

# **ROUNDS & ABOUT**

Tonbridge District Newsletter No.15 August 2024

Please send news and snippets (ringing related) to [angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com](mailto:angelaclarkbuttons@btinternet.com)

## Training

### **BELL RINGING TRAINING IN THE TONBRIDGE DISTRICT**

**RAY TAYLOR**

I was elected as Tonbridge District Training Coordinator at the 2022 ADM. At that time many new people had come forward to learn to Ring for the King. I set up monthly training sessions on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays to help with bell handling. Thanks to the support from many experienced ringers, the training sessions have become very popular. Many of our new ringers have now joined the KCACR, become very valuable Sunday Service ringers, and attend District Practices and other towers' practices to progress their learning. Most of our new ringers have now moved on to call changes, hunting, and some on to method ringing. There is less of a need to teach bell handling, and a greater need to support the transition towards method ringing. Although monthly training sessions could no doubt help with that, it is my view that the most effective way to progress in method ringing is through regular, weekly practice. That may mean joining practices at other towers that have suitable numbers and experience.

We are lucky to have many good ringers in our District who are also very competent at teaching ringing. I hope that one of you will consider taking up the training baton when I stand down at this year's ADM, and develop your own strategy for how best to help with the development of ringing in our District. There are many different views on the best way to teach ringing, and there is no imperative to continue with the programme that I have established. I consider the Training Coordinator role to involve the following.

1. Identify specific training opportunities for towers/individual ringers, using information from tower captains, ringing master(s) and tower stewards
2. Make arrangements for District training sessions, including booking towers and finding session leaders and helpers
3. Liaise with the county training officer

I hope that someone will volunteer to continue this important role, and I would like to thank all of the students and helpers that have participated in training under my watch for making it such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

### **TRAINING DAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

**RAY TAYLOR**

The session at Hadlow was an introduction to plain bob doubles. It began with an explanation of the construction of plain bob doubles and how it relates directly to plain hunt. Students then took the 2 to practice leading and making seconds, and then took the 3 to practice dodging up with the 4, and took the 4 to practice dodging down with the 3. The three students each rang one and a half courses of plain bob from the 3 before the end of the session. They made great progress in understanding unfamiliar aspects of ringing thanks to excellent input from the helpers. It can be a long time between training sessions and easy to forget what was learned. It is so important to practice as much as possible if you want to progress, so attend practice nights at other towers if you can.

<b>HADLOW St Mary</b>		
Leader	Ray Taylor	Hadlow
Students	Edward Hutt	Hawkhurst
	Logan Rich	Hever
	Rebecca Norton	Hadlow
Helpers	Alison Parsons	Hawkhurst
	David James	Leigh
	Fran James	Leigh
	Graham Edwards	Shipbourne
	Howard Rogers	Hadlow
	Sara Hardy	Westerham

<b>SPELDHURST St Mary the Virgin</b>		
Leader	Emma Tamkin	Speldhurst
Students	Jeanette Parker	Otford
	Nick Randall	Westerham
	Sarah Davies	Hawkhurst
Helpers	Anthony Leeves	Speldhurst
	Eric Roughley	Speldhurst
	Ham Woods	Tonbridge
	Jane Kostelnyk	Unattached
	Zena Seal	Speldhurst



The Speldhurst Group – Jeannette, Zena, Emma, Eric, Nick, Jane, Sarah and Anthony.

## News

### THE RINGING WORLD NATIONAL YOUTH CONTEST

JEN THOMAS

"A chilly, wet and windy day provided the backdrop to this year's Ringing World National Youth Contest hosted by the ASCY in London. The spirits of our young team with an average age of just over 14 years, from Kent were, however, not dampened as they enjoyed ringing at various landmark towers with 8 or 12 bells. The highlights of the day included a photo call with over 300



young ringers on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral and the results ceremony where we had the best seats in the front row under the dome of the cathedral. We were all thrilled with our team's ringing in our contest piece at St Lawrence Jewry and delighted to be awarded 3rd place and commended particularly for our "Tittums". 5 of our 6 KCACR Districts were represented this year: Ben and Will, with support/reserve Jack, from the Ashford District, Oscar, from the Lewisham District, Callum, from the Maidstone District, George, Lily and Lottie, not forgetting Orange Oscar, from the Rochester District and Hannah, with Ivan and Lexie supporting, form the Tonbridge District. We're looking forward to next year's contest...wherever it may be!

The Kent team – clockwise from front right: Oscar Brooks Wilkins, Charlotte Elvers, Lily-Ann Lambell, Will Dellow, Hannah Cargill Thompson (from our District), George Marks, Callum Clark, Ben Dellow

## DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING IN JULY

ANGELA CLARK

31 Members and guests rang at Sevenoaks prior to the District Quarterly Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July from 10 am, prior to the meeting at 12.30 and what lovely bells they are!!

Phil Jarvis ensured that everyone present was able to ring – there were lots of rounds and Call Changes, plenty of ringers who made themselves useful by “standing behind” if required, and the more advanced rang both Yorkshire and Double Norwich for our entertainment.

The meeting, in the Under-croft, was preceded by tea and cakes, masterminded by Caroline Stockmann which were very welcome. Emma Tamkin did an excellent job of Chairing the meeting where 3 new members were elected, all from Brasted: Giles Day, Rebecca Day, and Ivan Sioma. Ivan was not able to be present because he joined the Ringing World National Youth Day in London which clashed with our meeting.

The meeting was reminded that all District Officer Posts are subject to nomination and election at the Annual District Meeting in October at Hawkhurst. Job Descriptions will be circulated to encourage members to apply. Three of the current Officers will not be seeking re-election: Tessa Worthington, Ray Taylor, and Phil Jarvis – all of whom have worked hard for the District and will be greatly missed.



New members from Brasted, Rebecca and Giles Day

## SKINNERS' DAY AT TONBRIDGE

ANGELA CLARK

For very many years, the ringers at Tonbridge have been paid by The Worshipful Company of Skinners to ring in order to wake up the Governors of Tonbridge School to mark the celebrations for the start of the Summer Holidays for the boys.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July the Beadle, Phillip Ludgrove, joined the 8 ringers who ensured enough noise was made for this purpose, then he left us to join the processions and the celebrations.

Considerable rebuilding work has been undertaken at Skinners' Hall (near Cannon Street) and, the original estimate for these works was in the region of £20m. As a result of new discoveries once digging commenced they found new staircases, hidden rooms and old bones. The works are now in their fourth year and the new estimate is closer to £40m. Fortunately, these costs have been covered by a former Livery Man at Skinners who died in 1967 without issue. He owned considerable lands in Hampshire and, through careful investment by the Skinners' Company, he paid for the lot.

The Beadle hopes to move back into their halls and offices very soon.



## FROM THE CROOKED SPIRE OF COWDEN TO THE GREAT BELLS OF BOW! LOUISE NIGHTINGALE

A few years ago when I was involved in the Central council I was asked to support some Bellringing promotional activities at St Mary le Bow Church which featured in the London landmarks half marathon. Carl, Andy Wickenden and Robin Rouse kindly volunteered their services to come along and help in return for having a little ring on the “great bells of Bow”.

Carl loves the challenge of ringing a big bell and since then has said a bucket list goal for him would be to ring tenor to a QP at St Mary le Bow. Earlier this year I mentioned it to the ringing master, and he found a date to make this happen - 17th June to open a week of musical events at the church.

As the big day got closer Carl started to get a little nervous about the QP - his first tenoring to 12 which on the 41cwt Bow tenor was probably a little ambitious, but I knew he was more than capable of it. It didn't help when the band was announced, and Carl saw it included some St Paul's and Westminster Abbey ringers! Steve Newlands came along to listen and we all met up on the train up to London. To try and help ease Carls nerves Steve told Carl to look on it as the equivalent of being asked to play cricket at Lord's. I'm no cricketer but think this added to the nerves!

We arrived about an hour before the meeting time and Carl's nerves were made even worse when we saw a sign in the church yard advertising the performance by the “expert band of ringers”. No pressure!

Carl seemed to take a leaf out of Robin's book and loitered in the church yard until he heard the bells being rung up. He claims it was to avoid extra damage to his already blistered hands following the Edenbridge peal two days earlier. I'm not convinced!

Steve and I found a good spot in the churchyard to listen to the QP. There was an initial blast of rounds before the bells were stood (Carl having a few extra blows on the very lightly set tenor!) and we wondered what conversations were going on in the ringing chamber. After a few more minutes the bells started up again and then went into what was described as an “adventurous” composition of Stedman Cinques, composed, and conducted by Lucinda Woodward who we've been lucky enough to see in action on the bells at St Paul's Cathedral. After 53 minutes of some very beautiful ringing we heard the bells come in to rounds and felt so pleased that Carl had achieved his ringing goal!

Needless to say, a celebratory beer was needed and we found a nearby pub for a well-deserved drink and debrief on the QP with some of the band!



*“The Happy Tenor”*

Flo rang the tenor to a quarter peal of Stedman and P B Doubles at Seal Chart on Sunday 14th July. This was a tribute to Heather Steere, mother of Shirley Raynor, who called the quarter. Other ringers were Alison Saunders, Jennifer Thomas, Sara Hardy and Isabel Pearce.

That evening Hannah rang the treble to Plain Bob Triples, her first quarter on eight, on the delightful bells at Chevening. The Ashford District was represented by Ben, also ringing his first quarter on 8, Oscar from the Lewisham District and some of our lovely more senior Kent Young Ringers. (Full details on BellBoard)

Flo was joined by 4 other young ringers from Year 6, one from Year 5 and one from Year 4 on Friday, 19th July when they joyfully rang before and after their own Leavers' Service. They have been practising hard to achieve this milestone.

They all rang unassisted for a short while, but Jen and Matt were right there to give a little helping hand to the two newest learners. They then hosted ringing demonstrations and tower tours to the rest of the Year 6 leavers who all had a turn at chiming a bell before ascending to see the view from the roof as is the school tradition.



Year 6 pupils who rang at St Lawrence, Seal Chart, for their own Leavers' Service on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

## 120 CLUB

The 120 Club Draw took place and the lucky winners were as follows:

£20	39	Carole Cresswell	Chevening
£15	112	David James	Leigh
£10	76	David and Janet Beeken	Cranbrook

## Future Delights

3 <sup>rd</sup> AUGUST	DISTRICT PRACTICE	SANDHURST	10-12 Noon
7 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER	DISTRICT PRACTICE	SUNDRIDGE	10-12 Noon
5 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER	<b>ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING</b>	HAWKHURST	10am Ringing 11.30 Tea, Coffee, Cake and Handbell Ringing. 12 Noon, Annual District Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER	DISTRICT PRACTICE	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	10-12 Noon
7 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS RINGING	SPELDHURST	1600-1700 Ringing