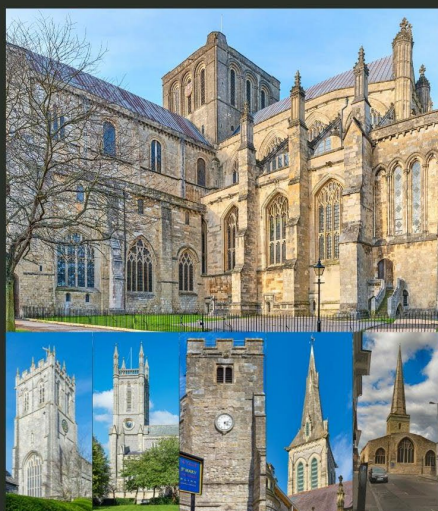
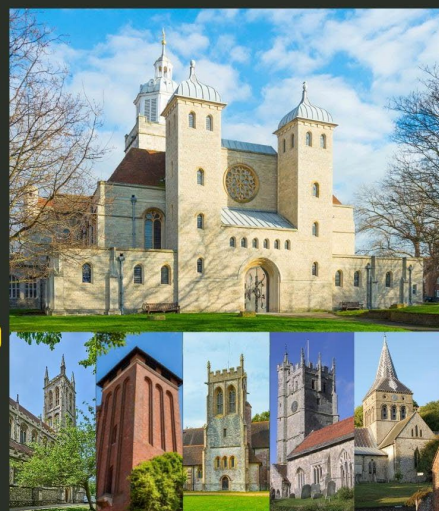




Winchester and Portsmouth

Diocesan Guild of
Church Bell Ringers



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024

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Inheriting a 12 bell; a chance to showcase Portsmouth Cathedral as a great venue!

When I took over as tower captain from Ben Carey in 2022, I was aware that I was inheriting a tower in good health. I don't mean that literally, although we had weathered the recent Covid pandemic as well as any tower could hope to, but figuratively. Ben, and Ian Carey before him, had built up the standard and calibre of the ringing and established it as a centre of 12 bell ringing since the augmentation in 2009. As such, the Cathedral band included a large footprint of regular visitors of a very capable standard, particularly for the monthly 12 bell practice. Having been a ringer, on and off, at the Cathedral since my

student days twenty years ago, I was comfortable with this and knew many of the ringers well, although I did not take the responsibility lightly. But there was also something else I inherited as tower captain, hosting a National 12 Bell Contest eliminator.

The Backstory

Ben Carey has been a judge in both eliminators and finals of the contest for many years. Indeed, 2024 would be the first year in eight that he had been a contestant rather than a judge. As such, many years ago he'd been talking to the committee about Portsmouth hosting an eliminator and



The Portsmouth Cathedral band



Would the six barrels of beer last the whole event?

originally we had been slated to host in 2022. Covid got in the way, and we were put on hold, so it was in the same month that I became captain that Benjamin merrily forwarded a follow up email to me about us hosting in 2024 - 'Dear committee, please send all correspondence to our new tower captain :-)...'

The Dean and his team have always been very supportive of the ringers at the Cathedral and so were more than happy to host the rescheduled event, even if they didn't fully understand what they were saying yes to!

Over the coming months meetings were held with various team members to discuss the opportunity and talk about the aims for the event. It was quickly established that some key aims for us would be:

- to host an event that allowed attendees to stay on site for the whole day (if they so wished);
- to showcase the Cathedral as an excellent venue for a large event of this type, with the ability to deliver all catering etc. 'in house';
- to embrace the opportunity for the wider non-ringing volunteer community to be involved with a ringing event;
- to use the event as an 'audition' for hosting a 12 bell final in the future.

As a dual challenge to hosting the event itself, we also had the other challenge which was to enter the competition as a band. Coordinating the event itself and also arranging a series of practices for the local band

is no mean feat; I do not envy any tower doing the same. At Portsmouth I also had the shadow hanging over us of our only previous entry, the year before, at local rivals Hursley. In 2023 the nerves got the better of us and, despite being a very experienced band, we came last, much to the delight of some local rivals! I was therefore determined to do two things;

1. To host an excellent event that people would enjoy immensely (the primary goal);
2. To ring well as a band and finish mid-table in the results.

Hosting an Event 'On Site'

The event hosted at Hursley was an excellent day. I enjoyed it immensely. Being an inner city location with a more flexible and spacious venue meant that we could aim to do something a bit different. In the past, one thing I'd always been disappointed with in eliminators I'd rung in was that inevitably bands ended up dispersed throughout the town in various pubs etc. and not able to socialise with ringers who they might night otherwise see again for a couple of months or even years. I've always enjoyed the locations where people stay together and mingle. The key to venues that have managed this in the past, I realised, was beer...and lots of it.

One of the first things we established was that we had a licence to serve alcohol on site, and then the second was to contact Bowman Ales to provide six barrels of beer. Assorted other soft drinks were sourced but it was the beer that was key.

The second consideration was to provide ample catering options. It is a long-established tradition that bacon rolls and tea should be available, but we also wanted to do something a bit more for the rest of the day. We engaged with our very experienced volunteering team from the Cathedral, well drilled in large fundraising events for the choir, and we agreed that we'd try something new; a pancake menu (both sweet and savoury) and soup and rolls. And so, a plan was hatched.

But would six barrels of beer be enough? How many people would attend? As one ringer from York's band teased me with only days to go, "that's less than a barrel a band; shall we take bets on when you run out?"

An Excellent Team

We are very fortunate to have an excellent and loyal team of ringers at Portsmouth, willing to muck in whenever we host something like this. A lot was done in a short space of time, from painting the staircase, cleaning the ringing room, baking cakes, setting up sound and video feeds, ordering branded polo shirts, coordinating various admin tasks, liaising between the various groups of volunteers, and turning out the day before to help setup, take receipt of beer, prepare stillages and learn how to tap barrels. Programmes were designed, signs made, boxes lugged, and hundreds of chairs set out. We even set up a kiddies corner with colouring, Duplo and Brio - not always just enjoyed by the kiddies as it turned out!

There is no doubt that running an event like this will only work with a team around you and we had an excellent one. And that is not to exclude many people who were more than willing to help in various roles but were not called upon in the end. Everyone was appreciated and I am grateful to them all.

Building a Foundation for Something More

The days seem to be ages away and then suddenly it's here. This event was no exception. A slightly sleepless Friday night, mainly sweating on whether there would be enough beer, ensued and then it was here. And so,

at 10am on Saturday 22nd March the doors opened and the ringers (and lots of extras just coming for the day) started to arrive.

Breakfasts started flowing from the kitchen, judges were greeted, test rounds were rung on the bells, and then a problem - the judges weren't happy with the audibility of the trebles. Whilst Hawkear (a piece of software which assesses striking) could pick up the sound without issues, the trebles were being obscured in the sound feed by the bigger bells so that to the human ear they were not satisfactory for Andrew Mills, the lead judge. This was the only part of the day that we had no control over, the sound feed having been configured by the technicians from the committee many months before. With ten minutes to go until the draw, the team set to work on a plan B. The judges were relocated to one of the upper floor offices across in Cathedral House where they would listen to the bells live, rather than through the sound feed, with Hawkear still in support from the original judges' room, communication via WhatsApp allowing them all to liaise.

By the time the draw took place the judges were installed in their new location and stewards were instructed to keep street noise to a minimum. Phew! And then it was down to the business at hand...the draw itself!

Settling Old Scores

There are more teams in the contest this year than ever before. With more 12 bell towers, and confidence in ringing on higher numbers growing, it is a testament to the health of ringing that so many teams have chosen to enter. At Portsmouth it was a real joy to see a trilogy of rivalry setup; Portsmouth, Hursley and Wimborne all in the same eliminator. What a delight for the south to have such a bounty of capable ringers!

With Portsmouth getting the bogey slot last year at Hursley, being drawn first, I was just praying we got a middle of the day draw instead this year. That way the day would be in full flow, and I could have a beer and relax mid-afternoon. As I stood, holding the hat for the Dean to draw out the teams, my heart sank further and further with each name that came

out; Ipswich, Oxford, York, Hursley, SRCY, Cheltenham, Melbourne, Wimborne...and Portsmouth last. Last year first, this year last. Bummer. Would the beer last that long?

The day ran well. With each team that rang, more and more ringers congregated around the bar. Food rolled out of the kitchens, beer poured out of the barrels and ringers mingled in an atmosphere that got more and more jovial as the day went on. The time slowly ticked by and I watched my band look increasingly tense, as the tedium of four hours seemed to add slowly. Team after team rang very reasonably and the nerves built. Finally, at 3:15pm, a team that was clearly desperate to both ring and have a beer, congregated for the photo before making our way up to the organ gallery to wait at the bottom of the stairs. The atmosphere was noticeably tense. A year of feeling like we'd done badly; the expectation of being the hosts; a full day without a beer! It was all getting to us.

Wimborne came into rounds and we ascended the tower. We exchanged pleasantries, took our places, and waited for the designated time. A decent enough practice five leads, if you ignore my clanger of a mistake, and then we were ready to start. We'd had solid practice sessions during the week which had steadily got better. I suggested we all just believe in that and try not to tense up and ring too slowly; that was all I would say. We started our test piece. A good pace, a few jitters, but nothing major, and we were ringing at a good and steady pace. Most importantly we were

ringing as a band at the same pace. Lead on lead we settled, each one better than the last. By the time we rounded lead four we were ringing as well as we had in any of the practices and the final two leads ran through well. Even a slight mistake didn't disrupt the beat and, as we finished, I was delighted. Old demons had been put to bed. I was confident we'd done ourselves proud and that was all I could hope for.

Finally, a beer and the wait for the judges. They didn't take too long, just over an hour, and then we assembled in the nave for the results. Ben and I, on scribe duty, huddled over the laptop to put up the results as they were read out. As is tradition, they were read out in reverse order from 9 up to 5, and then the top 4.

Hursley in 9th, Ipswich 8th, Wimborne 7th, York 6th...we waited for our name to be called, but no, Cheltenham in 5th. Eyebrows were duly raised. Then for the top 4. No surprise that the excellent performance of SRCY assured first and Melbourne came close behind in second. I'd listened to Oxford's test piece earlier in the day and had been impressed. So when they called out team I, Portsmouth, in third place Ben and I looked at each other and exchanged rude words! 3rd for Portsmouth, and then the realisation - we were in the final! As I roared with delight Ben, as dry as ever, typed three simple letters after our name "ICH" - It's Coming Home!

Conclusion

All bravado aside, it is great that in



The teams gather for the results!

the past two years there have been two eliminators hosted within the W&P. For Portsmouth, hosting the eliminator was a great opportunity to showcase the Cathedral as a venue and the bells as a relatively new 12.

Did we achieve our objectives? We have had universally good feedback about the day. As Sandra Alford, the captain of the Cheltenham team, fed back to the committee secretary:

"Please could you pass on our thanks to the Portsmouth band for hosting such an excellent day. As a venue it was outstanding. Plenty of space to socialise, very friendly locals, outstanding refreshments and all extremely well organised that it seemed everything went without a hitch."

I have also received a number of emails with similar sentiments.

What about in terms of bringing the ringers and the Cathedral volunteers closer together? As the results were read out, the Dean was getting visibly excited. When the news broke that we had qualified, he was delighted. Our non-ringing volunteers were coming up to me to hug me and congratulate me for the rest of the evening, whilst we were tidying up and, in the week following, emails were flying about extolling the day and the result.

And did we establish ourselves as a potential future host for the final? The first thing the Chief Operating Officer and the Dean asked was, "could we host the final in 2027, our centenary year as a Cathedral?" There is real

excitement for this among the office team. An initial enquiry with the 12-bell contest committee is also being discussed. Who knows, maybe it will happen?

My main aim for the day was to make sure everyone had a good day. Qualifying was icing on an already very good cake. There is one thing for sure, if we do host a final, there will be a lot more organising to be done. But for now, we are enjoying the success of the day and looking forward to being in the final at Chilcompton on 15th June. "It's Coming Home!"

PETER SHEPPARD
Portsmouth Cathedral

A Message From The Master

We have an amazing team of dedicated volunteers who help to keep the Guild and its activities running smoothly! Could you be part of this team too? Do you love ringing, and could you find a little time to support, coordinate or help with Guild organisation and events? If so, please read below, and see if there's a committee or officer's role that you could take on.

Some people are hesitant to take on a role at Guild level but, from personal experience, I've found it to be a lot of fun and hugely rewarding! I've made new friends and acquaintances, and have been privileged to get to know and work alongside some very interesting and knowledgeable ringers. I've learnt all kinds of new things, and been given the opportunity to visit bell towers in some awesome places! You certainly don't have to be a very experienced ringer or need to have been ringing for a long time to take on a Guild role – all you need is to have enthusiasm, a love of ringing and a desire to help.

I first got involved at Guild level in my twenties by helping on the Guild Education Committee Courses, later joining the Committee to be part of the team running Education Days. As a younger person, I learnt skills that were transferable to my workplace, but many of you who started ringing later

on in life will already have skills from your workplace that are transferable to volunteering for the Guild! There's a huge variety of different ways you can contribute, from booking towers and village halls for events, liaising with external companies such as pubs or printing firms, or using IT skills to prepare newsletters, communications or webpages, to more practical things like inspecting bell installations or helping to steward a striking competition.

As with all volunteer positions, the role is what you make it... and that's OK! Some people will have endless time and energy to give, but others will have less time as they juggle family, full-time employment and District and Tower responsibilities. Whichever it is, we are hugely grateful for any time that our volunteers can spare to keep the Guild running. As with all voluntary organisations, the more people that come forward to help, the lighter the workload for everyone.

Elections for the vacant Officer positions of Honorary General Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Central Council Representative and Independent Examiner will take place at the Guild AGM on Saturday 8th June at the Patterson Centre, Swanmore at 5 p.m. The four Committees are also up for election this year: Belfry Stewardship, Communications,



Education and Striking Competitions, and we are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who would be interested in becoming Convenor of the Communications Committee.

Don't worry if you can't make the meeting, you don't have to be present on the day to be elected, we just need to know that you'd be willing to stand.

So if you're reading this, and are interested but hesitant about getting involved, do please contact me or any of the Guild Officers or Committee Convenors to chat more about what volunteering might be like. Looking forward to you joining the team!

RACHAEL BARBER
Guild Master
guild.master@wpbells.org



Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Saturday 8th June **Annual General Meeting Day 2024**

Hosted by the Portsmouth District



Itinerary for the Day

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 10.00 - 12.30 | Inter-District 8-Bell Striking Competition at Curdridge
<i>Own arrangements for lunch</i> |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | Practice Sessions
Upham - <i>Rounds to Plain Hunt</i>
Shedfield - <i>Plain Bob/Grandsire Triples</i>
Soberton - <i>Stedman Triples and Surprise Major</i> |
| 14.45 - 15.15 | General Ringing at Swanmore |
| 15.15 - 16.00 | Service at Swanmore |
| 16.00 - 17.00 | Tea |
| 17.00 - 18.00 | Annual General Meeting |
| 18.00 - 19.00 | General Ringing at Swanmore |

Further details are available on the Guild Website: wpbells.org

Positions up for Election at the AGM

The Guild Officers are searching for members to fill the roles of Honorary General Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Central Council Representative and Guild Independent Examiner.

The following suggestions may be helpful to members thinking of offering themselves for election. The descriptions are in no way exhaustive but are intended to give a feel for the position.

All Officers

1. Put simply, Officers aim to further the objects and aims of the Guild - essentially that is to encourage more and better ringing, good bell maintenance and safe practice by uniting ringers for mutual support.
2. The Guild organises meetings, practices and events. You may well be involved in the planning of these.
3. Good communications are always important. Simply talking to as many people as possible at Guild or District events helps enormously.
4. District members may come to you for help and advice on matters concerning their bells and ringing in their tower. Other Officers and Committees are available for advice and support.

Specific to the role of Honorary General Secretary

As Secretary you are the focal point for communication. You receive letters, emails, reports and telephone calls and disseminate information to the appropriate people as quickly and effectively as possible. You book halls for the Executive Meetings and District Officers Forum and work with the District that hosts the AGM each year, deal with the sales of membership certificates and Guild badges and organise reprints and re-orders when necessary. You prepare agendas for meetings, calling in reports, budget bids, and papers for discussion from the other Officers and Committee Conveners. In

conjunction with other officers make policy and the day-to-day decisions for the Guild.

You are one of the Trustees of the Bell Restoration Fund and will act as its secretary.

Specific to the role of Public Relations Officer

- Work with the Church to raise the profile of the Guild and to highlight the value of ringing both at Diocesan level, or with an individual church alongside the local ringers.
- Engage with the Media, e.g. by providing a "Press-Release" to local TV/ radio/ newspapers prior to, and after, important ringing events, using social media where appropriate. This may involve arranging local TV/Radio interviews with an appropriate member of the Guild.
- Engage with local communities and dignitaries e.g. schools, Councils, Lord Lieutenants, High Sheriffs and Mayors.
- Provide advice/information to individual Districts and towers who are taking on their own P.R. activities, including arranging a Guild Representative to attend an event.
- Maintain and enhance contacts with other ringing/ related organisations including the 'Central Council' to work on National initiatives, and share ideas and information.
- Awareness of activities of outside bodies (e.g. Hampshire archives, Royal British Legion) to identify national and other events which would provide a focus for ringing, particularly those which might raise the profile of ringing to the general public e.g. VE Day commemorations.
- Work with the Guild Communications Committee to

highlight events.

- Work with the Guild Web Master to provide content for the Guild website to keep information and links updated.

Specific to the role of Central Council Representative

- Attend the Annual CCCBR Meeting in person, voting and contributing to the work of the CCCBR with the interests of the W&P Guild in mind.
- Feed information back to Guild members on the activities and decisions of the CCCBR, both before and after the Annual Meeting, and as appropriate throughout the year.
- Attend the W&P Guild AGM and Executive Committee Meetings, to keep in touch with current opinions, direction and needs of the W&P Guild, to enable you to represent the interests of the W&P Guild accurately.

Specific to the role of Guild Independent Examiner

The position of Independent Examiner is an important role but not an onerous one. It involves checking the Guild Accounts once a year when the Treasurer has produced the balance sheets in early spring. Most of the calculations are done in spreadsheets but the IE needs to look at other evidence such as invoices. It is especially important that the BRF accounts are accurate as they could be called in by the Charity Commission. Your ringing ability is not relevant but ideally you should have a logical mind, a facility with numbers and possibly some knowledge of basic accounting.

To express your interest, please email the Master directly at:

guild.master@wpbells.org

Committees Looking to Elect New Members

The Belfry Stewardship Committee

This committee is responsible for:-

- The inspection of repairs carried out that are subject to grants being paid from the Belfry Restoration Fund (BRF) and to report back to the BRF that the repairs are satisfactory and completed, or otherwise!
- To advise any tower in the Guild that requests advice or help.
- To update the Bell Stock Survey which is a record of the bells and fittings in the Guild.
- To run education courses for steeple keepers.

The Communications Committee

This committee is responsible for:-

- Sharing important information with District Secretaries.
- Sharing content with our various digital media outlets, including Mailing Lists and Facebook groups.

- Liaising with the Guild Webmaster to ensure website content is up-to-date.
- Collecting articles for, assembling, and distributing the Guild Newsletter.

The Education Committee

This committee is responsible for:-

- Meeting with District Ringing Masters to establish what the educational needs of the Guild are each year.
- Deciding which educational courses would best support members.
- Arranging towers and helpers to support education days.
- Preparing and delivering theory sessions.

The Striking Competitions Committee

This committee is responsible for:-

- Deciding what competitions will be run during the year, where and when.

- Agreeing the format and rules of the competitions.
- Discussion with the local district where the competitions are due to take place to find suitable towers. This includes consideration about the suitability of the bells, availability of toilets and refreshments, where the judges could be seated away from any disturbance etc.
- Finding a judge (or judges). Usually for Guild competitions we invite judges from outside the Guild area so there is no favouritism towards any one tower etc.
- Advertising the competitions across the Guild by use of social media, email and through the district secretaries to the towers.
- On the day of the competition committee members act as stewards to make sure that the competition runs smoothly.

Holy Trinity, Privett, Back in Action

As the worst of the wet winter weather is now behind us (hopefully!), the ropes at Holy Trinity, Privett in the Alton & Petersfield District were replaced at the end of March, and the bells checked over ready for their first ringing of the year. Holy Trinity is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust, and work to the spire is needed to prevent water ingress. Until this work can be carried out, the ropes had been removed during the winter months to help preserve them. And so on Easter Sunday, these glorious bells rang out over the village to a nice Quarter of Grandsire Triples, with A&P young ringer James Wedley ringing his first Quarter on 8 bells! Well done James, and thank you to all those members of the band who gave up their Easter Sunday afternoon to ring.

RACHAEL BARBER
A&P District Secretary



Photos: Francesco Greenslade

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Privett, Hampshire

Holy Trinity

Sunday, 31 March 2024 in 46m
(12-0-15 in F)

1288 Grandsire Triples

Composed by R William Willans
(23258)

- 1 George Whiteside
- 2 Matthew D Watts
- 3 Rachael A Barber
- 4 Ellen R Barber
- 5 James W G Twiney
- 6 Roger A Barber
- 7 Francesco P Greenslade (C)
- 8 James A Wedley

First on Eight - 8

Rung for Easter Sunday. First ringing on the bells this year.

Beavers in the Belfry

On the 15th March I helped the Liss Tower Band welcome the 1st Liss Beavers to St Mary's Church. They wanted to find out what goes on when they hear the Friday practice as they leave their meetings, almost opposite the church, each week.

There were about twenty Beavers and their leaders. We showed them how the bells make a sound and how to ring them.

Francesco Greenslade set up a video link from the belfry which allowed the Beavers to see what was happening above them while they were ringing the treble and two (which were both tied).

While half of the group were upstairs

ringing, I helped the other half with their mini scavenger hunt around the church, and rang some 150-year-old hand bells with Graham Gard and Ellen Barber.

The Beavers loved hearing the bells being rung up in peal at the beginning of the session and the open ringing (rounds and call changes, which I was part of) at the end.

I made sure everyone; children, helpers and leaders, went home with a "Bell Ringing as a hobby" leaflet. Maybe we'll have some new recruits very soon?

EDITH ALLEN

Liss

(ex Liss Beaver, current Scout)



Edith in action at a Liss practice night.



There were about twenty Beavers and their leaders.



Ringling on the 150-year-old handbells.



The Beavers loves hearing the bells being rung up in peal.



Beavers got to ring the treble and two.

Basingstoke District Learners and Improvers Practice

With the focus on ringing training being handed to the districts, the Basingstoke district kicked off on 23rd March with a learners and improvers practice. It was a little bit of an unknown as we hadn't defined what a learner or improver was, we hadn't asked people to sign up and we hadn't set out what we were covering in the session! St Michael's, Basingstoke was chosen

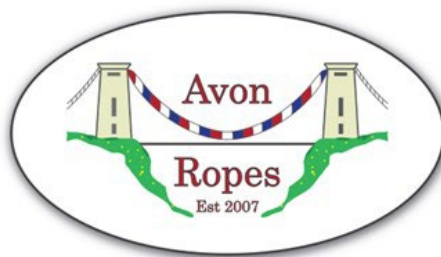
as somewhere easy to access and the local ringers kindly set up the front 6 of the 8 on their simulator so we could ring to our hearts content for two hours.

As the morning arrived, so did the ringers. We had a fantastic turn out for this sessions with twelve learners and improvers representing seven of the district towers. Ringing was

based mainly around ringing accurate rounds with some of the ringers visiting a new tower for the first time. Other firsts included leading for the first time and covering while we gave some of our improvers a chance to ring some Plain Hunt on five.

Midway through, we had a chance for some refreshment, a chat and to practise our listening skills, picking out bells ringing inaccurately in recordings of rounds. Confidence grew in the second half of the session, with people trying different bells and different weights of bells. The rounds improved too! All in all it was felt to be a very worthwhile morning and definitely something we will be looking to repeat!

ADAM GREENLEY
*Basingstoke District
Ringing Master*



Our key products and services

- 2 week bell rope repairs
- Machine spliced tail ends
- Church bell ropes
- Chiming ropes
- Pre-stretched polyester
- Light pull bell ropes
- Model bell ropes
- Mini ring ropes
- Dyneema® tops on bell ropes
- Leather garter sleeves

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or find us on Facebook
www.avonropes.co.uk

Andrew Johnson 08/07/1966 - 20/02/2024

Andrew, like his mother, Elizabeth, rang for most of his life in the Winchester District of the Guild. His interest in numbers first attracted him to bell ringing. This interest ultimately led to his resolution of a fiendish, 300-year-old mathematical bell ringing problem: a peal of Stedman Triples without any singles.

Andrew attended Sun Hill Infant and Primary School where teachers recognised and nurtured his academic potential. He then moved to Montgomery of Alamein (now Kings) Secondary School where headmaster Dennis Beacham recognised his talent. He encouraged Andrew who then won an open scholarship to Winchester College in 1979, a pivotal moment in his life. Andrew spent five happy, fruitful, successful years at Winchester College where his science and maths skills shone through. He also had a keen interest in computing, with early programming on Commodore PET computers and electronics projects both at school and at home. Andrew thrived in the

academic environment of Winchester College, with four As at A Level including the top score nationally for chemistry at A Level in that year. He secured a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, his first choice, to read electronic engineering.

Andrew gained a First at Cambridge. He could have studied mathematics, but engineering suited him well and gave him the opportunity to join IBM, where he worked for 35 years. During his career, he worked in different areas, starting out in hardware but then working on Java script, helping to resolve a crisis for the Bank of Hong Kong, and moving on to the 'internet of things'. He was a backroom boffin for IBM, with over 11 patents to his name and occasionally flying to the USA on 'urgent trips' to fix bugs before an already announced product release date, his big brain at work.

Andrew worked in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he joined the local band of bell ringers, and he met the ringing master, Richard Parsons, and Richard's daughter, Theo. Andrew

and Theo dated long-distance for several years including three years when Andrew was working in Austin, Texas.

Andrew and Theo moved to Twyford, Winchester in 2002, after their marriage in Raleigh. 2007 brought the birth of Julia and Susanna arrived in 2010.

His diagnosis of multiple myeloma in 2017 was a shock to us all. He had fantastic treatment from Southampton General Hospital including two, stem-cell transplants. He kept the doctors on their toes with his study of the disease and treatments but also the machines with a fantastic knowledge of CT and MRI. In the ensuing years, his effective treatment meant that he was able to live mostly uninterrupted, continuing to enjoy all the regular pleasures including two holidays to the United States. IBM supported him throughout taking time off, then gradual or part-time returns to work. He never complained other than some periods of high nerve pain in his leg. Things took a sudden turn for the worst in January this year and on 22nd January was admitted to hospital then hospice where, over four weeks family and friends were able to say their goodbyes.

Bell ringing was the passion in his life. He learned in 1981, intrigued by his brother working on the numbers for Bob Doubles – then he was hooked. Under the guidance of Rodney Skinner and Les Tremeer, he was quick to learn to handle a bell. He returned to Winchester College in the Autumn term, fully 'ring-ready' to join an active band of pupils and staff. He rang the six bells in Winchester College's tower and the weekly practice nights at Winchester Cathedral. During school holidays, he returned to ring at New Alresford where he was an active member of the band throughout his life. He rang regularly on Sunday mornings for services at New Alresford and Twyford as well as weekly bellringing practices in both towers afterwards enjoying the camaraderie of the pub. He rang his final touch of Stedman Triples at



Alresford on Friday, 19th January this year.

At Cambridge, he was an officer of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers, fully engaged in both the ringing and social side. This continued with the annual, summer, guild-week in the 1990s and 2000s. 80-90 of his 120 peals were with the Cambridge Guild. The annual dinner for the Cambridge University Guild was a highlight, when he returned to Cambridge and caught up with ringing friends across the years.

Andrew's shining highlight of his ringing career was his resolution of a 300-year-old, ringing mathematical problem concerning Stedman Triples.

This Hamiltonian cycle problem had eluded bell ringers for so long. It involved some fiendishly complex maths, but also problem resolution to narrow the problem so that computing power (some potentially 'borrowed' from IBM) could then solve the problems. He worked together with Philip Saddleton and the peal was rung in January 1995 to much acclaim of the whole ringing world. The story was featured in The Times magazine in July of that year. Andrew continued to work on the problem through the years, creating far easier compositions that are still being rung today.

Andrew was also incredibly practical in repairing and maintaining the bells,

being the steeple-keeper at Twyford for many years and helping to keep the bells in good condition at Alresford. From his Winchester College days, ringing has been an important part of his life, meeting lifelong friends and Theo his wife, a ringer at her home church in the US.

Andrew always had a smile, was kind hearted, clever with a practical outlook on everything. We give thanks for his life and his service to ringing.

ELIZABETH & MARTIN JOHNSON
New Alresford

A New Band of Ringers for Newton Valence

Monday 9th January was a special night in the tiny, but beautiful village of Newton Valence... for the first time in twenty-four years, a practice night for a local band took place!

The journey to reach this point had started in late summer 2021 when Carl McBean was a guest at a wedding at nearby East Tisted. Whilst watching the three bells being rung before the service started, he was overheard mentioning that he once used to ring bells! The ringers leapt at this opportunity, and it wasn't long before Carl was back up in a tower re-learning to ring! Carl was taught at Hawkey, as the restoration project to rehang and augment the five old bells of Newton Valence had just commenced, a project that was completed just in time to ring out for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

Since then, steady recruitment from the areas surrounding Newton Valence has provided a further five new recruits... First Rossi Paris and Carol Billinge were drawn in to learn, followed by Brian Davey and Mark Bizley, and most recently, Helen Evison-Marshall. All these new ringers have been taught at "tied-bell"

training sessions at nearby Selborne, by Nick James, Jess Hornsby, George Whiteside, Chas Seamons, Jan Orsborn, Lizzie Stern, Francesco Greenslade and myself... and I want to thank each of these people for their unstinting commitment, patience and kindness to create such a lovely learning environment for these new ringers!

And so that evening, we held the first practice at Newton Valence for a very long time, with the local band supported by their tied-bell session friends and mentors. What a wonderful achievement for all involved!

RACHAEL BARBER
A&P District Secretary



Inter-Tower Striking Competitions

The Guild Inter Tower Striking competitions have not been held on the Isle of Wight for many years and as an organising committee we were keen to give the IoW District the opportunity to host the event but were a little dubious as to how much interest there would be.

As it turned out our fears were laid aside as we had a good turnout for both the 6 and 8 bell competitions, the weather could not have been better (lots of pink faces by the end of the day through too much sun), and the local ringers did us proud with refreshments at both venues.

An early morning start saw the mainland ringers boarding ferries from Portsmouth and Southampton for a very calm crossing to the Island and on to Arreton for the 6 bell competition.

Nine teams in total took part with three local teams and six from over the water. The Competition was judged by Liz and Phil Barnes from Kent who commented on the generally good standard of the ringing.

After lunch the 8 bell competition was held on the back 8 at Carisbrooke where six teams competed.

Again we were very grateful to Liz and Phil Barnes who judged the competition and made very useful comments about the ringing.

If you have any comments or suggestions you would like considered for striking competitions in the future, or would like to join the committee so you can actively help to shape, promote and run the competitions please let me know.

The next Guild competition is the Inter District 8 bell on the morning of the AGM and will be held at Curdridge in the Portsmouth District. Deadline for entries is the 1st June. If you are not taking part you can still come along to listen to meet other guild members whilst listening to some sparkling ringing.

PETE JORDAN
Striking Competition Convener
petejordan.wp@talktalk.net

Guild Inter Tower Six Bell Competition

Rang	Tower	Method	Faults	Place
1	Ryde	Grandsire Doubles	115	6
2	Alton	Plain Bob Doubles	67	5
3	Basingstoke, All Saints	Grandsire Doubles	66	4
4	Shanklin	Call Changes	160	8
5	Selborne & Hawkley	Grandsire Doubles	44	1
6	Basingstoke, St Michael	Plain Bob Doubles	62	3
7	Portsea	Call Changes	121	7
8	Brading	Call Changes	178	9
9	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Doubles	60	2

Congratulations to the Selborne & Hawkley band on a fine performance.



Guild Inter Tower Eight Bell Competition

Rang	Tower	Method	Faults	Place
1	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Triples	156	2
2	Selborne & Hawkley	Call Changes	216	3
3	Alton	Grandsire Triples	302	6
4	Basingstoke, St Michael & Sherfield on Loddon	Call Changes	211	4
5	Basingstoke, All Saints	Grandsire Triples	168	1
6	Shanklin & Brading	Call Changes	213	5

Congratulations to the Basingstoke All Saints band who retained the cup for a second year.



Petersfield News

The news from the St Peter's Church Bell Ringers for the first three months of the year started with the band welcoming in the New Year of 2024. Rounds and call changes were rung before midnight followed by Katherine Wilkins, one of the young, being given the honour of ringing the twelve strokes announcing the New Year before the rest of the band joined in with rounds.

At the end of the January St Peter's ringers held their AGM. After reports and the usual bellringing matters, the newly elected Tower Captain and Ringing Master, Brian Underwood, took over from Mary Broadbridge, who retired from the post after five years' service. The band thanked Mary for her wonderful spirit, enthusiasm, encouragement and for her love of ringing. It was acknowledged that the tower is the successful thriving place that it is much because of her leadership and example. Mary was presented with a gift and card and will remain very much part of the band.

One of the Petersfield ringers, Rebecca Restall, at the recent Alton & Petersfield District ADM held at Hawkley on 13th January, was awarded the Doris Barber Cup for her excellent achievements in bell ringing

and was praised and thanked for helping at the ringing event last year.

St Peter's band learnt that one of their former esteemed Petersfield ringers, Lieutenant Commander Bob Duffy, had passed away aged 87. Call changes were rung by past and present members of the band in memory of Bob at his memorial service for this much-loved ringer.

The Petersfield young ringers continue to excel by ringing quarter peals. Erin Halder at Petersfield, Lauren Kidd and Katherine M Wilkins rang to congratulate the Portsmouth team for qualifying in the National twelve bell eliminator held on 23rd March which was rung at Portsea.

James Wedley rang at Privett for Easter Sunday and Katherine Wilkins (aged 15) rang her first peal at Froxfield on Saturday 16th March 2024.

The tower are all looking forward to ringing in May for Bell Sunday and the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

CAROLINE WELSH
Petersfield



Petersfield ringers welcoming in the New Year 2024

The Doris Barber Cup

The Doris Barber Cup was donated by Roger Barber in memory of his mother Doris Barber, who was a longstanding member of the Alton & Petersfield District (from 1975 to 2012). Doris was a ringer of modest experience; however she made much progress later in life, achieving her first peal in 1996 aged 62, ringing the Treble to Plain Bob Triples at her home tower of Hawkley. The aim of this award was to recognise a district ringer who had made significant progress or achievements during the year.

Rebecca was presented with the Cup at our ADM on 13th January, by Jess Hornsby (District Ringing Master), in recognition for her brilliant progress since learning to ring in the Autumn of 2022, and her commitment and willingness to help other new ringers and support district events.

Well done, Rebecca, and very well deserved!

RACHAEL BARBER
A&P District Secretary



Left: Jess Hornsby, Alton and District Ringing Master presenting the Doris Barber Cup to Rebecca Restall.

Tower in Focus: Portsmouth Cathedral



Aerial view of Portsmouth Cathedral from the southeast, showing the different building styles. Credit: Tim SC, available for reuse under CC BY-SA 4.0

Introducing a new section to the Guild Newsletter where in every issue, I will investigate the history of one of the Guild's towers, the stories they have witnessed, and the building they are hung in. The first tower I will explore, and the subject of this article, is the Cathedral Church of St Thomas, located in Old Portsmouth. Whilst neither amongst the largest cathedrals, the most famous, nor one with a particular unity of style, the building is nevertheless exceptionally interesting.

The modern-day settlement of Portsmouth was founded sometime between 1170 and 1180 by Jean de Gisors, a wealthy Norman lord who purchased the land owned by the manor at Buckland, one of three settlements mentioned in the Domesday Book situated on Portsea Island. On this land, he founded what would become, the city of Portsmouth. As part of this, Gisors gave a small piece of land to Southwick Priory near the seafront in what is now called Old Portsmouth, for the building of a chapel dedicated to St Thomas Becket, who was assassinated at Canterbury Cathedral ten years earlier. The chapel, in actual fact, a good-sized church, was built in the cruciform plan using stone from both Binsted and Caen.

Constructed in two stages in the Transitional style (so-called because it

lies in the period where Romanesque developed into Early English Gothic) and completed by 1188. This structure, which included a central tower used as a lookout over the Solent, can still be found, albeit absorbed by the later rebuildings and additions to the church, as part of the crossing and transepts. With the exception of Boxgrove Priory in neighbouring West Sussex, which appears to be a later version of the same design, the execution of the architecture of the oldest parts of the present cathedral is unique in England.

The next major change to the building came in the English Civil War, during the Siege of Portsmouth. Portsmouth was a Royalist stronghold, and highly valuable to the Parliamentarians owing to its strategic location. As it was then the tallest structure in the city, the Royalists used the tower as a lookout and thus spotted the Parliamentarians crossing the water from Gosport. The Parliamentarian gunners responded by aiming their canons at St Thomas, which led to the complete ruin of the tower and the nave.

Following the end of the war, the tower and nave were rebuilt in the classical style between 1683 and 1693, at a cost of nearly £9,000, funded by a collection nationwide ordered by Charles II. Unlike its previous incarnation, the tower was rebuilt at

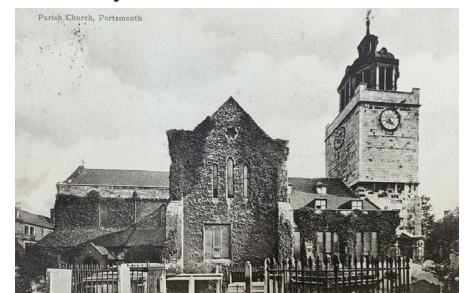
the western end of the church. Ten years after construction finished, a wooden cupola was added to the top of the tower, most likely acting as a lighthouse for ships in the harbour.

Other than work to the foundations between 1904 and 1906, little was done to the church until the late 1920s. In 1927, it was decided that the ancient Diocese of Winchester was too large and a separate Diocese of Portsmouth was created out of it, covering the southeastern part of Hampshire.

The church of St Thomas was raised to full cathedral status over its then-larger neighbour, St Mary's at Portsea, in 1932, and a meeting of the Chapter that same year raised the possibility of extending the building to better reflect its new status.

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Plans were drawn up by architect Charles Nicholson to extend the building in a 'Neo-Byzantine' style that echoed the classical style used after the Civil War. Work began in the early to mid-1930s with a new



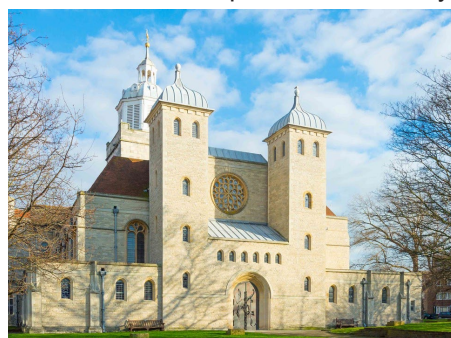
The Church of St Thomas a Becket as it appeared in 1902. Note that the central tower was once at the west end. Credit: Unknown, copyright restrictions elapsed.

nave to the west of the tower, thus converting it into a central tower once more. Work had progressed as far as the first three bays of the nave, a new pair of transepts, and the quire aisles, until the Fall of France in 1940 halted work. The open end of the nave was bricked up, supposedly as a temporary measure, but in reality, it remained there for over four decades. Following the war, there was neither the enthusiasm nor funds available to finish Nicholson's plans, who died in 1949.

It would not be until the mid-1980s when it was found the brick wall was in danger of collapse, that ambitions to finish the cathedral were taken seriously. A fundraising campaign to raise £3 million was launched soon afterwards and work began in January 1990. The building was finally completed in November 1991, complete with two, smaller, western towers, a new western wall with a rose window as well as a new font, and dedicated in the presence of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

The Bells

St Thomas has contained bells since at least the 13th century. We know this because written evidence records two bells in 1229, and by 1632, these had been recast or augmented to four bells. It is impossible, with any



*Charles Nicholson's extension seen outside and inside, showing Neo-Byzantine and NeoClassical style.
Credit: Jack Pease*



The ancient Dover Pharos built in the 1st century and later adapted to serve as the bell tower for the Church of St Mary de Castro, both within the walls of Dover Castle. The metal from these bells still exists within the present ring at Portsmouth Cathedral, albeit recast several times.

Credit: Michael Garlick, available for reuse under CC BY-SA 4.0

certainty, to say who cast these bells, their notes or their weights, due to the tower in which they were hung being destroyed by canon fire in the Civil War, the bells presumably along with them.

The history of the bells from the tower's reconstruction in the late 17th century, to the beginning of the 18th century, is not well documented. According to one local guidebook published in the early 1900s, an excerpt of which was published in the Bell News magazine in 1904, St Thomas was said to have received the 'legendary' Dover Pharos bells as a gift from Sir George Rooke in 1703.

The Dover Pharos was a lighthouse, built within the grounds of Dover Castle, adapted to serve as the bell tower for the Church of St Mary de Castro within the walls. The tower had five bells, and in a letter printed in the aforementioned guidebook, Prince George of Denmark writes to the Lieutenant of Dover Castle ordering the bells to be given to Rooke for Portsmouth, dated as 24th February 1703.

In Reverend Colchester's 'Hampshire Church Bells' book, he provides the inscriptions for a ring of eight in the tower at St Thomas, all of which other than the 4th, bear the mark of Gloucester founder Abraham Rudhall

and the year, 1703. It seems likely then that Rudhall recast these five bells from Dover and added extra metal to make a ring of eight. Colchester's book shows that several of the bells were recast after 1703, most likely down to cracking, a common occurrence with old bells. These recastings include the tenor in 1730 by London founder Richard Phelps, the 4th in 1737 by an unrecorded founder, and the 7th by Thomas Mears.

The bells were rehung by Mears & Stainbank in 1865 in the existing timber frame, who also carried out a minor refurbishment in 1896. St Thomas appeared in the Bell News' survey of towers in the United Kingdom with eight or more bells, where it was described that the clock case was situated in the middle of the ringing circle which made ringing very difficult indeed. Nevertheless, there were two full peals rung on this ring of eight, the first being 5040 Grandsire Triples on 30th July 1749, and the second also Grandsire Triples, on 5th August 1897; the former was the first full peal rung in Hampshire.

In 1912, the bells, frame, and fittings were dismantled and sent to John Taylor & Co. in Loughborough, Leicestershire, for complete recasting and rehanging. The old set of clappers were preserved and hung in the ringing chamber in a new

wooden cabinet made from the oak of the original bell frame which still survives today; the rest of the fittings were discarded. The weight of the replacement peal of eight was broadly similar, with a tenor of 25 1/2 cwt but given the improvements made in casting and tuning by Taylor's since 1896, the sound of the new peal must have been something of a revelation.

At this time, Hampshire had only two other true-harmonic rings: East Tytherley (cast in 1897 and 1899) and Sherfield English (cast in 1904), both near Romsey. The county's major rings of bells, at Christchurch Priory, Romsey Abbey, and Winchester Cathedral, were all cast at a time when what would now be called 'old style' tuning was prevalent, and as such the new bells at St Thomas would have been the finest of their kind in the county.

The new ring of bells was hung in a new cast iron frame with all eight bells on one level at the base of the octagonal lantern. The clock mechanism was moved up into the intermediate chamber to improve ropesight and all new fittings were manufactured to complete the project. - \ The new bells were dedicated on 10th November 1912, and rung to their first peal the following month, being 5,040 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

In 1957, Taylor's returned. The bells were augmented to become Hampshire's fourth ring of ten (after Southampton St Mary, Southampton St Michael, and North Stoneham**). The bells were rehung on ball bearings on their existing fittings, with the new bells being provided with replica fittings to match.

The bells were augmented again in 2010, with two new trebles cast by Taylors, Eayre & Smith and hung by Matthew Higby & Co. The 1912 eight-bell frame remains unaltered in a layout now classified as Pickford 8.2 (see diagram), with bells 5-12 (the original Taylor eight) hung clockwise from pit D. However, only three of the four treble bells could be hung on the same level owing to the limited space provided by the octagonal lantern.

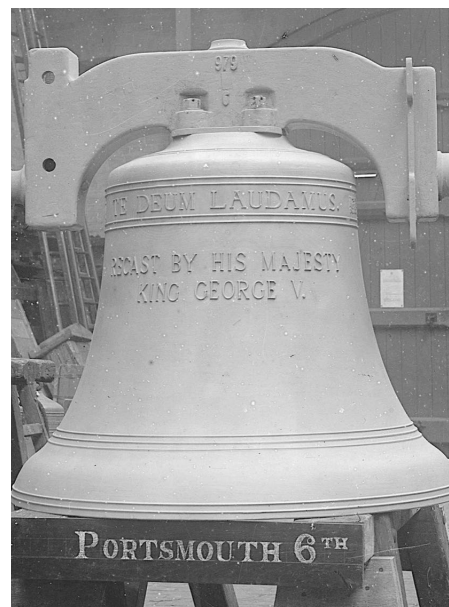
The fourth of the twelve is hung in an extension adjoining and perpendicular

to pit E, and the two trebles are hung in a steel extension behind and perpendicular to the tenor. Acoustic boarding has been installed between the trebles and the tenor to avoid the trebles being drowned out. The third of the ten is hung unusually below and in front of the fourth, from metal beams fixed to the base girders of the fourth's extension frame.

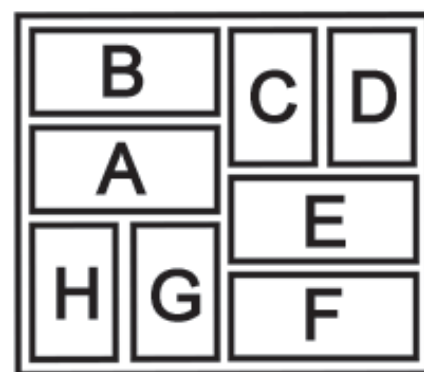
The final piece of work to the bells was the installation of two superb wooden-shafted clappers made by Philip Pratt of Avon Ropes, notable for their purple paint, and fitted to the two largest bells. The result is an excellent Taylor ring of twelve, crystal-clear inside with plenty of hum, punchy trebles and sonorous tenors. A must-have grab for any Hampshire ringer or visitor.

** = Christchurch Priory and Winchester Cathedral were both augmented to ten before Portsmouth Cathedral but by the time the latter were augmented, both towers had been augmented to twelve, so there were only three rings of ten in the county in existence at the time Portsmouth were augmented.

JACK PEASE
Salisbury Diocesan Guild



Portsmouth's sixth bell of the new ring of eight at Taylor's foundry in 1912. This is now the tenth. Credit: John Taylor & Co



The original eight bell frame at Portsmouth, with the treble hung in pit D and the other bells clockwise to the tenor in pit C.



The cathedral bells in summer 2022. The tenor is the large bell centre left, the original treble (now the 5th) is the small bell behind it. The original 2nd and 3rd (now 6th and 7th) are in the middle, the fourth of the twelve is the bell with the unpainted wheel behind them, and the wheel of the third on the lower glimpsed above the rope for the tenor. Credit: Dylan Thomas.

First Aid Training for A&P Members

The A&P District has been reviewing its approach to First-Aid, Health & Safety and the well-being of its members. As part of our drive towards ensuring the basics are taken care of, a date was fixed for St John's Ambulance to run a course for our members prior to the April Quarterly District Meeting.

On Saturday 20th April, Chloe Hunter-Rea, District Community Response Lead for Hampshire & Isle of Wight, with Tom Hillier, Emergency Responder and Police Officer from Southampton came to the Wickham Institute Hall at Binsted to deliver a highly informative bespoke course to twenty-five district members to

understand the basics in first aid.

Chloe and Tom covered areas including signs and symptoms of a heart attack, compression pumps, CPR, defibrillator use, airway opening, what to do when someone is unresponsive, bleeding, choking and recovery positions. The talk was interactive, with excellent questions coming from district members. So should there ever be an incident in a tower, the Guild now has an additional twenty-five ringers with the basic knowledge of what to do in the unlikely event that first aid is needed.

This type of course has never been run by St John's Ambulance specifically

for bellringers before. We hope that districts across the Guild can benefit in the near future by running one of these for their own members. Chloe and Tom are volunteers, they are both highly skilled professionals in their careers here in Hampshire, and we were greatly appreciative of the work that they and their colleagues do across the county.

After delivering the course, Chloe and Tom enjoyed afternoon tea and cakes with the ringers (no choking reported, neither were there any strain injuries from holding a rather large slices of Victoria sponge cake!). And in appreciation, the Alton & Petersfield District made a donation of £100 to St John's Ambulance for the great work they do!

St John's Ambulance has a free First Aid app available from the App Store on your phone/electronic device (search 'St John's Ambulance'). If your district is interested in holding a course for your members, please contact an officer of the A&P District and we'll pass details on.

SIMON POYSER
A&P District Chairman



Ringling for D-Day - 6th June 2024

Join our World in Ringing Out for Peace 6.30pm, 6th June 2024

Thursday 6th of June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944 Operation Overlord saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 130,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

We are asking villages, towns, cities and organisations of all sizes to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day by lighting a beacon at 9.15pm on

6th June 2024, followed by an event to commemorate one of the most momentous achievements in living memory.

"On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I am honoured and proud to be part of this campaign. Bellringing marks our major life events, and each year I join many of my fellow bellringers in tolling for remembrance. It is fitting that we also ring out for peace. I encourage bellringers all over the world to join me on 6th June, by ringing their bells at 6.30pm local time, when we can make a joyful noise together."

You can submit your ringing

performances to BellBoard [here](#).

TINA STOECKLIN
Present CCCBR



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

W&P Youth Team - SEECON Victors!

SEECON Results:

- 1 Winchester & Portsmouth
- 2 Hertfordshire
- 3 Kent
- 4 Essex
- 5 Sussex
- 6 Middlesex & London
- 7 Buckinghamshire & Berkshire
- 8 Surrey

Many congratulations to the W&P Youth Team who won the South East England Youth Striking Competition which was held at Bushey, Herts on Saturday 13th April!

The team was made up of young ringers from four Districts within the Guild (A&P, C&S, Basingstoke and Winchester). Overall, eight teams representing Associations and Guilds from across the south east of England entered - congratulations to all the young ringers that took part, and



many thanks to the organisers for such an enjoyable day! And just to reassure you, the W&P Youths did not break a stay, but are pictured here with the light-hearted SEECON Trophy, an ancient stay from St

John's, Southover, Lewes (where John S Goldsmith, the founder of the Ringing World rang).

RACHAEL BARBER
Guild Master

Two Towers and Lunch on the Isle of Wight

It was 20th March and Spring had arrived on the Isle of Wight in a blaze of glory, encouraging us with some long-overdue and beautiful sunshine!

A group of fifteen gathered at All Saints, Godshill, our first tower and, after a lovely ring in the wonderful

village church with nearby beautiful thatched cottages, we travelled on to All Saints, Newchurch, set in another picturesque village.

The ringers were from seven Island towers and we were delighted to welcome Steve Lutener, from Basingstoke, along with us once

again.

The morning was very enjoyable indeed with two great sixes and plenty of ringing, including Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Cloisters, Grandsire and Little Bob.

We were all ready for lunch after ringing at the two towers and, as usual, we were given a warm welcome at The Fighting Cocks at nearby Hale Common.

The meals and service were good and the time spent there gave us all even more time to chat with our friends from other towers and to make plans for more ringing events, of course!

We are all looking forward to the next 'Two Towers and Lunch' likely to be in the Autumn.

VIV NOBBS
Ryde



East Tisted Bells Restored and Blessed

A quarter peal was rung on Saturday 2nd March to celebrate the restoration of the bells of East Tisted. A bell-themed service saw the bells blessed by the Bishop of Basingstoke, with further ringing before and after by four members of the newly-formed Newton Valence/East Tisted band, Alton and Petersfield District members and Martin Barnes, Convener of the W&P Belfry Stewardship Committee. These three historically significant bells are much loved by the village, and also by the local band from Selborne (who have kept them ringing for services and weddings for at least the last thirty years).

East Tisted's bells are considered historically significant. Dating from 1590, 1623 and 1635, inscriptions on the bells provide evidence of the identities of the bellfounders who cast them. The oldest bell is the 2nd, which was cast in 1590 by Joseph Carter, a Reading founder who died in 1609. Curiously, in between the initials of Joseph Carter "J.C." is cast the shield of Roger Landen, the mark of a different bell founder who worked from the separate Wokingham bell foundry, historically connecting these

two different Elizabethan businesses. Also cast into this bell is an impression of a coin, a Groat of King Henry VI (who reigned in the 1440s). This replicates the Groats cast into both the 5th & 6th bells at nearby Hawkley, which were cast by Roger Landen in 1448.

After deterioration of the fixtures and fittings into an unringable state during 2022, a restoration project was planned. Funds were quickly raised, and the bells were removed from the tower by a team of local volunteers under the direction of Nicholson's bellhanger. Following removal of the cast-in crown staples, and with refurbished wheels and bearings, and new headstocks and pulleys fitted, the bells were ready to be rung again at the end of September 2023, just in time for the A&P District Tower Open Day. The final piece of the project was completed when a beautiful set of new ropes were fitted in late February. Those that have rung at East Tisted in recent years, will remember the long length of the ringing draught and be very pleased to know that new rope guides were also fitted!

Unusually, these bells are not new

to being quartered, and this was the second quarter peal rung since the restoration. Roger Barber, Andrew Banks, Michael Evans and William Stungo regularly rang them to quarters during the 90s, and therefore it was appropriate that the first following the restoration work, on 28th December 2023, was rung in fond memory of Andrew Banks, who was a supporter of three bell ringing at East Tisted over the years, and one of the three ringers who rang the only Peal at East Tisted, in 1993.

The bells continue to be rung regularly each month for services and weddings by members of the new local band supported by Selborne ringers, and our sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in celebrating these unique bells on their special day!

RACHAEL BARBER
A&P District Secretary

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

East Tisted, Hampshire

St James

Thursday, 28 December 2023 in
43m (7½ in Bb)

1260 Original Singles

215 extents

1 Rachael A Barber

2 Ellen R Barber

3 Roger A Barber (C)

Rung in fond memory of Andrew W Banks for The Flying Rope Society, of which Andrew was a founding member.

First Quarter Peal on the bells since the restoration completed in September 2023.

First on 3 - 1 & 2



Bishop David with Rev. Lesley Leon.



The East Tisted Ringers: Mark, Brian, Carol & Rossi

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

East Tisted, Hampshire

St James

Saturday, 2 March 2024 in 50m
(7½ in Bb)

1290 Original Singles

215 extents

1 Ellen R Barber

2 Roger A Barber

3 Francesco P Greenslade (C)

Rung prior to the Service of Blessing of the recently restored bells, officiated by the Bishop of Basingstoke, Bishop David Williams. This was followed by Service Ringing by members of the new local band: Rossi Paris, Carol Billinge, Brian Davey and Mark Bizley.

Ropley Bells To Return in August

Ropley's 3rd has now been welded and the 5th is currently being recast by Allanconi in Italy. On Friday 19th July the Winchester District Improvers Group (the WIMPS) and some parishioners are holding an outing to Somerset to see the bells in the new frame just before they return. It will also be an opportunity to ring on the mini-ring in Matthew Higby's works and at some other towers in the Somerset area.

The bells will return to Ropley in August, and we will be teaching some new local ringers to handle at Bishops Sutton and Old Alresford during the summer holiday period. The Ropley band will then hold regular weekly practices as soon as the bells return. As there has been no ringing at Ropley for ten years; we will need to be careful about visitors and the amount of ringing, but we have allowed for a simulator and adjustable sound control, and we will be holding an event to welcome ringers from across the Guild to come and ring on the restored bells later.

One of the aims of our project is to engage new audiences with heritage, and the PCC also have a three-year plan to grow the congregation, especially to attract younger families. The return of the bells is likely to attract a lot of publicity, not just in Ropley, but across the Winchester District, and elsewhere in the Guild. Therefore, we are holding an open day for non-ringers on Saturday 14th September as part of the [Heritage Open Days Festival](#). People will be able to come and see an exhibition about the heritage of bells and bell ringing, and have a taster lesson on the tower bells. We will also have some tune-ringing teams there to offer tune-ringing taster sessions on handbells too.

To follow this up, we will be inviting those who are interested in learning to ring to come to handling lessons at our strategically placed hubs across the Winchester District to learn to handle, then to join a local band and enrol in our District Ringing School.

Everyone is welcome to come and help with the teaching. Our plans include holding an ART Module 1 teacher training course on Saturday 28th September at Ropley for new teachers who would like to learn how to teach bell-handling, or existing teachers who would like to improve their teaching skills. The ART philosophy is to break the teaching process down into small easily manageable steps, and to adjust your teaching to suit the needs of your pupil. We don't throw people in at the deep end! By attending the day course, you will be given lots of useful tips and techniques to try with your pupils.

ART also recognises that you don't learn how to teach bell handling successfully in a one-day course. Following the initial course you will be assigned a mentor, who will help guide you as you teach others to handle. Therefore, we would also like experienced teachers to come on board and help pass on their expertise. The publicity should result in a significant number of people interested in learning to ring, so by teaching them as part of the ringing school, new and less experienced teachers will get plenty of opportunity and support.

If you are interested and would like to help us, please send an email to ropley@bellringing.co.uk

ROGER BOOTH
New Alresford



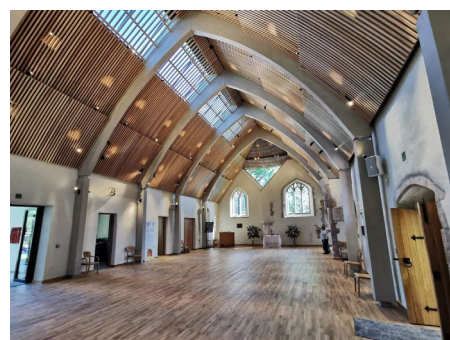
The 2014 fire



The burnt out shell



Removing the bells after the fire



The restored interior

New Method Named - 1440 for a 14th Birthday

On the 11th of February, at St. Nicholas, Chawton, a band of good friends got together to ring a young ringer's dream Quarter Peal of Ellen's Delight Minor on my 14th Birthday.

The method was selected and named by Francesco P Greenslade as a special birthday present, and it was definitely a good bit of fun to ring a brand new method never rung before. I was very grateful to all the band members for taking the time to learn the new method and ring it especially for me. This was one of my favourite

birthday presents and I'm very honoured to have a method named after me.

It was nice to look back on my last birthday Quarter Peal in 2022, which was also coincidentally rung at Chawton for both mine and my Dad's birthdays (they are only four days apart) and see how much progress I've made since then.

I'm super excited to keep ringing Quarter Peals for my birthday (hopefully at Chawton!) and with a bit of luck, see myself making more progress after every year!



ELLEN BARBER
Hawkley

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Chawton, Hampshire

St Nicholas

Sunday, 11 February 2024 in
42m (6-0-26 in B)

1440 Ellen's Delight Minor

1 Nicholas A M James

2 George Whiteside

3 Rachael A Barber

4 Ellen R Barber

5 Roger A Barber

6 Francesco P Greenslade (C)

50th Quarter Peal - 4

Rung to celebrate Ellen's 14th birthday.

Method rung for the first time:
Ellen's Delight Minor.

x34x14x12x16x34.12.36,16

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WIMPS - April Towers

Surely the sweet April showers that pierced the drought of March to the root for Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims inspired the modern pilgrims of the Winchester Improvers (The WIMPS) as they took to their route on the first outing of 2024.

The Wimp's Tale began in the elevated beauty of St Peter's, Soberton. The eight bells rang gentle rounds and call changes to match the smooth and rolling vista of the South Downs National Park. For ringers unused to more than six bells, it was an introduction to the extension of Plain Hunt skills which would carry over positively into the day ahead. Shorter members were able to stand on a wooden box announcing "No bats in the belfry – come and see – ring a bell". It seems that Soberton's ringers are both quirky and tall!

The band moved on to the church of Saint Barnabas, Swanmore. The flint-built tower houses a ring of six and a snug ringing chamber that was a tight fit for all of the visitors. Nonetheless everyone was encouraged to try different bells for Plain Hunt and as a flourish, a touch of Bob Doubles as a challenge to our repertoire.

A wayside pilgrim's tavern presented as the Black Dog at Waltham Chase. It was an excellent and convivial break before the next appointment at the Gothic revival Victorian church of St. John the Baptist, Shedfield. The



tower, decorated with lavish Gothic pinnacles, houses eight bells. With red brick interior and Bath stone exterior, the building extends its sense of colour with a yellow and green ringing chamber with sallies to match. There was more Plain Hunt and some Grandsire Triples, to add variety.

The last venue before a night's rest was the church of Saint Peter, Bishop's Waltham. Dating in part from 1200, the locally-dug flint exterior links the building organically to the soil and souls from which it rises. The ring of eight bells spreads a majestic tone across a town once graced by a palace for kings and bishops. As a heavier ring of eight, we were once more challenged in our bell handling but finished with a treat for the helpers ringing Bob Triples. An unusual aspect

of the visit was a biblical swarm of ladybirds in the tower as if to remind ringers that it was indeed time to fly away home.

For the improvers such a day is genuinely a pilgrimage; steps along a path to a higher state. We appreciate so much the strength and guidance of the experienced helpers. With many new ringers, it is the season of new growth and eager pilgrims.

JILL FULLER
Winchester Cathedral



Changing Light Bulbs and Other Stories

You may be familiar with the old joke – “How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb?” to which the response is “Change – what do you mean, change?” Recently there has been an updated version in which the response has become, “Twelve – one to change the bulb, a committee of three to do the risk assessment, four to hold the stepladder, and four (incumbent, two churchwardens and PCC secretary) to apply for the faculty, and one to manage the whole project.” Yes, it’s a bit of fun, but there is a rather important element of truth in it too, and one which impacts ringers as much as anyone else connected with the church.

As ringers, we have long prided ourselves, and rightly so, on our ability to care for and maintain our bells, and indeed the bells of neighbouring churches, often saving our parishes considerable sums of money in the process. As a Guild we run tower and steeple-keeping courses, we have a Belfry Stewardship Committee and, from time-to-time, local groups form themselves into “spanner teams” to ensure the maintenance of local bells. This is all great, and to be encouraged, but what happens if something goes wrong? In these days, when litigation and finding someone to blame is on the increase, what are the implications of a mishap or worse, and on whom? In most cases the answer lies in whether permission has been given by the relevant “authorities” for what has been done, and whether the person/people undertaking the work were competent and capable of doing so safely and correctly. Recent instances in the Diocese of Winchester, where Parishes have sought retrospective Faculties to cover significant works (including some undertaken in belfries) without the relevant permissions, have prompted the Winchester Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) to ask its Bells Advisory Team to raise awareness of the risks widely, including with ringers. What follows applies in all Dioceses.

We can all become rather proprietorial over “our bells,” particularly when

no-one else in our church seems particularly bothered or interested in them, beyond the sound they make. Of course they are not “our bells.” Over recent years there has been a great deal of semantic debate over who actually ‘owns’ a church building and its content and churchyard with the general conclusion that the whole parish ‘sort of’ owns it! However, there is a legal responsibility on the Incumbent, Churchwardens and PCC (collectively the PCC) to hold it in trust for future generations, and to maintain it in good order. As most churches are Listed Buildings, they are also legally protected in other ways. However, along with several other denominations, Church of England Churches are exempted from local authority secular planning controls and listed building regulations through a process known as ‘Ecclesiastical Exemption.’ This is because Parliament has recognised that the internal use of churches, and the way that they are furnished and configured, can evolve over time as liturgy and worship practices change. It has been acknowledged that people involved in church life are best placed to understand and manage the physical changes to the building and its fittings and fixtures to accommodate this evolution, though changes to the exterior of church buildings still require local authority planning approval as well.

Consequently, any work done internally to a C of E church building is

managed and controlled under ‘Faculty Jurisdiction’: the process by which Ecclesiastical Exemption is put into effect. And Ecclesiastical Exemption and Faculty Jurisdiction form part of the Law of England, enacted by Parliament. The most recent version is ‘The Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019’, effective from 1 April 2020. (See <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/1184/made>). “Yes!” I hear you cry, “we know about Faculties, but they don’t apply to ringers do they!” Well, sorry, but they do! Legally, any work in a belfry, from tightening a frame bolt and replacing a stay, to a full-blown re-hang in a new frame, is subject to faculty jurisdiction. But there is a ‘get out of jail card’ (almost literally) for ringers involved in steeple-keeping and belfry maintenance, as there are ‘levels of process,’ depending on the extent of the works proposed. Each level requires different authorisation.

For routine belfry maintenance and steeple keeping ‘List A’ covers the work involved, some of which could be within the scope of ringers competent in belfry maintenance. This list includes inspection and routine maintenance of bells, bell fittings and bell frames; repair and maintenance of clappers, crown staples (including re-bushing) and bell wheels; repair or replacement of bell stays, pulleys, bell ropes (including in Ellacombe apparatus), rope bosses, sliders or slider gear, and repainting of metal bell frames and metal bell fittings.



But there are caveats: no bell may be lifted from its bearings; no tonal alterations may be made to any bell and works to wheels must not include the re-soling or re-rimming of a bell wheel.

The rules state that officially these matters may be undertaken without a faculty. However, that's not the same as not having approval or permission. In the case of List A works, they must be approved by the PCC. Without such approval, there are a number of risks, particularly if things go wrong. These include the potential to be not covered by either the Church's insurance or that of the Guild. This may result in liability for personal or third-party injury, public liability and/or damage to the church fabric and fittings, falling directly on those undertaking the work. There is also a risk that individual members of the PCC may be personally liable for works undertaken in 'their' church for which approval and permission hasn't been given. There is also the potential for infringement of Health and safety legislation. OK, these may be small risks, but in the increasingly litigious world we now live in, and with insurers and others seeking every excuse to avoid meeting claims, it is good to be aware.

The solution is quite straightforward and simple to apply. Recommended best practice is that on a regular basis, (say at each annual tower meeting, where tower officers are

appointed), the Incumbent and/or wardens are invited, and they are asked to agree that those nominated for the day to day care of the bells: e.g.: the Tower Captain and the Steeple/Tower Keeper, and their deputies, are delegated by the PCC to oversee relevant works identified in List A, undertaken by suitably capable persons, on an as-and-when-needed basis for the coming year, and that this approval is recorded in the minutes of the tower meeting and at the next PCC meeting. That way there is a clear audit trail of approval, and the relevant ringers and their assistants are better covered. To validate who may be "suitably capable" the Guild has, and indeed already plays, a valuable role in providing belfry maintenance courses for guild members. Proof of attendance on one of these courses could demonstrate a required level of competence for basic steeple-keeping.

More complex maintenance works to bells, frames and bell gear are provided for in 'List B'. Some of these works may well fall within the competence of more experienced tower-keepers, including things like redecorating (with the correct paints etc.) and replacing or introducing carpets in ringing chambers, but they require formal permission from the PCC, AND from the Diocese. List B works can normally be undertaken with an Archdeacon's Certificate, but a formal submission detailing the

proposed work, the materials and methods and who will do the work, **MUST** be submitted under the Faculty process by the Parish authorities, and approval granted at Diocesan level, **BEFORE** any works start. Any schemes of works going beyond those in Lists A & B require a full faculty before they are commenced.

The requirement to have to apply for Diocesan permission for List B works may seem just bureaucracy, but it has the benefit that the proposed works can be reviewed by fresh, knowledgeable eyes on the DAC – including the Bells Advisors, who can provide the benefit of their experience to ensure that schemes of work on bells use the correct approaches and provide best value for all – ringers, PCC, funders, parishioners and those who have an interest in the heritage contained within our churches. The risk of disregarding Faculty processes can not only lead to exposure to personal liability, but also the potential for a future Government, which might be less favourable toward Christian churches, to withdraw Ecclesiastical Exemption and bring our places of worship (and their bells) under secular planning law.

The other aspect of wise best practice is: if in doubt **ASK** – particularly if its not in List A. Ask your PCC, your Guild BSC, and your Diocesan Bells Advisors. None of the current Diocesan Bells Advisors wish to stifle wise maintenance of our bells by suitably capable and competent ringers, and our contribution to DAC Casework is always to encourage works to maintain bells, to seek to ensure best value, and maximise the benefit of proposed schemes of work to all parties. However, we do have accountability to Diocesan authorities, and a duty of care to ensure that parishes and their volunteers are able to operate in a safe and approved manner which respects the law and minimises any risk or liability.

ROGER BARBER
Bells Advisor, Portsmouth DAC

ADAM GREENLEY & PHIL WATTS
Bells Advisors, Winchester DAC



A&P District Remembers Terry Collins

On Saturday 27th January, we rang the first Ten-Bell Quarter Peal by an all Alton and Petersfield District band for many years at East Meon. We rang in memory of Terry Collins, who rang at Binsted and St Mary's Liss, and ultimately East Meon where he was Tower Captain.

I might have been the only person in the tower who never got to meet Terry, but I felt strongly about ringing something in his memory, as I have seen his contributions to ringing in the District over the years.

It was also very unfortunate that he

passed away as ringing was only just starting again following the pandemic, so not many Quarter Peals were rung in his memory, and none at his home tower of East Meon.

My thanks go to all the band for ringing. Congratulations go to Nicholas James and Ellen Barber for ringing their first Ten-Bell Quarter Peal, and to Hugh and Mo Routh for ringing their 200th together.

FRANCESCO GREENSLADE
Hawkley



Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

East Meon, Hampshire

All Saints

Saturday, 27 January 2024 in 47m (18–0–12 in E)

1260 Grandsire Caters

Composed by Jonathan F Young (48598)

1 Nicholas A M James

2 R Hugh Routh

3 Maureen D Routh

4 Rachael A Barber

5 George Whiteside

6 Ellen R Barber

7 Roger A Barber

8 Francesco P Greenslade (C)

9 Andrew P Sparling

10 Simon R Poyser

First on Ten - 1 and 6

First of Caters as Conductor - 8

200th Together - 2 and 3

The first Ten-Bell Quarter Peal by an A&P District band for numerous years. Rung in memory of A Terence Collins (1941 - 2021), former captain of this tower, and an inspiration to many ringers over the years in the Alton and Petersfield District.

Might, Mites and Mitres

A living city of all ages turned out to join the call of ages past in welcoming the 98th Bishop of Winchester, the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen. Although bare winter trees could offer no canopy above the procession, the mighty cathedral bells spread their tapestry of summons across all souls beneath their certain and steadfast ceremony of sound.

Tradition demands that a new bishop must start his progress to the cathedral from the church of Saint Lawrence in the Square of Winchester. After an introduction to the mayor and city

officials, the prayerful party directed themselves towards that soaring stone statement of faith, the cathedral itself.

In keeping with the laws of the game, a bishop must move in diagonals to reach the resting place of kings and queens. And so it was that the new bishop in humble dress followed the backs of his grander guides across the angled path to his seat.

All the while the unifying pulse of the bells orchestrated their footsteps and faded as the great cathedral

organ blared out a salute through opened doors into the clear winter air. Tradition, fixed in countless smart phone videos, will play to infinity as the resonance of living bells dissolves into the blur of moments. Job done. History rung forward.

BOB LAKIN

The outside story from a bell ringing widower

Watch the video of the event: [here](#)

Team building at Old Alresford

One of the three pillars of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Ringing 2030 project to address the current challenges facing the exercise, and attract more new ringers, is to create a quality ringing environment.

At Alresford we have been using the excellent ring of six at St Mary's for the past year as our teaching tower. However, unlike our eight at St John's, St Mary's has not had its own band for several decades, and the bells and ringing room were unloved. It made sense to form a benefice band and we now have a healthy crop of new ringers, who are all making excellent progress.

Whilst the cracked 5th is away for repair, we've set ourselves the task of redecorating the ringing room and staircase. We put up a scaffold tower and it's not till you get up close to the walls that you realise just how much dirt, dust, cobwebs, dead flies and flaking paint there is. We're also replacing a single dingy fluorescent light with two new LED lights, plus an extra fitting on the staircase, which was unlit before. We also plan to replace the carpet.

The Guild Bell Restoration Fund has contributed £150 towards the repair of the cracked 5th, and the Winchester District has contributed £250 towards the redecoration, lighting and new carpet. The total to raise is estimated at £2,500. Our new ringers are all pitching in to help, both with fund-raising and the work itself, and it's a

fantastic team building exercise for them too.

We still have a little more money to raise, and once complete we have promised to help the PCC raise £50,000 to install a new toilet and kitchen and toilet at the back of the Church. We will be taking the Charmborough Ring mobile belfry to the Old Alresford Fête on Saturday 15th June to help with this, and to raise awareness of ringing amongst the local community.

We've also carried out a few steeple-keeping improvements, including modifying the home made stays on the 3rd and 4th, which were rubbing on the runner boards, making these bells more difficult to handle. We're also checking and adjusting the odd-struckness. Therefore, it will be like having a new ring of six, for a fraction of the cost.

The 5th is due back around the end of April, and by then we should have a very smart ringing room, not only for our existing group of new ringers, but also for our next batch of new ringers, as we continue to grow our band, later this summer. The toilets and kitchen, once complete, will also be of great benefit for our regular Saturday morning ringing school sessions, which are helping to meet new ringers learning expectations, across the Winchester District.

ROGER BOOTH
New Alresford



Rachael Barber – Villager of the Year 2024, Liss

Our very own Guild Master, Rachael Barber, won Villager of the Year in Liss. The award ceremony took place on Wednesday 20th March during the Liss Parish Council Annual Meeting, Rachael received the Villager of the Year award cup from the Chair of Liss Parish Council, Keith Budden. A very well-deserved award for contribution to bell ringing in the village.

Her award story at the bell tower in Liss came about after some considerable time on renovation works at St. Mary's left the tower empty of a bell ringers' band. Rachael approached the few remaining bell ringers in the tower and asked how she could help



bring ringing back to the village! She implemented a recruitment campaign on social media and through word of mouth managed to recruit volunteers to learn how to ring and over many months and throughout the pandemic she tirelessly worked evenings and weekends to nurture and build confidence in a new bell ringing band in Liss.

Largely due to her dedication and commitment, the tower at St Mary's now has a flourishing band of ringers. Her tenacity made sure the tower bell ringers were ready to meet the difficult times during our late Queen's funeral and the joyful announcement of our new Monarch's coronation, bell-ringing throughout the village for the first time in many years! The bells now ring every Sunday for church service and for the whole village to enjoy!

The Reverend Clare Welham, Priest in Charge at St. Mary's Liss, who along with a number of local residents contributed to Rachael's nomination said, "When I arrived at St. Mary's I was delighted to find a welcoming and friendly team of ringers with a clear love of the church and the enthusiasm to get involved and be part of things. I soon learned that this was due in no small part to Rachael's attitude and energy. She has supported church activities

and has gone above and beyond to help out with church locking and making sure that the communication between the band of ringers and churchwardens is absolutely excellent. This thoughtfulness is so important in allowing people with all sorts of interests to flourish and as a church we're so grateful for her input and involvement."

Simon Longlands, Tower Captain at St. Mary's Liss, said, "I have known Rachael for many years and we regularly used to teach learner ringers together when I was Tower Captain at Steep. Due to a combination of work and growing family I stopped ringing for several years until Rachael persuaded me (in the nicest possible way) out of retirement to help teach and support a new band bringing Liss bells back to life after Covid. Since then, Rachael has remained an enthusiastic supporter of the band and, as my work has got increasingly busy, has once again become the main teacher for the band. Without Rachael's dedication and enthusiasm, I know the band would not have made the progress and growth that it has, and I am extremely grateful for all her support."

SIMON LONGLANDS
Liss

One Year Celebrations at Alverstoke

Congratulations to four of the Portsmouth District's Ring for the King recruits, who celebrated their one year anniversary with cake and fizz on Friday 22nd March at Alverstoke.

Sara (a returning ringer), Andrew, Fi and Sue attended several tied-bell practices per week at Alverstoke whilst the tower acted as one of several Ring for the King training centres in the Portsmouth District. They made excellent progress in a short amount of time and were ringing-ready by the time of the coronation.

Since then, they have continued

to go from strength to strength. In addition to Alverstoke, they frequently practise at several towers each week, including Fareham, Shedfield and Havant. Not only does this show they've clearly caught the ringing bug, but also that confidence and progress is made much faster when you visit other towers.

I'm delighted to see all four of them just as keen as they were a year ago. Keep up the hard work and we'll see you all next year for more of Fi's wonderful cake!

LIZZIE COLLISS
Portsmouth District Secretary



Poetry Corner

Return to Ringing 2021

The leaden lockdown sky is
lightening,
brightening spirits. April, cold and dry
promises a cautious freedom.
Spring growth blushes shy,
only bold daffodils drop hints of the
season,
joyful despite a soft shaft of
mourning.

Joining our climb up the North Downs
slope,
intones the sound of a lone tenor bell;
slowly tolls, half muffled, haunting,
to mark the country's final farewell.
A show of respect solemnly
spreading
news of Prince Philip's death round
the globe.

Over a year since church bells have
spoken,
woken both faithful and unbelievers
from sleep.
Great bells lie idle, metres aloft.
Virus-free bats settle in steeples.
Bell ringers' calloused palms grow
soft
waiting for darkened church towers to
reopen.

Sunny Sunday in May, a semblance
of normal,
informal assembly stands apart in
church grounds.
Congregants quietly gather in hope
called by that most English of sounds
eight eager ringers pulling on ropes
making music at last to soar on the
thermals.

MICHÈLE CLEMENT
Catherington

Crossnumber Puzzle Answers

Solution crib

A	a	1	1		b	1		d	1		B	e	1	5	f	3
	3				D	7	2	0			2					1
E	5	0		g	4			F	8	h	4	1				
				G	1	4		i	4				H	j	1	8
I	m	4	1					J	4	1	4				0	
		5			M	2	1	1			N	q	2	0	7	
P		2	3			6		Q	4	8		3				
				R	r	3	4	t	3			T		4	2	u
y	2							U	2	4	z	3				4
Y	1		2	8									Z	7		2

Do you really know the difference between twos and threes ?
For example $3^2 - 2^3 = 3 - 2$

NUMBERS ACROSS (LARGE LETTERS)		numbers down (small letters)	
A	$2^3 + 3$	a	arrangement of B
B	$3^2 \times b$	b	$2^3 + 3^2$
D	$(2^3 + 2) Z$	d	$2^2 \times 3^3$
E	$2^2(Y - 2)$	e	A^2
F	$(2 + 3^3)^2$	f	$2^2 + 3^3$
G	$2^3 \times H$	g	$3(Y + 3^2)$
H	2×3^2	h	$(2A)^2$
I	Palindromic arrangement of g	i	y^2
J	Palindromic arrangement of G	j	2^3 less than d
M	Arrangement of e	m	$3(G + 2^2 + 3)$
N	$3^2 \times P$	n	g inverted
P	$y + 2$	p	$2^3 \times 3 \times (2^2 + 3)$
Q	$Py = P$ times y	q	arrangement of U
R	$(3^2 - 2)^3$	r	arrangement of Q
T	$3^2 \times (2(2 + 3)^2 - 3)$	t	arrangement of U
U	3 to the power of $(2 + 3)$	u	arrangement of T
Y	2 to the power of $(2^2 + 3)$	y	$(2^2)^2 + 2 + 3$
Z	$2^3 \times 3^2$	z	2 to the power of $(2 + 3)$

MIKE ROSE
Binstead

Keep Up To Date with Guild News

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. The Guild and its Districts also have a number of active Facebook pages available for members to join: <https://www.wpbells.org/guild-communications/>