



The "Ringer's Bell"
Ghyll Church

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

President's News

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Did you know?

I am very pleased that Christine has volunteered to produce the Newsletter. We are very fortunate that so many people come forward to offer their time and talents to assist the smooth running of the Association in so many ways..

At the February committee meeting all the officers gave reports, which you will be able to read in the Annual report, and I am privileged to be able to thank them on your behalf for all that they do.

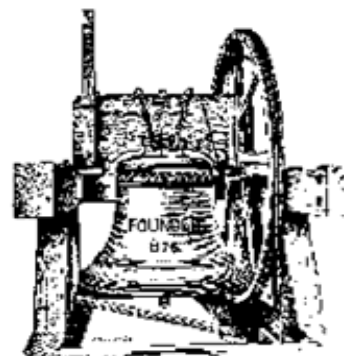
At the meeting a small number of rule changes were proposed, which took quite a time to debate, fine tune and eventually vote upon. These changes will be brought to the Annual meeting for approval or otherwise. It was suggested, tongue in cheek, that we should have a rule 15: "We agree never to ever change the rules"

I mentioned that we will all soon hear more about how new legislation relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults affects ringing. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 affects both employers and voluntary groups engaged in activities with children, as well as services to vulnerable adults. The provisions of the Act are due to come into force on 12th October 2009 and an initial review of the likely effect on ringing was given in an article in the Ringing World, 2nd May, page 493; a further update given in 12th September 2008 issue, page 962. Both articles were prepared by Chris Mew on behalf of the CCCBR Tower Stewardship Committee. Chris has prepared a follow up paper which will be presented at the CCCBR 2009 meeting at Worcester in May.

I look forward to the programme of events planned for the Association this year and to meeting as many of you as possible, as I visit the association and branch activities.

Please do support Christine, the success of the Newsletter relies on **you** submitting, articles for publication. I would welcome reading an article from the youngest member of the Association in the next issue. Is that you??
Best wishes

David Burgess



Liverpool Branch Quarter Peal Week

Sunday 7th – Sunday 14th December

We were running at 100% success rate all week until the 18th attempt. Double Court Bob Triples (which is brick) came to grief at Tuebrook. Out of **18** attempts each at different towers, **17** were successful.

94.4% success rate

58 ringers participated altogether, led by Oliver Austin and Siân Kipling, by ringing 9 Quarter Peals each.

Congratulations to **Vicky Graham** from St Bartholomew Rainhill, who scored her **first quarter peal** during the week, and well done to numerous others who achieved other 'firsts'.

21,611 changes were rung.

Methods included Plain Bob Doubles, Triples and Caters; Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters; Little Bob Major; Kent TB Major and Canterbury D Minor.

The week concluded with the Branch Meeting at SFX and the Christmas Social in the upper room of the Pilgrim.

Thanks to all who took part, to tower captains and incumbents for allowing the use of bells, and to Len Mitchell for organising the Branch Christmas Social.

It is an encouraging sign that many attempts were rung by or included a number of locals, keep up the good work.

The ringers at St. Helen's Parish rang what turned out to be an unsuccessful attempt prior to the QP week on Friday 5th December, and wish it to be associated with the event.

Sam Austin, Liverpool Branch Ringing Master.

From the editor

At the last committee meeting I was led to believe the name of the Association newsletter was 'The Poisoned Chalice'. Did it require a 'murder mystery' theme? Was I expected to be the next Dorothy Sayers? But no it was a reference to the lack of willing volunteers to take on the role of editor from Bethany.

So here I am. As a relatively recently returned member of LACR, in contact with a lot of new members who are also new to ringing, I decided to try to ensure that there were items of interest to ringers at all levels of experience and knowledge.

I am aware that many things happen in the Association which only become known to a minority of members. Please pass on any information for the next newsletter, which I am hoping to produce in October-unless anyone else wishes to take on the task...

Christine Silkstone

P.S. Begin submitting items for an October newsletter NOW!

chrissilkstone@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER APRIL '09



Holy Week Ringing at Manchester Town Hall

I hope Manchester enjoyed what we provide in exchange for use of their bells, in the week when the majority are silent. For me, a novice of six months, it was an excellent evening.

I think I heard someone say that 36 had signed in, a fact unfortunately not corroborated by the number of one pound coins in Betty's Tub, so after my first turn of rounds and call changes I did think that it was all over for me and the best I could hope for was to sit it out and enjoy the show.

That would have been good enough as it was certainly entertaining. However the 'big pullers' were big hearted too and made sure no one went home dissatisfied. By the end of the night I'd rung about five times and whilst most of the changes called were centred on the back six, we greenhorns at the front felt sufficiently challenged and included. One of the great things about a night like this is getting away from your own tower, in my case St Paul's, Ramsbottom, and finding out that your inexperience is not unique. Even for those who chose to sit out most of the night the experience of being there, with new

people and different ways of going about things, was undoubtedly beneficial. It occurred to me that whatever stage you're at, you're only ever as good as the stroke you're pulling so the opportunity to improve is only seconds away.

On the register were signatures from Worcester, Leicester and Sheffield, along with more local ones, and so serious intent was certainly present. Observation was a great part of the evening; to watch the dedicated indulging their passion was a joy and an education although I don't really know what can be learned about change ringing, simply from ringing voyeurism other than that no two ways are the same. Some watched ropes, some counted, some closed their eyes and appeared to ring by osmosis. I suppose we all do it the way that comes naturally.

Listening to the differing terminology, where and why it was used, did help build the bigger picture. At Ramsbottom we have our own terminology; words like Baggy, Twitchy and Tinkle are among the more repeatable. Last Tuesday in Manchester I found the words were more mainstream and that whilst the 'ringing glitterati' snarl and growl a lot, they hardly ever bite, and even the barked instructions are meant to help rather than admonish.

By the end of the evening we learners were ready for the ring down and I especially looked forward to the "after three, miss one and catch in rounds" (or 'Tinkle' as we call it in Ramsbottom). "It'll take ten minutes" someone said. It didn't, but it was in no way diminished by that. I was surprised to see that many of the guys who had coveted the back bells during the evening were now standing by the smaller ones leaving only the very hard core to deal with the heavy metal. As we approached the 'Tinkle' I found out why, as one by one the Tenor, then Eleven, then Ten dropped out and their ringers took to playing Tarzan whilst the others kept up the work. That's what I love about ringing; however advanced you get there's always another bite that for now is too big to chew. This hobby could take years to master.

David Ireland

Television Stars in Lytham

On Ash Wednesday a quarter peal was rung at St John's, Lytham.

Nothing unusual about that, except...whilst the ringing progressed a news item was being broadcast live from Lytham windmill, opposite St John's, on 'North West Tonight' about faulty GPS directions.

These apparently take drivers aiming for Lytham to the tiny village of Roseacre, 10 miles NE, inland.



Imagine arriving at 'Lytham' and finding only agricultural land and a few bemused villagers wondering where all the traffic has come from; not a grain of sand to be seen!

For this particular viewer who was not taking part in the ringing, the sound of Grandsire Doubles on the TV report was a charming and enjoyable addition to an otherwise gloomy news programme!

Janet Lloyd.

The Secret Life of...an Inspection and Maintenance Officer

Anthony Halliwell is well known to many Association members. He began ringing in 1961, at around 11 years of age, at St James, Accrington, where he was already a member of the choir. Anthony has continued to be a member of St James Church and a regular ringer there, as well as throughout Lancashire, since that time.

Anthony has been the Association Inspection and Maintenance Officer for two years, having previously been the Fund Raising Co-ordinator for 7/8 years.

Anthony's background as a builder, working on all aspects, including roofs, and as a plumber working with a variety of metals put him in a good position to carry out bell and tower inspections

Anthony is married with a 2 year old son and a 6 year old daughter.

As well as bell ringing he enjoys diving and has done so in locations such as Bermuda and Jamaica.

Unfortunately Anthony's activities have been curtailed recently due to back problems.

However he is still keen to hear from any towers requiring a 'health check', whether this is in relation to a full inspection or just one bell or part of a bell to be looked at.



March Training Day

The organisation of the training day was again excellent. Ringing took place at a number of churches and catered for people learning Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and touches of Plain Bob. It wasn't all plain sailing. At least two stays were broken and one ringer unfortunately sustained an injury very early on.

Over sixty people were catered for at Holy Trinity, Houghton, by members of the Preston Branch; refreshments were provided three times during the day, including two course hot lunch.

As is usual at Association events the bookstall was present with a wide range of ringing literature available, and chocolate, marmalade, tea towels etc were for sale, raising funds for bell restoration.

A brilliant day. If you haven't already tried one, do, and if you have try another!

Ringling at Ghyll Church

Two years late but "The Sweet Bells of Ghyll" will ring out again come September.

We, the Ghyll Bell Ringers, went down to Taylor's in 2007 to see the casting of the "Ringer's Bell" with its inscription "Celebrating 850 years of Ghyll Church".

It was great to be there again on Wednesday 18 February 2009 to finally place the order for the Tenor bell, and completion of the work on the other bells and frame for eight to get them installed.

A generous donation from a legacy, a loan from the PCC, continuous local fund raising and grants from the two Associations have enabled the project to be funded.

We await the date for the casting of the Tenor Bell and will no doubt be making another trip to see the event.



The original 3 Rudhall bells with new red headstocks and clappers and the Ringers bell which will be 5 in the ring of 6.

Members of both local Associations are invited to join us.

The bell will have the commemorative inscription:

"Yorkshire and Lancashire Associations of Change Ringers" and the date, in recognition of the grants given by both Associations. The order of the names reflects the historical sequence of Ghyll Church.

We are still committed to completing the project to eight bells and fund raising continues. Taylor's inform us that there is space for a ring of ten !!

Chris Whale

P.S. Ghyll Church also has a mini ring kindly donated by Alan Birney. It is situated in the coach house adjoining the Church. Whilst great fun to ring, some work on the clappers needs doing to adjust some of the "tones". It is a ring of 6 with a front 2 to add when we make the wheels, giving a ring of 8. There is great potential here for a centre of ringing for all ages and abilities. People who would never want to go into the tower can see in the coach house how bells are rung and even venture to have a go. Even very young children have fun chiming the mini-ring.

Frank's Fundraising

This year's **LACR Raffle** made a profit of **£1973.18** for the Bell Restoration Fund. In addition, the **Quiz Night** raised **£266.50** and the sale of my "goodies" over the year made **£283.36**, making a total of **£2,524.29**. For me, this is a record total and it's all a result of everybody's efforts, great generosity and sheer hard work in donating prizes, buying and selling tickets and, last but not least, for coming to the Quiz Night. Congratulations to the prize winners and to the combined Brindle/Chorley team that won the Quiz. My commiserations to all who didn't win prizes (better luck next year!) and, most of all, my grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

Frank Anderton

Raffle Prize winners

Eric Whitehead, Leesfield; Adrian Hanks, Preston
Mrs F Davies, Prescott; Liz Dent, Leesfield
Stuart Barker, New Hey; Peter Hertrick, St Silas, Blackburn
Graham Austin, Huyton; Neil McGarry, St John, Lytham
Pettifor, Whittington; Louise Hunt, St Silas, Blackburn
Sandra Burrows, Childwall; June Burgess, Rainford
Eric Whitehead, Leesfield; Jenny Baldwin, Eccleston
Roger Fellows, Kendal; Eric Musson, Clitheroe
Frank Brindle, Eccleston; Ray Woods, Holy Trinity, Soutport
J & S Pilkington, Whalley; J McNeal, Gisburn
Tester, Eccleston; Jeff Simcox, Tarleton
L Miller, Middleton; J & S Boardman, St Cuthbert, Lytham
Graham Turner, Brownedge; Jackie, Tarleton
Dorothy Brown, Hale; Haworth, Bolton-by-Bowland
Tester, Eccleston; K J Owen, Milnrow
Eric Musson, Clitheroe; Jenni Arnold, St Ann, Rainhill
Helen Rigby, New Hey; Helen Hatton, Garston
Catherine Emley, St Bartholemew, Rainhill
Andy Nelson, Lancaster Priory; Janet Fettel, Preston
J & S Boardman, St Cuthbert, Lytham;
G L Antrobus, St Ann, Rainhill

Fylde Training Week

For the past several years Fylde Branch has held a training week, starting the second week in February. In order to persuade as many 'students' as possible to take part, various formats have been tried over the years. However, most people seem reluctant to venture from the safety of their own tower, so the most helpful format has proved to consist of a team of roving helpers visiting each tower on it's practice night. As some towers practice on the same night, our Training Week has turned into a Training Fortnight, which does place a bit of a strain on the helpers, but it's all worthwhile.

Thanks to all the students and helpers taking part, this year's Fortnight was a great success with seven different towers being visited, some twice, and nine to twelve students and helpers attending each evening-just a nice number. The bulk of the training centred around Plain Hunt to Bob and Grandsire Doubles, but it also included Grandsire Triples and touches of Stedman and Cambridge. So there was something for everyone.

The idea of a training fortnight in February is that it will inspire people to go on the Association Training Day in March, either as a student or a helper, so we hope that people did, and in future will do, just that.

Chrystine Butcher.

Dates for your Diary

25 April AGM Tarleton, Preston

12 September Committee Meeting, Furness Branch

3 October 6 + 8 bell Striking Competitions; Gisburn and Clitheroe

31 October Training Day. (Students and helpers required)

28 Nov 10 bell striking competition

2010

3 Jan Quiz night St Silas Blackburn

20 Feb Committee meeting. Rossendale. Early start-1.30pm

24 April AGM Wigan Branch

Don't forget

LACR website:

www.lacr.org.uk

Central Council:

www.cccbr.org.uk

Ringling world:

www.ringingworld.co.uk

Miscellaneous-2008

LACR has 1030 members including 70 new members. However this is a decrease in total numbers from the previous year.

Members rang 223 peals, including a hand bell peal for Peter Hughes' wedding

One tower was lost to the Association, St Saviour's Bacup.

'Rammy Ringers'

St Paul's bells started to ring again in September 2007. Initiated by our organist Billy Hanson and encouraged by Richard Ferguson the Deputy Warden, our small but enthusiastic band made slow, yet steady progress under the skilled tutelage of Peter Coulton and Christine Silkstone.

We have grown in number to six committed 'Rammy Ringers', five intermediate and one extremely competent, with various new learners dipping in and out.

We started ringing for Sunday services in March 2008 and manage to do this on a regular basis depending on the availability of our members. Special occasions have included Jeff's last service and Anthony's first; muffled bells for Billy's funeral and our first wedding in December 2008.

We have come through some hairy experiences – breaking at least four stays, learning to cope with 'baggy' ropes, and an injury sustained whilst ringing a bell up!! These experiences have only served to make us more determined to succeed.

We are learning how to ring rounds and call changes and embracing new challenges such as Hunting and ringing up and down in rounds. When things go wrong as they inevitably do, Peter refers to the racket as 'Ramsbottom Surprise'. In the words of the immortal Eric Morecambe, we are ringing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order!

We look forward to another great year of making progress!

Claire Lord, St Paul's Ramsbottom, Rossendale.

PS Bells, and very smart ringing room, now available!



amnesty.org.uk

A quarter of Plain Bob Doubles was rung at Lancaster Priory on 10 December 2008 for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The idea came at a meeting of the Lancaster branch of Amnesty International earlier in the year; the idea was that we would try to publicise the Declaration.

The ringers of 1, 3 and 4 are all members of Amnesty International which as you will know tries to make sure that all countries abide by its principles, as well as highlighting the problems of people who are imprisoned or persecuted because of their beliefs.

Peter Rivet

LANCASTER PRIORY,

10 Dec 2008

1260 PB Doubles

Helen Speakman; 1 Robin Daw (c) 2;

Jean Kelly 3; Peter Rivet 4;

Andrew Nelson 5; Stephen Harrison 6.



Did you know?

The largest bell in the world hung for change ringing



The largest bell in the world hung for change ringing is the tenor of the ring in Liverpool Cathedral. The thirteen bells, including a sharp 2nd are named the Bartlett bells after Thomas Bartlett who donated the cost of the ring, and have a total weight of 16 tons, with the tenor weighing just over 82 cwt. The bells were cast in 1939 at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, and the photograph shows Albert Hughes, then proprietor of the foundry, standing next to 'Emmanuel', the tenor bell.

The vast central tower of Liverpool Cathedral rises to 331 feet from floor level and measures 90 feet square at its internal base. The bells, which are the largest ringing peal of bells in the world, are hung in a concrete radial frame surrounding the bourdon bell, Great George, which weighs almost 15 tons. The bell frame is unique not only for being the first ever radial bell frame (designed to minimise the effect of horizontal forces generated by change ringing bells), but also the only bell frame constructed entirely of reinforced concrete.

The heaviest eight-bell peal

The bells rang out at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 15th November 2008 as a world record was broken by its ringers. It took 4 hours 43 minutes to break the record for the heaviest eight-bell peal ever rung, with a peal of Cambridge

Surprise.

The record was taken from Exeter Cathedral, a record which has stood for over a hundred years. While the ringing was on 8 bells there were actually 9 ringers present, as two ringers, father and daughter Len and Rachel Mitchell, rang the Tenor bell.

Although Liverpool Cathedral already has the highest and heaviest peal of bells in the world, it was the first time the team had attempted a peal using the back eight bells.

Any heavy bell records created at Liverpool will now remain until a heavier set of bells is cast and installed and this is highly unlikely due to cost and finding a building capable of taking a peal of bells of such weight.

