

# Bells

*"How soft the music of those village bells  
Falling at intervals upon the ear  
In cadence sweet! Now dying all away,  
Now pealing loud and louder still,  
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on"      Cowper*

From remote antiquity, bells have played their part in the varying stages of our lives. We love to announce events, both religious and secular, by the sonorous tones of the bell.

Bells were first introduced into England by Bishop Paulinus of Nola in Campania in around 400 AD. Hence the word 'campanology' meaning the study or use of bells.

Bell metal is composed of an amalgam of pure copper and tin in the right proportions. Gillett's always preferred to use tin from Cornwall.

The largest bell ever cast was the Great Bell or 'Monarch of Moscow' cast in 1653. It was 21 feet in height and diameter, and weighed 198 tons. It was fractured during a fire which took place in the building erected over it.

The largest Gillett bell was for Riverside Drive Church, New York weighing in at 18.25 tons with a dia. of 10'2"