

## Youth Officer Kent Young Ringers Report 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Another busy 3 months:

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April** Staplehurst: 12 youngsters, including first timers, Bertie Harris from Benenden and Ed Bale from Whitstable. Ringing ranged from Rounds & Call changes through Plain Hunt x9 to Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Caters.

**Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May:** Outing to Canterbury (Thanington, St Dunstan's and Cathedral) approx 20 Young Ringers and their "minders" descended on St Nicholas, Thanington, St Dunstan's and the Cathedral. What a lovely day this was: time to explore St Nicholas church and lounge in the sunshine in St Dunstan's Churchyard, chatting and learning methods before walking through the city centre to the Cathedral area. Dan and Barnaby had already rung their fastest handbell quarter peal yet while being driven from our team practice at Boughton to Thanington, and had to take the opportunity of ringing another whilst making their way through the tourist-filled High Street!!

Delicious ice cream prepared us for the 75 step climb up to the Cathedral ringing room where the youngsters raised the bells for ringing under the watchful eyes of Neil and Mark. Ringing Rounds and Call Changes on 8, 10 or 12 here before Evensong was a thrill and a "first" for nearly all the youngsters; a great experience which was rounded off for Amber by lowering the tenor. (More photos on the KYR Facebook page)

Mark Chittenden-Pile managed the youngsters with kindly efficiency at the Cathedral.

**Sat June 23<sup>rd</sup>** was a very hot afternoon at Aylesford for a short RWNYC team practice followed by general ringing with intensive learning of plain hunt (x5 and x7) and Stedman Doubles amongst other efforts. This was followed by a quarter peal attempt at Hollingbourne, which, although not successful, provided very useful learning opportunities.

**On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June** a team of 6 participated in the Farningham Trophy, achieving a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place in both the method (Plain Bob Doubles) contest and in the handbell challenge (Tune to Unchanging God....).

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June** saw our last (and very respectable) RWNYC practice at Hollingbourne followed on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July with 6 team members (along with 3 Sussex youngsters) participating in the Blue Peter filming of their presenter, Lindsey, learning to handle a bell, with a view to participating in a mini contest at the RWNYC on 7th July. There was a lot of hanging around and some very good ringing: rounds on 8 and 12; a course of Grandsire Triples and some less good ringing with the presenter trying her hand at rounds with a (big) helping hand from Tom Hinks... a very interesting day.

The programme is due to be shown end August/beginning September.... keep an eye on the KYR Facebook page and on the KCACR website.

**A HUGE “well done” to those members of the Kent Young Ringers’ Team who represented Kent in the National Youth Contest 2018 in London on Sat July 7th.**

The day started with us all arriving into London by car, train or DLR via Lewisham, Greenwich, Victoria discovering en route that our heat was at Christ Church, Cubitt Town on the Isle of Dogs. (The adults had had to know in advance where to bring their charges!) Breakfast by the Thames was accompanied by the first Handbell ringing of the day.

Then our team went up to the small and very warm tower to “perform” their test piece. They rang Plain Hunt x7 well, coming 3rd of 7 teams in their heat being awarded a grade (B). The judges commented that this was a confident piece of ringing, at a good speed for these bells. This is the 3rd time Kent has entered the RWNYS and the highest grade we have achieved so far. (The teams placed 1st & 2nd in our heat went on to take part in the final and were the overall Call Change [Sussex] and Method [Oxford] winners of the 2018 contest).

It was a great (VERY HOT) day overall, with the experience of ringing on 12 at St Michael Cornhill, Southwark Cathedral, St Mary-le-Bow and on the 8 at Aldgate, where quite a bit of “footie”-watching went on as well!

Further handbell ringing went on during the DLR journey to Bank, walking to and from Bow and Aldgate and across London Bridge! Our team also participated in the handbell workshops at Bow. We rounded off the day with dinner for 17 of us at Pizza Express at London Bridge and a good laugh before speeding off to get various trains home!

Advance notice: on **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> November the KCACR Inter-district Youth Contest** will take place at Kingsnorth with the draw at 1.45pm