

HANDBELL RINGERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN



South East Region

Newsletter

April 2022
Issue 125



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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:- A report on the Sanderstead Mini Rally/AGM, HRGB Photo Competition, a day out in Sussex and NEC News

As ringing is gradually getting back to 'normal', I hope to receive more articles telling about your activities. It would be lovely to have some thoughts on the National Rally in Sheffield. I'm sure some of you attended.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **31st June 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

NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC NEEDED

Shirley Aston is retiring from being Director of Music for the Pilgrim Ringers team and hopes that there might be a replacement somewhere in the neighbourhood who would be interested in taking over. We meet on Monday afternoons in Normandy Village Hall (between Guildford and Farnham). Contact: 01483 538373

Celebration Rally at Headcorn – Sat 21st May 2022

Spaces still available - Contact Sue Q if interested

01622-891864 or 07742-793603 or sueq99@outlook.com

Dear Ringers,

It was lovely to see many of you at our Sanderstead Rally and AGM at the end of February - and we certainly made a joyous sound, once we had got used to ringing together again (and watching the conductors!)

And just last weekend, a number of South East members journeyed to Sheffield for the National Rally, hosted by the NE Region. We had waited a long time for this, as it was originally due to take place in 2020, but it was really good to be able to spend time with fellow ringers and there was plenty of ringing and catching up!

If you have been unsure about joining regional events, I hope the article about the Sanderstead event will give you some reassurance. There are spaces in some of the upcoming events - in particular the Celebration Rally at Headcorn in May and the Guildford Festival Service in June - please do contact Sue (for Headcorn) or Sandra (for Guildford) if you would like to join us.

One of the pieces we will be ringing in Headcorn is an arrangement of Crimond/Now is the Hour which we rang in the massed ringing at the Sheffield National Rally in celebration of the life Don Bedford who died earlier this year. Those of you who regularly attended the East Kent Rally, will have met Don who always travelled to support his brother Philip in his organising of this event and so it seems only fitting that we should both remember him and celebrate his life on this occasion. All Don and Philip's music is now available from HRGB Sales via the online shop.

Another of the massed ringing pieces at many of our events over the next few months will be 'Celebration 70!', written by Sandra especially for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations (if your team

correspondent hasn't received a copy of, please do let me know - there have been a few gremlins in the distribution system!). Make sure you read of the information page in this newsletter for details of the HRGB and SE region competitions - and don't forget to let HRGB know if you are taking part in an event on or near the celebration weekend itself. In addition to entering them into the competition, please send any photos or videos to me, so I can put them on our Facebook page, as well as to Valerie for the newsletter.

Coming in the next newsletter will be an article about the South East Region Bell Orchestra and also an update on paying for events by BACS which we are trialling for the Guildford Festival Service. Let's see if all your photos and articles can make it a bumper 'Back to Ringing' edition!

Happy Ringing!

Yours, *Heleen*

HELENLSECKER@GMAIL.COM



Sanderstead Mini Rally Saturday 26th February 2022

In the HRGB South East Region diary, the Sanderstead rally was billed as a 'mini massed ring'. That mini massed ring turned out to be over 50 bellringers from ten different teams. Well done to all the teams for being brave enough to meet up, especially to the Fordingbridge team who travelled over 100 miles to get there.



The AGM took a speedy twenty minutes to complete before Sandra Winter gave us the number crunching fact that it had been 709 days since a rally like this had taken place - that's one year, eleven months and one week! Following this, a sociable hour was given over to lunch.



Ringers had the chance to catch up with friends, buy goods from the sales table and get a cup of tea or coffee. Despite the lifting of covid rules, everyone was careful enough to wear a mask when moving around the hall and a 'one-way' system of movement helped to promote a level of safety. It was a gloriously sunny day and the windows were open making us feel like Spring is just around the corner.

At last we got to the part where we were going to make up for lost time. An enthusiastic but nervous energy descended as the practise time for the six dance pieces began. They included The Can-Can, The Veleta, The Tango, Two Tudor tunes and Twinkle Rocks.

Different conductors brought their own insights into each tune and we did our best to carry out their instructions.

No-one wanted to be the person whose bell continued to sound in the middle of a rest beat! Timing and dynamics gradually improved over the two hour practise session.



The break for afternoon tea was most welcome before the final performance of the full repertoire. Everyone gave their best and a sense of life getting back to some sort of normal was keenly felt.



Many thanks go to Sandra and Martin Winter for organising the event and to everyone behind the scenes for whatever duties they carried out.

Margaret Speller, Frindsbury Handbell Ringers

Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Celebration 70!

How are you getting on with your new music? Hopefully you will be able to play it for an audience at some point, otherwise we hope that you enjoy playing it at your practices. For those of you attending SE region events this year it may well be part of the massed ringing. Please remember we would love to hear from you at the newsletter with your experiences of playing this piece, your celebratory photos or even recordings of the piece.

Photo Competition

Nationally HRGB is holding a competition for the best/most original/most fun photograph of teams celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. Prizes of £100 and £50 sponsored by New Moon Insurance will be awarded to the winning teams., there will also be a £50 prize for the best SE team not winning a national prize.

It's time to get creative, can you take your photo in an unusual but Jubilee related location, dust off the bunting and party hats, or fancy dress for a time or event from the last 70 years?

Entries can be submitted via the HRGB website.

HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN S E REGION
Reg. Charity numbers 298945 (England) & SC038918 (Scotland)
DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 26th February 2022, 11.45am at All Saints' Hall Sanderstead Surrey

1. Chair's Welcome and Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and rally, the first open, in person event in the region for 709 days!

2. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the state of the region as reported at the last AGM in October remains largely unchanged. She thanked Sandra, Martin & Libby for their work in making the event possible. She also thanked the ringers for coming and hoped that things would now be gradually returning to normal. She noted that the event was smaller than it would have been in the past but felt that this was good and that small more local events would be the way forward for a while, she asked members to consider if they could host a small event for teams near to them. She noted that the COVID rules had changed again but that HRGB was still going to exercise caution at events. She highlighted a number of upcoming events including the Festival Service at Guildford and spoke about the Platinum Jubilee music and competition plans. Acceptance of the report Proposed Lesley Wallis seconded Barbara Saunders agreed *nem con*.

3. Apologies for absence

Received from Helen Allen, Shirley Aston, Alan Cooper, Gay Cooper, Alan Sharps and John Tipping. 47 members were in attendance.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sue Quarendon seconded by Keith Rowland 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 reported that this was probably the shortest secretary's report she had ever written. Since the last AGM there had been no events and one 'zoom' committee meeting. This was the first regional non-invitation event for 1 year 11 months and 1 week. Further events are now planned and we're looking forward to getting back to a 'new normal'. She thanked everyone involved in these events. She noted that regional membership had suffered in the last two years with some members sadly dying, others retiring meaning some teams being reduced in size, fortunately some teams have been able to recruit and hopefully this trend might continue as we return to more normal activity.

There are also some teams to chase up to renew their membership particularly following the change to the online process which may have been missed by some. She thanked her fellow officers and committee members for their continuing efforts and hoped that we have a much better year than the last two.

A proposal to receive the report was made by Angela Jones and seconded by Carol Campbell and agreed *nem. con.*

7. Financial Matters

The meeting received the Statement of Financial Affairs for the year ending 31/12/2021. The Treasurer spoke to them identifying the key elements, including the fact that the Regional rebate was now the main source of income and that the move to electronic distribution of the newsletter was a significant cost saving. Acceptance of the Statement Proposed Jill Glennerster seconded Libby Eldridge. 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

Committee members:

Vice Chair: Alan Cooper

Valerie Boon, Gay Cooper, Libby Eldridge,

Secretary: Sandra Winter

Jill Glennerster, Sue Quarendon,

Treasurer: John Boon

Keith Rowland, Alan Sharps, Martin Winter

The chair drew the meetings attention to the County Rep vacancies for Sussex and Hampshire and asked if anyone was interested in taking these on to contact her.

9. Any Other Business

(i) Platinum Jubilee. As part of the celebrations for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee the region was providing all teams with a free new piece of music specially composed for the event. Teams are going to be encouraged to play the piece at some point during the celebrations at a concert/event/regular rehearsal and then to send in pictures/recordings to share with the rest of the region. It is also hoped that the piece will be rung at a number of upcoming regional events. There is an HRGB national competition for Jubilee related photos with prizes sponsored by New Moon insurance who have also donated a specific SE Region prize for a team which does not win a national prize... The aim of the music and competition is to help teams celebrate the Jubilee but also to encourage us to share and re-establish contact with each other after the past two years of enforced separation

The meeting closed at 12.02 p.m

HANDBELL RINGERS of GREAT BRITAIN SE Reion
Registered Charity Nos. 298945 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland)

Balance Sheet for year ended 31/12/2021

	2021	2020
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
<u>Tangible Assets</u>		
Bells estimated realisable value	2,000.00	2,000.00
The Exeter Handbells donated by Hamilton Ringers 2014	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
The Milton Keynes Bells	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>11,500.00</u>	<u>11,500.00</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Closing Stock	859.70	859.70
Prepayments	84.50	84.50
Debtors		
Deposit Account (COIF)	9,755.45	9,754.29
Bank	5,206.76	3,976.17
Cash	143.83	143.83
Total Current Assets	<u>16,050.24</u>	<u>14,818.49</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	-	-
Other Creditors		-
Total Current Liabilities	-	-
Net Current Assets	<u>16,050.24</u>	<u>14,818.49</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>27,550.24</u>	<u>26,318.49</u>
Financed by:		
Unrestricted General Funds	27,124.48	25,892.73
Designated Fund: Ring from Scratch	425.76	425.76
Total Charity Funds	<u>27,550.24</u>	<u>26,318.49</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 SC038918 (Scotland)

Statement of Financial Affairs for year ended 31/12/2021

	2021			2020	
	Unrest Gen. Funds £	Desig Bells to go £	Desig. Ring from Scratch £	Total £	Total £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income					
Regional Rebate	1,581.00			1,581.00	1,689.00
Activities for generating funds					
Rallies	45.00			45.00	1,019.00
Guildford 2020				718.00	718.00
Advertising					30.00
Ring from Scratch (Desig.)					
Investment Income					
Bank Interest	1.16			1.16	25.56
Incoming resources from charit. activ.					
Sales income	249.45			249.45	419.63
Total Incoming Resources	<u>1,627.16</u>			<u>1,627.16</u>	<u>3,701.01</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising trading					
Cost of goods sold					313.83
Charitable Activities					
Rallies	131.50			131.50	1,194.91
Guildford Festival 2020					718.00
Ring from Scratch (desig.)	-			-	-
<i>Newsletter</i> Postage					111.80
Photocopy					209.40
Stationery					
<i>Depreciation</i>	-			-	-
<i>Other costs</i>					
Postage					67.20
Insurance	103.25			103.25	91.40
Sundry					121.00
Computer/ Web expenses	160.66			160.66	30.00
Total Resources Expended	<u>395.41</u>			<u>395.41</u>	<u>5,542.57</u>
Net incoming Resources	1,231.75			1,231.75	843.47
Transfers					
Net movement in funds	1,231.75			1,231.75	843.47
Adjustments to fixed Assets value re Capitalisation Policy					
Total Funds Brought forward	25,892.73		425.76	26,318.49	25,475.02
Total Funds Carried forward	<u>27,124.48</u>		<u>425.76</u>	<u>27,550.24</u>	<u>26,318.49</u>

A DAY-OUT IN SUSSEX TURNS INTO A BELL RESEARCH PROJECT

On a bright cold April morning we set off on our journey to the Weald & Downland Museum in Singleton, West Sussex. Little did we know what delights were in store for us - as we arrived, donned with thick winter wear, in a flurry of snow.

The old houses and barns – including The Repair Shop barn (as used in the BBC programme) – were still a delight for us, even 20 years after our last visit.

A treat we hadn't seen before was the late 16th century bell frame from the 11th century church of St Mary, Stoughton, West Sussex.

The bell surprises didn't end there, though. In the afternoon we were given a guided tour of the museum's Gridshell, which is a large oak-framed hangar used to restore buildings and artefacts.



*The old bell frame from
Stoughton*



The Museum's Gridshell

Little did we know that we were walking above a treasure-trove of some 18,000 items donated to the museum for safe keeping and conservation.

We were led down to the basement and couldn't believe the array of bells before our eyes! cow and sheep bells, plus a large collection of horse-belfries and crotal bells.

Most of these were inscribed with the letters RW, which we learned were cast by Robert Wells – a bell founder from Aldbourne in Wiltshire, which is the “home of English handbells”.



*Close-up of a Wells horse-belfry,
which would have been attached
to the hame of the horse's harness*



Just a "few" bells from the archives

Having enjoyed our bell treat in Singleton, we were inspired to discover more about the Wells foundry in Aldbourne, so – two days later – we set off for Wiltshire.

Aldbourn is a beautiful old village, set in a downland valley. It may be small, but it has its own heritage centre (open weekends) and is



A four-horse team with belfries

immensely proud of its bell-founding history, which started with the Corr family in 1670.

This family had previously been casting gun barrels, but business tailed off at the end of the Civil War, so they turned their attention to casting bells – already having the tools and metal suppliers lined up, of course!

According to the Museum “Their first excursion into bell founding was to experiment with handle bells during the 1670’s, and in doing so the Corrs discovered that bells could be made into musical sets by adding bushes for controlling the swing of the clapper and leather clapper ends, plus leather straps for holding the bells in the hand.



Aldbourn village green and church

They are credited with producing the first tuned hand bells in this country and possibly the world!

At this time, demand for church bells was booming and their first church bell is recorded as being cast in 1694. St Michael’s Church belfry, Aldbourne, houses bells cast by Corr and Wells (amongst others), which are still rung today.

Eventually the Wells family took over from the Corrs and the bell foundry business continued until 1825, when bankruptcy forced the sale of the business Mears of Whitechapel bought all the equipment and many of the staff followed to work in London.

The Aldbourne Heritage Centre has many examples of Wells and Corrs bells, including crotal bells, horse-team bells and an early 2-octave set of tuned handbell castings.



*Crotal latten bells -
cast by R Wells*



*Early two-octave diatonic set
by R Wells*

Having spent an enthralling afternoon in Aldbourne, we told the enthusiastic heritage centre volunteers about the large collection of Wells bells at Singleton Now they are planning to visit The Weald & Downland Museum, too!

We thoroughly recommend visits to both Singleton and Aldbourne, should you get the chance. It is worth bearing in mind that the bell artefacts in Singleton's Gridshell can only be viewed during guided tours which run every day at 2pm. Aldbourne Heritage Centre is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am – 4.30 pm; the building is very small, but – combined with a pub lunch and walk around the village – it's still a good day out! Such a lovely few days discovering the history of English bells



Crotal and handbells - Aldbourne

Geoff & Mandy Peck

NEC NEWS

It has been decided that there will no longer be a National AGM report at the Regional AGM as this is up to 11 months later and the National minutes are anyway published in Reverberations. Instead the National Executive Committee representatives will report in the newsletter on NEC news likely to be of interest to members..

What is the NEC and What Does it Do?

The NEC consists of the four executive officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary) plus two representatives from each region, who together make up the trustees.

We meet for a fairly full day (currently on Zoom) 3-4 times per year. Any HRGB member may attend meetings (but not vote) on application to the Secretary, and several of the Honorary Life Members and sometimes appointed office-holders attend regularly.

The NEC manages HRGB's property, finances and affairs



and sets national policies in accordance with HRGB rules. Much of the detailed work is done by individuals or working parties who regularly report to the NEC.

Administration

It is the NEC which has to oversee necessary business and regulatory matters such as data protection (GDPR), safeguarding, Covid precautions, registers of gifts, hospitality and conflicts of interest, keeping HRGB rules up to date etc. It oversees HRGB finances (ably managed by the Treasurer) and approves non-routine expenditure such as the decision to give a grant to regions for running “back to ringing” events.

We won't bore you with all the regulatory details here unless you need to know. HRGB policies and NEC Minutes (other than confidential matters such as HLM nominations) are now available in the members' section of the website – the minutes after they have been formally agreed at the following NEC meeting.

Events and Communications

The NEC is kept informed of progress on national and international events and shares information and ideas from regional events.

The Society has also been running virtual events including massed ringing and webinars where you can learn about aspects of handbells and handbell ringing from the comfort (or otherwise) of your own home.

It is worth a look at the website, www.hrgb.org.uk if you have not done so recently. It has been much expanded and useful information for members continues to be added. Please ensure that HRGB has your up-to-date email address so that you can have access to the members-only section and so that you can be sent up-to-date information without incurring postage costs - we promise we won't spam you!

If you enjoy social media you are encouraged to follow HRGB on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram or Pinterest and to add one or more of the following hashtags to your team posts: #Handbells #HandbellMusic #HandbellsRFun #Handbells4All

Membership Database

This year many of you have been able to renew electronically on the new membership database, but it is not suited to couples or family members who share an email address.. The NEC has now approved a new category of Joint Membership suitable for this case, with an option to share just one copy of Reverberations for a reduction in cost. If approved by the 2023 National AGM this will be available from 2024.

HRGB Shop

Don and Philip Bedford have generously donated their music books, in both number and staff notation, to HRGB, who will reprint them as necessary for sale. Bill Butler's historical book "Musical Handbells " will be available for purchase from the shop at a special discounted price until the end of this year.

Archive

The HRGB Archive will be given to Heritage Quay Archive Centre at the University of Huddersfield, as they have the expertise to catalogue and store the materials appropriately. Members of the public will be able to access it by appointment. HRGB will retain its copyright in the materials.

Volunteers Needed

We have recently been discussing contingency plans for working without a National Secretary as Christine Reid is standing down from the 2022 AGM in April. If you would like to know more about what this interesting role entails, or are willing to help out in the interim with some aspects such as taking minutes on occasion, phone or email the National Chair or Secretary. All contact details are in Reverberations.

There are currently also vacancies for Editor of Reverberations and Editor of Young Vibrations. Amanda Jones and Valerie Boon were warmly thanked for their work on these over the years. For more information contact John Willis (Reverberations) or Valerie Boon (Young Vibrations). Don't worry if you are unsure how to fit your layout on the page – there is software that does it for you.

Alan and Gay Cooper
SE Region NEC Representatives

HRGB SOUTH EAST REGION DIARY 2022

April	30	Rally - St George's, Surbiton
May	14	Invitation Rally - Fordingbridge
	21	East Kent Rally - Headcorn
June	11	Handbell Festival Service 3 pm - 'Thanksgiving' - Guildford Cathedral

Application forms have been sent to everyone who expressed an interest in coming - it's not too late! - if you would like to ring, please email sandra@hrgb.org.uk for a form. If you would like to support by being in the congregation, we'll look forward to seeing you there!

September 24 Ring Something Simple Again! - Sanderstead

The last regional event before the lockdown in March 2020 was 'Ring Something Simple - many people weren't able to come, so this day will repeat some of the music from the first one, with additional music and a Christmas flavour too - it's never too early to start! More details in the next issue.

Are **YOU** hosting or taking part in an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee?

Don't forget to enter the national HRGB 'photo competition (details in Reverberations) or our own SE competition – all with cash prizes kindly sponsored by New Moon Insurance!

***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

Facebook : www.facebook.com/HrgbSe

Twitter: www.twitter.com/HRGBSE

HRGB Registered Charity numbers 298945 (England) and SCO38918 (Scotland).

SE REGION COMMITTEE AND JOB HOLDERS 2019/20

CHAIR , Youth Rep, & Sales Table Manager	Helen Secker	020 8295 3017
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	
Berks Representative	Meg Hostler	01189 731569
London Representative	Di Ashton	020 8981 0261
Music Resource Advisor	Kathryn Hughes	020 8462 9419
Honorary Life Members	George Francis John Tipping Alan Collings	Bill Butler Philip Bedford



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