

ROUNDS & ABOUT

Tonbridge District Newsletter No.6 – June 2023

Please send news and snippets (ringing related) to angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com

TRAINING IN APRIL

Angela Clark

Two training days took place in April, both organised by the District Training Co-ordinator (also known as Ray Taylor) who ran the Plain Hunt training at Hadlow. The Rounds & Call Changes training at Speldhurst was overseen by Emma Tamkin (the Deputy Ringing Master).

Our Trainers have worked hard to ensure a programme of help for learners takes place each month. In May, Ray and Emma were seen in action once more (with assistance from other ringers) in order to build confidence for those new to ringing.

Deb Williams and Hayley Lindsay 15 April



STRANGE GOINGS ON! Observations of a New Ringer

Hamilton Woods

They all go to this ancient building where there is an overwhelming feeling of spirituality. They stand in a circle round an altar bearing significant artefacts, each looking down at a square of carpet and holding a rope hanging down from the ceiling. After a strange incantation from the Leader they all pull the ropes. While time goes on and the ropes continue to be pulled there are other seemingly meaningless incantations from another of those in the circle. No one smiles.

Is it a cult?

DISTRICT PROGRAMME

17th June 2023		Ashford district	Festival of ringing and 8 bell striking competition
1st July 2023	1000-1200	Westerham	District quarterly meeting
5th August 2023	1000-1200	Cowden	District practice
2nd September 2023	1000-1200	Hawkhurst	District practice
30th September 2023		Canterbury district	6 Bell County competitions
7th October 2023	1600-1900	Hadlow	Annual District Meeting
1st –14th November 2023		Whole district	Quarter peal and ringing triumphs fortnight
4th November 2023	1000-1200	Kemsing	District practice
2nd December 2023	1600-1800	Goudhurst	Christmas drinks and bells
6th January 2024	1000-1200	Penshurst	District quarterly meeting

STEDMAN TRIPLES PRACTICE - 22nd April 2023

Caroline Levy-Cooper

I attended this dedicated Stedman Triples practice, along with around 20 other people (some learners, but the majority were experienced Stedman ringers). Several of us arrived in the ringing chamber already “on our knees”, having climbed the ancient, well-worn ladder at All Saints, Brenchley. I had done my revision on what to do at bobs and singles, but opted for a plain course first, just to get into the swing of it. When my turn came to ring a touch I was so surprised by the first bob being called so soon after pulling off that it completely threw me and I missed making 5ths and double dodging down. However, with my trusty “hoverer” I was soon back on the line and achieved lots and lots of dodges in 6-7! I was going to ask if I could ring in a touch with bobs only, not realising that this is very normal and makes things a whole lot easier. I, certainly, feel that I would like to master touches with bobs only before moving on to ones with singles. I really would like to recommend taking advantage of these practices which concentrate on just one method. The opportunity to ring with a band of experienced ringers is so helpful and of course the chance to stand behind someone who knows what they are doing is also very useful. One and a half hours of ringing just one method is worth weeks and weeks of having just one attempt, probably with a less-experienced band.

CORONATION RINGING

Tonbridge

Angela Clark

Well done to everyone in the Tonbridge District who rang during the weekend of 6th May 2023. The photograph from Tonbridge Tower shows a happy band ringing 8.



Shipbourne

Alice Dagger

Ringers at Shipbourne got into party mood to Ring for the King



Cowden

Caroline Levy-Cooper

The Cowden band (together with Richard Dyson from Edenbridge) were happy to take part in ringing for the Coronation. We met bright and early on 6th May and started with rounds and call changes, followed by a quarter peal of 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles. Ringers, from left to right, were: Richard Dyson, Caroline Levy-Cooper, Andy Wickenden, Clive Lumsden, Louise Nightingale, Carl Nightingale, Robin Rouse, Frank Shepherd.

It also happened to be Carl's birthday on the same day, so we presented him with a lovely rugby/bellringing themed card designed by Frank Shepherd, which he is holding in the photo.



Seal Chart

Jen Thomas

Pupils at St Lawrence School, rang at Seal Chart on the day before the Coronation



.....and here they are "improvising crowns"



Tunbridge Wells

Oliver Engleback

The picture shows the happy band ringing for the Coronation at Tunbridge Wells. There were Rounds & Call Changes and a touch of Plain Bob Doubles with 6,7,8 cover.



...and a second Coronation

Angela Clark

Most ringers in the Tonbridge District rang for the coronation of the King and Queen, for two members it was the second time they experienced coronation ringing. Eric Roughley and Peter Ruch, both Speldhurst ringers, rang for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 as well. Now octogenarians, they were mere teenagers first time round. They were pictured on the front page of *The Ringing World*, as well as in the local newspaper "The Courier" under a ghastly title to the article: "The big day had a-peal".



OUR RINGING TWINS ARE 80

Caroline Stockmann

David and Ian Cochrane celebrated their 80th birthday with the Sevenoaks ringers at a Ringers' Dinner in early May, they received many cards and vouchers. Their "big day" was on 31st May and further celebrations took place at Tunbridge Wells where Ian has been ringing since he was 18.



And a Quarter peal to mark the event –

On Sunday, 4 June 2023 a Quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles was rung at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks in 40 Minutes.

- 1 David Cochrane
- 2 Tessa Worthington
- 3 Hugo Tracey
- 4 Isabel Pearce
- 5 John Palmer (C)
- 6 Ian Cochrane.

Rung before evensong to celebrate the 80th birthday of Ian and David Cochrane

GOOD HOME NEEDED

Bobbie Fairclough

Bobbie has accumulated copies of the Ringing World involving all the 2s – 2002 to 2022. Sadly, Bobbie has had to give up ringing after faithful service at Otford and although still much interested in ringing, has no use for past copies of the comic.

If anyone would like them – Bobbie wishes them to stay together!!! Please contact Bobbie to arrange collection: faircloughrtl@gmail.com

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT 120 CLUB

20th May 2023 draw at the District Training Session at Hadlow	1	£20	72	Eric Roughley	Speldhurst
	2	£15	94	Janice Byrne	Penshurst
	3	£10	104	Karol Leeves	Speldhurst

The May draw for the 120 Club was undertaken by the learners attending the Rounds & Call Changes training session at Hadlow - Carolyne and Steve Sullivan from Shipbourne and Hayley Lindsay from Sundridge, pictured here.



3 rd June 2023 draw at the District Ringing at Otford	1	81	Sarah Pullen, Leigh
	2	50	Lamberhurst Ringers
	3	97	Janice Byrne, Penshurst

Anyone who would like to join the 120 Club, please contact Ray Taylor rayt142536@gmail.com or phone 07973 123 323 - tickets are £10 per year and the proceeds go towards the Bell Restoration Fund, Kent Young Ringers, and Training. Draws take place from October to June and shares can be bought at any time.

..... and a last word

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