

# Bell-notes

The quarterly newsletter for The Chertsey District  
Issue 48 November 2024



St Peter's, Old Woking

Drawn by Michael Bryant, reproduced with thanks.



GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

President: THE BISHOP OF GUILDFORD

## *BELL NOTES ISSUE 48 November 2024*

### *Message from the Editor, -*

Welcome to Bell Notes 48 and thanks, as ever, to all those who have contributed to this issue. Once again, our contributors have shown that ringing in Chertsey District is alive, well and thriving. I hope you all enjoy this issue.

*Peter Binns*

### *From the District Ringing Master, Rachel Johnson*

I sometimes grumble about how long it takes to get from one end of the district to the other but the half hour or so to get to Thames Ditton pales into insignificance compared to the Diocese of St David's, where I went on holiday, and where there are just 17 ringable towers in an area of 2266 square miles! It's a good reminder to me to enjoy having so many towers close at hand offering such a rich variety of opportunities. It was wonderful to see so many district members taking the opportunity to improve their Grandsire skills at our September training session and enjoying a very pleasant day out on our district outing - ably organised by John Young. Some of you will have seen that John is stepping down after 25 years (that's about 73,000 peals!) as district treasurer. We will thank John properly for his many years of stalwart service at the ADM in January but in the meantime please be thinking and asking around for a replacement. District treasurer is a crucial role because they act as membership secretary, so you don't need to be a whizz with accounts but you do need to be somewhat organised and persistent with chasing up late subs!

Back to ringing matters, I have been pleased to see how many newer ringers are progressing from call changes to plain hunt. This is a big step that calls for new handling skills, so to help with this we are going to have a focus next year on teaching and practising these handling skills within our district practices. But there's no time like the present so we are going to start with a session on 23rd November, 10am at Weybridge. This is for you if you're nearly ready to move on from call changes, if you've recently started plain hunt or even if you've been plain hunting for a while but you're finding it a struggle. Tower captains might also find this a useful session for picking up ideas for handling exercises that they can take back to their own towers. Meanwhile, if you're a step further on in your ringing, there's nothing like a quarter peal for really helping a new method to stick, so we are going to attempt a monthly district quarter peal starting in January. If this is something that would benefit you or a member of your tower, please get in touch!

## *Out and About*

A reminder to all readers \_ The Annual Nomination Meeting is to be held at St Mary the Virgin Horsell on Saturday 9 November. Names for tea to Alan Nichols as soon as possible please. NOTE Alan's email is currently non-functional so please text your name and tower to him on 07791 491 395 with a backup email to John Young

Another reminder! In addition to 'home tower' ringing and practice night visiting the District has a full schedule of specialist ringing sessions to which you are welcome.

The Outing on October 5<sup>th</sup> October - 20+ Chertsey district members and friends enjoyed a wonderful day out in the Sussex/Hampshire borders, with beautiful weather and some lovely bells. We rang everything from rounds to Surprise, with everyone getting valuable practice on unfamiliar bells and enjoying getting to know each other better over lunch.

Huge thanks to John Young for organising such a great day!

And as always, the regular opportunities -

The monthly 10 bell practices at Egham (first Thursday but check first)

Monthly 8 and 6 bell and daytime practices and training and general practices and striking competitions (see the annual programme accompanying this issue of Bell Notes for details of where and when as it varies from year to year).

### **Vacancies**

After 25 years John Young is stepping down as Treasurer and so District is looking for a replacement – The Annual Nomination Meeting on 9 November at St Mary the Virgin Horsell will be an excellent opportunity for YOU to make your interest known (If by any mischance you cannot attend then please let our Master know of that interest).

A description of the activities/responsibility of the treasurer's role is appended at the end of this issue.

## *Short and not-so-short touches from the towers.*

*Chertsey - St Peter, 20cwt 8, Wednesday, KT16 8AS*

**General.** Our select group of active ringers manage to maintain ringing the bells for Sunday mornings and most Wednesday practice nights although a couple of nights we met short and either de-camped to ring at Ottershaw or went home early after winding the clock and ringing the Curfew. We were also please to welcome some of the Ottershaw ringers at Chertsey on a Wednesday evening when they too met short.

We are teaching a new beginner, Pollyanna, who, after 4 sessions on the end of a rope, is progressing remarkable well, and almost able to handle a bell under supervision. It really helps having a 'Dumb Bell' for training new ringers.

During August our Vicar announced that he would be retiring at the end of October and we were pleased that the ringers were invited to submit a contribution to the 'Parish Profile' to help recruit a new Priest in Charge.

**Stepsgates School Harvest** On Tuesday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, there were over 300 people in church, with 200 children walking in crocodiles 550m from the school to the church listening to the six bells, being rung by Amanda Doyle & Paul Thurtle ( Weybridge) together with four Chertsey Ringers. Our efforts were greatly appreciated by all the children, staff & parents.

**District Outing** Five tower members thoroughly enjoyed the District outing , feeling at home on the ground floor rings in Hampshire and West Sussex. Thank you John, for organising enjoyable outings over the last few years.

**National Heritage Open Days 2024:**

We opened the Tower to allow visitors to see the carillon, clock & bells on Saturday 7th September 2024, from 10.00am -12.00 noon and 12.45 - 4.00pm, with open bell ringing from 12.00 – 12.45 pm. About 70 people ascended the tower or watched us ringing. Two of the Guild display posters were put to good use.

In addition, an illustrated talk was given by Malcolm Loveday about 'A History of St Peter's Church, Chertsey', in the church on the Friday evening, 6th September 2024 at 7.30pm, with a musical interlude played by Wendy Malseed, one of our ringers.

The tower funds benefited by approximately £200 over the weekend.

In addition the following Quarter peal was rung:

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024. **1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

Rung at St Peter's Church, Chertsey [tenor 12½cwt] 45 minutes

1. Peter Whisker (*Chertsey*) 2. Rachel Johnson (*Old Woking*) 3. Ruth Blackwell (*Egham*) 4. Eliot Johnson (*Old Woking*) 5. Malcolm S Loveday (*Chertsey*) 6. Richard A Pearce (*Old Woking*) [C]

Rung to mark the National Heritage Open Days



*l-r : front row : Treble-Peter Whisker,  
2- Rachel Johnson, 3-Ruth Blackwell;  
back row : 4 Eliot Johnson, 5 Malcolm S Loveday  
6 Richard A Pearce.*

*Guild Posters at back of Church*

***Malcolm Loveday, Tower Captain***

***Chobham - St Lawrence, 9cwt 8, Monday, GU24 8AA***

***Helen Scrivener***

***East Molesey - St Mary the Virgin, 10cwt 8, Tuesday, KT8 0ST***

We hosted the Grandsire training morning on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September which proved very successful. Some remarks overheard afterwards:- “Best training course I've been on”, “good balance of theory and practice”, “great helpers, supportive but unobtrusive”. So thank you Rachel for leading it and everyone who came as students or helpers. We evn had people coming over from the market in the car park to say how much they'd enjoyed hearing the bells.

I had a significant birthday early October which my lovely band helped me celebrate with cakes, fizz, flowers, candles and lunch at Jo and Tim's. My thanks to them all and to John Young too who organised a cake at The Blue Anchor, Liphook, on the day of our outing on 5<sup>th</sup> October. It was good of John to arrange all ground floor rings so that Tony had no stairs to worry about. A very enjoyable day – slightly dampened since by receiving a parking fine from The Blue Anchor car park having failed to register my car at the bar.

On the ringing front our practices continue to be well attended. We sometimes manage Grandsire Triples, plain hunt on 8, Bob Minor, St Clements. We excelled ourselves a few Sundays ago by ringing Stedman Doubles before the service - a big advance on our usual rounds and call

changes, plain hunt or Grandsire Doubles if we're lucky. Some of us are also having a go at Surrey Association's Autumn calling challenge. It's to encourage anyone no matter how experienced or not to try calling something they've not done before – even if it's just “Stand !” after ringing rounds. We're practising our whole pull plain hunt and whole pull and stand to be ready for Remembrance Sunday when the bells will be half-muffled and sound so good. We might even try Orpheus – though as we only do this when the bells are half muffled we don't get enough practice and so far our attempts have been unsuccessful. One of these years maybe !

*Jane Marsters*

*Egham - St John the Baptist, 17cwt 10, Thursday, TW20 9HL*

*Esher - Christ Church, 7cwt 8, Wednesday, KT10 8QS*

*Ann Battensby Tower Captain*

*Hersham - St Peter, 8cwt 8, Tuesday, KT12 4AA*

Sunday ringing: 10.00 to 10.30am but 9.30 to 10.00 on Remembrance Sunday.

We welcome Cathy Hazel back to ringing after her hip replacement. We are still not able to run a practice night. Both our learners have dropped out for different reasons. During the summer missing and broken shingles on the tower were replaced as shown in these photos



*David Mealar*

## *Horsell - St Mary the Virgin, 11cwt 6, Tuesday (check first), GU21 4QQ*

The summer school holiday period was quite challenging but we were able to field a team every Sunday but one, with an average of 6 ringers. On Sunday 18 August the rope for No 5 bell parted company at the point where it rubbed against the guides at the top of the backstroke. There was no collateral damage and John Young was contacted for his support in fitting a replacement and examining the rest of the ropes. Practice nights were cancelled pending repairs.

On Saturday the church and tower were open s part of the National Heritage Weekend;60+ visitors ascended to take advantage of the views and had the opportunity to see our 6 bells and learn something about the history of bells and the occasions upon which they are rung, within the UK and beyond our shores.

On Thursday 26 September the clock and ringing mechanism was finally reassembled and it is hoped that there will be no more problems. The chiming mechanism was reconnected to the Tenor; shortly afterwards two families who had moved into the houses opposite complained about being disturbed by the hourly striking during the night. It should be noted that there had been no complaints beforehand; the previous residents being used to it. I and one of the Church Wardens e5plained the situation and it was suggested that they would get used to the chiming. However our 'sound control' has been left in action, apart from Sundays and other events, and there have been no further complaints; it is hoped that we may be able to dispense with this intervention sometime next year once the waters have been tested.

Finally I am glad to say that the new rope for No. 5 has now been fitted, with John Young's invaluable help, just in time for the ANM.

### *Alan Nichols - Tower Captain*

*Have any other towers suffered this kind of complaint recently and if so what action was taken? Ottershaw has suppressed overnight chiming for some years. Ed.*

## *Oatlands - St Mary, 12cwt 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, KT13 9TS*

August was a quiet month with people away on holidays but we were back in action in September. It became our turn to host the District 8-bell practices on the second Wednesday of the month and these have been well attended.

On the last Sunday in September we were ringing on seven bells, never an ideal number, when someone new appeared in the ringing chamber. It was the Bishop of Dorking, at St Mary Oatlands for a confirmation service. When questioned, he admitted to being a ringer and joined us for some welcome ringing on all eight bells.

## *John Burnett*

## *Ockham (+Send)- All Saints, 7cwt 6, Thursday, GU23 6NL*

Back in May we joined forces with Send and had a first practice there on a Thursday instead of at Ockham. This has led to the first new ringer Julian, learning to ring for the eventual Send band. These practices have since continued monthly usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. Notice being issued when this has had to change.

Last week three more new potential enthusiasts turned out locally from the Send area with a keen interest to learn to ring. We hope they progress which would double the current numbers for Send.

Last week we also rang for the licensing of Louise, the new interim Priest in Charge. Bishop Paul who was presiding, had time to join us to ring prior to the service, a grab for him!

Back at Ockham in June we rang a quarter for the 80th anniversary for D-Day of plain Bob Minor with a local practice band. We also entered the striking competition coming second in the call change event. For Liz this was her first experience and also at a new tower.

We also had a wonderful evening celebrating Tony Bishop's 86th birthday in Clare's Meadow.

The summer has unfortunately had some issues with our regular visitors. Jen, Tony, Jane and Pam have all not been able to join us from time to time due to different circumstances.

We thus have not been able to ring further quarters, this however has given plenty of practice time for our new learners.

It was a joy to visit the Cathedral on the occasion of the annual priesting for Rachel Johnson and listen to the lovely 12 prior to the service.

## *John Young - Tower Captain*

### *Old Woking - St Peter, 17cwt 8, Wednesday, GU22 8GF*

It's been a relatively quiet spell at Old Woking over the last three months. At around the time the last newsletter was published we rang a quarter of eight-spliced to mark the start of our Rector Jonathan's sabbatical - we wish him well with it.

We managed to keep ringing for most of the holiday period and band members have continued to make progress - Jenny M and Talia are ringing Treble Bob Hunt and Christine is learning Bob Doubles. Richard is also teaching two new learners who will hopefully join us on practice nights before long. We did have one unfortunate incident though when the stay on the treble broke, leading to the first aid kit being required - we were surprised to discover it contained a tube of Savlon that was older than two of the band!

Away from the tower, Rachel and Eliot had a surprising coincidence while on holiday - while ringing in St Florence in deepest Pembrokeshire they encountered someone who'd come along for their very first lesson, who until a few years ago lived right next to the church in Old Woking! The practice night was followed by a very pleasant catch up over a glass of wine. It's a small world as they say!

### *Doug Stoneham - Tower Secretary*

### *Ottershaw-Christ Church, 16cwt 6, Wednesday, 8pm-9pm KT16 OPB*

Looking back over the last three months I am struck by the number of times that we did not ring, either for practice or service, rather than by the number of times we did! Sadly, we hit a period of absences, each very reasonable, but together hitting our ability to practice and improve. With all the various commitments, not to mention illnesses, to which we are prone it's not surprising that sometimes they all come together in a bunch.

That said, when we did ring, we managed to improve a bit! It helped that our numbers included Peter Wren, Nick Springall and David West and visitors from Chertsey- all welcome as strengthening our band. Our latest recruit, Kate, is a regular service ringer and is progressing well, courtesy of the more formal training she is getting at Staines and her experience at Sunbury.

Looking forward we hope for a little more stability (echoing Rachel Reeves) and some good and happy ringing over Christmas.

### *Peter Binns - Tower Captain*

*Send - St Mary the Virgin, 11cwt 6, Wednesday, GU23 7JL*

**Note to All** - Ockham practice on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month will be rung at St Mary the Virgin, Send as from 25 April. Ringers from other towers will be very welcome at this practice which is intended to ensure that the people of Send continue to enjoy the sound of their bells on a regular basis and that the few local ringers get a practice at their home tower.

*Rachel Wilkinson*

*Thames Ditton - St Nicholas, 8cwt 6, Monday, KT70QQ*

We are now managing to hold a practice session on the first, third and fifth Mondays of each month, with grateful thanks to friends from local towers , and we ring for usually two Sunday mornings a month. Fortunately the service at Thames Ditton is later than that at Molesey, so several ringers valiantly ring at both towers!

*Pamela Rider, Tower Secretary*

*Walton-on-Thames - St Mary, 21cwt 8, Friday, KT12 2QS*

The combination of an early service at 9.00 am and a lack of ringers has meant no ringing on a Sunday morning since before the Covid lockdown, the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to be precise. This changed on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024, with the service now at 10.00 am and the learners capable of ringing for a public performance. Four ex-learners, one returning ringer and two or three with more experience rang some respectable rounds, bringing complimentary remarks from the Vicar and other members of the congregation.



On Heritage Day, the tower was open and dozens of people took the opportunity of climbing to the top to admire the view. Two of them returned for a bell ringing taster session with one now progressing rapidly with the Friday learners.

*John Burnett (for Hilary Brooks)*

*Weybridge - St James, 11cwt 8, Thursday, KT13 8D*

So the wedding bells are silent until 2025 with our final three marriages this quarter.

We continue to ring each Sunday with an average turnout of six ringers. We did cancel one practice night in August due to low numbers but otherwise we are pretty well attended. As ever, we are grateful for the support of local ringers which means that we are able to ring methods; Stedman Doubles last week!

Our learners are still getting to grips with call changes but have proved a wonderful asset to the band with their regular appearance on Sunday morning.

Lastly, (this is not bell related) there was a tower inspection in October.

I think our role **inside** the tower is preferable to those outside!



*Linda Strange, Tower Secretary*

## *Chertsey District Officers/contacts 2024*

**Master:** Rachel Johnson (Old Woking)  
24 Howards Rd, Woking, GU22 9AP. (07722  
650090. [rachel.e.johnson@sky.com](mailto:rachel.e.johnson@sky.com))

**Secretary:** (Joint) Simon & Liz Burton (Ockham)  
Simon : 3 Roughlands, Woking GU22 8PT (07789  
876514. [svburton26@gmail.com](mailto:svburton26@gmail.com))  
Liz : (07788  
190816. [eburton71@btinternet.com](mailto:eburton71@btinternet.com))

**Treasurer and Chairman:** **Vacancy)**

**Executive Committee Member:** Patricia Hoverd-Hughes  
(Ockham)  
22 Poyle Road, Tongham, GU10 1DU. (07426  
197761. [patriciahughes@live.com](mailto:patriciahughes@live.com))

**Independent Examiner:** Roger Pashley (Ottershaw)  
137A Brox Road, Ottershaw, KT16 0LG. (01932  
872211, [maryandroger@ntlworld.com](mailto:maryandroger@ntlworld.com))

**Assistant Ringing Masters** **Vacancy**  
Eliot Johnson (Old Woking)  
24 Howards Rd, Woking, GU22 9AP. (07769  
674609, [eliotpjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:eliotpjohnson@gmail.com))

**Bell Notes Editor:** Peter Binns (Ottershaw)  
5 St Crispins Way, Ottershaw, KT16 0RE. (01932  
872844, [pjbinns43@gmail.com](mailto:pjbinns43@gmail.com))

**Belfry Inspection Co-Ordinator:** Andrew Fisher (Oatlands)  
18 Woodland Grove, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 9EQ. (01932  
829130, [andrew@atf.me.uk](mailto:andrew@atf.me.uk))

**Training Officer:** Jane Marsters (East Molesey)  
57 Dukes Ave, New Malden, KT3 4HW. (020 8942 0886, [maljan@ic24.net](mailto:maljan@ic24.net))

**‘Chertsey District Bookstall’** Originaly run by Ivan Saunders serving both the District and the Guild. John Young has been able to find new homes for a number of the books etc. and is now trying to turn the remainder into cash by selling the stock. Any potential buyers should contact him in regards to this [and only this] at this email -[johng\\_young@attiscali.co.uk](mailto:johng_young@attiscali.co.uk)

*Dates for the diary -*

Note the following dates for your diary – details will be circulated by email in advance.

**Saturday 9 November:**

***District Annual Nomination Meeting  
(ANM) Horsell Ringing from 3pm,***

***Saturday 11 January 2025  
(tbc)***

***Annual District Meeting (ADM) Old Woking***

## **District Treasurer Role**

A Receipts and Payments Accounting system is used in Excel

Basically this a Membership Secretary role collecting Subs from the relevant representative member for each of the 15 Towers in the District, plus the 6 Unattached individual Members. [Jan – Mar]

### **Other Accounting Receipt entries during Year**

Elected New Members

Donations To BRF Charity

Tower or PCC, or Member Donations

Teas and Coffees From meetings Surplus

Retiring Collection after Services

Outing Profits

Transfer of any surplus Cash to the Bank

### **Payments**

Mainly the Transfers Quarterly to the Guild Accounts by Bank Transfer

General Fund [GF}

Bell Restoration Fund [BRF]

This is normally completed in Quarter 1 and any additional changes paid over mid December for Year end

Every other Year a Payment is made for the District Web Domain Name

Occasional

Officers expenses

Presentations

Engraving of Trophies

### **Year End**

Prepare and get independently examined the accounts at year end for the January ADM presentation.

Keep Membership Records File [Excel] and update this for Annual Report presentation.

John Young