

Alton & Petersfield District Bell Ringers
Minutes of the Annual District Meeting (Triennial Officer Election Year)
held at 6:15pm on Saturday 21st January 2023
at St Lawrence Church Hall, Alton.

1. Chairman's Welcome

District Chairman, Simon Poyser, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He thanked all those involved in the ringing & education sessions held during the afternoon at St Nicholas Chawton. As space inside the ringing chamber was limited, mini-education sessions had been held in the Church. Andy Sparling, Matt Watts and Mike Novell had taught the basics of ringing handbells, Chas Seamons and Rachael Barber had run a rope-splicing practical, and Jack Regin and Mike Rose had provided theory on how to take next steps in method learning or bob calling. A "Who/Where Am I?" Photo Quiz was also provided to entertain ringers whilst they waited for their turn in the Tower, where Jess Hornsby was running the ringing.

Simon went on to thank Rev Carrie Walshaw for taking the Candlelit Service, Andrew Sparling for playing the Organ and the Churchwarden Sandra Martin for facilitating the use of the Church. He congratulated the ringers for holding their candles safely and not setting accidental fire to their Orders of Service!

Summarising the last 12 months, Simon paid tribute to the wonderful teamwork that had made our District a very successful one. He commented on the highlight for him, when over 60 District Members attended the Platinum Jubilee Event at St Mary's Liss, sharing canapes and champagne in a wonderful celebration. He thanked everyone for their help and support during 2022 and said how positive it was to see a significant membership increase, and was looking forward more of the same in the coming year.

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting held in October had been circulated prior to this meeting. No corrections to the Minutes were raised. The Meeting voted unanimously to accept them, and these were signed by Simon Poyser, District Chairman.

3. District Officer Reports for 2022

Written reports from the District Secretary, Ringing Master, Treasurer and Maintenance Team had been distributed to the room before the Meeting started (and are appended below)

There were no comments/questions relating to the Secretary's or Maintenance Team's reports, but in response to the Ringer Master's report, Simon Poyser recorded his thanks to Roger Barber, who was stepping down from this role. He said that Roger's great personality, and hard work over a considerable number of years, had been influential in making the District what it is today.

In support of the District Accounts report, Nick James said that the balance was comfortable, although funds would become depleted during the year with the purchase of the Hawkley Simulator &

Dumbbell, and the hire of the Charmborough Mobile Belfry for the Blackmoor Apple Day recruitment event. He reminded members that fundraising was planned during the year to recuperate these costs.

4. Election of District Officers (Triennial Year Elections)

All District Officer positions were up for election at this Triennial year, so at this point of the meeting, Simon Poyser handed the Chairing of the Meeting to the Guild Master, Rachael Barber.

a. Chairman:

Rachael Barber started by nominating **Simon Poyser** as Chairman, which was seconded by Roger Barber. There were no further nominations, so she called for a show of hands for/against, and the Meeting unanimously voted in favour to re-elect Simon in this role.

Simon resumed as Chair of the Meeting and the elections continued.

b. Secretary (& proposed new Assistant Secretary role):

Simon explained that the duties of the District Secretary role were quite considerable, and it was felt that support to arrange some of the social and fundraising events would be a good way to share the workload. Rachael Barber had temporarily taken on the District Secretary role mid-term, and Lizzie Stern had volunteered to stand as "Assistant Secretary" after a request via the A&P email group. Therefore Simon Poyser proposed **Rachael Barber** for District Secretary, seconded by Lizzie Stern. Rachael Barber proposed **Lizzie Stern** as Assistant Secretary, seconded by Roger Barber. There being no further nominations for either of these roles, the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

Elections continued with the following roles being confirmed by unanimous agreement:

c. Treasurer: Nick James. Proposed by Jessica Hornsby, seconded by Teresa Brown.

d. Ringing Master: Jessica Hornsby. Proposed by Nick James, seconded by Catherine Piper.

e. Assistant Ringing Master: Roger Barber. Proposed by Nick James, seconded by Catherine Piper.

f. Youth Coordinators: Lauren Kidd, Katherine Wilkins, Ellen Barber. All proposed by Simon Poyser, seconded by Jessica Hornsby.

g. Communications Officer: As Rachael Barber had taken on the District Secretary role, and no one had come forward to be nominated for this position, it was decided to make this role redundant for the time being.

h. Maintenance Officer: Jack Regan. Proposed by Roger Barber, seconded by Teresa Brown.

i. Health & Safety Officer: Nick James. Proposed by Roger Barber, seconded by Nick Halder.

j. Educational Resource Officer: Judy Sparling. Proposed by Andrew Taylor, seconded by Andrew Sparling.

k. Independent Examiner: Malcolm Cooper. Proposed by Nick James, seconded by Roger Barber.

l. Executive Committee Rep: Roger Barber. Proposed by Simon Poyser, seconded by Nick James.

5. Guild Master & Guild Certificate presentation to previously elected Members

Rachael Barber, Guild Master, spoke about taking on the role of Guild Master last June, and the number of activities covered by Guild Officers and Committees. To share the workload at Guild level,

she encouraged District Members to consider joining one of the Committees, especially the Education Committee, Communications Committee and Striking Competition Committee who were actively looking for new members. She pointed out that there was no need to be an experienced ringer, as contributions were valued from ringers at all levels, which would bring fresh ideas and perspectives. Many of the things organised by these Committees involved standard activities, such as booking Towers or Village Halls, sending out paperwork and other admin tasks, so all that was required was an interest and willingness to step forward to help. Rachael also informed the meeting that Viv Nobbs, the Guild's Public Relations Officer was planning to step down, at latest by the June AGM, and encouraged anyone interested in this role, or joining any committees to contact her.

There were no recently elected members present at the Meeting, so these individuals would be invited to be presented with their Guild Certificate at the next social occasion.

6. Election of new members

Fifteen new members were proposed for election to the W&P Guild, from within the A&P District:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tower</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Francesco Greenslade	Buriton	Full (Student)	Harry Cane	Graham Cane
Luca Greenslade	Buriton	Full (Student)	Harry Cane	Graham Cane
Darcey Bray	Liss, St Mary	Full (Student)	David Self	Kathy Bray
Fia Bray	Liss, St Mary	Full (Student)	David Self	Kathy Bray
Andrew Piper	Liss, St Mary	Full (Senior)	David Self	Catherine Piper
James Macrae	Froyle	Full (Senior)	Nigel Bulpitt	Linda Bulpitt
David Birn	Froyle	Full (Senior)	Nigel Bulpitt	Linda Bulpitt
Kaye Hicks	Binsted	Full (Senior)	Anita Regin	Jack Regin
Sue Clarke	Binsted	Full (Senior)	Anita Regin	Jack Regin
Melanie Spiller	Petersfield	Full	Mary Broadbridge	Caroline Welsh
Rebecca Restall	Petersfield	Full	Mary Broadbridge	Caroline Welsh
Oliver Wedley	Petersfield	Full (Student)	Mary Broadbridge	Caroline Welsh
Oliver Stubbs	Petersfield	Full	Mary Broadbridge	Caroline Welsh
Toby Marriott	Alton, St Lawrence	Full (Student)	Matthew Watts	Steve Marriott
Pauline Novell	Alton, St Lawrence	Probationary	Matthew Watts	Jess Hornsby

All the proposed new members were unanimously voted in with a show of hands, and Simon Poyser warmly welcomed Andrew, Toby, Francesco, Luca and Rebecca who were present at the Meeting, and all the others elected, to the A&P District.

7. Thanks to Groups in the District for significant contributions:

a. District Maintenance Team

Roger Barber spoke about the important work carried out by the Maintenance Team, and the huge amount of work carried out behind the scenes. Inspections at Towers were proactively identifying issues, and prompting these to be addressed rather than left until requiring more expensive intervention, giving examples at Hawkley and St Peter's Liss. Mary Broadbridge voiced the thanks of Petersfield Tower for the work carried out on their bells by Jack Regin, Roger Barber and Duncan Wilkins. The work had enhanced the "go" of several bells, fixed issues with the stay on the 5th bell, and adjusted ropes heights. All these things had improved the handling, and had had a positive effect on the ringing, for which the ringers were very grateful.

b. The Alton Ringers for running the Holybourne Learners & Improvers

Roger also spoke about the team of ringers running the Holybourne Learners & Improvers practices, thanking them for their considerable contribution to the development of ringing in the District. He said that they were filling an important gap, effectively acting as a Ringing Teaching Centre in their own right. Jessica Hornsby responded to say that Matt Watts had plans to expand the direction of these practices to focus on specific skills, like raising and lowering. Mary Broadbridge added her thanks for all their help given to advancing the skills of Petersfield's learners, with targeted practices at Alton All Saints, which enabled these ringers to achieve First Quarter Peals.

8. Doris J Barber Memorial Cup for achievement in Church Bell Ringing

The Doris Barber Cup is a Trophy donated by Roger Barber in memory of his mother Doris Barber, a longstanding member of the Alton & Petersfield District (from 1978 to 2012). Doris was a ringer of modest experience; however she made much progress later in life, achieving her first Peal in 1996 aged 62, ringing the Treble to Plain Bob Triples at her home Tower of Hawkley. The idea behind this trophy was to recognise a District ringer who had made significant progress or achievements during the year.

Roger commented that all the young ringers in the District had been particularly impressive during the past year, with many of them achieving their first Quarter Peal, and some taking conducting roles for their Tower during striking competitions. However, Roger wanted to highlight the achievements of one young ringer by awarding the Doris J Barber Memorial Cup for achievement in Church Bell Ringing to Ellen Barber (aged 12) from Hawkley. Ellen learnt to ring during the Autumn of 2020, within the constraints to ringing of the Covid Pandemic. She rang her first Quarter Peal at the end of 2021, and following this, asked Roger when he had rung his first Peal. Ellen determined to ring her first Peal at an earlier age than Roger, who had been 19yrs. Driven entirely by Ellen's personal determination to ring a Peal, Roger organised an attempt at Hawkley for the Platinum Jubilee in June. Ellen completed this in style, with excellent striking throughout. She has since gone on to ring 9 Quarter Peals in total. Ellen's achievements during 2022 also relate to her interest in helping others. She regularly helps to teach and encourage other new ringers, passing on what she has learnt. In October, she called and conducted the Call Changes test piece to enable the Liss St Mary's team to enter the District 6-Bell Striking Competition at Froyle, when no other conductor was available. Roger said that Ellen's grandmother, Doris Barber, would be immensely proud of her, and Ellen fully deserved to be awarded the Cup for her achievements during 2022.

9. District Calendar and Forthcoming Ringing Events

a. District plan for Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May

Simon commented that this would be the first Coronation that the majority of District Members had witnessed, and he looked forward to celebrating this unique occasion together. As the official plans/schedule of events were still to be announced, detailed plans would likely centre around the Coronation Service itself, but Simon was looking to arrange a District social celebration, similar to the Platinum Jubilee event at Liss. With the recruitment potential of "Ring for the King", he suggested that Towers keep an eye on the Central Council and Guild Websites to make the most of this opportunity.

He also asked District Members to contact him with suggestions and ideas of ways to celebrate and commemorate.

b. District Outing (28th/29th May)

Jess Hornsby, newly elected Ringing Master, proposed that the District Outing, scheduled for the late May Bank Holiday weekend, could go to the Isle of Wight and possibly involve an overnight stay. This idea was enthusiastically received, and a show of hands indicated many in the room would be interested in going. Jess asked if there was anyone interested in helping to arrange this, and Catherine Piper volunteered to help organise. Jess also mentioned that the District had been asked by Teresa Brown to organise ringing at Privett at the start and end of the Privett Flower Festival (27th & 28th May) and she would make arrangements to ensure this also went ahead.

c. Youth Ringer Fundraising Supper & Raffle (date proposed Saturday 17th June)

Lizzie Stern spoke about an idea that she'd had, after a conversation with Jess Hornsby about supporting A&P Youth Ringers attending the National Youth Striking Competition in York. The cost to individual families to send their Young Ringer(s) to take part in this inspirational weekend of ringing was considerable, so Lizzie volunteered to organise a fundraising event to help alleviate the costs.

Therefore, she proposed a Fundraising Supper to be held at Oakhanger Village Hall on Saturday 17th June. The two-course supper with glass of wine would be served by the Youth Ringers, and cost £15 per person. She proposed a registered Raffle with tickets sold in advance, which would be drawn on the night. Several donations of very special raffle prizes had already been promised, with more to be arranged. A show of hands gave full support to Lizzie to go ahead with this event. Lizzie said that the young ringers in our District were the future of ringing, and she was keen to help them to attend the very special National Youth Contest weekend, and urged people to support this fundraising event in whatever way possible – purchasing tickets, contributing raffle prizes and helping to sell both Supper and Raffle tickets. Oakhanger Village Hall could seat 75 people, and as it would be held in the summer, a further 15 could be seated outside under an awning.

d. Tower Open Day in aid of Ropley Bell Fund

Roger Barber outlined plans to support Ropley Bell Fund by holding a Tower Open Day ("Tower Grab") in the A&P District. He was also liaising with the Winchester District Secretary to see if Winchester District Towers could be included to provide an attractive list of Towers that would see sufficient numbers of visiting ringers attending.

Organisation of such an event requires meticulous planning far in advance, to give enough notice to advertise this nationally. Ringers often travelled long distances to attend "Tower Grabs" and planned overnight stays to make this possible. Therefore, a date later in the year would be essential for this to be a success. Roger proposed that the August Bank Holiday Monday might be a good date, as churches would be unlikely to be blocked with weddings. Simon Poyser suggested that a Saturday in late September would avoid the school summer holidays and "wedding season". As the costs of the planned trip to Ypres were still significant during a cost-of-living squeeze, he proposed that the Tower Open Day could be held on this 5th Saturday weekend (30th September 2023) instead.

Roger agreed to propose this date to the Winchester District to see if a joint event was possible, and would report back to the District as soon as possible.

e. Blackmoor Apple Day Recruitment Event (8th October 2023)

Planning for a recruitment event during the Blackmoor Apple Day was ongoing. A mobile belfry, the Charmborough Ring had been booked. Rachael Barber asked for members to save the date in their

diaries, and to offer to help with manning the mobile belfry ringing during the day, to help with its erection before the event started in the morning, and the dismantling afterwards.

The Blackmoor Apple Day is a fantastic Charity Fundraising event held annually, and attended by thousands of people travelling from across the South of England. Those helping would benefit from a very enjoyable day, a chance to taste the many different varieties of apple available from the Blackmoor Estate, and the opportunity to help recruit new ringers, not just in our own area, but from wherever the visitors originate from. For this reason, Simon Poyser mentioned that good follow-up procedures would be in place to ensure anyone interested could make contact with their local Tower.

f. Ypres (Belgium) Ringing Tour (September 2023)

As mentioned above, the decision to arrange an outing to Ypres will be postponed, due to the significant costs and the opportunity to hold the Tower Open Day on this weekend.

10. Any Other Business

Anita Regin proposed a vote of thanks for the superb hot Tea provided by the Alton St Lawrence ringers. This was a delicious spread of beef lasagne, chicken pasta bake, shepherds pie and vegan vegetable chilli. An appreciative round of applause was given to Judy Sparling, Jue Morgan, Ange Bray, Penny Rehbein, Matt Watts and Andy Sparling to thank them for their hard work behind the scenes.

Ellen Barber suggested organising a Ringing Taster event for students from her school, Bohunt in Liphook. Katherine Wilkins had separately approached the District to arrange a similar session for her Guides Group (two of whom – Katherine Wilkins and Lauren Kidd - are already ringers). Rachael Barber agreed to look into contacting both the Guides and Bohunt School to arrange this. Francesco and Luca Greenslade offered their support at any youth recruitment events.

11. Date of next Meeting: Saturday 22nd April 2023

The next meeting will be the Quarterly District Meeting at Bramshott. Ringing 3:30-5pm, followed by Tea & Meeting 5:00-6:30pm in the Church.

12. Quiz Results & Raffle

The Raffle, organised by Toby Marriott and Lizzie Stern, raised a **fantastic £152** towards the District Simulator and Dumb-bell, to be housed at Hawkley. Many thanks to all who donated prizes!

The results of the Photo Quiz was as follows: 1 – Newton Valence; 2 – West Meon; 3 – Jess Hornsby; 4 – Bentley; 5 – Rachael Barber; 6 – Blackmoor; 7 – Matt Watts; 8 – Binsted; 9 – East Tisted; 10 – Bramshott; 11 – Nick James; 12 – Simon Poyser; 13 – Alton, All Saints; 14 – Bentworth; 15 – Chawton & Andrew Banks; 16 – East Meon; 17 – Mike Novell; 18 – Buriton; 19 – Roger Barber; 20 – Petersfield; 21 – Alton, St Lawrence; 22 – Warnford; 23 – Hawkley; 24 – Selborne; 25 – Andy Sparling; 26 – Liss, St Mary; 27 – Farringdon & Pam Barnsley.

There being no further items for discussion, Simon thanked all those attending for their support and closed the meeting at 7:33pm.

Signed: _____
Simon Poyser (District Chairman)

Date: **22nd April 2023**

District Secretary Report for 2022

2022 was another great year for the Alton & Petersfield District! Along with a packed calendar of Ringing Practices, there were some wonderful opportunities to get together socially as a District.

Since 2020 when the numbers were last recorded, membership of the District has increased 23% from 144 to 177! This is an impressive achievement and reflects the hard work of many individuals in the District to teach and train new ringers, particularly at Petersfield, Liss and Alton. Not only have new recruits been found, but they are taught to a high quality, with many opportunities available cooperatively throughout District Towers and Practices to build on their basic skills and continue development onward to First Quarter Peal level and beyond.

The establishment in January of the District Maintenance Team has had an important impact on the ability of District Towers to carry out effective maintenance and refurbishment, saving both individual Towers and the W&P Guild Bell Restoration Fund thousands of pounds! The Maintenance Team, headed up by Jack Regin and Roger Barber, have done an incredible amount of bell work during 2022, and were involved in significant restoration works at Newton Valence, Hawkley, St Peter's Liss and Froyle. They have also been on hand to inspect and advise Towers, and to pass on their skills to Steeple Keepers as the work is carried out.

The Holybourne Learners & Improvers Practice continues to provide a welcoming practice for new ringers from across the District to hone their skills. Run by the Alton Ringers, expert tuition from Matt Watts, Andrew and Judy Sparling and Mike Novell has improved the skills of ringers across the District, and this remains a valued and much appreciated opportunity.

Educational Resource Officer, Judy Sparling, holds a vast selection of ringing books and training booklets for District Members to browse and buy. The bookstall is present at most District events and Guild Education Days throughout the year - please contact Judy if you need advice or a recommendation of a suitable book.

In June, the A&P commemorated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with ringing at every District Tower possible. Many Quarter Peals were rung, and also a Peal. A celebratory District Practice was held at St Mary's Liss, followed by Champagne & Canapes. At this event there was a special emphasis on welcoming the newer members of our District, and 20 recently elected members received their W&P Guild Certificates!

In July, the Cotter Cup gave another opportunity to socialise, with a well-attended summer barbecue taking place at Blackmoor. Judy Sparling and her team of volunteers provided a delicious spread of salads and desserts to compliment the Barbecue food, which was held after the inclusive Cotter Cup Striking Competition, which in Jubilee year, had "Queens" as the test piece!

When the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was announced, the A&P District responded with fully or half muffled ringing. The majority of towers rang several times during the mourning period, including on the day of the State Funeral. Our thanks to those that spent considerable time muffling bells, often at multiple towers.

December saw the final social event of the year, with a mini-outing to the nearby towers of Farringdon, Bishop's Sutton, Old Alresford and New Alresford, organised by Chairman, Simon Poyser. A break for a late afternoon tea was taken at The Swan, in Alresford, giving District members a chance to chat and warm up on this chilly winter afternoon! This was a brilliant success, with around 50 ringers attending, and Assistant Ringing Master, Jess Hornsby, did an excellent job of planning the ringing to ensure everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

A&P District events were reported in the Ringing World several times throughout the year, with A&P members making it onto the front page of the Ringing World on more than one occasion. Notable

reports included Selborne's New Year Intensive Training Course featuring a number of returning ringers who had taken up ringing again after learning many years ago, and the December Mini-Outing. Petersfield Tower has led the way in advertising their activities in local newspapers, resulting in a high level of appreciation from the general public. Local Radio Station "Shine Radio" featured bellringing in a two-part program, including an interview with A&P Ringing Master, Roger Barber, and recorded their Presenter trying ringing during Petersfield's Practice Night. Therefore, Petersfield ringers have proved very successful at attracting new recruits, and are a great example of how positive local news reporting on a regular basis has increased their team numbers.

Our District holds three business Meetings each year, where members are actively encouraged to contribute towards ideas and initiatives, which during 2022 included planning and funding towards the installation of a Simulator and Dumbbell at Hawkley, and a Recruitment Event during the Blackmoor Apple Day in the coming year. A&P District members are active and well represented at Guild level. Members of the A&P have taken roles with the Guild, such as Guild Master, serve on the Education and Communications Committees, and are regular supporters of Guild Education Days and the W&P Youth Ringer Practices.

Communication within the District relies predominantly on the A&P email group, which reaches 107 District members. However, this means that 67 of our ringers are not reached by this means, so we gratefully depend on our network of Tower Secretaries/Correspondents to pass on critical information, including Safeguarding notices. We have an A&P Facebook Group, where members can post a variety of things including ringing performances, questions and photographs from District Events. A "Roving Ringer" WhatsApp Group was set up earlier in the year, to provide a network of ringers who could respond to requests to ring for Weddings, Quarters etc. Please contact the District Secretary to join any of these communication channels.

As we move forward into 2023, the A&P District is in great shape to continue to develop and grow! The Team of District Officers work incredibly hard to provide support and encouragement to Towers and Members at all levels. Our Ringing Masters continue to visit District Towers on a regular basis, building friendships which mean District members feel comfortable about joining in with events outside their own Tower group. We hold regular District Practices, including anything from basic bell handling sessions to Surprise Major. Our most experienced ringers are as likely to be spotted supporting Learners & Improvers sessions as Advanced Practices, and there's no hierarchies or cliques, just friendly faces and smiles for the newer ringers who are attending for the first time.

Rachael Barber
(interim District Secretary)

District Ringing Masters Report for 2022

The past year has been a positive one for the A&P District. Finally, being released from the grip of the Covid pandemic and being able to return to regular ringing events was a relief to us all, I am sure.

District Practices have been well supported with a wide range of methods covered. The Surprise Major, and newly introduced Surprise Minor Practices, have been well received which has enabled both those just starting to ring Surprise and the more experienced to get some challenging ringing.

The Learners & Improvers Practice put on by the Alton ringers is without any doubt a valuable addition to the normal District practice events. The once monthly Tuesday evening 8-Bell Practice at Holybourne also provides a staple for some interesting Triples methods etc.

Tied-bell training sessions held at Hawkley during Holy week were again well received. We ran 3 two hours sessions during the week, which enabled a good number of our new recruits to try their hand at all sorts of bell handling skills.

Striking competitions have been well supported and I would like to say a special well done to the Petersfield band who took part in the Guild's 6-bell striking competition. The A&P hosted the Guild AGM during 2022, including the Inter-District 8-bell striking competition which was held at West Meon. We entered two teams, the method ringing team coming 3rd and the call change team coming 5th. The District Striking Competition held at Froyle in October was well supported with 9 teams taking part and one scratch team. This kept the judges entertained! Well done to Alton for winning the District Shield and best Method Ringing cup, and to the Bramshott/Hawkley team for winning the best Call Changes trophy. Can I also say that it was great to see a combined Bentworth/West Meon band enter. The Cotter Cup and BBQ was again very well supported and it's always a fun and entertaining afternoon/evening. Huge well done to all who took part in this.

The W&P Youth Ringers entered the National Youth Competition held in Exeter in July, with the following A&P District members participating as Team members/Reserves: Toby Marriot, Sam Marriot, Ellen Barber, Erin Halder, Katherine Wilkins, Emma Hornsby and Lauren Kidd.

The A&P District organised lots of ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with many towers helping each other out to make up a team for Quarter Peals, or just to achieve a nice short piece of ringing for Her Majesty. When we sadly lost our Monarch, we had to tackle the muffles. Fully muffled ringing with the Tenor open at backstroke is something most of us will never have done. It certainly was a different sound and one, I believe, that was fitting for an occasion like this. Having rung in a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles on the back six bells at St Mary Liss, and then listening to a recording afterwards, brought it home to me that the Tenor bell open on the backstroke certainly set the atmosphere of that sunny late evening and the occasion.

Our annual visit to Winchester Cathedral was very well attended. The idea was to give everyone a good chance to ring rounds and at the same time keep the ringing respectable. There must have been over 50 ringers in attendance! It's not easy to keep track of who has rung what, and so I'd like to thank Jess Hornsby for running this practice very well.

The District Mini-Outing and Social held in December gave some of our newer recruits their first opportunity to ring on different bells during an Outing. We visited the Ellacombe chime of four bells at Farringdon, before travelling into the Winchester District to ring on the 5 bells at Bishops Sutton, 6 bells at Old Alresford and the nice 8 at New Alresford.

To sum up the past year is relatively easy. The amount of enthusiasm and hard work put in to teaching new recruits all over the District is paying dividends. The new band at St Mary's Liss are doing very well and it's great that the lovely ring of 8 bells are once again ringing out for Sunday Service. The band at Selborne has also grown with some new recruits, and this in turn has helped with ringing the newly augmented ring of 6 at Newton Valence.

There have been so many great achievements over the past year, that I can't begin to list them all here. However, I know that there has been a lot of hard work put in to achieving First Quarter Peals for a good number of ringers. There have been some important steps forward with our younger members, who have shown that with a little help and their own perseverance they can improve steadily. I think a special mention needs to be recorded about our younger conductors. James Wedley called the call changes for the Petersfield team in the Guild's 6-bell striking competition. He also took part in the call change band in the Inter-District Striking Competition call change band, along with Ellen Barber. Ellen Barber also called the call changes for the Liss Team in the A&P District striking competition (which was the first in a long time that Liss have been in a position to enter this competition) and rang her first peal at Hawkley in June. I would like to say a big well done to Nick James for conducting his first Peal which was rung at Selborne, and to Elaine Barnett for notably ringing her first Quarter Peal, trebling to Grandsire Doubles, to mark her Golden Wedding Anniversary!

This is the last report I will be writing as Ringing Master, as I am now stepping down from the post. Firstly I would like to thank all of you who have supported me and the District, not just during the past year, but over many years. I'd like to thank Jessica Hornsby for her help and support, in fact she has been the mainstay of Ringing Master activities for the last 6 months at least. My wish is that she will go on to become Ringing Master, as I know that this District will be in safe hands with Jess at the helm. And where would I have found myself without the generous help of Judy Sparling and her team? For all the wonderful food for the Cotter Cup & BBQ, let alone all the other catering she and her team do. Thanks must go to Rachael Barber for advertising the Practices and arranging towers. Lastly, The Organiser Simon Poyser whom, without any doubt, has been the driving force behind the District.

To sum it up, this District has come on in leaps and bounds, and I certainly hope that future years will see this carry on and grow into a strong ringing centre.

*Roger Barber
(District Ringing Master)*

District Maintenance Team Report for 2022

February

Froyle – inspection carried out and suggested maintenance report produced.

March

Chawton – Tower cleared of bird debris & netting repaired

April

East Tisted. Inspections carried out by John Taylor's, Nicholson Engineering & Martin B Hough Engineering. Quotes received from John Taylor's, Nicholson Engineering. Martin B Hough Engineering declined to quote. The work is likely to go to Nicholson.

May

Most of May was taken up with Newton Valence. Deliveries of fittings started 4th & 5th May, the bells were delivered by Duncan Wilkins 13th May. Bells back in tower 16th May. First ring 26th May. Some subsequent work required, snagging, ladders, floor repairs, replacement stays, etc.. Job signed off 22nd September, and dedication on 25th September. Roger Barber, Julia Brunt & Jack Regin provided most of the volunteer labour with help from Duncan Wilkins and others as and when they were available. My thanks to everyone who helped on this project in any way.

Roger Barber and Jack Regin went to West Meon on 21st May to check over the bells before the guild striking contest. Ropes were adjusted to correct heights. The third was found to be loose on the headstock, we hope to get permission for a return visit to correct this.

June

Work started to remove Hawkley bells 17th June. Roger Barber, Julia Brunt, Jack Regin, Dave Hart, Barry Wateridge assisted Matthew Higby & Co's bell-hanger. Once the bells were out, work started on cleaning the frame. The drawing pulleys in the clock room were removed and refurbished. This was completed on 7th October, and treating the frame with rust inhibitor began. As soon as this work is complete the frame will be re-painted. It is hoped the bells will be back in time for Christmas.

July

Jack Regin carried out an inspection on 26th July at Bentley, and the report has been passed to the Church authorities.

The bell frame at St. Peter Liss was tightened on 30th July. Inspection revealed that several of the plumber block bolts were loose, and the leathers in the clapper baldricks needed replacement. We returned to Liss on 17th September and installed new plumber block bolts (sourced by Duncan Wilkins) on all bells. The clappers were removed for fitting of the new leathers. The worn ground pulleys are to be replaced with ones from Hawkley. Once this work is completed the bells will be ringable once more.

August

A maintenance "event" was held at Froyle. Jack Regin, Roger Barber, Duncan Wilkins, David Cooper & James Macrae attended. The frame was tightened, and other fittings checked. Ropes were adjusted. A return visit to

put thick washers on some of the tie rods is being arranged. These had "bottomed out" on the thread, Duncan Wilkins has machined holes in some metal discs for this purpose.

Jack Regin assisted Duncan Wilkins to put 2 new ropes on at Petersfield on 16th August. Other ropes were adjusted. Subsequently we returned on 1st October with David Malone to investigate a problem with the stay of the fifth. Once a new stay has been manufactured we will return again to fit it.

September

See Newton Valence & Liss above.

October

See Petersfield & Hawkley above.

November

Froyle - a nut had come off the clock-room end of a tie bar. Investigation revealed that the thread was damaged, and the nut had only been on the thread by ½ a turn! This was clearly shown by the inside of the nut being completely painted. Obviously the previous frame tightening exercise had put too much load on the nut. The tie bar was removed for repair and a temporary length of studding (threaded bar) installed to allow ringing to continue.

December

St. Peter Liss – The new leather baldricks were installed and the clappers replaced so that the bells could be rung for a carol service. The clappers are now very tight in the staple, but loosening of rapidly.

Froyle – The threads were re-cut on the tie rod. Nuts were cleaned and re-cut. Bottom end of tie rod thread cut further than before so that the nut is now fully on the thread. Top thread re-cut slightly longer. Tie rod re-installed and properly tightened down.

Petersfield – New stay for fifth made by Duncan Wilkins. Re-fitted and now engages correctly with the slider mechanism. The packing on the slider was removed and the bell now sets correctly.

*Jack Regin
(Maintenance Officer)*

PRIVETT BELL FUND **Statement of Account 2022**

	2021	2022
INCOME	£	£
Visitors	0.00	80.00
TOTAL	0.00	80.00
EXPENDITURE		
TOTAL	0.00	0.00
EXCESS	0.00	80.00
B/F	2,061.30	2,061.30
C/F	2,061.30	2,141.30

District Treasurer **Date**

Independent Examiner **Date**

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS
ALTON AND PETERSFIELD DISTRICT**

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

	2021		2022	
	No.	£	No.	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions				
Full (10.00, 15.00 after 06/22)	N/A	£0.00	58	£590.00
Over 60 (7.50, 12.50 after 06/22)	N/A	£0.00	87	£675.00
Student (6.50, 10.00 after 06/22)	N/A	£0.00	13	£84.50
Probationary	N/A	£0.00	11	£22.00
Associate	N/A	£0.00	0	£0.00
Total	N/A	£0.00	177	£1,371.50
Sundry				
Barbeque		£319.00		£180.00
District AGM		£0.00		£104.00
Guild AGM		£0.00		£54.50
Donations		£0.00		£6.00
Total		£319.00		£344.50
TOTAL INCOME		£319.00		£1,716.00
EXPENDITURE				
To Guild Treasurer				
Subscriptions		£0.00		£727.65
BRF Element of Subs		£0.00		£332.00
Total		£0.00		£1,059.65
Administration				
Purchases		£0.00		£114.00
Expenses		£0.00		£22.99
Hall hire		£0.00		£50.00
Donation to Petersfield Food Bank		£0.00		£105.00
Total		£0.00		£291.99
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£0.00		£1,351.64
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		£319.00		£364.36
Fund brought forward		£7,337.88		£7,656.88
FUND CARRIED FORWARD		£7,656.88		£8,021.24

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS
ALTON AND PETERSFIELD DISTRICT**

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2022

	2021	2022
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	7,656.88	8,021.24

Represented by:-

BANK AND CASH BALANCES

Bank Balance	7,456.88	8,880.89
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
Total	7,456.88	8,880.89

LOANS

A&P Library Account	200.00	200.00
Total	200.00	200.00

Sub Total	7,656.88	9,080.89
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LESS

Due to Guild	0.00	727.65
Due to BRF	0.00	332.00
Total	0.00	1,059.65

FUND TOTAL	7,656.88	8,021.24
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District Treasurer Date

I have examined these accounts and compared them with the vouchers produced to me relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

Independent Examiner Date



Toby Marriott, Alice Kidd and Nick Halder learn rope splicing with Chas Seamons.



Caroline Welsh with her super Short-Splice!



Elaine Barnett discussing Plain Bob Doubles with Jack Regin and Mike Rose



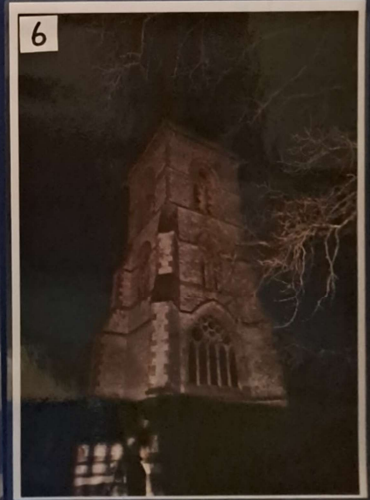
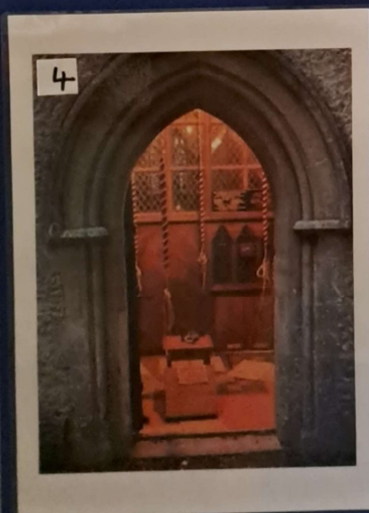
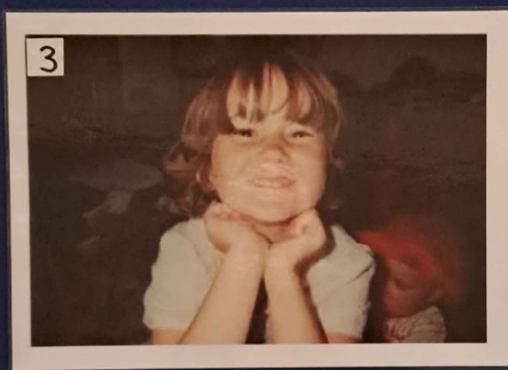
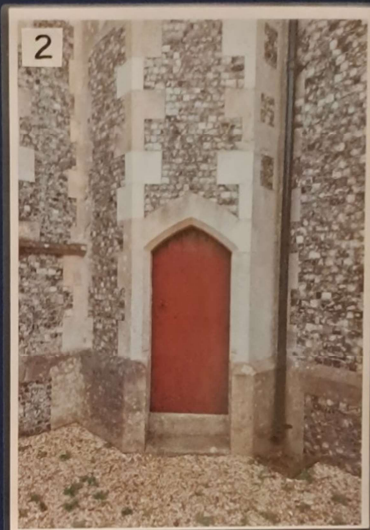
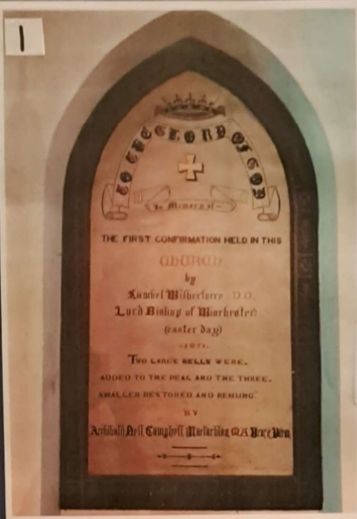
Ellen Barber (aged 12) receives the Doris J Barber Memorial Cup for achievement in Church Bell Ringing from the 2022 A&P Ringing Master, Roger Barber.

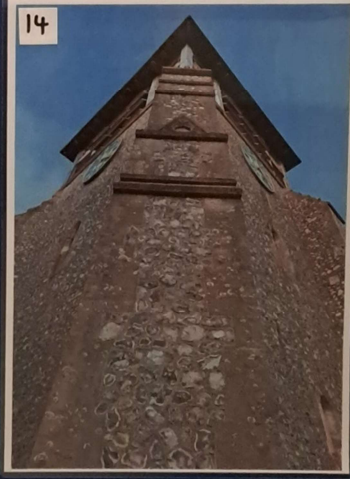
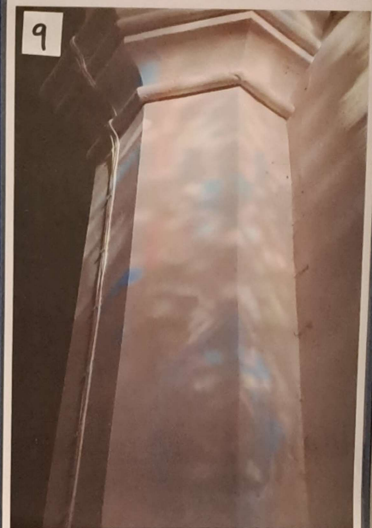
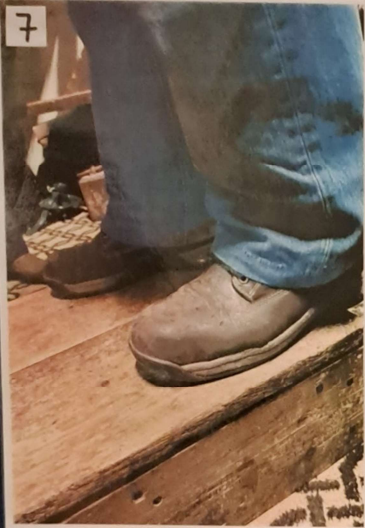
Where Am I ?

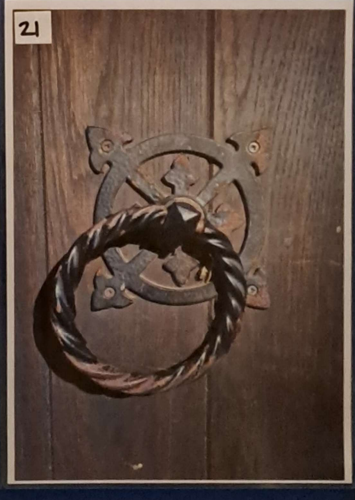
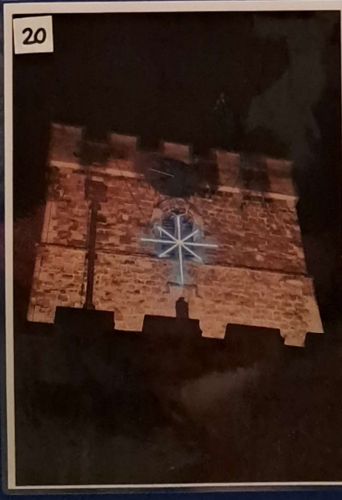
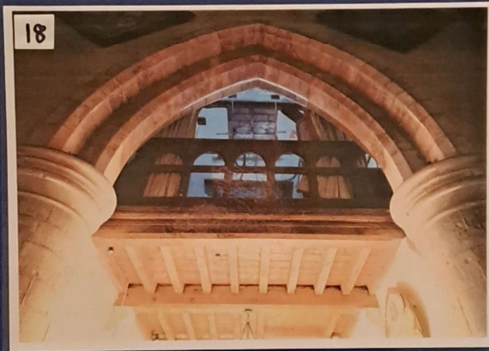
or

Who Am I ?

*Can you identify where,
or who are,
these well-known
A&P District entities?!*



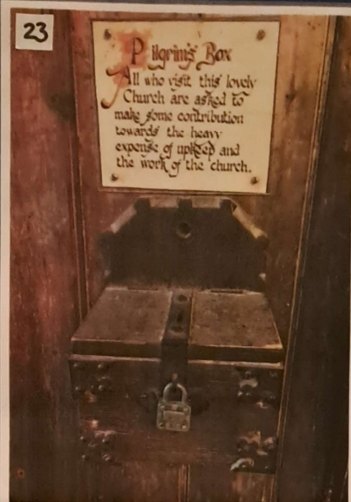




22



23



Where Am I ?

or

Who Am I ?

*Can you identify where,
or who are,
these well-known
A&P District entities?!*

24



25



26



27

