

Editor's Foreword – Andy Clark

It's great that some towers are now back ringing, albeit only on low numbers and for a short period of time. I have continued to ring on a 'socially-distanced' mini ring in Cheltenham, and coupled with a return to tower bell ringing, this has provided some welcome variety. Like many others, I have also used the lockdown to update my ringing records, which usually would fall firmly into the 'I'll do it another time' category! Without further ado, I hope you find something of interest in this edition, and please keep firing over any articles for future editions.

Ringing Master's Report – Arthur Reeves

Clearly, I wish I was writing to you with happier news and in happier times. As we approach an uncertain winter, with increasing restrictions, it is easy to forget that progress has been made since lockdown began in March. Some ringing has returned though not in the way we would like, would have hoped or indeed for all who would want to return. Yet as I look back over the last seven months, I am proud of how the Guild has come together; by supporting one another and in making the best of every occasion. Of course, Zoom online sessions cannot and do not replicate what we do in person, but they do provide a focal point and an opportunity to meet with and hear from people we would not otherwise get to.

After a brief break during August, Wednesday evenings have returned. They are certainly a highlight of my week. Presenters spend considerable time preparing excellent and engaging resources based on their area of expertise for us. I know many of you have been very grateful for these sessions and on behalf of the Guild I'd like to thank everyone who has presented for us. If you haven't managed to make a session yet, see if any of the topics overleaf take your fancy. The vast majority of sessions have been recorded or have resources available online via <http://www.stmartinsguild.org/teaching/training-and-resources/>

This also means we now have a comprehensive, accessible and permanent body of resources available to engage with now and in the future when we can properly apply theory to practice. We will endeavour to continue arranging these sessions until the end of the year and will review the programme over the Christmas period.

Other members of the Guild have continued to make use of Ringing Room, with Phil Ramsbottom leading workshops and others supporting. Brumdingers have remained as busy as always and Janet Horton has coordinated a number of handbell practices. Jonathan Townsend has put together a useful document designed to support towers and individuals looking to return to ringing in the coming months. As things progress, we will continue to review the resources we provide in this new section of the website: <http://www.stmartinsguild.org/teaching/training-and-resources/covid-19-toolkit/>

Socially, we held a photography competition in July to replace the Walking Tour. It was judged by Michael, Vicky and Elizabeth Wilby with Richard and Gill Postill. The themes of 'summertime', 'churches' and 'funniest photo' offered us a variety of wonderful entries which can be viewed on our Flickr site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/188246618@N07/albums> (also see entries later in the newsletter).

One final, and important, thanks to Mark Eccleston for updating our website so quickly since March. Mark has put a lot of work into revamping the website including the Library and Archives sections. If you haven't explored it recently, please do take a look.

Looking to the future, officers will see what and how we can support towers to return to ringing. Furthermore, we will continue to consider ways in which we can assure that normal business continues as best as we can. And though the situation is far from where we would like it to be at present, better times will return. Wishing you all well.

For up to date information and latest calendar use the website <http://www.stmartinsguild.org/>

Future online sessions (Wednesdays @ 19:00)	
14 th October	Devon Call Changes with Jon Bint
21 st October	Snapshots of past Birmingham ringers with Richard Pullin
28 th October	<i>No session</i>
4 th November	Safeguarding in our towers with David Bassford and Ann White
11 th November	Ringling Remembers with Alan Regin
18 th November	Association of Ringing Teachers; their approach to a return to ringing with Lesley Belcher and David Sparling
25 th November	Bell ringing and elections in the West Midlands with Gareth Davies

Ringling Zoom – *Phil Ramsbottom*

Following on from Keith's excellent article in the last newsletter, not quite so much has happened with these sessions in terms of new methods. We have though been consolidating and regularly ringing spliced plain doubles and minor as well as touches of Stedman Doubles and Cambridge Minor. What has been noticeable is the band's ability to return to and ring a method without referring back to the blue line. A simple brief verbal reminder as to the structure of the method is all that's been needed. Additionally, having successfully mastered Cambridge we're now starting to look at some of the variations that can be rung such as Primrose and, yes you've guessed, without laboriously learning a whole new line. A quick glance at the line for Cambridge itself though is quite useful.

On occasions we've been able to ring on eight so hit the dizzy heights of Stedman and Grandsire Triples though very sadly never brought round due to internet issues. Occasionally Ringling Room really is like ringing on a very neglected ring of bells where ropes slip wheels and clappers seize up, although these problems are much easier to fix in the virtual world.

I would recommend any members who have not thought about trying Ringling Room and Zoom to give it a go. It's very simple to get started and to operate (even I can manage it) and with free 40-minute Zoom sessions which are also easy to set up, what's not to like? Should you feel that 40 minutes isn't long enough, Clare McArdle has indicated that the Guild Zoom account could be made available provided any requests don't clash with existing fixtures.

Despite the uncertainties of not always knowing in advance who's turning up for these sessions and the vagaries of the medium we're using (not to mention what's happening in the real world), as is always the case with these events, we have a lot of fun.

Memorial Service for Andrew Stubbs

The memorial service for Andrew Stubbs, which had been provisionally booked for Tuesday 13th October 2020, has now been postponed due to the ongoing coronavirus situation. The family will arrange another date and members will be duly notified.

The 100 Club – Clare McArdle

Please see the table for the Q3 results. Well done to the winners and thanks to all for participating!

July	1 st	48	Olly Bouckley	£50
	2 nd	2	Phil Ramsbottom	£15
	3 rd	49	Alison Edmonds	£5
August	1 st	93	Joanne Goodall	£50
	2 nd	88	Bernadette O'Dwyer	£15
	3 rd	98	Jon Townsend	£5
September	1 st	68	Steve Pugh	£50
	2 nd	19	James Ramsbottom	£15
	3 rd	63	Clare McArdle	£5

Handbells on the Radio – Elizabeth Wilby (aged 9)

When I was told that I had the chance to ring handbells on the radio, I immediately said yes. The night after, I thought, "What if I go wrong? I won't have a chance to correct myself."

The event was for Heritage Open Day. It was to start at sunrise on Saturday 12th September at St Michael's Church, Brierley Hill. Black Country Radio broadcast the live event which included music, poetry, bells and a bit of history. Tim and Jenny Sunter would normally have organised tower bell ringing for Heritage Open Day but, because of coronavirus, the Guild was asked to ring handbells instead. These had been discovered a few years ago after many years of sitting in a box, unused, and Tim got them renovated.

I was very nervous, but also excited. When the day came, I had to wake up at 5am to be at Brierley Hill for 6am. We had two slots on the programme, and we rang Plain Bob Minor. The first, we completed perfectly. The second, there was a small hiccup. It was so interesting to see all of the radio equipment and learn a bit about how a radio broadcast is made. It was one of the best experiences of my life.

CC Rep's Report 2020 – James Ramsbottom

Richard Andrew and I had been expected to be spending the first weekend in September in Nottingham, at the 121st Central Council AGM. But, like so many other events, this couldn't be held due to the ongoing pandemic. So, rather than a weekend of gathering for the AGM, enjoying the sociality of a formal dinner and doing a bit of ringing as well, we both, along with about 150 other ringers, found ourselves logging onto a Zoom meeting on the morning of 5th September.

From a technological point of view, the AGM was expertly handled. Most people were muted for most of the time as the Executive did most of the talking, as is normal for the AGM. However, there were still presentations from all the workgroups including presentations from three recently formed workgroups – Universities & Colleges WG, Senior Stakeholder Liaison WG (involved in talking with the Church of England to get some form of ringing back) and Schools & Youth Groups WG. There were also discussions on matters which needed them. This required the raising of one's virtual hand, again something which was

not too dissimilar to the usual AGM format. In fact, despite not seeing all the familiar faces, it felt a lot like a normal AGM.

The agenda for this year's meeting was notably shorter than average. Aside from the aforementioned workgroup presentations and the matters of elections, the only major item was the subject of small societies being allowed to join the council (small being defined as having fewer than 75 members, or 25 members for overseas societies). This would allow the Council to connect more easily with more ringers and allow for new members who bring new skills which could be of use to the Council. Representatives for small societies would be allowed to attend and speak at council meetings, put forward motions but not have any voting rights. It was mentioned during the meeting that several small societies had already enquired about joining the Council, including the Birmingham University Society. After some discussion on the matter, it was put to the vote, with 76% voting in favour of allowing small societies into the Council.

As well as the Central Council AGM, there was also the Ringing World AGM. Due to the ongoing lockdown, far fewer peals and quarter peals have been rung in 2020 and so there has been a significant lack of donations which accompany their publication in the Ringing World. The Ringing World is therefore expecting to make a significant loss for this financial year. To counter this in some measure, the suggested donation for performances has increased from 50p to 75p. This has been a very challenging time for the Ringing World as they've also had to come up with content to replace the space usually occupied by these performances, and many people feel that they have responded well to this.

The main focus of this meeting was voting to make the Ringing World a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Unfortunately, the draft CIO constitution had only been forwarded to members at 09:00 that morning, meaning that most people had not been able to read it before the discussion. However, the proposal was outlined in the meeting by its proposer before the debate. There were many points both for and against this proposal. When it went to the vote, it was supported by 55%, with a notable number of abstentions. This was short of the 75% it needed to pass.

Although no actual ringing could take place over the weekend, a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters on Ringing Room was organised for the Friday evening, which included both Simon Linford and James Ramsbottom. However, even with a strong band, scoring a quarter peal on Ringing Room is difficult, and this attempt was lost very near the end. Not to be defeated so close to victory, it was re-organised for the Saturday evening, but again lost, this time after about 15 minutes. The meeting had clearly taken it out of us!

All being well, the Central Council plans to finally go to Nottingham for its AGM in 2021.

Return to Ringing at St Martin's – Mark Eccleston

Sunday service ringing recommenced at St Martin's on 26th July and has continued weekly ever since. A detailed risk assessment was compiled and agreed with the church authorities, and is updated weekly based on the latest national guidelines and those from the Central Council. Bands are agreed in advance, maintain social distancing, wear face coverings and sanitise hands upon entry and exit.

The size of the ringing chamber at St Martin's has allowed us to ring a sub-set of the available bells. We've been ringing 'The Magnificent Seven' (bells 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16), or a lighter six (bells 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12). A particular highlight has been a specially composed touch, created by John Warboys, comprising 13 Spliced Surprise Minor methods, the first letter of each method forming the acrostic: 'Covid Selected'! <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1387608>

All Saints Kings Heath – *Simon Linford*

An opportunity has arisen to put a ring of bells into All Saints, Kings Heath. A chance conversation with Stan Hems, a prominent mover and shaker in Kings Heath with strong links to the church, led to a visit to the tower with a churchwarden, and a very positive response to the potential of this fine tower having the ring of bells it was clearly designed for.

There would be lots of benefits to the Guild of having a light six in Kings Heath. Our six bell ringing development is hindered by not having a light six to practice on – most of our six bell ringing is done on front sixes of tens, or back sixes of eights, which is not ideal. There is a lot of interest in multi-method minor ringing at the top-end of the experience scale and such peal attempts do not have a natural base. And finally the Guild's young ringers, and Brumdingers in particular, would benefit from a tower where the bells are easy to ring. All Saints is an active church in a prominent position in the centre of a large community, so finding ringers would not be difficult. One of the churchwardens turned out to be a lapsed ringer who learned at St Anne's Moseley!

The Keltek Trust, which helps churches acquire surplus and redundant bells for change ringing, made me aware of a possible ring of six being created by bellhanger Matthew Higby, and offered a grant of £10,000 towards the cost should they be suitable. Matthew's ring of six, which is being created from two rings of three he took in part exchange from other projects, are indeed suitable, so we have a proposal to acquire these and install them in All Saints for a grand total of £70,000 less the Keltek grant. Builder's work would be in addition, comprising installation of two floors, casting of one concrete ring beam, and provision of sound control.

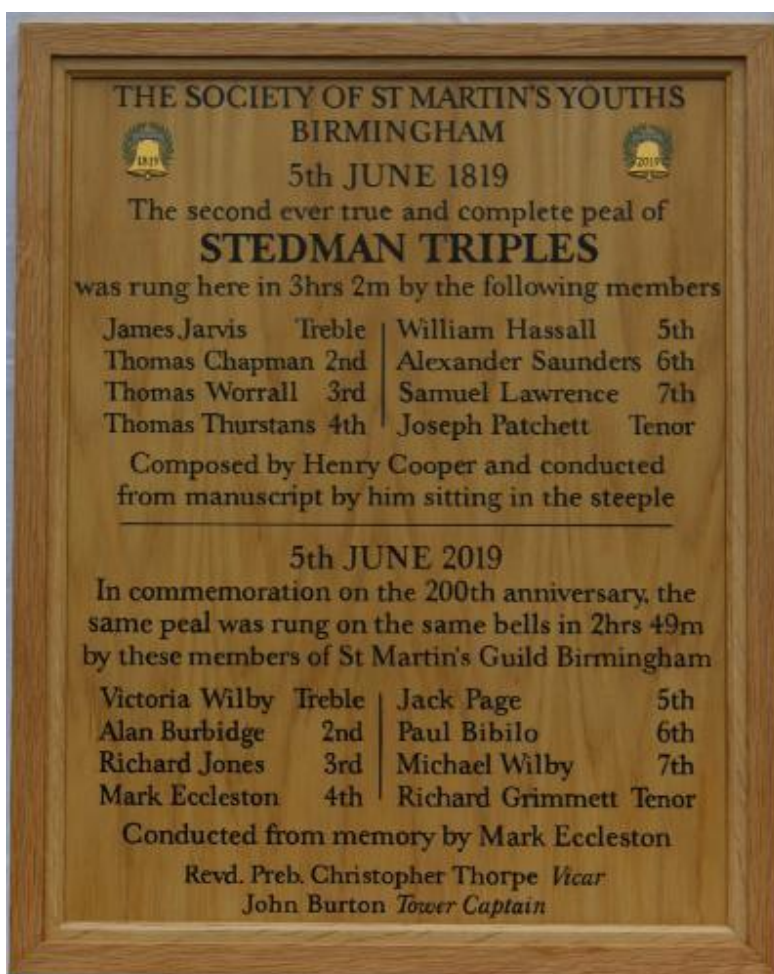
Overall this is a very achievable project. It needs to get formal sign off from the PCC, but assuming that happens I will be looking for any offers of support. A project manager would be ideal!



The Shifnal Peal Boards Project – *Richard Jones*

Readers may recall that in June 2019, eight members of the Guild went to Shifnal (near Telford) to mark the 200th anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Triples by Birmingham ringers. The figures for the original peal, called from manuscript by its composer Henry Cooper, have survived, and so the same composition was rung again on the very same bells, this time conducted from memory by Mark Eccleston. A warm connection had been established on a couple of project-planning visits with the local ringers, particularly tower captain John Burton, and with the Vicar. So 5th June 2019 turned out to be a very good day out – as good, we reckoned, as the one enjoyed by the 1819 ringers in the company of their friend, the famous Shifnal ringer Samuel Lawrence.

Two 18th century peal boards at Shifnal include the names of Andrew Peake (formerly a leader of Birmingham ringing) and Sam Lawrence. These boards were in poor repair, and linked to our commemoration of the 1819 peal, money towards their restoration was raised among Guild members and with a grant from Guild funds. I am very glad to report that this work, along with the repair of four other boards sponsored locally, has just been completed by the conservator Annabelle Monaghan (of Longden, Salop). I went to the church on Friday 2nd October and can confirm that the old boards have been restored to a very high standard and their appearance has been transformed. They are beautiful pieces of ringing heritage (the conservator's report and photographs will be available shortly and I will publish more about the outcome of the project in the Ringing World). Thanks are due to those who kindly responded to our fund-raising appeal.



The Stedman Triples peal of 1819 itself did not have a board. So we commissioned Maggie Willans (of Bath) to make one to mark the bicentary, the cost subscribed by members of the peal band. This, along with the two old boards the Guild helped to restore, are to be hung in the ringing chamber after a brief period on display during a Covid-restricted flower festival in the church on 3rd & 4th October (the four other boards will be returned permanently to a wall in the church). It is very gratifying to think that this long-planned project honouring an achievement of our distinguished ringing forebears has now been successfully concluded – and we hope the renewed connection with Shifnal will live on.

Brumdingers – *Simon Linford*

The Brumdingers have finally got back to doing some tower bell ringing. The vicar of Edgbaston kindly allowed access to his church despite it not being open for services and so a few of the young ringers have been able to ring there on a Sunday afternoon, in the limited way we have got used to. Simba, the Brumdingers' mascot, has been locked away in St Mary's Moseley, but the BUSCR turtle has become a very good substitute and proved itself to be surprisingly aerodynamic.

St Mary's Moseley didn't open for services until late September, and the Brumdingers are now providing a Sunday service band on alternate weeks with the other local ringers. On their first outing, Charlie, Susan, Robbie, Orson and I rang very creditable call changes on 1 3 6 8 10.

Handbell practices have continued in the churchyard (see our photograph) throughout the summer although they are starting to get more challenging as temperature and available daylight are dropping! We are going to need to find somewhere indoors very soon, lockdown restrictions permitting.

All in all, these limited ringing opportunities, combined with some Ringing Room action on Saturday mornings, has kept the sparks of enthusiasm alive.



Scratching the Bellringing Itch in Lockdown – *Keith Whitehead*

I'm sure that many of us felt at a bit of a loose end in March once bellringing arrangements had been expunged from the diary. So without a regular fix of service ringing, practice nights and workshops, what does one do to fill the void? Here's what's working for me:

a) Ringing Room workshops (I wrote about these in the last newsletter). They've continued, twice a week, throughout the coronavirus hiatus. After the multiplicity of minor and doubles methods mentioned before, we've moved on to surprise methods. This is perfect for me as just before lockdown, I was trying to conquer a plain course of Cambridge Minor (as some may remember from my article in the Q3 2018 newsletter). Following many hours on Abel, ringing plain courses on every bell, then the touch of 192 supplied from every bell, then random touches, and finally ringing plain courses and touches in these workshops, I believe that I'm just about there. We shall see when I get back up the tower.

b) Guild Zoominars on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Always interesting and entertaining even when I thought the subject matter wasn't going to be relevant to me.

c) St Alphege get-togethers on a Tuesday evening (our normal practice night). Weather permitting, these were handbell ringing outdoors and in bad weather, Zoom calls to stay in touch. My handbell ringing progress is paltry compared with what some have achieved recently, but I've rung all three pairs to Plain Hunt on six and, last time, 1-2 and 5-6 to a plain course of Grandsire Doubles (yes I know that 1-2 to a plain course of Grandsire is the same as to Plain Hunt. And that only one of 5-6 is a working bell. But small steps of progress)

d) Ringing the tower bells at St Alphege resumed in mid-July. It sounded strange and is, of course, only 15 minutes, but it was good to be back. We also rang for VJ Day. Three extents of doubles seem to fit a 15-minute slot very well.

e) Personal ringing records. I'm one of those sorry individuals who keeps detailed records, so it was a good opportunity to check that everything was in order. It was for me but I discovered three early QPs that my wife Linda rang that I hadn't recorded. So lots of footnotes saying, eg, '150th QP' or '50th QP with named individual' are wrong. I can, of course, get future footnotes correct, but what do I do about the old BellBoard records? Should I add a supplementary footnote? Replies are welcome!

Joint Statement agreed by the Cadbury Barn Trust and the BSoBR – *Clare McArdle*

The Cadbury Barn Trust and the BSoBR are pleased to announce that they are working in partnership to develop the site of the former Cadbury Barn and repurpose the remaining unused buildings at the entrance to Manor Farm Park in Northfield. BSoBR was established in 2013 and is widely regarded as the gold standard for teaching change ringing in the English style. It is a CIO with registered number 1170942.

The two Trusts have a shared vision to revitalise the area for the public benefit, by upgrading and reusing the buildings for a range of uses including community space, toilets, refreshments and what will be an innovative new Bell Ringing School, building on Birmingham's reputation as the 'First City of Bells'. The two bodies believe that their separate purposes will be complementary and synergistic, jointly attracting more people to use the services and facilities on the site, as well as the park, than either organisation on their own. Further, they believe that their combined expertise and networks will be mutually beneficial in developing their own projects in tandem. While there is still work to be done on the detail of the partnership and future arrangements, discussions with the Council to further the plans for the site will need to be undertaken with representation from both parties.

A Hotch-Potch Peal at Perry Barr – Mark Eccleston

Few peal compositions splice methods across different stages (for example, Spliced Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major), yet it is almost 100 years since the first true mixed-stage peal was rung. Earlier false 'peals' had been rung during the 19th century, with the St Martin's Guild involved in a controversy over a 'peal' rung at Perry Barr. The 'peal' was rung at Perry Barr on 25th May 1886 comprising 1280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major and Plain Bob Major, along with 1260 changes of Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples. It was claimed as 'the only known performance in these four methods on eight bells'.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.
On Tuesday, May 25, 1886, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
5080 CHANGES: IN FOUR DIFFERENT METHODS ON
EIGHT BELLS:—
Being 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major, 1280 Bob Major, 1260 Stedman Triples,
1260 Grandsire Triples.
Tenor 13½ cwt. in F♯.

SAMUEL REEVES.. .. <i>Treble.</i>	JOHN SANDERS 5.
HENRY BASTABLE 2.	WILLIAM R. SMALL.. .. 6.
JOHN W. CARTWRIGHT .. 3.	BERNARD WITCHELL .. 7.
THOMAS REYNOLDS 4.	JOHN BUFFERY <i>Tenor.</i>

Composed by HY. JOHNSON, and Conducted by HY. BASTABLE.
This peal, which was rung at the first attempt, is the only known performance in these four methods on eight bells.

Report of the 'peal' rung at Perry Barr as reported in Bell News, 29 May 1886

The report of this performance, printed alongside more conventional peals, caused more than a little consternation in the pages of Bell News. In point of fact this performance was a series of four consecutive quarter-peals, each quarter true in itself and with each coming back into rounds before the band proceeded to ring the next.

Experienced ringers of the day appear to have been immediately aware that this was no peal in any ordinary sense. The renowned composer John R. Pritchard published a letter in Bell News requesting confirmation that no row occurred more than once: 'if any one change occurred twice I think that column should be closed to such performances'. His own views were evident in his concluding remarks where he explained that he could not 'understand a hotch-potch of various dishes on eight bells, when a 5000 in any one method can be rung'.

The correspondent N. N. Hills, instructor of the St Alban's Cathedral Society of Ringers, was even more damning. He wrote a scathing attack on the Birmingham band requesting 'that it may also be last time such a mongrel affair is allowed to appear in the columns of our valuable paper, or we may eventually have some company ringing ten distinct 500's of Grandsire Triples and calling it a peal'.

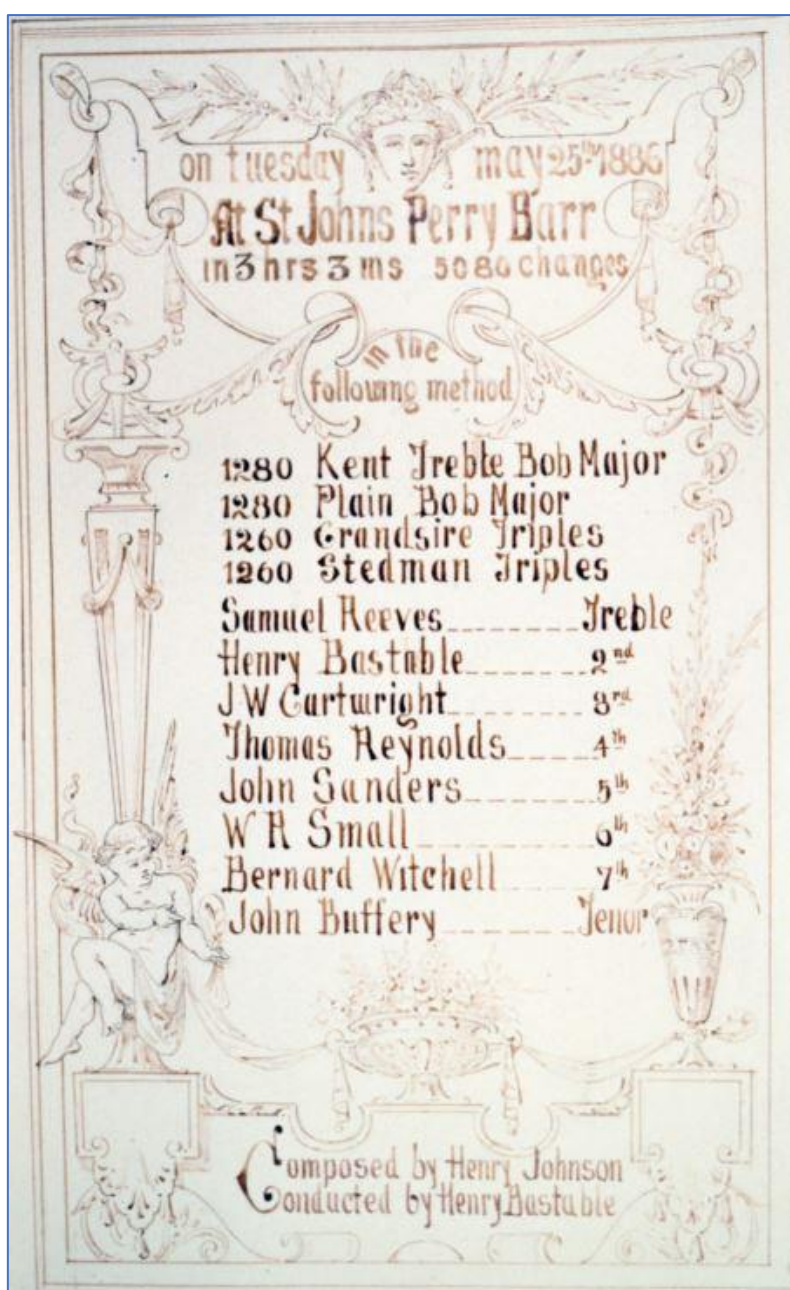
The conductor of the Perry Barr performance, Henry Bastable, was a well-known and respected ringer. He was one-time Ringing Master at St Martin's Birmingham and, in 1888, was the conductor of the first peal of Stedman Cinques to be rung on handbells outside London. In replying to his detractors, Bastable did concede that the Perry Barr 'peal' was indeed not true in the usual sense. Yet he mounted a robust defence on behalf of the Birmingham ringers. In reply to N. N. Hills, Bastable suggested that 'any band who attempts such a mongrel affair will find it more difficult to complete than any ordinary 5000'.

Bastable stated that the 'peal' did test the capabilities of his band. Although ringers today may be familiar with the concept of splicing different methods, compositions incorporating more than one eight-bell method were rarely rung in the 19th century. Bastable did concede that although changes were repeated

at Perry Barr, each method was true in itself; and he even went as far as to suggest that peal columns should not be closed to such performances simply because of repetition across the whole. But Bastable would not get his wish: his approach to combining Triples and Major methods appears to have found no favour whatsoever with the other peal bands of his day.

Henry Bastable died, aged 50, on 18th January 1899. It would be over a quarter of a century before anyone would successfully develop a device to successfully incorporate Triples and Major methods into a true peal. That person was the extraordinarily talented A. J. Pitman, pioneer of spliced composing, and perhaps most remembered for his early ground-breaking work on Spliced Surprise Major.

If you'd like to read more about Triples and Major peals, the full article series is available via The Ringing World.



Tower Talk Lockdown Ringing – Jane Morris

I've been learning to ring for almost two years, starting off at Castle Bromwich church tower then joining Birmingham School of Bell Ringing – which has helped to develop and improve my ringing but was a bit daunting at first. My friend Elaine and I had just passed Level 2 and were starting to learn basic methods in preparation for Level 3 when the pandemic meant the UK was in lockdown and the bells fell silent.

Workwise I had been furloughed and found that I now had lots of time on my hands when I received an email from the School about online theory classes and thought great – at least it's something to focus on other than the pandemic.

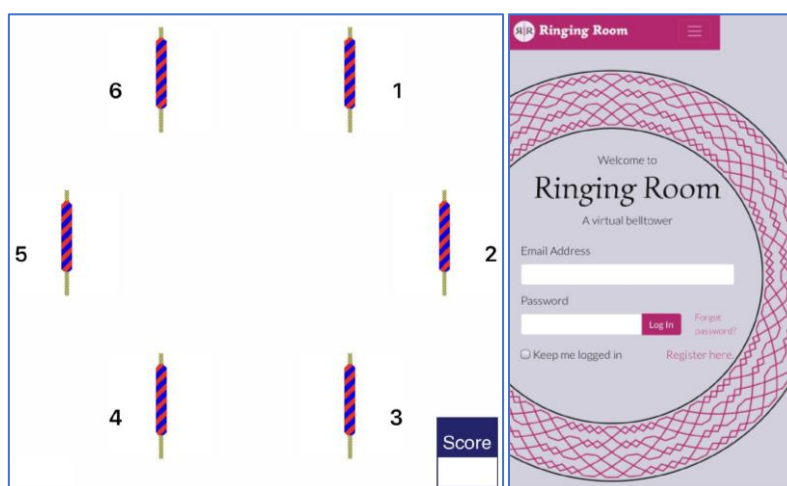
Who knew that there was so much to learn? There have been so many subjects covered: Coursing Bells, Introduction to Place Notation, Bob Doubles, Handbell ringing, Conducting and Understanding Methods, Understanding Stedman, The Importance of Passing the Treble and Ringing Big Bells to name but a few. All made available by the fantastic team behind BSoBR on the St Martin's Guild website with access available anytime as a reference.

We were asked if we wanted to download Abel / Mabel simulator to keep up our practice virtually at home anytime. I've started using Mabel a lot and have made good progress. Then Ringing Room came along which was a bit strange at first for all of us and the School have held virtual classes using it. We started with the minor methods that we were working on before lockdown, such as Bastow and Plain Hunting. I have recently started on Bob Doubles, at first on the treble and tenor but now have started to ring on the inside bells which I never thought I'd be doing so quickly but I do like a challenge and don't give up easily.

Things that confused me before have now started to make sense and I no longer look at a method and think 'oh my god how will I learn all that'? I can now see and understand things more – for example why they only display the blue line as one line for everyone as the other bells just start at a different point on the line.

When we eventually go back to tower ringing, it will be strange holding the sally and not tapping my finger to make a bell ring. The positive is that I will go back with a better level of understanding in the theory of what I am doing and how to put it into practice. I've even started to learn to ring handbells which I thought I'd never do and it's great fun.

There has been so much information and support from the St Martin's Guild and BSoBR during lockdown and so many positives that I would like to take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to you all.



Guild Photography Competition – Introduction by Richard Postill

The St Martin's Guild Photographic Competition, held in July, produced some really good images and the judges had a difficult but enjoyable task.

Judging was based on whether the category brief was fulfilled, on the impact of each picture and on technical competence, although this was not too emphasised as we accepted that these were not entries for a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society! However we did notice whether a picture was in focus and correctly exposed.

You can view all of the entries, along with the highly commended and the winners in each category here <https://youtu.be/St7TeFDYW1M>

The winner of 'Summertime' (well done to Pauline Foster) caught the mood well and we could almost feel the warmth. Water, a half-timbered house, a church and the cows added up to an idyllic scene.



Monochrome (or black & white) relies on a range of tones to make the impact rather than colour. Here the winning shot had a good range without the whites being burned out and the blacks forming a solid block with no detail. Well done to Jon Townsend for this winning entry.



The 'Funny' category stretched people's imagination. The winning shot (well done to Annie Smith) reminded us of what people do when photographing the leaning tower of Pisa. It was well composed.



Finally, churches can be quite tricky to photograph. The winner went for a nicely angled shot which gave the picture strength. Well done to Susan Webb for this excellent photograph.

