

ROUNDS & ABOUT

Tonbridge District Newsletter No.18 November 2024

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

Training

FUTURE TRAINING EVENTS

VARIOUS

Hamilton Woods has taken up the baton, of organising the training events on the third Saturday in each month (formerly undertaken by Ray Taylor). He will be looking for willing ringers to assist with mornings of Rounds, Call Changes, Hunting and Plain Bob.

Emma Tamkin will look after the ringing for the Advanced Practices. She is looking at the last Saturday in the month for these early evening events to include Cambridge, Stedman, etc including any method requests.

Future Events

CHRISTMAS 2024

THE COMMITTEE

The December ringing will take place at Speldhurst on 7th December at 4.00 pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies for everyone. The District Calendar for next year will be distributed.

DISTRICT QUARTER PEAL FORTNIGHT

COMMITTEE

The fortnight 14th to 28th February 2025 has been set for the District QP Fortnight. Everyone will be encouraged to ring with special emphasis on those who have not previously rung a quarter peal.

BIG KENT AGM

Angela Clark

The AGM of the KCACR takes place on Easter Monday and in 2025 it is our turn to play host. Everyone is encouraged to attend at Sevenoaks on 21st April. More details as various arrangements are made.

JANUARY 2025 FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

Angela Clark

See you all at Brenchley on 4th January. Ringing from 10.00 am. Meeting starts at 12 noon.

News

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Angela Clark

Following the ADM (Annual District Meeting) in October, the first meeting of your NEW Committee Members took place in early November. We met in Eric's house and because he is no longer on the Committee, he went out for the evening!!!!

Three valued members decided not to stand for re-election: Phil Jarvis, Eric Roughley, and Ray Taylor all of whom have put in many hours working for the District, many thanks for their hard work. Grateful thanks also go to Tessa Worthington who stepped in as Acting District Secretary when the post became vacant. Dmitry Zhuravlev has been elected to the post of Tonbridge District Secretary and we are delighted to welcome him to this important (and busy) post. Other ringers were also willing to serve: Caroline Levy-Cooper (Cowden) will represent the District (jointly with Tessa) at meetings of the KCACR and they will be reporting the KCACR discussions to our quarterly meetings.

Following the ADM, both Katie Malpass (Speldhurst) and Deb Williams (Tonbridge) were co-opted on to the Tonbridge District Committee, this will be formally registered at the January meeting at Brenchley.

MONTHLY MEETING – NOVEMBER

Angela Clark

The meeting at Tunbridge Wells on 2nd November proved to be extremely popular with an attendance recorded of 28. We were pleased to welcome ringers from outside the District; from Marden and Staplehurst. There is no resident band at Tunbridge Wells and the bells are only rung on Sundays once per month, therefore the District meeting created an opportunity for all to ring them. Several other events were also taking place in the church, which in the past has resulted in “safeguarding issues” from some groups, however, two mothers with around four children came to watch and were delighted to witness the ringing. Another lady reported she could hear bells and where was the noise coming from!!! Emma Tamkin ensured that all abilities were catered for and the Plain Hunt people all made progress. Both the 4th and the Tenor proved “a challenge” to ring but there was no lack of candidates, amid much laughter. One touch was going well when the clock fell off the wall (twice). The rope on the 2nd decided to unravel but was hastily repaired with string – the difficulty arose with a lack of a knife to cut it. Fortunately, the trusty Swiss Penknife on my key ring saved the day. A delightful vase of flowers adorned the table in the Ringing Chamber. We knew it was time to lower the bells when Ian Cochrane came in to take it away.



TONBRIDGE RINGERS – HOMELESS

Angela Clark

It is said you never miss something until it's gone - never more true than referring to our bells. Gosh, I miss walking across the park on a Sunday morning to the church, then trying to avoid ringing "the 'orrible fourth" – I'll never complain about it again! The "troops" made a splendid job of taking the bells out: off they went in October to Loughborough and we don't know when we shall get them back and it will be the first time in living memory that Tonbridge bells will not be rung at Christmas.

Meantime, neighbouring towers have been terrific in their offers of invitations to their practice nights, Sunday service ringing, and inclusion in visits to the pub or coffee afterwards. We really do appreciate the kindness of ringers and it has opened new opportunities to ring at other towers on a regular basis – Shipbourne, Tunbridge Wells and Speldhurst for a start. Additionally, Pam has set up a Handbell School in our tower (amidst all the mess) which is proving very popular – this may well open new doors for the current tower bell people.

THE 120 CLUB – NOVEMBER

David James	No. 112	£20	LEIGH
David and Janet Beeken	No. 107	£15	CRANBROOK
Catherine Lewis	No. 108	£10	BRASTED

Very curious that the lucky winners have numbers close together! I blame those who drew out the lucky prize numbers – one of whom was 20 month old Edward Barclay.

HANDBELLS – In lieu of Tower Bells

Jacqui Fletcher

Whilst Tonbridge bells are down and out some stalwarts of the band are attempting to master the art of handbell ringing under the expert guidance of Pam whose patience seems endless.

First problem: trying to get the bells to strike at both strokesnot easy given the crotchety state of them - the bells that is - although those of us of a certain age find the wrists are not as flexible as once upon a time.

Training the brain cell to work differently is another challenge.

Currently we are reading the numbers for plain hunt (shock/horror) from the white board but I'm sure one day we will turn our backs and ring blind!



Blinking cold, though!

THE COLOUR OF SALLIES

Angela Clark

Does anyone give a thought to the colour of the sally when entering a new tower? Neither did we at Tonbridge until the bells were taken off to the foundry and the ropes were scheduled to be replaced. Gavin, very sensibly, gave the “faithful regulars” the colour swatch from which to choose and, inevitably, he received different answers from almost each of the faithful. Someone suggested black, but then someone would. Following a second trawl a vote resulted in red, white & blue.

THE COMMITTEE
WISH YOU ALL A
VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS