

HANDBELL RINGERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN



South East Region

Newsletter

March 2020
Issue 114



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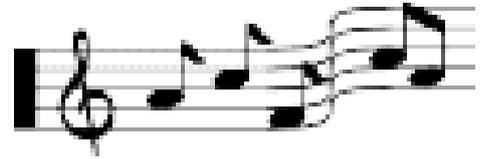
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Larry & Carla Sue

EDITORS NOTES



Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Region Newsletter, in which you will find:-

- Joy Birkett's 90th Birthday
- A report on the AGM Rally
- Minutes and accounts from AGM Rally
- Quotes and photos from the 'Ring Something Simple Rally'
- A quiz

With this Newsletter you should find application forms for the Summer Soiree and 'Transport' Rally

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **8th May 2020**

Many thanks to everyone who has sent me articles for this edition.

There probably will not be any group ringing for a few months with what's going on around us, so perhaps it is just the time to try solo ringing if you happen to have your team's bells in your house. If you're a couple you could try duets - just a thought!

Do we have any poets out there that could pen a few apt lines?

Whatever you do, let me know, as we certainly intend to keep the Newsletter going as long as the printer is willing, but I will need some articles!
Many thanks in anticipation.

Keep well and safe

Valerie

v.j.boon@ntlworld.com

Honoured Members of the South East Region

Cliff Blundell

Keith Rowland

Angela Blundell

Wendy Rowland

Pauline Dover

Michael Wilkinson

Bridget Smith

Derek Wilkinson

Jeanne Turner

Dear Ringers,

Well, how things change in such a short space of time. Two weeks ago we had 54 ringers coming to the Ring Something Simple day - on the day itself we had less than 20. There are always some that pull out of events due to last minute circumstances, but the large majority of these were concerns about the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Needless to say this was also on the agenda at the committee meeting the following afternoon. At the meeting we agreed that as a region we could follow the Government guidelines with regard to rehearsals and other events. As the situation has changed, so have the guidelines. This has resulted in the SERBO rehearsals being cancelled and, unfortunately, the concert due to take place on May 3rd. The Guildford Festival Service, planned for June 20th was a trickier decision. After careful consideration, we agreed that even if the event itself were able to go ahead, teams would not have been able to meet and therefore would not have been able to learn the music. Therefore, to avoid a repeat of any of the complications that occurred when the building work was happening, we made the sad decision to cancel the Festival Service. The music packs had not gone out, so we can save these for next year - something to look forward to!

While we are on the sad news, I was really sorry to hear the news that Angela Blundell had died on Sunday 1st March. A full obituary will appear in the next newsletter and Cliff hopes to hold a thanksgiving service later in the year when we can join together to celebrate her life. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cliff and his family at this time.

Moving forwards, everything is a little like stepping into the unknown as we don't know how long this Coronavirus will be around. So at the moment we are planning events in the hope that they will happen and you have information about the next two events with this newsletter. You will see that the July 4th Rally at Sanderstead (Theme: Transport - we know you love a themed rally!) has a slightly different form. Just in case we are not able to go ahead you are instead asked to express an interest in the rally by emailing or phoning Sandra. This is a good excuse to email or phone your teams to find out whether they would be interested in going.

The distribution of this newsletter comes with its own challenges. Hopefully you have received this from your team leader - many of you by email. While I realise that this means that some of our membership will not receive a copy, it was the safest way to distribute as many copies as possible at the current time.

All the relevant information from my Chairman's Chat and the forms will go on the website (which will soon have a lovely new look) and any important updates will also go on the website and on Facebook/Twitter so we can keep everyone informed.

I hope that it won't be too long before we are all back ringing with our teams, but until then, stay safe and well.

Yours,

Helen

HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM

JOY'S NINTIETH



Ruislip Belles and Beaux have been celebrating the 90th birthday of Joy Birkett, still a fully active ringer and much loved by the group. She is the only remaining founder member still to be ringing and is the only Trefoil Guild member. The Trefoil connection is significant, as it was through the Trefoil movement that the whole thing came about. Joy was remembering how the 'Dark Adventure' challenge had been talked about at one of their Trefoil meetings. The challenge was to try something new, and anyone successfully taking on three different new activities would earn a gold certificate. Joy went for it.

Joan Fox, also a Trefoil member, had come with her own group of handbell ringers from Rickmansworth/Chorleywood to ring for Joy's Trefoil Guild group, and with the Dark Adventure challenge in mind, Joy and several others decided that learning to ring handbells would be one of their new ventures. They turned to Joan for help, and she certainly came up trumps, teaching them the basics on her own bells at her house and then on some old bells that had been in storage at St Martin's church in Ruislip, where Barbara Wright, another budding ringer, was tower captain. It turned out to be too expensive to get those old bells up to scratch, so Joan helped the new group to buy the second-hand octave-and-a-half set we still use today.

Barbara arranged for the group to practise at the Guide hut in Ruislip, where the Monday practices still take place, and Ruislip Belles and Beaux were really set up, with the group expanding along the way. They began performing in care homes, clubs and so on, raising money for Michael Sobell Hospice in Northwood. That charity was chosen partly because Pat, one of the very early members, had passed away there, and the hospice is a very much valued part of the community. The first year's performances in 2003 raised £50, with donations increasing, via £3,200 last year, to a total of £39,960 in total. Joy would know, she's also our Treasurer!

What were Joy's other challenges? She learned to play and took up badminton, and started working in a charity shop in Ruislip High Street, again supporting the Michael Sobell Hospice, where she was also a driver, ferrying patients to and from the Day Care Centre. As for the handbell challenge, as well as the joy of the bells, she was especially pleased to be doing something musical, having never been allowed the chance to learn to play anything while growing up.



Joy and the team ready for practice

A mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she celebrated the actual day of her birthday with the family – 16 adults and 2 children – and celebrated all over again the next day with some of our group at our weekly practice session.

Christine Forrest
Ruislip Belles and Beaux

I know many of you enjoy garden, so here is quiz to help you pass a few minutes of your leisure time! The answers are further on in the newsletter - don't cheat!!

A FLORAL QUIZ

1. The lady who is forced to sit out at a dance.
2. A double part of the face.
3. Part of the eye.
4. They imprisoned feet and hands.
5. It falls from the sky in winter.
6. As shy as a ...
7. Do remember me.
8. To keep a certain animal's paws warm.
9. A sugary letter of the alphabet.
10. She'll look good on a tandem.
11. Flower of purity.
12. Modern music and a vegetable.
13. A colourful ring.
14. A "with it" animal.
15. A musical instrument
16. You don't have to milk the cow if you use this.
17. The Flower of Scotland.
18. Sounds as if it makes a lovely sauce.
19. The ring of a Cathedral town.
20. The Flower of England.

SWISS BELLES?



The title refers to at least two ringing teams composed entirely of women and dressed as nearly as possible to Swiss national costume for the “Switzerland” AGM rally at Ash on Saturday February 29th!

In the media for that day it was asked what special thing people were doing to celebrate this once-in-4-years date.

Those of us who attended the rally could have predicted that we’d have an especially enjoyable day, despite the weather starting off inclement and struggling to find a parking space.



The mass ringing pieces were familiar to many of us – Spring, Ode to Joy, All Night All Day, Arirang and Lord of All Hopefulness - but still presented challenges of reading the music while watching the conductor!

It was surprising if anyone could keep their eyes *off* Keith Rowland in his bright royal blue lederhosen!

Several teams played solos, including one amusing piece written by a Swiss composer including cow bells – though the cows sounded as if they were careering down a mountainside rather than peacefully grazing!



The usual flow of tea, coffee and cake was splendid, as usual, presenting huge temptation to anyone giving up cake for Lent ... and the raffle prizes were interesting and generous. My box of Quality Street has to be kept sealed till Easter!



The Photos show several teams enjoying the ringing.

The *magnificent sum of £321* was raised for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham. WELL DONE. Your contributions will make a difference.

Chris Payne - Swiss Belles (Llamas Ringers)

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN S E REGION
Reg. Charity numbers 298945 (England) & SC038918 (Scotland)
DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 29th February 2020, 12.30pm at Ash Manor School Ash Surrey

1. Chair's Welcome and Remarks

Helen Secker welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Keith Rowland and the Rowland Ringers for their work in organising and running the rally. The highlight of 2019 had been the National Rally hosted by the SE Region at Old Windsor. She thanked everyone who had been involved in the event in any way for making it such a success. Helen paid tribute to Milda Laycock, who had sadly died in 2019 and who had been a long term member of the regional committee and had worked very hard over many years to support ringing in the region. She also alerted members to the upcoming change to the regional website thanking Corrie Hibberd for many years service in designing and running the current site and Grant O'Sullivan who is taking over the responsibility with the launch of the new site. She also drew members attention to her new 'Chairman's Challenge' first details of which were in the latest newsletter with more to come in future issues.

2. Apologies for absence

Received from David Brown, Bill Butler, Kate Hanks, Corrie Hibberd, Kathryn Hughes and Derek Wilkinson. 131 members were in attendance.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Michael Wilkinson seconded by Robert Nichols and agreed *nem. con.* The minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes There were none.

5. Secretary's Report

The Hon Secretary's report was read. It highlighted a wide range of activities that had taken place in the region in 2019-20. A copy of the Secretary's report is appended to the Minutes.

A proposal to receive the report was made by Lesley Wallace and seconded by Liz Christian and agreed *nem. con.*

6. Financial Report and Presentation of Accounts

The meeting received the accounts 2018-19. The Treasurer spoke to the accounts identifying the key elements. The Chair thanked John Boon for his work in all financial matters.

7. Elections The unopposed nominations were processed *en bloc*, and agreed unanimously as follows:

Chair: Helen Secker

Vice Chair: Alan Cooper

Secretary: Sandra Winter

Treasurer: John Boon

Committee members:

Valerie Boon, Gay Cooper, Libby Eldridge,

Jill Glennerster, Sue Quarendon,

Keith Rowland, Alan Sharps, Martin Winter

8. Any Other Business

(i) Alan Cooper reported from the National AGM 2019, highlighting the need to recruit new members as membership of HRGB is still falling. The highlight of the meeting had been the conferring of Honorary Life Membership on two SE Region members Alan Collings and Keith Rowland.

(ii) Pam Galliers has a three octave set of Malmark chimes for sale.

The meeting closed at 12.52 p.m.

Please note that appended reports may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Sandra Winter

Answers to the Floral Quiz

1. Wallflower

2. Tulip

3. Iris

4. Stocks

5. Snowdrop

6. Violet

7. Forget-me-not

8. Foxglove

9. Sweet pea

10. Daisy

11. Lily

12. Poppy

13. Bluebell

14. Dandelion

15. Viola

16. Carnation

17. Thistle

18. Cornflower

19. Canterbury bell

20. Rose

Some miscellaneous observations on life...

One of the worst things about loneliness is that you can't run away from it.

In the old days, men blazed trails. Now they burn up the roads

Like a bee, the flatterer has honey in his mouth and a sting in his tail.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

Secretary's Report 2019

I can report on a very busy year for the South East Region with, as ever, a good variety of events.

The Birthday Rally in January was held at Bradfield College in Berkshire and as usual, our 'free' event was very well attended! The AGM at Aldershot welcomed Fred Gramann and the ringers from the American Church in Paris. Then there was the National Rally in Old Windsor..... But no time to relax after that! - the South East Region Bell Orchestra concert in May saw an increase in audience numbers and the usual varied programme.

Tickets are on sale for the 2020 concert on SUNDAY 3rd May.

In July a Celebration for Armed Forces Day rally was held in Sanderstead, with teams entering into the spirit of the title.

The Summer Soiree in Weybridge took a break in 2019 due to the refurbishment of the hall..... but is back in 2020!

The 'Relax'n'Ring, postponed from February because of the snow, was indeed a relaxed day enjoyed by the participants, not worried about the weather.....

In September, the East Kent rally in Headcorn had an 'Autumn' theme, and during the lunch break it was lovely to be able to look around the Flower Festival in the church next door.

The Handbell Festival Service was held in October at Guildford Cathedral. There was some very good ringing, but not all pieces were a complete success for a variety of reasons, and the committee has been working to try and sort out the problems. Difficulties with the Cathedral sound system meant that the readings, address and prayers were very hard to hear; hopefully these will be addressed in time for this year's Service in June.

In addition to all the events, there was an invitation rally in Fordingbridge with a large number of ringers shoehorned into the hall on a pouring wet day – how unusual for a 'bell' Saturday!

The year saw the usual demand for ringers to play at events and in the community (and at Christmas – usually at the last minute!). Thanks to those ringers who were able to accept invitations to play. It is often difficult to find ringers, and of course we are not able to contact non-member teams, if we even know about them – so your membership is important!

As always, huge thanks are due to everyone who has organised an event or helped in any way this year. Whether you are an Officer, a committee member, a team member, a partner, a 'roadie', a tea or cake maker ... you are all very much appreciated for the work you do. Thank you very much.

Sandra Winter February 2020

298945 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland)

Balance Sheet for year ended 31/12/2019

	2019	2018
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
<u>Tangible Assets</u>		
Bells estimated realisable value	2,000.00	2,000.00
The Exeter Handbells donated by Hamilton Ringers 2014	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
The Milton Keynes Bells	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>11,500.00</u>	<u>11,500.00</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Closing Stock	928.00	767.28
Prepayments	400.15	95.00
Debtors		
Deposit Account (COIF)	9,728.73	9,673.66
Bank	2,610.26	3,259.20
Cash	307.88	138.25
Total Current Assets	<u>13,975.02</u>	<u>13,933.39</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	-	-
Other Creditors		-
Total Current Liabilities	-	-
Net Current Assets	<u>13,975.02</u>	<u>13,933.39</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>25,475.02</u>	<u>25,433.39</u>
Financed by:		
Unrestricted General Funds	25,049.26	25,007.63
Designated Fund: Ring from Scratch	425.76	425.76
Total Charity Funds	<u>25,475.02</u>	<u>25,433.39</u>

These Accounts have been prepared by John Boon
These Accounts have been approved by Gay Cooper and Sandra Winter
These Accounts have been examined by Alastair Michie.

Registered Charity Nos. 298945 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland)
Statement of Financial Affairs for year ended 31/12/2019

	2019			2018	
	Unrest Gen. Funds £	Desig Bells to go £	Desig. Ring from Scratch £	Total £	Total £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income					
Regional Rebate	1,830.00			1,830.00	2,339.00
Activities for generating funds					
Rallies	2,181.50			2,181.50	3,833.50
Guildford Festival 2018					1,052.00
Guildford 2019	1,068.00			1,068.00	
Advertising	30.00			30.00	30.00
Ring from Scratch (Desig.)					
HRGB Golden Anniversary Grant					500.00
Investment Income					
Bank Interest	55.07			55.07	43.74
Incoming resources from charit. activ.					
Sales income	419.63			419.63	506.30
Total Incoming Resources	<u>5,584.20</u>			<u>5,584.20</u>	<u>7,804.54</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising trading					
Cost of goods sold	274.24			274.24	461.98
Charitable Activities					
Rallies	2,038.26			2,038.26	3,744.05
Guildford Festival 2018	250.00			250.00	499.00
Guildford Festival 2019	608.00			608.00	
Ring from Scratch (desig.)	-			-	-
<i>Newsletter</i> Postage	581.37			581.37	583.99
Photocopy	1,228.50			1,228.50	1,243.44
Stationery					51.55
<i>Depreciation</i>	-			-	-
<i>Other costs</i>					
Postage	32.16			32.16	16.08
Insurance	91.40			91.40	89.87
Sundry	257.00			257.00	166.16
Computer/ Web expenses	181.64			181.64	169.94
Total Resources Expended	<u>5,542.57</u>			<u>5,542.57</u>	<u>7,523.83</u>
Net incoming Resources	41.63			41.63	41.63
Transfers					
Net movement in funds	41.63			280.71	280.71
Total Funds Brought forward	25,007.63		425,76	25,433.39	25,152.68
Total Funds Carried forward	<u>25,049.26</u>		425,76	<u>25,475.02</u>	<u>25,433.39</u>

RING SOMETHING SIMPLE

Quotes from participants

We all found it very interesting and a learning curve (Hoath Ringers)

It was great. We learnt quite a lot and it was fun.

We would come again to a similar day. (Trefoil Ringers of Rickmansworth)



We all found it very interesting and a learning curve (Hoath Ringers)

It was great. We learnt quite a lot and it was fun. We would come again to a similar day. (Trefoil Ringers of Rickmansworth)



We just wish more of our team had been able to come. But it has been really, really useful to have music aimed at our level which we can use in our team. (St Mary's Barnes)



I was very excited about the pieces when I saw them. They are interesting pieces for beginners which even include some techniques, and I can take back and use them with my team. (Sheila Insley)



It was useful to have some of our team here, so we can take what we have learnt back to the rest of our team. It was nice to have music which was easy to ring so we could focus on listening and watching the conductor. (Bursledon Bells)



Ringers represented the following teams:

The Rowledge and Bourne Ringers Headcorn HR Chalk HR

St Marys Teddington Sanderstead 2'clock Bells Bursledon Bells

Hoath Bell Ringers The Greywell Ringers Trefoil Ringers of Rickmansworth

St Mary's Barnes

(The photos do not necessarily show the team who made the comment. It is a case of 'Am I there?' or 'Who are they?' Ed.)

HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2020

- 3 MAY (Sunday)** Bell Orchestra Concert - Harlequin Theatre,
Redhill - CANCELLED
- 20 JUNE** Handbell Festival Service - Guildford Cathedral
- CANCELLED
- 4 JULY** Transport Rally - Sanderstead - form enclosed
- 25 JULY** Summer Soiree - Weybridge - form enclosed
- 19 SEPTEMBER** East Sussex Rally - Robertsbridge
- 3 OCTOBER** Rally - Sway
- 10 OCTOBER** East Kent Rally - Headcorn
- 21-24 OCTOBER** UK BRONZE (Concert Sat 24th) - Sutton

BELL ORCHESTRA Rehearsals 2020: CANCELLED

St Georges Church, Tolworth

18 April; 25 April.

Would YOU like to host an event?

A regional rally, a mini or micro ring, a County get-together?

*Please contact the Secretary, a committee member
or a County Rep to talk about it..... please let us know!*

**IF YOUR TEAM IS PLAYING IN OR GIVING A CONCERT,
DON'T FORGET TO SEND THE DETAILS TO THE EDITOR.**

Website: www.hrgbse.org.uk

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SE REGION COMMITTEE AND JOB HOLDERS 2019/20

CHAIR , Youth Rep, & Sales Table Manager	Helen Secker	020 8295 3017
VICE CHAIR , NEC Rep & Oxon & Bucks Rep	Alan Cooper	07964 615428
SECRETARY & Honorary Life Member	Sandra Winter	020 8657 1344
TREASURER	John Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & Newsletter Editor	Valerie Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & NEC Rep	Gay Cooper	07964 615428
MEMBER & Kent Rep	Sue Quarendon	01622 891864
MEMBER & Honorary Life Member	Keith Rowland	01252 409438
MEMBER	Jill Glennerster	07821 131303
MEMBER	Libby Eldridge	01883 622808
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MEMBER & Surrey Rep	Alan Sharps	01784 244665
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