



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 3

Winter 2010

Awl a'huld



All Saints Hollesley. See back page.

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From the Editorial Team

Welcome to the third issue of the new Suffolk Guild magazine. As you will see, we are trying to have regular features, such as our chairman's contribution, Winston Girling's practical notes on ringing, the popular crossword and cartoon strip and Jonathan Stevens' piece on tower maintenance. It is also good to have a report from each of the districts. Thank you to all those regular contributors.

We have two articles this time on the subject of handbell ringing: one on method ringing, the other on tune ringing. Maybe this will prompt people to seek out their tower's set of handbells and dust them down for use.

Please continue to distribute your tower's copies of the magazine widely. Leave at least one copy in the church for visitors to look at. We have heard of copies being placed in public libraries and doctors' waiting rooms: excellent places for promoting awareness of ringing and perhaps even encouraging new recruits.

Please send your contributions by e-mail to magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or as written copy to Sue Freeman at High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester, CO6 5AG. The final date for copy for the next issue is 21st February 2011.

Thank you to all our contributors, advertisers and to those who have secured advertising for the magazine. And if you see an opportunity to sell some advertising please put us in touch.

Finally, we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas, with lots of ringing.

Alan Stanley, Richard Gates and Sue Freeman

Suffolk Young Ringers

During half term week a young ringers' training day was held at Bardwell. A full report will be available in the next issue of the magazine. A former ringer from Lakenheath kindly offered to print a tee shirt bearing the Guild logo for the youngsters at a very good price. Wearing this tee shirt gives the young ringers a sense of pride and belonging to the Guild ringing community and it will be useful for them to wear at other ringing events.

Any young ringer can order one, whether or not they came to the training day. The cost is £5.95 for children's sizes up to age 13 (32 inch chest) and £5.95 plus VAT for adult sizes. If you order before January, adult size tee shirts cost £6.99, after the rise in the VAT rate the cost will be £7.15. To order contact Mandy Shedden on 01359 270596



From the Chairman

Here are some statistics: 90% of people in Aldeburgh say they like the sound of bells. 5% of people could describe how a bell is rung with any accuracy. 1% of people could tell you anything at all about change ringing. OK, I made up the last two, but have you ever asked a non-ringer how a bell works or what happens when someone says "Go Plain Bob"? Our constitution requires us to promote our art, but how do we actually go about using the pleasing first statistic to improve on the other two?



The Vestey Ring arrived in Suffolk at the end of September and was immediately thrust into the limelight in front of 20,000 visitors to the Grand Henham Steam Rally. Over the two days, teams of volunteers rang the new bells to demonstrate what happens up the tower, and hundreds of members of the public had a go. We even had a few of them ringing call changes in no time at all.

It took a lot of hard work to erect and dismantle the structure, and to man it constantly throughout the event. So what have we got out of it? Tangibly so far, one actual recruit and a handful of enquiries, that's all: most of the keen ones seemed to come from Norfolk! Was it worth it? Well, as a recruitment exercise, perhaps not, but while 20,000 people may be none the wiser about ringing, they are at least better informed, if only sufficiently to realise that ringing is actually quite difficult, and that's without looking at the line for Belfast!

Public Relations is not just about recruiting: it's about keeping the masses onside, which was so important when ringing at Aldeburgh came under fire. Our PR team has achieved much in recent years. The Vestey Ring has already played its part, and I hope it will continue to develop its role in public education for many years to come.

Philip



The North East District tries something new

The North East District tried it on Saturday 9th October and it seems to have been a success. Kindly hosted by Philip Gorrod and Maggie Ross in their roomy house, four sets of handbell ringers could practise at the same time. Why did we try it? What help is it to tower bell ringers? Well, I have heard that double handed ringing introduces the idea of coursing order in methods and that the steady rhythm required to ring handbells well transfers to tower bell ringing. Even single handed ringing can be useful in learning new methods.

Once the use of handbells is established they become useful in other ways. Many of us were taught plain hunt by the instructor ringing four bells, two in each hand, the novice on the treble. Much of the 'spadework' had then been done before more experienced ringers helped to complete the teaching on tower bells.

A 'ready use' set of handbells can always be set going by early arrivers for service ringing or practice nights. Take them on the coach at the ringing outing; five folk on the back seat works well and entertains the others! Not so easy now, but in the past when we were travelling by train to ringing, we booked two compartments. Eight ringers in each could share time with the handbells and only shock the ticket inspector. Take a set to the pub after practice and so extend it. Some pubs used to keep handbells behind the bar for this very purpose.

Much extra enjoyment has been lost by the decline in handbell ringing. Note that most towers have a set, so the old ringers probably used them and not just at Christmas for tune ringing. Often now the bells hang, dirty and neglected on belfry pegs, dumped in the clockroom or neglected in unmarked boxes. I recently, in a new tower, stood on such a box to ring, only to find at the end of the touch that it was full of superb handbells – unused for decades!

Don Price

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News from the North West District-Vestey Ring Dedication

Sunday 10th October was the date set for the dedication of the Guild's new mini-ring. Named The Vestey Ring after the family who generously donated the funds to enable its purchase, the six bells were dedicated as part of the normal Sunday Evensong.

The service was well attended by members of the Guild who travelled in from all districts and it was lovely to see some older members who have not ventured far in recent times, joining in to celebrate the event.

There were also a number of people within the congregation who were members of the public who had come along out of curiosity to see what the dedication was all about. Several asked questions about the mini ring and the Bishop and Clergy felt that it would be a useful exhibit to appear in the church tent at next year's Suffolk Show. This would give the Guild a great opportunity to reach many thousands of people who have no previous knowledge of what bellringing is all about.

Bishop Nigel dedicated the mini ring which had been set up in the cathedral and immediately afterwards a mini touch of grandsire doubles was rung by six members who represented a large age range, from 16 years upwards. When the ringing stopped, spontaneous applause erupted from the congregation who were clearly impressed.

There was an opportunity after the service ended for others to try their hand at ringing while some of us were kept busy answering questions about the mini ring and what it would be used for. Overall, it was an enjoyable way to spend Sunday afternoon and the NW District is delighted to have been involved in the event.



August in the South East

As you will be aware, the South East District usually holds its meetings and practices on the first Saturday of each month. Whilst there will always be other attractions to tempt ringers away, the first Saturday in August, right at the beginning of the school holidays, is notorious for poor attendances. That begs the question, should we just soldier on and hope someone turns up, or should we accept that we can't win and not hold a practice in August?

We have decided not to give in to defeatism, but instead do something positive. In 2008, we floated the idea of ringing quarter peals, all starting at the same time, and finishing with all the bands coming together for a meal. The response was encouraging, so we booked Henley, Ashbocking and Otley.

Three quarter peals were scored and we all joined up to eat at the Moon and Mushroom at Swilland.

We repeated this in 2009 when we booked Ufford, Pettistree and Wickham Market for quarter peals, followed by a meal at the Greyhound at Pettistree. This time we only scored one of the quarters, but had a really good social evening, in spite of the rain.

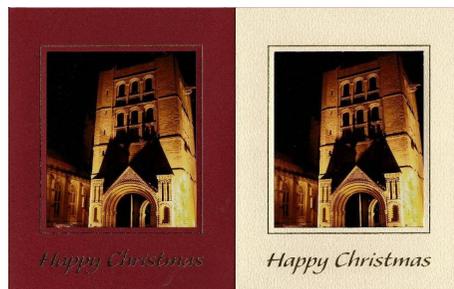
2010 saw us at Tannington, Kettleburgh and Dennington. Two quarters were scored this time and again we all met at the Old Mill House, Saxstead.

We will probably repeat this formula in 2011 and then review it to see whether members want to continue for a few more years or whether another activity might be as successful.

Peter Harper

In Aid of the Cathedral Bells Augmentation project

A5 size card and envelope 80p each or a pack of 5 for £4.00. All profits are going to the Cathedral Bells Augmentation project. £50,000 is needed to augment the current ring of ten bells to twelve. The cards are being hand made on request by Mandy Shedden and can be ordered from her on 01359 270596



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The South West District goes North

On Saturday 23rd October the SW District and friends enjoyed an afternoon and evening tour on the Suffolk/Norfolk border.

We started at New Buckenham. Many of us had not rung there since the bells were rehung and the ringing chamber moved up the tower. The bells were a delight to ring and we were impressed by the work that had been done, particularly the fine oak tracery of the glass screen dividing the ringing chamber from the nave. The next tower was Banham, then on to Kenninghall and finally Hopton. Again the architecture was admired. That is one amazing roof! There was good ringing at all the towers and a variety of methods was rung.

After the ringing about thirty people assembled at The Mill at Market Weston for a meal. This sociable event made a very enjoyable end to our day.

Christine Knight had organised the tour, a task she has performed for many years now. Ringing Master, John Smith, thanked her for planning the event and Derek Rose presented Christine with a basket of fruit on behalf of all the ringers.

Many thanks to all those who organised the ringing at the different churches and ensured the smooth running of the day. Thanks also to the people who opened up for us and welcomed us to their towers.

Sue Freeman

Regretting that you've lost or never kept your peal records?

PealBase contains full details of every peal rung since 1st January 1959. You can obtain your peal data in a variety of formats (e.g. for importing into WinRK or PealBook databases) for a very reasonable price.

Personal peal data makes a novel Christmas present for the ringer who has almost everything.

Take a look at <http://www.pealbase.co.uk> or discuss your requirements with Andrew Craddock (023 8026 7657).

Grab this before you start on the towers!

TowerBase is a database of every ring of bells in the UK and overseas. There are photographs of nearly every one of the 7540+ towers in TowerBase. You can record when you visited, quartered or pealed each tower. You can attach notes to each tower. You can test your visual recognition of towers in the TowerBase quiz and so much more. Free data updates can be downloaded.

TowerBase is suitable for computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system such as Windows 7 or Windows XP. It is supplied on CD.

Send a £15 cheque made payable to **TowerBase** to Andrew Craddock 2 Rosemoor Grove, Eastleigh, SO53 1TB.

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Lest we forget

Sometimes beauty and nobility can go alongside sadness and heart-rending loss. Such was my experience in July visiting the battlefields of Flanders in Southern Belgium around Ypres and North Eastern France in the valley of the Somme.

It is something I have always wanted to do and taking up Alan Regin's wonderful research on ringers who gave their lives in 1914 - 18 in that theatre of war, I was able to make my pilgrimage.

Laith and Cameron Reynolds from Perth in Western Australia, Andrew Wilby from Towcester (all life members of the Suffolk Guild) and I spent three and a half unforgettable days there and tracked down and prayed for several Suffolk ringers, many of whose names older Guild members will recall.

Alan Regin, sometime Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, has not only tabulated their names but also their memorials and cemeteries. The whole Ringing Exercise is the richer for his endeavour, a labour of love if ever there was one.

Here is a short list of those names seen as we journeyed through lovely and peaceful countryside reminiscent of Norfolk:

Private Charles Herbert	Essex Regiment	Monks Eleigh
Private Charles Poulson	Royal Fusiliers	Lavenham
Private Albert Langley	East Surreys	Newmarket
Private Russell Rackham	Grenadier Guards	Huntingfield
Private Arthur Bailey	Suffolk Regiment	Rickinghall
Private Edward Hollox	Suffolk Regiment	Monks Eleigh
Private George Lambert	Suffolk Regiment	Lavenham
Rifleman Albert Woollard	Kings Royal Rifles	Mildenhall
Corporal George Noble	Machine Gun Corps	Newmarket
L/Corporal Walter Gooday	Suffolk Regiment	Gt Waldingfield
Corporal Edward Lambert	Suffolk Regiment	Halesworth
Lance sgt. Herbert Bonney	Essex Regiment	Framlingham
Private Edward Cooper	Middlesex Regiment	Pettistree
C.S.M. William Ely	Lincs. Regiment	Bury St. Eds.
L/Corp James Farrington	Essex Regiment	Wenhaston
Lieut William Hodgson MC	Devonshire Regiment	Ipswich

Lieutenant Hodgson was the only son of the Rt. Revd. Henry Hodgson D.D. the

first bishop of our newly formed diocese in 1914. What a terrible blow for him: his son killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He had learned to ring in Hampshire.

We were lucky to obtain tickets for the Dedication by the Prince of Wales of the new Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Fromelles where over 7000 men were killed, wounded or missing on the first day, including 5533 Australians.

Over 3000 cemeteries, more like rose and lavender gardens, in France alone, commemorate these men of World War I. As we read on one memorial:

All gave some,
Some gave all.

Our journey finished on a poignant note. There in the cemetery at Sailly-Saillisel, ten miles east of Albert on the Somme where 757 British and 12 Australians lie, we saw the grave of one of the greatest ringers of all time: Rifleman Bertram Prewett of Oxhey whose sister lived at Wrentham where his last peal was rung. Altogether he rang 957, some achievement 100 years ago.

I have photographs of him taken on several of William Pye's tours – always a bright smile, always a gentleman. Bill Pye was said to be inconsolable when Bert's death was reported to him.

On the white marble stone, with a rose planted at the base, the Rifle Brigade's cap badge engraved above his name, Bertram Prewett's tribute says in simple yet profound words,

The supreme sacrifice.

How glad I am to have seen it; he was one of my ringing heroes.

George Pipe



The Cemetery at
Sully-Saillisel
where
Bert Prewett lies.

Crossword by Richard Gates

Clues across

1 1001 nights of the middle east (7)

5 Tales become musty (5)

8 Thinking less of writing fluid (3)

9 Muddled pleat forms part of a flower (5)

10 Clapped in Jeremy's surname (5)

11 A trench work leading to rising plant fluid (3)

12 Pin them back on a jug (4)

14 Rant about a highland stream (4)

15 Spherical object partly in orbit (3)

17 Roll to a street for a casual walk (6)

19 Reorganise a cared for covered walk (6)

21 Dorothy's name comes to a point (3)

23 Chance should see the beginning of Lucknow (4)

25 Unreturned service for top fighter pilots (4)

29 Little female sibling (3)

31 Redistribute a toll (5)

32 Run it around for an Italian city (5)

33 Stupid donkey (3)

34 Attempt a short composition (5)

35 Muddled lie said to be priests' seats (7)

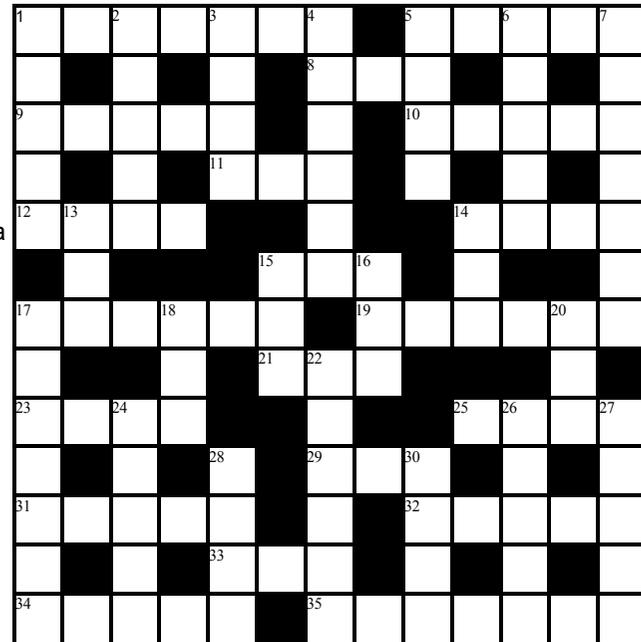
Clues down

1 Fruit of knowledge for a computer maker (5)

2 Sounds like change, the place for sacrifice (5)

3 Sickness cured by parts of pills (4)

4 A lad with the action of a claw (6)



5 Part of the family's kin is under it (4)

6 A smell wafting from a Roman lady (5)

7 Intrinsic nature of French petrol (7)

13 Perform for part of the faction (3)

14 A twitch before toc (3)

15 An age for bold people without bees (3)

16 A cricketer needs one to hit a flying mouse (3)

17 Recover a healing ointment with elemental silver (7)

18 A British tree for Hardy's Gabriel (3)

20 Fourth letter for a Scottish river (3)

22 Some jobs essentially can take over everything (6)

24 Cries from cats? (5)

26 Joyous song from Carolina (5)

27 Popularly St. Nicholas less the Claus (5)

28 Remain to support a mast (4)

30 Breeders have one for their collars (4)

Stratford St Mary handbells

In 1876 the Rector, Reverend Brewster, gave a new set of handbells to the Parish. They were purchased from Messrs. Warner and Sons, London. During the 1960's those 8 handbells were lying in the ringing chamber collecting dust and were in need of care and attention. We cleaned them and started to use them for tune ringing. Not many tunes can be rung on 8 bells, so we had them overhauled by Whitechapel Bell Foundry through the help of the late Trevor Bailey and purchased 4 new bells.

With 12 bells we were able to do so much more, and we, that is my wife Pat and our two daughters and I, rang them at various functions in the parish. Then some other people decided they would like to "have a go." We have since purchased a further 12 bells. The bells have been checked and overhauled over the years by the late Dickie Furminger and more recently by Winston Girling.

Over the years we have rung our bells for a variety of groups and retirement homes, raising a considerable amount of money for the St. Elizabeth hospice.

During the 1970s we went to every house in the village at Christmas to ring bells and sing carols. At the end of each evening, after 3 hours out in the cold, we returned to base for welcome hot drinks. After many years we felt less inclined to spend our evenings

out in the cold, so we entertained villagers in various houses. On one occasion a clapper fell out of a bell onto a highly polished dining room table. Fortunately no damage was done.

For many years while Dickie Furminger was still with us, we had some unforgettable Saturday afternoons, ringing with other teams at various venues. Dickie called these "Dickie's Dos". Each team rang for about 20 minutes, with the usual cup of tea and a chat. These were not competitive events. It was just nice to meet other teams and listen to them ringing.

We have a varied collection of music: classical, music hall, hymns, carols, spirituals, etc. Most of the music is for 6 people ringing 2 bells each, but we do have music requiring more handbells. As with most organisations these days, we are looking for more members. Most of our ringers now are senior citizens. We practise most weeks at Hazel Cottage, Stratford St. Mary and thoroughly enjoy it.

Charlie Ablitt



Pat Ablitt conducts the handbell ringers

Elsie is 90

On Sunday August 8th Elsie Braybrook of Polstead celebrated her 90th birthday. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that the celebrations ended on that day, but had been going on for much of the previous week!

On the Monday, at Polstead practice, cake was eaten, sparkling drinks were drunk and Elsie was presented with a garden seat, the gift of the ringers. Elsie learned to ring at Polstead when the ban was lifted after the second world war. She helped in the fundraising needed to rehang the bells and became a keen ringer. Like many others at that time, she cycled to other towers on practice nights. She rang two peals at Polstead. Although Elsie was forced by a bad back to give up ringing five years ago she attends ringing practice every week and helps at ringing events,



Left to right: Richard Knight, Brian Whiting, Christine Knight, Elsie Braybrook, Neville Whittell, Alan Mayle and Adrian Knights.

so a little celebration at the tower was definitely called for.

On the Saturday a peal was rung at Polstead in Elsie's honour by the band shown above.

Then, on the actual day of her birthday, the Sunday, Elsie held a tea party in Polstead Village Hall for all her many friends and relatives.

Elsie is a member of the village carpet bowls team so all her bowling friends were there as well as ringers and many people associated with the church. Elsie was churchwarden for 25 years and still helps with many church events and with flower arranging. The hall was packed with well-wishers who enjoyed a wonderful tea provided by members of Elsie's family.



High Maintenance - Sound management

A key component of good ringing, happy ringers and audience is clear and evenly balanced sound at a comfortable volume.

In the ringing chamber the ideal loudness is in the low seventies (decibel wise), just a little above ordinary conversation. There are a number of strategies that can be used to modulate the volume. Common routes for unwanted sound from bells to ringers are poorly fitting hatches and doors, gaps between floor boards, floors with too little mass or sometimes no sound room at all. Judicious use of an appropriate sealant can make a huge difference. After that, if needed, move onto rope boxes and similar strategies.

If one or two bells are quieter in the ringing room, the usual route is to pipe them (provide a sound tube to the ringers), although sometimes it is better to quieten the louder bells. Occasionally all the bells are too quiet in the ringing chamber; providing an air path for the sound to travel through, such as a hatch, generally does the trick.

External sound tends to get more attention, usually because of complaints, but should be part of any

restoration project. A review of existing installations often shows up problems too; a bell or two that shout, all the bells much too loud around the church or, ringing not heard much beyond the churchyard gate. The latter is definitely more challenging to solve than the former. To lessen the impact of the bells in the immediate vicinity, barriers on the sound windows can put the close neighbours and churchgoers in the sound shadow whilst allowing the more distant audience to enjoy the ringing. On occasion the volume needs to be reduced, perhaps for extra practices, peals, daily teaching on open bells; then sound doors that can be closed are the answer.

Your Technical Advisor is happy to help. The usual stages of a sound project are: a sound survey, a physical survey, agreeing the brief, design drawings if needed, preparing a written specification and supervision. Most projects can be dealt with on a DIY basis by the more practical members of a band; bigger jobs might need your usual church builder. Some jobs need a faculty but help is on hand to ensure that is as painless as possible too. Jonathan Stevens. Hon Technical Advisor.

jonathanstevens@swefling-furniture.co.uk

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Current and recent projects include; terrace house front and rear extensions and re-ordering; designing, manufacturing, fitting tower sound management; design of church kitchen; renovation and moving of altar rail, design and making of music stands, sideboard, display cabinet, bookcases, wardrobes.

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Ringling plain bob doubles - part one

Having mastered plain hunt on 5 bells, the next step for many ringers is to study and try to ring plain bob doubles. This is the first time that ringing a 'method' will be encountered, and usually the learner will start by ringing the treble. This allows the ringer to 'plain hunt' throughout a plain course of bob doubles. This is plain hunt as before, but because the order of the bells changes slightly each time the treble leads, you will require a better understanding of ropesight. This is being able to pick out which bell to follow by watching all the other working bells and by a process of elimination and establishing which bell is closest to you, instantly knowing who to follow.

The ability to master ropesight comes with practice and it is vital that the learner is allowed to get the necessary practice, preferably with an experienced ringer standing beside them to assist.

The skills you learnt in ringing plain hunt will now become very useful. These are leading, hunting up and down and being able to strike your bell correctly over the other bells. It will have been very useful if you have also mastered plain hunt on as many of the bells as possible. This will have helped you to judge your leads properly whatever the size of the bell, and you will have had to start from other than at lead.

After mastering the treble, the next step will be to ring an inside or 'working' bell. This means that you will have had to do your homework to understand, on paper at least, what you are expected to do on the 'working' bell. A whole new terminology will appear, which includes

'laying, blue lines, dodging, order of dodges, starts and watching where you pass the treble.' All these need to be learnt to become a successful ringer of any method, but the novice starting out on bob doubles will need to know his start (each working bell 'starts' at a different place along the blue line) and the blue line (a line drawn through the path of an individual bell)

As I propose to do two more articles – one covering ringing the plain course, and the final on what to do at a bob – I will not dwell on what is involved this time, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself for these. Firstly make sure that you can lead well on call changes and plain hunt on as many different bells as possible, and listen to your bell and improve your striking on that bell as far as you can. Make sure that you can handle the different bells properly, keep them up at backstroke where required, and don't let the bell drop, and plain hunt up and down at the right speed. Finally, ask for some 'dodging practice' on two bells with the others in rounds.

Winston Girling

Borrowing the Mini-ring

The Mini-ring can be borrowed by anyone for any reasonable purpose, conditions apply. Contact Brian Whiting on 01449 6677766.

A donation to the Suffolk Guild Bell Restoration Fund is normally required. The level of donation can be discussed with the trustee.

Preference will be given to Suffolk

Munnings in Tasmania

We left the mainland of Australia and flew to Launceston, Tasmania. We then drove to Hobart where we were staying with John and Pauline Munnings. Pauline is a ringer at Hobart Cathedral and we made contact with her not in researching our family tree but through the Ringing World when her name appeared in a Quarter Peal. Then it was an email to a Suffolk ringer with a Hobart ringing friend followed by many emails to Pauline.

On Sunday morning we rang the lovely bells at Hobart St David's Cathedral. After ringing there we joined some of the locals for coffee. It was nice meeting all these folk we had heard so much about from Pauline over two years.

First thing on the Monday, which was a Bank Holiday, we attempted a Quarter Peal at Holy Trinity Church Hobart which is now a Greek Orthodox church.

The ringing didn't go well so it was set up. At this point there was much banging on the downstairs door and shouting of, "I'll burn the place down if you are going on for another 3 hours." Sadly a peal, the first for many years, had been rung two weeks earlier, without the usual letter drop, which must have upset this guy. The Greek minister kindly gave us tea and Greek coffee (very strong) and local ladies meeting for a

sewing club gave us cakes.

After two days sight seeing in such places as Kettering (I was born in the one in the U.K.) which was very much a sailing place more like Woodbridge which we also went to, and Port Arthur where all the convicts came in, we went to practice at St David's which was very enjoyable. This was followed by a visit to the local hotel.

Tuesday was farewell to Pauline and John and moving up the Midland road to Ross and Swansea ending up in Launceston. No more ringing; that would have to wait until New Zealand, but we did meet up with some Yorkshire ringers by chance in a hotel when we went for a meal. It's not easy to get away from ringers!

Sally Munnings



Sally and Alan with John Munnings, who shares a 5times grandfather with Alan, in a ruined church at Port Arthur.

All Saints Hollesley

Years ago, Hollesley was a small port and fishing village. It stood on an inlet of the sea, which is now the small brook and drained marsh which we overlook on the south side of the church. There were a few outlying farms, but the village centred on a group of cottages on Fox Hill, the church and church farm which still remains opposite our main door.

There has been a church on the present site for over 900 years, although the present nave and chancel, together with the arcade in the north aisle, date from the late 13th century. The very lofty tower was raised during the 15th century when there was a major reordering of the building. The nave roof was restored early in the 19th century, but then in the latter part of that century, there was a major restoration with the opening out of the arcade and a new north aisle, the removal of the dilapidated porch and the walls faced with a typical late 19th century knapped flint finish.

In the 1950s immaculately carved benches were made to replace the seating in the chancel. The poppyheads illustrate many interesting themes as well as being interspersed with grotesques (Dennington is not the only church with a sciapod.)

The ring of eight bells were cast by Taylors of Loughborough, the gift of Sir John and Lady Jervis-White-Jervis in 1938 to mark their

Golden Wedding Anniversary. With a tenor weighing 17cwt, they are reputed to be one of the finest rings in Suffolk. The first peal on the bells was on 30th April 1938, when 5088 Superlative Surprise Major was rung in 3hrs 5mins. There is an enthusiastic local band and the bells are rung every Sunday, with a quarter peal attempted at least once a month. This year, with the installation beginning to show its age, a major overhaul took place. The bells have been quarter turned, the clappers renovated, new bearings fitted, some pulley blocks replaced, loose gudgeons repaired in two headstocks and one headstock replaced. The opportunity was taken to repaint the frame and reorder the ringing chamber. The bells are once again a delight to ring and we look forward to welcoming visiting bands, and especially visitors to our Friday practices.

Peter Harper

