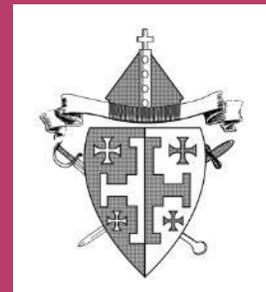




Gilly Hanson-Giddins reaches the 'top'. More photos and news of her epic journey later.



Newsletter



July 2021

www.lwascr.org.uk

A reflection

When lockdown started 15 months ago, many ringers (myself included) believed that we would be back ringing in a fairly short time. However, as time went by and realising this was not going to be the case, a few Lichfield ringers suggested trying 'Ringing Room'. Being of a certain age I was initially very sceptical of anything ICT related! However, having encountered Zoom and coping with it I was willing to give it a go. Moving the clock forward one year I think the ringing fraternity will have a debt of gratitude to Bryn Reinstadler and Leland Kusmer from Boston USA for their groundbreaking invention. Not only has it kept ringers in touch with each other, but also to be able to ring and learn methods and to hear bells being rung has lifted the spirits of many of us.

As well as ringing in the Lichfield band I also organise the Society's young ringers. We all recognise that if ringing is to have a sustainable future we need to recruit and retain more youngsters. This has been a priority for us. We met together on



alternate Sunday evenings on Ringing Room, and as soon as viable we rang handbells in the open air.

These photos are from young ringers' meetings: left was the first meeting in person as lockdown eased. The second – a BBQ at Ray's.



In the Society's recent Virtual Striking Competition the young ringers had an excellent result coming 3rd, just one point behind Lichfield Cathedral 'A' team.

We are slowly moving closer to ringing being given the green light to resume. I am sure ringers will be asking "will Ringing Room just fade away and become a distant memory?" I very much hope this will not be the case. Properly used, I can see Ringing Room being a great teaching tool. If we consider the large geographical area of our Society, the ability to organise a course for example on 'how to plain hunt' has many advantages. Such as no need to travel long distances, the ability to

stop and start as many times as you need and the organiser being able to place ringers on any bell so learners can master any start. This obviously could never replace full ringing but could be used as an aid to help us recruit and retain new ringers for the future.

So thanks again to our American friends Bryn and Leland and congratulations on their well-deserved ART award.

Ray Hosking

The following articles are updates of what other towers have been doing in lockdown and since – some ringing and some projects.

Abbots Bromley



St Nicholas Church Bell Ringers have commissioned a limited number of fire pits to boost their tower maintenance funds. These fire pits are a unique design, perfect for both family events or just relaxing in the garden! They are laser cut from sturdy 3mm mild steel. The fire pit slots together to stand at approximately 42cm high at the ends (30cm at the sides), 50cm long and 45cm wide. When flat packed, with the strap provided, each measures 50cm x 32cm x 12 mm. Weight approx. 10kg.



Cost £65 each plus £8.50 courier delivery in UK. Collection available by arrangement.

Andy Simmonds is designer, engineer and 'builder'.

For further information please message the Abbots Bromley team <https://www.facebook.com/fundraisingfirepit>

Brewood

After having re-started ringing in May 2021, the Brewood team were keen to stretch themselves to ringing for a full 45 minutes and to attempt a quarter peal during the recent society quarter peal weekend.

The quarter peal was made more special by the opportunity to use it as a thank-you to David Pickrell who has recently retired from the team after an amazing 45 years of dedicated service to ringing in Brewood!

Plain Bob Doubles is David's favourite method and therefore was the obvious choice for the quarter peal attempt.

The band were made up of some of the many people who had enjoyed David's friendship throughout his long participation in ringing at Brewood.

Paul Bennett, Gill Wheatley, Paul Woodward, David Hawksworth, Steve Askew and the Tower Captain, Bob Short. We were delighted to join David and Sheila for celebratory refreshments after the quarter peal.





Gilly's recent fund-raising project.

Gilly Hanson-Giddins is one of our society members and on July 10th, Gilly set off on a mammoth personal challenge to cycle from John-O'Groats to Lands End to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

The ride was referred to as 'LEJOG'!

This is a great cause, and if you would like to contribute towards Gilly's fundraising, please go to her Just Giving page. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-F-Hanson-Giddins1

So far she has raised £3480. To quote from her 'It was the hardest thing ever; poured solidly with rain for the first two days, roasted the rest. Wonderful group'. 24 cyclists took part.



At St Nicholas, Mavesyn Ridware, a quarter peal was rung on July 18 for Gilly and her support crew (Derek) as she embarked on the second part of her fund-raising bike ride.

Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Dawn Grundy
2. Anne E Ogden
3. Rachel J Everett
4. David L Towell
5. David C Everett
6. Andrew C Ogden ©



Lichfield Cathedral

At Lichfield cathedral, 8 band members had an ambition to ring at least some of each method in the standard eight on ringing room during lockdown.

This was finally achieved June 8 2021; picture, right, of the band members.

The weekend of 26th and 27th of June was a very busy one at Lichfield Cathedral. Not only were there the normal Petertide Ordinations on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, but there was also the dedication of the brand new bronze statue of St Chad, which has been placed outside



the south-east corner of the Cathedral, overlooking Dam Street.



As we at Lichfield Cathedral were then currently restricted to ringing sessions of 45 minutes (due to covid) we could not really attempt a quarter peal. Instead a 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung on the front six before the Sunday morning Ordination Service, by the following band.

Helen Jarvis, David Webb, Tayeed MacPherson, David Everett (cond), Sue Binns, Rachel Everett.

After over a year of very little ringing, we were very pleased with ourselves to have scored. **Helen Jarvis**

Walsall

Sunday ringing

We started ringing on 4 bells from 30th August, but this was short lived; we only did it until 18th September, after which stricter restrictions came in. By good fortune, this included Diana's 60th anniversary of ringing at this tower on 6th September (reported on in the last Newsletter).

In common with several other towers, we have started chiming one bell from 6th December on a rota basis, and intend to do this until ringing resumes properly. We have also planned to ring for Christmas services as suggested by the Central Council.

Practice nights

We have kept in touch by various means on a Wednesday, settling on a group phone call, using conference call software, more-or-less since the pandemic stopped ringing. We usually have a chat for 30 - 45 minutes, depending on how the conversation goes, and then those who want to remain have a Ringing Room session. It's a different experience from ringing and takes some getting used to, but we're improving as we go - nothing fancy yet but we enjoy it all the same.

Simulator

We have received a set of 12 simulators from David Bagley, so the next task is to fit them and connect them to the tower's computer. Fitting of clapper ties is currently under way; we anticipate all this being complete by the time ringing resumes properly.

Handrail

There is a proposal to fit a handrail to the staircase. This is at the stage of planning and diocesan approval. **Oliver Bouckley**



Abbots Bromley

Friday Evening June 4

This was the first of the weekend's quarter peal attempts and intended to reinforce Dave's grasp of Bob Major on handbells. It was our 4th quarter in the method so we were improving and for long stretches settled into the regular rhythm needed for hand bells to tick along confidently. Despite a couple of stumbles, it was our first success of the weekend.

1264 Plain Bob Major, Preedy's Close Abbots Bromley,
1-2 Liz Hutchieson, 3-4 Stuart Hutchieson (C), 5-6 David Everett, 7-8 David Towell

Saturday Morning June 5

Norwich? Norwich! Whose bright idea was that? That took some doing to dredge the blue line up from the deep recesses of memory at short notice. Others felt more confident, so having confirmed none of us had any signs of covid, and with the ringing room window wide open for maximum ventilation, we took hold and "looked to". Ropesight is harder on little bells due to the pace, the smaller circle and counting to 7 dodges in a bob - tripped up sometimes but another success came round a little over ½ hour later. It felt good to be back on a rope and to feel safe in ringing.

1440 Norwich Surprise Minor, The Campanile, Abbots Bromley
1 Stuart Hutchieson (C), 2 Andrew Ogden, 3 Dave Towell, 4 Liz Hutchieson, 5 Dawn Grundy, 6 Anne Ogden

Meetings

On Saturday 24 July the first society meeting for 15 months was successfully held at Shareshill . As one would expect the number of people attending is yet to build to the numbers before lockdown, however there was good ringing, and much rust was swept in terms of re-remembering methods etc. The opportunity to catch up with ringing friends was much enjoyed by all. Thanks to John Vincent and his team for their welcome.

The next society meeting will be at St Margaret's Great Barr B43 7BA at 10am on 21 August.
The plan is to hold our AGM at Lichfield Cathedral WS13 7LD at 3pm on 18 September.
All welcome to both of these events.
Reminders will be sent nearer the time with details of arrangements.

Raffle winners – from the June draw.

£51 no 56 Rugeley Tower
£25.50 no 112 Tim Ward
£12.75 no 86 Rachel Wheeler
£12.75 no 32 Chris Mills



Congratulations

To John Daubner on his 90th birthday.

Vernon Wright from Barton Under Needwood who organised a quarter peal of Doubles at St John the Baptist, Armitage, as a compliment to the birthday.
600 Plain bob, 660 Grandsire

The band: 1. Judith Williams, 2. Andrew Ellis, 3. Stuart C H Hutchieson ©, 4. Patrick L Devine,
5. Vernon C Wright, 6. John Williams

John Daubner had been heavily involved in the augmentation project in 2001

Penkridge

On 27th June, Penkridge band rang 1260 Plain Bob Doubles, in memory of Keith Martin and Ruth Fairbrother, both former members of this band, Margaret Linney, Church administrator and Bevan Craddock, Parish Councillor and Town Crier, all of whom died in 2020:

- 1 Mike Roberts
- 2 Petula Hughes
- 3 Jim Nixon
- 4 Andy Hughes
- 5 Jean Nixon (C)
- 6 Richard Bower

Obituary

I regret to announce the death on 22nd July of Joseph [Joe] Davies of St. Giles', Willenhall. Joe was one of the original congregation group recruited by the incumbent in 2000 in order that the decade-long silence of the tower could be ended. The "old man" of the group, he took up the challenge of learning this new skill with enthusiasm and although suffering with a slight physical disability, became a Sunday Service and practice night stalwart. In later years he thrice battled throat cancer, mastering his surgically-implanted voice-box with stoicism. Sadly, in more recent times, the onset of dementia curtailed his activities and he became an Honorary Member of the Society. He left us, however, with a very valuable legacy, bringing to the tower his grandchildren Jonathan and Heidi. Heidi has moved away but Jonathan is an ever-present reminder, and continuation of, the camaraderie that his grandfather shared with us and for which we will always be thankful. **Remi Hodister**