

BELL RESTORATION REPORT FOR 2018- EARLY 2019

Charing	Ropes guides have been fitted to the intermediate floor to hopefully stop the problem of ropes landing on the floor.
Chilham	The old tenor was taken out on May 1 st , transported to Matthew Higby's works on the 2 nd , where the headstock was fitted to the replacement bell which was returned for fitting on Thursday 3 rd . All tower work by KCACR. The replacement bell came from an unwanted heavy ring of 6 at Child Okeford in Dorset. Four of the ex Murston bells were used here in the replacement lighter ring of 6.
Faversham	The site visit planned for 29 th November was postponed as the bells could not be rung. The spire structure has now been given the all clear and the meeting is planned for February. The conservation lobby have ruled that the frame is suitable for re-use and there is a proposal from them to 'restore' using the existing fittings. I have replied to the DAC and the architect concerned that I consider it a waste of some £40,000 of the parish's money to do such a job which will have little effect on the 'go' of the bells.
Folkestone St Peter	Single bell re-fitted c/w with new solenoid clapper.
Higham	All ground pulleys re-furbished or replaced.
Kilndown	Inspection and maintenance. The bells are not rung regularly. Some good news is that the vertical ladder access to the ringing chamber may be replaced with stairs. The bells were installed in 1958 and hang in a 2 tier frame with 2 and 4 above. The 4 th is also drawn across the clock room which probably makes it the worst bell in the tower. There is also quite a bit of tower movement which probably does not improve the 'go' of all.
Lenham	New stay fitted.
Lower Hardres	Single bell, that had not been used for a long time, brought back into use as a swing chiming bell.
Lydd	4 th clapper re-fitted.
Monkton	The 2 new trebles have been installed by KCACR and were rung by the locals for the first time on Christmas morning.
Milton Regis	These bells have been removed and will be rehung and augmented by Whites and probably complete by the time this report comes out
Otham	The 4 th was found to be cracked which delayed completion.
Ospringe	Tenor overhauled and new pulleys fitted. Further work planned.
Penshurst	Ringling is limited here at the moment as there is a crack in the 6th headstock.

Petham	4 th wheel tightened. Further work required here as a number of bolts are rusted such that they will not tighten.
Rochester	
Cathedral	There is a proposal to augment the bells to 12 and provide an additional bell to form a light 8.
Sandwich	Fourth clapper re-fitted and new slider. General maintenance.
Shepherdswell	Inspection of single bell re clapper problem. (DAC)
Swalecliffe	Single bell removed. (DAC)
Temple Ewell	Inspection of single bell pending on access
Tunstall	Inspection and maintenance.
Wormshill	Rope boss fitted to tenor. General maintenance and 2 ropes spliced.

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