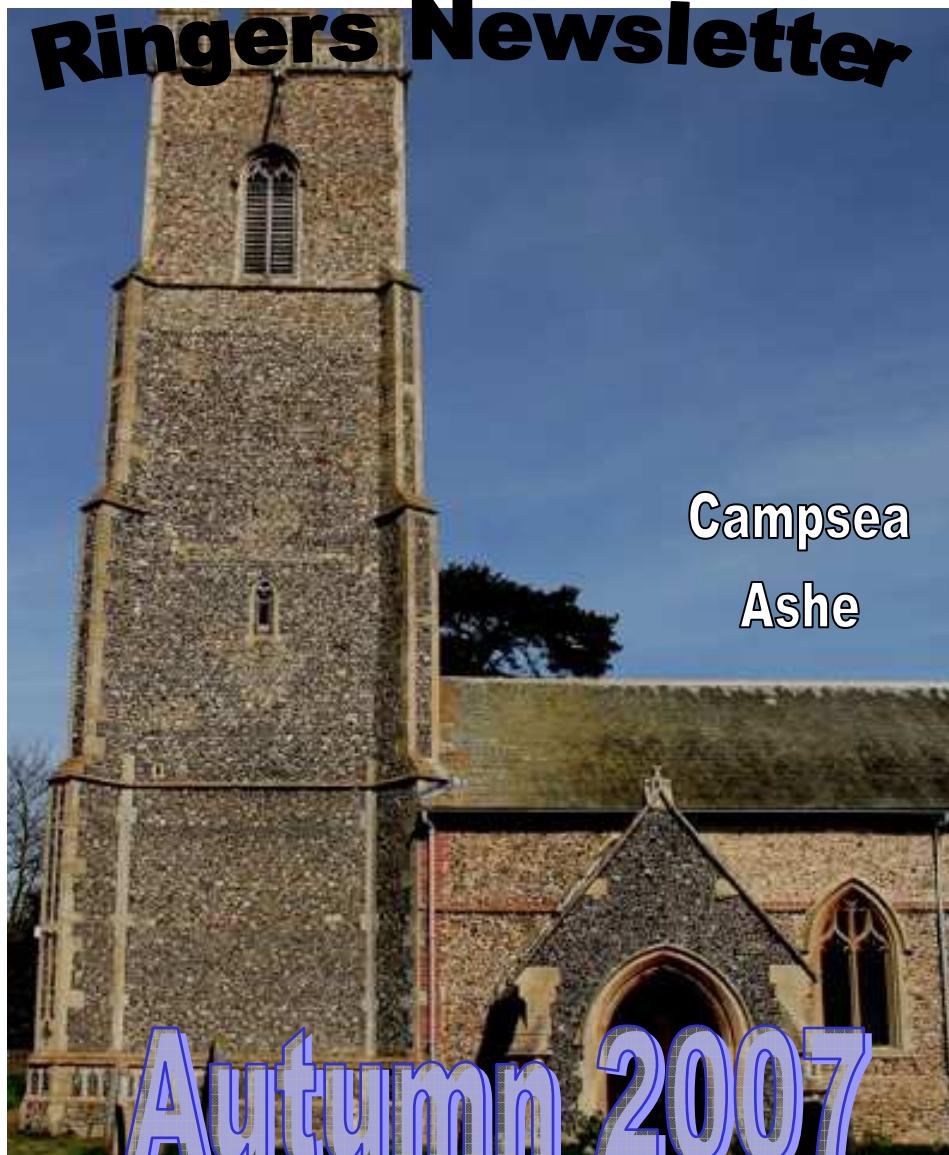


# **The Suffolk Guild of Ringers Newsletter**



newsletter@suffolkbells.org.uk

EDITORIAL

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***Thought for the season***

O Lord, as the beauty of the world changes around us from Summer to Autumn, be with us as we ring these bells to call people to a God who never changes. Yesterday, today and forever the same, one God, now and forever.

Deadline for Winter Issue of the  
***Guild Newsletter***

**Monday 12th November**

At the latest please...

Christmas news, quizzes, information,  
Christmas ringing and carol services

## Letter from the Editor

Stowmarket Parish Church was my home for a week in July as I lived as a Benedictine Monk, raising money for the restoration project, which will include the bells. Now I'm out, after a long, and somewhat interesting week, managing to gain approval from a real Benedictine Monk, Dom. Antony Sutch from Downside Abbey, who came to give us a talk over the week.

No sooner than I was out and enjoying free life again, I was rushed into hospital with a collapsed lung, so this is why the *Newsletter* may be late, for which I am sorry!! Sadly (for me!) this does mean that I cannot ring church bells for quite some time, but am still enjoying listening to the ringing and hearing and receiving some interesting reports. I say interesting... what I mean is Richard Munnings the ringing master, is up to no good and what's more he is encouraging others in his ways! Read on!

Thank you all for your cards, prayers and support over the past month or so, and thanks goes to all those who sent in articles without being chased!!

Carl

PS- last month's mystery church on the front cover, was Great Finborough

## **From the Chairman**

As my 5 years term as Guild Chairman draws rapidly to a close (where have those years gone!) it seems such a short while since I found myself elected to the office. It has of course been a great honour to serve the Guild and it very quickly made me realise just how much goes on in the organisation. In spite of the occasional ‘turbulence’ it has been most enjoyable and keeping a close eye on what has been happening all over a County the size of Suffolk, interesting, to say the least. It soon makes you realise just how many people work away quietly behind the scenes. Whether it is as a Guild or District Officer, or teaching at all levels, helping generally and selflessly travelling miles and miles just to keep the bells going and man the towers. So many people do so much for our Guild and also for ringing in general. I shall also be eternally grateful for the quiet advice that surfaced from time to time when something vital was just around the corner.

I believe that the work of the Guild Management Committee does tend to be a bit of a mystery to some people and occasionally the Committee has been criticised for something or other. Once again, Committee members travel long distances to get to the Meetings and I for one cannot thank the

Members and Officers enough for their staying power and endurance over the years. Of special mention should be our Central Council Representatives who give up their valuable time to support us.

In spite of suggestions that as individuals we are not raising money for restorations, the fact that the St. Edmunds Trophy is presented each year says a great deal for those who have gone to the trouble of raising money and have had it presented as a result. The Guild Affiliation Scheme also increases steadily. Money has also been given to create a trust for training and recently a large sum of money was left to the Guild Restoration Fund. I do believe that our Annual subscription rates are a bit high and I would like to see them reduced to be more in line with other Guilds and Associations, but this does not seem to be easily achievable at present.

I haven't quite been put out to pasture yet! But I must say a very special thank you to the two long suffering and sometimes harassed General Secretaries who have been so much help to me, and also to the Officers, both Guild and District, who have helped and supported me during my term. I do believe that our Guild is well able to cope with our changing society and will continue to serve well our Churches in Suffolk.

My best wishes to you all,  
Winston

## Thank You!

A enormous thank you to the anonymous person who so kindly and generously donated six new bell ropes to Rickinghall Superior. We were simply amazed, delighted and stunned when we noticed the surprise parcel left in the church. We suspected that Albert Driver might have had some involvement, but he denies all knowledge!

Anyway the ropes have now been installed, under Albert's careful supervision and look splendid. Unless anyone who donated to the bell rope fund objects, the money raised will now be used for bell maintenance and improvements.

*The Rickinghall Ringers*

# Bits and Bobs

**Sent in by an anonymous person...**

Every generation laughs at the old fashions,  
but religiously follows the new.

If there's delight in love, 'Tis when I see that heart,  
which others bleed for, bleed for me.

There is but one art, to omit.

People are slow to believe that,  
which if believed would work them harm.

The moment you think you understand a great  
work of art, it's dead for you.

You are only what you are when no one is looking.  
I had six honest serving men. They taught me all I  
knew. Their names were: Where, What, When,  
Why, How and Who.

The great art of life is sensation,  
to feel that we exist, even in pain.

I've always believed that it's important to show a  
new look periodically.

Predictability can lead to failure.

You just wait. I'm going to be the biggest Chinese  
Star in the world.

Family jokes, though rightly cursed by strangers,  
are the bond that keeps most families alive.

Judge of a jest when you have done laughing.

Judge not a man by his clothes,  
but by his wife's clothes.

## Mandy's Travels

Following the success of our Isle of Wight trip last year, Mandy's holiday moved a short distance into Dorset and many of us swapped the extortionate peak rates of the low ferry for the much more affordable Studland chain ferry. Unfortunately last year's July heat-wave wasn't to be repeated and Monday morning found us searching for the well-hidden Bournemouth St John's in the rain. The group, principally from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, happily renewed acquaintance before enjoying our ringing.

Then a fight through the traffic into Poole and a search for somewhere to park. One of our group had as much trouble finding the car park (again) after the ringing! We made our way to Brownsea Island where we assembled again to take advantage of this unusual location just a few days before its famous centenary. We rang a quarter of Bob Triples which was a first on eight for Craig. No sign of the red squirrels though we did meet a few foreign Scouts.

Tuesday's weather was a complete contrast with bright sunshine and a good start to the day with the wonderful eight at Swanage. On to Worth Matravers where those returning to the car park

by the muddy footpath discovered it wasn't any quicker anyway. Our ringing day finished on the six at Corfe Castle where the castle looked a little inelegant in its covering of scaffolding and green mesh.

Wednesday started with the lovely 10 at Kingston, a jewel in a small village, then on to the 10 at Wareham where the playpen in the centre of the ringing chamber produced predictable quips. Stedman Caters proved a bit of a struggle but Bob Caters was fine and Andy fascinated us with his call changes in two groups of five. On to Lytchett Minster where we were interested to find the fifth is rung from the lower part of the gallery stairs, almost out of sight of the fourth.

Thursday's ringing included Wimborne Minster where three lightweights struggled to get the tenor striking though we did get it up right. In the afternoon one group drove through a downpour to Monkey World where Gordon's namesake was spotted and photographed amongst the chimps.

Our journey on Friday was delayed whilst a large herd of cows crossed the A road which, along with the badgers some of us were lucky to

see at close quarters, rounded off a week where the animal kingdom was prominent. At Milborne St Andrew a course of Ipswich and the subsequent lower were perhaps the best ringing of the week. Our final tower was the eight in the magnificent surroundings of Milton Abbey where we rang Double Norwich before lining up for the group photo. We were amused to find a full set of ear defenders (one for each ringer?) in a case on the wall, although the bells at Winterborne Whitechurch earlier in the day had been much louder.

A celebratory evening meal where the wine soon flowed too readily led to the second sartorial disaster of the week, the first being a certain ringer who neglected to bring his suitcase along. Applause for Mandy's organisational skills was enough to wake a neighbouring diner who had been lulled to sleep by our esoteric ringing conversation (or was it the Badger Ale?). Thanks also to Joan and Maurice who ensured we didn't disgrace ourselves at the 10 bell towers, and to incumbents and all who gave their time to meet and greet us. G&J

Brownsea Island, Dorset. 23 July 2007,  
1260 P B Triples: Craig Gradidge  
1, Andrew Gray 2, Janet Sheldrake 3, Ruth  
Suggett 4, Gordon Slack 5, Louis Suggett  
6, David McLean (C) 7, Steve Munford 8.  
To commemorate the first Scout camp on  
this island 100 years ago. First attempt on  
8: 1



## Ringing Master's Words

You may or may not be aware that I recently took over the running of the ringing at St Mary-le-Tower from Owen Claxton. Before anything else, Owen has to be thanked for his tireless Mastership for the last ten years or so.

Twelve bell practices are extremely difficult to run well and to everyone's satisfaction, mainly because the pieces take longer and yet need more ringers. However, this should be no deterrent to visiting ringers. There are a lot of potentially good twelve bell ringers that are either too scared, don't get the opportunity or for some other reason haven't tried their hand on the higher numbers.

Obviously a lot of other places practice on a Monday night when we do, but why not select a week to bring a group over to the Tower? We don't just ring on twelve and there are plenty of opportunities throughout the night for you to try things on ten and twelve that you've never even thought about doing!

Or if you want to come on your own, perhaps alternate with your normal Monday night practice or come monthly?

We are very lucky to have one of the best twelves in the country here in Suffolk and the bells are not exclusively for the elite. They're available for everyone.

Coupled with a very good practice at Grundisburgh - our counties other ring of twelve - on a Thursday night, there's no excuse for not at least trying your hand on twelve!

If you feel more comfortable contacting me beforehand, either ring me on 01394 411802 or 07934 445232 or email me at [richardmunnings@btinternet.com](mailto:richardmunnings@btinternet.com). Otherwise, anyone is welcome to just turn upon the night or on Sunday mornings from 9 - 9.45.

## **Ruth's Birthday Treat**

### **...And Mary's Medium Man**

If you have ever been involved in a mass pillow fight, landed a dishcloth on someone else's face from another room, heard Louis Suggett belch or seen Alan McBurnie in his underpants, then you'll have some idea of the kind of week we had when ten members of the Suffolk Guild went to Lundy Island in the middle of July.

Although the ferry didn't leave for the island until the Tuesday morning, everybody made their way to various accommodation in Ilfracombe - where the ferry was leaving from - and Barnstable on the Monday so to avoid an early journey down. This enabled people to do their own thing from exploring the harbour to getting a Wimpy.

The ferry journey looked much like the inside of the toilets on a bad night out for the writer, but was fine for everybody else in the party who enjoyed the company of 'Ralph'. Not his real name - ask the others!

Having arrived in sunshine, the week looked promising and we went straight to the only pub on the island, The Marisco Tavern, led by the Ringing Master.

For those who have never been to Lundy, here's a context. The island is just three miles long and a mile and a half wide and has one pub, one shop and the church in amongst accommodation for tourists and residents. In terms of ringing the ten bells there, so long as you only ring between 9 in

the morning and 6 at night, you are free to ring when you like, leading to an incredibly relaxed atmosphere that frequently lead to conversations along the lines of; "Shall we ring a quarter then?" "Might as well."

Thus, just three hours after landing we had rung our first quarter, Grandsire Caters, arranged entirely over a couple of pints just beforehand. It set the tone for firsts too, with Louis not only ringing his first on ten, but calling it too!

Our stuff now at our property at The Barn and beds claimed, we settled in at the Tavern for the evening. With the hardcore still in the pub till late, the thoughtful retreated to get porridge for the morning - something the hardcore appreciated in the morning.

Sore heads, both from alcohol and excessive pillow fight in the 'adults' room upstairs, greeted the breakfasters, but none-the-less, eight of us were ready for the first peal of the week. Plain Bob Major was duly scored and the band joined Chris and Alan back in the pub and contemplated our next move. Walking was decided by most - although not to universal approval - and in various different groups we went to see the North Light. However, the curry house was closed - again, ask about this one, not enough space here!

Exhausted and some scarred by catching Mr McB in his underwear - although I was lucky, some were apparently scarily close to seeing him in less later in the week - we again placed our orders at the bar and the good food consumed.

It was at this point we realised two thirds of the top table, two district ringing masters, the webmaster and the report editor were present, so an impromptu, slightly tipsy meeting was undertaken. Although more fun than a Guild Management Committee Meeting, no one could read the secretaries minutes.

Day four in the Big Brother house and - oops, sorry, wrong report. Our day four started with a second peal, this time Superlative Major, this time rung for the Lundy Island Society, a worthy cause. More walking followed and thankfully Alan wore more clothes - you probably know that more food and drink followed. This time though, we retired slightly earlier to the Barn, where James Smith got his handbells out (steady ladies!) and some choppy but very respectable ringing was achieved in the circumstances. Unfortunately, Louis, James and Ruthie fell just 71, 880 changes of Cambridge Minor short of their target due to the umpires falling asleep.

It was also the night that Alan lost his underwear, last seen flying low over Ruthies head and landing near a group of people who were mysteriously unconscious seconds later. And to think he told Micky, "Nothing to report here darling..."

Unusually, our last full day on the island started with no ringing at all. Instead, Ruth, Kate and Mary went snorkelling - Mary enjoyed getting into her medium man, Chris didn't even notice. To save the secretary's dignity, it's not as it sounds - ask inside for details. They came back glowing with

excitement, unperturbed by the only rotten weather of the week.

The afternoon was an afternoon of achievement - two quarters with lots of firsts. Stedman Caters and Cambridge Major were scored and lots of people retired to the Tavern very happy. Over-full and over-beered (I know, I didn't think it was possible either), the handbells were out again, as were the pillows and bizarrely, the thistles. I think the Alan Files need to be sent in separately...

One more quarter attempt, this time of Bristol Major came to grief on the Saturday morning before we left, but this failed to dampen the spirits of a group who had enjoyed a very successful week. All in all, two peals and three quarters were scored, twenty-five ringing firsts were achieved, including Chris Garner's first blister and Chris Munnings found his wallet.

We'll definitely be going next July, so anybody that would like to come, please contact me on either 01394 411802 or 07934 445232 or email me at [richardmunnings@btinternet.com](mailto:richardmunnings@btinternet.com). You don't want to miss this one!

#### **Quarters;**

Tuesday 10th July 2007, 1259 Grandsire Caters

1. L Suggett (c)
2. Ruth Suggett
3. R Munnings
4. Mary Garner
5. Katherine Eagle
6. C Munnings

7. Ruth Eagle  
8. A McBurnie  
9. J Smith  
10. C Garner  
1st on 10; 1 & 10  
1st Grandsire Caters inside; 2

Friday 13th July 2007, 1299 Stedman Caters

1. J Smith (c)  
2. Ruth Suggett  
3. Mary Garner  
4. Katherine Eagle  
5. R Munnings  
6. L Suggett  
7. A McBurnie  
8. C Munnings  
9. Ruth Eagle  
10. C Garner  
1st in method for all except 1, 5 & 8

Friday 13th July 2007, 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Ruth Eagle (c)  
2. Ruth Suggett  
3. Mary Garner  
4. L Suggett  
5. Katherine Eagle  
6. A McBurnie  
7. R Munnings  
8. J Smith  
1st in method; 2  
1st on 8 as conductor.

**Peals;**

Wednesday 11th July 2007, Suffolk Guild of Ringers  
5018 Plain Bob Major (2hrs45mins), Arr. J A Smith

1. Mary S Garner
  2. Louis P H Suggett
  3. Ruth Suggett
  4. Katherine J Eagle
  5. Christopher A Munnings
  6. Ruth Eagle
  7. Richard J Munnings
  8. James A Smith (c)
- 1st in method; 5 & 7  
18th birthday compliment to the ringer of the 6th.

Thursday 12th July 2007, Lundy Island Society  
5088 Superlative Surprise Major (2hrs39mins)

- Comp. N J Pitstow
1. Ruth Eagle
  2. Mary S Garner
  3. Katherine J Eagle
  4. Christopher A Munnings
  5. Alan J McBurnie
  6. Louis P H Suggett
  7. James A Smith
  8. Richard J Munnings (c)
- 1st blows in method; 6  
1st in method; 5  
1st on 8 as conductor.

In memory of Sir John Smith, founder of The Landmark Trust and The Manifold Trust.

The band would also like to associate this peal with the memory of Prebendary John G M Scott, a great servant of ringing in Devon and beyond who died on Monday.

## Returning from Lundy

**From James Smith**

As a postscript to the report on the Lundy Island trip by Suffolk ringers reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, there are two incidents to report on the homeward journey. One was very pleasant, the other decidedly not so.

Ruth and Louis Suggett and I were travelling back in my car, and for the first leg of the journey opted to come over the top of Exmoor. As we came through the village of Exford, we heard the sound of bells - a pleasant six being rung well, and saw the line of cars outside the church that usually betokens a ringing outing. We pulled over to see if it was anyone we knew, and to our surprise met Paul Stannard in the churchyard! The tour organisers made us very welcome and we enjoyed a ring. A nice aspect of the fellowship of ringing.

A few hours later, not far from Bedford, we were involved in a serious road accident caused by a car losing control as it came off a roundabout towards us. It crossed the centre line and hit the car ahead of us, before smashing into the front of our car. It was totally unexpected, and we couldn't have done a thing to avoid it. My car is sadly a write-off but all three of us walked away from the crash, escaping serious injury thanks to a combination of airbags, seat belts and car design. The emergency services insisted on taking us to hospital and whilst Ruth and Louis got the all-clear reasonably quickly and were able to go home, I was kept in Bedford Hospital for a frustrating couple of days due to evidence of minor internal injury (the monotony was alleviated by many text and e-mail messages from friends and one personal visit). Happily I too was eventually released onto the world when all the tests came back negative.

Not all such stories end happily - today's Ringing World reports the recent death in a road accident of a ringer from Shropshire and it is a sobering thought that there might so easily have been a similar report about the three of us. So my contribution for the 'thought for the day' is to make the most of the time we have, and savour the unexpected bonuses like that welcome in Exford.

James Smith

## Winter Newsletter

Don't forget to send in your Christmas  
ringing and church news...  
Christmas recipes, quizzes,  
Carol Services, hand-bell events,  
Christmas fundraisers, festivals  
and lots more!

By Monday 12th November  
[newsletter@suffolkbells.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@suffolkbells.org.uk)

## Suffolk's Open Churches Week

Well done to everyone who kept  
the Church Bells Ringing all over  
Suffolk for the Churches Open  
Week, which was a huge success!  
Suffolk Ringers did us proud once  
again, as Church remained opened  
for hundreds of visitors

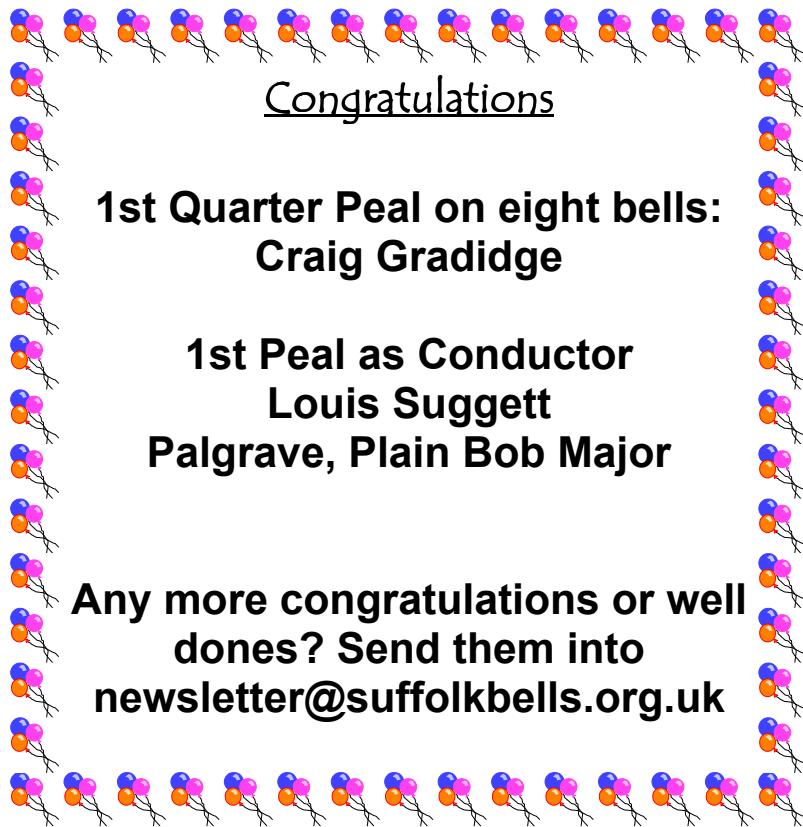
## **Money Matters in 1970**

I am sure next year when our Guild subs go up £1 the old chestnut of value for money will come up again, with this in mind I thought members might be interested in this snip bit I found in a 1970's Newsletter from the Peterborough Guild. I will not bore members with the full article comparing Fishing Clubs/ Golf Clubs etc, but it was first part that amused me, the author is unknown:- I quote:

I sit looking at my table and surveying the array of bills awaiting payment. Electricity and gas for one quarter £13 and £8; Rates for six months £26; Car insurance for one year £15; Union fees for the year £9; Fishing club subs £2 ; Bowls Subs £5 ; T.V. License £6; Bell-ringing Subs 6 shillings !

Those were the days which I do not even remember as a householder, we bought our house for £10,500 six years later, and for those younger members of our Guild 6 shillings is 30pence in new money.

*Sally Munnings*



Congratulations

**1st Quarter Peal on eight bells:  
Craig Gradidge**

**1st Peal as Conductor  
Louis Suggett  
Palgrave, Plain Bob Major**

**Any more congratulations or well  
dones? Send them into  
[newsletter@suffolkbells.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@suffolkbells.org.uk)**

**Don't forget...**

It's free to send something to put in the  
Newsletter!

Tell others of your news and events!

Send your items to:

[carlmelville@hotmail.com](mailto:carlmelville@hotmail.com)

01449 677168 or mobile: 07951491211

## News at Campsea Ashe

### Open Morning To launch the bells projects

The bells are in urgent need of repair and restoration, and so your help is needed!

We are hoping to augment to six bells within the near future

- See the bells and plans
- Hear the bells ringing
- Try your hand at ringing

Saturday 22nd September  
9.30—11.30 am

### Moving overseas again

As has already been widely reported, in late September I am transferring overseas again on business, this time to Hong Kong and probably for a period of three years (mind you when I went to Australia it was for two years and I stayed away for twelve). Hong Kong has no bells, so I will be taking a light eight hand-bells with me and hoping to unearth a ringer or two among the community. I know of one already so that's a start. I will not have an address or phone number there before the publication deadline date for this newsletter, but the e-mail address [james.smith1982@dundee-reunited.com](mailto:james.smith1982@dundee-reunited.com) should be a reliable form of contact.

***James Smith***

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All articles published are at the discretion of the Editor.