

CHERITON HAND BELLS AND BELL-PLATES

This record endeavours to bring together (at least some of) the fascinating historical threads which explain the origins of, what has become, a unique and valuable collection of hand bells & bell plates (evidently also known as belleplates). The sheer quantity and condition of which is essentially thanks to a handful of dedicated people who have given their time, skill, effort, musicality and money so that present and future generations of Cheriton ringers may enjoy the delights of making music together. A number of past ringers and benefactors have sadly now passed away, whilst others have since moved out of the area. However, there are a significant number who are still living within the village, for whom these bells hold a special place in their hearts.

From what I understand, at one time there were actually two sets of privately-owned hand bells which were played within the village.

However, this particular 'core' set of 15 bells was originally purchased by a Mr Wild, whilst he was living at nearby Preshaw Lodge (Mr Wild was the grandfather of a certain Hector Wild, to whom I refer later). Either he (or his son, HW's father) became landlord of 'The Chequers' public house at Ropley and subsequently became the landlord of The (then, new) H.H. Inn in Cheriton (the original building having evidently burned down). Apparently Mr Wild brought the original set of hand bells with him to The H.H., where they subsequently used to hang behind the bar and were regularly played in that pub and generally within the village. At that time, there were three ale or public houses/inns in the village, but The H.H. (or 'The Hs', as it was locally known) happened to be the establishment which was favoured by the Harfields at that time!

In a letter from Hector Wild dated 24th February 1949 to local blacksmith and ringer, Percy Harfield of The Forge, Cheriton (Geoff Harfield's father), he stated that it was his (HW's) father's wish that the bells should remain within the village.

In a subsequent letter dated 29th January 1952 from Hector Wild to Geoff Harfield, who was also a ringer like his father (shown 4th from the right in the photo below) he stated that, whilst his father had "wished the bells to go to the old team of ringers ... if they have passed them on to your young team, well they are now yours..."

Cheriton bell-ringers outside the H.H. Inn, about 1953.



In the bar at the HH Inn (Geoff Harfield is left of centre)



GEOFF HARFIELD & THE CREATION OF THE HARFIELD TRUST

When Geoffrey Harfield died suddenly in 1997 (at a Cheriton Players' committee meeting), he left instructions in his will that a Trust should be established 'The Harfield Trust' and that the income derived from the invested capital should be equally divided to benefit Cheriton Primary School for educational purposes (albeit verbally, he wished it to be for the furtherance of music, but without any legal obligation) and to St Michael & All Angel's Church for religious purposes (albeit, he stated his wish in writing that it should be used to pay or supplement the pay of the Church organist, to ensure that his/her remuneration was always in accordance with the scale laid down by the Diocesan Guild of Organists - which, during his 46 years' period as organist, it evidently never was! Similarly, this wish is without any legal obligation).

John Lunt (Geoffrey's solicitor) and Paul Hellard, were executors of Geoff's estate and his first Trustees and, whilst sorting his affairs, they found this boxed set of 15 hand bells stored in his attic. Therefore, in an effort to make sure that the bells might always remain within the village and be available for bone-fide village ringers to use, in December 1997 Paul asked the then Captain of The Bells at St. Michael's Church, Christopher Gardner QC, if it might be possible for the holder of that office to act as custodian of these bells in perpetuity, so that they could always remain within the village and be kept safe and secure, maintained and insured whilst always being available to be loaned to approved groups of ringers within the village. At the same time, this course of action was, naturally, also discussed and approved by the then Rector of Cheriton, The Rev. Robert Williams.

Subsequently, as Chris Gardner was aware that the 'Cheriton Golden Plates' were looking to expand and that they wished to obtain some handbells, he therefore offered this set of bells for them to use and, in addition, assisted in arranging for their restoration.

As the bells were evidently in rather poor condition, leader and musical director, Jill Mack with her team of ringers then embarked upon raising sufficient funds not only to fully restore this set of bells, but also to substantially augment them to their present number (27 bells plus the plates, as at 2022). This also included the addition of cymbals, music stands, protective blankets & table cloths, padded flight cases for safe storage and transportation, as well as gloves for use when handling the bells.

39 Meredith Road
Hillsca
Portsmouth
24 Feb 49.

Dear Mr Harfield

My sister Eva, tells me that there is some doubt in Cheriton about the origin of the Hand Bells. They were bought by my grandfather when he lived at Freshaw Lodge for my father & his brothers. He took them with him to the "Chequers" at Ropley and brought them from there to the new "H H". They were never in the old "H H" which was burnt down.

I believe it was my father's wish that they should always remain in Cheriton.

Yours sincerely
Hector Wild

39 Meredith Road
Hilsea
Portsmouth
29 Jan 52.

Dear Geoffrey

I don't think we know one another
but I knew your father & mother very
well. Thanks for your letter which I
found very interesting. Actually I
haven't any say in the matter. My
father wished the bells to go to the
old team of ringers and of course I'm
only too pleased to respect his wish.
If they have passed them on to your
young team well they are now
yours. It seems a very large
sum to me though to get them
put in order. Enclosed may be some
small help towards it. Yours sincerely
Heclir J. Wild

**Sevington Cottage
Tichborne
Alresford
Hants SO24 ONF**

Tel: (01962) 733101

30 December 1997

Christopher Gardner Esq
Captain of the Bells
Rose Cottage
Cheriton
Hants SO24 0QA

Dear Chris,

Re: Geoffrey Harfield (Dec'd) and the handbells

As one of Geoff's executors, I am passing on with this letter a case containing the fifteen handbells which were at Geoff's bungalow, together with a couple of photographs of part of the old group of ringers and two letters from Hector Wild, whose grand-father originally bought the bells.

From these letters, it seems that the popular belief that they are 'village' bells is actually only partially true. According to Hector Wild's letter of 24 February 1949 to Geoff's father, he states that it was his (HW's) father's wish that they should remain in the village and then in his subsequent letter to Geoff of 29 January 1952, he states that whilst his father had wished them to go to the 'old team of ringers', ... "if they have passed them on to your young team, well they are now yours". Having found these letters I now understand why Geoff was, naturally, somewhat possessive about them!

Anyway, it seems most appropriate that the Captain of the Church Bells should be custodian of these handbells and that, subject to all the appropriate formalities and permissions, they might find a permanent home in the newly refurbished ringing chamber, if you, the Rector and the PCC agree! They can then be made available for any approved team of ringers but, if there is no team for a period, then at least they have a proper home and a 'village' custodian in perpetuity.

I hope that you agree with my comments and, for your information, I am also passing on a copy of this letter to the Rector so that he is fully apprised of the situation.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hellard



Established 1570

Directors:
Alan Hughes
Kathryn Hughes AGSM LTCL

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd

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e-mail: bells@whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk

KH/hb

4th March 1998

Christopher Gardner QC
Lamb Chambers
Lamb Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 7AS

Dear Sir,

Handbell Inspection Report

Following our inspection of the bells left here on February 23rd, we now report our findings.

The bells are a set of 15, being 13 diatonic with a bass bell size 20E, plus two semitones, 14D and 10A#. They are the product of two Founders, 13 being by John Warner & Sons of Spitalfields and the 19F# and 18G# being by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon. The Warner bells are probably some 90 years old, the Gillett & Johnston bells will be around 50 years old. The bells are all approximately 20 cents flat of standard pitch and are tarnished with age and use. The 16B casting is slightly cracked which affects its tone, as is the 13E, which is in any case a poor bell tonally.

The leather handles are soft with wear, and are badly fitted with a poor quality of riveting. The leather caps or handguards are in good condition, but are poorly graded for size, some being large and some small when compared to the standard sizes.

The clappers, staples and springs of the inside fittings are all sound, but the staple of the 17A has been soldered into the bell so that it may not be easily unscrewed and removed. The associated frictional parts - clapper pegs, staple pins, staple washers and spring felts - are all now well worn with age and use, causing looseness and consequently noisy action when the bells are rung.

/2 ctd.

Bank: Barchays Bank plc., Broadgate Business Centre, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XA.
Sort code: 20-77-67 Account no. 20980854

V.A.T. Registration No. 243 1770 78
Company Registered in London England at the above address. Reg. No. 938186

Web Site: <http://www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk>

Recommendations

It is quite likely that a previous restoration of the old Warner bells was undertaken by Messrs. Gillett & Johnston and that perhaps the two Gillett bells in the set replace cracked ones from the original. The restoration work was rather poorly undertaken, and indeed although their reputation as founders of large bells was good, Gillett handbells never reached the same high standards for tone and fittings as those of some other manufacturers.

The bells are all some 20 cents flat of standard pitch, and we recommend that they be retuned to standard pitch by lowering their notes, forming a diatonic set with a bass bell note Eb plus two semitones 14Db and 10A. The two cracked bells, 16B and 13E should be recast to restore their tone. The recasting and tuning of the bells would result in the bells being restored to an as new finish.

The leather handles are soft but could be stiffened with leather inserts in the looped handles to extend their life. Alternatively, the handles may be replaced with new; the advantage of this would be proper fitting and smooth riveting of the handles to their bells offering greater comfort to the hand when ringing. The leather caps may all be reused, however they are not well graded for size across the set. If a major restoration is to be undertaken, we would therefore recommend that these be replaced with new to improve the overall look of the set.

The inside fittings should be dismantled from the bells, cleaned and thoroughly overhauled. The 17A staple will require extra work to remove it, and the bell will require re-threading to facilitate the fitting of a new staple. The remainder of the fittings (clapper and springs) may be fitted to the new staple. The fittings should be reassembled to their bells using all new staple pins, staple washers, clapper pegs and spring felts, and adjusted for correct striking action.

Estimate

To recast the cracked 16B	£128.00 + VAT
To recast the cracked 13E	£103.00 + VAT
To clean, polish and tune the remaining 13 bells to Eb standard pitch	£555.66 + VAT

EITHER

To stiffen the existing handles of the 15 bells £211.05 + VAT

OR

To fit new handles to all 15 bells £369.48 + VAT

To fit new caps if desired (only in conjunction with fitting new handles) £ 63.75 + VAT

To dismantle the inside fittings from the 15 bells, including removing the soldered in 17A staple. Supplying and fitting a new 17A staple. Cleaning and overhauling the remaining fittings, and reassembling to their bells using all new staple pins, staple washers, clapper pegs and spring felts £494.92 + VAT

/3 ctd.

Page 3

When considering the cost of handbell restoration, if the cracked bells were recast and the remainder tuned to standard pitch, the handles and caps were replaced and the inside fittings thoroughly overhauled, the set may be regarded as being in an as new condition for the sum of £1,714.81 + VAT.

As may be seen from the enclosed price list, to purchase an equivalent new set would currently cost £2,889.00 + VAT.

If it is decided not to tune the bells to standard pitch but to retain the sound castings as they are, then the two cracked bells should be recast to match the existing set. The existing caps may be retained and the existing handles stiffened to reduce costs. The inside fittings, however, should be dismantled and overhauled as this will effect great mechanical improvement to the ringing of the bells. This lesser option would cost a total of £936.97 + VAT.

We enclose a copy of our 1998 handbell literature for your information. We hope that the above is of interest and look forward to hearing from you further.

Yours faithfully,
p.p. WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY LTD.

Kathryn Hughes

Kathryn Hughes (Mrs)

encls

CHERITON VILLAGE CLASSES & THE CHERITON GOLDEN PLATES
(written by local member & benefactor, Pat Thornton)

HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

In December 1990 the W.I. Christmas Party had for its Entertainment THE BISHOPS WALTHAM BELLS, Conducted by FRED HAIGH. He had found the B.W.Bells in the Church and been able to restore them and get his Group started. We invited him to return to Cheriton to perform at the Annual Function of the CHERITON VILLAGE CLASS COMMITTEE in the Spring of 1991. At that stage a number of said we would love to start a Bell Group. JUNE YOUNG, who lived at the H.H.said that she would be prepared to take a Group. Then began the unsuccessful search for some local Bells. In the early summer of 1992 Fred Haigh invited any of us that were interested to come to a Rally of Bell Ringers of GT Britain at Bishops Waltham He thought a new Invention would be of interest to us. JUNE Young, Bunny Cherry, Jill Smith, Myra North, Margie Patrick and I all went. We met Maurice Davies, the man who had recently invented Bell Plates, whilst working at London Airport. We heard them played and decided we would try to get some and get started. We had some donations and the Village Class Committee agreed to purchase the first Suitcase of two octaves £299.

The Hand Bell Plate classes ran for 6 weeks in the Beauworth Village Hall, with Fred Haigh as Tutor. JUNE Young and her daughter Yvonne Evans, Jill Smith, Myra North, Margaret Fox, Pat Thornton, Peter and Rita Minns, Sandy Worth and Margaret Deally were all members. Fred gave us a excellent grounding and until his death he took an interest in us and would visit the Group from time to time.

When we finished at Beauworth we moved the Group to the H.H. and June Young became our Tutor and Conductor. Bill Fox joined the Group as did Bunny Cherry. Marie Joyce and Mary Keer. When we started not everyone could read Music. June Young taught everyone to be able to and we were able to expand the range of music, which we played. Not only did she give us hospitality at the H.H. but she provided the Leopard Skin Rugs we still play on. In 1993, The Village Class Committee bought an additional Octave of Bell Plates at the cost of £200. which extended our range. Also in 1993 we joined as a Group with some individual members THE HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN and registered our name as CHERITON GOLDEN PLATES. We have over the years attended various Regional Rallies and we played in a Regional Carol Service at St Paul's Winchester in Dec 1997.

It was in 1993 that JUNE Young very generously gave the Group our Blue Music Stands. Sadly June Young left the village to go to the Isle of Wight after having taught us for about 2 years. But our Luck was in, JILL MACK, with her wide musical talent and experience agreed to take us on as our Tutor and Conductor. WE had to move our venue from the H.H. and we played for a couple of years at 13 Markall Close but decided to move to the Cheriton Village Hall in 1997, when an evening was available. Janey Matthews and Jill Buckingham joined the Group in 1995 and Delia Stirling in 1996.

The Majority of the Group have belonged from the outset. Everyone has learnt a lot and very much enjoys it. We have over the years entertained various Organisations, Abbeyfield, the Good Companions. St Lawrence Church Group and twice played for Christingle and a Carol Service in our Benefice. WE played outside at the Village Open Garden Event in aid of the Cheriton Church Tower Fund.

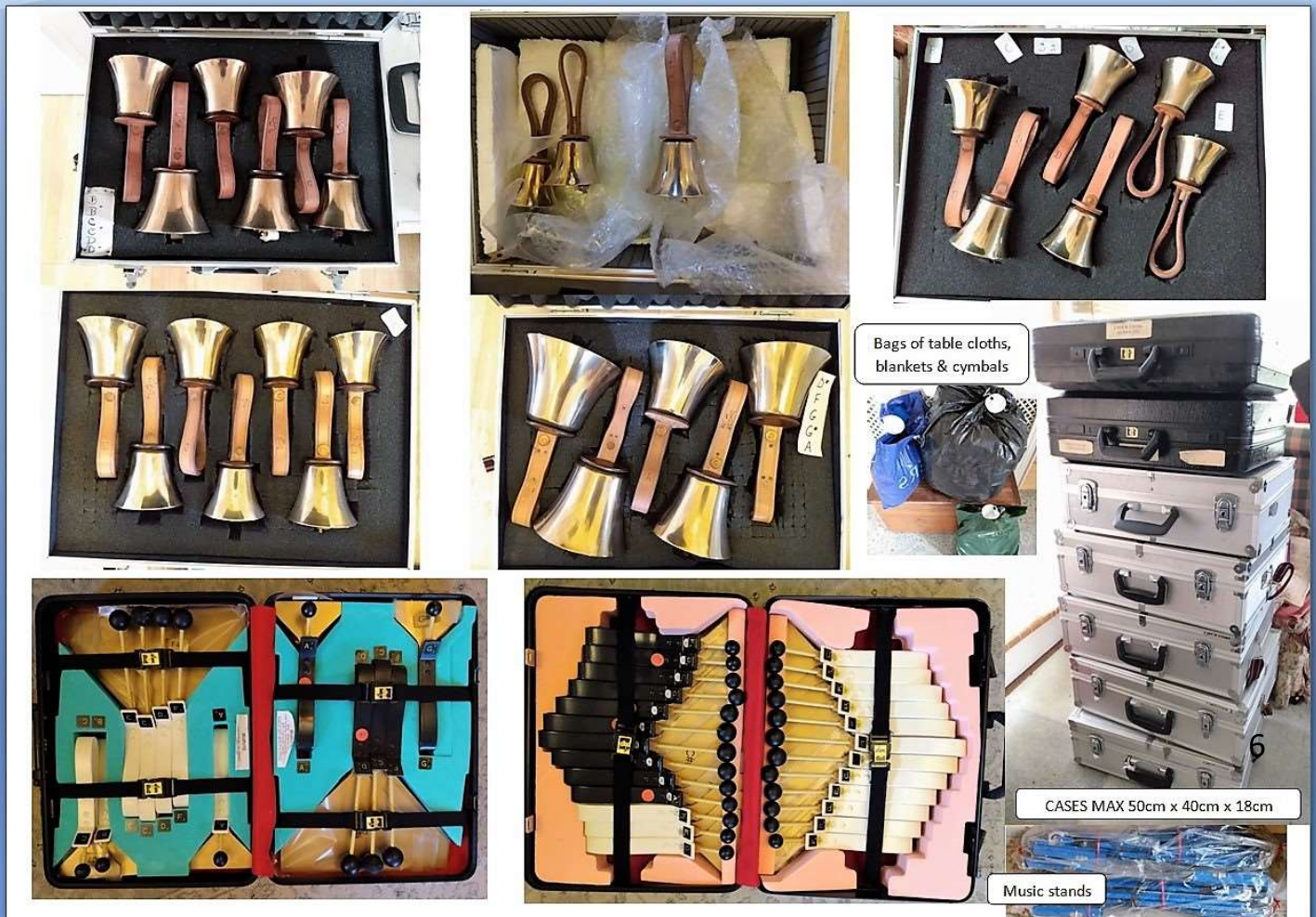
That is the story to date. We would, now Hand Bells are available to be played in Cheriton love to expand our skills under Jill Mack's excellent leadership.

CHERITON GOLDEN PLATES & HANDBELLS PERFORMING AT CHERITON MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS, WITH LEADER JILL MACK



When the 'Cheriton Golden Plates & Handbells' ceased ringing in 2001, local leader Jill Mack (centre left front) arranged for the equipment to be safely stored pro-tem at Kipping Cottage, owned by fellow ringer Mary Keer (2nd from left).

The combined photographs below show all of the (carefully restored and substantially improved / augmented) equipment which, by arrangement with her executors and Jill Mack, Paul subsequently collected for safe-keeping from Kipping Cottage after Mary had, sadly, passed away.



HANDBELL RESTORATIONS
 27 DENE ROAD
 FARWORTH
 WANTS
 S14 0B7

9/9/98

Dear Gill,

Please find enclosed a form for insuring your bells.

As you can see its very straight forward and good value.

If you have any queries at all, give Mayola a ring, ask for Nigel Butler and he will be more than happy to help you out.

I'm sure we will meet at a rally sooner or later, good luck with the ringing.

Yours
Robert Nichol

CHERITON HANDBELLS				
Size & Note	A Cost	B 17.5% VAT	C 1/2 price	D
8C	£135.00	£158.63	£79.31	Column A is the price of a bell less VAT.
9B	£136.00	£159.80	£79.90	
10A#	£142.00	£166.85	£83.43	Column B is the price plus VAT.
10A	£142.00	£166.85	£83.43	
11G#	£148.00	£173.90	£86.95	A & B are for new bells.
11G	£148.00	£173.90	£86.95	
12F#	£152.00	£178.60	£89.30	Column C is the value of your bells.
12F	£152.00	£178.60	£89.30	
13E	£157.00	£184.48	£92.24	You need to insure the bells for :-
14D#	£162.00	£190.35	£95.18	
14D	£162.00	£190.35	£95.18	£4018-39p which is the new value B, plus 10%.
15C#	£168.00	£197.40	£98.70	
15C	£168.00	£197.40	£98.70	
17A#	£198.00	£232.65	£116.33	
18G#	£215.00	£252.63	£126.31	
18G	£215.00	£252.63	£126.31	
19F	£225.00	£264.38	£132.19	
21D#	£256.00	£300.80	£150.40	
Totals	A £3,081.00	B £3,620.18	C £1,810.09	£4,018.39

2006.

CHERITON VILLAGE HANDBELLS.

EQUIPMENT:

3X FOAM MATTRESS
3X BLANKETS
8X DRAPES

10X MUSIC STANDS
1X SYMBAL

1X BOX SET BELL PLATES.
NATURALS. $1\frac{1}{2}$ OCTAVES.
SHARPS & FLATS $1\frac{1}{2}$ OCTAVES.

1X BOX SET. BELL PLATES.
LOWER OCTAVE AND HIGHER OCTAVE
SHARPS AND FLATS

5X CASES OF HANDBELLS.

1X SMALL CASE	(3)	G. F# C# (top). SMALL (LOOSE)
1X CASE	(6)	B. C# D# E F C
1X CASE	(7)	E F# G A G# F A#
1X CASE	(6)	B A# D C# C D#
1X CASE.	(5)	D# F A G# G. (BASS)

Photo Copy from Original :-

7D#	1244.23	0	1244.23	N/A	N/A	8	Total B/Fwd=	£0.00	£0.00
7D	1174.41	0	1174.41	N/A	N/A	7	1179.17	£0.00	£0.00
8C#	1108.51	-37	1085.08	G#	G	5	1111.72 R	£45.00	£0.00
8C	1046.31	0	1046.31	G	G	5	1049.34	£0.00	£0.00
9B	987.60	-35	967.84	F#	bF	5	990.456 R	£50.00	£0.00
10A#	932.18	-36	913.00	F	bE	5	934.876 R	£50.00	£0.00
10A	879.87	18	889.06	E	bE	5	882.414 R	£50.00	£0.00
11G#	830.50	-28	817.18	D#	bD#	5	832.902 R	£50.00	£0.00
11G	783.90	0	783.90	D	D	5	786.167	£0.00	£0.00
12F#	739.91	-39	723.43	C#	#C	5	742.05 R	£50.00	£0.00
12F	698.39	0	698.39	C	C	5	700.41	£0.00	£0.00
13E	659.2	-18	652.38	B	bB	5	661.106 R	£50.00	£0.00
14D#	622.21	-33	610.46	A#	bA#	5	624.009 R	£50.00	£0.00
14D	587.30	-34	575.88	A	#G#	5	588.998 R	£50.00	£0.00
15C#	554.34	-39	541.99	G#	bG#	5	555.943 R	£50.00	£0.00
15C	523.23	0	523.23	G	G	5	524.743	£0.00	£0.00
16B	493.87	-20	488.20	F#	F#	5	495.298 R	£55.00	£0.00
17A#	466.16	0	466.16	F	F	5	467.508	£0.00	£0.00
17A	440.00	-18	435.45	E	bE	5	441.272 R	£55.00	£0.00
18G#	415.31	-11	412.68	D#	#D	5	416.511 R	£55.00	£0.00
18G	392.01	0	392.01	D	D	5	393.144	£0.00	£0.00
19F#	370.01	-36	362.40	C#	bD	5	371.08 R	£55.00	£0.00
19F	349.25	0	349.25	C	C	5	350.26	£0.00	£0.00
20E	329.65	-18	326.24	B	bE	5	330.603 R	£55.00	£0.00
21D#	311.15	0	311.15	A#	A#	5	312.05	£0.00	£0.00
21D	293.69	0	293.69	A	A	5	294.539	£0.00	£0.00
22C#	277.21	0	277.21	G#	G#	5	278.012	£0.00	£0.00
22C	261.65	0	261.65	G	G	5	262.407	£0.00	£0.00

Pitch of restored Bells

8C 79.90 ✓

9B 79.90 ✓

10A#

10A

11G#

11G 89.30 ✓

12F# 89.30 ✓

12F 92.24 ✓

13E

14D#

14D

15C#

15C

16B 1705.16 *

17A#

17A 116.33 *

18G#

18G

19F# 132.19 *

19F

20E 141.59 *

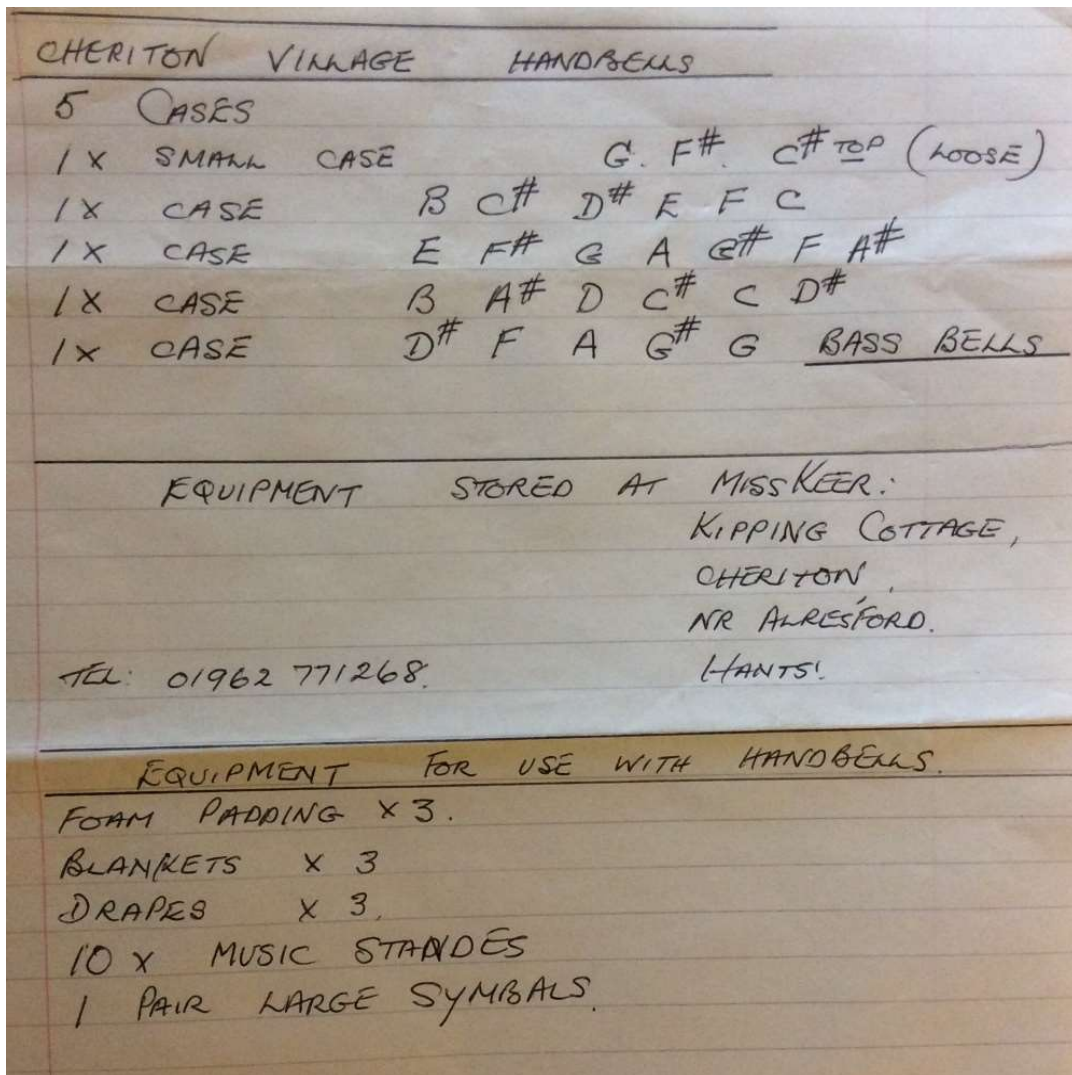
21D#

21D 150.40 *

22C# 160.98 *

22C 160.98 *

Required to make 1 complete octave. Bells required to make up a further octave (A future fund raising needed)



A few interesting insights extracted from my correspondence with the former leader & musical director of The Cheriton Golden Plates & Handbells, Jill Mack ...

... our team of ringers have always cared for The Cheriton handbells in a professional way. Gloves were always used when playing or handling them and, when resting, they were put down on blankets to protect them. They were then carefully packed away after they were played.

Geoff's bell team at the H.H. pub played with great enjoyment I am sure but, they were very differently handled! The condition they were in then was dreadful and it involved getting them totally re-tuned, polished and restored, complete with new leather handles.

Most of our team learned to read music and did not play by ear. All our team paid towards everything we did and enjoyed fund raising, where large sums of money were often involved. Especially when we purchased new bells from Chappell Bells in London.

It was with great sadness that, because of health reasons, I had to step down in 2001 and, regrettably, our team then folded. But playing handbells was always hugely enjoyed by us all ...

Finally, for the benefit of those who never had the chance to know him, I have copied below a couple of pages from my original eulogy for Geoff . . .

*Geoff's grave is just outside the east window of St Michael & All Angels' Church
(...and his proximity to the organ, as well as to altar, is no coincidence!)*

Geoffrey was born on 19th May 1921, the son of a local blacksmith, Percy Harfield, who, remarkably, was the sixth generation of Harfields to be blacksmiths in the village. Around that time, I believe that Cheriton boasted five separate blacksmiths and farriers, as it totally revolved around agriculture and Freeman's timber-yard, both of which required the use of many heavy horses.

As a child, Geoff's family lived in one of a pair of cottages behind Holbrook, next door to his life-long friend Eric Thorne and his family. They subsequently moved to The Forge (formerly his grandfather's house) which is where I, and probably most of us, will think of him living. Right in the centre of things.

He had two older sisters, both of whom were married; Gladys (who lived in the village, at North End) and Iris (who lived in London) whose daughter Barbara is Geoff's sole surviving relative. Following the death of his father, he conscientiously cared for his elderly mother. A role which was later repeated when he looked after his sister, Gladys, until she died in 1983.

Geoff was educated at the village school and, at the age of 14, he went to work in Winchester for the department store, Sherrif and Ward's (later to become Debenham's), for many years bicycling each way, in all weathers.

He earned his spurs in 'The Rag Trade' (as he called it) and became 'under manager', then 'acting manager' at Sherrif and Ward's. He went on to become Buyer and Department Head of Debenham's 'Edwin Jones' wholesale warehouse in Southampton. His war years were spent, relatively uneventfully I believe, as an armourer in the RAF, stationed in Lincolnshire and Suffolk. After the war he re-joined Debenhams and then, when the warehouse was due to close, he was approached by Dowlings who asked him to manage their drapery and haberdashery shop in Totton. A few years later, because Dowlings planned to close the shop, he decided to purchase it and ran his own successful business with the assistance of several loyal friends from the Debenham's days, until his retirement. Retirement is probably the wrong word because Geoff then started a second career of gardening for a number of local people - just to keep busy!

The time he gave to the entire Community is staggering when we consider how many organisations to which he belonged and then bear in mind that, at some stage, he has probably either been Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or such-like of most of them - and often fulfilling several of these roles simultaneously, if no-one else would step forward. For those who are not aware, these have included The Parochial Church Council, The Parish Council, The Recreation Committee, The Village Hall Committee, The Bell ringers and the hand-bell team, The Cribbage Team at The Flower Pots, The Village Working Men's Club, The Choral Society, The Drama Group, and Cheriton Primary School where he regularly played for assembly. In addition, in his capacity as organist, he has also, on two separate occasions, started, coached and developed an impressive Children's Church Choir, both of which were strongly supported by enthusiastic local children whom, I am sure, will never forget him.

His only reward was that he had managed to introduce music into many young lives, at the same time enhancing the Sunday worship for the congregation.

In addition to the many undertakings he fulfilled in the public eye, there were probably just as many which he quietly carried out un-noticed. Thankless tasks such as setting out the chairs in numerical order each evening the Cheriton Players were performing; prior to the installation of central heating in the Village Hall, he used to call in and switch on the heaters to make sure it was comfortable for whoever had booked it; As Sacristan, he would arrive early every Sunday morning at Church to bring the items out of the safe and set out the Altar. Wearing his Treasurer's hat, he would then stay behind to count and record the collection; Long after he *should* have given up, he continued to mow a particular area of the churchyard every week; Prior to every Choral Society rehearsal, he would set out chairs and whatever was necessary so that everything was in place before members arrived; The list is endless.

UPDATE AS AT JULY 2023: As previously agreed with Jill Mack, leader & Musical Director of Cheriton Golden Plates & Cheriton Handbells and with the approval of several local former members of that group, the two boxed sets of Bell Plates are currently on loan to Cheriton Village School (under the kind supervision of their Head of Music, Dorothy France). Similarly, the handbells (in their flight cases) plus all of the other associated Cheriton Golden Plates & Handbells' equipment (as described earlier) are presently securely housed within the bell tower of St Michael & All Angel's Church, Cheriton (by the kind agreement of Cheriton PCC). Whilst it is my personal opinion that Cheriton Golden Plates & Handbells together with Jill Mack now clearly have a majority interest in all of this equipment, I believe that the Harfield Trust still has a certain responsibility to respect Geoff Harfield's original intent and wishes. So, for the sake of completeness, the current Trustees of The Harfield Trust are Penny Scott, Sophie Beardmore-Gray, Simon Murfitt & Paul Hellard.

*Paul Hellard (with special thanks to Jill Mack & Chris Gardner)
February 2022 + updates in 2023 (E&OE)*