

BELL RESTORATION 2014 TO AUGUST 2015

Aylesham	Inspection of a single unsafe bell requested. (DAC)
Barming	The bells have been tuned and rehung in the strengthened existing frame. KCACR did the removal and assisted Whites with re-installation. Rededication in November.
Boxley	All ground pulleys replaced.
Broomfield	5 bells are in and ringing and a sixth is promised. A dedication service is to be held on 30 th August
The KCACR mobile ring	Planning meeting was postponed but estimated costs amounting to some £17000 were passed round the sub-committee for consideration.
Canterbury Former St Alphege	Kings school are keen to get something done to the bells here such that ringing can be re-introduced to the curriculum. A site meeting has taken place and a number of options will be offered to Kings for their consideration. A quotation has been received from Taylors.
Chartham	Frame tightened and treble wheel fixed.
Crundale	The tenor bell of the 3 is ringable but currently has no stay. It was tolled recently for the death of one of the churchwardens and the family are considering donating some money for restoration of the bells.
Downe	Clapper refitted.
East Langdon	Inspection and routine maintenance. Complete installation by Bowell in reasonable order but the bells had not been lubricated for a long time such that at least one bell did not swing!
Faversham	Site visit to discuss possible refurbishment. Funding possibly from Viridor. Plans for a new installation may run into problems with retaining the old frame.
Folkestone St Peter	Erection of scaffolding has allowed detailed inspection of this bell.
Gillingham	Maintenance.
Grain	Routine maintenance and inspection. 4 bells in a 6 bell frame, all in reasonable order. Some minor remedial work done / will be done.
Great Chart	Tenor pulley investigated.
Hayes	5 th bell jammed in pit by sound proofing material. Freed off and repairs done.

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- Higham** Maintenance and report made. New ropes to be fitted.
- Lydd** Investigation of the treble found a problem with one bearing and gudgeon. The bell was dismantled and new gudgeons and bearings have been fitted by Matthew Higby and Co with tower work by KCACR. All bells checked for similar problem.
- Lympne** Installation of additional framework and 2 trebles.
- Margate** 7th clapper refitted.
- Margate Shopping Arcade**
The two chimes of five bells, each forming the Cambridge Quarters, cast by Whitechapel in 1984, with the largest bell of each set about 3 ³/₄ cwt in E, have been dismantled and removed. It is not intended to replace them and David Cawley has been negotiating with the developers with a view to recovery. Each set could potentially form the basis of a light six or eight. These were sold elsewhere.
- Monkton** New ropes fitted and a wider pulley fitted on the tenor.
- Murston** These bells have now been removed and are the property of the association subject to Strood or another tower paying the removal costs. They are in store at Taylors free of charge but we may need to check the insurance situation. If I can retrieve the VAT on the scaffolding, the total cost will be £3430, somewhat less than the original estimate of £5000. Current scrap value around £12000 and obviously a lot more as bells. Picture shows the tenor coming down.



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Penshurst	Rehang and construction of ringing gallery planned as part of a church re-ordering.
Preston next Wingham	Routine maintenance and report.
Saltwood	Problem with the tenor bearings sorted.
St Lawrence in Thanet	Investigation of corrosion to steel support beams. Replacement beams made locally and fitted by KCACR.
St Paul's Cray St Paulinus	Enquiries to be made to find out if the 3 bells can be removed for use elsewhere. A site visit has been done. The installation is totally derelict. There are 2 old bells and a Warner bell as the tenor. The old bells appear cracked but the heavy deposits of guano may be having some effect. Discussions continue.
St Peter in Thanet	No ringing for foreseeable future due to tower problems.
Seal Chart	Some adjustments have been done here. The ex 5 th is now installed at Covington (see Youtube).
Strood / Murston	The project at Strood is moving rather slower than has been suggested by a local rep. and Murston are keen to get their bells removed. I have contacted Taylors and they are prepared to store the bells if we remove them. As there will be some quite considerable expense in removing Murston (£5000), the proposal is that we remove the bells, they then become KCACR property until such times as Strood require them and pay back the removal costs or it is deducted from their grant. If this does not happen, we have 5 bells or around £12000 of bell metal.
Thanington	Improvements and repairs by Whitechapel with local assistance.
Walmer	Some routine maintenance and inspection. After a good tighten up, there still seems to be some movement and the bells certainly do not go

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well. Further investigation to be carried out. Wheels on 1 and 7 in poor condition with plans to replace them.

Westbere

Replacement ropes.

Wingham

Routine maintenance and report.

Wrotham

The 6th wheel collapsed and further investigation has prompted a larger project. The front 7 are to be fitted with ball bearings, all wheels are to be rebuilt as required and while the bells are dismantled, the frame is to be painted. Investigations into improving the sound in the ringing gallery after rehang. All tower work by KCACR/ locals, refit by Taylors.