

EBSB NEWS

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Spring 2022



Thomas A Monks, Alison M Bayley, Anna K Bayley [C], Ruth M Monks, Philip M Pratt, Michael J Bayley

Just how does one befit a lasting tribute to people who have given so much during their 52 years' service, 43 years as Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper respectively at Holy Trinity Penn? Ringers invited the very talented Bayley family to ring a quarter peal at Penn. The remaining Penn ringers would have a quarter peal board made up celebrating this occasion. This invitation was accepted and duly rung and scored on Sunday January 9th 2022. (see photo).

The board now hangs in a prominent position in the Penn ringing room for posterity. We as ringers are thrilled at the result and we trust that the Bayley family will be equally pleased and proud. A huge thankyou to a very notable Beaconsfield ringer, Geoff Hopkinson who has both advised and guided us in securing this lasting memento of a Quarter peal board.

A further "thankyou" is for the Penn ringers to take both Alison and Michael for a meal out, their choice of both date and venue. We are suggesting that this be a Sunday, visiting Penn ringing room to unveil the quarter peal board and participate in the Service ringing and then go off for the said meal.

Regarding Sunday Service ringing at Penn : On our first Sunday with our new Tower Captain in place, one of our ringers remarked "it's like being in the best room with the parents away". Alison and Michael were busy packing up in readiness for the move, the bells we were told could be heard in Winchmore Hill, a very public performance. In the recent months we have lost 2 ringers for personal reasons. Our number is now down to 5 not uncommon with other Towers. We are on the lookout for some "readymade" ringers moving into the area. Failing this we will have to consider either to combine/ share with a neighbouring tower or make a conscious effort to recruit. None of us feel confident or able to take on the responsibility of training a "newbe". (Ed: see quarter peal details on page 4)

Judy Weaver (Penn Tower Correspondent)

Editorial:

The last newsletter was sent out early December 2021, so I am pleased to be able to include details of the peal rung at Bray later that month. It was long-overdue in memory of our dear friend Derek Fowles and so pleasing that he could at last be remembered in this way. Congratulations to the band that rang that peal, and also to Martha Hazell for ringing her first peal.

At the Tower Captains' meeting in February most tower captains reported that ringing was back to some sort of normality, but that numbers were somewhat reduced. There had been collaboration between neighbouring towers to support each other's practices and service ringing which is great. Hambleton and Turville even combined for a very successful outing. If each experienced ringer in the Branch could attend a second practice per week it could make a significant difference to the progress in some of our towers. It is good to see that quarter peal ringing is recovering. Details of those rung for the 70th anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II are included along with some rung for other special occasions. The next newsletter will hopefully be filled with ringing for the Platinum Jubilee.

Tewkesbury Shield 2022

Having won the Guild 10-bell striking competition in November, the EBSB Branch was invited to enter a band to represent the Oxford Diocesan Guild at this year's Tewkesbury Shield. The competition always takes place on the first Saturday in May which was a late as it could be this year, on 7th May. John Davidge enlisted ten people who could competently ring the test piece of Yorkshire Royal and the band met twice to practise. A good quarter peal was rung at St Laurence Reading and a practice at High Wycombe during the week before the contest went well. Sadly, the day before the contest Robert Newton tested positive for Covid and Chris Tuckett very kindly stepped in at very short notice to replace him.

The Birmingham band started the contest with some very good ringing and were followed by other equally good performances. We were drawn to ring sixth and by the time our turn came we realised the challenge was great. After the events of the previous day it was a relief to get ten ringers up the stairs and to ring a respectable course of Yorkshire Royal. The judges, Simon and Andrew Meyer, were complimentary about our ringing which made our 6ths place a little disappointing. However, it was a lovely day out. The sun shone and it was so good to meet up with ringers from other parts of the country who we had not seen for 3 years. We were also pleased that ex-EBSB member, Anna Bayley, was ringing with the winning St Mary Redcliffe band.



Enjoying the ringing



ODG Band

No.	TEAM	START TIME	%	POSITION
1.	A St Paul's, Birmingham <i>3h19</i>	11:30	85	3
2.	B St Oulton Campanile Youths <i>3h24</i>	12:00	82	4
3.	C Nottingham University Society <i>3h16</i>	12:30	60	8
4.	D Leicester Diocesan Guild <i>3h12</i>	1:00	88	2
5.	E The Welsh Colleges <i>3h51</i>	1:30	68	7
6.	F Oxford Diocesan Guild <i>3h27</i>	2:00	74	6
7.	G St Mary Redcliffe Guild <i>3h13</i>	2:30	92	1
8.	H Cheltenham <i>3h15</i>	3:00	78	5

Results

The "EBSB" band representing ODG were:

Ann Davies (High Wycombe) 1, Patricia Newton (High Wycombe) 2, Mike Trimm (Bray) 3, Matthew Johnson (Amersham) 4 (cond), Maggie Ross (Bray) 5, Stephen Smith II (Curfew Tower) 6, Christopher Tuckett (Wallingford) 7, David Cox (unattached) 8, James White (Curfew Tower) 9, Tim Palmer (Bray) 10.

Patricia Newton

Notable peals:

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Bray, Berkshire, St Michael

Thursday, 23 December 2021 in 3h (24–3–27 in D)

5040 Grandsire Triples

Composed by Joseph J Parker

1 Michael J Trimm (C) 5 Simon Smith
2 Jacqueline M Hazell 6 Margaret H Ross
3 Vikki E M Bulbeck 7 James White
4 Ben Gladwyn 8 Tim R Palmer

Rung in fond memory of Derek Fowles, ringer at Bray for over 50 years, who died on 22 March 2020.



Bell-ringer ready to hand over ropes

Bray: Pensioner, 94, has made 'a lot of friends over the years'



Derek Fowles, 94, is retiring from bell-ringing at St Michael's church. Ref:132902-8

A veteran bell-ringer is retiring after more than 70 years of church ringing.

Derek Fowles, 94, has been a bell-ringer since the war-time days when the service was held in 1941.

At the time, church bells were rung to announce an invasion.

Derek is a member of the bell-ringing team at St Michael's Church.

He said: "I moved to Bray when I got married in 1967. Although I had been ringing with the Bray band for a few years before that,

it was more through a lack of other options.

"I had more ringing I did my wife through bell-ringing. Our sons working and I was not content with a job of bell-ringer."

"A good of bell-ringing is a good sound. The bell that col-

oured on the wooden post located in the bell tower of St Michael's church.

The St Michael's bell-ringers every Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am.

The church has a ring of eight bells and the bell-ringing band at Bray dates back to the early 1800s.

"In those days, women were allowed to join the band and were invited to attend at the Sunday service ringing."

Over the years, Derek has served as cover captain, deputy captain,

and has been responsible for maintenance of the bells, tower keeper and secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Bell-Ringers.

He has also been a member of the East Berks and South Bucks branch of the English Church Bell-Ringers' Association.

"I have made a lot of friends over the years, through my ringing activities," said Derek.

"I shall miss ringing but I will continue to have contact with the local band."

Oxford Diocesan Guild

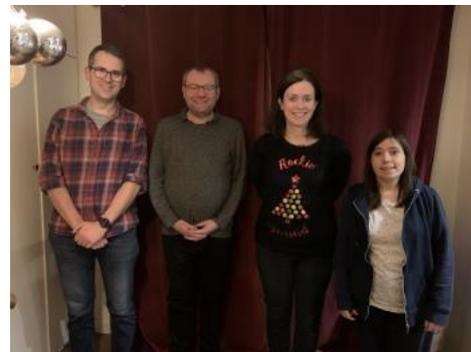
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 33 Brompton Drive

Friday, 31 December 2021 in 2h 32 (15 in C)

5040 Plain Bob Major

Composed by E Maurice Atkins

1–2 Tim R Palmer
3–4 Michael J Trimm (C)
5–6 Margaret H Ross
7–8 Martha C Hazell
First peal: 7-8.



Quarter Peals for special occasions:

Ringling to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Amersham, St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 6 February 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Valerie J Simmonds, 2 Euan R M Thomas, 3 Janet Galloway, 4 Rosalind J Garrett-Bowes, 5 Oliver G Lockwood, 6 Matthew R Johnson (C), 7 Peter J Sippitt, 8 Renny Thomas

High Wycombe, All Saints

Sunday 6 February 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Robert Newton (C), 2 Verity Nicholls, 3 Sheila Bruce, 4 Angela Darvill, 5 Patricia Newton, 6 Kenneth Darvill, 7 Kevin Lovell, 8 John Hearn

Cookham, Holy Trinity

Sunday 6 February

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1&2 Leading and Tenor Covering

1 Karen Townsend, 2 Mandy Salter, 3 Joan Mantle, 4 Freddie Daniel, 5 Timmy Mallett, 6 Andrew McKerlie, 7 Marcia Dieppe (C), 8 Martin Gostling

Windsor, Curfew Tower, HM Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle

Sunday 6 February

1270 Plain Bob Triples and Major

1 John Payne, 2 Vikki Bulbeck, 3 Jay Downes, 4 Stephen Smith II, 5 Roderic Bickerton, 6 Edward Westlake, 7 James White (C), 8 William Stungo

...and for other special occasions

Penn, Holy Trinity

Sunday 9 January 2022

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Thomas A Monks, 2 Alison Bayley, 3 Anna K Bayley (C), 4 Ruth M Monks, 5 Philip M Pratt, 6 Michael J Bayley

Rung in recognition of Alison Bayley, Tower Captain of Holy Trinity Penn for 43 years and Michael Bayley as Steeple Keeper. To mark and celebrate their 52 years service at Holy Trinity Tower and to the Penn Ringers.

Marlow, All Saints

Saturday 22 January 2022

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Jonathan Gallop, 2 Sian Robinson, 3 Mike Spracklen, 4 Peter Jasper (C), 5 Cordelia Thompson, 6 Oliver Hart
Rung by a local band in celebration of the life of Cynthia Silvey, wife of former tower captain Eric, who died yesterday.

First quarter at first attempt: 6; First quarter away from cover: 1

Beaconsfield, St Mary and All Saints

Sunday, 6 March 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Jennifer Slade, 2 Mandy Salter, 3 Angela Darvill, 4 Robert Newton, 5 Patricia Newton, 6 Kenneth Darvill (C) 7 Matthew Johnson, 8 Andrew Halford.

Let the Bells Ring Out, to mark solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Also preceding a Civic Service



Amersham, St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 20 March 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Christine M Nunn, 2 Rosalind Garrett-Bowes, 3 Janet Galloway, 4 Verity Nicholls, 5 Oliver G Lockwood, 6 Kenneth J Darvill (C), 7 Christopher Potter, 8 Godfrey C Reynolds

A wedding compliment for Richard and Shakeila Simmonds married in Singapore on 19th March 2022.

Also belated good wishes to Shanta and Jamie Lerner who were married in this church on 23rd March 2020 on the eve of Lockdown for Covid 19.

Chenies, St Michael

Saturday, 26 March 2022

1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles

1 Robert Newton, 2 Holley Wakeling, 3 Sian Robinson, 4 Patricia Newton 5 Peter Jasper (C), 6 Oliver Hart
Rung in celebration of the wedding of James Botting and Debbie Hikes.

(James' father, Charles Botting, also joined in the pre-wedding ringing)

TURVILLE TOWER OUTING

Friday April 22nd was the date set for a Tower Outing for ringers old and new from the Hambleden Valley area. A group of approximately 15 started at Penn church and moved on to little Missenden and Great Missenden before a tasty lunch at the Bel and Dragon Wendover. After lunch the group went on to Weston Turville, Aston Rowant and finished at Turville while the hardy remainers went on to join in with Hambleden's practice night.

We all had an extremely interesting and enjoyable day. Some had never been to other towers before, some had not been ringing for a while, we all learnt something from each other and from each tower's bells. The day ran extremely smoothly thanks to Pete Wiltshire from Turville tower who liaised with each church and tower, researched and organised the lunch venue, and produced a schedule of timings that actually did run like clockwork on the day.

A big thankyou to Pete for his hard work in preparing for the day, to all towers who allowed us to ring on a weekday, and to those who travelled from as far as Monmouth and Sussex to join us. It was a whole new experience for me and I look forward to repeating it.

Rachel Wallace (Tower Captain Turville)

ROYAL MAUNDY MONEY

On Maundy Thursday men and women from across the United Kingdom who have played a significant part in their community are invited to attend the Royal Maundy Service at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. At this year's service The Prince of Wales distributed Maundy money on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. Among the recipients was Frank Blagrove who has been a bellringer for seventy years, ringing at Windsor Parish Church, Clewer and at the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle. Sadly Frank is currently in a care home and was not well enough to attend the service but his son, Ian, was present to receive the distribution on his behalf.

Each recipient of the Maundy money received two purses, one red and one white. The red purse this year contained a £5 coin and a 50p coin portraying The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Historically this sum of £5.50 is made up of £3 for clothing, £1.50 in lieu of provisions and £1 which represents a piece of the Sovereign's gown which, before Tudor times, used to be divided between the recipients. The white purse contained uniquely minted Maundy Money. This takes the form of one, two, three and four silver penny pieces, the sum of which equals the number of years of the Monarch's age. This year ninety-six pence of silver coins (nine sets of ten pence per set and two threepences) were distributed to each recipient.

(adapted from article in "The Dragon" – St George's Windsor Community News)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May 14 Sat BP - Beaconsfield 10am-noon
May 21 Sat ODG AGM & 8-bell Contest - Goring
May 28 Sat BP - Chenies 2-4pm
June 18 Sat EBSB Branch Striking Contest - Clewer 5pm
June 25 Sat BP - Marlow 10am-noon
July 9 Sat BP - Hitcham 10am-noon
July 23 Sat BP - Hughenden 7pm-9pm
August 13 Sat BP - Slough 10am-noon
August 25 Thurs BP - Penn 10am-noon
September 10 Sat BP - Iver 2pm-4pm
September 24 Sat ODG Michaelmas Course EBSB and neighbouring branches
October 1 Sat ODG 6-bell Contest Newbury Branch
October 8 Sat BP - Lane End - LN final and Half Yearly Meeting 5pm
October 22 Sat BP - Chesham 2pm-4pm
October 29 Sat ODG Steeple Aston Course
November 5 Sat ODG 10-bell Course – Shrivenham
November 12 Sat BP - Chalfont St Peter 10am-noon
November 19 Sat BP - Hambleden 1pm-3pm
December 10 Sat BP - Bray 5.30pm-7pm followed by social

Notes on ODG March General Committee Meeting

The General Committee Meeting was held in the church of St Mary, Wendover on Saturday 12th March, preceded by the AGM of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. At the start of the OD Bell Fund AGM members stood in memory of Bill Butler who died in October. Much has been written and spoken about Bill's many achievements in ringing but the Chairman, Alan Marchbank, reported on the work that Bill had done behind the scenes at the start of the Bell Fund. He worked with the Diocese to get approval to run the fund as a capital fund.

Under matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting the Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, reported that registration had been completed with Amazon for the Bell Fund to benefit from purchases made. Guild members who are Amazon "Smile" registered users can request a percentage of the value of their Amazon purchases to be allocated to the Bell Fund. John Harrison pointed out that Amazon is perceived to be a predatory organisation and the Guild should not be seen to be encouraging people to use Amazon, but the Treasurer pointed out that the Guild is not doing this – just saying that existing Amazon Smile users may allocate donations to the Bell Fund at no cost to themselves. An Ecclesiastical scheme is also being investigated.

The OD Bell Fund accounts had been circulated and are printed in the Guild Report. The Treasurer noted that despite the difficulties last year the income on investments was slightly higher than the previous year and the value of the investments much higher. There is about £91,000 available for grants so he invited anyone who has a restoration project in mind to let the officers know. All officers of the Bell Fund were re-elected unopposed.

Under Matters Arising at the General Committee Meeting it was reported that there had been no progress with investigations into registering the Guild as a charity. Katie Lane, Master, has been liaising with the manager of PR for the Oxford Botanic Gardens 400th Anniversary. It has been requested that all bells in Oxford should be rung at 2.15 pm on 15th July. Other towers are welcome to join in the celebrations on that day. The FE Robinson silver bowl had been cleaned and looked wonderful and now has a smart wooden carrying box. It was agreed that the bowl should reside with the Master.

The Secretary, Ken Darvill, had received communication from the Central Council to say that now that so many non-reps are in the working groups they are looking to reduce the number of association representatives and to re-structure the affiliation fees.

Reports from the Learning & Development Workgroup, Towers & Belfries Sub-committee and F & GP Sub-committee had been circulated. Under L & D it was noted that the Training Meeting had been postponed to 30th April and Branches are encouraged to send 2 or 3 representatives to that. Members are also encouraged to take up the offer of eBells. The T & B committee is running courses again. Lots of students have benefited. The Tower Maintenance Award Scheme will start up again. They are looking for new committee members in the south east of the Guild (enthusiasm is more important than expertise because training will be given). Current members were all re-elected to the three sub-committees.

Reports had been circulated from the Peal Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Librarian, Website Manager and Server Manager. June Wells, Safeguarding Officer, updated the meeting regarding the latest training requirements. All ringers must complete the online Basic safeguarding training (by end 2022), and Tower Captains are responsible for ensuring that they do. Tower Captains must complete the online Foundation safeguarding training but they do not need to complete the Leadership training unless requested to by their parish. DBS checks are also required. The Librarian had received a box of papers from Bill Butler's son which included JJ Parker's note book which had notes on compositions including his famous Grandsire Triples composition. The Website Manager is trying to improve the website, e.g. by including a searchable list of towers. He is looking for a graphic designer interested in helping him to update the map. The Server Manager is still looking to move to a new server but operation of mailing lists would not be so good. It was emphasised that GDPR should not be compromised by changing server.

The Master noted that two Guild Officers would not be seeking re-election at the AGM. Ken Darvill will be standing down as Secretary but a volunteer has been found to replace him. Bobbie May will be standing down as Steward so a new Steward is required in the south of the Guild.

The Guild Accounts have been printed in the Report. The Treasurer thanked Susan Read who looks after the day to day accounting. There was a £2000 deficit, partly because of the reduction of membership (about 200 down), the cost of the eBells and funding for young ringers' activities. The General Committee recommends the following donations for this year: £2000 to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, £750 to the Ringing World and £750 to ART. These figures will be put to the AGM for approval.

Patricia & Robert Newton