



*Casting the new Drayton Bassett bells – the project benefited from a Bell Restoration Fund grant*

# Newsletter



August  
2018

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

## Well done Gilly! and thank you.. by

David Herschell

One of our Society members, Gilly Hanson-Giddins, of Handsacre, Staffordshire, competed in a Half Ironman Challenge on Sunday 20th May, which commenced from the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. She was one of a number of members of the Burntwood Triathlon Club who participated in this event.

Known as the Outlaw Half Nottingham, this challenge was launched in 2010 and is now one of Britain's most popular events. This triathlon event, which attracted 1,700 entries this year, had to be completed in less than nine hours and Gilly had to cover a 1.2 mile open water swim, a 56

mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run. It took Gilly 8 hours to complete the challenge, which she had undertaken in order to raise funds through sponsorship for the Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society of Change Ringers' Bell Restoration Fund.



Gilly is a classically trained musician and until she retired last year, taught violin and viola at schools, which included teaching at the prestigious independent day and boarding school of Charterhouse in Godalming, Surrey.

Last September she competed in the first Birmingham Vélo cycle challenge of 100 miles, which was in aid of Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. For this event she wore a blue tutu into which she had sewn labels carrying the names of cancer sufferers given to her by friends and family.

The following month Gilly started to learn the intricacies of campanology and is now progressing well.

During the First World War of 1914 to 1918, 1,400 church bell ringers lost their lives. To commemorate these ringers who

sacrificed their lives for their country, the international organisation of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers recently launched a nationwide campaign known as Ringing Remembers to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers. Gilly is one of these new recruits participating in the project and now rings at the church of St Nicholas, Mavesyn Ridware. When this project ends on 11 November 2018 she will receive a badge for having participated.

In this year's Outlaw Half Nottingham event Gilly was contestant number 1415 and had to start her trial at 07:00 hrs.

Prior to the event she had said to the local press, "Church bells sound fantastic, especially at Christmas, New Year and at weddings.

The Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society of Change Ringers' Bell Restoration Fund was set up some years ago to raise funds to help churches in replacing and repairing bells and their fittings.

Since I started ringing last year, I have found bell ringing is a wonderful activity for fitness and brain stimulation. It is an activity I strongly recommend!"

To date, Gilly has raised a total of £1,750 towards the Society's bell restoration fund. Anyone who has not yet made a donation, and now wishes to do so, should contact the Society's Secretary, Jean Nixon on [sec@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:sec@lwascr.org.uk) for more information on how to donate.

Gilly is certainly to be congratulated on completing the challenge and for having collected – and is still collecting – such a marvellous sum for the Society's bell restoration fund. She, herself, wishes to thank all those who have so far supported and sponsored her.



## Challenge 20 for the BRF

by John Mulvey

As some of you may know in the last few years the Bell Restoration Fund has awarded grants to a number of proposed bell restoration schemes in our society area, a number of these have yet to be paid.

This means that the actual funds available in case of any further grant applications is extremely small.

In the last year, the committee has been considering different ways of raising extra income and we have been very grateful to Gilly of Mavesyn Ridware for the

money she raised by her sponsored ironman event.

Individual events by members in support of the restoration fund are very welcome boosts to the restoration fund but do not provide a known regular income on which the committee can plan its grant giving.

I therefore would like to challenge the membership to join me in providing a regular income for the BRF. I propose to donate £10 a month, gift aided, by direct debit to the fund. The challenge is for AT LEAST 19 others to join me in giving a similar amount by 2020.

By giving £10 a month, the equivalent of three Costa coffees or pints of beer, that will produce £120 a year plus gift aid of £30. If 19 others gave the same this would be an annual income of £3,000. Let's see if together we can reach and hopefully surpass this target of 20 direct debits.

Please contact Jim Nixon, the Treasurer, to get details of the Society bank account for your direct debit and gift aid form.

[treasurer@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lwascr.org.uk)

### More ways to support the BRF:

- Join the Hundred Club.
- Organise your own sponsored activity or fund raising event.
- Dedicate a peal or quarter to the fund and donate.
- Remember the fund in your will.

# A royal visit to St. Editha's

## Tamworth

by Kevin

Jackson

On the 12th June it was 1,100 years to the day of the death in Tamworth of Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians.

Daughter of King Alfred the Great and wife to Aethelred who together led the battle to defend the ancient kingdom against Viking invaders, shaping the destiny of all England.

The Church is dedicated to St. Editha who is patron saint of the town and niece to Aethelflaed.



HRH The Earl of Wessex (Prince Edward) led a national tribute to his royal ancestor the warrior Princess of Wessex.

The service was attended by His Excellency the Danish Ambassador, six bishops, lord-lieutenants, military and civil representatives, historians and

archaeologists along with the cast of the popular TV drama The Last Kingdom.



To mark this special occasion, Tamworth bell ringers had the pleasure of ringing for the service.

It was a great opportunity for two of our young ringers (Peter Biggin & Tamzin Gulliver, pictured) to ring for something very special indeed.

Rounds and call changes were the order of the day as both have only been ringers a short time, but are now showing great promise as the next generation of ringers in the town.

The church & tower were both well attended on the day despite the fact the service was held on a Tuesday during working hours.

We were able to provide bells before and after the services thanks to people giving up free time or employers and schools allowing time off. Special thanks to the following:

Andrew Else, Kay Else, John Mulvey, Norman Attaway, Beryl Attaway, Hazel Fisher, Brian Taylor, John Wybrew, Kevin Jackson, Tamzin Gulliver, Peter Biggin, Alan Munday (Polesworth) and Wendy Munday (Polesworth).



### Bell handling teachers' course

John Mulvey is proposing to repeat the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) Module 1 bell handling teachers' course in the autumn at Tamworth.

The course will surely help towards the task of recruiting and training the 1400 more ringers required for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of WW1, as well as helping ringing teachers produce ringers that can safely handle a bell and progress confidently.

If you'd like to join the course (cost £20), please contact John: [belladvisor@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:belladvisor@lwascr.org.uk)

More information on the course: <https://bit.ly/2P1Nzl2>

## Snippets of history

by John Burton

**We want to hear your stories of present and past ringing achievements – send to: [newsletter@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lwascr.org.uk)**

**This edition, we hear from John Burton about a 1974 national ringing record.**

A national record was achieved by an LWASCR band on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1974:

**Ten** quarter peals of major in **ten** different towers; **ten** different methods in one day; **8** ringers, **6** conductors.

**The towers:** Netherton, Pensnett, Coseley, Wolverhampton\*, Tettenhall, Brewood, Penkridge, Cannock, Bloxwich, Walsall\*

**The ringers:** Geoff Pick, Richard Dorrington, Steve Yates, Roger Riley, John Burton, Philip Davies, Philip Johnson, Ken Russell.

**The methods:** St Clements, Yorkshire Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Rutland Surprise, Double Norwich, Plain Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Little Bob, Lincolnshire Surprise, Kent Treble Bob.

**Start:** 7:30am, Netherton  
**Finish:** 9:35pm, Walsall

Geoff Pick and John Burton still ring locally.

\*Front eight

## 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, what will your tower do?

by David Herschell

David Herschell

I would like to issue a press release regarding any special ringing that is planned in our Society's area to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice of 1918, which marked the end of the First World War. I intend to send this press release to as many media outlets as possible to increase awareness of how bell ringers in this area intend to commemorate this centenary.

In July of this year, the Government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sports issued an announcement in which, amongst other things, invited all bell ringers to join the nation in marking the centenary of the end of the First World War by ringing church bells.

They would like this ringing to take place at 12.30pm on 11 November so as to coincide with the nation's tribute when thousands march past the Cenotaph in London.

**In 1918 the Armistice occurred on Monday 11 November; this year 11 November will fall on a Sunday, which also happens to be the annual Remembrance Sunday.**

There is, therefore, plenty of time to make your plans, which could be any of the following:

- Ringing the bells half-muffled, - or even deeply (fully) muffled if you have sufficient muffles
- Including in the ringing one of the ringers who has been recruited under the Ringing Remembers initiative to get

**1,400 new ringers to replace that number of bell ringers lost in that war**

- Ringing a peal or a quarter peal
- Publicising through an exhibition of, or the laying of a wreath for, a ringer from your tower who lost their life in the war
- Making known that you have recruited a new ringer or ringers under the Ringing Remember initiative who is/are currently being trained and is/are not yet sufficiently proficient to be able to take part in the centenary ringing.

I would be grateful if you would send me as soon as possible details of anything your tower has planned, to commemorate this centenary of the Armistice of 1918.

This information must include the date and timing of any ringing that you will be undertaking, especially if this will be taking place at a different time, or even on a different date, to the national commemoration of 12.30pm on Sunday 11 November.

Please send your information to:

[pro@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:pro@lwascr.org.uk)

Become a bell ringer today by emailing: [bells@big-ideas.org](mailto:bells@big-ideas.org)



Ringing Remembers is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in collaboration with Big Ideas and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

**BIG IDEAS** Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government **BELL RINGERS**

## Diary dates

Please make a note of the following events coming up. More details at [www.lwascr.org.uk](http://www.lwascr.org.uk) or from [sec@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:sec@lwascr.org.uk)

- ✓ 15<sup>th</sup> September, AGM, Penkridge
- ✓ 18<sup>th</sup> September, Tuesday Daytime Band, Tutbury and Marchington
- ✓ 29<sup>th</sup> September, Evening Practice, Sedgley
- ✓ 16<sup>th</sup> October, Tuesday Daytime Band, Gnosall and Haughton
- ✓ 20<sup>th</sup> October, Training meeting, Shares Hill



## Bell Restoration Fund Report

**Total Funds: £21,160**

**Committed: £18,350**



To donate to the fund, please contact [treasurer@lwascr.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lwascr.org.uk)

## 100 Club Update

Lucky winners of the last draw were:

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Maggie Warford
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sylvia Fellows
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Armitage Tower
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> Tony Marsden



If you'd like to try your luck and help raise money for the Bell Restoration Fund, please contact Linda Pick: [lindapick@totalise.co.uk](mailto:lindapick@totalise.co.uk) or download an application form.