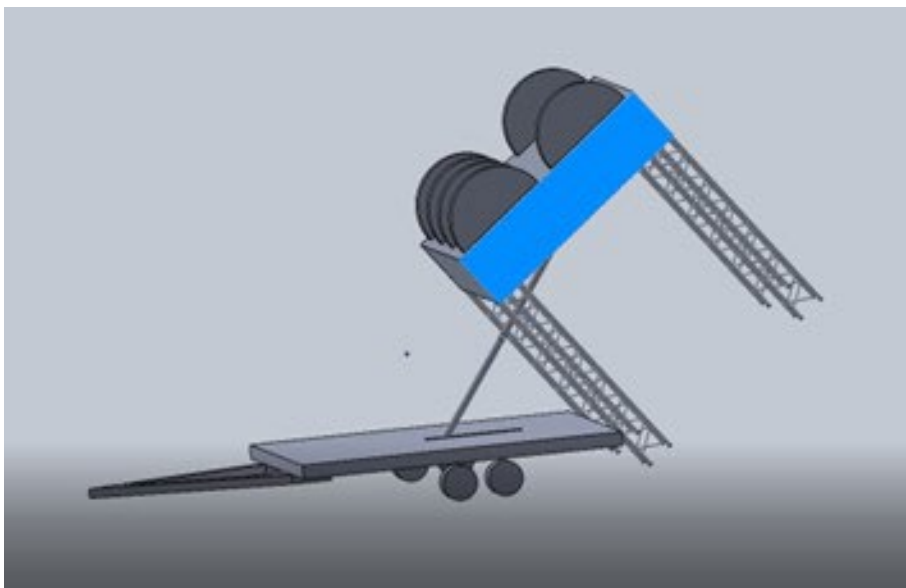


*The Mk2 design takes shape at Taylors*

throughout the year. With a need to recruit many more young ringers, the Trustees especially want to build on Jason Hughes' Charmborough Ring in Schools project, where the ring was used at two schools in Croydon to introduce young people to ringing during summer term activities weeks.

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) is also joining our group as a partner and has set aside some of its reserves to sponsor a project to use mobile belfries at university freshers' fairs. Since 2017 the Charmborough Ring has been used by the Cambridge University Guild at their freshers fair, resulting in many more students learning to ring than was previously the case. This in turn has led to the Cambridge ringers installing a new ring of six in the empty tower at St Clements in Cambridge, to be used as a dedicated teaching centre.

The ART university project also includes training some of the existing student ringers to teach bell-handling to the freshers. ART expected just a few university societies to take up the offer, but 11 have applied this autumn and around 35 student ringers will be trained during this academic year to teach bell handling. This is an important development because if we want more school age people to take up ringing, they will relate far better



*The Mk2 belfry will be transported horizontally on a trailer and lifted hydraulically into position.*



*The Mk2 mobile belfry's first outing at Nottingham*

to their older peers than ringers from their grand-parents' generation! The intention is that in subsequent years the students will also be able to help with taking the mobile belfries

and mini rings into schools, just as students from the University of London Society helped with Jason Hughes' Croydon project.

Since Covid we have continued to take the Charmborough ring out, this year going as far as a Preston for the new North-West ringing course, where it was put to excellent use. We have also used it to help recruit a whole new local band at Cheriton and it was also used effectively for the Trout 'n About festival in Stockbridge. In the longer term the LDMB may be converted to the new design, as it is showing signs of its age. We may also commission other mobile belfries to cover other parts of the country.

As we have been involved with the Charmborough ring since 2007 we are now looking to scale back by involvement. We are looking to transfer ownership, and it may no longer be based in Hampshire, although the Charmborough Ring will

probably remain in its current form. Unlike the other two mobile belfries, it can be used indoors.

If you want to book the Charmborough Ring for an event next year, whilst it remains based in Hampshire, do visit our [website](#). If someone from Hampshire wishes to come forward to continue to help with taking the Charmborough Ring or one of the other mobile belfries to events in and around Hampshire, do let us know.

To fulfil our original idea, we have recently purchased a new ring of eight, similar to the Charmborough ring to hang above the workshop at the rear of our garage, and this is proving a useful teaching facility – but that's another story!

**ROGER and CATHY BOOTH**  
*New Alresford*

## Making Ringing Accessible to All

I'm a restart after a 49 year break from bellringing, obviously a lot, lot older, but I also have some disabilities and have to take Morphine for pain. My hands are a painful mess with two fingers unable to open without huge pain, but....this is far from a sad tale.

My fabulous tower captain at Selborne, Racheal Barber, and Matt from Holybourne and Alan and Mike too from there, between them have devised a ringing style for me. There are some towers I just can't get to as the steps up are too much for my disintegrating bones. But most of them, when we do get up there, it's a team effort, not a particularly elegant process but I get to be a part of it and ring. I simply love it. It's my only pleasure now apart from my sewing but that's solitary. The time I'm ringing the bells I laugh, I smile, I giggle and I go home with a nice warm feeling. I'm alone and don't have a particularly happy time at home with a 16 year old I've adopted from the care system,

but the bells get me through it all; it means a huge amount to me.

I don't think bell ringing is open enough to disabled people. From the little I've seen, people that would get so very much from it. Yes, wheelchairs can be a huge no no for some towers but there are accessible towers; I've found them in a small village area.

Just an idea I had to make this fabulous hobby more inclusive to people like me. Yes, I go home and I'm in huge pain for a day or so, but boy it's worth it! I rang at a beautiful wedding recently. I didn't know the couple but I got so much pleasure from their day just being a small part of it.

The outings to other towers, lunch or a bit of cake, it's all so appreciated by me. I was meant to be at The Bradfield Ringing Course for a little bell ringing holiday but I wasn't able to attend, there were no options open to me but

not to attend. I actually cried; I was so so sad not to be able to go, but I pray I may be lucky enough to get a place next year.

You as an association provide such happiness for me. Let's give that to lots more too.

**CINDY LOU MAASIK**  
*Selborne*

## An Island Christening

**K**im Matthews, the Tower Captain of Sacred Heart in Bournemouth, and Bournemouth bells Champion, was asked to put a band together to ring for a christening at St Mary's Church on the National Trust-owned Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour on Sunday, 21st August.

Not surprisingly, her request for ringers had an instant and very positive and enthusiastic response and eleven ringers, ranging from experts to novices, plus four partners in addition, met at Lord Robert Baden-Powell's statue on Poole Quay to catch the 12.00 midday boat to Brownsea – a cheerful party of fifteen people.

The clouds brooded and the wind blew but we got to Brownsea both dry and smiling whereupon the sun, obligingly, came out just in time for us to enjoy the picnic we had all brought with us. Much sharing of sausage rolls, pigs-in-blankets, cakes and chocolates enhanced the holiday atmosphere. Brownsea Island is always a wonderful place to be whatever the time of year or the weather.

We could see the christening party gathering, looking slightly incongruous in suits and smart clothes; not so us bell-ringers who are not renowned for our sartorial style!

We were able to get into St Mary's Church – it is, most surprisingly, in the parish of St Peter's Church in Parkstone (where I and my twin brother were christened in 1943!) and not one in Poole – shortly before 2.00 p.m. and found our stumbling way up the pitch dark (there is no electricity in St Mary's) thirty-four steps to the ringing room without accident. It is a remarkably large room for such a small church and very well-appointed with a brand-new carpet which, I am sure, was not there on my last, pre-COVID, visit in 2019.

It is a light – 4 cwt. – ring of eight bells, with the No. 2 bell lighter than the treble, in great condition. The ropes are arranged in an almost perfect circle which makes ringing them comparatively easy and a pleasure. We rang Rounds, Call-changes, Plain Hunt, Grandsire Triples, Cambridge, and Stedman Triples – a great sound,

a great privilege and great fun.

We could see, from the ringing-room, the east end of the church lit by many candles – a very Victorian and quite romantic sight – what a magical place to have a christening!

During the hour or so we were ringing our accompanying non-ringers looked around the island but, sadly, no-one spotted a red squirrel! Peacocks were seen, of course, and some spotted spoonbills – quite a rare sight today.

We left that lovely church for refreshment of coffee and ice-cream at the café on the island, accompanied by hundreds of wasps warning us that autumn is on its way. Then back to Poole Quay on the ferry.

A great day, a great picnic, great ringing and great company. Many thanks to Kim for arranging it all.

**ROB BURY**  
*Sacred Heart, Bournemouth*



# Odiham News

## Muriel Crowder

Saturday, 11th June, 2022 at 11.00am., a visiting ringer's band which included Emily, granddaughter of Muriel Crowder, rang a [full peal](#) at All Saints, Odiham, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Muriel whose parents' shop was destroyed in the Odiham bombing during WW2. Over that weekend Muriel received her letter from the Queen. Muriel herself walked up the Church Path and came into the Church to listen to the bells where she was warmly welcomed by members the of the Odiham band. Muriel's story is well worth reading.

To read Muriel's story, please see these links to the Odiham Society website:

[Article 1](#)

[Article 2](#)



Muriel with the Peal Band

## Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild

Odiham, Hampshire

Saturday, 11 June 2022 in 2h 57 (12-1-11 in F)

**5100 Minor (8m)**

1 extent each; Bourne S, Ipswich S, Cambridge TP, Oxford TB, Norwich S, Kent TB, Cambridge S. 60 Plain Bob Minor.

- 1 John A Dodd
- 2 Janet E Menhinick
- 3 Emily J Crowder
- 4 Richard B Pullin
- 5 Peter W Emery
- 6 Andrew B Mills (C)

Rung to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Muriel Crowder (nee Hamilton), grandmother of the ringer of the 3rd. Muriel was raised in Odiham, confirmed and married in this church.

Also rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

3000th peal according to personal records 6.



Odiham Doubles QP Band

## Odiham Doubles

After ringing on the refurbished bells of All Saints, Odiham, at the ADM in January, a band from Basingstoke District decided to create a method with a name not yet used for a method, 'Odiham Doubles'.

Having rung an extent of the method at St Mary, Overton, the band asked if they could come to Odiham to ring the first quarter peal of it. We were very glad to say 'yes!'

So, on [Tuesday 19th April](#) they did just that.

**PAULINE STOKES**  
*Odiham*

## New Zealand Ringers in the Portsmouth District

At our bell ringing practice night on 7th February we were pleased to welcome two ringers from New Zealand - Neville, who now lives locally and is a regular attender at both Botley and Curdrige, and Steve, who is currently living in Gosport. I understand that Steve came over to the UK to visit his sick mother and got caught by the Covid lockdowns in the UK and New Zealand. He has so far been unable to return home. However, he is putting his time to good use by joining ringing practices around the area.

This is much easier here than it is in New Zealand - if we meet short for a practice on a Monday evening we can drive five miles or so down the road to Bishop's Waltham in time to join them

instead. At Neville's home tower in Hamilton, on the North Island of New Zealand, the nearest other tower is in Auckland, about eighty miles away, so similar to us driving to North London for another practice. Steve's home tower is Wellington Cathedral, at the southern tip of the North Island, 242 miles from the next tower north at Hamilton, comparable to the distance between Portsmouth and Durham Cathedrals!

There are only six rings of bells on the North Island of New Zealand, two of which are unringable, plus two on the South Island, excluding Christchurch Cathedral where the tower was demolished by an earthquake in February 2011. There are over twenty rings in the Portsmouth District of the

Winchester and Portsmouth Guild alone!

We enjoyed ringing with Steve and Neville and hope to see Steve again before he does go back to New Zealand.

Incidentally, Neville has once again shown how useful bell ringers can be to the Church by sorting out Netley Abbey's problems with their sound and lighting system, based on his experience as a school caretaker and maintenance man!

**ROBIN MILFORD**  
*Curdrige*

## A Diamond Wedding Celebration on The Island

**G**raham and Viv Nobbs, Ryde ringers, were delighted to celebrate the Diamond Wedding anniversary of their Auntie Pamela and Uncle Jon Rose with ringing.

Other family members, ringers from Southover in East Sussex, travelled from the mainland and headed to Shorwell Church direct from the car ferry to meet Viv, Graham and Island ringers, Jessica Lloyd and Richard Fenton, who kindly joined in with the ringing. Aaron, Herbie and Jasper Palmer were central to the ringing of

Rounds, Call Changes and Plain Hunt Doubles.

The next day, 20th August, saw many family members gathered at St. Mary's Church, Brighstone where they enjoyed listening to a [quarter peal](#) of Grandsire Triples, watching the ringers from downstairs in the church. Notices had been placed in the church to explain why the bells were sounding out and colourful recruitment leaflets left within easy reach! Before the happy couple left Brighstone to enjoy a special meal with the family at nearby Calbourne,

they sat with the quarter peal band for a photograph.

Jon and Pamela said they were delighted to have special ringing for their Diamond Wedding and thanked all ringers involved at the two events at Shorwell and Brighstone.

**VIV NOBBS**  
**Ryde**



*Quarter Peal Band with Jon and Pamela Rose. Left to Right: Back Row: Kieran Downer, Martin Hough, Graham Nobbs, Steve Noyes, Jane Johnston.  
Front Row: Viv Nobbs, Beccy Noyes, Caroline May.*

**Winchester & Portsmouth  
Diocesan Guild**

**Brighstone, Isle of Wight**

**Saturday, 20 August 2022**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Kieran Downer
- 2 Stephen Noyes
- 3 Beccy Noyes
- 4 Jane Johnston
- 5 Viv Nobbs
- 6 Graham Nobbs
- 7 Martin Hough (C)
- 8 Caroline May

Diamond wedding anniversary  
compliment to Pamela and Jon  
Rose, aunt and uncle to 5 & 6.

## Big Wilf's Bell Muffles

We are the leading supplier of church bell muffles  
with muffles at over 1200 churches.

All muffles made bespoke to fit their clappers, with  
our own complimentary embroidered muffle bag.  
Muffles are easy to fit and remove.

sales@bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk 07946 605 963  
or find us on Facebook

[www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk](http://www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk)

# A&P Communications Workshop - An Invitation

**Communications Workshop on Saturday 1st October 2022 St. Mary's Bentley church hall 9.30am registration and refreshments 10am start to 12 noon ringing after time permitting.**

**T**he Alton and Petersfield District are hosting a first ever communications workshop.

A practical morning session demonstrating some of the most effective ways to communicate. Using these skills to recruit, inform, utilise social media effectively and how speak confidently.

Places are strictly limited, so register

asap as it's first come first served and it's 'Free'!

The highlight of the morning will be our invited key speaker former Sky News correspondent and presenter, Ursula Errington who also worked for the BBC Regional news as a news anchor and Monocle 24 Radio as a breakfast presenter on the stations flagship current affairs programme. Ursula now runs Hard Truth Media.

This will give you a fantastic chance to listen to someone with the skills, take in tips, understand what works and ideally assist each tower to help recruit, grow and communicate effectively.

Timings:

- *Arrival & registration tea/coffee at 9.30am*
- *Workshop starts at 10am in the church hall. Plenty of parking*
- *Wrap up and finish 12.00 followed by 30 mins ringing. (6 bells 12 cwt) time permitting*

Please pass this to members of your tower. Names ASAP please by [email](#) or text: 07539 073878

**SIMON POYSER**  
**A&P District Chairman**

## The Charmborough Ring at 'Trout 'n About'

**A**fter a two year break during the pandemic, the fantastic food and craft festival in Stockbridge, Trout 'n About (T'nA), returned for its 12th birthday.

Some eight to ten thousand people descended on our village to sample food and drink, enjoy some retail therapy on beautiful hand-crafted items and this year, to try out some bell ringing on the Charmborough Ring. The T'nA Committee were keen to hire the Mini Ring for the Family and Well-being area, where a steady stream of visitors came along to find out more about ringing and have a go. We were very lucky to have help from many talented District and local ringers who gave cheerful help and advice to ringing 'newbies'. As a result Stockbridge now has five people wishing to learn to ring and a 'taster day' was held on Saturday 3rd September to reinforce this interest. We were delighted when they were able to make really good progress and were keen to continue training, and were happy to point the visitor from Sussex, who wandered in from the High Street, to her own, local tower.

At T'nA we were located in the family and well-being zone, on the



football field off the main high street, so there were many young children who wanted to have a go – ringers of the future perhaps, although I have already approached the vicar to have the Mini Ring on the church lawn, in the centre of the village, on the High Street, next year.

As well as the many helpers who gave their time freely, and my village friends who offered parking near

the High Street, I must thank Roger Booth, who has been indefatigable in his help, support and advice over this visit. If anyone is considering hiring the Charmborough Ring, I would say – go for it! It's fun for non-ringers and ringers alike and is a great way to let people know about the exercise.

**MICKI NADAL**  
**Stockbridge and Kings Somborne**

## Sam Rorke on The Island!

Sam was the last of his family to learn to ring in the mid-1990s after, one by one, his older brothers became tall enough to hold a rope. They had followed in the footsteps of their Dad who had learned to ring ten years or so before, after he heard All Saints' bells while he was in the bath on a Tuesday (practice) night!

Ryde ringers were delighted to hear Sam was returning from his home in Sydney, Australia, for a holiday. He had arranged to visit the Isle of Wight with fellow members of 'The Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers' together with ringing friends from the U.K. mainland. The ANZAB group included ringers from four cathedral cities - Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Goulburn. They were able to ring at the majority of the Island's towers - unfortunately Newchurch was unavailable because of church building issues.

Sam kindly introduced his fellow Ryde ringers to the visitors. Six Ryde Sunday Service ringers from over many years were present at The Minster, Newport; they were grateful for the opportunity to come to ring together once more and rang a touch of Grandsire Doubles on the back six. Great fun was had by all at the Ryde ringers' local hostelry "Spoons" before the visitors gave the town a real treat with their ringing.



*The (mostly) ANZAB visiting band at Ryde.*

There were other special reunions when Sam met up with many Ryde band members, including Jill Taylor, a former Tower Captain who had taught Sam to ring, and Jo Davis who is a long-standing family friend.

to Heathrow airport.

We were all very pleased to have met up and rung with Sam again and there was considerable chat about the possibility of another reunion!

Sam was keen to score a couple of Island quarters during his visit; Stedman Doubles at Ryde and Cambridge Surprise Minor at The Priory Church of St. Mary's, Carisbrooke were scored and the bands enjoyed an evening meal and camaraderie at The Waverley, Carisbrooke.

**VIV NOBBS**  
**Ryde**

**(Photos by Sam Rorke)**

On Sam's last day in the U.K. he attended a farewell coffee stop with Ryde ringers just before heading off



*Ryde, Left to Right:  
Back Row - Sam Rorke and Graham Nobbs. Front Row - Jo Davis, Viv Nobbs, Jill Taylor and Adrian Burns*



*Newport, Ryde Sunday Service Ringers from over the years reunited!  
Left to Right: Paul Robinson (current Ryde Tower Captain), Graham Nobbs, Sam Rorke, Viv Nobbs, Roy Le Marechal and Robert Eames.*

## Poetry Corner

### A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

*I rang "Number Two" to "Bob  
Doubles" today  
And almost got it right –  
Could it be the end of the tunnel,  
Could it almost be in sight ??*

*It was only a plain course, of course,  
Not a single "single" or "bob" –  
To reach my goal of ringing a "touch",  
I've still got one hell of a job.....*

*But just to ring a plain course would  
Be a real breakthrough for me –  
"Keep at it", I keep telling myself,  
"And success you'll one day see".....*

*I'll try to ring all the "inside" bells,  
The "Three, the "Five" and the "Four"  
When I can ring all of those as well,  
I'll really have opened the door.....*

*'Twill be great to do it on my own  
WITHOUT a single fear.  
WITHOUT a doubt in my mind too  
WITHOUT Kim standing there.....*

*It would be great for both of us –  
For me, for Kim as well,  
It would free her up, it would, to give  
Some other poor bugger hell !!*

**ROB BURY**  
**Sacred Heart, Bournemouth**

## Creative Content Needed!

We are always looking for more creative content from across the Guild to be shown off in this newsletter, be it poetry, baking or artwork.

Feel free to submit your hard work to [comms@wpbells.org](mailto:comms@wpbells.org)

## Birthday Cake with a Difference

**O**n Saturday 3rd September a large number of John Murrell's relatives and friends met at his daughter Fiona's new house in Botley to celebrate in advance of his 80th



birthday the next day. Some came from as far as Ireland, where another daughter now lives, but friends from closer to home included members of local crown green bowling clubs as well as Botley and Curdridge bell ringers.

John has long been a member of the Hedge End bowls club, and has been ringing at Curdridge and Botley for around thirty-five years. He previously helped to look after the bells at Curdridge, and is now tower correspondent for Botley. A friend of a friend made the magnificent cake shown in the photograph, which beautifully combines these two interests - it seemed a shame to cut it but it was much appreciated by all present.

**ROBIN MILFORD**  
**Curdridge**

## Digital Media

We have several active mailing lists, hosted by Google. These are an excellent opportunity for members to communicate with whole groups of people quickly and easily. Once signed up, you'll often see reminders of Guild and District events, requests for wedding ringers, announcements, and the odd amusing anecdote! All of our mailing lists can be found on the Guild website:

<https://wpbells.org/2018/05/26/mailling-lists/>

The Guild and its Districts also have a number of active Facebook pages available for members to join:

[The W&P Guild](#)  
[Alton and Petersfield District](#)  
[Christchurch and Southampton District](#)  
[Isle of Wight District](#)  
[Portsmouth District](#)

**LIZZIE COLLISS**

## Competition Voting Now Live

Many thanks to all those who submitted entries to the Guild Photography Competition.

We received well over a hundred photos of different towers from across all of the Districts!

These entries have now been shortlisted and agreed on by the Communications Committee and the Principal Officers. Now it's over to you to decide who the winner is!

**To view the shortlisted final twenty entries, please click [here](#).**

**Once you have decided on your favourite, you may vote [here](#).**

Voting closes on **Monday 31st October**. The winner will be contacted by email and results will be announced on all our Digital Media outlets.