

NUSCR NATTER



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Welcome to the NUSCR Natter for 2021.

While it has been another challenging year I hope that most of you have now been able to return to (almost) normal ringing. The students have. They've been doing plenty of ringing at All Saints as well as tours and a trip to Durham for NUA. And there were freshers. Over 14 of them, plus a couple from Derby University. A very warm welcome to you all.

At the end of October, a tower open day was held at All Saints to allow the congregation to have a go at ringing (backstrokes) and visit the belfry to see the work that's been done. It was great to meet so many of them, especially those from Hong Kong, and to see all the new things that have been done. Thanks Ed, Paul and others for your continued efforts.

In alumni news, August 1st saw the birth of Elinor Joyce Jones, a daughter for Emma and Matthew. Adrian and Nancy celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in September with a weekend in Nottingham where it was good to see the children of some more NUSCR alumni in the early stages of their ringing career. Then, a few weeks later, I was privileged to ring in Lucy Wignell's first quarter. Finally, thanks to the efforts of Chris Field, NUSCR entered a team in the Robert B Smith 12-bell striking competition and came a creditable second behind the National 12-bell veterans from Melbourne. Congratulations to you all!

Happy ringing and all the best for 2022.

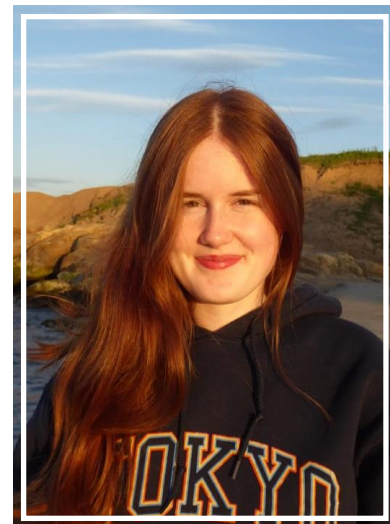
ROGER LAWSON

HONORARY PRESIDENT



MASTER'S MUTTERINGS

Back in February when I first came into the role of Master, I was most definitely nervous but also excited at the opportunity to run the society that I love. I started off by introducing NUSCR to RingingRoom, so I think it's fair to say I wasn't everyone's favourite master at first... Despite this, the turnout was still higher than I expected and at least running those online practices helped to prepare me for the much more daunting task of running an actual practice at All Saints. As soon as government restrictions permitted, we took our practices offline and into the garden for some handbell sessions. Thank you to Tom Langton for dropping round the NUSCR handbells every week, and to Estella for bringing her set along too. Soon after we took the handbells to All Saints and held simultaneous practices, with a group of 6 ringing up the tower and another 6 on handbells outside.



In the summer, just before the new term started, we squeezed in a social in the form of a Ceilidh night. It was well attended, and everyone had a fantastic evening of dancing and drinking, setting NUSCR up for a great term ahead!



PHOTO BY FIONA KEMM

Once September rolled around and ringing was starting to return back to normal, I finally felt like I was Master. The first practice back after the summer is one of my favourite memories at NUSCR.

Nothing had prepared me for the 29 people at practice that day, 14 of which were new to the tower! It was amazing to see so many young ringers all together and it has been lovely to welcome Ambrin, Ben, Billy, Bronwyn, Charlie, Daisy, Daniel, Dougie, Jessica,

Joe, Laura, Mary and Robert into the society as fully fledged NUSCR. I'd like to give a massive thank you to all the recent alumni who helped with teaching especially in those first few weeks of term. We've had 2 learners stay on this year (Joe and Billy) both of whom are progressing excellently, and both are now comfortable ringing by themselves.

Practices have been very well attended this year and most weeks consist of teaching, rounds and calls, and a variety of methods all the way up to a surprise major method or two (or 3). Our pub sessions have consisted of biscuit decorating and card games on top of the usual drinking antics. We have occasionally ended with a spontaneous trip to Bierkeller. We've also been fairly active on the weekends and have had socials including Planet Bounce, a Halloween Party and a board/tv games night which have all been very strongly attended. We also popped over to Durham this year for NUA, where we managed to place a very respectable 2nd place in both the striking competition and the boat race. Well done to everyone involved.

Lastly, I'd like to say that I have been immensely thankful for the support I've had over the past year and how grateful I've been to be able to share this amazing time and make so many memories with all of you fabulous people!



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN SMALL

NATASHA CLAUS

PEAL SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS

Hello and thank you everyone for a fantastic year of quarter peal ringing! We've finally been able to get at the ropes and handbells again with 33 quarters for the society alone, meaning we've absolutely bounced back. Unfortunately, no peals were rung this year due largely to you know what.

Our local handbell groups have contributed a fantastic 13 to the quarter total, including my own first quarter in hand in August and Christian Brown's 200th in hand in May. Coniston Road continue to be the unchallenged leading handbell venue. In terms of tower quarters, it has been fantastic to see this year and last year's new members getting going with ringing for the society; with firsts for NUSCR including: Ben S, Sophie, Mary, Ben R, Ambrin, Daniel and Laura. Notably, Ben R's first for NUSCR was also his first quarter peal at all, well done Ben!



PHOTO BY ED WALKER

Interesting quarters have included:

- Stedman caters rung for Sophie's birthday with a mostly NUSCR band.
- 17th May – PBD on the Red-Light Ring – Many 'firsts' and lots of notes, so look it up on bell board if you want a laugh.
- 29th May Mixed doubles– Many firsts, including first quarter on the bells after lockdown, Natasha's first multi-method quarter, and Ben and Sophie's first (non-virtual) for the society, and Ben's first as cover.
- 19th June – Ed's first of minor as conductor which also celebrated the end of Alex and Ed's bachelor degrees, and the first on the new 9th headstock.
- 1st August - Plain Bob Doubles to welcome Elinor Joyce Jones into the world.
- 20th Nov – Grandsire triples –Rebecca's first for NUSCR as conductor, and Ed's 100th Quarter peal (including virtual quarters)

Other personal firsts have included several first virtual quarters, Rebecca's first for the society as conductor, and Ed and Natasha continue to progress through the standard 8 major (London, Pudsey). I'm also pleased to say that even a year abroad can't stop NUSCR from ringing since I even scored a quarter in Vernet-les-Bains, my first outside of the UK. All in all, it's been a great year of performances from everyone, current and alumni alike, which I hope to see continuing into the next year!



PHOTO BY ED WALKER

EVIE NEWTON

NUSCR NIGHT IN (COVID STYLE)

As if 2020 hadn't been enough of a carnage, the annual dinner had to be reformatted to contend with the restrictions of the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, the devoted committee decided that the "show must go on" and instead planned a zoom dinner, featuring food, booze, some ringing (apparently that's a thing?), quizzing and... you got it, more booze.

Some of the more zealous among us joined earlier to utilise the website "Ringing Room". There were 3 towers: All Saints, St Peters, and St Mary's – who picked those tower names? Many of us deemed ourselves as Ringing Room novices so 2 towers were for the novices, and then one tower was for those "keenos" who understood how to ring bells.

After some safe drunken ringing, we returned to the main zoom group to refresh our brains for the quiz. Once again, we were divided into teams and an extended committee group began their speedy rounds to each group to deliver their own personal selection of questions for the quiz. How many more times will we be exposed to Ed's special – "How much Pigeon S***?" Questions? (Just kiddin' – NUSCR loves ya Ed!)



PHOTO BY NATASHA CLAUS

Many more drunken antics occurred late into the night, but I'm not sure what time the night officially ended for some – although I am sure many saw the next morning still drunk, and maybe even still drinking....Anyway, here's to a better year and the next – hopefully in person – dinner. Cheers everyone!

REBECCA SMITH

THE (UN)LOCKDOWN LOWDOWN

We began handbells in back gardens during early May with most of us being atrocious. Barely able to get plain hunt on 6. But we shall blame that on the necessary beers and ciders present to cope with the pain of handbells. But NUSCR were so deprived of our precious bells that we took them in whatever form they were presented. Thus, our proficiency at the itsy bitsy teeny tiny bells quickly improved. Obviously, the drinking continued as well; hydration is an essential part of ringing.



PHOTO BY ED WALKER

after that one. In fact, we all enjoyed the shenanigans so much that we repeated the whole thing again, but as an evening by the Trent with significantly more alcohol.

As restrictions eased further, we were able to return to our beautiful home for a few sunny evenings before the end of term; able to introduce our "new" freshers to All Saints. We split into two groups and whilst one would laze on the grass outside occasionally ringing a handbell or two the rest would ring big bells once more. It was a fabulous feeling to finally be home after so long. A year away during the renovation works and another year from a particularly annoying pandemic (with a brief interlude of a couple of weeks in between).

Most importantly we were able to return to our second home, The Organ Grinder. Aside from the usual booze and banter, we discovered that they had created two delicious new shots, which of course were sampled many (many) times.

With that, our 2020/21 ringing year came to a close and most of the students trudged back home. Obviously, a few of us stayed on for more pub nights because we just couldn't let go.

FIONA KEMM



PHOTO BY NATASHA CLAUS



PHOTO BY FIONA KEMM

SUMMER TOUR: THE NOT SO FAR NORTH!

The weekend began in true NUSCR style, with members scattered across the UK all gravitating towards a scout hut – in this case, though, NUSCR made the old school hall in Old Brampton their home for the weekend. Happily, for me, it was only an hour's drive – which left plenty of time to do the essential shopping of sweets and booze.

Rather unusually for a summer tour, we began with some ringing, as opposed to the evening drinking that we older members of NUSCR had become accustomed to. Needless to say, there was a small amount of moaning about this, but it was shortly stifled when Evie mentioned that we'd be heading to Jacob's house for a BBQ, fire, and opportunity to see/feed his sheep (Tash was especially excited about the sheep).

The bells at Old Brampton are lovely, they're a fairly light ring of bells and we produced some very respectable ringing overall, a particular highlight was some very fine Norwich Minor and some "Spicy Cambridge" (a bob course of Cambridge Minor).

Once retired back at Jacob's house, the BBQ was started, and Alex did his usual great job in starting a fire, though I must express my disappointment for Alex starting the fire traditionally, and not using cheesy Doritos as kindling, as he had done last year. Anyway, I digress... As the flames roared high, we sat toasting marshmallows and entertaining Jacob's neighbours with some truly drea... I mean wonderful singing. NUSCR's thanks go to Jacob, but in particular to his parents for hosting us, and very kindly supplying us with ice cream.

Once back at the hall, camp was made, and beds inflated. People seemed to be very amused by my bringing a duvet and sheet to go on my air bed, but I was determined that I would get some good sleep! Sadly, that was not to be, for the cacophony of snoring, murmuring and sleep talking was really something to behold. Alas, perhaps I was optimistic expecting sleep on a NUSCR tour.

Saturday began with a coffee and various breakfast items (Thank you Evie!) before scrambling into the cars to begin the tour.

The first tower of the day was Hope, which were a very nice ring of 8. I must admit we were slightly down on numbers for this tower, as a few members had headed for the local shop in dire need of energy drinks and paracetamol to deal with their hangovers from the night before, still, eventually there was a steady trickle of people appearing in the ringing chamber, and we delighted the neighbours with some rounds and call changes, plain bob triples, plain hunt, Stedman triples and some Superlative Surprise Major. We didn't fire even a single thing out at the first tower of the day - win! The next tower of the day was Tideswell, which I remember being a long way up... If I'm honest I don't remember much about the ringing at all, I was slightly distracted by my dire need of caffeine, having been unable to go to the shop at the previous tower since I was running the ringing... however, this is NUSCR, and while a "NUSCR Single" is occasionally required to make things come round, we rarely disgrace ourselves with our ringing efforts. Besides, it can't have been that bad if I don't remember it!

Having purchased a RedBull (drink manufacturer is extremely important given the closeness of the Formula 1 this year, as I type there are 2 races left in the Formula 1 calendar – if you know, you know!), the third tower on Evie's tour of Derbyshire was Ashford in the Water, which NUSCR took the decision to rename "Ashford Under Water" thanks to the torrential rain that was hammering on the roof of our cars (Most of us weren't silly enough to get out of the cars until



PHOTO BY ED WALKER

the rain had died down a bit... Most of us...). The bells were a charming little 6cwt ring of 6, where NUSCR rang their usual list of things, and most importantly of all, we absolutely bossed a course of Twatt Bob Minor. A highlight of any NUSCR tour as far as I'm concerned.

The 4th (and yet still not final!) tower of the day was Youlgreave. This tower was especially memorable purely because I remember how hungry I was (ringing started at 1.15 and we'd not yet had lunch...). I must admit, when Emily (who was running this tower) called for Erin Cinques, I was extremely sceptical about how successful we would be, however, my scepticism was to be kyboshed by an excellent effort from everyone, and all-round great piece of ringing – top job NUSCR! We also managed some good plain hunt, the usual rounds and call changes, plus a very reasonable attempt at Yorkshire Maximus. Sadly the Yorkshire wasn't to be, can't win them all, eh?



PHOTO BY A RANDOM PUB GOER

Finally! Lunch! Most of us ended up in a pub. I don't remember which pub I'm afraid, but it was a good pub. Lunch was served and the portion sizes were truly Northern, with generous portions all round. We had plenty of time to enjoy lunch, which was much needed for a number of reasons. The first being the

mentioned portion sizes, and the second was that we, as a group, were exhausted. Turns out bell ringing is hard work when you're down on sleep and hungover. I confess, I enjoyed watching the sea of hungover people, because as a driver, I had needed to moderate my drinking the night before substantially. Nothing warms your heart quite like a smug feeling.

The final tower of the day was Darley Dale, a challenging ring of 8 but the ringing was a good effort, and despite one or two close calls thanks to some tiredness causing sloppy handling, we had made it through the first day of the tour alive and well.

Once back at the hall we cracked open the beers, well... ciders, NUSCR is very much a cider drinking society at the moment. Say what you will about that! I'd love to tell you that the night was long and full of excitement and drama, but I'm afraid that 5 towers in a day was enough to render most of us shattered, so after an evening of very relaxed drinking and storytelling, 1am came around and we were all tucked up into bed and ready for a good night's sleep.

Sunday. The day of rest. Well, that's what I had always been told. Evie however, had a different idea. 4 towers! On a Sunday! Absolutely outrageous. I jest of course. Sunday morning started

with a relatively early 8.45am ringing, fortunately the trip from the School Room to the tower was about 40 seconds, rather than the 40 minutes some of us are used to on a Sunday morning getting to All Saints! We produced some excellent ringing for service, and it was nice to support the local ringers and give them opportunities that they wouldn't otherwise have. For example the opportunity to see Alex out of bed that early in the morning is truly something to behold! I suppose helping them with their ringing was nice too.



PHOTO BY NATASHA CLAUS

The second tower of the day was Breadsall. This was one of my favourite towers of the whole tour. The bells were lovely and thanks to a bit of alumni support, we were able to get some really rather good ringing. We managed some fantastic Stedman and a host of various surprise major methods, as well as the usual plain hunt and call changes. Next on the list was Duffield. We'd rung at Duffield semi-recently, during the dinner day tour the last time it was possible (damn you Covid!). I was pleasantly surprised that some work has been done to the bells since then, and they were far more manageable, giving a bit more opportunity to concentrate on producing some nice striking rather than fighting the bells. I also remember my amusement at the extremely helpful sign on the floor saying "T" marking the treble. The quicker among you will have realised that 'Tenor' also starts with a "T". It made me chuckle anyway... Next and last on the list for the day was Derby Cathedral, but before we could leave for the cars, to get there, we needed to run 50 odd meters through the most torrential rain I have ever seen (ok I'm exaggerating a little there, but it was still mightily impressive). Naturally, none of us are Usain Bolt, and we ended up soaked to the bone, but hey ho, only one tower to go.

The ringing at Derby was pretty good. I can't give a report on all of it as I missed a bit of it, when, as usual, I got lost trying to find the carpark. Honestly, how anyone navigates Derby I will never know. I'm convinced the roads act like the staircases at Hogwarts, constantly moving. We managed some grandsire caters and some Yorkshire royal this time, as well as... you guessed it... Rounds and call changes and plain hunt.

Time to return to base.

Back in the hall we were greeted by the wonderful smell of cooking as Emily and Evie had begun preparing dinner for us – thank you to you both, and to anyone else that helped cook, it was a fantastic meal. Belly's full, we pondered what we could get up to that evening. Sadly the torrential rain meant that there was no hope of a fire happening, but we sat and chatted, played a few games and somehow before we knew it, it was 2am and definitely time for some kip.

Monday morning, the final day of our long weekend away. The Tour started with a trip to Chesterfield, to ring at the Crooked Spire. The tower is impressive, and certainly recognisable, and the bells weren't a disappointment either. While we were all tired, the ringing really wasn't a bad effort on what was quite a challenging ring of bells. Ringing was followed by a much-needed trip to Greggs too, so no complaints from myself there! The very final ring of bells for the day was Eckington. It's some time since summer tour, and laziness means that I have neglected writing the report until now. In the time between the tour and now, I have forgotten everything about Eckington. However I'm reliably informed by Natasha that we rang some lovely Bristol Major, and Jacob told me that "We went, we rang, we wrote a lot of stuff on a white board then went to a pub". Speaking of pubs, I remember that well. The Traveller's Rest was an excellent pub with quite a magnificent selection of pies and cheeses. Not to mention the most real ciders on tap that I've seen anywhere outside of Somerset (I assume there was cracking beer too, but I don't look for that myself). Once stuffed on cheese, crackers and pies, we made our way back to Jacob's house for a quick drink and a nap for some, before making the journey home.

Once home I had some time to reflect upon the weekend. We'd been denied a summer tour last year thanks to Covid-19, and Evie certainly did a superb job of making sure that this one made up for it. Overall it was a fantastic long weekend, and I for one cannot wait for next year's!

ED WALKER



PHOTO BY FIONA KEMM

FRESHERS FAIR LOG BOOK

DAY 1

SET UP The bell was all up in time; Ed swore at everyone but helped us greatly

HOUR 1 Solid start, 3 4 no thank yous
People are staring
The toxins still linger in my body
A guy took a selfie with us
Tash taught a man who was 7ft tall
A beardy man took a card – his "curiosity was sparked"

HOUR 2 SU Ambassador has never heard of us
We have been filmed and boomeranged
A guy asked us about bell metal, we know nothing about it
Met Ben from Lincolnshire's mate
Lot and lots of rejections – couple of interests

HOUR 3 Slowly going insane
Ed bought us Maccies! Yay :)
Jacob got told to "Ring that bell!"
We were told we're the friendliest society
Ben showing off not attracting attention
Good vibes but morale is low
Some guy said "it was fascinating"

HOUR 4 Jacob has convinced people we're not nerds
Ben is giving up
We have SUCCESS!!!! We have gained 2 freshers who ring in 2 minutes (Bronwyn and Jessica)

HOUR 5 We found a Laura –from Lincolnshire
A monster crackhead spoke to us, scary
Ben has the brain function of a carrot

HOUR 6 A very jolly man complimented the handwritten cards
A lady told us to pack up, Ben is overjoyed that we are finally leaving.

DAY 2

HOUR 1 A girl said it was similar to hanging....
Crackhead girl returned
Someone actually seemed interested

HOUR 2 Substantial interest
"Do you do drunk bellringing?" – some girl with a monster hoodie

HOUR 3 Someone came back from yesterday – she must like us
Have been papped
Met a guy who has family friend ringer.....indoctrination continues
Jacob gets a fist bump and is now down with the kids
So many people taking photos
Ben has whipped out the trick shots

HOUR 4 Alex went and flirted with Fiona
Bullied an SU Officer into having a go
Alex has become a health & safety hazard
There was a funky guy in strawberry crocs – what a geezer
Alex keeps calling methods "choons"
Someone asked, "Do I tug as hard as I can?"

HOUR 5 Ben can see the end
Alex has departed
Mince pies are good
All voice has gone

THE COMMITTEE



PHOTO BY ED WALKER

FRESHER'S TOUR

The day started off with a leisurely 10:30am breakfast in the Roebuck Wetherspoons followed by a dash to catch the bus on time - thankfully we all made it!

Our first tower was a 6 bell ground floor ring in Edwalton, south of the city centre. Some exemplary Twatt Bob Minor was rung (side note: avoid this method at all costs unless you want a headache whilst trying to learn it!). Despite the long draughts, Edwalton had some very nice bells and it was a good way to start the day.

A short bus ride took us to St. Giles Church in West Bridgford, a lovely tower with the ringing chamber overlooking the rest of the church. This was probably the best

ringing of the day and gave some of our learners a good go on some different bells other than All Saints.

Lunch and ice-skating were next on the agenda so we headed back into the city, and not long after we were doing laps around the ice rink (some more confidently than others it must be said). Miraculously we all survived, and no-one fell over!

The last tower was St Mary's in the Lace Market and despite being the first time ringing on 12 bells for a few of the ringers, everyone did really well and some good ringing was done. A few late arrivals boosted our numbers and afterwards we had a trip up to the roof where many photographs of the city were taken!



PHOTO BY NATASHA CLAUS

We then headed down and caught the tram back to Beeston for some well deserved food. After some pints and delicious pizza in The Star, we headed to The Crown, our last stop of the night, where everyone was in high spirits.

Special thanks to the organisers of the day and to everyone at the towers for helping out and making the day a very enjoyable one!

LAURA WATT



PHOTO BY NATASHA CLAUS

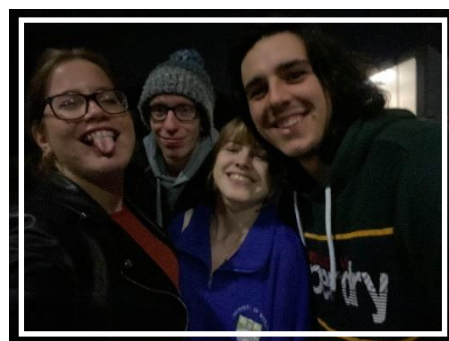


PHOTO BY AMBRIN WILLIAMS

The weekend began on the Friday with the long train journey to Durham, or the even longer coach journey via Newcastle, to join our friends in the northeast for a weekend of socialising and ringing.

Whilst some people needed to recover from the trials of an alcohol fuelled train journey by heading straight to the pub, the first tower of the weekend, St Oswald's, was well attended and was a good opportunity to meet many new faces and a few familiar ones.

After joining the absentees in The Station House, we eventually headed to the accommodation for the weekend, a scout hut situated at almost the highest point in the city of Durham. This meant lugging belongings and beverages up a very steep hill but NUSCR never back down from a challenge and there was only one casualty: a dropped bottle of wine!



PHOTO BY A DRUNK STUDENT

After a long evening of socialising, we were all herded onto a bus bright and early the next morning to the first tower of the day, Brancepeth. When we arrived, the bells were all half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday but during the first touch, the seventh slipped free of its restraints. The newly accentuated backstrokes did nothing to help many of our early morning headaches...



PHOTO BY FIONA KEMM

Next came the joys of Durham Cathedral, with these muffles being much better behaved.

Following the ringing, we were allowed a swift walk round the outside of the tower, giving us a chance to see the fantastic views of the beautiful city of Durham

This was followed by a much-needed lunch in Wetherspoons as preparation for the striking competition at St Nicholas. Two teams from NUSCR entered the competition (both ringing Plain Bob Doubles) and came second and sixth, with an 'experienced' Manchester band winning, ringing MUG Minor.

Following the competition and a quick look round the Christmas market, we headed to the Vic! This was my second trip to the establishment, and it has firmly cemented itself as one of my favourite pubs. A roaring fire, excellent beer and good company made for a fabulous Saturday

afternoon, so much so that I could not be tempted out of my seat to go ringing at Shincliffe, the final tower of the day. The majority of NUSCR had more stamina than me and enjoyed the challenge of the light six.



PHOTO BY BEN ROTHWELL

Having restocked on alcohol, we made the long trek up the hill one last time to the scout hut, before settling down for the evening's entertainment. Upon our return there were prolonged efforts to build a human pyramid, with five layers high proving too much of a challenge. I can assure you that this is a fantastic spectator sport and I hope to see it included in the next Olympics!

Afterwards, there was a small amount of downtime during which some took the opportunity for a quick nap or to tune into F1 Qualifying (a good way to drift off to sleep I suppose!)

Almost instantly after the Sprint Race concluded, dinner was served! A fantastic chilli with plenty of rice and garlic bread to line our stomachs for the evening ahead.

Next came the traditional ceilidh, which was a huge triumph. A few of us sported bruises the following morning as markers of our enthusiasm!

This was followed by the boat race in which NUSCR again placed second behind a very impressive Manchester quartet. Leeds were the slowest, although I think the wooden spoon may have been presented to Durham as somebody's pint repeated on them almost instantly (tut tut!)

Despite this, it was a far drier NUA than I was expecting. Having heard horror stories from previous years, I did contemplate taking wellies for wading through the scout hut floor...

The festivities continued late into the evening with one of the highlights being a game based on The Sweeper from Total Wipeout, with people having to jump over a rope being swung around at ankle height. (Don't worry, no Risk Assessments were made!)



PHOTO BY REBECCA SMITH

Nonetheless, nobody was harmed during the course of the weekend, and we even gained a temporary companion for the tower at All Saints: York's mascot Bob the Badger! It has to be mentioned that NUSCR did also successfully steal Manchester's four-foot-tall giraffe Gerald on the Friday evening, but he was returned on the Saturday as the postage and packaging required to return him was calculated...

Huge thanks go to DUSCR for organising a fantastic weekend and NUSCR are already looking forward to Manchester next year!

DANIEL PAGE



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN SMALL

NUSCR'S MISSION TO REFURBISH ALL SAINTS (PHASE 2)

As many will have seen, NUSCR have been in the process of restoring their tower for the last few years now (curse you COVID!), here is the update on the final phase of the work we have undertaken.

As I sit here and type, I have just finished my bachelor's degree, meaning I'm no longer a current member of NUSCR, instead my membership is to be transferred to Alumni. Admittedly I remain firmly in denial about my lack of student status for the moment.

We had hoped to install a simulator in the tower; however we were not granted the money needed from the University, nor did the central council weekend go ahead in Nottingham thanks to COVID-19, where the money raised would help us. As such, we simply did not have the funds to install one, a job for future NUSCR perhaps.

NUSCR's first task in the second phase of our project was to have a new headstock cast at Taylors, just round the corner from us here in Nottingham, and then to have it fitted to our ninth bell, this has now been completed, and we are extremely pleased with the result. The previous headstock was second hand and so never designed for the bell and thanks to a complete lack of adjustment, we were limited when it came to sorting the striking out on the bell, meaning it did not work especially well with the other bells. The new headstock makes the bell handle like a dream, and we have now been able to sort some of the striking out amongst the back bells— win. The acoustics are not quite right yet – but it's a work in progress!

Next in the pipeline was to repair and replace some of the windows in the tower. Previously, there had been two frosted glass windows behind the trebles, these did not match the rest of the tower, and so needed replacing, we suspect that they were put in as a "temporary" measure to keep the tower watertight some years ago. The 3rd windows to be replaced was due to the window frame bowing. We discovered just how bad it was when we came to remove it. We simply gave it a small pull to see how loose it was, and the entire window came out! a lucky escape indeed...

As well as fixing and making nice, the replacement of some windows meant that we could make them openable, thus increasing ventilation; a most welcome upgrade not just for COVID reasons, but also in the summer months when the tower, like most others, becomes extremely warm. The Nottingham City ringers tend to use the tower for quarter peals outside of term time, when NUSCR's practice night would otherwise be, so I am sure they will be just as happy as we are!

Finally, the largest job has been to construct a new ceiling in the ringing room. The main reason for this is to install supporting beams for the middle chamber floor, which is showing signs of weakness, not helped by the extraordinary amount of traffic that has been over it in comparison to usual over the last few years. the reskinning of the ringing room ceiling is being done primarily to cover up the years of bodging and augmentation that had previously gone on in the tower, we figured that if we're going to do the job, it might as well be done properly, and a large portion of the whole restoration project was to remove and make right the years of bodging in the tower, such that the new few generations of NUSCR (at least!) can enjoy the tower as we now are.

Where we now stand, is that the work on the ringing room ceiling is about to commence, and we hope to have it completed to show off over dinner weekend next year!

ED WALKER



THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

MAY

FIRST PRACTICE BACK



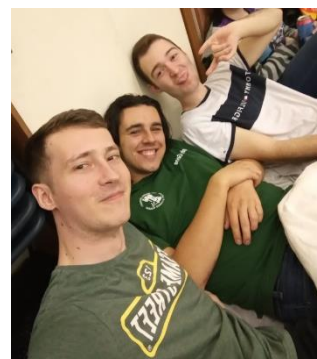
MAY

ONGOING TOWER WORK



AUGUST

SUMMER TOUR



AUGUST
CEILIDH
NIGHT



SEPTEMBER

FIRST PRACTICE OF TERM



SEPTEMBER

TEACHING LEARNERS



SEPTEMBER

THE ROBERT SMITH 12 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION



OCTOBER
HALLOWEEN
PARTY



DECEMBER
PRACTICE NIGHTS

