

ROUNDS & ABOUT

Tonbridge District Newsletter No.8 – September 2023

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

MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST

The monthly “get together” on 5th August was held at Cowden, where Emma looked after the ringing and Caroline Levy-Cooper conducted ringers requesting “facilities” to her house across the road.

An excellent turnout of 22 ringers was larger than expected in view of the terrible weather, but there was plenty of room for us all in the church, watching those who were ringing on this lovely little light six. We were pleased to be joined by both Jacqueline from Whitstable who has now rung at all Kent towers, and our familiar friend from Wittersham with his new hip.



Emma ensured everyone had a go at everything requested and, following the lower, Caroline demonstrated the Ellacombe chimes.

SEPTEMBER DISTRICT PRACTICE – HAWKHURST

The September practice at Hawkhurst proved an opportunity for members and friends to not only try their 8 bells, but to experience Hand Bells for a change. Phil Jarvis ensured that all 16 ringers present were included, and that the weather was just right.



TRAINING IN AUGUST 2023 - 'Improve your Ringing'

Monthly Training Sessions are arranged for the Tonbridge District by Ray Taylor. The ringers on courses held at both Speldhurst and Hadlow are listed. Sincere thanks to the helpers:

Saturday 19th August at St Mary Hadlow		
Leader	Ray Taylor	Hadlow
Students	Deb Williams	Tonbridge
	Katie Malpass	Tonbridge
	Thecla Cunningham	Sundridge
Helpers	Ann Jenner	Hadlow
	Caroline Levy-Cooper	Cowden
	Howard Rogers	Hadlow
	Jacqui Fletcher	Tonbridge
	Sara Hardy	Westerham
	Stan Jenner	Hadlow



Stan getting Thecla to practice 'the flick' and keeping a straight rope.

Saturday 19 th August at St Mary the Virgin Speldhurst		
Leader	Emma Tamkin	Speldhurst
Students	Alison Axon	Westerham
	Dmitry Zuravlev	Tonbridge
	Jeanette Parker	Otford
Helpers	Anthony Leeves	Speldhurst
	Catherine Lewis	Brasted
	Mike Bullett	Speldhurst
	Mike Worthington	Speldhurst
	Nick Byrne	Penshurst
	Tessa Worthington	Unattached
	Zena Seal	Speldhurst



And from **JEANNETTE PARKER** of Otford, a student at St Mary the Virgin, Speldhurst on 19 August

On Saturday 19th August, three students attended a training session at Speldhurst.

The helpers, led by Emma, demonstrated how rounds should be rung; we also had to recognise deliberate errors. All three students rang rounds making sure we were striking consistently. We had the opportunity to try this with each of the six bells in use as well as making the bell stand after one whole pull.

One activity meant that we all had to focus on rope sight. Emma showed each person in turn a playing card from Ace to six. Which ever card we were shown, that was the position we had to ring in. This was a challenge (and not always just for the students). During this activity, the use of 'look to, treble's going, she's gone' came up and we practised setting the bell ready for ringing.

After break, the first activity was aimed at concentrating on both rope sight and the position we were ringing in. Instead of the usual call changes, a call of 3rd and 4th was called. This meant that we really needed to know where we were and who was following us. Next, we focussed on specific skills each

taking a turn on the treble whether that be Flying Dutchman to help counting position for plain hunt or place changes.

Finally, all learners had the opportunity to lower a bell either individually or in pairs.

On behalf of Alison and Dmitry, I'd like to thank Emma and all the helpers (who also gave extra support when needed) for a great session.

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT SATURDAY SCHOOL: - Improve Your Ringing

Extra ringing sessions will be provided on Saturdays from 4-5pm and 5-6pm for anyone interested in improving their bell handling, rope-sight and striking, and to demystify bell ringing terminology! It will also be an opportunity for more experienced ringers wanting to help or gain teaching experience.

The 1-hour sessions will take place on the simulator at Speldhurst for between 3-6 people per session. Initially, Emma, Jan and Ray will lead the sessions. Student numbers will be limited, so it will be necessary for you to book your place on sessions. Students will be asked to make a small contribution towards the upkeep of the bells.

Contact Emma, Jan or Ray to find out more. Sessions will start from 14th October 2023. Contact Ray to book your place. You'll find our contact details in the handbook.

An explanation for learners?

Thanks to Anthony Leeves for sending this ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN THE BELFRY piece which was printed in a 1956 Ringing World.

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN THE BELFRY - A Frolic In Wonderland

"If they're all called Sally," asked Alice, *"how shall I know which is what?"* It was her first visit to a belfry, and she wanted to learn all she could before the ringing began.

"By ropesight, my dear," said the Red Queen; kindly, as nothing had happened to upset her for seven and a half minutes. *"What is ropesight, please, Your Majesty?"* asked Alice.

"Ropesight," returned the Red Queen, *"is the art of seeing what is which."* *"That's what I need to know,"* said Alice. *"Will you teach me?"*

"You'll soon learn that," put in the White Rabbit, flicking his ears and doing a little hop, skip and jump to signify how easy it all is. *"On the way up, you follow the one who followed you."*

"Up where?" asked Alice, looking nervously towards where the ropes disappeared through holes in the ceiling; nervously, because she knew that bells are dangerous and unaccountable things.

"Up behind, of course, child," snapped the Red Queen. *"But behind what, if you please, Your Majesty?"* faltered Alice, thoroughly bewildered.

"Behind all the other bells, idiot," said the Red Queen, *"except, of course, the tenor. Never get behind him; unless, you know, he's turned in, and then you must get behind him, too."* Alice was still wondering at what time the tenor went to bed when the Red Queen went on. *"On the way down, you naturally follow the one that's going to follow you."*

"However, shall I know which one that is?" she enquired. *"That,"* said the Red Queen, *"is a question on which the greatest intellects have spent themselves in vain. Lives have been lost in single combat by the protagonists of rival theories. The Lion and Unicorn were not really fighting for the crown,"* she added, *"they quarrelled about how to know whom to follow. But don't worry, child, just hunt down until you come to lead."*

"But I shan't know when I get there," objected Alice. *"Oh, yes, you will,"* put in the Dormouse, rousing himself suddenly and taking hold of a rope. *"When we all shout "Two bells to lead" you'll know it's two bells to. lead—but one at a time, of course. It's all a matter of hunting."*

"Really? Do you ever catch anything?" asked Alice.

"Oh, dear, no!" said Humpty Dumpty. *"We have to consider the feelings of the March Hare. Naturally, though, we have to course him, and he courses us, too."* *"What a very odd hunt!"* thought Alice.

At this moment, the Mad Hatter, who had been scribbling hard for some time, put on an important look and his hat, and said, *"As Alice hasn't rung before, I've made a little song which tells her all she really needs to know. Shall I sing it?"* he asked, with a sort of mock shyness.

"Please, do," they all called out, Alice the loudest, for she felt in her bones that she would soon need all the help she could gather. The Mad Hatter stepped forward, doffed his hat, made a deep bow towards the Red Queen, a slight one towards Alice, and sang -

*A Touch in Three Parts./On hand and back, and back and hand,/We make the learners learn to stand.
/On back and hand, and hand and back, /They dare not give their stays a crack. /If Wrong is wrong, and
Right is right, /The bells set up a horrid fight. /If Wrong is right, and Right is wrong, /The bells ring out a
merry song. /In snap and dodge, and dodge and snap, / /here's never time to take a nap. /In dodge*

.....

"That's the trouble with the Dormouse," broke in the Walrus, very rudely, Alice thought. *"That's why he'll never make a really good ringer. He keeps dozing off—look at him now, nodding in the corner."*

Before anyone had time to look anywhere the Red Queen shouted, *"Now you know it all, Alice. We shall ring Cinques."* *"Why are they called Cinques?"* asked Alice, who was an earnest child, and still hoped to learn something about this astonishing new world.

"Because they're rung on eleven bells, of course." snapped the Red Queen. *"Good gracious me! How stupid this child is!"* *"But I thought cinque meant five,"* objected Alice, who had begun to learn French, and was getting on nicely.

The Red Queen stamped her foot, an action which set her crown awry, and made it dangle over her right ear. *"It doesn't matter a bit what YOU thought,"* she said. *"In a belfry Cinques mean eleven, so just remember that for a start. Here's Father William; he'll conduct, and we shall begin now."*

"Does he use a baton?" asked Alice, wondering how he managed that as well as Sally. *"Dear me, no, child; he just shouts. That's why calling is called calling,"* she added.

"Choose your weapons, good people," cried out Father William. *"O for the wings of a dove!"* he moaned, as he re-erected himself after adjusting his mat to his liking. *"Remember to course the Bell Before, Alice."* Before what? Alice wanted to ask, but at that moment she found everyone glaring at her.

"Shout "Look to"" called out Humpty Dumpty, who was a kindly creature and wanted to help. *"But they're looking already,"* Alice complained. *"They're all looking at me."*

"Say "Treble's going! She's gone!" then," shouted the Red Queen. *"Gone where?"* asked poor Alice, looking anxiously around her. *"Gone off her balance,"* explained the White Rabbit.

"I'm sorry she's afflicted in that way," said Alice sympathetically, adding to herself, *"I wonder if that's because of having bats in the belfry."* She still seemed no nearer beginning to ring- and the Red Queen was becoming more impatient than ever, tossing her head until the crown on it bounced up and down.

"Pull me," whispered Alice's Sally kindly, *"and you'll be surprised."* Alice did as she was bid, and WAS surprised: but she had no time to meditate on this new discovery, for in a moment all the other Sallies were flying up and down in a mad dance.

"Strike the bell that struck you. Alice," called out the Carpenter, who was standing on a large box and working very hard. Alice was at a loss to understand what he meant, as she had not felt any blows, nor had she seen any bell; but she thanked him politely.

“What happens if we let our Sally go altogether?” Alice whispered to the Cheshire Cat, who was ringing the second “Their stays break,” he whispered back with a more than usually genial grin, “because they burst their sides with laughing.”

“Which one is Bob?” asked Alice after they had been ringing for some time. “He’s the one who keeps mixing things up so that we can go on,” answered the Cheshire Cat. “When he doesn’t do it, Single does. If they didn’t, you know, the bells would come round.” “If they aren’t round,” objected Alice, “what shape are they? and why don’t you want them round? They are always that shape on Christmas cards,” she added.

Before the Cheshire Cat could reply, nearly everyone began shouting, but Father William out-shouted them all. “Six-seven up, six-seven down,” was all Alice could hear, and she didn’t understand at all.

“It’s the White Knight and the Black Knight missing their dodges again,” explained the Cheshire Cat, when the hubbub had died down a little. “I don’t know why they do it. You’d think dodging would come natural to them, with all the practice they get,” he added gloomily. They can’t do a plain hunt, you know. Their union won’t let them.”

“This is all,” said Father William. “Stand!” We’ve been standing all the time, thought Alice; but she was too bewildered to ask any more questions, so she went on ringing instead.

(In an edition of the 1956 Ringing World “Alice’s Adventures in the Belfry” is attributed to B.M.W.D. However, the article was reprinted in a 1982 Ringing World with the following preamble:

This story was first published in The Ringing World of 1956. Malcolm Melville tells us that B.M.W.D. was a great character. Her name was Betty M. Wilmott-Dobbie. She was a Surgeon in gynaecology and practised at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. She learned to ring at 50 and for several years went on the Universities Association Annual tour. She was a good ringer (standard eight Surprise) but never rang a peal mainly because of loose shoulder ligaments. She retired and went to live in Bath where she took up archaeology and obtained an honours degree with the Open University 50 years after obtaining her first degree.)

LADIES GUILD SE DISTRICT MEETING 29th July 2023

Isabel Pearce

The photograph shows some of our members plus friends.

The Ladies Guild outing took place in our District with ringing at Sevenoaks, Brasted and Otford, and Lunch at The Stanhope Arms, Brasted. We were very pleased to be joined by all our visitors for part of the day. We hope that they will want to become members (if they do, they will be most welcome!)



Many thanks to those who welcomed us during the day. At Brasted, Catherine Lewis met us and helped by joining in the ringing.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, 28th October, in the Canterbury area, and everyone will be welcome.

Further details from Isabel at lizziebell14@hotmail.com

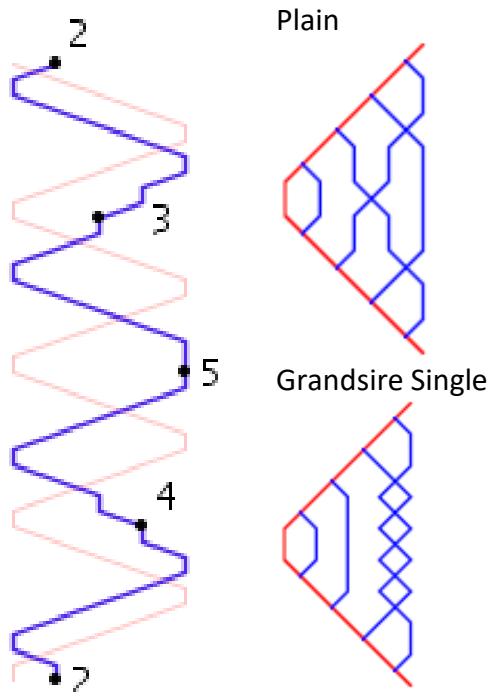
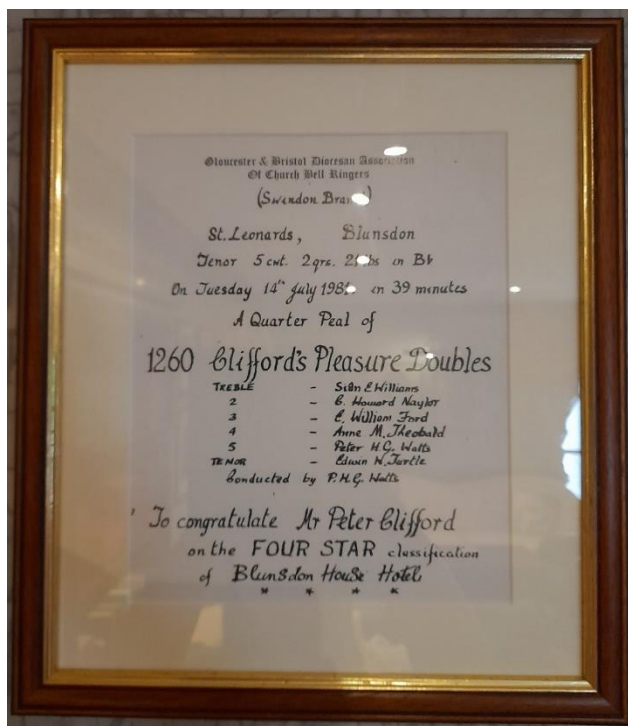
QUARTERS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

Angela Clark

I spent a delightful few days at a charming hotel in Swindon, Wiltshire during August. I was intrigued to find notice of a quarter peal amongst the pictures on the lounge wall where memorabilia was displayed relating to the hotel owners, now deceased, Mr and Mrs Peter Clifford. The quarter commemorated achieving a Four Star Classification for the hotel. 1260 Clifford's Pleasure Doubles rung at St.Leonards, Blunsdon. Tenor 5.2 cwt, 21lbs on Tuesday 14th July 1981 in 39 minutes.

Clifford's Pleasure of 1938

Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place with Grandsire Single



PENSHURST RINGERS

Angela Clark

It is always nice when the ringers are mentioned in the Order of Service at weddings. We were therefore delighted to be listed (twice) for a lovely September wedding at St.John the Baptist, Penshurst. The band included 3 from Penshurst, 2 from Withyham and 1 from Tonbridge – shown as “Bell Ringers of the High Weald Churches” – new to me.

RAYMOND A LARGE

Stan Jenner

Ray, who passed away this Summer, was taught to ring at Tonbridge by Walter Dobbie in the early 1960s and rang his first peal (Grandsire Triples) at Frittenden in March 1964. In 1967 he married Margaret Ladd from Tunbridge Wells and they set up home in Tonbridge, where their two children, Jonathan and Sarah, were born. In 1975 the family moved to East Grinstead.

While Ray rang two further peals and supported the activities of the East Grinstead & District Guild, it is fair to say that ringing was not his first priority. The theatre (and particularly musical theatre) was where his real enthusiasm lay, and he took part in many productions for the LAMPS in Tonbridge and later for the East Grinstead Operatic Society, with the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan being particular favourites. Margaret was a lifelong member of EG&DG and, at the time of her death in 2017, was its president. Ray was honoured to be elected to that office to succeed her.

DISTRICT PROGRAMME

7 th October 2023	1600-1900	Hadlow	Annual District Meeting
1 st –14 th November 2023		Whole district	Quarter peal and ringing triumphs fortnight
4 th November 2023	1000-1200	Kemsing	District practice
2 nd December 2023	1600-1800	Lamberhurst	Christmas drinks and bells
6 th January 2024	1000-1200	Penshurst	District Quarterly Meeting

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING 2023

Please attend the KCACR Tonbridge District Annual District Meeting on 7th October, 2023 at Hadlow 16.00 to 19.00, where the District Committee will be elected, the current post holders are:

OFFICE	OFFICER 2022/23
Ringling Master	Phil Jarvis
Deputy Ringling Master	Emma Tamkin
Training Co-Ordinator	Ray Taylor
Acting District Secretary	Tessa Worthington
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Hamilton Woods
District Representative	Steve Newlands **
Newsletter Editor	Angela Clark
120 Club Treasurer/Administrator	Ray Taylor
Committee Member	Eric Roughley
Committee Member	Janice Byrne
Committee Member	Mike Worthington

** Not seeking re-election

Note: A District Secretary for the Tonbridge District is sought – Our very grateful thanks to Tessa Worthington for “Acting” during the last year.

ALL POSTS ARE SUBJECT TO ELECTION.

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT 120 CLUB

Thank you so much to all who contributed to the £696.60 raised by the Tonbridge District for the KCACR during 2022/2023. Renewal invites have been sent to all shareholders. If you haven't seen yours, please check your junk folder! Some information about the 120 Club follows for those who have recently joined the KCACR, or do not already know about it.

Most Districts, including the Tonbridge District, stage fund-raising activities on behalf of the KCACR to support the training and encouragement of new ringers and the maintenance and improvement of bells in Kent. (You can find out more about these activities in your handbook.) One such activity is the Tonbridge District 120 Club, which donates around £700 each year to the KCACR. The club is licensed to operate a lottery. Shares in the lottery are sold at £10 each and are entered into 10 prize draws each year. 45% of all share sales is awarded as prizes at draws, the remainder is donated to the KCACR.

If you don't already do so, please consider buying a share in the Tonbridge District 120 Club for only £10. You can find more information on how the club operates and a share application form on the KCACR Tonbridge District 120 Club web page www.kcacr.org.uk/tonbridge-district/120-club Alternatively, contact me by email for an application form and a copy of the club rules.

Ray Taylor, Tonbridge District 120 Club Treasurer

rayt142536@gmail.com

TAIL END

TAKEN FROM THE RINGING WORLD – 4TH AUGUST 2023

Quote from Mr John Twiddy the Parish Clerk who resided near the church in Norwich and, published in the Norwich Mercury:

Ye rascally ringers, inveterate foes,
Disturbers of those who are fond of repose,
I wish for the peace and quiet of these lands,
That ye had round your necks what ye pull with your hands.