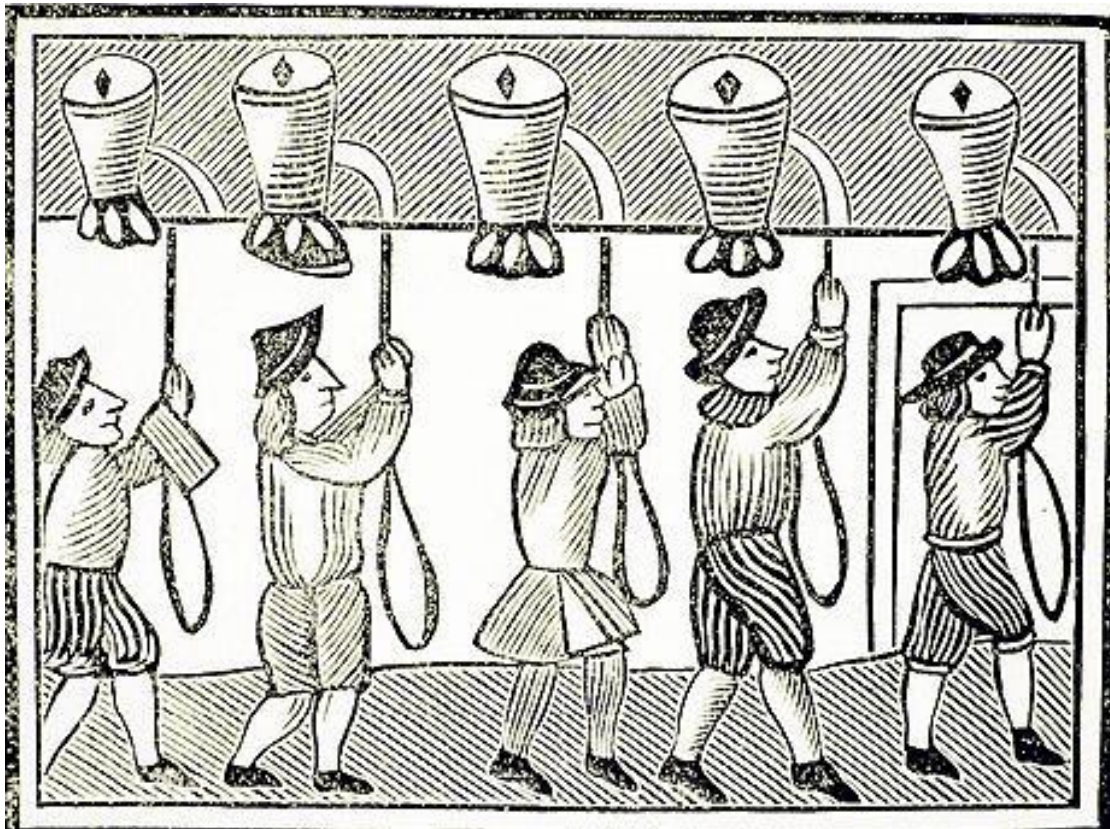


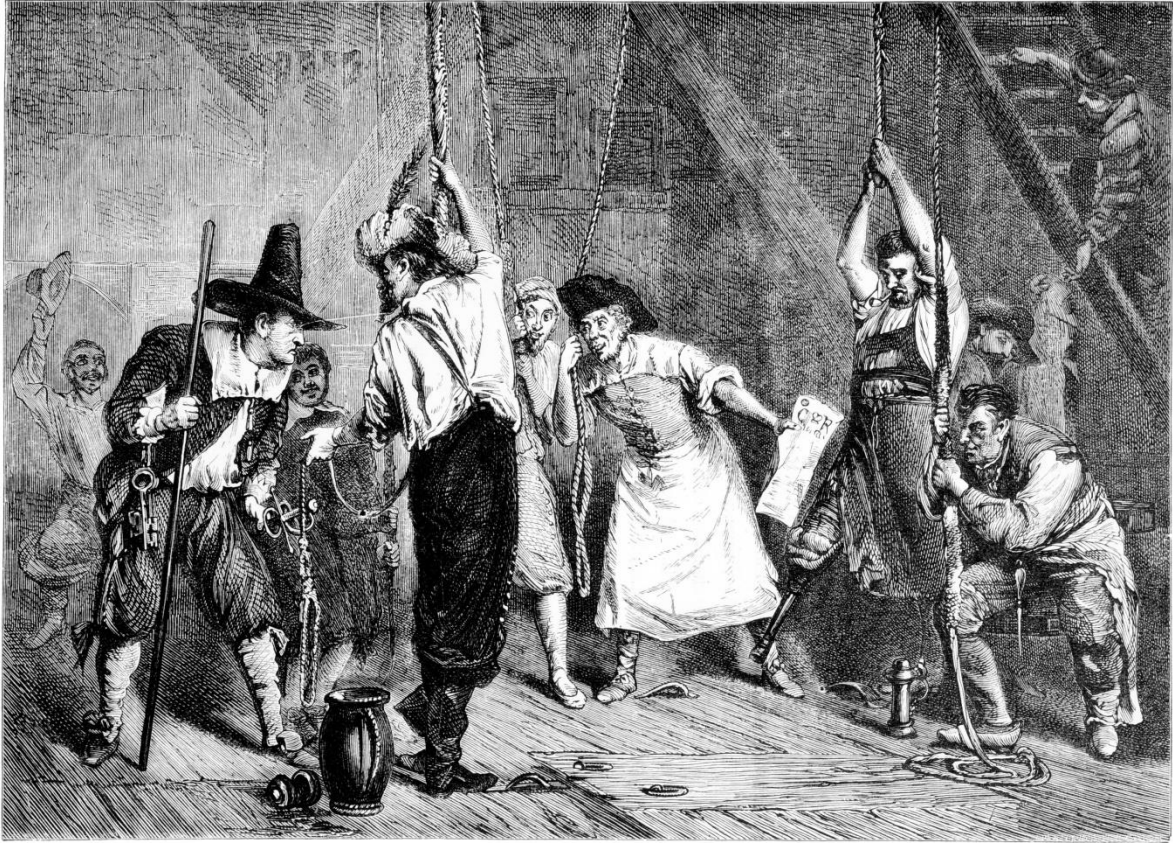
Chapter 7

Ringling through the Ages

The style and production of prints has varied through the centuries. This chapter provides examples of prints which reflect the development of change ringing as well as the fashions of the time. Many portray an early era than the one in which they were produced, so some artistic interpretation may have been used by the designer and/or engraver during the production. A number of other items, including postcards and other reproductions, have been included for completeness to give a broad range of pertinent examples.



Woodcut of early bell ringing from the University of Cambridge Library, also The Stapleton Collection in the Bridgeman Art Library, reproduced in *Change Ringing: The History of an English Art*, Vol I



Stylised print supposedly depicting early 17th century ringing. Source and size unknown. Note the ringer with the 'peg leg' and the beer jug.



A black & white postcard of the 18th Century Bellringer's Rule. It is situated in Calstock Church. There is no indication of the producer of this card as it is unposted

A
GARLAND
OF
BELLS,

WHEREIN EACH RINGS
TO ITS PROPER
TUNE.



“ Merrily, merrily rang the Bells,
“ The Bells of Saint Nich'las' Tower.”

PRINTED FOR JOHN BELL, ON THE QUAY,
BY GEORGE ANGUS, IN THE SIDE,
NEWCASTLE.

MDCCCXV.

A Garland of Bells wherein each rings to its proper tune taken from a *Selection of Scottish, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, Vol 4, 1796*. Copy shown is front sheet referenced Newcastle, 1815



The Jolly Ringers, a song by Charles Dibdin from his opera 'Castles in Air', was first published in April 1793 and is shown as sold at number 42 Long Lance. It was re-issued the following month and can be found dated May 1793. A published version of the song also appeared on pages 227 and 228 in *The Sporting Magazine Or, Monthly Calendar of the Transactions of the Turf, the Chase, and every other Diversion interesting to the man of Pleasure, Enterprise, and Spirit* (October 1793). The prolific Dibdin, who was born in Southampton, was one of the most popular English composers of his era, whose operas were regularly performed in London theatres including Salder's Wells, Covent Garden, Drury Lane and the Haymarket, and his own venue Sans Souci on the Strand.

THE JOLLY RINGERS,

OFT has the world been well defin'd
 By favers and by fingers ;
 I call't a belfrey, and mankind
 I call the jolly ringers.
 Through majors, bobs, and triple-bobs,
 Each emulously ranges ;
 And while each anxious bosom throbs,
 All try to ring the changes.

These college youths are sent to school,
 And afterwards to college,
 And thence return by square and rule,
 Well versed in worldly knowledge.
 As genius leads, to cram his maw,
 Each art's close labyrinth ranges ;
 And on religion physic, law,
 Completely ring the changes.

The fortune-hunter swears and lies,
 And courts the widow's jointure,
 Then with a richer heiress flies,
 Nor minds to disappoint her.
 The widow too, has her arch whim,
 Nor thinks his conduct strange is ;
 A titled heir succeeds to him,
 And thus she rings the changes.

The waiter pillages the greek,
 The greek, the spendthrift fleeces,
 The spendthrift, makes dad's fortune
 squeak,
 Dad rack-rents and grants leases.
 The tenants break, gazette reports
 Each difference arranges,
 Till pro and con, through all the courts,
 The lawyers ring the changes.

Thus, like the bells, each fear and hope,
 Hangs wav'ring and suspended,
 All tug away, while some a rope,
 Get more than they intended.
 In merry cadence, as they roll,
 We'll rove where reason ranges ;
 Nor shall the bell of fadnets toll,
 Till death shall ring the changes.

The first known advertising of this print is found as part of an advert for an entertainment including 'The Jolly Ringers - The whole is written and accompanied, and will be spoken, sung, and accompanied by Mr. DIBDIN' from several newspapers including the *Star*, *Saturday 28 September 1793*. A further advert 'This day is published, THE JOLLY RINGERS' is known *Morning Post*, Wednesday 15 January 1794.

A separate broadsheet (see example on the left above) was produced as a slip song and published on 9 July 1794 by J. Marshall, No 4 Aldermay Churchyard, London (Museum of London A19357). The CCCBR Library has a later printed broadsheet of this song dated 1802, as shown above (right), which is a modified edition of the same broadsheet with the central spine of stacked bells being replaced by a decorative design.



In the Old Belfry – Bell Ringers in action - source unknown but from 1893



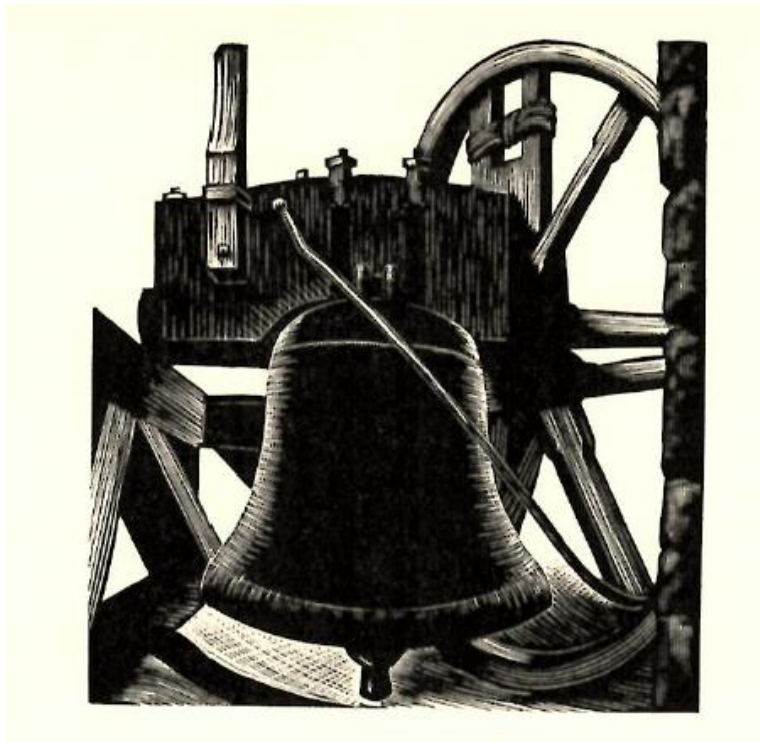
Broken rope: *The Boy's Own Paper* - date unknown



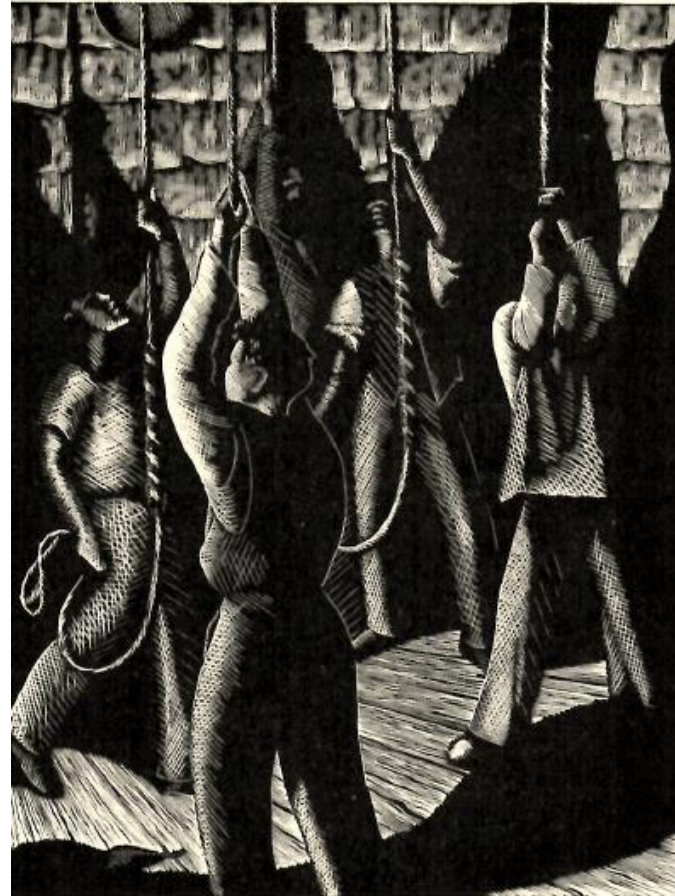
Magic Lantern Slide of church bell ringers circ. 1900 - source unknown



The Ringers of Launcells Tower – a painting by Frederick Smallfield (1829 to 1915) owned by the Royal Cornwall Museum, but on long-term loan to Bude Museum. A number of reproductions of this famous painting exist in print form. Also see the *Ringling World* 10 March 2017 page 240 and 2 June 2017 page 551. The print is accurate of the structure of the present day tower except that the window and door are reversed suggesting the painting was produced from a reverse perspective.

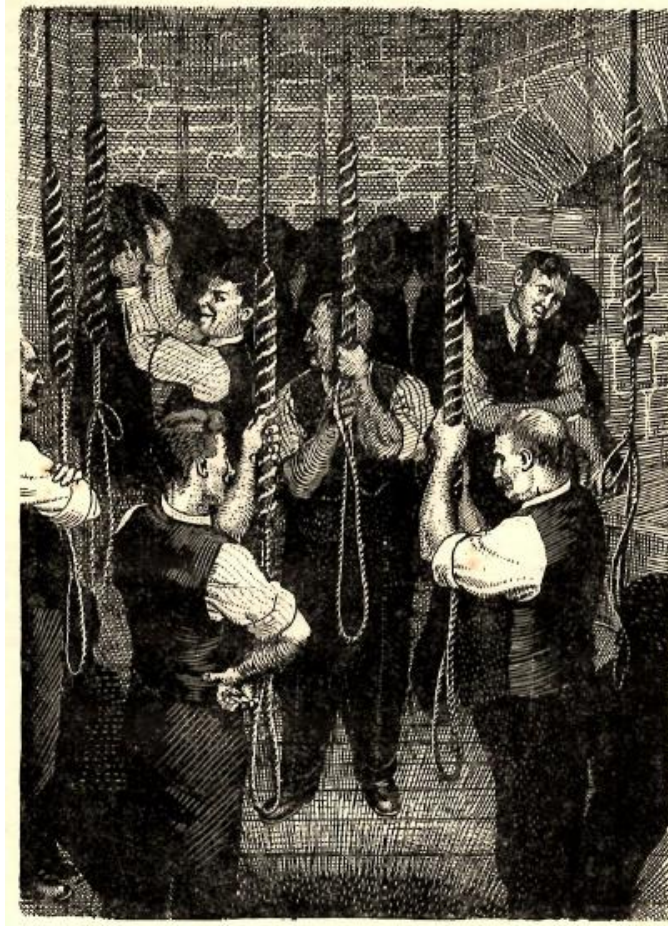


Bell by Clare Leighton: *Country Matters*, 1937 (7.0cm by 7.6cm)



Bell Ringers by Clare Leighton: *Country Matters*, 1937 (9.5cm by 12.7cm)

Source: *Bell Ringers* by Clare Leighton (1998 to 1989) from the 1st edition of book prints of her classic wood engravings - they have been reproduced on a number of occasions to illustrate relevant periodical articles



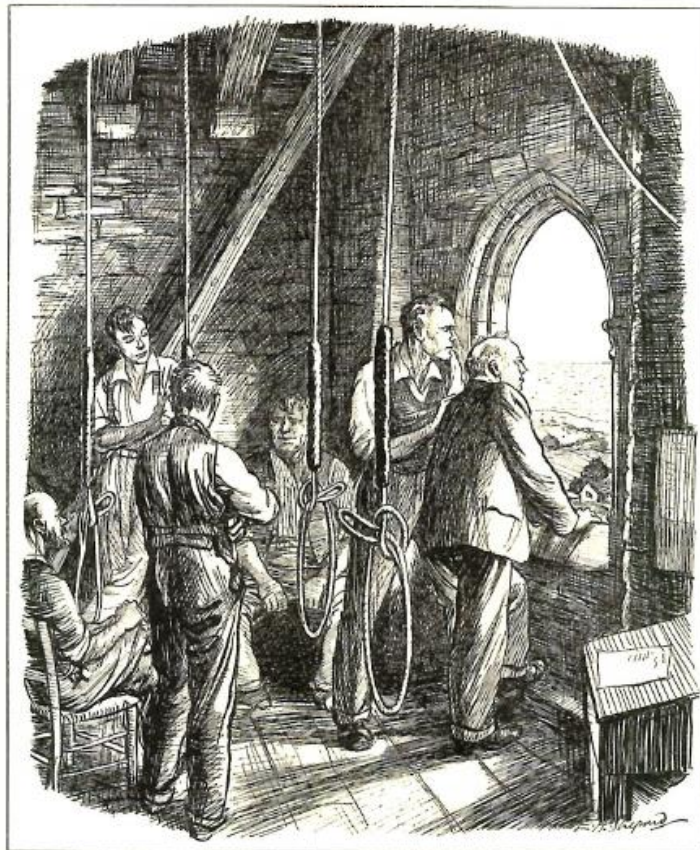
Green Tide – print by Richard Church: *Country Life*, circ. 1945, Page 99 (12.5cm by 17.5cm)



January: Source and date not known but either from a calendar or advert publicising the Midland Bank Limited – now HSBC (7.2cm by 7.2cm).



Bell Ringing: Source not known (14.3cm by 15.3cm)



Watchers of the Sea: *Punch or The London Charivari*, 18 September 1940 (size not known)

FORMERLY THE NINETEENTH CENTURY & AFTER: *THE*

Twentieth Century

JANUARY 1956



Edward Duden, A.R.A.

Home and Abroad

Harold Griffiths, Guy Wint, Mary Stocks, Edward Crankshaw

Letters from Carlyle to Froude

and essays and reviews by

John Beavan, Marjorie Bremner, W. L. Burn,
K. W. Gransden, Cecily Mackworth, Ben Bowen Thomas, Roy Walker,
J. G. Weightman

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS

Source as title shown - size unknown

