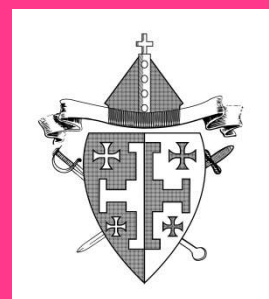




One of the Taylor bells donated to the Drayton Bassett scheme

Newsletter



August 2014

www.lwascr.org.uk

Drayton Bassett becoming six after 50 year wait

by John Mulvey

Drayton Bassett PCC, after a village consultation exercise, have agreed to support a proposal to augment their four bells to six.

It has taken 50 years to get to this stage. In 1964 the three largest of the four bells were recast and all four bells hung in a new cast iron 6 bell frame by Taylor's. It was always hoped that two extra bells would be purchased. A band of ringers was taught which included Ken Parker, a former Secretary of this Society, and they rang the bells regularly until a number of them moved away. Albert Cooper, a local ringer, continued to raise money for the additional bells until his death, when all hope of additional bells disappeared.

At least two attempts during the last 50 years were made to persuade the church to raise funds for two bells to

fill the spare pits, but this came to no avail. This year, 50 years after the provision of the six bell frame, I determined that the task would be completed. My motive was that my mother's family came from this parish, or the neighbouring parish of Fazeley.

In order to succeed in persuading the PCC that this was a viable scheme, I knew that I had to show that a large amount of the funding was in place and steps could be taken to reduce the total bill. Also I proposed that no funding would be required from the PCC for the scheme.

What is involved?

The approved scheme has two alternatives depending on the amount of money raised. Both options mean that the present treble, which is nearly a hundredweight light, will be retired from the ring and become a chiming bell, hung beside the present 6 bell

frame. A new bell will be cast to replace this.

The more expensive option, is to cast two additional bells to complete the six. The cheaper option, is to use two secondhand bells, both modern style Taylor bells. One is a Taylor stock bell cast last year, the other is an early 20th century Taylor bell from a redundant church in Bolton. The Keltek Trust have very generously offered to donate this free of charge to the scheme.

Additionally it is intended to install sound control on the louvres as the bells are rarely rung at the moment. Tamworth ringers have promised to teach a new band of ringers and so far 4 people from the village have volunteered to learn so far.

So far £16,750 has been promised to the scheme before an official appeal has been launched.

More information/donations

Contact John Mulvey:

07760 367 570
[mfjohn1@ntlworld.com](mailto:mjohn1@ntlworld.com)

Introducing the Bell Advisor- Chris Roberts

by Matt Gallon

How long have you been involved with ringing and bell maintenance?

I've been a ringer for 17 years and having an engineering background, soon got interested in the mechanical side. I've done a lot of work on the bells at my own tower, Wednesbury St. Bart's, as well as work at other towers.

What can the Bell Advisor offer to Society towers?

I can offer a free safety check and written report on your tower's bells. During the visit, I'll discuss and follow-up any problems you've identified, as well doing simple checks on ropes, wheels, clappers, the bell frame etc.

What happens to the report when it's completed?

A copy goes to the Society committee and the tower keeps a copy. If work needs to be done, I'll advise on the

most urgent work required and how it could be completed. The Society's Bell Restoration Fund also offers grants towards maintenance and upgrading – contact the Secretary (sec@lwascr.org.uk) to apply.

What maintenance tips can you offer?

Safety is the most important thing. You should always be accompanied when working in the belfry and make sure the bells are down and clock hammers off.

If required, grease the **clappers**.

Check **stays** are tight and undamaged.

Check the **crown staple nut**, on the top of the bell, is tight and the splitter pin is present.

Grease the **main bearings** (if required), either side of the bell.

Steel and wooden **frames** should be checked for corrosion or rot and painted or preserved if necessary.

If you're concerned or unsure about anything, get in touch with me, or a bell hanger.



Chris and the 24cwt Wednesbury tenor

How can towers get in touch with you?

I can be contacted on 07971 458442 or belladvisor@lwascr.org.uk

More advice on the Web

- Central Council maintenance publications: <http://qurl.com/vl6dg>
- Oxford Guild maintenance guide: <http://qurl.com/9cpl1m>
- Central Council Towers & Belfries Committee: <http://qurl.com/zt5ny>

New, improved Website

by Matt Gallon



The Society has a new website, which went live in July and can be found at the usual address: www.lwascr.org.uk The site offers all the information available on the old site, and more, plus in a more easily searchable, colourful and attractive format.

New pages There are new sections on learning to ring and improving your ringing skills, plus more information about the bell restoration fund and the Society library collection. There are also videos, including footage of the mobile belfry and the excellent, "Bell ringing: it's harder than it looks" video.

Latest news The site includes a Latest News section for snippets of news (e.g. first quarters, temporary changes to practices etc.) and longer articles. There is an online form for submitting news stories, or you can email web@lwascr.org.uk

Tower information One of the most popular sections of the site, is the tower information. On the new site, there is the facility for each tower to have its own page, including visitor information, photos and a short history of the bells. If you'd like a page for your tower, complete

the online form and submit a photo so we can create a page for your tower.

Contact us As well as contacting committee members by email, you can also use an online contact form to get in touch.

Quick Links

Submit a news item:

<http://qurl.com/lb8gq>

Add tower visitor information:

<http://qurl.com/sqjfl>

Give feedback about the website/make suggestions:

web@lwsacr.org.uk

Another first at Mavesyn Ridware

by Anne Ogden

Mark and Jordan Lawley joined us at Mavesyn Ridware and King's Bromley after moving from Coseley last year.

They were competent Called Change ringers but have progressed well and were able to ring their first quarter peal together on Sunday 8th June.

Jordan's Mom Sarah is also learning to ring now and can handle a bell well so she will hopefully score her first quarter soon. Watch this space!



Photo CC Tim Heaton

FIRST QUARTER OR PEAL TO REPORT?

Let everyone know about it, in a future issue of the newsletter, or on the website. Contact: newsletter@lwascr.org.uk

Summer meeting at Pattingham

by Jean Nixon

Patshull was a new tower for quite a few members, but it is also one of the most remote in the Archdeaconry area and hardest to find, so ringing started a little late, but call-changes and Plain Bob were successfully rung. Moving on to Pattingham, the Rev. Maureen Hobbs, who took the

service, had done a lot of research on the biggest bell in the world, which is in the grounds of the Kremlin, in Moscow. She and the local band made us very welcome, with an enormous tea and delicious home-made cakes.

Most of the meeting was taken up with the election of 14 new members: Anthony and Michael Hartwell, Fiona Bowers, Samantha Bush, & Elizabeth Hadley from Trysull, Harold Williams and Brian Kemp from Rushall, Nikki Harris from Penn, Robert Hess, Sheila Pickrell & Sonia Ward from Brewood, Lukas Bradshaw & Chad Pickering from Cannock and Fred Hodges, who is the first member from Enville for many years. Jonathan Thorne was ratified as a non-resident member.

Our next Society engagements are the Surprise practice at Abbots Bromley on August 30th at 7.30, followed by the AGM at Lapley and Penkridge on Sept. 20th.



Diary dates

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

- ✓ 30th August, Surprise Practice (Abbots Bromley).
- ✓ 20th September, AGM (Lapley/Penkridge)
- ✓ 18th October, Ringing on higher numbers (Wednesbury)
- ✓ 15th November, Full meeting at Cannock
- ✓ 20th December, Christmas meeting at Pelsall



Ringling on higher numbers



The course on 18th October is especially for those wanting to expand their skills to 9 or 10 bells. Join us at 2:30 pm at St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury

Ringling anecdote

When visiting St. John's church, Dumfries, in mid-May, to ring for Sunday Service, Ann Williams (formerly of Penn) was surprised to be greeted by Anthony Howells (also formerly of Penn). She was even more surprised to learn that, although he has lived a few miles from Dumfries for several years, he had only become aware three weeks previously that there is a new ring of bells in the town – indeed the only ring in South-West Scotland. He will, no doubt, be an asset to the newly-formed band.

Wanted!

- Peal and quarter peal announcements
- Short stories & anecdotes
- Behind the Louvres histories etc.

Send to newsletter@lwascr.org.uk, or complete the online form at: <http://qurl.com/lb8gq>

100 Club Update

Lucky winners of the 100 Club draw at the Pattingham/Patshull meeting were:

- ❖ Maggie Warford £53.50
- ❖ Olly Bouckley £26.75
- ❖ Lichfield St. Michael £13.38
- ❖ Geoff Pick £13.38



If you'd like to try your luck and help raise money for the Bell Restoration Fund, please contact Linda Pick: lindapick@totalise.co.uk or download an application form from the Society website.