

## Surprising Tim Barnes

“If we get more than 50 responses, we’ll be surprised (but still pleased)”, wrote Tim Barnes in his article about Replacing the Central Council Decisions (*RW* p.470).

Let’s all surprise him with our views on whether or not some of the Heritage of Ringing needs to be changed. There are some straightforward questions which learners and old-timers can easily comprehend, and we can express our opinions – all without abstruse wording or other complications. They are questions which the consultation can pose simply to us all.

I have been part of the workgroup – as a reviewer rather than one of the core members – and have read the many thousands of words that have come my way. The work done, especially by the core group, has been intense, complicated and has generated good arguments. We need to continue the good work with, at least, one comment on one question from each ringing band. Here goes, then, with a first question.

### How many changes in a peal of Triples?

In Sheffield, a recent recruitment drive has generated lots of taster sessions where we try to persuade innocent members of the congregation to develop an initial interest in the bells into learning to ring. It is those initial sessions in the ringing chamber that determine whether we will see them again, and besides showing them how a bell works, trying their first backstrokes, we explain ringing as a separate but parallel musical tradition to classical (or jazz or reggae or grunge) traditions.

Around us are the peal boards with that magical phrase “5040 changes of Grandsire Triples” and we introduce them to the mathematical aspects of our art with why that number is used: it is all of the possible rows of seven numbers. It is more than a performance which continues for about three hours: it has an historic and fundamental number around which all peal ringing has developed.

The new Framework proposes that from now on, a peal of Triples should be 5000 or more changes.

It would of course be a slight simplification to use five thousand for all stages of ringing: against that we have the Ringing Heritage expressed on all those peal boards.

All those voting to set up the Review Group were, I suggest, clear that ringers are free and encouraged to ring whichever lengths of performance that they wish. We now have *BellBoard* on which all performances can be reported and ringing analysts may choose their own criteria for the performances which they analyse.

I vote for retaining 5040 as the peal length for Triples: about Minor Doubles and Minimus, I feel less passionately, but would retain the historic 5040 for reasons of continuity and the mathematical elegance of ringing whole extents. That argument doesn’t apply to the quarter-peal length which can easily be 1250 for all stages.

Whatever opinion you have, now is the time to tell Tim what it is. The official way is to type in <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96H5BKB> and writing in section 8 “Peals of Triples should be ..... changes” would be good enough.

PETER SCOTT

### What’s Hot on *BellBoard*?

A weekly round-up from *BellBoard*, including the five performances that received the most likes in the last week  
*Will Bosworth*

Number one this week was Harry and Meghan’s exit touch from their wedding at Windsor Castle – a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples rung at the Curfew Tower. It was submitted to *BellBoard* along with a ‘warmup touch’ in the morning and two long touches rung before the wedding, providing a great record of the wedding ringing.

There are about 150 performances currently linked to the ‘Royal Wedding’ event on *BellBoard*, still increasing as I write. Only one other in the top five though, at number five: the last peal on the heavy ten at St Mary’s, Beverley before their augmentation – the peal band posed with the two new trebles and sharp second.

**Windsor, Berkshire**  
Curfew Tower, HM Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle  
Saturday, 19 May 2018 in 0h47 (26 in C\*)  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**  
Comp. John Carter  
1 Edgar Skipsey  
2 Vikki Bulbeck  
3 Vernon Bedford  
4 Edward Westlake  
5 Stephen Smith II  
6 James White (C)  
7 William Stungo  
8 John Payne  
Following the wedding of H.R.H. Prince Henry of Wales and Ms Meghan Markle, and during the carriage procession.  
👍74

**Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild**  
**Inveraray, Argyll and Bute**  
All Saints  
Saturday, 19 May 2018 in 3:45 (41–2–8 in C)  
**5082 Bristol Surprise Royal**  
Comp. A G Reading (No. 5)  
1 Matthew J L Durham  
2 John P Colliss  
3 Matthew D Dawson  
4 Peter W J Sheppard  
5 Alan G Reading (C)  
6 Graham J Wright  
7 Edward O Marchbank  
8 Roy LeMarechal  
9 Benjamin J Carey  
10 Edward P D Colliss  
Arranged and rung for Edd Colliss’s stag do.  
👍51

**Lancashire Association**  
**Accrington, Lancashire**  
St James  
Tuesday, 15 May 2018 in 3h1 (11–1–14 in G)  
**5080 Ecclefechan Delight Royal**  
Comp. Jeffrey Brannan  
1 Derek J Thomas  
2 Jeffrey Brannan (C)  
3 Anne C Orme  
4 James E Andrews  
5 Nina E Brannan  
6 Raymond A Hutchings  
7 Alan F Scholfield  
8 Peter C Randall  
9 Peter L Furniss  
10 George H Campling  
100th together: 7 and 10.  
👍42

**St Blaise Society**  
**Milton, Oxfordshire**  
St Blaise  
Thursday, 17 May 2018 in 2h36 (6–3–26 in B)  
**5070 Hardwick Hall Alliance Major**  
Comp. Michael Maughan  
1 Nicola J Turner  
2 Colin M Turner  
3 Helen J Piper  
4 Cynthia E Howell  
5 Peter Bridle  
6 Alan M Eyles  
7 Bernard F L Groves (C)  
8 Robert J Crocker  
In loving memory of Rita Turner (Colin’s mum) who died yesterday. Whilst not a ringer she organised more towers than most ringers ever ring at!  
[colin@pduck.plus.com](mailto:colin@pduck.plus.com) for details of funeral arrangements.  
👍42

peals (again) in every ringable Dorset tower. This includes calling the peals and turning in the tenor.”

Pickled Egg fever seems to be starting to take root – pictures attached to performances containing PPE methods include a prototype ‘PPE-approved’ logo and Dave Matthews holding a pickled egg.

And finally back to number three, which was submitted to *BellBoard* with a photo of a handwritten note: ‘Just been listening to you ring. How lovely it sounded. Thank you for making my day.’

### **Beverley and District Ringing Society**

**Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire**  
St Mary  
Saturday, 19 May 2018 in 3h30m (34–3–12 in D<sup>0</sup>)

### **5039 Grandsire Caters**

Comp. Albert M Tyler  
1 Richard A McBain  
2 Ann Hughes  
3 Dinah M Donovan  
4 Adam S Greenley  
5 Gary J Audley  
6 James E Blackburn (C)  
7 Neil Donovan  
8 A John Atkinson  
9 Christopher L D Munday  
10 David R Wilson  
First Peal on 10 - 2 & 10  
First Peal on 10 as Conductor  
To mark the occasion of the marriage of the H.R.H Prince Henry of Wales to Ms Meghan Markle now to be known as their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the Earl and Countess of Dumbarton and the Earl and Countess of Kilkeel. Married this day in St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle.  
The last Peal on the present ring of ten, prior to augmentation with the addition of two new trebles and a sharp 2nd.  
👍33

*This is the second article to encourage all ringing bands to make at least one comment to Tim Barnes, the task leader for the development of the new Ringing Framework. Tim wrote "If we get more than 50 responses [to the Framework consultation], we'll be surprised (but still pleased)" (RW p.470).*

*My second question about the fundamentals of Ringing Heritage which might be altered by the Framework's new proposals is:*

### Are we still change ringers?

In our Sheffield recruitment drive, we explain to our aspiring ringers what ringers do, and what the pealboards around us are commemorating. We say that we ring all the bells in rounds, then all of them again in a different order, and continue to ring them in different orders for the three hours of the performance until we have rung all the possible orders of the bells. It's not supposed to be easy: if there is a mistake then we stop and start again. It's the eventual completion of the performance that justifies the gold leaf, and the extra effort and expense of writing it all on a pealboard. And, yes, we do explain the differences of Triples, Major and Minor ringing and how to work out the

maximum number of possible changes on each.

It is a fundamental point of change ringing heritage that we alter the order of the bells at each and every blow (row).

The Framework introduces a new concept that it calls the "Identity Change". It is not a "change" in any sense: all the bells stay where they are. Tim says (RW p.199) it would be useful for Plain Bob Doubles ringers who would like a Single similar to that in Plain Bob Minor where treble leads and the bells in seconds, thirds and fourths make their places. In Minor that leaves the two bells behind to swap, but in Doubles the bell in fifths place stays there (for its four blows) and the whole Row is immediately repeated.

Even if this were an important innovation for Doubles ringers – and I will cover issues around "Truth" in a later column – there have been few performances declaring the need for it. As for Doubles innovations, a performance could have a cover bell for, say, alternate extents and the bell could therefore be stood for half the performance. That idea would be, I think correctly, outside the Framework, which declares "In method ringing, the same set of bells rings in every Row, with each bell ringing exactly once in every Row". For

proper consistency with our Ringing Heritage, it needs also to say that in method ringing we alter the order of the bells at each and every blow.

There is another alternative, wider, scope. The Framework could include sections to deal with Performances to which we all contribute as a regular part of our weekly practices, and which do have the bells ringing the same row consecutively. That is Call Change ringing. Also, in my experience often half-muffled for Remembrance Day, the "catch hold for Stedman Triples In Whole Pulls" where the bells alter their order only at handstroke and each new row is immediately repeated at backstroke. Both would be an extension of the work of the task group, and our respondents might ask us and the Central Council to take this on: "if not now, then when?"

Whatever opinion you have, now is the time to tell Tim what it is. The official way is to type in

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96H5BKB>

and write in section 8 "Methods Ringing should (or should not) alter the order of the bells at every row." and/or "The Framework should (or should not) include Call Changes".

PETER SCOTT

## What's Hot on BellBoard?

**A weekly round-up from BellBoard, including the five performances that received the most likes in the last week**

### Will Bosworth

This week's top five largely speak for themselves. Congratulations to Darran Ricks, who reaches number one with his thousandth peal, also in the conducting and composing hot seats. A quarter peal in Manchester marked the anniversary of the Ariana Grande suicide bombing, the deadliest terror attack in Britain since the 2005 bombings. Thanks to Helen Porter for explaining number three, which used Double Oxford-type methods with different front, middle and back works to knock up a hefty method total of 420 (sorry for not printing them all here), with

74 (I think) new slow course and differential methods including Corridor of Uncertainty and Stick of Rhubarb. Rung in memory of Katie Johnston, at time of writing this has taken 'featured performance' status on the BellBoard front page.

Well done to Julian Howes on learning Holt's Original during his second year exams; clearly the latter didn't compromise the former. Finally at five, the developing local Ypres band reach their next milestone – congratulations to Kristof Moonen.

Elsewhere, the Suffolk Guild South East District's winning touch in the Guild 8-bell was posted. Ruth Jopp called Yorkshire from the treble for her first quarter as conductor. The late May Bank Holiday weekend was used by many as an excuse for travelling and ringing (if not meeting), including

an ASCY peal of Yorkshire 14 at Ossett, several Cumberland peals and quarters all over. Congratulations to the three first pealers at Chester Cathedral, and to Hilary Barclay and Pamela Hudson on their 60th, celebrated at Howden with the former's first peal for 30 years. Happy 40th to Alex Pym in Durham. The Nottingham students met short for practice and rang a first quarter for Alex Speakman. A peal in York was rung in memory of Northallerton ringer Jonathan Wilkinson, and a quarter at Northallerton with his widow, parents, sister and other friends present during the ringing. A quarter of Cambridge Minor on the Lichfield Mobile Belfry at Lancaster University helped 'brighten up' the Central Council Weekend. "Het was heet!" for another quarter in Ypres.

**Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association Swindon, Wiltshire**  
Christ Church  
Saturday, 26 May 2018 in  
3h14m (21-3-9 in D)  
**5021 Grandsire Caters**  
Composed by Darran Ricks  
1 Brian Bladon  
2 Nicola J Turner  
3 Colin M Turner  
4 Cynthia E Howell  
5 Hilda C Ridley  
6 Darran Ricks (C)  
7 John R Ridley  
8 Peter Bridle  
9 Ashley C Fortey  
10 John C Sheppard  
1,000th peal: 6.  
👍48

**Manchester Universities' Guild of Change Ringers Salford, Greater Manchester**  
Sacred Trinity  
Tuesday, 22 May 2018 in  
42m (11-2-17 in G)  
**1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**  
1 Laura D Turner  
2 James A Coleman  
3 Andrew Tyler  
4 Philippa C M Stokoe  
5 Miriam Franklin  
6 Stephen R Aldridge (C)  
Rung to mark the first anniversary of the attack at the Manchester Arena. Rung open in keeping with the spirit of Manchester. "Stay strong, our kid."  
The band would also like to associate Mark Tearle and James Hibbert with this performance.  
**£3.00**  
👍47

**Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild Stepney, Greater London**  
St George in the East  
Sunday, 27 May 2018 in  
2h36m (6-0-9 in C)  
**5040 Spliced Plain Minor (420m)**  
Composed by A P Sweeting  
1 Martin B Sutcliffe  
2 D Robert C Sworder  
3 Niamh W Hickey  
4 Helen Porter  
5 Peter S Lacy  
6 Adrian P Sweeting  
Rung unperformed  
In memory of Katie Johnston (1987-2018)  
**£8.00**  
👍30

**Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association Bristol, Bristol**  
SS Philip and Jacob  
Friday, 25 May 2018 in  
2hr57m (19-0-11 in E)  
**5040 Grandsire Triples**  
Composed by John Holt (The Original One Part)  
1 Helen C Mansley  
2 Michael O'Hagan  
3 Julian O Howes (C)  
4 Edward R Mack  
5 Philip D Moyse  
6 Matthew D Dawson  
7 Gareth L M Lawson  
8 Ian P Hill  
100th peal - 5  
200th peal - 4  
To mark the end of the conductor's second year exams.  
👍28

**Ypres, Belgium**  
St George  
Saturday, 26 May 2018 in  
45m (6-1-11 in B)  
**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**  
1 Lavinia Sullivan  
2 Clare Coleman  
3 Alison Barnett  
4 Richard Barnett (C)  
5 Vikki E M Bulbeck  
6 Kristof Moonen  
1st Quarter - 6  
1st Quarter rung by a Belgian who learnt to ring in this tower.  
**£5.00**  
👍27

## Are we jumping about yet?

*This is the third article hoping to encourage at least one comment from every ringing band about the new Ringing Framework to replace the Central Council Decisions. Tim Barnes, task leader, wrote (RW p.470) that he would be surprised and pleased with 50 comments.*

My questions are about the fundamentals of Ringing Heritage which might be altered by the new proposals. Explaining ringing to our learners in Sheffield, we tell them that between one row and the next, we swap \*adjacent\* pairs of bells; it's the physical constraint of a bell swinging a complete revolution that limits how far its strike-timing can be moved relative to the other bells, which are swinging at almost the same rate but slightly out of phase with our own.

Contrary to this fundamental constraint, the Framework specifically includes the possibility of "Jump Changes" where (one or more) bells jump over two or more other bells between one Row and the next. In the extreme case 87654321 could be followed by a Jump to 12345678. While the physical constraints

make this hard on tower bells, it would be easy enough with handbells.

Normal ringing is a minuscule subset of that available with Jump Changes. For example, if we have just rung, say, 32461857 then we are unlikely to ring that Row next, nor the one we rang immediately before it, leaving thirty-two possible next-rows (and seven of these possibilities alter only one pair of bells, which is unusual). With a Jump Change there are an additional 40,286 possibilities to contemplate.

Jump Changes are mentioned in surviving seventeenth century writings, and there was a RW article on a Stedman-ish jump-method in 2013, with apparently little interest during the intervening period. Bands are of course free and welcome to explore Jump Change ringing, and the Framework specifically provides for resulting Performances to be identified as using them.

Jump Changes may thereby become a welcome addition to the conductor's repertoire of performance-saving techniques. If the ringing is heading for a fire-up, say "Go Rounds" and the performance will complete earlier than planned with the necessary Jump-Change to Rounds, and that can be noted on the Performance Report and taken into

account by those assembling ringing records and analyses.

For myself, when we fire-it-up, we stay fired-up, with our traditional mutual-commiseration in t'pub to plan the next attempt. I see no inevitability or necessity in Ringing developing towards Jump changes, nor to mention them specifically in the Framework in any way. Similar to standing-the-tenor for alternate extents of a Doubles Performance, Jumps would just be a deviation from a normal Performance. If they became popular they would deserve their own Framework, method classifications, rules and traditions, separate from normal Change Ringing.

Whatever opinion you have, now is the time to tell Tim what it is. The official way is to type in

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96H5BKB>

and write something in section 8 "Jump Changes should/should not be part of the Framework" or maybe "The Framework should be expanded to treat Jump Changes equally with Adjacent Changes". If your comment is short it can alternatively be emailed directly to Tim at

[tjbarnes23@gmail.com](mailto:tjbarnes23@gmail.com)

PETER SCOTT

## What's Hot on BellBoard?

**A weekly round-up from BellBoard, including the five performances that received the most likes in the last week**

Michael O'Hagan

What an excellent week to guest write What's Hot – the top scorers capture a great diversity of ringing from minor to maximus, 1st quarter to 2,000th peal, and a nice mix of performances in hand and tower. Congratulations to Rebecca Legowski who made her debut *BellBoard* appearance with a quarter of Bob Minor in hand. A particularly impressive achievement, Rebecca having learned to ring both tower and hand bells without the benefit of sight. Speaking to

the band, it was inspirational to hear how the different challenges along the way were surmounted by tenacity and teamwork. Also in hand, a peal of Bob Major in Worcester was first sat-down for Tom Childs. A few more achievements for the Lilliputters in London – well done to William Stafford for conducting his first quarter on ten and to Molly Smith and Stephanie Runting for charting new ten-bell waters. Peals of London Royal in York and Cyclic Maximus (with a variable hunt bell) in London were dedicated to the memory of Michael Orme, who for many years co-ordinated recordings of ringing for the BBC Radio 4 *Bells* on Sunday broadcast. I'm never up early enough to tune in live, but the *iPlayer* link Michael posted on *Facebook*

later in the day was often a prompt to listen at a more acceptable hour. Chris Pickford and his band snatched the top spot this week, with Chris chalking up his 2,000th peal exactly 50 years after his first. Having reached the halfway milestone 25 years ago to the day, Chris achieved some pleasing symmetry and certainly doesn't seem too worried about negative splits. Project Pickled Egg is en vogue in the West Country, a peal at Butleigh including Cornwall and Lessness was first of spliced for Linnet Titcher. Well done also to Luke Riley of Selby for his first quarter of Bristol Maximus, and to the band of young ringers who scored a quarter of Bob Triples in Oxford - first for Sophie North and as conductor for Sophie Martin.

### Non Association

**Llanbedr Ystrad Yw**, Powys

St Peter

Friday, 17 August 2018

in 2h 45 (9-0-15 in G)

**5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Seven extents (six callings)

1 Heather E Pickford

2 Christopher J Pickford (C)

3 Rosemary H Buckle

4 Brian Harris

5 S Barnaby Bell

6 Mark Regan

2000th peal - 2. Rung on the 25th anniversary of his 1000th (17 August 1993) and 50th anniversary of his first (17 August 1968), all on the same bell. The band included one ringer from the 1968 peal (5) and two from 1993 (3 and 4).

Rung in memory of Paul Cattermole, Arthur D "Peter" Cook and Mike Robinson from the 1968 band, and Christopher Dalton who rang in the 1993 peal.

Also in thanksgiving for the recovery of Karen Harris, wife of Brian, from her recent cardiac infection, and in appreciation of the skills of the surgeons and other staff of Bristol Heart Institute. **£3.00**

### Ancient Society of College Youths

**City of London**

St Michael, Cornhill

Saturday, 18 August 2018

in 3h 26 (32-1-6 in Db)

**5040 Spliced Maximus**

(6 Methods)

1152 each Ariel S, Phobos S, Zanussi S; 864 Deimos A; 576 Glasgow Little S; 144 Lynx Differential; 119 com, atw for all 12 bells.

Composed by D J Pipe

1 David E House

2 Lucy A Warren

3 Graham G Firman

4 Jonathan A Agg

5 Ryan S Noble

6 Jack P Gunning

7 Alan G Reading (C)

8 Eleanor J Linford

9 Andrew J Graham

10 Graham M Bradshaw

11 Stephen A Coaker

12 John N Hughes-D'Aeth

Rung in memory of Michael Orme, member of this society since 2001.

### Yorkshire Association

**York**, North Yorkshire

St Wilfrid

Saturday, 18 August 2018

in 3h 8 (18-1-21 in F)

**5000 London No.3**

**Surprise Royal**

Composed by Anthony J Cox

1 Emma L Coles

2 Wendy Bloom

3 James E Hibbert

4 Helen M Beaumont

5 Peter J Sanderson (C)

6 Stephen J A Ollerton

7 Roderick R Horton

8 Timothy P Bradley

9 Simon A Percy

10 Graham Bloom

In affectionate memory of Michael Orme.

50th peal - 1.

### The Lilliputters Guild

**Westminster**, Greater

London

St Clement Danes

Wednesday, 15 August

2018 in 48m

(21-1-23 in E)

**1259 Grandsire Caters**

Composed by

Benjamin D Constant

1 Stephanie Runting

2 Alan M Eyles

3 Andrew Alford

4 Alexander Runting

5 William Stafford (C)

6 Molly Smith

7 Simon W Edwards

8 Daniel Jarvis

9 Luke G Groom

10 Harry P Bickers

First on 10 inside: 6.

First of caters: 1.

First on 10 as conductor.

### Beverley and District

**Ringing Society**

**Kingston upon Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue

Thursday, 16 August

2018 in 33m (13E)

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1 x 720, 1 x 540

1-2 Rebecca M Legowski

3-4 Christine M Church

5-6 Peter Church (C)

First quarter peal at first attempt, 1-2.

50th on handbells, 3-4.

Rebecca is registered as a blind person.



notices@ringingworld.co.uk

#### RATES from 1st January 2018

##### Ringing meeting notices

– **Approved accounts** 21p per word (min.17 words).  
Display £4.50 per col. cm.  
– **Non-account** 25p per word (min.17 words).  
Display £5.50 per col. cm.

**All other notices & advertising** 60p per word (min.17 words).  
Display –  
B/W: £10.00 per col. cm.  
Colour: £14.00 per col. cm.

Full page colour advert: £950.00  
Full page B/W advert: £680.00  
Half page colour advert: £480.00  
Half page B/W advert: £340.00

A discount of 10% will be made on the above rates for advertising in the paper at least monthly.

**Loose leaf inserts** £400 for 3,000 single A4 sheets supplied pre-printed. Contact 01264 366 620 for a printing quotation if required.

All rates include VAT, registered charities may qualify for VAT exempt rates. Contact the RW admin team on 01264 366 620 for information.

##### Terms

The deadline for notices is **9am Thursday, 8 days before publication.**

Copy, with payment (except on approved accounts), must be received by the deadline.

Notices will also appear on *The Ringing World* website, [www.ringingworld.co.uk](http://www.ringingworld.co.uk).

The Editor may place display notices throughout the paper – if you would prefer your display notice to appear on the Notices page **please make that request known** when submitting the notice.

#### BellBoard ADVERTISING

Banner advertising rates start at **£58 for 1 month.**

Please contact us for more details:  
[bellboard@ringingworld.co.uk](mailto:bellboard@ringingworld.co.uk)

#### Funeral

**MIKE ORME.** According to Mike's wishes, a private cremation has taken place. There will be a service to commemorate and celebrate his life will be held at St Michael's, Macclesfield, on Thursday, 11th October, at 2.30pm. All welcome. There will be ringing beforehand from 1.15pm and refreshments afterwards in the church. To aid catering please email [Anne.Orme@aol.com](mailto:Anne.Orme@aol.com) if you are planning to join us. Casual bright clothes to be worn please and no flowers but donations in memory of Mike to support the work of Bloodwise via retiring collection or via <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mikeorme>. 6063

#### Publications

**CAROL RINGING AND MORE.** (38 tunes-£7) and **HYMNS and THINGS** (55 TUNES-£9), music books in towerbell number notation fully harmonized for 1½ octaves of handbells in any key, copies post free from Don Bedford, Arwel, Jesse Road, Narbeth, Pembrokeshire. SA67 7DP. Tel/fax 01834 869061. 6061

#### Meetings on Saturday September 8

**LACR.** Furness & South Lakeland Branch. Our next Branch Meeting will be held at St Mary's Church, Crosthwaite on Saturday September 8th. Ringing from 2.30-4.30pm will be followed by afternoon refreshments. All are most welcome to join us. 3053

**SDGR.** Calne Branch. Practice at Yatesbury. Ringing at 15:00, service at 16:30 followed by bring and share tea. Evening ringing. 3054

**SDGR.** Mere Branch. A Branch Quarterly Meeting will be held at Hindon. (Postcode SP3 6DJ). All members are welcome to come along. Ringing from 2.30-4pm followed by a service in the church, then tea and the meeting at the church hall at the bottom of the High Street. Please contact Michael Williams, Branch Secretary if you require a tea 01258 820992. 3055

#### Meetings on Saturday September 15

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.** Southern District. Meeting at North Ockendon (RM14 3QH). Ringing from 3pm, service at 4.30pm then tea. Nos. for tea to Andrew Beech on 01708 440939 by Wednesday 12th September. 3049

**KCACR.** Ashford District. Ringing Meeting at All Saints, Woodchurch. Ringing 10.30am-12.30pm. 3056

#### Meetings on Saturday September 22

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.** Summer Festival & Inter Branch 8 Bell Striking Competition on the light eight at Holy Trinity, Rothwell. Saturday September 22nd 2018. Contest starts at 3pm. The Maplestead Mini Ring will be available during the contest. Buffet tea, followed by a brief meeting and results. Evening ringing on the 10 bells. All welcome. Entries to the Master, Simon Dixon @ [sjdixon07@btinternet.com](mailto:sjdixon07@btinternet.com). 3057

**SDGR.** Memorial Service. On Saturday 22nd September following Evensong, at 5.30pm, at Salisbury Cathedral there will be a Memorial Service to Commemorate those ringers who died in the Great War. The Service will be led by the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, the Bishop of Salisbury. Further details on the Guild website. 3058

#### Meetings on Saturday October 6

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD OF RINGERS.** Devizes Branch. Business Meeting, Saturday 6 October 2018. Great Cheverell, SN10 5YA (6, 11-2-0 GF), 2.30pm ringing for all standards – everyone welcome – followed by 4pm service. Edington, BA13 4QJ: 4.45pm tea in the Parish Hall (park at church) followed by business meeting. 6.30pm evening ringing (10, 24cwt). All standards catered for – everyone welcome. To book your tea, please contact John Richardson via [edington@sdgr.org.uk](mailto:edington@sdgr.org.uk) or phone 01380 830902 by Thursday 4 October. 3059

#### Meetings on Saturday October 13

**OSWY STREET MEMORIAL CUP,** an open contest on six bells, Saturday 13th October at Rampton. 2.30pm start, names of teams and names for tea to Annabelle Prebble [akprebble@gmail.com](mailto:akprebble@gmail.com). 01302 710011 by Friday 5th October. Rules available [www.southwellldg.org.uk](http://www.southwellldg.org.uk). 3060

#### NOTICES

We print Notices as submitted so please ensure that what you send as the text of your notice is exactly what you intend to appear, and is clearly readable.

#### YOUR RINGING WORLD NEEDS YOU!

To contribute articles, news items, cartoons, reports, snippets, letters, poems and suggestions. Remember, high quality photographs and illustrations make all the difference. Please send to:

**ROBERT LEWIS,**  
Editor, *The Ringing World*,  
35A High Street,  
ANDOVER, Hampshire, SP10 1LJ  
Tel: 01264 366 620  
Email: [editor@ringingworld.co.uk](mailto:editor@ringingworld.co.uk)

#### The truth, the whole truth, ...

In philosophical mood, if ringers said 'repetitious / distinctive' instead of 'false / true', would we feel so emotional about ringing Rows that are all different from those already rung? Explaining ringing to our learners in Sheffield, we tell them how important we find 'truth', and that a three-hour performance with an unintended repetition will be withdrawn from the record-book even if the problem is found years later.

This is the fourth article hoping to encourage at least one comment from every ringing band about the new Ringing Framework, asking straightforward questions about our Ringing Heritage.

In a practical sense, truth on ten+ or nine or (usually) eight or seven bells is the simple question of whether each Row in the Performance is unique. On six (or fewer) bells, we can ring all the possible Rows in 25 (or fewer) minutes, so the rules and heritage of repetitions become complicated and entwined. Once-upon-a-time we had to complete all the Rows, then we could ring them all again, as long as we didn't stop part-way through. Later, we could intersperse them, as long as all the Rows had been rung equally by the end of the Performance. Later still, we could ring some of the Rows just once more, as well as possibly interspersing these extra Rows among all the others. The transition between these three definitions of 'truth' followed passionate debates of their relative advantages.

A Cover Bell, ringing continuously last, was once mandatory with seven, nine, eleven (etc) bells, while not allowed on even numbers. Later it became optional on all numbers, as it always had been on five. A Cover Bell had always been ignored when determining 'truth'. Ringers seeking new challenges, allowed a Tenor to start as Cover Bell and then to join in with the working bells during a Performance; the rulemakers decided this should usually be treated as if all the bells were working bells throughout.

Also, the current rule (Decision) says that a peal may have all the Rows on six bells (say, five times) as well as all the rows on five bells with the 6th bell as Cover (say, twelve times). The Decision does not claim this as a 'true' performance: some Rows are rung seventeen times and the rest only five. The Framework describes this special case with a special name: "Accepted Truth". For me, this is a confusing attempt to define a new sort of 'truth' where no truth exists.

The Framework also contemplates any number of Cover Bells, and that any other bell might remain in the same Place for any number of blows. It decides whether a bell is a Cover Bell by observing whether it stays in the same place for the whole Performance, and only then excludes it from the consideration of truth. For example, ringing all the changes on six bells, twice, with two Cover bells is a True Performance. If the two Cover bells reverse their order for just one blow, then the Framework defines the



whole Performance as false, despite it having become less repetitious.

It would be simpler to use the original definition of Truth - unique Rows up to and including all the possible Rows; then use the permissiveness built into the Framework for Performances which have any repeated Rows to state whether, and how, their bands consider them to be True. Alternatively we could require this of all Performances and make no definition of truth within the Framework itself. As a wider alternative, we might describe within the Framework all the alternative definitions of truth that have been used over the years, as well as predicting those that may be useful in future. For example, Little Bob Minor (where the treble never goes above 4th's place with traditional Calls) cannot produce an Extent of Minor: that and similar Little methods might have "Accepted Truth" if rung to their method's individual Extent.

Another quirk is the Framework's contem-plate of Performances of Two and One: that's ringing with two or one bell respectively. These may be padded-out with Cover bells, so we have the strange possibility of a Performance of Rounds on ten being defined as Extents of One with nine Cover Bells. There is only one possible Row on One: 1, so the Performance is True, with its one and only Row being repeated. If the Framework wishes to define Rounds and Call changes, then it ought to do so explicitly, rather than pretending that change ringing is possible on One bell.

Whatever opinion you have about Truth in Ringing, now is the time to respond to the consultation. You can reach the survey at <https://rwrld.uk/i6we> and write something in section 8 "Truth should be defined as ... (or not defined at all)" and/or "Method ringing has to be on three or more bells". If your comment is short or on a specific issue, it can alternatively be emailed directly to [tjbarnes23@gmail.com](mailto:tjbarnes23@gmail.com).

PETER SCOTT

**10th September 1741.** 5040 'Gathrine's Triples' was rung at Coddtenham, Suffolk.

The band was gathered together by Theodore Ecclestone, who rang the treble, most of them working on his estate at Crowfield. John Foster, who called the peal, had been the landlord of The Eight Bells at Norwich, where the first true peal of Grandsire had been rung, composed by John Garthon. Ecclestone employed Foster as an instructor and, when he sold his Crowfield estate, Foster moved to Lincoln where he later conducted a peal.

Taken from *On This Day* by William Butler (Central Council Publications, 2017)  
Available to order from [cccb.org.uk/shop](http://cccb.org.uk/shop)

## Tail Ends – Ropes

I was watching a television programme, *Great British Railway Journeys*, featuring Michael Portillo travelling around Britain on what is left of the railway network that existed when the handbooks originated by George Bradshaw described in detail the destinations to which one could go by train.

Dianne and I enjoy British travelogue programmes, series such as *Coast*. Australian viewers are amazed that, almost invariably, each episode is shot in fine weather, for it is widely believed in the Land Down Under that England is constant drizzle, rain and snow.

We have followed Michael Portillo as he meanders about. Two things strike me: the first is that the producers of the series must have lavish budgets to be able to afford the fares for both the star and the accompanying TV crew. On recent visits to England, the high cost of train travel shocked me, especially as a journey from Southampton to Kensington Olympia on a Sunday morning was not comfortable – unlike Mr Portillo, I stood all the way, whereas he always seems to get a window seat in an otherwise almost deserted carriage. The second discovery was that the trains on which he journeyed all seemed to run according to timetables. There were no cancellations, no delays resulting from defective trains or signals failures. Whereas when Dianne and I went to St Leonards Warrior Square from London Victoria, the train was held for nearly an hour at Hayward's Heath because Southern (or whoever runs the service) couldn't find a driver with 'knowledge of the road' from there to St Leonards. I notice that the *fastest* service from Victoria to Warrior Square, 54 miles, is 1 hour 48 minutes, 30mph. If you want to go faster, London Bridge to St Leonards, 60½ miles, is 1½ hours, or 40mph. As it would have taken us an hour to go from Shepherd's Bush to London Bridge, the result would have been a longer, and more expensive, journey. I'm sure it was easier in Bradshaw's day.

Michael Portillo, going from Bristol to Cornwall, broke his journey at Exeter. He was met at the cathedral by ringing master Ian Campbell and they climbed the stairs to the ringing chamber. Mr Portillo was aware of the tenor, Grandison, and he said he would like to ring it. Dianne and I said we'd like to see him try! But how disappointing! He merely wanted to swing chime it.

However, this exercise brought to my attention something I'd never previously considered: the diameter of bell ropes. Contrary to what many believe, this does not increase in proportion to the weight of a bell. Otherwise, the diameter of the rope of a 72cwt bell would be six times that of a 12cwt tenor. Which would make it extremely difficult to handle, especially the tail end.

I have seen drawings of men on the Continent chiming bells with very thick ropes; it's a great temptation for film directors to depict the ringing of bells as hard manual labour. The secret of change-ringing with bells turning full circle is not brute strength but balance.

## Thought for the week

In an account of an outing to Kent (*RW* August 24), Michael Uphill comments on 'that great network of ringers that amazes just about everybody not involved in it – even some that are – which enables us to make friends all over the world'. He goes on to suggest a series of articles to feature how long-lasting friendships were formed.

Ringing is a corporate activity, and networks form beyond the home tower, not just through membership of local associations but through outings, tower grabs, quarter peals and peal bands. Ringing requires our commitment to work as a team. Our own particular preferences lead us to ring with a range of other ringers who share those preferences, whether ringing peals, or because we need to ring with those who can help us to improve our own ringing abilities. I can recall cycling miles to attend practices at another tower in order to learn change ringing on eight bells.

It might be tempting to approach ringing in a purely self-centred manner, attending practices and other opportunities simply to further our own ringing ambitions. We could go to what suited our own aims, and disregard any commitment to other ringers and their towers.

However, this would be to overlook one of the key elements of ringing: that it is about committing to ring with others, to develop and support one another. Ringing depends on what we contribute and not on what we can take. Loyalty to a tower is a vital part of that, whatever is the standard of ringing there. Ringers are generally welcome at all towers, so we are not tied to ringing only at one tower for ever. We can ring with a wide range of people and at many different towers, but our own tower and its ringers depend on us nevertheless.

Ringing requires a commitment on our part for its existence and development, as well as for the rewards that it offers. No wonder really that friendships are formed and sustained, as we contribute our best efforts to supporting one another, learning from one another, meeting together week in and week out, in our shared activity and commitment.

DAVID GRIMWOOD

*David Grimwood is a member of the Guild of Clerical Ringers*

'Let the bell do ninety per cent of the work,' my instructor taught me when I began to ring heavier bells, which was anything over half a ton, 'and conserve the rope.' Given the cost of new ropes these days, that's sound advice.

WALTER KNIGHT

Turrumurra, NSW 2074, Australia

**PLEASE** try to use the correct email address when sending items to *The Ringing World*. This will help to avoid confusion and speed up publication. See inside front cover for the full list of addresses.



notices@ringingworld.co.uk

#### RATES from 1st January 2018

##### Ringing meeting notices

- **Approved accounts** 21p per word (min.17 words). Display £4.50 per col. cm.
- **Non-account** 25p per word (min.17 words). Display £5.50 per col. cm.

##### All other notices & advertising

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Copy, with payment (except on approved accounts), must be received by the deadline.

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The Editor may place display notices throughout the paper – if you would prefer your display notice to appear on the Notices page **please make that request known** when submitting the notice.

#### BellBoard ADVERTISING

Banner advertising rates start at **£58 for 1 month.**

Please contact us for more details: [bellboard@ringingworld.co.uk](mailto:bellboard@ringingworld.co.uk)

#### Funeral

**STEVE GODDARD.** The funeral service for Steve Goddard will be held at All Saints church, Terling, Essex, on Tuesday 25th September at 11am, followed by private cremation and a gathering at The Monkey at The Rayleigh Arms, Terling. General ringing beforehand from 10.15am. No flowers, please, but donations in memory of Steve to The Rahere Association at St Bartholomew's Hospital and Macmillan Cancer Support. 6064

#### For Sale

**QUALITY PEALBOARDS.** Free layout and quote please visit [www.pealboards.co.uk](http://www.pealboards.co.uk) – paul@pealboards.co.uk – tel: 023 8089 8741

#### Meetings on Saturday September 22

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.** Luton District. Ringing Meeting at Kensworth (6) 7-8.30pm. All welcome. 3061

**LACR.** Fylde Branch. St Cuthbert, Lytham (8) 3-5pm. 3062

**SDGR.** Memorial Service. On Saturday 22nd September following Evensong, at 5.30pm, at Salisbury Cathedral there will be a Memorial Service to Commemorate those ringers who died in the Great War. The Service will be led by the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, the Bishop of Salisbury. Further details on the Guild website. 3058

## Surprising Tim Barnes

### Pick two rows, any two rows ...

“Got on a wotsit: gave me nutha ... errr wotsit”. “You boarded an omnibus and they gave you another bus ticket?” “Nah, got on a pub crawl: gave me nutha headache”. If everything’s a wotsit, wotsit all mean? If everything is a method, where is the meaning / structure of ringing?

This is my fifth and final article about the new Ringing Framework, seeking a brief comment from every ringing band to the consultation.

Methods once had a very rigid structure. They had to “reverse true to themselves”, being symmetric usually around the path of the treble, or be (symmetric) principles where all the bells do all the work. There were a few small exceptions to the maximum of two blows in one place, and the whole plain course had no repetitions of rows. Unless the method had the same lead ends as plain bob, it was “irregular” and banned or deprecated. There could be only two types of call, each affecting only one row and each had to have specified effects on the coursing order.

Much passion and debate has been expended on a century of many small relaxations of the method rules. Peals are still judged not only on their overall effect (“Is it a true peal?”) but also on each and every row being rung within a conforming method. Innovation in methods often led to peals becoming not-peals while years of debate considered whether a method-rule change was desirable. (43 years for my first peal’s methods to become methods.) Despite the subsequent relaxations, the rigid version is still used by bands for the overwhelming majority of current performances.

The trickle of relaxations become a torrent; maybe the dam broke with 12-bell performances which connected traditional methods with some new twiddly bits to alter the relative positions of a few bells, which traditional calls would take forever to achieve. The Methods Committee tried and failed to accommodate this within its Decisions, and in the end removed all the rules, and also

allowed methods to be false within their plain course. The collateral damage to ringing heritage is that, for example, a bob-course of 84 changes of Stedman Triples now contains just under six-thousand different methods, only one of which is Stedman.

Pick any two rows from your latest performance on practice night: the changes between these define a (probably new and unnamed) method. One change, or a dozen, or a hundred or a thousand or 5038: every sequence of changes defines a method. Maybe we need a prize for the first million-method quarter peal, which with single-word new-method names would run out of different English words early in its list of new methods. If the new technical and taxonomy committee intend to protect the method collections from unwelcome inflation with methods which bands never realised they were ringing, then the framework should have these intended rules for debate now, before consideration by the central council in September 2019.

Bands should ring what they wish to ring, and should describe any new twiddly bits in as straightforward a way as possible, without necessarily needing to fit within traditional method structures; new names and new structures can be debated and retro-fitted without the collateral damage arising from abandoning the structures of our ringing heritage.

Whatever opinion you have about method structure, now is the time to respond to the consultation. The official way is to type in <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96h5bkb>.

And write something in Section 8 “Methods deserving names should have the traditional structures of plain, treble bob, principles etc.” or “Method structure is unnecessary”. If your comment is short or on a specific issue, it can alternatively be emailed directly to [tjbarnes23@gmail.com](mailto:tjbarnes23@gmail.com).

And please remember to respond to the earlier questions about whether peals of triples should remain at 5040 changes, whether each row should be different from the previous one, whether changes should be only to adjacent pairs of bells, whether we need at least three bells to ring changes, and whether we should maintain the traditional definition of ringing ‘truth’. Thank you.

PETER SCOTT

Sheffield, South Yorkshire

#### Meetings on Sunday September 23

**LADIES’ GUILD.** Central District. Sunday 23 September, Little Missenden HP7 0QY 2-4pm (6) ground floor, toilet. With cream teas available in church. Everybody welcome. 3063

#### Meeting on Saturday September 29

**LADIES’ GUILD.** Marches District. 10:00-11:00 Eckington WR10 3AN, 11:30-12:30 Earl’s Croome WR8 9DE, 15:00-16:00 Stoulton WR7 4RE. 3064

#### NOTICES

We print Notices as submitted so please ensure that what you send as the text of your notice is exactly what you intend to appear, and is clearly readable.

**16 Sept, 1896.** Issue Number 1 of *Campanology*, a short-lived weekly publication for ringers appeared, owned and edited by William Bedwell of Lewisham. The last issue was number 26 on March 10, 1897.

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