

# St Albans District Newsletter

December 2010  
Volume 15, Issue 2

## Inside this Issue

100 Years of Girlguiding UK	1
New members	2
Abbey Outing	2
New bells for St Albans Cathedral	3
Peals and Quarters	3
Charmborough Ring at Harpenden	4
Help keep the bells ringing	4
Kimpton Cup	5
Coburn Trophy	5
District Ringing Programme 2010/11	5

Editor: Stephen Penney  
Tel: 01727 841195  
Mob: 07752 498488  
Email: [stephen@ucalegon.com](mailto:stephen@ucalegon.com)

## Quarter Peal Celebrates 100 Years of Girlguiding UK.



*The band: Far right Deborah Butler (treble) then from the left in ringing order, Stephanie Willcocks, Cynthia Warrilow, Janet Penney, Deirdre Watson, Rosemary Sales, Jennifer Johnson (conductor) and Katherine Butler.*

At the request of Harpenden Trefoil Guild, on Thursday 14th October, a band from the St Albans District of the Hertford County Association who are or have been in Girlguiding rang a quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples at St Nicholas, Harpenden in 49 minutes. They rang while the Trefoil meeting was being held (which included a talk on 'bells' by Amy Coburn) and the ladies really enjoyed hearing the bells being rung. The Harpenden Guild is grateful to the band for marking the end of this special year for Guiding on their behalf.

- Diana Parrott

*Quarter peal details on Page 2.*

## Quarter for 100 years of Girlguiding UK

### Harpenden, St.Nicholas

Thursday, 14 October 2010 in 49m (15-0-16)

#### 1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

1. Deborah M E Butler (Durham City)
  2. Stephanie M A Willcocks (Past District Commissioner)
  3. Cynthia Warrilow (Frodsham)
  4. Janet L Penney (St Albans, Christchurch)
  5. Deirdre R Watson (Kings Langley)
  6. Rosemary E Sales (9th St Albans)
  7. Jennifer V Johnson (C) (1st St Albans)
  8. Katherine P M Butler (13th St Albans)
- Specially arranged to celebrate 100 years of

Guiding.

First "outside" 8

75th quarter of Grandsire Triples 7

## New Members

Welcome to Fran Billings of Hatfield who joined at the September meeting at Essendon.

## 2010 Abbey Outing to Bedfordshire



On one of the hottest days of the year, 10th July, the Abbey band plus intrepid guests ventured forth on our ringing outing to south Bedfordshire. We rang at five towers, all of them with 8 bells, the first and last having strong connections with Katherine of Aragon, King Henry VIII's first wife (explanation later). We started at St Andrews, Ampthill (13 cwt) where we were greeted by our host arriving on a bicycle with a replacement stay for the 2nd

bell, which he fitted before we started ringing! The bells handled very well, with a lovely musical sound, though a few sensitive souls thought the bells were a bit too loud in the ringing chamber itself. Then on to St Georges, Toddington (21 cwt) with just enough time to have a quick look around the Community Market on the village green, where some honey was bought. The ringing chamber was embellished with arches and columns and although the bells were harder work, we managed to ring Cambridge and Lincolnshire. Next stop was St Marys, Woburn (24 cwt), a Gothic Revival church with amazing gargoyles and a fine interior, although there was an ominous-looking crack running up the staircase wall. These bells were the heaviest of the day but handled beautifully. We then had a leisurely lunch at the Black Horse in Woburn.

After lunch we rang at St James, Husborne Crawley (18 cwt), notable for the bright green stone used on the exterior of the tower, quarried from the local Greensand Ridge. The lofty ringing chamber, with a good view of the interior of the church, was accessed by a spiral staircase using old sallies as a handrail. We saved the best till last. The bells of the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable (23 cwt) were a delight to ring and listen to. Not only that, but the ringing chamber was blissfully cool and airy, although the access was via two ladders inside what appeared to be a cupboard!

In summary, we had a very enjoyable day, and experienced some fine towers. The ringing ranged from call changes to 8-spliced to accommodate all levels of ability. Some of us finished off the day with drinks and a meal at The Chequers, Redbourn.

And the connection with Katherine of Aragon? She lived at Ampthill Castle during the divorce proceedings with Henry VIII (and there's a memorial window in the church), and it was in the Lady Chapel (no longer in existence) at Dunstable Priory that the court investigating the validity of the marriage was held, and where the annulment of the marriage was decided.

- David Hodgskin

## New bells at St Albans Cathedral

The new bells at The Abbey are likely to be ringable from early March 2011. If you do wish to join us for a practice, please contact us first.

A full report on the work carried out will be published in this newsletter once it is complete.

- Stephen Penney

## Peals and Quarters

### Hertford County Association

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 8 August 2010 in 3h15 (24)

#### 5040 SPLICED SURPRISE ROYAL (14M)

360 each Albanian, Bristol, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London #3, Oakham, Prittlewell, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative#2, Wembley, X-Church, York, Yorkshire; 125 com; atw.

Composed: Graham A Duke (arr)

1. Geoffrey Dodds
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Christine M Carter
4. Claire C Nicholson
5. Bjorn E Bradstock
6. Richard A Horne
7. Brian C Watson
8. Graham A Duke (c)
9. Stephen W Penney
10. Richard Sales

Most Royal methods by all except conductor.

Most Royal methods as conductor.

First of 14-spliced atw: 8

### Lemsford, St John the Evangelist

Wednesday, 6th October 2010

#### 1320 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Eleanore K E Titmus
2. Judith E Titmus
3. Roger D R Brown
4. Geoffrey Dodds
5. Robert J Crocker (C)
6. Ron E Titmus

Rung half-muffled by Lemsford ringers prior to the funeral of Geoff Fordham

### Hertford County Association

Trumpington, Cambs

Ss Mary and Michael

Sunday, 10 October 2010 in 2h49 (10-2-22)

#### 5056 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR (10M)

672 Cambridge; 640 each London, Yorkshire;

448 each Belfast (F), Bristol, Glasgow,

Lincolnshire (N), Pudsey, Superlative; 416

Rutland; 157 com, atw.

Composed: D Morrison

1. Ian R Fielding
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Leigh D G Simpson
4. Richard Sales
5. Tessa K Beadman
6. Graham A Duke (C)
7. Ian W Davies
8. Stephen W Penney

200th for the Association: 1.

40th Wedding Anniversary compliment to Gerald and Janet Penney.

Kimpton, Herts

Ss Peter & Paul

Sunday, 10 October 2010 in 42 mins

#### 1250 SPLICED S MAJOR (3M)

Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire

1. Richard Sales
2. Liz Middleton
3. Mary Rixon
4. Ann Evans
5. Jennifer Johnson
6. Alan Smith (C)
7. Alan Shepherd
8. Roger Kendrick

A birthday compliment to the conductor's sister Nicki Smith and a 40th wedding compliment to Gerald and Janet Penney

### Hertford County Association

Lemsford, St John the Evangelist

Sunday, 31st October 2010 in 2h23 (3)

#### 5040 SURPRISE MINOR

7 methods : London, Beverley, Surfleet, Bourne, Ipswich, Cambridge, Norwich

1. Judith E Titmus
2. Stephen J Crawley
3. Anthony J Crowther
4. Richard Sales
5. Geoffrey Dodds
6. Brian C Watson (C)

85th birthday compliment to Geoff Dodds and

75th birthday compliment to Roger Brown

## Peals and Quarters contd.

**Hertford County Association**  
**Lemsford, St John the Evangelist**  
 Sunday, 7th November 2010 in 2h20 (3)

**5040 MINOR**

7 methods : London, Kent, Oxford, Norwich, St Clements, Cambridge, Plain Bob

1. Jill E Reeves
2. Adam R Crocker
3. Bjorn E Bradstock
4. Andrew F Case
5. Claire C Nicholson
6. David Kemp (C)

50th birthday compliment to Jill Reeves

**St Albans, St Peter**

Thursday, 18 November 2010 in 53m (24 cwt)

**1360 TRITON DELIGHT ROYAL**

1. Ann Evans
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Alan M Shepherd
4. Nicholas D Brown
5. Claire C Nicholson
6. Graham A Duke (c)
7. Edward R Mack
8. Richard A Horne
9. Stephen W Penney
10. Richard Sales

First blows in the method by all except the conductor and the ringer of the 9th.

## Charmborough Ring at Harpenden



A few of us were asked to ring the Charmborough Ring at Harpenden House Hotel for the wedding of a ringer from London. It was set up in the car park, and it was pouring with rain..... the canopy filled with water, and emptied itself down Ben's neck. This was half way through a touch and he had to carry on for several minutes. The photo was taken immediately after we stopped.

- Jennifer Johnson

## Help keep the bells ringing

Mark Regan, Master of Worcester Cathedral and renowned coach and ringer, kindly offered to give an inspiring talk in the Crypt at St Albans Cathedral on 'Tips and Tricks to Re-energise County Ringing'.

The event was part of a larger planned recruitment drive for Abbey Ringers, to increase interest and involvement in ringing, and to share our vision with Hertfordshire ringing at large.

Mark has led his band from what might be described as a typical standard for a county Cathedral with a heavy 12 to what is now a vibrant, strong band with a healthy source of new recruits supported by a ring of 8 high-tech dumb-bells.

He was happy to share what has worked and what has not worked during this initiative, to spur thinking and ideas and make practical suggestions for ways that would make a difference to our bands.

The objectives of the event were for people attending to come away with:

1. Practical suggestions for building an integrated community for ringing
2. Clarity on potential key opportunities available in Hertfordshire
3. Having enjoyed finding out about a success story and sharing ideas with local friends and colleagues.

- Janet Penney

## Kimpton Cup

25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Kimpton.



	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Hemel Hempstead	24
2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Peter's, St Albans	31
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Apsley	44
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sandon	50
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bishop's Stortford	55
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rickmansworth	82
7 <sup>th</sup>	Stevenage	83

## Coburn Trophy

12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at Rickmansworth



	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Watford	78.4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Western	77.6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bishop's Stortford	76
4 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Red	74
5 <sup>th</sup>	St Albans	73.5
6 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Blue	73.4
7 <sup>th</sup>	Eastern	72.6

## St Albans District Ringing Programme 2011/11

Ringers of ALL standards are welcome at ALL events.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
January 15 <sup>th</sup> 2011	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, service, tea, ADM, ringing	Radlett (tbc)

The full programme for 2011 will be discussed at the nominations meeting at Harpenden.