

# NUSCR NATTER 2022 Issue 26

## President's Ponderings:

Welcome to the NUSCR Natter for 2022.

This last year started with ringing continuing to return to normal, as evidenced by lots of ringing at All Saints, a flurry of NUSCR quarters and a successful Dinner Weekend peal at St Peter's, which included several notable firsts. The momentum was maintained through the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the Queen and beyond to an undergraduate peal in July to mark the graduations of Ambrin Williams, Natasha Claus, Alex Speakman & Estella Haynes.

On September 4th I took delivery of a brand new set of full "Big Wilf's" muffles, for Derby Cathedral, little realising that just four days later we would have to start using them to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Across the world the performances submitted to Bell Board in September had over 17,000 different people ringing in them, compared to just over 3500 in August, which I think gives an interesting indication of the number of ringers currently active.

October saw an influx of freshers and new members and, finally, a successful NUSCR peal at All Saints to mark the completion of the restoration works. Congratulations to the band and, particularly, to Ed for his perseverance. I'm sorry that I had to drop out Ed and I hope you will, eventually, forgive me.

NUSCR has been quite productive in other ways too. In June, we congratulated Esther and Christian Brown on the birth of their daughter Robyn. In September it was the turn of Ed Nicholson and Sam Emery on the birth of their daughter Isobel followed by Catherine and Simon Telford on the birth of their daughter Amelia. Let me know if there are any other new arrivals that I've missed.

As my second 3-year term as NUSCR President comes to an end, and I prepare to hand over the mantle to my successor, it's sobering to realise that I've spent nearly one tenth of my life in that roll which also equates to one fifth of Chris Field's life and one third of the new freshers' lives. I was honoured and humbled to be elected president and I hope that I have served the office well. I'm certainly proud of what NUSCR has achieved in that time.

Happy ringing and all the best for 2023.

**- Roger.**  
**Honorary President, NUSCR.**

## Masters mutterings:

I remember reading last year's Natter as a lowly fresher, pretty daunted for what I'd got myself signed up for. Before I knew it, I was elected as master - with big shoes (or should I say tiny shoes?!) to fill from Natasha's reign.

On the organisational side, I had a fairly relaxed introduction to mastership, with no Crawford Cup team to organise. Heats had been moved to July, the same weekend of Summer Tour - so there were no current NUSCR to take part. An alumni team entered for us, placing first in the heats (although a non-legitimate team, meaning it couldn't bring us through to the finals), congrats to all involved.

Tash's summer tour and the outing to Worcester were great successes, you can read more about them later! They definitely helped me feel more at ease for the big task I had ahead of me - welcoming new members to NUSCR and running practices for them all semester.

Just before the new Autumn term began and new fresher's rolled in, Queen Elizabeth II passed away. Those of us who had moved back into Nottingham (with the help of some alumni) rang a quarter peal of grandsire triples in memoriam. Special thank yous to all who helped the manoeuvring of muffles during this time.

Like last year our recruitment drive succeeded, gaining 9 new members who all turn up regularly (1/3 of which are called Eleanor!). Practice nights are consistently having over 15 attendees, often over 20, with everyone a perfect fit for the society. The difficulty in ringing methods has taken a small dip due to the amount of experienced ringers who graduated and left over the summer, though there are marked improvements in striking for many in the society. Many thanks to the alumni who came and supported our practice, particularly at the start of term to help teach, and to those who I pester for advice!

In November we elected a new treasurer, with Robert Johnson taking over from Daniel - who is a worthy replacement despite the short tenure as we'll have to re-elect the role in February!!



Photo by Ben Small

Truth be told, I had no real intention of wanting to become master until 2 minutes prior to the vote in the AGM, but I'm glad I faced up to my fears. I'll be sure to say "I'll give it a go" to more opportunities in the future because of it.

- Laura Watt

## Peal secretary's scribblings:

After a very strong year for NUSCR last year for quarters, it was going to be a challenge to beat it this year. While we haven't rung as many, a mere 25 compared to 34 in 2021, I can say that it has been a noble effort, with quarters rung by a mixture of Students (Or at least recently Ex-Students!) and Alumni bands.



We can be proud of what we have achieved this year because we had many firsts, at all levels of the learning spectrum. Firstly, there was a big push for getting better on greater numbers of bells with both Ben Small, Eleanor, and Robert ringing their first quarters on eight and Ben Rothwell and Natasha ringing their first on ten.

On top of pushing higher numbers of bells, we have managed to increase the complexity of the methods rung for the first time, with first Treble Bob for Ben S, Ben R, and Laura's first of Surprise Major. We also had a big push on new conductors, with Ben S, Laura, and Myself conducting our first quarters and Natasha called her first of Surprise this year with Ed calling his first of Triples and Surprise Major.

It was lovely to have both tower and handbell quarters on the books again this year, with the handbell group in Beeston contributing eight quarters to this year's total, with firsts being achieved there with Evie's first on eight in hand, nice one!

One thing we do have over last year is we have NUSCR peals this year, with 4 peals being rung for the society. This year we saw two peals on ten, the first being a peal of Yorkshire Royal for the Dinner which was Natasha's first peal, Estella's first peal of Royal, and Evie's, Estella's, and Daniel's first for the Society. The second peal on 10 was on the newly restored bells at All Saints which also served as Fiona's first peal and Alex's first peal on ten, hopefully unlocking the bells for many future NUSCR peals. We also saw an impressive peal of 41 Minor rung by an Alumni band at Sandiacre, with most methods in a peal for three of the band and as conductor, showing us what is possible when we put our minds to it.



To round off peals for NUSCR, we rang an Undergraduate peal of Grandsire Triples in July, It was both Ben R's and Alex's first peal, a monumental achievement and show of strength for the society and something that will ideally repeat in the future.

A massive congratulations to all those who did something new this year and a huge thank you to all those who facilitated others to achieve it. Hopefully, this is just the start of an ever-stronger NUSCR!

- Doug Vale

## Handbells: A NUSCR saga

Handbells are one of life's true beauties. Some claim that on the seventh day God rested - this is a myth designed to hide the truth that he toiled away ceaselessly creating the most beautiful instruments possible.

Unfortunately, many so-called bellringers disagree with this absolute truth.

I learnt to ring handbells before towerbells, being given a go once or twice a year from the age of seven. I believe this to have been a great benefit and think learning handbells and towerbells side by side is invaluable.

In my office as Right Honourable Handbell Secretary, it is my duty to provide opportunities to those less fortunate souls.

I have done none of this.

Despite this, some handbells have occurred. Evie 'no middle initial' Newton has joined the Beeston handbell band and has rung her first quarter peal on eight bells. Well done Evie! Additionally, living in a house full of bellringers has resulted on handbells being rung on two whole occasions. One of these was to escape the Formula 1 being watched in the main room. Even the most fanatical cynics can surely agree that the sound of Plain Bob Minor is far more wholesome than the whining shrieks of twenty cars going round and round and round and round.

Finally, on the two occasions on which handbells have appeared, our housemate Jessica Ramsay has shown a great affinity for the exercise and can now plain hunt in all the positions on 6.

This has encouraged me that the path to greatness does indeed lie in handbells and so in my last two months as Handbell King I am planning to organise some kind of thingamajig so that others may find their true calling.

Maybe...

Over and Out,  
**Daniel J Page (C)**



Our Right Honourable Handbell Secretary proudly showing allegiance to the ancient society of which he loves  
Photo by Anna Sherwood



## Dinner Weekend Wrap-up:

After a two-year hiatus from in-person NUSCR outing frivolities, it felt wonderful to be back up in Nottingham with the full society once again.

While Covid changed life as we knew it for so long, the forced cancellation of NUSCR dinners sure hit home hard. Whilst the committee did a grand job with a virtual event last year, nothing beats a night in the pub, a day touring towers and then a night getting utterly slaughtered in the ceilidh and at the bar.

So then, getting back together for the weekend was already set to be a win. Friday evening saw a big crowd of NUSCRites head to the Star in Beeston which saw older and newer generations combine their wit and pint drinking skills for an excellent weekend preamble. There were also many hard-fought games of pool and excitement for the weekend ahead.



The first tower on the agenda for Saturday was East Bridgford, which saw a huge turnout with the ringing chamber bursting at the seams. It was so full, that our own president Roger inadvertently barged his way into this very ringer as he came through the door!

After several methods and a lot of catching up (plus a few quick supply trips to the tiny local shop) it was onto the next tower of the day in Newark-Upon-Trent.

These meaty bells were housed in a much larger ringing chamber which once again filled to the brim. Some lovely ringing was struck, but the leading entertainment came from the less-experienced ringers having a crack at the tenor. Alex Speakman and I were two of those brave souls, and we took quite a while to actually stand the damn bell but had a hearty round of applause once we were there.

Then, Emily Hall outshone us both by effortlessly standing the tenor on her first try. To round things off, Matthew Jones turned it into some excellent Yorkshire, and emerged from the tower triumphant, albeit lightly covered in sweat.

Next up, lunch, the highlight of the day for some (me). Lord Ted were very good hosts with speedy service and a lot of choices. Some of us piled several plates high with a carvery, others tucked into some pub classics. At one point, a group of us became transfixed at the humongous sundae Tom Langton had ordered, and we simply had to dive into one ourselves. It was a challenge, but we polished it off. A great venue indeed, and thanks to organiser Natasha Walker who kindly booked the tables in her name.

Last tower of the day was the wonderful Southwell Minster, a gigantic and impressive building which included a very long trek to the ringing chamber. We all embraced the anti-clockwise ring in what was quite a chilly tower thanks to the very Covid-aware member of staff who let the fresh air roll through windows that were thrown wide.



Tower photos by Evie Newton

Then, it was a race back to Nottingham for the usual frantic suit-up to get to the dinner, held in the very same venue from two years ago, the Albert Hall. There was a LOT of beer to get through, multiple barrels in fact (who on the committee thought that was a good idea?!), we may not have polished it all off, but we gave it a good go.



Photo by Ed Walker

The atmosphere throughout the evening was electric, from the delicious meal, speeches, paper aeroplanes and very energetic ceilidh with a new band. Not even Roger's relentless, offensively poor jokes could spoil such a night.



Once the ceilidh was over, NUSCR's energy levels were not shot, as a big group began bellowing the lyrics to Mr Brightside which was the first song to come on. But finally, all good things must come to an end, and it was then time to depart. While many of the younger NUSCR faces carried on into the night, that was the end of me, and I was conked out.

The next morning saw the standard hungover ringing at All Saints – a tower now looking pristine – before a well-deserved Spoons breakfast. A great weekend had by all, and boy had we all missed it. Here's hoping no pandemic gets in the way of the next one.

**- Natasha Claus**



Photos by Roger Lawson



## NUSCR and UBSCR take on WCSTR

We're going on a whale hunt, we're not scared. Mascot stealing was the key theme of this particular weekend outing with the Bristol university ringers, jointly organised by the amazing Natasha Claus and William Stafford (UBSCR). We were blessed with glorious sunshine for our trip around Worcester visiting four towers overall.



NUSCR and UBSCR  
at the cathedral

Photo by a  
cathedral ringer

Walking from the station to the first tower Geraldine received a lot of cheeky side eyes and smiles; it's not every day you see a metre tall giraffe wandering down the streets of Worcester on someone's shoulders. We had a strong start at St Martins in the Cornmarket (10 bells), these delightful little bells pinged round very quickly. Their rainbow sallies lent themselves to call changes using this cascade of colour, with some discussion over what type of green should be called for the different shades.

A quick trip across town to the spoons for lunch and most importantly a pint (or two) followed. We "explored the city" (went to another local pub) and got to know each other until it was time to go to the next tower. All Saints church (12 bells) provided a bit more of a challenge than St Martins in terms of weightmoo and total bells, but everyone rose to it and improved by the end of the practice.

The last tower of the day was a lovely half an hour walk or 10-minute bus ride away, ironically the walkers beat everyone (including those driving). St Stephen was another very nice set of 8 bells where we had an impromptu striking competition with the method being jump changes. Our very own Ed Walker judged (in the unorthodox style of Luke Riley from NUA 2021) between the NUSCR, UBSCR and scratch bands. Although the battle was well fought on all sides, the NUSCR band came out on top.

The evening shenanigans ensued with a campfire, marshmallows, karaoke, pizza, and a fair amount of attempted mascot nabbing; don't worry, Geraldine the giraffe was unharmed. The evening was chaotic and glorious.

Sunday morning brought the highly anticipated trip to Worcester cathedral (12 bells) to join some of the locals before the church service. The bells themselves were a glorious challenge and everyone rose to the occasion to produce some splendid ringing. As we traipsed back from whence we came, we reflected on the new friends made and left with a fantastic weekend of memories.

# All you that do intend to ring You undertake a dangerous thing.

## Summer Tour 2022

Dearest reader,

The time has come to relive one of the largest events of the social season: NUSCR Summer Tour. And what a way to finish the academic year; broken ropes, sunstroke, and the glorious establishment of J D Wetherspoons. Sounds exactly like NUSCR. Our trip to Surrey began on the eve of Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> July, where our wonderful organiser Natasha provided an excellent lift service from Effingham Junction to the scout hut. This author, however, was most alarmed to arrive at the hut several hours after the commencement of play, to see that not a single alcoholic beverage had been consumed. Was the society losing its touch? Or was everyone simply still violently hungover from the evening before? To protect the honour of those involved, let us assume the latter.

After a generous round of pizza and garlic bread, the Friday evening's festivities commenced. Eventually, the standard practice of over-imbibement occurred, along with some questionable singing, dancing and Plain Bob Minor. While camp beds were inflated (for those of the group who are not savages) and bedtime milk guzzled, a small party snuck out to the field to run a few 400m laps to burn off some steam, and drink the night away under the stars to some Flo Rida. How uncouth.

Saturday began with a selection of breakfast delicacies courtesy of our host, which was delicious if not at an obscenely early time. After breakfast we dragged ourselves ten minutes down the road to the bus stop, to catch a bus into the ton (Guildford). Apparently, buying twenty day tickets on the bus was considered 'suspicious behaviour' by Tash's bank, and prompted her card being subsequently blocked. Personally, I consider this perfectly reasonable behaviour – Boris Johnson must have to do this every time he takes all his illegitimate children to school at once.

Those who had over-indulged the night before looked rather on the rough side on the trip to the first tower of the day, St Nicholas, Guildford (10 bells, 21 cwt). Thankfully, nobody was still drunk enough to be tempted by the  $\frac{3}{4}$  full pint on the wall outside St Nick's, despite this author's best efforts at persuasion. On the whole, they were a lovely ring of bells, and with Laura at the helm we achieved some very respectable R&C, Stedman, and more (but what else do you need?). Guildford Cathedral (12 bells, 30 cwt) was next on the agenda, and the hike up to the cathedral proved fruitful in sweating out any excess alcohol and sourcing coffee. With Dan in charge, NUSCR rang some excellent R&C and Grandsire Cinqes, giving much of the band their first experiences on twelve and an opportunity to tenor grab for those that way inclined.



NUSCR at Guildford Cathedral

Photo by Cathedral ringer





A professional peal ringer in the wild  
Photo by Estella Haynes

The pack split for Saturday lunch, and reconvened at St Mary's (6 bells, 15 cwt, anti-clockwise). The bells were tricky, and this author enjoyed inflicting pain on all those asked to turn the tenor in, but one must apologise for the suffering that Daniel went through when ringing it to some Cambridge minor. Combined with the heat, this tower seemed to wear the group down, and the ringing at the final tower of the day was a tad more chaotic<sup>1</sup> (Holy Trinity, 8 bells, 23 cwt). But all was solved by a trip to Sainsbury's to source alcohol, and a retreat to the Scout Hut.

Back at the estate, the men of the group got to work on a BBQ, satisfying the annual testosterone-fuelled desire for fire. After burgers in the sunshine, a magnificent evening of Rounders, music, and 'boozin'<sup>2</sup> commenced, during which Ben S gave multiple perfect demonstrations of how to not catch a tennis ball. As we lost daylight, we moved inside for several games of 'Secret Hitler', expertly overseen by Ben from Lincolnshire. The star-gazers in the pack then headed outside to let the rest of the group sleep, and there was yet MORE singing. This author supposes this to be the reason that every dog in Effingham was heard howling at around 4 in the morning.

Sunday morning ringing was at St Barnabas, Ranmore (8 bells, 12 cwt), and so after another much needed bacon sandwich and orange juice, NUSCR ventured out. The group was greeted with a warning that the rope on the fifth was nearing the end of its life; not exactly what twenty hungover students wanted to hear. Nevertheless, Daniel guided us through some respectable Sunday ringing, despite the bells being a little tricky. The service touch was announced as Stedman triples, and Ed had the fifth. About two changes in, one of the strands snapped... a valiant bent-arm effort from EASW prevented further breakage and resulted in a decent service touch, until...

'That's all'

\*SNAP\*

We must all applaud the politeness of the rope to wait for the touch to come round before breaking – it must share this author's opinions on the extreme gratification that Stedman provides.



Ed with his breakage  
Photo by Jacob Blackwell

The second tower of the day was St Giles, Ashted (8 bells, 12 cwt). A couple of snoozes were taken in the shade, before NUSCR headed up and attempted some Ashted S Major, among other things. St Martins, Epsom (10 bells, 15 cwt) was next, and it delivered us the cruellest blow of the weekend: after parking at Natasha's house, NUSCR had to WaLk pAsT a pUB to get to the tower. Self-restraint was practiced by most of the group, and we were rewarded with some decent ringing at Natasha's home tower. Lunch was held at the Claus ancestral home, and while some drank Pimms, others were fascinated by Coconut the tortoise. This noble steed provided endless entertainment, and we must thank Natasha's family for their hospitality. The final tower on Sunday was St Nicholas, Leatherhead (10 bells, 19cwt); a lovely set of bells that saw some great Stedman triples, Grandsire caters and R&C.



NUSCR at Natasha's house

Photo by Natasha's mum

Sunday's evening meal took us to the Edmund Tylney Wetherspoons, Leatherhead. It was over this five-star meal that six members of the group began to ponder a slightly ambitious and overconfident plan that had been hatched earlier in the weekend: a Monday morning peal. This was an idea raised earlier in the week, to which Daniel responded swiftly, and had managed to secure us not one but TWO venues. We settled with Weybridge (8 bells, 11 cwt) as the tower of choice. However, hangovers and headaches led to some heavy hearts on Sunday evening, and it was decided this would be quickly converted to a quarter peal. At this news, Laura and Ben S scarpered after Spoons, along with a few other members of the group, claiming to have other more important things to do – honestly, what would you want to do more than sleep on a cold wooden floor for the third night in a row, with a stinking hangover and twenty students that hadn't showered in three days..?

Those who remained staggered back to the scout hut, and another evening of games, drinks, and not much sleep began. Unfortunately, this author must confess, I do not remember much of it - though I am certain your imagination will not stray too far from the truth. As we packed up in the morning, the feeling of relief that we were not having to ring a peal was widely shared.

We headed to Weybridge, energy drinks in hand, and were successful in scoring a very respectable quarter peal of Cambridge and Carlisle. Congratulations went to Ben from Lincolnshire for his first treble bob, and to Alex for successfully navigating that 'total nonsense' method. A reviving Starbucks and hugs all round wrapped up Summer Tour for good, and everyone headed their separate ways. Whilst over for another year, I am confident that next June's tour will produce a scandal sheet just as entertaining. Until then dearest reader, I bid you adieu.



Nottingham University Society

On Monday, 11 July 2022

Weybridge, Surrey  
St James

Tenor: 11-1-7 in F

1320 Surprise Minor (2m)

600 Carlisle; 720 Cambridge

- 1 Benjamin Rothwell
- 2 Estella J Haynes
- 3 Natasha Claus
- 4 Alex Speakman
- 5 Daniel J Page (C)
- 6 Edward A S Walker

Marking the end of NUSCR Summer Tour 2022.

First Treble Bob: 1.

Yours truly,  
- Lady Whistledown

- 1. A polite term for 'garbage'
- 2. A term for 'drinking', in the native Wigan dialect



# Proof that the above author told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth:



Vic, Fiona and Alex  
Photo by Estella Haynes



Estella and Laura  
Photo by Dan Meyer



Jess and Bronwyn  
Photo by Ed Walker



Guildford Cathedral bells  
Photo by Edward Walker



A starfish in hibernation  
Photo by Jacob Blackwell



'Boozin'  
Photo by Estella Haynes



Ringin' at Leatherhead  
Photo by Estella Haynes



Daniel and his best friends  
Photo by Estella Haynes



Unknown species discovered  
Photo by Jacob Blackwell



## All Saints Renovation, The Final Chapter:

The All Saints Project finally comes to an end... sort of

It was quite a few years ago that we first wrote a report about the work we had planned at All Saints, and now, finally, we have declared All Saints finished... ish.

Last Christmas saw the completion of the ringing room ceiling and the installation of the disco ball, arguably the most important part of the whole project. Most of you will have seen this by now, but since the last Natter was released before that work took place, here is a brief summary of all that's been going on.

In short, what we have done is lifted two enormous beams into place under the ringing room ceiling and bolted them in, which ultimately provides support to the old ceiling and middle chamber floor. The sensation of walking in the middle chamber without feeling it moving and flexing underneath you was quite bizarre. Once supported and structurally sound, we could start thinking about the ceiling. Much consulting with NUSCR's more arty students was completed and a design was agreed on, then it was just a matter of building it. The ceiling is made of tongue and groove boarding, which was stained by volunteer NUSCR labour (who were mostly hungover after buying them several drinks the night before and having them drunkenly agree to help us) and then fixed into place.



By now, NUSCR have become used to me asking for volunteer support, and I'm extremely grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm to get their hands dirty and help out at all Saints.

The new ceiling is primarily there to hide the years of bad bodgery and evidence of the augmentations over the years, it is essentially the cherry on top to all the work we had previously done. We even got a shout out in the guild report for being "One of the nicest towers in the guild". Personally, I think that is wrong. All Saints is **the** nicest tower in the guild bar none.

So that's it, we're done... sort of. A project like this is never done, and I'm certain we could find things to fettle with for years to come. That said, all that is really left now is to address some struckness issues. However, putting my project manager hat on here, that is outside of the scope of this project, and falls more under general steeple keeping.

It's been an absolute pleasure seeing this project through. And while many can attest for the extortionate amount of swearing and getting cross with inanimate objects that I did; I hope those that volunteered and contributed enjoyed it and are as proud of the end result as I am.



- Ed Walker

Working hard or hardly working?  
Photos by Ed Walker

## Fresher's Tour fun:

The Fresher's Tour started off at The Last Post in Beeston, where absolutely no one managed to be on time. Then it was a half hour walk to the first tower.

The first ring was a ground floor 6 bell ring in Bramcote, which was a nice start to the day, apart from the mildly terrifying spider that had to be lowered from a different room and had a protective layer on it to reduce the risk of head injuries.

After Bramcote was a very busy bus ride to the city centre to get to the next tower – St Peter's. Unfortunately, we walked to the bus stop only to see the bus just leaving – thankfully it wasn't a very long wait for the next one! During the wait Laura took the opportunity to bring out her pack of custard creams, which she then proceeded to sustain everyone on for the rest of the outing.

The bells at St Peter's were muffled for Remembrance Day, which sounded lovely until halfway through the first ring, when the muffle on the three slipped a full 180 degrees. This meant that for the rest of the time at the tower, the three was muffled on the wrong stroke, which made for some very interesting ringing!

After a short stop in Sainsbury's to get some lunch, it was time for bowling. Due to an absent ringer, Geraldine got the chance to play, and ended up nearly winning! As there was still some time to spare before the next tower, we also played a quick game of pool, before catching a tram back to Beeston.



Beeston was the favourite tower, as it had the most people by far. This meant that it was a good end to the ringing portion of the day, as there was the chance for everyone to ring some more interesting methods.



Then it was back to The Last Post for food, after which we ended the day with a trip to The Crown for some drinks.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the tour, and to all the tower captains who let us invade their towers.

**- Eleanor Lucas**

## Manchester NUA Mischief:

On Friday, students from Nottingham and surrounding universities (NUSCR) ventured on the train to Manchester travelling through the rural peak district. On arrival to the city, a conveniently short walk from the station landed many of the young ringers in a Weatherspoon's. Some decided to leave the pub early and head to St Matthew's in Stretford, I wasn't one of those so can't comment on the ringing here, unfortunately.

Eventually, those who decided not to head to the evening ringing made their way to the accommodation for the weekend, which was at the hall for St Matthews. For many, the journey simply consisted of jumping on the tram to Stretford and walking the short distance to the hall. Yet 4 members decided to venture to the local bargain booze in the pursuit of supplies for the weekend. Unfortunately, on arrival, this wasn't open, so onto Tesco, they went. Booze acquired, it was decided to finally head to the hall, yet once in the Uber, it took the group an embarrassing amount of time to realise that they were heading in the wrong direction.

Friday night consisted of catching up with familiar faces and getting to know new ones. For two the night ended prematurely, both being put to bed before midnight. With some rough head on Saturday morning, we awoke to the smell of cooked breakfasts and cups of tea which was much appreciated. Many decided to miss the first tower, Newhay, as it required an early start due to it being on the other side of the city and the rest of the towers for the day. Yet for those who made the trip "we had to hike up a hill to get there and they probably weren't worth the effort."



Therefore, for most of NUSCR, the first tower of the weekend was Oldham, St Mary which was difficult to ring with many of the bells having some character to them. Those who had a go appreciated the challenge but agreed wouldn't be repeated. Many found lunch in a pub across from the church, with pints for £3 and food not much more, the influx of young ringers kept the pub very busy.

Those selected for the striking competition headed back into the city centre to the Salford, Sacred Trinity which was selected. The band rang Plain Bob Doubles, called by Miss Evie Newton, coming joint third behind Durham and Birmingham. The few towers were at Prestwich, Stand and Bury, were right next to the church and had a proper "ringers pub" with more cheap pints and a chance to try some local ales.

On return to St Matthew's Hall, there was a curry which had been prepared by Manchester to fuel us for the evening followed by the traditional ceilidh. We all got involved, with this being the first for some – most came away with only minor bruising, but others in the room may not have come off so lightly from the baskets. The rest of the evening entertainment consisted of attempting a 5-base human





pyramid to match SUA's efforts and a boat race, which we didn't finish on the podium so nothing more needs to be said. At midnight, the lights were turned off and the whole of NUA sang happy birthday to Mr Page which was accompanied by cake and plenty more drinking.

Sunday morning, everyone packed up and made their way to Manchester Cathedral. Most just rang rounds and call changes as there were lots of young ringers to get through. We exited through the basement so as not to disturb the service with our bulky rucksacks and sleeping bags. We all headed to Spoons because most of our trains were after lunch (which ended up involving a rather cold 1h30 in Stoke on Trent train station, so less said about the journey back the better).

We all made it back to our respective homes in one piece, sleep-deprived and with the addition of BUSCR's mascots Kevin and Shelly – who will hold residence at All Saints for a few weeks.

A massive thank you to Manchester for organising a great weekend with the towers, accommodation, food and of course ceilidh. NUSCR are looking forward to next year in Liverpool so it will be another fantastic weekend I'm sure.

- **Hannah Simpson**



NUSCR stuck in Stoke on Trent feat.  
BUSCR mascots  
Photo by Ben Small