# the publication of the durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association of church Bell Ringers 



# THE D\&N Times 

## UPDATE: RINGING TO REMEMBER

Rachael Houchin, Durham

Since the last issue of THE TIMES, the Ringing to Remember project has gotten under way, with commemorative ringing taking place across the Association.
If the scope and intention of this project has passed you by, then let me remind you: 'Ringing to Remember' is the Association's five-year long project which aims to remember the forty-one ringers from the D\&N who fell during the First World War.
The is truly a monumental task to undertake, but it is the very least that we can do to recognise the sacrifice of these people.
The first piece of ringing was on 16th December for Alix Oliffe Liddle of Darlington and continued with ringing for Thomas Henry Wake and Wilfred Hereward Wake of

Bamburgh and Earnest Ransom Mundle of Jesmond. During May and June there will be ringing for Jack Stewart of Darlington, Philip Hall of Bamburgh, Cecil Sayer of Sunderland and Archibald Hetherington of Allendale.
Details of these soldiers, and the associated commemorative ringing, can be found on pages 13-15 of this edition of THE TIMES and also on the Ringing to Remember Blog.

If you are interested in getting involved in ringing then please contact Rachael Houchin. If you have any further information about any of the ringers who died during the war, or wish to share details of commemorative ringing then please get in touch with Ellen Crabtree.


## THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY

Karen Dickinson, North Shields

Many towers of the $\mathrm{D} \& \mathrm{~N}$ joined in with ringing on Friday 8th, Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th to commemorate the cessation of hostilities in Europe at the end of WWII.

Quarter peals were rung at Ovingham, Ponteland, Hartlepool, Rothbury, Durham, Willington and Shincliffe with Allendale, Lanchester, St Cuthbert's Darlington, Ryton, Barnard Castle, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Hexham, Shildon, Bamburgh, Gosforth,

Ponteland, Sunderland and North Shields also completing further ringing over the course of the weekend.

Thank you to all involved!

Further details of the ringing that was carried out over the course of the weekend can be found on pages 11 and 12.


# Goings on in the Southern District <br> Jack Hanlon, Hartlepool 

The year so far has been great for the Southern District. We started it with a District Meeting at Darlington, Holy Trinity, (somehow we managed to squash twenty-nine ringers into the very small belfry) and Hurworth.
There is now regular ringing at St. John's as they have been greatly improved by having a small working team attend to them last year. Stephen Duguid is trying to resurrect a band at the church, and has attracted a few potential ringers who are being taught at St. Cuthbert's. They had a very good write up in the Northern Echo, which was good publicity for the church and it is to be a hive of activity this year, with the Association 8 Bell Striking Competition being held on Saturday 13th June (have you entered a team?!), and having a Southern District Advanced Practice every other Tuesday. Our advanced practices are open to anyone to come along, but the minimum you need to be able to ring is Plain Bob Minor. A lot of us, myself included, are currently 'Battling with Bristol'!
In March we held a great day out to Newcastle, where we rang at Heworth, St. John's, Benwell, and Fenham. The battle of that day was most certainly Benwell - these bells challenged even our most experienced ringers! April saw St. Oswald's Church in Hartlepool host the Memorial Service for Richard Turner, a district stalwart who was tragically killed in November of last year. This occasion was very much a celebration of life, and was proceeded by a fantastic bring and share dinner. The service contained some good choral numbers with the $\mathrm{D} \& \mathrm{~N}$ Choir being ably conducted by Kris King. Richard would have most certainly approved of Matthew Atherton's performance of Widor's Toccatta on the organ.
We are hoping to have a significant amount of work done on the bells at St. Oswald's and have already started removing all the sand from the bell pits a gruesome job! You could always help
contribute to the restoration appeal by purchasing some raffle tickets at any major D\&N event. The raffle contains a fine selection of Richards's alcoholic beverages and will be drawn at the Annual Dinner in October. St. Oswald's was also host to a Peal of Grandsire Caters in February, in memory of Richard.
Recently, we held a 12 bell practice at Stockton and were joined by the Central District. This collaboration worked very well and was great to see a packed -out tower. The night got off to an exciting start with a broken stay, but soon got back under control with some great 12 bell ringing of Little Bob and Grandsire. There was lots of firsts; first on 12 , first on 10 , first plain hunt on 10 and first broken stay, to name a few! In the recent 6 Bell Striking Competition at St. John's, Newcastle, it was very nearly a victory for St. Cuthbert's who narrowly missed out to Hexham


Stephen Duguid and Kate Millar at St. John's Darlington
by half a point - better luck next time. Hexham, you need to watch out! There have been 18 Tower Bell quarters at St Cuthbert's so far this year, half of which were Surprise Major and, of which, three of these were spliced. This is a great achievement for our ringers who continue to learn new methods and practice them at our advanced practices and then solidify them by ringing a long extent. Other quarters rung include Surfleet, Stedman, Grandsire and Kent. Continued thanks goes to Chris Enzor for organising these quarter peals.
At the time of reading, we will have enjoyed a very fine trip around North Yorkshire, ringing at six towers including Felixkirk, Whorlton and Cowesby, to name a few. Over 30 people are on the list to attend and we should have some great ringing and fellowship that day.
I extend my thanks to all the ringers who come out and ring for services, practices, weddings and funerals, and who continue to support and keep alive our great tradition. Andrew Frost and Anthea Enzor do a superb job of Chairman and Ringing Master respectively; without them and their enthusiasm our district would be a much less exciting place.

Please do get in touch with Secretary Jack Hanlon jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk or Ringing Master Anthea Enzor; acenzor17@msn.com if you want to know more about what's going on in the Southern District.


## Goings on in the Central District <br> Robert Criddle, Brancepeth

As usual, the past six months have been rather busy for the Central District with a whole array of varied and enjoyable events taking place. The first of these was the Annual District Meeting which was held in November at Lanchester, when the 2014 District Officers were unable to escape reelection for 2015. The ADM was also tinged with sadness as the District marked the sudden passing of our good friend Richard Turner. Although principally associated with the Southern District, Richard spent many years working around Durham, and a put a lot of time and effort into helping inexperienced ringers - particularly University of Durham students - to progress through Surprise Major quarter peals through the use of the affectionately named "Turner Ladder". Richard was a regular visitor at District events, and he is certainly sadly missed by a lot of people.

Rather unusually, the first two months of 2015 saw District events taking place at the same tower: Shincliffe hosted both the District meeting in January,


The mini ring being used to full effect inside the church!

and also a rope splicing workshop in February. The workshop, organised by Ellen Crabtree, proved to be a huge success - with attenders from both the Central and Northern Districts, who were ably assisted by expert volunteer tutors from as far away as Nottingham! Thanks are due to everybody who helped to make this particular event such a worthwhile morning.

The District's second full meeting of the year was at Blaydon and Ryton in May - where we were unfortunate enough to have to elect a new District Chairman. After over sixteen years in the north-east, including six years as Chairman, Richard Bimson has made the difficult decision to relocate to Leicestershire - taking Izabelle with him. The Bimsons have been enthusiastic members of the District, particularly at Brancepeth and Shincliffe, and will be very much missed by their friends in the area - they were presented with a variety of gifts from the District at the AGM to wish them well. Alex Pym was elected to replace Richard as Chairman - so many thanks are due to both Richard for his many years of service, and to Alex for volunteering to take on this key District position.

On a ringing-related note, three bands took part in the District striking contest at Heworth in March, and went on to the Association final at St John's, Newcastle, in May - well done and thanks to South Shields, Durham St Nic's, and

DUSCR for taking part. Well done, too, to everybody who joined in the joint Central \& Southern District 12bell practice at Stockton in April, which was yet another popular evening.
At an Association level, the District hosted three events during the period the Carol Service at South Shields in December, the Tower Representatives' Meeting in February (again, at Shincliffe!) and the AGM in April (at Brancepeth). The AGM in particular was a well-attended and varied day - with ringing on the steel bells at Willington, and on handbells, mini-ring and tower bells at Brancepeth, followed by a superb tea attended by over 75 people.
Thanks are due to everybody who has helped to make the past six months such a success for the District - especially those who have provided such excellent teas at Shincliffe (particularly tasty soup and bread), Brancepeth (lots of quiche and salads) and Ryton (very enjoyable cucumber sandwiches). We look forward to the second half of 2015, which begins with our District "firsts" quarter peal month during June - when we hope that many people will rise to new and exciting challenges!

Mr Bimson looking overwhelmed as the CD thank him and Izabelle for their contributions to the district


Please do get in touch with Rob Criddle (Secretary; rcriddle@gmail.com), Ellen Crabtree (Ringing Master; e.p.crabtree@.durham.ac.uk) or take a look on the D\&N website if you'd like more information on forthcoming Central District events.

# Goings on in the Northern District 

Peter Dawson, Newcastle

After consultation at last November's AGM, the ND officers are trialling some changes to the sequence of ND events this year. We have held two traditional, ring, service, tea and meeting events, in February at Newburn and in June at Bamburgh and Embleton. The beginning of March saw our district striking competition take place at Cramlington, with 8 bands entering. On the same day we held a focussed 'Cambridge S Major morning' at SJB, Newcastle, in which three people wanting to progress from ringing surprise minor to major was the focus. All three ringers have made great progress and have been spotted ringing the practised method at recent Association events! A week later we assisted in running a training day organised by the Gosforth ringers aimed at providing a platform for ringing Stedman. Well done to those progressing and thank you to the helpers at both events. As in the past couple of years we held the ND quiz evening, this year's at Newcastle Cathedral on 30th March, once again with Karen as our quiz master. This also doubled as our April event due to Holy Week falling on our usual Saturday. Saturday 2nd May finally gave us the chance to move away from the traditional Saturday event, with it being replaced by a two hour practice at Fenham. Initial conclusions were encouraging - it was noted that attendance was strong from the beginning of the practice - which usually hasn't been the case on meeting Saturdays. It was also the first opportunity for quite some time that we have had sufficient numbers to ring the standard 8 Surprise Major spliced in a touch. We have held two further mid-week practices at Hexham and the Cathedral aimed at ringing on higher numbers. Although numbers were slightly lower it allowed for some focus for those who did attend.
Thanks must go to Clive who organised a fantastic ND trip to the area around Leeds in April, some of the ringers got
their first chance to ring at a 12 (Leeds Minster) outside our own Association. Mirroring our Association events to the commemorate each D\&N ringer who fell in the First World War, with a quarter peal at the individual's tower, Howard has also organised quarter peals to be rung at Newcastle Cathedral. The commemorative plaque itself is sited inside the Cathedral on a pillar at the bottom of the entrance to the ringing chamber. This is a project that will span five years. If you are interested in being involved in the commemorative ringing at the Cathedral, please get in touch.
We have also hosted the final of the Association's 6-Bell Striking Competition, which was held was held at SJB, Newcastle on 9th May. It was a fun afternoon with plenty of sunshine, tea and coffee. Well done to the Hexham Method band and commiserations to the Southern District band from Darlington who very narrowly missed out!

| 6 Bell |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| StRIKING COMPETITION RESULTS: |  |
| 12 faults | Hexham Method |
| 12.5 faults | Darlington |
| 14 faults | South Shields |
| 16.5 faults | St. Nicholas, Durham |
| 17 faults | Ponteland |
| 22 faults | Hexham CC |
| 28 faults | DUSCR |

Finally, looking to the coming months, our July event will be replaced with the Hexham Abbey Challenge. Please see the advert insert on this page for details. The Hexham Abbey Challenge is a call change striking contest on 10 bells which Hexham hosts every other year. It is intended to promote good striking on 10 bells and to be accessible to most ringers. It is open to ringers from anywhere, not just the D \& N. A team can represent a tower, but it doesn't have to: it could be made up of ringers from different towers and could choose any name for itself.

> Please get in touch with Secretary Helen Dawson (northerndistrictsecretary@yahoo.co.uk) or Ringing Master Peter Dawson (pkddawson@btinternet.com) if you'd like more information on forthcoming Northern District events.

## Hexham Abbey Challenge Saturday, 4th July 2015 ~ Draw at 12.45 a call change striking contest on 10 bells

Entries are invited for this year's contest.<br>"Any ringers from anywhere may form a team"<br>Up to 8 teams may compete. Entries by 20th June 2015

Refreshments available in the Priory Buildings. Winning team holds the Challenge trophy for 2 years

Practice on the Abbey bells in the
month before the contest.
For practice bookings + details of contest entry and rules, contact
Dorothy Simmons:
dorothy@csimmons.plus.net
Details also on Facebook
(a "Bellringers" event)

[^0]During the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s a considerable number of young people learned to ring at Whickham.
Typically...they grew up!
They left for university or, worse still, they got married and had children and, once that happened, they were gone. Usually they were lost to ringing and rarely seen again. Heard this one before? Ring any bells?
But I kept track of the vast majority of them and then hung around with the patience of a vulture waiting to swoop on either of the following circumstances.

1) Once the children reached the minimum bell ringing age...

Time for vulture sweep!
I offer to teach their children bell handling. This is quite sly, because the exringing parent has no choice but to transport them, resulting in two ringers for the price of one.
2) The other opportunity is when you have missed the first one. Wait till the children leave the nest.

## Time for vulture sweep!

The exodus leaves a vacuum in the family home and quite often these exringing parents will have plenty of new found time on their hands...for bell ringing.
Here are some good examples of exWhickham teenagers who fell into one or the other above categories and have been successfully approached...and RECYCLED back into ringing.
Bill and Brenda Davidson (now Ponteland), Duncan Davis, Eve Howell and Christine Morrison (Whickham), Nora Emerson and John Thompson (Tanfield). 'Offspring Ringers' include Jenny Davis and Nia and Howell Hurst. All are now ringing regularly and members of the D\&N.
I have had some refusals and setbacks, also have some current works in progress, these ex-ringers are currently unaware!
However, the number of successes demonstrates that this method of re establishing ringers is worthwhile and fruitful, for there are positive benefits with this trick. For ringing is like swim-
ming, even after a long absence, you do not forget how to do it. Also, with method ringing, such people require very little relearning time. Also, during their long absence they mature and return to the belfry with a wealth of experience and can become much more significant in their own right.


Recycled Ringers (who were part of the Whickham band in the 1970s) enjoying the 2015 Whickham Trip in January. In fact, 4 of them rang in the first ever D\&N 6 Bell striking contest!

## No Bats in OUR BELFRy!

Ann Cross, Gosforth

A couple of Saturdays ago after ringing to celebrate V.E. Day, some of our band stayed on to have a massive clean and tidy of not only the ringing room but the bell chamber as well. Under the guidance of Vic Spong (who has been itching to do this for years!) we donned dust masks, picked up brushes, brooms and dusters, and cleaned the rooms from top to bottom, filling six bin liners of rubbish from the belfry alone, including a number of old pigeon nests and a considerable amount of pigeon droppings. One item we discarded wouldn't fit into a bin bag however: a wooden chair - or at least part of it, since most of the essential structure was missing; it was more of a stool in fact. We wondered just who would want to sit up amongst the bells and the
mess teetering on this rickety old thing but came to the conclusion that maybe it was just there out of the way.
Hard work did have its rewards though, and when the dusting and sweeping and clearing were finished we de-camped to the Upper Room of the Hall to tuck into a well-earned lunch of pizza, salad and cakes.

Our Tower Captain was still on 'sick leave' and not able to take part in all of this, so we're hoping that he notices a big difference in the surroundings when he next climbs the stairs.

## Thirteen year-old Gosforth ringer Charlie Lamb takes a break from helping clean up the bell chamber.


(Just to satisfy the curious, there were plenty of old pigeon nests and cobwebs, but not a sign of a bat anywhere!)


# A Strange Request <br> Duncan Davies, Frosterley 

The landlord of the Black Bull in Frosterley, Duncan Davis, had a strange request from one of his customers.
Apparently, her brother-in-law was suffering from terminal cancer and he wished to see the bells of the Black Bull being rung.
The date of Friday 13th of March was set and the landlord set about organising a bell ringing presentation.
The audience travelled up from somewhere in the deep south of England and enjoyed a pre-performance supper in the bar.
Theatre seating was set out around the ringing cicle and dramatic theatre lighting lit the ropes.
Some of the glitterati of the D\&N were enlisted for the ringing exhibition and the stage was set for a memorable evening.
At 8 pm the audience filed in and took their seats, the house lights dimmed
and the performers walked into the spotlight.
Duncan Davis, with the help of a model bell, explained the principle of full circle ringing while the audience watched the real bells turning, through the glass panel of the bell chamber.
Rounds were explained as the bells rang in front of their very eyes with the glitterati showing their mettle with a flash of plain hunt on four.
Gradually, the science and mystery of change ringing was unveiled in bitesized nuggets.
Then came the "stand up".
First on was Durham Bell Major, "Chirpy" Christopher Crabtree with an enthralling talk on the history and heritage of the Durham Cathedral bells.
His chilling tales of wobbly towers and long spiral stairs unnerved the listeners, then, with them still reeling, none other than the President of the D\&N, Kris

King, stepped into the spotlight.
He lifted the mood with an entertaining discourse on bell ringing throughout England and its vital role in keeping brewers in business.
He was indeed a hard act to follow, but Matt Hetherington stepped up to the mark and was able to impress the parts of the audience who remained awake when he nonchalantly divulged that he regularly rang a bell weighing a smidgeon less than two tons.
Two ladies swooned and medicinal brandy was brought from the bar.
The evening ended with the audience all participating in rounds on twelve followed by a drinking demonstration in the pub.
Many thanks to Christopher Crabtree, Richard \& Izabelle Bimson, Matt \& Jessie Hetherington, Matt \& Jess Durham, James \& Cat Morgan and Kris King.

## Busy Times at Jesmond St George!

Lorna Taylor, Jesmond

On the 22nd of April I was contacted by BBC Radio Newcastle Alfie \& Charlie's Breakfast Show who were investigating Ringing for England.
Libby Alexander from 'Ringing for England' had invited them to interview Geoff White (Tower Captain) and me, Lorna Taylor (Tower Secretary), to discuss St. George's and the significance of the day. We also gave a tour of the bell and ringing chambers and a demonstration and a tuition lesson for interviewer Emily. The interview went out on the breakfast show and later that day. Comments were made on the interview as raising the profile of bell ringing.
St. George's continue to recruit students from the Newcastle University volunteer group-Newcastle University Student Community Action Newcastle (SCAN). These are mainly international students who are here to study between 3 to 12 months and currently we
have a student who will return after summer break. All are committed to learning the art. The students enjoy being part of the community as they are a long way from home such places as Japan, Hong Kong, China and Vietnam. They are very attentive students.
Monday 4th of May was the commemoration ringing for the remembrance of Ernest Ranson Mundle who died on 4th May 1915, aged 35. The young man was also St George's Church Warden's son.
Sunday the 10th May during our 'Rogation Sunday Service' Geoff White, bell ringer and Tower Captain for over 50 years at St George's Church, was presented with a gift of a painting of St George's Church and Tower by Peter Rogers, a well-known local artist in Jesmond. Afterwards there was cake and Cava in the church
hall where all of the congregation were able to give their thanks to Geoff. Well deserved!
We also rang for the 'beating the boundries' on Rogation Sunday as parishioners set off on walking the boundaries of the parish to conclude with a barbecue at the end on St. George's Green.


Geoff White receives his gift thanking him for fifty years as St George's Tower Captain

## Holy Week Ringing

Anthea \& Chris Enzor, Heighington

There is not usually much ringing during Holy Week in the Southern District...

A throw away comment from Karen Maughan, tower captain at St Cuthbert's, Darlington, along the lines of "Hey, Chris, will the D \& N mini ring fit in that new room of yours?" had unexpected consequences! Rising to the challenge, measurements were taken and it was deemed that it would, without its winch. Never one to miss an opportunity, son Andrew, booked them for a Tuesday night quarter peal, the first in the 'belfry'.
The bells were rung on four nights during Holy Week, including the quarter peal. Thirty eight people, from five different towers in the Southern District and quarter peal ringers from the Central District, had a ring, with ages ranging from 8 to over 80 . One ringer even came back for more! A large quantity of tea, coffee and more importantly cake, were also consumed, thanks to all those who came bearing homemade goodies.
Everyone managed to handle the bells well, including two non-ringers. We rang lots of rounds and call changes to get used to the mini ring technique, often described like "milking mice". Other highlights included plain hunt triples (a first for several ringers), Kent TB Minor and Cambridge S Minor with the St Cuthbert's ringers, Stedman Doubles with the Heighington band, and of course, the quarter peal of Su perlative, with a handling incident very close to the end!

The ring remained up for Easter Sunday when more family joined us for "Christmas Dinner" which we ate underneath the belfry! (We did not have it in December because of the builders!). Another seven non-ringing relatives enjoyed learning how to handle the bells and rang some quite respectable rounds.
Thanks go to Rob and Josie Criddle,
with whose help the mini ring was installed, and to Kris King under doctor's orders post surgery, who directed operations. We are also grateful to Ellen Crabtree who provided advice on muffling the smaller bells to make them bearable for a quarter peal! The bells were dismantled and stored in a bedroom until the D \& N AGM at Brancepeth. As a result of this experience we would like to encourage other towers to make use of the mini ring as it is a valuable resource and great fun!


The mini ring was used by thirty eight people from five different towers in the Southern District and a quarter peal band from the Central District.

## Durham \& Newcastle Diocesan Association

The Granary, Darlington D \& N mini ring

Tuesday, 31 March 2015 in 39 minutes (10lb)

1282 Superlative Surprise Major
1 Chris Enzor
2 Anthea Enzor
3 Ellen Crabtree
4 Alex Pym
5 Izabelle Bimson
6 Hayley Messenger
7 Andrew Enzor (C)
8 Christopher Crabtree
First tower bell quarter peal in the house!
First surprise major: 6

## Want to know more about the Mini Ring?

Contact the Education Officer:
education@dandn.org

## Eight, then Eight-Spliced

Matt Hetherington, Newcastle

Ideas like this tend to be met with some enthusiasm when first cooked up, usually over a few post-ringing pints, but then, more often than not, they fail to follow through. However, when Andrew announced his idea of ringing quarter peals in each of the standard eight surprise major methods all in one day, it appeared he was quite serious about what he was suggesting. So, after a few discussions about how to 'do something like this properly' (i.e. if you're ringing eight in a day, you might as well ring the methods spliced at the end for a bonus ninth quarter peal; and this last, hardest challenge must of course be on the hardest bells - the back eight at Newcastle Cathedral), a band was gathered and Andrew began with his logistical master-plan.
And so, on Saturday 24th January, at a time conducive to star-gazing, we set off for South Shields to begin what was hopefully to be 'quite a long day'. By 9.45 am , quarter peals had been achieved in Lincolnshire and London (with a 'girl power' band placing) and we were due our first food break and a 'cruise' on the Pride of the Tyne across the water to North Shields. Pudsey ticked off, we jumped on the metro to Whitley Bay where Bristol followed by Cambridge was the focus. Fortunately, the metro into Newcastle takes a good half an hour, allowing for much needed lunch to get us through Rutland and Yorkshire at St. John's. Fuelled by the excellent baking of Andrew's better half, we just had Superlative to go to complete the eight. Despite the tricki-
ness of the cathedral 'light' eight, we ing it happen so well. The next chalsucceeded in a decent quarter leaving lenge? I wonder if we can fit ten quarjust the bonus eight spliced to go. With ters of surprise royal into a day... sore arms, hands and brains, everybody put in their best efforts to ring a superbly struck quarter on the 37 cwt back eight to provide a fitting end to a hugely enjoyable day. Excellent ringing had been enjoyed in every tower and no quarter had ever been in doubt. Each member of the band had rung each bell at some point during the day and each person had conducted a quarter (some more willingly than others).

By 8 pm , twelve hours after starting, we were able to retire to the pub where much beer was consumed in celebration of what we had achieved. Thanks go to Andrew for having such a good idea and putting all the work in to mak-

The 'Eight, then Eight-Spliced' band, from left to right: Kris King, Rob Criddle, Andrew Enzor, Matt Hetherington, Jessie Hetherington, Ellen Crabtree, Chris Enzor, Peter Dawson

> THE STATISTICS
> Total Time: 11 hours, 45 minutes

Total ringing time: 6 hours, 59 minutes

Total changes rung: 11,370


The aim of THE TIMES is to share information and news of events between the three Districts.

The next issue will be published in December, so any items for the period June-November should be sent to edsec@dandn.org

## 2015 Karen Dickinson, North Shields

The first ever true peal was rung in the tower of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, in May 1715.
To commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first peal a request was sent out around the ringers of the world to see if first-pealers could be found to ring their 'firsts' to coincide with this anniversary.

As usual, the $\mathrm{D} \& \mathrm{~N}$ rose to the challenge!

St Mary the Virgin, Ovingham
Wednesday, 29 April 2015 in 2h32

## 5040 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Barbara Sutton
2 Kristopher King (C)
3 Victoria L Halford
4 Simon R Harper
5 Clive R Moon
6 A Neil Ramsey
The first peal on the bells.
First peal: 3,4,6 at first attempt.
A 50th birthday compliment to Simon.

St Michael \& All Angels, Newburn
Friday, 1 May 2015 in 2h35
5040 Plain Bob Minor
1 Barbara Davies
2 Simon R Harper
3 Karen Dickinson
4 Peter KD Dawson
5 Jeremy R Housden
6 Andrew J Cairns (C)
First Minor: 2. First in method: 4. 100th peal for the Association: 6 .
For the tercentenary of the first Peal at St. Peter Mancroft.

[^1]
## All Saints, Gosforth

Saturday, 2 May 2015 in 2 h 38
5040 Plain Bob Minor
1 Barbara Davies
2 Alice E Ritchie
3 Andrew J Cairns
4 Karen Dickinson
5 Geoffrey Mole
6 Jonathan M Ladd (C)
First peal for Alice Ritchie (2).
First as conductor.
Rung with best wishes to Paul Cross, Tower Captain, for a speedy recovery. Rung to mark the tercentenary of the first peal at St Peter, Mancroft.

## Rope Splicing Workshop

Ellen Crabtree, Durham

50 shamand $a b_{o v e} A_{s}$ the strates, it's clearly a chal lenge to come up with a witty title for a report about a rope splicing workshop. Shincliffe Village Church Hall was the venue for the Central District RopeSplicing Workshop on Saturday 21st February. Twelve splicing ingénues came along to learn the art of splicing bellropes, ably assisted by five splicing
experts, two of whom had travelled the length of the $\mathrm{A} 1(\mathrm{M})$ to share their tips on keeping two bits of rope attached together for as long as possible, with the help of marlinspikes, rolls of tape, explanatory worksheets and a projector.
After trying out some test splices (long and short) on short pieces of coloured synthetic rope, participants moved on to splicing the real thing, with ropes
completed for Brancepeth, Heworth and Gosforth among others.

Many thanks to Jim \& Janet Crabtree for leading the workshop and the expert tuition of Kelvin Appleby, Kris King and Christopher Crabtree. The D\&N has purchased three marlinspikes for association members' use - if you'd like to borrow one please contact Ellen e.p.crabtree@durham.ac.uk



Susie \&Rob with their joint-splicing effort


Megan with her rope for Brancepeth


Josie's short splice

# St Oswald’s Hartlepool Bell Project 

Andrew Frost, Hartlepool

The bells in St. Oswald's Church in Hartlepool were first hung over 100 years ago. An original and unique ring of 10 Warner's bells, they have had little maintenance in the intervening years.
Now that Hartlepool has an active and enthusiastic group of ringers who practice at St. Oswald's every 2 weeks and ring there every Sunday morning, it was decided that something should be done to get the bells ringing well. Richard Turner encouraged Jack Hanlon (Tower Captain at St. Oswald's) to take a project forward and it was warmly supported by the vicar of St. Oswald's and the PCC as well as by the ringers.
The best quote for the work, plus installing scaffolding over the font, showed that a considerable sum was needed to get the job done. Additionally, readers may know that, once the bells are lifted and examined, there is likely to be further expense!
The Hartlepool ringers have managed to raise funds from charitable trusts as well as a grant from the local ward councillors! The D\&N BRF has granted money and the church PCC, despite the parish being among the most deprived in the country, has guaranteed some funds. The Durham DAC has approved the faculty subject to local objections and it is hoped the that it will get signed off by the end of June (2015).


The basic work is to lift all the bells from the frame, remove clappers, wheels, pulley boxes etc. and either refurbish, repair, or replace parts. Readers who know St. Oswald's ringing chamber will be pleased to learn that the faculty will include removing the old clock and box from above the 9 and tenor and removing the cross beam. Jack has 10 new ropes, courtesy of a local company, so all should look and feel very good once the project is complete.
Spare some sympathy for the ringers and some of their partners: we believe that it was when the bells were hung that they laid sand on the belfry floor to
provide sound proofing. There is some 4 inches of the stuff across the whole of the floor and some of it has become pretty solid. We estimate there is around 3 cubic metres and it has all had to be removed prior to the start of the project. Teams have, so far, spent around 6 hours on the job and there is likely to be another 4 hours work to do. Those shovelling the sand into buckets wear respirators and then others carry the buckets to the ground floor where sacks are filled and taken to the local tip.

There will be a further report in the next D\&N Times.


V.E. Day Ringing in Durham<br>Christopher Crabtree, Durham

On 8th May 1945, the UK celebrated the end of war in Europe. The Durham Cathedral attendance register shows that eleven ringers participated in a 'Victory Ring' and 70 years later the ringers of Durham joined in with national commemorations. On Saturday 9th May 2015, a Durham-based band rang the eight Cathedral bells that were present in 1945 to a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major.

The Durham Cathedral Guild register suggests that, contrary to popular opinion, ringing continued throughout the war. The register also notes special ringing for 'Victory in Egypt' and 'Victory in The East'.

Durham Cathedral was not the only tower in and around Durham to ring for the 70th anniversary weekend. A quarter peal was rung at St Nicholas' church (Durham Market Place) at the same time as the Cathedral quarter and, on 10th May, quarter peals were rung at Brancepeth (DUSCR) and Willington. An all-Shincliffe band took the opportunity to allow one of their younger ringers, Oliver WinklessClark (aged 12), to join the commemo-
rations by ringing his first 120 of Grandsire Doubles.

The Cathedral staff promoted V.E. Day ringing to the public with reporters from Star Radio, BBC Radio Newcastle, BBC Radio Tees and ITV Tyne Tees descending on the Cathedral to report before and during the quarter peal.
Thank you to everyone who took part.

9th May 2015, Durham Cathedral, 1264 Plain Bob Major
1 Jess Durham
2 Megan Corless
3 Hayley Messenger
4 James Morgan
5 Alex Pym
6 Ellen Crabtree
7 Robert Criddle
8 Matthew Durham (C)

9th May 2015, Durham, St Nicholas, 1320 St. Simon's Bob

## Doubles

1 Jean Woodward
2 Catrin Morgan
3 Keith Hayton (C)
4 Gavin Neill
5 Adam Rebick
6 Michael Lamb


9th May 2015, Shincliffe, St Mary, 120 Grandsire Doubles<br>1 Christopher Winkless-Clark<br>2 Oliver Winkless-Clark<br>3 Jean Woodward<br>4 Yvonne Collingham<br>5 Keith Hayton (C)<br>6 Julie Winkless<br>1st extent of Grandsire - 2

10th May 2015, Brancepeth, St Brandon, 1344 Plain Bob Triples
1 Peter Molony
2 Stephen Lloyd
3 Catrin Morgan
4 Megan Corless
5 Richard Newton
6 Adam Rebick
7 James Morgan (C)
8 James Huskisson

10th May 2015, Willington, St Stephen, 1270 Doubles<br>(10 Original; 1260 Grandsire)<br>1 Catrin Morgan<br>2 Ellen Crabtree<br>3 James Morgan<br>4 Peter Molony<br>5 Chris Mansfield (C)

10 May 2015, Durham, St Nicholas, 1260 Minor (2m) 720 Norwich Surprise, 540 Plain Bob

1 Chris Mansfield
2 Hayley Messenger
3 Gavin Neill
4 Jessica Durham
5 Matthew Durham (C)
6 Susie Mansfield


## 70th Anniversary of V．E．Day

CHRIST CHURCH BELLS RING OUT ON V．E．DAY<br>Michael Scott，North Shields

Christ Church bell ringers，ably assisted by ringers from St．Paul＇s，Whitley Bay，rang on Friday，May 8th to commemorate the 70th anniversary of V．E．Day．

In June 1940 the Government gave out an or－ der that all church and chapel bells were to remain silent，only to be rung in the event of an invasion．Following the allied victory at El Ala－ mein in 1942，Winston Churchill asked for all church bells to be rung in celebration．The bells fell silent again until Easter 1943 when the ban on ringing was lifted，the risk of inva－ sion having receded．As most bell ringers were away serving in the forces it fell to volunteers including Ethel Southworth，Athel Thornton， Nancy Miller and George Heckels to gently chime the bells．


[^2]
## V．E．DAY RINGING AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

## Sunderland Minster

Rang at 11．00am on Saturday 9th May

## St．Mary the Virgin，Ovingham

Sunday， 10 May 2015 in 2h32（5cwt）， 5040 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Peter K D Dawson
2 James Crowther
3 Neil W Halford
4 Kristopher King
5 Victoria L Halford（C）
6 Richard T Gilbert
First peal：3，6．
First as conductor（2nd peal）

## St．Mary the Virgin，Ponteland

Saturday， 9 May 2015 in 2hours 30 minutes， 5040 Minor
One extent of Kent TB and two extents each of Cambridge S，St． Clements CB and PB Minor
1 Karen Dickinson
2 Julie Bell
3 Barbara Davies
4 Howard E J Smith
5 Peter K D Dawson
6 Stephen B Bell（C）

## St ．Aidan，Hartlepool

Friday， 8 May 2015 in 45 mins， 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Rung on the back 6
1 Liz Halford
2 Kirstie Heslop
3 Bernard Gilby
4 Andrew Frost
5 Jack Hanlon（C）
6 Matthew Mack
Also to celebrate the birth of Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cam－ bridge on Saturday 2nd May 2015

## All Saints＇，Rothbury

Saturday， 9 May 2015 in 43 minutes， 1260 Plain Bob Minor 1 Gillian Wheeler
2 Colin Wheeler
3 Roger Ashmore
4 Ken Quick
5 Matthew Cracknell
6 Christopher Teasdale（C）
Also to celebrate the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cam－ bridge on 2nd May 2015

# Ruaging to Remember 

Alix Liddle, We Remember You.



A plethora of ringing took place on Tuesday 16 December 2014 to commemorate the life of Darlington ringer Corporal Alix Oliffe and the Hartlepool Bombardment.
The St Cuthbert's Darlington band rang a commemorative quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Triples in memory of Corporal Liddle.
There was a great deal of excellent

## THE HARTLEPOOL BOMBARDMENT

The Hartlepool Bombardment was a German naval attack on the seaside towns of Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough. In total, the bombardment resulted in over 120 fatalities and almost 600 casualties, many of whom were civilians. The raid had a huge impact upon British public opinion at the time and was depicted in propaganda to encourage men to enlist and defend their country. The soldiers who died during the Bombardment were the first to be killed on British soil for nearly two centuries. Ringing to commemorate the centenary of the bombardment was arranged at all four towers in Hartlepool.
The bells at Stranton were rung at 8.10am, the time the first shell landed. At noon the bells at the Arts Centre were rung and at 7 pm , three quarter peals were rung simultaneously at the Arts Centre, St Aidan's and St Oswald's.
press coverage of the ringing at Darlington, including two articles in the Northern Echo (before and after, including video footage) and a snippet on the front cover of the Darlington \& Stockton Times.
In addition a quarter peal of 1250 Yorkshire S. Major was rung at Newcastle Cathedral, where the D\&N plaque is held.
Corporal Liddle, the son of James and Frances Liddle, was born in Darlington and had worked as a clerk in an accountant's office before joining the war effort. He married Clara Main, the daughter of an engineer, on 27 April 1914 at Holy Trinity Church in Darlington and the young couple moved to Sylvan Grove in the town.
He was killed by one of the first shells fired during the Hartlepool Bombardment.


Thomas Henry Wake \& Wilfred Hereward Wake, We Remember You.

Thomas and Wilfred Wake were from Bamburgh, where their father Richard was the Castle lodge keeper. Although there were five years between the brothers, the pair were close, being the youngest of five sons. Whilst Thomas was a painter, employed by Mr R W Mackenzie of Seahouses, Wilfred worked as a tailor for Messrs R Coxon and Sons, Seahouses. The brothers were keen sportsmen, fond of cricket and football. 'Tommy' as the elder was known, played the latter at countylevel for the North Northumberland Football League.
Thomas and Wilfred Wake, both ringers at St Aidan's, Bamburgh, joined the Northumberland Fusiliers at Alnwick shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914. They trained together and, in the spring of 1915, both were sent to Ypres on the Western Front where they were killed after just two days. Thomas was 25 and Wilfred was 20.
According to the North East at War, a contemporary newspaper cutting reported that "unfortunately for these two gallant youths, their luck was of

short duration, being killed early in action on the same day and only a few yards from each other". Both are remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, on panels 8 and 12.

According to the same newspaper Sandra Willoughby, the Wakes' greatniece, still has the poem that an unknown Northumberland Fusilier composed in the trenches on the day after he saw the brothers fall. He called it The Canny Lads from Bamburgh and it tells of their tragically short war (right panel).
On Sunday 26 April 2015 two quarter peals were rung to commemorate the lives of Private Henry Wake and Private Wilfred Wake, ringing brothers from Bamburgh. The first was a quarter peal of 1344 Plain Bob Major rung at the Wakes' Home tower, St. Aidan's Bamburgh.
The second was a quarter peal of 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major rung at Newcastle Cathedral, where the D\&N plaque is held.


Thomas Henry Wake


Wilfred
Hereward Wake

## The Canny Lads FROM BAMBURGH

We soon got face to face with Huns, Who had their big 'Jack Johnson' guns,
They tossed the shrapnel in by tons, On the canny Cads from Bamburgh.

And it just seemed to be our fuck, But on we went with British pluck, When a piece of shrapnel came and struck,
Iwo canny lads from Bamburgh.

They faltered, then on their face they fell,
Beside them I knelt down as well, And how they died just I can tell, The two canny lads from Bamburgh.

Rather than be German sfaves, They fie buried amongst the braves, I wrote on wood across their graves, The two canny lads from Bamburgh.

They votunteered to cross the sea, To fight for king and country, And fell for England's liberty, The two canny lads from Bamburgh.
$\mathcal{A}$ If the boys join in and send,
Their best respects to all their friends,
On Providence, it alf depends,
On the canny lads from Bamburgh.

# Runging to Remember 

Earnest Ranson Mundle, We Remember You.

Ernest Ranson Mundle was born in Winlaton on 8 December 1880. He was the son of Arthur Mundle, of 42, St. George's Terrace, Newcastle-onTyne. Arthur was churchwarden at St George, Jesmond, where Earnest was a bell ringer.
Many records suggest that Ernest was married to Annie, although there is no evidence of a marriage.
He left England on 3 May 1912 on the Empress of Ireland bound for Quebec, Canada, to serve in the 5th Battalion (Saskatchewan Regiment), Canadian Infantry. He eventually settled in Melville, Saskatchewan. Two years later, the Empress of Ireland sank following a collision with the Norwegian collier SS Storstad in the early hours of 29 May 1914.

Earnest died on 4 May 1915, of wounds
received at the Battle of Ypres. He was the life of Private Ernest Mundle, ring35 years old. His mother was still alive when he died by the Jesmond ringers who rang a and his will left all of his effects to her. 1036 of Grandsire Triples. The second On Monday 4 May 2015 two perfor- was A quarter peal of 1328 Bob Triples mances were rung to commemorate at Newcastle Cathedral.


Left to Right: The Jesmond ringers Jeg Gray, Geoff White, Lucy Armstrong, Jim Crowther, Samuel Hunt, Steve Bell, Julie Bell, Matt Hetherington

Durham \& Newcastle Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

## RINGING TO REMEMBER

Commemorating the lives of the 4I Ringers from the North-East who fell during the First World War


## ringingtoremember.wordpress.com

Subscribe to the blog to stay updated with soldiers' biographies and details of commemorative ringing


Memorial plaque, Newcastle Cathedral

## From the Central Council

Kate Flavell, Public Relations Officer to the Central Council

Magna Carta 800

800 years ago the sealing of Magna Carta by King John for the barons marked the beginning of modern times, where a monarch does not wield absolute power. As such, Magna Carta mania is starting to sweep the land and church bell ringers everywhere are encouraged to make their own contribution and be part of history. 14th June is the Grand Ringing Day, in conjunction with LiberTeas, where Communities across the UK (and overseas) are being encouraged to organise or attend a local event, to create a simultaneous moment of reflection and celebration of their freedoms and rights.

Ringers are encouraged to formulate plans for commemorative ringing on 14th and 15th June, with suggestions that they might take part in, or organise, some general ringing to coincide with tower open days or LiberTeas, pieces of ringing involving 800 changes, peals or quarter peals. For churches or schools with just one bell you might consider ringing 800 blows or organise a ringing relay where each ringer chimes 50 or 100 blows each!

The BBC will broadcast 'Bells on Sunday' at 5.45 am on Radio 4 on Sunday 14 June from All Saints Odiham. Festivities will begin in The Bury in Odiham at Noon, with the Greywell Handbell ringers entertaining the mustering crowd, before a Cascade of bell ringing commences at 12.15 pm (to commemorate the year).

## FirstPeal2015

The Central Council have created a new website: www.firstpeal2015.org to promote the FirstPeal2015 initiative. It contains information for the following: The public in explaining what a peal is and the history surrounding it; ringers who are considering ringing their first peals by including encouraging "first peal stories"; the wider ringing community in how they can publicise and encourage people to take part in this initiative in their local areas.

If you have any first peal stories you'd like to share to help encourage others attempt their first peal then please send them to us by using the form on the website (click the loud speaker)! It doesn't need to have happened this year and it doesn't need to be particularly long. A short paragraph will do, although more would be great. Photos are also welcome but please send them to: webmaster@firstpeal2015.org with a note to say which story they refer to. We can't guarantee all stories will be uploaded but we'll try our best! For inspiration to get you started see the stories already uploaded:
http://www.firstpeal2015.org/category/first-peal-stories

## Heritage Open Days

This year the Heritage Open Days will be on 10th—13th September. Next year, we are keen to link these with ringing awareness days in 2016. To do this we need your help!

Firstly, have any of you run successful ringing awareness or recruitment days linked to Heritage Open Days in the past? If so we'd like to hear from them please so we can put together something for the Ringing World to learn lessons and to encourage others to do the same or similar.

Secondly, we would like to run a couple of pilots in September this year ahead of rolling out something much bigger next year. We are looking for a rural tower and an urban tower that would like to work with us in September this year to see how it might work.

If you are can help out with either of these initiatives, please contact Kate Flavell at: kateflavell@f2s.com
Want your voice to he heard hy the Central Gouncil?
Then send your comments and suggestions to one of our Central Council Reps:
Barbara Wheeler Howard Smith Matthew Cracknell

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Please return this form to the D\&N Treasurer, Anthea Enzor, The Granary, 3 High Carlbury, Piercebridge, Darlington, DL2 3TT or scan \& e-mail it to treasurer@dandn.org


THE PUBLICATION OF THE DURHAM and Newcastle Diocesan Association of church Bell Ringers

## The D\& N Times

## WWW.DANDN.ORG

## COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR NEWS?

Contact the Editorial Secretary, Rachael Houchin:

E-mail: edsec@dandn.org

## 'The Splice of Life'

Bell ropes live a difficult life; they're pulled and coiled and sometimes even dropped. This means that every now and then, they need a bit of TLC to splice up their life and, if you were paying attention whilst reading page 9, this can be done in several ways. So...

## Can you:


A. Name the type of splice performed on this rope;
B. Name the unseen ringer who performed the handiwork;
C. Name the tower for which the pictured rope is intended?

Answers and further condiment based puns to edsec@theDandN.org

## 2015 D\&N Calendar

(Further details can be found at the Association Webpages)

## Month Date Event

June

| 3rd | Monthly Practice-Fenham |
| :--- | :--- |
| 6th | Northern District Meeting, Bamburgh |
| 7th | Ringing to Remember, Sunderland |
| 9th | SD Advanced 8 Bell Practice, St. John's Darl. |
| 13th | 8 Bell Striking Competition, Ovingham |
| 17th | Midweek Guild, Chester-le-Street/Tanfield |
| 19th | Ringing to Remember, Allendale |
| 23rd | SD Advanced 8 Bell Practice, St. John's Darl. |
| 26th | CD 'Firsts' Month Grande Finale, Frosterley |

26th CD 'Firsts' Month Grande Finale, Frosterley

## Ello

1st Monthly Practice-Fenham (tbc)

Barbara Davies/Bill Davidson
4th Hexham Abbey Challenge
11th Ringing Ramble-Shildon/Darlington
15th Mid-Week Guild Summer Trip, Yorkshire
Dorothy Simmons
Karen Dickinson
Pat and Niki

August 1st Norther District Practice, Morpeth 5th Monthly Practice-Fenham (tbc)

Helen Dawson
Barbara Davies/Bill Davidson

September 2nd
Monthly Practice-Fenham (tbc)
5th Northern District Meeting, tbc
16th Mid-Week Guild, Heighington/Sedgefield
19th
Central District Meeting, Sunderland Minster
Barbara Davies/Bill Davidson
Helen Dawson
Pat and Niki
Robert Criddle

October 3rd
3rd

7th Monthly Practice-Fenham (tbc)
17th Central District Practice, tbc
Helen Dawson

21st Mid-Week Guild, Hexham
24th ANNUAL DINNER, Durham Masonic Lodge
Barbara Davies/Bill Davidson
Ellen Crabtree
Pat and Niki
Karen Dickinson

7th
Northern District AGM, Gosforth
18th Mid-Week Guild, Benfieldside/Blackhill
Barbara Davies/Bill Davidson

21st
Central District AGM, St. Oswald's, Durham Robert Criddle

December
5th
Northern District Christmas Social (tbc)
Helen Dawson
tba
Pat and Niki


[^0]:    www.hexhamabbeybells.org.uk

[^1]:    Check out the Central Council's dedicated First Peal website at: www.firstpeal2015.org

[^2]:    D．Hamby（Whitley Bay）J．Scott，G．Lang（Whitley Bay） P．Bishop，M．Scott，P．McEwen

