

HANDBELL RINGERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN



South East Region

Newsletter

May 2025
Issue 137



AARDVARK MUSIC

Over 250 arrangements by Sandra Winter available for 6, 8, 12 bells, 2, 3, 5/7 octaves; for Easter, Christmas, classics, early music, bells with spoken voice; with percussion; for audience participation; for ringing and singing, for massed ringing

Purchase by mail order from the address below,

online from HRGB National Sales,
or order from Bells of Whitechapel.

Two catalogues available
(Music for 6-12 Bells; Music for 2-5 octaves).

Aardvark Music
Email aardvarkhandbellmusic@gmail.com

MUSIC FROM THE DRONFIELD COLLECTION

**Play the classics on your
bells.**

For catalogue of over 50, 2
and 2+ octave concert
arrangements, now including
some
3 octave and 5 octave music,
send SAE to:

**The Dronfield Collection,
Vic Cox, 36 Elwood Road,
Bradway, Sheffield S17 4
RH.**

or try our website:
www.dronfieldbells.co.uk

Eight-Bell Music, Twelve-Bell Music, and Much More!

Come and be part of a new adventure in handbells! We have lots of eight-bell arrangements that range from fairly easy to definitely challenging - over 100 now, in fact. They can be played as four-in-hand duets, as trios, or even as quartets. We've also just started on a line of new twelve-bell arrangements which are lots of fun to play.

Best of all, they're available online - just make your purchase in our eStore and you'll receive an email with instructions for how to download your music. Come and visit us at <http://larryandcarla.com>, click on "Our Music", and then click on the link to our "music publishing site".

Larry & Carla Sue

EDITORS NOTES



Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Region Newsletter.

This seems a very 'thin' edition! Don't tell me ringing has ceased!

We have a report on the AGM Rally + a receipt for the cheese biscuits enjoyed at the rally, and a report on the 'Little & Large' workshop.

Then of course there is the minutes of the AGM, the Secretary's report and the accounts.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **19th July 2025.**

Best wishes to all, and Happy Ringing!

Valerie v.j.boon@ntlworld.com

Honoured Members of the South East Region

Cliff Blundell

Keith Rowland

Angela Blundell (dec'd)

Wendy Rowland (dec'd)

Pauline Dover (dec'd)

Derek Wilkinson (dec'd)

Bridget Smith (dec'd)

Michael Wilkinson

Jeanne Turner (dec'd)

Shirley Aston

Some miscellaneous observations on life

Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how.

Assumption is the mother of all foul-ups.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but to be able to hold your tongue in one language is priceless.

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it. An optimist sees only the initial payment; the pessimist sees the future instalments and the upkeep

Dear Ringers,

Firstly a huge apology that this newsletter has taken so long to get finished and sent out.

Firstly our treasurer, John Boon, had a fall followed by an operation and stay in hospital, so Valerie has been a little busy! I'm very pleased to say that he is on the mend and we wish him a continued recovery.

As there had been a delay, I decided to wait until after our recent committee meeting to finalise the newsletter in case there was anything pertinent to add. Having allocated time over the Bank Holiday weekend to get everything ready to go out, my laptop screen then decided to malfunction. I was beginning to wonder if I was ever going to get the newsletter out! [I should reassure you that everything was backed up, I just couldn't get to it!]

Anyway - I am now in possession of a shiny new laptop and can access all my files again. Phew!

It was lovely to see so many people at our AGM Rally down in Meonstoke, and we were able to welcome some teams to their first regional rally. It was also lovely that so many of the committee had made the journey, bringing their own bells so that could participate as individuals and pairs. We welcomed Barbara Kimber to the committee - as an active ringer and someone who attends many regional events, I'm sure she will be an asset. You may notice in the minutes of the AGM that Martin was not elected to the committee. Fear not - at the following committee meeting, he was co-opted back onto the committee, so he is still very much involved! Obviously, his main focus at the moment is the 2026 International Symposium in Aberdeen. We very much hope to see lots of HRGB SE members there.



Yesterday we had our South East Region Bell Orchestra Concert - celebrating 25 seasons of the orchestra. It was lovely to ring pieces from previous seasons and to see so many past members of the orchestra in the audience. More photos to follow next time, but here is just one as a taster of the afternoon!

We have some more rallies and workshops coming up over the next couple of months. At the end of May we are heading to East Kent, and Sue tells me that we can squeeze a few more in if anyone hasn't yet sent back a form.

In June we have workshops for the two ends of the bell ringing spectrum! On June 14th we have a day to explore advanced music under the baton of Debbie Rice. And on June 21st we have an afternoon workshop for anyone thinking about starting a team for or including young ringers in their current team. You can come as a team leader with or without any young ringers! Forms for both these events were sent out in March.

And finally, accompanying this newsletter is the form for our final event before the summer break - a Staycation rally - for anyone who is not already on holiday!

I look forward to seeing many of you at an event soon.

Yours,

Helen

HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM

AGM RALLY REPORT. MARCH 16TH 2025

A beautiful sunny but chilly day in March saw 80 or so bell ringers from the South East Region, making their way down attractive country lanes seeking the Meon Hall in Meonstoke, Hants, where this year's AGM and its accompanying annual rally were to be held.



The gathering in this lovely light hall was welcomed by our hosts in Meon, Frances Enticknap from Bishop's Bells, and by Martin Winter, before starting on the first massed ringing piece, a setting of

Vivaldi's "Spring", conducted by Helen Secker, who encouraged us to create interest by carefully following the music's direction in varying the level of sound. Later on the massed ringing was led competently through The Valeta, conducted by Sue Quarendon.



The third massed ringing piece was Pendaneni, a newly piece bought by the region for those attending the rally. Sandra divided the piece into different sections and worked with us to martellato and damp carefully, finally adding an interesting collection of percussion instruments to the tune, leading to a lively finale.

Interspersed with the massed ringing were a variety of solo items: Bishops Bells, who rang a very pretty arrangement of "Seek ye first", and then later "Aura Lee"

was rung by Bursledon who hadn't expected to be performing, and who did very well with this favourite tune, adopted by Elvis as "Love me Tender". Arford played the seasonally suitable "Cuckoo", and finally, with great finesse, Barfield played "God's Train". Great fun to listen to as well as to play!



In the midst of all the ringing, the AGM was held, at 12.30. A new committee member, Barbara Kimber, has come forward to join them. The committee was thanked for its hard work, making the South East one of the most active regions. John Boon, treasurer, has announced that he wishes to stand down at the end of this year, and Valerie Boon also, from her position as Newsletter Editor. Much thanks goes to them both for all their work over many years. It was announced that our annual Handbell Ringers Service can no longer be accommodated at Guildford Cathedral, which is sad after so many years in that beautiful place.

The meeting ended at 12.54, to be followed by lunch and then an afternoon of practice, before an enormous tea. The concert followed, and the afternoon concluded with thanks and gifts of flowers to our conductors, and a pleasant drive home in lovely late afternoon sunshine.

Liz Christian - Sway HBR

At the AGM rally I provided some cheese biscuits, as the contribution from North Stoneham Handbells. I was then asked to provide the recipe for all.

CHEESE BISCUITS (from Thorn Cookery Book)

Ingredients

150g (6oz) Plain flour
Pinch salt and pepper
¼ 5ml (tea)spoon dry mustard
100g (4oz) butter or margarine
100g (4oz) strong cheese, finely grated
Egg, beaten to bind and glaze

Cooking information

Main oven temperature 200C
Time 10-12 mins
Tin: Baking trays
Shelf: top and middle
Second oven temperature –
180-190C
Fan oven temperature - 180-
190C

1. Sieve flour, salt, mustard and pepper together
2. Rub fat into flour
3. Add cheese
4. Add sufficient beaten egg to form a pliable dough
5. Roll out pastry 3mm (1/8in.) and using a 5cm (2in) cutter, shape biscuits
6. Arrange on a baking tray, prick well, glaze with egg, bake

Serve as they are, with cheese or pipe cream cheese on top and decorate with pineapple, tomato or sprinkle with paprika pepper.

Cheese Straws

Make up mixture as above. Roll out cheese pastry 3mm (1/8in) thick and cut into thin strips about 8cm (3in) long. Arrange pastry strips on baking tray. Bake

Notes and Variations

The better the flavour of the cheese used the better the flavour of the resulting biscuits. Any flavour that goes with cheese can be added.

The version made for the rally included more mustard and a very good grinding of black pepper. In addition, some extra cheese was added on top before baking.

Alison Martin

LITTLE & LARGE

We gathered at Burpham Village Hall, a new venue, for a new workshop!

We arrived to find a lovely hall all set up ready for us, caught up with friends and enjoyed an early lunch.

Then we went our separate ways - some for the “little” workshop and others for the “large” workshop.



“Little” workshop –
exploring techniques for
playing the smaller bells

I was assigned to the large bells and was astonished at the different ways these bells can be rung - none of which was wrong, we were assured. We had a lot of fun experimenting and learning to put them in a different order on the table, possibly for each piece. We learnt that conductors make impossible demands (sometimes) on the large bell ringers when it is impossible to pick them up, ring them, put them down again and be ready for the next bell - the answer was to use mallets! So we practiced that as well.



“Large” workshop –
exploring techniques for
playing the larger bells



After a delicious tea, and cake of course, we returned to find some even bigger bells out that we could have a go on - lots of malleting!



Then the “little” bell ringers joined us to ring a piece together before packing up. The day was so much fun - if it was on offer again I would highly recommend it.

Jill Glennerster -Winkfield St Mary’s

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN S E REGION
Reg. Charity numbers 298945 (England & Wales) & SC038918 (Scotland)
DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 15th March 2025, 12.30pm at The Meon Hall, Meonstoke, Hampshire

1. Chair's Welcome and Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and rally and thanked Bishop's Bells for arranging such a lovely venue.

Other new venues are being sourced – some found by committee members, but following a request at Birthday Rally, other teams are currently investigating hosting events. As mentioned at the Birthday rally, the committee are happy to work with teams to run a successful event such as creating the form, choosing the music, doing the catering.

We are leading the way with workshops and our variety of rallies – some regions are having to cancel events as they don't have enough people attending – we often have waiting lists, regardless of the size of event.

This year: a Happy Birthday - SERBO 25th season, SE Region 50th birthday.

To mark the year, a series of workshops is being held – 'SERBO 25'.

'HRGBSE 50' – a piece of purchased music is being provided for attendees at every event.

Helen thanked the committee for all their hard work in making our region one of the most active regions of HRGB.

2. Chair's Report

Acceptance of the report Proposed Christine Leonard seconded Barbara Saunders agreed *nem. con.*

3. Apologies for absence

Received from Michael Wilkinson, John & Valerie Boon, Jill Glennerster, Sheila Insley & St Mary Teddington, Kathryn Hughes. 82 members were in attendance.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sue Quarendon, seconded by Janet Davies and agreed *nem. con.* The minutes were signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

6. Secretary's Report

The Hon Secretary's is appended to these Minutes.

A proposal to receive the report was made by Graham Hedges, seconded by Mark Backhouse and agreed *nem. con.*

7. Financial Matters

The meeting received the Statement of Financial Affairs for the year ending 31/12/2023. In the Treasurer's absence (due to ill health) Martin Winter spoke to them identifying the key elements. These included the donation of money and 2 sets of bells from Pilgrim Ringers following their closure. The bells have been sold to support SE teams and are being used to purchase published music for ringers attending regional events. John was thanked for his work in all financial matters.

8. Elections

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

Chair: Helen Secker

Vice Chair: Jill Glennerster

Secretary: Sandra Winter

Treasurer: John Boon

Committee members:

Valerie Boon, Libby Eldridge,

Frances Enticknap, Barbara

Kimber, Grant O'Sullivan, Sue

Quarendon, Keith Rowland,

Alan Sharps

Barbara Kimber was welcomed to the committee.

John & Valerie Boon have decided to retire at next year's AGM, volunteers to be Treasurer and Newsletter editor will be welcomed.

9. Any Other Business

(1) The National Secretary asked members to be reminded of the request for entries for the Symposium massed ringing music competition.

(2) Keith mentioned that the National Treasurer would be happy to advise any prospective treasurer.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025

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

The Birthday Rally in January was held at Charters School and as usual, our 'free' event was very well attended! The AGM at Sanderstead was well attended and a highlight was Shirley Aston of the Pilgrim Ringers receiving her Honoured Member of the region Certificate. The South East Region Bell Orchestra concert in May saw a big audience squeezed into the Methodist Church in North Camp, with its superb acoustics.

At the national rally in Derbyshire, the South East was represented in the concert by a composite group 'The Surrey Hills Ringers' – who acquitted themselves very well after a limited amount of rehearsal time.

The East Kent Rally in Headcorn and the Summer Soiree in Weybridge followed, both well attended.

The Handbell Festival Service at Guildford Cathedral was less well attended, but fears that it wouldn't be very successful with a smaller number of ringers proved unfounded. There was some very good ringing, but unfortunately there were problems with the organ during the service – although everyone coped brilliantly and most of the congregation were unaware anything was amiss!

Sadly, after more than 30 years, the 2024 Service has proved to be the last, as the Cathedral has to make money from events and 'smaller' ones like ours cannot be accommodated.

Autumn saw the annual 'Ring Something Simple', a Read & Ring for 3-5 octaves, and an invitation event in Fordingbridge.

There were 8 'Christmas Together' events, which spilled over into 2025 as well – lots of ringers from all corners of the region getting together with some massed ringing pieces provided by the region, some solos – and some seasonal refreshment, of course!

The Region was pleased to award Sue Smith, leader of Kingswood Belles, a 'Certificate of Recognition' on her retirement in December, after 39 years.

In the summer, a small group from the South East represented the region at the International Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan. The group had a great time and their solo piece 'The Babe the Son of Mary' (Greensleeves by another name!) was very well received.

Sadly, our losses continued this year and we were sorry to hear of the deaths of long standing members. Personally, I realised that I had taken over from Wendy Rowland as Secretary of the Region in 2008 – it was a pleasure as everything was in first-class order, she was a very hard act to follow as far as organisation was concerned, and suffice to say, I'm quite ashamed to admit it's never been the same since – for me if it wasn't for 'the last minute', nothing would ever get done.... sorry, Wendy.....

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 all the work you do. Thank you very much indeed.

Sandra Winter March 2025



HANDBELL RINGERS of GREAT BRITAIN SE Region
Registered Charity Nos. 298945 (England and Wales) and SC038918 (Scotland)
Balance Sheet for year ended 31/12/2024

	2024	2023
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
<u>Tangible Assets</u>		
Bells estimated realisable value		
The Exeter Handbells donated by Hamilton Ringers 2014	8,000.00	8,000.00
The Milton Keynes Bells	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>9,500.00</u>	<u>9,500.00</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Closing Stock	689.05	769.55
Prepayments	70.00	0.00
Debtors	0	0
Deposit Account (COIF)	18,766.48	17,854.79
Bank	9,611.78	3,768.16
Cash	77.45	161.33
Total Current Assets	<u>29,214.76</u>	<u>22,553.83</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	-	-
Other Creditors		-
Total Current Liabilities	-	-
Net Current Assets	<u>29,214.76</u>	<u>22,553.83</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>38,714.76</u>	<u>32,053.83</u>
Financed by:		
Unrestricted General Funds	38,289.00	31,628.07
Designated Fund: Ring from Scratch	425.76	425.76
Total Charity Funds	<u>38,714.76</u>	<u>32,053.83</u>

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

Registered Charity Nos. 298945 (England and Wales) and SC038918 (Scotland)

Statement of Financial Affairs for year ended 31/12/2024

	2024			2023	
	Unrest Gen. Funds £	Desig Bells to go £	Desig. Ring from Scratch £	Total £	Total £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income					
Regional Rebate	1,435.50			1,435.50	1,431.00
Grant from National Fund					
Activities for generating funds					
Rallies	1,762.00			1,762.00	2,284.00
Guildford 2023					955.00
Guildford 2024	818.00			818.00	
Ring from Scratch (Desig.)					
Investment Income					
Bank Interest	911.69			911.69	504.16
Incoming resources from charit. activ.					
Sales income	373.81			373.81	572.31
Sale of bells	4,950.00			4,950.00	3,500.00
Donation	909.07			909.07	
Total Incoming Resources	11,160.07			11,160.07	9,246.47
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising trading					
Cost of goods sold	337.52			337.52	115.37
Charitable Activities					
Rallies	2,413.82			2,413.82	1,682.85
Guildford Festival 2023					778.03
Guildford Festival 2024	554.63			554.63	
Ring from Scratch (desig.)	-			-	-
<i>Newsletter</i> Postage					
Photocopy					82.80
Stationery					
<i>Depreciation</i>	-			-	-
<i>Other costs</i>					
Cost of bells sold					2,000.00
Postage					
Insurance	56.99			56.99	
Sundry	981.62			981.62	403.02
Computer/ Web expenses	154.56			154.56	287.65
Total Resources Expended	4,499.14			4,499.14	6,350.98
Net incoming Resources	6,660.93			6,660.93	2,895.49
Transfers					
Net movement in funds	6,660.93			6,660.93	2,895.49
Adjustments to fixed Assets value re Capitalisation Policy					
Total Funds Brought forward	31,628.07		425.76	32,053.88	29,158.34
Total Funds Carried forward	38,289.00		425.76	38,714.76	32,053.83

HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2025

May 31	East Kent Rally - Headcorn
June 14	A Bit of a Challenge - North Camp (Advanced music) Form distributed (email)
June 21	Workshop: Starting Your Own Learner Handbell Group - Sandhurst Form distributed (email)
July 12	'Staycation' Rally - Sanderstead Form with newsletter
September 27	Ring Something Simple - Sanderstead
November 1	Rally - Trafalgar School, Downton
November 22	SERBO Audition Day - Cobham Village Hall

It's never too early to think about Christmas!!
Would you like music for a 'Ring Together' event in your area this year?
If so please let us know. Email Martin Winter 19mwinter@gmail.com

***Would YOUR team like to host an event in the future,
such as rally, a mini (or even a micro!) ring, a workshop ?
Please contact the Secretary! Email sandra@hrgb.org.uk***

SE REGION COMMITTEE AND JOB HOLDERS 2025/26

CHAIR	Helen Secker	helenlsecker@gmail.com
--------------	--------------	------------------------

Regional Safeguarding Lead, Youth Rep and Sales Table Manager

VICE CHAIR	Jill Glennerster	jill.glenn@ymail.com
-------------------	------------------	----------------------

SECRETARY	Sandra Winter	sandra@hrgb.org.uk
------------------	---------------	--------------------

TREASURER	John Boon	v.j.boon@ntlworld.com
------------------	-----------	-----------------------

MEMBER & <i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Valerie Boon	v.j.boon@ntlworld.com
--	--------------	-----------------------

MEMBER	Sue Quarendon	sueq99@outlook.com
--------	---------------	--------------------

MEMBER	Keith Rowland	keith@acorncottage.org.uk
--------	---------------	---------------------------

MEMBER	Libby Eldridge	libbyeldridge82@gmail.com
--------	----------------	---------------------------

MEMBER	Alan Sharps	alan.sharps@btinternet.com
--------	-------------	----------------------------

MEMBER	Frances Enticknap	frankieenticknap1@gmail.com
--------	-------------------	-----------------------------

MEMBER & <i>Webmaster</i>	Grant O'Sullivan	grantosullivan@gmail.com
------------------------------	------------------	--------------------------

MEMBER	Barbara Kimber	kimberb@hotmail.co.uk
--------	----------------	-----------------------

CO-OPTED	Martin Winter	19mwinter@gmail.com
----------	---------------	---------------------

Honorary Life Members	Sandra Winter Keith Rowland	John Tipping Philip Bedford Tim Willetts
--------------------------	--------------------------------	--

Past HLMS	Alan Collings William Butler George Francis	2019 – 2020 2010 – 2021 1982 - 2022
-----------	---	---



Bells of Whitechapel Ltd.

All your handbell needs from one source!

Whitechapel handbells and Malmark handchimes and
handbells ... refurbishment ... inspection reports ...
spare parts ... fitted cases ... mallets ... gloves ... music ...
workshops ... music notebook folders ... friendly advice ...

Bells of Whitechapel Ltd

The Beechwood Centre

40 Lower Gravel Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8GP

Telephone 020 8462 9419

Email swinter@bellsofwhitechapel.london or

khughes@bellsofwhitechapel.london

www.bellsofwhitechapel.london



JOHN TAYLOR & CO
BELLFOUNDERS
BELLHANGERS
CARILLON BUILDERS
HANDBELL CRAFTSMEN

We are renowned the world over for
providing the most mellow and sonorous
sounding bells for tower or in hand.

New Bells.

Bells matched to original sets.

Exceptional reputation in quality
Restoration of old sets.

The John Taylor Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 1AR

www.taylorbells.co.uk or enquiries@taylorbells.co.uk

tel. 01509 212241 fax 01509 263305

