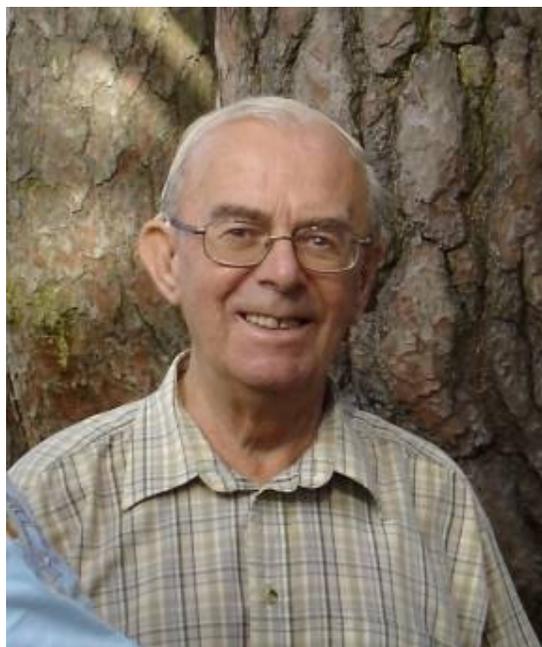


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# St Albans District Newsletter

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## Eric Edmondson 1928-2006



A wise man once told me that real friends could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Eric was a real friend.

Eric was born in Liverpool. His mother died when he was six and his father brought him up until he too died when Eric was sixteen. Eric had no other family.

Eric learned to ring at Bootle, Liverpool in 1943 and he moved to Hertfordshire in 1948 living at Codicote for some years before moving to Hatfield. Eric was a member of the Hatfield band from 1954 to 1958 and was ringing master at this time. He became an unattached member of the Hertford County Association from 1959 to 1966. Eric rejoined the band at Hatfield in 1967 and was again elected ringing master from 1973 until 1980.

Eric represented the County Association on the Central Council from 1959 until 1966 and he served the Association as St. Albans District ringing master in 1954 and General Committee member in 1968. In 1971 he was elected Association President.

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Spring 2006  
Volume 12, Issue 4

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## Eric Edmondson (contd)

Eric was a NRLM of many Associations mainly due to peal ringing and he joined the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1950.

He was a bachelor until 1983 and was secretary of the Hatfield guild of Bachelors, most of who have fallen by the wayside and seen a better life in married bliss.

He was best man to three ringers and to one of those he was best man twice such was his dependability.

Eric was an Architect by profession having studied Architecture at Liverpool University and was responsible for the tower work and faculty for the bells at Lemsford as well as many extensions and building work for ringers.

He was a keen peal ringer and rang over 1300 peals, mostly with G.William Critchley and Frank Blagrove in the early days and with John Mayne and myself more recently.

He was a regular member of Tom Lock's tour and helped me to organise the tour after Tom retired. We have many happy memories of those tours and it was on one such tour that he became closer to Sheila, who also incidentally learnt to ring in Liverpool at Woolton in 1948.

They married in 1983 and it was at this time that he joined the band at Harpenden and was a loyal member until his death.

Eric was readily accepted by Sheila's family and was much loved by her sons and their families. He was totally devoted to the grand-daughters who always made a fuss of him.

This was the happiest period of Eric's life and fortunately his illness lasted only a short time at the end.

The church of St. Nicholas Harpenden was full with Eric's friends and family for a service of thanksgiving following cremation earlier in the morning.

Tributes were read by Simon and Edward Brown and a course of Grandsire caters was rung on handbells during the service.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sheila, Simon, Edward and their families and we know that Eric will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Gerald Penney

### **Hertford County Association Harpenden, St Nicholas**

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2006; 3h 6m

#### **5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES**

1. Dorothea M Mayne
2. Christine C Darby
3. Gerald Penney
4. M. Ann Bethel
5. John N. Hughes-D'Aeth
6. Robert A Partridge
7. Bernard H Taylor (C)
8. Charles F Pocock

Rung half-muffled in memory of, and in thanksgiving for the life of, Eric Edmondson, long time member of the local band.

### **Ancient Society of College Youths Lemsford, St John the Evangelist**

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2006; 2h 15m

#### **5040 SURPRISE MINOR**

(7m: 1 extent each London, York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge, Norwich)

1. Robert J Crocker
2. Roger Brown
3. William Butler
4. Stephen W Penney
5. Richard J W Tibbetts
6. Adam R Crocker (C)

First peal as conductor.

Rung in memory of Eric Edmondson

### **Hertford County Association Essendon, St Mary the Virgin**

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2006; 2h 46m

#### **5024 BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR**

1. Gerald Penney
2. Prudence Fay
3. Edgar T Skipsey
4. Michael J Palmer
5. S Kathleen M Baldwin
6. Roger Baldwin (C)
7. Revd Brian Harris
8. J Alan Ainsworth

In memory of Eric Edmondson

## In memory of Eric Edmondson

### St Albans, St Peter

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2006 in 52m

#### 1282 EWYAS HAROLD SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Geoffrey Dodds
2. John J Ford
3. Christine M Carter
4. Claire C Nicholson
5. Gerald Penney
6. James M Hills
7. Graham A Duke (c)
8. Bjorn E Bradstock
9. Richard A Horne
10. Richard Sales

In memory of Eric Edmondson, who died the previous day.

### Hertford County Association St Albans, 46 Orchard Drive

Thu Jan 26 2006 2h4 (12)

#### 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

(3m: (1) York (2, 4, 6) Norwich (3, 5, 7) Cambridge)

- 1-2 Dorothea M Mayne
- 3-4 John R Mayne ©
- 5-6 William Butler

Rung in affectionate memory of Eric Edmondson

### Great Amwell, St John the Baptist

Friday, 3 February 2006 in 0:40 (6-3-24)

#### 1260 PERRAN SPECIAL ALLIANCE AND KENT LITTLE BOB MINOR

1. Jill E Crocker
2. John M Kemp
3. Bjørn E Bradstock
4. Roy Hornby
5. Claire C Nicholson (C)
6. John J Ford

Rung in memory of Eric Edmondson

### Harpenden, St. Nicholas

Sunday, 5 February 2006

#### 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

1. Diana M Parrott
2. Jane Fransella
3. Andrew Cripps
4. David T Darby
5. Rev. John Orme
6. Christine C Darby
7. Richard J W Tibbetts (C)
8. John Harper

For Evensong; arranged specifically in fond memory of Eric Edmondson, ringer at this church for many years.

## Other notable peals and quarters

### Hertford County Association St Albans, St Peter

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006 in 3h 17

#### 5040 INTREPID BOB ROYAL

Composed by: J Brindley (arr T Telford)

1. Claire C Nicholson
2. Shirley E McGill
3. Richard M Hobbs
4. John J Ford
5. Ian G Mills
6. Graham A Duke
7. Andrew P Sparling
8. Paul Needham (C)
9. Ian R Fielding
10. Simon R Holden

Rung to wish Terry Streeter a speedy recovery

50th Peal in the tower: 6

First Peal in the method:

Intrepid Bob Royal

30.14-16-50.16.30.16.30 B

### Hertford County Association St Albans, Cathedral

Saturday, 14 Jan 2006 in 3h11

#### 5079 STEDMAN CATERS

Composed by: R A Inglis

1. Gerald Penney (C)
2. S Kathleen M Baldwin
3. Christine M Carter
4. Roger Baldwin
5. Richard A Horne
6. Barry D Mack
7. Charles F Pocock
8. Russell A Brown
9. Graham A Duke
10. Richard Sales

First of Stedman: 6.

Rung in memoriam Harold V. Frost and Peter C. Maddocks.

### St Albans, St Peter

Thursday, 6th Apr 2006 in 46m

#### 1280 8 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

(Bristol, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London, Pudsey, Superlative, Rutland, Yorkshire)

1. Laura M Duncan
2. Philip J Ellis
3. Ann Evans
4. Claire C Nicholson
5. Bjørn E Bradstock (C)
6. Graham A Duke
7. John J Ford
8. Richard Sales

Most Spliced - 3

## All Change for District Meetings?

Well, no. But the format of the District Meeting has changed over the last few years, and it has now become obvious that there is a large overlap with the Improvers' practices. The committee has discussed both meetings, and decided that the Improvers' practices will become District Ringing Practices just like the third Saturday meetings.

Please don't think that the District no longer wishes to support and help improvers as this is not the case at all. If anything we are working harder than ever to encourage all ringers in the District, from beginners to old hands, to take an active role in the life of the St Albans District. It's just that now there are two District Ringing Practices a month, one on the first Saturday and one on the third Saturday of the month.

The change in the name of the old Improvers' practice simply reflects the actual ringing that takes place. The range of ringing at an Improvers' meeting is very similar to a monthly District meeting. In fact, apart from being held on different days you'd be hard pushed to spot the difference between an Improvers' and a District meeting. Both these meetings:

- Are held on Saturday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00
- Offer the opportunity to ring rounds and call changes, surprise and everything in between
- Encourage all members to try something new in a supportive environment
- Offer a chance to meet and learn from other ringers

There is no typical District meeting. Not everyone attends every meeting and the ringing is tailored to who's there. The important thing is that everyone who attends has a chance to ring something - either something you are learning or something you

would like to ring. Sometimes we ring a lot of rounds and call changes, sometimes we ring a lot of Surprise methods, sometimes it's a real mixture, but there's always something for everyone. By the way, it's a big help to the ringing master if you tell us what you would like to ring. We do our best to try and guess, but sometimes our psychic powers let us down!

To help us convince you that District meetings are for you, in future we will be publishing a list of the methods rung in this newsletter. Hopefully you'll see that we ring a varied range of methods, some will be very familiar to you and some less so. You'll also see that some touches fire out, but that we do try and ring them again (and again and again and again until we get them right!)

Oh, and don't be put off by the thought of having to sit through a business meeting. These have also changed and are very quick and informal, but they do let you know what's happening in the District. They also provide a five minute break in the ringing - welcomed by the ringing master if no-one else!

Think this doesn't sound like the last District meeting you went to? Well, why not come along to the next one and see for yourself. You'll never know what a District meeting is really like until you've tried one.

Claire Nicholson

Barry Mack

**St Albans District Ringing Masters**

### Methods rung at the District Practice at St Albans, St Michael on Saturday 18 February

A touch of Grandsire Triples

A plain course of London Surprise Major – interrupted by a non-ringing visitor to the ringing chamber

A plain course of London Surprise Major – fired out half way.

A touch of Stedman Triples

A plain course of London Surprise Major (Hurrah! All the way to the end at the third attempt!)

A touch of Plain Bob Major

A touch of Erin Triples

6 Spliced Surprise Major

A plain course of London Surprise Major

3 leads of Kent Treble Bob Major

A touch of Double Norwich Court Bob Major

It looks like a lot of London Surprise Major, but four different people asked to have a go and we needed two bands to give them as much help as possible.

### Two advance dates for your diary

Saturday 14th October: Ramble and Ring - a whole day's outing combining a circular walk of about seven miles in attractive countryside with ringing at three or four churches.  
Saturday 4th November: District Outing - ringing at five or six towers with a pub lunch and perhaps an evening meal.

Further information and booking forms will be circulated to towers nearer the time. However, if you would like to make sure that you receive your own copy of details for these events so that you can get your booking in early, please send SAE (one for each event) to:

Ann Evans, 43 Station Road, Smallford,  
St Albans, Herts, AL4 0HB

### Bowling Evening

The Bowling evening was a great success and was enjoyed by all. Although 12 people signed up only 9 were able to attend – disappointing for the organisers – it was clear that the 3 families divided into 2 towers so a competition was on. A maximum of only 8 people per lane can bowl, so Judith Mack volunteered to sit out and get drinks. The rivalry was Edward, Cathy and John Hughes D'Aeth for St Michaels against Edward, Thomas and Barry Mack and Richard and Rosemary Sales for St. Peters.

In the first game Edward and Cathy set a strong challenge with some early strikes and spares, showing us how it should be done, the rest of us kept up with the odd strike and slowly caught up with the leaders towards the end of the game, whereupon Edward H. had some bad luck allowing Cathy to catch up and equal him with Richard pipping him at the post on the last bowl.

A second game with everybody geared up started slowly but developed into a more determined game. Barry showed us how to bowl at full speed which was impressive and the frequency of strikes and spares increased which kept us all level until the final 2 bowls. With Edward H. Richard and Rosie getting strikes in the 9<sup>th</sup> bowl all was to play for but with 2 lucky strikes in the last bowl overtaking the high score of Edward H. St, Peters did it a second time.

It had already been agreed to go for a meal afterwards and Aroma the Chinese Buffet just across the road seemed very inviting and casual. There is large selection of dishes to choose from and enjoy - in any order and as often as you wish.

Richard and Rosemary Sales



## Sandridge Bellingers Go West (on Trevor's Birthday)

When Alan Jeffs announced that he, Linda and Anthony were moving down to Dorset the rest of the bellringing band were keen to have an outing to that part of the country.

So at the beginning of January our learned professor and tower captain was asked to consult his diary, Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> appeared to be the only free date in the coming months that did not clash with District ringing activities and bank holidays. Luckily Linda and Alan were also available that day and there began a flurry of Emails discussing suitability of bells, times, restaurants etc.

The route was decided upon and the tower secretaries were contacted and they made requests on our behalf for use of that church's bells. Ringing friends from neighbouring churches were invited, cars and drivers organised, itineraries and maps printed.

Twenty-one ringers and friends set off on the day to arrive at our first tower, Amesbury, and by quarter to ten we met up with Alan and Emma (studying for her PhD at Bath). We then enjoyed ringing on the 18cwt eight and would have been more than happy to have brought them back and installed them at St. Leonard's.

We then drove on past Stonehenge to ring on the six set in the pretty village of Hindon. This was followed by another six at East Knoyle, the birth place of Sir Christopher Wren (his father was the incumbent). The ringing chamber was reached by a near

vertical ladder (which reminded us of the ladder at Sandridge), and these bells proved slightly more difficult to ring and the circle was anti-clockwise!

Lunch was next on the agenda at the Coppleridge Inn; the early arrivals took the wrong door and found themselves being offered a tray of drinks at a wedding breakfast. We were soon assembled in the correct building, and then, joined by Linda, we all enjoyed an excellent meal which was efficiently served and washed down with some very good real ale.

Refreshed, we set off for the afternoon's ringing, first a pleasant six at Motcombe, then on to climb up the many stairs to ring on the heavy 23cwt eight at Mere, where the tower swayed gently with movement of the bells.

On to Stourton (pronounced Stirton) set opposite the National Trust Property of Stourhead (pronounced S-tower-head) - the six bells here are rung from the ground floor and we had several spectators. The last tower of the day was Bourton (pronounced Bore-ton) with another long climb to the belfry to ring the six bells which were hung in two straight lines rather than a circle.

The day was not yet finished as Linda and Alan had invited us back to their new home for tea, very bravely as the downstairs carpet had only been laid a few days before. We had a lovely tea, salads, rolls, quiches, dips, cakes and desserts and several visits to the tables were encouraged, a very pleasant relaxing time.

Trevor blew the candles out on his cake and we all sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Eventually we had to set off on the return to Hertfordshire and had an easy journey back.

Thanks must go to our organiser Mike, to the drivers, and to the churches for allowing us to ring their bells. Special thanks must also go to Alan and Linda for their help and hospitality on the day.

For those that are interested, the full tower details are:

**Amesbury** 8 18-1-2 (2,046 lbs) in D. SU152414 SS Mary and Melor

**Hindon** 6 9-0-0 (1,008 lbs) in Ab ST910329 St John the Baptist

**East Knoyle** 6 12-0-8 (1,352 lbs) in F. ST880305 St Mary the Virgin

**Motcombe** 6 7-0-7 (791 lbs) in Ab. ST849252 St Mary the Virgin

**Mere** 8 23-0-0 (2,576 lbs) in D. ST812323 St Michael the Archangel

**Stourton** 6 12-0-0 (1,344 lbs) in F#. ST776339 St Peter

**Bourton**, 6 12-0-0 (1,344 lbs) in G. ST768303 St George

And food was at:

The Coppleridge Inn,  
Motcombe,  
Shaftesbury,  
Dorset SP7 9HW  
01747-851980

Sheila Foster

**Woolford Cup**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Sandridge.

	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	St Peters A	43
2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Peters B	48
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cathedral	51
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sandridge	69
5 <sup>th</sup>	Lemsford	95



- Judith Mack receiving the Woolford cup from Judge Tony Crowther on behalf of the St Peters 'A' Team.



- Adam Crocker receiving the half cup on behalf of Lemsford.

**District Quiz**

On the appropriate date of 1st April, teams from towers around the District gathered in Sandridge Village Hall to pit their wits against each other in the annual District Quiz. This year it nearly didn't take place at all because virtually all the teams left it until the very last minute to book their table and there was a serious threat of cancellation! However, the lure of a fish (or chicken) and chips supper proved to be incentive enough and the hall was filled. A good time was had, with wide-ranging questions (although there was too much emphasis on pop music for some more mature quizzers) and a marathon round requiring knowledge of the correct terms for the male and female of various animal species. After a close-fought competition the quiz was won by a team from the Abbey. Many thanks to Claire and John Nicholson for organising the very enjoyable evening, and to David Bailey as Questionmaster.

David Hodgskin

**6000<sup>th</sup> tower for Jennifer**

Jennifer Johnson rang at her 6000th tower on Saturday, 6th May. She celebrated the occasion at the Piltdown Campanile (12, 0-0-22) in Kent. Congratulations to her.

**Alan Patterson**

Sadly Alan died on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He was a former president of the Association and his funeral on March 9<sup>th</sup> was well attended. A tribute to him will appear in the next edition of this newsletter.

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## District Ringing Programme, 2006-7

Date	Type of Meeting	Location
<b>Jun-10</b>	Competition	Coburn Trophy, 9.50 am St Michael's Bishops Stortford
<b>Jun-17</b>	Competition	Ridgman Trophy Writtle
<b>Jun-17</b>	<b>Combined</b>	<b>Essendon* (C)</b>
<b>Jul-01</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>North Mymms (C)</i>
<b>Aug-05</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>Welwyn (C)</i>
<b>Aug-26</b>	10-bell	10 Bell practice, St Albans - The Cathedral
<b>Sep-02</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>Barnet (C)</i>
<b>Sep-09</b>	Competition	Essex Trophy Guildford, afternoon
<b>Sep-16</b>	Morning	North Mymms (C)
<b>Sep-30</b>	Competition	Kimpton Cup 9.50 am St Michael's (C)
<b>Oct-07</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>St Peter (C)</i>
<b>Oct-21</b>	Evening	The Cathedral (C)
<b>Nov-04</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>Outing</i>
<b>Nov-18</b>	Morning	Wheathampstead (C)
<b>Nov-25</b>	10-bell	10 Bell practice, Hatfield (C)
<b>Dec-02</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>St Michael (C)</i>
<b>Dec-16</b>	Quarterly	HARPENDEN (C)
<b>Jan-06</b>	<i>Improvers</i>	<i>Welwyn (C)</i>
<b>Jan-20</b>	ADM	HATFIELD (C)

Type of meeting	Time
<i>Improvers' practices</i>	<i>10:00am - 12:00 noon</i>
<b>MORNING</b>	<b>10.00am - 12.00 noon</b>
<b>10-bell</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:30pm</b>
<b>Quarterly</b> etc. meeting (those which include service, tea & meeting)	Afternoon ringing 3:30 - 5:00pm Service 5pm, then tea and meeting Evening ringing until 8.30pm
Competitions and other meetings	As shown