

Hereford District News and Events

June 2015



ST GEORGE'S CELEBRATION

A bell festival was organised at St. George's Church, Woolhope on St. George's day. In addition to celebrating our patron saint it was an opportunity to enlighten non ringers to the fun and challenges of change ringing.

It was a lovely afternoon, albeit a bit chilly and Barbara Fox and her valued band working hard setting up borrowed explanatory boards on the history, workings and technique of bells and ringing. There was even a large television screen for viewing the bells while in action, it also gave the opportunity to explain the problems with the mechanics and why the Woolhope band and friends are making every effort to raise £40000 for repairs. Some visitors were persuaded to have a ring (under supervision of course), refreshments were on offer and to add further interest a picturesque "Guess the number of bells" competition. It was very encouraging to the volunteers that all visitors showed a great deal of interest and lingered.

All this was followed by a successful quarter peal and as a finale we retired to the local pub!

Many thanks go to all the contributors of equipment and time.

Sylvia Brewer



Woolhope, St George

1260 Grandsire Doubles rung in 46 minutes

1 Helen Robinson

2 Sylvia Brewer

3 Barbara Fox

4 Fran Watkins

5 Andrew Watkins (C)

6 Pat Gilbert

Rung for St George's Day and as a belated birthday compliment for Barbara Fox



Andrew, Fran, Jo, Caroline, Robin, Nicky

SUMMER OUTING

'Like a breath of summer laden,

Like a cheery ray of hope,

Is the sight of gentle maiden,

Deftly handling of a rope.'

Those are the first four lines of a poem written in 1912 to celebrate the first all-women peal. And just as cheery was the sight of the young ringers on the Hereford District summer outing demonstrating their equally deft handling of unfamiliar bells!



The tour of five six-bell towers started at Dymock - which is where I learned to ring, so I may be slightly biased when I say they sounded absolutely magnificent! At 17½cwt, these were the heaviest bells of the day, but those who'd rung there in the past agreed that the bells now go far better than they used to. Plenty of well-struck rounds-and-call changes as well as touches of Stedman and Cambridge set the standard for the day.

There was some confusion about directions to Upton Bishop, the next tower, leading to some people crossing the M50 twice en route. Any longer-than-intended journeys were well-rewarded, as the bells are easy to ring and sound very pleasant. An exciting touch of spliced Plain Bob, Little Bob and Cambridge Minor was rung here.

The bells at Linton, our third tower, also go very nicely, but are maybe a little too loud for comfort (Maddie and I wore our ear-defenders, but jelly-babies were also available for those who hadn't brought ear-plugs!). It was rather a snug fit to get everyone into the ringing chamber, too.

We dashed on to Weston-under-Penyard for a pub lunch at the Weston Cross Inn (or a picnic in the churchyard). Weston's bells are lovely, and easy to handle, and an adventurous band rang a plain course of York Surprise Minor here. Most of the ringers then headed off for final tower of the day, Much Dewchurch, but we couldn't join them as Maddie had to be home in time for her birthday party!

DISTRICT PRACTICE DATES



Monday 6th July
Canon Pyon 7:30pm



Well done...

We would like to congratulate Caroline and Robin, two of our learners from Fownhope, on ringing their first quarter peal. They both rang very well!!!

Fownhope, St Mary

Wednesday 22nd April 2015

1260 Plain Bob Doubles rung in 41 minutes

1 Caroline Priestley

4 Fran Watkins

2 Jo Hall

5 Nicky Aubrey ©

3 Andrew Watkins

6 Robin Peers

First quarter for Treble and Tenor ringers

Rung before the Confirmation Service

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The outing was well-supported, with ringers of all abilities generously accommodated. A good standard of ringing and a friendly atmosphere combined with perfect weather to make it a very pleasant day. Thank you to the organizers, and to those who ran the ringing at each tower.

Rachel Coates

Striking Competition



BBQ

Summer Meeting

Sunday 28th June

Fownhope

2pm start

Ringling to Commemorate the Fallen in the First World War

In the peaceful and beautiful churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Burghill stands a war memorial in memory of those men from Burghill and Tillington who died as a result of their military involvement in two World Wars. Thirty men died in the First World War and three in the Second World War, the difference in numbers reflecting the enormous loss of human life in the Great War from almost every town and village in the country. Our tranquil corner of England is a far cry from the terrible fighting in France and Belgium which took place between 1914 and 1918.

In memory of the men who gave their lives in our Parish we decided to ring a Quarter Peal every month of the year, starting in October 2014. In that month we remembered Private Thomas Dew who died of wounds in France on October 14th 1918, one of three brothers to die as a result of the war, and Private William Cross. Since then we have rung for twenty men so far with a further ten to remember. I have been unable to discover so far when or where two men listed on the memorial died. It is proposed to remember them in September 2015.

I am still researching many of the men but have discovered that the three Dew brothers lived at Yew Tree Cottage, Burghill with their parents, sister and youngest brother. Albert Dew was gassed and died at the age of 22 years in August 1919 after a prolonged and debilitating illness as a result of the gassing. No-one will know the permanent effects of the war on returned service men, both physical and mental due to the unbelievable conditions and awful sights which they had to endure. We can only be immensely grateful for the sacrifice which they made in order that we might be free. They went to war with great enthusiasm and total ignorance of what lay ahead of them, often in PALS Regiments later mown down in swathes leaving many villages and families with multiple deaths in one battle. It is vital that we continue to remember these men in the hope that such a war will never be repeated.

Liz Donovan

Quarters rung so far...

12th October 2014, 1260 Doubles (4m/v)

Pte. Thomas Dew & Pte. William Cross

11th November 2014, 1260 Double (5m/v)

Gunner Edgar Eagling, Lt. Percy Mitchell, Pte. John Parsons & Pte. Percy Wilkins

15th December 2014, 1260 Doubles (2m)

Driver W Porter, Pte. R Whiting,
Pte. Edward Nicholls, Sgt. Major AH Town

18th January 2015, 1260 Doubles (2m)

Lance Corp. William Hunt, Pte. Thomas Maddox,
Pte. Arthur Davies

15th February 2015, 1260 Grandsire Doubles

Pte. Frederick Wilkins

2nd March 2015, 1260 Doubles (5m/v)

Lance Corporal William Wright, Pte. G.J. Turner
Pte. Reuben Hergest, Pte. John James

4th May 2015, 1260 Plain Bob Triples

Pte. T. Morgan, Pte. Alfred Preece

QUARTER PEAL WEEK

SATURDAY 18TH JULY – SUNDAY 26TH JULY

The aim to ring quarters in as many of the district towers as possible with as many different ringers as possible. You may like to ring your 1st quarter or maybe a new method. If you would like to ring a quarter or need help to organising one, please contact one of the district ringing masters, who will be very happy to help.

Hereford District Outing

Saturday 5th September

07:30 for 07:45 Bus leaving prompt at 07:45 from Merton Meadow car park

09:00 Cup of tea/coffee

09:30 – 10:30 **Pershore Abbey** 8 (25)

10:40 – 11:30 **Pershore St Andrew** 8 (7-3-12)

11:50 – 12:35 **Little Comberton** 6 (13-1-18)

12:50-14:45 Lunch in Evesham (own arrangements)

14:45 Pick up same place

15:00 – 15:45 **Norton** 8 (11-0-8)

16:00 – 16:45 **Church Lench** 6 (15) Return to Hereford

If you would like to come please contact Dave and Karen Powell davekaren@talktalk.net 01432 268479 or 07740049787