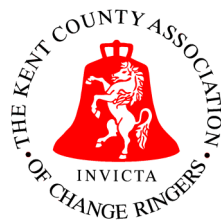


Look to



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OF THE KCACR : AUTUMN 2017

On the ropes with...

Astrid Fairclough Sevenoaks

What do you do outside bell ringing?

At work I run a project at NHS England where we hope to improve how the NHS supports women with FGM and to help make sure young girls growing up in the UK are not going to be cut themselves. It's been a very interesting and busy time, and I've seen some funny stuff with the politics going around of course, but we've a long way to go still to really change behaviours. At home it's a mix of my allotment, my very fun tap dancing lesson each week, going running (I've retired to half marathons after my one and only full marathon earlier this year), making the odd hat, and making good use of living this close to London and going to all sorts of evening events and concerts.

What attracted you to ringing and who encouraged you to start?

My mum had started ringing as part of a new band at Otford 17 years ago, and during half term she persuaded me to come along and "just have a go". From that point on I think I was hooked though I'm sure I had no intention of starting to ring, and then my class mates at lunchtime would find me writing out patterns and funny lists of numbers.

Who taught you to ring and do you have any mentors?

Catherine and Frank Lewis took me under their wing and helped me so much. Many others helped, like Fraser, Jen, Stan, Ann, Eric, Mike,



Anthony, and the list continues as I've been very fortunate to be supported along the way, but I'll always consider Catherine and Frank to have been my ringing parents, and I think my real parents were very happy to share me (and enjoy a little break themselves!)

Did you ring whilst at University?

I went to the Open University, so have remained local with my ringing on the whole.

How are you enjoying your new role as tower captain at Sevenoaks?

What I do very much enjoy is by the end of practice whatever else I was thinking or worrying about at work has entirely disappeared from my head as I still have to concentrate! There is also a lovely sense of satisfaction when something works well, especially if someone is learning a new method and that ring turns out to be the nicest sounding in the evening. I think well struck ringing calms me down, with the opposite unfortunately also being very true!



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October 2017 to October 2018

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On the ropes with.....

Astrid Fairclough.....continued

For the benefit of future visitors is Sevenoaks a calling up or calling down tower?

We call down, as is proper and correct of course. But we're very happy to adapt, incorporate and flex to include our friends from the upwardly inclined persuasion.

Do you have any particular favourite ring(s) of bells?

Sevenoaks of course. Best bells in the district. I have a real soft spot for East Peckham. Actually if anyone is rude about a peal calling them buckets, I'm pretty likely to jump to their defence and decide they are my new favourite ring, because no bells like to be called buckets. Of course this isn't an indication that I can be difficult or stubborn.

What has been your funniest ringing moment to date?

I've been lucky enough to go on some outings organised by Nick Wilkins which have generally had an island theme. Whilst we weren't in a tower for this moment, I don't think I'll ever stop chuckling about how much fun we had flying from Bournemouth to Guernsey. It was a tiny plane, I think about 10 seats, and all but two passengers were ringers. The captain very much joined in with the frivolity, and somehow, though I couldn't tell you why, we were pretty much helpless the whole way over, it's perhaps a minor miracle we made it in one piece. In trying to answer this, I've realised just how many of those outings have ended up in tears from laughing.

Any alarming or unusual ringing moments?

Aside from being asked by you to be "front page" of the Look to?!

Much as I don't look forward to things like this happening, lost ropes or broken stays don't tend to worry me too much.

I think it's most when an exceptionally good ringer with a lifetime of top level experience calls to ask if I'll ring in a quarter!

Most satisfying ringing achievement so far?

Calling a quarter of Bob Major last year, after some effort.

What is your current ringing ambition or target method to master?

I really want us at Sevenoaks to get back to basic triples on a Sunday morning on a regular basis. We're making progress and getting there but that's what I spend my time plotting and thinking about.

And finally.....who do you think is the dishiest ringer in the district?

Robin Rouse—no contest!

(Editor, I do hope your journalist was authorised to offer such a generous bribe).

A QUESTION OF RINGING.....

Can you identify the mystery ringer seen attending to a rope break this summer? A Tonbridge District 120 Club £10 share is the prize for the first correct reply sent to the editor. The answer and winning entrant will be announced in the next edition of the Look to.



DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

THE THIRD DISTRICT QUARTERLY

MEETING OF 2017 was held on Saturday 8th July at St John the Baptist, Penshurst at 6.10pm.

- In the absence of District Chairman Mike Bullett, Louise Nightingale welcomed District Members to the meeting. Chairing the meeting Louise was joined by 25 District members.
- Apologies were received from Mike Bullett, Daniel Jarvis, and Jen Thomas, who arrived late. Paul Burgess was not in attendance.
- The Chairman thanked the ringers of Penshurst church, particularly Tower Captain Trevor Nicholls and Penshurst Ringing Master Janice Byrne and their associates for hosting the meeting and providing the lovely tea. The Chairman also thanked the Rector, Rev Tom Holme in advance of the Service concluding today's meeting.

- At the Westerham Meeting, the KCACR and District Membership Database was discussed. The Chairman clarified this information and advised members that the KCACR membership form automatically assumes that members wish to be included in the database, therefore they should opt out if this is not the case. She also stated that the Secretary would email all Tower Captains and contacts to collect any outstanding email addresses from members who wished to be included in the database but were currently not listed.

- The Chairman also informed members of a change of date to the 2018 calendar of events. The District Quarterly Meeting to be held at Otford will now be held on Saturday 7th April 2018, the first Saturday as is usual, as there is no longer a clash of events on that Saturday.

- As proposed by Hamilton Woods and seconded by Robin Rouse, the minutes were accepted by those present, as a true and accurate record of the DQM at Westerham on 25th March 2017.

• THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WERE ELECTED:

Carol Beadle (Hever), Stephanie Rueff (Hever), Oliver Engleback (unattached), Serafina Wilson (Hever). All new members were elected unopposed and were welcomed to the Tonbridge District of the KCACR. Carol and Stephanie were present and received their certificates.

• CENTRAL COUNCIL AND THE CRAG REPORT.

By way of keeping members up to date with recent developments in the world of Bell Ringing, the Chairman referred members to the recently published report by CRAG.

The Central Council Review Action Group is a group commissioned to review the work and actions of the Central Council with a view to improvement and reform for the future.

Members were reminded that the report is available to read on the Central Council's website (cccbr.org.uk) along with a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

The Report has now been presented to the AGM of the CCCBR, held in Edinburgh at the end of May 2017, where it was accepted and is now being put into action.

- The Chairman took this opportunity on behalf of the District Committee and the District Membership to publicly thank David and Janet Beeken, all the Ringers of Cranbrook and Hawkhurst, and especially David Lyddiatt as Chef, for their fantastic organisation and hosting of the recent KCACR AGM held at Cranbrook on Easter Monday, 17th April 2017.

- With the exception of the RW National Youth Contest (which will be reported in the Autumn edition) all recent events can be found in Look To.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Jen Thomas advised members that the joint London outing with Lewisham District would comprise the following towers: St Clement Danes (10), St Dunstan in the West (10), St Lawrence Jewry (8), St Michael, Cornhill (12) and St Magnus the Martyr (12).
- Mike Worthington will shortly be emailing ringers to ask for volunteer helpers for the Training Day on September 2nd.
- Look To also includes details on how to stand, be nominated, or make nominations for positions on the District Committee. All positions will be up for election at the Annual District Meeting on Saturday 7th October.

KCACR GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

- Members were reminded that in future only one KCACR Handbook will be issued per tower. Members wishing to have an individual copy or additional copies will have to order these.

DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Catherine Heathcote initiated a discussion on wedding ringing and fees, as she and the Lamberhurst and Kilndown ringers had experienced some problems with fees at Kilndown recently.

- Members from several towers described how they receive a cheque for wedding ringing directly from the bride and groom, thus bypassing any church bureaucracy.

- Hamilton Woods also described how Tonbridge tower receives an additional suggested donation from wedding couples, as well as the fees, for the upkeep of the bells.

- Several ringers mentioned their reluctance to travel long distances in order to spend a long afternoon in a tower, when ringing both before and after a wedding, for only £10.

- Ringers also felt that in many cases £10 was very little reimbursement for time, travel and inconvenience, as well as wear and tear on ropes, fixtures and fittings etc.



A Study in Scarlet—Ringing Masters Jen Thomas and Mike Worthington look on approvingly during afternoon ringing at the Penshurst Quarterly meeting.

- Phil Jarvis highlighted the skills required for ringing, although Tony Cresswell later commented that payment for ringing skills particularly, could put ringers in the position of ‘church employee’ leading to untold paperwork/tax requirements.

Catherine Heathcote agreed to draw up a protocol that could be used as an advisory document by ringers when negotiating with Church officials on the subject of wedding ringing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18:34

120 CLUB RESULTS (JULY)

90 Jen Thomas, Brasted

61 Colin Fleetwood, Otford

97 Arthur Lewis, Leigh

CARRY ON CLANGING!

Does your ringing chamber resound not only to Doubles but doubles entendres? Do you experience any inadvertent Sid James, Hattie Jacques or Kenneth Williams moments at practices or on Sunday mornings?

Heard at Tonbridge recently after a box was positioned and a request made for help to raise the 19cwt tenor was the response from a regular visitor. “I would do, but I prefer to do it from underneath rather than from above!”

(Any future contributions for this column will be subject to close editorial vetting—Ed)



The Charmborough Ring

Thinking of an event to attract the public?

- Recruiting drives
- Training courses
- Public demonstrations

The Charmborough Ring is available for hire by ringers who want to promote ringing among the wider public and attract new recruits. It always draws enthusiastic observers and participants.

Hire charge, including transport within 50 miles of London, from £190 for 1 day to £320 for 5 days. Full details at: www.charmborough.org

Enquiries to: hiring@charmborough.org

The Charmborough Bell Trust is registered charity No. 1126164

COUNTY GENERAL COMMITTEE

Points from the General Committee Meeting held on 26th August 2017

It was agreed that we would prepare and conduct a census across all towers in the Association to allow us to better understand the state of ringing today.

The accounts have now been audited and just need to be submitted to the Charities Commission. The auditor has commented that the accounts are far too complicated, and this will be reviewed with him—including how the Districts account for the income from the sale of clothing and books.

It was agreed that the recruitment/training plan as part of the Armistice Day proposal will be dropped for the time being due to lack of resources, however the idea will be revisited.

Diocesan Safeguarding Training has now started to be arranged and delivered, so all towers should be aware of this.

The trailer has been ordered for the mobile ring, currently due to be delivered around mid October. Pricing for the addition of lettering to the bells has also been received and this will be passed to David Cawley who would like to pay for “KCACR” to be put on each one.

Faculty applications can now be made entirely online.

Following the last meeting, it has been decided we will only provide one printed copy of the next handbook for every tower, and anyone else wanting a printed copy will be able to place an order from December and these will be available for collection at the AGM as normal. Otherwise the Handbook will be available online.

Some proposed rule changes around the introduction of an Association Master and District Masters, and changes to the make up of the General Committee were discussed and will be made available online and circulated to Districts ready for their ADMs in October.

Following a proposal from the Secretary, it was agreed that the Association will pay for all expenses related to the Kent Young Ringers attending out of county events such as the South East England and National Youth competitions, to not allow cost to be a deciding factor in whether a young person can attend.

The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 23rd September, 9.45am draw, at East Malling.

The final General Committee meeting for 2017 will be held on 25th November, probably in the new venue which was well received today.

♦ Doug Davis, General Secretary

RINGING TIPS.....seen at Ditchling (8) are some suggestions for call changes.....

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| BOW BELLS | 13245768 |
| EXPLODING TITTUMS | 45362718 |
| JACKS | 16745238 |
| JOKERS | 17654328 |
| KINGS | 75312468 |
| QUEENS | 13572468 |
| ST. MICHAELS | 17652438 |
| TITTUMS | 15263748 |
| WHITTINGTONS | 12753468 |

Tonbridge Tower Outing—15th July

The Tonbridge tower outing took place on Saturday 15th July and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. There was a variety of ringing for everyone, including rounds and call changes through to Yorkshire Surprise Major and Double Norwich.

The first tower, St Mary, contained a recently restored ring of a 8 mixed Mears bells. These were noticeably oddstruck though went well and when pushed along had a distinct ‘twang’ to them – almost resembling the pre-refurbished bells at Southwark! Ringing ranged from some well struck rounds and call changes through to various Major and Triples methods which sounded very interesting indeed.

Onto St Saviours, having a heavy Warner back 8 and 2 Eijsbouts trebles. These were particularly challenging due to the tower movement though overall, they went quite well. Their interesting range of harmonics however gave them a rather old but grand feel to them. The ringing was accompanied by various trips downstairs to the church, of which the architectural style was stunning. Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters and rounds and call changes were particularly good pieces of ringing.

All Saints Eastbourne were another very challenging complete Warner octave, again the harmonics and tuning almost resembled grand old city bells from the outside. Ringing was very challenging due to the very stretchy ropes and long draft, which when pulling off felt quite unnerving but also a challenge which I quite enjoyed! Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples were particularly good pieces of ringing.

The Dewby ring also made an appearance and despite some getting used to, was a rather pleasant ringing experience ringing rounds and call changes to Plain Bob Major.

Another complete ring of Warner 8 were the lighter bells of Christ Church, again with some interesting harmonics though without the stretchy ropes and tower movement. They were easy to ring and quite enjoyable, ringing up to Yorkshire Surprise Major and Double Norwich, which sounded very good indeed.

This was followed by the obligatory ice cream and for the rest 1 or 2 pints at one of the pubs.

A big thank you to the organisers of the outing for making it such a great day out!

❖ *Alexander Running*

Sandhurst Evening Practice—22nd July

We had a lovely evening practice with the main church door open affording a great view over the fields in the evening sunshine.

There was an attendance of around 15 ringers, methods rung included Bourne Surprise Minor, Plain Bob, Little Bob, St Clements, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles. The evening finished with some spliced minor - Plain, Little, and Cambridge.

The local Sandhurst ringers kindly provided tea and biscuits throughout the evening—Thank you! However Jamie was SO hungry we had to stop for delicious fish and chips in Goudhurst on the way home!

❖ *Jen Thomas*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....

21st October to 5th November Quarter Peal Fortnight

4th November Morning Practice Kemsing, 10:00am - 12:30pm

2nd December District Training Day - locations tbc

9th December District Carol Service - Hadlow 6pm, ringing from 4.30pm

6th January Quarterly Meeting Sevenoaks 3pm to 8pm format TBA

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Cowden Tower Outing—22nd July

“I’ve got a good feeling about today”, declared Robin as we set off for Wivelsfield, the first tower of the day. Wivelsfield is a small, historic church with a beautifully kept graveyard, set down a narrow lane just off the main road between Haywards Heath and Ditchling. Who should we find in the church car park, but our Chairman, Mike Bullet, who, having cried off earlier, found he couldn’t resist joining us for the morning after all. The six bells here, we were informed, were the second lightest in Sussex, with a 5 ¾ cwt tenor.

Then off to Ditchling, just a few miles down the road. A lovely church, set up on a small hill overlooking the village and Ditchling Beacon. Those of us who had been on the Edenbridge outing to Rochester Cathedral recently were reminded of the access there, as here we climbed up a wooden spiral stairway and along a low, planked passageway to reach the ringing chamber. It was an anti-clockwise ring of eight, and lovely to ring. One of the group, driving between Wivelsfield and Ditchling had been listening to Classic FM and heard Bill Turnbull wishing everybody an enjoyable Saturday and asking anyone who was doing something unusual to ring in and let him know. She sent him a message saying that the Cowden bellringers were about to ring at Ditchling - and he announced it (although we didn’t hear it). It wasn’t until the Sunday morning after our outing when one of our churchwardens said that she had heard on the radio that we had rung at Ditchling that we realised what must have happened!

Another six bell tower, before lunch, at St. Cosmas & St. Damian, Keymer. A very small ringing circle, and lovely bells very similar in weight to Cowden. Then over the road to Fawltly Towers, whoops, we mean The Greyhound Inn. What can we say?



Unfortunately despite making the booking several months earlier, and calling in with our menu choices two days before, the pub was a great disappointment as they seemed to be totally unprepared for us. The food was not great - the cod and chips was a disgrace - the portion of fish was absolutely tiny. Salmon Tagliatelli, which I had confirmed twice would be in a white sauce, rather than tomato, ended up as chicken in tomato sauce with pasta - and was presented by the waiter as being “Pasta Carbonara”! The scampi was terrible. With half an hour before we were due to depart, we thought we had time for puddings. These took absolutely ages to arrive, so had to be gobbled up at speed. Robin, who had the Spotted Dick, had to eat it so fast that he has

been complaining of indigestion ever since! Coffee was not a possibility. Much merriment was had however, especially with the Apple Struddle (sic) which proved a popular pud. If you are in a large group our advice is not to go here!

The cloud which descended over the area during lunch, was now deep grey as we headed west towards Hurstpierpoint. We parked our cars and got a thorough drenching before rushing into the church. Some of the ringers appreciated this slightly heavier ring of eight after the morning’s lighter weight rings.

The final tower of the day was Cuckfield - due north of Hurstpierpoint. Just before leaving we took a rather diminished group photo outside the South door where Caroline had had her wedding day photos taken quite some time ago (!) This eighth bell ring was the heaviest of the day, the tenor being 15cwt.

It proved to be a very enjoyable outing, with a number of visitors, ringers and non-ringers, joining us for the day. Whereas ringing in several towers during a day can mean they become rather blurred in one’s memory, the lunch on this particular outing will not be forgotten!

❖ *Caroline Levy Cooper and Robin Rouse,
Cowden*

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Strike Back Express —29th July



On Saturday 29th July, Alan and Louise Pink made arrangements for the best fund raising opportunity yet, and the most fun, they hired a train, with the proceeds going to the Strike Back Against Blood Cancer campaign.

The train was a preserved diesel electric multiple unit with stock many of us remembered from the 1950s. It started from Hastings stopping at Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Bromley South, with both ringers and rail enthusiasts on board. Its destination was Bath, where the ringers headed for three towers open in Bath, and the train folks stayed on for Keynsham and a Vintage Transport fair.

A headboard fronted the train, specially painted for the occasion and auctioned during the journey, it was bought for the tower at Birchington - the day's proceeds totalled nearly £600 for the charity.

A great deal of thought and effort had been made to ensure we all had a splendid day: the train was decorated with bells and balloons, the buffet car sold very reasonably priced bacon butties, burgers, and drinks all day. There were competitions and raffles where we could all join in.

Julie McDonnell was there (dressed as an angel for some of the journey) and she toured the train with good wishes and a warm welcome.

A black and white dog spent the whole journey looking out of the window and barked when we went under a bridge. A quarter peal in hand of Julie McDonnell Doubles was completed on the return journey in the rear guard's van.

Our District was very well represented, and included a party of ringing visitors from Houston who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On arrival at Bath in glorious sunshine, the queue to ring at the towers moved swiftly along and was very well managed, ensuring all got to ring.

A terrific day out.

❖ *Angela Clark, Tonbridge*

**Keep up to date with the
District & KCACR news!**

visit the KCACR website

www.kcacr.org.uk



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Tonbridge and Lewisham District outing to London —12th August

A beautiful August Saturday, sun shining, pleasantly warm, certainly a frisson of trepidation in the air for some. The challenge set this year - 5 towers in the City with two 10 and two 12 bell towers.

Our start was the wonderful St Clement Danes – the ‘RAF’ and ‘Oranges and Lemons’ Church. A terrific start with ten bells. We moved smartly on to St Dunstan in the West on Fleet Street again a 10 bell tower – the trap door into the ringing room was quite novel.

A long tiring but amazingly satisfying day – I know our group returned to our home tower buzzing. For many it had been their first try at 10 and 12 bells so a steep learning curve.

What is so great about the bell ringing community is that it is just that a community – all ages and abilities, no one is excluded and those with expertise are happy to pass it on. During the day between 30 and 35 ringers attended and for some of the ringing rooms that in itself was part of the challenge as was climbing some of the tower steps! There was some terrific ringing.

A big thank you to Jen who took the lead in the organisation of the outing this year, but also many thanks to all from both the Tonbridge and



After a reasonably early lunch, we moved into the City for the 8 Bells at St Lawrence Jewry near the Guildhall. Our first 12 bell tower was St Michael upon Cornhill followed by our second the lovely St Magnus the Martyr near London Bridge.

Typical ringers on an outing—a busy ringing chamber at St Dunstan in the West.

Lewisham Districts who helped and attended, making this a great event.

❖ *Carmel Davidge, Chevening*

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Ringling World National Youth Contest in Birmingham

This was a great day out for everyone. The Kent team rang really well in their eliminator (but others with more experience rang better!).

Everyone was pleased with their performance on the day. They enjoyed ringing hand bells, ringing on the Charmborough Ring in the sunshine outside St Martin's, but the highlight of the day for EVERYONE was ringing on the 16....such a great experience. There are lovely photos of the day on the Kent Young Ringers' Facebook page.

The other Young Ringers' highlight in July was the quarter peal of 5 Doubles methods rung at Brasted on July 16th : another very creditable piece of ringing, conducted by Dan Jarvis and with 5 of the 6 Young Ringers coming from the Tonbridge District!

Input from Adam :

It was a fantastic day. Ringing on the 16 bells at St Martin's in the Bullring was of course the highlight, but the mini ring and other towers were also great. The day was well organised, already looking forward to next year. The only problem with the day was that we didn't win! I suppose we'll have to do better next year.....

Input from Jamie :

Good day out, with lots of good ringing and despite a member of our team hitting her head on the way into the ringing chamber, we still produced a great test piece.

♦ *Jen Thomas, Brasted*

.....and finally, CONGRATULATIONS!!

.....to Hadlow, after winning the County 6 Bell Striking Competition on 23rd September.



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TRAINING MATTERS

An enjoyable District Training Day of Plain Hunt at Edenbridge—2nd Sept

Catherine Lewis welcomed the students, Nick Gladwish from Penshurst, Amber Cusick from Westerham, and Susan Stacey from Kemsing.



We cracked straight on with making places, and making seconds place.

We swiftly progressed onto Basto, which taught us about ringing from the treble, leading and making seconds place, leading and then finding our next place. It was suggested by Catherine that to help us students the rest of the helpers (band) would wink at us to inform us they were the next bell to follow. It all went a bit pear shaped for a while when the winks were not forthcoming quickly enough. It caused a few laughs and lessened the pressure for us novices. Catherine was very patient and we all took a well earned coffee break, tucking into the yummy shortbread she'd made and brought in for us.

Others (me) brought in shop made Kitkats. After coffee Amber a younger student raced ahead with a whole pull on 5, how the young fare better, Nick and I soldiered on.

Whole pull on Bob minimus came into play when Catherine realised we might be just remembering by sight and not by places.

The rest of the morning was taken up by learning Plain hunt on 5, and Bob doubles on 5.

On behalf of Nick, Amber and myself I would like to thank our helpers, Richard Dyson – Edenbridge, Ray Price – Leigh, Caroline Levy Cooper – Cowden, Louise Nightingale – Cowden, Bobbie Fairclough – Otford, and Jane Wroe – Edenbridge, and our tutor Catherine Lewis. Thank you all so much for giving up your time at the weekend, also your patience and encouragement.

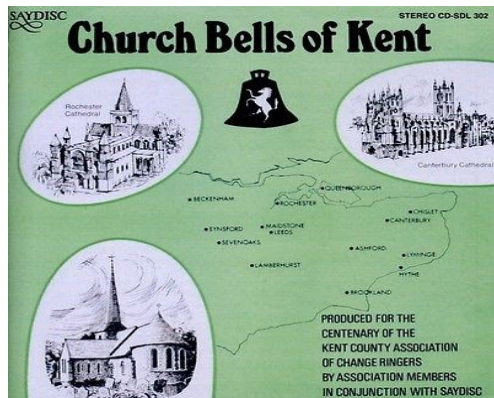
❖ *Susan Stacey, Kemsing*

Some more ringing records.....

.... only this time it's not ladies' records ('Look to', Summer 2017), but gramophone records.

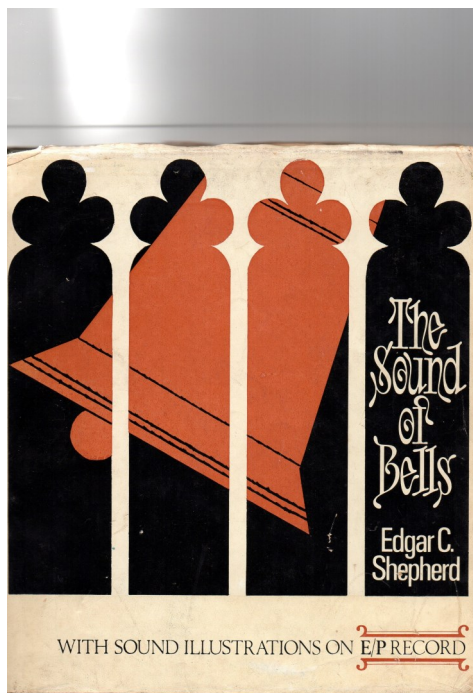
Gramophone records were invented by Emil/e Berliner in 1887, when they appeared alongside phonograph cylinders. I don't know when the first bell recordings were made, but there were certainly quite a few around at the beginning of the 20th century. Over the following hundred years or so records were produced giving the sounds of bells from the humblest parish church to the grandest cathedrals, as well from carillons, handbells, and continental churches. Recordings include tolling bells, ringing up and down, rounds, call changes, firing, half-muffled ringing, and methods from Doubles up to Cinques and Maximus. There is even one containing a track with Grandsire Minor, from Bourton-on-the-Water, but don't tell Eric!

Producers include Columbia, His Masters' Voice, EMI, and Saydisc, as well as local associations (the cover of The KCACR's 'Church Bells of Kent', in CD format, is illustrated), the CCCBR ('The Rhythm of Bells' - a selection of well struck changes), and the BBC. The latter produced a huge number in their BBC Sound Effects Series of 7" EP records. Every conceivable noise seems to have been recorded, and for bells we have, amongst others, exciting recordings of bicycle bells, door bells, and even 'Village Bells - 6 bells badly rung' - the tower is not identified!



The KCACR LP includes bells from seven towers in East Kent, and seven in West Kent. Two of the towers are in the Tonbridge District - Lamberhurst and Sevenoaks. It was produced, in conjunction with Saydisc, for the centenary of The KCACR, in 1980.

I thought Graham Everitt, a BBC sound recording engineer, and until a few years ago Tower Captain at Seal Chart, might have been involved in the production of the BBC records, but apparently he only got involved, very occasionally, with bell recordings for 'Bells on Sunday'-Hever being one of the locations.



A few recordings stand out for me, if only for the wording - Bow Bells Whittington Chimes, rung by the ASCY and, according to tradition, the actual chimes heard by Dick Whittington; St. Margaret's Westminster with Grand Sire (sic) Caters being rung; and the ringing peel (sic) of ten bells at the Washington National Cathedral. Perhaps they were ringing 'Oranges and lemons say the bells of St. Clement's'!



I know of two books containing records - Wendell Westcott's 'Bells and Their Music' (Putnam's, New York, 1970), and 'The Sound of Bells' by Edgar C. Shepherd (Record Books Limited, London, 1964). The cover and the record of the latter are illustrated. Both contain 'floppy' 7" EP records.

More recently, in 2009, David Potter, then of York Minster, included a CD of York Minster bells in his book 'The Bells and Bellringers of York Minster' (Quack Books, York).

❖ *Fraser Clift*

Look to

Always needs your articles and contributions to fill its pages!

- a write up of your tower outing (+ photos)
- ringing tips & hints (anything from learning bell handling to spliced surprise)
 - questions you might have

◆ historical snippets • anecdotes from a tower visit • announcements

Please feel free to send a photo with your article to: steve.newlands4468@gmail.com

The deadline for copy for the next edition is Tuesday 12th December 2017.

RINGING DURING THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2017

PEALS

Seal Chart Wednesday 23rd August

5040 Minor

One extent of St Clements, two extents of Double Oxford, and four extents of Plain Bob

Michael Stuttard 1, Caroline Stockmann 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Ronald Diserens 4, Catherine Lewis 5, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 6

First of minor and first away from tenor : 1

Cowden Friday 25th August

5040 Doubles

Two extents of April Day, eight extents each of Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, St Simon's, St Martin's and Plain Bob

Caroline Levy-Cooper 1, Jacqueline Barlow 2, Louise Nightingale 3, Steve Newlands 4, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 5, Thomas Barlow 6

Six methods for six decades. Early congratulations to Colin and May Newlands on their Diamond Wedding anniversary, married on 31st August 1957.

First of 5m, 1v : 3 and 4

QUARTER PEALS

Brasted Sunday 18th June

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Juliet Austin 1, James Austin 2, Catherine Lewis (C) 3, Alexander Fishburn 4, Alexander Runting 5, David Edgar 6.

First Grandsire Doubles : 2

Speldhurst Sunday 2nd July

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed from Parker's 12 part peal

Penny Gerrard 1, Peter Ruch 2, Elizabeth Ruch 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Louise Nightingale 5, Janice Byrne 6, Anthony Leeves (C) 7, Carl Nightingale 8.

For evensong.

Oxford Monday 3rd July

1260 Plain Bob Minor

Steve Newlands 1, Emma Tamkin 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3, Fraser Clift 4, Janice Byrne (C) 5, Anthony Leeves 6.

First of Minor as conductor : 5

Kemsing Saturday 8th July

40 minutes of Plain Bob Minimus

Dee Clift 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Lesley Barclay 3, Fraser Clift (C) 4.

Rung in memory of Harold Avery, the ninth of twenty Kemsing men to die in World War 1, who died on this day 100 years ago.

Rung on the back four, with numerous calls, after meeting short for a Doubles quarter.

Hever Friday 14th July

1320 Doubles

840 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob

Rita Cox 1, Jane Rosam 2, Richard Barclay (C) 3, Stephanie Rueff 4, Anne Rueff 5, Alison Wilson 6.

Rung to celebrate the birth of a son, on Sunday 9th July, to Chris Joynes and Katy Hinks.

Sevenoaks Friday 14th July

1344 Spliced Surprise Major

Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Superlative, Yorkshire

Eric Roughley 1, Julie Richardson 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Ann Jenner 4, Janice Byrne 5, Peter Richardson 6, Thomas Barlow 7, Stanley Jenner (C) 8.

Cowden Saturday 15th July

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Clive Lumsden 1, Robin Rouse 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper (C) 3, Andy Wickenden 4, Steve Newlands 5, Frank Shepherd 6.

Rung to mark the life of John Ball, hedge priest, early radical of free thinking English tradition, executed at St Albans on 15th July 1381.

"When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?"

Also rung to say farewell and best wishes to Cowden band member Lena Naske, as she returns home to Hamburg.

Brasted Sunday 16th July

1260 Doubles

60 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob, 240 each

St Simon's, St Martin's, St Osmund.

Laura Byrne 1, Jamie Austin 2, Matthew Jerome 3, Alexander Runting 4, Daniel Jarvis (C) 5, Sam Chard 6.

For evensong.

Average age 15.5 years. First of many for a full band of Kent Young Ringers.

Hadlow – Hunters Lodge - Friday 21st July
1260 Plain Bob Minor
Ann Jenner 1-2, Ray Taylor 3-4, Stanley Jenner 5-6 (C).

Chevening Wednesday 26th July
1250 Jerusalem Surprise Major
Janice Byrne 1, Catherine Lewis 2, Pamela Manger 3, Maureen Poole 4, Stephen Davis 5, David Manger (C) 6, Owen Webster 7, Michael Marshall 8.
First in the method by all the band except 6.

Cowden Wednesday 2nd August
1260 Doubles
60 St Simon's, 600 Reverse Canterbury, 600 Plain Bob
Steve Newlands 1, Robin Rouse 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Louise Nightingale (C) 4, Andy Wickenden 5, Carl Nightingale 6.
Rung as a birthday compliment on the 60th birthday of Trish Wood, mother of 4.
First including St Simon's : 5

Speldhurst Sunday 6th August
1260 Grandsire Triples
Penny Gerrard 1, Tessa Worthington 2, Mike Worthington 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Stella Wooldridge 5, Anthony Leeves 6, Eric Roughley (C) 7, Crispin Saunders 8.
For evensong.

Tonbridge Sunday 13th August
1260 Doubles
660 Plain Bob, 600 St Simon's
Steve Newlands 1, Pam Thomas 2, Stephen Coaker 3, Jacqui Fletcher (C) 4, Adam Brady 5, Alexander Runting 6.
First QP as conductor : 4

Speldhurst Wednesday 16th August
1260 Grandsire Triples
Cherele Bradley 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Janice Byrne 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Alexander Runting 5, Jacqui Fletcher 6, Anthony Leeves (C) 7, Eric Roughley 8.
First on 8 : 1

Edenbridge Tuesday 22nd August
1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles
Robin Rouse 1, Jane Wroe 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Andy Wickenden 4, Louise Nightingale (C) 5, Frank Shepherd 6.
First in method : 2
In memory of Tony Smart, past resident of Edenbridge.

Leigh Monday 28th August
1440 Norwich Surprise Minor
Emma Tamkin 1, Frances James (C) 2, Julie Richardson 3, Peter Richardson 4, Stella Wooldridge 5, David James 6.
Rung in memory of Capt VCR Caley MC, great-uncle of the conductor, who was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele on 22 August 1917.

Kemsing Thursday 31st August
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
Jenny Williamson 1, Dee Clift 2, Frank Rogers 3, Fraser Clift (C) 4, Michael Williamson 5, Susan Stacey 6.
First QP at first attempt : 6. Susan was taught to ring by Frank, at Shoreham, Kent.

Chevening Saturday 2nd September
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Julie McDonnell 1, Clare Bellis (C) 2, Elizabeth Shearman 3, Maureen Poole 4, Dorothe Steidinger 5, William Evans 6.
For Strike Back Against Blood Cancer.

Kemsing Saturday 2nd September
1260 Grandsire Doubles
Julie McDonnell 1, Isabel Pearce 2, Shelagh Norman 3, Susan Bailey 4, Helen Webb (C) 5, Emma Tilston 6.
Rung open in celebration of the life of Norma Randall whose funeral was held yesterday in High Wycombe.
First QP at first attempt : 6
For Strike Back Against Blood Cancer

Hadlow Sunday 3rd September
1272 Carlisle Surprise Minor
Emma Jarvis 1, Ann Jenner 2, Daniel Jarvis 3, Philip Jarvis 4, Howard Rogers 5, Stanley Jenner (C) 6.

Speldhurst Sunday 3rd September

1260 Grandsire Triples

Laura Byrne 1, Janice Byrne 2, Catherine Lewis 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Eric Roughley (C) 5, Catherine Heathcote 6, Anthony Leeves 7, Crispin Saunders 8.

For evensong. First QP of triples : 1

Speldhurst Saturday 9th September

1260 Grandsire Triples

Penny Gerrard 1, Eric Roughley 2, Michael Worthington 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Catherine Lewis 5, Catherine Heathcote 6, Anthony Leeves (C) 7, Janice Byrne 8.

For the induction of Rev Lynn Trainor as Vicar of Langton Green (2 miles from Speldhurst and possibly within earshot of our ringing). Lynn was a ringer at Speldhurst in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Tonbridge Castle Saturday 9th September

The Charnborough Ring

1271 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Composed by L S Scales

Elizabeth Barnes 1, Nick Fulford 2, Jacqui Fletcher 3, Fraser Clift 4, Howard Rogers 5, Philip Barnes (C) 6.

Rung during the visit of the Charnborough Ring to the Tonbridge Medieval Fair and Heritage Open Day. First in waterproofs for all except 5 – who didn't have his waterproof!

Chevening Monday 11th September

1280 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)

256 changes of C,Y,N, & R and 128 changes of S & P (39com)

Catherine Lewis 1, Janice Byrne 2, Anthony Leeves 3, Jacqueline Barlow 4, Eric Roughley 5, Pam Thomas 6, Thomas Barlow 7, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 8.

Cowden Monday 11th September

1260 Doubles

600 Grandsire, 660 Plain Bob

Clive Lumsden 1, Michael Bullett 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper (C) 3, Andy Wickenden 4, Steve Newlands 5, Gavin Knight 6.

Rung to celebrate the 70th birthday of Cowden band member, Frank Shepherd.

Brasted Sunday 17th September

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Juliet Austin 1, James Austin 2, Emma Tamkin 3, Catherine Lewis (C) 4, Steve Newlands 5, David Edgar 6.

To celebrate the life of Pamela Joy Edgar, mother of 6.

Oxford Tuesday 19th September

1260 Doubles

240 each of St Martin's Bob, St Simon's Bob, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place and Grandsire, and 300 of Plain Bob

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Janice Byrne 2, Fraser Clift 3, Steve Newlands 4, Anthony Leeves (C) 5, Eric Roughley 6.

For the safe arrival of Jonathan Henry Leeves, 4th grandson for Anthony and Karol Leeves, born 6th September. First of 5m : 4

Speldhurst Friday 22nd September

1260 Grandsire Triples

Nicholas Wilkins (C) 1, Lesley Barclay 2, Steve Newlands 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Janice Byrne 5, Pam Thomas 6, Anthony Leeves 7, Crispin Saunders 8.

*First of Grandsire triples : 3
Also first on the new carpet!*

Cowden Thursday 28th September

1260 Doubles

60 Stedman, 240 each of St Simon's, St Martin's, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place, and Plain Bob

Eric Roughley 1, Robin Rouse 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Louise Nightingale (C) 4, Nicholas Wilkins 5, Andy Wickenden 6.

Rung for Harvest Festival and dedicated to the truly inspiring athletes in the Invictus Games.

*Most methods to a quarter peal : 2 and 3
Most methods as conductor : 4*

Kemsing Friday 29th September

1260 Doubles

300 Grandsire, 480 St Simon's, 480 Plain Bob

Jenny Williamson 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Frank C Rogers 3, Fraser Clift (C) 4, Michael Williamson 5, Tony Cresswell 6

Rung in memory of Harry Nye, the tenth of twenty Kemsing men to die in World War 1, who died on this day 100 years ago.

MILESTONES

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

James Austin

First Grandsire Doubles inside

Cherele Bradley

First of triples on treble

Janice Byrne

First of minor as conductor

First Jerusalem Surprise Major

Laura Byrne

First quarter of triples

Jacqui Fletcher

First QP as conductor

Caroline Levy-Cooper

Most methods inside (1p/5m)

Catherine Lewis

First Jerusalem Surprise Major

Steve Newlands

First of 5m /1v in a peal

First of 5m inside

First Grandsire Triples inside

Louise Nightingale

First of 5m /1v in a peal

Most methods as conductor (1p/5m)

Robin Rouse

Most methods inside (1p/5m)

Susan Stacey

First quarter peal

Michael Stuttard

First peal of minor and first away from tenor

Pam Thomas

200th quarter peal

Emma Tilston

First quarter peal

Andy Wickenden

First quarter including St Simon's

Jane Wroe

First of Reverse Canterbury

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I much enjoyed 'On the ropes with Richard Dyson' in the last edition and couldn't help noticing his allusions to my bell lowering technique. I found this amusing of course but feel I should point out to Richard that ever since I was a boy I have had a prosthetic right arm. Its not obvious because I have it resprayed every year to keep the flesh colour lifelike but I know when he reads this he will be very upset about his comments. My artificial arm was as a result of it getting caught up in my mother's mangle on that memorable washing day all those years ago, as one of my father's shirts came gaily through the rollers, so did my right arm, right up to the elbow!

As I'm sure your readers will appreciate, in this situation I have had to find different ways of doing things and bell lowering was one of them. I had to develop a number of alternative (or dare I say advanced) methods to carry out this exercise which I must say have not always been appreciated in some local towers. Strangely enough one tower that did recognise my skills in that respect was Melbourne Cathedral. A few years back, I attended practice night there and afterwards we lowered in peal. You could tell they were really impressed and one ringer got quite excited and asked if I would mind lowering again. He explained that he was making a training DVD on all aspects of ringing and wanted to film me lowering to include in his film. So the bells were rung up and then we lowered again. The ringer said that this was an even better example. He explained that the lowering section was going to be entitled 'Are you going to lower properly or like a wild gyrating maniac'. He wanted to show an example of really first class lowering and an absolutely awful lower. He said he would definitely feature me in it. I was really pleased and asked if he would send me a copy when it was made. He seemed a bit cagey and muttered something about copy-right and not able to send out of Australia. Strange, oh well I wonder what poor unsuspecting goon he will con into demonstrating wild, gyrating, maniacal lowering.

So Richard, did I mind your remarks in Look To, which goes to every tower in the district? Of course not. Happy lowering everyone!

❖ *Robin Rouse, Cowden*

BELL RESTORATION FUND

It occurred to me that some ringers may not have heard of the Tonbridge District 120 Club, and the excellent work it does to help raise money for the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) charity.

The Tonbridge District 120 Club raises money for the BRF through the sale of shares, costing only £10 each. You don't have to be a ringer to buy a share. Some of our shareholders are friends or family members of ringers, and some don't even live in Kent! Share numbers are entered into draws at 10 Tonbridge District events from October through to July, and 3 shareholders win a prize at each draw. Around 45% of the funds generated are given back to shareholders as prizes, so around 55% of all money raised is donated to the BRF each year.

Last year we raised **£661.54** for the BRF. Well done us!

The first draw of each season takes place at the Tonbridge District Annual General Meeting in October. Shares can be bought at any point during the year, but buying or renewing shares before the AGM will give you more opportunities to win a prize. Visit the Tonbridge District section of the KCACR website to download an application form and the Club Rules, or ask me to send them to you.

Many thanks to all who have supported our club over the years and I hope that we can welcome some new shareholders this year. Spread the word. Let's do everything we can to keep our bells ringing!

That's all.

Ray Taylor

Tonbridge District 120 Club Treasurer

07973 123323

ray.taylor@easynet.co.uk

❖ *Ray Taylor, Hadlow*

Quarterly Training Day - 2nd December 2017

As usual students may request training in any of our "standard" topics. These are:

- Rounds and call changes
- Plain hunt / Ropesight
- Plain Bob Doubles
- Grandsire Doubles

Please remember to check the course requirements (Getting the most from your training day) on the Tonbridge district training page on <http://kcacr.org.uk/getting-the-most-from-your-training-day/> and get back to me if you have any queries or need help meeting the requirements

ADDITIONAL TOPIC

I am again hoping to include at least one session entitled **Treble Bob Hunting**

For: *Individuals who can competently ring touches of Plain Bob and/or Grandsire inside and wish to practice treble bob hunting prior to moving on to treble bob or surprise methods*
or *Ringers who can plain hunt competently and wish to begin learning to ring inside. For these ringers treble bob will form a skill building step, learning to dodge accurately in all positions before starting to learn methods. It would be expected that students had already rung a quarter peal plain hunting the treble.*

Aim: To learn to dodge and strike dodges accurately in all dodging positions on 6 bells

Courses will be arranged subject to demand and availability of helpers. Please assist by making requests for places as soon as possible, as last minute requests are unlikely to be met.

Places should be requested from Mike Worthington at tondist.training@hotmail.co.uk

Embroidered KCACR clothing



Colours, sizes and prices

T-shirt (R180M) £18

XS: As below, but not Convo grey

S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Azure blue, Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convo grey, French navy, Light oxford, Pure gold, Purple, Sky, White, Winter emerald, Yellow

3XL and 4XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, French navy, White

Short sleeve polo shirt (539M) £18

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, French navy, Light oxford, Pure gold, Purple, Sky, White, Winter emerald, Yellow

3XL, 4XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, Classic red, French navy, Light oxford, White

5XL, 6XL: Bright royal, French navy, White

Classic sweatshirt (762M) £21

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, French navy, Light oxford, Purple, Sky, Winter emerald

3XL, 4XL: Bottle green, Bright royal, French navy

Full/Quarter zip fleece (870M/874M) £29/£28.50

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL (and 3XL, 4XL in full zip only): Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convo grey, French navy

New Hoodie straight no zip (575M) £28

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Apple, Black, Bottle green, Candy Pink, Classic red, Light oxford, Lime, Orange, French navy, Fuchsia, Purple, Bright royal, Sky, Turquoise, White, Yellow

New Hoodie shaped no zip (265M) £25

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL: Apple, Black, Bright royal, Classic red, French navy, Fuchsia, Purple, Sky, White

New Hoodie shaped full zip (266M) £27

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL: Black, Bright royal, Classic red, French navy, Fuchsia, Light oxford.

Note on reds: Bright red is more orange and Classic red is more "blue".

Other items: Children's sizes, women's sizes (more fitted and usually less suitable for ringing) and other items are in the catalogue, which is available at District Quarterlies.

Ordering: An order is usually sent after each quarterly providing there are enough items otherwise there may be delay. Orders always welcome.

Payment with order, can be by cheque/cash to Catherine Lewis

27 Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks TN14 6EF

or bank transfer 20-76-55 63346307.

☎ 01959 563767

✉ cmlewis@btinternet.com