



# NEWS

## The Quarterly Newsletter of the St Martin's Guild - issue 45

### Editor's forward:

Welcome to issue 45. As you have probably noticed, although this is a quarterly newsletter, Sand is now sending out monthly reminders to send me your stories, articles and photos. I look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew - [avb@btinternet.com](mailto:avb@btinternet.com)

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### Ringing Master's Report.

Along with the rest of the ringing fraternity I think it's fair to say that the St. Martin's Guild can be rightly proud of the quantity and variety of ringing produced in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. From our newest recruits managing a few rounds after only a few weeks tuition, right up to top class high number peals and everything in between, congratulations and well done to everyone who contributed to being a part of this historic occasion. Much of the activity has already been reported via the usual channels and there's more of it included in this newsletter.

As some of you will be aware I have, during the last year, visited a few practice nights in the traditional Guild area simply to get a feel for what's happening at the coal face, so to speak. Whilst it hasn't been possible for every visit I have occasionally taken a few moments to discuss other possible ideas which bands and/or individuals might like to consider doing for practice nights and beyond. Having then thought about this for a while, it wasn't long before I found I had quite a long list which I'll share with you here. You might like to try some of them.

1. Arrange a focussed ringing session. This can be at your home tower or any other. Maybe simply an extra 30 minutes before usual practice. Ask for help leading it if necessary.
2. Arrange an outing. This can be an all day affair or simply two or three towers on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon followed by a visit to a local tea room/pub (delete as appropriate).

3. Organise a joint practice with another tower and as there's not really anything to be gained by simply doing the 'same old same old', have a plan for the evening and try something different. Think about inviting a guest leader - perhaps someone who could help you achieve something different.

4. Organise a joint practice with another tower but utilising both towers. Have, for example, rounds and call changes at one tower and plain bob at the other. This maximises available ringing time for those present. Arrange leaders for both towers and meet in a pre-arranged pub post practice to discuss how it all went.

5. Challenge another tower to a striking contest. This could be at a joint practice night or any other time and maybe at a different tower. There's no need to broadcast the event, it can be a really 'low key' affair and you can make up your own rules. The judges (who don't necessarily have to absent themselves from the ringing room) could be one ringer from each tower or maybe a collective of those 'sitting out'. There doesn't have to be a winner either, maybe just some constructive comments from the judges. Regardless of the outcome, go and challenge another tower. This isn't about winning, it's about having fun.

6. Book a different tower for practice night a few times a year - maybe one with more bells (10 bell towers have two rings of 6 and four rings of 5 so that can add to the fun).

7. Find out more about methods you can already ring, eg the structure, what happens at the lead end etc. Knowing and ringing a method competently requires more than simply learning a blue line. Include looking into compositions (even if you can't yet call bobs). Are there other touches of bob doubles other than the usual 120s? Don't just Google it, work it out for yourself.

8. Try ringing spliced as a means of learning a new method one lead at a time. An example is one lead of St. Simon's doubles and one lead of plain bob doubles comes round after 20 rows.

9. Arrange a zoom theory session with a few others and focus on just one or two methods - a bit like joining a book club.

10. Keep a note book and pen handy at ringing sessions and try to work things out when necessary as opposed to resorting to a hand held device and simply looking at a blue line for the umpteenth time. If you must use a hand held device, look at the method grid which is a much overlooked but valuable source of information - make a point of studying this too.

11. Make notes and report on your activities and achievements, either as an individual or for your tower - submit them for publication in the Guild newsletter and/or post on social media - and not just the Guild pages, there's loads of other ringing related sites to utilise. Spread the message.

12. Having tried any of the above, organise another whatever it was that you did or try something else from the list or develop other ideas and publicise them.

As always, if members would like some help with any of this, please get in touch.

In other news, I'm pleased to report that the regular monthly events continue to be well supported and are proving to be of benefit to those attending. These are the surprise major practice at Edgbaston on the 1st Saturday, the special Sheldon workshops every 3rd Wednesday, open ringing at St. Mary's in Moseley on 3rd Thursday mornings and the higher numbers practice at Solihull on 4th Wednesdays. My thanks to everyone involved in arranging, running and supporting these events which provide a regular and excellent source of learning and development.

And finally, the workshops have restarted on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, details of which you will hear about through the usual media. If there's something in particular you'd like arranging then please get in touch and I'll see what I can do.

Phil Ramsbottom

## The Guild Fun Challenge Day.

On the 22nd April, thirty ringers of varying ability gathered at St Barnabas, Erdington to take on the Guild Fun Challenge Day. It promised to be an afternoon of fun and a chance to get to know other ringers. I was excited to be involved as one of the ten members of team B.



St Barnabus, Erdington.

Presented with five tasks, we headed over to Erdington Abbey to complete the first three. To begin with, a set of call changes were rung that included well-known sequences like Queens. After that, two sets of plain bob minimus had to be rung at the same time - surprisingly difficult to ring. I definitely have a newfound respect for those who have managed quarters and peals of a similar format! Finally, a few rounds of whole pull and stand had to be completed. On an unfamiliar set of bells, this was certainly a challenge.

With no time to waste, we then walked back to St Barnabas to finish off the last two tasks. A test of rhythm was up first - dropping and adding bells while ringing rounds. Though perhaps one of the easier challenges in terms of bell control, I don't think I've ever seen a group of ringers listen quite so intensely. Then, to finish off the tasks, our team's highest scored performance - ringing plain bob doubles with the third acting as the treble. I definitely didn't expect the amount of

concentration it took to not accidentally dodge with the wrong bell!

Once all teams had finished the tasks, we gathered in the church for some very well deserved tea and biscuits. Though for some, five challenges simply wasn't enough - an anticlockwise 120 on handbells was rung while waiting for the results, a first for all involved - well done to Graham Kelly, Michael Parker and Luke Daniel!

Finally, the results were announced. There was only a one-point difference between each team, which I think really reflects the effort everyone put in. A big congratulations to Team A, who emerged victorious. It was a great afternoon out and I think I can speak for everyone when I say we're looking forward to the next one!

Kirsty Gifford

## Moseley Learners.

Moseley has had a glut of learners - almost a constant stream of people coming along asking to learn. There's no obvious reason for it other than a general awareness started by Ring for the King. Lucian and Vicki started to ring last year and have been learning at the School. They joined Peter who is now ringing for Sunday services. In March, Debbie started to learn closely followed by Sarah - they were taught intensively together and both rang for the Coronation. They are both now able to ring rounds and they ring at both St Mary's and St Anne's.

But it goes on! Michael Parker introduced Simi, who started learning in June. Then another Moseley resident, Sue, contacted us and she had her first lesson in June. Again, they will be taught quite intensively so they can participate fully in practices as soon as possible. Finally, Debbie brought her daughter Rebecca to the Call Change competition and then to a Monday evening practice. She seemed very interested...

This is all very useful because St Anne's has been dropping below critical mass for service ringing and sometimes practice, but one week in June there were 13 at St Anne's!

Simon Linford

## Moseley Hosts the National Call Change Competition.

It was a band from Kingsteinton in Devon triumphed in the National Call Change Competition on 3rd June, but St Paul's Birmingham, who only started to practice Devon style call change ringing in the run up to this competition, came a very close second, and took the separate prize for the best stretch of ringing of the day. Thirteen teams competed to ring the test piece of a rise, 60 on 3rds and a lower, the standard peal used in Devon Association competitions.

It's not actually the first time there has been a national competition for call change ringing in the Devon style. There have been open competitions in Devon before, and indeed some years ago a Birmingham band ventured to the south west to test their mettle against the local experts, but it was the first time that one had been organised by a 'muggle' and so far from the spiritual home of the genre. Six bands were from Devon, seven bands were not. When I first proposed this competition I was worried that no one would enter. I knew some method ringing bands would be put off by their ringing up and down being marked, and others that this different style of ringing, particularly the closed handstroke leading, would be something they couldn't do or would negatively impact their other ringing. In consultation with the judges I developed a bespoke judging plan which would limit the raise and lower to 20% of the total score, with 80% for the call changes in the middle.

**"It was very pleasant to mix and talk with fellow ringers from all backgrounds, I thought the effort and dedication shown by the competing teams from outside the west country was of an excellent standard. Muggles - you have absolutely nothing to fear!"**

An interesting aspect of holding the competition at the ground floor ring in Moseley, where the front six curve in a semi-circle round the end of the ringing chamber, is that non participants and other team members could stand in the nave and watch the ringing, as many did. Some bands might have had a



Enjoying the sunshine.

dozen or more people silently watching, with peals greeted by a round of applause at the end.

I came across a number of examples of slight differences in nomenclature between call change ringers and method ringers, which just add to the richness of ringing. I heard a couple of band members discussing their speed "we were ringing at about 37 [rounds per minute]" - most method ringers wouldn't know their ringing speed quite like that, and would call it changes per minute anyway. That speed, 37, is equivalent to ringing a quarter of Doubles in 34 minutes - the local band would normally take 42, so it shows how the bells were being rung below the balance.

There was amusement when in his summing up judge Ian Avery said "this band surprised us by ringing up 'Bristol style'", as in 1, 1-2, 1-2-3 etc. This must hark back to a time when coming from the south west, Bristol was the gateway to the rest of the world, where the pace of life got faster, and the handstroke leads slower. As a band in Moseley we have found

that the Devon style of pitching in makes ringing up far better, so we use it more often than not now.

13 teams took well over four hours, but to fill the time there was constant availability of tea and cake, nominated pubs, ringing at Selly Oak and St Anne's Moseley, and general milling around. Many remarked on how nice it was to discuss our different styles of ringing and to make many new friends. By the end of the day it was not so much whether there will be a similar event next year, but where.

**“Tapping into the perceived separation between the two styles of ringing was a great idea and there was nothing but mutual positivity and respect in all the conversations I had throughout the day.”**

The judges, Paul Pascoe and Ian Avery, are both experienced method ringers as well as call change ringers. They were ideally placed to work with my suggested scoring system and provide constructive feedback to all teams, cognisant of the different levels of experience in the ringing style. In the end the ‘muggles’ all did pretty well, with St Paul's Birmingham giving Kingsteinton a scare.

The St Paul's band did fantastically well to come second in a competition like this. Devon competitions have this separate award for “Best Ringing” which is not based on the overall score that includes the ringing up and down, but is for the best part of the ringing that they heard. St Paul's were awarded the “Best Ringing” certificate for a faultless fall in peal. I stood listening to St Paul's test piece with James Steer, Chairman of the Devon Association. I explained quite how experienced the ringers were in ‘our’ code of method ringing. “Good ringers are just good ringers” he replied.

### **Could you try call change ringing like this?**

This competition is part of a Central Council led strategy to promote call change ringing as a target in itself, and not just a step on a path to method as it so often is. I got interested in Devon call change ringing a few years ago and we joined the Kingsteinton ringers on their annual outing when we were on holiday in Devon. Over the course of a day and five



Watching the ringing.

towers they rang up and down 28 times! No wonder they're good at it!

Call changes in the Devon style, with closed handstroke leads, rapid changes, and bells slightly below the balance, have become a feature of practices at Moseley, and the touch of 60 on 3rds is often the best ringing of the evening. Having got over quite how hard it is, it is now becoming quite accepted. Don't let anyone say “are we *just* ringing call changes?”

**“One of the Cheltenham ringers said it was the most intense ringing he had ever experienced.”**

**“The whole process has been incredibly rewarding, Our band had several practices building up to the event and these were fun and extremely beneficial to our ringing generally - especially our rising and lowering which we “scientific ringers” have a tendency to neglect.”**

**“It has encouraged me to place call changes and raising and lowering higher up the food chain in our practices.”**

Simon Linford

## Hampton in Arden 'Ring for the King' and take part in Bell Sunday.

15 ringers gathered in the church at Hampton, just prior to the Coronation Service starting, to Ring for the King. We rang for 45 minutes with everyone taking part. The 15 included 2 from other towers and also 5 new ringers who have started to learn to ring in the last few months. We then adjourned to the Fuller's home to watch the Coronation service and have a 'bring and share' lunch. Eight of us then returned to the church to ring for a wedding - so a busy day!

On the Bank Holiday Monday we opened up the tower for any villagers who wished to come and 'Ring for the King'. We were overwhelmed with the response - within the hour we had 37 people, of all ages, come to see what we do and have a go at chiming a bell. Everyone enjoyed themselves and received a certificate to say they had chimed a bell for the Coronation. Three were especially interested and have since come on a Monday to start to learn to ring.

We also embraced 'Bell Sunday' with one of our ringers, Revd Sue Restall taking the service. Other ringers involved were Dan reading the lesson, Bridget reading the intercessions, Greg and Andy taking the collection and taking up the bread and wine and Dan serving. Sue gave an excellent sermon all about bells and bellringing and we have had some delightful feedback.

Bridget Osmond

'It was beautifully prepared and conducted and we learned lots about bells and bell ringing.'

'It gave us an opportunity to appreciate their skills, commitment and service to our church.'

'It gave us an opportunity to say thank you to Bridget and all her team for all their hard work and to recognise the enhancement to our worship that their bell ringing brings - not forgetting all the weddings too.'



### The Hampton in Arden Ringers

Clive Day, Andy Pike, Mike Dean, Jay Dilley, Tom Dean, Dan Xavier, Bridget Osmond, Greg Gardiner, Joan Fuller Mick Fuller, Sue Restall, Rosemary Watts, Sue Davies, Brian Davies (and Will Davies took the photo!)

## Bell Sunday - St Alphege, Solihull.

At St Alphege in Solihull we celebrated Bell Sunday a week later than most, but we still took the opportunity to introduce a new tradition and bring the band to the attention of the parish. We might be unusual in that, whilst we welcome ringers of all faiths and none, we do have a fair few church goers amongst us albeit that some of us attend services elsewhere or services away from the midmorning Sunday eucharist. So, there being some 55 steps up the tower, there is a risk that we become out of sight and out of mind. In recent years we've been working really hard to raise our profile which in many ways made Bell Sunday all the more important to us. Having gained the agreement to go ahead, a Parish Magazine article was duly written to introduce the event and, we then worked with the clergy and lay team to make the service special. We had prayers for Bell Sunday including a Bell Sunday collect, the Epistle (read by our Tower Captain), a bell related hymn and a sermon that referenced the band too. The church team really responded well to the suggestion and entered into the spirit of the event, welcoming the link to the resources made available through the Bell Sunday website.

We were particularly pleased to receive an invitation to join The Junction. The junction is a cross between a Sunday school and an informal service for preschool and primary school children with their parents. A small number of us went along with handbells and gave a brief explanation of bell ringing, answered questions and then 'walked' plain hunting for them. We'd also taken our smallest handbells from a larger set for tune ringing. So small, that even the youngest of the congregation could have a go at making a noise. And they certainly did! We then left



three places across the sheet! We also found some wonderful thank you cards made for us by the children at the Junction. These were later placed in front of the altar for a photo before being taken into the tower to be displayed. Everything went to plan and we had a very successful morning. There was just one unexpected event and that was when the Ven. Paul, who describes himself as bell ringing friendly, called us all out to the front for the congregation to thank us with a round of applause. Probably best we didn't know about this beforehand as some of the band might have stayed away! After the service it was lovely that several of the congregation approached us to chat.

I think we can chalk that one up as points scored in raising our profile! And a huge thanks goes to all of the band that were able to support the event.

Sand Cooper

them as they carried on with their usual activities and we understand that they enjoyed their refreshments on the grass outside church whilst we were ringing for the main Sunday service.

After ringing we came down the tower stairs directly into church via the doorway under the tower, close to the central altar, as the first hymn was being sung. We paused to avoid a clash with the processing choir and clergy, before placing three of our largest handbells in front of the altar along with our two model bells. On reaching our pews we found 'pew slips' set out for us with lots of Bell Sunday references including the Bell Sunday logo in



## News and Opinions from Sheldon.

Our May Special Practice at St Giles, Sheldon enabled our enthusiastic doubles ringers to attempt St Simons, St Martins, St Nicholas and Winchendon Place. Everyone who attempted these succeeded in ringing a plain course. I must explain that we had considerable support from Eleanor and Charlie Linford with calling, ringing and standing behind. Their support was very much appreciated.

Ideas for future practices include ringing touches of these doubles methods and also practising Erin Triples.

I know a few ringers look down on ringing doubles methods, but in my mind doubles takes greater concentration than plain methods on higher numbers as the work comes around that much quicker giving you much less time to think. Also, the bells being fewer in number means more effort is required in changing places or dodging.

As most of our ringing involves Grandsire and Plain Bob it's good to explore the many other methods available. Also, how many of us are familiar with calls other than the usual bobs and singles - for example Grandsire Extreme and Pinks Single...? Perhaps another idea for a Special Practice?

Margaret Burling  
Deputy Ringing Master



## Mayor sets new ringing tradition at Coleshill.

The retiring Coleshill Mayor, Cllr Caroline Symonds, started a new Coleshill ringing tradition when she visited our tower to present her Coronation volunteering certificates to ringers. It was the last official duty of her mayoral year, and so she was offered the opportunity to be rung out of office. The new mayor Cllr Tony Battle also accepted this offer when his year ends.

The church has been without a vicar for over two years so the Coleshill ringers and church members have pulled together to ensure all services, funerals and weddings were covered, as well as the usual open days, fund raisers and other aspects of church life. The certificates thanked them all for their exceptional commitment and outstanding voluntary work.



On Coronation Day, a well-struck Coronation [touch](#) was heard by the mayor as she walked through the town. She told ringers how thrilled she had been by it. Three new ringers (they walked in off the street one practice night, and were not recruited through the Ring for the King initiative) were sufficiently advanced to ring as part of the day's ringing.

Coleshill's ringing traditions are listed [here](#) - one of several ringing items on the church website.



The outgoing mayor...



...and the incoming mayor.



## World's First Level 5 Call Change Conductor.

In May we held a dual celebration party - for the King's coronation and to mark 10 years of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing.

Never one to miss an opportunity, it was a pleasure for me to be able to present Learning the Ropes certificates to some of our students who had achieved Levels 1, 2 and 3. But the biggest thrill was to present the first ever Level 5 certificate of the Learning the Ropes Advanced Call Changes Scheme to Max Earthquake.



Max with her certificate.

Max started on the Call Change scheme in 2021 as a member of my band which, along with half a dozen other bands, took part in the pilot testing how the scheme would work. At the time, she had just achieved her Level 2 on the original LtR scheme and so was in the perfect position to launch her call change conducting career. She took to it like a duck to water and was really keen to progress. Every week she would show me that she had been working on the theory parts and it soon became pretty clear she would become an excellent call change conductor.

At the beginning of the year I got a sense that Max was really upping her game and that what she really wanted was to be the first person to get to Level 5. I was very happy to feed her ambition and help her achieve her goal.

But, it's not just about the certificate on the wall. Max is an extremely competent call change conductor with a really good understanding of how call changes work. She regularly calls Sunday service touches and is a dab hand at calling Devon sequences.

Well done Max!

Clare McArdle

## Moving on to spliced.

Most ringers have goals of some sort, be they big or small. It was nearly a year ago that Margaret Burling told me of dream of ringing a quarter peal of Spliced - Plain and Little Bob Minor. There's only one problem with this - quarter peals of Plain and Little Bob Minor can't be done because not enough rows are possible in Little Bob (that's the short explanation). So there was nothing for it but to go for Major instead. This would be quite a step for Margaret who had previously only rung two quarter peals of Major.

St. Paul's were booked for early March and a band was found. This then changed with a few weeks to go when St. Paul's needed to be used for teaching the many Ring for the King recruits and one of the band dropped out because they needed to tutor. But, in true guild fashion, I was provided with a replacement tower - Solihull - and a ringer! Then Margaret became ill a few days before the attempt and could no longer ring. As I already had a tower and 7 ringers I didn't want to waste an attempt so I found yet another replacement ringer and we rang a quarter peal of Lessness S Major, which many of the band had been learning for the guild surprise major practices.

Margaret was still keen to ring her quarter peal, though. Solihull were booked again for the 10th May and more ringers were found. Spliced Plain and Little may seem simple at first but it's very easy to drift off when ringing and forget which method is being rung! However, Margaret and everyone else in the band worked together and we were successful. It was an enjoyable evening's performance and for Margaret it was a serious achievement.

James Ramsbottom

## A view from the St Paul's, Birmingham band.

When the band at St Paul's considered entering the National Call Change Competition, we had no true concept of the value of this type of ringing, or of its difficulties. Cartwheeled hand-strokes are hard to achieve when decades have passed practising to avoid them. Ringing up and ringing down is marked, as well as the 60 on thirds when the bells are near the top. Many method ringers consider ringing up and down more of an inconvenience than a performance, and value towers where bells are left up. Ringing down in method towers is often accomplished by allowing gravity to do most of the work, paying scant attention to the odd-struckness of the bells and the resultant sound coming from the louvres.

We assembled a strong band, and set aside time to practice. We first struggled with the raise because it is possible to go too slow or too fast. The bells are pitched in - no 1, 1 2, 1 2



The competition judges.

3 etcetera as we are used to. The first row must be an entire row and is struck as fast as a stick when run rapidly along palings. The trebles should lift quickly from the onset or the tenor will stay grounded. Good teamwork is essential with everyone feeling the pace and acceleration in a likeminded way. The treble leads immediately after the tenor, the 2nd forms the inter-bell gap and the tenor must have steady and constant upward movement. The 4th acts as a second treble, making adjustments in either direction to either create space for the tenors, or to move upwards and meet with them.

The next problem is how to determine when to stop rising and start the call changes - 60 on thirds. The 60 on thirds requires 3 calls to take the bells into queens (thirds), execution of 60 proscribed call changes mainly called every other hand-stroke and which returns the bells to queens (thirds), followed by 3 more calls to return to rounds. During our first practice we did not go high enough and during repeats we found it easy to over compromise. There can be no substitute for experience here.

At the end of the 60 on thirds the fall starts. This sounds similar to what method ringers usually do, but is far from it! Every ringer must continue to pull hard during the descent. The hand-strokes are accelerated to achieve the cartwheel and the back-strokes lifted to prevent crashing into the previous change. This is a very strong and necessary movement - the bells must be forced forward (or that's how it feels if you are used to hand-stroke gaps). During a post contest conversation in the pub with a Devonian of considerable experience and knowledge, we learned that during one fall, when the bells were below halfway, an experienced and well-known ringer had missed his sally and his bell rose to the balance and set. This demonstrated how much effort Call Change ringers put in to achieve the wonderful sounds that they do.

It's all very well being able to ring up, perform Call Changes and then ring down, but all this must also be done immaculately. Skilled Call Change ringers have metronomes running in their heads and are looking to achieve pinpoint accuracy every blow. Every blow of every bell is marked, and missing blows are marked too - such as those which often occur towards the end of a fall. These

need to be avoided by bringing the bells completely down at exactly the right moment.

Our team thoroughly enjoyed the Contest. The Central Council, and in particular Simon Linford and the Moseley ringers, did a wonderful job. Everything worked well, including the weather! We made many new friends from within the Devon Call Change teams, who were more than happy to share with us their knowledge and experience. We realised this is a practice we want to continue beyond this contest. Despite our band having a wealth of method ringing experience, we all learned a great deal. The sole focus of Call Change ringers is the output from the bells - the precision and relentless rhythm of their performances from first to last strike. Method ringers do not have that as a singular primary focus. Method ringers value the method ringing itself, and sometimes this can lead to bands achieving contentment when they successfully navigate a blueline despite

outputting poor striking. Even though our tower does value and strive for good striking we now see and understand the immense value that the practice of Call Change ringing gives. I know of no method ringing tower that concentrates so hard on precision, except perhaps York Minster which did during the formation of its band in the 1970s. We aim to add this to our future practice regime as it can only produce good results.

St Paul's, Birmingham, are already looking forward to next year's contest, and also aim to plan a trip to Devon to experience this wonderful and worthwhile tradition in its birthplace with the many new friends we made at Moseley. We recommend the Competition to other method ringing bands, and hope it will become a central pillar of the ringing calendar.

Richard Grimmett  
St Paul's, Birmingham



A discussion in the pub during the competition.



From: **sonia field**  
Date: Thu, 11 May 2023 at 22:22  
Subject: Re: The Coronation  
To: St Martin's Guild SMGCBR <[smgcb@gmail.com](mailto:smgcb@gmail.com)>

Ok...so in reply to what I got up to...

- 3rd May - QP at All Saints, Harrow Weald - G5
- 6th May - All Saints, Harrow Weald - open ringing for anyone in the community and non-solo handlers, followed by general ringing. 20 people attended!
- 7th May - QP at Acton - Middlesex Bob doubles
- 7th May - QP at All Saints, Harrow Weald - mixed doubles
- 8th May - QP at Edgware - PB5

I know I am a relatively far-flung member of the Guild...but you asked!

Sonia



## **And finally: A message to Sand from the Master of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild.**

On Thu, 15 Jun 2023 at 10:51, Rachael Barber <[rachaelbarber40@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelbarber40@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Sand,

The A&P District in the W&P Guild are organising a Fundraising Open Day at the end of September to help raise funds to restore the bells at Ropley, where the church was destroyed by fire in 2014. I wonder if you would be able to help advertise this to your members via your normal email cascade or newsletter? The more people who know about this, the more we would be able to raise towards this worthy restoration project.....so we would be very grateful for your help!

<https://www.wpbells.org/open-day-for-ropley/>

With best wishes and many thanks,

Rachael Barber  
(*Master, W&P Guild*)  
(*Secretary, A&P District*)

## **Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild – Alton & Petersfield District**

**FUNDRAISING "TOWER OPEN DAY"**

**Saturday 30th September 2023**

Come and enjoy a day out in the beautiful Hampshire countryside!

With 24 Towers situated in the South Downs National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ringing in the Alton & Petersfield District is a special treat!

- Recently augmented, restored and rarely available Towers!
- Refreshments (bacon rolls/lunches/afternoon tea) served throughout the day.
- All Towers manned with local ringers, so ringing can always take place on the full set of bells.

Share the day with non-ringing friends, who can enjoy shopping in the lovely market towns of Alton or Petersfield, visiting Jane Austen's house at Chawton or The Wakes Museum (Gilbert White's house) at Selborne.....or even a trip on the Watercress Line Steam Railway!

**This Fundraising Open Day is being held to support the efforts to re-hang the bells at nearby Ropley, where a devastating fire destroyed the church and bell tower in 2014. Fundraising to re-hang the bells is still ongoing after nearly 10 years.....so if you only support one Tower Open Day this year, make it this one!**