



# LWASCR 2012 NEWSLETTER



## Novembers Full Meeting

Sedgley and Coseley hosted this event on Saturday 19th. Nov. The afternoon's open ringing began at 3 00pm at Sedgley, an 8 bell tower [12-3-20 in F#]. These bells are a real treat to ring. At 4.10 pm, after a variety of ringing, we all then continued on to Christ Church, Coseley. On arrival there was a short even song, presided over by Rev. Heather Humphrey. During this she read out the following Christmas poem:

### RING OUT WILD BELLS *by Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying clouds, the frosty lights;  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out thre old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more,  
Ring out the *fiend* of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin, The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring our, ring out my moarnful rhymes, But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the sprite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out all shapes of foul disease, Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

A traditional ringers' tea followed the service. Thank you to all the ladies who provided us all with these welcome refreshments.

*All Saints, Sedgley*



*Christ Church, Coseley*

Next came a short meeting, where we were informed of forthcoming events for the

New Year and throughout 2012.

One new member was elected :Susan Sherwood from Trysull.

Then came the **Club 100 draw**

- |    |         |                |                       |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | £40 .00 | Foster Rodgers | Barton - U – Needwood |
| 2. | £20.00  | Norman Brown   | Pattingham            |
| 3. | £10.00  | Peter Olding   | Whittington           |
| 4. | £10.00  | Bill Deason    | Lapley                |

Finally came the raffle run by Clive and Lucy Smith to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund. There were 3 prizes to choose from this time and the lucky winners were; John Burten, Vicky Wakelam and Matt Hardy.

The meeting then came to a close and open ringing commenced.

Among those present was a visitor, Mr James Lilley, who had travelled that day by train from Shoreham by Sea in West Sussex. After a short ring at Coseley one of our members took him to the nearby railway station to begin his 3+ hours journey home.

Coseley houses 8 bells [11-2-5 in G] in the tower: another fine ring enjoyed by all who came.

Around 30+ members turned out for this enjoyable event.

## St Giles, Willenhall

I was asked by the Society's Ringing Master, or should I say Mistress, to comment on the activities at a tower that had in recent past dropped off the society's radar but which is now very much going-concern.

Apparently, during the late 1990's, ringing ceased altogether at Willenhall and only two very-much-disinterested people were available as contacts to facilitate the entrance of an imported band to ring for the occasional wedding.

I was surprised to receive a 'phone call one evening to ask if it were possible for me to go one Thursday evening to assist with some training and, as I hadn't been to St Giles' since Bilston bells were replaced, thought it opportune to renew my acquaintance with the tower.

I duly arrived to find the tower open and the stair lights on, but on sliding open the door found the once familiar ringing room still painted dark brown and dirty green and lit by all of one suspended 60W bulb, completely empty. Only the ticking of the clock disturbed the silence and after musing for a quarter of an hour on what could be going on, was preparing to leave when a voices on the stairs broke the silence and in came a group of middle-aged people, all women apart from one man.

It had transpired that a new minister had arrived who was very keen on the sound of bells, having had a tubular set installed at his previous parish, and he had appealed for volunteers to sound those that he knew hung in the tower above as they had been silent for some time. Apparently, he had brought these people up before to pull the ropes to try to make a noise.

It dawned on me that I was there by subterfuge and wasn't best pleased at being misled. However, I spent the next hour describing and explaining what bells, bands and ringing were all about and rang one to demonstrate the end result. All this while I had been pleased to note their undivided attention, although we had began to shiver in the cold.

Each of them had a taste on the back-stroke and were asked if they still wished to continue. When they all replied enthusiastically, "yes please!" I felt that I had no option but to do what I could.

Tracing a tower key and gaining permission to access the tower took a short while but before long Thursday night was re-established as our main learning night, which was followed shortly by the addition of Wednesday to accelerate the progress as by then a number of their friends "non-church" had been recruited.

Over time, of course, we experienced the common problem of "comings and goings" but by 2002 we realised our goal of ringing for Christmas morning with an entirely new and "home grown" band.

The husband of a later recruit was a painter and decorator and our life was made much more comfortable after his makeover of the ringing room and the sense of achievement was further enhanced when we changed the sliding door into hinged and the church installed new lighting, together with a complete set of new ropes as a gift from a local charity.

The condition of the installation had been of concern to us for some time; therefore, we commissioned the three leading firms to inspect and report upon the work necessary to bring this unique peal up to first-class condition. We feel privileged to perform on the only ten cast specifically to commemorate George VI's Coronation and we have a dedicated restoration account to achieve that aim.

Now, what of the present? Thursday practices are full, busy and apparently, very enjoyable! But, not long enough, I'm told! Emphasis is on excellent control and handling and maximising listening and striking accuracy. The bells are notoriously difficult to ring well but everyone's determined and willingness to apply lessons learnt has resulted in many favourable comments from outside on the quality of the ringing.

The progression to change-ringing would possibly appear to some as "slow" but I follow a very structured approach and no-one moves on a stage till the previous has been mastered. Nevertheless, all but two have rung quarter peals and we have a very keen and dedicated nucleus who are advancing at a very satisfactory rate. The very regular, almost nightly, exposure to others' practices and national open days has been extremely beneficial as we have forged a number of highly satisfactory links.

We enjoy two minibus outings a year and the local Weatherspoon's is a handy location for us and our families' Christmas meal.

There are few occasions each year when we choose to use practice nights for our social activities, including our A.G.M., So, if you are reading this and feel minded to share our hospitality, a quick call to me may save an unnecessary journey. That comment also applies to Bilston. Regular Friday practices normally run from 6.30 pm to 7.30 for youngsters and then concentrate on "Kaleidoscopic" activities and change-ringing until 9pm with regular quarters also rung in this later time. Sunday evening from 5.45pm to 6.30pm is now the norm. **Remi Hodister**

## Pattingham Ringers celebrate a Golden Wedding Anniversary

Janet and Norman Bramall were married 50 years ago on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1961. They set up home together in Pattingham, where they have continued to live. In 1962 there was a call for people to learn to ring as there were not enough ringers at the village church. Janet and Norman answered that call and became part of the re-established band. They have continued to ring regularly since then and continue to be loyal members of the band.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October they, together with other current members of the Pattingham band, including their daughter, and two former members (James Stredder and Tony Wilcox) met to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples. Unfortunately two bells swapped in the 5<sup>th</sup> part so that it came round after 1050 changes, which is a significant number for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary but is not a quarter peal, neither was it true.

On the Sunday six of those ringers (without the former members) succeeded in ringing a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles for the evening service. A quarter peal was also rung at St Thomas the Martyr in Oxford, conducted by a Pattingham ringer.

### **Miscellaneous performance:**

Pattingham, Staffs. 7 October, 1050 Grandsire Triples:

*Photograph: The band which attempted a quarter peal but only managed to ring 1050 changes*



*Left to right: Tony Wilcox 2, Joanne Bramal 1l, James Stredder 8, Chris Wycherley 4, Norman Bramall 5, Geoffrey Dann 6 (C), Janet Bramal 3, Rex Edwards 7.*

A compliment to Janet and Norman Bramall on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. This was intended to be a quarter peal but came round after 1050 changes due to the ingenuity of two ringers swapping over without the conductor noticing.

### **Quarter peals:**

**Pattingham, Staffs. 9 October, 1260 Grandsire Doubles:**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joanne Bramall  | 4. Rex Edwards       |
| 2. Chris Wycherley | 5. Geoffrey Dann (C) |
| 3. Janet Bramall   | 6. Norman Bramall    |
- For Youth Service and a compliment to Norman and Janet Bramall on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

**Oxford (St, Thomas), Oxon. 9 October**

**1260 Grandsire Doubles:**

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Helen V Matthews | 4. Robert S Wallis      |
| 2. Canna H Whyte    | 5. Stephen J D Dann (C) |
| 3. Kirsty K Monk    |                         |

Rung to mark the start of the new academic year. Also to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Norman and Janet Bramall, both ringers at the conductor's home tower.

## Strictly Come Bellringing



In September a Scarecrow Festival was held in Pattingham. The bellringers created a ringing version of Strictly Come Dancing in the church. It included scarecrows representing Bruce Forsyth, Ann Widdecombe and Tess Daly as well as a judge who awarded Ann 5 points. We are not sure whether that was for her ringing ability or her bright yellow frock.

There is a bell rope which is used to chime the second bell near the group. Members of the public were invite to chime this bell in return for a donation of at least 50p. Over the weekend £100 was raised from these donations.

More photographs can be found on the Pattingham Ringers website ([www.pattingham-ringers.org.uk](http://www.pattingham-ringers.org.uk)). Photographs of all of the scarecrows in the Festival can be found on the church website ([www.pattingham-church.org](http://www.pattingham-church.org))

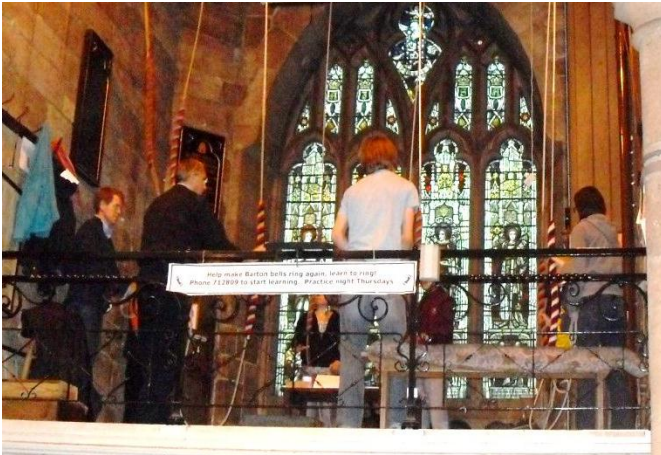
**Articles by Geoffrey Dann**

## Christmas Meeting

On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, members gathered at 10.00am at St James', Barton Under Needwood (8) [21-2-12] in Eb, for this year's Christmas event.

All were welcomed with a hot coffee to warm us up on a very cold and damp morning, while members chatted and exchanged Christmas card and greetings.

Then it was to the ringing balcony that looks out over the church, where the bells were rung up ready for the morning's ringing.



*Ringling from the balcony*

These bells are renowned as not that easy to handle, so some of us were a little nervous about ringing them. We needn't have worried, as when we got the measure of the bells, they turned out to be a pleasant ring that went very smoothly. Assistant Ringing Master Stuart Hutchieson led the morning's ringing of a variety of 8 bell methods, with rounds and call changes in between, to cater for all abilities.

At around 11.00am ringing of the bells in the tower ceased and hot mulled wine and mince pies were served in the church.

A big thank you to Jill Rogers for providing the mince pies and coffee, also thank you once again to John Daubner for the excellent Mulled wine.



Whilst we were enjoying the refreshments members were able to enjoy ringing Christmas carols and tunes on hand

bells. Thank you to Geoff and Linda Pick for bringing their bells and music along.

The turnout throughout the morning numbered around 40 members. John Mulvey made a few announcements as to the society's plans and dates for 2012.

As Clive and Lucy were unable to stay long, thank you to Elizabeth Hutchieson, who kindly ran the raffle draw instead, to raise money for the Bell Restoration Fund. Six prizes were on offer this time, these included 2 bottles of wine, liqueur chocolates, shortbread, assorted cheese crackers and a scented candle.

Ringling Master Jean Nixon then organised the fall of the tower bells, after which members left the church to go shopping, or to the local pub for lunch before going home.

**Christine Hill**

## Notice

### Bloxwich and Pelsall

Please note that Bloxwich and Pelsall are to start to have joint practices on alternate Monday nights. To find out where they are on a particular Monday contact:

Mike Meakin           Tel: **01922 401450**

Tony Marsden.       Tel: **01543 362092**

### Cannock

On behalf of the ringers and PCC at St. Luke's, Cannock, we would like to thank the Society for the very generous gift of £150 towards the refurbishment of our clappers.

We have just finished adjustments to the twiddle pins using the Society's odd-struckness meter and now have a less odd-struck and clearer sounding ring!

Hopefully the Society will be able to visit in the not too distant future to hear for themselves.       **Geoff & Linda Pick**

### Brewood

**Bob Short** from Brewood would like to thank the Society for its help in restoring Brewood bells.

Would you like to receive your own copy of the Newsletter or notices about courses and society events? Then get your email address on to the list. Send your email address to John Mulvey. Emails to [lwascr01@ntlworld.com](mailto:lwascr01@ntlworld.com)

## Congratulations

### First quarter for Christopher



**Armitage**, Staffordshire, St John the Baptist  
Sunday 27 November 2011 in 39 minutes (4-2-20)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Christine Hill | 4 Karen Spink            |
| 2 Jean Nixon     | 5 Lance G Hill (C)       |
| 3 Jim Nixon      | 6 Christopher J Shadbolt |

For Evensong, First quarter for 16 year old Christopher at first attempt, also birthday compliment to both Jean Nixon, and Christopher. Well done Chris a very well struck quarter.

### First quarters

**Abbots Bromley**, Staffordshire. St Nicholas  
Sunday 18 December 2011 in 44m (11-1-5)

#### **1320 Doubles (2m)**

720 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 <b>Kara Greatorex</b> | 4 Stuart C W Hutchieson (C) |
| 2 Dawn Grundy           | 5 David J Crump             |
| 3 Elizabeth Hutchieson  | 6 P Roy Farrington          |

First QP for Kara - well done!

Rung prior to the Carol Service and also as a compliment to Oliver Farrington, grandson of Roy & Lynda, baptised today.

**Penkrige**, Staffs. St. Michael & All Angels  
Thursday 29 December 2011 in 45 mins.

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Petula Hughes  | 4 Andrew Hughes          |
| 2 Jean Nixon (C) | 5 Jim Nixon              |
| 3 Paul Geoghegan | 6 <b>Gordon Greenley</b> |

First attempt- 6. A farewell to our Team Curate, Rev. Julia Taylor, moving to Perton and to celebrate the birth of Charlotte to Paul and Victoria Andrews, whose mother is a member of our band; also a wedding anniversary celebration for 2 & 5.

### Congratulations also to Tim Ward of Cannock,

Gordon Greenley of Penkrige and the Davies family (Alex, aged 12, and parents, Keith and Julie) of Willenhall, who all rang their first quarter-peals recently.

## Congratulations and Thank You

**Jim** and **Jean Nixon** have rang over 100 quarters in 2011, the first time that they have done so many together in a single year. They included 12 'first quarters', numerous other firsts for other ringers, eg. Penny Allen & Lilas Rawlings' first on 12 and quite a few 'first in methods' for them as well. About half were rung for Sunday services at various churches.

### 1000th Peal for Clive and Lucy together:

#### **Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society**

**Lichfield**, Staffordshire, 2, Abnalls Lane

Wednesday 30 November 2011 in 2h12 (11 in G)

#### **5040 Spliced Plain Major (2m)**

1680 Little Bob, 3360 Plain Bob, 5 com, atw.

Composed: Stuart C W Hutchieson

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1-2 Lucy Smith       | 5-6 Clive M Smith             |
| 3-4 Mark R Eccleston | 7-8 Stuart C W Hutchieson (C) |

Many congratulations to Clive & Lucy on this achievement, after 50 years of peal ringing together:

#### Their first handbell peal

**Ely Diocesan Association** Cambridge, 2 Jordens Yard

Sunday April 16 1961 in 1h52 **5040 Plain Bob Minor**

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| 1-2 Lucy Allen         |
| 3-4 Clive M Smith      |
| 5-6 Anthony R Mann (C) |

### First Peals

Two members of the Society, who are both in their first year as undergraduates at Cambridge rang their first peals, on Friday 2 December 2011 in 2h46m. **Oliver Bardsley** is a ringer at Lichfield Cathedral and **James Dann** is a ringer at Pattingham.

To complete the university news congratulations to **Stephen Dann**, another Pattingham ringer, has become **Master of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers**.

#### **Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society**

**Mavesyn Ridware**, Staffordshire. St Nicholas

Thursday 22 December 2011 in 2h36 (8-3-7)

#### **5056 Cambridge Surprise Major**

Composed: Bernard H Taylor

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 S Geoffrey Pick          | 5 Jim Nixon                 |
| 2 R Jean Nixon             | 6 John F Mulvey             |
| 3 <b>Oliver P Bardsley</b> | 7 Andrew C Ogden            |
| 4 Dawn Grundy              | 8 Stuart C W Hutchieson (C) |

First peal on an inside bell:3.

## Forthcoming events

### New Members /Novice Ringers Meeting

For the novice ringer who has either recently joined, or may wish to join the Society: on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January the meeting at St Augustine, **Rugeley** (6) [ 7-2-26 in G], (SK045186) which again will be arranged for the new and recently trained ringer.

Refreshments will be served at 2.30pm, followed by ringing which will be of a suitable level. There will be a number of activities to interest novice ringers taking place in the church, including a chance to ring hand bells and try out ringing on computers and other activities. Books and sweatshirts from the Society's bookstall will be available.

After a short service there will follow a traditional ringers' tea. All novice ringers are invited to attend.

The thought of meeting new people and ringing on a different ring of bells could be a worry for your learners. Therefore the Committee would urge experienced ringers to make the effort to come along with their learners to support them, to introduce them to Society events and other local ringers. Please come along and join in the fun.

### Challenge Month

This year the committee have decided to hold a Challenge month throughout all of **February** in 2012. This is a chance for all towers to try and achieve something which as a tower they are unable to do normally. It could be to ring a new method and achieve a quarter or a peal, clean up your tower, hold an open day and encourage local people to come and join your band.

Stuart Hutchinson will be co-ordinating a peal week from the **11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

Jean Nixon will be co-ordinating a quarter peal day on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012.** If you would like help with a quarter on this day or any time throughout the challenge month please contact Jean or a committee member.

On the quarter peal day, the society will be holding a **"Skittles Evening"** at the

**Walsall Arms.**

**17 Bank Street, Walsall, West Midlands,  
WS1 2EP**



Besides the skittles there will be a choice of food to be had during the evening. This was a really fun evening the last time Mike arranged one a couple of years ago and was oversubscribed. So to ensure you don't miss out book your place with Mike Meakin.

There will be a notice going to your local tower in the near future with all the details and how to order your food.

### West Midlands Mid week Ringing group

**Next Meetings** are **1<sup>st</sup> February** and **1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.** Please contact David Ingram for towers on these days.

Tel: 01214 273221 or Email: [dringram@btinternet.com](mailto:dringram@btinternet.com)

### Tuesday Daytime Band

Next meetings are **17<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Tamworth** (10) [SK208042] 11:00am - 12:15pm  
12:15pm - 2:00pm Pub lunch

**Kingsbury** (8) **TBC** [SP214963] 2:00pm - 3:00pm

#### 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Stretton** (6) [SK 253264] 11.00 – 12.15pm

12:15 – 2:00 Lunch.

**Rolleston**(8) [SK235277] 2.00 – 3.00pm.

Further details can be found on the North Staffs web site:

[www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk)

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the Society are due on July 1<sup>st</sup>. each year: Please keep the Hon. Treasurer happy by forwarding them to him now, if you haven't already done so.

*If you would like anything advertised or have any news even if it's only a few lines, the next issue will go out on **5th March 2012.** Please let me have your articles about your New Year events and Challenge Fortnight achievements by **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012** to be included, thank you.*

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