

Look to



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OF THE KCACR WINTER 2015

Quarter peal week – a 200% increase on 2013

Eric Roughley's summary of ringing during 9–16th November is on page 15

The Leigh band below after their quarter on Remembrance Sunday. Clockwise from back row: Stella Wooldridge, Ray Price, Frances James, Pam Thomas, David Pye, David James [C]



District Officers and Tower Stewards

October 2014 to October 2015

Mike Worthington SEVENOAKS
Committee Member
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- Sevenoaks
- Sundridge
- Tunbridge Wells
- Westerham

Tony Cresswell CHEVENING
District Secretary
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- Chevening
- East Peckham
- Hadlow
- Otford

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- Chiddingstone
- Speldhurst

Mike Bullett SPELDHURST
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- Cowden
- Leigh
- Haver

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- Brenchley
- Kemsing

Hamilton Woods TONBRIDGE
District Treasurer
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- Goudhurst

Angela Clark TONBRIDGE
District Chairman
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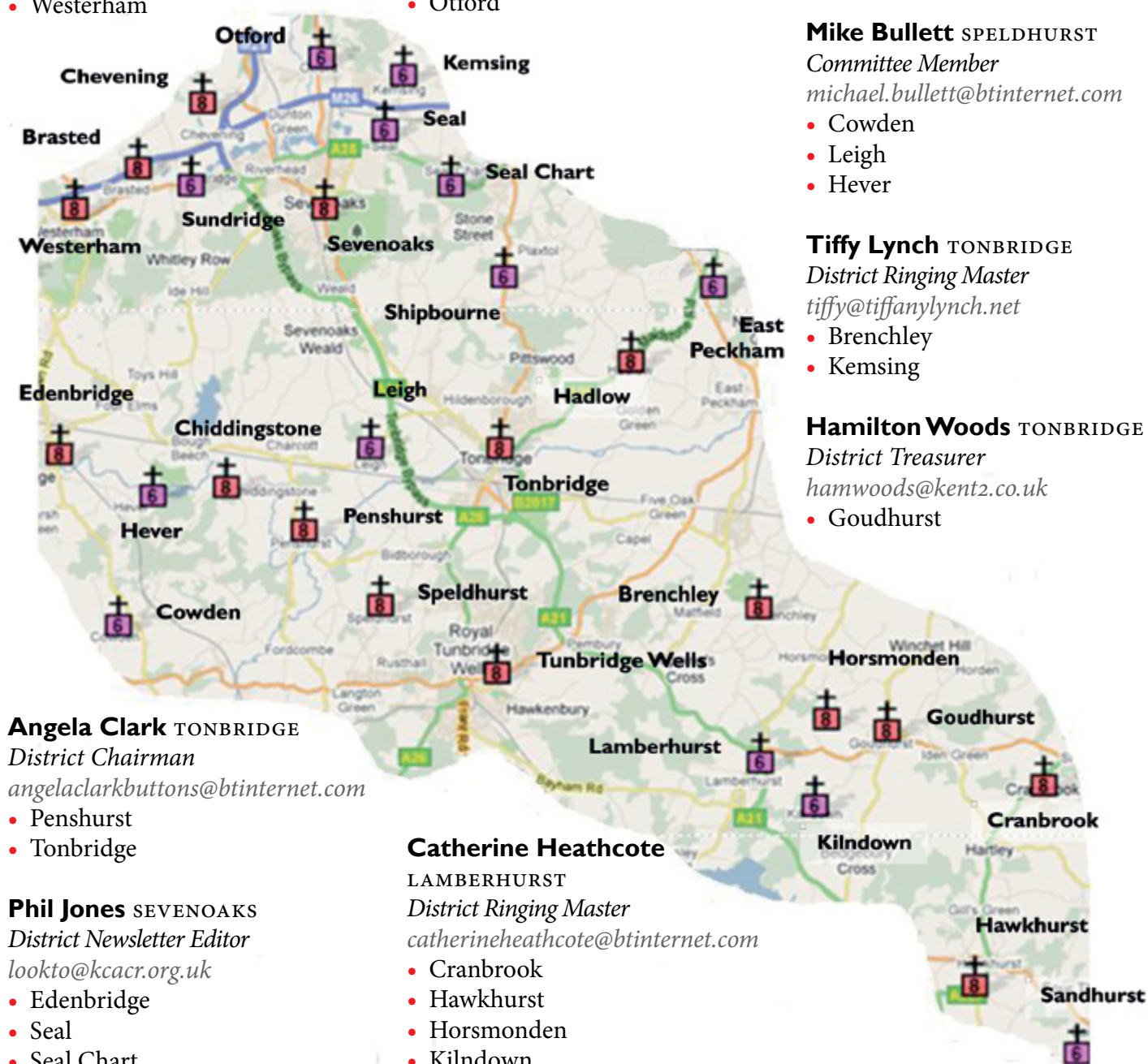
- Penshurst
- Tonbridge

Phil Jones SEVENOAKS
District Newsletter Editor
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- Edenbridge
- Seal
- Seal Chart
- Shipbourne

Catherine Heathcote
LAMBERHURST
District Ringing Master
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- Cranbrook
- Hawkhurst
- Horsmonden
- Kilndown
- Lamberhurst
- Sandhurst



ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING OF 2014 was held at St Margaret, Horsmonden on Saturday 4th October.

§ ANGELA CLARK chaired the meeting by welcoming the Association Chairman Mike Little, and 36 District members and saying how pleased she was to see so many, especially as Horsmonden is at the far end of the District. She offered the chair to Mike Little (who declined) and asked all to sign a card that was being circulated for Lucile Corby, who has had a hip replacement.

§ A VOTE OF THANKS was proposed by Ben Rogers to the Rector, Sue Fauchon-Jones, for leading the service and the Rector and PCC for the use of the bells, to Mark Bromley for playing the organ and to Ken and Dawn Bromley for making all the arrangements and providing a sumptuous tea.

§ THREE NEW RINGERS from Horsmonden were elected: Jessica Abbott, Dawn Brockman, and Ben Long.

§ THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT was read out by Angela and will be printed in the 2015 Handbook. Angela emphasised the good work Trevor Nicholls had done on the District bookstall (now temporarily in the hands of Catherine Lewis) and presented him with a suitable token of our appreciation for the considerable increase in sales he has achieved and especially for his enthusiastic selling of the 2014 Ringing World Calendar featuring KCACR.

§ TREASURER'S REPORT: The accounts were circulated and approved. Angela thanked Ham for taking on this task and dealing so well with his first year as treasurer and Ham reminded the meeting that subscriptions should be paid by the end of the year or at the January quarterly meeting.

§ 120 CLUB REPORT: Ray Taylor said that last year 127 shares had been sold resulting in a bonus prize of £9 and a profit of £701 after expenses had been accounted for. So far 120 shares have been sold for the 2014-5 year and although extra pledges had been received, the money had not, so there would be no bonus prize this time. After a good take-up of internet payment, he is hoping to introduce direct debit and standing order facilities for payment of next year's subscriptions. Angela thanked both Ray and Tessa Worthington for their hard work with the 120 Club.

§ MATTERS TO REPORT:

- No students came forward for the Training Day on 6th September, so for the first time, a training day was cancelled. Catherine Heathcote thought this might be a reflection of the success of the bespoke training sessions the Ringing Masters have been providing.
- Brenchley Flower Festival, 27th September was disappointing as only three non-local ringers showed up;

ringing was only on five bells and was quite brief.

- Only five bands entered County 6-bell competition at Kennington in September. It was won by Lewisham District (Chelsfield) with Sevenoaks band placed fifth. Mike Little said it had been a very good event and Tessa mentioned that Sevenoaks had performed extremely well, given that there were three members of the band who were relatively new to ringing, and she thought that the band did better than the placing suggested.

§ Election of District Officers and Committee Members:

- THE COMMITTEE WAS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

Chair: Angela Clark

District Secretary: Tony Cresswell

District Representatives: Eric Roughley
& Mike Worthington

Treasurer: Ham Woods

Joint Ringing Master: Tiffy Lynch

Editor of Look to: Phil Jones

Committee member: Mike Bullett

These nominations had all been advertised in advance on the website but left a vacancy for the second Joint Ringing Master. As Catherine Heathcote had indicated her wish to step down from this role but a willingness to stand again if no other candidate emerged, Tony asked if there were any nominations from the floor for second Joint Ringing Master and as none were forthcoming, he proposed Catherine for the position and this was seconded by Jen Thomas.

§ ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- ITTS: Catherine Heathcote reported that she, Mike Worthington and Ham Woods had attended an ITTS Module 2 course and found it very useful with lots of good ideas for teaching method ringing. She encouraged anyone who might be interested to investigate the ITTS website. Catherine Lewis mentioned that the County Training Officer is arranging an ITTS-2 course in Kent on 19th September next year, this being the earliest date available.

§ Angela closed the meeting at 6.50PM and there followed ringing until 8PM.

The committee will be most grateful for donations of raffle prizes for the Trivia Evening in advance or on the night

COUNTY GENERAL COMMITTEE

Points from November meeting

- It was agreed an accountant would be employed to work on the accounts with the Treasurer so they are accurate for 2015 AGM.
- The 2015 Handbook publication schedule has been published and electronic tower data will again be accepted this year.
- It was agreed the profit from the KCACR calendar should be ring-fenced for training and recruitment until a formal fund has been established.
- A bell maintenance course is being planned by Brian Butcher if sufficient interest exists.
- It was agreed that the KCACR should purchase and remove the bells at Murston for storage until such time as they are required.
- The following grant applications were considered and awarded: Thanington £900; Wrotham £5,000; Lydd £700.
- There are 3 posts that need to be filled at the 2015 AGM – Chairman, Treasurer, and Handbook Editor.
- The 2015 County 8-bell Striking Competition would be held on 4th July in the Ashford District (possibly Headcorn), method will be Little Bob Major.
- The 2015 County 6-bell Striking Competition would be held on 26th September in the Canterbury District, venue TBC.
- The dates of future General Committee meetings in 2015 were confirmed as 28th February, 25th April, 29th August and 28th November.

❖ *Doug Davis, General Secretary*

New county officers needed

THREE COUNTY OFFICERS ARE RETIRING from their posts, so from April 2015 we will need:

- ❧ a county chairman
- ❧ a handbook editor
- ❧ a treasurer

If you can think of possible candidates please either approach them direct, or ask one of the district officers to do so.

120 CLUB RESULTS

October (double prizes)

20 Leigh, 2 Sevenoaks, 37 Hadlow

November

37 Hadlow, 6 Tonbridge, 12 Speldhurst

December

109 Brasted, 34 Cowden, 7 Chevening

make a note in your diary
that the

2015 Trivia Evening

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

**Saturday
17th January**

at Hildenborough Village Hall

7.15pm

for a prompt 7.30pm start

**Tickets include supper & will be on sale at
the January Quarterly Meeting**

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

**by regularly visiting the
KCACR website**

www.kcacr.org.uk



District training 2015

Quarterly Training Days

For many years we have programmed the four recurrent training topics (rounds and call changes/plain hunt and ropesight/plain Bob Doubles/Grandsire Doubles) in such a way that they repeat every six months. One consequence of this has sometimes been that courses are not available at the time that students need them resulting in a wait of several months or the student missing out. In an attempt to remedy this the schedule for 2015 no longer specifies which courses occur on which dates, the intention being that anyone needing a course should make a request for a programmed date and I will attempt to match the topics to the demand. As usual if there is insufficient demand for a particular topic the training course will not be held.

Please try to plan ahead. Scheduling towers, helpers and students is time-consuming and has to be done in good time. Usually planning commences 6 to 8 weeks ahead. Last minute requests are unlikely to be met! To enable students to get the most from our training we have highlighted on the Tonbridge District page of the KCACR website the necessary skills for students to attend each course. The intention is to help students gain the most from training by preparing for it in advance. This is not intended to be a barrier to entry but a help to getting most from the courses. If you need help meeting these requirements we can try to provide it in advance.

Additional training

I am considering adding some further training during 2015. The intention would be to focus on teaching of skills rather than practising methods. Before I schedule anything I would like some feedback from individuals and tower captains so that I can evaluate demand for different topics before attempting to schedule any. Those for which there appears to be most demand can be scheduled first. In general we would not schedule a course unless there are at least three students, although depending on the topic there might be some flexibility in this.

Listed below are some possible topics for which we could undertake District training. Please indicate to <tondist.training@hotmail.co.uk> by 20th of January

- which courses you would like to attend if any are held;
- if you are tower captain how many of your band might be interested (please give names);
- any additional skills that you would like to be covered

Armed with this information I can try to match training provision to the areas where it is most needed.

Possible courses

All sessions will comprise a mixture of theory and practical work in the tower. A little more detail on each course can be found on the District training page at: <www.kcacr.org.uk/tdist_trg>

TOWER CAPTAINS TRAINING
LISTENING AND STRIKING
RAISING AND LOWERING IN PEAL
LEADING UP AND DOWN IN PEAL
USE OF SIMULATORS FOR TEACHING LEARNERS
TREBLE BOB

- *for individuals who can competently ring touches of Plan Bob and/or Grandsire inside and wish to move on to treble bob or surprise methods or*
- *ringers who can plain hunt competently to plain bob 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.*

CALLING PLAIN BOB DOUBLES OR MINOR
CALLING GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

❖ Mike Worthington

Two students report on the training days that took place on the 6th December

My first training session in Ropesight / Plain Hunt

I learnt to ring at Little Shelford Cambridgeshire when I was a teenager in the 1970s and got as far as Plain Hunt on the treble and was just learning to hunt to Plain Bob Doubles (unsuccessfully). Then I achieved my dream of getting into Vet School at Edinburgh University. Sadly there were very few bells in Edinburgh and I stopped ringing apart from the holidays. My local church, St John's Church Hildenborough, has no bells and it wasn't until my arm was twisted at a Christmas party last year that I considered starting ringing seriously again. I am now ringing at Shipbourne and am really enjoying it.

The main block to my progress as a ringer has been lack of ropesight. It doesn't help that you can't learn about it in books. The training session at Edenbridge on Saturday 6th December was invaluable and by the end of the morning's session I could ring Plain Bob Doubles on the treble without caring what order the bells were coming in and even had a shot at a method I had never heard of where the pattern of bells on the way down to the front is not the same as on the way to the back.

Alex Staff spent half an hour explaining the theory to three of us who were attending the training session. Edenbridge tower is perfect for training as the bells handle beautifully and there was space for a big table top in the middle for theory work and it is easy to see all the bells. Everyone was very approachable and friendly and I am very grateful for the following people who gave up their Saturday morning to ring with us: Alex Staff, John Palmer, Ham Woods, Ray Taylor, Catherine Heathcote, Pam Thomas and Mike Worthington. Pam and Mike regularly help us at Shipbourne so there were some familiar faces!

To stop me ringing Plain Hunt by remembering the bell order, Alex got me to start looking for bells while ringing rapid call changes. He told me to look for the bell that was following me and once I had identified it he called the change. The middle bells then were mixed up by ringing Bob Minimus and the process was repeated. While the other ringers, Alexander and Stephanie Runting, were being trained I practised watching a bell to see if I could spot which bells it was going to follow. The breakthrough for me in ringing Bob Doubles was to look for the bell that was going to take the lead off me. In the past I have been concentrating on leading off the tenor so haven't looked around. Seeing the next bell seemed to come more naturally once I had got the first bell out of the way. It always helps when someone gives you a clue by looking at you or smiling!

I thoroughly recommend attending a training session! I had lots of fun, met some lovely people and feel far more confident as a ringer.

❖ *Ruth Wadsworth Shipbourne*

Grandsire Doubles at Otford

Before the training morning we learners received sheets of information including diagrams to complete. Having worked through these I felt I had a reasonable grasp of a plain course of Grandsire. However things were not as easy as they seemed! Translating the diagrams into actual ringing proved a challenge!

The helpers were all kind, patient and helpful, and the other 2 students both coped very well with the plain course and then progressed to a touch of Grandsire. In spite of much help and advice I made little progress with Grandsire, but I did discover that some of my ringing techniques needed improving. A very big thank you to those who pointed out these errors, to me and for their helpful hints and patience. Thanks also to the other learners for tolerating my problems. I am now endeavouring to improve these, and to come to terms with Grandsire.

In spite of these difficulties I did find the morning very worthwhile, and thank all those involved.

❖ *Pat Anderson Westerham*

Peter Dale sends news of two forthcoming County training events:

ITTS in Kent

An ITTS Module 1 course will be starting at Headcorn on 28th March 2015. Details are on page 9 and the application form can be downloaded from the Training pages on the KCACR website or Training group on Facebook.

The programme for the day at Headcorn includes presentations on modern coaching theory as well as practical sessions in the tower. However, anyone thinking about applying to join the course should be aware that this is only the beginning.

Follow-up group sessions to consolidate the ITTS approach will take place shortly after the day event. The teacher, guided by their mentor, can then begin training an absolute beginner up to Level 1 of the Learning the Ropes scheme.

By attending the day course, trainee teachers and their mentors will be granted access to ITTS on-line resources. These include an on-line multiple-choice quiz that needs to be answered satisfactorily to complete the course.

Applicants should have sufficiently good bell control to inspire confidence in their learners, their mentors, the tower captain (if appropriate), and other members of the learner's band. They should not have handling problems themselves.

❧ *see page 9 for full details*

Bell Maintenance Workshop

Brian Butcher, Association Bell Restoration Officer, will be presenting a bell maintenance seminar and practical workshop on 18th April 2015 at St Stephen's, Lympe.

The application form can be downloaded from the Training pages on the KCACR website or Training group on Facebook

❧ *see page 10 for full details*

❖ *Peter Dale, KCA Training Officer*

After a recent quarter peal at Speldhurst one of the band managed to leave his spectacles, wallet and mobile in the ringing chamber before leaving. And, Tonbridge District, can you believe that Mike Bullett got all the way to the bottom of the stairs without the use of his mobile?

Clever little gizmos: 1

At Hever, we have been fortunate recently, to have some learners and one of our more experienced ringers Tony Yates – who is also a gifted woodworker, came up with this idea. A simple but highly user-friendly oblong wooden box containing numbered wooden pieces.



It has been a great success. Beginners (and others) have found that this visual aid gives them more confidence whilst learning call changes as they can see them happen and always know where they are!

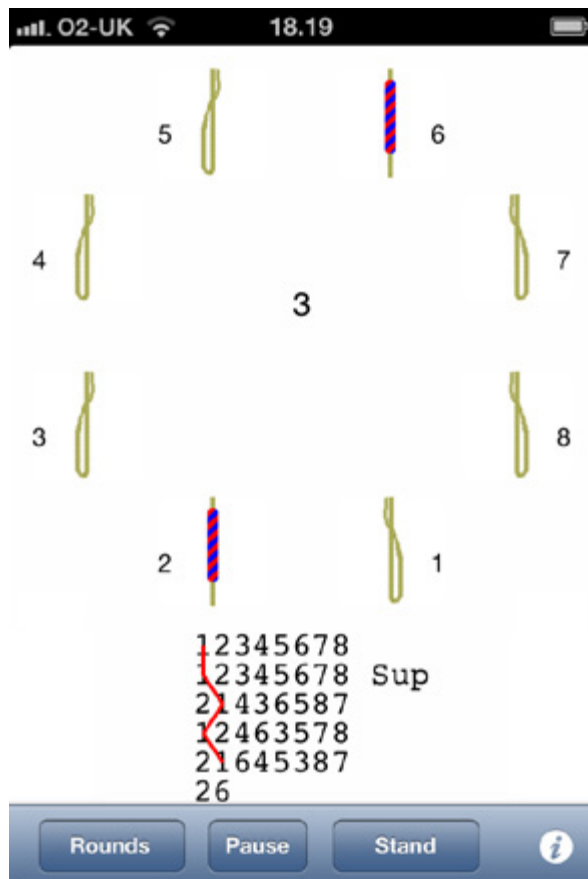
The photo shows our mark 2 model as mark 1 was given to our friends at Cudham tower for their learners!

Any visitors to either of the towers are welcome to try them out!

❖ *Jane Rosam, Hever*

Clever little gizmos: 2

Mobel is one way that the exercise is adapting to the 21st century by presenting the young and/or tech-savvy with smartphone – and tablet-based opportunities for learning methods. However I hadn't realised quite how trendy and with it Mobil is until I recently noticed it enquiring the following of me...



❖ *Alex Staff*

Look to

always needs your articles to fill its pages! Whoever you are, wherever you ring, whatever you ring, feel free to commit pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, and send in your contributions on:

- 🔔 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 from your tower
- 🔔 anecdotes from a tower you visited on holiday
- 🔔 announcements

Please feel free to send a photo (electronically or hard-copy) with your article to

Phil Jones: lookto@kcacr.org.uk or to 1 Cedar Terrace Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3UD

The deadline for copy for the next edition is Thursday 12th March 2015.

Practice night at Melbourne Cathedral

On a three week holiday to Australia with my son, William, one Wednesday found me in the lovely city of Melbourne. Our hotel was on the south side of the Yarra River overlooking Melbourne Cathedral on the north side. A quick Google informed me practice night was that very evening, 6.30 to 8.30PM – clearly an opportunity not to be missed!

I am always a little nervous when visiting a strange tower but this time, determined not to be overawed, I informed the captain very audibly on arrival that I was from the UK and in fact was a College Youth. The whole band reeled back in awe and quite spontaneously formed a semi-circle and bowed deeply, really deeply – deeper than they bow to Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang. Timorously they invited me to treble to a touch of Grandsire Triples. This I did and was pleased how it went but afterwards the tower captain asked if I was sure that I was a College Youth. Sensing my cover weakening I told him that he had misheard. I never said that I was a College Youth but that in my youth I had been to college. A universal look of comprehension swept the whole band.

Next I rang the tenor to Stedman Triples. There were two Japanese ringers and one was conducting the touch. A little way in and he started to berate the other Japanese ringer on the treble. Safe on my perch on the tenor at the back I looked down serenely on the oriental confusion at the front. Then there was plain hunting on seven which went fine. I apologised for a trifling clip on my part to be told 'No worries, mate'.

It was so strange to be in a ringing chamber doing what I do here week in week out and yet I was on the other side of the world. Through an open window I saw the Melbourne trams clattering past and the sun glinting on the Yarra. I stayed for an hour and then, because I had promised to meet William at a restaurant at 7.30, I took my leave of them. Also I felt I had stretched my thin talent quite a way and to quit while I was ahead, or at least before any major mess up. To protect my identity I signed the visitors book Arnold Hastings from Nether Wallop and left.

Sitting outside at the restaurant I listened to the ringing from across the river. I felt I hadn't done too badly. It was a real privilege to ring there and the whole band were most welcoming. Any visiting ringer in Melbourne on a Wednesday evening should definitely have a go. They will be assured of a warm welcome although perhaps better not to mention my name or anything to do with College Youths.

❖ *Robin Rouse, Hever*

Tonbridge Gang move in on-Sarfeast London Patch

Saturday 11th October. Lowering sky. Thunder. Lightning. Just the day for the Tonbridge gang to move in on the Sarfeast London Patch. It was the usual suspects: 'College' Lynch, 'Axe-man' Clark, 'Bonny' Longley, 'Moll' Fletcher, 'Essex Boy' Knight, 'Navigator' Hill and 'Pretty Boy' Woods aided and abetted by Fraser, late of Smashem and Leggitt, Tower Grabbers extraordinary, with Dee, Phil and Daniel Jarvis, Andy Wickenden and Simon Wilson.

The day was expertly crafted to the last detail by Peggy 'The Fixer' Hill, so with her plan in hand and everyone ready for action the first objective was St Paulinus, Crayford (8, 11cwt). The keyholder was preparing for an Open Day and was somewhat apprehensive as a visit to the bells and roof had been advertised – H&S definitely had not been invented when the bells had been installed and access to the roof made. The bells were a pushover – a very easy-going ring of bells. Tonbridge came and they didn't know what had hit them. A very good start to the day.



St Paulinus, Crayford with Essex Boy, College, Navigator & Key-holder

Next on to Erith and Christ Church (8, 17cwt). Here the bells may very well be smooth, debonair, urbane and perfectly behaved but they were no match for Tonbridge although getting the numbering of the bells right defeated some of the gang, – 'I thought I was on the...'; 'No, that's the...'; then finding that trying to lead off the treble instead of the tenor doesn't always produce a congenial outcome. The gang managed to beat them in the end and if truth be known they were actually very envious of that ring of bells.

Next came a deviation to 'The Plan' which was to attack the next tower, St John the Evangelist, Sidcup (6, 8cwt), by driving to Sidcup Place, the mid-day p.11

Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS)

Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling

28th March 2015

Ss Peter & Paul, Headcorn

9.30 am to 17.15 pm

Course fee £20 payable when booking

(Lunch and tower donation not included)

Presenter: *Graham Nabb*

(Tutor - Association of Ringing Teachers)

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- The “whole-part-whole” approach to teaching bell handling
 - “Learning The Ropes” progressive teaching scheme
 - Sessions on modern coaching theory
 - Follow-up group sessions
 - Access to on-line support.
 - On-line multiple-choice quiz
-

Booking Procedure

Please complete the Application Form and post it, with your cheque payable to “KCACR”, to Peter Dale, (ITTS Course), 9 Chisnall Road, River, Dover, CT17 0RH.

The course fee of £20 per delegate must be paid at the time of booking.

Closing date: 28th February 2015. There are limited places so early booking is advised. Programme details are available from training@kcacr.org.uk

The form is available from the KCACR Training group on Facebook and may also be found and printed off via the training section of the KCACR website, otherwise mail training@kcacr.org.uk to request a form.



Kent County Association Training

Bell Maintenance Course

Saturday 18th April 2015

St Stephen, Lympne

9.30 am to 1.00 pm

Course fee £6 payable when booking

(includes coffee and tower donation)

Presenter: *Brian Butcher*

(Bell Restoration Officer - Kent County Association)

- Slide presentation
 - “Hands-on” practical session
 - Your questions answered
 - Free copy of Central Council maintenance booklet
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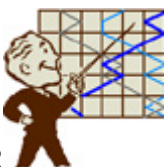
Booking Procedure

Please complete the Application Form and post it, with your cheque payable to “KCACR”, to Peter Dale, (Maintenance), 9 Chisnall Road, River, Dover, CT17 0RH.

The course fee of £6 per delegate must be paid at the time of booking.

Closing date: 28th March 2015. There are limited places so early booking is advised. Programme details are available from training@kcacr.org.uk Technical questions should be directed to brf@kcacr.org.uk

The form is available from the KCACR Training group on Facebook and may also be found and printed off via the training section of the KCACR website, otherwise mail training@kcacr.org.uk to request a form.



KCACR

Training

refreshment point, leaving vehicles there and sneaking up on the tower on foot. This would take the tower unawares. 'Navigator', however, decided to take the quick route there by following his satnav and getting into Essex via the Dartford Tunnel. Fraser was following behind. Whether or not this was an attempt to abandon Fraser in Essex is not fully known but it meant that the tower was initially approached by only half the gang. 'College', 'Bonny', 'Essex Boy' and 'Pretty Boy' were there for the first onslaught. The brick tower with its clonking and bonking almost drowned out the sound of the bells. Soon 'Axe-man' and 'Moll' appeared with 'Navigator' and we were up to full strength – no we weren't – Fraser was still missing, but not for long. He soon turned up having extracted himself from Essex. Interesting bells but they offered no real resistance.

After lunch it was All Saints, Foots Cray (5, 3cwt); a ground-floor ring with the ropes requiring the ringer to stand either in the aisle or at the end of the pew space, which had a step. Luckily there was a notice for the users of these pews stating, 'Do not leave the pew while the bells are being rung as it is dangerous'. Thank goodness. Dealing with the bells and where to put your feet was quite enough to cope with without people pushing past without saying excuse me. You might imagine that to the Tonbridge gang they were going to be a piece of cake – but small as they are, they took a lot of pinning down and fought back; to such an extent that 'Moll' suffered a slight injury. The gang had to struggle to overcome them but managed it in the end. One more down.



All Saints, Foots Cray: L – R, Daniel Jarvis, Simon Wilson, Lady key holder, Bonny, The Fixer, Navigator, College, Essex Boy & Axe-man.

Moving next to an up-market area and St Nicholas, Chislehurst (8, 15cwt) where the bells were already cowering in the corner of the church. They were nice bells but if 'Pretty Boy' hadn't decided to ring Grand-sire Triples while everyone else was ringing Plain Bob Triples things would have gone a lot better.

To the last of the day, St Mary Cray (6, 11cwt) which tried diversionary tactics; the post-code for the tower used in satnavs took you directly and unwaveringly to the Mercedes Benz dealership, the tower hiding unseen round the back. A small ringing chamber which caused considerable squeezing in and shuffling about but the gang soon got the better of the situation and the bells succumbed.



The end of the day at St Mary Cray, showing 'The Fixer' and 'College' while Simon Wilson and 'Mol' still wonder what these bits of string are for.

A perfect plan, thanks to 'The Fixer', Peggy, and a successful takeover with thanks to all the ringers who helped Tonbridge out and made the day go so well.

The clouds, thunder and lightning had gone – it turned out a nice day and we all went home with 'Navigator' and his passengers last seen heading in the general direction of the Rotherhithe tunnel.

❖ *Cub Reporter*

A dog called Bob

Saturday afternoon in November; the 29th as I remember. Not a very nice day – cold and damp but didn't worry me as my smart black and white coat is very warm. It could do with some enhancement by a bit of fox poo now and again and that is what I was looking for round Chelsfield churchyard that Saturday.

No lady dogs around which was a bit of pity so tried kicking over one or two gravestones to pass the time. The bells were ringing and had been for quite a while – no doubt they were doing a peal – someone said it was something called Bristol Surprise. What did I think of the ringing? Ruff, I would say – but what's this? Did I hear, 'Bob'? Someone's calling my name; what the...? It's not my master but I have to go and find out as there could be a tasty morsel on offer. So, into the church – and there it is again, my name,

coming from up these stairs. Have got to investigate fully.

Up the stairs and there they were, ringing away and completely wasting their time when they could be doing something useful, like throwing sticks. Decided to have a look round to see if there was anything worth eating and not bothering anyone but then someone shouted at me. Well! Shouted! At me! They must be barking mad because they had been calling me all the time and now I got shouted at. It isn't as if I was like that pesky cat who crept into the crypt, cr... and crept out again. Anyway, I left.

Bit of luck really. Outside met Cutie Collie from up the road and I had a grrrrreat day.

❖ **Bob**

[a look on Bellboard to see what happened at Chelsfield on 29th November may put what Bob was up to in context – ed.]



Ron's 90th

Ron Bangay, a Kemsing ringer since 1991, when the bells were installed, celebrated his 90th birthday on 9th October this year. A quarter peal was rung on the day at Kemsing by a Kemsing band, with help from Bobbie Fairclough (an old friend of Ron's from Scouting). On 21st October we had a party at the church, prior to our practice, to drink his health and celebrate his milestone. Six of the ringers in the picture were in the original band when Ron began ringing, and one other who started then still rings. Both photographs are by Bobbie Fairclough.

Ron had to give up ringing a short time ago, and although we still see him occasionally, we miss his company and his regular attendance on Sundays and at practices. He was not only an important member of the band, and our 'heavy metal man' (Kemsing tenor 4-1-5), but our elder statesman as well.

Ron puts his longevity down to a quiet life – he was big, and still is in some cases, in village life, the Church, Scouting, The Royal British Legion, The Saint John Ambulance Brigade, and probably a lot more things I don't know about! Outside his leisure activities, his whole working life was with Seeboard (previously The County of London Electricity Supply Company). He was there a smidgen short of 50 years, having started work at 13 – he was in the church choir at that time, and he got the job because the then vicar of Kemsing, the Revd Vincent Macreth, knew the General Manager of the Company.

Ron is staying on as an Associate of KCACR, because, as he says, it has given him so much.

❖ **Fraser Clift**



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: hire@charmborough.org

The Charmborough Bell Trust is registered charity No. 112616



Little and Large

No, this is not about the 1980's comedy duo (not exactly my cup of tea), and nor is it related to 'Lidl and large', the recent advertising slogan from Lidl – they plan to grow to 1500 stores over the next few years.

It's just about a couple of items in my bell/ringing library, surprise, surprise. I was looking up something recently in the largest book I have (*The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* by Alfred Heneage Cocks, published in 1897), when I nearly dropped it on my foot. It's one of only 80 Imperial 4to Reduced copies (there were also 350 smaller Super Royal Octavo), and it is pretty big. So heavy that I decided to weigh it – it was just over 10lb, around 4½kg. My toes said 'thank you' to my hands!

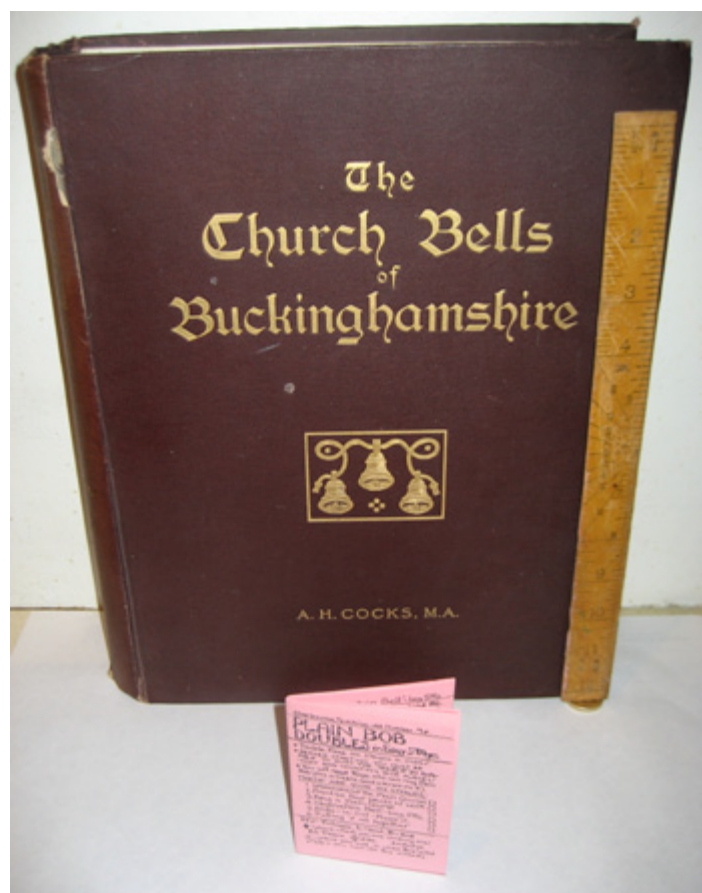
That set me thinking about the smallest item in the collection. My hunt brought up the two folded Sherbourne Teaching Aids – *Plain Bob Doubles in Easy STages*, and *Grandsire Doubles in Easy STages*. These two little folded booklets, first published in the 1990s, weigh in at under ¼oz/approximately 7gm each, and, if dropped, take a second or two to reach the floor. Unlike the Cocks, they wouldn't even register on the Richter Scale.

If you could find one, the Buckinghamshire book would be rather expensive. The other two are somewhat cheaper, but not 9p, which is what I saw on the front of the Plain Bob version I bought from the Tonbridge District bookstall. This figure turned out to be 9P, the STA number, with the Grandsire one being numbered 9G! The actual price, and jolly good value, is 20p each.

My near accident reminded me of the second of a couple of little stories in Thomas North and J. C. L. Stahlschmidt's *The Church Bells of Hertfordshire* published in 1886, and repeated in Morris's *Legends o' the Bells* (not dated, but 1935, from a publisher's letter I have). The first relates to a saying current in Bushey in Hertfordshire at the time, whilst the second is about a damaged foot.

- ❖ 'Worse and worse, like the parson of Bushey,' which is said to have arisen in this way: Formerly Bushey had but one bell, which dealt forth a dull 'tom-tom-tom,' much to the grief of a certain parson of Bushey, who, therefore, added a second bell. But the people declared the bells were shaming him, for they called out 'Tom-fool, tom-fool.' Once more he added a bell, but this made matters worse, for the bells now seemed to say Tom-fool still and have said so ever since.

There is a footnote suggesting the dates on the two



latest bells are slightly contradictory of the absolute truth of the 'yarn.'! Bushey now has a ring of eight.

- ❖ Shropshire also has its 'worse and worse' story too, but there it is 'like Povey's foot.' Wm Povey, whose grave is in Broseley churchyard, met, when young, with an accident to his foot, on the strength of which he led a life of idleness. His usual answer to any enquiry as to the state of his foot was that it was 'wus and wus,' and so the saying 'Wus and wus, like Povey's foot' gradually spread throughout the district. The foot, however, says the narrator of the story, seems to have been a long time getting 'wusser,' for his tombstone records his age as nearly threescore years and ten.

My copy of Cocks has the bookplate of Thomas Somers Cocks, a relative of the author, in it. He purchased six copies, as did his wife, and six other members of the family also subscribed. When I was at Edenbridge recently I noticed the name Somers-Cocks on a peal-board. Henry L. Somers-Cocks was Vicar of Edenbridge in the early 20th century, and co-authored, with V. F. Boyson, a history of the town, *Edenbridge*, published in 1912. There is a copy on the Internet priced at £35, or you could buy a copy of the 1995 reprint for £8.50. I'm assuming he was also related to the author of the Buckinghamshire book, but he, apparently, didn't buy one.

❖ Fraser Clift



DISTRICT EVENTS... between now and the next edition of *Look to*
The Trivia Evening Hildenborough Village Hall 7.15 for 7.30pm
Evening Practice Goudhurst (8) 7–9pm Saturday 7th February
Surprise Minor / Major Practice Chiddingstone (8)

7–9pm 21st February

Training Day Rounds & Call Changes or Plain Bob Doubles

Saturday 7th March *contact Mike Worthington*

tondist.training@hotmail.co.uk or phone Mike on 01732 457745

Quarterly Meeting Penshurst (8)

3–8.30pm Saturday 28th March

Deadline for the next edition Thursday 12th March



Embroidered KCACR clothing Colours, sizes & prices 2014



T SHIRTS (R180M) £15.50 XS: As below, but not Convoy grey

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

SHORT SLEEVE POLO SHIRTS (539M) £17.50

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CLASSIC SWEATSHIRTS (762M) £21.00

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

FULL/QUARTER ZIP FLEECE (870M/874M) £29.00/£28.50

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convoy grey, French navy

3XL, 4XL: in full zip only

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 usually available at District Quarterlies.

Ordering: Ordering by 3 weeks before a District Quarterly should enable delivery at the meeting. There will also be an order form at the meetings and an order sent off soon after. Orders in between may be subject to delay. Payment with order.

If not at the meeting, please send to Mallans, 27 Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks TN14 6EF (cheques to me) or to cmlewis@btinternet.com (bank account and sort code can be provided for electronic transfer).

Full information also available on kcacr.org.uk/clothing

Catherine Lewis (01959 563767)



Eric Roughley reports on the District Quarter Peal week

This year's quarter peal week (8–16th November) included Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day which provided an impetus resulting in 25 quarters including one on hand bells. Sixty-three ringers took part with 15 'firsts' of which 6 were 'Unacceptable'. First quarters were rung by James Moxey-Menday, Alexander Runting, Stephanie Runting and Steve Newlands and they are to be congratulated. Bobbie Fairclough and Fraser Clift each rang 13 quarters and Fraser was leading conductor with 8, the residents of Kemsing being entertained by five quarters in four days.

There are a couple of areas for improvement. Nine towers were not able to take part which is rather sad, but there is always next year; and perhaps a little more ambition is needed as 19 of the quarters were Doubles, of which the 1914 in three methods was enterprising. There was no attempt to ring Major but the Unacceptable Surprise Minor was commendable. **Well done to all those who took part.**

Seal Saturday 8th November

1260 Doubles (1p4m)

*300 Stedman; 240 Grandsire; 240 St Martin's;
240 St Simon's; 240 Plain Bob*

Anthony Leeves 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2

Eric Roughley 3, Fraser Clift [c] 4

Catherine Heathcote 5, Phil Jones 6

Seal Chart Saturday 8th November

1260 Doubles (1P, 4M)

*300 Stedman; 120 Winchendon Place;
120 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place; 360 Plain Bob;
360 Grandsire*

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Anthony Leeves 2

Catherine Heathcote 3, Fraser Clift 4

Eric Roughley [c] 5, Phil Jones 6

Hadlow Sunday 9th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Ann Jenner 1, Janice Massy 2, Stanley Jenner 3

Howard Rogers 4, Ray Taylor [c] 5

James Moxey-Menday 6

Rung half-muffled before Remembrance Sunday service.

First quarter: 6

Hever Sunday 9th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Louise Nightingale 1, Jane Wroe 2, Hugo Tracey 3

Alan Turner [c] 4, Simon Wilson 5, Alex Staff 6

First inside 5; first on the tenor 6

*Rung half-muffled in Remembrance of those who
fought in the Great War.*

Leigh Sunday 9th November

1914 Doubles (3M)

Stedman; Plain Bob; Reverse Canterbury

Pam Thomas 1, Frances James 2, Ray Price 3

Stella Wooldridge 4, David James [c] 5, David Pye 6

*Rung half-muffled in memory of the fallen from both
World Wars and subsequent conflicts.*

Otford Sunday 9th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Astrid Fairclough 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Frank Lewis 3

Fraser Clift [c] 4, Mike Worthington 5

Alexander Runting 6

Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

First quarter: 6

Penshurst Sunday 9th November

1260 Doubles (2M)

660 Plain Bob; 600 Grandsire

Cory Fernmoor 1, Janice Byrne 2, Nick Byrne 3

Jacqui Fletcher 4, Eric Roughley [c] 5

Crispin Saunders 6

Rung half-muffled on the front six following

Remembrance Sunday service. First in 2m: 3

Sevenoaks Sunday 9th November

1260 Plain Bob Triples

David Cochrane 1, Astrid Fairclough 2

Michael Worthington 3, Tessa Worthington 4

Caroline Stockmann 5, Rebecca Stuttard 6

Eric Roughley [c] 7, Nicholas Chard 8

*Rung half-muffled for Evensong on
Remembrance Sunday.*

Tonbridge Sunday 9th November

1260 Doubles (2m)

660 Grandsire; 600 Plain Bob

Janice Byrne 1, Angela Clark 2, Jacqui Fletcher 3

Hugo Tracey 4, Alan Turner [c] 5, Hamilton Woods 6

For evening service.

Otford Monday 10th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Janet Whitehead 1, Frank Lewis 2

Bobbie Fairclough [c] 3, Mike Worthington 4

Fraser Clift 5, Martin Whitehead 6

Chevening Tuesday 11th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Carole Cresswell 1, Kathy Butler 2, Ann Jenner 3
Tony Cresswell 4, Stanley Jenner [c] 5, Jane Nielson 6
Rung half-muffled, particularly remembering all those ringers from the District who have died in war.

Edenbridge Tuesday 11th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Kathryn Staff 1, Jane Wroe 2, Richard Dyson 3
Ian Henderson 4, Alex Staff [c] 5, Scott Baldock 6
Rung half-muffled on Armistice Day to record the dedication of the stone to mark the restoration of the tower clock and centenary of Britain's entry to the Great War in 1914.

Hadlow Hunters Lodge Tuesday 11th November

1260 Plain Bob Minor

Ann Jenner 1-2
Ray Taylor 3-4
Stanley Jenner [c] 5-6

Horsmonden Tuesday 11th November

1260 Grandsire Triples

Fraser Clift 1, Tessa Worthington 2
Bobbie Fairclough 3, Michael Bullett 4
Eric Roughley [c] 5, Catherine Heathcote 6
Michael Worthington 7, Hamilton Woods 8
Rung half-muffled in remembrance of Edwin Lambert who was killed in the Great War.

Seal Tuesday 11th November

1260 Doubles (3M)

300 Grandsire; 480 St Simon's; 480 Plain Bob
Dee Clift 1, Pam Thomas 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3
Fraser Clift [c] 4, Eric Roughley 5, Paul Thompson 6
Rung half-muffled on Remembrance Day, particularly in memory of Private Alfred Hope, a ringer at this church, who died on 16th August 1916. Also to mark the restoration of the clock face.

Lamberhurst Wednesday 12th November

1260 PB Doubles

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Tessa Worthington 2
Catherine Heathcote 3, Fraser Clift [c] 4
Mike Worthington 5, Steve Newlands (1st Q) 6
Rung half-muffled in memory of Private H. Russell, a ringer at this church and casualty of the Great War who died of wounds on 22nd February 1920. First quarter: 6

Kemsing Thursday 13th November

1320 Unacceptable Surprise Minor

Ray Price 1, Ray Taylor 2, Stella Wooldridge 3
Fraser Clift 4, Steve Coaker [c] 5, Pam Thomas 6

First in method by all. Circled tower to quarters 6

Kemsing Friday 14th November

1260 Doubles (2m)

300 Grandsire; 960 Plain Bob

Janet Whitehead 1, Dee Clift 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3
Fraser Clift [c] 4, Mike Worthington 5, Ralph Harding 6

Tunbridge Wells Friday 14th November

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Jane Rosam 1, Andy Wickenden 2
Louise Nightingale 3, Hugo Tracey 4, Alan Turner [c] 5
Ian Cochraine 6
Rung half-muffled for Edward James Crocker (ringer at this tower) who died on 7th November 1918, aged 24 years. First in method: 3

Kemsing Saturday 15th November

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Stella Wooldridge 2
Pam Thomas 3, Phil Jarvis 4, Howard Rogers 5
Fraser Clift [c] 6

Kemsing Saturday 15th November 2014

1260 PB Doubles in 28 mins

Phil Jarvis 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Stella Wooldridge 3
Fraser Clift [c] 4, Howard Rogers 5, Pam Thomas 6
Fastest quarter on the bells; rung in 28 minutes.

Leigh Saturday 15th November

1320 Cambridge Minor

Cory Fernmoor 1, Frances James 2, Janice Byrne 3
David James 4, Eric Roughley [c] 5
Stella Wooldridge 6
First Treble Bob: 1

Brasted Sunday 16th November

1260 Doubles (3M)

Stedman 180; Plain Bob 600; Grandsire 480
Bobbie Fairclough 1, Rebecca Stuttard 2
Caroline Stockmann 3, Catherine Heathcote 4
Eric Roughley [c] 5, Frank Lewis 6
For Evensong on the Patronal Festival.

Chiddingstone Sunday 16th November

1260 Grandsire Triples

Pam Thomas 1, Jacqui Fletcher 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3
Stella Wooldridge 4, Eric Roughley [c] 5
Michael Bullett 6, Fraser Clift 7, Ray Price 8
First on 8: 8

Hever Sunday 16th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Hugo Tracey 1, Alison Wilson 2, Alex Staff 3
Jane Rosam 4, Alan Turner [c] 5, Andy Wickenden 6
In remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Great War.

Kemsing Sunday 16th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Frank Lewis 1, Mike Worthington 2

Bobbie Fairclough 3, Fraser Clift [c] 4

Catherine Heathcote 5, Stephanie Runting 6

First Quarter (aged 13): 6.

LETTER

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read the announcement in the Autumn edition of the District Quarter Peal Week in November, which encourages ringers to commemorate their predecessors who lost their lives during the Great War.

More information about the District's casualties can be found on the KCACR's own Roll of Honour, which is featured on the Association's website at <kcacr.org.uk>.

The Roll of Honour was written up in the mid 1990s, in order to draw more attention to the Association's War Memorial of the two bells for Canterbury Cathedral which made the ring up to twelve in 1923.

In the process of research, I accumulated quite a bit of information on some of the casualties which is now in the Association's archives. I welcome enquiries – and indeed any further information which towers may unearth locally.

Hazel Basford, Hon. Librarian, KCACR

OTHER QUARTER PEALS RUNG

DURING THE 4TH QUARTER OF 2014

Farningham Wednesday 2nd July

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Rebecca Stuttard 1, Caroline Stockmann 2

Catherine Lewis 3, Frank Lewis 4, Jack Gunning [c] 5

6 Michael Worthington 6

First treble bob: 1; first Surprise: 2

Bletchingley Saturday 2nd August

1296 Plain Bob Caters

Jessica Bache 1, Tessa Worthington 2, Isabel Pearce 3

Yvonne Cooper 4, Catherine Lewis 5

Andrew Howell 6, Anthony Leeves [c] 7

Michael Worthington 8, Patrick Wills 9

Frank Lewis 10

First on ten: 1; first Plain Bob Caters: 3 & 6

Brasted, Sunday 21st September

1260 Doubles

300 Stedman, 480 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Tessa Worthington 2

Fraser Clift 3, Frank Lewis 4, Eric Roughley [c] 5

David Edgar 6

For Sevenoaks Deanery Evensong.

Speldhurst, Wednesday 24th September

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

Eric Roughley 1, Tessa Worthington 2, Fraser Clift 3

Janice Byrne 4, Michael Bullett 5, Frank Lewis 6

Anthony Leeves [c] 7, Michael Worthington 8

On Michael Bullett's birthday.

Leigh, Sunday 28th September

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Ray Price 1, Robert Hunt 2, Frances James [c] 3

Stella Wooldridge 4, David James 5, Arthur Lewis 6

Rung to celebrate the efforts of runners in today's

Tonbridge Half Marathon.

Hever, Wednesday 1st October

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Hugo Tracey 1, Jane Rosam 2, Robin Rouse 3

Louise Nightingale 4, Alan Turner [c] 5, Kevin Agate 6

Rung as a tribute to E. Harrington, Hever bell-ringer,

who died in Flanders 100 years ago

Otford Wednesday 8th October

1320 Minor

720 St Clement's College Bob; 600 Plain Bob & Little Bob

Eric Roughley 1, Janice Byrne 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3

Fraser Clift 4, Howard Rogers 5, Anthony Leeves [c] 6

Wishing Howard happy birthday for 9th October

Brasted Wednesday 15th October

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Ann Jenner 2, Janice Byrne 3

Jacqui Fletcher 4, Frank Lewis 5, Eric Roughley 6

Anthony Leeves [c] 7, Stanley Jenner 8

Brasted Sunday 19th October

1260 Plain Bob Triples

Jacqui Fletcher 1, Caroline Stockmann 2

Yvonne Cooper 3, Bobbie Fairclough 4,

Rebecca Stuttard 5, Frank Lewis 6, Eric Roughley [c] 7

Chris Mundy 8

For Evensong

Speldhurst Sunday 2nd November

1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples

Anthony Leeves 1, Janice Byrne 2

Catherine Heathcote 3, Stella Wooldridge 4

Frank Lewis 5, Michael Bullett 6, Eric Roughley [c] 7

Crispin Saunders 8

For Evensong.

A birthday compliment to Myra Roughley.

Otford Wednesday 5th November

1260 Plain Bob Minor

Janice Byrne 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Fraser Clift 3
Stella Wooldridge 4, Eric Roughley [c] 5
Howard Rogers 6,
A birthday compliment to 4.

Hadlow Sunday 23rd November

1260 Grandsire Triples

Emma Jarvis 1, Stanley Jenner 2, Janice Massy 3
Jacqui Fletcher 4, Daniel Jarvis 5, Howard Rogers 6
Philip Jarvis [c] 7, Ray Taylor 8
First of Triples: 5

Hever Sunday 30th November

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Carl Nightingale 1, Jane Rosam 2
Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Louise Nightingale 4
Alex Staff [c] 5, Steve Newlands 6
First on treble
Rung to conclude a prayer hour, remembering all those who are suffering with or have died from Ebola, their families and all those who are caring for them.

Hadlow Wednesday 3rd December

1280 Rutland Surprise Major

Ray Taylor 1, Tessa Worthington 2, Janice Byrne 3
Ann Jenner 4, Eric Roughley 5, Michael Worthington 6
Anthony Leeves [c] 7, Stanley Jenner 8
First of Rutland: 3

Speldhurst Sunday 7th December

1260 Stedman Triples

Eric Roughley 1, Ray Taylor 2, Fraser Clift 3
Frank Lewis 4, Michael Bullett 5
Catherine Heathcote 6, Anthony Leeves [c] 7
Crispin Saunders 8 *For Evensong*

Hever Wednesday 10th December

1260 Mixed Doubles

360 April Day; 480 Plain Bob; 420 Grandsire
Robin Rouse 1, Louise Nightingale 2
Bobbie Fairclough 3, Alan Turner [c] 4, Hugo Tracey 5
Jane Rosam 6
First of mixed doubles 2; first on tenor 6. Rung by Hever band & friends as the first quarter of Advent

MILESTONES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

First quarter: **Alexander Runting, Stephanie Runting
Steve Newlands**
First Grandsire Doubles: **Louise Nightingale**
First treble bob: **Cory Fernmoor, Rebecca Stuttard**
First on 8: **Ray Price**
First surprise: **Caroline Stockmann**
First on 10: **Jessica Bache**
First Bob Caters: **Isabel Pearce, Andrew Howell**
First triples: **Daniel Jarvis**
First of Rutland: **Janice Byrne**
First mixed doubles: **Louise Nightingale**
First on tenor: **Jane Rosam**



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