

# LDG NEWS

NEWSLETTER – FIFTY / JANUARY 2021 / [www.leicesterldg.org](http://www.leicesterldg.org)

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## EDITORIAL

These last few months have reminded me how much I miss ringing and, more particularly, the company of ringers. However, optimism is the order of the day and, with the commencement of the National Vaccination Programme, probably the resumption of ringing is a little closer. In the meantime we wish you all a happy and healthy 2021.

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### BRF 100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

#### October

1st Prize Nos 105	2nd Prize Nos 82	3rd Prize Nos 55
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#### November

1st Prize Nos 151	2nd Prize Nos 77	3rd Prize Nos 3
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#### December

1st Prize Nos 65	2nd Prize Nos 153	3 <sup>RD</sup> Prize Nos 49
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### NO LONGER WITH US

**Russell Morris** of Whetstone, sadly died after a long period of illness on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Edward (Ted) Showell** of Groby, sadly died after contact Covid-19.

**Eric Atkinson** of Thurcaston sadly passed away on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**F. Kevin Thompson** of Barrow upon Soar sadly passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 after a long illness.

## PRESIDENT'S 2020 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I think it's fair to say that my first year of being LDG President wasn't at all as I was expecting. I had been looking forward to visiting all the districts, attending training mornings and social events, assisting on the Guild Ringing Course. I'd even taken orders for the Fish and Chip social due to be held at Oaks-in-Charnwood.

The Guild had a full and exciting calendar of events mapped out for 2020. The year started off with the usual committee meeting (in a bitterly cold St Margaret's vestry) plus district meetings and events. Many of us enjoyed a fabulous Guild Dinner at Leicestershire Cricket Club, expertly organised by Carol Franklin. I had the chance to proudly wear my new badge of office and anticipated polishing it regularly (with the polish so kindly bought for me as a Christmas present from Mark Pendery) and wearing it at a variety of events. We also spent time planning celebrations for the Guild's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021, some of which would be joint with the Southwell & Nottingham and Derby Diocesan Guilds.

In my speech at the Guild Dinner, I spoke about the last year of the Midland Counties Association. I also spoke of the unusual circumstances, where ringing was not allowed during the war and how ringers managed during this time with silent practices and handbell ringing for services.

Little did I know that we were about to enter another unprecedented time, where ringing has been curtailed since March due to COVID restrictions. Like our predecessors, we have also found imaginative and innovative ways to keep the Guild alive during these strange times. Despite not being able to meet in person, the Guild half yearly and AGM meetings took place on line via Zoom (which most of us hadn't heard of until this year!) including ringers' services and quizzes. The meetings were well attended but sadly there were no ringers' teas to look forward to. In the last few weeks, I've attended all of the District AGMs. I had been working out how I'd get to some AGMs that were planned for the same day, but this turned out to be much easier by Zoom than it would have been in the car.

Monday evenings have become the well-attended, regular Guild "Zoom" meetings which have been expertly co-ordinated by Mark Pendery. It is nice to see such wide participation, including all the people who've joined us from outside the county. We have had over 30 different, superb speakers talking to us on a wide range of topics and a huge amount of education has taken place. We have covered numerous ringing-related subjects (such as place notation, coursing order, listening and striking, rope splicing, handbell ringing, local and national ringing history, the life and times of well known ringers) and a variety of non-ringing topics. We now know about areas such as bee keeping, making preserves, the history of the Titanic, the Antarctic, climbing Everest and many other areas. A huge thank you to all the people who've taken the time to put interesting talks together for us, especially those from outside the Guild. For those who haven't been able to attend (or those who want to listen again), several of the talks have been recorded.

On Friday evenings we've had a social session where people just turn up for an informal chat. We had expected that there would only be a few of these, and that they'd last about an hour each. However, those attending really enjoy the company and the chance to catch up so these sessions are still popular. I don't know where the time flies to as we often find that there still are a few of us left after 2 or 3 hours!

During the COVID restrictions I've been immensely grateful to the Central Council of Church Bellringers for all the work they have done in relation to providing guidance for safely returning to ringing, especially during such a time of constantly changing regulations. There are a wide range of unique circumstances at each tower (physical characteristics of each ringing room, age and health of the band etc), meaning that many towers have been silent since March. A few towers have managed some limited Sunday Service ringing and some towers are hoping to ring for Christmas and we have received many accounts of people enjoying hearing their local bells again.

No one yet knows when ringing will be "back to normal", or indeed what the new normal may look like. However, one big concern is that of recruitment and retention. It is likely that many will not return to ringing, especially learners who hadn't yet been "bitten by the bug", ringers with health problems or some of our more elderly ringers. In 2021, we will need to do a lot of planning around recruitment and teaching. The central council already have a working group examining this topic and I'm sure they will provide some useful material that we can use. We should also use our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021 as a means of raising awareness and recruiting ringers.

A few years ago, Lewis Benfield was a student on my group at the annual ringing course. It was the first time I'd met Lewis, and it was clear that he was a youngster with a lot of potential. One of the highlights of the year, for me, has been seeing how much Lewis has developed recently despite there being hardly any tower bell ringing. He's attended nearly all of the Guild Zoom meetings and has been joining in with ringing groups throughout the country. He gave a truly excellent presentation on some of the lost rings of

Leicester and Leicestershire. The amount of research that he'd done was astonishing and I'm looking forward to seeing some of his presentation turned into a publication. Lewis has also increased his method ringing skills making use of various online resources including "Ringing Room" and "Handbell Stadium". He organised several online ringing sessions for Guild members and I think it's fair to say that some experienced ringers found it more challenging than others. Lewis already had a passion for handbells and during lockdown he has expanded his handbell collection. His knowledge of handbell history and refurbishment has grown to the point that he is now considered an expert. Some of his recent restoration work is truly astonishing! Lewis has also been part of a guild band who have been regularly ringing handbells (whilst observing social distancing requirements) during lockdown and some of the band's achievements have been fantastic. It was nice to see Lewis ring his first handbell peal and conduct his first quarter peal on handbells. Congratulations, Lewis. Many Guild members have remarked that they see you as a shining example of the future of ringing.

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Let's hope we can safely return to ringing during 2021.

Sally

### **OBITUARY – RUSSELL STANLEY MORRIS**

Russell Stanley Morris died aged 89 on 13th October 1920 after a period of illness. On the evening of his death his care home had allowed his wife Pat, daughters Michelle and Lisa, and granddaughter Lucy to spend individual time with him. The care home reported that he was peaceful when he died at approximately 10 pm.

He learnt to ring in at Swaffham Norfolk before moving to Leicester in the 1950's, joining the choir and ringers at St. Andrew, Aylestone - becoming ringing master after the death of Fred Wilson. Together with Rev Peter R Blackman, the newly appointed Assistant Curate, he taught many ringers to handle and ring methods. In 1962 he retired as ringing master - taking more time for his silver band playing and other interests - although still regularly ringing at Aylestone.

His first peal was in 1957, and he rang in total 351 peals, coincidentally with 351 ringers - including some of the well-known ringers of the time, including Ernest Morris, Peter and Jill Staniforth, Bob Smith, John Jelley, Ted Cawser to name a few.

When his job needed him to be ready to travel at a moment's notice in 1978 -(bags packed at the front door) he gave up all ringing in order to not have to let people down, only taking up ringing again after his retirement. He much enjoyed practice nights at Whetstone and ringing his favourite methods - Stedman Triples and Yorkshire S Major.

He was a member of the Leicester guild for many years and the ASCY for over 50 years.

He will be sadly missed and long remembered.

At his funeral on 2nd November under restrictions (because of covid) members of the bands he had played with over the years met outside to play before and after the service.

A.J.Poyner

### **BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE PIPE**

<https://www.ringingworld.co.uk/george-pipe-biography.html>

[https://ccbr.org.uk/2020/10/04/shake-my-hand-and-ill-show-you-the-ropes/?fbclid=IwAR3\\_LEO-Eg1tmQsfmpwVDFqY77bB1dotGC6DxYd90YctW1pBSbM98JpeYKA](https://ccbr.org.uk/2020/10/04/shake-my-hand-and-ill-show-you-the-ropes/?fbclid=IwAR3_LEO-Eg1tmQsfmpwVDFqY77bB1dotGC6DxYd90YctW1pBSbM98JpeYKA)

John Loveless

SNIPPETS

Originally it had been the hope of Lewis Benfield to celebrate his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by visiting the Bull Ring in Birmingham and ringing on the 16 bells there. Unfortunately, Covid-19 put paid to that but arrangements were made for, Ratby ringer, Lewis to join seven others in the UK ringing room where they rang 64 **Littleport Little Surprise 16 by use of modern technology. Considering that Lewis only began ringing handbells last June this was a remarkable achievement.**

#### OBITUARY – EDWARD (TED) SHOWELL

Ted died on 3<sup>rd</sup> December of Covid-19 aged 89. He had learnt to ring for the Millennium in Hallow, Worcestershire. His move to Groby in 2013 was so that they could be near his son. He was able to ring Plain Bob, but was keen to ring new methods he always turned up with his diagram book. The latest method he was learning was Double Oxford and his aim was to be able to Treble Bob. On occasions because of health problems he was unable to ring for long periods. His favourite new method being Little Bob.

Ted was a real gentleman; he would hold coats for the lady ringers. He loved to watch what he called the experts ringing. Ted also liked gardening and taking cuttings, very often the ringers would bring and exchange plants with him, not to mention enjoying some tomatoes and cucumbers given him plus blackcurrant jam. Very often he would bring an article on bellringing from the Telegraph. In the few years Ted was with us he was a pleasure to know.

Ted loved his bellringing and will truly be missed in the tower and Little Bob will always remind us of Ted when rung.

Sue Scott

#### A.R.T. – NEWS

#### CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

**Applications are open for the 2021 ART Awards.** The criteria for the Learning the Ropes awards have been changed. Anyone who has been registered on the Learning the Ropes Scheme can be nominated for the LtR Contribution Award. Whilst the LtR Achievement Award is open to those who have achieved their LtR Level 5 this year PLUS anyone who has completed LtR Level 3 on the Handbells scheme.

**ART AGM and Conference.** The AGM is scheduled for 10:30 on Saturday 6 March 2021 and will be held via Zoom. The ART Conference is cancelled but we are hoping to co-host an online Recovery Conference later in the year – date and format to be confirmed.

**All time limits are extended.** That's for accreditations, 50 Ringing Things Gold Plus and your ART membership where you can opt to take a one-year payment holiday if you wish.

**Survival and Recovery strategy.** CCCBR and ART are working together to deliver a survival and recovery strategy to retain and motivate as many ringers as possible over the Winter and to help bands and ringing societies recover when normal ringing resumes.

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Good news stories abound in the latest edition of Tower Talk. Why not download a copy, have a read and if you like it share with your ringing friends.

#### Tower Chatter

This time, it's all about handbells! So many people of widely varying experiences have been drawn to handbells, despite pre-pandemic claims they would never be interested, or beliefs that mastering the art was simply a mystery beyond them. New ringers too find that learning to ring handbells allows them to concentrate more on rhythm and place, instead of worrying about controlling their bell. It's also a great way of meeting up with your ringing friends on a regular basis, and with Ringing Room, they don't even have to live nearby. As

the restrictions wear on, it's clear that they are a brilliant way of keeping us ringing – either for real where restrictions allow or in Ringing Room.

And in fact, there's a whole section on handbells in the new *50 Virtual Ringing Things* just launched. Inside this edition, you will discover the many facets of handbell ringing with lots of tips on ways to get started, the versatility of handbell ringing – tunes as well as methods – and tips on how to care for handbells.

As we enter the new year, we all have to think about keeping ringing going in the short term, and how we will all help ringing to recover in the longer term. We all have a part to play in this, so keep ringing, keep supporting and think ahead! There are some useful ideas on pages included – so have a read.

Happy Christmas to ringers everywhere!

### **Lesley Belcher**

Chair

Association of Ringing Teachers

[lesley.belcher@bellringing.org](mailto:lesley.belcher@bellringing.org)

## **GOODBYE TO ONE OF OUR PATRONS**

**We say goodbye to Bishop Guli of Loughborough who was appointed a Patron of our Guild one year ago. She has been appointed the new bishop of Chelmsford.**

G.W.M

## **AROUND THE DISTRICTS**

### **LOUGHBOROUGH :-**

The Loughborough District held its AGM via Zoom in November, where the following officers were elected:

Chairman: Richard Bimson

Secretary: Vacant

Ringing Master: Richard Bimson

Committee members: Tony Croft & Joanne Moore (Treasurer)

BRF Allocations: Stuart Hale

### **MARKET HARBOROUGH ;-**

As might be expected there has not been a great deal of activity in the Harborough District. A few towers have managed to ring for services with limited numbers. The District AGM was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November via Zoom. Although attendance from the District was sparse, it was a pleasure to welcome the Guild President and Vice-president. The main business was election of District officers, who were re-elected, with the exception of John Davies, who did not stand for re-election. It was decided that the calendar, which was set in place for 2020, would simply transfer to 2021, in the hope that we can ring together again soon. In the Chair's message, Andrew spoke about the unusual year we have had, but focused on looking forwards. Our priority must be to get regular ringing re-established in towers across the District, which will require a concerted effort amongst members (although exactly how, we are not sure): whilst senior members are likely to take the lead, there is a role for every ringing member of the District to achieve this. I would hope that when restrictions are lifted, ringers will return to their towers, although I do know of a couple of long-standing District members have decided to call it a day. We wish them the best in their 'retirement' and thank them for many years of loyal service to ringing in their towers, the District and the Guild.

**St. Peter's, Oadby.**

I have reported previously about the problems of the internal walls at St Peter's – all the old pointing needs scraping out, and the walls rendered, at a cost of £200K. The work is currently underway, so even without the Covid restrictions, we would not be able to ring there. The work is scheduled to be completed in February, although with current restrictions we are expecting some slippage. So, it is unlikely that we will be able to ring at Oadby until Easter 2021 (assuming the Covid situation allows it). (<http://stpetersoadby.org.uk/homr-2/fundraising/project-walls/>).

Andrew Young

### **Leicester :-**

This year must be the most unusual in the Guild's history – with churches closed for worship and bells not ringing for a large part of the year. Even when restricted ringing was allowed to resume at towers, it had to be the local band or invited ringers only, for short ringing periods before services. As such, all Guild and District ringing activities had to be cancelled. The District Chairman's report for 2020 is correspondingly brief. The year started well, with our established routine of monthly district practices on weekday evenings (three were held) and one Saturday morning "focus" practice at Evington, with Plain Bob Doubles the main method, and three Quarter-Peals, with "firsts" for Rebecca Lee, Rebecca Odames and Lewis Benfield. Congratulations.

During lockdown, a group of District members, and friends from the Hinckley District, has started a handbell band (when regulations on outside gatherings permitted), and has gone from simple methods on 6 and 8 to scoring some Quarter Peals of Surprise Major and TB Royal, and Peals of TB Major. Lots of individual and band "firsts" scored – well done!

Five new members from the Leicester District joined the Guild this year – Alison Leason from Aylestone, Hilary Lees-Smith and Joel McBride from Evington, Stephen Hartley from South Wigston and Colin Hearne from Ratby. Welcome to the Leicester Diocesan Guild!

Sadly, we have to record the death of three district members this year: Russ Morris from Whetstone, Ted Williams from Bitteswell and Edward (Ted) Showell from Groby.

At the District AGM held, as is traditional now, on ZOOM, Anthony continues as Chairman, Rebecca Odames takes over as Secretary with Lewis Benefield & Garry Mason continuing as District Ringing Masters. Our biggest thanks go to the District membership for supporting those District ringing events which we have managed to hold, and also for continuing with Guild Membership when activities are so restricted. The Guild still has expenditure at the moment (such as our indemnity insurance, Central Council affiliation fee and a Ringing World subscription for the Peal Secretary) so membership subscriptions are still gratefully received. We hope to see you all safe and well and returning to District and Guild ringing whenever it is permitted in 2021.

Anthony Haywood & Dave Carling December 2020

### **Syston District**

The Syston District were invited to a virtual meeting at the end of November. As they have no officers the question was posed: what do you feel you get from the Guild? The discussion centred around the support and encouragement received. They are covered by insurance and they know someone to contact if there is a query. (re future ringing, safeguarding etc).

In normal times they attend other districts' meetings and are notified about education events.

I would like to thank the tower correspondents for responding to emails and for the prompt manner in which the subs were paid in such a difficult year,

Carol

Since 1859, the iconic Loughborough Bellfoundry has cast more than 25,000 bells that are hung in over 100 countries, in churches, cathedrals, universities and public buildings. 20 million people in Britain, and hundreds of millions worldwide, hear a bell cast at the Loughborough Bellfoundry every day.

*Bells from the foundry have even entered popular culture – the bells from St Thomas’s Church, in Fifth Avenue, New York, which can be heard on The Pogues and Kirsty McColl’s Christmas anthem Fairytale of New York, were cast at the site.*

However, the globally unique, purpose-built Victorian bellfoundry was at serious risk of being permanently lost without urgent repairs. The closure of the bellfoundry would be a huge loss to traditional craftsmanship, with a seismic impact on historic buildings around the world.

Now, thanks to the £3.45m grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund - and match-funding bringing the total to £5m - the site will be secured for the future and removed from the Heritage at Risk register.

The money will not only pay for urgent repairs - protecting the foundry from further decay and potential loss - it will also be used to train a new generation in bell-making skills, deliver an engagement and outreach programme, increase access to the unique archive, expand production and develop the onsite bell museum as a heritage destination, attracting visitors from around the world.

### [The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust](#)

Hannah Taylor, chair of the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust, said: “This news is the best possible Christmas present and will ensure that the foundry, its buildings, the museum and rare archive will be protected, and that Loughborough bells are heard and enjoyed by many future generations around the world.

*“As well as to protect the site, our aim is to make the Loughborough Bellfoundry the global centre for the art of bell making and learning and provide an engaging and exciting visitor experience. Thanks to National Lottery players, we can do exactly that.”*

Bellfounders John Taylor & Co employ a team of 30, with a range of highly specialist heritage skills including casting, tuning and finishing bells. It produces all of the associated parts and mechanisms such as frames, headstocks, wheels, hand-bells, carillons and bell ropes.

Ros Kerslake, CEO of the National Lottery Heritage Fund said:

*“The Loughborough Bellfoundry is the perfect example of why we invest National Lottery money in our heritage – it creates jobs, encourages tourism, keeps heritage skills alive and most of all, ensures a future for a unique and valuable heritage that makes all our lives better.*

*“I am delighted to be able to share this news at Christmas. It’s a wonderful way to end a challenging year for all of us, not least our heritage organisations. We are looking forward to a brighter future for the Loughborough Bellfoundry in 2021.”*

The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant will be used for :-

- 1 removing the buildings from the At Risk register and undertaking repairs.
- 2 reorganising the factory, making it more efficient.
- 3 securing the long-term sustainability of numerous at-risk craft skill and jobs.
- 4 improving the visitor experience throughout.
- 5 enhancing, expanding and modernising the existing museum.
- 6 improving and enlarging the active; and
- 7 deliveries of a wide-reaching engagement and outreach programme

Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston said:

*"Heard by millions of people across the world everyday, bells produced by Taylor's bellfoundry are an example of a great British export success story and an important part of our cultural heritage. I am delighted that, with this grant, a new generation will learn bell-making skills and the museum will be developed into an exciting tourist destination, safeguarding the future of our heritage."*

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England said:

*“Bells made at the Loughborough Bellfoundry hang in thousands of buildings across the world, and their peals have been heard and enjoyed by millions. Home to John Taylor & Co, a family business dating back to the middle of the 14th century, the bellfoundry has been the pride of Loughborough for over 160 years. This grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund will allow for essential repairs and give more people the chance to understand how special the foundry is, ensuring it continues to play an important part in today’s world.”*

The Loughborough Bellfoundry has, like much of the UK’s heritage, been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. It received a £93,300 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund earlier this year and £246,500 from the Government’s Recovery Fund for Heritage, as well as a £499,918 Heritage At Risk Urgent Repairs Grant from Historic England.

It has also received grant of £40,000 from The Pilgrim Trust, £10,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund, £150,000 from Garfield Weston, £50,000 from Swire Charitable Trust and many generous donations

from other Trusts and members of the public. The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust would like to say a big thank you to all donors.

#### THE LOUGHBOROUGH BELLFOUNDRY – AMAZING FACTS:-

The bells that can be heard in The Pogues and Kirsty McColl's Fairytale of New York were cast here for St Thomas's Church, in Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Bell used for the AC/DC track Hells Bells were also cast at Loughborough. The band then took the specially-branded AC/DC bell on its 1980 Back in Black tour.

The largest church bell in Britain, Great Paul, was cast at Loughborough Bellfoundry in 1881 and now hangs in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Many thousands of bells that ring in Churches and Cathedrals were cast at the Loughborough Bellfoundry.

More large bells have been cast at the Loughborough bellfoundry than any other bellfoundry in Britain – more than 200 of which weigh in excess of two tonnes.

John Taylor & Co. continues a line of bell founding which has been unbroken since the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### **Famous Bells Around the World.**

- 1 The Great George Bell at Liverpool Cathedral.
- 2 St Andrew's Cathedral, Sidney.
- 3 National Carillon, Canberra.
- 4 Siege Bell War Memorial, Malta
- 5 The Custom House, Shanghai, China.
- 6 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA
- 7 National Cathedral, Washington DC, USA.
- 8 St Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore.
- 9 Niagara Falls, Rainbow Bridge, Canada
- 10 City Hall, Capetown, South Africa.
- 11 St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 12 The Guildhall, Derry, Northern Ireland.
- 13 The Parish Church of St Mary, Minera, Clwyd, Wales.

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **About the National Heritage Fund**

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire to lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.HeritageFund.org.uk](http://www.HeritageFund.org.uk)

National lottery players continue to raise around £30 million to good causes every week.

Since The National lottery began in 1994 it has made more than 5,700 millionaires but its primary purpose is giving to good causes. The total raised for Good Causes since 1994 is over £42 billion and over 629,000 grants have been awarded across the UK, that's the equivalent of 200 life-changing projects in every UK postcode district.

The majority (70 percent) of National Lottery grants across arts, community, heritage and sport projects are for £10,000 or less.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

#### **About Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust**



The Loughborough Bellfoundr Trust (LBT) is the owner of the John Taylor Bellfoundry and the landlord for John Taylor & Co, the historic bellfounders who occupy the site. It is also the owner of Bellfoundry Collections Ltd., which is responsible for the existing museum, archive and providing tours. LBT is a CIO, established in April 2016. With the site having been rescued from administrators in 2009 by UK Bellfoundries Ltd, the LBT was established to hold the Taylor's Bellfoundry site in perpetuity to ensure the last remaining Bellfoundry in Britain would not be lost.

The registered objects of the LBT are:

- a. To promote the conversation and enhancement of the listed historic Taylor's Bellfoundry, its machinery, equipment and archives, for the public benefit.
- b. To advance the education of the public in the history, traditions and craft of bell making, bell hanging and bell ringing (and all associated skills and techniques)
- c. To establish and maintain a museum for the benefit of the public.
- d. To advance such other charitable purpose (according to the law of England and Wales as the trustees from time to time see fit.

[www.loughboroughbellfoundry.org](http://www.loughboroughbellfoundry.org)

## FIRST QUARTER PEALS

### Leicester Diocesan Guild

#### Earl Shilton

9, Mountfield Road, Earl Shilton

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in 35mins (4 in G)

#### 1272 Plain Bob Minimus

1 – 2 Terry M. Astill ©

3 – 4 Kate A Astill

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 3 – 4

It took a Global pandemic, but she finally cracked!!  
Birthday compliment to Colonel Tom Moore and the Conductor.

## VIRTUAL PRACTICE ZOOM MEETINGS.

Well folks we made it to the end of the year shifting to modern communication technology overnight and brilliant presenters along the way. We worked out how to use our camera and microphone, we said 'I'm sorry I was on mute' a 1000 times, we learnt that the password instruction 'queens on eight' actually meant 13572468, we learnt new terms like 'breakout room' and 'reactions', we voted using a 'Poll', we got comfortable with sharing our computer screen, we were happy to put on public display the contents of our kitchen/living room/bedroom/home office, we learnt that zoom likes to update when we are running late to join the meeting, we learnt so many things about ringing and far more interesting topics outside BUT above all we had some amazing fun!!!

Who would have thought it looking back in March! So far, we have managed 31 presentations and 40 social sessions. Not bad going!!

Thank you for supporting the Monday presentation sessions and the Friday general chit chats. There have been some very memorable moments!!! I am so pleased that the guild has come together to attend these. I would like to think we have provided some valuable content to all members and you have enjoyed the wide range of topics! 7 sessions have had nothing to do with ringing, we have learnt about bee keeping, mountain expeditions and why the Titanic sank! More of the same for 2021 it looks like so please keep your suggestions coming in for presentations.

Many thanks to Chris Newman for hosting these.

Since the June edition of the newsletter we have had presentations on the following topics:

29.06.20 History of the Leicester Diocesan Guild – Rosie Mason

06.07.20 What would 'Trip Advisor' say about your tower? – Alison Hodge

13.07.20 History of the Loughborough Bell foundry – Chris Pickford

20.07.20 What has the 'Bell Restoration Fund' ever done for us? – Garry Mason  
14.09.20 Return from summer break Quiz – Sally Brown/Nat Boylan  
21.09.20 Bells of the National Trust – Chris Pickford  
28.09.20 Bee Keeping – Arthur Rees  
05.10.20 Place Notation – Howell Williams  
12.10.20 Leicester DG Bells Committee – Garry Mason  
26.10.20 Notable Ringers Part 1 – Garry Mason/Mick Angrave  
02.11.20 Everest expedition – Peter Ellis  
09.11.20 Notable Ringers Part 2 – Garry Mason/Mick Angrave  
16.11.20 Handbells Part 2 – Mark Pendery  
23.11.20 Early Ringing in Leicestershire – Chris Pickford  
30.11.20 Antarctic expedition – Peter Ellis  
07.12.20 George W Pipe – John Loveless  
14.12.20 Titanic – John Pladdys  
21.12.20 Bow Bells 1933 restoration – Mark Regan

I would like to thank all the presenters, some of whom have presented multiple times, for all their hard work and presentation skills. It is very much appreciated by all participants.

The following sessions are planned for next year.

- Friday 1st January 8pm - general chat
- Monday 4th Jan 8pm – Quiz
- Monday 11th Jan - Women in ringing - Linda Garton

May I wish you and your families a happy, safe and healthy Christmas & New Year.

All the best. Mark Pendery

### **YEAR END UPDATE FROM THE GUILD TREASURER**

As we look ahead to better times for 2021, and hopefully a return to ringing before too long, I would like to thank everyone who paid their subscription in 2020, and all District Secretaries and District Treasurers who have made great efforts to reach those who do not pay by standing order. We do not know at present when District Meetings will be able to resume, so if you pay an annual subscription and have not yet set up a bank standing order, then please think about doing so. It will save your District Secretary/Treasurer some work, and will also make life much easier for our new Guild Treasurer, who I'm hoping will be formally proposed and elected to office at the Guild Committee meeting in January 2021. Subscriptions for 2021 remain at the same rate, £7 for adult members and £3 for junior and senior members born after 1947 and in receipt of a state pension.

Please also think about signing a Gift Aid form for your subscription, if you pay income tax on your income. It costs you nothing, but provides extra income to the Guild. Your District Secretary/Treasurer can provide a form.

We have finished the year with a surplus on the General Account, because some expenses were lower than usual. That said, I regret we are unable to provide you with a 'free year', despite the lack of ringing, as most of our usual costs still had to be paid, including the Central Council affiliation fee and our insurance policies for public liability, personal accident cover for members and cover for the guild's handbells. Unsurprisingly, with no meetings or events, our regular BRF income from collections has been lower in 2020. Some of our members have paid an annual sum by standing order for a number of years instead of contributing to collections at meetings, and others might wish to consider this.

Another way to contribute to the BRF, and one which will cost you nothing, is through online shopping. Most of us have probably shopped online more than usual in 2020, and may be continuing to do so in 2021. There are two schemes which will pay us a donation each time you shop. If you use Amazon, then if you login through smile.amazon.co.uk (on their website or their app for mobile phones) and select Leicester DG Restoration Fund as your chosen charity, they will make a donation on all eligible purchases. The BRF received £53.06 during 2020 from Amazon, and hopefully we will see this increase in 2021. You will find a link on the Guild website.

We have recently joined GiveAsYouLive Online, which works in a similar way. This scheme includes many different retailers, including 'High Street names' such as Boots, Dunelm, Currys PC World, Pets at Home, John Lewis and many, many others. Again, you will find a link on the Guild website. Choose your charity (Leicester DG Restoration Fund), and start shopping. As we have only recently signed up, we have yet to receive any donations.

Finally, this is my last Newsletter piece as Guild Treasurer, as I am standing down, in theory from 31 December 2020, in practice from the January committee meeting. May I thank everyone once again who has paid money promptly, which has made a busy and demanding role much easier. Please help my successor by continuing to do so. And may 2021 bring better times for us all.

Pam Fisher

**FROM THE SECRETARY:**

Happy, Safe New Year to everyone. 2020 has been very different in our towers but we have kept in touch via twice weekly ZOOM sessions. At the end of the year we update all the records. Please can you let me know of changes to tower correspondents, lapsed members, potential ringing times, practices etc for when things start to return to a more ‘normal’ state? The Central Council Covid recovery group do have a plan but it is not possible to implement it until we all get to a lower tier! I send the updates and notice of ZOOM meetings to you via district secretaries – please let me know if you would like to receive them direct. ([secretary@leicesterddg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@leicesterddg.org.uk))

**GUILD 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

On 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 we said goodbye at the Cricket Club and mentioned to John we would aim for 150 guests on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner.

Normally at this time of year, I send out the dinner menu and urge you apply promptly. As we are now tier 4 we know that we will not be able to do as we had planned.

We have made a booking for 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 so hopefully we will be able to meet in person then.

**Would you like a virtual dinner on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021?** We could invite guest speakers, other Guilds (some of whom had already pre-booked tickets), have quiz and chats in small groups etc..... It would be good to aim for ~50 households

Please let me know if you would be interested on [secretary@leicesterddg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@leicesterddg.org.uk) so that I can book speakers, notify other Guilds etc

Carol

**DECEMBER QUIZ – ALL THE ANSWERS HAVE A DECEMBER THEME**

Here is a Christmas Quiz, with all questions relating to Christmas, or December generally. Due to current restrictions on meeting, it is impractical to hand out quizzes and collect money, so this one is free. **However, I would like to invite you to make a contribution to the church wall fund (I suggest £2 per quiz sheet) via the Just Giving site (see end of quiz).** There will be no prize this time round, other than the kudos of being the best!

<b>To start, here are 31 questions, one relating to each day of December</b>		
1	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> December 1990, where did Englishman Graham Fagg and Frenchman Phillippe Cozette meet to make a historical connection?	..... .....
2	On 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 1939, La Guardia airport opened for business. Which city does it serve?	..... .....
3	What first was achieved on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1967 in the Groote Shuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa	..... .....
4	On 4 <sup>th</sup> December, 1791, the world’s first Sunday newspaper was published. What was it called?	..... .....

5	Who opened Britain's first stretch of motorway, the Preston bypass, on 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 1958?	..... .....
6	On 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 1790 the US State Capitol moved from New York to where?	..... .....
7	On 7 <sup>th</sup> December, 1941, the Japanese launched an attack on Pearl Harbour. Where is Pearl Harbour?	..... .....
8	Which pop icon was shot dead outside his New York house on 8 <sup>th</sup> December, 1980?	..... .....
9	Which soap first aired on UK TV on 9 <sup>th</sup> December, 1960?	..... .....
10	What awards are presented on 10 <sup>th</sup> December each year?	..... .....
11	What event rocked the nation on 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 1936?	..... .....
12	What plant is celebrated on 12 <sup>th</sup> December, in honour of the death of the person after whom it is named?	..... .....
13	Which saint is celebrated in the Festival of Light on 13 <sup>th</sup> December?	..... .....
14	On 14 <sup>th</sup> December, 1972, what was Eugene Cernan the last man to do (although this is often reported as happening on 13 <sup>th</sup> December, it was 14 <sup>th</sup> December GMT)?	..... .....
15	What landmark reopened to visitors on 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2001, after an 11 year \$27,000,000 restoration, despite the fact that it was leaning at an angle of about 4°?	..... .....
16	What is the popular name of the protest organised by The Sons of Liberty in USA on 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 1773?	..... .....
17	On 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, two brothers achieved a notable first: what was it?	..... .....
18	On 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 1912, the discovery of the fossil remains of an extinct human species was announced at a meeting of the Geological Society, although they were later proved to be a fraud. What was the name of this man?	..... .....
19	On 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 1981, sixteen lives were lost when a life boat Solomon Browne went the aid of the stricken coaster Union Star in heavy seas. Where was the lifeboat from?	..... .....
20	The initial production version of which airliner, which became one of the most successful long-range airliner of its time, had its maiden flight on 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 1957?	..... .....
21	On 21 <sup>st</sup> December 1988, Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie in southern Scotland. Where was its intended destination?	..... .....
22	On 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 1989, which famous landmark opened for the first time in almost 30 years?	..... .....
23	23 <sup>rd</sup> December is the feast day of St Thorlakur: he is the major native saint, of which country?	..... .....
24	On Christmas Eve (24 <sup>th</sup> December), 1818, the carol Silent Night, was performed for the first time at St Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, Austria: it was accompanied by which musical instrument?	..... .....
25	Which singer-songwriter and one time Tourist was born on 25 <sup>th</sup> December, 1954 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland?	..... .....

26	Which bird, sometimes referred to as “The king of all birds”, is traditionally hunted on 26 <sup>th</sup> December?	..... .....
27	Which country gained its independence from the Netherlands on 27 <sup>th</sup> December, 1949 (at least that is the date recognised by the United Nations), after over 300 years of Dutch rule?	..... .....
28	What iconic transport took to the streets of San Francisco on 28 <sup>th</sup> December, 1912?	..... .....
29	On 29 <sup>th</sup> December, 1170, St Thomas a Becket (Thomas of Canterbury) was martyred: where did this occur?	..... .....
30	On 30 <sup>th</sup> December, 1953, colour TVs first went on sale in the USA. To the nearest \$25, how much did they cost (in \$)?	..... .....
31	Singer song-writer, Henry John Deutschendorf Jr, was born on 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 1943. How is he better known?	..... .....
<b>Next, here is Happy Christmas (or Merry Christmas) in different European languages: what are the languages (in some cases these are spelt phonetically rather than in the language's own script).</b>		
32	djoyeus Noyé	..... .....
33	Feliz Natal	..... .....
34	Prettige Kerst	..... .....
35	Gleðileg jól	..... .....
36	Boldog karácsonyt	..... .....
37	Nollaig Shona Dhuit	..... .....
38	Hyvää joulua	..... .....
39	Nadolig Llawen	..... .....
40	Buon Natale	..... .....
41	God Jul	..... .....
<i>A bit of trivia to amaze your friends and family with : <b>toDwI'ma' qoS yItIvqu'</b> is Klingon (from Star Trek) greeting equivalent to Happy Christmas, although don't ask me how you pronounce it.</i>		
<b>Finally, some trivia questions relating to Christmas. Some are factual, some are cryptic – good luck!</b>		
42	The star of Christmas ... (5)	..... .....
43	..... or to say it in song (5,3,5)	..... .....
44	We know that the restoration of the church stone work is currently under way (see above), but which seasonal saint is the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons? (5,7)	..... .....
45	How is the furcula better known? (8)	..... .....
46	Torture yaks* for Christmas dinner (5,6)	..... .....

47	All doors lead to Christmas (6,8)	..... .....
48	What festive food is traditionally started on the Sunday before Advent? (9,4)	..... .....
49	Loads of pigs welcome the new (7)	..... .....
50	Gaby Dixon mixed up after Christmas (6,3)	..... .....
51	The longest night (6,8)	..... .....
52	Napoleon and Babe Snuggling? (4,2,8)	..... .....
53	A goat hitting the cognac? (6,6)	..... .....
54	Former Bishop of Myra, central to this season (5,8)	..... .....
55	Elsie Mott in a flap prompts a kiss (9)	..... .....
56	Dalai Lama, Steven Hawking and David Attenborough perhaps (5,4,3)	..... .....
57	Feet, bringing delight on Christmas morning (8,7)	..... .....
58	Ornithogalum umbellatum (4,2,9)	..... .....
59	Victoria, perhaps for afters (4,7)	..... .....
60	Who is described thus: “The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait ....”? (8,7)	..... .....
61	What the angel said .... or sang (3,5,4)	..... .....
62	Ilex and Helix (3,5,3,3,3)	..... .....
63	Knife scanner makes a good present. (12)	..... .....
64	Look! That was HMS Daring, Dauntless and Defender! (1,3,5,5)	..... .....
65	Excommunicated Vordeman, for example. (8,5)	..... .....
66	In sweet rejoicing (2,5,6)	..... .....
67	From care, beans make an accompaniment for 46 (9,5)	..... .....
68	Campanologists cheery message? (4,4,7,2,4)	..... .....
69	Who wanted the military horsemen stopped? (4,5)	..... .....

70	Confused sty for a chilly chap in song (6,3,7)	..... .....
71	Noddy's Christmas greeting (5,4,9)	..... .....
72	Manhattan folklore melody. (9,2,3,4)	..... .....
73	In which country do the government close roads on Christmas morning to enable people to roller skate to Christmas Mass in safety? (9)	..... .....
74	Who banned Christmas between 1647 and 1660? (6,8)	..... .....
75	Song from Berlin which became a festive best seller. (5,9)	..... .....
76	What Christmas classic did Thomas Smith invent in 1846? (9,7)	..... .....
77	What is the total number of gifts sent in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"? (the answer is just a number)	..... .....
78	What Christmas favourite derives from the Greek for "all imitator"? (9)	..... .....
79	Film no points at Wimbledon, in fact. (4,8)	..... .....
80	Our greeting to you all (2,4,3,1,5,9)	..... .....

\* No yaks were harmed in the compiling of this quiz.

Since there are no prizes this time round, I do not need you to return your answers to me. I will send out the answers with the weekly St. Peters' newsletter in mid-January. Please mark your own, and send me your mark (out of 80) to oadbybells-at-gmail.com (replacing "-at-" with "@") before the end of January, and I will announce the winner in February. If you would like a copy of the answers sent directly to you, please e-mail me at the address above, and I will send them to you (in January).

January).

[St Peters Church, Oadby Wall Fund](#)

Although the restoration of the interior walls at St. Peter's church, is now well underway, we still need to raise funds to cover the full cost. If you would like to contribute (I suggest £2 per quiz sheet), you can do so via the Just Giving page at :

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/quiz-2020>

The image shows a screenshot of a donation form. At the top, there is a logo of St. Peter's Church. Below it, the text 'Donation amount' is displayed. A row of buttons for £10, £20, £30, £50, and £100 is shown. The amount £2 is entered in the main field, with 'GBP' as the currency. A yellow box with the text 'Ignore this bit' and 'Put your donation here' points to the amount field. Below the amount field, there is a dropdown menu with 'Other' selected, and a yellow box with the text 'There is no need to do' points to it. At the bottom, there is a 'Continue' button.