

Forest Leaves
Newsletter for Forest of
Dean Bell ringers

Winter 2008

 By

John Furnival

Happy New Year 2009! I wish all bell ringers a healthy and prosperous new year to us all. May this year be full of celebrations, happy times and many good quarter peal and peals from you all. To start with we have a little birthday mention.

Happy Birthday Francesca!

16 years of age. Not every 16 year old spends her birthday like this one. 16, 16, 16. This translates as 16th birthday, attempting her 16th peal, ringing a 16 spliced major! The peal was rung at St Michael, Kingstone, Herefordshire, 5056 spliced surprise major. 128 changes of the following methods, Bristol, Double Dublin, 192 changed of each Aldenham, Cassiobury and Tring, 384 changes of Ashtead, Cambridge, Jersey, Lincolnshire, London, Ospringe, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Uxbridge and Yorkshire. The band to ring this are ;

- 1, Stuart P B Talbott,
- 2, C Martin Foster,

3, Francesca L Cinderey,

4, Neil Bennett,

5, Roman E Sadowski,

6, Nicola J Aubrey

7, Frederick Shallcross (C),

8, Ashley C Fortey.

And to add another 16 into the equation it took place on the 16th October 2008. Very well done to all those that took part for her special day. I know mum was pleased for her.

Quarter peal week

The annual quarter peal week came around again, with many bands taking part, with a couple first quarters along the way.

FOREST BRANCH

- Lydney. 16 Oct,
 1259 Grandsire Caters:
- 1, Sue Coleman,
 - 2, Nick Jones,
 - 3, Richard Humphries,
 - 4, Jack Long,

- 5, Martin Spencer,
- 6, Mike Hoult,
- 7, Matthew Webb,
- 8, Graham Long,
- 9, Steve Coleman (C),
- 10, Vic Duke.

Blaisdon. 20 Oct,
 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

- 1, Jack Long,
- 2, Francesca Cinderey,
- 3, Linda Cinderey,
- 4, Debby Talbott (C),
- 5, Stuart Talbott,
- 6, Leslie Meadows.

Golden Wedding compliment to Dick and Hilary Hawker of Blaisdon.

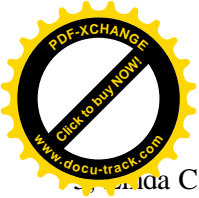
English Bicknor. 21 Oct, 1260
 Plain Bob Doubles:

- 1, Debby Talbott,
- 2, Jane Denerley,
- 3, Jeff Carrick,
- 4, Roman Sadowski (C),
- 5, Stuart Talbott,
- 6, Keith Denerley.

First inside to method: 3.

Llangarron, Herefordshire. 26 Oct,
 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

- 1, Francesca Cinderey,
- 2, Rachel Coates,
- 3, Jane Bazen,
- 4, Mark Pugh (C),



5, Ida Cinderey,
6, Andy Cadogan.
Rung in celebration of the 35th wedding anniversary of Robert and Barbara Lesson. The quarter was completed before the service in which they renewed their wedding vows. First in method: 3 and 5.

Mitcheldean. 23 Oct,
1260 PB Doubles:
1, Barbara Gilson,
2, Sheila Baker,
3, Ann Kerswell,
4, Cathy Baker,
5, Steve Coleman (C),
6, Sue Coleman.

English Bicknor. 23 Oct, 1260 Bob Doubles:
1, John Furnival,
2, Jane Denerley,
3, Stuart Talbott,
4, Debby Talbott (C),
5, Francesca Cinderey,
6, Linda Cinderey.
First Quarter 1.

Littledean. 26 Oct,
1260 Grandsire Triples:
1, Linda Blagg,
2, Cathy Baker,
3, Jane Denerley,
4, Chris Meads,
5, Matthew Webb,
6, Richard Blagg,
7, Steve Coleman (C),
8, Sue Coleman.
First Grandsire Triples inside 3.

Very well done by all those taken part, some ringers completed a quite a few quarters that week.

Five questions.

This newsletter I have contacted Francesca Cinderey and Martin Brown to do the honours.

Thank you for taking part in the forest leaves five questions; please can you introduce yourself, and tell us where your home tower is?

Martin Brown is a youthful 57 yrs and is the Tower secretary for Newent. He has been ringing for ~6 years. He was born at St. Athens, near Cardiff and has worked on the Railways all his life. First as an Engineer on the Western Region and then Area Manager in charge of Operations for British Rail at Brighton, before he and his wife Mary went out to Hong Kong for 13 years to run their railways; first a Light Rail system in the New Territories, then the suburban operation up to the Chinese border and finally the Underground system and Airport Railway with up to 3million passengers a day. He speaks good Cantonese, the local dialect, but cannot read it!! He retired from Hong Kong in October 2002 when he and his wife Mary moved to Newent. They have 2 children, married and living in London and Exeter.

Q1. How did you get interested in bell ringing? And where did you start?

We have several good friends who ring, and talked about ringing methods, with wonderful sounding names. When I was thinking of retiring it was something I wanted to try and learn to do. So as soon as we had unpacked, I started to learn from Mike Chandler at St. Mary's Newent and I am still trying. I almost immediately became Tower Secretary and have enjoyed the challenge ever since.

Q2. How do you find it best to learn new methods? And which one are you learning at the moment?

I study the method first to learn the work, and write it out many times until I know it by heart, I then write out the changes, trying to understand the method, and what I am supposed to be doing, 'down to the front, hold up make seconds, then 3-4 down and so on.

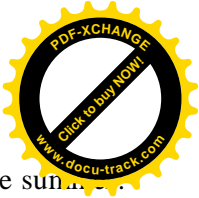
I can ring Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles and we are now trying to learn the bobs. I can just about ring a touch of Bob Doubles but need more practice, and have even rung a touch of Bob Minor. I want to learn the Bobs and Singles for Grandsire, which is the target for this year's branch training Day

Q3. Where do you prefer to ring? Front, back or middle?

I prefer to ring in the middle or towards the back, as I find the light bells a bit too responsive to my inexperienced hands!!

Q4. Apart from bell ringing, what other hobbies and interests do you have?

My main interest is local history and long distance walking. As part of the Newent Local History Society we are trying to interview all the elderly residents of Newent, who were born and grew up in Newent, whilst they can still remember what it was like. They have wonderful stories to tell of a way of life that has long since disappeared. On the walking side, I retired early so I could have more time to go walking. I particularly enjoy walking and camping in remote places at High Altitude. I have been to Everest base camp at



10ft, walked around the Annapurna range in the Himalayas at 18,000ft, climbed Kilimanjaro in Africa at 19,240ft and recently went off to the High Andes and along the Inca Trail. This year my wife and I are continuing along the Southwest Coastal Path, we started at Minehead and have almost got to St Ives, and I am planning on walking Hadrian's Wall before a 2-week circuit of Mt Blanc.

Q5. What advice could you give to a struggling learner?

Do your homework at home and not in the tower. Then get as much practice as possible, in as many towers as possible, whenever you can. Encourage other ringers to try and tell you how to get it right. Learn the method on 1 bell, then go onto another bell for the same method.

Best wishes Martin and thank you for taking the time for answering the five questions.

Many thanks for doing five questions for me. To start with can you introduce yourself, and say where your home tower is?

My name is Francesca Cinderey. I am 16 years old and have been ringing for just over 5 years at Llangarron in Herefordshire but still ring in the Forest Branch.

Q1. How did you get started into bell ringing?

My mum started to learn in 2000 so I used to go along with her and watch. When I was 10 I had my first go but it didn't go quite to plan. I stopped then for a while and came back to it when I visited a

district practice that was happening at Llangarron where Steve convinced me to have a go! I have been ringing ever since.

Q2. Who has helped you most along the way with your progression in bell ringing?

There are lots of people that have helped me on my way through ringing from Dave and Barbara Burt who came to Llangarron to teach me handling to the many peal ringers I have rung with. However, I suppose the person that has helped me the most is my ~~taxi service~~ mum who drives me to most of the practices!

Q3. 16, 16, 16 is very impressive, how did you feel before and afterwards?

Before it I was very, very scared, nervous, anxious and thinking why on earth am I doing this! Afterwards I was relieved, pleased, hungry but still anxious because my parents had been to parents' evening at school. Luckily my teachers were kind to me on my birthday!

Q4. How much practice, homework, does it take to learn new methods?

It depends how many methods I am trying to learn... 16 takes longer than one! I can now normally learn a new Surprise Major method after writing it out a couple of times (although that is after quite a bit of practice learning new methods)!

Q5. What's next for you? What would you like to achieve in the years to come?

Good exam results in the sun... Time for ringing as well as revision. I just hope to carry on helping other people enjoy ringing as much as I do. As well as this, another one of my hopes is to ring a peal of Bristol. This is a challenge I have been set by my former tower captain Ivor Brewer who was never able to ring a QP of it!

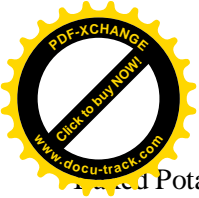
Thank you again for your time and best wishes for the future.

News

The AGM was held at English Bicknor this year, with a lovely service and tea provided by the local band. A couple of posts have changed, and certain members are standing down, which from all us forest ringers we thank them for all their hard work they put into branch.

Mike Bufford has stood down as branch secretary with Cathy Baker taking on this roll. Andy Cadogan has stood down as program me secretary, and filling this post is myself. Debby Talbott has stood down from Management Committee Representative, and Steve Coleman has persuaded Janice Furnival to take up the challenge for this roll. A huge thank you for the stander downers for all the hard work you have done, and a great big good luck and thank you to those who have taken up new positions. Andy will continue to be the Web Editor and Information Officer. Just a quick note you can now download the forest leaves from his web site, awre-bells@supanet.com

All pop along and have a visit of the web site it's very good.



Baked Potato Supper

Once again, the baked potato supper was very well organized by Ruardean, and many thanks for a lovely supper afterwards. During the day English Bicknor was on a tower tour, so we came to Ruardean, there was still enough energy for even more ringing, and plenty of room for a hot spud! One Ruardean ringer commented, "it's nice to ring with eight bells, as he only ever rung on four there"

Carol Service

This year a good number of us turned up at Dymock to the Carol service. A fine amount of ringing was rung, with several people trying new things to ring with a good band. A carol service followed the evening ringing, with fine voices singing out the favorites, even the organist commented on a certain singing from the front. Mince pies followed, with a pot of tea. There were three types of pie on offer and the home made seemed to go down very well.

News from Lydney

Lydney will be short of two ringers for a while, Des William, whilst out walking in the woods, fell and has broken his left arm, we all wish him well, hope it's not his drinking arm! Graham Long thought his prosthesis hip may have collapsed, but after further test, it may be a trapped nerve. We all wish them both the best of health and hope they get better soon. As from February Lydney will have a new Tower Captain, Matthew is standing down as captain, and Darren Goodyer will be taking over. Darren, is also

very keen in getting the bells at Westbury on Severn ringing again, but they need £500,000 for the restoration of the tower, as it looks like a five year project. If anybody is interested, in seeing the bells of Westbury, then you can view them on the web, by going to; www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire somewhere there are pictures of the bells.

Steve Coleman was on BBC radio Gloucestershire on Tuesday 27th January, being interviewed by the breakfast show presenter Mark Cummins. It was a very good interview, but on being asked how far away can you hear the cathedral bells? We all know, that's hard to answer, as most of the time you're in the tower ringing.

Diary dates

Mon 2nd Feb, Blaisdon.

Sat 21st Feb, Triannual meeting at Newent Ringing from 15.00. Huntley ringing from 19.00.

Mon 2nd March, Longhope.

Sat 21st Association Spring Training day, students and helpers will be required.

Sat 18th April, Forest Branch Training Day. Mitchledean Church, helpers and students required.

Sat 25th April, Association AGM, Coalpit Heath, Bristol Rural.

Wed 29th April Harry Lockett Quarter Peal Day, please as many towers as possible please. (can you let me know what and where you ring, thanks).

News from the Shed!

On a warm Tuesday evening in late September, the bells rang across Gloucester, they sounded lovely. The trouble is, Glawster were playing Newcastle that evening, and when the ground went silent, waiting for Ollie Barkley to kick some points for a penalty, the bells rang out around the ground. Unfortunately, the cathedral bells were putting Ollie off his kicking, he was listening to them, rather than kicking the three points, and missed several attempts. Oh well, Glows went on to win, but when the Bells are ringing and Ollie bist kicking, I think we need to find a method which he can kick too.

Several Forest branch members took part in the Hereford striking competition, ringing for Weston-under-Penyard. They went on to win, well done all those who took part. I hear the Tenor bell was rung very well. Well done Anne!

Please keep the news coming my way. It's from you that keeps the stories going for the leaves. So any information, gossip, quarter peals, peals birthday, then drop me a line to,

Hope you all enjoyed this edition, happy reading, good striking to next time,

John Furnival, Forest Leaves Editor

ourjohnnyf@aol.com

Tel 01594 541566 or text 07900010482.

P.S. How far away can your bells be heard? Let me know.