



# BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## TAUNTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE 91

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**Deadline for Nov/Dec Newsletter:  
11th November**

### WELCOME

Welcome to the October edition of the Taunton Branch newsletter. We decided to have an extra edition as so much is happening in the Branch.

Congratulations to the plucky members who represented the Branch at the recent Striking Competition who did well despite challenging circumstances.

We have a cautionary tale about the 5th at Broomfield and a brief update on the much-anticipated work at North Curry. West Monkton report on their excellent outing which they enjoyed with friends from far and wide. September and October lottery results, fundraising events, branch practices and information about our regular courses are also included.

Thank you for all your support.

**JULIA TOURVILLE**  
Newsletter Editor

### BREAKING NEWS

If you'd noticed that Jill has been absent for a couple of weeks - here is the reason why.

For a number of years Jill has represented England in Women's Hockey. The World Masters Hockey World Cup 2022 was held in Cape Town South Africa, this year. The England Team competed against strong international teams, including the USA and South Africa. On 10th October 2022, England beat Scotland 2-0 in the final. Jill, wearing shirt 13, was the fifth highest scorer in the O65 competition. Jill has a distinguished career in Outdoor Women's hockey and has nearly 50 England caps to date.

Congratulations to Jill and the rest of the O65 team for their outstanding achievement.

Jill will be back soon, so "look to" and welcome her back to the

regular Branch practices and training sessions.



***Above: Jill with the World Master's World Cup***

## **2022 INTER BRANCH 8 AND 6 BELL ASSOCIATION STRIKING COMPETITIONS**

This year's competition was held in the Bath Branch. The 6 bell competition was held at Kelston and the 8 bell at Corston. It was a 'one off' this year as a lot of the Branches had not held a local competition so David Parfry suggested that, just for this year, he'd organise a single competition for 8 and 6 bell teams. The method for the 8 bell was 168 changes of Grandsire Triples, and for the 6 bell, 120 changes of Grandsire Double. Eleven Branches and five teams entered.

It was a long way to go but we duly met up with two cars full of ringers from the Branch. We listened to the previous team ringing which we decided was far too fast with lots of leading mistakes and the odd method mishap as well. [Corston](#) are a light 9cwt ring of 8. One has to say they can "go" very fast if allowed to. I suggested that we tried ringing them a little slower and I have to say that the team rang very well and we all had high hopes come the judging. However, it appeared the judges like lots of clipping and poor leading because the band that rang before us came 2nd! We came a very creditable 4th. Chew Branch won, yet again.

There was the great advantage of having a ringer's tea again which was put on by the ladies of the Bath Branch. Many thanks to them for a fantastic spread. It was also good to catch up with fellow ringers and friends whom we hadn't seen for over three years.

Our 6 bell team also took place at a revised venue of [Kelston](#), a 10cwt ring of 6, and not very user friendly either. The original tower Newton St Loe had become unavailable at the last minute. The ringers from Wellington and Langford Budville, who won the Branch competition, happily went forth to do battle in the six bell competition. A slight mistake near the end meant that they came a good 5th place.

Well done to both teams for taking part. We look forward to next year's competition which will revert to the next Branch on the list, which should be [Crewkerne](#). So get practicing for our Branch Competition!

## **MIKE HANSFORD**

### **BROOMFIELD AND ITS PROBLEMATIC 5TH**

Many of you will not have heard about the problem with the 5th bell at [Broomfield](#). It appears that during a regular practice the stay decided to part company with the headstock, not really unusual but unfortunately it was not that simple. The stay got caught between the slider, the frame and the bell. The bell was then stopped 'dead' by the stay jammed between the frame. This jarred the bell significantly, enough to force the gudgeon out of the bearing on the stay side and ram the whole bell across the frame into the wheel side bearing housing, with the unfortunate consequence that the frame side has been bowed outwards. There was also damage to the bell bolts as a gap has appeared between the resin pad; the bell; the top of the pad and the headstock. The bell is jammed solid and is not hanging down correctly so will need the services of a bell hanger.



***The stay side gudgeon pin out of the bearing housing.***



***The frame on the wheel side now slightly bent.***



***The stay jammed between the slider, frame and bell.***

All in all, a bit of a mess. The bells will be out of action for a bit until the damage can be repaired, which may be an issue as the Church has very little money at the present time. Unfortunately this is not something that can be done locally as the bell will have to be lifted to clear the bearing and the frame. It is to be hoped that the frame may pop back into place but I am not holding my breath on that happening.

The bells were checked after COVID and all bolts were tightened so how the stay bolts came loose is anyone's guess. A salutary lesson here, check ALL bolts for tightness even if they were checked after COVID. They may well not be as tight as you think.

### MIKE HANSFORD

## WORK STARTS ON RENEWING THE BELLS AT NORTH CURRY

Here's a quick update on the progress so far:

Taylor's started work on 20th September and the church is likely to be closed to the public for most of October, as four tons of bells, and the same weight again of bellframe, are lowered from the tower. On 6th October the Vicar conducted a brief service of farewell and on Friday 7 October the bells left North Curry for Loughborough to be melted down and recast.



See the November edition for a detailed progress report.

[www.northcurrybells.com/appeal](http://www.northcurrybells.com/appeal)

[www.justgiving.com/pcc-](http://www.justgiving.com/pcc-ncappealofbells)

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

## WEST MONKTON AND FRIENDS AUTUMN JAUNT 3rd SEPTEMBER 2022

A mixed ability band of twenty ringers made their way from West Monkton to St Bartholomew, Crewkerne for the first tower of the Jaunt. The only "hurdle" of the day was having to negotiate a one way system around Crewkerne due to "the Fair being in town" for the weekend, some took advantage by making an early start and going for a bacon roll and coffee at the excellent Bilbys Coffee Shop! The Friends, being such a large travelling band, split into two groups to give plenty of room in the ringing chambers. Rounds, Call Changes and various methods were rung and apparently appreciated by the early Saturday shoppers of Crewkerne!

Then off, via the one way system again, to [St Michaels's Haselbury Plunkett](#), (*Below*) where a "ground floor", light ring of six awaited. As we arrived we were greeted by organ music being played by the Church Warden, quite a trip down memory lane as the writer used to sing at St Michael's as a choir boy over 50 years ago!



Unfortunately there is currently no band of regular ringers at Haselbury, which seems such a shame for a pleasant set of bells. Rounds, Call Changes and Methods were rung with a grateful Church Warden commenting "How nice to hear bells ringing over Haselbury again"

Next stop- lunch at the wonderful Haselbury Mill, where an odd collection of vehicles greeted us on the drive.



***The Da Nang taxi from Vietnam...  
How did it get here?***

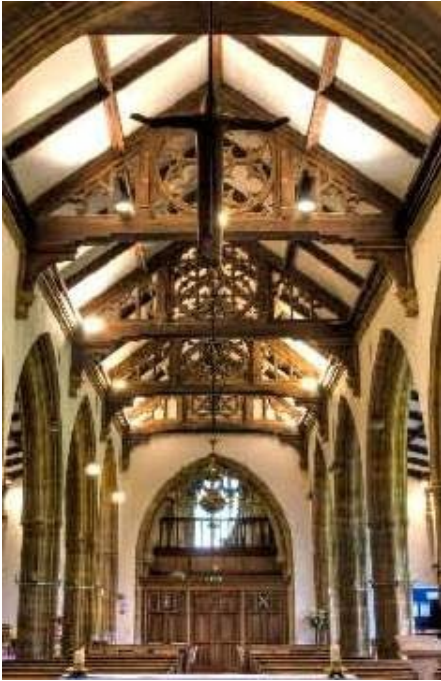


***Haselbury Mill - the lunch venue.***

At the Mill we were allocated a private room so we could make as much "noise" as we wanted....lots of chat and meeting old and new friends over an excellent lunch served promptly which gave even more time for reminiscing after lunch over coffee.

Then back in the cars for the short drive to [All Saints Merriott](#). Our loudest ring of the day but none the worse for that. The ringing is carried out from an open mezzanine, accessed by a short flight of outside stairs. The mezzanine can be seen at the end of the church. Rounds, Call Changes and Methods were rung although the ringing could have been described as a "bit of a struggle" following the excellent lunch we'd just consumed.

Finally, after the longest inter-tower drive of the day, to our ring at [St Aldhelm and St Eadburga Broadway](#). Another mezzanine ring, rather warm as it's encased in glass and accessed by a trap door next to a beautiful stained glass window. Rounds, Call Changes and Methods before the Team photograph and we all headed home.



***All Saints Merriott.***



***St Aldhelm and St Eadburga Broadway.***

*A happy band: "Thoroughly enjoyed it", "A great lunch venue", "a grand day out, "Ringing in new towers is always a treat, "A lovely day with some ringing friends old and new" - the West Monkton and Friends September Jaunt.*



Mention must be made of Dave "The Cyclist" Lock, who cycled the whole trip, some 53 miles and still had the energy to ring at every tower!

Our thanks, not only to all the local tower contacts who gave us "hints and tips" at each tower, they were all genuinely really nice and extremely helpful, but also to the wonderful staff at Haselbury Mill who really looked after us at lunch.

**ANDREW BECKERSON  
COURSES FOR STUDENTS**

**22nd OCTOBER 2022 TO 30th JANUARY 2023**

For the list of all courses held at Hillfarrance, click [here](#).

Numbers are limited, so reserve your place by e-mailing [Margaret Jordan](#).

***PLEAS FOR TEAS  
A limerick by Shaun T.S.***

*A Hillfarrance Ringer once said*

*“I can't get it into my head  
The source of my troubles are the Bobs in Bob Doubles  
So I'll do the refreshments instead”*

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to provide the refreshments for the courses. There are still a few courses without a refreshment volunteer. Contact [Gill Whatmore](#) to reserve your place as the Tea Hero of the Course. You'll be glad you did.

## LOTTERY RESULTS

September 2022

### Lottery Results for September

Congratulations to this month's lucky winners

- 1st.** West Monkton Tower
- 2nd.** Bishops Hull Tower
- 3rd.** Sally Perry, Ashbrittle
- 4th.** Alexandra Collard-Jenkins, St Mary Magdalene

The Lottery is an important fundraiser for the Association and your support is always appreciated.

## FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

### NORTH CURRY APPEAL OF BELLS

Do join us at these events!

**Friday, 21 October: 7.30pm for 8.00pm.**

#### **“What did you do in lockdown, Grandpa?”**

Julian Comrie FRPS will show specially selected photographs to answer his own question - and to remind us of more cheerful times since (and before) the pandemic.

**Tickets £10** (to include a glass of wine or soft drink from 7.30pm) from North Curry Post Office and online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/appeal-](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/appeal-)

This talk was postponed from 12 November 2021 because of Covid. If you bought a ticket then, it will be valid for this new date.

**Saturday, 15 April 2023: 7.00pm for 7.30pm.**

#### **A musical evening with Mary Stewart-Wilson and friends**

Glenise Bunn (alto), Wayne Hahn (organ), Margaret Marinkovic (piano), Alan Philps (baritone) and John Williams (tenor) present G & S, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Flanders & Swann, organ solos and more.

This concert, due to take place on 10 September, was cancelled following the death of HM the Queen. It will now be held on Saturday, 15 April 2023. If you had bought a ticket, hang on to it (unless you prefer to have a refund): it will be valid on the new date.

**Tickets £12.50** (to include a glass of wine or soft drink from 7.00pm) will be available nearer the time.

## BRANCH PRACTICES

A full list of the courses from mid September to December is given [here](#). You'll always be assured of a warm welcome.

The practice sessions include:

MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY PRACTICES - OPEN TO ALL

BEGINNERS 10-12 BELL PRACTICES AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Third Saturday of the month.

**The practice on Saturday, 15th October has been cancelled, as it's the Taunton Carnival that evening.**

PLAIN 8 BELL PRACTICES AT PITMINSTER

4th Friday of the month

YOUNG RINGERS AT HILLFARRANCE

Last Thursday of the month, on alternate months from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

(Next: Thursday, 27th October)

SURPRISE MINOR PRACTICES

4th Saturday of the month.

SURPRISE MAJOR PRACTICES

First Friday of the month St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton.

Third Friday of the month Lydeard St. Lawrence.

## JUST FOR FUN COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

### NOSFERATINI COCKTAIL

*A classic Martini with a goulish twist for Halloween!*

#### Ingredients

(Serves one)

50ml gin

15ml dry vermouth

Ice cubes

2 drops homemade fake blood

(Dissolve half a teaspoon of caster sugar into half a teaspoon of red liquid food colouring. Warm gently in the microwave to dissolve)



#### Method

Add the gin and vermouth to a cocktail shaker filled with ice and shake. Pour into a chilled small martini glass, reserving the ice in a separate glass (shame to waste it). Garnish the martini with 2 drops of the fake blood.

## HELEN HIGHWATER

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles for the current edition. Any mistakes, inaccuracies or omissions are probably mine, for which I offer my apologies. The next newsletter is planned for November/December

The deadline for articles is:

**Friday, 11th November 2022**

Please send articles for the next edition to: [newseditortauntonbells@](mailto:newseditortauntonbells@)

**If you'd like to showcase your Tower, publicise your events, celebrate your Quarter Peals or welcome new ringers, please send your articles, especially photos, to the above email address.**

Thank you for your all your continued support and encouragement.

**JULIA TOURVILLE**  
**(Newsletter Editor)**