



Manchester Universities Guild of Change Ringers

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Masters Message Andrew Tyler

Welcome to the Spring 2010 MUGCR Newsletter. We've not been in touch for a while, so I'll try to recap you on the year since the last AGM and Anniversary Dinner!

During the course of the past year within MUGCR we have made progress with working on the general striking of the bells. Since September we have gained 5 new ringers, 3 Fresher's, one Post Grad and one 3rd Year Student - all of whom have been attending regularly since joining us. The practices have generally been well attended with a selection of Surprise Minor and Major methods being rung predominantly. The band has progressed during the course of the year and members have looked at things on their own accord and with being asked to help them and the band progress. This has been a useful thing as keeping a tab on everything has been quite hard - at some of the practices as we have had attendance of 14-16 people at times.

We have rung several Quarter peals in methods from Grandsire Triples to Spliced Surprise Major. The standard of the Quarter peals has generally been quite good and called by a variety of members of

continued on page 2 ...

Contents

Page 1	Masters Muttering
Page 2	Presidents Prattle
Page 3	Freshers Tour
Page 4-6	62 nd Anniversary Dinner
Page 7	Constitutional Changes NUA 2009

62nd Anniversary Dinner Weekend
Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th April 2010
See Pages 4 - 6 for full details

Masters Message continued...

the band. These have been helpful for those involved generally, even if they were not scored.

Finally this year sees the end of Malcolms term as President. We'd like to thanks him for every thing he's done for the Guild in the last 3 years! And as I finish my term as Master I hope that the incoming Master - who ever you may be - continues to take the Guild from strength to strength!

Andrew

Presidents Prattle Malcolm Murphy

On Sunday 15th March last year, Sacred Trinity was packed to the rafters with MUG's Ancient and Modern for the dedication of a Peal Board to commemorate the first MUG peal of Spliced Surprise Major. It was rung on 8th December 1962 by an Officers Band. The board was kindly donated by David James (Master 1959 – 1961), it being a (significant!!) birthday present to his wife Margaret. The service was lively and entertaining with a short talk by David about the early history of the Society with some recollections of the conductor of the peal, the late Derek Ogden, and John Soanes sadly no longer with us either. It was good to see so many of the original peal band in Church plus Derek's youngest son David, and John's widow Nancy. The Clergy and Congregation enjoyed the service so much that the rector has expressed his hopes that an annual ringers service after the Dinner might become a regular feature.

Although we are managing to ring at Trinity most Sundays throughout the year, it is only with the help of 'outside' ringers (mainly from the Cathedral) that we are able to do this and our thanks go to them, but with only four ringing students at our disposal we do manage quite well. This brings me onto the problem we have been struggling with for many years, recruitment. The students we do have are enthusiastic, and all turn out regularly on Sunday mornings to ring at Fallowfield, Manchester Cathedral and Trinity, but we also know that



the campuses (campi)? of Manchester and Salford both contain many ringing undergraduates. The question is, how do we flush them out? We have tried posters and leaflets, Ringing World and Campanophile advertisements, all to no avail. Our practices are well attended, and the Society social scene goes from strength to strength. I only hope that we don't return to the position we were in a few years ago when we had absolutely no ringing students at all.

I am now in my final year as El Presidente, and would like to thank everyone for their support. In particular the clergy, Andy and Rebecca, and the congregation of The Sacred Trinity for their continued interest and encouragement.

Finally, Manchester bid farewell to Matthew Rayner last year, he has been a major asset to the society increasing our repertoire many fold and his conducting prowess and cheeky grin will be sorely missed. We wish him well for the future.

Malcolm

Freshers Tour Rebecca Davey

On Saturday 10th October the MUGs ventured to Skipton in Yorkshire for the 2009 Freshers Tour. Four towers were planned for the day and the group comprised of roughly 12 people. Having left Sacred Trinity at 8.30, a couple of hours later we arrived at the first tower, Addingham (St Peters), a 10cwt six. A range of things were rung from rounds and call changes to surprise minor, with the focus being on well-struck call changes and plain hunt. Before ringing at Skipton time was taken to look around and have coffee. Having found a small café which as well as coffee offered a selection of cakes and exotic milkshakes (a review of the æsherbert lemon milkshake can be obtained from Connor), the band settled happily before heading to the tower at 12.30. Skipton (Holy Trinity) is a 22cwt ring of eight and the bells are generally agreed to be very good. Once the ringing had adjusted to the heavier-than-normal weights the ringing was good and a variety of things were rung

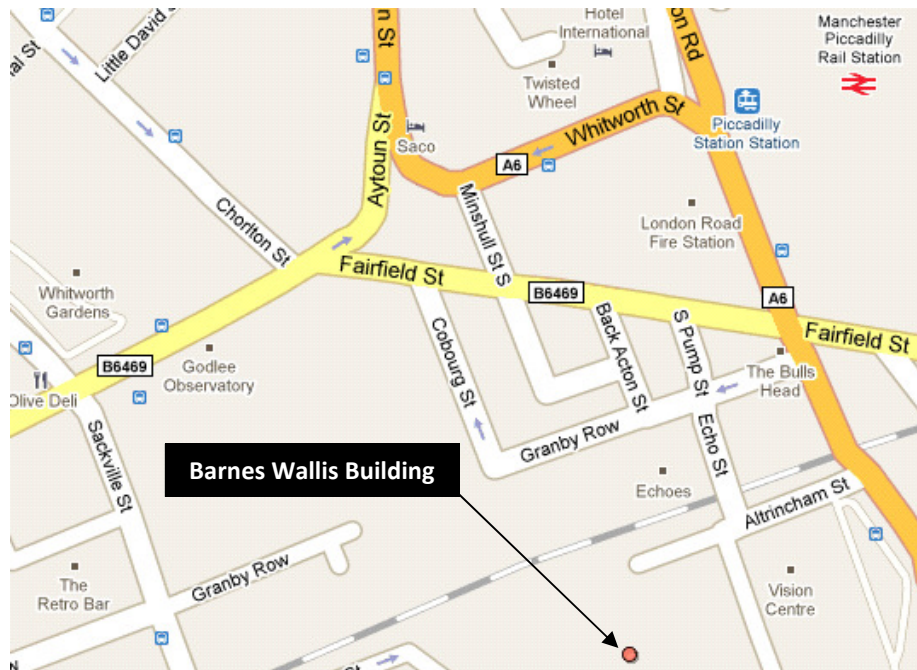
continued on page 8 ...



62nd Anniversary Dinner Weekend

There are a number of things we could do with mentioning about this years Dinner Weekend - starting with an apology. Circumstances have meant that we have needed to move the Dinner from it's usually weekend, and with Easter being so early that has meant a move towards the end of April to ensure that we can get the current students there. We can assure you that - except in the direst circumstances - the Dinner will be back to it's usually '2nd Saturday in March' from next year!

The Dinner will be held in the Harwood Suite at the Barnes Willis Building. This is on ??? in the original UMIST Campus Site. The approximate site is marked on the map below to give you an idea of where the venue is.



We have agreed with the Venue Events Coordinator that we will hold the AGM in the Harwood Suite and so think it is best for everyone to congregate in the Students Union Bar in the Basement of the building.



Once the AGM is concluded we will send someone down to 'collect' the rest of the guests.

The menu for the Dinner is as follows, with Vegan/Vegetarian option available for both the Starter and Main Course - you just need to let us know beforehand. The menu is as follows:

Starter

Smoked salmon salad with lemon & horseradish

Main Course

Rump of lamb in cabernet sauvignon sauce

Dessert

Chocolate truffle torte with almond cream

To Finish

Coffee and petit fours

Tickets are £30.00 and are available from Malcolm Murphy. Please contact him on malcolm.murphy@alphastreet.plus.com or at 13 Alpha Street, Salford, Lancashire. M6 5JY. Please make cheques payable to Malcolm Murphy, and direct banking information can be provided on request.

You will appreciate that the prices for venues and events menus have increased significantly in the past year, and this has been one of the problems we have faced during the organisation. This year we have not included wine in the price of the ticket. This is to ensure that the non-drinkers are not paying over the odds for something they are not having. A bottle of house wine is approximately £10 which we thought was very reasonable, and there will be a bar available. We are hoping to have some Real Ale as with last year, but we are awaiting confirmation of this from the Venue Events Coordinator.

Finally, something you will note is that we have started to refer to it as the 'Dinner Weekend'. Over recent years, Dinner Day has crept forward a day to the Friday, with the inclusion of Ringing followed by a curry for the more local MUGs - and those who have travelled on the

continued on page 6 ...



Dinner Weekend continued...

Friday! And as Malc has said in his 'Presidents Prattle' it has been suggested by the clergy at Sacred Trinity that the service which was held last year becomes an annual event - which we all though was a fantastic idea! Consequently, we are now looking at the fullest bill of events over the weekend that anyone can remember - though we will be happy to be put right! Some of the details are as yet to be finalised, but a general outline for the weekend is as follows:

Friday 23rd April

7:30 - 8:30 :: Ringing at Sacred Trinity
8:30 onwards :: Curry

Saturday 24th April

During the day :: Ringing Tour
19:00 - 19:45 :: 63rd Annual General Meeting
20:00 - 23:30 :: 62nd Anniversary Dinner

Sunday 25th April

10:30 - 11:15 :: Pre-Service Ringing at Sacred Trinity
11:15 - 12:30 :: 2nd Annual Ringers Service at Sacred Trinity
12:30 onwards :: Coffee/Lunch/Saying 'Till Next Year'

We hope that this will be the 1st (unless we receive any other information) of many 'Dinner Weekends' and that you will come along and join us for as much - or as little - of the weekend as you can.

As you can see the details for Saturday Tour are yet to be finalised. When you are confirming your tickets with Malcolm, please let him know that you are thinking of coming on the Tour then we'll let you know the details as soon as we can.

Newsletter Note Karen Attaway

I'm sorry that we haven't been able to get a newsletter out to you for some time now- but we're now back on track! If you have anything you want to have included in the newsletter please contact me at 'karen.attaway@hotmail.co.uk' or at 28 Princess Street, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 2RX.



Constitutional Changes Karen Attaway

As you may have seen from some of the publicity for the Dinner Weekend, it is the intention of the current Committee to propose some changes to the Guild Constitution. These changes, for the most part are minor changes, with some rewording of current clauses and addition of new clauses to better reflect the current activities and structure of the Guild and its Committee and Officers. In addition, we need to look some of the more general elements of the Constitution to better protect the Guild for the future, and also to ensure that should the Guild ever need to apply for funding, the Constitution reflects the general needs of those funding organisations - this is the more major element of the review. The Guild are fortunate to have somebody who is placed to carry out this review, and the revised Constitution will be up for approval at this years Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23rd April 2010. Please be rest assured that we will not be making any changes which will change the general ethics and modus operandi of the Guild - we are merely looking to protect the Guild and our future MUGs.

NUA 2009 Sam Haste

The NUA this year was a tale of deception, kidnap and of course ringing in and around the city of York. I had been looking forward to it since the last NUA, over a year of anticipation. That weekend away, just ringing, drinking, catching up with friends and topped off with a Ceilidh always sounds like the perfect midterm get away from Uni life. Upon arrival in York, it didn't take us long to realise that there was a bounty on the head of all NUA mascots. Bristol were out to get the complete set. Mascots were kidnapped, taken up and down towers in coats, bags, scarves and allegedly a giant silver tin foil ball! Towards the end of the weekend, attempts on the MUGCR mascots became more and more daring. Finally, sadly, Bristol got their hands on Neddy. He has not been heard from since. He hasn't even been allowed to send us a postcard keeping us updated with what he's been doing in Bristol.

continued on page 8 ...



Freshers Tour continued...

but mainly Grandsire Triples and a little Stedman. This was followed by a pub lunch at the Narrow Boat Inn in Skipton which was enjoyed over a couple of hours before the next tower. We ate, we drank, we were merry.

The third tower was Kildwick (St Andrew), a 15cwt ring of eight. Yorkshire tail ends, need I say more? By the final tower, Silsden (St James the Great), people were slightly exhausted but the ringing was still of a decent standard. Silsden are a 7cwt six and the ringing here included things like Little Bob, Cambridge and Grandsire. The day was very successful with everyone having a good time and some good ringing being achieved. The methods rung reflected the range of abilities present and the striking was generally good. Thanks go to Malcolm for organising the day, to all the people who ran the ringing at the various towers and of course to all the attending MUGs who helped make it a good day.

NUA 2009 continued...

On the Sunday afternoon, the opportunity to ring at the York Minster was also given. Of course everyone who possibly could, stayed to get take this opportunity with both hands (literally!). We all got a chance to ring on 10 bells at the Minster, and it was such a fantastic experience. Not sure when we'll get the opportunity to ring there again!

So all in all another fantastic year at the NUA. Even if we're missing one of our much loved mascots. I'm sure he will escape and find his way back to us, I just hope it's in time for the dinner!



Summer Tour 2010
 Coventry Area
 Details to follow