

The Lancashire Ringer

Series 2 Issue 8 – March 2023

RING FOR THE KING

One of the big events this year will be the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May. This is an occasion on which the public will expect church bells to be rung, as widely as possible.

There is of course a Bank Holiday to go with the occasion on Monday 8 May, which will be an opportunity to ring quarters and peals. It's quite likely that on this occasion, some towers which are normally hard to get for such performances will be available.

Most importantly, it's an opportunity to recruit more ringers so the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers are promoting this under the name "Ring for the King". Posters are available – is there one at your tower yet?



RINGING COMMENTARY

A quick look at what is going on within the Association

CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Murray, Peter Randall and Robin Daw (and anyone from the LACR your editor has inadvertently missed) who feature in the Ringing World's list of the most prolific quarter peal ringers during 2022.

JEAN BARNES - We regret to announce the death on 2 March of Jean Barnes of the Blackburn Branch, who will have been known to a great many members of the Association. Until health problems caught up with her she was a very active ringer. Her contributions to the Exercise included a very entertaining book of cartoons about ringing and ringers, which was sold in aid of bell restoration. She will be much missed.

GREAT MITTON - Over in the Blackburn branch, a limited amount of ringing has taken place on the six bells at All Hallows, Great Mitton. The bells there are an interesting assortment. The two oldest were cast in 1567 and are believed to be the work of a French founder. The tenor, cast by Thomas Mears II in 1834, weighs 14cwt. They have been out of use for many years because of concern about the condition of the frame, but a trial indicated that it was much more able to take the stresses of ringing than had been thought.

ST ANNE'S ON SEA (also known as Heyhouses) are about to augment their bells from eight bells to ten. A faculty has been obtained and an order has been placed with Taylors for the two new trebles. This will give the Fylde branch its second ring of ten bells, to go with those at Lytham.

A BURSARY SCHEME has been proposed to provide grant aid for LACR members attending ringing courses. It was discussed at the Association Committee meeting which took place at Southport in February. The idea is primarily to encourage both younger and newer members to acquire new skills and broaden their experience, but all paid up members will be entitled to apply. There will be no means test. Courses eligible for a bursary would include long established ones, such as:

- The North West residential ringing course: [North West Ringing Course - A residential ringing course in the North West of England \(nwringingcourse.uk\)](http://nwringingcourse.uk)
- The Hereford Ringing Course: [Hereford Ringing Course](http://herefordringingcourse.org.uk)
- The Bradfield Ringing Course (this is held at Bradfield in Berkshire, not the one near Sheffield). [Bradfield Ringing Course \(bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk\)](http://bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk)

Other similar courses could also be eligible.

THE LAST RINGING AT CHURCH KIRK

On 2 January, members of the Association had a last opportunity to ring on the bells at St James Church Kirk, in the Blackburn branch. Two weeks later the bells were removed from the tower of the redundant church with the help of volunteer labour and taken to Taylors bell foundry in Loughborough for storage, pending their installation (with some remodelling to suit the constraints of their new home) at St Cuthbert's Over Kellet.



Nick Ward, Chairman of the Over Kellet Jubilee Bells Project, writes: *The bells are now sitting in Loughborough awaiting funds to complete the project.*

Fundraising for this is now well underway and along with substantial grants from both the LACR and the Keltek Trust we have been able to secure a grant of £20,000 from Lancashire County Council Culture and Sports Fund, provided we are able to match at least this amount and reach a target of £43,000 on the crowdfunding platform 'Spacehive', with whom they are in partnership. The slight drawback is that we have to reach this target by 1st May or their pledge is withdrawn. All contributions to help us achieve this will be gratefully received! To leave a pledge go to: www.spacehive.com/over-kellet-jubilee-bells-project.

Once we reach this target, and along with the other grants and individual donations we have already received, we will be over 75% funded to complete the project and we do hope it will not be too long before we are able to invite LACR members to ring our new 8 bells. For news of progress please follow us on Facebook, "Over Kellet Jubilee Bells Project".

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

*The Association has introduced a new system for collecting membership subs. It's a bit different from the old one, but once you get accustomed to the procedure it should be very easy to use. **Rachel Tuke** explains how it works.*

What's going on with membership and why?

You may have heard that there's something going on about membership and how you pay your subscriptions. You might think that it is something that doesn't affect you but it affects everyone who is a member of the Association.

Why are we changing?

We are moving to using a system that can do more automatically and doesn't rely on a very few people maintaining the relevant information. At the moment, we depend on a small number of people doing a lot of work manually, which is very time consuming. The new system will allow all future subs to be collected with minimal effort. As it also holds email addresses, it will be easier for both branch secretaries and other approved people to send out communications. This means that there will no longer be a need for officers to keep email addresses separately.

Why do I need to register as a new member?

Because we only have names for most members, we need you to register on Membership Mojo so that we have everyone's contact details held centrally once. We do need everyone including life members to register so that we get that complete list of members and an email address we can use to contact you. You can choose not to receive most emails if you prefer.

Does that mean my existing membership doesn't count?

No, we will update the record once it is created to keep your original date of membership.

What do I do if I don't have an email address?

Ask someone else to allow you to use their email address to register. They will get any messages for you. The same email address can be used by several members. If your tower wants to, you could all register on a single email address.

How do I pay my subs?

Once you have registered, your membership will be approved and this will prompt you to complete your application including making a payment if appropriate.

Does that mean you keep my bank details?

No, we don't keep any details about the method of payment.

What do I do if the tower pays for me?

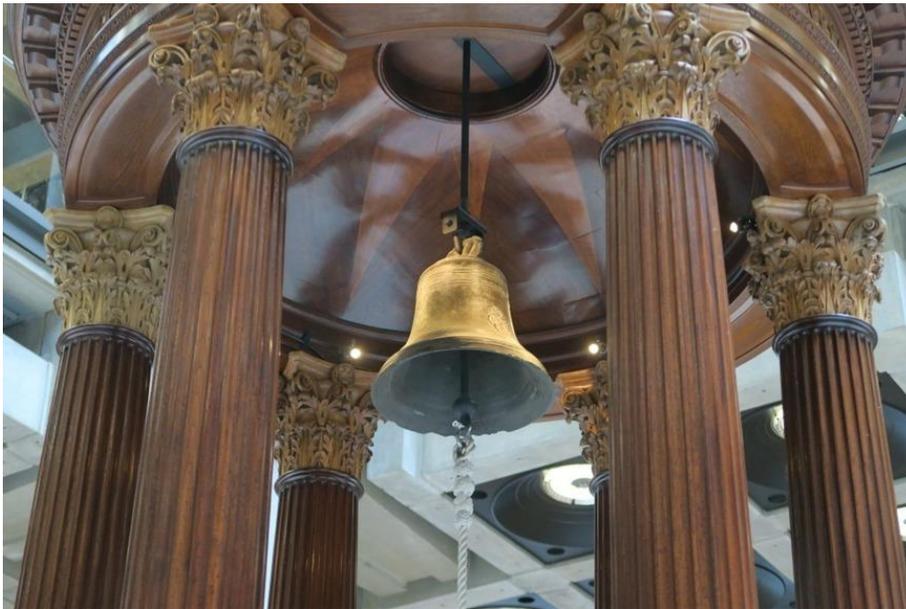
Choose pay via tower contact in checkout.

What do I need to do now?

If you haven't already registered, please do so as soon as possible. Go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/lacr> and click on Join us or Renew and complete the form. There's a helpful step by step guide on the LACR website too.

THE STORY OF THE LUTINE BELL by Peter Rivet

The subject of the Lutine bell - what is it? where is it? when is it rung? crops up fairly regularly in quiz competitions. In case you ever need them, here are the answers: it's a former ship's bell, which hangs at Lloyds in London. It is traditionally sounded when a ship is lost at sea, or (these days) to mark other disasters.



The Lutine was a frigate, originally built in 1779 for the French navy. It may originally have been called the St Jean as that is the name that appears on the bell. It was captured by the British Royal Navy in 1793, and eventually found use as a cargo ship. It was wrecked in 1799 carrying gold and silver from Great Yarmouth to Hamburg. It ran aground on one of the sandbanks along the Dutch coast, off the island of Terschelling. Apart from the bell, very little was ever recovered from it - officially. However the inhabitants of the Friesian islands, like those of the Scillies, used to make quite a good living off the proceeds of wrecks. Rumour has it that certain families on the island have been very well off ever since.

These days the islanders make more from summer visitors than from shipwrecks. Much of the eastern end of Terschelling is a nature reserve, with a considerable variety of bird life. Boats from the mainland port of Harlingen, a Dutch version of King's Lynn, arrive several times a day at West Terschelling, where you can stay overnight in the Lutine Hotel. Cranberries are a local speciality (they originally reached the island as a result of another wreck, involving an American ship) and there are plenty of opportunities to buy cranberry wine or cranberry jam to take home with you as a souvenir.

AIR CONDITIONING IN THE RINGING ROOM

This sounds like a contradiction in terms, doesn't it? It should scarcely be necessary in a room with holes in the ceiling. But there is at least one, at Christ Church Taney on the south side of Dublin. It has a ring of eight which were transferred in 2000 from another tower in the city centre. The ringing room is somewhat confined and it was considered desirable to make conditions more comfortable for the ringers.

Your editor was put in mind of the benefits of this arrangement a few years ago when ringing for a wedding at a church over the border in North Yorkshire. There are usually simpler, low tech ways of avoiding the problems associated with stuffy towers, in the form of better ventilation. In this particular case the only window in the room, other than the one overlooking the nave, was made of stained glass; but it ought to be possible to increase the air flow somehow!

METHOD OF THE MONTH: WINCHENDON PLACE DOUBLES



Idea courtesy of Alex Fishburn

12345 13524 15432 14253
21345 31524 51432 41253
23154 35142 54123 42135
32514 53412 45213 24315
32541 53421 45231 24351
23451 35241 54321 42531
23415 35214 54312 42513
32145 53124 45132 24153
31254 51342 41523 21435
13254 15342 14523 12435
13524 15432 14253 12345

Not *another* five bell method? Well - this is a handy one to learn if you want your band to ring something a little bit different on Sunday morning. It's one of the St Simon's Doubles "family" but it uses places instead of dodges throughout. That means that you need the Reverse Canterbury type of bob to obtain an extent. Winchendon can also be extended logically into triples, caters and cinques versions, but these don't seem to be rung very often.

THIS ISN'T YOUR TOWER... IS IT?

In 1897 an account of the bells in the churches of Buckinghamshire was published, which is still the most comprehensive survey ever done of them. Its author, A.H.Cocks, encountered a few problems collecting data for it, notably in one place where the churchwarden suspected him of wanting to blow the church up with dynamite.

The usual difficulties were less bizarre. Some of them, at least, will be more or less familiar to anyone who has explored a long neglected tower:

"The rungs of the ladder worn out, the very baulks rotten, the steps of the newel staircase so abraded by the tread of centuries as to be almost non-existent, perilous in the extreme to life and limb; the belfry resembling nothing but a guano-island on the coast of Peru; frequently containing cartloads of sticks, straws, and other rubbish brought in by birds for their nests. The air-fauna comprises jackdaws, starlings, sparrows; sometimes a pair of barn owls, occasionally domestic pigeons. The invertebrates will demonstrate their presence the ensuing night by keeping the explorer awake; while everything - bells, stocks, frame, floor - will be white with the deposit of guano."

Not many church towers where the bells are in regular use get into this kind of condition, but prevention is always better than cure. It may be no bad thing to check that the wire netting inside your louvres is in good order now, before the birds start nesting in it!

RINGING ON 1 JANUARY 2023

Which tower saw the first peal of the New Year within Lancashire Association territory? The answer appears to be Liverpool Cathedral. Unfortunately it was what used to be called a “non-association” performance, which seems a pity from the LACR’s point of view:

Liverpool, Merseyside

Cathedral Church of Christ
Sunday, 1 January 2023 in
4h 36 (82-0-11 in Ab)

5007 Stedman Cinques

Robin O Hall
1 Lenard J Mitchell
2 Craig P Homewood
3 Simon A Percy
4 Adam R Crocker
5 Ryan S Noble
6 Darran Ricks (C)
7 James W Perrins
8 Peter G C Ellis
9 Alex F Byrne
10 Daniel Jones
11 Christopher J Pickford
12 Ashley C Fortey

With the best wishes of the band to Neil Bennett.

The first quarter of 2023 was rung on the bells at Barrow, in the Furness branch:

Lancashire Association

Barrow in Furness, Cumbria

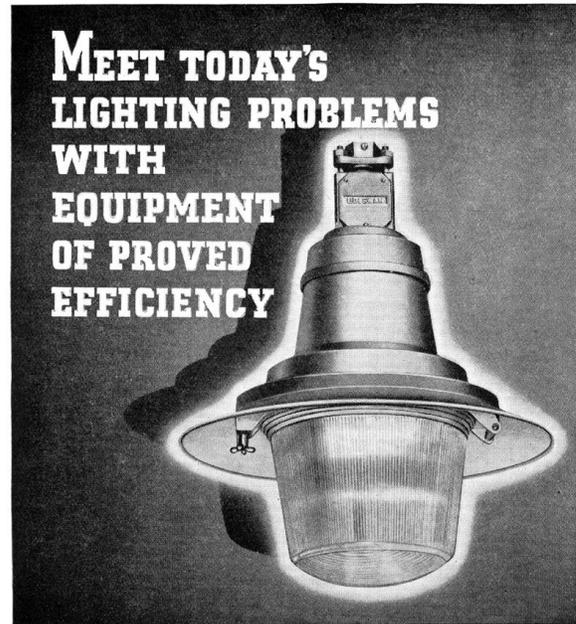
St James the Great
Sunday, 1 January 2023 in 49m
(12-0-24 in F)

1344 Plain Bob Major

Mark B Davies
1 Alison L Brooke
2 Clarissa J E Caroe
3 Iwan Cotgreave
4 Cameron Pollock
5 Jason W Pollock
6 J Andrew Pollock
7 Jayden Milby (C)
8 Patrick L H Brooke

First on 8: 5 Rung to welcome the new year, but also in memory of Pelé.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



THE "LONDON MAJOR" Refractor Lantern, for use with 250 watt-400 watt Escura Electric Discharge Lamps, is intended expressly to meet today's demand for better street lighting. It is of advanced design and is planned to give that high degree of efficiency in service which is a characteristic of all Ediswan Lighting Equipment.

THE EDISON SWAN ELECTRIC CO. LTD., 155 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2
L13

ROYAL "EDISWAN" LAMPS
AND EDISWAN LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

*Here is an advertisement from a 1937 trade magazine, extolling the virtues of a new design of street lighting lantern with a catchy name: the **London Major**. It looks as if it would be just the thing to light up the bell chamber of an eight bell tower with an ambitious band. As you can see the top part of the lantern is distinctly bell shaped.*

Old street lamps sometimes survive on industrial sites long after main road examples have disappeared. Even in the era of energy saving LED lighting, there may be a few around somewhere.

Ringling Events: Dates for your Diary

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

All the events listed are open to visiting ringers. If you would like to include something in a future issue, please let me know.

Sat 11 Mar	Fur	Kirkby-in-Furness	General ringing	2:30-4:30
	Pre	Whittle-le-Woods	General ringing	3:30-5:00
	Roc	Rochdale	General ringing	7:00-9:00
Sat 18 Mar	Lan	Branch outing to West Yorkshire Oxenhope 9:45, Haworth 11:00, Keighley 2:15, Silsden 3:45, Ilkley 5:00. Own arrangements for lunch; Haworth is recommended. Further details from Cate Gardner: cjguk1@gmail.com		
Sat 1 Apr	Bla	Gisburn	Branch meeting	3:30-8:00
		Names for tea to caroline.langley@hotmail.co.uk		
Thu 6 Apr	Pre	Bamber Bridge	Branch practice	7:45-9:00
Sat 8 April	Pre	Scorton	General ringing	3:30-5:00
Sat 15 Apr	Fur	Kendal	General ringing	2:30-4:30
	Roc	Shore	General ringing	3:00-5:00
Sat 15 April	Lan	Dent	General ringing	2:00-3:00
		Barbon		3:30-4:30
Sat 22 April	Bol	Bolton	Lancashire Association AGM Other towers in the area will be available for ringing during the day.	
Thu 4 May	Pre	Bamber Bridge	Branch practice	7:45-9:00
Sat 6 May		Ringling for the Coronation of King Charles III		
Fri 11 May	Ros	Ramsbottom	General ringing	7:30-9:00
Sat 13 May	Pre	Bamber Bridge	General ringing	3:30-5:00
Sat 20 May	Lan	Melling	General ringing	2:00-3:00
		Hornby		3:15-3:45
Thu 1 Jun	Pre	Bamber Bridge	Branch practice	7:45-9:00
	Roc	Balderstone	General ringing	3:00-5:00
Sat 10 Jun	Pre	Eccleston	Branch striking comp	3:30-5:00
Sat 17 Jun	Lan	Burton-in-Lonsdale	General ringing	3:30-4:30
		Low Bentham		(tbc)
Mon 7 Aug	Ros	Radcliffe	General ringing	7:30-9:00
Wed 6 Sep	Ros	Haslingden	General ringing	7:30-9:00
Sat 9 Sep	Liv	Venue tbc	Association Committee Meeting	
Sat 7 Oct	Lan	Pilling, Morecambe	6 and 8 bell striking competitions	
Sat 21 Oct	Lan	Branch outing, joint with the Western branch of the Yorkshire Association, to towers on the Lancs/Yorks border – details to follow.		