



Drayton's new bells being cast at John Taylor & Co.

Newsletter



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Drayton project nears completion

by John Mulvey

After raising nearly £35,000 in under a year, fifty villagers and friends watched their three new bells cast at John Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough on April 13th. Among these were the 25 pupils of Year 5/6 at the Manor School in Drayton who watched a once in a lifetime event in the life of their village.

The smallest of these bells is in memory of the six men of the village who died in World War One and their names will be featured on the bell. Descendants of three of these men, Sam Tilling, Alfred Ball and Harry Clower were at the casting.

The 2nd bell was given by Drayton Manor Theme Park in memory of

George and Vera Bryan, who founded the business 66 years ago. The couple died within a few months of each other.

The 3rd bell is being donated by the project co-ordinator, John Mulvey in memory of his parent, grandparents and great grandparents who had connections with the village.

History of the Bells

The original four bells and wooden frame were removed from the tower in the early 1960s as they were unsafe. By 1964 enough money had been raised to hang the 4 bells back in a new metal frame suitable for 6 bells and three of the largest of these were recast. A few attempts were made to raise money to buy extra bells to complete the ring of 6 but they came to nothing.

At the end of 2014, a scheme was put to the Church Council, which received support with the proviso that no money would be made available from general church funds.

It was decided to put aside the oldest bell of the four to be used to strike the hour and to cast three new bells to make up the six. Also needed were new electrics, ringing room floor and sound control so the sound of the bells could be reduced during practice.

The bell appeal has been wholeheartedly supported by the



Stirring the bell metal

villagers with money raised by quiz evenings in the local club and sizable donations from individuals associated with the village. Over £8,000 has also been obtained from charitable trusts.

Adrian Taylor, a local joiner who was married in the church, along with his friend Rob Nichols, has offered his time for free to install the new ringing room floor and open up trap doors in the tower floors to enable the new bells to be raised for installation.

The local scout group have donated to the appeal and also visited St Editha's, Tamworth to see what bell ringing is about. It is hoped that some of the older members of the group might want to learn to ring the new bells once they are installed.

Sadly, Don Hellmuth, a strong supporter of the bell appeal and churchwarden at Drayton died a few days after the church council approved the ordering of the three new bells. The church has decided that his name will feature on one of the headstocks of the new bells.

The bells will be installed w/b 26th September and the (invitation only) dedication service set for the afternoon of Sunday 16th October. The Society will hold a meeting and tea at Drayton Bassett on the afternoon of Sat 19th November where all are welcome to ring.



More photos at: <http://bit.ly/zbmqXOd>

Life on the ocean waves.. (Trent & Mersey Canal) by Derek Giddins

On a Friday evening in August, twelve of us braved the high seas - well slight exaggeration, but there were some amongst us who were concerned about sea sickness, even on the Trent and Mersey Canal!

We met our craft at Stone, and after casting off, very soon arrived at the first of many locks. We travelled along the canal through the Staffordshire countryside, taking in



the wildlife and scenery, keeping one eye on the sky which was getting darker by the second.

Eventually the heavens opened and if there had been insufficient water in the canal, there soon would be! It was a good job we were all under cover, with the exception of our skipper, who in true canal boat tradition, was outside steering us, wearing his full waterproofs.

The rain didn't dampen our spirits though, as drinks were served, followed by some very enjoyable fish and chips.

Having become full with fish and chips, we were then informed that desserts were included and very reasonable portions they were too.

Our thanks go to Jean for organising a very relaxing and pleasant evening.

Rushall treble bob course

by Stuart Hutchieson

Four learners and four helpers spent a July Saturday morning on the handy ring of six at Rushall, getting to grips with Kent and Cambridge.

The learners were from Brewood (Robert, Gill and David) and Walsall (Olly) and by the end of the morning they had all progressed some way from where they had started.

Everyone had plenty of 'rope time' and all the learners were able to help out by ringing the treble to some of the touches.

We were very grateful to the Rushall ringers for the use of their bells and also for the refreshments at half time.

Thanks to Derek for running the event and to Lilas, Liz and Stuart for helping out. The next course will be on Saturday 15th October at 10am.

Details will be announced nearer the event but if you have a specific request for a training day then please let the Secretary know: sec@lwascr.org.uk



Youth Contest success!

by Anne Ogden

Twelve months ago the Three Spires Youth Team began practising for this year's competition – to be held in London. We had many practice nights, a mini outing (see below) and even a bowling trip for team building. Saturday 2nd July came round quickly and the team, accompanied by parents and other supporters, made a very early start to catch trains down to the hub of 'fancy' ringing.

It was a bit daunting looking after them all in the capital but thanks to the back up of our support team, the travelling around went smoothly (apart from one incident at the end of the day!!) We made our way to St. Mary-le-Bow which was the base tower for the day and after registration, we could finally reveal that our eliminator tower was St. Dunstan. The team trundled up the tower after a team photo was taken and nervously waited for our slot.

The practice went well and after a little discussion about where improvements could be made, they set off into their test piece. It couldn't have gone better – accurate striking, no major trips and a piece that many experienced teams would have been proud of. Relief – pressure over! Or so we thought...

We travelled back to St. Mary-le-Bow where the youths went up for a ring while we waited for the results. We couldn't believe it when we were called as one of the top two teams from the eliminator to go through to the final!! There wasn't much time before we had to go to St. Olave Hart Street and do it all again and



nerves really started to kick in. The bells weren't as easy as earlier in the day but nevertheless they did us proud, again getting through the piece without too much trouble.

In the afternoon, they got to ring at some famous London towers such as Jewry, Bishopsgate and Spitalfields. Some of us were a bit rushed at the results as there were trains to catch but we couldn't have been happier when we heard that we were joint 5th out of 24 towers! What a fantastic achievement. We got an A grade for the eliminator piece and A-



for the final piece.

A big thank you must go to the team for all their hard work and also to our supporters, family and friends who make the whole experience even more worthwhile.

The team:

1. Alice Ogden
2. Chad Pickering
3. Alex Davies
4. Aimee Ogden
5. Charlie Quinby
6. Lukas Bradshaw
7. Jordan Lawley (c)
8. Alex Haywood-Capper

Reserve: George Rawlinson

We lose three of our team next year so if you know of, or have youth ringers in your tower then please get in touch – it really is something to be proud to be part of.

Contact:

youthringing@lwascr.org.uk

Three Spires youth outing

by Anne Ogden

After the success of the Christmas bowling we decided it would be nice for the youth team to have their own society outing to help team building and confidence.

Saturday 21st May was the date and three towers in the North Staffs area were picked.

The first tower was Sandon – a nice little six situated in beautiful countryside. Ringing included rounds and called changes, Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor.

We then moved to the recently augmented ten at Stone. The young ringers coped well with the increased number of bells and despite a small incident with a missed sally (you know who you are!) the bells were rung well to called changes and even some plain hunting on seven (aided by a few 'nearly youths').

Our last tower of the day was Eccleshall, a nice little eight at the end of a busy town. Here we got to practice the test piece for the National Youth Competition and again some plain hunting.

All in all it was a good day, a great opportunity to experience new bells and try different things and the standard of ringing was mostly good!

Disclosure & Barring Service DBS (formerly known as CRM check). Myth busting

by Lilas Rawling

The issue of child protection seems to get many people hot under the collar; as far as I can ascertain, when asking people why they feel as they do, it seems to be something to do with the process and the trouble and cost it causes. **There is no cost for, or to, a volunteer.**

The other reply is: "Well, we haven't got any children in the tower anyway". So are you saying that if a young person arrives wanting to learn, you are going to say "Sorry, but I can't teach you for about 6 weeks until my DBS check comes through"? No, thought not, **but you should.**

Why not get ahead of the game, have the processes all set up so when the DoE youngster comes along, or a Sunday school member decides to learn, you can say: "Come on up the tower".

The PCC has a legal responsibility to make sure that its policies are followed and the Tower Captain should have a copy of the PCC's Child Protection policy. The Tower Captain should also know who the Child Protection Officer is for the Parish; you can get the DBS form from them and they will submit it.

The following activities need the person to have a DBS check:

- Face to face teaching by Tower Captain, deputy or other instructor
- Transporting juniors as formal arrangement, irrespective of frequency
- Face to face teaching organised by guild or society

DBS checks should not be otherwise necessary and in this respect attempts to blanket check all ringers, including those supervised by a leader are illegal.

The next bullet points **do not** require someone to have a CRB check:

- Helping with young people by

Useful links

- Diocese safeguarding webpage: <http://bit.ly/1DINvwc>
- CCBR Safeguarding in Bell Towers guidance note: <http://bit.ly/2c5SkLb>

ringing another bell, or standing behind

- General ringing at practices, meetings and outings
- Visitors to towers
- One-off teaching or deputising
- Transporting juniors as a one-off domestic arrangement.

It is good practice to have a register that everyone present at a practice or for service ringing, signs (including visitors).

Many of the points are actually to protect the adults so that they are not put in a difficult position.

There is a lot more information on both the diocesan and Central Council's website. These are the barest of bare bones, but **better safe than sorry and be prepared.** You never know – there might be a sudden influx of young people after your tower open day or an appeal in the parish magazine.

Welcome, new members!

Nine new members were elected to the society at the meeting at Coseley on 18th June – congratulations to all.



New members from Coseley pictured (l-r): Rosemarie, Kim, Matthew, Rufus, Rev. Emma, Asa, Jason and Charlotte.

If you have any new members to propose at the AGM on 17th September, please contact the Secretary: sec@lwascr.org.uk

Note: *The minimum qualification for membership of the society is to be able to handle a bell safely and ring called changes competently.*

Diary dates

Please make a note of the following events, coming up (more details on the website):

- ✓ 8th-11th September, tower open days
- ✓ 17th September AGM at Shenstone
- ✓ 20th September, Tuesday daytime band, Alrewas & TBA
- ✓ 18th October, Tuesday daytime band, Stafford & TBA
- ✓ Sept and October Saturdays, Bell handling lessons for new recruits
- ✓ 15th November, Tuesday daytime band, Pattingham & TBA
- ✓ 19th November, full meeting, Drayton Bassett
- ✓ 17th December, Christmas meeting, Norton Canes



Tower open days

During the weekend of 8th-11th September the national heritage open days take place, billed as an opportunity to "see hidden places and try out new experiences".

The society is encouraging towers to take this opportunity to open their tower so the local community can learn more about bells and bell ringing and perhaps gain some new recruits.



During September and October Saturdays, the society are running basic bell handling sessions for any new recruits - more details to follow.

The society website has supporting resources to help you organise an open day - these can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/2bv51zp>

100 Club Update

Lucky winners of the 100 Club draw at Coseley were:

- ❖ 1st Penn tower
- ❖ 2nd Ruth Isitt
- ❖ 3rd Helen Jarvis
- ❖ 4th Cherry Bellini



If you'd like to join the 103 members raising money for the Bell Restoration Fund, please contact Linda Pick:

lindapick@totalise.co.uk or download an application form from the Society website.