
St Albans District Newsletter

HCACR 125th Anniversary

January 2010
Volume 14, Issue 2

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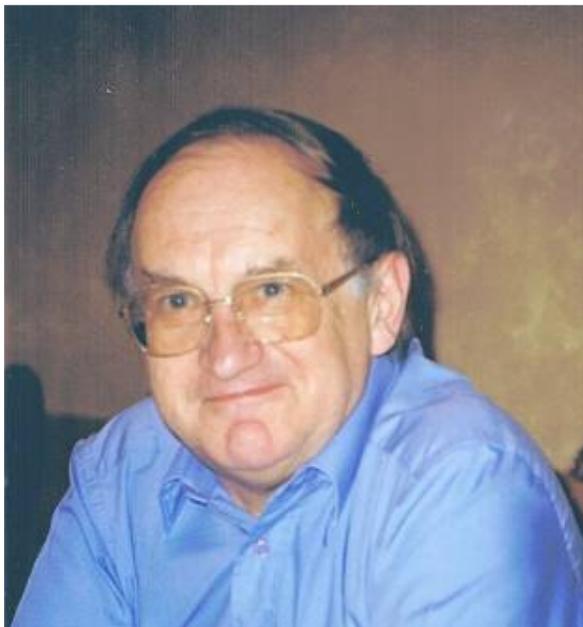
Members assembled before the High Altar in St Albans Cathedral

Events in the District have this year focussed on the 125th Anniversary of the Association. Two quarter peal days have been held on 18th July and 15th August, the former preceding a BBQ hosted by the Mack family at their residence in Welwyn Garden City, and the latter incorporated into a Picnic and Rounders Match in Verulamium Park.

An Association wide celebration was held on October 31st, when open ringing was held at each of the towers in the city, followed by a service in the Cathedral. Following more open ringing at the Cathedral, members assembled in the crossing for a group photograph before dining in the refectory. A full report of the event has been published in the Ringing World.

A large number of peals and quarters have been rung in the District to celebrate the anniversary, and many of these are detailed in this newsletter. Please send in any that have not yet been published and these will be included in the next newsletter which will be in May / June 2010.

David Gregory



David Gregory, who died in early August aged 72, was the much loved Ringing Master of the Welwyn band from 2003. David and his wife Mary took up bell-ringing with great enthusiasm after they began attending St Mary's Welwyn in 1998. Trying to make up for their late start, they went on numerous courses – the Essex course to learn Bob Doubles; Bob Minor and Cambridge Minor with Phil Gay at Keele and Stedman Doubles at the Marches Teaching Belfry with 'Frog' (John Turney). They returned for annual ringing holidays at the Marches between 2001 and 2006, taking almost the entire Welwyn band with them in 2002. David and Mary rang regularly at practices at Datchworth; at St Stephen's in St Albans for about three years, and for the last year or two at Lemsford. By the time of his death, David had rung at 220 towers.

David was a man of enormous talent and energy. During his early career as an engineer with the BBC, David and his family were based in New York where he organised communications for outside broadcasts and was in the press corps at the Kennedy Space Centre for various Apollo missions from 8 to 15. Whilst at Houston he took flying lessons and went solo. Back in Welwyn Garden City in the 1970s, David was responsible for the construction of a new organ for St Francis Church including voicing and tuning. In 1979

he joined British Aerospace working in a group involved in satellite communications. He was chief engineer for the consortium that made the successful application for a licence to operate a mobile phone network, which subsequently became Orange. After early retirement from British Aerospace in 1992, David started a consultancy in telecommunications and sound recordings, including working with independent producers making programmes for Radio 4. He made several series of "Random edition" with presenter Peter Snow, and "Master Musicians", approximately 80 programmes in all. David also made recordings of music for Guild and ASV labels, as well as Toddler Tunes with his daughter Frances and transcriptions on to CD for the pianist Philip Fowke and the organist Peter Hurford.

Alongside his professional work, David was involved with many other projects for churches and in the home, and his expertise continued to grow. In the 1990s David's interest in clocks and watches had commenced, initially to overhaul the clocks inherited from his parents; this developed into real expertise which was much in demand. David became an expert horologist, specializing in long case clocks and pocket watches. David also brought his energy and skills to the service of the very successful Welwyn Magazine and the creation of the Church website that won an award. He became a trustee of the Herts and Beds Churches Media Trust, and worked with the Bishop of St. Albans, Christopher Herbert on a number of projects. In 2003, following an operation for bowel cancer, David became involved with the project at St Mary's to build New Church House. He was a huge asset to the project team, particularly for the clarity of his thinking and was the driving force behind the design and installation of the unique environmentally friendly heating system of ground source heat pumps that now heats the entire church and the new building. In the ringing chamber David installed a computer simulator linked to two bells and a speaker extension to the church sound system, the latter to enable the band to commence ringing immediately following a wedding!

David was a kind and thoughtful man, and very caring for others. Having taken up bell

ringing relatively late in life, in the ringing chamber he had great empathy with learners, both young and old. David was always such great fun and is greatly missed by all in the Welwyn band.

Lemsford

St John The Evangelist
Monday, 10 August 2009

1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Geoffrey L Fordham
2. Judith E Titmus
3. Jo Westwood
4. Geoffrey Dodds (C)
5. Roger D R Brown
6. Ron E Titmus

In memory of, and a thanksgiving for, the life of David Gregory who regularly attended the Monday night practice and will be sadly missed by members of the Lemsford band.

St Peter's, St Albans
Sunday, 23 August 2009 in 0:49 (24-0-3)

1253 STEDMAN CATERS

1. Judith A Mack
2. Kathryn E Jones
3. Janet E Archibald
4. Jennifer V Johnson
5. Ann Evans
6. Barry D Mack (C)
7. Edward R Mack
8. Thomas B Mack
9. Alan G G Smith
10. Quenton M Jones

4, 9 - 275th quarter together.

Rung for evensong in celebration of the life of David Gregory, Ringing Master at Welwyn

Bradfield Ringing Course 2009

We hadn't thought of going on a ringing course until we heard about the Ursula Fergusson bequest.

When we arrived at the reception, within seconds we were greeted by Mike Winterbourne telling us all about the course, making us feel welcome and right at home.

After we'd settled into our rooms we met our groups who were just as friendly as Mike and they all introduced us to our specialist subject (Bob Doubles). Later that evening we went to our first church. This, luckily, is where our tutors went soft and let us do some things we already knew (trebling to St Simons and St Nicholas), rather than throwing us straight into the deep end!

After visiting our first church "Informal Get-togethers" was on. We went to the Cocoa Room which is where we met EVEN MORE friendly people and didn't just have to talk about bell-ringing. Although we went to bed tired and exhausted we knew it was a good idea to come on the course.

After breakfast we had our first optional session which we found very useful and interactive. There were lots of these optional sessions on all over the place like: Handling

Master-class, Listening to your bell, Hand-bells, Listening & Striking study practical, Rope-splicing, A different way to look at methods, A little bit of History and lots more on different topics. We went to lots of these optional sessions, including the Rope-splicing session. Here's a photo of Alexander showing off his (almost finished) long splice.



Next was the ever popular tea & biscuits or coffee & biscuits (you decide), followed by trips out to ring, giving us lots of chances to improve.

Bradfield Ringing Course 2009 contd

On Saturday evening we had the "Service for All" in the Bradfield Church, which was very interesting with other ringers showing off their talents. What particularly stood out for me were the songs as they were all to do with bell-ringing or bells. Also the hand-bells were really good and left me wanting to get a lot better at ringing really, really quickly.

On Sunday as well as optional sessions, afternoon ringing, Sunday service ringing (optional) and lunch there was a slot dedicated to tutorials either one-to-one or several-to-one which is where we tried our hands on ringing the dumbbell which helped with our listening and light bell handling. This photo shows Liz Shanklin helping Katharine use the dumb-bell.



New members

Welcome to the following new members - Carol Evans of South Mymms, Laurence Bourton of Ridge, Kath Sayers, Paul Regin, Audrey Shulman and Lucy Dodge of Hatfield.

Congratulations to Nick Butler of St Peters who is now a full member.

When we left to come home that evening, we were looking forward to our next ringing practice so we could show-off our improvements and get EVEN BETTER at Bob Doubles. We have all improved enormously, thanks to this course.

As you can probably see we all "caught-the-bug" with bell-ringing and have definitely decided to come back next year as it was such good fun this year, and we want to see how far our friends from the course have improved. The only down side is that all of the tutors and helpers are expecting us to have done a quarter peal of Bob Doubles by then. - scary, scary!

- Alexander and Katharine Woods from
Welwyn

Birthday Peal

Hertford County Association

St Peter's, St Albans

Sunday, 18 October 2009 in 3:21 (24-0-3)

5040 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

Composed by: B D Constant

1. Janet E Archibald
2. Thomas B Mack
3. Cynthia Warrilow
4. Edward R Mack
5. John J Ford
6. Claire C Nicholson
7. Alan G G Smith
8. Bjørn E Bradstock
9. Richard W Butler
10. Barry D Mack (C)

Rung to celebrate the birthday of the ringer of
the 2 - 18 today

Ian Galpin

Sadly Ian Galpin of St Albans Cathedral died on 4th January. There is to be a private cremation. At a later date, to be confirmed, a memorial service will be held. Please email the editor for more information.

2009 Abbey Outing

The day did not start well!

We were all assembled outside Hughenden church without a key to let us in. Phone calls were made with only an answer machine at the other end so - what to do? A visiting choir master inside the church told us that the verger lived in some nearby cottages. Luckily he appeared in shorts and t-shirt and agreed to let

us in. We were only 15 minutes into a 'lock-out' and we were saved. Hughenden bells were enjoyed for the next half hour.

Off to West Wycombe with the golden ball on top of the tower and the enormous Dashwood mausoleum in the churchyard. Even though we were warned that the 3 could slip wheel, no mishaps occurred. A touch of '8-spliced' was successfully rung as well as other methods.

Cuddington was next for which we had been given permission to ring by the Village Fete Committee. We could not park near the church as the roads were closed for the impending fete so a walk was in order to get to the church. The bells were a lovely light eight which we all appreciated.

Lunch had been previously chosen and subsequently ordered at the Rose and Thistle in Haddenham. (We could not ring at Haddenham due to weddings.) We sat down after getting our drinks and food was served after a short interval. No complaints - not to us anyway. Someone even enjoyed a 'sticky toffee pudding'.

The ringing at the anti-clockwise 6 bell tower at Dinton started promptly at 2.45pm. Call changes for the three learners were quite tricky

but negotiated. Pleasant touches of London and Norwich were rung amongst others.

Marble monuments at Quainton provided us with a close up experience. The ladies from the nearby 'open- garden' invited us in for a cup of tea but we declined due to our time schedule so they brought mugs of tea plus scones, jam and cream to us for a donation to their charity. This was much appreciated.

Everyone managed to park in Aylesbury - one person in the churchyard, one in a nearby carpark, some in the surrounding streets and some in the multi-storey carpark. This heavy 8 of 21 cwt. was much enjoyed, in fact our Ringing Master declared they were the best bells of the day.



Those that stayed, adjourned to the Duck Inn at Aston Clinton where a side room was opened up for us. The day finished better than it had started!

- Deirdre Watson

Picnic and Rounders

Picnic on a Summer's Evening

It was thanks to the organisation of Ben and Rosemary that we got together one evening in the summer, for a picnic on the playing fields near St Michaels. Picture a dozen hungry ringers seated cross-legged in a circle,

ceremoniously munching on a feast of sandwiches, scotch eggs and an assortment of fruits. In fact the grub was so good and the company so engaging that more than an hour ticked by and we almost forgot to play the game!

Picnic and Rounders contd



Rounders

After an insufficient pause for digestion, teams were picked for rounders. I ended up with Barry and Rob, whom it transpired were to become the core of the dream team. There was some discussion over the correct size and shape for the 'diamond', and Ben managed to pull some 'rules' out of the bag to settle the matter. Quickly it was established that the under-21s had serious speed over the ground, and so our strategy turned to brute force. The only way to score and avoiding being run out would be to thwack the ball either past the trees dividing the playing fields, or 100 yards over open ground. Anticipating dismal failure by the 'over 21s', the fielders crept closer and closer with each swipe at the ball.

Barry applied himself to the game and soon proved to be quite nimble of foot, notching up enough early points to keep us in contention. Rob also was truly outstanding, showing an awesome ability for belting the ball beyond visible range then lolling round for a home run. We won the first match as the last rays of sunshine slipped away.

The under 21s were not satisfied however, and there were several calls for a rematch. Nick, Katherine and Edward were particularly driven to even the score. So, even as the light was fading, we continued to belt a tennis ball at each other and all over the field whilst using up every reserve of energy. In my case that only took 5 minutes, so I was able to sit back and witness the youth extracting some kind of retribution; whittling the opposition down to 2 haggard runners, each one obliged to sprint

half-way round off any ball, simply in order to keep batting.



Quenton Jones, Barry Mack and Richard Butler perform "The Haka".

It was properly dark when we finished and everyone enjoyed a summers evening to remember. Good food, great company and fantastic exercise.

- Quenton Jones

St Peter's, St Albans
Saturday, 15 August 2009 in 47 mins.

1320 PLAIN BOB MINOR

1. Rosemary J Duke
2. Katherine P M Butler
3. Deborah M E Butler
4. Judith A Mack
5. Edward R Mack
6. Graham A Duke (C)

Rung on the front six.

2: First inside.

Rung to celebrate 125th anniversary of the
HCACR

St Peter's, St Albans
Saturday, 15 August 2009 in 0:46

1260 PLAIN BOB MINOR

1. Ann Evans
2. Jennifer V Johnson
3. Richard W Butler
4. Nicholas P W Butler
5. Thomas B Mack
6. Barry D Mack (C)

Rung on the front six.

4: First inside.

Whitechapel Bellfoundry Visit

On Saturday October 17th Judith and Barry Mack organised a District visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry with two towers in the East End afterwards, all followed by a curry in Brick Lane.



The visit was timed to start just after lunch which gave people the chance to visit some sights in London during the morning. A prompt start was made by Alan Hughes who gave an overall background of the company and the art of bell casting to the group in the foyer before beginning the tour round the foundry. The group was shown from room to room in the order of the moulding, drying, casting and tuning of a bell and finishing the ground floor part of the tour in the large erecting shop where several whole sets of bells were on display and sometimes (but not this time) a completed frame with bells and all fittings including wheels are erected before being shipped out. This large bell area of the foundry is a most fascinating place to be in, generally tidy but strewn with bells some on their sides all with chalk marks denoting where they come from, their weight and note. Down the end is a large cylindrical furnace and a small upright furnace beside which don't quite look what they are all surrounded by templates hanging on the walls and other materials in the corners of the room all covered in dust. The one large old upright machine set in at floor level is a tuning lathe capable of tuning the largest bells they can produce at the moment; this looks quaint with its new cast bell all shiny and mouth upwards on the lathe surrounded by small cuttings from the bell on the floor.



Next the group were taken to the top of the building where there was a sawmill and wood working shop for the construction and manufacture of the wheels, stay, sliders and other wooden components, another very dusty area.



We then came down a level to the Handbell department which concentrated on tuning and buffing of the bells, the manufacture of the handles out of leather and the assembly of the clappers. On entrance to this small but long room we noticed a long line of 40 finished

handbells on the centre table, the surrounding benches and walls were covered in components ready to be assembled.

Alan must have enjoyed our party as the 1 hour tour lasted 2 hours before we made it into the gift shop at the end.

The 10 bells of All Saints, Poplar and St. Anne's, Limehouse were available for ringing afterwards it being a 20 minute walk to Poplar and 10 minutes to Limehouse with its white stone tower surmounted by a sphere connected to the clock which rises and falls.

A curry was always on the cards, Kathryn and Quenton Jones knew of a good curry house in

Brick Lane where we could barter a good deal, so after a quick goodbye to those not joining us most of us caught the next bus into town to Aldgate where after walking down a couple of backstreets and being beckoned into several curry houses with even better deals offered each time we settled in our chosen restaurant called "Monsoon" where for a tenner we had a starter, main and 2 drinks all expertly negotiated by Quenton.

Thank you to Barry and Judith for organising the visit to the foundry and the ringing afterwards at the two towers.

- Richard and Rosemary Sales

Essex Trophy

Congratulations to the Hertfordshire band who won the Essex Trophy this year at St Leonard's Church, Hythe on Saturday, 12th September.

	<i>Team</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1 st	Hertfordshire	52
2 nd	Essex	55
3 rd	Surrey	61
4 th	Kent	63
5 th	Guildford	76
6 th	Essex	97



Ian Blake, John Peverett, Chris Forster, Tony Crowther, Graham Lay, Geoff Dodds, Thomas Mack, Barry Mack, Edward Mack.

Not pictured: Stephen Crawley

125th Anniversary Peals and Quarters

St Nicholas Harpenden
 Sunday 26th April 2009
1260 DOUBLES-STEDMAN, GRANDSIRE & PLAIN BOB

1. Charles Pocock (C)
2. David Darby
3. Revd. John Orme
4. Andrew Cripps
5. Andrew Agg
6. John Harper

At Evensong. A farewell to Eric Pask for 24 years organist and choirmaster at this Church. A 125th Year quarter for the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers.

Welwyn
 St. Mary the Virgin
 Saturday, 18th July 2009 in 46mins (8-1-14)
1440 PLAIN BOB MINOR

1. Janet Coates
2. Jill Allen
3. Jo Westwood
4. Mark Hall
5. Stephen Mitchell
6. David Hall (C)

First Quarter 2,3 and 5
 Rung to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Hertford County Association

125th Anniversary Peals and Quarters

St Peter's, St Albans
Saturday, 18 July 2009 in 0:54 (24 cwt)
1282 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Christine M Carter
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Cynthia Warrilow
4. Deborah M E Butler
5. Ann Evans
6. Jennifer V Johnson
7. Edward R Mack
8. Richard W Butler
9. Graham A Duke (c)
10. Barry D Mack

First of Surprise Royal: 4
Rung for the 125th anniversary of the Hertford
County Association of Change Ringers.

St Albans Cathedral
Saturday, 18 July 2009 in 51m (23-2-11)

1275 STEDMAN CATERS

Composed by: S W Penney

1. Stephen W Penney (C)
2. Janet L Penney
3. Geoffrey Dodds
4. Christine M Carter
5. Graham A Duke
6. Gerald Penney
7. Jennifer V Johnson
8. Thomas B Mack
9. Barry D Mack
10. Richard W Butler

Rung to mark the Association's 125th
anniversary year.

St Peter's, St Albans
Sunday, 19 July 2009 in 0:53 (24 cwt)

1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

1. Nicholas P W Butler
2. Deborah M E Butler
3. William Butler (c)
4. Graham A Duke
5. Edward R Mack
6. Richard W Butler
7. Barry D Mack
8. Thomas B Mack

First quarter at first attempt: 1
For the 125th anniversary of the HCACR

Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire

St Helen

Saturday, 15 August 2009 in 0:52 (14-0-22)

1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

1. Bjørn E Bradstock
2. Claire C Nicholson
3. Alan M Shepherd
4. Alexander E Gray
5. Richard D Johnstone
6. David S Harris
7. Richard A Horne (C)
8. Roger I Gedye

First on eight - 8

Rung for the 125th Anniversary of the Hertford
County Association of Change Ringers

Hatfield, Hertfordshire

St Etheldreda

Saturday, 15 August 2009 in 0:49 (23-1-20)

1259 GRANDSIRE CATERS

1. Dianne E Crowder
2. Claire C Nicholson
3. Alan M Shepherd
4. Richard A Horne
5. Ann Evans
6. Alexander E Gray
7. David S Harris
8. W Robert E T Goss
9. Bjørn E Bradstock (C)
10. Richard D Johnstone

Rung for the 125th Anniversary of the Hertford
County Association of Change Ringers

St Peter's, St Albans

Thursday, 29 October 2009 in 0:50

1282 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Elaine Peill
2. Judith A Mack
3. Ann Evans
4. Martin J Corry
5. Rosemary E Sales
6. Jennifer V Johnson
7. Edward R Mack
8. Graham A Duke (c)
9. Stephen W Penney
10. Richard Sales

For the 125th anniversary of the HCACR on the
exact date of its founding (29/10/1884).

Ridge
St. Margaret
Saturday, 12 December 2009
1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Laurence Bourton (1st Q)
2. Joan Badger
3. Geoffrey Dodds
4. Andrew King
5. John Southey (C)
6. Vincent Emery

Rung for the 125th anniversary of the Hertford
County Association

Hertford County Association

Hunsdon
St Dunstan

Sunday, 20 December 2009 in 2:52 (14-2-7)

5024 SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR

5 methods: 1120 London; 1088 Superlative; 1024
each Pudsey, Cambridge; 768 Bristol; 103 com,
all the work.

Composed by: Albert J Pitman

1. Catherine E Hughes-D'Aeth
2. Graham A Duke
3. Richard Sales
4. John J Ford
5. Iain J Anderson
6. John N Hughes-D'Aeth
7. Stephen W Penney (C)
8. Edward N Hughes-D'Aeth

Rung to mark the Association's 125th
anniversary year.

First spliced as conductor.

St Albans District Ringing Programme 2010/11

Ringers of ALL standards are welcome at ALL events.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
January 16 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling, service, tea, ADM, ringing	St Peter's, St Albans
February 20 th	6.00pm - 7.15pm 7.30pm - 10.30pm	Ringling followed by Quiz	Chipping Barnet (tbc)
March 20 th	10.00am - noon	Ringling + coffee	Sandridge
April 17 th	All Day	District Outing	
May 15 th	5.00pm - 8.30pm	Woolford Cup, Tea & Business Meeting, Evening Ringling	North Mymms
June 19 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringling	South Mymms
July 17 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringling	Lemsford
August 21 st	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringling	St Peter's, St Albans
September 18 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling, Tea & Business Meeting	Essendon
October 16 th	10.00am - noon	Ringling	Welwyn
November 20 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringling	Kimpton (tbc)
December 18 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling, Carol Service, tea & Nomination Meeting	Harpenden
January 15 th 2011	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling, service, tea, ADM, ringing	Radlett (tbc)