

ROUNDS & ABOUT

Tonbridge District Newsletter No.13 May 2024

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

Training

If you want additional help with your ringing, contact Ray Taylor and explain what you feel you need. He will sort something out to help you on your way.
rayt142536@gmail.com 07973 123 323

News

QUARTERLY MEETING – APRIL AT GOUDHURST

Angela Clark

These heavy old bells were put to good use by the 35 members and friends in attendance on 6th April.

It was a windy old day and the church, being perched on top of a hill, meant that everyone experienced the blustery journey. The very large ringing chamber was well able to house all those waiting to ring, and Emma Tamkin ensured that all abilities were catered for. Those ringing rounds were included at the lighter end, and the more advanced rang some Stedman, Cambridge and a nice touch of Grandsire Triples called by Emma.

To our delight, tea, coffee, and homemade cakes were available and we were able to pat the dog who was tied up in the church – nobody seemed to know who he was with, but he made friends later with Phil's dog who slept peacefully in the Ringing Chamber, thereby missing the music of our ringing.

The meeting began at 12 noon, although not everyone was able to stay. We were delighted to elect 7 new members (6 from Hever alone). See the photo of their happy faces. Every time another ringer was elected from Hever, they all cheered!



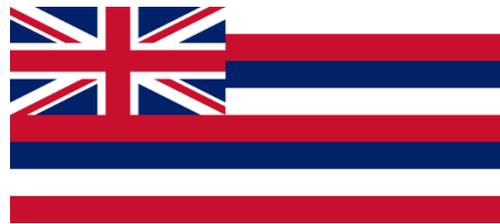
New Hever members: Bob Turnbull, Logan Rich, Mahala Turnbull, Marla Broyden Prior with Hever Tower Captain, Jane Rosam

RINGING IN HONOLULU

Nick Fulford

In my last article for Rounds and About, I talked about my own unlikely journey from the Tonbridge ringing chamber to the Arctic wilderness of Alaska, via many bell towers along the way. This week I rang on a ring of eight bells from Shrewsbury. What's so strange about that, you may ask? Well, these particular bells had been on their own journey, all the way from England to a small Island in the Pacific Ocean, Oahu, and to the Cathedral Church of St Andrews, in Honolulu. What's more,

the origin of the bells can be traced right back to 1471, with two recastings in between, finally ending up in 1812 as today's ring of eight. Retuned and engraved with the names of kings and queens of Hawai'i these are the bells that have been ringing out over Honolulu since 1991.



Hawai'i flag

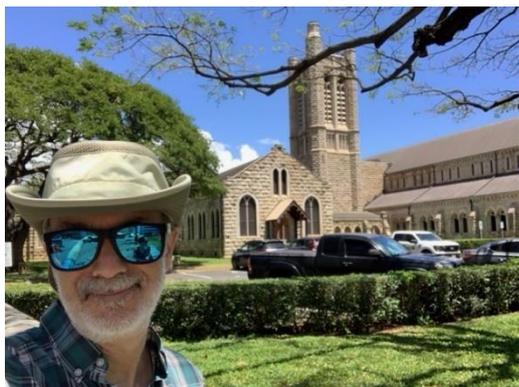
Learning of their history, it made me reflect on several other relocated rings of bells I have rung at, one being the Swan Tower in Perth, which houses the former bells of St Martin in the Fields. Others include the bells of Christ Church, Claremont, Western Australia (also near Perth) which were originally in a church in Islington, and St Hilda's school chapel bells, Mosman Park, WA, four of which were former clock chimes from Huddersfield.

Unringable since 1911, and facing the possibility of redundancy of their host church of St Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, the bells that now sit in Honolulu were put up for sale in 1991. The Mackintosh tower is the centerpiece of the cathedral that was commissioned by King Kamehameha IV in 1867, designed and partly built in England by the same architects responsible for many of the towers we are all familiar with. One of the reasons for this post-revolutionary English presence in what is now the 50th state of the US was that in the late 1800's, before the annexation by the US, the royal family that ruled over the islands were big supporters of the Church of England, encouraged by their close links to Queen Victoria. The cathedral, following so many style and architectural features of the great churches of England, thus created a perfect home for a set of bells hung for change ringing. With the help of a benefactor, an arrangement was reached and the bells made the long journey through the Panama Canal and across into the Pacific, to sit where the original church designers had already made provision. However, the bells had competition for tower space, as by 1991 the original ringing room of the tower had already been used to house the blower for the organ, and a new ringing chamber had to be built above it, with a lowered floor to accommodate the rope draught.



Nick Fulford on the most Westerly change-ringing bell in the world

I received a truly warm welcome from the Honolulu band, and was able to ring both for a special memorial service, appropriately for a former ringer at the cathedral, and again for Sunday services. Fueled by a box of bananas from the tower captain's garden, we rang a variety of call changes and methods, and enjoyed both the team spirit and enthusiasm that sums up the cathedral band. With English change ringing and a state flag that includes a prominent Union Jack I felt very at home in Hawai'i. Now I can't wait to go back.



The man himself and Honolulu Cathedral



The bells from St Alkmund's, Shrewsbury

TRIVIA EVENING

Angela Clark

The Committee wondered whether the Trivia Evening should be staged once more, following Covid, so it was discussed at the January quarterly meeting and agreed this money-making event should return in April.

Feedback has proved it was the correct decision and it was a terrific evening. It was our first visit to Langton Green Village Hall and Emma Tamkin and her sister put on a wonderful supper for over 60 members and friends.

Our Quiz Master, Nick Byrne from Penshurst, challenged us with both easy and difficult questions and the excellent raffle prizes ranged from a box of soaps to a £50 voucher for Fenwicks.

As a social evening it gave us an opportunity to catch up with old friends and to congratulate Caroline Stockmann and Michael on their wedding anniversary. The winning team – the Jenner Family from Hadlow – were awarded a chocolate bunny each and the committee ensured the hall was left in pristine condition before we all went home.

The hard work put in by the Committee paid off. Our Treasurer reports that the sale of tickets totalled £768 and the raffle (masterminded by Tessa and Zoe) brought in £200. After paying for the hire of the hall, food etc. The KCACR will benefit by £561.99.



The winners!



BOBBIE FAIRCLOUGH

Mike Worthington

This is Bobbie as we know her. Us Worthingtons visited her and John recently at their new home in Dorset. They are now near their daughter Astrid and Ben with their delightful wee granddaughter.



DISTRICT OUTING, 4th May 2024

Hamilton Woods

Someone, a newcomer here, said what a beautiful county Kent is. Many of us, including me, just take it for granted and in fact never really look at the scenery which is on offer. Well, the Tonbridge District outing gave everyone the opportunity to take a look at the what the Kent countryside has to offer.

The sun shining, a perfect day, the trees nearly in full leaf, everything growing lush. What could be better to be in East Kent for the Outing to Rolvenden, Wittersham and Appledore. All pretty villages and all with 8-bell rings in their churches. Could there be some slight fly in the day's ointment? The bells of Wittersham and Appledore were deemed without fault but some on the outing felt that the bells at Rolvenden were not as perfect as they had hoped. Your humble scribe thought they were all right but I suppose it is what one is used to.

As usual, with Phil and Emma running the show everyone, no matter the level of proficiency, got ringing that suited them and their capabilities.

Could it have been a better day out? I don't think so.



Ringling at Rolvenden



St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden

Courtesy, R.Steele



Ringling at Wittersham



St John the Baptist, Wittersham

Courtesy R.Steele



Ringling at Appledore



SS Peter and Paul, Appledore

Courtesy R.Steele



The Outing Party

120 CLUB DRAW

Congratulations to the winners at Goudhurst in April

1	£20	29	Kathy Butler	Chevening
2	£15	100	Fraser Clift	Kemsing
3	£10	126	Steve Sullivan	Shipbourne

And congratulations also to the winners at the 120 CLUB DRAW held at the District Outing on 4th May 2024

1	£20	27	Mike Smith	Brenchley
2	£15	89	Chevening Ringers	
3	£10	66	Caroline Berry	Sevenoaks

Future Delights

DISTRICT EVENTS COMING UP

1 st JUNE	DISTRICT PRACTICE	BRASTED	10.00 - 12
6 th JULY	QUARTERLY MEETING	SEVENOAKS	10.00 - 12
3 rd AUGUST	DISTRICT PRACTICE	SANDHURST	10.00 - 12
7 th SEPTEMBER	DISTRICT PRACTICE	SUNDRIDGE	10.00 - 12
5 th OCTOBER	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	HAWKHURST	Note below

Hawkhurst Annual District Meeting:

5 October

10.00 – 11.30 Ringing

11.30 Tea, Coffee, Cake and Handbell Ringing.

12 Noon ADM

Tail End

Sexy Campanology – a letter from The Times

Sir, Regarding your article “A peal goes out for trainee bellringers” (Oct 22) can I add my support and suggest readers hie to their nearest active belltower tomorrow. Two months into my own training I can vouch it is the most extraordinary experience. You make music without being a musician, connect with your heritage, learn arcane bell-language, commune with ringers and get a very respectable upper body workout into the bargain.

When you pull just right, and the bell swings just right, it feels out of body, like you’re swinging up with it; it’s gently pulling you and you’re gently pulling it. Well, it’s sexy.

...and to save any questions: **hie** verb intransitive (poetical) Go quickly (to etc.)

Please send articles, snippets, gossip, scandal, photos and bits and pieces for future editions of Rounds and About. To angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com