

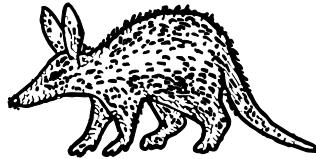
HANDBELL RINGERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN



South East Region

Newsletter

February 2022
Issue 124



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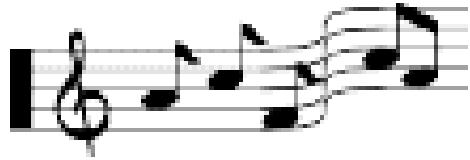
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Best of all, they're available online - just make your purchase in our eStore and you'll receive an email with instructions for how to download your music. Come and visit us at <http://larryandcarla.com>, click on "Our Music", and then click on the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

It is of course understandable that we haven't had any more articles, but let's hope ringing will now gradually get back to 'normal'!

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **31st March 2022**

Best wishes to all

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

WANTED

Do you have any bells you are not using and would like a new home for?

A team I have just joined is without a bottom C bell (22 in Whitechapel parlance).

If so, please let me know your price! It will be well loved, and will join and complete a 3 octave set.

Please contact Sue Quarendon 01622-891864, txt 07742-793602 or e-mail sueq99@outlook.com



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Coming to your team soon: a new piece of free music

As part of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, HRGB SE Region is delighted to announce that all teams in the region will be sent a newly composed piece of celebratory music. We hope that as many ringers as possible can play the piece at some time either at a public event, a regional or local handbell event or even at a normal rehearsal to contribute to the Jubilee celebrations.

Hopefully we can all share pictures and/or videos of our playing in the newsletter and via social media as we come back together after being apart for much of the last two years.

Look out for your copy of the music and more information.

Watch this space!

Dear Ringers,

Happy New Year!

I hope, like me, you were able to meet up with family and friends over Christmas. Maybe your team even managed a few Christmas performances or just an open rehearsal for family and friends? If you have any photos, please do send them in - don't feel that you have to write a lengthy article to go with the, just a sentence or two will do!

You will see from the diary that we have some events coming up in the next few months. All of these will be small scale events, with plenty of space and ventilation (dress accordingly!). If you would like to organise a similar event, please do get in touch with myself or Sandra.

Accompanying this newsletter are expressions of interest forms for an East Kent rally and for the Guildford Festival Service in June, and an application form for a rally at St George's, Tolworth.

We also have a very exciting announcement - some FREE music for every team in the region. We hope that as many teams as possible will ring this on or around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will be officially launched at our AGM later this month - so lookout for more information (and the music) coming to your team soon!

I look forward to seeing some of you at our AGM (and getting the Sales Table out of the cupboard!).

Happy Ringing!

Yours,

Helen

HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM

DING! DONG! MERRILY OUTSIDE!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, The Lammas Ringers were really pleased to have the opportunity actually to perform this season.



We were invited to play at Ramster Gardens as part of their Christmas Pop-Up Market, outside, on 4th December. It was a gloriously sunny, dry day but we needed thermals and jumpers under our team sweatshirts.

Barbara Saunders and Chris Payne played the handbell parts in the delightful “Welcome all Wonders” by Richard Shephard in the Godalming Choral Society concert on the same evening. Unfortunately, the performance with the U3A Singing for Fun Christmas Concert was cancelled for reasons which have sadly now become obvious. However, we enjoyed rehearsing with the U3A Choir and went to their final rehearsal to play Ding! Dong! Merrily on High, indoors, with an arrangement by Ruth Morris Gray plus an arrangement by Michael Clawson of The First Noel/Pachelbel’s Canon. We played the Canon part until, due to it being a late request and lack of practise and team members, we left the semi-quavers to the talented accompanist. Still, a lovely way to end the season with music and Christmas nibbles.



We decided not to cancel our Christmas party at Hector’s on the River on 9th December, as we had to in 2020. It was an excellent meal with convivial company and was enjoyed by all, as the photo shows!

Chris Payne

OBITUARY – WILLIAM BUTLER 1930 – 2021



Bill Butler - founder of the Barfield Handbell Ringers - died on 21 October 2021 and his funeral on 11 November at St Mary's Church, Thatcham was attended by many tower and handbell ringers from far and wide.

Born in Windsor on 7 August 1930, Bill was taught to ring tower bells at Clewer in 1945 and he held many positions within the world of change ringing during his long ringing life. He first rang tunes on handbells in 1949 when he and his brother-in-law entertained at parties playing four-in-hand; and from 1950 to 1958, he assisted in forming school teams of handbell ringers.

When Bill moved to Thatcham, he discovered that St Mary's Church had a set of sixteen handbells - made by James Shaw of Bradford - which were purchased by the Thatcham ringers in 1885 to practise change ringing. This inspired Bill to form the Barfield Handbell Ringers in 1965: the original six members were drawn from his fellow tower-bell ringers and they met once a week at his home, using the church set of bells to practise tune ringing. At that time Bill lived in Barfield Road so the team decided to adopt the name "The Barfield Handbell Ringers". They also wanted to associate the team with the name of Samuel Barfield, the nineteenth century author of a two-volume history of Thatcham.

The music used by the original team was written in number notation on large sheets of card which required just one music stand. However, the system was cumbersome and early in the 1970s, a decision was taken to use standard musical notation with each ringer having their own copy of the music.

With the advent of improved music, more bells could be accommodated and Bill set about building up his own set of five chromatic octaves of bells plus three larger bass bells - the largest being 32G. Bill was instrumental in getting the church set augmented to two and half chromatic octaves, and the current team still

uses these in conjunction with Bill's set, which has now been given to the Barfield Society in his Will.

Bill developed techniques and incorporated belleplates, hand chimes and several styles of handbell ringing to give variety to the team's performances. Under his directorship, the team has performed for many hundreds of people in schools, residential homes, clubs, churches etc, has helped to raise money for charities, bell funds and churches, and has taken part in competitions at Arts Festivals in various centres.

When the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain was formed in 1967, Bill's team was the one hundred and fifty-eighth to join three years later. Since then, the team has attended many national and regional rallies around the UK and Bill also attended International Handbell Symposia in Japan (twice), Canada, the USA (twice), South Korea and the UK (three times - Exeter, Birmingham and Liverpool).

In 1996, Bill instigated the recording of a cassette tape entitled "A Barfield Potpourri". Several CDs were recorded in the following years and both the tape and the CDs proved very popular.

Based on his extensive collection of historic handbells, Bill lectured on The History of Handbells both nationally and internationally. His interest in bells combined with his interest in recording family and local history resulted in a number of publications, including *Musical Handbells: A Comprehensive History of the Bells and their Founders*, now regarded as a definitive textbook on the subject. In 2016 he published *The Barfield Handbell Ringers - the First 50 Years 1965-2015* - a delightful book of memories of the team's activities.

At the national rally in Leicester in April 2010, Bill was surprised and pleased to be awarded Honorary Life Membership of HRGB. A month later, the team organised a rally in Newbury during which they had a further surprise for Bill: the presentation of "Call of the Bells", a piece of music composed by Sandra Winter and commissioned by them to mark his 80th birthday. Barfield were delighted when this piece was chosen for inclusion in the programme of music for the international handbell symposium in South Korea in 2014, and a recording made at the final concert is still available on YouTube.

In 2015, the 50th anniversary of Barfield's formation and Bill's role as musical director were celebrated with another rally in Newbury and a special concert (and celebration cake!) at St Mary's Church, Thatcham. At the end of that year Bill stepped down as Barfield's musical director for a well-earned rest. However, he continued to join the team at several regional and national rallies, attended their concerts and accompanied them to the annual handbell festival services at Guildford Cathedral - he was in the congregation on the last occasion it was held in October 2019.

Many lovely tributes to Bill were received from past and present members of Barfield Handbell Ringers and the following encapsulates the general feeling: *How privileged we have been to have such a person to conduct, teach and lead us in the past. My love of bells and the sound they produce was encouraged and developed by his inspiration and his own love of these much underrated and understated musical instruments. May the bells in Heaven be ringing for you, Bill.* He will be greatly missed by so many people.

Barfield Handbell Ringers will be dedicating their spring concert to Bill's memory and will be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join them for that occasion. The concert will be at St Mary's Church, Church Gate, Thatcham RG19 3PN commencing at 3pm on Saturday 19 March.

Dianne Rogers and Richard Butler 18 January 2022



HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2022

February	26	AGM and Mini Massed Ring - Sanderstead
April	30	Rally - St George's, Surbiton <i>Application form in this issue</i>
May	8	SERBO Concert, Harlequin Theatre, Redhill - cancelled
	14	Invitation Rally - Fordingbridge
	21	East Kent Rally - Headcorn <i>Application form in this issue</i>
June	11	Handbell Festival Service, Guildford Cathedral <i>Expression of interest details in this issue</i>

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the
HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN SOUTH EAST REGION
will be held on **Saturday 26th February 2022 at 11:45am**
at All Saints' Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 9AB

If you are intending to come to the meeting, please let the Secretary know.
Sandra Winter, email sandra@hrgb.org.uk or telephone 020 8657 1344.

Members/teams booked in for the afternoon Mini Massed Ring
have already been contacted about set up times, etc.

If you have any queries, please contact Sandra.

*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!*

SE REGION COMMITTEE AND JOB HOLDERS 2019/20

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VICE CHAIR , NEC Rep & Oxon & Bucks Rep	Alan Cooper	07964 615428
SECRETARY & Honorary Life Member	Sandra Winter	020 8657 1344
TREASURER	John Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & Newsletter Editor	Valerie Boon	01483 874123
MEMBER & NEC Rep	Gay Cooper	07964 615428
MEMBER & Kent Rep	Sue Quarendon	01622 891864
MEMBER & Honorary Life Member	Keith Rowland	01252 409438
MEMBER	Jill Glennerster	07821 131303
MEMBER	Libby Eldridge	01883 622808
MEMBER	Martin Winter	020 8657 1344
MEMBER & Surrey Rep	Alan Sharps	01784 244665
Webmaster	Grant O'Sullivan	
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