

Suffolk Guild Of Ringers



Ringshall Church

September 2009 Issue

National 12-Bell Contest - 06th July 2009

In three years time, Stratford will be the centre of the world's attention as the 2012 Olympics get underway. On Saturday, 4th July, 2009, St Paul's Cathedral was the centre of the ringing world's attention as the National 12-Bell Contest got underway.

The sight of the rising Olympic Stadium just before we got to Liverpool Street on our journey from Suffolk stirred the spirits and added further fuel to our excitement. Quite simply - in my humble opinion at least - the Olympics are the greatest sporting show on Earth and the 12-Bell Final is the greatest ringing show on Earth. Hundreds (it wouldn't surprise me if the total attendance nudged a thousand, though I don't know what the figures were) of ringers from all over the country were present from the moment before we entered the crypt just before the draw right through to the results and beyond.

We'd already taken advantage of the bacon butties being served in the pub for the day, The Paternoster, with John Camp (he who reports on the ringing chatrooms in The Ringing World) already enjoying a pint at 10 am! Bumping into familiar faces was the order of the day as just about anyone who is anyone in ringing circles attended and we instantly bumped into John Loveless and then Alex Britten who South-East members will recall judged our striking

competition recently.

The draw itself was made by the Dean in front of a crowd that dwarfs the average attendance to your normal Guild or district striking competition. His only instruction was that he didn't draw the home team out first, a slot that only one team has ever won from and generally considered a big disadvantage. Predictably St Paul's came out first to howls of laughter - the Dean's resignation letter is apparently in the post...

The full draw made, we came back up to brilliant sunshine and the arrival of Adrian Knights and Brian Whiting, adding to the Suffolk contingent of myself, Ruthie, Maggie and our esteemed Chairman. There was only ever going to be one destination after that...

For those neither with the capabilities and/or desire to get boozed up on what is an incredibly social day, there was lots else to do. Many listened to the bands from beneath the tower - though the bells could be heard from The Paternoster - whilst others took advantage of free entry into the cathedral with their bellringers stickers and still more took some time to explore the sights of London.

Most of you will have guessed where we spent the day, though we did take some time to listen to the Cumberlands ring, whilst some went along to St Mary-le-Bow round the

corner where there was some open ringing. By this point the Suffolk group had been swelled by the arrival the Suggett's, Knight's, Claxton's, Nigel Newton and Tom Britten as I also enjoyed catching up with and introducing Ruthie to many friends from around the country. Many will remember Paul Bibilo and Franny Dodds from Birmingham who have judged our Guild striking competitions in recent years and they were in their element here too.

It was nice to catch up with the likes of John Warboys, Philip Earis and David Pipe and I didn't even get the chance to chat with Rod Pipe, Steph Warboys and many more. Essentially there are too many people to go through, but it is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with such alumni.

I am very privileged and lucky to have rung a peal at St Paul's Cathedral and won two 12-Bell finals and frankly I didn't envy any of the ringers who had to enter this incredibly intimidating belfry and produce the fantastic ringing that we heard emanating from this challenging ring of bells and after a long day for those who had to wait until the end of the day to ring, the time eventually came to shift to St Mary-le-Bow for the results.

Again, the crowd was huge, with people (including us) climbing ledges to get a decent view! The tension and anticipation was - as always

- amazing and was built further by the four (yes, four!) judges giving comments and then the results, of course in reverse order. Surprises along the way included the York band (used to ringing a 56cwt 12) ringing the fastest, leading the judges to assume 'this was a band not used to ringing on heavy bells!' Also, Melbourne from Derbyshire who have a short history in this competition achieved 4th place on bells more than four times the weight of their own!

Ultimately though, the biggest congratulations have to go to St Paul's Cathedral who despite their undesirable draw won the Taylor Trophy, being only the second team ever to win it having rung first. Maybe the Dean's job is safe after all...

Ruthie and I decided to catch the next train back, more a reflection of the unpredictable nature of public transport on a Saturday evening than a lack of willing to stay on, but many did remain at The Paternoster whilst others went for meals or caught shows.

One day, I hope that Ipswich will be partaking in this grandest of occasions as it has done in the past, but perhaps more importantly, this sort of event can encourage more people to get involved with our own district and Guild competitions. If people - ringers and non-ringers, participants and cheerleaders - can enjoy what is

George Pipe writes:

RESTORATIONS

How encouraging it is that our rings of bells in the Guild and Diocese continue unabated. Still a lot to do of course, but to think our Guild, with a membership of half of some, but with the third highest number of rings, after Devon and Somerset, has passed the 100 mark in restoration work of some kind since the end of World War 2.

Ixworth soon to be followed by Bardwell are welcome renovations in the North. Well done there, a terrific effort by neighbouring parishes. Chediston a "great result" as they say, and now Campsea Ashe and others on the stocks. It is so important that we hand on our wonderful legacy of rings in good order for the ringers of tomorrow.

THE LONG PEAL AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Some of you will have read in the Ringing World article last April of the remarkable peal at Loughborough on Easter Sunday 1909. It was 18027 of Stedman Caters, rung in 12hrs and 18minutes. In the band were Gabriel Lindoff of Leiston and Bertram Prewett who had family connections at Wrentham. The great William Pye who conducted the peal, rated Bert Prewett as one of the finest ringers he ever encountered. The peal was commemorated on April 12th (the same date) this year. It was a privilege, and in a way quite moving for John Loveless, my brother Rod and myself to represent Suffolk again 100 years on.

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 ★
 ★ **How many bolts can you count on THIS headstock!** ★
 ★
 ★ All over the Guild there must be several people saying things like that
 ★ under their breath. Take heart because there are those who will help.
 ★
 ★ It has been suggested that we hold seminars in towers having differ-
 ★ ing sets of bearings – ranging from old and derelict to spanking new
 ★ and shiny.
 ★
 ★ We need suggestions which can be sent either to Jonathon Stevens on
 ★ 01728 664074 or Winston Girling on winstongirling@talktalk.net
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 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Church Magazine Mis-prints

Please excuse me if you've already seen these - worth passing on I felt.....

The following have all appeared in church magazines so let us thank God for church ladies with typewriters.

Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'
Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
Smile at someone who is hard to love.
Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation .

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church hall on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

Not included in this list is my own personal favourite - an announcement from a minister at the start of a service as follows....

"Would the congregation please note that the receptacle at the rear of the church marked "for the sick" is for monetary contributions only....."

Always read what you write !!!!!!!!

Notice on a church door!



WELL DONE THE GIRLS!

One could say four of the most notable achievements this year so far, by ringers in our Guild have all been by Ladies!

First **Christine Knights** ringing a peal of Pudsey S. Major faultlessly at Kersey in February from her chair, (and latterly Surprise Royal at the Cathedral, and Delight at Grundisburgh).

Then came **Amanda Richmond's** climbing of Everest: a breathtaking feat and certainly the first ringer to do so.

Maggie Ross called Stedman Triples at Rendham for her first peal as Conductor. Believe me that takes some doing, and the calls were all "spot on"

Then **Ruth Suggett** – following her spearheading of the Ixworth restoration and augmentation, has now repeated this at nearby Bardwell. A very fine effort, not forgetting her helpers, now provides the Guild with two new eights.

Warmest congratulations and thanks to all of them for their contributions to ringing in Suffolk.

G.W.P.

Guild Newsletter Caption Competition

A grand total of zero entries were received for the caption competition published in the previous Guild newsletter. There is no "roll-over" and so the £20 charity prize money will be donated to a charity of the 'artists' choosing.

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE :- LAST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER