

RW National Youth Contest update

The first Ringing World National Youth Contest will take place on Centenary Day at St Saviour's, Pimlico with Contest ringing starting at 10am. Fourteen teams entered by the closing date and the following twelve teams will be ringing: Bedfordshire, Cheshire Cats, Derby D.A., Devon Young Ringers, Essex S.E. District, Hertfordshire, Kids.Ring.Out, Leicester Rising Ringers, Lincolnshire Poachers, Market Deep-Grantham, Oxford D.G. and Sussex Young Ringers. Two teams had to withdraw as they didn't quite manage to get enough ringers to complete their bands but there will still be almost a hundred young ringers taking part which is fantastic. The Contest ringing is now timed to finish at 2pm.

Each team of bellringers aged under 19 will ring a test piece of around 160 rows of their choice from Call Changes, Triples or Major. The Judges are Simon Linford (Chief), Tessa Beadman, Imogen Brooke and James Marchbank. The results of the Contest will be announced at the Centenary Reception in Central Hall, Westminster at about 5.15pm after the touch on 24 handbells. The winning team will be presented with the Whitechapel Trophy by Alan and Kathryn Hughes.

Next door at St Saviour Pimlico Hall refreshments will be available throughout the Contest and there will also be several exhibitors. *The Ringing World* will be selling a complete range of Centenary merchandise here and the other exhibitors are: Big Wil's Bell Muffles, CCCBR Bell Restoration Committee, The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd, Nicholson Engineering Ltd, the Oxford D.G. Bell Fund, Penyard Model Bells, The Ringing Foundation Ltd and The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Jo Dorling is leading a SRCY team on



The Central Hall, Westminster where the results will be announced at about 5.15pm

the catering and stewarding arrangements for us, for which I am most grateful.

As many readers will be aware there is a TUC march a couple of miles away and it sets off from the Embankment during the morning of Centenary Day with a rally taking place in Hyde Park in the afternoon. The planned traffic exclusion zone is huge; much bigger than anyone had anticipated, and completely bars traffic from the West End all day. It is about the same size as the exclusion zone that will be in place for the Royal Wedding at the Abbey in five weeks time and has many of the same boundaries. You can download a map of it from here: www.ringingworld.co.uk/images/pdf/traffic_zones_tuc.pdf

The effect that this will have on ticket holders is that it will be much easier to travel

by tube to Pimlico and rather more difficult, if not quite impossible, to take a car there. Vauxhall Bridge Road itself is open as it is south of the exclusion zone; but it is likely to become jammed up fairly quickly. Unless you are taking a team to the Contest by road I would strongly suggest that you use the underground. Also all buses in the area will be severely delayed because of diversions, and none of them will now run from Pimlico to Westminster Abbey during the day.

When you arrive at Pimlico underground station after you exit the automatic barriers turn right, signposted Bessborough Street (South), and as you go up the subway ramp you will see the spire of the tower in front of you. Continue walking along Lupus Street to the West end of the church, and then turn into St George's Square. You will find St Saviour Pimlico Hall just next to the church.

Most of the West End being closed to traffic might prove to be rather agreeable for our Contestants and ticket holders. Central London as a pedestrian zone is going to feel a bit different, and the march is well away from St Saviour's. Once people have finished their visit to Pimlico they can either take the tube to St James' Park (Westminster Station will be shut) or it is a pleasant, twenty-minute walk to Westminster Abbey and Methodist Central Hall. You cross Vauxhall Bridge Road to the North East and go along John Islip Street towards Tate Britain, then turn left into Marsham Street and keep going straight on until you get to the Abbey. Also there is a Boris Bike rack in St George's Square which is handy if you are registered to use one of these.

I look forward to seeing all the teams and many of our readers in Pimlico for what promises to be one of the highlights of Centenary Day.

ADRIAN UDAL
Ringing World

National Youth Contest Organiser

The future's bright!

A typical Friday lunchtime teaching session at Worcester cathedral. All the pupils in this photo are from the King's School. The future's bright!

MARK REGAN

Worcester Cathedral's Teaching Centre

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*The Weekly Journal for
Church Bell Ringers since 1911*

No. 5246 November 11, 2011 Price £1.85
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Worcester Cathedral's New Wooden Jigsaw



This super panoramic montage of Worcester Cathedral's belfry, ringing room and Teaching Centre is now available as a Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw. It will make a great Christmas gift. The jigsaw measures 36 x 25 cm and comprises 250 pieces. It's priced at £25, including post and packing, and all proceeds support our Teaching Centre for Bellringing. The jigsaw is available from Mark Regan, 22 Sebright Avenue, Worcester WR5 2HH. Payment by cheque or paypal (to: markregan@arcubus.com).

The photographs and design were done by Richard Nicholls who built the websites for the Cathedral Guild and Old St Martin's

Worcester. Richard has designed our branding and educational material. This work includes our teaching leaflets and educational display boards in the Teaching Centre. You can find out more about Richard's excellent creative work at www.enrichdesign.co.uk

If you'd like to find out more about the Teaching Centre, look at www.worcesterbells.co.uk. Please come and use it. Along with All Saints, St John's in Bedwardine, St Swithun's, Claines and our new light ten at Old St Martin's, Worcester is a great place to visit and ring bells.



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Blessed bells

by Mark Regan



Fr Andrew Greany and Bishop John Inge

On Sunday, 4th September, on a bright sunny afternoon, the Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, anointed, blessed and dedicated the new peal of ten bells. Bishop John was assisted by Old St Martin's priest-in-charge, Fr Andrew Greany, newly arrived from Little St Mary's Cambridge.

The church community had been waiting a long time to welcome the new bells. The congregation included many of the donors and the large group of people who have supported the Project.

Each bell, in turn, was presented to the congregation and was then anointed and blessed by Bishop John. It was a traditional Anglo-Catholic service, rivalling a recent event in the City of London. After the service, the champagne flowed as we celebrated Worcester's new ring of bells.

The bellhanging is being done by John Slater, aided by his young apprentice Peter Elliott. Work is progressing well and news can be found at www.olderstmartinsbells.co.uk.

On Saturday, 28th January 2012 please join us for 'Summoned by Bells', an evening of bells and poetry presented by Paul Vaughan. This will take place at Old St Martin's in the Cornmarket and the bells will be available for general ringing. Information about tickets will soon be available.

Almost there!

MARK REGAN



Iain Rutherford with the City of Worcester bell



Brenda and Colin Kinnear
with the Bransford Trust bell

DO YOU WANT INFORMATION?

Do you want to borrow a book?

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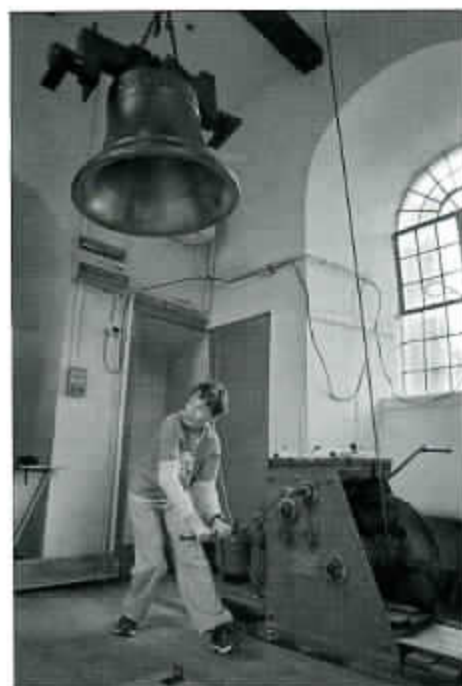
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*Helen White and Bernard Taylor
with the Bernard Taylor bell*



*Margaret Goodrich
with the Bishop Philip Goodrich bell*



*William Regan raising the Joan Summerhayes
bell at Old St Martin's into the belfry.
Joan was very fond of William though sadly
did not live to ring with him*



*Gillian and Paul Westcott
with the St Martin's bell*

Editorial

What can we say about Worcester? Well reports in this issue say it all really. The city has become a real magnet for ringing visitors and it is quite simply leading the way in opening up the Exercise to new groups of people and to schools in particular. Who would have thought, even a decade ago, that one of our great Cathedrals, with a mighty and challenging ring of 12 bells, could ever play such a central role in the recruitment and training of new ringers? So we are delighted to carry a picture on our front page this week of the new wooden jigsaw that has been commissioned for sale in aid of the Worcester Cathedral Teaching Centre.

The season of remembrance is upon us and we are grateful to Alan Regin for highlighting, once again, the names of some of the many ringers who sacrificed their lives for King and Country and now lie buried – but not forgotten – in a foreign field. It is always sobering to read the ages of these men: 22, 23, 24. Some of them would have been among the first generation to read *The Ringing World*, which was only in its fourth year of publication at the outbreak of the Great War. Now, in our Centenary Year, on 11/11/11, we honour them with pride and sadness. Please do not delay in sending up reports of peals and quarters for remembrance: we would like to receive them by 18/11/11 so that they can be published together in early December.

We reported last week that a decision has been taken to deconsecrate and demolish most of what remains of the earthquake-shattered ChristChurch Cathedral in New Zealand. Plans for establishing a temporary Cathedral are still at an early stage and, although the Cathedral ringers are keen to pursue an idea to incorporate a light, portable ring of bells to help maintain the band, a spokeswoman tells us that time and space is required to take that forward.

First Peal Congratulations

Kate R. Wallis

1,000th Peal Congratulations

Christopher R. Field

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The on-line
Dove's Guide
for Church Bell Ringers
can be found at:

dove.cccb.org.uk/home.php

Updates to your tower's information
(such as change of practice night) are really
helpful to potential visitors.

Also – do please supply full details of
your bells and frame if not already shown.

Ringing World National Youth Contest 2012

Following the success of the inaugural
competition on Centenary Day in March
we are pleased to announce that the
second Ringing World National Youth
Contest will be held next year on
Saturday, 30th June 2012.

Location and entry details will be
published in due course.

Gransden bellringers' outing by Martin Prest

It was a strange sight to see from the outside: eight people standing in a semi-circle, facing the wall in silence, concentration etched on every face; others stood about the room, chatting, eagerly anticipating their turn. It may seem like a strange way to begin a tower outing, but for the Gransden Ringers, using the Worcester Cathedral Teaching Centre's bell simulators under the guidance of Bernard Taylor was an enjoyable and challenging warm up to a weekend's ringing on the 3rd and 4th September.

Those relatively inexperienced ringers who had never rung on a simulator before were surprised at the difficulty they had trying to ring to their usual standard while using sound alone as a guide and rang the tenor behind, or in rounds to grow more accustomed to the style.

After the simulator the Gransden Ringers had the opportunity to ascend the rest of the 137 stairs to the ringing room to ring rounds on the Cathedral's 12 bells (48cwt). For most of the group – being used to ringing on 6 – it was an eye opening experience.

Then it was onwards and upwards. They climbed the remaining stairs to the roof while the tower rocked back and forth heavily as the Cathedral ringers began their scheduled peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. They paused on the way to watch the bells and tried to spot the tenor's red painted, wooden clapper amidst the swinging metal.

Next, it was on to the 6 bells (12cwt) of St Mary's Church, Ripple, a beautiful building inside and out; well worth visiting for the

miserere seats. Even more memorable for some (viz. the younger male members of the group) was some of the best fruitcake had in months provided by tower captain Joan Payne.

After tea, the ringers made their way to Old St Martin's in the centre of Worcester to see the 10 bells, newly (re)cast, awaiting the service of dedication on Sunday. Then, they walked along the wonderfully named Mealeheaven Street for the final ring of the day on the 6 bells (13cwt) of St Swithun's.

Next day they journeyed to Kidderminster and the Severn Valley Railway. Stops were made along the line for the final two towers of the weekend and a spot of bell ringing relief! First port of call was St Peter's, Upper Arley, an attractive church on a rise on the outskirts of the village with 6 highly musical bells (8cwt). Then, at the end of the line at Bridgnorth they rang on the 8, close-set bells (8 ½ cwt) of St Mary Magdelene Church. Back on the train Phillip and Sheila George, their daughter Rebecca Banner and Catherina Griffiths treated the carriage to change ringing on hand bells before the train pulled back into Kidderminster Station and the Gransden Ringers headed home after a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the weekend, opened towers, supplied tea and biscuits and gave the Gransden Ringers such a warm welcome. With special thanks to Mark Regan for arranging the Worcester towers.



Gransden ringers in the Worcester Cathedral Teaching Centre (l-r): Bernard Taylor, David Prest, Rebecca and Daniel Banner, Mark and Heather Banner, Sheila George, Phillip George, Catherina Griffiths, Martin Prest, Sheila Prest, James Ellison, Linda and George Ellison

Thanksgiving service and ringing for 50th anniversary

In 1956 Dyrham Park; now part of South Gloucestershire; was purchased by the Land Trust for the Nation and dedicated as a memorial to those who gave their lives for their country in the 1939 – 1945 War. The stewardship of the property was handed to the National Trust and after 4 years of restoration work on 26th March 1961 the property opened its' doors to the public.



The band which rang before the service (l-r): John Payton, Ruth Welch, Fran Christiansen, Chris Greef, Linda Gittings and Gill Greef



The band which rang the quarter peal after the service (l-r): Dominic Milner, Sandi Hardwick, Bill Liebow, Brian Angel, Mary York and Bryn Shackleton

On Saturday, 24th September 2011 The National Trust held a Thanksgiving Celebration Service at St Peter's Church, Dyrham (next to, but not part of the property) to celebrate the fact that for 50 years Dyrham Park has remained a National Trust property open for the public to enjoy and to remember those who gave their lives in the Second World War. As a result the bells of this Church pealed out across the surrounding countryside both in celebration and to call people to worship.

Before the service ringing was carried out by ringers from the Bristol Rural Branch, the local branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers, who are all members of the National Trust with Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles being rung. These ringers were Ruth Welch, Fran Christiansen, Linda Gittings, Gill Greef, John Payton and Chris Greef.

Following the service a quarter peal was rung by some of the members of the Sunday Service band which ring at St Peter's:

1260 Doubles (3m): Mary York 1, Sandi Hardwick 2, Brian Angel 3, Brynley Shackleton 4, William Liebow (C) 5, Dominic Milner.

SUE LIEBOW
Press Officer, Bristol Rural Branch, G&B D.A.



AROUND & ABOUT

snippets@ringingworld.co.uk

John Gipson reaches 3,000 peals at the age of 88



John in the ringing chamber at Meldreth

By ringing the treble to a peal of Bristol Surprise Major at Meldreth on Friday, October 28th, John Gipson became the 36th person to reach 3,000 peals. However, at the age of 88, he is by far the oldest person to do so.

As is probably well known, well over half of these peals have been rung at Meldreth – 1,645 – and have been rung with more than 1,200 different ringers. Over 2,000 have been rung for the Ely Diocesan Association.

D.S.

Xenolite record

We are delighted to hear that 10,000 Xenolite Surprise Royal was successfully rung at Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, 29th October in 6 hours 22 minutes.

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Bisley bell ringers' trip to Worcester



Enjoying magnificent views from the roof of the Cathedral tower

On Sunday, 16th October a group of six children and five adults from the Bisley tower had the pleasure of visiting Worcester Cathedral training centre. The centre is designed and fitted to provide beneficial aid for ringers of any age and ability.

After mounting a vast and seemingly never ending number of steps we arrived in the training room. As we crossed the threshold we were surprised to see that the bells we would be ringing were in the same room as us. Usually the bells are above the ringing chamber due to the noise they make. However, these bells themselves do not sound; instead they are attached to a simulator linked to computers. This enables one to either ring as a normal band or to ring individually using headphones to hear your own bell. There are settings on the computer to allow any number of bells to be rung by the trainee. This helps learners to practice their general ringing skills such as handling and striking (the latter being the even spacing of the bells as they ring).

After spending a considerable time here we climbed even more stairs to look at the real Cathedral bells. The Tenor (the heaviest bell) weighed 49cwt. We then went to the very top of the tower from where we could see the stunning view of Worcester spread out beneath us.

Slipping quietly out of the Cathedral so as not to disturb the service, we had a brief but pleasurable ring at the neighbouring Church of Saint Swithun. We were then treated to a chance of seeing the newly hung ring of ten at St. Martins. These bells are especially light making them perfect for younger ringers.

Our trip ended with refreshments at a pub ...!

It was encouraging to see the ringers and local churches of Worcester providing learning opportunities for ringers in such a friendly environment. For all of us Bisley learners it was a very educational occasion and we would like to thank all who were involved in making it a really enjoyable day out.

CONNIE TONGUE (age 14)
and
AMELIE HUNNEBECK-WELLS (age 15)

Their essay speaks for itself. However, I would very much like to add how very impressed we all were with the welcome we received from the ringers of Worcester. They were all so helpful and enthusiastic. They gave up their Sunday afternoon for us and really couldn't have been better hosts. Thank you to Mark, Bernard and Nick from everyone at All Saints, Bisley.

IAN D. BUCKNELL