

Ringling Round Leicestershire

Newsletter of the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

January 2023 : Issue 56

Contents

President's Message	Page 2
Firsts From Bellboard	Page 3
Upcoming Events	Page 3
Learn the Ropes	Pages 4 - 5
From the Districts	Page 5
Harborough District Christmas Outing	Page 6
News Bites	Page 7
Harby: An Update	Page 8
Education Committee News	Page 8
Foxes on Tour: Leamington Spa	Page 9
Congratulations to Phil Bowley	Page 10
Friends of the Bellfoundry	Page 10
Teaching the Teachers	Page 11
Ding! Dong! Merrily on High	Page 12
Leading LDG Quarter Peal Ringers 2022	Page 13
In the Wider Ringing Community	Page 14
Obituary: Eric Godfrey	Page 15
Obituary: W John Kinchin	Page 16
Obituary: John Vernon	Page 17
Margie's Apple, Cinnamon and Cider Cake	Page 18
Where, Oh Where is This?	Page 19

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this issue - its good to see so much going on in the guild. As I'm typing this its coming up to tea time on the 31st December, and I still haven't put all the articles together into the PDF version of the newsletter yet! I have just received a late submission - that'll teach me to have a deadline for copy so close to when the newsletter is due to be published!

I am a little later working on it than I hoped as Mark and myself were asked at short notice to go and ring in a quarter peal - Eliza's first of surprise major, ringing inside to Yorkshire at Thurnby. It is worth a mention as she started the year having not rung any quarters at all, her first being Stedman and Grandsire Doubles in February, she has finished the year having rung 30!

It is good to see elsewhere in this issue the progress being made by the young ringers at Thurcaston, and Jonathan Dickinson's hard work in starting up at band at Harby. Add to this the oversubscribed ART courses to teach the teachers, and it looks like the Guild is heading in the right direction with the recruitment and teaching of new ringers.

Here's to a busy and prosperous 2023!

Rebecca Banner
LeicesterGuildNews@gmail.com

President's Message

Over the last two months, I've enjoyed attending all of the District AGMs. They have been largely well attended and it's been nice to see a healthy number of new members elected. Most towers and meetings appear to be "back to normal" following CoVID, though sadly a number of ringers have not returned for a variety of reasons.

In October, I was a student on the ART Module M1 course at Hathern. This course is aimed at ringing teachers, and I can highly recommend it. It is suitable for both new teachers and for experienced teachers who want to add other techniques to their teaching toolkit. Although I have taught lots of people to handle a bell in the past, I learned a lot and came away with a wide range of new ideas. All the students on the course were from our Guild which puts us in a great position to teach lots of new recruits.

I was recently involved in helping on a couple of Heritage Open Day events at the Bell Foundry. During the days, visitors were shown around the foundry and were given a sample bell handling lesson. It was an excellent opportunity for some of us to put our new ART skills into practice. Let's hope some of the visitors have been inspired to learn to ring.

The Central Council have now launched the "Ring for the King" appeal, aimed at recruiting and teaching new pupils so that they're ready to ring for the Coronation. Several towers in the Guild are advertising for new ringers using this appeal. For the majority of us, this will be the first Coronation that we've rung for and I'm really looking forward to it.

A few local handbell groups have given performances over the Christmas period. The Loughborough handbell ringers rang at service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Staunton Harold. Quite an interesting experience ringing by candlelight in box pews in a church with no heating! Our ringing was much appreciated and was a great PR opportunity for the Guild. We also rang at the All Saints, Loughborough Carol Service and at Abbeyfield Care Home where several ringers/ringers' relatives are resident. Alan Berry, former Managing Director of John Taylor Bell Foundry, visibly enjoyed our ringing and really seemed to recognise change ringing when we stood next to him and rang a course of Plain Bob Major. Very sadly Eric Godfrey, former Treasurer of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and more recently ringer at Oaks in Charnwood, died shortly after our visit. RIP Eric.

Over the last couple of months, I've been very busy selling badges to commemorate ringing to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The badges, designed by Rebecca Banner, have been extremely popular and I have sold over 2000. I've received many compliments about both the badge design and badge quality and have had a large number of repeat orders. Badges have gone all over the world, including Europe, USA and Australia. Having recently sold out, I was looking forward to a rest from spreadsheets, packaging and trips to the Post Office - though I'm now considering ordering some more as I've received several large orders this week. I am delighted to say that as a result of badge sales, I have made a donation of £4000 to the Guild and will be donating over £3700 to the Loughborough Tower Fund. Some of this money will be used to fund a new set of ropes, due for delivery in the New Year. Advance warning!!! I will shortly be ordering badges to commemorate ringing for the Coronation. Further details from bellbadges@gmail.com

I wish everyone a very prosperous New Year,

Sally



Firsts From Bellboard

A round-up of people's bellringing firsts, as published on Bellboard.

First Call Changes as Conductor:

Rob Consett at Packington on 24th December

First Quarters:

George Ellis ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Packington on 24th October

Dexter Deackes ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Thurcaston on 16th November

Lynda Jaycocks ringing the treble to Grandsire Doubles at Lubenham on 26th November

Robert Cosnett ringing the tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Packington on 28th November

First Quarter Away From Cover:

Lisa Gammon ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Packington on 28th November

First Quarters of Minor:

Nicholas Burbage at Sharnford on 24th October

George Ellis at Packington on 14th November

Samantha Baker at Narborough on 18th December

First Surprise Inside:

Morgan Williams ringing Cambridge Minor on 11th December at St Mary de Castro

First Quarter on 10:

Morgan Williams on 23rd December at St Mary de Castro

First Quarter of Royal:

Mark Banner on 10th November at St Mary de Castro

First Peal of Royal:

Edward Walker at All Saints Loughborough on 17th December

First Peal on 12:

Lewis Benfield at The Cathedral on 21st October

First in Method:

The whole band ringing a quarter peal at Hallaton on 6th October, ringing Wearmouth Surprise Minor

Will Norton ringing at Peal of Bristol Major at Claybrooke on 17th December

Charlie Worger ringing a Peal of Yorkshire Major at Enderby on 27th December

Eliza Lewis-Skeath ringing a quarter peal of Yorkshire Major at Thurnby on 31st December

First Blows in Method:

Wendy Saywell ringing a quarter peal of Yorkshire Major at Ashby Folville on 9th December

First 6 Spliced:

Janice Atkinson at Ashby Folville on 25th November

First Surprise Minor in Hand:

Richard Pawley ringing a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor on 24th October

Special Mention:

In a first for many years – whole band of locals ringing at Harby on 25th December

Upcoming Events

Guild events for the forthcoming year are as follows:

14th January: Guild Social

Syston District

Ringling 10-12 at Barrow upon Soar followed by lunch at The Hunting Lodge, Barrow at 12.30. Numbers for the pub lunch by Tues 9th, please to either Ian Stonehouse or Carol Franklin. Menus available nearer the time.

25th February: Guild dinner

Cricket club – menu on website:
<https://leicesterddg.org.uk/ldg/>

29th April: Half Yearly meeting

Leicester District

8th July: Guild social

Hinckley District

15-17th September: Ringing course

Copt Oak

28th October: Guild AGM

Loughborough District

Further details will be published closer to the time - please add the dates to your diaries now!

Learn the Ropes

This is a new feature that I'm hoping to include each month in the newsletter. As the education committee has been so good at arranging courses to teach the teachers, all under the auspices of the Association of Ringing Teachers, we will be hopefully getting a good collection of learners who are going through the Learn the Ropes training scheme.

As a way of showing our congratulations to those learners, and to help encourage them in their ringing careers, it will be showcasing their achievements on this page.



Level 1 certificates being presented to Lucy Hadfield (above), and Barnaby Davis (right).

Thurcaston

Thurcaston currently has a strong band of youngsters. Peter Hunt and Tim Holland are already ART members and have been using the Learn the Ropes Scheme to teach their learners.



Level 3 certificates being presented to Dexter Deakes (left), and Jacob Peace (below).



Level 5 certificate being presented to Morgan Williams (left).

Desford

Mark and Rebecca Banner went on the ART module 1 course in October, and are now using the Learn the Ropes schemes with their existing learners. An assessment showed they had passed their level 1, and are working well towards level 2.



Claire Thompson, Rich Moon and Kay Gilbertson with their level 1 certificates.

From the Districts

Melton District

Melton District have had monthly meetings through the last quarter at Twyford in October, November AGM at Long Clawson and December at Stathern, all meetings were well attended and we've had a wide variety of ringing at them to suit all levels.

There are a number of learners in the district and we've been pleased to welcome many of them to meetings, we're also welcoming 6 new members joining the District this year.

We've had a welcome return of some of the quarter peal bands ringing at Twyford and Ashby Folville this quarter and members of the district rang an excellent quarter for Christmas at Tilton on the Hill on Friday 23rd Dec.

The Handbell ringers from Kirby Bellars gave a performance at Welby Church's 'Traditions of Christmas' Open Day on 10 December. We rang a range of tunes, read a few stories about Kirby's Handbell-

ringers of the early 1900's, then finished off our performance with Christmas Carols and our rendition of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'.



Quarter peal band at Tilton on the Hill

Harborough District Christmas mini-outing

A blue, cloudless sky, bright sunshine, and a very heavy frost greeted a dozen or so ringers from the Harborough District who congregated at Cottingham (Northants) for the start of a Christmas mini-outing. Coming out of Covid restrictions, we were really happy to have had the chance to hold a District outing earlier in the year, only for plans to be scuppered by the sad passing of the Queen two days before the outing. It has also been a couple of years since we have had a Christmas get-together due to Covid, so the idea of getting together a couple of weeks before Christmas, to have a mini-outing just over the border into Northamptonshire and a nice pub lunch was very attractive. Christmas jumpers and hats were encouraged, and a 'name the reindeer' competition provided a fund-raising opportunity.



Cottingham

The first tower, Cottingham (5, 11 cwt) provided an early challenge, but some nice ringing was appreciated by the parishioners who were decorating the church.

Then on to the delightful six (7 cwt) at Wilbarston, rehung and augmented in 2018, where we achieved the best ringing of the day. Although still bright and sunny, it was still extremely cold, so the warmth of the George in Ashley for an excellent lunch was very welcome.

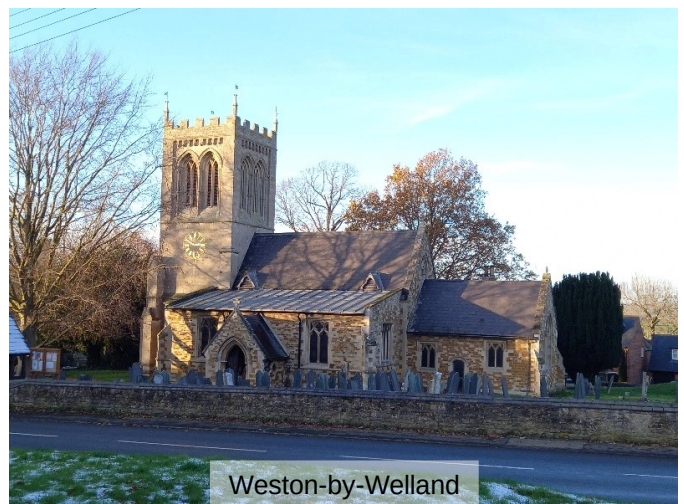


Wilbarston



Ashley

Warmed, fed and 'watered', we crossed the road to the pleasant little five (7 cwt), then finally the short hop along the road to Weston-by-Welland, another pleasant little five (5 cwt) - although we were left wondering if the ringers were consulted when the ringing chamber was moved upstairs!!



Weston-by-Welland

All-in-all a most enjoyable, if cold, day out. Thanks to Steve and Fiona for organising the day, and to incumbents and local ringers for welcoming us to their towers.

Andrew Young

News Bites

Oadby, Kibworth, Saddington

Following the resumption of ringing post-covid, we have decided to combine forces between Oadby, Kibworth and Saddington. So we now have a joint practice on Tuesday evenings: first and third weeks at Oadby, second at Saddington, fourth at Kibworth.

If you are interested in joining us it is always worth contacting us first (oadbybells @ gmail.com).

Although there are regular practices at all three towers, regular service ringing is not so easy, so it was a real challenge to try to get ringing for Christmas services at as many towers in the area as possible. Between us we managed to ring for carol services at Oadby, Kibworth, Saddington, Great Glen and Evington.

Andrew Young

ART training courses at Hathern

Module 1

Following the popularity of the October course, and the upcoming January course, a third Module 1 course is running at Hathern on 15th April. The module 1 courses are aimed at training how to teach bell handling.

Leicestershire ringers will get priority booking until the 3rd Jan by using pin 1933 (at the time of booking). You will need to register with the Association of Ringing Teachers to be able to book onto the course. This course is for new ringers who may never have taught before and are not sure where to start. It's also for experienced teachers who are interested in improving their teaching skills and want to support other teachers in the area.

<https://events.bellringing.org/events/courses/teaching-course-module-1-hathern-leicestershire-5>

Pin 1933

Module 2

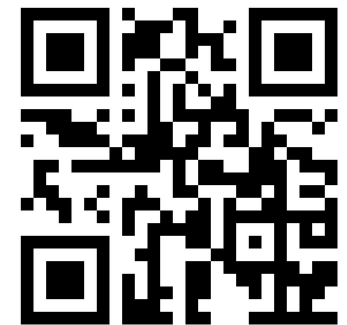
There is an ART module 2 course on 18th February. This is to train teachers how to progress their learners from rounds into method ringing. Places are open for booking:

<https://events.bellringing.org/events/courses/teaching-course-module-2f-hathern-leicestershire>

The priority booking pin is 1965.



Hathern Module 1 course



Hathern Module 2 course

Death: Michael D Staniforth

It is with great sadness that I announcement the death of Michael who passed away on 12th December in Stockport aged 90yrs of age. He was the brother of late Peter J Staniforth and in law of the late Jill Staniforth and uncle to myself and Robert D Pettifor.

Michael learnt to ring at St Mary's Anstey and was taught by Redvers Elkington as were many other ringers. He rang in many peals and was the last surviving member of the 4 peals in a day which was rung on 17th December 75 years ago this year.

He was also a founder member of the Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers.

He lived at Melton Mowbray for some years where he worked as a teacher, one of his pupils being the late Roland Cook.

Michael moved to Bedfordshire with his family for another teaching post and then to Acombe near York where he then continued his ringing and became Ringing Master at York Minster.

After a while Michael took a backseat in Ringing but was always interested to hear any ringing news from his brother.

He will be sadly missed.

Rosie Mason

Harby: an update

The past 3 months have seen continued progress at Harby, and we now have 5 regular learners coming each week, and my thanks go to Godfrey Allison from just over the border for coming each week to help, and also to James from Ab Kettleby who came over during October Half Term during my holiday.

We rang the bells (with help from Long Clawson ringers) for the Remembrance Service, which included the usual parade of veterans, and the local Beaver/Cub/Scout group, who walked up to the church from the war memorial.

Progress had been made by the learners such that 4 of them rang rounds for the service of 9 lessons & carols. Unfortunately woodworm stopped holding hands on the tenor slider, and this broke during the ringing, but no damage to the individual was done.

Thankfully the Bellfoundry had a spare one in stock, and we were able to replace this in time for ringing for Christmas Morning. For the first time in over 30 years, we managed to ring rounds on 5 with a resident band from the village, which was a great achievement - the Vicar announcing this at the start of the service. The first Carol was "Ding Dong Merrily on High" so wonder if he anticipated this?

Now that most of our learners are able to ring in rounds, our practices are now more appropriate for visitors, so if anyone is interested in coming over, you will be made welcome. We ring 7:30 - 8:30(ish) on Thursdays.

Jonathan Dickenson



Education Committee News

The Education and Recruitment Committee have hit the ground running now that ringing is just about back to normal. Here are some details about upcoming events:

Teaching the Teachers

Following the ART training module 1 course in October another has been planned for 21st January - all places are full.

More ART courses have been arranged both for teaching bellhandling, and for teaching from rounds to methods. See page 6 for more details.

Opportunities to improve your ringing

A conducting course is in the works, looking at calling call changes, bob calling and conducting.

Also looking at holding ringing up and down courses - for ringing up on your own; and in peal.

LDG 2023 Ringing Course – Copt Oak Memorial Hall booked for the 3rd weekend in September 2023 (15th / 16th / 17th Sept)

Recruitment and new learners

Desford Scarecrow Festival 26th - 28th August - an ideal opportunity to run a recruitment drive. The committee are looking at how to run the event and have a repeatable plan so the same plan can be used at future events.

Ring for the King campaign spearheaded by the Central Council of Bellringers is being used by churches within the guild. A poster is available from the education committee.

Lewis Benfield is hoping to set up a school of bellringing, similar to the Birmingham School of Bellringing. More assistance is needed to get this going.

A new tower captain is needed at Birstall, with the aim of teaching new recruits.

Gaddesby also needs a new tower captain, they already have recruits keen to learn.

Saltby also have new learners that need a teacher.

Foxes on Tour: Leamington Spa



St Mary Magdalene, Lillington

Then we were onto Leamington itself for the well renowned, Roman Catholic, St Peter's with its swaying tower. This was an experience for us all as the bells were quite challenging but everybody managed very well and we got to hear the glorious sound they produced. We were gathering a band for Bristol Major but before we could get there, a rope broke! Luckily by that point, everyone that wanted to had already rung.

The final tower was a short walk away to All Saints, Leamington with their lovely 12cwt, 8. By that point everyone was very tired so we grabbed some lunch before the journey home. We wandered back through the park, crossing the bridge where we could see the church sitting beautifully across the river.



St Peter's, Leamington Spa



Overall, it was an amazing day and it was really nice, not only to experience new towers, but also to meet new people and make friends with other like-minded ringers. Thanks go to Annie Hall and the Coventry Spires for organising such a wonderful day!

Eliza Lewis-Skeath

Congratulations to Phil Bowley

Phil reached 90 on the 15th December! To celebrate this important event, many of his ringing friends convened at St Michael and All Angels Diseworth the day before to ring with him and enjoy an excellent ringers' tea. Phil mentioned that it would be nice to ring a quarter peal to celebrate and he thought he was still up to it. We had no doubt about this and so it proved – we rang an excellent quarter at Coleorton the following Monday with Phil on the tenor.



Leicester Diocesan Guild

On Monday, 19 December 2022 in 45m

Coleorton, Leicestershire

St Mary the Virgin

Tenor: 12-3-25 in G

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Liz Watson
- 2 Terence Lord
- 3 Mary Hale
- 4 John D Cooper
- 5 Robert P Watson
- 6 Stuart Hale
- 7 Colin Lord (C)
- 8 Phil Bowley

90th birthday compliment to the ringer of the tenor. Still a keen ringer and still umpires for a Sunday cricket league!



The band (in order anticlockwise) that rang the quarter peal with Phil Bowley to celebrate his 90th birthday. Phil top left.

Friends of the Bellfoundry

Would you like to become a “Friend of the Bellfoundry”?

At the recent Central Council roadshow, the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust were delighted to launch their new “Friends of” membership scheme, with Leicestershire Diocesan Guild president Sally Brown being their very first “Friend”!

Benefits of your membership include:

- a free bellfoundry tour
- priority access to bell castings and LBT workshops and events
- access to the Taylor’s tower for experienced ringers
- 10% discount in our museum gift shop

All this and more for just £22.50 a year!

To find out more and register your interest, contact us on info@loughboroughbellfoundry.org today!

All memberships go towards supporting their charitable work in conservation, education and outreach.



Teaching the Teachers

I have been wanting to go on an ART training module for some time now, and when I heard that the Guild was arranging a Module 1 training day I was very excited. Nine other people from the Guild were obviously very keen too, as all the places for the training day at Hathern on 22nd October were filled by Leicester Guild members before the course had the chance to be opened up to people from further afield!

We were a mixed group – some trainee teachers who had never taught before, people who had been thrust into a teaching role as being the only person available or willing to give it a go, and some of us who have been teaching for years, but wanting to learn new techniques.

The group gelled immediately, partly as most of us already knew each other. Throughout the day there was plenty of communication within the group as members discussed how to apply what we were learning to our own situations – drawing on the experience not only of Moira, the course tutor, but that of the other participants too.



Moira guided us deftly through the curriculum, a mix of presentations and hands on practice, with plenty of tea breaks to help sustain flagging minds so we were fresh for the next bit of learning!

Coming away from the course we all felt we had learnt something new. Some participants have gone on to immediately apply the skills learned whilst teaching their current learners, and there has already been discussion on the WhatsApp group about what techniques to use in certain situations. Some of the things that people have taken away with them have been: seeing how to break down teaching the different strokes into small manageable steps, and how to put them all back together again into a whole; the use of language when teaching, and thinking about how what we mean isn't always what the learner hears; and that now we are in contact with other teachers at similar and greater levels of experience in our area to provide support.



Many thanks to Tony Croft and Rebecca Odames from the Leicester Diocesan Guild Education Committee for organising the day, and to Moira Johnson the course Tutor and Lesley Belcher from ART for their invaluable guidance.

Rebecca Banner



Group photo: Tony Croft, Ian Maynard Smith, Rebecca Odames, Tim Walker, Liz Watson, Robert Watson, Sally Brown, Sarah Catherall, Rebecca Lee, Sam Orton, Moira Johnson, Mark Banner, Rebecca Banner.



Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Christmas Tree Festivals in Leicestershire

November and December see many churches having Christmas Tree Festivals, often with the local bellringers providing a tree.

Here are a few that were around this year:



The Bell Ringers Tree at Hathern, where they have been decorating a tree for 18 years!

Here is a photo of the Barrow upon Soar, Holy Trinity bell ringers tree at their recent Christmas tree festival. The ringers are trying to recruit and decided this festival would be an ideal opportunity to raise awareness. If someone starts to learn now, they might just be ready to ring for the forthcoming coronation in May 2023.



The tree at the parish church Loughborough has a very modern feel to it.

More recruitment opportunities at St Botolph's Shepshed with a decorated demo bell.



And at Desford a traditional collection of bells and angels. The theme for the Christmas Tree Festival this year was films, and we chose "Its a Wonderful Life", particularly the quote "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets their wings".

Leading LDG Quarter Peal Ringers 2022

I carelessly mentioned to the Editor over a post-practice pint that I'd rung quite a lot of quarter peals in 2022 and - the beer talking no doubt - I offered to take a look to see if I'd rung more than anyone else in the Guild. If you don't like numbers pass swiftly on...

Imagine my disappointment when the Editor provided the following analysis from Bellboard: (see right)

So well done Lewis (and note that he rang a further 7 quarters in Leicestershire which don't appear here because his middle initial was not included in the submission to Bellboard; I have 9 quarters missing for the same reason). This was not the result I was looking for so following the maxim 'lies, damn lies and statistics' I thought there must be a better way to look at the data. The first table is quarters rung in Leicestershire, so I decided to have a look if quarters rung for the LDG gave a fairer ranking (i.e. me higher). This produced the following: (see below)

Rank	Count	Ringer
1	31	Lewis D Benfield
2	28	Michael Angrave
3	20	Alison M Harvey
3	20	Neil W Harvey
5	19	Eliza I Lewis-Skeath
6	18	Mark J Pendery
6	18	Steve Millington
6	18	Terry Iliffe
9	17	Alistair Donaldson
9	17	Andrew Young
9	17	Anthony J Rowan
9	17	Sally A Brown
13	16	David M Brown
13	16	Robert P Watson
15	15	R Ian Stonehouse
16	14	Colin Lord
17	13	Diana Young
17	13	R Philip Graves
17	13	Sophia A M Stonehouse
20	12	Howell J Williams
20	12	Mark P Banner

Rank	Count	Ringer
1	14	Eliza I Lewis-Skeath
2	13	R Ian Stonehouse
3	12	Robert P Watson
4	11	David Gammon
4	11	John Hawes
4	11	Steve Millington
4	11	Terry Iliffe
8	10	Colin Lord
8	10	Lewis D Benfield
8	10	Sophia A M Stonehouse
11	9	Moirra Johnson
11	9	R Philip Graves
13	8	Alison M Godfrey
13	8	Andrew Young
13	8	Mark J Pendery
16	7	Alison Iliffe
16	7	Liz Watson
16	7	Sally A Brown
19	6	Alistair Donaldson
19	6	Howell J Williams
19	6	Luke G Groom
19	6	Terence Lord

So now well done Eliza! And yes a better result for me.

But note that this search picks up a lot less results - lots of quarters aren't attributed to a Guild. And a scan down the rest of the table showed that Lewis has rung a further four quarters without the 'D', which would bring him up to 1st equal ... except that I rang a further four quarters without the 'P' which I think puts me in first place by this measure! The right result!

Finally I decided to look at quarters rung anywhere by Leicestershire ringers. I couldn't find a quick search that listed this so I only provide what I think is the top 10. Disaster though! I should have quit while I was ahead!

1	Alistair Donaldson	166
2	Robert P Watson	67
3	Lewis D Benfield	51
4	Steve Millington	49
5	Michael Angrave	29
6	Eliza I Lewis-Skeath	29
6	Terry Iliffe	29
6	Ian Stonehouse	25
9	Mark J Pendery	24
10	Alison M Harvey	21
10	Neil W Harvey	21
10	Sally A Brown	21
10	Sophia Stonehouse	21

Well done Alistair!

There results are of course reliant on my ability to search Bellboard records accurately. There may be duplications, quarters missing and any number of other inaccuracies. To meet newsletter publication deadlines the results were extracted on 29th December.

Any disputes will be resolved by the Guild President, if raised in person after buying her a drink. She can usually be found in the Three Nuns after Loughborough All Saints practice on a Wednesday evening.

Happy Quarter Peal ringing in 2023!

Robert (P) Watson

In the Wider Ringing Community

There seems to have been a sudden flurry of bell ringing related media on the internet in the last month or so.

The BBC has had two different radio broadcasts relating to bells:

Bells That Still Can Ring: An exploration of John Taylor & Co's bell foundry in Loughborough and some of their most iconic bells - including Great Paul at St Paul's Cathedral and AC/DC's 'hell's bell'.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001fvcz>

Laura Barton's Notes on Music: The music writer presents a seasonal edition of her series of meditations on different aspects of music - featuring bells. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001g8rt>



Bells That Still Can Ring



Laura Barton's Notes on Music



The Bells of Brierley Hill

Over on YouTube Historic England has produced a video on the **Bells of Brierley Hill**, and how they are an audible indicator of life in the town.



Hidden London Hangouts

And The London Transport Museum channel has produced a video in their series **Hidden London Hangouts**, on bellringing following their episode on Whitechapel:



Fun with Bells

Fun with Bells has produced a two part episode on ringing in redundant churches. The link here is for part 1.

<https://funwithbells.com/redundant-churches-p1/>



ITV News

And there was a segment on the **ITV News** on how bellringing needs more recruits:

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/why-the-tradition-of-church-bell-ringing-is-under-threat/fwjzbz5>

Meanwhile an official Ring for the King website has been created to help with recruitment for the upcoming coronation:
<https://ringfortheKing.org/>



Ring for the King

Eric George Henry Godfrey (15 Dec 1934- 18 Dec 2022)



Eric was a regular visitor to Leicestershire before moving to Loughborough in 2013, with his wife Margaret, to live near his daughters Judith and Alison. Leicestershire ringers who met him might be interested to know more about his ringing in Surrey and his links with the Central Council. What follows is adapted from his Ringing World obituary.

Eric learned to ring at Addington, Surrey in the early 1960s to follow his wife, Margaret, who was already a ringer. He made rapid progress, becoming tower captain in 1965, a position he held with distinction for over forty years. Addington subsequently became one of the best six bell Sunday service bands for miles around; the band were capable of ringing multi-spliced Minor methods to a high standard. It was the usual practice to ring a quarter of a Surprise or Delight method for evensong, usually conducted by Eric who was an extremely competent 6 bell conductor. Eric rang his first peal (Plain Bob Minor) at Addington on 8 September 1963. His peal total of 38 was modest but he rang over 1,200 quarter peals, the vast majority at Addington. Several good ringers developed their ringing skills at Addington and Eric taught many people to ring.

Eric was a Surrey Association stalwart, having held the positions of Northern District Secretary (1965-1970) Master (1978-1980), Secretary (1987-1993),

and President (1996-2014). He was a Chartered Accountant by profession, later teaching accountancy and becoming Head of Business Studies at a further education college.

Eric was a Central Council representative for the Surrey Association from 1978 – 1992, Honorary member from 1993, and Additional member 2010 - 2011, attending 32 meetings in total. He held the posts of Auditor (1979-1997), Treasurer and member of the Administrative Committee (1997- 2005), member of the Ringing Centres Committee 1999 - 2000, and he was a Director of the Millennium Grants Company which arranged lottery-funded grants for towers ahead of the Millennium.

Outside of work, family and ringing, Eric's interests included watching cricket and rugby, and walking. After moving to Loughborough, he rang regularly at Oaks in Charnwood and Coleorton and enjoyed regular outings to further increase his tower total (reaching 2989 different towers). He finally stopped ringing four years ago and, in late 2021, moved into a dementia specialist care home.

Eric's funeral will take place on 16th January at Oaks in Charnwood. For enquiries and details, please contact Judith via email judith@godfrey4.org.uk.

Judith Godfrey

W John Kinchin

28th January 1938 to 8th November 2022

William John Kinchin (always known as John) was born on 28th January 1938 in the Hospital of Saint Cross in Rugby and grew up an only child in Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire. He joined the church choir as a boy, and when his voice broke, decided to try his hand at bellringing.



Whilst in the RAF on National Service at Gaydon as a Navigational Instrument Fitter (working on Valiant Bombers) he convinced the powers that be to classify bellringing as a sport, so whilst everybody else was running around he was out bellringing with his friends!

He travelled to and from the RAF camp (and to bellringing) on his trusty motorbike. The registration was KRP and it was known as "Kinchin's Roaring Putt-Putt". On one occasion, he was taking a friend on the back of said motorbike to go bellringing. They entered a narrow country lane across a field – seeing the road on the other side of the field in the distance, Dad assumed the road was straight and opened her up!!

Unfortunately, there was a slight hill in said field, and just over the brow of the hill the road did a tight hairpin turn! There was no way Dad could take the turn, so he did the sensible thing and kept going straight across the field! I guess it was rather a rough ride, as apparently his passenger called him some

colourful names and decided to walk back to camp! He never rode pillion on Dad's bike again!

In 1961 he left the RAF and started work at English Electric in Whetstone. In the same year he married Mary Wilford and they moved to Braunstone Town on the outskirts of Leicester. They both joined the band at St Andrew's Aylestone, where in those days Surprise Major was often rung for Sunday Service. Dad ultimately became Tower Captain.

In the mid-eighties, he joined the band at St Peter's in Whetstone where the bells had recently been augmented from 6 to 8. Again, Dad got involved, and on occasion the practice nights at Whetstone were like Aylestone from the 70's with some cracking ringing! Who can forget "Uncle Jim's" super-fast touches of Stedman with impeccable striking!

Dad was never happy with the sound of the two new trebles at Whetstone, they sounded rather harsh and didn't really fit with the rest of the bells. When Mum passed away early in 2021, we, as a family, decided to donate two new bells to replace these. The resulting bells are super and really sing out. We are so grateful Dad was able to ring on these bells and hear them. Even though the bells are in memory of Mum, we will always think of them as being in memory of Dad as well. He was so pleased with the finished result, and proud he was able to don his overalls and assist with the hanging.

He wasn't a prolific peal ringer, but he rang 20 full peals and numerous quarter peals. His first peal was in 1953 at Stanford on Avon and was 3 doubles methods. He was always a stickler for excellent striking – he would rather ring well struck call changes than badly struck surprise! He regularly visited us in Sheringham and was a valuable asset to the ringing at the newly rehung Upper Sheringham, assisting with the teaching of many of the learners there.

In the spring of 2022, Dad started to get a little breathless. Nothing much, we didn't think, he was 84 after all. He started to struggle a little with walking up hills, but was still going bellringing and climbing the ladder to wind the church clock every week!

Unfortunately, he ended up in Glenfield Hospital diagnosed with lung disease which progressed alarmingly quickly. He passed away in hospital on Tuesday 8th November 2022. He leaves 2 daughters (Anne and Sue), 5 Grandsons (Christopher, Nicholas, Michael, Richard and Simon) and a great-granddaughter Evelyn. All except Evelyn are bellringers, and we imagine as soon as little Evelyn is big enough she will continue the family tradition.

Sue Morton

John Vernon

August 7th 1934 – September 18th 2022

John Vernon died peacefully in hospital on September 18th aged 88 years.

John was born in Stoney Stanton, the second son of George and Mary Vernon, the local grocers, being preceded by his twin brother Mick by about an hour. Following his school years John, on his 15th birthday, went to work at a local farm. He was very keen to learn the many skills which gave him a lasting love of the countryside.



When John saw an advertisement for someone to manage and care for Burbage Common and Woods, he took his opportunity and secured the job. Over a period of several years John laid the foundation to transform the then wilderness to the popular open space enjoyed by many today.

John's abilities were recognised by the Local Authority as he took on the job to supervise the management of the playing fields and trees within the wider area of Hinckley and Bosworth. As the Council reorganised John secured the job as the Leisure Services Manager and his team were responsible for the Common and Woods he had brought back to life, all the sports facilities in the borough and the local

cemeteries. Following his retirement, he returned in a consultancy role advising planners about the local trees.

John, as a boy, sang in the church choir, and remained with them for most of his life, leading them as Choirmaster, as well as singing with other local choirs and the Stanley Opera company at Hinckley's amateur theatre.

As a teenager John was taught to ring by the then Ringing Master Nun Walker who was instrumental in teaching many youngsters in the village. Along with his twin brother they soon became very proficient and at age 18 John was appointed the Deputy Ringing Master, taking on the role of Ringing Master after Nun Walker died in 1972. In his late teens he joined the Society of Rambling Ringers when their tours involved mainly cycling and Youth Hostelling.

John served some time as the District Ringing Master where, when visiting St Mary's Church, Hinckley, he met a young Elizabeth Wilcox, the girl he subsequently married, and they settled in Stoney Stanton, where they spent the rest of their life.

John devoted his life to ringing at Stoney Stanton, remaining the Ringing Master for many years, teaching many as he strived to keep a band to ring for all the services of the church.

Although not a prolific peal ringer, John rang his first peal in 1953 and by the end of 1954 had rung 26 peals, three of these being in hand. He continued to ring tower bell peals throughout his life but developed a liking to ringing peals in hand, 101 in total, ringing with the likes of Alf Ballard, Alan Catell, Walter (Titch) Whitehead, Peter Staniforth and Brian Burrows. Of his 221 peals John rang 208 of these for the Leicester Diocesan Guild.

Sadly, towards the end of his life, John suffered with dementia and his ability to ring was taken away. At his funeral, as the cortege arrived at the Crematorium, handbells were rung and after the wake, a band rang a memorial quarter peal of Yorkshire at St Michael's Stoney Stanton.

Since January, Stoney Stanton has lost two stalwarts of the ringing scene with the passing of the Vernon twins. A peal celebrating their lives is already planned for the two men who will not only be missed at St Michael's, but also within the village, where they spent their whole lives.

*Mick Angrave
Chair of the Hinckley District,
Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers*

Margie's Apple, Cinnamon & Cider cake

Ingredients

Apple Filling

- 3 large crisp eating apples: Most varieties will work, but do not use cooking apples – they go mushy. (Braeburn's are good)
- 3 tbsps of cider: Choose a bottle with a good strong apple flavour, of a type you like, then you can drink the leftovers while your cake bakes
- ½ tsp of ground cinnamon
- 40g caster sugar
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract: I have used a dribble of vanilla bean paste, and it works too
- 3 tbsps of double cream

Cake

- 175g butter: Or you can use baking fat because it creams easily
- 150g caster sugar
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 150g self-raising flour
- 50g ground almonds

Method

- Peel, core & quarter the apples and cut them into thin slices. It is important to use thin slices because thick ones are too heavy for the cake.
- Soak the apple slices in the cider, cream, sugar, vanilla, & cinnamon mix. This mixture tastes lovely, but try not to eat too much because you need the liquid later.
- Make the sponge by creaming the butter and sugar together. The paler and fluffier the creamy mixture gets, the better the sponge will be.
- Next, beat the eggs in, a bit at a time, using a spoonful of flour to stop the whole lot curdling. Then, fold in the last of the flour and the ground almonds.
- The cake mixture will be quite stodgy, so loosen it up with the liquid strained off from the apple slices. The mixture needs to be 'a soft dropping consistency' - which is what they used to say in school cookery lessons. If it is still too stodgy add a drop of cider (if you have not already drunk it)
- Put half your mixture into a greased (or lined) tin, then add a layer of half of the apple slices. Add the rest of the mixture into the tin and top it off with the rest of the apple slices.
- Bake it all at 190C for about 50 minutes. If it is browning too fast, and the middle of the cake is still uncooked (test it with a skewer), cover it up with foil and lower the temperature a bit

A word about cake tins

This mixture makes a big cake, so you need a big tin.

A round 23cm (9") cake tin will work to give a big cake that will cut easily into 8 slices, but the cake will be only about 6-7cm high.

A square 20cm (8") cake tin will make a slightly deeper (8cm) cake, which cuts up easily into square pieces

Where, Oh Where, Is This?

When the items gifted to the Guild from the family of Alf Ballard were sorted out, a mystery photograph was revealed

8 bells, 3 small boys, and a flat-capped chap aged about 70.

There are metal railings and gate (so probably pre-war), a mysterious cogged wheel (possibly part of a windlass/hoist), a baby's pram on the street (those were the days!), and a small building that looks suspiciously like a public loo.....

Can anyone out there shed any light on this?



Margie Brimacombe