
St Albans District Newsletter

District Outing to Essex

June 2009
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Outside Coggeshall church, 28th February 2009

Terling

Ringers from the St Albans district began arriving in the old Essex village of Terling around 9:45am, but Kathryn and I arrived before 9:15 due to a minor routing miscalculation, and very light traffic on the motorway. We took the opportunity to explore the area around Terling, which is quite remote from large towns and accessible only on very narrow country lanes – perfect for meeting with the locals!

We were let into All Saints Church a few minutes early and took full advantage to ring a wide range of methods. After ringing, there was just enough time for another cup of coffee before the convoy departed for Halstead.

Halstead

The trip to Halstead was a pleasant half-hour drive, skirting Braintree and passing 'Chickens for Sale'. Kathryn was upset to be arriving in Halstead without even one chicken – but we have got over it now. An enjoyable ring was had by all, working up a keen appetite for lunch.

Walking back down the high street past numerous bakeries and delicatessens offered great temptation towards doughnuts, but we resisted (as far as I know).

Lunch

We travelled to the Woolpack Inn in Coggeshall and were fortunate to be seated mostly together in a side room in the 15th Century inn. To have dabbled with doughnuts would most definitely have been a gross error, as the Woolpack lunch was delicious and more than any man could eat. We were amazed by the huge portions; the fish and chips particularly seemed to be catering for giants.

Coggeshall

Everyone made a really brave effort at lunch and then staggered 20 m down the road to St Peter ad Vincula. This tower had been augmented to a ring of ten, and this required some ringers to stand very close together. Very tidy handling was the order of the day, to avoid lynching your neighbour! Still, we enjoyed the visit and rang a range of methods from Grandsire Caters to London S Royal.

Bocking

We travelled west to Bocking on the outskirts of Braintree, affording the opportunity for some further ten-bell practice. Most of the band were able to take part in Plain Bob Caters; Cambridge S Royal, London S Royal & Stedman Caters were also included.

Wethersfield

The final tower of the day was in Wethersfield, which offered a ground floor ring open to the church. It was particularly unusual because of the large vertical timber pillar in the centre of the ringing circle, which was not so much an obstacle to rope-sight as at first feared.

Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth did a great job of organising the day, although unfortunately illness prevented her from participating and she was greatly missed.

- Quenton and Kathryn Jones

Hertford County Association

Kimpton, Herts
SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 11 January 2009 in 2h52 (10-2-15)

5024 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

1344 Glasgow; 1248 London; 1216 each Belfast, Bristol; 113 changes of method, all the work

Composed by: R R Horton

- 1 Catherine E Hughes-D'Aeth
- 2 Rosemary J Duke
- 3 Andrew M Reeve
- 4 Stephen W Penney
- 5 John N Hughes-D'Aeth (C)
- 6 Edward N Hughes-D'Aeth
- 7 Graham A Duke
- 8 Richard Sales

Rung by a band of St Albans ringers to mark the Association's 125th anniversary year.

Hertford County Association

Lundy Island, Devon
St Helena

Sunday, 8 March 2009 in 2hr 55mins (13-1-18)

5040 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR

Composed by: Composer: James Clatworthy

- 1 Fred Bone
- 2 Jillian E Galloway
- 3 Rosemary J Duke
- 4 Samantha L George
- 5 Colin M Parker
- 6 Adrian C Malton
- 7 Gerald Penney
- 8 Graham A Duke (C)
- 9 Stephen W Penney
- 10 Richard Sales

Rung for the 125th anniversary of the Association.

Co-incidentally the 125th peal on the bells.

Radlett, Herts

Christ Church

Wednesday, 27th May 2009

1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Julian Beardwell
2. Adrian Beardwell
3. Robert Ogden
4. Stuart Barry
5. John Beardwell (C)
6. Hugh Beardwell

Rung to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Hertford County Association.

New members

Welcome to the following new members - Dominic Holroyd of Sandridge. Alex and Liz Sage of St Michael's. Janet Archibald, Jackie Broadfoot, Deborah Butler, Richard Butler, Nicholas Butler (probationary member), and Katherine Butler of St Peter's.

Congratulations to John Richardson and Gordon Wood of Kimpton who are now full members.

Kimpton Ringing Round the Waterways

There is a strong expeditionary culture in our Kimpton Band, so it is not surprising that from time-to-time an idea is aired in 'The Boot' pub, after practice night, for something different in the way of an outing. As-early-as last October 2008, there was talk of a possible canal trip, taking in towers en-route.

There had been previous such trips, one of which involved the 'Cheshire Ring', normally navigable as a circuit in six days or-so, and with plenty of ringing options available. Unfortunately, owing to a section of canal being drained for engineering work, the convoy was forced to return at about the halfway mark in order to get back to the boatyard in time.

It was therefore decided that we should try the Cheshire Ring once more, in the hope of completing the round trip. With thirteen keen crew to accommodate, two 69ft barges were hired from Andersen's Boatyard in Middlewich to take seven and six of us respectively, timed for the third week in April. Though risky from the weather point-of-view, this timing was in advance of the main holiday season and promised less crowded waterways.

The planned counter-clockwise route was to take us from Middlewich via Church Lawton; Kidsgrove; Macclesfield; Romiley; Manchester; Grappenhall; Daresbury and back to Middlewich, taking in eleven towers and some good evening venues on the way.

After an uneventful 2.5 hour drive up, and a pleasant lunch at the George and Dragon, we began by ringing at Holmes Chapel 6-11. A short drive took us to Andersen's yard where

our boats, 'Fjord Viscount' and 'Stavanger Fjord', awaited on a warm Saturday afternoon.

With gear and provisions loaded, and after a briefing on how to run the boats; a short 6.5 mile initial taste of canal barge boating lay ahead. This involved a 7-lock ascent to Wheelock, rapidly cranking our cardio-vascular systems into gear. There followed an excellent pub dinner and our first of seven nights aboard.

During the ensuing days, we were to travel through some enchanting countryside in a burgeoning English Spring, accompanied for the most part by exquisite birdsong. Spring flowers were prolific in the many attractive bank side gardens, and our progress took us over aqueducts bridging deep valleys, through tunnels, and in sight of railway viaducts.



Several former warehouses bounding the canal had been converted into apartments, though there were some factory sites in the process of demolition; a sobering reminder of the pressures now on our industries. As if to answer the challenge of the new order, there was also evidence of new industrial plants setting up, redressing the balance to some extent.

Further ringing took place at Church Lawton; Kidsgrove 8-11; St Peter 8-7 and Christchurch 10-24 in Macclesfield, All Saints Marple 8-14 and St Mark Bredbury 8-12.

We could not help wondering at the magnificent Victorian engineering design and building of the canal system. Our route had taken us via the Trent & Mersey Canal in the Cheshire Plains and 46 locks, climbing around 500ft, to the Macclesfield Canal on the lower Pennine ridge.

The working barges named this ascent 'Heartbreak Hill'.



After a long, level stretch on the Macclesfield Canal, the navigation began descending towards Marple, Romiley and the outskirts of Manchester. By now, most of us had honed our steering skills and perfected our locking technique, which was just as well, as things turned out.



After a demanding flight of 16 locks down to Dukinfield Junction with the Peak Forest Canal and 3.5 days into our trip, we were faced with a dilemma. One of the fifteen locks in the Ashton flight ahead of us was out of commission. The reason was stranger than fiction. On the previous night, there had been a burglary of copper cable from an adjacent factory. In order to access the copper, the burglars needed to move a load of other material, which they dumped in the lock.

This news was received unofficially at first, and later confirmed by our hirers. The British Waterways engineers clearing the lock were unable say if the lock would be working in time

for us to carry on next day. We had 1.5 hours in which to decide either to press-on or turn back in order to return the boats on Saturday morning as arranged. No definite affirmation reached us whilst we used the time to visit an attractive and interesting museum of local social and industrial history at Dukinfield Junction.

Regretfully, we had to accept the inevitable decision to turn about, knowing that we would have to cover the 3.5 days' progress to date in 2.5 days. Unbelievably, the Cheshire Ring was to deny us for the second time! Hasty phone calls were made to secretaries at; Manchester Cathedral; Grappenhall and Daresbury, to cancel ringing arrangements, and we set our minds to the task in hand.

As originally planned, there would have been 92 locks to negotiate. Turning back meant that each boat crew would need to open and close 124 locks in total. In the event, we were back at Andersen's Yard by Friday evening, and managed to ring at Middlewich 8-20 as arranged.



All agreed that the experience had been most interesting and enjoyable on many different levels, and had provided some very worthwhile ringing. We had enjoyed each other's company; the contrasts of tranquillity and industry on the waterways, and ringing in eight towers of the eleven originally planned, each with very different handling and sound characteristics.

We are still left with the ambition to navigate the complete Ring, and take in some new towers on the way.

- Gordon Wood

125th Anniversary Peals**Hertford County Association
Northchurch, Herts**

St Mary

Sunday, 19 April 2009 in 3h07 (15-0-24)

5152 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR (23m)

224 each Ashtead, Bristol, Carmarthen,
Cassiobury, Chiswick, Cornwall, Cray, Double
Dublin, Glasgow, Ipswich, Jersey, Lincolnshire,
Lindum, London, Otley, Preston, Pudsey,
Tavistock, Tring, Uxbridge, Watford, Wembley,
Whalley; 160 changes of method, all the work
and each lead different

Composed by: N Smith (arr J R Leary)

- 1 Catherine E Hughes-D'Aeth
- 2 Andrew M Reeve
- 3 Rosemary J Duke
- 4 John N Hughes-D'Aeth (C)
- 5 Iain J Anderson
- 6 Richard Sales
- 7 Stephen W Penney
- 8 Graham A Duke

1250th peal: 8.

200th together: 3,8.

Rung as part of the celebrations to mark the
125th anniversary of the Hertford County
Association of Change Ringers.

**Hertford County Association
WESTMINSTER, Middx**

Liberties of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Saturday, 9 May 2009 in 3:31 (29 cwt)

5042 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAXIMUS

Composed by: Roderick W Pipe

- 1 Michael H D O'Callaghan
- 2 Elizabeth A Hibbert
- 3 Rosemary J Duke
- 4 Edward R Mack
- 5 Peter J Blight
- 6 Richard A Horne
- 7 Thomas B Mack
- 8 Graham A Duke (c)
- 9 Benjamin D Kipling
- 10 Barry D Mack
- 11 Mary E Holden
- 12 Andrew V Brown

First on 12: 4

First of Yorkshire S Maximus: 5, 6

For the 125th Anniversary of the HCA.

First Quarter

Congratulations to Gordon Wood of Kimpton on
achieving his first quarter peal.

Gordon arrived to unlock the church for a
visiting band on the morning of Wednesday
February 11th. Thanks to flooded roads and icy
patches one ringer was severely delayed. Gordon
was asked by the visiting conductor if he could
manage the treble to surprise major. Perhaps not
after just a couple of years of ringing although he
said he wished he could. The idea of ringing
tenor behind sounded more familiar so off came
his jacket and we launched into Stedman Triples.
After 42 minutes the quarter was successfully
completed. It was only then that we discovered
it was Gordon's first. In fact, it was the first time
he had rung for a period of more than about ten
minutes! He was justifiably pleased with this
achievement and it was a privilege to have rung
with him in his first, if unscheduled, quarter
peal.

Kimpton, Herts

SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday, 11 February 2009 in 43 (10)

1260 STEDMAN TRIPLES

- 1 Liz Griffith-Jones
- 2 John Roberts
- 3 Bill Griffith-Jones
- 4 Frank Warboys
- 5 Ann Evans
- 6 John Rank
- 7 Adrian Malton (C)
- 8 Gordon Wood

First quarter - 8

- Ann Evans

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Visit

Tickets are available for the Whitechapel Bell
Foundry visit on 17th October. These are £10
each and there are 21 tickets. The visit is timed
for 2pm but we have to be there at least 15
minutes beforehand so we're aiming for 1:30pm.
Some towers in London will also be organised
for ringing afterwards - details to follow nearer
the time but all will be welcome regardless of
whether you visit the foundry.
If you would like a ticket, please contact the
district secretary.

Woolford Cup

Saturday 16th May saw the Woolford Cup 6-bell striking competition, which for the first time was combined with a District Meeting.

Only two towers entered the competition, with St Peter's entering two teams. However in the spirit of competition two 'scratch' bands were cobbled together just prior to the draw. Edward Hughes-D'Aeth organised a youngsters team and a team made up of reserves, tea providers and supporters also entered.

There was some very enjoyable ringing from all bands, with minor, doubles and call-changes making an appearance. During ringing we all enjoyed a superb tea courtesy of the Kimpton ringers. The judges, Elizabeth Cranfield and Chris Forster, were able to add up the scores and decide on placings while we had a short business meeting at which several new members were elected.

The results were then given and trophies presented. Open ringing followed until 8.30pm and then drinks at the Cross Keys were enjoyed by all those present. Although only two towers entered, 30 members attended the event, making it a very enjoyable evening.

Thanks again to the Kimpton ringers, the judges and to all those who took part.

	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1st	St Michael's	31
2nd	St Peter's Odds	38
3rd	St Peter's Evens	42
4th	Mixed Bag	83
5th	Youngsters	97

Congratulations to St Michael's on their win.

- Thomas Mack

A 56 year service for St Michael's bells

Since the two trebles were installed in 1953 the bells at St Michael's have been cared for by the local ringers, most recently Howard Wastling. In the past few years it was becoming obvious that major work was required if the band were to continue enjoying this handy ring of 8.

In discussion at our recent AGMs, we agreed that we would need professional help. Our supportive Churchwardens commissioned Whitechapel to carry out the job.

Work commenced in late January. All the clappers, staples and pulleys were removed to the foundry, along with the clock hammer and the runner boards from the treble and 2nd. To make the front two bells louder, new clappers were made with larger balls, similar to those on 3 and 4. The other clappers were refurbished and the worn balls on 3-7 twisted. All the pulleys were replaced with new ones made of cast nylon.

Whitechapel returned to St Michael's in early March to re-assemble the jigsaw puzzle of pieces. Along with new runner boards for the trebles, a sound chute was installed. The 7th and tenor were turned by 45° and the bearings replaced in all but 6 and 7.

A test ring was arranged on Friday 13 March and, after a six week rest, the bells pealed out over St Michael's village. The work was completed just in time - the bells had been promised for a wedding the following day.

My thanks go to the Vicar and Churchwardens, to Howard Wastling who assisted Whitechapel throughout the project and to Roger Kendrick, of Whipsnade, who helped dismantle the fittings.

Everyone at St Michael's is grateful to the HCACR Bell Restoration Fund and the Debenham Bell Fund for their grants towards the work.

- Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth

Hatfield tenor

The Hatfield tenor weighs in at over 23 cwts, but has always been a lovely bell to ring. However it gradually became much harder to ring, dropping unexpectedly, especially at handstroke. It also looked as if it had shifted slightly to one side on its bearings. Thus the Hatfield ringers decided to have a formal inspection carried out and both Nicholson Engineering and Whitechapel Foundry recommended that all the bells should have new bearings. They also reported that the 2nd rope should be re-routed as this is definitely the most difficult bell in the tower and is affectionately called the 'Kicking Goat'.

Naturally a faculty was required and this was requested for all the work. When it became apparent that this would be a long process, it was decided just to apply for permission to repair the tenor, leaving the other work till later. Eventually this was granted and the work was carried out by Nicholsons. Now that the work has been completed the tenor is again easy to ring, so that it can be turned in instead of only ringing behind.

The Hatfield ringers are very grateful to the Country and District Bell Funds for their help in this project.

125th Anniversary Peals and Quarters

Hertford County Association

Hitchin, Herts

St Mary

Saturday, 31 January 2009 in 3hrs9mins (29cwt)

5039 GRANDSIRE CATERS

Composed by: Thomas Hooley

- 1 David Kemp (C)
- 2 Elizabeth J Cranfield
- 3 David J Hawkins
- 4 John N McCutcheon
- 5 Keith D Waples
- 6 Richard Sales
- 7 John J Ford
- 8 Stephen W Penney
- 9 Christopher Forster
- 10 Robert J Crocker

100th peal on the bells. 100th for the association - 8. HCACR 125th anniversary peal.

St Nicholas Harpenden

Sunday 26th April 2009

1260 DOUBLES

(3m: Stedman, Grandsire & Plain Bob)

- 1 Charles Pocock (C)
- 2 David Darby
- 3 Revd. John Orme
- 4 Andrew Cripps
- 5 Andrew Agg
- 6 John Harper

At Evensong. A farewell to Eric Pask for 24 years organist and choirmaster at this Church. A 125th Year quarter for the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

St Albans, Herts

St Peter

Sunday, 10 May 2009 in 0:54 (24 cwt)

1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

- 1 Katherine P M Butler
- 2 Rosemary J Duke
- 3 Deborah M E Butler
- 4 William Butler (c)
- 5 Judith A Mack
- 6 Richard W Butler
- 7 Graham A Duke
- 8 Barry D Mack

First quarter at first attempt: 1
For Evensong. Rung as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the HCACR.

Hertford County Association

Lemsford, Hertfordshire

St. John Ev

Sunday, 17 May 2009 in 2h12 (3-2-4)

5040 SEVEN SURPRISE MINOR

- (1) London, (2) York, (3) Durham, (4) Beverley, (5) Surfleet, (6) Norwich, (7) Cambridge.

- 1 Judith E Titmus
- 2 Roger D R Brown
- 3 Geoffrey Dodds
- 4 Robert J Crocker (c)
- 5 Stephen W Penney
- 6 Adam R Crocker

150th Anniversary of this Church.
125th peal for the association, this being the association's 125th anniversary year: 6.

Bookstall

The county bookstall will be visiting our September meeting at Hatfield.

Coburn Trophy

The Coburn trophy this year took place on Saturday 13th June at St Nicholas, Stevenage, and the St Albans District team were declared the winners. The members of the winning team, who rang 252 of Stedman Triples, were:

1. Judith A Mack, 2. W Robert E T Goss, 3. Catherine E Hughes-D'Aeth, 4. Christine M Carter, 5. Edward N Hughes-D'Aeth, 6. Graham A Duke, 7. Barry D Mack (C), 8. Thomas B Mack.

	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1 st	St Albans	18
2 nd	Watford	29
3 rd	Northern A	30
4 th	Western	32
5 th	Bishop's Stortford East	56
6 th	Northern B	64
7 th	Bishop's Stortford West	82

St Albans District Ringing Programme 2009/10

Ringers of ALL standards are welcome at ALL events.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
July 18 th	All day - St Albans District 125 th Anniversary Celebrations - See correspondence from the district secretary for more information.		
August 15 th	All day - More 125 th Anniversary Celebration quarters and other ringing, with a Picnic and Rounders in Verulamium Park in the evening.		
August 29 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Association 10 bell practice	Hitchin
September 12 th		Essex Trophy	Hythe
September 19 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, Tea & Business Meeting	Hatfield
September 26 th	TBA	Kimpton Cup	Great Wymondley
October 17 th	All day	Ringing Outing & Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry	London
October 31 st	1pm onwards	HCACR 125th Anniversary	St Albans
November 21 st	10am - noon	Ringing	Radlett
November 28 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Association 10 bell practice	Hatfield
December 19 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, Carol Service & Nomination Meeting	Harpenden
January 16 th 2010	3.30pm - 8.30pm	ADM	St Peter's, St Albans

District Officers 2009/10

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