

CHANGE RINGING FOR THE FUTURE

REPORT ON BREAKOUT GROUPS SOUTH EAST REGION

A. What's working well in your area?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group of local towers arranging ringing/social activities ▪ Cross-association support ▪ New website ▪ Social media ▪ Local (ie neighbouring towers) working together – Kent ▪ Much better interactive website and 'Ringers Forum' ▪ Mutual support between adjacent towers (ODG-STB) ▪ Yahoo groups work well ▪ Communication is good at guild level ▪ Towers liaise when short of ringers for special occasions ▪ Local online newsletter (Andover) ▪ Proposed database (Sussex and W&P) 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teaching learners away from practice nights eg Sat am ▪ ITTS & 'Learning the Ropes' ▪ Branch training courses organised around individual needs rather than predetermined place (ODG-SAB) ▪ Tonbridge District and KCACR regular, well-organised quarterly elementary training days, 15+ years. Recently extra ones for raising and lowering in peal ▪ Bell handling training (by small group able to devote time to this) ▪ Education days (W&P) ▪ Young new ringers being taught using links with schools and colleges 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted special practices ▪ Advanced 10 or 12-bell ringing practices ▪ Young ringers practices (Kent) ▪ Welcome at local practices (mid Kent) ▪ Simulator practices (ODG-ONB) 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bell restoration – keeping our bells in good order ▪ Developing young ringers as a cohesive group ▪ Targeting individuals for quarter peals ▪ Association working actively to modernise structure ▪ Outings/social events - numerous W&P districts ▪ Outings, including non-ringing activities, for young ringers every school holiday and half term (ODG-ONB) ▪ Peal ringing/higher-end method ringing – Portsmouth area ▪ Information on bell stock and state of repair ▪ Number of ringers per bells – W&P generally ▪ Increasing social interaction at every branch practice 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special quarters on weekly basis (ODG - Amersham) ▪ Focused striking contest (Leatherhead) ▪ Getting new bands going ▪ 'Hit squads' visiting struggling towers (even if the hit squad comprises only two people!) ▪ Young ringers (IoW) ▪ About to seek AGM approval for change of financial focus towards Investment in Education (W&P) ▪ Three year action plan – draft ready for guild AGM 4 July (W&P) ▪ Online peal composition collection ▪ Peal ringing 	
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B. What's NOT working well in your area?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication between guild/district to members ▪ Interaction cross-boundary ▪ Assistance between towers at local level ▪ Lack of modern website ▪ Lack of members' database ▪ Electronic communication does not work for a large proportion of the membership ▪ Links between districts very weak 	<p>x 3</p> <p>x 3</p> <p>x 2</p> <p>x 2</p>
Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not enough volunteers for district or guild positions ▪ Lack of vision, strategy and forward thinking at county level – ie where do we want to be in 10 years' time ▪ We have always done it that way attitudes – ringing, service, tea, meeting ▪ Lack of interest in meetings at all levels eg recent AGM was not quorate! ▪ Quite keen association but not all pulling together ▪ Participation in guild-organised events ▪ Many members may not be 'relating' to district and guild ▪ Integration of some towers into any branch/guild/national event ▪ Training events organised in local district – very little take-up ▪ Most members have no sense of involvement with the branch/guild ▪ Objectives about 120 years out of date ▪ Leadership structure of the county committee ▪ Striking competitions are not well supported ▪ Support for guild ▪ Not a lot of teaching happens at association level except ITTS ▪ Set in stone 'districts' rather than local hubs ▪ Resistance to change by long-standing association members ▪ County confusion over responsibilities ▪ Poorly run events meaning no one benefits 	<p>x 4</p> <p>x 2</p> <p>x 2</p> <p>x 2</p>



Meetings/ practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insularity of many towers – ringers will not go out even to local events ▪ Ringers not leaving their towers and visiting others, so they don't progress ▪ Too many people turn up to the occasional district practice ▪ Low/mid-tier ringers organising quarters/peals ▪ Availability of time beyond supporting own tower very limited 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p>
Recruitment & training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment ▪ New ringer training poor ▪ Recruitment and teaching resources hard to find ▪ Awareness of number of people capable/willing to teach ▪ Finding people to teach new ringers ▪ People going to training events but not consolidating what they have learned ▪ Have tried mini-rings at a number of large-scale events eg county shows that have resulted in no take-up of new learners ▪ Offspring not interested in giving it a go ▪ Measuring/setting 'leading' indicators that help encourage recruitment ▪ Learning to ring takes too long ▪ Young recruits put off by age profile of band 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generating/encouraging high standards (of striking) – in Sunday service ringing ▪ Publicity ▪ Not much interest in striking competitions ▪ Have offered 'training team' to be parachuted in to a local tower requesting support for training on a particular aspect – no takers! ▪ No mini-ring available 100% ▪ Lack of resources generally – especially human ▪ Expertise is concentrated in too few towers ▪ Poor tower management ▪ Poor tower captains ▪ Support for struggling towers ▪ Improving standards very patchy in areas ▪ Bell handling limits progress ▪ Shortage of conductors 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">x 2</p>

C. What cross-boundary initiatives are happening near you?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not much cross-association ▪ Regular joint ringing across guild boundaries - wedding practices, social events ▪ Branch secretaries/officers meetings across ODG ▪ Some integration between ODG North Bucks & PDG Towcester Branch – meetings for picnic – striking comp – joint practice ▪ Cooperation between local counties/societies for fund raising 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 8 x 2</p>
Contests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have been invited into striking contest eg Essex Trophy ▪ Joint 8-bell competition (ODG – Reading/SDB) 	x 2
Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helping train learners ▪ Attending training events across borders ▪ Training, seminars across ODG 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 3 x 2</p>
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young ringers outings combine ringers from adjacent branches. Recent combined outing to Oxford for ODG and Ely DG young ringers was very successful 	
10/12-bell ringing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross-guild 12-bell practices ▪ Organisation of 10-bell practices in other guild/districts as there are no 10-bell towers locally 	<p style="text-align: right;">x 3 x 2</p>
Private initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some Leatherhead district ringers choose to go to Surrey N District monthly Surprise Major practice ▪ Cross association/district boundaries are quite the process for visiting practice nights etc and offering help ▪ Organising peals/quarters for special occasions with members from various areas of the country 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross boundary organised quarters/peals ▪ Sharing recruitment ideas ▪ “Have your say” used speakers from other guilds ▪ Worked with Sussex Association re setting up a database of members ▪ Borrowing ringers from neighbouring towers to make up numbers for Sunday service and wedding ringing ▪ Cross guild peals 	x 2



D. What are the cross-boundary opportunities in your region?

Working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mutual support between bands ▪ Joint PR ▪ Joint recruitment events ▪ Working together on festivals of ringing for all group members ▪ Little opportunities ▪ Sharing special expertise ▪ Cross boundary practices 	
Training and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint training ▪ Share training resources ▪ Joint ITTS training ▪ Learner practices across boundaries 	<p style="text-align: center;">x 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x 2</p>
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young ringers' events 	
10/12-bell ringing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint 12-bell practice ▪ Joint 10-bell practices ▪ Advanced practices 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distances too far from home ▪ Boundaries don't come into it ▪ Ringing centrally based around centres rather organised in guild boundaries ▪ Support grass roots PR ▪ Increase social interaction ▪ Tower twinning ▪ Officers' meet ups ▪ Explore funding options ▪ Joint outings ▪ Help the fringe towers ▪ None 	<p style="text-align: center;">x 2</p>