

KCACR - Tonbridge District Annual Meeting

St Mary, Hadlow - Saturday 7th October 2022 at 18:00

AGENDA

- 1.00 Welcome and Vote of Thanks**
- 2.00 Apologies for Absence**
- 3.00 Minutes of the DQM 1st July held at Westerham and matters arising**
- 4.00 Proposed New Members**
- 5.00 News from the General Committee of the KCACR**
- 6.00 Report for the Year 2022/23**
- 6.01 District Ringing Masters : Phil Jarvis & Emma Tamkin**

Following the Covid Pandemic, this year we have tried to make the ringing vibrant, lively and more inclusive for all our members. District practices and meetings have been arranged on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:00-12:00, with the exception of Christmas ringing and drinks at Edenbridge and this year's ADM at Hadlow. This was to meet the wishes of our members as expressed in our 2017 survey and has resulted in increased attendances. Attendance has included newer ringers, whose requirements have been very well supported by the more experienced and established ringers. It is encouraging to see that this support has been readily available, for which we thank you. Our monthly practices take place in different towers across our District, and we thank the host ringers for making us feel welcome. Although we don't expect tea, coffee and homemade cake, it is much appreciated when it is there!

We organised a District Outing in East Sussex last November, which those who attended enjoyed. Nine method-specific practices on 6 and 8 bells were also organised, including Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge, Norwich, London and Bourne and Double Norwich. Unfortunately, preparations for the district 6-bell striking competition had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. The competition was replaced by a well-attended District practice at Otford. 8 ringers from our District were selected to ring a competition touch of St Clements College Bob Major in the County 8-bell striking competition at Lympe last June. This involved months of special practices and we were just pipped into 3rd place.

We feel that there has been an encouraging resurgence of District activities, and we look forward to meeting even more of our members in the coming year.

- 6.02 District Secretary : Tessa Worthington**

Attendance at District Meetings and Practices has been much better this year with an average of 24. New learners have been very much in evidence. There has been little enthusiasm for one off district events this year such as a Trivia evening and striking competitions. This issue is to be put to members.

All District activities are posted on the KCACR website and are emailed to each member. There has been a recent hitch over news reaching the new members, therefore it is important that Tower Contacts pass on all such district news to their own tower members.

- 6.03 District Treasurer & Membership Secretary : Hamilton Woods**

From the ADM last year we have had 11 new members join the Association. It is hoped that more new members will be forthcoming as a result of the "Ring for the King" initiative. The system for renewing membership and for people joining the Association has been changed and it should be completely clear what one has to do. On the KCACR website, go to 'Membership' for the full explanation of the process to be followed for renewal or joining or to 'My Membership' to look at your details. Clicking on 'Become a Member' takes you to the application form to be completed.

Since the beginning of the year a Spliced Fund amount of £40 has been sent to the BRF. It is expected that more Spliced Fund payments will be made in the last Quarter. The 120 Club profit of £696 has been sent equally to the BRF, Training Fund and KYR. Amounts to the Training Fund have been reduced as all student training fees now go to the respective churches. Expenses so far are £15 for stamps and stationery and £30 to renew the 6-bell competition trophy plaque. A fuller statement will be made at the end of the year.

6.04 District Training Coordinator : Ray Taylor

Training sessions for early stages in ringing took place on all but one of the 3rd Saturday mornings last year. The missing session was only because it coincided with the County 8-bell competition. The sessions are proving to be very popular. They are often oversubscribed and the number of sessions each month is only limited by the availability of helpers. Thanks to all who have helped, especially those who help almost every month. Brian Butcher (the KCACR Bell Restoration Officer) kindly ran two Bell Maintenance sessions in our District, and an 'ART Teaching Bell Handling' course has been arranged at Otford for the end of October.

A Saturday Afternoon Ringing School is being piloted at Speldhurst from October 2023 for anyone who wants to practise and improve any aspect of their ringing technique. If it proves successful it could take place on most Saturdays, potentially between 4-6pm. Contact the Training Coordinator for information about any aspect of ringing training.

6.05 District Newsletter Editor : Angela Clark

At the ADM last year I was appointed Editor of the Newsletter. It is similar to the quarterly Look To, but is published fairly regularly and strives to give an up to date picture of events in the Tonbridge District. The first edition appeared in October 2022 and No.8 was circulated in September 2023 - it is named Rounds & About.

Each edition is posted on the District website and is sent to each Tower contact for onward circulation to their Tower Members. Snippets, stories, events, and tower news are always welcome, as well as photographs.

6.06 Association Youth Officer : Jen Thomas

We have some very enthusiastic youngsters in the Tonbridge District. Three formed a joint team with youngsters from the Maidstone District to take part in the Association Young Ringers' Striking Contest at Stansted in February. Hannah (Sevenoaks) joined the Kent team to participate in the South East England Striking Contest (SECON) at Caterham in April and enjoyed an exciting weekend in York and Doncaster for the national Youth Striking Contest (RWNYC).

A newspaper article in the middle of March featuring the youngsters at Seal Chart resulted in three of our young ringers being filmed for a Sky News broadcast on "Ringing for the King". Four were part of the group of 22 young ringers filmed by George Perrin at Aylesford in April to feature in the YouTube videos "Discovering BELLRINGING" and "Enjoyment from BELLRINGING" which were commissioned by the CCCBR. It was lovely to see them and hear them speak about their enjoyment of ringing.

Some of our youngsters are very happy to ring only in their own towers, but any who can ring unassisted in their own towers, preferably able to ring rounds, are most welcome to come along to our monthly sessions for Kent MINI-Ringers (youngest and newest ringers) and Kent Young Ringers. Dates of sessions and details of towers can be found on the KCACR website or from the Youth Officer or District Secretary. Our next sessions will be on Saturday 28th October: 10:00-12:00 for Kent MINI-Ringers and 14:00-16:00 for the older, more experienced Kent Young Ringers.

6.07 Association Safeguarding Officer : Emma Jarvis

Ringers who require a DBS certificate need to contact their Parish Safeguarding Adviser who will help them to apply for the relevant level of DBS according to the role they hold.

The KCACR website has a Safeguarding tab which contains current information regarding Safeguarding Training plus contact details of the four Diocesan Safeguarding Teams. All Safeguarding Training is online. There is no plan to return to offering bespoke Leadership Training to Tower Captains or Ringing Masters. Ringers in different Dioceses are not necessarily expected to complete the same level of training and in some Dioceses a bespoke Local Leadership Course is offered. Our four Dioceses broadly agree that a more suitable Leadership Training Course needs to be devised. The CCCBR Safeguarding Team is working with the National Safeguarding Team to address this.

7.00 Election of District Officers

8.00 Any Other Business

8.01 The future of Tonbridge District Striking Competitions

8.02 Reintroduction of District Social Events (eg Trivia Evening)

8.03 Communication of information within the Tonbridge District

8.04 Other business

9.00 120 Club Update and Draw