



The Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



GUILD NEWS

March 2004

Cathedral bellringers return to their roots

Last December, Winchester Cathedral and the Guild bade farewell to two of its longest serving members. Bob and Gail Cater have now returned to their 'roots' in their native Yorkshire. Both learned to ring at Wakefield Cathedral in 1965, but moved to Winchester in 1975 when Bob joined the engineering department of Hampshire County Council. For most of those twenty eight years, between them, they have held the posts of either Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Cathedral band. They soon became active members of the Winchester District, where Bob was District Secretary from 1979 to 1984, and Gail the Social Committee Representative from 1980 to 1983. A truly 'ringing' family, their daughter, Julia, was ringing at the Cathedral (standing on a chair) by the age of 6!

At Guild level, Bob was Convenor of the Central Council Visit Committee from 1978 to 1980, served on the Ringing School (later the Education) Committee from 1979 to 1985, and was its Convenor from 1979 to 1982. He was Public Relations Officer 1983 to 1986, and created the Guild Newsletter, he was a member of the BRF Fund-raising Committee in 1994 and of the 'Ring in 2000' Group from 1997 to 2000. Last but by no means least, he was Hon General Secretary from 1992 to the end of 2003. Gail was Convenor of the Social Committee from 1980 to 1983 and Convenor of the Education Committee from 1991 to 1996.

Their commitment to education in the Exercise extended into a variety of posts on the Central Council and to the establishment of the Sparsholt Ringing Course, which they ran successfully for 14 years. Bob represented the Guild from 1978 to 1996 and Gail from 1996 to 2003 (she continues as an Honorary Member). Bob served on the Education Committee from 1978 to 1993, and was its Chairman from 1986 to 1992,

and on the Ringing Centres Committee from 1993 to 1996. Gail served on the Education Committee from 1996 to 2002, and on the Ringing Centres Committee since 1999, for which she has been Chairman since 2001. As Chairmen, they were ex-officio members of the Administrative Committee, and Bob was also an elected member of this Committee from 1993 to 1996.

with practice in local church towers, assisted by Guild ringers. As if this wasn't enough, Gail trained four new bands of ringers at the nearby towers of Crawley, Easton, and Sparsholt. They led the diocese's appeal for new bellringers to be trained for the millennium, and were pleased to learn that, as a result, all the bells in every bell tower in the Winchester District were pealed at midday on New Year's Day 2000.



Bob & Gail outside the Cathedral

Centred on HCC Agricultural College, the Sparsholt Ringing Course was held each August Bank Holiday weekend from 1989-2002. Upwards of 150 ringers of all ages from England and abroad, attended for a four-day residential course, mixing theory at the college

Between them, Bob and Gail have rung over 200 peals for the Guild, a number of which, in Gail's case, were achieved on handbells, a skill which ensured she was an essential member of the team providing 'after-dinner' entertainment

at both Guild and tower annual dinners.

As well there were Bob's ever popular overseas tours that he has arranged over the years to the four corners of the world. Indeed I remember ringing with them at the southern most tower of all - Dunedin in 1996!

In looking back on his eleven year tenure of the General Secretaryship of the Guild, Bob has been pleased to see progress made in two of its formal aims - 'unity across the membership', and stewardship of its belfries. Bob notes the tremendous improvement in communications across the Guild through a variety of ways, ranging from newsletters, membership booklets, as well as feedback by Executive Committee deliberations to District meetings. In this electronic age, he has also had to admit that he has never been able to hide behind the excuse that he didn't know what was going on! The other 'plus' is the creation of the Belfry Stewardship Committee, the advice it has provided, and work it has done on bell installations.

At a short farewell ceremony at the Cathedral Refectory before Christmas, tower captain, Charles Lidbury, paid tribute to these two very special ringers, and their contribution to the local ringing scene. Responding for both of them, Bob admitted he had mixed emotions in parting from their many friends in Hampshire, and from a place where they had spent nearly half of their lives. 'We have greatly enjoyed our involvement with ringing in the county, and the two dioceses that make up our Guild. We are particularly pleased that we can leave at a time when bellringing is in a healthy state'. We feel sure they will be regular visitors to the Guild in the future, not least the forthcoming 125th celebrations!

Colin Cook

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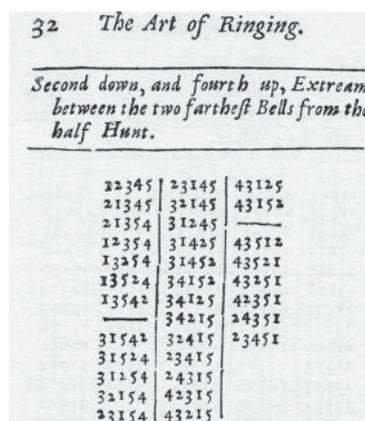
From the Editor

Once again I am grateful to those who have so willingly contributed and to those editors of District Newsletters who allow me to plagiarise their work.

I have had to hold a couple of items over until the next edition due to pressure on space and the splendid photographs that I have been sent.

I hope once again to make this newsletter available on the Guild web site with the photos in colour.

This is the 125th anniversary year of the Guild. The Executive Committee have agreed one or two ways in which to mark the event. I hope that you will soon hear details and be able to make your own contributions.



From
Tintinnologia or the
Art of Ringing
Fabian Stedman 1668

Good Timing For A Peal At Micheldever

It seemed appropriate to John that the bells of St. Mary's should be used to mark a noteworthy occasion in order to thank the Reverend Ben and Kathryn Flenley for their 12 year ministry in the Benefice before leaving for their new parishes centering on Bentworth.

The chosen date of 31st October during the school's half term holiday was convenient for all the band. A flyer had

been inserted in the parish magazine, "The Dever", informing residents of the date, time of start and length of anticipated time to ring the peal. Circumstances beyond the divine control of Ben and Kathryn had delayed their final departure from The Vicarage as the removal van could still be seen outside the house which meant that they were able to go to the church to greet the band before the peal started and thus

the Flenleys were able to leave the village to the sound of the bells!

The ringers taking part were Chris Kippin (conductor), Heather Kippin, Christine Saunders, Edward Colliss, Peter Hill and John Croft. They went into changes at precisely 2.00 p.m. and 2 hours 48 minutes later a well struck peal of 5040 Minor (see Ringing World, page 1118) came round.

Joyce Croft

Hampshire's loss.....!



The successful band

I first met Linda when I offered her a lift to the Isle of Wight for a Guild Education Day on Listening Skills! Any ringer wanting to travel all that way to improve their striking must be a good sort, and so she proved to be. We enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant day across the Solent, and I invited her to visit Selborne on a practice night whenever she liked. This she did, and it was great fun helping her ring up and down at tied-bell sessions and encouraging the call changes and hunting that she'd been learning at her home tower of Petersfield. So, it was with genuine sadness that we learnt Linda was moving to Edinburgh!

During the Wantage Ringing Course, where Linda was a student on the Plain Bob Doubles course, her Tutor sidled up to me and suggested that Linda was very nearly ready for a Quarter Peal inside, and could I organise one after the course? Linda was delighted with the idea, but it then transpired that it would be her first! Wishing to make her first a

good one, and with just a two week slot before moving, she decided on ringing the treble, and an excellent Quarter was scored!

The ringers at Selborne are very sad to see her go, but wish her much happiness in her new home and job 'over the border', and have already been invited to visit her when she's settled in. Linda was already planning which towers to visit in Edinburgh, and Hampshire's loss will definitely be Scotland's gain!

Rachael Barber

Selborne, Hants. 2 Sept. 2004
1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles
Linda Ward (first Quarter Peal) 1,
Roger Barber (C) 2,
Rachael Barber 3,
Rob Forster 4,
Jemma Rhodes 5,
Chas Seamons 6.

Rung as a fond farewell to Linda Ward as she moves from Petersfield to Edinburgh.

In Defence of Winchester Cathedral

Those who took the Ringing World for February 6th will be aware of the letter from John Maybrey, now living in our Guild area in the Alton and Petersfield District and the welcome his party received from the Cathedral ringers on the Cathedral practice

night. They had previously notified the Secretary of the Cathedral band that they were coming but he had failed to notify them of the secret of opening the belfry door.

The editor of the Ringing World had already contacted Paul Nolan, Cathedral

band secretary, and his reply was alongside John's letter. It seemed very inadequate, explaining that a striking contest had been arranged for that evening, the judge was locked away. This took place during the seven o'clock to eight o'clock session normally for the beginners and then it was open ringing.

The course of Pudsey by the Cathedral ringers, the special method, followed the striking competition. Surely this could have been left for later. John's band left, the last tower of their outing had been a let down. A rather deflated band sat down in a nearby restaurant for the end of outing meal.

Over the years I have visited Winchester Cathedral with members of my own band, Woolton Hill or Andover District members, their ringing has ranged from rounds on the middle eight, on the 12, more recently on 14 and on one occasion standing behind while the ringer rang her first blows in Bristol Maximus. Over the years I have known successive captains, Wilfred Andrews when I first rang their en route to the dedication of the St Mary's, Southampton new bells (the present 10), William Lampard, Dennis Brown, Graham Grant and the present one Charles Lidbury.

All have afforded me a welcome. I have had the bells to conduct peals on two occasions, once with Dennis Brown when he rang with us for plain Bob Royal to give ringers who would not normally ring 12 bells the chance of a peal there. This was at a time when they are not so readily available as they are now. During the ringing George Noice, Beryl Norris grandfather and the oldest Cathedral ringer, came up and sat there for most of the peal. He probably needed to get his breath back, what he thought of our ringing I never heard.

Then in more modern times I was given permission to ring a peal on New Year's Day 1984. I chose Winchester Surprise Maximus with mainly a Guild band, the second Winchester Surprise Maximus on the bells, with Reg Rex and Harold Reed we had practised it on the bells with Charles Kippin in the early Sixties. A peal never materialised then.

I completed the family at Thatcham with the Royal on July the sixth 1984, my first peal of the major was at Hawley in February 1955 only the second peal in the method, conducted by Charles. The first was at East Tytherley, what a challenge to ring it on 14 at the Cathedral. There have been many further visits to the Cathedral; I always let the Cathedral captain know I was coming. Graham Grant, during his captaincy, was always a gentleman as have been the others, I am sorry this unfortunate incident has received such publicity, something they can well do without. It will die a natural death but has caused a stain on what has always been a very hospitable tower.

May they go from strength to strength.

Geoff Dodd

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Guernsey Bellringers Are Now Buskers!

Efforts over the Christmas period were rewarded when the Town Church Bellringers won the St Peter Port Traders First Prize in the Busking competition that was held in the town in order to enliven the festivities.

The Traders' organisation ran a series of competitions preceding Christmas on Thursday evenings when late night shopping was taking place. These competitions included a buskers competition in which a variety of organisations

took part, everyone from local choirs to (apparently – because we didn't know we'd entered) bellringers. The order of the day was to entertain the crowds and make money for charity.

The Town Church Bellringers were informed that they had in fact won first prize – as they had no idea that they had entered this was somewhat of a surprise. We always practice on a Thursday evening so what the crowd heard was us practising, but our Tower

Captain did make sure that we rang well!! We can only come to the conclusion that we were louder than everyone else OR that we have improved out of all recognition!!

Seriously though we believe that we are fortunate in having possibly the best peal in the Channel Islands and this coupled with our enthusiastic ringers led us inevitably to success.

Dean Lee - Sue Park



The award-winning Town Church band

Thriving Test Valley Towers

Lockerley and East Tytherley have had another enjoyable and successful year. In April we hired a mini-bus, which was driven by David Salter and expertly navigated by Ceri Dodd to Barnstaple where we met up with Andrew Palk and his West Country ringing friends. We shared a great weekend travelling along the North Coast of Devon, venturing across the boarder into Cornwall, then back for the last ring of the weekend at Hartland.

In August some of us travelled down to Ilfracombe, where we took the ferry to Lundy, having met Andrew and the others at the quayside. The sea mist prevented us from seeing the island until we were virtually tied to the jetty. We all eagerly negotiated the climb to the top of the hill where the church loomed out of the mist. The ropes were very stiff and salty, but we spent

an 'interesting' time ringing from call changes to Stedman. After a seriously enjoyable lunch at the only pub on the island we all split up in the mist to explore Lundy. Sika deer, jet-black bunnies and incredible scenery (the mist lifted for a tantalising 20 minutes during the afternoon.) was enjoyed by all.

Then it was time to head off back. The captain of the boat said that he knew Ilfracombe was there, but he couldn't find it. Sure enough, it suddenly loomed out of the mist. We all went our separate ways; some home to Hampshire, some home to Somerset. Jen, Rob, Joy and Pam from Lockerley stayed another night in their B&B so that they could visit the RHS gardens at Rosemoor on the way home the following day.

In early November John & Brenda Palk (Andrew's mum & dad) approached Lockerley to ask if they could be taught

to ring as a Christmas surprise for Andrew. By Christmas Eve they were ringing rounds quite proficiently and Andrew was invited to ring for the Midnight service, as he was home for Christmas. His look of joy and surprise will not be forgotten by all those present, as his parents joined him in rounds.

We are enthusiastically enjoying the striking league again this year, using it as an opportunity for our two other learners to experience competition ringing

In January we asked ringers from Romsey Abbey, Hursley and Alresford to support us in a Triples evening at East Tytherley. It was a great success and we hope to do it again in a few months time.

Jen Churchill - Tower Captain

A Family Affair

On a wonderful sunny day, two members of the Andover District, Amy Knights-Whittome and Jonathan Waller were married at St Peters Church, Goodworth Clatford on 1st November in the presence of 70 family and friends. The service was taken by Rev. Nicky Judd. The best man was Mark Longstaff and Amy's bridesmaid was Didi Rogers.

Ringin before the service included Ken, Carol and Joanne Waller joining with friends for a well struck course of Stedman Triples.

Amy, who was given away by her father Mike (the only non ringer of the two families), looked stunning in her dress expertly made by her mother Christine.

Jonathan's brother Ben was an usher and Amy's sister Kate read the lesson. After the ceremony the bride and groom were rung out in style by ringin friends who went on to attempt a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples.

After the many photos had been taken the couple left for the reception in Ken's MG, suitably bedecked with ribbons and bell ropes, to the reception which was held at the Wessex Hotel in Winchester.

The following day the happy couple flew to Malaysia for their honeymoon.

Amy and Jonathan first met at an Andover District practice fifteen years ago at Goodworth Clatford where Amy learnt to ring just after Jonathan had started learning to ring at Nether Wallop.

Ken Waller



Celebratory quarter peals rung were:-

Upper Clatford, Hants
24 October
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1. Ken Waller
2. Penny Chambers
3. Carol Waller
4. Paul Myers
5. Jonathan Waller
6. Ben Waller (C)

Leckford, Hants
1 November
1260 All Saints Doubles
1. Ken Waller (C)
2. Carol Waller
3. Ben Waller
4. Joanne Waller
5. Andrew Palk

Tangley, Hants
2 November
280 Doubles 4m/v/p
1. Margaret Winterbourne
2. Brian Oakes
3. Paul Myers
4. Paul Rampton
5. Mike Winterbourne (C)
6. Mike Hayward

Guild Polo Shirts

Last year there was a lot of support for the sale of Guild sweatshirts. A total of £220.20 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund and the W&P logo is in evidence in many Towers. Now that the warmer weather is just around the corner, you will all need POLO SHIRTS (with logo) to complement the sweatshirts. Please circulate the details where you can, if you need more information visit the web site of the firm who are supplying them: www.welbecksports.co.uk or contact me. I have a sample shirt and swatch for colours.

All the details are on the form which is circulated with this newsletter, additional copies can be obtained from the Guild web site. Please display it in your tower and return to me no later than April 30th.

Janet Chatfield - Tel:01489 891995 E-mail:chat.field@virgin.net

A Peal at Romsey

From "The Salisbury Journal", 25th July 1791

Monday last, a new and exceedingly musical peal of eight bells, cast by Mr. Mears of Whitechapel, was opened at Romsey, by the Society of College Youths from London, with a peal of Oxford Treble Bobs, consisting of 5248 changes, being the extent of thirteen courses, and which was completed in three hours 13 minutes, with that accuracy which distinguishes the performances of that company, and to the entire satisfaction of the inhabitants of the town, as well as a numerous concourse of hearers assembled from different parts of the country."

[From the peal book of "The Society Of Union Youths Of Newport, Isle Of Wight"]

Printed in "The Bell News", 10th September 1910, page 373.

July 18th, 1791, the new peal of eight bells at Rumsey, Hants., was opened by the College Youths with 5088 (sic.) Treble Bobb in 3 hours and three minutes, called by Thos. Blakemore.

[Names of performers given]

[From the peal book of the College Youths]

Rumsey in the Mead, Hants

Monday July 18 1791. This Company rang a true peal of 5248 changes Oxford Treble Bob in 3 hours & 20 minutes

Thomas Blakemore	1	John Povey	5
William Lyford	2	George Webb	6
William Wilson	3	Edward Simmons	7
Joseph Holdsworth	4	Samuel Muggeridge	8

This was the opening & first peal on the New Bells and was called by Mr. Thos Blakemore.

"The Hampshire Chronicle", Monday 25th. July 1791

Mon. last a new peal of 8 bells, cast by Mr. Thomas Meares, of Whitechapel, late Lester, Pack and Co. was opened at Romsey, by the Society of College Youths from London, with a peal of Oxford treble bobs, consisting of 5248 changes, being the extent of 13 courses which was completed in 3 hrs. 29 mins. With that accuracy which ever distinguished the performances of that company, and to the entire satisfaction of the inhabitants of the town, as well as to a numerous assemblage from different parts of the country.

Both newspaper accounts failed to mention that the band then moved on to the Isle of Wight and scored a 5088 of Oxford Treble Bob at St. Mary's, Carisbrooke, on 20th July 1791, two days later. Subsequently the following questions occur to me :-

- How did they know there were eight bells at Romsey and Carisbrooke? Dove's Guide first edition appeared in 1950. The price of the few newspapers that might mention Romsey's new bells was very high due to Newspaper Stamp Tax.
- How did peal bands time their performances in the 18th century? The price of a pocket watch was far beyond the means of a working man.
- How did they communicate with the local ringers, or with the incumbent? How did they obtain the address? The Penny Post dates from 10th January 1840.

d. Could they read and write? Date of the Elementary Education Act is 9th August 1870.

e. Could they afford to buy writing paper? Was it not very expensive? Letters at that time were written on both sides, then round both edges, and finally diagonally on any spaces left.

f. How did they travel to Romsey? By very expensive Stage Coach? These were slow and unsprung, until the invention of the elliptical spring in 1804. Where did they find the coach timetable? (The first train from Nine Elms to Hampshire (Southampton) departed on 11th May 1840.)

g. What route was followed from London? Only a few Turnpike Roads crossed Hampshire then, and the surfaces were so bad that maximum coach speed was 10 m.p.h. It was 1815 before John Mc Adam introduced improved road surfaces.

h. Where did they stay overnight? Could they afford a Coaching Inn. Which one was it? How could you book for eight in advance?

i. How did they travel onwards to a port? Southampton or Portsmouth?

j. How did they sail to the Isle of Wight? How, in London, would they know details and times of passenger carrying boats? The Isle of Wight Steam Packet Company was not formed until 1826.

k. How did they travel to Newport and Carisbrooke? The railway only reached Newport on 16th June 1862.

l. They probably arrived late at Carisbrooke, after a slow journey. How did they ring in the dark evening? How did any ringers practice at the end of a long, working day on dark evenings? Churches were not lit by gas until late 19th century. Street gas lighting first appeared in Pall Mall during 1807.

There would seem to be quite a large amount of research into peripheral ringing items that could occupy my retirement!

Derek Jackson.

25 Years Ago

Among those who rang their first peal were Julia Cater and Colin Hares.

There were 12 peals of 100 doubles! Alison Surry rang Winchester Cathedral tenor to a peal.

A&P District "Privett church has still not been sold, the fate of the bells still being in the balance.

Basingstoke District "St Peter's, Yateley was destroyed by fire together with its bells"

C&S District (sic) "A brand new ring of 8 was dedicated at St John's, Jersey."

Winchester District "350 copies of a gramophone record featuring ringing at 10 churches in the District raised over £550"

Celebrating George's Golden Service To The Church

Canon George Rayner's 50 years in the priesthood was celebrated by friends and parishioners at St Saviour's Church at Shanklin.

Canon Rayner, 78, was born in Ryde and is well-known on the Island, having been vicar at St John's, Sandown, for more than six years and later rector of Wootton.

"I have had a whale of a time," he said.

"I have made so many friends and had so many great experiences—I've worked in urban parishes in Taunton and rural locations on the Island and in Somerset."

Canon Rayner was serving a curacy at St Andrew's, Taunton, when he was ordained at Wells Cathedral on December 20, 1953.

He was made vicar of Holy Trinity, Taunton, in 1956, leaving there in 1963 to become vicar at St John's, Sandown.

"I left Taunton simply because I did all I could there. We saved the church school that was due to close and built a church hall," he said.

"It seems as though I've spent a lot of my time raising money to refurbish churches and organs, build church halls and save church schools. At Sandown we built a new annexe and another one at Wootton where I became rector in 1969.

"It can be very gruelling work but it's most rewarding."

Canon Rayner has two sons, Peter, the Island haulier, and Denys, who lives near Weston-super-Mare and works for the Bank of Ireland.

Canon Rayner first retired in 1989 but agreed to take on the care of six tiny rural parishes known as The Six Pilgrims in Somerset.

"The population of the six parishes put together was only 675 people," he said.

Canon Rayner, a keen painter, was there for ten years before returning to the Island with his wife, Hazel, to finally retire. They have lived in Shanklin, since 2002.

"Things have changed dramatically since I joined the church," he said. "It is becoming more managerial but I suppose it's the same with every-thing."

A Eucharist to celebrate exactly 50 years of his priesthood was held on December 20, when Ian Hookey was the organist and the Rev Barry Downer assisted as deacon. After the service, the St Saviour's bellringers, of whom Canon Rayner is a learner member, rang a quarter-peal of Stedman doubles.



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125 Years Ago Or How It All Started

On 13th October 1850, the Rev. George Hill, curate of St. Saviour, Tor Mohun the mother church of Torquay, announced to his Vicar and congregation that his wife, Maria Elizabeth, had safely given birth to a baby boy at Warwick House, Warren Road. Since wives were still regarded as part of the goods and chattels of the husband, congratulations poured in to the curate. The mother survived the difficulties of child birth in the 19th century, unlike many poorer members of the parish, and for the baptism, asked permission to combine her maiden name, du Boulay, with that of her husband. Thus our founder

was christened Arthur du Boulay Hill. He was brought up in the parish of St. Winnow in Cornwall, following his father's appointment there as Vicar. At the age of ten his private tutor probably introduced him to the significant happenings of the next two Victorian years before his formal schooling. These would include the opening of Brunel's railway suspension bridge at nearby Saltash, named after the Queen's husband; abolition of flogging in the British Army; "Big Ben" first striking the hours; the introduction of the bronze halfpenny; repeal of the Parliamentary Act compelling the population to celebrate Guy Fawkes' night; the start

of the very bloody American Civil War; the distress caused, particularly to clergy, after Darwin published "The Origin of the Species".

His uncle, Rev. J. T. H. du Boulay was appointed Assistant Master at Winchester College in 1862, and later appointed first Housemaster of the du Boulay House. It was therefore logical that eleven year old D.B.H. became a scholar there that year, travelling probably by the steam packet which departed from Torquay for Southampton every Monday and Thursday at 6 p.m. He may well have learned to ring on the ancient ring of six bells in the chapel there. In 1869 he won a Demysip at Magdalen College, Oxford, and found himself one of seven undergraduates able to ring changes, E. P. Barrow, E. R. Gardiner, W. H. Poole, W. H. Pridden, J. E. Troyte and R. H. D. Troyte being the others. In 1871 they achieved a 120 of Grandsire Doubles, and this is recorded in ringing history as the first ever by undergraduates. D.B.H. was one of seventeen undergraduates who, in 1872, formed the first ever University Ringing Society, with J. E. Troyte, the talented conductor, as Master, and W. H. Poole as Secretary. On 6th February 1872, four of them, J. E. Troyte (Christ Church), R. H. D. Troyte (Trinity), G. H. Phillott (Christchurch) and D.B.H. achieved several touches of Grandsire Triples with four local ringers. On 5th June that year, with C. D. P. Davies, J. R. Keble and Rev. F. E. Robinson, long touches of Grandsire Triples were scored at Appleton, and these are recorded as "the first touches of Triples rung entirely by gentlemen". The importance of "class" to the Victorians is apparent in many peal footnotes from the 18th Century onwards. E.g.

First peal of Plain Bob Maximus (5280) by the College Youths. Rung at St. Bride's, London, conducted by Benjamin Annable.

Footnote :- All the persons who rung in this peal left the church in their own carriages,

It is reported that the City of London was totally congested with carriages in the eighteenth century, gentry having their own carriages. College youths were clearly upper class. It is believed that this led to the nursery rhyme :-

"Gay go up and gay go down

To ring the bells of London town."

D.B.H. gained a First in Natural Science in 1874, and was appointed as Assistant Master to his old school. Taking Holy Orders in 1875, for the next two years he had little time for bell-ringing, even the limited sort practiced on the Cathedral bells. In 1877 he embarked upon a project familiar to modern bell-historians. Visiting local churches in turn, using horse carriage or steam train, he began recording, with pen and ink in a note book, the inscriptions and details of all he found in Hampshire bell chambers. This notebook, somewhat fragile, is now deposited at Winchester Record Office as item 20M94/31. On page 1 is written:- "CAMPANOLOGIA Church Bells of Winchester & Hampshire etc". by A. du. B. Hill. Begun Feb. 1877

For those familiar with Colchester's 1920 book "Hampshire Church Bells", there is a remarkable similarity !

On 2nd February 1872 the "gentlemen ringers" listed above formed the Oxford University Society. Their enthusiasm would later see the formation of :-

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Saturday 21st March 1874)

Yorkshire Association (Saturday 30th October 1875)

Lancashire Association (Saturday 10th June 1876)

Durham Diocesan Association (Saturday 25th August 1877)

Norwich Diocesan Association (Monday 24th September 1877)

Gloucester and Bristol diocesan Association (Tuesday 8th January 1878)

Cambridge University Guild (Tuesday 4th February 1879)

Essex Association (Monday 2nd June 1879)

And then :-

Winchester Diocesan Guild Of Ringers

Madge and D.B.H. had set themselves a task of almost Herculean proportions. There was a minimal awareness of change ringing in the Winchester diocese. With the publication of the first two ringing books, "Tintinnologia" by Richard Duckworth in 1668, and "Campanalogia" by Stedman in 1677, the seventeenth century saw educated men in the London and Norwich areas adopt change ringing as an intellectual exercise and a form of physical recreation. Ringing was rarely performed to call people to church. The Isle of Wight had a good grounding, resulting from the formation of "The Society of Union Youths of Newport, Isle of Wight" on 6th November 1770, five days after the opening of the eight at Carisbrooke by The College Youths. Led by William Rayner they had scored nine peals on the octave at Carisbrooke (one may be false), a vast number of "peals" (i.e. 720s) on the original six at Newport and at Newchurch, and eight peals on the bells that William Rayner had helped augment at Newport in 1809. They had lost peals at Romsey and Portsmouth, but had scored quarter peals at Holy Rood Southampton, Winchester Cathedral and Alton. The ringers in the Leatherhead and Dorking areas had scored nineteen and fifteen peals respectively, and formed the backbone of the band that scored the first peal for the Guild. This was 5040 Union Triples at St. Nicolas, Guildford, on 27th December 1881. The Farnham ringers had scored the first peal in the diocese, Grandsire Triples on 24th February 1730 (Julian Calendar), and had achieved fifteen more by 1879. They had helped the Alton ringers master Grandsire Doubles so that, on 7th March 1777 the first ever peal on six bells was scored here in 3 h 28m, with two men on the tenor. Travelling in those days was on foot, by stage coach, or, if reasonably affluent, by horseback.

Elsewhere in the diocese the ringing was very basic, and is best described in an article that appeared in the Wiltshire News of 15th May 1914 :-

".....time was when the ancient ringer swung his bell in ding-dong fashion in rounds and queens with his mates, while on festive occasions there were frequent volleys fired by way of variation. The only attempt at change-ringing was in following a scale chalked on the belfry floor, or figured on a large card lying at the ringers' feet. The ringing chamber was a fearsome place, draughty and often ill-kept and, let it be whispered, a barrel of beer was not infrequently found in the capacious recess of one of the windows.....".

The Winchester Cathedral ringers renewed this tradition of 'firing volleys' for the 50th anniversary of the accession of Elizabeth II.

"For such a special anniversary, Cathedral ringers are reviving this tradition on 6th February 2002. Records show that when the Queen's Proclamation was announced in the city on 8th February 1952 by the lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Wellington, the Cathedral bells rang and the 'Royal Salute' was sounded. This involved 'firing' the bells all together,

for 21 blows three times, much to the annoyance of Dean Selwyn (who was not a great lover of bells) who told them to stop!"

The initial title of our Guild appears on the pamphlet, issued in 1879 by the "Temporary Committee of Management", Mr. G. H. Barnett, Rev. C. H. Lacon, Rev. F. T. Madge, Rev. H. A. Spyers, Rev. H. J. Sumner and the Secretary Rev. Arthur du Boulay Hill. The latter was Assistant Master at Winchester College from 1874 to 1882, as well as Chaplain from 1881. The pamphlet contains names of 52 members attached to the seven "Bands in Union" (Farnham, Godalming, Hursley, Southampton St. Michael, Weybridge, Winchester and Yateley) and the names of 51 members unattached to bands. Finally it contains the programme for the "First Annual Meeting", planned for Thursday 15th July 1880.

We claim, in our current Reports that the Guild was founded at Basingstoke on Thursday 26th June 1879 but there is no mention of this date in the early Guild Reports. There is no Minute Book to check such dates since the first one starts in 1900. However, issue 3556 of "The Ringing World", our Guild's Centenary issue on 22nd June 1979, does contain a reference on page 510. The Guild Master at that time, Kenneth S. B. Croft, wrote about Rev. Arthur du Boulay Hill's diary, as follows :-

"Dec. 5, 1878. With Madge's help we began some real hand-bell practice with Cathedral ringers. The Dean has given us a room in No. 4, the Close, for practice. Made fair progress."

"June 26, 1879: Meeting at Basingstoke to establish W. D. Guild of Ringers."

In addition, this date is clearly stated in the 1929 Guild Report on page 2 at the beginning of a potted 50 years history of the Guild. This was written by George Williams, current Guild Master and a Founder Member.

D.B.H. meanwhile was active with his old friends. On 19th September 1879 a peal of Grandsire Triples at Farnham was the first to contain two clergymen. Rev. F. E. Robinson conducted from No.5., while D.B.H. rang the second. An attempt for the first Oxford University peal at Kirtlington on 14th June was not successful. However, invited by D.B.H. to conduct the first extent of Bob Minor on Winchester College bells, F.E.R. recorded a success there the following year.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild Of Ringers

The second title appears on the First Annual Report, (for 1880 but dated June 1881). From this moment until 1925, confusion is generated. Reports are issued and dated for June or July that year, but refer to events of the previous year (i.e. 1880 in this case). Eventually, in June 1888, details of peals are reported, but these are from September the previous year to May of the current year ! This is partly due to the Guild's delay in adopting the Gregorian calendar. The "Chesterfield Act" of March 1751 specified that, from 1752, New Year must start on 1st January rather than 25th March. Also that 2nd September 1752 (Julian calendar) would be followed by 14th September (Gregorian calendar). In the 1904 Guild Report, all Guild members are instructed to use 1st January as the start of the year. (Only 152 years late !)

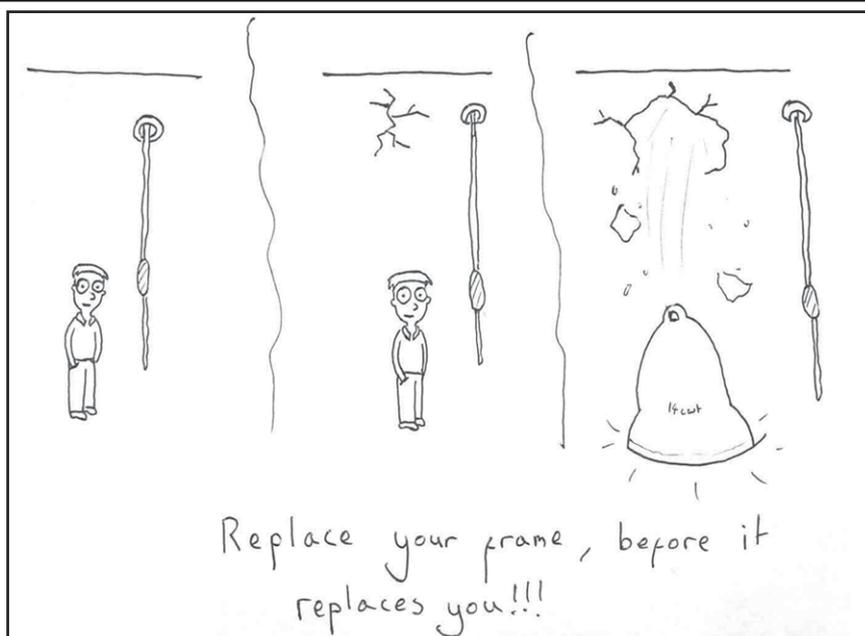
The 1st. Report lists members of the committee :-

Mr. G.H.Barnett, Mr. J.Hewett, Rev. F.T.Madge, Mr. W.H.Poole, Rev. H.A.Spyers, Rev. H.G.Sumner and ten representatives from the ten bands "In Union" (Ashted, Bishop's Waltham, Cranleigh, Dorking, Farnham, Godalming, Hursley, Southampton St. Michael, Weybridge and Winchester). Mr. W. H. Poole was, of course, the first Secretary of the O.U.S.C.R. during the undergraduate years of D.B.H. Current Guild Members may wonder why their current peal of bells is not among this early list and forget that many of our 200 rings date from a much later time.

The Report lists the names of the 95 attached members, and those of the 62 members unattached to bands. 50 of the latter were non-ringers and by 1881 had become Honorary Members, subscribing large sums of money to pay for the administration. The subs. totalled £16-19-0 (A large sum in 1880) covering the £5-14-6 administration costs and the cost of railway fares for performing members (£3-8-7)

The secretary's report mentions the augmentations at Hursley and Soberton, the First Annual Meeting in 1880, the existence of Guild Rules and plans for the Second Annual Meeting, on Thursday 28th. July 1881, in Winchester. It would seem that Thursdays had some significance for those attending meetings.

Derek Jackson.



**By Neil Saunders
of Hursley**

Tom's First Quarter



L-R behind Tom: David Cooper, Ruth Cooper, Rachael Barber, Simon Longlands, Roger Barber

I have to say in all honesty that 'Tom' and 'quarter peal' were not concepts that went together and the fact that he has achieved a ringing milestone is a great credit both to him and to those who have persevered with him. I would also hope that those who have rung with him on many and varied

practice nights have learnt a great deal about patience and the art of running a practice!!!

Tom Metcalfe started learning to ring at Blackmoor about four years ago and found ringing to be one of the most enjoyable things that he has ever done. However, despite listening intently to

what he is being told and doing copious amounts of homework, he suffers from the 'two-steps-forward, three-steps-backwards' frustration that is so well understood by many of us who begin ringing later in life. Not only that, but Tom has a health problem which sometimes curtails his ringing activity. Nevertheless he is undaunted and perseveres despite feeling that he is sometimes in a black tunnel with no end!! He is a faithful Sunday Service ringer, usually the first to arrive, and is often to be found at neighbouring towers on their practice nights gaining more experience. Those people who have taught and encouraged him rang in his first quarter peal, and his getting it in fine style is an achievement of which he can be rightly proud.

25th January 2004

1260 Doubles. April Day/Grandsire/Plain Bob

Ruth Cooper(1), David Cooper(2), Rachael Barber(3), Simon Longlands(4), Roger Barber(C - 5), Tom Metcalfe(1st Q - 6)

Ruth Cooper

Bells Sound Tribute for Gavin

Stamina and extraordinary concentration from a team of bell-ringers helped them achieve a marathon peal at a Shanklin church in tribute to a fellow ringer who died two years ago.

In a poignant tribute to 24-year-old Gavin Martin-Taylor, who died from heart complications caused by a flu virus, a peal lasting almost three hours was performed at St Saviour's Church. Eight ringers performed the complicated peal, Grandsire Triples, in honour of the Yaverland resident and former Bembridge School pupil who had been a bell ringer for ten years.

Two years to the day after Mr Martin-Taylor's death, his family donated a pair of processional lanterns to the church in his memory, dedicated by Fr Richard Smith.

But the peal would not have been possible had it not been for the fundraising efforts of the bellringers.

Until two years ago the Victorian bells could only be played for ten minutes at a time because of deteriorating ropes, wheels and frame.

But cash raised by the bellringers meant

the bells could be re-hung and refurbished and are now a regular feature at services.

The team responsible for the tribute was June Mitchell, tower captain (treble), Margaret Downer (second), Viv

Stacey (third), Beccy Noyes (fourth), Stephen Noyes (fifth), Graham Nobbs (sixth), the Rev Barry Downer (seventh) and Peter Taylor (tenor).

They completed the challenge in two hours and 58 minutes — only the third



Five of the successful band

Article and photograph reproduced by kind permission of Isle of Wight County Press

time it had been performed on the bells.

With seven bells, a total of 5,040 combinations were performed, with the eighth bell ringing at the end of each sequence.

Mrs Mitchell, 69, who taught Mr Martin-Taylor to ring in 1985 and led the tribute, said: "Gavin was a good, well-respected member missed greatly by his fellow ringers."

The church's spokesman, Canon George Rayner, said: "At the end there were eight pairs of tired arms, some with sore hands, who dropped with a great sense of achievement and triumph.

"Completing the Grand-sire Triples was no mean feat considering the tower's largest bell weighs about the same as a small family car."

Bell ringing has become a popular activity for of all ages at St Saviour's.

The church's youngest ringer is nine-year-old Kieran Downer and the oldest is in his late 70s.

Andover District News

Chris Caryer, Joint District Ringing Master, had gone to a great deal of trouble to arrange a quarter peal at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 5th October; although we had made an attempt some seven years ago, this had failed, and the District has yet to ring an Andover District quarter peal on the Cathedral bells.

With a practice quarter peal at Whitchurch the week before, all fared well for the big one a week later. But it was not to be. Meeting one short, Charles Lidbury, former Tower Captain, was pressed into service and the quarter was well rung, as was the one at Whitchurch the previous week.

Both Penny Chambers and Ben Waller rung their first inside at Whitchurch. The quarter peal of Kent Royal was also rung on Sunday 14th September for Evensong by the Monday night practice band. Although not strictly speaking an Andover District Band, we formed the nucleus and eight of our Highclere practice night band were among those taking part.

Whitchurch next for this, and perhaps Cambridge Royal is just around the

corner.

Since last writing, peals have been rung at Amport and Hurstbourne Priors; the latter, rung for the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, had six resident Guild Members - five Andover District Members. One, Paul Rampton, rang his first peal in the method on Saturday 24th January, which was Superlative Surprise Major, one of the standard eight but not often rung. It's name says it all, and when first introduced to the exercise it was known as the Queen of Methods.

The other peal, recently published in *The Ringing World*, had an interesting footnote, but rather misleading. It read - "The last and final peal to be rung to celebrate the Andover District's 75th Anniversary, of all those rung three have been Surprise Minor, two at Amport, one at Andover". The misleading bit was that there have been no more rung bar these three, and only the one at Andover arranged by Colin Hares was truly an Andover District Peal, myself and David Goss now living outside the District.

Geoff Dodd

Channel Islands Prepare for Festival 2005

From Les Cloches des Îles

Hopefully you will all have seen the notice sent to each tower in the autumn outlining the plan for the Channel Islands Ringing Festival (30th June - 3rd July 2005), which will incorporate the Guild AGM and striking competition (2nd July 2005). The events will be centred in Guernsey, and it is expected that the AGM, striking competition and Festival Service will be at the Town Church, St Peter Port. Ringing tours will include all Channel Island towers (the incumbents have already been fore-warned), and there will be a Festival Dinner and other social events.

Travel, accommodation and logistical arrangements will be placed in the hands of a specialist Conferencing and Travel Company, which will prepare a flexible package (proposals from two companies are in hand). Preference will be given to Guild members, but other visitors are

welcome, and indeed necessary, to make the event viable. Expressions of interest will be invited from both Guild members and ringers generally between now and the summer, so we can be confident of sufficient support before brochures and booking forms are prepared.

The Steering Group heading up the arrangements consists of John David, Sue Park, Paul Lawrence, Anne Strong and myself. Please let any of us have any comments or suggestions you may have.

[The breaking news is that death-watch beetle infestation has been found in the Town Church transept, but we hope that the extensive repairs needed will not prevent access to the tower]

David Strong



Lundy through the mist - see Page 4 for story

Guild Officers

Guild Master - Barry Fry
Hon. General Secretary - Steve Castle Hon. Treasurer - Michael Bubb
Hon. Peal Recorder - Ceri Dodd Hon. Librarian and Archivist - Jack Walters
Hon. Report Editor - Anthony P Smith Minutes Secretary - Francis Mitchell
BRF Trustees - Mark Esbester (Portsmouth Diocese), Martin Waldron (Winchester Diocese)
Central Council Representatives - Michael Church, Andrew Craddock, Anthony P Smith,
Phil Watts and Mike Winterbourne
Independent Examiner - Peter Clarke

Monthly Practice Meetings

Alton and Petersfield

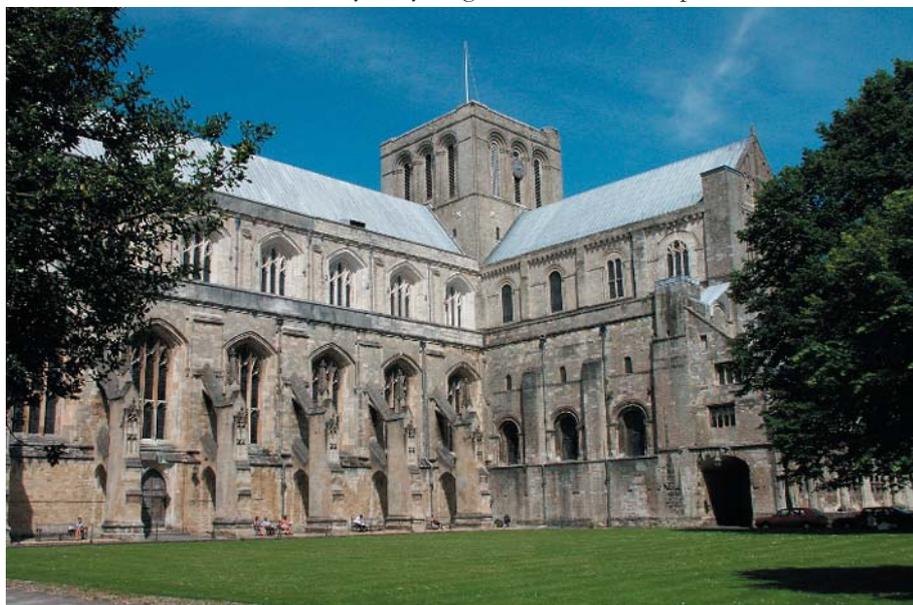
There are special practices on the first Saturday of each month, please contact the District Secretary for location. Please also check with either:-
Roger Barber (01730) 827474 or Terry Collins (023) 9259 1334
to confirm the A&P practices listed.

Basingstoke

There will normally be a district practice in the months when there is no other district event - contact the District Secretary, Ben Constant (0118 9816016).

Christchurch and Southampton

1st Wednesday ~ Ringwood ~ 7.45-9.15: Surprise Major
2nd Monday ~ Christchurch ~ 8.00-9.00: 10 & 12 Bell Practice
2nd Wednesday ~ Lymington ~ 7.30-9.00: Call Changes & Doubles
2nd Saturday ~ Bitterne Park ~ 7.30-9.00: Advanced Surprise Major
2nd Friday ~ Southampton St Michaels ~ 7.30-9.00: Surprise Royal
3rd Tuesday ~ Eling ~ 7.30-9.00: Major & Triples
3rd Wednesday ~ Sopley ~ 7.30-9.00: Advanced Minor
3rd Friday ~ Lymington ~ 7.30-9.00: Triples



Guild News is published approximately twice a year. Its aim is to improve communication between ringers in all parts of our widespread Guild and to communicate the fun of ringing generally. It is distributed free via District Secretaries to all towers in the Guild. Additional copies are available from the editor for £1.

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Please send material for publication to the editor. Most articles will cover recent ringing and social activities in the Guild which might be of general appeal to all ringers, accompanying photographs are most welcome and will be returned. The editor reserves the right to edit as necessary. Material for publication in the next issue of Guild News should reach the editor by 1st September 2004

Guild Web Site www.wp-ringers.org.uk