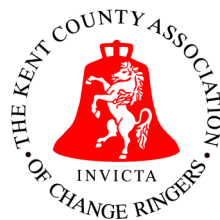


Look to



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OF THE KCACR : SPRING 2018

On the ropes with...

Robin Rouse Cowden

What was your line of work outside ringing?

My first job was with the P&O Shipping company which entailed spells at sea in the purser's bureau. Then some labouring, 4 years at Varig Brazilian Airlines, and then for nearly 30 years I worked as a shipbroker at the Baltic Shipping Exchange in London, involving some worldwide travel.

What attracted you to ringing and how did you get started?

My father and eldest brother were ringers so I was keen to become one. I was taught to handle a bell by my father at Burnham on Crouch, my home town in Essex, although I did all my ringing in my late teens at Maldon. Later in London I rang at Putney, Battersea and Chiswick with John Palmer, who was to become my future brother in law. Moving to Kent I rang at Chiddingstone and Coleman's Hatch until a chronic shoulder condition made me stop. I was only able to resume my ringing 5 years ago. I could handle a bell but otherwise had to start from scratch.

What has been your funniest ringing moment to date?

At a practice in my twenties at St Mary Abbots Kensington, the rather grumpy tower captain asked what I rang and I gaily said "tenor behind". He looked a bit dubious because unlike now I was a weedy puny individual in those days, and the tenor was 32cwt.



They had to lift me onto a huge box and then I was ready to go for Grandsire Caters. The bells had gone round about four times before I had even got the bell up to the balance. The tower captain glared but before he could say anything I sent the tenor crashing down into all the bells as it started merrily ringing down all on its own! I have never been back.

Any alarming or unusual ringing moments?

Well I do have a problem with my identical twin brother, Everard. He's six feet four and a huge Argentinian beefcake figure, so of course people can't tell us apart. He pinches my car keys and turns up at some of my regular practices. He's a useless ringer, he even makes a mess of ringing a doorbell and he causes mayhem. Then when I turn up the following week no one believes it wasn't me the previous week.



Tonbridge District Officers and Tower Stewards

October 2017 to October 2018

Louise Nightingale

COWDEN

District Representative

L.b.nightingale@btinternet.com

- Cowden
- Chiddingstone
- Penshurst
- Westerham
- Leigh

Richard Dyson

EDENBRIDGE

District Representative

richarddyson2014@gmail.com

- Edenbridge
- Sundridge
- Hever

Catherine Heathcote

LAMBERHURST

District Secretary

tondist@gmail.com

- Cranbrook
- Hawkhurst
- Kildown
- Lamberhurst
- Sandhurst
- Tunbridge Wells

Jen Thomas

BRASTED

District Ringing Master

jennifermthomas@btopenworld.com

- Brasted
- Otford
- Chevening
- Sevenoaks

Daniel Jarvis

HADLOW

Deputy Ringing Master

dr093jarvis@aol.com

Hamilton Woods

TONBRIDGE

District Treasurer

hamwoods@kent2.co.uk

- Goudhurst
- Tonbridge

Phil Jarvis

HADLOW

Committee Member

pr755jarvis@aol.com

- Branchley
- Shipbourne
- East Peckham
- Hadlow
- Kemsing

Mike Worthington

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

District Training Officer

tondist.training@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Bullett

SPELDHURST

District Chairman

Michael.bullett@btinternet.com

- Seal
- Seal Chart
- Horsmonden
- Speldhurst

Steve Newlands

COWDEN

District Newsletter Editor

steve.newlands4468@gmail.com



On the ropes with.....

Robin Rouse.....continued

Do you have a favourite ring of bells?

Hadlow and Edenbridge are lovely, however I am very fond of the bells in my home tower of Cowden.

Most satisfying ringing achievement so far?

I think my triples quarters. I've rung seven so far, two for them being Bob Triples inside.

Do you have a current ringing ambition?

I would like to ring quarters of Grandsire Triples, Stedman, and Bob Major before long.

What would be your key tip for beginners?

Read The Method Ringers Companion by Steve Coleman and invest in Mobel. I have found both invaluable.

And finally—if you were suffering from insomnia, what would you find most helpful?

Counting sheep, counting your places in Plain Bob Maximus, or attempting to recount all the names of Jacob Rees-Mogg's six children?

Hard question. I guess the Plain Bob Maximus although I know I will never ring it.

DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

THE FIRST DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING OF 2018 was held on Saturday 6th January at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks at 6.15pm.

- The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, he complimented ringers on the standard of ringing before the meeting and thanked Deputy Ringing Master Daniel Jarvis for leading the ringing.
- The Chairman thanked the Rector Angus MacLeay, the PCC of St Nicholas and Astrid Fairclough and the Sevenoaks band for hosting the Quarterly Meeting, for the use of the bells and for providing the particularly nice tea which preceded the meeting.
- MINUTES OF THE ADM, 7TH OCTOBER AT BRASTED AND MATTERS ARISING. Following two minor corrections, the minutes were accepted and signed as an accurate record of the Annual District Meeting held at St Martin, Brasted on Saturday 7th October 2017.
- THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WERE ELECTED TO THE KCACR : Daniel Tierney (Otford), Jeremy Boulton (Kemsing), Jenny Pryce (Sevenoaks).

• Financial Statement

Members considered the financial statement prepared by District Treasurer Hamilton Woods. The Chairman drew attention to the contribution of £3,600 made by Tonbridge District to The Association. There were no further comments or questions.

• District Survey

A summary of results having already been circulated to members, Phil Jarvis spoke briefly to explain the next steps to be taken following

analysis of the results of the District Survey.

A number of questions had focussed on the timings and organisation of District Meetings. Taking into account the responses given by participants in the survey some changes have already been made to next year's programme. Some of those changes are already apparent and have been incorporated into today's meeting. The meeting today closes with a service of Compline (night prayer). The service has also been moved to the end of the Quarterly Meeting and shortened (no hymns, no preaching). It is intended that the longer service of Evening Prayer with hymns and preaching be retained at the Annual District Meeting but that the shorter service be held at Quarterly Meetings. Although some responses indicated a preference for no service at all, it was pointed out that the rules of the KCACR require that a service is held at each District Meeting. The service of compline enables this requirement to be met. If members wish to change this requirement then it would be necessary for Tonbridge District Reps to present requests for rule changes to the KCACR General Committee.

Although most people responded in favour of retaining the District Carol Service, very few members actually came to the Carol Service at Hadlow. There are plans to change the format of next year's Carol Service so it is hoped that a greater number of members may attend.

The Committee and the Membership thanked Phil Jarvis for all the work he had undertaken in preparing, collating and analysing the results of the survey.

DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Trivia Evening, Hildenborough Village Hall, Saturday 20th January at 7.15pm
- Evening Practice, Hever (6) Sat 3rd February, 6 to 8pm
- Surprise Major Practice, NRPBL, Chevening (8), Saturday 17th February, 7 to 9pm.
- District Training Day, Saturday 3rd March.
- 10 Bell Practice, Staplehurst, Saturday 17th March, 7 to 9pm.
- DQM, Lamberhurst (6) Saturday 7th April, 9.45am to 2pm.

• ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman raised the issue of the forthcoming GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) legislation with an enforcement date of 25th May 2018. For this reason no progress has been made on the Tonbridge District database, as the Committee are awaiting instruction from KCACR Honorary Secretary Doug Davis, as to how to proceed to ensure compliance with this legislation.

- Caroline Stockmann (KCACR Publicity Officer and CCCBR Public Relations Officer) spoke to the meeting about the CCCBR initiative “Ringing Remembers”. Caroline explained the context for “Ringing Remembers” as follows:

More than 1,400 of our bellringing community laid down their lives for peace in the “war to end all wars”. Our fallen ringers came from all walks of life, as we ringers still do today. For 2018 the government wishes to engage with us in an official capacity to symbolically replace those ringers who gave their lives 100 years ago.

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have announced plans for national bellringing on November 11th 2018, along with support for a parallel bellringing recruitment campaign. It is hoped that those new ringers recruited through “Ringing Remembers” will be able to join the ringing on the afternoon of Sunday 11th November 2018, Armistice Day. All ringers are therefore encouraged to go out and recruit new ringers and actively publicise the cause. We were reminded that ringing is not a dying art, it provides great mental stimulation, it supports good physical fitness, and appeals to people from all walks of life. For further information and support ringers can contact Caroline or Doug Davis (KCACR Honorary Secretary).

- Catherine Lewis advised the meeting of her intention to step down as Central Council Rep at the Easter Meeting 2018.

- Catherine Lewis also asked if there was any member who might be willing to take over the running of the District Book Stall.

- Dan Jarvis asked , in view of HM Queen Elizabeth now being in her 90s, what was the ringing protocol for the death and accession of a monarch? Caroline Stockmann responded by stating that following discussion by CCCBR no advice would be issued. The principal London churches would set a precedent and provincial towers would then be notified. Ringers were advised to ensure that their tower had a set of muffles fit for purpose.

- Fraser Clift relayed a recent media story to ringers. The Rector of Bearsted Church requires wedding couples to make £100 deposit prior to their wedding ceremony. The £100 deposit is refundable if the bride is on time.

- Angela Clark mentioned that details of today’s meeting were advertised incorrectly on the KCACR website.

- Tessa Worthington extended general thanks to Phil Jarvis for the notice board, newly displayed outside the church, informing passersby of the District Meeting in progress and the duration of the ringing. It was agreed that the board was good for Public Relations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18:44.

Cowden church by January Supermoon

Some new floodlights were recently installed at Cowden after an absence of many years, much to the gratitude of the village and local band, particularly when entering on winter nights!



Points from the General Committee Meeting held on 24th February 2018

✂ The Association Training Officer stood down ahead of the meeting, hence we are actively seeking someone to fill this role in April.

✂ The accounts are ready for the AGM in April. Expenses are increasing, so with healthy BRF and Training funds it is likely a recommendation of 100% of subs to go into the General Fund will be presented to the AGM.

✂ The handbook is almost ready for final production, with an approximate order of 400 printed copies required instead of 2,000.

✂ Storage facilities for the Bell Restoration trailer are still being sought, making progress on the mobile ring impossible at present.

✂ The Youth Competition has taken off and as such David Cawley agreed to pay for a trophy—the General Secretary will arrange for something suitable.

✂ A Grant Application had been received from Stockbury with regards to help for work on the tower there. £2,000 was awarded.

✂ The census in 2017 went well and analysis is almost complete. We had a response rate of almost 65%. Almost a quarter of Sundays at the towers that responded during November were silent (no ringing at all). Further details will be published soon.

✂ Catherine Lewis has agreed to lead the Management Committee for the mobile ring to move the project forward.

✂ Plans for the AGM are in place, details on the website. We are seeking a Training Officer, a Handbook Editor, a Chairman, and a replacement Central Council Rep. We may also need a General Secretary, and the Treasurer is only looking to do one more year.

✂ The County 8-bell Striking Competition 2018 will be held on Saturday 30th June 9.45am draw at Aylesford and the method will be Erin Triples

✂ The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2018 will be held on 22nd September 9.45am draw at Upchurch.

✂ The Youth Competition will be held on 3rd November in the Ashford District, venue TBC.

✂ The General Committee will meet in 2018 on 28th April, 28th July and 24th November.

Change of guard at Tonbridge



The Tonbridge AGM in January saw the retirements of Angela Clark as Tower Secretary, a post she had held since 1990, and also Shirley Barker as Treasurer, a role she had also held for a number of years.

To mark tower members gratitude and thanks for all their work, they were both presented with a bouquet of flowers, as well as a glass handbell for Angela, appropriately inscribed for the occasion. In the Man of Kent at the end of the evening Angela reassured all that she was by no means retiring from ringing.

❖ *Steve Newlands*

120 CLUB RESULTS (JANUARY)

22 Janice Massy, Hadlow

2 Tessa Worthington, Sevenoaks

46 Mark Lewis, Hadlow

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Radio Kent

For around 5 minutes on Thursday 28th December, Radio Kent briefly went retro (pirate?) as two Carolines from the district were interviewed together on ringing matters.

The interview came from Cowden church, where firstly Tower Captain Caroline Levy-Cooper talked about the history of some of the bells, and how change ringing evolved from the early days. She also talked about Harold and Ernie Ladd, brothers and regular local ringers at Cowden as well as several towers in the district. Sadly Harold was killed in the First World War, however his brother Ernie eventually taught Stan and Ann Jenner how to handle a bell. Two days later a quarter peal was rung at Cowden, conducted by Stan, to mark the 100th anniversary of Harold's death.

Elsewhere in the interview Caroline Stockmann talked about the Ringing Remembers campaign and the work of the CCCBR to encourage the recruitment of 1,400 new ringers to replace those lost in WW1, emphasising the all round benefits of the pastime. All in all the piece helped raise the profile of ringing in general as well as within the district.

❖ *Steve Newlands*

CARRY ON CLANGING!

Thanks to our spotters this issue for the following contributions : -

Overheard before the first Sunday ring at Cowden after the Christmas break was the slightly wistful observation from the newest band recruit "I hope I can remember how to do this, I feel like I haven't pulled in weeks"

At a Tonbridge practice in January, the tower captain asked for a 10 minute touch of St Clements. "Hmm that's a nice long length" was the swift reaction from this column's most regular contributor.....

Keep up to date with the District & KCACR news!

Visit the KCACR website

www.kcacr.org.uk



Trivia Evening at Hildenborough Village Hall—Saturday 20 January

I remember vividly the conversation between our team members during the 2017 Trivia Evening about our strategy NOT to win but to be placed a laudable 2nd or 3rd place. We had witnessed another Hadlow team proudly walking away with the Chocolate Golden Bell prizes on a previous Trivia event and only then to quickly realise that they had also won the privilege of setting the questions and organising the quiz for the following year. We spent so much time smugly looking at our 3rd place on the scoreboard, we completely forgot about our wretched joker and so landed up playing it by default on the final round that turned out to be our best score!

Pauter's People from Edenbridge who won this year obviously didn't have the same selfish attitude as we had had. They led from the start and only slipped to 2nd place after the meal

break for a couple of rounds and then stormed away to finish 14 points clear of Pel's Other People their nearest rivals. A similar and creditable strategy was happening at the other end of the scoreboard with The Bowlers clearly aiming for the Wooden Spoon from the start and asserting and strengthening their position with a series of spectacularly lacklustre scores in the second half!

A straw poll after the quiz indicated that the questions had been on the hard side but the results show that 17 of the 20 teams managed to score over half marks. The favourite and also least favourite round turned out to be the cryptic clues for the District tower names but I suppose you needed a regular crossworder on your team to recognise some of Mark Lewis's more obscure word play. My thanks go to the rest of the Hadlow quizzing team for their helping in setting the questions, running round the hall collecting bits of wine and beer stained answer sheets and especially to Professor

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Whacker aka Martin Massey who performed his role as question master with abandon keeping the whole thing going at a pace as well as demonstrating an extraordinary talent in impersonating late Prime Ministers.

For those attending the event, it all seemed to go very smoothly with the splendid meal magically appearing on time, the electronic laser display board rolling the realtime scores, the hundreds of raffle prizes being allocated in record time and the final prize giving and farewell eloquently handled by Mike Bullett. All this belies the fact that there is a huge amount of preparation work that goes into the evening and thanks are due to all the committee for that hard work. In particular this report could not finish without mentioning the two stars of the evening, Louise Nightingale and her mum, who not only struck a great deal with their local butcher, but spent most of the previous day preparing vat loads of the delicious and tender beef stew that we all enjoyed.

The evening raised £1139.57 and was jolly good fun!

The final results table is below :-

1. Pauter's People	96.5
2. Pel's Other People	82.5
3. The Happy Clappers	82
4. Shipbourne Shambles	80
5. Chevening Charmers	79.5
6. Bladdered and Bruised	79
7. The Clangers	75
8. Brasted Brains	73
8. The Super Hybrids	73
10. The Rhythm Method	71
11. Kensing Klangers	70.5
12. The Artful Dodgers	67.5
13. Last Man Standing	65.5
13. Well Aled Machine	65.5
15. Foulorn Hope	63.5
15. Ham's Heroes	63.5
17. Bowls & Bells	62.5
18. Hadlow Expectations	59.5
19. Mine's a double	57.5
20. The Bowlers	45.5

❖ **Howard Rogers**



Pauter's People, the winning Trivia Quiz team from Edenbridge, with their trophies.

Hever Evening Practice

On Saturday the 3rd of February, Tonbridge District held its first district practice of the year at Hever. The ringing repertoire ranged from rounds and call changes to a course of London Surprise Minor and with a good attendance of around 20 people, we had the usual friendly and welcoming atmosphere we expect from these practices. It was also pleasing to see the local ringers ring with us as these practices are arranged to benefit all ringers of the district, not just the regular attendees and we hope to see them at future practices!

❖ **Dan Jarvis** Deputy Ringing Master

Chevening Surprise Major Practice

This was a very convivial evening on the lovely ring of 8 at St Botolph's Church, Chevening, on Saturday 17th February. 13 people attended. Methods rung successfully were Lincolnshire, Rutland, Pudsey, London, 4xSpliced, 3 leads of Bristol (a full course eluded us!). We also pushed the boundaries to ring some Cornwall and a couple of leads of Glasgow; we needed more time for the brain cells to learn more leads... next time!!

❖ **Jen Thomas** District Ringing Master

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Training

Two out of three Training sessions planned for 3rd March had to be cancelled because of the “Beast from the East”. The last time sessions had to be cancelled was in 1997 for Princess Diana’s funeral.

❖ *Mike Worthington Training Officer*

Staplehurst 10 Bell Evening Practice—17th March

Unfortunately this also had to be cancelled due to another spell of snowfall during the day, however a rearranged date will be notified in due course.

❖ *Jen Thomas District Ringing Master*

Quarter Peal Day—Saturday 17th March

On Saturday 17th March a number of intrepid Tonbridge district ringers and friends from further afield set out to brave the mini beast from the east in order to take part in a day of quarter peal attempts. Eight towers had been arranged across the day with different methods planned to be rung in each, allowing the task to be shared amongst 19 ringers in total. Grateful thanks are due to Pam Thomas of Tonbridge for all her hard work in arranging this difficult logistical task so well.

The methods attempted were Cambridge Surprise Minor (at Kemsing and Leigh), St Clements College Bob Minor (Seal Chart), Lindum Surprise Major (Hadlow), Plain Bob Major (West Malling), Single Oxford Bob Triples (East Farleigh) and Spliced Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative and Lincolnshire Surprise Major. (Speldhurst).

One quarter attempt at Lamberhurst had to be postponed due to the adverse weather during the day.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all in which three of the quarters were scored. There were also a number of firsts for some ringers, two of Single Oxford Bob Triples, one of major inside, and three firsts of Lindum Surprise Major. A lot else was also achieved to progress people's ringing experiences and skills.

Many thanks again to Pam for organising such a fun day!

❖ *Steve Newlands Cowden*

Tonbridge District Bookstall

Hello Everybody!

I have just taken over the Tonbridge District Bookstall, and would like to encourage all of you to have a browse at the quarterly meetings. There are books and pamphlets covering all levels of ringing, together with books on teaching how to ring, tower maintenance, Dove’s Guide, rope splicing and all sorts of other subjects as well as KCACR ties and windscreen stickers.

If I am helping at a training day I’ll try to take along appropriate books, and if anybody else would like to take books along to another training day, then please ask me for them and I will try to get them to you.

Please look out for the Bookstall - I’ll try to set up as close to where we have tea as possible so that you can’t miss it!

❖ *Caroline Levy-Cooper Cowden*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....

Between now and the next edition of Look to : -

12th May **6 bell Striking Competition** Sandhurst, 9.45am

2nd June **Training Day** Venues TBC

16th June **Surprise Major Practice** - Hadlow, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

30th June **County 8 bell Striking Competition** Maidstone District, draw 9.45am

7th July **District Quarterly Meeting** Speldhurst, 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Practice night at Honolulu Cathedral

It was Tuesday evening in Honolulu and I eagerly set off for practice night at St Andrew's Cathedral. They were expecting me but I didn't quite know what to expect. I arrived at the cathedral just after 6pm, climbed the steps up to the ringing chamber and was then confronted with an amazing sight. Eight beautiful Hawaiian girls, each clad only in a grass skirt and a garland of flowers awaited me. I must admit I could hardly believe my eyes, indeed I could hardly take my eyes off them! Without delay they directed me to a rope and told me that they intended to ring 8 spliced. In a total daze I said nothing, not caring that I couldn't ring anything like that. However just before we were about to pull off my hay fever suddenly kicked in as a result of all the garlands, and I let out the biggest sneeze the world has ever known. I recovered and looked up only to see that my sneeze had blown away all the petals on the girl's garlands to reveal ----- "bleep bleep" "bleep bleep" "bleep bleep". Oh no, it was my alarm clock going off, it had all been a dream!

Well, not quite a dream because I was on holiday in Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands and I was going to practice night at the cathedral. When I arrived there were only four ringers and in fact no more turned up. Richard, the tower captain, explained that numbers varied a lot and some of the ringers were away. The other ringers were Helen (who was at the stage where she couldn't ring unattended), Lynn, and Dutch. I had a slight problem with Dutch in that because of my deafness I thought his name was Butch and so called him that throughout the evening. "After the 3 Butch, now after me Butch". He mournfully corrected me only towards the end of the evening. St Andrew's Cathedral, Honolulu has a 12cwt 8 that came from the church of St Alkmund, Shrewsbury. In July 1990 they were removed, cleaned and retuned by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The names of the eight Hawaiian monarchs and the dates of their reigns were engraved on the bells.

We started with some rounds, but only four of us could ring at a time. The rounds were a little lumpy as were the call changes that followed.



As Richard explained, for reasons of geography they could never have any outside help and thus inevitably the ringing was at a very basic level. At one stage only three of us were ringing and Richard asked me what we could ring on three. I said I could only think of door chimes!

The ringers were very welcoming and friendly. They were all aware that they were not likely to progress much but insisted they enjoyed their ringing and with their missing ringers could do plain hunting, call changes and practice dodging. I much enjoyed my evening with them but felt sad that any progress must be painfully slow if indeed it happens at all. So, on a lovely September evening, four bells of St Andrew's Cathedral, Honolulu, in the lovely Hawaiian Islands rang out and I was immensely privileged to be ringing one of them.

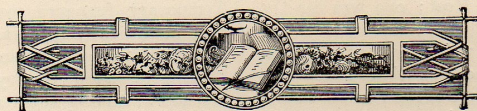
❖ *Robin Rouse, Cowden*



You Never Know What's under the Cover

Many years ago I bought a book titled 'Church Bells: their uses, their romance, and their history'. It's an unprepossessing, 51 page, soft cover demy quarto (8 1/2" x 10 3/4"/ 21.5 cm. x 27.5 cm.) booklet, written anonymously, containing articles reprinted from the 'Sheffield Daily Telegraph'. It was printed in 1903 by Sir W. C. Leng & Co. (Sheffield Telegraph) Limited, Printers, Aldine Court, High Street, Sheffield.

It seemed a rather dull, albeit informative and well-written, publication. Throughout, including the front cover, it is printed in black, and there are no illustrations. Its only saving grace artistically is in the decorative 'friezes' above the chapter headings, and the historiated initials at the opening of each chapter.

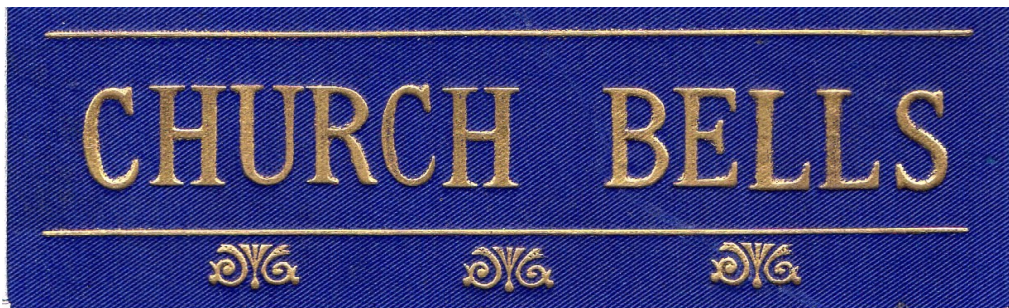


1.—THE USES, SHAPE, AND SIZE OF BELLS.

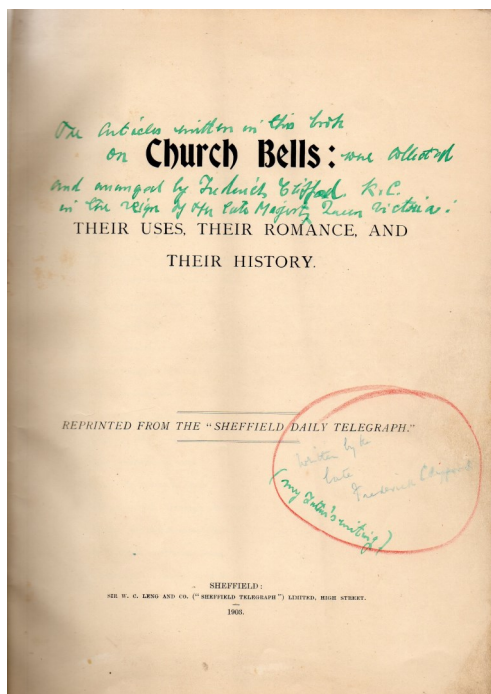


OW often they have been sung by poets! How inspiring to remember that for over fourteen hundred centuries they have been noted in Church history! What numberless generations of British folk have they called to worship!

However, my eye was drawn to a brief, and poignant, 'Prefatory Note' reading "I have been asked to allow these articles on "Church Bells" to be reprinted in book form. If, as I am told, some kindly readers think they will bear republication, I may doubt, but cannot object. Illness prevents me from revisiting them. They must therefore go to the press in this new form, with all their imperfections on their head. For the division into chapters, their arrangement and titles, with the preparation of a copious, serviceable Index, I have gratefully to acknowledge the judicious work of a Friend". It is dated March 31st, 1903, and signed 'THE AUTHOR'. Immediately, the book was transformed! I felt I wanted to know who, with their days obviously numbered, had written it, but how? Amazingly, my curiosity was answered years later, when I acquired another copy, this time bound in blue boards, and with the title in gilt on the front cover. It was clearly a special volume.



On opening it, I found the front free endpaper was inscribed "Leslie Clifford", in bright green ink. Turning to the title page, there was the same writing, in two places.



The wording around the title reads "The articles written in this book on '**Church Bells:**' were collected and arranged by Frederick Clifford K.C. in the reign of her late Majesty Queen Victoria". So I now knew the author, but more was to come! Further down the page was some faint writing in a red crayon circle, to which was annotated, "(my Father's writing)". The words in the circle read "Written by the late Frederick Clifford!"

A quick check on the Internet (Dictionary of National Biography, and Wikipedia) showed that FC, as I shall call him, was born Frederick Catt on 22nd June, 1828, in Gillingham, Kent - a Man of Kent, as against me, a Kentish Man, at least by residence. Before he was twenty he moved north, to Sheffield, starting his working life in journalism. By 1852 he was back south, in London, and joined the Parliamentary staff of The Times, where his brother George already worked. For some unknown reason, they renounced the name Catt in favour of Clifford, probably a family name.

FC maintained his connection with Sheffield, by acting as the London correspondent to the Sheffield Daily Telegraph, of which he eventually became joint proprietor with William Christopher Leng (op cit). He continued his career as a legal writer, and was called to the Bar in 1859, and took silk in 1894.

FC was interested in agriculture, and became a member of the Royal Botanic Society, and he co-operated with Edward Bulwer and Charles Dickens in forming the short-lived Guild of Literature and Art. He was also a collector of fans and other works of art, and even had a coffee plantation in India. His Times employment finished in 1883 when he resigned for health reasons, and he died at his home in Earl's Court on 30th December, 1904. His library of books was clearly quite extensive, being sold by Sothebys over three days in 1905.

What he doesn't appear to have been was a ringer, as far as I can tell. I suspect that, living in Sheffield, he was more than aware of bells and ringing (William Morris writes in his book 'The History and Art of Change Ringing' (1931) that "There have been periods in the history of ringing when the men of Sheffield took front rank, and at the dawn of the nineteenth century they were unquestionably of no mean skill". Incidentally, Morris also says that Yorkshire was at one time foremost in the ringing of Kent, which has been described as "Yorkshire Glory"!)). He would also have known of a little book, first serialised in The Sheffield Times, and first published in book form in 1847, called 'The Bell', written by the Reverend A. Gatty, Vicar of Ecclesfield, which is a few miles to the north of Sheffield city centre. FC's own large library probably contained books on bells and ringing as well, and he quotes 'The Bell' and numerous other titles, including Stahlshmidt's 'The Church Bells of Kent' (1887), and Stedman's 'Tintinnalia' (1668).

The hand-writing in my special copy of FC's book, shows that he was a realist with a sense of humour, and it reflects his awareness of his mortality, and his imminent elevation to the great belfry, or maybe printing house, in the sky. And this story shows that you are never quite sure what you will find under the cover!

♦ Fraser Clift, Kemsing

RINGING DURING THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2018

PEALS

Shipbourne Tuesday 6th March

5040 Doubles (5m)

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

Catherine Lewis 1, Jacqueline Barlow 2, Steve Newlands 3, David Finch 4, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 5, Terence Barnard 6.

In memory of Lorraine Bone, died 4th March, RIP.

QUARTER PEALS

Seal Chart Wednesday 3rd January

1320 Cuckoo Surprise Minor

Philip Jarvis 1, Lesley Barclay 2, Fraser Clift 3, Nicholas Wilkins 4, Pam Thomas 5, Daniel Jarvis (C) 6.

First Cuckoo of 2018!

First blows for the whole band.

Shipbourne Wednesday 3rd January

1320 Minor

720 of St Nicholas Bob, and 600 of Single Canterbury Pleasure Bob

Emma Jarvis 1, Daniel Jarvis 2, Fraser Clift 3, Philip Jarvis 4, Pam Thomas 5, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 6.

Hever Sunday 7th January

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Amber Cusick 1, Stephanie Rueff 2, Catherine Lewis 3, Peter Fevyer 4, Richard Barclay (C) 5, Elaine Merrylees 6.

First quarter at first attempt : 1

Speldhurst Sunday 7th January

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Emma Tamkin 1, Christopher Horseman 2, Stephanie Rueff 3, Catherine Lewis 4, Eric Roughley 5, Catherine Heathcote 6, Anthony Leeves (C) 7, Richard Barclay 8.

For evensong. First of treble bob major : 1

Hadlow Monday 8th January

1260 Doubles

300 Grandsire, 480 each of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place and St Simon's Bob

Emma Jarvis 1, Robin Rouse 2, Louise

Nightingale 3, Terence Barnard 4, Daniel Jarvis (C) 5, Carl Nightingale 6.

Chevening Wednesday 10th January

1250 Marlpool Surprise Major

Frances Bradford 1, Brenda Davies 2, Maureen Poole 3, Pamela Manger 4, Catherine Lewis 5, David Manger (C) 6, Peter Bradford 7, Stephen Davis 8.

First in the method by all the band.

Sevenoaks Sunday 14th January

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Sam Chard 1, Isabel Pearce 2, Bobbie Fairclough 3, Catherine Lewis 4, Astrid Fairclough (C) 5, Jenny Pryce 6.

First quarter peal : 6

First on treble : 1

Tonbridge Sunday 14th January

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

Laura Byrne 1, Pam Thomas 2, Janice Byrne 3, Jacqui Fletcher 4, Catherine Heathcote 5, Darren Elphick 6, Philip Jarvis 7, Daniel Jarvis (C) 8.

Rung to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of John Knoth (Gillie's father) 1920 - 2010. Died 17th January 2010.

First of treble bob to major: 1.

Kemsing Wednesday 17th January

1296 Brussels Sprout Minor

Fraser Clift 1, Pam Thomas 2, Nicholas Wilkins 3, Janice Byrne 4, Stephen Coaker (C) 5, Elizabeth Barnes 6.

Speldhurst Monday 22nd January

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Lesley Smith 1, Emma Tamkin 2, Janice Byrne 3, Stella Wooldridge 4, Anthony Leeves (C) 5, Crispin Saunders 6.

First quarter peal : 1

Cowden Wednesday 24th January

1260 Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor

Andy Wickenden 1, Bobbie Fairclough 2, Alan Turner 3, Louise Nightingale 4, Alan Pink (C) 5, Hugo Tracey 6.

First Plain and Little : 2, 4, and 6

Chevening Saturday 27th January

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Alexander Fishburn 1, Philip Barnes 2, Catherine Lewis 3, Jennifer Thomas 4, Elizabeth Barnes 5, Alexander Runting 6, Michael Birkbeck (C) 7, Daniel Jarvis 8.

First in method : 6

Tonbridge Sunday 28th January

1260 Plain Bob Triples

Jacqui Fletcher 1, Laura Byrne 2, Angela Clark 3, Stephen Coaker (C) 4, Janice Byrne 5, Pam Thomas 6, Darren Elphick 7, Steve Newlands 8.

First in method : 2

For evening service.

Edenbridge Tuesday 30th January

1320 St Simon's Bob Doubles

Daniel Jarvis (C) 1, Robin Rouse 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Steve Newlands 4, Philip Jarvis 5, Andy Wickenden 6.

Rung as a belated birthday present for the ringer of 5.

First conducting this method from the treble : 1

First quarter of the method : 2 and 3

Edenbridge Sunday 4th February

1260 Plain Bob Triples

Carl Nightingale 1, Robin Rouse 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper 3, Jane Wroe 4, Louise Nightingale (C) 5, Richard Dyson 6, Andy Wickenden 7, Lizzie Longhurst 8.

Rung in memory of Pam Gadd, Churchwarden at SS Peter and Paul, who passed away on Sunday 14th January. A much loved member of the church and supporter of the bell ringers.

Speldhurst Sunday 4th February

1260 Grandsire Triples

Penny Gerrard 1, Eric Roughley 2, Laura Byrne 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Catherine Lewis 5, Stella Wooldridge 6, Anthony Leeves (C) 7, Nick Byrne 8.

For evensong. First Grandsire triples inside : 3

Cowden Tuesday 6th February

1260 Doubles

600 Grandsire, 660 Plain Bob

Jane Wroe 1, Laura Byrne 2, Caroline Levy-Cooper (C) 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Louise Nightingale 5, Lizzie Longhurst 6.

Rung to mark the centenary of The Representation of the People Act 1918 which gave women of property over the age of 30 the right to vote.

East Peckham Friday 9th February

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Hugo Tracey 1, Alan Turner 2, Barry Roberts 3, Michael Stuttard 4, Christopher Cooper (C) 5-6
Believed to be the first double-handed quarter peal in the tower.

Rung in thanksgiving for the life our good friend David W Threlfall who passed to his rest recently, and recalling the many enjoyable times in and out of the belfry in his company. After this attempt we retired to the Two Brewers in Hadlow to reminisce.

Speldhurst Friday 9th February

1260 Grandsire Triples

Penny Gerrard 1, Emma Tamkin 2, Elizabeth Ruch 3, Janice Byrne 4, Eric Roughley (C) 5, Peter Ruch 6, Anthony Leeves 7, Crispin Saunders 8.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death, aged 18, of Private Cecil Gerald Turley, a probationer bellringer at St Mary's who contracted meningitis whilst training at Crowborough camp, Sussex.

Cowden Thursday 15th February

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Ann Jenner 1, Caroline Levy-Cooper 2, Eric Roughley 3, Steve Newlands 4, Stanley Jenner (C) 5, Janice Byrne 6

Early birthday treat for the ringers of 2 and 4, who share the same birthday on 17th February.

Sevenoaks Friday 16th February

1280 Spliced Surprise Major

Cambridge, Rutland, Superlative, Yorkshire

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

Hadlow Sunday 4th March

1260 Erin Triples

Ann Jenner 1, Philip Jarvis 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Emma Jarvis 4, Daniel Jarvis 5, Thomas Barlow 6, Stanley Jenner (C) 7, Howard Rogers 8.

Lamberhurst Thursday 8th March

1320 Bourne Surprise Minor

Composed by Glenn A A Taylor

Emma Tamkin 1, Caroline Stockmann 2, Darren Elphick 3, Philip Jarvis 4, Pam Thomas 5, Daniel Jarvis (C) 6

First in method : 2,4,5 and 6. Remembering Bob Overy, a ringer of Lamberhurst, who died this week.

East Peckham Saturday 10th March

1320 Surprise Minor

720 of Norwich, 600 of Cambridge

Michael Stuttard 1, Terence Barnard 2, Fraser Clift 3, Darren Elphick 4, Philip Jarvis 5, Daniel Jarvis (C) 6.

First of treble bob : 1

Staplehurst Sunday 11th March

1296 Plain Bob Caters

Caroline Levy-Cooper 1, Eric Roughley 2, Emma Tamkin 3, Jennifer Thomas 4, Catherine Lewis 5, Jamie Austin 6, Stephanie Rueff 7, Howard Rogers 8, Richard Barclay (C) 9, Richard Dyson 10.

Rung for Mothering Sunday and Jamie's birthday.

First on 10 : 1 and 10

First inside on 10 : 6

Sevenoaks Sunday 11th March

1260 Plain Bob Triples

Bobbie Fairclough 1, Caroline Stockmann (C) 2, Michael Worthington 3, Emma Jarvis 4, Frances James 5, Fraser Clift 6, David James 7, Alexander Runting 8.

For Mothering Sunday

First conducting triples : 2

Hadlow Saturday 17th March

1280 Lindum Surprise Major

Darren Elphick 1, Janice Byrne 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Philip Jarvis 4, Pam Thomas 5, Catherine Heathcote 6, Thomas Barlow 7, Daniel Jarvis (C) 8.

Rung on St Patrick's Day.

East Farleigh Saturday 17th March

1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples

Daniel Jarvis 1, Emma Tamkin 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Jacqui Fletcher 4, Philip Jarvis 5, Eric Roughley (C) 6, Darren Elphick 7, Thomas Barlow 8.

First in method : 2 and 4

In memory of Private Tom Cox, an East

Farleigh ringer, who died in the Great War on 21st March 1918.

West Malling Saturday 17th March

1280 Plain Bob Major

Pam Thomas 1, Jacqueline Barlow 2, Emma Jarvis 3, Steve Newlands 4, Fraser Clift 5, Jacqui Fletcher 6, Philip Jarvis 7, Daniel Jarvis (C) 8.

First of major inside : 4

Edenbridge Monday 19th March

1312 Bristol Surprise Major

Lesley Barclay 1, Ann Jenner 2, Jacqueline Barlow 3, Jennifer Thomas 4, Janice Byrne 5, Pam Thomas 6, Thomas Barlow 7, Stanley Jenner (C) 8.

Kemsing Monday 19th March

1320 Elston Delight Minor

Eric Roughley 1, Fraser Clift 2, Janice Byrne 3, Catherine Lewis 4, Pam Thomas 5, Anthony Leevs (C) 6.

Chiddingstone Sunday 25th March

1260 Grandsire Triples

Dee Clift 1, Fraser Clift 2, Frances James 3, Emma Tamkin 4, Eric Roughley (C) 5, Stella Wooldridge 6, David James 7, Nick Byrne 8.

In memory of Sidney Huntley, a Chiddingstone ringer, who died in the Great War on this day in 1918.

Edenbridge Sunday 25th March

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Carl Nightingale 1, Lizzie Longhurst 2, Jane Wroe 3, Richard Dyson 4, Louise Nightingale (C) 5, Douglas James 6.

Rung for Palm Sunday Evensong.

Cowden Monday 26th March

1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles

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

Rung as a belated birthday compliment to Felicity Miller, member of the band.

First in method : 5

MILESTONES

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Philip Jarvis

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor
First Bourne Surprise Minor

Lesley Barclay

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor

Fraser Clift

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor

Nicholas Wilkins

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor

Pam Thomas

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor
First Bourne Surprise Minor

Daniel Jarvis

First blows of Cuckoo Surprise Minor
First Bourne Surprise Minor

Amber Cusick

First quarter peal

Emma Tamkin

First treble bob to major
First Single Oxford Bob Triples

Catherine Lewis

First Marlpool Surprise Major

Laura Byrne

First treble bob to major
First Plain Bob Triples
First of Grandsire triples inside

Lesley Smith

First quarter peal

Bobbie Fairclough

First QP of Spliced Plain and Little Bob minor

Louise Nightingale

First QP of Spliced Plain and Little Bob minor
First QP of St Simon's Doubles as conductor

Hugo Tracey

First QP of Spliced Plain and Little Bob minor

Alexander Runting

First Yorkshire Surprise Major

Robin Rouse

First quarter of St Simon's Bob Doubles

Jenny Pryce

First quarter peal

Sam Chard

First quarter on treble

Caroline Levy-Cooper

First quarter of St Simon's Bob Doubles
First of Caters

Caroline Stockmann

First Bourne Surprise Minor
First of triples as conductor

Michael Stuttard

First of treble bob

Richard Dyson

First of Caters

Jamie Austin

First inside on 10

Jacqui Fletcher

First Single Oxford Bob Triples

Steve Newlands

First of major inside

Andy Wickenden

First quarter of St Simon's Bob Doubles



The Charmborough Ring

Thinking of an event to attract the public?

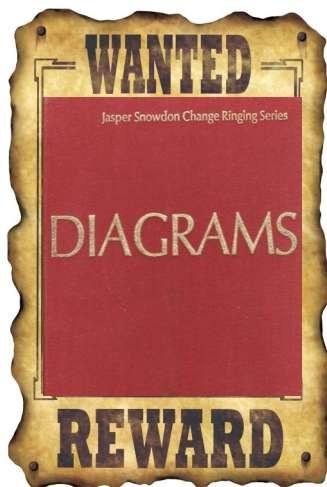
- Recruiting drives
- Training courses
- Public demonstrations

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



District Ringing Master Jen Thomas recently mislaid a much cherished copy of Diagrams, probably at a recent practice, perhaps in the wild north west of the district. Her maiden name of Jen Fraser is written on the inside.

It would be greatly appreciated if people could keep an eye out and let her know if they find it! jenniferthomas@btopenworld.com or Mobile 07908 413868

EMBROIDERED KCACR CLOTHING

Space prevents full publication of lines, colours, sizes and prices in this issue, however if you would like details or to buy any items please contact Catherine Lewis.

Tel : 01959 563767

Email : cmlewis339@gmail.com.

Quarterly Training Day - 2nd June 2018

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
- Treble Bob Hunting

Please remember to check the course requirements (Getting the most from your training day) on the Tonbridge district training page on <http://kacac.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 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

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 Saturday 23rd June 2018