

IRISH BELL NEWS

July 2016

As you will see, a fair proportion of news in this edition centres around the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. This year has seen a number of really significant centenaries marking historical turning points in Ireland. Many towers lost ringers in the First World War, and I recall – long ago – Billy Evans of Doneraile explaining to me how ringing there ceased after 1914, as many of the local men who rang the bells did not return from the war.

As always, I have emailed this edition to all the names of which I am aware. I know there are people and towers out there who may not be getting the Irish Bell News – please let them know so they can forward me their details.

Thank you to all those who have sent news. Keep it coming!

Simon Walker

REFLECTIONS OF A NONAGENARIAN BELLRINGER

(This appeared in the May edition of the parish magazine of Kilbroney Parish)

It wasn't until about 1950 while living in Bangor that I took up bell-ringing, although perhaps this was because when growing up I had often watched my father ring in St. Peter's in Drogheda. Soon I was recruited to ring for the two daily services then. The early years saw me on the 'treble' (the light bell). However, with more practice, I found I could manage any weight. Ten years later, having moved to Ballymena and joined the local tower there, more progress came my way - competitions in the 'Northern District' were always held on Easter Monday and I was elected a member of the team to take part. One year it was in Coleraine and, being in a strange tower, I remember I was quite nervous! Over the following years I rang in most towers in Ireland. On one occasion in a Southern tower, we couldn't work out why the bells did not sound correct. Later, with local help, we discovered that tower was 'anti-clockwise' (here, I may say that most towers ring 'clockwise'). I have been privileged to ring with good friends in many parts of England too. Here, the essence of ringing comes into its own, as the fellowship shows. I have stayed overnight with many ringers in their own home. On entering a new tower, the tower captain would make visitors welcome "Now, have you a favourite bell (weight)?", or simply "Take any bell of your choice". This same welcome also applied when I visited a tower in New Zealand. Now, I find myself in Kilbroney where there are six bells. The 'tenor' (the heaviest bell) here is 13 hundredweights - 650kg, about the weight of a small car according to Ken Roberts. With Ken's help and his wife Shelagh, a new team have been learning and making real progress too. I join them when possible for the practice night. I look forward to the day that the ringers here will feel confident to enter for the Cunningham Cup. [Incidentally, this cup was originally presented by a past member here.] Now we have some ringers that do not attend our church, but they are very welcome indeed - campanology does not recognise any special religion. The bells ring to call God's people to worship. For example, in Limerick, there is a ring in St. Mary's

cathedral and also in Mount St. Alphonsus. I do know that, should one tower be short for a wedding (or other occasion) it is always able to borrow from their neighbour! This was also demonstrated here recently when we rang for a wedding in the local chapel. Kilbroney is always pleased to hear of possible new blood. Some years ago, a local rector said that finding enough bell-ringers was similar to having your hand-basin filling with water and the plug NOT in!

Geoffrey Henly (90 $\frac{3}{4}$)

BELL BROADCASTS

Radio Ulster gave us an excellent airing of the bells of Rostrevor ringing rounds and then some super tune ringing by the local handbell team. The broadcast reflected the air of enthusiasm which surrounds bellringing in this part of County Down.

Kilkenny Cathedral bells and ringers were on TV at the start of the year and an appeal was made for new ringers. The result of this – which can be seen elsewhere – has been an influx of new ringers for Sunday ringing.

The bells of Enniskillen were heard twice: once on a news report about the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II; then all ten were heard on Penelope Keith's Channel 4 programme "at Her Majesty's Service".

BATTLE OF THE SOMME COMMEMORATION

The following towers took part in ringing to mark the centenary of this battle, which cost the lives of men from all parts of Ireland: Ballymena; St Thomas, Belfast; Holywood; Bangor; Hillsborough; St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin; Cork; St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. There may have been other towers, about which we don't know, and to them we apologise for the omission.

Pat Mulcahy, St Mary's, Limerick, who is Vice Chairman of the Limerick Branch of the Royal British Legion, was interviewed on Limerick Live FM and made mention of the ringing of the cathedral bells.

Other towers with chimes or single bells also took part: Armagh Catholic Cathedral; St John's Catholic Church, Tralee; St Columba's, Ennis; St Mary's, Nenagh; Templederry; St Cronan's Roscrea.

DEATHS

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Noble Sheridan, a long-standing ringer at Enniskillen Cathedral, and George Sherwood of Kilkenny Cathedral, who was a great promoter of the heritage of Kilkenny.

TOWER NEWS

BALLYMENA, St Patrick:



Ringing for BBC World Music Day.

Ringing for the insitution of the new rector.

BELFAST (St Donard): I begin on a sad note. Monday 15 February 2016 saw the death of one of our very first ringers in St Donard's, Mr Frank King. Prior to the installation of our bells in 1949 it was necessary to have a team of ringers trained and ready to ring the new bells for the Dedication Service, and this training was carried out by ringers of St Thomas', Belfast on their bells. Those first ringers included Frank who eventually took over as tower captain when the first tower captain, Mr James Rush, retired from ringing. Frank continued in this role until the late '70s when the family left St Donard's to become parishioners of St Columba's, Knock. Frank's memory lives on in St Donard's where his brother, Ronnie, is a regular Sunday Service ringer.

Luke Carson, our youngest beginner, was made a member of the Irish Association at the AGM in Hollywood this year. Luke is a regular Sunday Service ringer and is now starting to absorb the intricacies of Plain Hunt.

Rowena, our newest recruit, is now mastering ringing in rounds and a few call changes and hopefully within the next lot of weeks will be integrated into the Sunday Service band.

We have had a number of English visitors to the tower recently, including a group from the Open University Guild and as I write these notes members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths are here ringing peals to commemorate the Battle of the Somme and are due to ring a peal on our bells on Sunday 3 July at 1.00pm.

Unfortunately, owing to work commitments, etc, amongst our ringers it was not possible to get a band together on 1 July to ring for the Somme Anniversary, but I was very pleased to be invited to take part in the ringing at Hillsborough, Hollywood and Bangor for this event – so thank you to those towers for giving me that opportunity.

Our practices have now ceased for the months of July and August but we will be in full flow again on first Tuesday in September.

Jean Jeffery

BELFAST, St Mark:



The team which rang for Elizabeth II's 90th birthday service at St Mark's, Dundela.

BANGOR, St Comgall: Campanophile records the following ringing marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme:

Friday 1 July 2016 (21-0-3); 12 half-muffled call changes and "The Dead Soldiers": 1 Don McLean; 2 Denise McLean; 3 Maud Lindsay; 4 Jennifer Kirkpatrick; 5 Jean Jeffery; 6 Brian Hamilton; 7 Martin Yardley; 8 Colin Holliday. Rung in memory of Corporal Harris Lee Moore Absolom, died 1st July 1916. Lieutenant Holt Montgomery Hewitt, died 1st July 1916. Second Lieutenant Ernest William Gayles Hind, died 1st July 1916. Also Lieutenant Ernest Henry Hewitt, died 1st July 1915. Lieutenant William Herbert Hamilton Steele-Nicholson, died 13th April 1918. All the above were bellringers at this church. Also in memory of all those who fell in the Great War.

BLESSINGTON, St Mary: Four of us: Grania Glancy, Peter Boyle, Dan MacCann and myself (trainee bell ringers) visited St. Patrick's Cathedral to see the bell ringers in action up there. The head of bell ringing in St. Patrick's, Derek McEndoo, comes down to Blessington to train us every Monday along with the head of bell ringing from Christchurch Cathedral, Nigel Pelow.

Joan Griffith (from the parish magazine).

DROGHEDA, St Peter: It is really pleasing to report that St Peter's, Drogheda continues to thrive. We now have a Wednesday practice from 6 to 7 pm, just an hour but a vital and busy 60 minutes. This practice is backboned by regular support from Derek and Martha Waller, a couple who cannot be Sunday ringers because of Martha's priestly duties in a Dublin city parish. Robert Macdonald of St Patrick's Cathedral has also attended and without such help a practice would be less effective. Thank you to all three.

It has been gratifying to be able to ring for special church events such as the recent Confirmation service: by ringing on such occasions we joyfully mark out to the world outside that there is something to celebrate.

David Taylor



Liz O'Reilly with her son Tom who was confirmed on 8th May in St. Peter's Church of Ireland church in Drogheda.

Liz reports: "I started bell ringing in February 2015 under the impression that it wouldn't be too difficult. I soon realised the intricacies of the art and the skill involved in change ringing. I have been lucky enough to have David to teach me, and I have great support from the other Drogheda ringers who have been so patient with me. It was a privilege to ring with the team before the Confirmation service, albeit briefly as I had to take my seat before the Archbishop arrived."

The sound of bells rings out over St Peter's Place, Church Lane, Drogheda, on Sunday mornings from 10.30 as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord and latterly on Wednesdays as we practice from 6pm for an hour in hope of improving our skills. But bellringers have other interests: take Kevin Matthews for instance. Here he is on his preferred mode of transport.



And here's the background story in his own words:

"I gave myself permission to have a horse, shortly after my earthly father resigned his mortal commission. My greatest pastime in adult life was riding; everywhere, from Hyde Park, at London rush hour, to the Welsh borders, on a racehorse, much beyond my ability. Back in Ireland, I rediscovered hills, streams and beaches at sunrise, on horseback.

A decade ago, a foreign lady offered me "two legs of a four year old horse" in Beltichbourne. I wound up with the whole horse, a 16'2" black and white gelding, hardly broken, named Oscar. This 'piebald' rearranged my life, for riding is the easy part of keeping a horse. That said, I got it into my head that Oscar might pull a carriage! A few attempts failed to get Oscar into the 'traces', then, at a carriage driving event, near the Naul, I found Dan Joe, who took Oscar, reluctantly, into a truck, full of horses n carriage, to hilly Cork. Three days later, I had a video clip of Oscar driving through a village. On day 4, he was being driven in a "pair", with a matching mare, called Misty.

Within weeks, myself and the horses had been schooled sufficiently to allow both horses, a set of harness and a new open carriage be delivered to Stickillan, near Ardee, where they now reside.

Six years later, I have driven this pair of horses on the roads for well over 200 miles.

We competed in a very few carriage driving events including dressage, a cross-country obstacle trial, a road time trial and an accuracy course through narrow cones, all to test the ability of horses and driver.

We're happier to stick to the roads and, occasionally, a dry field before ploughing, and the odd beach for a gallop.

It's less fun on your own, so I welcome passengers to Dromin or Ballapousta, for a picnic on a sunny day."

St Peter's bells are rung from 10.30 am most Sundays and on Wednesdays at 6pm. Visiting ringers are welcome to ring and share our company. Invited by Derek McEndoo we have been sharing the company of other ringers in other places too, recently joining with St Patrick's Cathedral, Blessington, Christ Church and Kilkenny for a ringing visit to St Canice's Cathedral.

Next time we may tell you about a ringer who crews on a tall ship - and he does not ring the ship's bell!

DRUMBO, Holy Trinity: Here we are again - time flies, at least for us geriatrics. So what has been happening in Drumbo, apart from the hill getting steeper and I believe every few weeks our steeple keeper adding an extra step to the stairs to the ringing room.

First bad news as our rector Canon Robert Neill is retiring at the end of August. Robert was not a ringer but is very supportive of the bells. When he was handing out thanks to those who had played a part in a special service, he never forgot the bell ringers and always appreciated our efforts – a very rare rector indeed. We will miss him and we wish him and Angela God's blessing for the future.

We are able to have six bells for most services. Our thanks to Denise for making the journey to Drumbo after ringing in Bangor. Like most towers we have had a number of visitors in recent weeks and they are most welcome as are you all if you find yourselves at a loose end on a Thursday evening (don't forget we alternate with St Thomas's).

We ring at 10.30am on Sundays and if you are not ringing in your own tower, you will be welcome.

Cecil Shaw

DUBLIN, St Audoen: The bells of St Audoen's are still ringing out on a Sunday morning but since the start of the year we have only managed to ring the full 6 about 50% of the time.

On Sunday 27 March 2016, which was Easter Sunday, there was no ringing at all as there was no access to the church due to the military parade taking place in commemoration of the 1916 rising. It was a pity that the bells could not be rung as part of the Easter celebrations. I understand that the bells of St Patrick's did not ring on the Sunday after Easter in 1916 because it was too dangerous for the ringers to travel on the streets in Dublin. Of course at that time the bells of St Audoen's were not rung at all. I'm glad to say there was ringing at St Patrick's on Easter Sunday 2016 with some ringers walking long distances to get there before the roads were closed and they found themselves the wrong side of the parade.

In March we also had another visit from George Campling and his band who rang a peal at St Audoen's on 16th March, in memory of Charlie Reede.

In May, we had a visit from Sue Elliott and her friends from Bristol. They seemed to enjoy ringing at St Audoen's very much. Thanks to Derek Mc who looked after them at St Audoen's and to Tony from the OPW who made them very welcome and provided a little of the history of the site, particularly pointing out the baptismal font which is made from stone taken from a quarry outside Bristol.

Finally, I promised this morning's ringers I would give them a mention in the notes (!) - so thanks to Teresa, Derek, Robert, Philip and Derek who turn up so faithfully each week and keep the bells of St Audoen's ringing. However, before we give ourselves a pat on the back we must remember there were ringers here before us in centuries past and others ringers just as faithful in more recent years whose footsteps we are following in and we have a responsibility now to ensure that there will be ringers at St Audoen's in the future. So once again I encourage anyone who is free on a Sunday at 9.30 to join us. You will be most welcome.

Kathleen McEndoo

DUBLIN, Ss Augustine and John: It is great to see Martha Waller back in the 'ringing circle' in particular at the weekly practice in Drogheda. It is also a good news story for Drogheda in re-establishing their practice evening under the guidance of David Taylor. A number of ringers from Dublin also support the event.

In May, we had a group of bellringers from Siston in Bristol. It was their first visit to the tower and some were taken aback by the ascent to the ringing room! However, they enjoyed their ring and continued with their long weekend of ringing around the Dublin towers.

In July, ringers from Southwark Cathedral are booked for general ringing on Saturday 23rd and on the Sunday, they will ring a quarter peal on the ten bells. In September, we are expecting bellringers from St Mary's Rawmarsh in South Yorkshire.

The bells are rung on the second Sunday of the month from 12.15 – 12.30 and our thanks to the many ringers who come and make this possible.

June Kelly

ENNISKILLEN, St Macartin's Cathedral: We rang for the Queen's 90th birthday as there was a special service in the cathedral. We also rang for the thanksgiving service for 6th Earl of Erne, Henry Crichton. We had a lady ringer from Australia, and she rang with us for two Sundays.

Stewart Scott

GREYABBEY, St Saviour:



The District Practice at St. Saviours on the 4th June was another very happy event. We are always pleased that so many travel a distance to attend this practice and BBQ. Harry always manages to make the journey by bus from Londonderry and also ringers from Kilbroney. Our thanks to Gaurang who made sure that everyone had a good ring.

We manage to ring all six bells on most Sundays and are pleased to welcome Jan McWilliams to our Tower as a very enthusiastic learner. Jan managed to ring on her own after only two sessions so we hope that she will enjoy ringing in the future.

Rosemary Davison

HILLSBOROUGH, St Malachy: We were pleased to win the Cunningham Cup at Holywood at Easter, and congratulate all of our younger ringers who rang so well in both of our teams. We went on to compete in the Murphy Cup and were pleased to come third in a competition with a high standard of ringing. Three of our ringers – Andrew Walker, Catherine Beattie and Charlie Kilpatrick – were ringing in their first Murphy Cup and did really well.

Alistair and Daryl Jameson joined the ranks of grandparenthood, with the safe arrival of a baby son for Christopher & Rebecca. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung to celebrate the birth of Malachy Eamon O'Neill Jameson.

To celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, this evening all ten bells were rung for 30 mins of Plain Hunt on Nine, call changes (including Queens) and firing. Fourteen of our ringers took part: a mixture of young and old, male and female and experienced and less experienced.



On the evening before the centenary of the Battle of the Somme Rev Canon Dr JPO Barry joined us for Grandsire Doubles and call changes and led a prayer of remembrance before we rang a quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles (half-muffled). We are grateful to the Dublin ringers who made this quarter possible. At 7.30am the following morning the ten bells were rung (half-muffled) at the end of the local service of commemoration for 'the Somme'.

Edmund White and Simon Walker

HOLYWOOD, Ss Philip and James: Holywood was delighted to be able to host the AGM of the Northern District of the IACR in April. Our thanks go to our curate assistant Rev. Geoffrey Hough for his thought provoking sermon based on Mark 14:1-9 "Doing Beautiful Acts for God". Our thanks also go to Jonathon Houston from Hillsborough who played the organ at the service. He then went on to join the team from St. Malachy's, Hillsborough who won the Cunningham Cup. Congratulations to them all.

We have welcomed 5 visitor teams to our tower so far this year. The most recent being the 30th June when a team assembled by Alan Regin successfully rang a new peal, half muffled, 5152 Thiepvall Wood Surprise Major composed by Anthony J Cox. It was rung on the eve of the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, especially in the memory of 2nd Lieutenant Ernest W G Hind who was a ringer at St. Comgall, Bangor. His parents resided in Bangor.

The next day we had a special Somme commemoration service before which we rang for half an hour. Our thanks go to Jean and Maud for bringing our numbers up to seven.

We are a struggling tower in terms of numbers but do manage to ring for our 11.30 service almost every Sunday.

Hilary Boyd

On 1 July, the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, a poignant service of reflection and remembrance took place in the church of St Philip and St James in Holywood. Prior to the service, a peal of half-muffled bells rang out as people of all ages and religions came together to remember the 21 young men from Holywood who fought and died on that day 100 years ago.

From the diocesan web site.

KILKENNY, St Canice's Cathedral:



On Friday 17th June at 2.00pm John Creedon (the RTE TV and radio presenter) along with a film crew arrived at St Canice's Cathedral to record a piece for inclusion in the series 'Creedon's Epic East' to be screened in August. At 10.15pm Barry, the producer, declared "It's in the can" after 8 hours (apart from a short break to grab a quick meal at the local Indian restaurant) of intensive filming and recording. This included showing John around the Cathedral and the belltower. How to ring a bell, with a visit up to the bells and getting him to 'pull off' the treble to start some rounds and call changes! Parts of all of this were filmed using a drone camera both inside and outside the Cathedral (which should make for some excellent TV footage).

This episode featuring St Canice's Cathedral Change Ringers will be aired on RTE 1 television at 6.30pm on Sunday 14th August under the title 'Creedon's Epic East', a number of hour long programmes.

On Friday 24th June Dean Katharine Poulton has invited all the Cathedral bellringers (old and new!) to an evening meal in a local Kilkenny Bistro as a thank-you for the regular Sunday ringing but also as thanks for bringing 9 new ringers to the stage of ringing rounds and call changes since January.

On Saturday 28th May we had a visit from St Patrick's Cathedral ringers, accompanied by more ringers from Drogheda and Blessington. This was mainly a practice for beginners and improvers and along with St Canice's beginners there were almost 40 ringers in the tower for 2 hours. They must have enjoyed the experience as they are coming back again on Saturday 2nd July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Ian McCullagh.

NEWCASTLE, St John: The bells were rung recently for two weddings. The Open University Society provided ringers for the first one, and ringers from Belfast, Rostrevor and Hillsborough made up a team for the second.

ROSTREVOR (Kilbroney), St Bronach:



Ringling out the old year with the slow toll of the tenor bell for one minute before midnight, then joyfully ringing in the New Year with all six bells ringing rounds! Great fun was had and there were some people listening appreciatively in the Square, local homes and licensed premises.

Along with the ringers was Canon Jameson- third from the left with the elegant bonnet! Ringers (from left to right): Siobhan Hourican, Stephen Toase, Ron Somers, Ann Murphy, Ken Roberts, Shelagh Roberts and Stewart Nash.

Kilbroney Parish Facebook.

QUARTER PEALS

Dublin, St Patrick's Cathedral

Friday 1 January 2016 in 46 (19-3-22)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Julia Lysaght | 5 Peter Mc Bride |
| 2 Joan Murphy | 6 Philip Talbot |
| 3 Peter Brown | 7 Michael J Pomeroy (C) |
| 4 Derek McEndoo | 8 David Galbraith |

92nd birthday compliment to Cyril Galbraith.

Hollywood, SS Philip and James

Saturday 2 January 2016 in 48 (12-0-14)

1344 Plain Bob Major

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Jonathan Houston | 5 Philip Talbot |
| 2 Julia Lysaght | 6 Jean Jeffery |
| 3 Maud Lindsay | 7 Michael J Pomeroy (C) |
| 4 Peter Mc Bride | 8 Simon Walker |

Greyabbey, St Saviour

Sunday 3 January 2016 in 35 (2-3-12 in E)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Denise McLean | 4 Peter Mc Bride |
| 2 Philip Talbot | 5 Julia Lysaght (C) |
| 3 Maud Lindsay | 6 Michael J Pomeroy |

Belfast, St Thomas

Sunday 3 January 2016 in 48 (18-2-24)

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Maud Lindsay | 5 Philip Talbot |
| 2 Gaurang Patel | 6 Michael J Pomeroy |
| 3 Julia Lysaght | 7 Alan J Ladd (C) |
| 4 Peter Mc Bride | 8 Jeffrey P Ladd |

Limerick, Mount St Alphonsus

Thursday 4 February 2016 (21-0-25 in E b)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mark Thompson | 4 Philip Talbot |
| 2 Christy Pratt | 5 Mike Pomeroy (C) |
| 3 Julia Lysaght | 6 Stephen Jordan |

In thanksgiving for the life of Terry Wogan, Freeman of the City of Limerick.

Dublin, National Cathedral Church of St Patrick

Sunday 10 April 2016 in 49 (14-2-14)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Gail McEndoo | 5 Peter Brown |
| 2 Joan Murphy | 6 Peter McBride |
| 3 David Galbraith | 7 Derek McEndoo (C) |
| 4 Philip Talbot | 8 Derek Waller |

Retirement compliment to Very Rev. Dean Victor Stacey.

Drumbo, Holy Trinity

Saturday 16 April 2016 in 45 mins (11 cwts)

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Maud Lindsay | 5 Gaurang Patel |
| 2 Julia Lysaght | 6 Peter McBride |
| 3 Philip Talbot | 7 Simon Walker |
| 4 Jean Jeffery | 8 Mike Pomeroy (c) |

First surprise major inside: 7

Carrickfergus, St Nicholas

Saturday 16 April 2016 in 42 mins (13 cwts)

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Jean Jeffery | 5 Mike Pomeroy |
| 2 Maud Lindsay | 6 Gaurang Patel |
| 3 Julia Lysaght | 7 Simon Walker |
| 4 Peter McBride | 8 Alan Ladd (c) |

Belfast, St Thomas

Saturday 16 April 2016 in 47 mins (18 cwts)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Philip Talbot | 5 Peter McBride |
| 2 Maud Lindsay | 6 Gaurang Patel |
| 3 Jean Jeffery | 7 Mike Pomeroy |
| 4 Julia Lysaght (c) | 8 Simon Walker |

Drumbo, Holy Trinity

Sunday 17 April 2016 (11-2-27 in F#)

1260 Minor (720 Cambridge, 540 PB)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Julia Lysaght | 4 Peter McBride |
| 2 Maud Lindsay | 5 Mike Pomeroy (c) |
| 3 Philip Talbot | 6 Gaurang Patel |

Hillsborough, St Malachy

Sunday 1 May 2016 in 43 mins (6.5 cwts)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Alistair Jameson | 4 Gaurang Patel |
| 2 Jonathan Houston | 5 Simon Walker (c) |
| 3 Daryl Jameson | 6 Stephen Walker |

Rung to celebrate the birth of Malachy Eamon O'Neill Jameson on 20th April 2016: grandson of ringers of treble and three.

Limerick, Cathedral Church of St Mary

Thursday 5 May 2016 in 43 (11¼ in F)

1260 Doubles (720 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Christy Pratt | 4 Alan Hegarty |
| 2 Kieron Brislane | 5 Mike Pomeroy (C) |
| 3 Philip Talbot | 6 Stephen Jordan |

60th Wedding Anniversary compliment to Bryan & Betty Brislane, married in St. Mary's Cathedral on Easter Monday, 2nd April 1956. Congratulations.

Dublin, National Cathedral Church of St Patrick

Sunday 29 May 2016 in 49 (18-3-22 in F)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Derek Waller | 4 Peter McBride |
| 2 Philip Talbot | 5 Robert MacDonald (C) |
| 3 David Galbraith | 6 Joe Kealy |

A birthday remembrance for Agnes Kealy, Mother of 6

Limerick, Mount St Alphonsus

Saturday 4 June 2016

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Philip Talbot | 4 Peter McBride |
| 2 Alan Hegarty | 5 Robert MacDonald |
| 3 Julia Lysaght | 6 Mike Pomeroy (C) |

1st in method: 5.

Hillsborough, St Malachy

Thursday 23 June 2016 in 50ins (18-3-16 in E)

1296 Plain Bob Caters

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Louise Booth | 6 Colin Friend |
| 2 Christine B J DeCordova | 7 Christopher C M Pain |
| 3 Veronica A M Downing | 8 David T G Jones |
| 4 Robert W Jones | 9 Paul Feast (C) |
| 5 Rosemary A Maddocks | 10 Graham Downing |

Rung for the Strike Back Against Blood Cancer campaign . Rung in memory of Jo Cox MP. First on 10 for Graham Downing.

Drumbo, Holy Trinity

Friday 24 June 2016 in 50 (11-2-27)

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Christine B J DeCordova | 5 Robert W Jones |
| 2 Rosemary A Maddocks | 6 Colin Friend |
| 3 Paul Feast | 7 David T G Jones (C) |
| 4 Christopher C M Pain | 8 Louise Booth |

Hillsborough, St Malachy

Thursday 30 June 2016 in 50mins (18.3.16)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles with 7,6,8 covering.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Jean Jeffery | 5 Simon Walker (c) |
| 2 Nigel Pelow | 6 Neville Turkington (first quarter peal) |
| 3 Gaurang Patel | 7 Robert MacDonald |
| 4 Peter McBride | 8 Jonathan Houston |

Rung half-muffled remembering seven men from Hillsborough killed at Martinsart near the Somme on 28th June 1916. Rung with grateful remembrance on the eve of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. Recalling the conductor's great-grandfather, Private William John Walker (1881-1971), 13th Royal Irish Rifles, wounded on the first day of the battle

HISTORIC QUARTER PEALS

It may be of interest to read these quarters which have recently appeared on Bell Board:

Londonderry, Cathedral Church of St Columb

Sunday, 8 August 1948

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1-2 Hugh McIntyre

3-4 Terry R Hampton (C)

5-6 Lily Hughes

First quarter 1-2, 5-6.

First quarter on handbells 3-4

Londonderry, Cathedral Church of St Columb

Thursday, 18 November 1948 (10cwt in A)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Lily Hughes 4 John J Fielding
2 Terry R Hampton (C) 5 Hugh McIntyre
3 John Campbell 6 William H Young

First quarter for 3, 4 and 6

Londonderry, Cathedral Church of St Columb

Sunday, 23 January 1949 (10cwt in A)

1260 3 Doubles (300 April Day. 420 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob)

1 Lily Hughes 4 H McIntyre
2 Terry R Hampton (C) 5 John Campbell
3 John J Fielding 6 William H Young

First quarter in 3 methods for all.

Londonderry, Cathedral Church of St Columb

Sunday, 27 February 1949 (10cwt in A)

1260 2 Doubles (540 Plain Bob, 720 Reverse Canterbury)

1 Lily Hughes 4 H McIntyre
2 William H Young 5 John Campbell
3 Terry R Hampton (C) 6 John J Fielding

First away from cover 2.

Londonderry, Cathedral Church of St Columb

Friday, 11 March 1949 (10cwt in A)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Lily Hughes 4 H McIntyre
2 Frederick E Dukes 5 John Campbell
3 John J Fielding 6 Terry R Hampton (C)

First quarter of minor on the bells

PEALS RUNG TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Hollywood, SS Philip and James

Thursday 30 June 2016 in 2h50 (12-0-14)

5152 Thiepval Wood Surprise Major (A J Cox)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Shirley E McGill | 5 Michael R Crockett |
| 2 Ruth Curtis | 6 Alan Regin |
| 3 Paul F Curtis | 7 George H Campling (C) |
| 4 Michael J Pomeroy | 8 Ian R Fielding |

Rung half muffled on the eve of the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Especially in memory of 2nd Lieutenant Ernest W G Hind who was a ringer at St. Comgall Bangor and whose parents lived in Hollywood. First peal in the method.

Greyabbey, St Saviour

Friday 1 July 2016 in 2h19 (2-3-12)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m) - 1 extent each Ulster, London, Carlisle, Cambridge, Norwich, Bourne, Westminster

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ruth Curtis | 4 Shirley E McGill |
| 2 Ian R Fielding | 5 Alan Regin |
| 3 George H Campling | 6 Paul F Curtis (C) |

Rung half muffled on the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme and in memory of the fallen. This peal commenced at 07:10 which was the time that the Ulster Division started to go "Over the top".

Belfast, St Thomas

Friday 1 July 2016 in 3h14 (18-2-24)

5088 Belfast Surprise Major (GAC John)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Michael J Pomeroy | 5 Michael R Crockett |
| 2 George H Campling | 6 Paul F Curtis |
| 3 Ruth Curtis | 7 Ian R Fielding (C) |
| 4 Shirley E McGill | 8 Alan Regin |

Rung half muffled on the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Remembering especially the 4 soldiers of St. Thomas's parish who died during July 1916: Captain Barry Hill, 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died 01.07.1916, Captain Douglas Hill O'Flaherty, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died 01.07.1916, Rifleman William Totten, 11th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died 01.07.1916 and Second Lieutenant David Bertram Corbett, 17th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died 03.07.1916.

Drumbo, Holy Trinity

Saturday 2 July 2016 in 2h45 (11-2-27)

5096 The Somme Alliance Major (G H Campling)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Michael R Crockett | 5 Alan Regin |
| 2 Ruth Curtis | 6 Ian R Fielding |
| 3 Michael J Pomeroy | 7 Paul F Curtis |
| 4 Shirley E McGill | 8 George H Campling (C) |

Rung half muffled to mark the centenary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme. First peal in method.

Belfast, St Mark, Dundela

Saturday 2 July 2016 in 2h58 (12-2-2)

5000 Bristol Surprise Royal (I R Fielding)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Ruth Curtis | 6 George H Campling |
| 2 Shirley E McGill | 7 Michael J Pomeroy |
| 3 Michael R Crockett | 8 Peter L Furniss |
| 4 Paul F Curtis | 9 Alan Regin |
| 5 Anthony P Cotton | 10 Ian R Fielding (C) |

Rung to mark the centenary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme.

Belfast, St Donard, Bloomfield

Sunday 3 July 2016 in 2h48 (9-1-2)

5040 Bangor Surprise Minor

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ian R Fielding | 4 Michael J Pomeroy |
| 2 Shirley E McGill | 5 Paul F Curtis (C) |
| 3 Ruth Curtis | 6 Alan Regin |

Rung to mark the centenary of the commencement of the Battle of the Somme and in particular to remember Lance Corporal Harris Lee Moore Absolom, 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, Lieutenant Holt Montgomery Hewitt, 109th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) and Second Lieutenant Ernest William Gayles Hind, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. All were ringers at St. Comgall Bangor, County Down and all fell on 01st July 1916.