

Look to



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT OF THE KCACR 2012 FOURTH QUARTER EDITION

District Quarterly Meeting



ST MARY GOUDHURST hosted the Tonbridge District Quarterly meeting on 7th July. Ringing, run by Ringing Master Catherine Heathcote, started at 3PM in the light and spacious ringing room and included something for everyone. Karol Leeves took the service that followed and David Denton played the organ. Thanks must go to tower captain Rosemary Southon and the Goudhurst ringers for welcoming us and supplying an excellent tea.

Angela Clark chaired the meeting and expressed pleasure that it so well attended.

Five new members were elected. From Hever, Robin Rouse, Louise Nightingale, and Carl Nightingale and from Goudhurst, Ann Bourne. John Hearn from Bray (who was at the meeting) was elected a Non-resident Life Member.

Daniel Brady, the KCACR Training Officer, drew the meeting's attention to a raising and lowering day at Leeds (Kent) on 27th October. There will be two sessions AM and PM. Details on the Training page of the KCACR website. www.kcacr.org.uk/training

Catherine Heathcote reported that help was needed from anyone available for service ringing once a month at Tunbridge Wells to prevent the bells remaining silent.

Eric Roughley reported from the KCACR General Committee meeting that:

- next year's AGM will be at All Saints, Birchington in Canterbury District.
- the four dioceses that cover KCACR towers have now nearly adopted a unified approach to Child Protection. KCACR coordinator, Nigel Spencer, is making progress with sorting out Southwark diocesan rules and will visit each District to explain (he'll be at our ADM).
- Margaret Funnell is resigning next Easter after many years as KCACR secretary; we need to think about her replacement now.

The final 120 Club draw for this year produced the following winners: Carole Cresswell (Chevening), Bob Dunn (Edenbridge), Frank Lewis (Brasted).

Ringing resumed until adjourning for refreshment at 8.30PM.

Forthcoming events...

Between now and the next edition of Look to

Surprise Minor / Major Practice Chevening

7-9PM Saturday 20th October 2012

Afternoon Practice Seal Chart (St Lawrence)

2.30PM-4.30PM Saturday 3rd November 2012

10/12 Bell Practice Benenden

7-9PM Saturday 17th November 2012

Training Day Plain Hunt / Grandsire Doubles

Saturday 1st December 2012

venue T.B.A. See announcement on page 3

Carol Service Leigh

Saturday 8th December 2012

ringing 4.30PM; service 6PM

Quarterly Meeting Hadlow

3-8.30PM Saturday 5th January 2013

Trivia Evening Hildenborough Village Hall

Saturday 19th January 2013

7.15PM for prompt start at 7.30PM

**District Officers and Tower Stewards
(October 2011 to October 2012)**

Angela Clark
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District Chairman

- Penshurst
- **Tonbridge**

Tony Cresswell
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District Secretary

- **Chevening**
- Leigh

Mike Bullett
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District Treasurer

- Cowden
- Horsmonden
- **Speldhurst**

Phil Jones
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Committee Member

- Seal Chart
- **Sevenoaks**
- Shipbourne

Eric Roughley
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- Chiddingstone
- **Speldhurst**
- West Peckham



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- **Sevenoaks**

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- Kilndown
- **Lamberhurst**

Tim Lynch
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- Brenchley
- Hadlow
- Sandhurst
- **Tonbridge**

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- Kemsing
- **Otford**

Tessa Worthington
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Committee Member

- Goudhurst
- **Sevenoaks**
- Tunbridge Wells
- Westerham

Alex Staff
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District Newsletter Editor

- **Edenbridge**
- Hever
- Sundridge

Committee members

Angela Clark pays tribute to the 2006ers who are moving along

THREE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT who have served us well are not seeking re-election to the committee at the ADM in October 2012.

I have had the pleasure of working with them during the past year and take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

Alex Staff joined the committee at the Tunbridge Wells meeting in October 2006 and began to edit *Look* to the following year.

In his quiet and unassuming manner, the production of our quarterly journal has been a credit to Alex, very often being produced in Germany where he has frequently been working. He now has a teaching post in Scandinavia, living in Finland, and can no longer ring on a regular basis at Cowden, Edenbridge and Hever. We shall all miss his kindness and support.

Bobbie Fairclough was also elected in 2006 and has served us well. Sometimes when we considered we had made a very satisfactory decision, Bobbie would propose a far more appropriate solution which would save a lot of ruffled feathers. In addition, she was kind enough to offer her dining room as a venue for our meetings, as well as the tea and coffee!

Tessa Worthington joined the committee at the Hawkhurst ADM in 2005 and was elected Secretary the following year. Tessa performed splendidly as our Secretary and everything was undertaken most efficiently. She supported Jane during her Chairmanship and was particularly helpful with catering arrangements when required, notably at Quiz Nights.

Tessa has been our joint representative on the KCACR general committee and has been a great support to Tony and myself following our elections last year.

Fortunately we shall, of course, continue to see these three lovely people at District events and a big thank you for their work.

Training Days

THE NEXT TRAINING DAY is being held on Saturday 1st December for students wishing to learn or improve either Plain Hunt or Grandsire Doubles.

For those ringers who have never experienced a Training Day before the usual schedule is something like this: the day runs between 9.30am and 1pm. There is a brief theory session to start, a coffee break mid morning and two sessions of ringing. Each student has

the opportunity throughout the day to ring individually with six other experienced ringers. The sessions are all lead by an experienced 'Ringing Master' and are tailored to the needs of each student. It is possible to accommodate three students at each tower.

Some slight changes have been made to the organisation of the Training Days. Astrid Fairclough has now kindly agreed to co-ordinate arrangements and administer the initial organisation prior to the actual Training Day itself. Prospective students should contact Astrid (*see below*) if they wish to go on a Training Day.

❖ *Catherine Heathcote*

Hello District ringers!

AS YOU HAVE SEEN in Catherine's article above, I have taken on a new role supporting the training days. As my primary interest is in getting people to the right places at the right time, with enough support to help them learn the task in hand, I would ask everyone to contact me as soon as you can to book training days for those who need them.

The programme is not changing, so sessions for **Plain Hunt** and **Grandsire Doubles** will take place on **Saturday 1st December**. Please let me know if you would like to attend. I will probably ask a couple of questions, and will be sending the details around a little before the course date. Where possible I do plan to use email to arrange the days, but don't let this deter you, I will use phone and paper too of course.

As before, if you or your band have a specific training need, let us know and I will send through to the ringing masters and we'll take it from there.

I look forward to hearing from you at:
tondist.training@hotmail.com

❖ *Astrid Fairclough*

Margaret Saunders of Westerham attended the September Training Day at Brasted

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED to be able to play a musical instrument. Even the recorder at primary school seemed out of my reach, and when my husband banned me from even singing in the shower it seemed that my musical aspirations were well and truly doomed to failure.

Then someone mentioned bell ringing in the church. They told me that it's simply numbers and changes of sequence. Being an accountant that sounded perfect. After all, can't accountants make numbers do whatever you want them to do? So that decided it – music by numbers, similar to painting by numbers.

That was six months ago. What my friend failed to

mention was before I even get to the numbers, I have to learn to handle the bell. I never would've thought that learning to pull a piece of rope properly could be that difficult or frustrating. But I keep trying and I'm almost there. It is definitely an art not a science though.

By August I felt competent enough to progress and signed up for the training day at St Martins in Brasted. Before ringing, Catherine (Lewis) explained all the theory of call changes. Now we're onto the numbers this will be easy, I thought. That's when I realised that I still have to handle the bell properly and do the numbers at the same time. I've never struggled with multi-tasking before but this is a whole new challenge. Luckily all the volunteers who had come along to help were patient and encouraging (thank you all), so by coffee time I was feeling confident. Further boosted by

caffeine and chocolate cake we had another session to practise simple changes. Using the simulator and video in the bell tower made it easy to see and hear the bells and thereby better coordinate my actions. It was a very enjoyable morning and I came away having learned and practised a lot, finding it easier to handle the bells at Brasted than those at Westerham.

Sadly back at Westerham on Tuesday, my new-found confidence was dashed when the stay on my bell broke during ringing – weakened by somebody's previous efforts I'm sure!

When I first started, I was surprised that fellow ringers said that they had been ringing for twenty years but were still learning. Now I understand completely. I'll persevere and see you in twenty years. Perhaps I'll be allowed in on Sundays by then!

❖ *Margaret Saunders*

Around the District

Catherine Lewis on Olympic ringing at Brasted

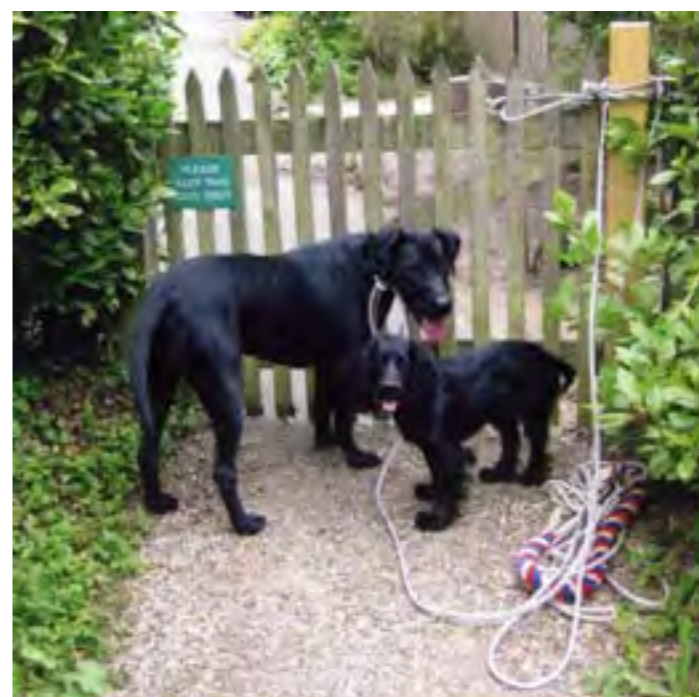
THE HAPPY CROWD below, assembled in Brasted tower to ring in the 'All the bells' project, at 8.12am on 27th July, to celebrate the start of the Olympics.

Everyone rang although Simon needed some help as he hasn't actually learnt to ring yet! After a drink and some buns, most people set off to Farnborough (the one just north of here) to ring on the new small

ring of bells at St Giles'. At one point between rings the youngsters spontaneously burst out singing 'God Save the Queen' – much to the amusement of those cleaning the church.

Generally a good time was had by all.

FRONT ROW L TO R: Millie Sutherland, Jamie Austin, Laura Byrne, Noeni Austin, Simon Austin.
BACK ROW L TO R: Gemma Rumsey, Janice Byrne, Sarah Hope, David Edgar, Juliet Austin, Dan Bishop, Catherine Lewis, Frank Lewis.



Tail ends wag at Seal Chart

photograph: Isabel Pearce

ONE PLEASANT SUMMER AFTER NOON, the above two thought they would go for a walk and decided to attend a wedding at Seal Chart. Having looked in on the service, they were heading off down the lane when met by the arriving ringers. Phone numbers were found on their collars and voicemail messages left. The question then arose – what to do with them while we rang. Fortunately, their owner arrived later to collect.

X Factor comes to Chiddingstone

RINGERS FOR THE CHIDDINGSTONE WEDDING ON 14th September were surprised to learn that the groom was Dermot O'Leary from the X Factor who married Dee Koppang, a film producer, at St Mary's the Virgin. Guests included Bear Grylls, Fearne Cotton and Holly Willoughby and, according to Dermot's website, guests chatted to a few of the star-struck locals.

❖ *Angela Clark*



The Trafford Mini-Ring has a busy day at Edenbridge

ON A FINE LATE SUMMER'S DAY, the inaugural Edenbridge Eco Fair was an opportunity for the Edenbridge band, with friends, to demonstrate bellringing and see whether they could unearth any prospective new members who might be enticed to sign up.

The Trafford Mini Ring, hired from Chris Trafford and used at the Eden Valley Festival in May 2011, was erected swiftly in a prime location in the centre of the park, so there was absolutely no risk that people couldn't see us or hear us. After a nervous couple of minutes, whilst we reminded ourselves of the subtleties of ringing the mini-ring, we then had to pounce on unsuspecting visitors to the event, to persuade them to have a go. In fact, it was practically non-stop for six hours, with barely a moment to grab a restorative cup of tea or a sandwich all day.

With support from friends from Hever and Cowden, we managed to cope with an army of children all eager to try their hand, whilst we were also successful in getting some of the parents to join in, and other grown-ups as well. The visibility of the bells and the chance to have a go seemed to capture people's interest, and we heard a number of comments from people that they hear the church bells in the town, so it was interesting for them to make the connection with a visual and practical demonstration.

We did manage a few bursts of rounds and call changes at points in the day, and there were compliments that the sound of the bells fitted perfectly with the occasion – indeed, they are a delightfully sweet tinkle, and not too dominant in the open space.

Time will tell as to whether we have new ringers join us at the church, but there were encouraging signs and comments from several people (including novices and lapsed ringers) – watch this space. Whatever the outcome, we would recommend the venture to other towers.

❖ *Richard Dyson*



Sunshine in Sittingbourne: Sevenoaks ventured into the Rochester District for their tower outing. Michael Stuttard reports

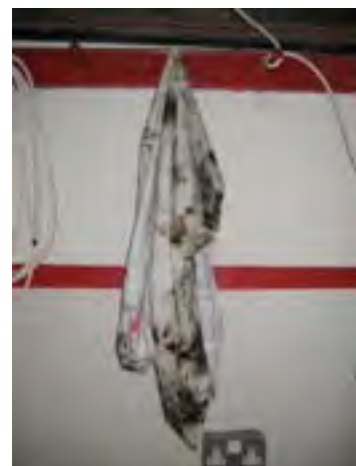
SEVENOAKS TOWER AND FRIENDS chose a bright sunny Saturday September 1st for their summer outing to the Medway.

An early start to the pretty village of Tunstall where the illustrious Dickon Love honed his trade as a young gun in this humble eight-beller now with a fine newish ring of eight. Our most select band then set us on our way with an elegant touch of Stedman. Full of heart and hope we travelled onto the much disparaged tower of Borden and were not disappointed – suffice to say half our allotted time being taken with getting them up, just rounds and some called changes only here, but they had lovely new ropes. *Fact alert:* Lucile informed me that Borden was once the home to a bell foundry some centuries ago which had supplied bells to our very own Chiddingstone tower.

Oh the sunshine, the sunshine, is such a palliative and speaking of palliatives our lunch pub, *The Maypole*, happily sat adjacent the tower, its fine drink and victuals sending us on our way to our next victim the sleepy hamlet of Upchurch where a friendly Ride and Stride welcomer saw us to the bells. This ground floor ring, with associated long draught, behaved admirably leaving us in good spirits and on our way to the sweet little Bobbing church and another ground floor. Nudging against the main road and with the west doors open, it did feel like we were on the central reservation, but no matter our concentration and racket was imperious as ever.

Our final drum beat found us round the bend at Hoo – through Rochester turn right – a pretty church overlooking the power stations of the Estuary. Our intrepid band of fifteen or so hanging on for the final push and being much rewarded by these eight angelic anti clock bells – our Brasted ringers were finally satisfied and so we could all take to the motorway and speed back home .

Thank you Medway (and ed. for the planning) see you next time.



LEFT: it can't be for lack of grease that the Borden bells are difficult.



TOP: peal board at Tunstall
ABOVE: working up an appetite at Borden
BELOW: relaxing at Bobbing



County 6-bell Striking Competition

Triumphant Tonbridge! Rhoda Willson reports

THE PENALTY FOR WINNING the District 6-bell method method striking competition is having to represent the District at the County competition.

This year two cars from Tonbridge made their way in the glorious autumn sunshine to the parish church of Chalk. This is not in the middle of the village but a little outside it, with the main road running past on one side and a traditional country lane curving past the other.

There were teams from all six Districts (Ashford, Lewisham, Rochester, Canterbury, Maidstone and Tonbridge) taking part, and for most Chalk, would be a new experience.

Tonbridge were drawn (by the tea ladies) to ring 3rd, not a bad position. Late enough to listen to how others were doing and not so late that boredom has set in. Listening to the first team to ring (Chelsfield from the Lewisham District) indicated that this light ring of six were not that easy. They did settle down about half way through the test piece and produced some very good ringing. Team 2 (Willesborough from the Ashford District) boldly rang Cambridge Minor rather well. Then it was us.

When we reached the ringing chamber, Willesborough let on that the ropes were a bit long. They were not understating the situation. A number of knots were introduced into the ropes, but some of us still had difficulties with excess tail end below our hands. Just as well some of the taller people were not ringing as they would have been off the top of the sally as well!

Tonbridge bells are quite heavy, and the tenor at Chalk is about the same weight as our treble. Coupled with long ropes and the pressure to win (thank you all those who had made their expectations clear before we started) this was never going to be a walk in the park.

One test piece later we descended to tea, not terribly pleased with our performance. Clips, gaps, near method mistakes (we were ringing Plain Bob Doubles which we all should know in our sleep) and a general sense that the ringing had not been that good all contributed.

Tea was excellent. The ladies were complimented on their cake (chocolate, walnut, and fruit). Half the band then had to return to Tonbridge; the rest of us enjoyed what was left of the sunshine and listened with at least half an ear to the remaining teams. We came to the conclusion that they were all doing much better than we had done.

Eventually it was time for the results. With some reluctance we joined the other ringers in the tea room. There had been a problem with the judges and Margaret Funnell had stepped into the breach with the local tower captain to help her. She did not give any

comments on the ringing other than to say that one team rang too many and one team too few changes. The number of faults was also suppressed.

In 6th place was the team which rang 2nd. She also commented that this was the team which had rung too few changes. This statement was greeted with outcry from the band concerned. The particular touch was exactly 240 changes long and it had come into rounds at the end so how could it have been too short? Margaret reassured them that even if they had rung the correct number of changes their position would not have changed. Small comfort for those who had done their best and rung Minor as well (all the other teams rang Doubles). The Tonbridge ringers just thought 'Well, at least we aren't last!'

This thought, with appropriate variation for position, was repeated for the announcements of who came 5th, 4th, 3rd. Incredulity had taken hold by now. How could we possibly come so near the top? Then the team which rang first was announced as being in 2nd place which meant that Tonbridge had come first! Shock was the only possible response. We accepted the judges' decision with grace, and the congratulations from other teams were similarly received.

The truth was finally accepted on Sunday morning. With the trophy in the tower we must have done it. County champions! Who would have thought it?

The striking at the competition was of a very high standard and was well worth listening to. Tonbridge tower is very pleased to have been able to show that the Tonbridge District does care about the standard of striking and works hard to ensure it is kept high. Keep up the good work everyone.

❖ Rhoda Willson

The triumphant Tonbridge team.

L-R FRONT ROW FIRST, IN ORDER OF RINGING: Tim Lynch (c), Jacqui Fletcher, Angela Clark BACK ROW: Martin Willson, Rhoda Willson & Hamilton Woods (tenor). Photograph: Gordon Hill



Stars of the small screen

In May this year there was a flurry of filming in the District, which will probably result in some really brief footage being broadcast in the autumn. In both cases it was a lot of kerfuffle for very little airtime – but that is usually life with these things.

Firstly a quarter at Kemsing, arranged by Anthony Leeves, threatened to be hijacked by the bad timekeeping of Reef Television operatives. They were filming for an episode of *Put Your Money where your Mouth is* – a daytime programme in which experts compete to make a profit buying and selling antiques, giving profits to charity. This time one Catherine Southon needed a buyer for a silver bell inkwell, and had contacted Catherine H, who passed the job on to Catherine L. Having approached Fraser Clift (who is usually game for ringing curiosities, but didn't want this one) CL sent a message to the Change-Ringers discussion list and hoped to divert the whole thing to someone else out there who did want it. No luck, but since inkwells of this kind were advertised in *The Ringing World* between 1914 and 1943 the Central Council Library Committee thought it would make a good addition to their collection. However the Librarian couldn't come down to do the filming. So CL had to be filmed buying it on his behalf. When all this was done the assembled band could proceed to ring the quarter of Cambridge Minor, which they had come for in the first place (see Third Quarter *Look to*). Date for broadcast will be put on kcacr.org.uk when available.

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Then CL had another call, this time from Barrie Dove of the CC PR Committee. Jonathan Dimbleby was filming a documentary for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein, and some good ringing 'at Chartwell' was needed to celebrate the victory. Having explained that the ringing had to be at Westerham, and duly gained permission from Elaine, all arrangements

went smoothly. Juliet Austin, Janice Byrne, Peter and Celia Dickinson, Anthony Leeves, Frank & Catherine Lewis and Eric Roughley provided two touches of Grandsire Triples. After which we had quite a long chat with Jonathan, who was generally agreed to be seriously charming! The footage is a very short piece of ringing, over a picture of the church through some buttercups, at the very end of the one-and-a-half-hour film. This is currently scheduled to go out on Monday 5th Nov at 9PM. ❖ **Catherine Lewis**



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Ringers bring The Torch to Westerham

Westerham and Sundridge ringers were out on the Green with Peggy Hughes and her 2012 Olympic torch. The 2012 torch route did not include Westerham and so the town organised a re-run of the 1948 torch relay which had included the town. We used a replica torch (though the real 1948 one was on show) and it was brought onto the Green by the grandson of Arthur Gallaway who had run with the torch in 1948. To celebrate the occasion we rang the new composition *Five Rings Doubles* among other methods.

❖ **Elaine Merrylees**



Tessa Worthington went on the joint District outing to London on Saturday 11th August.

SEVERAL LEWISHAM AND TONBRIDGE DISTRICT ringers were able to peel their eyes from the Olympic coverage for a few hours to take part in a trip to ring in the capital.

Rupert Cheeseman from the Lewisham District arranged a variety of towers, the most popular being the first of the day at St James, Garlickhythe. These beautiful bells were those which were rung on the Jubilee barge a few weeks ago – quite some feat to have them up and running in the tower already and they sounded quite lovely.

The day continued with ringing at:
St Mary Magdelene, Richmond (8) – church beautifully festooned with Olympic flags.
All Hallows, Twickenham (10) – a squeaky computer in the corner shook in time with the tower.
St Mary's, Twickenham (8) – pretty church by the River Thames.
All Saints, Kingston (12) – helpful practice for the learners as well as two reasonable attempts at Stedman Cinques, although neither came round despite our best efforts.

After the first, very busy tower, about 15 of us enjoyed the other visits mainly by hopping on and off buses. Richmond produced a pub lunch or an opportunity for a picnic watching the locals prepare for a cricket match on the green. It also provided an opportunity for one of the band to leave her purse behind (thankfully later found).

The learners with us made very good progress throughout the day with the more experienced always available to help.

All in all a most pleasant day – no lockouts, no broken stays, no complaints and a good opportunity to get acquainted with those from another District. It was a pity though, that there weren't more ringers on the trip to enjoy the variety of towers made available.

Maybe next year? Thank you to everyone.

TOP & MIDDLE: Twickenham BOTTOM: Kingston
Thanks to Rupert Cheeseman for photographs



Doris Colgate: 1915–2012



DORIS'S LONG LIFE was one of service: in her work; in her church life at St Nicholas' Sevenoaks; and in the world of ringing, she was always a major contributor. She had high standards, and tackled everything she did with a quiet efficiency, usually unobtrusively. A keen, dry sense of humour was never far from the surface.

In her working life she held a responsible job in London and, when retirement age approached, she was asked to continue working because of her value to the company. Doris's condition for acceptance (which she did not think would be met) was that she be provided with a first class season ticket to make her commute more bearable: the offer was accepted with alacrity.

Her service to St Nicholas' church was a central part of Doris's life: she was a lifelong worshipper there; a member of the band of ringers from the early 1930s, and tower secretary for almost six decades; for many years she was secretary of the PCC; and, after her delayed retirement, regularly helped in the church office. In more recent years she could often be found there doing *The Times* crossword or playing solitaire on the computer in less busy moments!

As a ringer Doris was outstanding in her generation. She was a first class handler of a heavy bell (at a time when very few ladies even attempted to ring round the back end) and a reliable method ringer who made very few mistakes. She was at home ringing spliced surprise with the leading ringers of her day or helping a band of learners with basic methods. She was also

a competent handbell ringer: her first peal was rung on handbells (Plain Bob Major at Whitechapel Bell Foundry on February 10th 1937), followed 10 days later by her first tower bell peal at Hadlow. In all she rang 529 peals, a fairly modest total by today's standards, but not inconsiderable for the period in which she was most active, when transport was less easy and ringing opportunities much fewer.

A member of the KCACR since 1934, she served as Tonbridge District secretary from 1953 to 1960 and for many years as District representative on the General Committee. She also belonged to the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, with whom she rang a number of peals. She was prominent in the Ladies Guild, which she joined in 1937, being Secretary from 1951 until 1970 and President from 1974 to 1976. In 1981 she was elected an Honorary Life Member. She represented the Guild on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers from 1953 until 1983, when she was elected a Life Member of the Council: an honour bestowed on very few. For a number of years she took minutes of Council meetings and, subsequently, detailed notes for the Editor of *The Ringing World* which formed the basis of the reports published in that journal.

One glimpse from Doris's later years provides a perfect summary of her attitude in life: when she decided to give up her house and move into the almshouses, she readily volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Deputy Warden. This was at the age of 78, a time when most would be happy to relinquish responsibilities and retire.

When Doris's death was announced, I received an email from someone who had learnt to ring as a youngster when she was in her heyday, and had subsequently rung many peals with her. 'A fine lady indeed', he wrote, 'formidable on first acquaintance, but with a heart of gold; upstanding, principled and forthright; an excellent ringer. RIP.'

❖ *Stan Jenner*

MEMORIES OF MISS DORIS COLGATE

- ❖ If the rope was too short, she would say she would let it out because she did not want to 'strain her giggling string for anybody!'
- ❖ If her cuff buttons were too tight (or anybody else's for that matter) she would undo them because she did not want to 'cast her pearls before you know what!'
- ❖ Plain Bob is a very biblical method – the last shall be first.
- ❖ If we had just had some pretty rough striking, but we finished up well, she would quote Shakespeare 'nothing... became him like the leaving it.' (*The Scottish Play Act 1 Scene 4*).
- ❖ She always told the story of how some of them would 'ring handbells' using their thumbs, on the train

– as she said, there was no quicker way of clearing a carriage!

❖ If the atmosphere on a practice night was getting a bit heated – she would suggest opening a window as 'it is getting a bit human in here!'

❖ When we were out driving and we saw any garden gnomes, she would say how much she disliked Gnomes and Gmushrooms!

❖ As already said in my little speech 'get your backstrokes in, you could drive a bus through that gap!'

❖ At the Ladies' Guild AGM in, I think, York, as the weather was beautiful and she was President at the time, one of the other Officers said that 'Doris has done the Sun Dance' and this has stuck ever since. Whenever the weather is good on a ringing outing we always say 'Doris has done the Sun Dance again!'

❖ If anyone had done something wrong – she would say that 'someone of the baser sort' had done whatever it was.

Isabel Pearce, St Nicholas Sevenoaks

She would remark, on seeing a bride in a very skin-hugging dress, 'She must have been poured in and left to set.'

Tessa Worthington, St Nicholas Sevenoaks

IN MEMORY OF DORIS COLGATE

I am particularly grateful to Doris as it was her persistent appeals for new ringers in the church news sheet that prompted me to learn to ring. I suspect she was disappointed at my slow progress but she remained patient and I still heed her advice for times between ringing 'Why stand if you can sit!'

Caroline Berry, St Nicholas Sevenoaks

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on Friday 28th September at St Nicholas Sevenoaks.

Ringing for the service was provided by the Sevenoaks band with a wide range of visitors including (strictly alphabetically) members of the Central Council, the Cumberlands, the KCACR, and the Ladies Guild. Many had known Doris from when they were learning and she was an active member of the band.

We started with call changes, called by Isabel to include Whittingtons – a change of which Doris particularly approved. This was followed by Grandsire Triples and a course of Cambridge. The service touch was Stedman Triples called by Judith Corby, and this was followed immediately by a 'slow finish' – something many of us know from just prior to midnight at New Year, when rounds is rung and the bells gradually stand one by one starting with the treble. Anyway, on this occasion it was rung particularly carefully to very good effect.

❖ *CML*

Sheila Dobbie: 1928–2012

SHEILA WAS BORN ON 8TH MAY 1928, and grew up in Southampton. After completing teacher training, she lived near Tunstall and it was there, in March 1949, that she 'commenced ringing with S. G. Waters.'

Her first full peal was in July 1949 at St Mary Salehurst, for the Hawkhurst and District Guild, in Sussex. Her next peal was at St Nicholas Linton, in May 1950 for the KCACR. It was 5,040 Stedman Triples with Louis Head, that renowned King of Stedman, conducting at his home tower. It was all arranged by Walter Dobbie, who was ringing in his 150th peal. He had chosen the method, the bells, the conductor and seven of the band. He needed one more to ring the 2nd and asked his father for advice. His father suggested Sheila.

'Do you think she is good enough?' asked Walter, who had not been able to observe her progress owing to his evening classes. 'Yes!' replied his dad. He took his father's advice and was so impressed with her ringing that it led to them ringing together for 52 years in the 'holy estate of matrimony'.

After their wedding they set up home in Tonbridge and were soon ringing at SS Peter & Paul Tonbridge, where they were much needed and also introduced many to handbell ringing.

In 1971 they moved from Tonbridge to West Peckham, next to Mereworth and in 1973 started 'The West Peckham Handbell Ringers' with Sheila as conductor and musical director and Walter, assisted by Sheila as caster, tuner and maker of all the handbells, except for the original 13.

St Dunstan West Peckham was filled with her family and friends for her funeral on June 6th. A good number of ringers were there including the Chairman of the KCACR, two past Chairmen and a Vice President. The service was conducted by the former Rector, the Rev Noel McConachie, who retired a year ago, assisted by his successor, the Rev Pat Dickin.

Tributes were paid by Sheila's nephew, Steve Wylie, and by Sue Darbyshire of the Women's Institute, who introduced a special recital on handbells by nine members of 'The West Peckham WI Handbell Ringers' in honour of and in thanksgiving for their much loved conductor and teacher.

This led appropriately into the singing of the Ringers' Hymn. After the concluding prayers and commendations, Sheila's body was carried out of the church into the churchyard to the sound of the bells that she had helped to restore. She was buried with Walter – 'In sure and certain hope of the resurrection.'

❖ *a shortened version of the obituary by Stanley Evans that appeared in The Ringing World 17th August*

Fraser's Book Corner

Don't do this!

I DISCOVERED RECENTLY that some people don't (can't?!) read *Look to*, so this time I've selected a couple of pictures especially for them. Naturally, I hope the illustrations and comments will amuse those of you who do read this newsletter.

The first is taken from a booklet entitled *The Art & Science of Hand Bell Ringing* by John Maurice Turner, Rector of Washfield in Devon, published around 1936.



In it, the Reverend himself is explaining '...the great feat of ringing two bells in each hand so that each ringer can ring four bells at one time...' He goes on to say 'put your fingers in the form of the v-sign...' and he then demonstrates how to pick up the four bells. The book is mainly about tune ringing, but the technique would be exactly the same for change-ringing. As one who is trying to master ringing Bob Minor on just two hand bells, I can only say how much I'm in awe of those who can ring tunes or methods four

in hand. It's also interesting how language, including sign language, is always changing, and what might be totally innocent in one age is completely unacceptable in another.

The second picture should definitely be captioned 'Don't do this in the belfry!' It is taken from an article 'English Bell-Ringing' by William Lawrence, in *The Country Home*, volume III, May to September 1909.

I do hope the bell was adequately restrained! I guess Health and Safety wasn't considered much in those days.

The red crosses are used to indicate what shouldn't be done. A similar system (with, obviously, a green tick for what is correct) is used by John Harrison and Catherine Lewis (our very own!) in the recently published *The New Ringer's Book*, which contains a mine of information on bells and ringing.

❖ *Fraser Clift*



The Tenor Bell at Hagbourne which weighs 22 cwt.
The figure of the lady will give an idea of the size of the bell and the length of the clapper



Bridgette Jefferis, a new recruit to Tonbridge, has dug up an old copy of *The Courier* which shows the Tonbridge band in 1979.

[*Look to's* editor decided against having a names to faces competition.]

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: Glenys Bassett, Peter Bassett, Mike Fletcher, George Fry, Tim Pierce, Jacqui Fletcher, Tim Lynch, Petra, Nick Avis, Stanley Jenner, Nick Fulford, Pam Fulford and Andrea Pierce. Tim, Jacqui, Stan, Tim, Andrea and George are of course still ringing.

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 £100 for 3 day to £320 for 5 days. Full details at: www.charmborough.org

Enquiries to: ringing@charmborough.org

The Charmborough Bell Trust is a registered charity No. 112616

make a note in your diary that the

2013 Trivia Evening

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

Saturday 19th January

at Hildenborough Village Hall

7.15 for a prompt 7.30pm start

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

Keep up to date with the

Tonbridge District & KCACR's news!

Make a regular visit to the **KCACR website**

www.kcacr.org.uk

Hever all at sea

Jane and Joanna from Hever headed off to northern climes on a cruise of the Baltic at the end of September. Leaving Tilbury they bounced their way across the North Sea, sadly having to miss Copenhagen because of the time the rather rough crossing took. They have nevertheless dutifully marvelled at passing under the Storebæltsbroen in Denmark, have explored the cobbled streets of Tallin, sampled local cuisine and indigenous post offices, and after the Hermitage in St Petersburg, have seen enough art and museum pieces for three cruises. In Helsinki they found a local tour guide to say 'hyvää huomenta' to, although he didn't seem to be all that particularly knowledgeable, leading them – for example – to three different tram stops until he decided they were at the right one. He also seemed to be surprisingly interested in a little piece of English culture that Jane had smuggled along in her rucksack. There has been no news to the contrary, so it can be assumed that, despite their guide's best efforts, both managed to find their way back to the boat. On to Stockholm...

❖ Alex Staff



Jane Rosam explains the finer points of the exercise to their Finnish tour guide [who looks very similar to our previous editor to me – ed].

Tonbridge Ringers's Service

BELIEVED TO BE UNIQUE in our District, Tonbridge Parish Church hold a service each year dedicated to the bell ringers. We get to choose the hymns and do the readings then, following the service, the congregation is invited up to the ringing chamber for a short talk by Tim on change ringing and a demonstration of the bells being rung. This year we were most fortunate in that one of our ringers, Helen Longley, took the service and the talk, given by one of the clergy, was well thought out and bells-related. We had a most enjoyable time and were told by many present that they enjoyed meeting us, having heard but not seen us before.

❖ Angela Clark

KCACR 2013 Handbook & new members

Any new members elected at the January Quarterly Meeting will have missed the boat for inclusion in the 2013 KCACR Handbook because the rules are now to be strictly applied.

*The KCACR –
a Charity close to
your heart?*

**Remember to buy your
Fabulous Paper Chains,
Frieze Cards,
Advent Calendars,
Stunning Christmas Cards
& Gorgeous Giftbags,
Boxes, Gift Wrap & Tags,
glittery Tissue
and so much more...
from Jennifer Thomas and Phoenix Trading
and raise funds for the
KCACR BRF**

Available in the New Brochure

or

Browse my website:
[www.phoenix-trading.eu/web/
jenniferthomas](http://www.phoenix-trading.eu/web/jenniferthomas)

Book me for a fundraising
event
or a Coffee & Cards with your
friends

Quarter Peals Rung during the third quarter of 2012

Tonbridge

Saturday, 7th July
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Gordon Hill
2 Angela Clark
3 Jacqui Fletcher
4 Martin Willson
5 Rhoda Willson [c]
6 Helen Longley
Rung to celebrate the wedding between Andrew Hill, son of the ringer of the treble, & Parveen Malik

Tonbridge

Sunday 8th July
1260 Grandsire Triples
Composed: Three parts of JJ Parker's 12 part (7 obs)
1 Rhoda Willson
2 Angela Clark
3 Helen Longley
4 Martin Willson
5 Jacqui Fletcher
6 Stanley Jenner
7 Tim Lynch (C)
8 Hamilton Woods
For evening service. Also celebrating the marriage in Derbyshire yesterday of Jenny Dickinson (daughter of Peter & Celia Dickinson) & Simon Li.

Brasted

Sunday 15th July
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Gemma Rumsey
2 Anthony Leeves
3 Bobbie Fairclough
4 Frank Lewis
5 John Palmer
6 Catherine Lewis [c]
7 Catherine Heathcote
8 Dan Bishop
For evensong & to celebrate the recent confirmation of Christy Bennett, Matthew Green, Hetty Sutherland & Millie Sutherland.

Kemsing

Saturday 21st July
1320 Burnaby Delight Minor
1 Eric Roughley
2 Fraser Cliff
3 Stella Wooldridge
4 Tim Lynch
5 Alan King
6 Anthony Leeves [c]
First blows in method by all.

Penshurst

Sunday, 29th July
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Nick Byrne
2 Cory Furness (1st inside)
3 Jacqui Fletcher
4 John Palmer
5 Eric Roughley [c]
6 Janice Byrne
On the front six.

Otford

Sunday, 29th July
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Catherine Heathcote
2 Tony Cresswell
3 Bobbie Fairclough
4 Fraser Cliff [c]
5 Catherine Lewis
6 Frank Lewis

Speldhurst

Sunday 5th August
1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples
1 Penny Gerrard
2 Janice Byrne (1st in method)
3 Alan King
4 Anthony Leeves
5 Catherine Lewis
6 Eric Roughley [c]
7 Frank Lewis
8 Crispin Saunders
For evensong. Also a compliment to Laura & Alan King on their wedding anniversary.

Tonbridge

Sunday, 12th August
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Mary Smalman-Smith
2 Jacqui Fletcher
3 Hamilton Woods
4 Martin Willson
5 Rhoda Willson
6 Stanley Jenner
7 Tim Lynch [c]
8 Gordon Hills
For evening service. Also to celebrate the Golden Wedding anniversary of John & Mary Smalman-Smith.

Tonbridge

Sunday 9th September
1320 Plain Bob Minor
1 Helen Longley
2 Martin Willson
3 Hamilton Woods
4 Jacqui Fletcher
5 Tim Lynch [c]
6 Rhoda Willson
For evening service. 19th birthday compliments to Benjamin Fletcher.

Speldhurst

Sunday 9th September
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Penny Gerrard
2 Janice Byrne
3 Stella Wooldridge
4 Michael Bullett
5 Eric Roughley [c]
6 Catherine Heathcote
7 Anthony Leeves
8 Crispin Saunders
To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the George & Dragon, Speldhurst.

Sevenoaks

Sunday, 12th August
1260 Plain Bob Triples
1 Diana Taylor (1st on 8)
2 Rebecca Stuttard (1st on 8)
3 Tessa Worthington
4 Isabel Pearce
5 Frank Lewis
6 Catherine Lewis [c]
7 Mike Worthington
8 Phil Jones

Brasted Sunday, 9th September

1260 Plain Bob Triples
1 Dan Bishop (1st quarter on 8 away from cover)
2 Janice Byrne
3 Tessa Worthington
4 Frank Lewis
5 Eric Roughley
6 Catherine Lewis [c]
7 Anthony Leeves
8 Ben Rogers (1st on 8)
To celebrate the ordination of Sophie Sutherland and as a 21st birthday compliment to Dan.

Brasted Sunday 23rd September

1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Gemma Rumsey
2 Janice Byrne
3 Frank Lewis
4 Juliet Austin
5 Bobbie Fairclough
6 Catherine Lewis [c]
7 Eric Roughley
8 Dan Bishop
For Harvest Festival evensong. Remembering Doris Colgate, a one time regular visitor to Brasted, who died on 11th September aged 97.

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 (and a photo or two!)
- ☞ your ringing tips and hints (anything from learning bell-handling to spliced surprise) and questions you might want answered
- ☞ historical snippets from your tower
- ☞ anecdotes from an interesting practice you attended on holiday
- ☞ other announcements

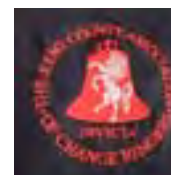
Please feel free to send a photo (electronically or hard-copy) with your article to Phil Jones:
☞ lookto@kcacr.org.uk or 1 Cedar Terrace Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3UD

The deadline for copy for the next edition is Friday 28th December 2012.

Anything submitted after this time may still have a chance for inclusion, but cannot be guaranteed space.



Embroidered KCACR clothing - Colours and sizes



T shirts (R180M) £12

XS: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Red, Bright Royal, Classic Red, French Navy

S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Red, Bright Royal, Classic Red, Convoy Grey, French Navy, Light Oxford, Olive, Orange, Sky, White, Yellow

3XL and 4XL: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Royal, French Navy, White

Short sleeve polo shirts (539M) £14

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Birch, Bottle Green, Bright Red, Bright Royal, Burgundy, Classic Red, French Navy, Graphite, Light Oxford, Pure Gold, Purple, Sky, White, Winter Emerald, Yellow

3XL, 4XL: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Royal, Classic Red, French Navy, Light Oxford, White

5XL, 6XL: Bright Royal, French Navy, White

Classic sweatshirts (762M) £18.50

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Red, Burgundy, Classic Red, Grey, Light Oxford, French Navy, Purple, Bright Royal, Sky, White, Winter Emerald.

3XL, 4XL: Bottle Green, Bright Royal and French Navy

Full/Quarter zip fleece (870M/874M) £25

XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL: Black, Bottle Green, Bright Royal, Burgundy, Classic Red, Convoy Grey, French Navy, Orange, Sky

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 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).

Catherine Lewis (01959 563767)

