

## Hernhill

The bells are now back and ringing at Hernhill. After we had rung for the Easter Service, the KCACR "hit squad" came and on one weekend lifted the tenor out of its pit to enable a hatchway to be cut through to the ringing room and then on the following Saturday they came and lowered the bells. This was not a straight forward operation as the clock had been installed after the bells had originally been hung and they had to be lowered to the ringing room through the new hatch in the corner and then they were swung across to the centre of the room for the second stage lowering. The bells were then transported to Whitechapel by a local firm to have the crown staples drilled out and completely new fittings provided, including canon-retaining headstocks.

While the bells were away the KCACR team returned again to tighten the frame; we also took the opportunity to fit a sound control system.

The bells were returned on 12th June, again courtesy of local transport, and we hoisted them into position on 16th June. While the bells were standing in the Church on Sunday, the Vicar took the opportunity during Family Service to shape his talk around bells and ringing, helped by the very accurate model of bells in their frame which he had made as part of the publicity for our fund-raising appeal. Then with twenty or more children each hanging on to a bell or some part of the ringing fittings, he blessed the bells and ringers.

Work on the rehang went fairly smoothly and on 23rd June we assembled a band of ringers from the local area to try out the ring. The general result was most pleasing and after a little fine tuning to correct a slight odd-struckness we are left with a vastly improved ring of bells.

With the work done by the KCACR team, provision of transport and local labour to help the bell-hanger we saved well over £5,000 on the cost of the rehang. The success of the project was due in no small part to the efforts of two non-ringers. The Chairman of the Bell Fund is Willie McKeever; he has been a real driving force and has been our "Mr Fixit", contacting potential fund donors, arranging transport and whenever we needed specialist equipment or extra hands, Willie arranged it. Our other key man has been Brian Geliot, one of the Church Wardens. Brian has been our Secretary and has handled all the negotiations with the Diocese and the Foundry.

The task of getting the project off the ground, raising the money and getting the bells put into a ringable state has been a rewarding one and in retrospect quite enjoyable (but not one to be repeated too soon). The prospect of raising such a large sum of money was daunting but we have been surprised at the generosity of so many people and organisations - not least the KCACR who in addition to giving us the practical help, have also allocated us a generous grant. To everyone who helped in any way we say a big thank you.

We propose to hold practices on the first Tuesday of each month and Service ringing is on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9.30am (alternating with Boughton). We would be pleased to see visitors at any time on these occasions and hope to make the bells available for visiting bands and a few peal or quarterpeal attempts (a small charge for these may be requested). Requests for the use of the bells should be made to John Sim (See the Handbook for details.)



*Hernhill, Kent. St. Michael.  
Sunday, 13th July, 1997. 2h35 (9)  
5140 Stedman Triples*

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Philip A.B. Saddleton | 5. Philip H. Larter       |
| 2. Clare J. Larter       | 6. Richard S.J. Saddleton |
| 3. Ian F. Young          | 7. Stuart C. Palin        |
| 4. Malcolm J. Smith      | 8. Peter E.J. Saddleton   |

*Conducted by Philip A.B. Saddleton.  
First peal on the bells since rehangng.  
Ruby Wedding Anniversary Compliment to Peter and Ann Saddleton..*

On a sadder note, the bells at Hernhill were rung half-muffled for 50minutes during the funeral procession of Diana, Princess of Wales. Unfortunately a quarterpeal of plain bob doubles was not achieved. Those who took part were Ann Saddleton (Treble), Annette Garner (2), John Garner (3), Peter Saddleton (4), Timothy Haynes (5, Conductor), Rosemary Rigden (Tenor).

Peter Saddleton.

## **Great Mongeham**

Janet Lawrence writes:-

Our two newest recruits, Stephanie and Simon Lawrence (cousins) were confirmed here on September, 14th. The LAWRENCE family all joined for a ring together after the service - Neil and Sue and daughter Stephanie, Ian and his son Simon and Grandma Janet on the tenor. Grandad Fred was able to stand aside and watch for once.

## **Walmer**

Again Janet writes:-

The Queen Mother made her annual visit to Walmer Castle in July and attended morning service at St. Mary's. We managed to ring all eight bells (a rare occurrence) by mustering help from Mongeham, Deal and East Langdon. A quarter peal of Plain bob minor was rung for her 97th birthday on 4th August. We are making great efforts to get learners - appeals and articles appearing in the September and October Parish Magazines.

## **Sandwich**

Half muffled ringing took place prior to a service at the War Memorial in the town, on the morning of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Half muffled ringing was also the order of the day for the two weddings which were held during the afternoon. A very weird experience!