



Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

W e s t e r n B r a n c h

Newsline – December 2018



Digby Burton retires from ringing after 74 years

The weekend of 17-18th November was a bitter-sweet occasion for the Skipton ringers. As we gathered for Sunday morning ringing on a weekend that celebrated the 90th birthday of our oldest member, Digby Burton, we also marked his retirement from active ringing after 74 years.



Digby learned to ring at school in Staffordshire and remembers ringing for VE Day in 1945, when he was 16. His first association with the Skipton band started around this time, when, in the holidays, he would cycle from Grassington to ring for Sunday evening service. He returned to live in Skipton as a young doctor in 1957. At this time, he found a band of new learners, so taught himself how to call Grandsire Doubles; in May 1964 he became tower captain. He led the band with his hallmark kindness, grace and generosity for the next 47 years, retiring from the captaincy in 2011. Once, after what threatened to turn into a rather heated discussion about what had gone wrong in a particular touch, the band was firmly told, "We don't do post mortems!" It remains our practice that, where there is no educational merit, responsibility is taken collectively. All of the current band are deeply grateful for the warm welcome they received in the tower and for the opportunities to develop their ringing.

Beyond Holy Trinity, Digby has trained ringers and mentored bands at Gargrave, Burnsall, and Thornton-in-Craven. He served as ringing master of the Western Branch of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR) between 1989 and 1995. A Vice President of YACR, Digby is known and respected within, and far beyond, the county; he has rung throughout the UK and Ireland and also in USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Indeed, whenever any of the Skipton ringers visit other towers on our travels, on learning that we come from Skipton, the follow-up comment is invariably, "You must know Digby Burton..." He has rung 138 peals, beginning on October 19th 1963 when he rang the 7th to Plain Bob Major. He has rung in – and conducted – countless quarter peals. He is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths; somewhat unusually being proposed for membership by his son, Richard. In the mid-1990s, his contribution to ringing was recognised by an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party.

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Notes from the Ringing Master



Firstly, thanks very much to all who participated in the Quarter Peal Fortnight, which ran from 3rd to 18th November. We rang a total of 21 quarter peals in the period, almost as many as last year (23, plus a peal and a performance). Particular congratulations to those who scored "firsts" – including first quarters for Ben Seward (Kildwick), Joe Alston (Gargrave) and Gill Berry (Kildwick) and first inside for Edward Askew (Kildwick). Kildwick also win the prize for the most active participation with a total of 4 quarters. Well done all; apologies to anyone I have missed.

I've also been exploring the quarters rung throughout the year, on Bell Board. Winners at the moment are Kirkheaton with 23 to date (27 November), some way ahead of second placed Addingham (15). For peals, Saddleworth are in the lead with 9

to date followed by Heptonstall with 7. A number of towers are still without a quarter (or peal) rung this year: Bradshaw, Dewsbury, Liversedge, Mirfield, New Mill, North Rigton, Queensbury, Ripponden and Walsden. Maybe a chance for people to ring something for Christmas?

Reading through my back issues of the "Ringing World" [letters, Aug 11, 2017] I came across the following method, which may be helpful to those who are attempting to learn Plain Bob Doubles, but finding it difficult to practice all the different pieces of work at one go:

The treble and the 5th make long 5ths

The 2nd dodges 3-4 up

The 3rd dodges 3-4 down

The 4th makes 2nds and 4ths.

Dodgy Doubles

1 2 3 4 5

2 1 4 3 5

2 4 1 5 3

4 2 5 1 3

4 5 2 3 1

5 4 3 2 1

5 4 2 3 1

4 5 3 2 1

4 3 5 1 2

3 4 1 5 2

3 1 4 2 5

1 3 2 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

We are continuing to run a series of approximately monthly training sessions aimed at helping people to ring Plain Bob Major, and to develop to ring Little Bob Major and then Yorkshire Surprise Major. These are likely to continue into the Spring, and then the plan is to reassess the groups of students and set up another sequence of practices starting next Autumn. If anyone not presently on the list is interested in joining this group please let me know. Potential helpers are also welcome.

Finally we are keen to encourage associate members to ring a quarter peal. This both allows you to progress to Qualified Member status, and to get your name in the Ringing World, in the quarter peal columns. To this end I am hoping to set up a number of quarter peals of Plain Bob Doubles on the day of our next AGM, Saturday 16 March 2019, and would like to hear from anyone who has not yet rung a quarter peal and who would like to attempt a quarter peal that day. Please let me know what stage you are at at present and whether you would be aiming to ring a quarter peal on the treble (i.e. plain hunting) or inside to Bob Doubles. Once I have got an idea of the demand I will be in touch with others about helping so that each person can have a strong band round them for the attempt.

Hope you have/have had a Happy Christmas.

Andy Sutherland

Ringing Master, YACR Western Branch [Contact details email : Sutherlandandy686@gmail.com](mailto:Sutherlandandy686@gmail.com)

Chairman's Chat



Hello,
I've just been looking at my Chat for Christmas 2017, when I hoped we'd be able to make something of Ringing for Remembrance. Well, we certainly did! Nationally the Ringing Remembers recruitment drive asked for 1400 new learners. In the end exactly twice as many registered, and of course there'll be plenty who didn't register who joined up this year. Locally, we did well, and the ringing on the Sunday, both for Ringing Remembers and the Battle's Over commemoration in the evening surpassed all expectations, with two thirds of our own towers publishing their performances on Bellboard; a remarkable achievement. In fact so many recorded their performances across the World that at one point Bellboard couldn't cope with the work.

We want to build on this success. At next year's AGM we would like to welcome all this year's recruits together, and to

take a great picture, the Class of 2018! But that's in March (the 16th to be precise), and we've a few other things to delight you before then. **The Carol Service on 15th December will be at Drighlington, ringing at 3pm, service at 4pm, and then on 19th January we'll be**



donning boots for a (hopefully not too muddy) walk and ring between Gargrave and Skipton. A great opportunity for everyone to sample these eight bell towers...and I mean everyone.

In February (the 2nd) we host the Winter Meeting of the Association, based around Pudsey, where lunch and the meeting will be held. Other towers are currently being booked to ring during the day, and you won't be disappointed, so put the date in your diary and help show the strength of the Branch.

And, we've also been spending money. The Branch now owns a portable simulator, Belfree, which is currently being tested. More about this in Peter's article (please see page 5), but do think about how you can benefit from borrowing it for a short time, courses you can run, or demonstrations given.

And so, congratulations on all your achievements this year, and a welcome to all our recruits. Next year, it'll be great to see you ringing for Remembrance Sunday as really established ringers, and helping along the Class of 2019.

Happy Christmas and a great New Year
Bob (Robert Schofield, Oxenhope)

Digby Burton Strikes 90!



Continued from front page

Nineteen ringers (group photo) – most of the current members of the Skipton band or the Burton family – joined Digby for his retirement ring on Sunday morning. His birthday and contribution to all our ringing lives were honoured with presentations from the rector, Rev'd Veronica James (photo), and the band. A celebratory quarter peal and peal were rung to mark this august occasion, the ringers being current and former Skipton ringers, members of Digby's family and the other vice presidents of YACR.

BellBoard refs.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1258896>

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1259312>

Saturday, 17th November 2018
Kildwick, St Andrew
1260 Grandsire Triples in 46 min

- 1 Jenny Robinson
- 2 Alan M Combs
- 3 Hannah E Burton
- 4 Peter Fisher
- 5 Allan Gould
- 6 Richard H Burton (C)
- 7 Christopher J Wright
- 8 J Stephen Philip

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday today of Digby Burton

Sunday, 18th November 2018
Skipton, Holy Trinity
5090 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 3 h 10 min

- 1 Sheila D Bloomfield
- 2 Neil Donovan
- 3 C Barrie Dove
- 4 Richard T Wheelhouse
- 5 Christopher H Enzor
- 6 Kevin R Haseldine
- 7 Timothy P Bradley
- 8 Richard H Burton (C)

Rung as a 90th birthday compliment to Digby Burton, tower captain at Skipton 1964-2011, and to mark his retirement from ringing after 74 years of service to the Exercise.



L to R: Liz Burton, Alan Combs, Diana Linford, Stephen Phillip, Jenny Robinson, Allan Gould, Stuart Robinson, Peter Fisher, Richard Wheelhouse, Digby Burton, Chris Wright, Gill Daker, Simon Hopwell, Kevin Haseldine, Keith Mollon, Richard Burton, Matthew Burton, Hannah Burton. Taking the photo: Sheila Bloomfield.

Article by Richard Wheelhouse with input from Richard Burton and Chris Wright. Photos by Sheila Bloomfield

Western Branch Simulator

A resource for any Western Branch tower to borrow

What's going on?

How fantastic it feels to get three new learners turning up in your ringing chamber, each showing great enthusiasm and verve, each wanting to progress as quickly as possible. Your mind may even race ahead; now you will have the quarter peal band that you have always dreamt of. As they move on to surprise methods you will draw in visitors from afar, attracted to your practices by the reputation of your band's brilliance.

Then you snap out of your reverie. The dream is a long way from being realised. A lot of work, disappointment, frustration, tears, angst, and maybe some joy will be encountered along the way, but you can be forgiven for wondering how to progress in the most efficient manner.

Maybe a simulator could be a useful tool to help your band learn and improve?

There are, in fact, a large number of reasons why you may wish to investigate simulators. Some are explored further below.

Why would I want a simulator?

Here are some possible reasons why you may benefit from the use of a simulator:

- Ring at any time of the day, any day of the week, without bothering the neighbours
- Start your weekly practice half an hour early for those embarking on the exercise
- You have a 6 bell tower, but need to practise Cambridge Maximus
- You have ringers who you don't want to inflict on the neighbours just yet
- You have some exercises you wish to try out, but feel that the effects won't be musical
- You have a spare hour, are alone, and you get the urge to ring a touch of Stedman Triples
- You need to improve your striking
- You need to improve somebody else's striking
- You need to improve everybody's striking
- You wish to record a session of ringing
- You wish to have evidence on which a post mortem can be carried out after a session of ringing

Who might benefit from ringing with a simulator?

Some potential beneficiaries come to mind:

- You
- Your new learners who are going through the "it's harder than it looks" stage
- Your new-ish learners who are still not yet able to reliably stay in rounds
- Your slightly more experienced learners who are on the cusp of making out their bell from all of the others, and are thinking of adjusting their timing as a result
- Anybody who thinks they're dodging, but, despite looking at the correct bells, is in actual fact doing nothing of the sort
- Anybody who gets defensive when you dare to question their accuracy
- Anybody who wants to learn a new method
- Anybody who could do with that extra practice organised out of usual hours
- An entire striking contest band – get an idea of where the faults lie before the judges do

It's quite possible that everybody would benefit from some simulator time. How the time is spent on the simulator is critical

What is this simulator thingy that Western Branch has invested in?

Western Branch has purchased an 8 bell sensor wireless simulator system (Belfree, <https://belfree.ateyercheese.co.uk>).

These are the steps to installing the wireless simulator:

In amongst the bells

- Attach* sensor backplate to each wheel
- Slot a sensor into each backplate

In the ringing chamber

- Ring the bells up
- Fire up computer/tablet/phone**
- Plug in USB dongle to computer/tablet/phone
- Open software on computer/tablet/phone (e.g. Abel, Beltower, Virtual Belfry, Methodology)
- Attach loudspeakers
- Calibrate sensor variables for each sensor/bell (handstroke/backstroke delays)
- [For a silent practice it will then be necessary to ring the bells down, tie the clappers, and ring them up again]
- Ring the bells

*We are working on a non-damaging way of doing this – the backplates are designed to be screwed into the wheel. If you intend to borrow the simulator on a regular basis it may be worthwhile investing in a set of backplates to reduce the installation effort required.

** We will be able to supply some computer kit

How does it work?

When the sensor is pushed into its backplate it automatically powers up. It contains a radio that communicates on a similar frequency to that used by Wi-Fi, and uses this to connect to, and communicate with, the dongle. It also calibrates itself at this point, so that it knows where up and down are. Once the bell is rung up, and is ringing, it is able to detect the point at which the bell passes Bell Dead Centre (BDC), i.e. the point at which the bell is pointing mouth down. It sends a message to the dongle at this point, identifying which sensor has just reached BDC. The sensor informs the software which bell has sent a message, and the software does the rest.

Why calibrate?

Bells generally don't ding or dong as the bell passes BDC, but some time after. The delay between BDC and the clapper striking the bell may well be different for handstroke and backstroke. It is, therefore, essential to calibrate these delays to provide a realistic ringing experience. You can adjust the delays in the software you're using, and compare the sound produced by the computer with the real bell until the sounds are coincident.

What else can it do?

Some simulator software allows you to show virtual ringers in a reasonably realistic fashion. Some towers have installed large screens to try to recreate a tower of ringers for when you are ringing by yourself. You may feel that this is worth trying for single bell practices.

However, some very useful listening exercises can be achieved without any visual aids.

Ringling accuracy can be viewed in real-time, so adjustments can be made by the ringling student to improve timing.

Ringling can be recorded and played back or analysed for accuracy/error reports.

Please get in touch to discuss what the software options are, and what can be supplied with the simulator hardware.

How do I get hold of it?

The simulator is, at the time of writing, at Haworth. Please come along/get in touch if you would like a demonstration.

The intention is to provide it on loan to any towers who would like it. Help with installation and configuration will be available, along with advice and help to use the various software packages available.

Depending on demand it may be possible to loan it out for weeks at a time, perhaps for helping with an influx of learners, or for shorter periods of time for specific practices that you may wish to run. There was a fantastic simulator practice held at Oxenhope earlier this year (run by Bob Schofield) that demonstrated some of the exercises and uses that a simulator can enable. Bob may be able to offer some advice on running such events.

Perhaps you would like to give a simulator a trial before investing the money in your own tower.

Is it difficult to use?

Here is a picture of a 6 year old becoming acquainted with the kit – she says it's easy.

How do I learn more about it?

There are a few options:

- Plead with the author to write another article – possibly a more coherent one – exploring the software available, and what it can do
- Get in touch with the author to discuss possibilities
- Ask for a demonstration
- Come along to a practice at Haworth* ;)

*7.30pm, Mondays



Peter Tiley, Haworth

Quarter Peal Fortnight at Kildwick

The annual Western Branch Quarter Peal Fortnight makes an excellent wake-up call to all towers. It gives some sort of permission for everybody to have a go at something a little more adventurous. Famously, it's not the winning, but the taking part that counts. That sort of relaxed approach makes scoring a quarter so much easier!

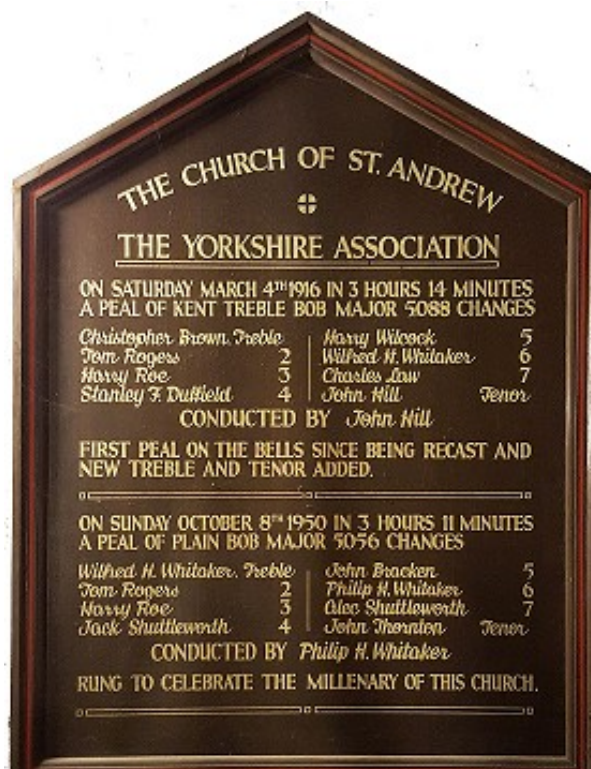
It was with some trepidation that I approached the Wardens for permission to attempt our fourth quarter at Kildwick in the space of nine days – as well as some three hours of ringing on Armistice Day. Would the village object? They aren't used to much ringing at St Andrews. Two of these were of Bob Doubles, arranged as "firsts" for two of the band. Gill rang the treble to the first quarter and Ben covered to the second. Almost as an aside, Ed also achieved his first quarter inside. As well as his second! They are now all qualified members of the Association.

Another quarter was arranged to remember Pte Stanley Duffill who died of pneumonia in a Belgian hospital on 13th November. The planned Grandsire wasn't working, so we reverted to Bob Minor with two covers. Despite the seventh constantly trying to come down and play, we rang an acceptable quarter. Stanley S Duffill is commemorated on a peal board, probably erected in 1950. That was quite a peal! A first on eight for all the ringers, it was a first peal for five, including Stanley, then aged 17. And then they spelled his name wrong.

The final quarter was arranged as a goth birthday compliment to Digby Burton, Skipton Tower Captain for 47 years. Conducted by his son Richard, this was by far the most solid of all the attempts. With a far more seasoned band than we are used to at St Andrew's, it was lovely to be a part of some really good ringing.

What with ART achievement certificates, Ringing Remembers badges and YACR memberships, our six up and coming ringers have collected no less than 22 badges or certificates between them. That's not a bad tally!

Chris Wright



Membership Matters

At Branch meeting 30 September 2018

Advancing to Qualified Rachel Walker of Mirfield
Admitted as Associate Ian Terry of Guiseley

At Branch meeting 10 November 2018

Advancing to Qualified Helen Bridgman and Joe Alston of Gargrave
and Gill Berry of Kildwick

At Branch committee meeting 25 November 2018

Advancing to Qualified Ben Seward of Kildwick
Joining as Associate Richard McKnight, Jennifer Rothwell, Anna Calvert
and Angus Firth, all of Kildwick
Admitted as Associate Anthea Sully and Finley Kemp of Saltaire
Suzanne Phillipson of Otley



Remembrance Sunday at Kildwick

Like most towers in the Western Branch, we've been making a special effort in the days and weeks around Armistice Day. As a new and growing band, it was not only appropriate but also easy to link our four new recruits to the Ringing Remembers tally. Kildwick has two WW1 ringing casualties so we match the national success of two new ringers for each of the 1,400 ringers who never came home.



Remembrance Sunday itself started pretty traditionally. Half muffled in the morning and open at midday, all of the Kildwick band took part. The Sunday Service band rang call changes while the MiniRingers (and some of their parents) rang backstrokes to rounds. For the first time Anna and Angus, recruited from the MiniRingers, joined the Sunday band and the smaller MiniRingers joined the tower bells on Uncle Belgaria, our light dummy bell.

The evening proved to be a wonderful problem! With the tag, "Mark a special day in a special way", we advertised that the tower was open to anyone who wanted to ring. With no idea as to how many would come, we printed sixty certificates, boiled the kettle and waited. We think that 73 folk turned up! Everyone who came had a bit of a ring. The little ones rang Uncle Belgaria and the bigger ones took a (carefully regulated!) backstroke. It took nearly two hours to get through them all!

The atmosphere in the church (waiting room) and the (ground floor) ringing chamber was wonderful. At least one was in tears (of joy!) as she left. Front of House Manager Jill has put up with a bellringing husband for 45 years. She finally took the plunge and rang a bell for the first time! We had people from the age of four to over seventy.

The visitor's book had a lot of nice comments

"I enjoyed it so much I couldn't stop smiling."

"Remembering my father who fought in the first world war."

"That was really, really very good."

One person wrote: *"Once in a lifetime..."*

That sums it up nicely. This wasn't a recruiting exercise and few will touch a bell rope again. If we do get recruits, we'll not turn them away – but we may wait till the current crop are ringing rounds.

It was a great opportunity to mark a special day in a special way – and one that seems to have touched the collective heart of the people in this area.



Chris Wright, Tower Captain, Kildwick

Bingley's Autumn Ringing Trip

Our Saturday Autumn Ringing Trip took place this year on 3rd November 2018, a day trip which took us over the border into Lancashire and back. 10 of our own ringers and ringers from Otley, Keighley, Newhey and Barnoldswick made up the party. Amongst our own ringers were three who had never been on a ringing trip before, two of whom are new ringers, recruited under the Ringing Remembers Initiative – one proudly wearing his special 1 in 1,400 badge of honour. Our newer ringers all acquitted themselves wonderfully as first time ringers on unfamiliar bells.

Thanks go to Jane Lynch for her gentle encouragement and guidance on the appropriate bells for them to ring in each tower.

We first visited the ancient, rural church of **St Mary le Ghyll in Barnoldswick, 6 bells 12-1-17**. The tower was originally a 3 bell tower, is now a 6 and is hoping to become an 8 bell tower once fund raising is completed. The bells had a lovely tone and ran easily and smoothly. We next rang at **St**



Jude's, Blackburn, 8 bells 6-0-25, passing several bonfires and firework displays which were in preparation for the evening. We had an excellent warm welcome from the church members here, as they had put on a spread of sandwiches and scones and hot drinks to warm and refresh us before we started ringing the bells. These wonderful ladies assure us they do this for all visiting ringers, which may be worth noting when planning any future trips in the area. The bells here are in a detached tower with a ground floor ring, some experience is needed to ring the smaller, lighter bells in this 8 but in general they were less flighty than expected given the lightness of the ring.

Lunch was at **Townley Garden Centre, Burnley** where we received excellent, prompt service of our pre-ordered lunch. It was good quality, reasonably priced food, but we were not sure what message they were giving about their view of bell ringers, as we were seated in the dogs allowed area! No problem though, all the dogs and most of the bell ringers were well behaved during lunch. Displays themes in the garden centre were all Christmas orientated.

After lunch, we went down the valley and back into Yorkshire to ring at **St Mary's Todmorden, 8 bells 6-1-18**, although the bells were light we found them easy to ring and for some of our ringers it was a welcome return visit to a favourite tower. Here church members and the organist were busy preparing for the next weekend's Remembrance Services, themes of red and purple poppies were on display here and throughout the town. Our last tower was at the **Unitarian Church, Todmorden, 8 bells 13-3-18** a much more familiar weight for the Bingley ringers and so a selection of triple methods were rung alongside rounds and calls. Our ringing finished as dusk fell around 4.30pm. As we left the church, which has a Gothic look, standing in unused splendour on the hill side above Todmorden, we were greeted by the flight of a colony of bats which we had clearly disturbed from their roost in the church and tower, a display very reminiscent of a scene from Halloween.

A very pleasant and interesting day for us all, with good company, new challenges, good ringing and plenty of reminders of all the events which cluster around this time of year. Thanks to Solna Burnham for all the organisation and to the towers for their welcoming reception.

Ann Cossavella, Tower Secretary, Bingley

We Remembered Them

"We remembered" – a message from the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we were called to "look to" and take part in a most momentous commemoration. Being so intimately linked in to our local communities, it was no surprise that bellringers everywhere stepped forward to participate, collectively and individually, in such a solemn centenary.

And it is entirely right and fitting that bells gave voice to the deep and lasting emotions felt so widely at this time. So many today owe so much to our forebears for the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy one hundred years on. As bellringers, we are the "external choir" that calls out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service.

On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I wish to thank all who participated in this historic event. The Ringing Remembers campaign, promoted by the Central Council, has claimed some inspiring headlines – towers silent for many years have rung out once more; hundreds of bands have been augmented with new learners; tens of thousands of ringers mobilised to ring in thousands of towers – not just in the UK, but across the world; ringing featured strongly in local, national and international media; and the BellBoard website went into meltdown!

Our campaign sought to recruit 1400 new ringers, to symbolically replace those ringers who fell in the First World War. At the most recent count, new ringer registrations for the recruitment campaign totalled 2792 – close to 200% of the original target. The Council's newly-stated mission is, among other things, "to promote an environment in which ringing can flourish". Last Sunday we witnessed what "flourish" looks like – more of that please.



Whilst it is impossible to thank all key individuals by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vicki Chapman – Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator, Colin Chapman – Coordinator's "roadie", Alan Regin – Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour, Andrew Hall – developer and administrator of the Ringing Remembers web platform, and Bruce & Eileen Butler – who linked thousands of enquirers to guilds, districts and towers. And there are so many others...

My thanks go also to all those who have come to ringing through this route – may you continue to develop in skill, and gain many happy years of fulfilment in your ringing. And to that widespread army of ringing teachers who have risen to the challenge of training so many enthusiastic learners – well done!

Last Sunday was a day of reflection, a day of commemoration, a day of participation. Bellringers everywhere were able to say – "I was there – I remembered".

Christopher O'Mahony

Photo of the stained-glass window in St Mark, Longwood with pictures of real service people who served their country in the war.

Branch Outing – 14 October 2018 – Nottinghamshire

A gentle pootle down the A1 on a glorious sunny day took 16 branch members to Nottinghamshire to sample the delights of 6 towers around the Retford area. We took it easy at the beginning there being just 5 bells at Mattersey. These were augmented from 3 to 5 in the late 1980's so was a grab for most of us. We put these to good use with ringing to meet the abilities of all including a true 120 of St. Martin's and St. Simon's spliced.



Babworth Church

And so, to the largest place of the day – Retford. An interesting ascent here requiring a climb of a spiral staircase and a walk across the tower roof before some external steps to the ringing chamber – not for the faint hearted especially in the dark and winter months. The 10 bells here provided a challenge to us especially those of a smaller stature who wished to ring the 23 cwt Tenor! Alan Trebble ensured that everyone got a good ring here pushing the envelope for some of the less experienced ringers, but some exceptionally good ringing was heard.

Lunch was an individual affair, but a good number frequented the town's Wetherspoons for food and drink. From there it was just a short walk to West Retford, the first ring of 6 of the day. These bells were quite a challenge with the odd-struckness of the 4th causing some difficulties even for the more experienced ringer. The Tenor here is dated 1619 and may have been heard by the Pilgrim Fathers when they were getting ready to leave England in 1620 – see next paragraph.

Travelling west it was just a short drive to Babworth another ring of 6. There are many connections with the Pilgrim Fathers here before their departure aboard the Mayflower to North America. The 6 bells here are a popular ring for peals (some 143 to date) and we managed a good variety of methods on this particularly pleasant ring.

And so, to the final tower - Scofton with Osberton – a Church located within the grounds of the private Osberton estate and quite a challenge to find an entrance that wasn't closed by gates or a barrier. A charming Church built in 1877 there are carvings of an Owl and a Pussycat over the west door which are reputed to have inspired Edward Lear to write the poem of the Owl and Pussycat – or, is this just a myth? Anyway, it was here where the wheels came off on our day out as a lock-out ensued – a great shame as this light 3 cwt 8 are a delight to ring.

Thanks must go to Carole Kirby who organised this trip, those who attended and to the various Tower Captains who gave us permission to ring. And in 2019 ...

Peter C Kirby, Lightcliffe



Mattersey Church

A short journey down the road took us to Sutton cum Lound a tower which has had an interesting history over the years. Initially, 3 bells these were subsequently augmented to 4 in the late 1970's, to 5 in mid-1980's, to 6 in the early 1990's and to 8 in the late 1990's – they have certainly been busy here! It was not a case of which bell did you want to ring but what colour sally – each being of a different solid colour. Here we were able to extend our repertoire to Triples and Major and a good number of methods being rung.