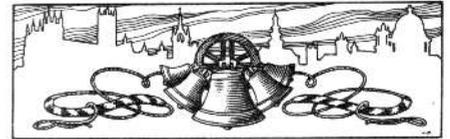


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Foundry Focus – work at Whitechapel

(All bell weights given in this article are approximate)

Considerable time has elapsed since work carried out by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry was featured in Foundry Focus and so this edition which is principally concerned with work carried out in 1989 also picks up one or two of the more unusual projects from 1987 and 1988.

As many know, it was in 1987 that we recast the eight bells from St. Patrick's Church, **Ballymena**, into a new and lighter ring of 12 and hung them with completely new fittings and framework. As well as being the first ring of 12 in Northern Ireland, they are also the only ring in the key of F sharp. The details of the bells after tuning are as follows:

Tenor	F#	14-2-17
11th	G#	10-2-19
10th	A#	7-2-14
9th	B	6-3-7
8th	C#	5-3-3
7th	D#	4-3-0
6th	E#	4-1-5
5th	F#	4-1-5
4th	G#	3-3-19
3rd	A#	3-2-17
2nd	B	3-2-1
Treble	C#	3-1-11

Again in 1987 we tuned the eight bells from **Tring** and rehung them the following year with new fittings in the old frame which was strengthened and re-supported from a new girder foundation. The tenor is, we believe, the lightest bell for its pitch in the country. Although reputed to weight 24½ cwt it in fact weighed in at 18-3-15. After tuning it finished at 17-3-18 and is in the key of C sharp. (Its actual pitch is 561 cycles per second). It would appear that the tenor at Derby Cathedral is the next contender weighing in at 19-0-1 in approximately the same keynote. As well as being the lightest bell for its keynote we believe it is also the largest bell cast by Richard Chandler still remaining.

During 1987 and 1988 we cleaned and tuned the 12 old bells from **St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London**, and cast three trebles to augment them thus forming the first diatonic change ringing peal of 15 bells in the world. To these 15 were added flat 9th and flat 2nd semi-tone bells thus forming a light 12. Additionally, we designed a bellframe to house the 17 bells upon one level and equipped the bells with completely new ringing fittings. Installation now awaits the completion of an independent bell tower to house them in **Perth, Australia**. The details of the bells after tuning are as follows:

Tenor	C#	29-0-14
14th	D#	21-1-19
13th	E#	16-1-11
12th	F#	14-1-8
11th	G#	11-2-11
10th	A#	9-2-8
9th	B#	7-2-19

8th	C#	7-1-3
7th	D#	5-3-17
6th	E#	5-2-10
5th	F#	5-0-20
4th	G#	5-1-27
3rd	A#	5-0-0
2nd	B#	5-0-20
Treble	C#	4-2-21
Flat 9th	B	8-3-19
Flat 2nd	B	5-0-15

To replace these we cast a new ring of 12 plus a sharp 2nd semi-tone bell and hung the ring with new fittings and framework lower in the tower. For convenience, the old frame was left in situ. The reduced plan area of the tower at the lower level necessitated a somewhat unorthodox design of bellframe with no less than nine of the bells swinging into the window openings. The whole structure was supported from a reinforced concrete steel grillage which combined with the lower positioning of the bells has resulted in far less tower movement.

Tenor	D	29-1-1
11th	E	20-1-23
10th	F#	14-2-10
9th	G	12-1-9
8th	A	9-0-5
7th	B	7-1-8
6th	C#	6-3-24
5th	D	6-2-11
4th	E	6-0-16
3rd	F#	5-3-2
2nd	G	5-1-23
Treble	A	4-3-25
Sharp 2nd	G#	5-0-15

Coming now to 1989 but staying with relatively large bells, the eight from **Axminster** in Devon were tuned and rehung with mainly new fittings. At the same time, the ancient Brocus bell was rehung for stationary electric chiming and additional framework constructed over the existing frame to accommodate augmentation to ten at a later date. After tuning the tenor weighs 23-1-15 in the key of C sharp.

Also in Devon the recently rehung Warner eight at **St. Marychurch, Torquay**, were augmented to ten by the addition of two trebles weighing respectively 5-2-19 and 5-0-25. The bells and fittings were provided by Whitechapel but all installation was undertaken locally.

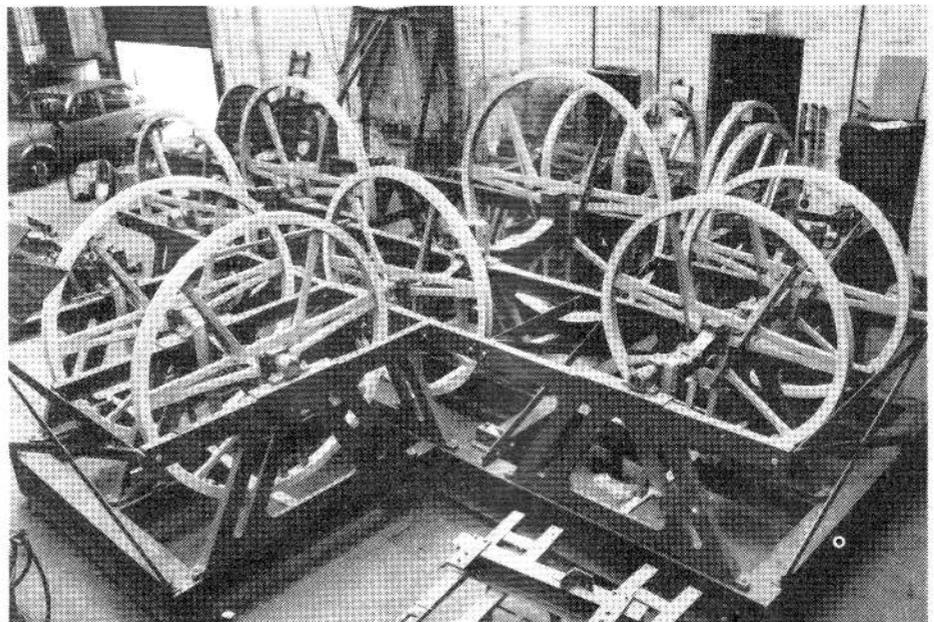
At **Albury** in Hertfordshire the cracked fifth bell was recast, with the tower work again being undertaken by local ringers.

Also cracked was the 6th bell at **Crosthwaite** in Cumbria, which was recast and the other seven tuned. All eight bells were rehung with new fittings in the existing bellframe which was strengthened. After tuning the tenor weighs just 12-2-24 in the key of E.

Also tuned and rehung with new fittings were the six from **Henham** in Kent where the tenor now weighs 10-3-7 in the key of G.

At **Weybridge** in Surrey the eight bells were tuned and rehung with completely new fittings and framework. Although most rings of bells are a tight fit within the tower, the bells at Weybridge proved to be extremely so. After tuning the tenor weighed just 11-1-7 in the key of F.

(Continued overleaf)



The St. Martin-in-the-Fields bell frame.