

HANDBELL RINGERS  
OF GREAT BRITAIN



# *South East Region*

# *Newsletter*

*June 2023*  
*Issue 130*



### **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](mailto: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](http://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, in which you will find:- an article from the Seaford Handbell Ringers, two pieces on the Headcorn Rally, a report on the SERBO Concert and an obituary.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this edition

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **31st Sept, 2023**

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*

*Wendy Rowland*

*Pauline Dover*

*Michael Wilkinson*

*Bridget Smith*

*Derek Wilkinson*

*Jeanne Turner*

What do you get if you cross a bee with a handbell?

**A humbinger**

What do you get if you cross a piece of paper with  
two famous composers?

**A Chopin Listz**

Dear Ringers,

Firstly, my apologies that this newsletter has taken so long to be sent out to you. June turned out to be much busier than I had anticipated when we set the deadline, as I ended up on two different camping trips at school due to staff sickness, while still trying to juggle all the music rehearsals and events! Needless to say, I am very much looking forward to the end of term.

Since the last newsletter we have had a lovely rally hosted by Headcorn - for which we have not 1 or 2, but actually 3 write-ups. And a big thank you to Martin for the photos, as I was not able to be at this event. It is good to read that some ringers are attending events on their own and enjoying themselves. While it is always good to have full teams attending, there is always space for 1 or 2 from a team - sometimes, you can even get away without bringing foam or bells if the organiser can find you somewhere to ring! Likewise with solos or party pieces - don't be afraid to ask whether there is anyone who can step in and help out. You are in a room full of ringers and I'm almost certain that at least one will be willing to sight read the music!

Some ringers and teams have also been stepping out of their comfort zones and trying out new things. It was lovely to see some new faces performing the South East Region Bell Orchestra for the first time this year (hopefully not for the last time). After many years rehearsing at St George's, Tolworth, SERBO will have a new rehearsal home from November at North Camp Methodist Church, Farnborough. This will take a little getting used to for those of us who have been heading to Tolworth for many years but will be a perfect time to give SERBO a try. Full details of the November audition day will be out in September.

It was also nice to see some teams at Guildford for the first time this year. I thought you might like to see a during/after comparison. The first photo was taken from the back during the rehearsals and the second photo was taken at 5pm showing just how quickly everything can be put back and ready for the services the next day!



Why not push yourself out of your comfort zone and try something new in the Autumn? Full details of all events will be sent to team correspondents when available.

Yours,

*Helen*

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



# SEAFORD HANDBELL RINGERS

Born out of a local U3A Handbells course in 1998, Seaford Handbell Ringers meet weekly to exercise our brains and make music in a fun and supportive environment.

In 2000 membership was so healthy that in order to continue to offer enjoyable sessions and opportunities for developing playing skills the large group of 30 individuals divided into 2 more manageable groups.

Sadly as with many leisure groups, the pandemic impacted greatly on group membership.

However throughout 2021/'22 the two groups met regularly for joint ringing sessions, and in order to ensure the continuation of bell ringing in Seaford the practical decision was made to merge the two sub groups after our 'Ring for the King' Coronation Celebration joint ring.

We look forward to rebuilding our numbers over time so that once again Seaford will be able to boast of two thriving Handbell Ringing Groups.

*Jo Smyth*



## I WENT SOLO!

No, I didn't play a solo, just went to the Headcorn Rally on my own! If you are the only member of your team able to attend a Rally, don't be shy, do try it.



I was next to another "solo" player, a very friendly lady, Jill (who I recognised & then discovered she is Vice Chair of our region!).

I struck up a conversation with West Peckham because I admired their beautiful banners, ate my lunch with Hat Band on the Green in the sunshine and finally enjoyed

tea & CAKE & jolly conversations with All Saints Maldon (all the way from Essex).

I loved the mass ringing music and being coaxed along by our great conductors. I also enjoyed listening to the varied team solos.

Many thanks to Sue & the Headcorn Team. It was a "Grand Day Out"

*Janet Bushnell, Addington Bells*



## HAPPINESS IN HEADCORN

Having only joined The Lammas Ringers of Godalming last September, I am still on a steep learning curve. The East Kent Rally last Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, was the second rally I have been to and like the first one (Ring Something Simple 2) it was a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging experience, and wonderful to hear so many bells playing together. I learnt that every conductor has their different way of getting the best from us all, and interpreting the music. The time just seemed to fly by. I have to confess that I got home feeling both elated with what I had managed to do (still a long way to go) and shattered after all that concentrating!! But above all having had a lovely day with such friendly folk, so I am looking forward to the next one."

*Linda S.*



## **HEADCORN RALLY**

This is the first time I have been able to attend the Headcorn Rally and what a great day it was.

An easy drive with lots of pretty countryside and, as is usual with rallies, a glorious sunny day!



After coffee and setting up we enjoyed Sandra Winter conducting “Fanfare for a Special Day”. This was a special arrangement to celebrate the Kings Coronation - which we rang a lot faster here than we have done at Winkfield...

Then a lovely solo by Headcorn who chose a Bach Minuet in G followed by a Wandle/Hatband combo ringing “Noel Nouvelet” – which apparently they had all practiced, but not together!

Massed ringing continued with Philip Bedford conducting “Crimond”, always a favourite, before West Peckham rang “Bell Peel” for us.

Martin Winter then conducted “The Golden Vanity” a pretty traditional English song followed by the Bedford Family Ensemble who rang “Knees Up Mother Brown”.

Our last massed piece was “Meditation on O Valiant Heart” conducted by Sue Quarendon; a hymn which honours the fallen of the First World War.

After lunch in the sunshine with lots of catching up with old friends and buying of raffle tickets we ran through all the massed pieces again interspersed with some more fabulous solo pieces: West Peckham chose “Cascade for Chimes”, All Saints, Maldon rang “Prelude on Te Deum” and Finsbury elected to ring “Fairest Lord Jesus”. The Bedford Family returned with “The Dark Island and Headcorn with “Yorkshire Bells”.

I cannot remember having so many solo pieces at a rally - let this be an inspiration to you when your team next attend a rally and have a go at ringing something.

Following a tea break with many splendid cakes we completed the day with a concert performance of the massed ringing pieces.

Thanks to Sue Q and her team for organising a really lovely rally; many people were at their first ever rally so we hope to see them again at future events.

It was also a first time for a feline member – Hazel the cat was at her first rally too and was very well behaved!

*Jill Glennerster*



## IN CONCERT

After three years of largely forced silence, the SE Region Orchestra came to life once more on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The programme was as varied as usual and began with a rousing rendition of 'Celebration' by Fred Gramann. This was followed by 'Carol of the Bells' by Mykola Leontovych, a Ukranian composer. 'Light of Peace' came next, which absolutely sounded like its title.

The next item was 'Handel in the Strand' by Percy Grainger, an Australian composer. He was going to call the piece 'Clog Dance' until a friend suggested that with such a jolly rhythm, listeners should imagine Handel careering down the Strand!

'Lord, You Have come to the Lakeshore' by Spanish composer, Cesdreo Gabardin came next and then 'Toccata on Kings Weston' by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Kings Weston is a manor house on the River Avon near Bristol.

The first half of the programme ended with 'Winter Wonderland' by Felix Barnard. The beginning was really atmospheric, being played on bell plates.

After a lovely ice cream, the second half began with 'The Triumph Song of Life' by Beethoven. It was arranged by Brian Childers, and the theme of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony could be heard, what would Ludwig think of 5 beats in a bar!

Next we had the hymn tune 'Be Still My Soul'. It was heavily disguised in places, with discordant parts – the arranger, Alex Guebert, had certainly enjoyed himself! 'Down by the Riverside' followed, with audience participation of thumb clicks and clapping. Kate Hanks accompanied on her Double Bass - super!

Another hymn tune was next – 'Jesu, Lover of My Soul'. This was dedicated to Lillian Dawe - a member of Fordingbridge Handbell Ringers, who joined the Orchestra when she was 85 years old, and sadly died aged 96, last week.

'Reverberations', which has nothing to do with our HRGB Magazine, followed. It was Bach – but not quite Bach! And then a Spanish classical Guitar piece, 'Recuerdos' This translates as 'Memories of Alhambra'.

The last piece on the programme was a medley of four tunes from Les Miserables - which brought back memories of that great show!

There was, of course an encore – 'Obladi, Oblada' which encouraged more clapping and also flashing lights!

It was certainly a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and thanks go to Keith, Sandra and Martin for all their hard work in its production, and to all the members of SERBO, who played the very intricate pieces so brilliantly.

*Valerie Boon*

## LILIAN DAWE



Lilian was an enthusiastic handbell player having started playing at Fordingbridge Handbell Ringers in 2003, then well into her 70s. She helped in the transition from numbers to notation and encouraged the group to go to rallies. Later, she was concurrently a member of Ringwood HR and when that folded of The Olive Branch HR.

As an organist at her local Baptist Church, Lilian had a sound understanding of music and graciously shared her knowledge with beginning ringers. Encouraging and supporting us in her quiet and determined way both individually and as a team, she

liked everyone to have a pencil and sometimes could be heard muttering 'damp'.

Never too old to rise to a personal challenge, (the harder and faster the music the better) she joined SERBO in 2013 aged 85. The first time she went she had never held a chime and after a quick tutorial with Sandra she was soon comfortable playing them. She also attended a ringing residential and UK Bronze.

Journeys to rallies and concerts were meticulously planned, using a proper paper map and Lilian was always the navigator. When the team hosted a rally, her Cheesy Puffs were much sought after. In later years a few selected people were allowed to make them on her behalf. The recipe was even printed in the SE Newsletter.

She still attended our Monday morning rehearsals faithfully and was with us even in her last week having asked if it was alright to come when she felt able.

She leaves a huge legacy and a gap in all our lives. We will miss her.

*Penny Estall* (Fordingbridge Handbell Ringers)

## PREPARING FOR GUILDFORD

After many years of service doing a wonderful job organising the Guildford Handbell Festival, Den decided that it was time to have a well-deserved rest and retire!

A replacement needed to be found....

It was decided that Martin and I could manage the job between us.

Den very kindly met up with me at the Cathedral for a coffee (or 2!) and a handover for which I am extremely grateful.

It was lovely to catch up with her and have a gossip as well as collecting all the necessary paperwork.



Very sadly, this year I cannot attend the festival so Martin will be in charge of the organisation on “The Day”.

Something that I had not fully understood was the importance of “The Stick” which was duly handed over to me by Den - I have to say I was somewhat underwhelmed by the stick when I saw it. I was expecting something much grander than a bamboo pole!!!

However, when it ceremoniously passed on to Martin he assured me that it “did the job”

By the time you read this the festival will be over, so I do hope you all had a wonderful day.





## HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2023

September 23 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally - St Mary Teddington Bells - Cobham

October 14 Ring Something Simple 3 Plus - Sanderstead

November 4 Rally - Trafalgar School, Downton *to be confirmed*

18 SERBO Audition/1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal

SERBO rehearsals - North Camp Methodist Church, Farnborough

20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 24<sup>th</sup> February 9<sup>th</sup> March 23<sup>rd</sup> March 13<sup>th</sup> April 27<sup>th</sup> April

CONCERT - 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 date to be confirmed -  
Harlequin Theatre, Redhill

Another event you may be interested in:

September 30 Ring for Christmas - Ropley

Organised by the Winchester District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and supported by HRGB SE region, for beginning ringers and teams - more details later.

If you are interested in holding a 'Tea Together' event in the summer or autumn, please contact Martin Winter with your details about the event. and receive the music pack.

*Would YOUR team like to host an event in the future,  
such as an invitation, mini (or even a micro!) ring, a workshop .....?  
Please contact the Secretary!*

Website: [www.hrgbse.org.uk](http://www.hrgbse.org.uk)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/HrgbSe](https://www.facebook.com/HrgbSe)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/HRGBSE](https://www.twitter.com/HRGBSE)

HRGB Registered Charity numbers 2989 45 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland).

## SE REGION COMMITTEE AND JOB HOLDERS 2023/24

<b>CHAIR</b> , Youth Rep, & Sales Table Manager	Helen Secker	07737 978806
<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	Jill Glennerster	07821 131303
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Sandra Winter	020 8657 1344
<b>TREASURER</b>	John Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & Newsletter Editor	Valerie Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & NEC Rep	Gay Cooper	07964 615428
MEMBER & NEC Rep	Alan Cooper	07964 615428
MEMBER	Sue Quarendon	01622 891864
MEMBER	Keith Rowland	01252 409438
MEMBER	Libby Eldridge	01883 622808
MEMBER	Alan Sharps	01784 244665
MEMBER	Frances Enticknap	
Co-opted Member	Martin Winter	020 8657 1344
Webmaster	Grant O'Sullivan	
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](mailto:swinter@bellsofwhitechapel.london) or**

**[khughes@bellsofwhitechapel.london](mailto:khughes@bellsofwhitechapel.london)**

**[www.bellsofwhitechapel.london](http://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](http://www.taylorbells.co.uk) or [enquiries@taylorbells.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@taylorbells.co.uk)

tel. 01509 212241 fax 01509 263305

