



Letters to the Editor should be sent to him at The Ringing World Limited, 35A High Street, Andover, SP10 1LJ, or e-mailed to letters@ringingworld.co.uk

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Important artefacts

SIR, – I would like to agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed in the letter written by Alison Hodge (*RW* p.1234) in which she urges ringers not to destroy the records of our predecessors.

In my role as a member of the CC Biographies Committee, I am often surprised how ringers who were the mainstay of ringing in their area in their time are now all but forgotten. It seems sad that this should happen, although I understand that storage of artefacts from the past can be a problem.

Now that some of the biographical records of some notable ringers of the past are available online, we have been pleasantly surprised that several non-ringers have shown appreciation of the fact that the information is available. But it has been very difficult to find out much at all about some of the ringers as details of their ringing careers have disappeared, having been 'tidied away' and subsequently disposed of by those who rang in the towers after them.

PATRICIA HALLS
Chairman, Central Council
Biographies Committee

NZ honeymoon

SIR, – We have recently returned from a memorable honeymoon in New Zealand and would like to express our thanks to all the ringers there who made us welcome. We managed to ring at all six of the remaining towers, including St Paul, Papanui, Christchurch. The tower there is built of wood with an internal steel truss and moves about, fairly unpredictably. I likened it to trying to ring on a train which was running on badly maintained track. However, we were told that the tower movement is not as bad as it was immediately following the February

earthquake. The steel truss has been tightened and this has taken up a lot of the movement, we hate to think what it was like before! The tower captain, Robbie Richards, made us feel very welcome and he asked us to let everyone know that Papanui is open for business and is happy to welcome visitors on practice nights and Sundays.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped out with the ringing at our wedding. We were married in Rosie's home church, Our Lady and All Saints catholic church in Stourbridge. This has one bell in a very tall tower, which Chris Pickford would probably not wish to examine too often (very long, mostly unsupported, wooden ladder). You can't expect ringers to get married without proper bells, so we hired the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry for the occasion. Several of our friends helped out with the erection, some of it during a downpour, and with the ringing before and after the ceremony.

PAUL & ROSIE MARSHALL
Drayton, Worcestershire

Who should we teach?

SIR, – I rang with about twenty five ringers over the weekend at two towers, one in North Yorkshire and the other in Northumberland – for a practice and two Sunday services. About a third of those ringing had learnt in the last twenty years but not one of them had started under the age of twenty-five.

Over these years both of the towers have taught many youngsters but not one of them was to be seen ringing over the weekend. Undoubtedly the very best ringers are those who start young but I would suggest that teaching older people can give a better return on the effort involved.

JOHN HALLETT
Potto, North Yorkshire

Local competitors wanted!

SIR, – We have a kids group in South Warwickshire – 'Kids in Charge'. We are looking for a similar group aged 16 and under to challenge to a striking competition in the area on **Saturday, 7th July**. Any takers? Probably 6 bell and not necessarily changes ...

12 Glosters Green,
Kineton,
Warwickshire
CV35 0LT
graham@nabb.orangehome.co.uk
07974 743766

Royal continuity

SIR, – It would be very interesting to hear from Remi Hodister (*Letters RW* 5250) what is his authority for asserting that monarchical reigns date from the date of the Coronation rather than the Accession. Is he suggesting that there is some sort of gap in the monarchy during the period between the two events? If so, that would make the business of the

kingdom rather hard to transact. No Acts of Parliament for instance could be enacted (though come to think of it that might not be such a bad thing!). Has Mr Hodister not heard of the basic maxim "The King is dead. Long live the King!" which I believe is publicly proclaimed on the death of a monarch.

Precedent would seem to be against Mr Hodister. King Charles II dated his reign from the death of his father Charles I on 30th January 1648/9 even though he did not actually secure the throne or become crowned until 1660.

Mr Hodister instances the case of Edward VIII. It is difficult to see how this king could have signed a valid Act of Abdication if he had never been king in the first place! On a personal note, my father who was a vicar was instituted to his first parish in Leeds in 1936 and was quite proud of the fact that he was one of the few clergy required to sign the Oath of Allegiance to Edward VIII as King. Is Mr Hodister saying that this Oath was invalid and that my father should have signed a new Oath to George VI later on?

I think your readers can be assured that they can safely celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our present Queen any time from 6th February onwards, without any danger of being compelled to join the Flat Earth Society.

RICHARD HOUGH
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

James George and Bow tenor

SIR, – Many thanks to Keith Fleming for his interesting article on James George. James's two peals on the old (54 cwt) Bow tenor in 1925 and 1926 made him the oldest person, at age 73, to ring that bell to a peal. Shortly after the second one, on 15th May 1926, my father, Charles H Kippin, rang the bell to 5056 Kent TB Major, and at age 20, became the youngest. Jimmy George said to CHK: "If anyone beats my record I shall ring it again. I suppose you'll do the same?"

Incidentally Kent Major was rung instead of the intended twelve-bell peal as the 1926 general strike was in progress and with the disruption to public transport only eight ringers were able to get to the tower. Unfortunately the composition used was found false in 1936 and the peal, along with several others, was withdrawn.

CHRIS KIPPIN
Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

Worcester jigsaw

SIR, – Thank you to everyone who bought our Worcester Cathedral jigsaw. Demand was so great we had to order additional runs from Wentworth's. A few jigsaws went to the USA and Australia, with a good number bought locally by ringers in Worcestershire. Proceeds from sales will help our teaching outreach at the Cathedral. We're producing new teaching aids and materials; and some of the funds pay for maintenance – ropes, replacement sensors, software and new parts. We've been quite

inside bell to quarter peal standard, although in the future it is planned to develop this scheme. When each level is achieved the teacher submits the pass to the Moodle site where it is recorded on a database. The learner is then awarded a certificate. For the first time in ringing we will be able to collect data to record learners' progress, including such factors as how long ringers take to pass through the various levels and how far they progress.

The Moodle web site has a course designed for learners, with videos, listening and written interactive quizzes, plus other material designed to interest new and not so new learners.

Sponsored by the Ringing Foundation

The Ringing Foundation is sponsoring the ITTS. They have paid for the printing of the *Teacher Training Logbook* and the *Ringers Personal Progress Logbook*. They are paying for the travel of the ITTS tutors to the courses they run. They are paying for the course packs that delegates receive when they attend a course.

The Future

The ITTS has not been advertised yet, in fact the administrative system is struggling to keep up with the demand it has already without any advertising. Processing everything for the courses and keeping up with work generated by each course is proving a heavy burden to someone working voluntarily.

It seems sure that the ITTS is successful currently, but to ensure that it develops into a sustainable scheme that can respond to the requirements of its members, administrative support is required.

Once there is a suitable organisational structure in place the Ringing Foundation is proposing to sponsor the administrative support required to enable the scheme to move forwards on to a sustainable footing. When this support is in place the scheme can be consolidated and developed in response to demand from its participants. Eventually, it is planned to establish a nationwide network of teachers who can communicate ideas and experiences with each other for the mutual benefit of all.

50 Years ago

The Ringing World, 12 January, 1962

RECORD LENGTH OF YORKSHIRE ROYAL

A NOTEWORTHY addition to the record lengths of 1961 was the peal of 16,920 Yorkshire Surprise Royal rung at St Mark's, Worsley, on December 23rd, in 11 hours 14 minutes. This was also the longest length of Yorkshire ever rung. The conductor, Robert B. Smith, and his band deserve congratulations on their endurance and concentration.

GUILDFORD GUILD TO DISCUSS MERGER

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Guildford Diocesan Guild will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at St Saviour's Church Hall, off Woodbridge Road, Guildford to vote on the proposed merger of the Guildford Guild and the Surrey Association.

An interesting day in Worcester



Most of the group at All Saints (l-r): Roxy, Sophie, Jasper, Lynne & Phil Hughes; Roger King, Richard Johnson, Gareth Gill, Mo Hawkins, William Regan, Derek Hawkins, Rachel Taylor, Stephen Taylor, Steph Hills, Sue Sparling, Ian Campbell, Amy Gill, Geoff Sparling, Wendy Campbell and Wendy Gill. Missing from Photo: Janet Ritterman and Richard Coley

On 29th October, 21 members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers made their way to Worcester, with the main aim of experiencing the Cathedral Teaching Centre, and the addition of some other ringing to make up a great day out.

We started at St Swithun's for some six-bell ringing, then were shown up the tower at Old St Martin's. Here the brand new light ten were tantalisingly close to being ringable, but the tenor was still at ground level! It was interesting to see the light ring in their new

frame, and the old bells retained on the next level up, hung dead for the clock and other chiming; and to contemplate the proximity of a useful modern installation to a worthwhile conservation of a traditional ring. Views of the city were taken in from the top of the tower.

After a good pub lunch, it was on to the main attraction of the day at the Cathedral: eight dumbbells at a lower level to the ringing chamber and real bells. These are much larger than Saxilby dumbbells, and give a handling experience indistinguishable from the real thing. Many towers have one computer running a simulator, but here there is a laptop to each 'bell', and headphones so eight people can practise different methods simultaneously. And we did! We also rang together with the sound coming over speakers as a ring of eight, and as the front end of a twelve and even 22.

And yet another novelty was that the connection was changed to a tree-like structure of real bells in one corner of the room, and the sound of the 8 came from there instead. We were also given tours of the ringing chamber, big bells and tower roof, mingling with members of the public who were intrigued by all the ringing activity.

After refreshment in the Cathedral café, we finished the day with 12-bell ringing at All Saints, some of the younger ringers getting virtually their first taste of this.

Many thanks to Mark Regan, Alison, the enthusiastic William and several others for making us so welcome in Worcester. I only wish Devon was a bit nearer and we'd come more often.

LYNNE HUGHES



Wendy and Amy ring, watched by Ian



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Sounds familiar

SIR, – *The Times* of 28th February 2012 carried a brief report of a recent Court of Appeal judgement that appears to establish a precedent of potentially wider relevance, not least to the Exercise.

At the High Court last year, a couple were awarded £20,000 in damages because of the alleged noise nuisance from Mildenhall Stadium near the home to which they had moved in Suffolk. On appeal, the earlier judgement was overturned, on the grounds that "the noise of motor sports emanating from the track are an established part of the character of the locality" and "their predicament is a consequence of their decision to purchase a house in an area where motor sports were an established activity."

Swindon, Wiltshire

BRIAN HARRIS

Well done Southampton!

SIR, – I write to congratulate the Southampton University Guild on their success with the peal of Doubles. I find it a very fine achievement which, as you point out, bodes well for the Exercise. Reading the account of this peal reminded me of a peal board which hangs – or did hang – in the ringing chamber of St Mellons church, Cardiff where I learned to ring.

I was fascinated by the board which records a peal of Grandsire Doubles rung for the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary. It was recorded as the first peal for all the band except the conductor whose first peal it was as such. I think I can still recall the names of the ringers – Reg Addis (who taught me to ring, conductor), George Brasington, Ted Barker, Len Hulbert, William Williams and Jack Phillips – as I set myself the task of getting to know all of them. I had to wait for Geprge

Brasington to be demobilised from the RAF and two others, Barker and Phillips, to return on a visit some time. All this was prompted by the SUG peal report and the approach of the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen for whose Coronation I rang a peal.

St Helier, Jersey, C.I.

JACK WORRAL

Try our Set Pieces

SIR, – Ted Steele's letter about enabling less-advanced ringers to join in the Jubilee and Olympic ringing jamboree has prompted me to send you our SET PIECES FOR 2012.

At St Chad's, Holt, near Wrexham, we taught a band from scratch to ring at the Millennium (see *RW* 3rd March 2000) after a period of nearly twenty years with no ringing in the village. Since then we have had our high spots and sometimes we have struggled. However, the bells have been rung regularly on Sunday and we have heralded local and national events.

Every year we try to have some level of ambition and this includes ringing a sequence of changes composed specially for the year and with relevant names attached. For 2012 I had the number 60 and the change Queens uppermost in my mind. Also included are some simple method sequences which feature 60 and 2012. (St Helens is the name we give to the Doubles method which has 1 and 2 hunting to 3rds place and the back two bells double dodging – a good introduction to Stedman).

I attach our SET PIECES FOR 2012. There is no copyright so other towers can adopt it. Better still, why not compose your own simple piece highlighting 60 or 2012. It will give your less experienced ringers a real sense of pride this year and act as focus for publicising ringing at this moment of great opportunity.

MICHAEL CARDING
St Chad's, Holt
North Wales Association

St Chad's Holt Bellringers – Set pieces for 2012

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics

Sixty changes for Queen Elizabeth 2nd

123456	Rounds (not included in 60)
132546	Coronation x 4
135246	Queens x 4
153426	Elizabeth x 4
135246	Queens x 4
315426	Phillip x 4
135246	Queens x 4
153264	Monarch x 4
135246	Queens x 4
312546	Commonwealth x 4
135246	Queens x 4
132564	Throne x 4
135246	Queens x 4
312564	Diamond x 4
135246	Queens x 4
132546	Coronation x 4
123456	Rounds (not included in 60)
TOTAL = 60 CHANGES	

Plain Hunt for Her Majesty

Plain Hunt on six	(12)
Plain Hunt on five	(10)
Plain Hunt on four	(8)
Plain Hunt on four	(8)
Plain Hunt on five	(10)
Plain Hunt on six	(12)
TOTAL = 60 CHANGES	

Sixty Spliced Hunt & St Helens

Plain Hunt on six	(12)
St Helens Doubles	(18)
St Helens Doubles	(18)
Plain Hunt on six	(12)
TOTAL = 60 CHANGES	

2012 for The London Olympics

Plain Hunt on five – twice	(20)
Plain Hunt on six	(12)

Have Fun!

MIKE

Worcester acquires Halewood



St Stephen's Barbourne, Worcester

Subject to Faculty, there will be a new ring of bells in Worcester. Bernard Taylor has generously bought the bells from St Nicholas Halewood and they will soon be ringing out from the tower of St Stephen's Barbourne. Halewood is a 'classic' 1929 Taylor peal and we are delighted to working with John Wilton (Liverpool DAC); Alison Shacklady and her colleagues at Halewood's PCC; and the Keltek Trust. Lord Faulkner of Worcester is the project's Patron and St Stephen's are delighted with the news which celebrates their 150th anniversary. The work will be done by Bell Johnson (design engineers), NDS Engineering, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and some of Worcester Cathedral's bellringers. This project forms part of the Cathedral ringers' teaching initiative in Worcester. More news to follow.

Worcester

MARK REGAN



Bells in the City: Old St Martin's Worcester

"Taking the world of bells to the wider community"

by Justin Hughes, Archaeologist

After a silence of over 100 years the joyful sound of bells rings out once more from one of Worcester's ancient parish churches. In autumn 2011 a new ring of ten bells was installed at the church of Old St Martin's in Commarket in a purpose-built frame in the tower, below the original frame which continues to hold the old bells, including an early, medieval bell, cast in circa 1320. The new bells are an important symbol because their ringing re-states that there is a continued archeological soundscape in the city, from St Swithun's in Trinity Street with the oldest ring of bells, to St Stephen's new bells to the north of the city, and across the River Severn to the parish church of St John's of Bedwardine.

Immediate thanks go to the Heritage Lottery for providing £50,000 for this opportunity. Part of the grant was to be used to develop links in the community; specifically with schools and local heritage groups, but most importantly, with younger and new audiences who are unaware of the developments in teaching the tradition.

In order to raise awareness of this exciting venture beyond the traditional world of ringing, and to promote the historic story of Worcester's Churches and Bells, the Worcester Cathedral Guild of Bell Ringers contacted me at Worcestershire's Archive and Archaeology Service. I work at the Hive (a unique and impressive new, joint public and university library and history centre in Worcester) which, poignantly, was paid tribute to when it opened in July 2012 by the sound of the Cathedral Bells. For the last 6 months, the Guild has allowed me to research and write stories about the bell ringing world and its historic place in our island's past. Before this I knew very little about this world beyond the sound of bells I frequently hear when walking in town or country. It has been very important to me, and the County Service I work for, to continue to work in partnership with the City Council and with the University of Worcester during this time, and to start to build a wider range of links in the community, especially in this project, with bell ringers.



The Hive

Throughout the coming autumn and winter I now have the pleasure of sharing some of this new knowledge when I (and three colleagues) will be running a series of practical workshops and activities with local people and visitors to the city of Worcester to explore the art of bell casting and bell rope making.

Amongst these days I am launching a major exhibition "Worcester's Churches and Bells", which will open with the 20th annual Christmas Fayre which runs **from Thursday 29th November to Sunday 2nd December**. On the evening of the 29th and for the whole of Saturday 1st visitors will be able to join me for free tours along the route of all the city's churches, lying within the old medieval walls. The guided tours will be led by 'Discover History' in the form of a key bell maker from 17th century Worcester, John Martin. The tour will specifically feature the Cathedral tower and Old St Martin's where the project partners are developing teaching resources for the art of change ringing.

The exhibition explores the bell ringing tradition to evoke the national soundscape of church bells. It explores links with religion and politics and describes founding, casting and tuning processes, to define the art of making and ringing bells. To give local focus to the New Bells for Old St Martin's programme the display, which will also be available on line at: <http://oldstmartinsbells.co.uk>, tells the story of the John Martin family of bell makers, with archaeological and documentary evidence from the 17th century onwards. The story is completed with summary histories of neighbouring parish churches and a call to all to find out more about the rich world of change ringing and its wider place in the future of our communities, countrywide. I hope the results of my research will do some justice to the story telling

tradition of bell ringing and I would like to thank Chris Pickford, in particular, for providing me with so much interesting material relating to change ringing. Thanks also to Richard Nicholls for much creative help with the pending exhibition.

I hope to see some of your readers in Worcester for the weekend of the Fayre!



Ringers' baby Christened from Brontë bell



Left to right: Simon Burnett, Tower Captain; the proud parents, Fiona & Peter Tiley and the Rector, Revd Peter Mayo-Smith

There was a double celebration on Sunday 4th November at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Haworth, West Yorkshire when Beatrice Elizabeth Tiley was christened using the tenor bell of the tower's set of handbells. Beatrice is the daughter of Peter and Fiona Tiley who are both prominent ringers at St Michael's; indeed Peter rang in the celebratory quarter before the service. The intricately engraved tenor bell, which can be seen in the photo, was used as a font at the suggestion of the Rector, Revd Peter Mayo-Smith. The Christening coincided with the reopening of the Church following the completion the first stage of restoration work and it was the first time that the tower bells had been rung for four months. Haworth is the home of the famous Brontë Sisters and St Michael's has a ring of six bells that were installed in 1845 by their father Patrick who was the incumbent at the time.

SIMON BURNETT

Haworth, W Yorks. 4 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Sue L Burnett 1, Andrew Collinson 2, Joanne Nice 3, Peter J Tiley 4, Simon P D Burnett (C) 5, Paul M Barker 6. For Sunday Service and to celebrate the Christening of Beatrice Elizabeth Tiley, daughter of 4. £3

Go-ahead for Barbourne

Mark Regan tells us that a faculty has been granted for the bells project at St Stephen's Barbourne: "We have a Faculty. Full steam ahead. Another new ring of bells for Worcester!"



Youngest person to ring Worcester Cathedral bells

by Sue Meyer



At Old St Martin's (l-r): Simon Meyer, Gina Radford, John Slater, Claire Searle, Amy Bishop and Rebecca Meyer

"He'll be fine," said Mark Regan as we stood watching the rest of Shipley ringers getting to grips with the dumb bells at the ringing centre on Saturday afternoon. "He can certainly pull hard enough."

He was right. And that's why my son Andrew, the following morning, became probably the youngest ringer to ring on the

twelve at Worcester Cathedral – at the grand age of eight (and three quarters).

With a relatively small and inexperienced, though keen, band, it can be tricky sometimes to find ways to provide fun challenges and new ways to progress. That's why the idea of a weekend away, with a visit to the Cathedral ringing training centre seemed worth a shot.



Left to right: Amy Bishop, Sue Meyer, Gina Radford, Sheila Pilkington, Rebecca Meyer, Andrew Meyer, Simon Meyer and Claire Searle



Andrew (centre) ringing the Cathedral bells for Sunday morning, monitored by Simon Meyer (left) and Mark Regan (right). The other middle ringers are Alistair Smith, Liz Stanton and Rebecca Meyer

Fortunately most of the band were up for it, and available.

In the end nine of us (eight ringers and one partner) set off northwards from West Sussex to sample three of the city's rings before being put through our paces on the training centre simulators.

The first tower, St John in Bedwardine, provided us with some nice bells, but two more than we have at 'home' so instantly taking the less experienced band members out of their comfort zone. Encouraged by their success here, they then tackled the new ten at Old St Martin's helped and encouraged by some of the locals, almost without batting an eyelid. We also managed to sneak in a quick tour of the belfry – visiting both the ten and the older six, which still remain in the tower above.

Characterful St Swithin's also proved popular. A more familiar six, they presented a challenge because of their increased weight and more variable handling compared with our home bells. Fired by lunch in the pub we then made our way to the training centre.

Concluded on p.1299



In the training centre – Andrew and Gina with Simon Meyer

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ShIPLEY at Worcester

Concluded from p.1297

Having had a dumb-bell installed at ShIPLEY as part of the recent rehang, the prospect was less daunting than it might otherwise have been. To start, we rang all eight together for rounds, to let people get the hang of the 'bells'. Then each 'bell' station was set independently to allow everyone to test themselves at their own level – courtesy of individual computers, screens and headphones.

Given the warm welcome of the locals, and the invitation to 'play all you like', we did exactly that. Even the non-ringer in the group, who had seamlessly slipped into the role of official photographer / film maker, was persuaded to have a try.

The training centre itself is actually set just slightly lower in the tower than the real ringing chamber, with the simulated 'bells and wheels' clearly visible, mounted on platforms just above the heads of the ringers. This gives the opportunity to actually see what happens when you pull the on the rope below at each stroke, and prove the regularly offered but seldom believed advice that pulling harder doesn't make the bell go quicker ... unless you go too far and bounce it off the stay! Open to the public for those wanting to climb the tower, it was slightly strange at first to have people walking through watching us from time to time. However, the benefits of this public approach became obvious when the locals rang a quarter peal of Stedman for evensong and we, still practising in the centre below even though the tower trips had finished, were able to stop and watch the ringers and the bells via the live camera link installed in the tower and played back through a screen in the training room.

The following morning we concluded our trip by returning to the Cathedral to visit the real ringing chamber and watch the service ringing. True to his word, Mark invited a number of us to join the local band for a couple of touches or for rounds and call changes as appropriate. Having been primed that this would be a viewing only visit, Andrew, along with his sister Rebecca and one of the more experienced ShIPLEY ringers, Claire Scarle, took it in their stride when they were called to take their place in the circle.

Well done all. For a relatively inexperienced hand I think we rose to the challenges put before us very well.

SUE MEYER

Leading Quarter Peal Ringers List

Did you ring more than 50 quarter peals in 2012?

Please send details – name, home tower, number rung and conducted in 2012, plus lifetime total if known – to:
Richard Wallis, 51 Addison Road,
Caterham CR3 5LU or e-mail them to:
richard.wallis@gmail.com
by 31st January 2013.

All e-mailed submissions will be acknowledged – please try to include details of your home/leading tower

Tail Ends

Recently I received a letter from HM Revenue & Customs stating that for the tax year 2011-2012 I underpaid tax of £1,061.40, being 20% of State Pension/State Benefits of £5,307 from which no tax had been deducted. I was surprised, for in that time The Pension Service paid into my Natwest account £67.08. I can think of two possible explanations: 1. The tax rate in Britain has increased rather considerably, which would explain why the population is so downcast (except at the Olympic Games when England won more gold medals than did Australia); 2. According to my records – bank statements and the like – and accepting the income figure quoted by HMR&C I must have been underpaid £5,240.92 in State Pension/State Benefits. If that is the case and if The Pension Service is prepared to credit my bank account with that amount, I gladly will pay £1,061.40 to HMR&C. Indeed, I will write a cheque and post it immediately – if they accept Mastercard they can receive payment even faster.

Not that I despise the £67.08 annual British Pension which I enjoy and to which I had contributed for several years. It's not far short of the cost of a yearly subscription to *The Ringing World* (surface rate to Australia) or, until recently, 33 small lattes per annum. Now the rising cost of even the cheapest latte has revised the affordability of that indulgence to twenty small cups. The cost of coffees might be indexed to inflation, but not British pensions paid in Australia.

I presume that if I do not pay the demanded money promptly HM Government will send a posse of bailiffs to remove such items of personal property that will satisfy the debt. But come quickly before the Australian dollar drops in value against the Pound.

With tax rates of such ferocity on pensions (which I can only conclude are deemed to be 'non-earned income'), I can appreciate why we in Australia are seeing fewer touring older English bellringers. Anyway, I shall be wary of any group of English bellringers. They might be a posse.

WALTER KNIGHT

Turrumurra, NSW 2074 Australia

NOTICE DEADLINES

for Christmas & New Year 2012/13

Please note the following deadlines, dictated by various production constraints over the Christmas / New Year holiday period:

January 4 issue

9am on Thursday 20th December

January 11 issue

9am on Thursday 3rd January

When sending copy please remember the inevitable postal delays during the lead up to Christmas and allow a little extra time – we are unlikely to be able to squeeze a late notice in!

The RW office will be closed for Christmas from 5pm on 21st December until 9am on 2nd January.

Thought for the week

You might take the Christ out of Christmas,
And simply replace it with, 'X'.
Be perfectly clear, and completely sincere,
There would still be the same effects.

It's all about tinsel and turkeys,
And children and families, and greed.
And buying enough of all manner of stuff
That you simply don't want, or don't need.

You don't need a Christ to be happy?
'X'mas will do on its own?
You can party all night, and be happy and bright,
But the drink will wear off –
then you'll moan.

Let me ask, "Is this really the reason
You had a week off from your work?
If so, who invented the idea? Some demented
Fool – all his duties to shirk?"

There is much more to life than one letter,
An iota, a tittle, a jot.
'X' has its place, it fills in the space:
'X' marks the spot, does it not?

But 'X' has no place in my Christmas,
For Christ must most surely be
The start and the end, on that just depend:
God's plan for eternity.

So – does 'X' have a place in
your Christmas?
I hope not, amongst all that cheer.
For Christ, who was born, on that
faraway morn,
Will bless you throughout the whole year.

Without Christ there'd be no Christmas.
That seems to be nothing but true.
God was born, and he died: lived, crucified,
For us all, for me, and for you.

Revd ANDREW DAVEY

Andrew Davey is Rector of Clenchwarton,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.

10 Years Ago

The Ringing World, 13 December, 2002

Selected by the Editor

Editorial

In years gone by *The Ringing World* has often been described as 'the life-blood of the Exercise'. That may sound a little colourful and quaint by the standards of today's language, but it does convey some sense of the deeper value that our weekly journal still has to the world-wide ringing community.

Whilst profit has never been *The Ringing World's* primary motive, the paper cannot operate at a loss. It will only continue to exist if ringers continue to buy it (not just read it) in sufficient numbers and at an economic price.

The facts are as simple and as stark as that. For our part, we undertake to make the journal as interesting and attractive as we can with the resources available to us.