

ROUNDS AND ABOUT

Tonbridge District Newsletter – October 2022

Welcome to the Newsletter containing news, information, firsts, and odds & ends relating to the District which the committee hopes you will find of interest. It is intended to produce a Newsletter whenever there is enough information, so do please send in a few lines relating to your tower, or items of interest. We will not be printing a copy for each tower, it will be available on the KCACR Tonbridge District website to read or print as required.

Please send items for inclusion to: angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com

I look forward to hearing from you.
Angela Clark

TONBRIDGE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Chevening 1st October

I am delighted to report that following elections, all posts were filled to serve on the Committee and we especially welcome Tessa Worthington who has taken on the busy task of Secretary. Please contact our Ringing Master Phil Jarvis, or Deputy Emma Tamkin with any questions relating to ringing, and keep an eye on the website to enable ringers to support upcoming events.

KENT YOUNG RINGERS

by Jen Thomas (as published in the RW 30.9.22)

What a momentous week it was for ringers: muffles on, muffles off, muffles on again... and slow tolling. At least 23 young ringers aged 18 and under are believed to have rung in their towers around Kent to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III. Approximately nine more added to that number by ringing on the day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral.

Young Matthew, aged 10, was thrilled to come out of school to be included in those putting a set of borrowed muffles onto the bells of Seal St Lawrence near Sevenoaks.



Readers may remember that four new ringers, including Matthew, rang, along with their head teacher and a parent, as part of their celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee just a few months ago. As three of those youngsters have now gone on to secondary school, (continuing to ring with Kent MINI-Ringers), we have been bringing on a new cohort of nine-year-olds during the summer holidays. The new school band was able to ring, again including the head and a parent, straight after school on Friday 9th September in memoriam Queen Elizabeth. Our dedicated helpers then enabled each of the four pupils to ring their bell in rounds with the adults; after some more practice we added them in, one at a time, so that all six bells could be rung by the school's new band.

SAM CHARD

by Angela Clark

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples, conducted by Stan Jenner, was rung at Sevenoaks on 23rd September to wish Sam Chard well as he begins his new life at Loughborough University. Sam has shown considerable commitment to the tower where his father Nicholas also rings. They have proved invaluable during the recent Royal ringing events in putting the muffles on and off as required.

BOBBIE FAIRCLOUGH

by Catherine Lewis

Bobbie has been missing from the ringing scene for some months now as a result of an infection which started in her spinal column. She was paralysed for a while but is gradually on the mend. She is not well enough to return yet, but was very pleased to attend the ADM at Chevening on 1st October and to catch up with everyone's news.

It's too early to know if/when she'll be back on the end of a rope. Meanwhile she sends her good wishes to everyone and adds "Keep up the good ringing". She is most grateful for ringers' concern and good wishes.

OUR VERY OWN ASTRID (Bobbie's daughter)

Astrid Fairclough is now Mrs Richards!

September 10th saw Astrid Fairclough marry her fiancé Ben at Wimborne Minster. The elegant ceremony was on the Proclamation Day following the Queen's death so thankfully the bells were able to be rung. Many guests from both their lives were there including friends from her ringing days here in Kent. Astrid looked lovely and beamed throughout; I have yet to see a more eager bride stride so purposefully towards the high altar for the blessing.



The couple emerged from the Minster underneath a line of enormous wooden oars as a tribute to Astrid's successful rowing career. The reception was held in a beautifully decorated marquee on her in-laws property and celebrations went on until 11pm.

It was a most happy day. Astrid and Ben had masterminded the whole day so well and even the yards and yards of bunting were hand sewn. May they enjoy a very happy life together.

IAN COCHRANE

by Tessa Worthington

At the end of September Ian Cochrane and his bicycle were hit by a car on a busy Tunbridge Wells intersection. He was transported to hospital by a conveniently passing ambulance and found to have fractured his femur. The "Tunbridge Wells band" were due to ring for morning service that Sunday but we did not know where Ian hid the belfry key. Quite by chance, one of the ringers happened to be married to the trauma anaesthetist who was on duty that day at Pembury hospital. She was duly instructed by her husband to get the whereabouts of the key before Ian went down for his operation later on. This she did most successfully so we were able to ring for service, remembering Ian as we did so.

Ian is now out of hospital. He told me he soon got bored! and he is now following advice to exercise outdoors on his zimmer; he has even been taken to his beloved allotment by a friend. The bellringers have sent him cards, along with many others and the church have really rallied round with a rota of visits and provisions - he has worshipped at St.Peters since he was 18 so they know him well.

Ian is a toughie, fiercely independent and is keen to return to his normal way of life. We wish him well.

JUMPING ROPE

by Hamilton Woods

For a long time now the 4th at Goudhurst has been a bell to avoid. Without warning the rope would jump all over the place.

It must be the wheel! With all this hot and dry weather the wheel has no doubt warped to some extent with a wheel segment displaced and catching the rope now and again – obviously. A check of the wheel showed it was in perfect condition. Nothing to catch the rope.

It must be the pulley! Old pulleys can do strange things and that is causing the problem – obviously. The wheel ran as smoothly as, well, things that run absolutely smoothly.

Down to the clock room to have a look round and Lo! Some little animal has been eating the rope-guide making the edge of the guide sharp and jagged. That was no-doubt the cause of the problem. The rope was momentarily catching on the jagged edge and momentarily holding up.



But who was eating the rope guide? Rats, mice, squirrels?
Nope – woodworm!

An attempt was made to smooth the edge and put a bit of polish on but as the whole guide was riddled it was not possible to get down to intact wood. The guide was just dust in a matrix of, probably indigestible, hard cells remaining. Even Pledge couldn't put a polish on it.

Renewal needed. The process is in hand.

RICHARD THE RUNNER

by Richard Barclay

I recently ran the London Marathon for a charity close to my heart. My niece, Summer, was born in December 2020 with club foot, a condition that means her feet were turned in and under. Summer and her parents were, and continue to be, supported by Steps Charity Worldwide.

Steps' mantra is 'we don't take walking for granted' and they are always looking for new ways to reach more families who need practical and emotional support as they navigate their way through a new journey.

The London Marathon was a huge personal challenge for me, and I am proud to say that I completed it in 04:38:52. I feel honoured to have done my bit to support this small but mighty charity who are making a difference to families across the UK every single day.

If you'd like to support this wonderful cause, please visit my fundraising page: bit.ly/RichardStepsForSteps



ARTHUR LEWIS – LEIGH

by Angela Clark

Sadly, Arthur died aged 92 peacefully at home on 30th September. Many members will also remember his late wife Brenda – they had three children: Pam, Colin and Julie, plus several grandchildren.

The Funeral Service: St.Marys Leigh on Friday, 21st October at 2 pm. Family Flowers only.
Donations: British Legion or Macmillan Cancer Support

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2023

A message will come from the Association, probably in early December, asking you to renew your membership after January 1st. You will need to know your membership number and the password you used previously.

Forgotten them? Contact me, Hamilton Woods – 01732 463240 or hamwoods@kent2.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

Ringers wishing to join the KCACR should please go to the website and follow the Membership/New Member Instructions. Please note the following:

1. Applicants applying to join during the fourth quarter of the year will be elected at the following year's January Quarterly District Meeting. Their full subscription should accompany their Application Form and will be held over until January when their membership will begin.
2. The Rules state "Members joining the Association after 30th June in any year shall be entitled to pay only half that year's annual subscription"

New Members applying during the second quarter will be elected at the Quarterly Meeting in July – therefore only half the subscription is payable.

Such problems did not come about previously as it was clearer to the new member at which point they actually became a member – but that is the march of computers for you.

Any questions? Contact me, Hamilton woods – 01732 463240 hamwoods@kent2.co.uk

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT 120 CLUB

The draw took place at the	1	£40	103	Unallocated	KCACR
District Annual Meeting	2	£30	11	Richard Dyson	Edenbridge
on 1 st October 2022	3	£20	84	Hope Pym	Sundridge

Draws take place at a District event each month. Please contact me to find out more about the Tonbridge District 120 Club or to buy a share, £10 each. Ray Taylor rayt142536@gmail.com 07973 123323