

HANDBELL RINGERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN



South East Region

Newsletter

May 2020
Issue 115



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Larry & Carla Sue

EDITORS NOTES



Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Region Newsletter - a very much shortened one! In which you will find:-

An article by Cliff Bludell

Rowland Ringers in lockdown

Shirley Aston 'clapping' for the NHS

and several items I have found, hopefully to lift your spirits at this time.

A flyer for the Headcorn Rally in October

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **8th July 2020**

I know we cannot yet get together in our teams, but I'm sure some other groups as well as the Rowland Ringers have set up Zoom or Skype groups, so please let me know how they go.

Whatever you do, let me know, as we certainly intend to keep the Newsletter going - however short!

Many thanks in anticipation.

Keep well, safe and distanced,

Valerie

v.j.boon@ntlworld.com

Honoured Members of the South East Region

Cliff Bludell

Keith Rowland

Angela Bludell

Wendy Rowland

Pauline Dover

Michael Wilkinson

Bridget Smith

Derek Wilkinson

Jeanne Turner

Dear Ringers,

As I sit here in my garden writing this, it seems hard to believe that I haven't been further than the local shops for 2 months.!

I'm sure many of you have found different ways to keep yourselves occupied - crafts, gardening, reading, diy. Some of you, like me, will have adapted to working from home - although I have to admit that teaching music online brings considerable challenges and I am having to work far more hours than the ones I'm actually paid!! Hopefully you have found some musical activities to enjoy as well, and some of you have managed a little solo or duet ringing. If you have any videos - please do send them to me for our Facebook page!

You will be unsurprised to hear that we have decide to postpone both our July rally at Sanderstead and the Summer Soiree at Weybridge. The team organising the East Sussex rally have also take then decision to postpone the event. You will find attached some information about a possible October event - the East Kent Rally. At the moment, we are just asking for expression of interest, as we have no idea what things will look like by then. So please let Sue know if you might be interested in going.

As I begin to prepare for potentially some teaching in school and things are slowly starting to re-open, it will still be a while before we can ring together again. So until then - keep in touch with each other and stay safe.

Yours, *Helen*

HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM



Shirley Aston
'Clapping' for the NHS



This was on a village Facebook page, and has to be one of the best photos and captions!

The caption reads:

'How many more times? 2 metres, you tit!'

What it says on the sign.....

At a towing company: “We don’t charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows instead.”

At an optometrist’s office: “If you don’t see what you’re looking for, you’ve come to the right place.”

In a veterinarian’s waiting room: “Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!”

MY STORY - by Cliff Blundell



As a previous welfare worker for, and one time chairman of the Parkinson's UK Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Branch, I thank you for helping me to raise funds, as part of the 2.6 challenge, for research into Parkinson's Disease and also to raise awareness of the needs of people living with Parkinson's.

For the past 75 years another of my interests has been bell ringing, in which my wife, Angela, and all four of my children, as well as some of my grandchildren (one of whom still rings regularly with me when ringing is

allowed) joined me at various times. Angela decided, on first meeting me, that bells would always come first so she had better learn to ring as well.

We celebrated both our 61st wedding anniversary and my 90th birthday with suitable bell ringing, before Angela sadly died on 1st March this year bringing to an end more than 60 years of ringing together, both in the tower and on handbells. I have many happy memories of us ringing programmes of handbell music on 8 handbells, as well as on from 12 bells to 5 octaves with many other people, before Angela lost the use of her left arm after a stroke. We continued to ring 6 bell tunes together, however, for the last ten years. Had I learned to ring 6 bells earlier perhaps we could have continued with our 8 bell pieces (or not!).

Now, having learned to ring 6 hand bells on my own, whilst locked down because of coronavirus, I hope that my efforts - and video(s) on my [facebook page](#) may encourage people to join in bell ringing, whether on tower or hand bells, when social distancing is eased. As well as the physical exercise, such activities also provide social and mental stimulation which, for many of us, is sadly limited at present.

I am planning to ring 13 whole pulls of set changes each day throughout the month of May. This means that I will ring each of the 6 hand bells 26 times each day in Rounds (1.2.3.4.5.6.), Queens (1.3.5.2.4.6) and Tittums (1.4.2.5.3.6) known as Set Changes by the bell ringing fraternity. I might even add a few simple tunes if I practise hard enough!

If you can help me to raise £2600 that will be great but, how much better if each of the 6 hand bells can raise its own £2600! Many thanks for joining me in this challenge. I hope my neighbours will enjoy the ringing also.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand years of war;
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
(from In Memoriam, Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Every hour, two people in the UK are told they have Parkinson's - a brain condition that turns lives upside down, leaving a future full of uncertainty. Parkinson's UK are there to make sure people have whatever they need to take back control - from information to inspiration.

Parkinson's UK want everyone to get the best health and social care. They bring professionals together to drive improvements that enable people to live life to the full.

Ultimately, they want to end Parkinson's. They inspire and support the international research community to develop life-changing treatments, faster. And they won't stop until they find a cure.

Parkinson's UK's work totally depends on the money their supporters raise and donate. It's only with our help that they can find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's. Together we can bring forward the day when no one fears Parkinson's.

Through Virgin Money Giving, you can sponsor me, and donations will be quickly processed and passed to Parkinson's UK. Virgin Money Giving is a not for profit organisation and will claim gift aid on a charity's behalf where the donor is eligible for this.

Thank you for taking the time to read my page. Please donate to this fantastic cause! I really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/CliffBlundell>



ROWLAND RINGERS - LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Ever wondered how you keep a handbell team going when you can't leave home?

Rowland Ringers usually meet on a Tuesday evening, so Sharon suggested we keep in touch via Skype video group calls at our normal practice time. Needless to say, this presented quite a technical challenge, especially as some of us hadn't used Skype for 10 years or so.

So far, 8 of the team have been managing to tune in – Keith, Sharon, Mandy, Geoff,

Sue, Rob, Debbie and Carol. Our first meeting posed a few teething problems: we could see Keith, but not hear him. Our lip-reading skills were not up to scratch so Keith resorted to writing messages and holding them up to the camera. Eventually after much experimentation, technical difficulties were overcome and everyone could see and hear each other – RESULT!

Since then, our discussions have been wide ranging, with topics including gardening (what were we to do with our prunings with all the dumps closed!), how to make a bottle of wine last longer, Sharon's new grandson, the joys of working from home and how to perfect the art of home hairdressing (hacking?!). This week, much hilarity ensued when our cat decided to pay a visit to her litter-tray behind us while we were chatting. There followed a video demonstration of our "Litter Robot" (a self-cleaning litter tray). Who'd have thought we'd be discussing this tonight?!!

Oh yes, and we occasionally find time to talk about bells and what we are going to ring when this is all over!! We wonder what's in store for next week?.....

Mandy and Geoff Peck

A couple more signs.....

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment."

At the electric company: "We would be de-lighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

Ed. During the lockdown, we were forbidden from driving to beauty spots and walking in National Trust parks. I wonder what the birds made of it all?

Titwillow (*With apologies to WS Gilbert*)

On a tree by a river sat little Tom Tit
Singing ‘willow, titwillow, titwillow’.
His mate fluttered in and beside him did sit,
Singing ‘willow, titwillow, titwillow’.
“Oh, where are the people?” bewildered, he cried,
“Tis many a day since a soul I have spied”
“I think,” said his wife, “they’re all staying inside!”
“Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow”.

“I do like the quiet, I do like the peace!
“Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow,
“But find myself wondering why did they cease
“Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow?”
“The people in hundreds of cars they all came
“Especially when there was no sign of much rain,
“The weather’s so nice, it seems such a shame!
“Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!”

“I think I can tell you!” – she’d a smile on her beak,
Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,
“For I saw some people last Saturday week,
“Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow,
“They stood in a group, they were flying a kite,
“Along came a police car with lights flashing bright,
“It seems the Old Bill gave those people a fright!
“Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!”

A buzzard, above them, then uttered his ‘mew’
Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow.
As quick as they could off to safety they flew,
Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow!
Arrived at their nest then our avian pair
Correctly concluded what caused human scare:
“They’re frightened of critters that fly in the air!
“Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!”

By Nigel Beeton

Ed. These positive words have been streaming on the net, so you might have seen them, but I know many of you will not have.

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened, more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger was passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

Kitty O'Meara

HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2020

- 4 JULY** **Transport Rally - Sanderstead - postponed**
- 25 JULY** **Summer Soiree - Weybridge - postponed**
- 19 SEPTEMBER** **East Sussex Rally - postponed**
- 3 OCTOBER** **Rally - Sway**
- 10 OCTOBER** **East Kent Rally - Headcorn**
- 21-24 OCTOBER** **UK BRONZE (Concert Sat 24th) - Sutton**

*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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