

# Bell-notes

The quarterly newsletter for The Chertsey District  
Issue 38: May 2021



GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

President: THE BISHOP OF GUILDFORD



## *Chertsey District remembers HRH, Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh.*

### *A Message from the Master, -*

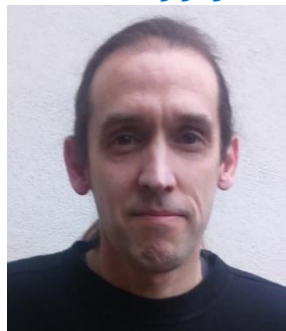
*Like many of you no doubt, at the moment I'm looking forward to a time when we can do something like normal ringing again. It's hopefully just round the corner. Assuming there are no changes to the government roadmap, from 17th May ringing will be permitted again, albeit with social distancing and Covid testing required. (The Central Council's guidance on ringing restrictions can be found at <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>, and the Guild Master emails updates to [chertsey-districtringers@googlegroups.com](mailto:chertsey-districtringers@googlegroups.com) when this changes.) It's still unclear as to how long it will be before we can hold a normal practice on 6 or 8 bells, but pretty soon we'll be closer to it than we've been for a year.*

*One good thing is that, for most of us, the basics of ringing should come straight back, just like riding a bike, even if it might take a while for our muscles - and our recall of methods - to get back to how they were in March 2020.*

*On the other hand, some of our newest recruits are in the unusual position of being better acquainted with ringing theory via Ringing Room than they are at putting it into practice in the tower. I wish them every success when they get a good crack at doing just that - handling a bell can be frustrating and perhaps a little bit scary in the early stages, but with practice it becomes a matter-of-course and even physically rewarding.*

*However the situation progresses in the next few months, do stay safe and - whenever you make it back into the tower - happy ringing!*

*Best wishes, Richard*



## *Short touches from the towers.*

### *Ottershaw*

Three real ringing events and lots of virtual events this quarter.

In common with other towers, we rang to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown by chiming the 5<sup>th</sup> before noon in memory of those lost, pausing for the clock chimes and the noon bell and then chiming the treble to signify hope for the future.

We also rang a calling bell for the in-person Easter Sunday morning service and tolled for Prince Phillip's passing.

Our Wednesday virtual practices have continued with a degree of success although not all the band can attend. Ringing Room's separation of theory from the physicality of ringing is, we find, a considerable help during learning – and in refreshing skills jaded by the lack of ringing in lock-down.

A great new development is that Nick has decided to add bell ringing tuition to his skills and is using our band, on a different evening, as his class of tutees. That too is going well (ART online material is a great help) and it catches members of the band not able to attend on Wednesdays. We are thus getting two practices per week, one probably better structured and certainly longer than the other! Having successfully completed his studies in Manchester (well done!) Nick is expecting his first assignment as a qualified doctor to be at Frimley, so we are looking forward to his return in time to help open up the tower (A&E shift patterns allowing or perhaps we change the practice night since Wednesdays are pretty crowded in the District). We aim to not give him any extra 'out of department' A&E experience! I have suggested that he recommends bell ringing as a recuperative therapy to as many patients as possible to aid recruitment – I'm not sure that was taken seriously but at least the seed was planted.



### **Peter Binns**

*With apologies and thanks to BBC1's Pointless, the quiz is asking you to find a three letter first name with a clue that relates to an everyday object with the same word. Can you make the link? Answers p 16 Ed.*

**1) The fifth month of the year**

### **Hersham –**

**2) An evergreen plant with dark green leaves typically associated with Christmas**

## Chertsey

Sadly there is little to report due to the cessation of ringing in December due to the Covid -19 restrictions apart from continuing to ring a Curfew Bell at 8.00pm on weekday evenings until Lady Day, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century Abbey Bell was tolled 365 blows, half muffled, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 on the National Day of Reflection at 12.01pm after the National 1 minute of silence to mark the anniversary of the year since the start of lock-down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the bell was tolled 99 blows on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to mark the death of the Duke of Edinburgh the previous day. The flag was flown half-mast from his death until his funeral. The bell was also tolled by Bob Hudson, half muffled before and after a local parishioner's funeral on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

A few of the ringers continue to meet every Wednesday evening via Zoom and also rang bells on-line via the *Ringin' Room* app.

An on-line Powerpoint talk on '*Bell Maintenance*' was presented by Malcolm Loveday on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to District Member encouraging people to hold their own tower '*Spanner Days*'. The talk was attended by approximately 30 people.



We look forward to physically ringing the bells again after restrictions are lifted in mid May.

### **Malcolm Loveday**

#### **3) Scottish word for a high mountain or mountain peak**

## Chobham

We are continuing with our Zoom calls on a Monday evening when we try to ring various methods on ringing room, under Stuart's direction.

We are tolling the treble for five minutes before the Sunday morning service and ringing the Sanctus during the communion service.



Some of us attended the Guild AGM on Zoom and Chris attended the Zoom training day on bell maintenance given by Malcolm, which he found very informative.

Chris rang the tenor half muffled 99 times when Prince Phillip died and also 99 times before his funeral service on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Chris Hill**

#### **4) Make a quick, short movement up and down**

## *Esher*

Christmas came and went with just a service bell and then nothing – no church, no bells just a visit to the computer BUT along comes Easter and once again we were allowed to ring. Safety Form to fill in – funny the same things apply as last time BUT it all needs to be redone -masks to be worn (walking up and down 56 stairs is quite a challenge – thank goodness we have a rope and bannister to hold onto), windows open (very cold and draughty) 2 metres apart – four bells only (we look like two opposing armies)! Not to mention our very rusty skills which are improving with use.

The biggest excitement (as my mother always said “every cloud has a silver lining”) was tolling the bell for HRH Prince Philip. 99 times on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April to inform the Parish and another 99 times on the Saturday – stiff hands/ arms plus a sore back for one person – but everyone took turns to toll the bell (7) on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April with varying degrees of success but when not “tolling” we could catch up on the shouted gossip in the very cold and draughty ringing chamber before rushing home to watch the service.

We were also very organised by the rain for weeks so tightening could be “proper” ringing



fortunate to have qualified for a Bell Inspection Scheme Surrey Association. It came at just the right moment - no the wooden frame was dry and anything that needed done – now to wait for the full report and Hopefully soon.

## *Jennifer Meade*

### *5. a straight line in which radiation or light travels to a given point*

## *Ockham*

Note much has happened at All Saints since I last wrote in February. We are hopefully planning a bit of a refurb in the ringing room with ceiling re-plastered where needed and some fresh new paint to the walls, and a general tidy up. We hope also to provide some new seat cushions to the benches. Just waiting on a time for the parish to organise for us.

We did Toll open on the Friday of HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh's Death and again Half muffled Tolling on his funeral date but we omitted the first Saturday of the 8 days of Mourning.

## *John Young*

### *6. A degree of advanced proficiency in judo or karate*



## *Old Woking*

Unsurprisingly, it's been a relatively quiet few months at Old Woking. The band gathered together via Zoom in early February for our Annual General Meeting - it was good to see everyone, although the port and snacks which we'd normally consume were certainly missed! There's been a small amount of ringing activity - Rachel, Eliot and Isaac rang three bells for Easter Day and also tolled for the national day of remembrance. As well as that, Rachel vacuumed up a hundredweight of dead flies from the ringing room - we're very concerned as to what the clock chamber and bell chamber will be like on that front!

In non-ringing news, Isaac won the belated 2020 Woking Young Musicians Trust award and is looking forward to spending his winnings on a vibraphone.



The parish are considering what the regular pattern of services will be as things return to some kind of normal so we're hopeful of getting some Sunday morning ringing again soon.

### ***Doug Stoneham***

*7. A rope or line fixed to the ground to secure a tent or other structure.*

## *Oatlands*

The Oatlands bells were silent throughout the month of February. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the National Day of Reflection after one year since the first Covid lockdown, we rang a single bell after the minute's silence at noon.

The Vicar asked for bells on Easter Sunday when there was to be a congregation in the church for the first time this year. We made a risk assessment, decided it could be done safely and rang, though with only two bells.

We celebrated the life of the Duke of Edinburgh with 99 whole pulls on the half-muffled tenor at midday on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April, a few more of the same on Sunday before a period of reflection in the church and again on the day of the funeral.

The progress of our newest ringer, Rachel, was interrupted by Covid a year ago when she was at the early stages of learning to handle a bell. Recently she has joined Ringing Room practices at East Molesey and Oatlands and has shown what a benefit this can be.

### ***John Burnett***

*8. A feeling of great pleasure or happiness*

## *Horsell*

The Reverend Dmitry Lutsenko has been appointed as the new Vicar of Horsell. His curacy was undertaken at St Mary, Walsgrave, Coventry, which has a 6-bell tower. However, discreet enquiries revealed that he is not a bell ringer.

His Licensing and Installation Service were conducted by the Rt. Rev. Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. Both induction and first Communion were by Zoom. Sadly, the normal custom of ringing a Welcoming Quarter Peal, was not possible, as the church remained closed.

The Tower AGM took place, by Zoom, on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, when all Agenda items were approved.

Avril, Helen, Denise and Pamela took part in a practise session on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March with the CCCBR Virtual Ringing Room and again plus Alan, on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the CCCBR, in conjunction with the Marie Curie Cancer Trust, asked Towers to ring bells from 12:01, after a minute's silence, to commemorate one year since the first lockdown and the lives lost. Our Tenor, half-muffled, was rung for 12 minutes, one for each month.

The church reopened for services on Easter Day, when Alan rang each bell up and down (as part of a routine check), including 10 strokes of the Tenor, to mark the hour of the service.

### **9<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh died.**

10<sup>th</sup> April, from 12.00 noon, the Tenor was rung, 99 times, half-muffled, in tribute to mark each year of Prince Philip's life, as recommended by the CCCBR.

Later, that day, Alan took part in the Bell Maintenance Webinar, hosted by John Young.

17<sup>th</sup> April, the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, took place in Windsor Castle, at 15.00 and as a mark of respect, the Tenor, half-muffled, was rung from 14:45 until 15:00, when a National Minute's Silence, was observed. On the last day of public mourning the muffle was removed.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> April, normal (Covid) single bell Sunday ringing, resumed.

## ***Alan Nichols and Avril Blagbrough***

### ***9.A small round mark or spot***

#### ***A note from Nigel Smith – recovery champion. [guildford.guild.recovery@gmail.com](mailto:guildford.guild.recovery@gmail.com)***

As part of the Guildford Guild Survival and Recovery strategy we have asked each tower in the Guild to take part in a Survival and Recovery survey. Many other guilds and associations across the country are doing likewise. The survey will identify tower activity since March 2020, concerns about the return to ringing and likely support required. The resulting information is important as it will allow the Guild to plan any actions necessary based on actual data. We will shortly be setting up a group with representation from each of the Districts to progress this.' Each tower correspondent should have had an email about this.

## *Weybridge*

Since my last contribution there has been a small amount of action in the tower.

After the sad news of HRH Prince Philip's passing, Pete tolled our tenor 99 times whilst I kept count.

On the day of the funeral I half muffled the 6 and tolled for 15 minutes beforehand. My husband, a lapsed ringer, accompanied me for 'health and safety' reasons.

Last summer, during a belfry inspection, we noticed a crack in the timber bell pad on the treble. Due to the current situation we haven't been able to resolve the issue but are hoping to remedy that soon. Taylor's have advised an inspection and replacement pad but feel it is safe to ring in the short term which is great because we have three weddings and a peal booked in this year so we hope to be back in business soon.



***Linda Strange***

## *10. One's range of knowledge or sight*

### *Send*

We have been unable to ring our bells since February 2020, not just due to Covid but because our church tower is having extensive work completed on it. Due to the nature of the work we haven't even been able to toll our tenor bell for certain occasions including the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh. Work is near completion and we hope we will be able to ring the bells again after this and when Covid restrictions allow?

***Rachel Wilkinson***

## *11 Put on an item of clothing*

### *Thames Ditton*

There is very little to report from Thames Ditton. Giles rang the Tenor on Easter morning for the 10.00 service, but that's all since the last report. He tolled the Tenor half-muffled, on the Saturday for the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral.

***Pamela Rider***

## *12. Take property unlawfully from a person or place*



## *East Molesey*

Live services in Covid regulated format started here again on 14<sup>th</sup> March so we have been ringing for them and for the Easter services. The rules mean we can only ring 2 bells, 3 if Tim and Jo are ringing. Rather a sad little sound but it keeps our hand in and the congregation and vicar are very appreciative. We also tolled for the Day of Reflection on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and for The Duke of Edinburgh at noon on 10<sup>th</sup> April and before his funeral on 17<sup>th</sup> April – the latter tolling 4 different bells, half-muffled, separately and in turns

Our AGM falls on the Tuesday of Holy Week and normally we go for a curry with partners and friends. Sadly this year it was virtual and curry-less We got through the business quickly and then retired to our usual Ringing Room practice. These are well attended and mostly enjoyable except when the techie gremlins get the better of us. I've been amazed at how quickly relatively inexperienced ringers, some of whom have never touched a rope, get to grips with the system, learn to count and learn methods. I think, once we're back to normal ringing, RR will continue to be a useful and indispensable teaching tool for all sorts of reasons – not least that one can concentrate on rhythm, counting and places without worrying about bell control.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoon sessions are also well attended though sadly without the pre-ring pub lunch. Now that Wheatley is available in RR some of us have been able to hone our method ringing in the sure knowledge that when it goes pear-shaped it's us not Wheatley – that is once we've remembered that he can't hear and we have to press keys to “go”, “bob”, “single”, “that's all” etc.

We represented the District at the Guild's virtual 6 bell striking competition at Richard's request. Probably the less said about this the better as nerves and techie problems caused us to ring far worse than we had in practice. Still it was an interesting experience – hopefully not to be repeated virtually – in reality who knows what the future holds ?



Lockdown hasn't been entirely negative as I've taken the opportunity to complete the online safeguarding courses recommended for tower captains – Basic Awareness and Foundations Courses. This is something I should have done before but there was always an excuse to put it off Now that lockdown is easing I'm looking forward to going to the library and also offloading our big collection of e-bay purchased jigsaws onto the charity shops. Maybe also going to the hairdressers – or maybe not as I've hacked my own hair for the last year and the results haven't frightened friends and neighbours !

## *Jane Marsters*

### *13.A river that rises in North Wales and flows into England past Chester*

## *Walton-on-Thames*

St Mary's Walton-on-Thames, has been a positive hive of activity lately.

Not having entered the tower for any real purpose for a year, we were suddenly up and down the stairs like squirrels. Sadly not to really ring but for David Miseldine to toll the tenor for 99 strokes, then 3x3 for the passing of HRH Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh

He had no sooner left the tower than the vicar rang asking for the flag to be flown at half mast for a week. John Burnett, Sally Eckes (Parish Office) and I collected the flag and went on to the top of the tower. It was a very high wind that day which was super in terms of flying the flag but a bit of a struggle to stop it ending up in Shepperton. This was compounded by the fact that the cleat on the flag pole was in a precarious state with the top screw on the north side not holding at all but we made it safe for the time being by using



the cleat on the south. The following week, I chimed the No 3 bell at 30 second intervals for 30 minutes prior to the funeral in Windsor; then at dusk, John and I took down the flag. At which point [not to sound too much like Gerard Hoffnung and the bricklayer] we discovered that two of the retaining cleats in the tower stonework were barely attached.



I then left John to it and he nobly climbed the tower three more times the next weekend. To put up St George's flag, to exchange it for the ANZAC flag and to put the whole back to bed on the Monday. The next person up will have to be a workman to secure the cleats properly but we will not be up there with him and the dust will resettle.

## *Hilary Brooks*

### *14. Commence legal proceedings against a person or institute typically for redress*

## *Egham*

David Stone tolled the tenor on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April, the day after Prince Philip's death, and again on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April, the day of the funeral.

The news from Egham is that two tower inspections have identified a range of works that need to be done on the bells, including most urgently on the frame of the third, and quarter turning of other bells. Discussions have been initiated with the church to plan a way forward. Thanks very much to Malcolm Loveday for his guidance.

**Willy Burgess** [eghamten@gmail.com](mailto:eghamten@gmail.com)

### *15. Touch quickly or gently with the flat of the hand*

## The ruins on the front cover are of Newark Priory, Ripley -

Newark Priory stands on an island surrounded by the River Wey and the former abbey stream, between Ripley and Pyrford, Surrey. It was run by the Canons Regular of St Augustine and the register of Bishop Woodlock (1312) states that the priory was first founded by a Bishop of Winchester. The construction is Flint rubble with lime mortar.

The Priory was granted substantial lands "to the canons there serving God" in the late 12th Century by Rauld de Calva and his wife Beatrice de Sandes "to build a church while Richard I reigned" (1189–99). The Early English Gothic architecture substantiates that date. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Saint Thomas Becket ("Thomas the Martyr") and originally, the land where the church was built was called Aldbury. The name gradually changed through Newstead or the New Place (*novo loco*) to Newark.

The taxation roll of 1291 shows that the priory held tenements or rents in ten London parishes, producing an income of £5 16s 3d; in the Diocese of Rochester where £1 6s was produced annually; and from the Diocese of Winchester an income of £27 10s 3½d.

Henry VIII dissolved the priory in 1538. The prior was pensioned off, all valuables sent to the Tower of London and the land given to the Master of the King's Horse. It has been said that a cannon was employed from the top of Church Hill to bombard or demolish what were the then extensive buildings. In 1963 Tessa Kewen made a painting of this scene and it is currently held by St Nicholas, Pyrford. The last known prior of Newark Priory was Richard Lipscombe, appointed just before the surrender of the establishment and lands in 1538. The building, falling into ruin, was said to have been further destroyed by locals using the stones for road mending until Lord Onslow, the owner in the 1730s, decided to preserve what remained.

Newark Priory still exists as ruins today and is a scheduled monument and a Grade I listed building and is on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at risk. It is located upon private land so is unable to be reached at closer proximity than the Wey path by Newark Lock and Newark Mill.

A dawn service is held in the ruins, each year on Easter Day at 6am. The service is run by churches from the surrounding towns including Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford and Ripley.

Excavations in 1928 revealed a C13 Cruciform Church with cloister, kitchens and farm buildings. The gatehouse and tower/steeple were separate. All that remains are - the south transept of the Priory church to its full height but unroofed - the south wall of the passage to the farm buildings, the north and south walls of Presbytery and choir - to full height - and part of the north chapel. The south transept gable end contains one lancet window opening, 3 window openings to east and west walls and the south walls of Presbytery and choir have 5 window openings, 3 windows on north wall.

Scheduled Ancient Monument: Surrey Antiquity No. 18.

## *Chertsey District contacts -as elected in January 2021*

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<b>Bookstall:</b> under review	

Quiz answers; 1 May: 2 Ivy: 3 Ben: 4 Bob: 5 Ray: 6 Dan: 7 Guy: 8 Joy: 9 Dot: 10 Ken: 11 Don: 12 Rob: 13 Dee: 14 Sue: 15 Pat:

*Thank you contributors, it doesn't get easier I know. Next copy deadline date is 27<sup>th</sup> July; Ed*

## *Dates for the diary -*

Chertsey District meeting: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 10:30 am -12:30 pm

### A General District Practice in Ringing Room – by ZOOM

As usual, the meeting is for all levels – from complete beginners to established ringers. Complete beginners will be helped to get started, and to join the ringing.

To join the meeting, use the ZOOM Meeting link set up for the 'Chertsey District General Practice in Ringing Room, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm': To obtain the link call Willy on landline 01784 439583, or mob 07864 397208, or email [eghamten@gmail.com](mailto:eghamten@gmail.com), OR call John Young on 07814 554627 in advance of the day.

We look forward to seeing as many from across the District as want to attend.

**Willy Burgess**

District Secretary