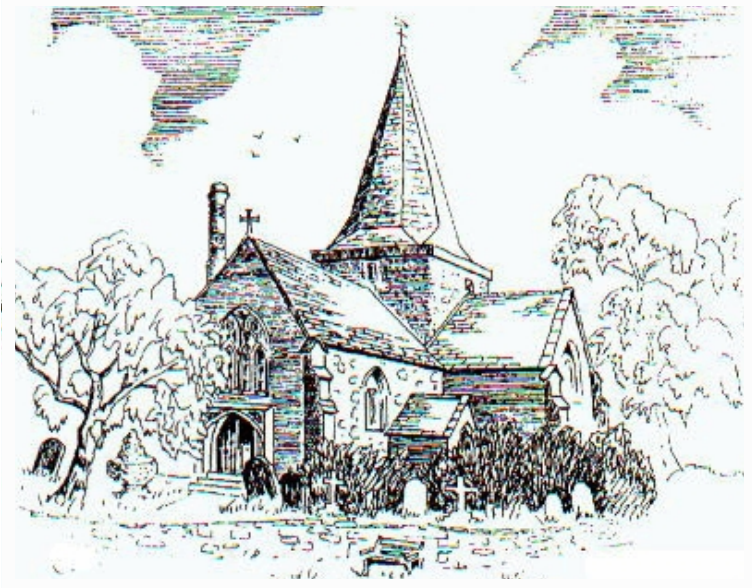


The September Outing

I think I approached my first Surrey Bell Ringers' outing (25th September) with excitement and anxiety in equal measure. No, let's be honest - more anxiety. Tales from other ringers about 'difficult', 'heavily set' bells in other churches didn't do a great deal for my confidence! However, I think their energetic enthusiasm spurred me on. There were twenty-one Surrey ringers in all and just under half of them (Noel, Susan, Alice, Ruth, Bill, Ken, Denise, Morag and me) were from St John's, Caterham.

The first church we arrived at was St Andrew's in Alfriston. What a beautiful village with a delightfully decorated cruciform church in a picturesque setting. The bells hung in the centre of the church and I thought that was a wonderful arrangement until it came to my turn to ring. As my heart fluttered in my chest (and I found it hard to articulate a reasonable sentence) I realised that every flaw would be seen, as well as heard, by a Sunday congregation and then the arrangement didn't seem quite so wonderful after all. Much better to ring in the anonymity of a tower! I did enjoy the experience but it was over all too soon. Next it was on to Sedlescombe and to the Church of St John the Baptist.



Alfriston Church - Friends of Alfriston Church website

We stopped for a pub lunch at Salehurst and afterwards rang the bells at St Mary's which was only a few yards from the pub. The ceiling in the bell tower seemed very low and the ferrets' tails of the Sally disappeared with a tremble through the holes in the low ceiling. The bell I was ringing seemed unforgiving; the slightest error was quickly exposed and I made more than slight errors so you can imagine how it sounded!

Next it was on to St Thomas, Brightling where we had the added pleasure of being shown the wind barrel organ; one of only three in the country and the only one still working. The kneelers in the church were so finely stitched and each one unique. The bells seemed very loud in this tower and one of the more experienced ringers had to ring on his knees as the rope was so long. The bells were named after some of the Duke of Wellington's victories and a lap full of silver sixpences had been thrown in when one of the bells was cast to give it a sweeter ring.

The last church we visited was St Giles in Dallington. When I looked up, the ropes seemed a long way off from where I was standing and a few of us needed to stand on a box to ring. I felt like a child. The

bells seemed very heavy and when the rope went up at backstroke and my arms were at their full extension, I knew that there would be no reason for me to visit the Chiropractice that week as every one of my vertebrae had been stretched and realigned with that pull! It was lovely to ring in an all female band in that church and five out of the six ringers had been from St John's. Some of us had the added bonus (whilst searching for a comfort break) to visit a garden that was in the Little Yellow Book or National Garden Scheme.

Finally, when there were no more bells left to ring, Noel and Susan invited the tired ringers back to their home for some supper. It had been a lovely day out for us all. What was the best part? Well there was so much to choose from. Watching Susan look so serene while ringing so many different bells with consummate ease, the companionship and camaraderie of the ringers, the lovely pub lunch, the beautiful villages, the barrel organ, the cruciform church so beautifully decorated, the lovely countryside (we saw a lot of that as we got lost so often), the history behind each bell. Well, if I had to choose it would have to be standing in the doorway of a tower and hearing Cambridge Surprise Minor rung by very experienced ringers. Pure nectar for the ears.

Milica
Novice ringer - St John's Caterham

The Eight Bell Striking Competition

Four bands gathered at Caterham St Mary for this year's Eight Bell Striking Competition for the Pat Cannon Trophy - the Association's premier striking competition. Michael Moreton of South Croydon was ensconced in the car park with four grids for the marking. Let battle commence!

The Benhilton Practice Night band rang first and completed their Grandsire Triples with the Caterham St John/Godstone band similarly following though probably at a slower pace. Kingston rang Cambridge Surprise Major third with Croydon completing the afternoon with Grandsire Triples.

Sheila Cheesman, General Master, had started the afternoon by commenting on "The first shall become last and the last shall come first" and that is how it turned out when Michael Moreton gave the results and some anecdotes. So, Croydon regained the Pat Cannon Trophy with 29 faults from last year's winners Kingston with 58. There are some photos on the website.

Friendly Striking Challenge 2010

Weekday winners:	Monday - Caterham St John	Tuesday - Newdigate
Wednesday - Merstham	Thursday - Godstone	Friday - Walton on Thames

And so the five bands from the previous rounds gathered at Caterham St John on Saturday evening to ring for The Richard Wallis Trophy and a bottle of champagne. The draw for the order in which to ring actually came out in practice night order so the home favourites Caterham St John rang first. Some rang call changes, some rang a method whilst some chose the front six whilst others chose the back six.

Thanks go to Andrew and Jane Holland who were the judges sitting in the Morrisons' car park. After short deliberations which, it was reported weren't contentious between the two of them, the bronze medal position went to Caterham St John, silver to perennial bridesmaids Merstham and the Trophy and champagne to Godstone (what will Merstham write in the Annual Report next year then?). Congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's Challenge and roll on next year. If you have thoughts on the Challenge, do let anyone on the District Committee know soon.

The Masterpiece -

Some time ago Michael Uphill pointed out the contrast that here in Surrey we have some of the best ringers in the world, and yet the standard of ringing for Sunday Service is generally so poor.

Recently I have had several letters from Southern District Members raising the following points :

- 1 How many in the Southern District are pleased and proud of the Sunday ringing at their tower?
- 2 We now have many groups functioning : the Peripatetics, the Wandering Bobs, the DFP, the Pinch Punch, the Surprise Major practice. Is it possible that there are too many groups, making too great a call on the time of those able to lead such groups ?
- 3 Would it be more useful to set up a whole day course, whenever the need arose, eg for Stedman, or Kent, or Grandsire. This would need the students to do some positive homework beforehand, and run through a session on the theory of the method before they started ringing, and be prepared to start from ANY bell. "Some years ago I was helping at a PBD group where the students could barely ring RCC, let alone PH. This situation is no good to anyone !" If teachers are willing to give up their time and work hard to help train students then the students should at least meet the teachers half-way by doing their homework first.
- 4 Training new recruits is a different matter. Most of our new ringers are of mature years, perhaps retired, or "between opportunities". Would they be better served by a one-week course of ringing two hours a day, on easy bells, with tutors able to give them their undivided attention. After a week of this they should be able to ring rounds competently, and with good style - becoming an asset to any Tower ! Perhaps they could receive a suitable certificate. Should we bias our Training plans away from teenagers, and towards mature people ?
- 5 "The training of new recruits is a totally different aspect of ringing, and at first sight one may think it more important than being able to ring "fancy methods". I believe it IS more important, and our primary aim should be to have sufficient people competent on the end of a rope to keep bells ringing for Sunday services. BUT..BUT...BUT that needs -trained ringers capable of imparting to learners the skills needed, and those ringers themselves need to feel that their own skills are sometimes being stretched - without this one's patience to ring badly-struck PH5, PBD or even just call changes can be tried to the extent that giving up altogether may seem a welcome path to take."
- 6 "Speaking with one "expert" recently over the matter of not attending association meetings and practices they hinted, that they would attend more often if there was a chance of some decent ringing (meaning striking). Like me, they didn't consider it worthwhile to use up an afternoon / evening for a load of smackabout with some crash, bang, wallop thrown in."
- 7 Does the need for a specific training day still exist? It requires no small amount of effort to put the event on. There is always the panic to ensure enough helpers are on hand and I wonder whether a form of hit squad would be a better approach to specific needs. Not necessarily visiting a tower on practice night, but when sufficient numbers are known, to arrange a day's training. Responding to requests, rather than the calendar.
- 8 Given that we have a monthly meeting throughout the year, why not, as some other guilds and associations do, set a method to be attempted there? The advantage is that you don't need to set aside a certain day. The meeting is open. It could be advertised in the Ringing World, so you may well attract additional visitors who want to ring the set method, this might attract more standers-behind to assist. You can ask known "experts" to come along. (This all presupposes that people will devote the necessary time to homework.)

There is a lot to think about in these suggestions. Can I ask YOU to think it through, and let me have your views, or send them to NotS, or the Comic or put them on the Surrey Yahoo Groups.

I believe we are facing a serious problem, that will not improve of it's own accord -WE must do something – and it's now open to ALL of the membership to discuss the issues raised above.

John

The Ringing World's Grand Day Out :

Saturday 26 March 2011

The Ringing World will be 100 years old on 24 March 2011. They will celebrate this landmark in London on the nearest Saturday. Plans for the day are well advanced and a list of confirmed activity is:

- ★ 8:30 - 14:00 : Whitechapel Bell Foundry open.
- ★ 9:00 - 18:30 : Towers open for ringing on up to 10 different routes into the centre.
- ★ 9:30 onwards : City Walks available.
- ★ 9:30 - 14:30 : Exhibition and refreshments at St Saviour Church Hall, Pimlico
- ★ 10:00 onwards : Ringing World Youth Contest at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico. Look out for more details of a Surrey Association entry in due course.
- ★ 10:00 - 17:00 : Mini-rings available in Dean's Yard (except during the service).
- ★ 10:00 - 18:00 : "Inspired by Bells" at the ROA Gallery, Pall Mall. An art exhibition specially created for the Ringing World's Centenary. The exhibition will show bellringing from a contemporary artist's perspective and artworks include drawing, painting, cartoons, sculpture and film.
- ★ 11:00 - 18:00 : Beer Tent open in Dean's Yard (real ales and soft drinks).
- ★ 12:00 onwards : Carillon recital on the Bond Street Carillon.
- ★ 13:00 - 14:30 : Tours of Westminster Abbey's North West Tower (limited number).
- ★ 14:00 - 14:50 : Pre-service Westminster Abbey sightseeing (normal admission price is £15).
- ★ **15:00 - 16:00 : Westminster Abbey service**
- ★ 16:00 - 17:00 : Post-service ringing at the Abbey (limited to 30 people)
- ★ 16:00 - 18:00 : Grand Ringers' Gathering in Central Hall, Westminster
- ★ 18:15 - 19:15 : Handbell Concert by the renowned Wandle Ringers to be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

There are two types of ticket on sale for the celebrations:

- * **"Maximus" ticket *£18.00, no concessions):** Allows free access to all of the day's activities (except the optional city walks). This ticket also includes the "Grand Ringers' Gathering" at 4pm. Highlights of the gathering, which includes tea and cake, are a welcome from the Chairman of The Ringing World Ltd, the results of the National Youth Contest and the first ever public performance of change ringing on 24 handbells.
- * **"Royal" ticket (£13.00, no concessions):** Allows free access to most of the day's activities. Does not allow access to the events and refreshments in Central Hall, Westminster.
- There is also a **City Walks ticket (£8.00, no concessions):** Walking tours of city churches are available as an extra option.

Winter Outing :

Wednesday 29 December (West Kent Area)

9.30am to 10.15am	Mereworth St Lawrence (6) 9-1-7 in Bb ME18 5LS
10.45am to 11.30am	Nettlestead St Mary the Virgin (6) 5-0-22 in Bb ME18 5ET
12.00pm to 12.45pm	Hadlow St Mary (8) 12-3-0 in G TN11 0EG
LUNCH TIME	(own arrangements)
2.30pm to 3.15pm	Tonbridge SS Peter & Paul (8) 19-1-0 in E TN9 1DY
3.45pm to 4.30pm	Shipbourne St Giles (6) 9-3-2 in G TN11 9PF

All welcome. (The towers have all been confirmed – but would advise looking on the website nearer the time to check for any last minute changes). Gail will send a more detailed poster around the towers with info on parking/pubs etc nearer the time.

Up and Down in Peal at Nutfield

I was disappointed to miss the Up & Down in Peal Training Day in January this year so immediately replied to Ian Griffiths' email to reserve my place on the training event in September. We rarely raise and lower the bells at my home tower and I have been determined to master raising and lowering in peal by the end of this year so I was very keen to attend this course.

It was a beautiful sunny morning when I arrived at Nutfield to meet my fellow students and a small crowd of helpers.

Andrew Holland, our course leader started by explaining that all the work in raising and lowering is done through the backstroke. He then demonstrated raising and lowering with the backstroke only - he did not touch the sally once and it all looked very easy indeed.

The first 3 students then stepped forward to repeat this exercise only to find that it was not quite as easy as it had looked. Several of us found our ropes curving away to one side and our helpers needed to offer a hand to guide us. Andrew gently took my sally to help control my rope and I then did the same. Although I found it impossible to complete the exercise without my hand on the sally, I certainly learned that only the very lightest touch was needed.

This was an extremely powerful lesson and I remember thinking that it was worth attending the course for this alone. There was, of course, a lot more to come.

Andrew went on to explain that we would, in fact, do very little ringing up down that morning as he was going to break the exercise into bits. First we would practice getting started - we would simply start chiming the bells and then we would just ring them part way up.

3 helpers rang the odd bells with 3 students on the others. Even the chiming proved to be quite hard work but the helpers were all very encouraging and offered excellent advice. After the first two sessions we took a welcome break and enjoyed the hot drinks and chocolate hob-nobs provided by Kate.

Several people were beginning to get sore hands but Judith had been wearing a pair of gloves which she kindly offered to share with the students for the next session.

I was ringing the tenor and had been carefully trying to follow the 5 at all times when Alison, my helper, pointed out that the 5 was out and I needed to watch all the bells in front of me. Another very important lesson.

We finally rang all the way up and down, and although I can not honestly say I have mastered ringing up & down in peal, I certainly learned a lot and had a very enjoyable morning

Jackie Harrison

Walton on Thames has moved to Oatlands Park

The last practice at St Mary before the rehang project started was on Friday 15 October. The last Sunday ringing followed in the evening on 17 October. The band are continuing to practise every Friday at St Mary, Oatlands Park. Anyone wishing to join the ringers at Oatlands will be very welcome.

We wish the Walton ringers all the best with the rehang project. Work should be completed around Easter time 2011. Look at the website to read more about Walton's fund raising successes including photos of abseiling.

Page Six Word Search

As it is raining outside and the long nights of autumn are upon us, what better theme for the last Word Search of 2010 than "Cats and Dogs". Also this Word Search is dedicated to anyone who has recently obtained a new pet and can act as a reminder that a pet is for life and not just for Christmas. As always, the words can be found forwards or backwards, horizontally, diagonally or vertically. The 30 unused letters spell out further words linked to the two species as well.

P O O D L E R I H S D R O F F A T S K N A H S K O O R C
T A C E R I H S E H C O C K E R S P A N I E L L R E A H
E B P E N I L E F I R I S H W O L F H O U N D I T V G I
P Y I I G E R M A N S H E P H E R D D O G E E T A O A H
P S T L L J R E Z U A N H C S T N A I G N N E L D L M U
I S B L M L M C R E L I E W T T O R O G T S I L S I U A
H I U O A A O A O D Y P O N G O B L L A N E L A R A F H
W N L C C S N N O R P C K N D U D I L O R U R S E T F U
T I L R A K T I B A P U A Y L E S A D K B S S S K B I A
I A E E V N M N A T U F B C N H B R I J N E B I S O N I
G N O D I I O E R S P O L R S R O N M B O C H E I B A R
E A P R T J R Y B U O E E H A G G A R F I E L D H S I E
R I A O Y R E T E C N T E D I C R E H C S N I P W E T D
E R R B D M N T S N R E O N H M E E N H S E P I L E A A
H E D L N R C I E I P R G A A L Y E A A E S U R E L M L
C B R O U E Y K E D T E R D G I H L I T J E S I I E L E
S I A O O I L V O O R L U A L O O K S E D M S S N L A T
N S N D H R E G M T E K E E R N U H R E R A Y H A F D E
I H R H X R I E A S E B O X E R N O E H R I N S P F A R
P O E O O E B A S S E T H O U N D U P C P S E E S O C R
N R B U F T D P T U I S R C A T I N T H E H A T X T H I
A T T N G E A R I P E P E N A N A D G R O M I T E S S E
M H S D E N L E F G I A T P O I N T E R O L Y E S I H R
R A E K I P S I F A L N T C T A B B Y K S U H R S M U A
E I N E T T I K X B L I E A A E U L B N A I S S U R N G
B R L H A S O A P S O E S K I M B L E S H A N K S M D U
O L D P O S S U M T C L O N G H A I R E T S E V L Y S O
D N U O H N A H G F A X N A M Z T I P S H S I N N I F C
L I C E N S E D A S S A U L T R E S C U E A N I M A L S

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Next Editions of "News of the South"

Saturdays 22 January 2011 (Items to Editor by 8 January, please) and 26 March (12 March).

Word Search Words

Abyssinian, Afghan hound, Airedale terrier, Alsatian, Bagpuss, Basset hound, Beagle, Benji, Bloodhound, Bobtail, Boche, Border collie, Boxer, Bulldog, Canine, Cat in the Hat, Cavalier King Charles spaniel, Cheetah, Cheshire Cat, Chihuahua, Cocker spaniel, Collie, Cougar, Crookshanks, Custard, Dachshund, Dalmatian, Doberman pinscher, Elkhound, Fang, Feline, Felix, Finnish spitz, Foxhound, Garfield, German Shepherd dog, Giant Schnauzer, Ginger, Golden retriever, Gordon setter, Great Dane, Greyhound, Gromit, Husky, Irish setter, Irish wolfhound, Jess, Kennel Club, Kitten, Kitty, Labrador, Lassie, Leopard, Lhaso Apso, Licensed Assault Rescue Animal, Lion, Longhair, Macavity, Mastiff, Manx, Marmaduke, Montmorency, Mr Jinks, Mr Mistoffelees, Nana, Old English Sheepdog, Old Possum, Oriental, Papillon, Persian, Pinscher, Pit bull, Pointer, Pongo, Poodle, Puppy, Pussy, Ragamuffin, Roly, Roobarb, Rottweiler, Russian Blue, Scooby Doo, Setter, Shorthair, Siamese, Siberian, Skimbleshanks, Spaniel, Spike, Staffordshire, St Bernard, Sussex spaniel, Sylvester, Tabby, Terrier, Tiger, Tom, Whippet, Whiskers.

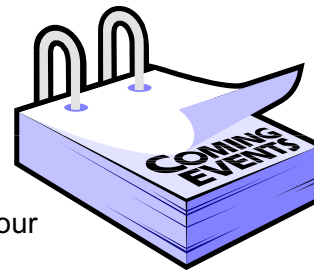
Sudoku Caters

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9 - just the once. This Sudoku is described as "Difficult".

	3	4				2		8
							7	
	7	1			9			3
7			1	2		8		
5				9				7
		3		6	5			9
4			8			1	6	
	1							
8		7				9	3	

Missing words: Jack Russell Terrier, Pedigree cats.

Diary Dates



December

- Wed 1 **Ashted** (8) hosts the regular first of the month Pinch Punch Advanced practice which will also be the last (at least for a while). If Grandsire or Stedman Triples, Little Bob Major or Surprise Major is your thing, this is for you.
- Fri 3 Tonight's scheduled Christmas Dinner has been postponed until January.
- Mon 6 The Peripatetics might meet today at 11am and at 2pm but they might not - no details have been passed on to let you know where. If you want more details, please contact Ken Brooks (01883 626172).
- Fri 17 The relatively new monthly Surprise Major practice at a venue still to be confirmed. Contact Clara Westlake (020 8879 9836) for more details.
- Sat 18 The Northern District's Christmas meeting at **Battersea** (8) followed by seasonal fare and liquid refreshments prepared for us by the local ringers. Everybody welcome to go along and join the fun.
- Mon 20 Today's Wandering Bobs practice is at **East Molesey** (8) from 10.30am to 12.30pm followed by optional lunch. Contact Sue Bailey (020 8669 0602) or Kath Chilcott (020 8686 2272) for more.
- Wed 29 **HIGHLIGHT** Often the most popular outing of the District's year, see page 4 for details of the Midweek Outing to West Kent - organised by Gail Terry.

January 2011

- Mon 3 Contact Ken Brooks for details of today's Peripatetics event.
- Fri 7 The poster with all the details of the innovative New Year's Dinner at the Seven Stars, Leigh has been circulated. Jenny Clark will circulate the menu and start taking bookings soon.
- Sat 8 **Training Event** Full details will be posted nearer the event for this course to help ringers on the next step beyond Plain Bob Minor. It will look at St Clements, Double Bob and Single Oxford Bob and examine ways in which these methods can be adapted to increase your repertoire.
- Mon 10 The DFP is scheduled for tonight - this monthly practice is for those wanting to ring more advanced minor methods. Contact Diane Pratt (020 8642 1543) for details.
- Sat 15 The Northern District Annual Meeting is at **Streatham** (8) from 3.00pm with service at 4.30pm followed by tea, meeting and further ringing. Full agenda available soon.
- Mon 17 Today's Wandering Bobs is this morning from 10.30am for those wanting to conduct. Contact Sue or Kath for details.
- Fri 21 Contact Clara Westlake for details of the probable Surprise Major practice tonight.
- Sat 22 Regular Fourth Saturday Allcomers practice at **Kingswood** (6). The clue is in the title - everyone is welcome from rounds to Surprise Minor. See you there.

All events are from 7.30 to 9.00pm, unless otherwise stated.

Look on the website for more details of any particular event.

In case of bad weather, please check website or contact any of the Committee.