

The Lancashire Ringer

Series 2 Issue 7 – November 2022

A NEW HOME FOR CHURCH KIRK BELLS?

St James, Church Kirk, on the west side of Accrington has been redundant for some years now. The building is Grade II* listed and a local trust has been trying to raise money for its reuse as a community centre. Initially, it looked as if this might allow its eight bells to be left where they are but the present plans envisage turning the ringing room into a café and do not allow for the possibility of them being rung.

A possible new home has however been identified for these bells (in a slightly remodelled form) at Over Kellet, just east of Carnforth. The church there currently has a derelict ring of three, one of which dates from c. 1499 and is to be retained as a service bell; the others will hopefully be found a new use elsewhere.



Church Kirk, St James

Full funding for the scheme has yet to be raised but a substantial grant has been offered by the Association's Bell Restoration Fund. If successful, it will among other things provide a ring of eight bells in an area where there are at present very few.



Over Kellet, St Cuthbert

RINGING FOR WEDDINGS AND THE TAX MAN by Fawkes Cat

One of ringers' popular (OK, not necessarily popular, but frequent) topics of conversation is whether we should be telling HMRC (the government department that collects tax) about money that we get for ringing for weddings. Some people have said that we should - it's earnings, and you should pay tax on earnings - while others have said that you shouldn't - it doesn't fall into any of the categories of income that is liable to income tax. Still others (often people who work for HMRC) try to keep out of the conversation (HMRC don't like their staff talking about tax in case anyone thinks that a comment in a pub is actually an official statement of policy), but if pressed will suggest that ringers should keep quiet about it: making people fill in tax returns isn't popular, and it probably wouldn't be cost effective to collect tax on wedding fees, so HMRC would rather that the issue didn't come to light as if it did HMRC would be duty-bound to chase and collect what should be due.

Well, the good news is that we don't have to have this conversation any more. Since April 2017, there is an additional tax allowance for up to £1,000 per year of 'trading income' - and since the argument for paying tax on wedding fees was that wedding ringing is a form of self-employment, and since self-employment is a form of trading, that means there's now no real doubt that HMRC won't want to know about the £20 you got last week for ringing at a wedding.

I suppose if you are ringing for more than fifty weddings each year (assuming £20 a time) then HMRC would want to hear from you. More importantly, if you are busy trading on eBay, and your profit from that PLUS your income from wedding ringing comes to more than £1,000, then the tax people will want to hear from you: don't forget that HMRC have powers to ask companies like eBay about people who trade there!

More details of how the law has changed are at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tax-free-allowances-on-property-and-trading-income>.

RINGING COMMENTARY

It's quite a long time since we last had a newsletter. Various things intervened, the most notable of which was the lockdown associated with the Covid pandemic which halted ringing in the UK. At one stage the only part of the Lancashire Association's territory where any activity was taking place was the Isle of Man, and there too it was interrupted for a while. None of us can live in complete isolation from our neighbours.

Fortunately that is behind us – more or less. We had a flurry of ringing following the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and later her death. We now know how to ring bells fully muffled. Since the last time that was needed was over 70 years ago very few of us had any previous experience of it, but we seemed to cope well and in general the standard of striking was high.

Next year we have the Coronation of King Charles III to celebrate. This is an opportunity to recruit and train more ringers. It's also the kind of occasion when rings of bells not normally available for peals can be used for them. Expect some interesting performances!

STEAM AND CHURCH BELLS by Peter Rivet

Several of the best known British steam locomotive designers – Francis Webb of the London and North Western Railway, Douglas Marsh of the London Brighton and South Coast, Nigel Gresley of the Great Northern and later the London & North Eastern - were brought up in vicarages. Perhaps it's not entirely surprising that one or two others were bell ringers. After all, change ringing appeals to a lot of technically minded people.

If you ring at Eccleston in Cheshire you will see on the wall a picture of Charles Bowen-Cooke, who was Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London & North Western Railway between 1909 and 1920. As well as being responsible for motive power on the West Coast main line between Euston and Carlisle, he was Master of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

The best known, however, was Sir Arthur Heywood (1849-1916)*. He was not a railway employee, but a wealthy baronet with a country estate; nonetheless he developed an interest in trains at an early age. He studied Applied Science at Cambridge University, where he spent a lot of his spare time hitching unofficial rides on the footplate of Great Eastern Railway engines. Much of his adult life was spent developing the concept of the minimum gauge railway, which he saw as a solution to the transport requirements of estates like his own at Duffield Bank in Derbyshire. He built an extensive 15" gauge system there, and another at Eaton Hall in Cheshire. The specialist locomotives and rolling stock required for this were not just designed by Sir Arthur; he built them in his own well equipped workshops. He even provided a small sleeping car. He admitted that this was hardly necessary on such a short line, but said it provided useful extra accommodation when his sons brought friends to visit for the weekend.

If his position in Victorian society had not precluded it, he would probably have pursued a successful career as a mechanical engineer with one of the major railway companies. He seems to have had a lot to do with the development of a steam sanding apparatus for use on main line engines, to ensure that they did not slip on the rails in wet weather. The frame of one of his Duffield locomotives, Muriel, was used in the building of *River Irt* which still runs on the Ravensglass & Eskdale Railway.



Sir Arthur with his first locomotive, *Effie*

In between all this, Sir Arthur was an enthusiastic and very capable ringer who produced some ingenious compositions of Double Norwich. He also invented a new principle, Duffield, though as it is fairly complex it is rarely rung. As a practical engineer he was among the early advocates of metal bell frames in place of wooden ones; he wrote a book entitled Bell Towers and Bell Hanging: An Appeal to Architects advocating their use. He had a long running argument about this with members of SPAB (the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings); it still rumbles on today. However his most important contribution to ringing was the establishment of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers in 1891. It has proved very useful to ringers ever since.

Why is this particularly relevant to the Lancashire Association? Near Lancaster, on the hillside above Caton, is a large detached property called Heywood House. One of Sir Arthur's daughters used to live there. In its garden is the Littledale Light Railway, a narrow gauge line which can carry passengers and is worked by two steam locomotives. The present owner opens it occasionally in the summer as a way of raising money for good causes such as the RNLI.

* Much of this information comes from an article by Rodney Weaver, "Minimum Gauge Pioneer" in the Railway World, November 1981. The Whiting Society has also produced a very useful article on Sir Arthur Heywood and his contribution to ringing, which is available online.

METHOD OF THE MONTH - DUFFIELD

After the piece on Sir Arthur Heywood, the obvious method to look at is Duffield, so here it is on the right. As in Stedman, all the bells do the same work. It's made up of a series of six line blocks.

BOB

2 1 6 4 5 3 8 7
 1 2 6 5 4 3 7 8
2 1 5 6 3 4 8 7
 2 5 1 3 6 4 7 8
 5 2 3 1 4 6 8 7
 2 5 3 4 1 6 7 8

SINGLE

2 1 6 4 5 3 8 7
 1 2 6 5 4 3 7 8
2 1 5 6 3 4 8 7
 2 5 1 3 6 4 8 7
 5 2 3 1 4 6 7 8
 2 5 3 4 1 6 8 7

COMPOSITIONS

There aren't many compositions of Duffield readily available on the internet, but here is one:

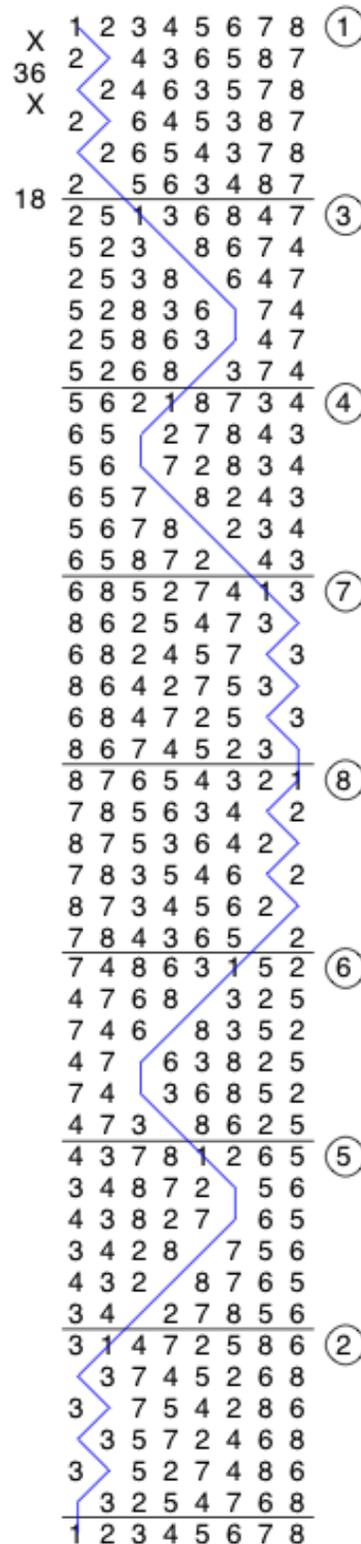
1296 [Duffield Major](#)

Arranged by [Daniel W Brady](#)

123456	3	4	5
432156	-	-	3
243156		-	3
324156		-	3

3 part.

Duffield Major



NORTHENDEN, ST WILFRID by John Lacy

George Lee has been helping with the partial refurbishment of these neglected bells. With the help of funding from the Lancashire Association Bell Restoration Fund, he arranged for the clappers, which were badly worn, to go back to Taylors for rebuilding, together with (I still laugh when I hear this phrase) the Baldrick Clapper fittings – basically a loop of leather and a wooden bar which attach the clapper to a hoop set into the bell. See below a picture of the Northenden Clappers (courtesy of Taylors):



I am extremely grateful to George for the amount of effort that he - and a few other members of the Lancashire Association – have put into Northenden's bells.

A quarter peal was rung to celebrate (and test out) the completion of installation of the new fittings on Friday 7th October. The bells are now safe for **limited** ringing.

JOHN WILTON 1942-2022

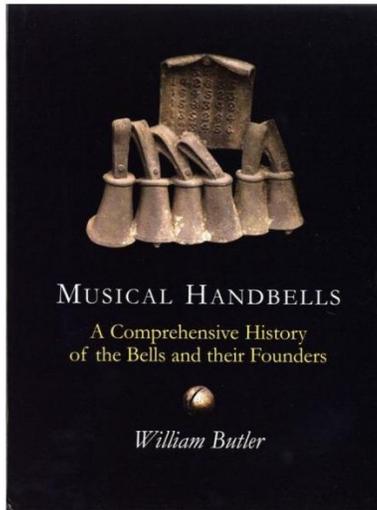
We regret to report the death of John Wilton, a member of the Liverpool branch of the Lancashire Association. John was not only a ringer; he was responsible for setting up the Merseyside Bell Restoration Group, which did much excellent work in the area, including the restoration and augmentation of the bells at Hale. He was for some time the Secretary of the Liverpool branch and for many years the Bells Adviser to the Liverpool DAC. To his friends and family we offer our deepest sympathy.

MUSICAL HANDBELLS

A Comprehensive History of the Bells and their Founders,

by William Butler

Published by Phillimore,
Chichester.
ISBN: 9781860771187



This book was published in 2006. It provides a comprehensive history of handbell manufacture in this country, and how to identify the firms who made them: not just the big names like Whitechapel, Taylors and Shaws but many less well known founders.

Unsold copies have been acquired by Postscript Books, an online remainder bookshop. The original price of the book was £19.50 but it is now available for only £9.99 plus postage.

If you are seeking a Christmas present for somebody with an interest in handbell ringing, or bells generally, this could be just what you are looking for.

BRIAN WIGLEY - 88 years young

On Saturday 15 October some members of the Manchester Branch rang a quarter peal at St George's Hyde to celebrate Brian's 88th birthday on 13 October.

Brian was present while we rang the quarter and joined us for tea and coffee at St George's afterwards. For those that rung, it was a reminder of what a lovely set of bells Hyde have.

Details of the ringing appear below.

John Lacy



Lancashire Association

On Saturday, 15 October 2022 in 45m

Hyde, Greater Manchester

St George

Tenor: 18-0-11 in E

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Beth Ingham
- 2 Philip E Chandler
- 3 Tim J Calvert
- 4 John M Lacy
- 5 Dennis Latham
- 6 David P Lacy
- 7 K George Lee (C)
- 8 Terry J Henfrey

88th birthday compliment to Brian Wigley - a local ringer of long standing who was listening from inside the church throughout the quarter.

Ringling Events: Calendar for December/January

Some of the events listed below are subject to confirmation. If in doubt, check. Not all branches have supplied information for this list.

If you would like to include something in a future issue, please let me know.

2022

Thu 1 Dec	Pre	Chorley RC	Branch practice	7:45-9:00
Fri 2 Dec	Lan	Hornby	Advanced practice	7:00-8:30
Sat 3 Dec	Man	Didsbury	General practice	3:30-5:00
Sat 3 Dec	Bla	Accrington	General ringing	3:30-5:00
			Followed by tea and meeting; further ringing afterwards.	
Sat 10 Dec	Bla	Blackburn Cath	Ten bell practice	10:45-12:15
Sat 10 Dec	Fur	Ulverston	General ringing	2:30-4:30
			Followed by refreshments	
Sat 10 Dec	Pre	Tarleton	General ringing	3:30-5:00
			Followed by branch meeting.	
Sat 10 Dec	Roc	East Crompton	General ringing	3:30-4:45
Sun 11 Dec	Lan	Morecambe	Surprise Major practice: Bristol, Cornwall and Yorkshire 2:30-3:45	
Sat 17 Dec	Lan	Pilling (subject to confirmation) 3:45-4:45, followed by Lancaster Cathedral 5:30-6:30. General ringing.		

2023

Thu 5 Jan	Pre	Chorley, St Mary	Branch practice	7:30-9:00
Sat 7 Jan	Roc	Newhey	General ringing	3:00-4:45
			Followed by the Branch AGM, with further ringing 7:00 onwards.	
Sun 9 Jan	n/a	Brownedge	LACR Quiz Night	7:00 for 7:30
			In aid of the Bell Restoration Fund	
		All towers/branches are invited to enter a team.		
Sat 14 Jan	Pre	Leyland St Andr.	General ringing	3:30-5:00
			Followed by business meeting.	
Sat 21 Jan	Lan	Lancaster Priory	General ringing	(to be confirmed)
Sat 11 Feb	Fur	Hawkshead	General ringing	2:30-4:30
			Followed by refreshments	
Sun 12 Feb	Lan	Morecambe	Surprise Major	2:30-3:45
Sat 18 Feb	Lan	Low Bentham/Branch meeting (to be confirmed) Burton-in-L'dale		

And finally – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!