

RINGING CIRCLES

FARNHAM DISTRICT

April 2018



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TOWER OF THE MONTH: ST ANDREW'S FARNHAM



"... a beautiful Taylor ten ...which we have been working hard to make even more of a pleasure to ring."

FARNHAM DISTRICT PROGRAMME

1 st April	Sunday	Upside down ringing practice, Pirbright, with Ms April Fewl
14 th April	Saturday	Simulator Practice at Crondall for all learners needing help to ring rounds and call changes. 10:00am – 12:00noon Trainer: Mike Bale, Guild Training Officer Names to District Secretary (clarelemarie@btinternet.com) please by 12th April.
20 th April	Friday	6 Bell Surprise Practice at Pirbright. 7:30-9:00pm
17 th May	Thursday	District Practice and Meeting at Bagshot. 7:30-9:00pm
23 rd June	Saturday	6 Bell Striking Competition at Ash. 10:00am Draw
6 th July	Friday	8 Bell Surprise Practice at Aldershot. 7:30-9:00pm
7 th Sept	Friday	10 Bell practice for rounds and call changes. 7:30-9:15pm
15 th Sept	Saturday	Ringing Ramble organised by Mike Le Marie
10 th Nov	Saturday	District 12 bell practice at Guildford Cathedral. 10:30am – 12:00

RINGERS' NEWS

SPLICED

Please send us any news of marriages among the District's bell ringers

NEWLY CAST

Please send us any news of births among the District's bell ringers

CALLED HOME

Remembering Peter Cranham who died on 14 January 2018 after a long illness. Peter started ringing at Ash in 1977, having previously rung at Sunbury on Thames. Over the years he rang three peals and many quarter peals at Ash. At various times Peter held the posts of Steeple-keeper and Vice-Captain and could always be relied on to help with tower maintenance. He will be greatly missed.

(See page 14 for QP rung in memory of Peter)

MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT MASTER

Welcome to your new look Ringing Circles. The aim is to make the District newsletter an interesting, informative and entertaining read for your tower, and the intention is to publish three times a year, at the beginning of April, August and December. A printed copy will be



provided for each tower for ringers to browse between ringing, and downloadable copies on the Guild website <http://guildfordguild.org.uk/districts/farnham>, and also through the Yahoo group. If you are not part of the district yahoo group, please sign-up to receive guild and district notices - you do not need to have a yahoo account. I would like to thank Julia Douetil for volunteering to produce the newsletter.

The first district practice of the year was held at Seale, on a cold and snowy February evening. Certificates were presented to three new members, and visiting ringers were able to support plenty of plain hunt and plain bob.

The Guild AGM took place in March, preceded by the 6 bell striking competition, in which each district was asked to send two teams. I would like to congratulate our bands from Farnborough & Pirbright who represented the district (see the report on page 16), coming first and second respectively. It was Pirbright's first time in the competition, and the only team on the day to ring call changes. They are rightly proud of their achievement.

The program for the next 6 months is published on page 1. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future district events, or any feedback on district events, please don't hesitate to contact me. Do come and support the district activities, there is something for everybody, and I hope to see many of you during the year.

Stuart Aitken

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

WE NEED YOUR HELP: Please send us your news and stories, and let us know what you would like to read about in Ringing Circles. You don't have to write an essay, just a few lines would be wonderful, and don't worry if you don't think of yourself as a writer, that's what editors are for. Our e mail addresses are on the back page, or use good old fashioned post to Julia Douetil, Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ.

Special features for the August 2018 edition – please tell us about

- Does your tower do anything special in the summer? Maybe you have an outing, a picnic or a tower clean up – we'd love to know what bellringers get up to when the sun shines.
- What age are your youngest ringers, how early do you start teaching young ringers? Can we find the youngest ringer in the District?

Julia and Clare

FARNHAM DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thirty eight ringers from eight towers attended the Farnham District ADM at Frensham on 27th January, along with Guild Master Jackie Roberts, Guild Secretary Margaret Bale and Guild Treasurer Chris Rogers.

Membership: An amazing 22 new members were elected as follows:

- Bagshot - Lucy Cowan
- Pirbright - Sian Rowe
- Farnham - Rev John Morris, James Hetherington (Junior)
- Aldershot - Finn Le Page, Eleanor Gallagher (both Juniors),
- Crondall - Stephanie Orde, Paula Aldrich, Patricia Elsmore and the following Aspinwalls (all juniors) Rebekah, Zofeyah, Ethan, Aleezah, Leeona, and Natanya
- Seale - Stuart Alford, Lucy Goff, Lewes Goff
- Frensham - Jill Burry, Paul Marshal, Stuart Marshal (Junior)
- Grayshott - Tim Emery
- Unattached - Sean Langton
- Non Resident - Daniel Page of Reading

The District currently has 166 members.

District Officers: After 10 years in post, Vernon stood down as District Master and Stuart Aitken from Grayshott was elected as the new Master. Vernon was elected Assistant Ringing Master, all other posts remained the same. Mark Place was elected Belfry Inspection Coordinator, and Julia Douetil and Clare Le Marie Newsletter Editors. With no offers, the post of training officer remains vacant.

Guild matters: Nominations for Guild Officers remained the same as last year, but a volunteer is needed to fill a vacancy for Central Council Representative. Mike Bale asked District members to help with the national recruitment campaign tied in with Armistice commemoration. Mike can help any tower if needed, and he also asked that if any tower has to cancel a practice due to lack of ringers then perhaps the tower could be offered to the District that evening for a 'pop-up' training activity. He also asked for any requests for training sessions. Please note that a resume of Guild Executive Committee meetings is posted on the Website.

Bell Restoration Fund: Chris Togers reported a busy year with projected grants for six towers from the Bridget Gordon Legacy. Godalming has a new ring of bells; Bramley bells have been rehung; Send has a £10,000 grant for work; Yorktown's proposal is under consideration, with two other projects at Chertsey and West Byfleet. Non legacy projects at Ewhurst, St Mary's Guildford, Aldershot, Holy Trinity Guildford and West Clandon have all been completed. PCC and tower donations were down last year, but in Farnham District 5 PCCs and 8 towers had made donations.

Historic documents Vernon holds a number of historic certificates from striking competitions, which he proposed should be kept at Farnham, to be displayed for all to see. This was agreed.

The Vicar Rev Jane Walker, the organist Mike Smith and the Frensham ringers were all thanked. Next year's ADM is planned to take place at Aldershot.

GUILDFORD GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 90th Guildford Guild Annual General Meeting took place at St James' Church Hall Weybridge, with 90th birthday balloons to celebrate this milestone. A more detailed account can be found on the Guild home page <http://guildfordguild.org.uk> but here are some highlights.

The Treasurer reported a saving of £200 by reducing the number of reports distributed.

Two Guild members, Jack Edwards from the Chertsey District and Matthew Pearson from the Farnham District, were congratulated for being part of the youngest band to ring a peal of Maximus.



Insurance: A decision was made to discontinue the personal accident insurance policy which covered members while carrying out inspections of bell installations and assisting with bell maintenance work. Members inspecting or working on bells in churches where they were members of the local band were covered by church insurance policies. Members working with bell contractors are covered by the contractor's insurance. It was likely that where members had been invited by a church official, who could be the Tower Captain, to inspect or work on bells in churches other than their own, they would be covered by that church's policy.

The 8 bell Inter District Striking Competition will be held at West Clandon in May, method to be Stedman Triples.

Clare Le Marie

YOUNG RINGERS PRACTICES

These are held on the last Saturday of each Month, from 4.30-6.00pm. Rounds and call changes and more advanced ringing is usual, supervised by adults. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer. Refreshments are also on offer.

For more information, contact David Pearson (dandkpearson@yahoo.co.uk)

CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT 1,400 RINGERS

This is an on-going campaign following earlier publicity. Even if your learner didn't sign up specifically for this reason, anyone who started to learn after October 2017 is eligible. There are more details on the Central Council website. Let the District Secretary have any names. They would need to be elected as members at the summer meeting.

FEATURED TOWER OF THE MONTH: ST ANDREW'S FARNHAM

What's been going down in Farnham?



St Andrew's church in Farnham possesses a beautiful Taylor ten, of which we are very proud. We have been working hard in recent years to make the bells even more of a pleasure to ring in addition to recruiting and training new ringers to safeguard the future of ringing at the tower.

Works carried out on the bells have included: the removal of much of the floorboards above the bells to allow more sound out of the tower, reinstating the wrought iron clapper (complete with hum bungs – rubber pads that hold the clapper millimetres off the soundbow after it has struck to allow for maximum hum!) back into the tenor bell;

repositioning incorrectly-placed garter holes on the wheels; the removal of the rope chutes in the intermediate chamber which caused unpleasant amplification of the bells at backstroke; replacement of the wooden ceiling bosses with cast iron to reduce rope rattle; redecorating and re-carpeting the ringing chamber.

We have a steady stream of learners which we managed to acquire from various sources. We normally host the cubs and scouts for a tower tour and taster session each year which we are told is one of their more popular trips; so much so that we have another booking in a few weeks' time. A similar tour and taster session at the annual church fete also generates great interest and we have had plenty of recruits from this particular event. More House School has a close connection to the Farnham ringing scene (Jon Hetherington is Headmaster, and Mark Place, Director of Music) and we often see their boarding pupils each Tuesday night at practice.

Introduced a couple of years back, the Farnham Advanced Practice, catering for those wishing to progress with Stedman Caters and Surprise Royal has been a popular event where we welcome ringers from all over the Guild, some of whom come along to support our beginners' practice just beforehand, which is a huge help.

So, all seems to be heading in the right direction, with the definite bonus of having a marvellous pub "The Jolly Sailor" that always has an ample selection of delicious real ales ready to sample. We would love to see any members of the Guild at our practices: 7-9.15pm on a Tuesday night (6:45 – 7.30pm for beginners, 7.30 – 9.15pm advanced on the 3rd Tuesday each month) or on a Sunday morning 9.15-10.00am.



Love from the Farnham Ringers

Tower Captain: John Hetherington

Practice night: Tuesday at 7.30pm

Contacts: Edd Sutch edd.sutch@gmail.com

ADVANCED 10-BELL PRACTICES

St Andrew's Church, Farnham

3rd Tuesday every month 19:30 – 21:15

and afterwards at The Jolly Sailor

Future dates for 2018:

24th April*

15th May

19th June

17th July

21st August

18th September

16th October

20th November

18th December

Ringers who are not already regular attendees of Farnham practices but who are capable of ringing Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters are warmly encouraged to join us in our venture to achieve good ringing on higher numbers.

*Moved from 3rd Tuesday due to clashing with Guild Exec. Meeting

Contact Jon Hetherington (jch499@hotmail.com) or Mark Place (markbaileyplace@gmail.com) for more details

AROUND THE DISTRICT

YORKTOWN PRACTICE WEDNESDAY 20:00-21:30, SUNDAY 9:50

On practice nights we ring up to Surprise Major with the help of visitors. We have recently gained a new recruit, Victoria, who is making good progress with handling. After our practices the social choice is yours - going to the Crabtree pub, Frimley Road or swimming at the Arena. We also tend to go for a meal after ringing for the service on Ash Wednesday.

Our main focus recently has been the tower/spire/bells project. Our church is undergoing a renewal programme and a lot of work will be done on the stonework of the tower and spire which needs to be repaired. This is scheduled to take place in the summer and should not significantly affect the ringing as it is mostly external. We have been lucky enough to benefit from the Bridget Gordon legacy to replace the bells and fit a smaller peal on one level. This should reduce the movement of the tower and help with the handling and acoustics and the bells should benefit with 2018 tuning. We are therefore left with the task of raising about half of the money toward this project. The latest news is that the PCC has received an offer to buy the bells to ship to Australia rather than sell them to Taylors for scrap. David has been busy answering lots of questions about the bells and hopefully this sale will be concluded in the autumn as it is our aim to have the new bells by the centenary of WWI commemorations. Anne has also applied for several grants for this project. We have received £4,000 from the All Churches Trust so far (part of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group).



We are hoping to have an outing in the summer which Tim will organise and look forward to welcoming everyone at the District Carol service on Saturday 8th December. Any visitors on our practice nights will also be assured of a warm welcome.

Anne Daniels
Tower Secretary.

CRONDALL PRACTICE MONDAY 19:30-21:00, SUNDAY 9:00-9:30

Reflections on 2002



My first submission to Ringing Circles was in 2002, not long after the Crondall bells were rehung and augmented to eight. The band has certainly changed a lot in that time, with I believe only six of us still ringing at Crondall (but oddly enough none of us look any older!). The 2002 article described how we had acquired two additional bells from the Keltek Trust, both to be hung 'dead' in the old frame, one to be a clock bell, the other as a bidding bell operated by an electric hammer operated from the vestry. This bell was about 3cwt, and is an ex-buoy bell from Trinity House. The article also described how we put scaffolding up outside the tower in order to install an additional clock face on the north face of the tower and refurbish the existing one on the west face. I remember how it was scarily a long way up!

The new bells seemed to attract many visitors, on one Monday practice I noted we had 28 ringers in total. I quote from the 2002 article, "One of our newer ringers wondered why we had several Farnborough ringers on a Monday night practice. On explaining their tower was 'broken', he exclaimed, 'And you let them ring on our bells!' ". One thing has not changed,

we still have many regular visitors for which we are very grateful, and we thank them all, particularly when helping us out ringing for weddings and other events.

Another item reported, and in a way it is rather sad (perhaps a case of rose-tinted Good Old Days), was that the landlord of what was our regular post-ringing pub was leaving. He had a particular way to make us feel very welcome, as reported then his usual greeting was along the lines of, "B****y h*ll, it's them b****y bellringers again", along with the fierce growl of the landlord's dog"!

Kevin Fox

FARNBOROUGH MONDAY 19:45-21:15, SUNDAY 9:00-9:25 & 10:30-10:55 (by arr)
& 18:00-18:25

Farnborough bells were augmented from six to eight in 1964. The first peal on the 8 bells, Cambridge Surprise Major, was rung on 6th March 1965 by a local Sunday Service band and conducted by Charles H Kippin. A 50th Anniversary peal of the first peal, same method, same composition, was rung on 14th March 2015 by five members of the original band who rang the same bells as they did 50 years previously. The peal was conducted by Robert C Kippin. Three members of the present day Sunday Service band made up the peal band.



Our practice nights are usually well attended with many of our friends from other towers joining us. Consequently, we enjoy a wide range of ringing from Call Changes all the way through to Spliced Surprise Major touches. So please feel free to join us - you will be very welcome, and we promise you some good ringing at all levels.

One of our ringers says: "When I first moved into the area I started ringing at Farnborough. On visiting other District towers over the next few months and saying that I ring at Farnborough, I often received the reply "oh, you ring at Farnborough", which clearly implied that Farnborough ringers or tower had a reputation that was assumed to apply to me too." *Perhaps someone can suggest to us how we earned such a reputation and what we do to eradicate it?*

Visitors are always welcome to come along, and we will endeavour to attempt any requests, but like many other towers our numbers are diminishing, so not everything is possible. Our bells are light, and some are rather tricky to handle, but it is well worth the effort of persevering to get good striking. After practice we go on to a local pub for refreshment. We are very sociable.

Numbers permitting, on the 2nd Sunday in the month we have coffee after the first service before returning to ring for the second service. In the Spring we have a tower lunch and later in the year, an outing (last year we went to West Oxfordshire and to Adlestrop in Gloucestershire, village of the well-known poem and belfry accessed by a steep ladder!). We also enjoy the occasional curry.

Concerning the Tower Lunch: We choose a Sunday lunchtime that the majority of the band can manage to attend. For several years various members of the band have hosted this lunch but last year we decided to try and book a lunch in a pub. Our Secretary did a good job in booking for us to go to the Hen and Chicken at Upper Froyle when the majority of the band, with family members too, had an enjoyable sociable meal out. We are now looking for the preferred date for this year's lunch.

Beryl, Bruce, Helen, James, Janet, and Martin

FRENSHAM PRACTICE MONDAY 19:30-21:00, SUNDAY 10:00-10:30 (NOT 1ST)

During Spring 2018 the Church's west window (which forms part of the ringing room) is being repaired and restored; the stone-work has suffered as a result of the weather over the years. Whilst the Builder undertaking the work is on site, it is expected that the weathervane will be re-aligned, for it has been leaning at an angle since Storm Katie did her worst in January 2016.

We continue to hold (mostly well-attended) practices on Mondays and are grateful for support from ringers from other local Towers, enabling us to ring methods and touches that we would not otherwise be able to ring by ourselves. However, attendance on Sundays for service ringing has been variable, and sometimes we have had to ring fewer than 6 bells.

In early January we held our Christmas Party in the Church Hall, having postponed it in December due to bad weather. It was very well organised by Jill McKenzie, with support from lots of others, and a good time was held by all. Jill - again with lots of help - also masterminded the teas for the District ADM in January, after which we received good feedback (sorry about the pun!)



An Open Afternoon in November attracted about 30 people, some from as far away as USA. Many visitors were simply curious, and we were happy to explain and demonstrate the ringing of bells, and some were interested in learning. Consequently - thanks to a considerable commitment from Brenda Mayle and Harry Glover, and Jill McKenzie when she is available - we are now well-advanced in teaching six potential new ringers: Annabel Somerfelt, Esther van Roojen, John Davis, Julia Boyle, Moira Davies and Penny Saunders, and we are hopeful of a few more starting

within the next few months. In addition, Toby Strump has started learning to ring as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

This year to date we have rung only one Quarter Peal (see page 13 for details) albeit a special one, rung by a group of 'regulars' at Frensham Royal British Legion Club in memory of Henry George Jones (father of Mick Jones, Club Steward), and Margaret Ann Young mother of 5th ringer.

However, during the last three months of 2017, we rang four QPs, including two wedding compliments, one in December in celebration of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Eric and Gloria Headland. Eric has been a supporter of ringing in Frensham for a number of years. In October a QP was specially arranged by Jill McKenzie (our Deputy Tower Captain) as a belated Golden Wedding compliment to Harry and Elizabeth Glover, married 11th August 1967.

Finally, two of our ringers, Chris and Cheryl Chamberlain, have moved to East Horsley. We will miss them and wish them well and hope that they will continue their ringing in Tower(s) closer to East Horsley than Frensham; that gives a lot of scope!

Harry Glover

HAWLEY PRACTICE TUESDAY 19:45-21:00, SUNDAY 10.30-11.00

I was fortunate enough to be invited to ring my first peal in February (see page 13 for the details). I did make an attempt last year for the 100th anniversary of the deaths of two Hawley ringers but as it collapsed after 50 minutes we rang a quarter instead straight after. This time we made it. I am pleased to report my hands are now much better after the experience. I am very grateful to all the other ringers who gave up their time to assist me in completing my first peal. It would be interesting to add together all the peals for the other 7 ringers.



Recently I received an email from a lady whose son suffers from autism. He likes to listen to bells and in pursuit of this stands in our churchyard during our Tuesday practice to listen, but was not comfortable to come in. I offered to give him a tour of the ringing chamber and belfry. This was gratefully received, and he visited on Thursday 22nd February, after which his mother e-mailed to say that her son, Andrew, was in 'Andrew Heaven' after his visit. I think the time and effort was more than worth it and gave me a great feeling.

Richard Payne – Hawley Tower Captain.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

In the centenary year of the WW1 Armistice it is hoped that ringers across the country will mark this important event. In Crondall we decided to have individual acts of remembrance for each of the 58 on the Crondall Roll of Honour by means of a bell tolling on each of the anniversaries of death.



Whenever possible a bell is tolled at 11.00 on the anniversary, the number of times rung to reflect the age of the person who is being commemorated. So far we have tolled a bell on 12 occasions, but as we go through the year the number per month increases a lot, including April with 10 anniversaries. We are recognising all those on the Roll of Honour, which breaks down as 47 for WW1, 8 for WW2 and 1 for Brunei '62. The average age is 26 but five were only 19 when they died.

We have a special occasion on the 23rd August as this marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Crondall ringer Sidney Jelley. Sidney was born in Crondall in 1892, the son of Christopher and Edith, and in 1911 the family were living in Pankridge Street, Crondall. His occupation is recorded as gardener. He joined the army on 1st Sept 1914, was wounded in the Somme in 1916 and sent home. He was back in France in March 1917 and was again wounded. In August that year, in a battle at Ypres, he was made King's Corporal and subsequently awarded the Military Medal. In January 1918 he was promoted to Sergeant and was again wounded in March. He was killed in action near Albert on the 23rd August 1918, aged 26. Sergeant Sidney Jelley is buried at Becourt Military Cemetery, Somme, France.

There is an "In Memorium" to him hanging in the ringing room, so please do have a look next time you visit the Crondall tower. Details and other information about this remembrance tolling can be found on the All Saints and St Mary's (Crondall & Ewshot) website: <http://www.assm.org.uk/remembrancebell.htm>

Kevin Fox, Crondall

MY BELLRINGING STORY: PAUL LITTLE, FRENSHAM

Many years ago (in a galaxy far, far away!) I was an angelic little chorister at St. Michael's Church in Aldershot. Not for any reasons of faith, although I was brought up at a C of E school, or of contributing to the Christian community you understand but more because the Scouts didn't pay you anything and being a choirboy meant you could supplement your meagre pocket money by singing at weddings.

I remember us being a happy little band and some of us were drawn from the nearby St. Michaels Junior School and so were consequently good friends as well. One of my friends was a lad called David whose dad, Tom, just happened to be Tower Captain of the bell ringers at St. Michaels. Wind forward half a century and Tom is still there and, remarkably, still ringing peals as he approaches his 90th birthday (Congratulations Tom!). To us boys it all seemed a bit arcane and, frankly, a bit boring standing around in some draughty tower on a Sunday morning pulling on bits of rope that disappeared into the ceiling. So, when the inevitable happened, and the sweet dulcet vocal tones of youth broke into the gravelly raspings of teenage years, only a very few decided to try their hand at bell ringing while most of us (me included) were distracted by the lure of football and girlfriends.

As I got older and began to appreciate more and more the reassuring comfort of bucolic English life and the little traditions that contribute to that – cream teas, cricket on the green, the sound of church bells floating across the fields of a summer's evening – I began to regret the opportunity I had missed in my early life of learning how to ring. I had spoken about this to my wife and, via a connection in the horse world to Harry Glover the Tower Captain, she arranged for a "try-out" at Frensham as a birthday surprise for me. Naturally enough, I dragged her along as well for support and we both really enjoyed the experience, deciding that we wanted more.

We were made hugely welcome and treated very positively even though I'm now aware that many, many people start to learn then fizzle out and drift away. There are many valid reasons why this may happen, but there are many who simply just don't turn up one week and then are never seen again. I want to say that, without exception, all the experienced ringers we have come across have freely donated their time and effort in helping us learn and develop, so I cannot imagine how disappointing and frustrating it must be to invest so much in a learner only to see them disappear....and then to have the patience and drive to start all over again with another batch of learners. I cannot express enough how grateful we are to everyone who has taught us and continues to do so.

As I travel around the UK for business, I have had the opportunity to inflict myself on various towers for practice nights and have even had the extremely scary experience of being able to ring at some prestigious towers such as Durham Cathedral, Beverley Minster, and Romsey Abbey as well as Winchester Cathedral and Guildford Cathedral on district practices. What amazing experiences, and often now I consult Dove as an integral part of creating a business trip to see if there is an opportunity to ring somewhere new while I'm away.

So here we are some 5 years later having found a new and hugely enjoyable hobby and having made some very good friends in the process. Typically, my wife is more proficient at it than I am so there's an instant challenge to keep us going for the future. And, I'm still supplementing my meagre pocket money but by ringing instead of singing at weddings.

Paul Little - Frensham

WHATS HOT: SAFEGUARDING

We all have a moral, and now a legal, responsibility to ensure that children and vulnerable adults who come into our bell towers are protected from abuse, whether that is physical, sexual, emotional or, in the case of adults, financial. Safeguarding is the responsibility of the PCC and every church is required to have appointed a Safeguarding Officer, who should have already been in touch with their Tower Captain to discuss safeguarding issues in your tower. Tower Captains should have safeguarding training, to know what potential dangers to look out for and how to respond if a concern is raised. Your church's Safeguarding Officer might be a good place to start finding out what your tower needs to do to meet your safeguarding responsibilities.

Anyone, at any time, who has a concern that abuse may be occurring, should err on the side of telling someone, rather than keeping their concerns to themselves. A bellringer should talk in confidence to the Tower Captain or, if they do not feel comfortable doing that, to the Safeguarding Officer in their church. Safeguarding Officers are specifically trained to deal with these sensitive issues, and it is more important that concerns are raised, and hopefully sorted out, than that abuse might continue. This not only protects vulnerable children and adults, it also protects someone who has no intention of abusing but who does not realise that their behaviour could be misinterpreted, or that they are putting themselves at risk of being accused of abuse.

Good Safeguarding procedures protect everyone and help to make ringers feel safe and secure so that they want to come and ring. To find out more go to guildfordguild.org.uk/guild/safeguarding or contact the new Guild Safeguarding Officer Quentin Armitage (see back page for contact details)

Julia Douetil

TRAINING: GOOD FOUNDATIONS

The Guild Striking competition in March was an opportunity to catch a few words with Guild Training Officer Mike Bale

Editor: Are there a few basic things towers could do to improve their ringing?

Mike: Spending more time early on bell handling is one thing. I often see new ringers moved onto methods before they have fully mastered technique, so they never really perfect bell handling. Listening would be another thing, really paying attention to the sound of bells, and focussing on the placing of the bell. Coming to events like this (striking competitions) which really make you concentrate on the quality of ringing, not just ringing the method.

Mike went on to say that he had organised the Holy Week training days with this in mind, enabling ringers moving onto methods to make sure they have a strong foundation for good bell control, placing their bell correctly and achieving good ringing. For more information about the holy week training days go to <http://guildfordguild.org.uk/training/course-list>

Julia Douetil

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

TOWER BELLS: PEALS

Farnborough, Hampshire, St Peter
Saturday 3rd February 2018 in 2h 42m

5008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Composed by W J Couperthwaite

1. Beryl R Norris
2. June D Wells
3. Martin J Turner
4. E John Wells
5. Jackie Roberts
6. Stuart A Aitken
7. Vernon B Bedford
8. W John Couperthwaite (C)

Hawley, Hampshire, Holy Trinity
Saturday 10th February 2018 in 2h 57m

5040 Grandsire Triples

Composed by J J Parker (12-part, 7th obs)

1. Jackie Roberts
2. W John Couperthwaite
3. A David Leach
4. Richard A Payne
5. Vernon B Bedford
6. David R Cox
7. Martin J Turner (C)
8. K Roger Tompsett

First peal: 4, 1700th peal: 2

TOWER BELLS: QUARTERS

Frensham, St Mary the Virgin. Monday 8th January 2018

1260 Doubles 240 each Grandsire, St Simon's and St Martin's Doubles, 540 PB Doubles

1. Yvonne Little, 2. Anita A Regin, 3. Harry Glover, 4. John Regin,
5. John G Young (C), 6. Paul Little

Rung by a group of 'regulars' at Frensham Royal British Legion Club in memory of Henry George Jones (father of Mick Jones, Club Steward), b. 18th February 1922, d. 14th December 2017, and Margaret Ann Young (mother of 5th ringer) b. 9th March 1921, d. 7th January 2018.

Aldershot, St Michael Archangel. Friday 12th January 2018

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Helen Le Page, 2. Katherine Brookes (C), 3. Claire Allen, 4. Clare Le Marie,
5. Dudley Elsmore, 6. Holly Rickard

Rung as a welcome to the Reverend Alwyn Pereira who was inducted as Vicar on the 11th of January 2018. Rung by an Aldershot band with help by one ringer from Crondall.

Farnham, St Andrew. Sunday. 28th January 2018

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Jenny M Heyworth, 2. Jackie Roberts, 3. Martin J Turner, 4. John G Young,
5. K Roger Tompsett, 6. Vernon B Bedford, 7. Mark B Place, 8. Jonathan C Hetherington (C)

Rung after Evensong, to celebrate the life of Mrs Margaret Ann Young (9th March 1921 to 7th January 2018), mother of John Young. First QP Surprise Major: 4.

Farnham, St Andrew. Sunday. 4th February 2018

1440 London No.3 Surprise Royal

1. Mark B Place, 2. Steph Clive, 3. Jenny M Heyworth, 4. Mike Pidd (C),
5. Janet E Menhinick, 6. James White, 7. John Couperthwaite, 8. David G Pearson,
9. Martin J Turner, 10. Jack L Edwards

Rung to celebrate the birth of Eilidh Hanna Hetherington

Aldershot, St Michael Archangel. Sunday 4th February 2018

1260 Mixed Doubles Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire

1. Claire Allen, 2. Brenda A Mayle, 3. Katherine Brookes (C), 4. Helen Le Page,
5. Clare Le Marie, 6 Holly Rickard

Rung by an all-female band to mark the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.

Aldershot, St Michael Archangel. Friday 23rd February 2018

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Claire Allen, 2. David Howlett, 3. Katherine Brookes, 4. Clare Le Marie,
5. Mike Le Marie, 6. John Couperthwaite (C)

First in method 1 and 3. Rung as a farewell to 2 leaving us next week for a new job at Cambridge University.

Ash, St Peter, Saturday 10th March 2018

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Emily Moore, 2. Judith Parker, 3. Steph Clive, 4. Darren Woodyer (C),
5. John G Young, 6. Jenny Woodyer

Rung in celebration of the life of Peter Vernon Cranham, 26th June 1947 – 14th January 2018. A Ringer here and formerly at Sunbury on Thames.

Farnham, St Andrew. Sunday 25th March 2018

1282 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal

1. Jenny M Heyworth, 2. Mark B Place, 3. Mike Pidd (C), 4. Vernon B Bedford,
5. Jackie Roberts, 6. Stuart A Aitken, 7. John Couperthwaite, 8. Andrew P Sparling,
9. Nicholas Haggett, 10. Jonathan C Hetherington

Rung for Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday



HANDBELLS: PEALS

Aldershot, Hampshire, 12 Highfield Avenue
Wednesday 10th January 2018 in 2h 18m

5072 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Composed by E Bankes James arr M Pidd

1–2 Martin J Turner

3–4 W John Couperthwaite

5–6 Karen M White

7–8 Mike Pidd (C)

First peal in the method on an inside pair: 5-6, 150th peal on handbells: 3-4, The 100th peal by our handbell group.

Aldershot, Hampshire, 12 Highfield Avenue
Thursday 25th January 2018 in 2h 26m

5232 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Composed by A S Hudson arr A E Holroyd

1–2 Karen M White

3–4 Ian M Redway

5–6 Mike Pidd (C)

7–8 Tom Page

Aldershot, Hampshire 12, Highfield Avenue
Friday 26th January 2018 in 2h 22m

5088 Kent Treble Bob Major

Composed by D F Morrison arr W J
Couperthwaite (No 7502a)

1–2 Martin J Turner

3–4 Ian M Redway

5–6 W John Couperthwaite (C)

7–8 Tom Page

100th peal on handbells: 1-2

Aldershot, Hampshire 12, Highfield Avenue
Friday 2nd February 2018 in 2h 30m

5088 Spliced Treble Bob Major

(2m: 4224 Kent, 864 Oxford; Ilkeston
variation; 54 com at the half lead)

Composed by D F Morrison (No 347)

1–2 Ian M Redway

3–4 Martin J Turner

5–6 W John Couperthwaite (C)

7–8 Tom Page

HANDBELLS: QUARTERS

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Thursday 18th January 2018.

1312 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

1–2 Martin Turner, 3–4 Ian Redway, 5–6 Mike Pidd (C), 7–8 Tom Page

Aldershot, 12, Highfield Avenue. Wednesday 7th February 2018.

1440 Plain Bob Minor Two different extents

1–2 Tom Page, 3–4 Martin Turner, 5–6 John Couperthwaite (C)

A treat for Martin

Farnborough, Mizpah, Trunk Road. Thursday 8th February 2018.

1312 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

1–2 Janet Menhinick, 3–4 John Couperthwaite, 5–6 Mike Pidd (C), 7–8 Ian Redway

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Thursday 15th February 2018.

1344 Little Bob Major

1–2 Karen White, 3–4 Janet Menhinick, 5–6 John Couperthwaite (C), 7–8 Tom Page

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Thursday 8th March 2018.

1296 Little Bob Royal

1–2 Ian Redway, 3–4 Janet Menhinick, 5–6 Mike Pidd (C),

7–8 John Couperthwaite, 9–10 Martin Turner

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Wednesday 14th March 2018.

1320 St Clement's College Bob Minor

1–2 Karen White, 3–4 John Couperthwaite, 5–6 Martin Turner (C)

To welcome Tom Page home again

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Friday 16th March 2018.

1312 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

1–2 Martin Turner, 3–4 John Couperthwaite, 5–6 Mike Pidd (C), 7–8 Tom Page

Welcome back to ringing, Tom

Aldershot, 12 Highfield Avenue. Thursday 22nd March 2018.

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1–2 Ian Redway, 3–4 John Couperthwaite, 5–6 Mike Pidd (C)

GUILD SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

Let's get the good news in straight away – Farnham District took both 1st and 2nd places! Farnborough were deserved winners, with a beautifully rung 120 of Grandsire doubles. Pirbright came second on their first time in a Guild competition with (your reporter admits a slight bias here) some pretty decent call changes.

The full results were:

– 1 st	Farnborough	63 faults	Grandsire Doubles
– 2 nd	Pirbright	121 faults	Call changes
– 3 rd	Ashted	127 faults	Plain Bob Doubles
– 4 th	Old Woking	146 faults	Grandsire Doubles
– 5 th	Newdigate	260 faults	Grandsire Doubles

The competition took place at Chobham St Lawrence and was judged by Alistair Brown and Martin Wilson from Romsey Abbey, who commented that the same few bells caused all the bands repeated faults. The word everyone used to describe the Chobham bells was 'interesting'. Roughly translated, that seemed to mean that the ropes behave themselves and the bells are easy to control but some of the bells are odd struck, so ringers have to be very attentive and work hard to place them accurately.

Julia Douetil



Farnborough Band

1. Helen Prescott
2. Beryl Norris
3. Martin Turner
4. John Couperthwaite
5. Vernon Bedford
6. Bruce Forsyth

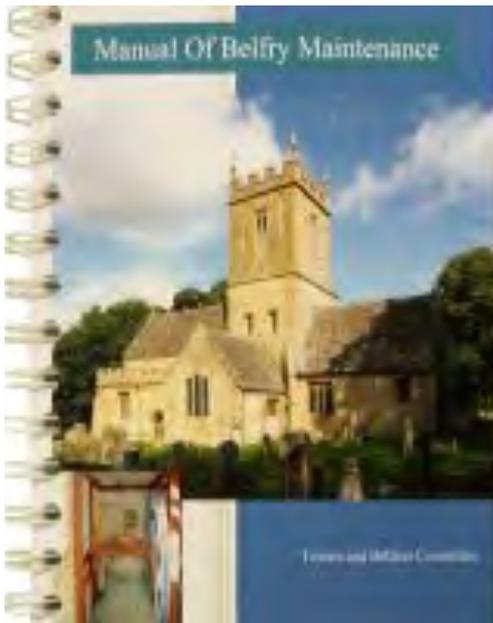


Pirbright Band

1. Julia Douetil
2. Helen Whitworth
3. Ian Allard
4. Richard Hyde
5. Chris Hill
6. James Bamford

Kneeling Sian Rowe timekeeper

BOOK REVIEW



Manual of Belfry Maintenance

Available to order from the Central Council Shop at ccabr.org.uk Price £12.00

Published in 2017 this book is a must for every tower library and as a reference source for steeple keepers or indeed towers considering an overhaul of their bells. The book contains 126 pages, with lots of drawings and colour photographs covering a wide range of topics over 24 chapters ranging from faculty requirements to frame maintenance to repairing stays and rope maintenance.

I found this book easy to read and understand and consider it to be very good value for money.

Mike Le Marie (Aldershot)

TOWER MAINTENANCE

What should you be checking in your tower this summer?

- Visually check all stays for cracks or signs of stress,
- Check all sliders for free movement and any signs of wear; ensure stops are in place and securely fixed.
- Check clappers for excessive sideways and vertical movement. If stiff or movement seems excessive, seek professional advice.
- Check all ropes and note signs of wear.
- Check all frames, tighten nuts and bolts
- Check window mesh to ensure bird proof.
- Clean and vacuum (if possible) throughout the bell chamber
- If safe to do so check the parapet is clear of leaves, bird nests etc,
- Check safety lighting works in case of power cut
- Clean and tidy the ringing chamber

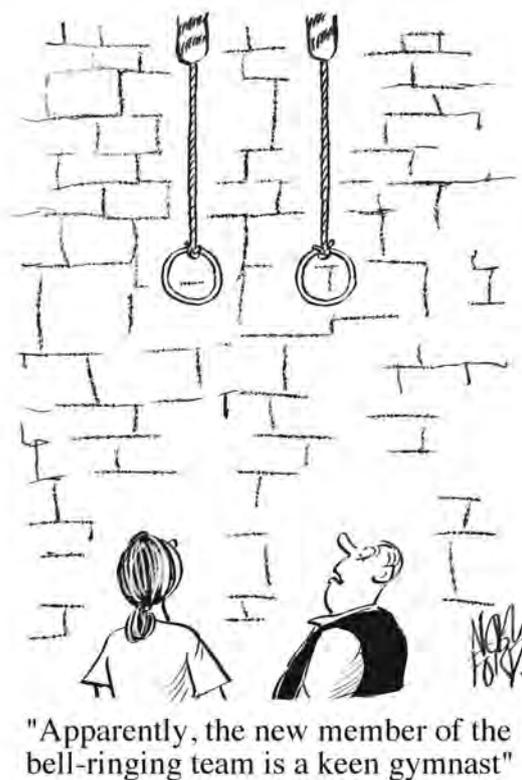


"Doctor, doctor, I need psychiatric help! I keep thinking I'm a bell!"
"Take two aspirin and if you're not better in the morning give me a ring."

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE BELL TOWER

Rules of The Ringing Chamber

1. The Tower Captain Always Makes the Rules.
 - a. The rules are subject to change at any time without notice.
 - b. No bellringer can possibly know all the rules. Nearly all Tower Captains are born with this knowledge.
 - c. If the Tower Captain suspects the bellringers of knowing any of the rules, he may change any, or all, of the rules
2. The Tower Captain Is Never Wrong.
 - a. If the Tower Captain is wrong, it is because of a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the bellringers did wrong.
 - b. If rule 2a applies, the bellringers must apologise immediately for causing the misunderstanding.
3. The Tower Captain Can Change Their Mind at Any Given Point in Time.
 - a. The bellringers must never change their minds without express written consent from the Tower Captain.
4. The Tower Captain Has Every Right to Be Angry or Upset At Any Time.
 - a. The bellringers must be calm at all times unless the Tower Captain wants them to be angry or upset.
 - b. The Tower Captain must under no circumstances let the bellringers know if he wants them to be angry or upset.
5. Any attempt by the Bellringers To Change Any of These Rules Could Result In Ringing Properly



BELLRINGERS' DICTIONARY

Clashaclysm – what follows the moment after all the bells have held up for the Treble

Armpit call – inaudible call made as the conductor simultaneously looks to a bell at their side whilst the reaching up to the back stroke

Mufflong – the sound that tells you a muffle is slipping

Nanosecond – the time between the conductor calling 'Go Again' and the method falling apart

Praiseaclysm – the phenomenon that whenever the Tower Captain praises the ringing, the next lot of ringing falls apart.

WHO'S WHO IN THE FARNHAM DISTRICT 2018

District Officers

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