

HANDBELL RINGERS  
OF GREAT BRITAIN



# *South East Region*

## *Newsletter*

*June/July 2021*  
*Issue 121*



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**Larry & Carla Sue**

## EDITORS NOTES



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

a few snippets from a 2012 newsletter

some gardening hints for July and August

a few chuckles!

and proposed diary for 2021/2022

I think everyone must have found this past year very hard, and all we can do is hope for a better future, when the Government has made its views clear and concise!

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **12th September 2021**

Best wishes to all - stay safe

*Valerie*   [v.j.boon@ntlworld.com](mailto:v.j.boon@ntlworld.com)

### **Honoured Members of the South East Region**

*Cliff Blundell*

*Keith Rowland*

*Angela Blundell*

*Wendy Rowland*

*Pauline Dover*

*Michael Wilkinson*

*Bridget Smith*

*Derek Wilkinson*

*Jeanne Turner*

### **APOLOGY**

I'm very sorry, but there was an error in question 16 of the quiz!

The word 'Acerobic' should have been 'Acerbic'.

I hope this did not stop anyone from sending their answers to me.

Dear Ringers,

I'll start with an apology. This should have been the June newsletter, and Valerie sent it to me towards the end of June, but then the end of term happened! For anyone who is or knows any teachers at the moment, you will know exactly what this means! Needless to say, I now have brain space to actually do things again now - hence the newsletter becoming a June/July edition.

As you will see, there are not many pages in this newsletter, as we have received no articles or photos from anyone! I'm hoping that some of you are managing to get back to ringing - there are plenty of photos of teams across the country getting together in small groups in gardens (weather permitting!) to ring again.

I also know that some of you have been attending some of the National Virtual events - maybe you could give us a short write up from something you have been doing online?

My school team has been back up and running since just before Easter - although with some restrictions due to the "bubble" system which schools have had to work with this year. They were able to learn and record a short arrangement of Cader Idris, a Welsh folk song, for our summer showcase recording. It was always touch and go as to whether we would be up to performance standard, but when it came to their recording time, they managed to pull off their best performance of the piece!

The Wandle Ringers have also started back rehearsing. We started with a meeting to discuss whether we wanted to and the health and safety measures we would need to go through each time, but unanimously agreed that we would like to re-start and go through the summer with whoever is available each week.

We thought it might be useful to share how we are able to rehearse, with social distancing and not sharing anything so the others kindly agreed to me taking some photos at our last rehearsal.



You can see that we are using the big hall at Sanderstead so that we have plenty of space. The bell cases and other equipment is all placed in the middle, and we wear masks and gloves while moving around the hall. We only touch our own bells and we each have a 3ft foam and a riser (some ringers bring their own, so we have enough).



Once we have everything, we can then take our masks off if we want to.



As we have some duplicated bells in the middle 2 octaves, we have 4 rows of tables, so the bass bells are behind the tenors, but with a 2m gap between the tables. The tables and chairs are all set up by the caretaker, who then cleans everything down when setting up for the next booking.



All the windows and doors (except the fire doors!) are open and we all sign in. And - yes - those are chocolates on the tables - Wandle does not function without at least one chocolate break per rehearsal!



And you can play spot the empty space where all my bells are!  
Libby asked me to share the following (which is echoed by the entire team) -

It was lovely to return to rehearsals after a gap of 15 months. Everything ran smoothly because of all the preparations Sandra and Martin had made. Collating the music so that we all had our own copies, spacing us out to comply with Covid rules, and sorting out the bells must have been a logistical nightmare. The end result was a thoroughly enjoyable evening where we could make music together.

Here's hoping lots more teams are starting back now or in September. Please do send us your 'first rehearsal' photos - it would be fantastic to put a large photo spread into the next newsletter.

Stay safe!

Yours, *Helen*

[HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM)

### Answers to the 'Spring Quiz'

1.Strings 2. Boring 3. Fringe (the Surrey with the Fringe on top) 4. Twittering 5. Murmuring 6. Haringey 7. Wringer 8. Cringeworthy 9. Offering 10. Meringue 11. Sparring 12. Springbok 13. Fluttering 14. Dithering 15. Bring and Buy Sale 16. Astringent 17. Hearing 18. Pringles 19. Springer Spaniel 20. Ringlets 21. Earring 22. Ringo Starr 23. Bearing 24. Staring 25. Bartering 26. Herring 27. Engineering 28. Stringendo 29. Catering 30. Syringes

### **RESULTS**

We only had 3 entries to the Competition.

Two were completely correct, and the third had a couple of errors.

We are therefore awarding 2 first prizes :-

Rosie Greenhaigh - Barfield Ringers

Tricia Amos - Finchampstead & St. Lawrence Chobham

Also a second prize to ;\_

Jenny Thorn - St. Michael's Belles, Sandhurst

Congratulations!

You will all receive your vouchers to use at the Sales Table in due course.

### **LESSONS OF LOCKDOWN**

*This past year may have altered your perspective on life.*

*Some of the following statements may be worth thinking about....*

Life is precarious

A nurse is worth more than a professional footballer

Spare time isn't a waste of time

A smile is precious

Being alone isn't the same as loneliness

Hard work doesn't guarantee employment

Silence opens us to creative ideas

Social media are a mixed blessing

Shopping needn't be addictive

Driving less and walking more is good for humanity

Isolation teaches us we need each other to generate energy



*Ed:- I found these pieces in a Newsletter of 2012 I'm sure some of you haven't seen them (or forgotten them!!)*

## **SAVED BY THE BELL**

**Meaning** - Saved by a last minute intervention.

**Origin** - This is boxing slang that came into being in the latter half of the 19th century. A boxer who is in danger of losing a bout can be 'saved' from defeat by the bell that marks the end of a round.

The earliest reference to this is found in the Massachusetts newspaper *The Fitchburg Daily Sentinel*, February 1893:

"Martin Flaherty defeated Bobby Burns in 32 rounds by a complete knockout. Half a dozen times Flaherty was saved by the bell in the earlier rounds."

There is a widespread notion that the phrase is from the 17th century and that it describes people being saved from being buried alive by using a coffin with a bell attached. The idea being that, if they were buried but later revived, they could ring the bell and be saved from an unpleasant death. The idea is certainly plausible as the fear of burial alive was and is real. Several prominent people expressed this fear when close to death themselves:

## **GO LIKE THE CLAPPERS**

**Meaning** - Go very fast; in a vigorous manner.

**Origin** - It originated around the time of WWII as RAF slang. The earliest citation is found in a 1942 newspaper piece by Associated News staff Writer Alfred Wall, in which he listed various RAF slang terms:

"A pilot chased by the enemy 'goes like the clappers', or full out".

What '*the clappers*' refers to isn't entirely clear, although by far the most likely derivation is as a reference to the clappers of bells. An early form of the phrase was '*go like the clappers of hell*' and, given that bells have clappers, it may be that it may that the rhyme of hell and bell is significant. RAF pilots were often from English public schools where the ringing of handbells to mark the time was common. Bells were rung more vigorously as the time remaining to get to class/chapel etc. was about to run out. The image of schoolboys dashing to class while handbells were being energetically rung matches the meaning of the phrase very well.

## **WITH WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IN MIND**

There are several kinds of bell sounds in the works of Shakespeare. The heaviest was some kind of alarm bell off stage, when Macduff discovers the murder of Duncan, and orders, 'Ring the bell'

Similarly during the brawl in Othello, a bell is rung, of which Othello says 'Silence that dreadful bell it frights the isle'.

There were also small handbells requesting service, as when Macbeth says, 'Go bid thy mistress when my drink is ready, that she might strike the bell1.

*This seems to have been doing the rounds, but just in case you've missed it.....*

## **BACK IN THOSE DAYS**

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,  
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.  
    When football team families wore hand-me-down shoes,  
    and TV gave only two channels to choose.  
    Back in the days of threepenny bits,  
    when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.  
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted  
and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.  
    Back in the days of hot ginger beers,  
    when children remained so for more than six years.  
    When children respected what older folks said,  
    and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.  
Back in the days of Listen with Mother,  
when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.  
    When cars were so rare you could play in the street,  
    when doctors made house calls; police walked the beat.  
    Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,  
    when butter was butter and songs all had tunes.  
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,  
and your annual break was a day by the sea.  
    Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,  
    Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.  
    When children could freely wear National Health glasses,  
    and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.  
Back in the days of rocking and reeling,  
when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.  
    When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools,  
    and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.  
    Back in the days when I was a lad,  
    I can't help but smile for the fun that I had.  
    Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob,  
    back in the days of tanners and bobs.

### **Observations on modern life**

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

## **THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN**

### **July.**

Remove the main stem of Cordon Tomatoes just above the fourth truss, any fruit that forms above this truss is unlikely to ripen before winter sets in.

Spray Potatoes and Tomatoes when it is wet and muggy to reduce the risk of blight damage.

A regular feed of Tomorite will help Tomatoes and Dahlias to produce good fruit and flowers, start feeding Tomatoes as soon as the first fruit starts to form, irregular watering will encourage blossom end rot in Tomatoes.

Continue to make successional sowings of Salad Crops

Regularly pick Courgettes unless you wish the fruit to become Marrows.

French and Runner Beans will become tough and stringy unless they are picked frequently.

Spring Cabbage, Turnip and a final batch of french and Runner Beans should now be sown. Leeks and Winter Brassicas should be planted out this month.

Give Summer Bedding Plants and containerised plants a regular Liquid feed.

Dead head Bedding Plants to maintain a colourful display and Perennials to obtain a second flush of bloom.

Keep containerised Camellias and Rhododendrons well watered to enable good flowering next year.

### **August.**

Now that all the hard work has been done it is time to sit back and to enjoy your garden. which should now be at the peak of perfection.

Continue to harvest fast growing Vegetables and Salad crops as they mature.

Keep Runner Beans well watered which will help the flowers to set.

Increase the feeding of Tomatoes. Lift Maincrop Potatoes.

Rambling Roses which only flower once a year should be pruned after flowering, cutting out one in three stems from the base to encourage new growth.

Summer prune Wisteria, removing all new shoots to five buds above the main stem.

Now is the time to take cuttings of Buddleia, Hydrangea and Pyracantha.

Cut back Perennials which have collapsed onto the lawn, path or other plants.

Now is the time to set Earwig traps amongst your Dahlias, fill a 3" pot with hay or straw and place it upside down on the end of the cane supporting the plant, the Earwigs will climb into the pot during the night and will be waiting for you to shake them out into a dish in the morning for disposal.

This month you can start collecting seed from Annuals ready for sowing next Spring, do not collect the seed of F1 hybrids as they will not produce flowers true to type next year.

Set the mower blades on high when cutting the grass during dry periods.

*John Boon*

## HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2021-2022

National virtual events 2021 using Zoom:

July 10    2pm - 4pm                      Bells in Education

The provisional dates for SE events:

### 2021

September	18	Invitation Rally, Meonstoke
October	30	AGM (no rally) Sanderstead
November	20	SERBO

### 2022

April	23	East Kent Rally, Headcorn
May	8	SERBO Concert, Harlequin Theatre, Redhill
June	11	Handbell Festival Service, Guildford Cathedral TBC

SERBO rehearsal dates:

22 January    26 February    26 March    2 April    23 April    30 April

***Would YOU like to host an event in the future,  
when restrictions are lifted?***

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

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

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