



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk) JANUARY 2001

## Beckenham Top of the Ten

The District Call-change Competition was held at Eltham on 18th November. 10 teams were entered, which I think is a record - certainly in my time. Since I couldn't find a judge, I judged the competition with Steve Kennet. We were impressed with the overall standard of ringing, especially considering the number of less-experienced bands taking part. I'm pleased to say that nobody disgraced themselves, and all of the bands showed potential, which I hope they will build on. May I say again how pleased I am with the turn-out for this very worthwhile event. May I also remind the team that came 10th that they didn't lose, but came 10th out of 31 (32 if you count Erith entering 2 teams [well done chaps!]) I hope that we will see good numbers for the 6-bell method competition in April.

The results were as follows:

10th: Foots Cray - 86.5 faults  
9th: C.C. Erith - 67 faults  
8th: Hayes - 65.5 faults  
7th: Crayford - 56 faults  
6th: Dartford - 51.5 faults  
5th: Erith C.C. - 49 faults  
4th: St Mary Cray - 31.5 faults  
3rd: Eltham - 28 faults  
2nd: Chislehurst - 27 faults  
1st: Beckenham - 10.5 faults

James Hardy

## HORTON KIRBY QUIZ

**Friday 12th January 2001**

**Village Hall, Horton Kirby**

**7.45pm for 8pm start**

**Teams of up to 6 people  
Names by 11th January Please**

**Contact:  
David Crowhurst  
01322 863\*\*\***



## Next District Event

**District Meeting  
Erith (Christ Church)  
on  
Saturday 13th January.**

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.  
Names for tea to  
Carol Eastaugh, (01322 342\*\*\*) please,  
by the previous Wednesday.

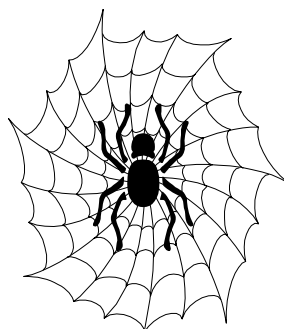
# EMAIL UPDATES

As many of you will know I have found it easiest to chase people for articles via email. I also intend to remind people of up coming district events and other general news this way. The list below shows which towers I have and have not got contacts for and the name of the contact. Where possible I have made this the tower secretary but if not it is anyone from the tower who I had an address for. If you feel that there is someone in the tower who it would be better to send the email to, maybe they check it more regularly, then please can you email me and let me know.

I have just sent out an email reminder for this weekends quarterly meeting. Again if anyone listed below didn't receive it can they email me in case I have an old address. It would be nice to have a contact for each tower so can you email me if I don't have an email address for your tower.

And finally, if anyone would like to be added to my mailing list then please email me and let me know. It currently contains over 50 people but I'm happy to send it to as many people as want it.

Tower	Contact Name	Email Address
Ash-By-Wrotham	Lyn Briers (sec)	No
Beckenham	Sara Hardy (sec)	Yes
Bexley	Mary Andrews (sec)	Yes
Bickley	Jean Brown (sec)	No
Biggin Hill	Nancy Gay (sec)	Yes
Bromley	David Kingston	Yes
Bromley Common	Alistair Scott	Yes
Chelsfield	Jim Rooke (sec)	Yes
Chislehurst (Annun)	J Owen (sec)	No
Chislehurst (St Nics)	Mark Jones	Yes
Crayford	Debra Say	Yes
Cudham	Megan Smith	Yes
Dartford	Esther Correia (sec)	Yes
Deptford	Rev'd April Keech (sec)	No
Downe	Jon Fry	Yes
Eltham	David Holdridge	Yes
Erith (Christchurch)	Carol Eastaugh (sec)	Yes
Erith (St Johns)	Margaret Heald	Yes
Eynsford	David Hilling	Yes
Farningham	Martin Luffman	Yes
Foots Cray	Margaret Macey (sec)	Yes
Greenwich	Peter Swift	Yes
Hayes	Mary Rowedder (sec)	No
Horton Kirby	David Crowhurst	Yes
Lewisham	David Hollis	No
Penge	Sara Hardy (see Beckenham)	
Shoreham	??	No
Sidcup	Yvonne Wright (sec)	Yes
St Mary Cray	Nigel Pointer	Yes
West Wickham	Alys Helm (sec)	Yes
Woolwich	Bill Lanyon (sec)	No



## What's been happening - News from the Website

For the latest county and district news see the KCACR website at [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk) This has links to other ringing websites including James' district one at: [www.callnetuk.com/home/jameshardy/lewishamdistrictnews.htm](http://www.callnetuk.com/home/jameshardy/lewishamdistrictnews.htm)

### District Practice at Eynsford

The practice at Eynsford on December 16th was the last of the year, and despite short notice, was well enough attended to be enjoyable, and I hope useful to those who were there. Afterwards, we retired to the Pub for a Christmas pint.

### Annual District Meeting at Dartford

The A.D.M. at Dartford was well attended and a variety of topics were covered. A number of officers positions were revised/created. Jeremy has been replaced as Newsletter Editor by Rupert Cheeseman with Cathy as his assistant. The role of "Press rep" has been amalgamated with this position, which will provide better continuity. Jim Rooke was elected to the position of "Sales Representative" and will be dealing with the books, sweatshirts, badges etc. The positions of Master, Dep.master, District reps and Secretary remain as in the period '99-00. Mary Andrews is due to complete 40 years service as Secretary in 2003, and has made it known that she would like to retire once this milestone has been reached. It has been suggested that one or two people should "shadow" her for the next couple of years and learn the ropes. If you feel that you could do this job, please make yourself known to the District officers. The position of Secretary is a very important one, and a smooth hand-over is essential.

The meeting was preceded by a Choral Service, and tea provided by the local band. There was open ringing before the service and after the meeting, and whilst the bells proved to be difficult to ring well some good ringing was achieved.

I would like to say a very big "Thankyou" to Jeremy for providing an excellent newsletter for us, which he has done for some years now. Jeremy urges all members to support the new ed. by sending as many articles as you can, details of outings, quarter peal attempts, tower cleaning days or anything else amusing or interesting.

Thanks go to Jessica Vale for her service as Press Rep, a misleading title as it also involved running the bookshop etc. Thankyou to the Dartford ringers for their splendid hospitality.

From James Hardy's website

# Editorial

Welcome to what I believe is the largest ever District Newsletter. It has not been achieved by increasing the type font (!) but by all your contributions. Many thanks to everyone who has written something for this issue. The next thing of course is to keep up the same standard for the April issue. I believe that I have managed to fit in everything that has been sent to me. If, however, you have sent me anything and it has not appeared, then please let me know and I shall make sure it gets in the next issue. If you send an article by e-mail, it will be acknowledged but I regret that I cannot acknowledge articles sent through the post. I am particularly interested in receiving more diagrams, cartoons or drawings so if you have anything interesting, please send them along.

I am particularly pleased with the response to the "News from the Towers" feature. If anyone did not see the email or the letter accompanying the newsletter poster that I sent out, I asked each tower to write a bit about themselves and what they have been doing. I would like to make this a regular feature. Although I would like an update from the 11 towers who wrote for this issue, it would be nice if I also heard from the 20 that I did not hear from this time.

I would like to thank Jeremy for all his help and advice in the change over and also to thank Margaret for her help throughout this last week.

My final point is about subscriptions. Since the usual four newsletters were not all produced last year, the cost of this year's newsletters will be reduced to £3.50 for the first copy and £2.50 for all subsequent copies to the same address. Cheques need to be made payable to 'Lewisham District Newsletter' and sent to \*\* Church Road, Erith, Kent DA8 \*\*\* by 1<sup>st</sup> April at the latest. Your cheque needs to be accompanied by the subscription form included in this newsletter.



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I am as always seeking articles and would like as much copy as possible for the next issue - get writing!!!!

**COPY DEADLINE -  
31st March 2001**

to  
Rupert Cheeseman  
\*\* Church Road  
Erith  
Kent  
DA8 \*\*\*

☎ 01322 439\*\*\*

✉ rupert@dartford26.freemove.co.uk

✉ or cathy's new address- cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net

# District Practices

The next practice is on 20th January at Beckenham (7-9). Please see the enclosed events poster for a full list of practices and special methods.

These practices are specifically aimed at all abilities, so please come along. The purpose of listing "special methods" is to encourage as many people as possible to look at the same thing in order to reduce the demand for different requests during practices which are subject to time limitations. It also provides an opportunity for individuals' requests for specific methods to be met, and rung with a band of pre-warned enthusiasts!

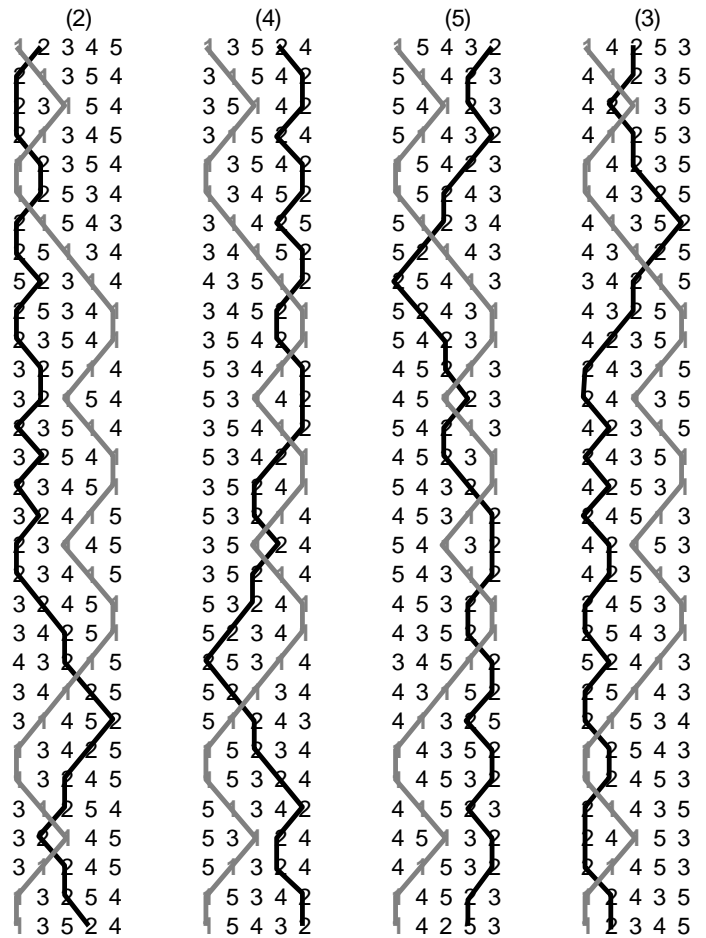
Please do not be discouraged, in any way, from attending a practice simply because you don't know the special method(s) or perhaps because they are a little too advanced for you. Practices will, as far as possible, be tailored to suit those who attend.

If you would like to request a specific method or practice, please let James Hardy or Jeremy Byers know - either by E-mail or by phone or by asking!!

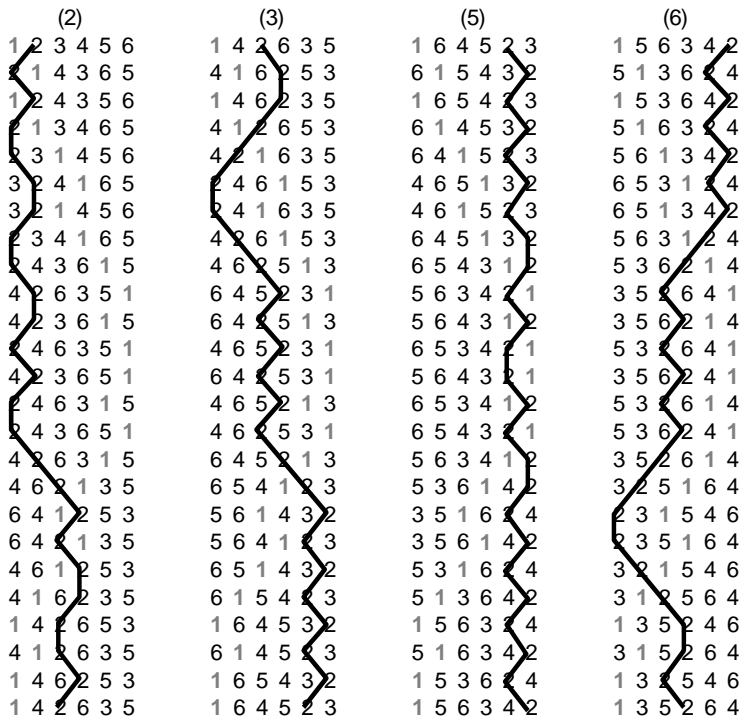
## Southwark Practices

For anyone interested in progressing their 10 and 12 bell ringing then Southwark Cathedral has regular Wednesday practices to which everyone is welcome. There are general practices on 7th Feb, 7th Mar, 4th Apr and 9th May. And 12 bell ones, for more advanced ringing, on 17th Jan, 21st Feb, 18th Apr and 16th May.

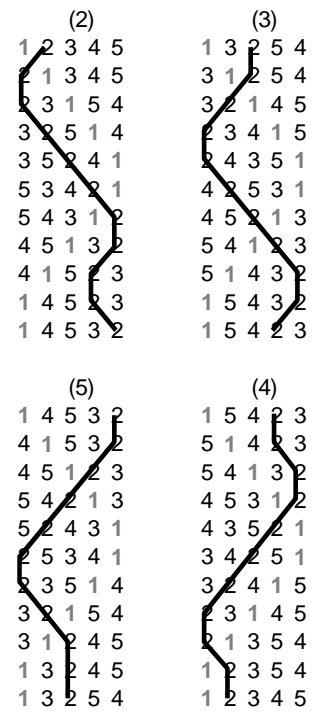
## Foots Cray Treble Place Doubles



## Old Oxford Delight Minor



## All Saints Doubles



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# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## BECKENHAM

Situated close to Beckenham Junction Station, the church overlooks the local area, being conveniently placed on the top of the hill with good views right up to Crystal Palace.

Practice night is Thursday evenings 7-30 to 9-30 pm and visitors are most welcome to attend. The ringing standard ranges from rounds and call changes to surprise major and generally we hope to offer opportunities to ring most methods. Practice night attendances can be very variable (from sparse to really busy) and since 10 bells give you loads of options we try and pack in as much as possible - socialising in the pub hopefully gives everyone a chance to catch up with the gossip. Beckenham is also a good place to meet the district ringing master and his deputy, as they both ring here - if you are itching to get your views across, buy them a pint and they'll discuss almost anything with you - even ringing.

If you've never been - please come and see us. If you would like to check on whether we are practising please call Jim Hardy on 020-8659-2\*\*\*.

Jeremy Byers

## BIGGIN HILL

Biggin Hill Sinking!

One would think that being on top of the highest hill in Kent, water would be the least of our problem, But the Biggin Hill ringers feel like ship-wrecked mariners. An unhappy combination of gale driven rain, thin walls, leaky roof, warped louvers, shorted-out electrics and One-2-One's odd idea of suitable stairs has us struggling to survive the tempest. Our little band is loyal and hardy. Every Wednesday and Sunday they slop through the mud, squeeze up the steps and peer through the gloom, but sometimes the problems are intolerable - like when the jerry-rigged lights fell down and became entangled with the ropes. Scary!

In spite of all this, three new young people have been coming to learn and we are gamely trying to break into methods. We really, really would welcome the occasional visitor (but under the present circumstances you'd better ring me before arriving), and I may be calling on some of you later if I feel we've made enough progress for a real working and learning day.

Nancy Gay

## BROMLEY PARISH

We have little to report. Two Quarter Peals, one to celebrate the arrival of a grandson for the vicar. The other was intended to be an 8 bell Quarter Peal for Frank Gates to ring in but we met two short and rang Bob Minor instead with our curate, Michael Gentry, on the tenor.

David Kingston

## CHELSEFIELD

### OVER 18 TO SUCCEED IN CHELSEFIELD CHALLENGE?

Eighteen not out and still counting! At the time of going to press there are still more than two weeks to go before the end of the year and one of the high points at Chelsfield has been the number of local ringers who have rung at least one quarter-peal at St. Martins, Chelsfield this year. With the successful completion of a quarter-peal on Sunday 10th December in which three local ringers rang their first quarters of the year, including a first on the treble (away from covering on the tenor) no less than eighteen ringers have rung a quarter at their home tower and this has included one "first quarter."

With increasing time pressures on everyone today it is no longer possible, as it was many years ago, to have just, say, six trained ringers who can be expected to turn out to ring for all Sunday Services, Weddings and other occasions such as local festivals. It is more like modern day football where a strong squad is required, not just the bare minimum number for a team. At Chelsfield we have a number of ringers on the books, the vast majority of whom were taught to ring at St. Martins and despite the success of eighteen ringers there are still more who could ring a quarter who haven't yet done so.

This is not to say that ringing a quarter-peal in itself makes the participants necessarily better ringers but taken as one means of teaching and giving the ringers the chance for their ringing to settle down and concentrate for 40 minutes it is one very valuable instrument in the teaching armoury. I would therefore be strongly in favour of the (re) introduction of the District quarter-peal week with achievement targets for anyone participating if they want them.

Having said all of the above we have, of late, suffered from low attendances at Chelsfield on Monday evening practice nights. Low by our standards means perhaps nine local ringers plus a very welcome one or sometimes two visitors whereas a year or so ago we had as many as eighteen locals! Our

fluctuating attendances and demands on our ringers time was illustrated by our unfortunate inability to raise six ringers (at least three non-peal ringers was the problem) for the District call change competition.

As we near the end of this landmark year 2000 we have had achievements to celebrate. Starting with ringing on the Millennium New Years' Day we have, on more than one occasion, rung the bells at Shoreham with some of their local ringers who are less numerous than us and some of our ringers have had considerable responsibility for training the new band at Horton Kirby. We look forward to the challenges of 2001 and welcome any visitors who would like to join us for our Monday evening practices. Perhaps, before the end of 2000, over 18 will have succeeded with our Chelsfield quarter-peal challenge but even if the number stays at 18 we will have a target to beat next year!

Nick Wilkins

**NOTICE** Ringers from Chelsfield available for weddings (or other occasions)\_ please give maximum possible notice to Nick Wilkins 01689-830\*\*\*.

## CRAYFORD

Crayford are arguably (well David might argue see below) the best light eight in the district! We normally get 8 to 10 people for our Tuesday night practices and Sunday morning ringing. Unfortunately, although we regularly ring call changes on the eight, we do not often get enough to ring methods on them.

Two of our recent recruits rang their first quarters in 2000. Debra rang Plain Bob doubles inside and Mike covered to Grandsire doubles. We rang a peal of 8 spliced surprise major here in March to mark 10 years since my first peal, also at Crayford.

Rupert Cheeseman

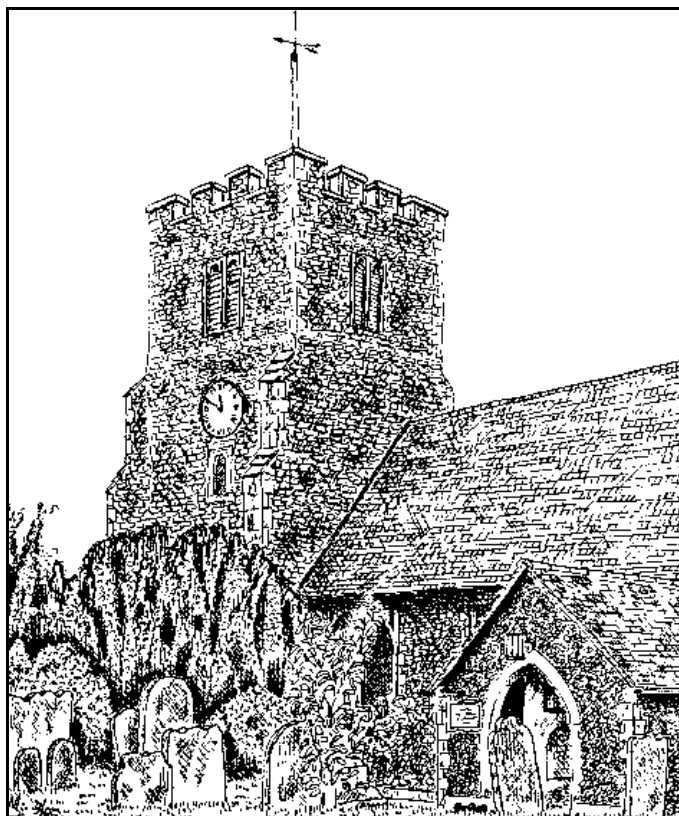
## DARTFORD

We are a small band of 6-7: 3 of us have 10 years + experience and 3-4 of us under 5 years. We understand the mechanics of ringing rounds and Plain Hunt and are fairly capable of Plain Hunt. when we have a couple of experienced ringers with us but tend to fall apart when we ring together. What we need is an Anne Robinson job, i.e. someone who can listen to us and tell us who/what is our weakest link. Anyone out there willing and brave enough?

Esther Correia

## ELTHAM

Eltham, St John: 8 bells, 10-2-24 in G.  
Practice Night Tuesday, 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.



ST. PAULINUS, CRAYFORD

Sunday: 9.15 - 10.00 am.

Eltham are arguably the best light eight in the District - if not in the whole of London. (Gillett & Johnson 1924) We get around 14 people at our practices, and usually manage to ring 8 on Sunday morning.

On Tuesday, we ring everything from rounds to mixed doubles, plus touches of Stedman if the wind is in the right direction. We have recently ventured into plain courses of Grandsire Triples, and on occasions when blessed by a suitable visitor, can ring respectable Cambridge Minor.

We have close links with the band at Chislehurst, and some people ring at both towers on practice nights and even Sunday morning - the latter just possible if there are no police speed traps in operation. In January 2000 the two towers held a joint Dinner, which was such a success that we are repeating the experience in 2001 (thus celebrating both the Government's Millennium and the real one).

In May, with a little bit of outside help, we rang a Date Touch of 2000 Plain Bob Triples. The Vicar is very supportive of the ringers, and always keen to have the bells rung. The bells are consequently readily available for visits, quarters and peals by ringers from both inside and outside the district.

As far as achievements go, we were pleased to come third in the District Call Change Competition in November. Okay, so it was on our own bells, and we still don't know if the fact that the judge thought we were from his home

tower of Beckenham acted in our favour or not, but we look forward to seeing if we can do as well in a different tower next year.

Visitors are always welcome (especially ones who ring Cambridge Minor!).

David Holdrge

## FOOTS CRAY

To use that phrase from "Are you being served?" I would like to congratulate all the Foots Cray Ringers: "You've all done very well". The learners have progressed perfectly and the experienced ringers have assisted admirably in this. Keep up the hard work! At practices we normally ring Plain Hunt and some Called Changes. These are sometimes mixed with some less-rung methods such as Stedman Singles and Reverse Bastow Doubles. Occasionally we venture in to the realms of Plain Bob Doubles (however being a five bell tower we are restricted).

We recently took part in the District Called Change Competition (coming tenth out of a possible thirty-one) and this was particularly impressive as Foots Cray is a 3 cwt tower, and so having to ring on bells over three times that weight in competition conditions was a challenge. So well done! The bells at Foots Cray were recently recorded for a CD being produced with the Church Choir singing hymns and carols (reasonably priced at £5 each – see my beautiful and young assistant Margaret Macey for information!).

We have also rung two quarter peals recently – one for the CD and another for Jan Cass' Mile Stone Birthday and Wedding Anniversary. All are welcome at practices (we aim to arrive by 8 p.m. at least, but it takes so long to ring up!) and thanks for those who have come in the past when we have needed help.

Simon Morris (Ringing Master)

## HORTON KIRBY

The dedication of the full six was on Sunday 26 November (which was the same date as Otford in the Tonbridge District; wonder if a Bishop has ever dedicated two rings of bells on the same day?) Bishop Brian Smith of Tonbridge gave a splendid address and managed not quite to repeat his morning version at Otford. Hopefully more details will appear in due course.

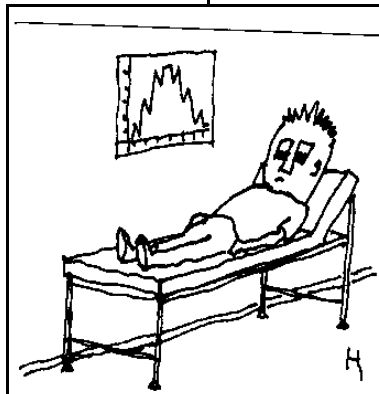
Horton Kirby now practise regularly on open bells on Thursdays from 8pm to 9.30pm. Ringing is currently limited

to rounds and call changes plus one or two pieces of method ringing to give them an idea on what they will be progressing on to. Visitors are very welcome, but please contact Philippa or Jim Rooke first to say you are coming. If you cannot be there by 8pm there is a doorbell in the porch (on a noticeboard and clearly marked "Bell Tower").

The first quarter peal was rung on this new ring of six for the dedication on Sunday 26 November.

David Crowhurst

## SIDCUP



*'Tell me - and when did you first experience this urge to stand for three hours in a draughty room pulling on the end of a rope?'*

From Ringing World 4678/79 p1277

Our PCC Secretary mooted the idea of an historical exhibition to mark the millennium. All organisations attached to the church were invited to participate. After many enquiries the bellringers had sufficient material to put on a display. The exhibition was staged in September, and was a resounding success.

After the exhibition the display was dismantled but the information has been put into a scrapbook, so if you ever come to Sidcup to ring (and we hope you will) please take time to look at it.

At the Carol Service the Sidcup ringers were given a very nice picture of St John's Church. It was painted by a student, Hilda C. Morley, in about 1970. It came into the possession of a Mr & Mrs Cheverton of Chislehurst who passed it to Roger Long as he was interested. Roger in turn, has presented it to Sidcup to hang in the tower.

Yvonne Wright

## WEST WICKHAM

West Wickham band rang christmas carols on handbells outside BHS in Bromley on 14th & 21st December from 6 o/c to raise money for our local Shaftesbury school for physically disabled youngsters. It went very well and £70 was raised.

Judith Fry



# VISITING OTHER TOWERS

Are you new to ringing and feel that you need more practice but don't know how to go about visiting other towers? Then read on.

It's pretty obvious that the way to get more experience is to do more ringing on more bells. In fact, coupled with reading, learning and watching, it's the ONLY way to make progress. But how do you know where to go, and how to arrange it?

Ringing is almost unique in the sense of fraternity that it engenders in people. There are probably fewer than a dozen churches in the world where you cannot arrive with no prior notice on a practice night or on a Sunday and still expect to ring. Even most cathedrals will welcome you whatever your level of ringing.

Despite this, it can be pretty daunting turning up at a strange tower when you know you are inexperienced so what do you do?

Start near home. Ask your tower captain or instructor where they recommend. If they don't know, ring one of the district officers of the KCACR and ask their advice. You may also like to ring the tower captain or secretary of the tower you are thinking of visiting to check on the timing of the practice, and to check if you can come along, find out what they ring, etc. etc.

Maybe you will feel happier going with someone you know. Ask your instructor or someone you have confidence in if they can introduce you. If this does not work, consider going along with someone else from your tower who is at your stage. Be considerate, though and don't take a busload, unless you have cleared it with the band in advance. Sometimes, of course, a busload might be just what they want - especially if its holiday season, or you take some experience ringers as well.

Turn up on time at the start of the practice. Not only is this good manners, it will also give you the best chance of ringing most, and since many ringers arrive late you may actually be helping the tower by letting them start on time.

Be honest about what you can ring and let the ringing master know what you would like to try. He will try to help if his band is strong enough to do what you want. If you need someone to stand by you ask the ringing master to arrange this. If you are not sure how to describe your own abilities you could even get your instructor at home to ring the tower and discuss what you need with the ringing master. Strange as it may seem, everyone will want to help you, and many will be flattered to be asked.

Don't assume that this help is all "one way traffic" From a very early stage you can help others less advanced than you. This helps other towers, especially if numbers are low, and the more ringing you can do the better.

When you are not ringing by all means sit out and chat to the locals. But remember you can also do this afterwards in the pub. Maximise the benefit of being there by watching others ring. Standing behind and watching is a fantastically effective and unstressful way to learn. Ask who to watch and what to look for if you are not sure. Take advantage of other peoples' experience. They were learners once and they were once in your shoes.

Finally, once you have developed some confidence locally, remember you can expect the same welcome all round the country. When you are away on holiday, or with work or studies, contact the local association, get the times of local ringing and turn up for practice nights or service ringing. You'll ring some wonderful bells, make more progress than you ever thought possible and meet some fantastic people. That's what ringing is all about.

Mike Worthington

## Suggestions for a Tower Library

The following list of 21 books would provide a good selection from which to start a Tower Library or even a personal one. The books give an indication of the level of ringer they would be suited to and a guide to the price range is also given. A tower subscription to the Ringing World is also recommended.

Books shown in **bold** are for sale on the district bookstall. Others are available by post - addresses in the Ringing World.

- A General Interest
- B Handling a bell
- C Plain hunt and basic method ringing
- D More advanced

### Price Guide

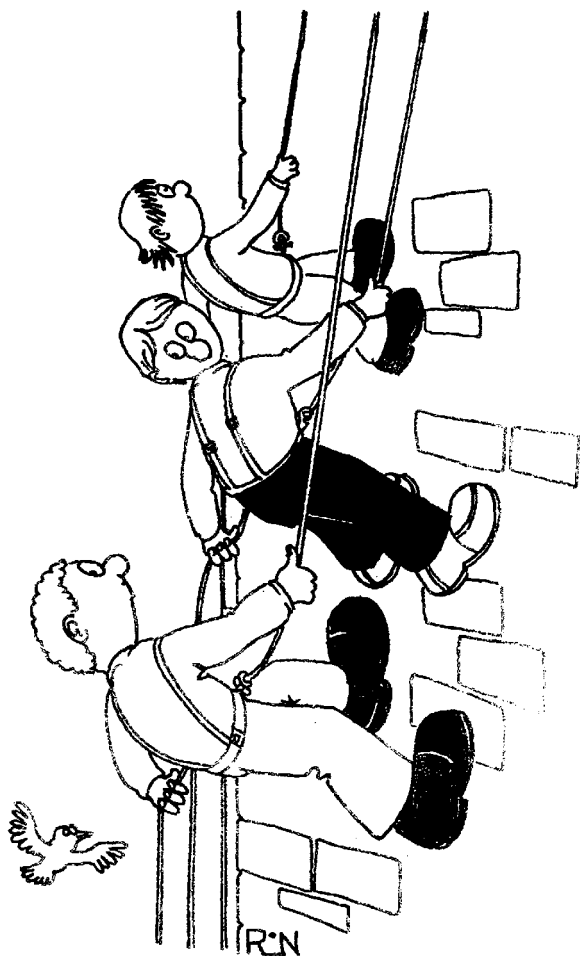
- £ £0 - £3
- ££ £3 - 10
- £££ £10+

<b>A</b>	<b>Church Bells of Britain (Dove)</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>A Schedule of Regular Maintenance</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Organising an Outing</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>The Tower Handbook</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>A - D</b>	<b>Change Ringing</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>An Atlas of Bells</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Tower Captain's Handbook</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>The Ringing World</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>B - C</b>	<b>Beginners Handbook</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>A Manual of Bell Control</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>B - C</b>	<b>The Ringers Handbook</b>	<b>££</b>
<b>B - C</b>	<b>One Per Learner</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Raising and Lowering in Peal</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>B - D</b>	<b>The Bellringers Early Companion</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>B - D</b>	<b>Change Ringing on Handbells</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Doubles and Minor for Beginners</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>C - D</b>	<b>Ringing Circles - a guide to learning basic methods</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>C - D</b>	<b>The Method Ringers Companion</b>	<b>£££</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>The Follow On Book</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Diagrams</b>	<b>££</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Triples and Major for Beginners</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Standard Methods</b>	<b>££</b>

Mike Worthington



## St Gargoyles



The bell ringers could not  
be persuaded

### From Peter Dale, General Secretary KCACR

The County Association has put out a general appeal for nominations for the posts of Publicity Convenor and Membership Secretary.

The Publicity Subcommittee was formed some time ago and came into its own for the Ring In 2000. Since then it seems to have fallen somewhat into abeyance and the General Committee agreed we should try to give it a boost, particularly in view of Radio Kent's interest in local Bells on Sunday.

The elected convenor of the subcommittee would no doubt want to mould the post to suit their own way of thinking but in general we would expect:-

The convenor of the Publicity Subcommittee to:

- ◆ form a small committee of representatives from each District, and the County Officers, to:
- ◆ co-ordinate the activities of publicity officers (or press representatives) with a view to keeping the membership of the Association informed

of matters concerning ringing across the county

- ◆ cultivate and maintain contacts within the media to promote an awareness of the Association's activities among the general population
- ◆ produce literature about the Association for a wide audience, including church authorities and new ringing members
- ◆ report upon publicity matters to the General Committee, and to the Association via the Handbook.

The Membership Secretary will be required to:

- ◆ collate and enter details of all members of the KCACR into the membership database.
- ◆ collect information on members subscription payments.
- ◆ provide reports to District Secretaries or Treasurers showing the membership and the status of payment of subscriptions.
- ◆ liaise with the Handbook Secretary with reports of members and tower details to help in the collation of the Annual Handbook.
- ◆ provide officers with any information or statistics relating to the membership that they may require.
- ◆ operate the membership database within the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998). Knowledge of Microsoft Access and / or database design would be an advantage, but is not essential.



### KCACR Meeting November 2000

The meeting lasted a long time, there being 14 items to discuss, and some had a view on everything!

Briefly the following are the important bits:-

Welcome pack has now been produced, this is basically a brochure style leaflet advising about the association, what it does, a bit about the districts followed by the contact details of certain officers.

Insurance - Reported that the policy sub divides into "public liabilities" and "ringing injuries". Peter Dale as secretary is to produce a summary of policy details for display in all towers and inclusion into handbook. As always there are still a few items to clarify, these are concerning who is covered, i.e. ringers, visitors, etc, What constitutes a pupil (can be someone who isn't a member of KCACR) and also "new member status". In short it's a bit of a minefield.

Tower photographs were touched upon, these are pictures of

all tower members in each tower during the millennium year, they are required for the central library. I suggest that an item is put in the newsletter requesting that they are sent to me - I will collate them for each tower and pass onto Hazel Catlett.

Each district has target of £2000 to raise during the millennium year towards bell restoration in the county. Lewisham District so far has done very little about this although the district has benefited from the fund. I believe that Phillipa may ask for this item to be put on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting, perhaps in the newsletter we could ask people for ideas on fund raising? Quiz night (I think was suggested), other districts are organising an Open Day when all towers are available, alternatively towers could be asked to donate a sum of money!

Handbook 2001 - It was noted that the Lewisham District has suffered because of mis-information in the current years handbook, as a consequence they will seek a reduction in the price. Next year the District Secretaries will be asked to proof read the entry for their district to try and ensure that mistakes of this type do not occur. Anyone interested in advertising in the handbook the costs are £20.00 for half page or £30.00 for a full page.

Someone raised the issue that we should consider a reduced subscription rate for students. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the views of the districts should be sought. The idea is that by having a reduced rate this might encourage



students to be loyal to their tower and KCACR. Conversely there is the view that following University many do not return simply because they pursue their careers in other places. I will raise the issue at the next meeting for people to debate (or

not).

Donald Niblet was elected as a new Vice President, this is in addition to Rev. Stanley Evans.

8 Bell contest will be held at Hoo St Werburgh on either 23rd or 30th June 2001 (this is to ensure that it doesn't clash with the 12 bell contest). It will commence at 3.45pm, the method being Oxford Bob Triples. Donald Niblet will supply the composition for the contest.

6 Bell contest is likely to be at Kemsing on 22nd September 2001, confirmation to follow.

The Essex Trophy will be held at Saffron Walden on September 15 2001, A.Larter is to be asked to organise a band.

There is to be a "Ringing Roadshow" to be held at Keale on March 31 2001

Len Morley  
District Representative

# Tower Outings



## CAMBRIDGE IN CAMBRIDGE AND WINDSOR IN CAMBRIDGE

The Chelsfield annual ringing outing this year was the last day of September and we went to Cambridge. Seven towers were on our list and I'm pleased to say that there were no lock-outs. What made a pleasant change was that once we had been dropped off for our lunch-time stop in the middle of Cambridge we did not then re-join the bus until after our last tower at 6.30 pm which meant we could stroll from one tower to the next.

The churches on the itinerary were as follows:

St Mary Magdalene	Ickleton	8	18-2-21
St Peter	Duxford	6	8-2-6
Holy Trinity	Meldreth	8	10-1-14
St Edward King & Martyr	Cambridge	6	9-0-0
St Benedict	Cambridge	6	13-3-3
St Andrew the Great	Cambridge	8	10-3-1
St Andrew, Chesterton	Cambridge	6	16-2-2

Ringing Cambridge in Cambridge was something I'd never done before and we felt that ringing half a course of Cambridge Major - by an all Chelsfield band - was quite an achievement. What also made the day more memorable for me was that whilst I was sitting on the wall just outside Kings College, eating a chocolate and ginger flapjack, who should walk past with a couple of chaperons but Barbara Windsor.

I felt that this year's outing was more enjoyable in some ways than others. For me an undisturbed lunch-break is very important. I spend my life racing around at work and sometimes barely stopping to eat. On a day out I look forward to a time when I can sit and watch the world go by. Secondly, in previous years the outing has been later in the year when the nights are drawing in quicker. I'm pleased that we finished at the last tower, whilst it was still daylight, and I took the opportunity to walk round the church yard and listen

to the bells from outside for a change. This certainly gives a different perspective to ringing.



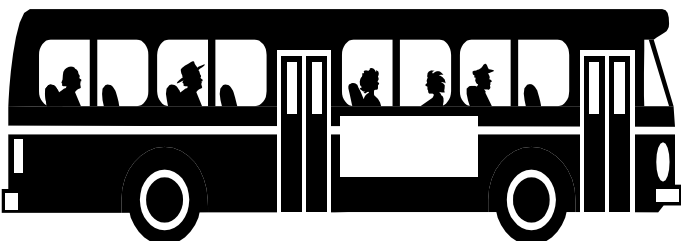
We also had longer times at each tower. This gave those not ringing the chance to look around the church or wander round the churchyard rather than racing to and fro. Also, loosing a few minutes here or there was not so critical as our timetable was not quite so tight for time.

One or two still had their harvest celebrations. At the first tower there was a bowl of fruit strategically placed near the bell ropes which hung in the chancel. The bananas looked very tempting but I resisted! Had we arrived at that tower later in the morning I may not have shown such self-restraint.

Now for a few observations about some of the churches. Most of the churches had annexes with toilet facilities. This made our stops much more comfortable. Also, and this is something I think Chelsfield should consider, a pen and ink, or pencil drawing of the church which is made into greetings cards, with envelopes and available for sale. In some churches there were coloured postcards of the church on sale at a reasonable price. At one church there was a notice board, with photographs of the various officers of the church, their name and telephone number with a brief description of their duties e.g. the churchwardens, florists, choristers etc. So if you were interested in joining that particular group you knew who to contact and what they looked like!!

I end here but not before thanking our organiser and driver for the day. Both did admirably. We were well supplied with maps and information of where we were going. The walk across a park in Cambridge and briefly near the river was very pleasant. The weather was good and I am sure others would join me in agreeing that it was a most enjoyable day out. Here's to next year's!

Angela Whitley



## **NO BROKEN BONES; NO BROKEN STAYS!**

### **or alternatively - a tale of the Cudham/Downe ringing outing 14 Oct 2000**

I hope you all have short memories, as I am sure one ringing outing is much the same as another, and I did an article about our outing last year, but I have taken to heart the plea for some stuff to put in the newsletter.

I have been learning to ring since about February 1999 and I am based at Cudham. I still regard myself very much as a learner, so the outing is quite a daunting occasion even if it is fun. Jon Fry made all the arrangements and on a grey but dry Saturday morning we duly assembled in the car park at Cudham to sort out car sharing arrangements. Jon's young son Christopher, affectionately known as "small Fry" astonished us all by saying the date was the Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings 1066.

Our task, which we all chose to accept, was to get to St Mary the Virgin at Kemsing for 9.30am. Despite, or because of, quantities of maps everyone set off in different directions. I was with Paul, Jon and Christopher. When we got to the car park at Kemsing there were lots of people there. We wondered why our outing was so popular, but on closer inspection they turned out to be ramblers. When we went into the church we were amazed by the magnificent screen, and the wonderful flower displays ready for a wedding later that day. The carpet in the ringing area is hand made tapestry in a maze design and took 4 years to make! We were almost afraid to walk on it. There were 14 of us and so some enthusiastic folk set about ringing up. It is a ground floor ring of 6 with very light bells. Even lighter than Cudham – the tenor was just over 4 cwt. A plain course of Bob Doubles was rung, followed by some rounds and changes, a touch of Grandsire, more rounds and plain hunt on 5.

Next stop SS Peter and Paul at Seal. There were some lovely yew trees in the churchyard which had been trimmed very precisely to form an avenue. When we went into the church we found it was another ground floor ring. There were also the remains of a chiming mechanism. However in contrast to Kemsing it had a ring of 6 with a 10cwt tenor. In fact this was not much different to Downe, where we also ring regularly as we share both the incumbent and the ringers with Cudham. However there was one terrifying difference – huge long ropes! We decided to ring up 3 at a time. Alison number 2 (we had two Alisons in the group) decided she was going to be brave enough to try it. We tackled rounds and call changes to start with. Christopher had a go but was not tall enough – I have no doubt in a few years time he will be taller than all of us. Barbara tackled the treble, and I rang 3 (I think!). The experienced folk then rang a touch of Grandsire which went really well. We were all rewarded by Rita who had some sweets which had come all the way from America courtesy of her brother. Us "lower mortals" then rang rounds and call

changes called by Alison 2 and managed to get into Queens and back. We decided to lower the bells 3 at a time, and I managed mine without lassoing anyone.

The next church we visited was St Martin at Eynsford and it had now started to rain. The river was in full spate and the ford was up to the 2ft mark. There were signs that it had been much higher as the grass on nearby banks had been flattened. The ringing room is up a short flight of metal stairs and there are 8 bells with a tenor of about 9 and a half cwt. There was a very large clock pendulum visible in one corner of the room. There was also an intimidating array of peal certificates and competition successes on the walls, and a computer and oscilloscope. A model bell and a recruiting poster completed the scene. The tower captain made us very welcome and all the bells were already up apart from the tenor, which was duly raised by Jon. We did some rounds and call changes on the eight bells which was followed by plain hunt on 7. I had brought along my hunting "crib sheet" where I have written out hunting on various numbers of bells, and this did come in handy. We were joined by Richard, from Downe and there were further rounds and calls to get into Queens. At this point we ground to a sudden halt as Alison 2's rope had caught Janet's and managed to hook round Alison's elbow. We all managed to stand our bells safely and Jon confirmed there were "no broken stays, no broken bones". Alison said there was "nothing that cost money!". The experts then rang Bob Minor with 2 behind, and the rest of us rang more rounds and calls. Several people needed boxes, and Rita discovered that some of the "boxes" were in fact hefty chunks of railway sleepers when she started to move them. The next method included "the three tenors" Steve, Rob and myself. Fortunately we didn't have to sing! In fact it was Grandsire with 3 behind. This was our final effort before lunch so I hope the locals didn't find it too bad. After ringing the tenor down and checking the clock chime we disappeared off into "The Malt Shovel" for lunch.



In the Malt Shovel our numbers were augmented by my non ringing husband and three friends who had been walking, as the countryside in this part of Kent is lovely. After being "well fed up and agreeably drunk" the obligatory photos were taken. Peter, one of the walkers, asked if he could come and watch us ring. Jon said OK if there was room, as none of us had been to Farningham before. A short drive later and we were climbing a circular stone staircase to the ringing room at St Peter and Paul, Farningham. This is a ring of 6 with a tenor just under 10cwt. There was room for Peter to watch so he settled out of the way in a corner. Darren from Downe joined us, and Alison (no 1) left, so there were now 15 of us. The ringing room was full of interesting ancient objects such as an old chest and pictures and there was a curious door halfway up



one of the walls. We rang some rounds and call changes on 6, called by Darren. The experienced people then rang a touch of Bob Doubles which was so beautifully struck that everyone applauded at the end. Obviously the pub visit at lunchtime made a difference! Alison (no 2) then called some changes, which she had composed earlier and jotted down on a piece of paper. Chris was able to join in with the aid of a large box. He managed to put the box away afterwards and then the experienced ringers rang Grandsire, which went well. In terms of ringing quality, I think all would agree our visit to Farningham was the highlight of the day.

The next and final stop was St Mary the Virgin at Horton Kirby. This is a new ring of 6 with a tenor of 5 and a half cwt. The back 5 were installed for the millennium, and the treble was only a couple of weeks old when we visited. When we reached the church there was a large notice outside, explaining that the target of £60,000 for the restoration of the bells had been reached. We felt quite privileged to be able to ring them. We were welcomed into the church and a large trapdoor at some considerable height over the aisle was pointed out. That is the ringing room! In fact it is a central tower and the trapdoor is in the floor of the ringing room so that bells can be lowered for maintenance. The approach to the ringing room is a very worn stone spiral staircase, which is uneven, so we all took it very slowly. Also you have to cross the roof, so you can see beams etc, but it is all undercover. Two of our ringers do not like heights so we had to be very careful how they approached it. Fortunately they both made it. The ringing room itself was spacious and very well lit and had some of the old wooden bell wheels on the walls. The ropes were all new, and so a bit stretchy, but most of us have experienced that at Cudham recently, so it wasn't too off-putting. We rang some rounds and call changes, and then the door bell rang! It was Judith, Jon's wife, with their daughter. A band rang a touch of Bob Doubles, and then Alison called some changes. Judith then joined the band for a plain course of Grandsire. Chris wanted to ring, but there didn't seem to be any boxes. However the tower captain asked Jon to go up the new wood stairs to the next floor, and there were brand new boxes provided by the company who re-cast the bells. Chris was able to take advantage of one of these to join the band for rounds and call changes.



Ah well, all too soon it was time to sign the last visitors book, and that was the end of another enjoyable outing. Many thanks are due to Jon Fry for organising it and all the tower captains and tower keepers who let us ring their bells.

*Megan Smith*

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
30 October 1999	Bromley	5024	Rutland Surprise Major	99/1163
30 October 1999	Chislehurst Ann.	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m.	99/1163
30 October 1999	Sidcup	5040	Minor 7m.	99/1163
27 November 1999	Erith Ch. Ch.	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	99/1211
27 November 1999	St Mary Cray	5040	Surprise Minor 7m.	99/1258
28 November 1999	Eynsford	5040	Grandsire Triples	99/1188
27 December 1999	Ash by Wrotham	5040	Surprise Minor 18m.	00/57
05 February 2000	Eltham	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	00/399
05 February 2000	Woolwich	5088	Woolwich Ferry Surprise Major	00/399
12 February 2000	Beckenham	5040	London Surprise Royal	00/279 & 351
11 March 2000	Crayford	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m:	00/375
18 March 2000	Eltham	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	00/550
08 April 2000	Bromley	5184	Eros Delight Major	00/447
29 April 2000	Bickley	5152	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	00/525
06 May 2000	Eltham	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	00/574
13 May 2000	Beckenham	5040	Spliced Surprise Royal 4m:	00/573
21 May 2000	Shoreham	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	00/620
10 June 2000	Chislehurst Ann.	5152	Spliced Surprise Major 4m:	00/743
27 June 2000	Chislehurst Ann.	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 6m:	00/717
08 July 2000	Downe	5040	Surprise Minor 7m:	00/768
15 July 2000	Eynsford	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m:	00/768
22 July 2000	West Wickham	5040	Surprise Minor 7m:	00/792
13 August 2000	Hayes	5040	Surprise Minor 7m:	00/889
07 October 2000	Bromley	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 4m:	00/1088
07 October 2000	Lewisham	5088	Otley Surprise Major	00/1087
21 October 2000	Ash by Wrotham	5040	Minor 7m:	00/1137
21 October 2000	Greenwich	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	00/1136

Congratulations:

Jeremy Worthington (Treble), Daphne Paterson (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Caroline Gould (Tenor) rang their first peal at the first attempt, Grandsire Triples at Eynsford.

David Holdridge rang his first peal as Conductor, Yorkshire Surprise Major at Eltham.

The first peal of Woolwich Ferry Surprise Major was rung at Woolwich by the Cumberlands.

The first peal of Eros Delight Major was rung at Bromley by a KCACR/Society of Interplanetary Youths band!!

QUARTERS and DATE TOUCHES RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
31 January 1999	Beckenham	1296	Stedman Triples	
16 May 1999	Beckenham	1260	Doubles (2m)	
26 June 1999	St Mary Cray	1260	Plain Bob Minor	00/68
16 August 1999	Beckenham	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	
22 August 1999	Beckenham	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	
23 August 1999	Beckenham	1274	Beverley Surprise Minor	
06 September 1999	Beckenham	1274	York Surprise Minor	
19 September 1999	Beckenham	1260	Grandsire Triples	
24 October 1999	Bickley	1274	Plain Bob Triples	00/152
14 November 1999	Beckenham	1273	Grandsire Triples	
14 November 1999	Bexley	1260	Grandsire Triples	00/14
21 November 1999	Beckenham	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	
12 December 1999	Bexley	1260	Minor 2m: Cambridge & Plain Bob	00/237
12 December 1999	Crayford	1250	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	00/275
12 December 1999	Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/118
27 December 1999	Bromley	1999	Spliced P. B. Triples & Cambridge S. M.	00/180
29 December 1999	Woolwich	1999	Doubles (2m)	00/180
09 January 2000	Bexley	1280	Kent Treble Bob Major	00/304
09 January 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/174
09 January 2000	Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Minor	00/261
09 January 2000	West Wickham	1260	Plain Bob Minor	00/256
16 January 2000	Bromley	1260	Grandsire Doubles	00/282
23 January 2000	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	00/209
06 February 2000	Bexley	1250	Cambridge Surprise Major	00/304
06 February 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 1p/2m	00/531
06 February 2000	West Wickham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/255

13 February 2000	Eynsford	1280	Plain Bob Major	00/306
20 February 2000	Bromley	1280	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	00/332
29 February 2000	Cudham	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	00/406
05 March 2000	Bexley	1260	Stedman Triples	00/428
05 March 2000	Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/380
12 March 2000	Shoreham	1260	Grandsire Triples	00/531
19 March 2000	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	00/428
19 March 2000	Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	00/380
16 April 2000	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Plain Bob Minor	00/533
14 May 2000	Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/647
21 May 2000	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Triples	00/695
28 May 2000	Bexley	1280	Yorkshire Surprise Major	00/775
31 May 2000	Eltham	1250	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	00/675
11 June 2000	Bexley	1260	Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor	00/775
11 June 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	00/947
02 July 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 6m.	00/947
02 July 2000	West Wickham	1440	Plain Bob Minor	00/773
08 July 2000	Bickley	1250	Cambridge Surprise Minor	00/801
22 July 2000	Chelsfield	2000	Minor 2m. Plain and Little.	00/947
03 August 2000	Bexley	1260	Plain Bob Triples	00/967
04 August 2000	Beckenham	1260	Grandsire Triples	00/896
04 August 2000	Crayford	1300	Plain Bob Doubles	00/896
04 August 2000	Woolwich	1260	Grandsire Doubles	00/896
10 September 2000	Bexley	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	00/1048
15 October 2000	Bromley	1260	Grandsire Doubles	00/1164
15 October 2000	Chelsfield	1296	Cambridge Surprise and St Clements Minor	
30 October 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
15 November 2000	Chelsfield	1260	Grandsire 60 and Plain Bob Doubles	
26 November 2000	Horton Kirby	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
?? ????????? 2000	West Wickham	1260	Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor	00/1018

Congratulations to:

Nic Hodson who rang his first quarter, the Treble to Grandsire Doubles at Bromley.

Christopher Backhouse who conducted a quarter for the first time, Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church Erith.

Shula FitzGerald who rang the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Eynsford for her first quarter.

Robert Backhouse of Christ Church, Erith rang the Treble to Grandsire Doubles for his first quarter, at Great Wishford, Wilts., the home tower of his grandfather and ringing teacher. RW 00/267.

Philip Sullivan rang the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at the first attempt and Mike Christie conducted the quarter at his first attempt, at West Wickham.

Melanie Wilkins rang her first quarter as Conductor, Plain Bob Doubles at Chelsfield.

Emma Harrison rang her first quarter of Cambridge, the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Minor at Bexley.

Ken Gristwood rang his first quarter on 8, the Tenor to Plain Bob Triples at Bromley, which was also his first quarter for 47 years, and this was David Kingston's first as Conductor in the method.

Bobby Lawes who rang his first away from cover, the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Chelsfield.

Elizabeth Stoneham who rang her first inside, Plain Bob Doubles and her first on 8, the Treble to Grandsire Triples, both at Eynsford.

Robert Backhouse who rang his first inside, Grandsire Doubles and his first of Minor, the Treble to Plain Bob, both at Erith.

Jeremy Worthington who rang his first Triples inside, Grandsire at Eynsford.

Jeremy Worthington and Melanie Wilkins who rang their first of Plain Bob Major on the 2 and 3 respectively at Eynsford.

Emma Jarvis who rang her first in method, on the 5<sup>th</sup> to Kent Treble Bob Major at Bexley.

Pat Powell who rang his first quarter for 40 years on the Treble to Grandsire Doubles at Bromley.

Debra Say who rang the second to Bob Doubles at Crayford at her first attempt.

Robert Backhouse (Treble) and Tom Scarth (Tenor) rang their first on 8 and Christopher (third) his first on 8 inside to Grandsire Triples at Christ Church Erith.

Liz Ford (third) rang her first Minor as Conductor to Plain Bob Minor at West Wickham.

Andy Holmes (third) rang his first in the method, Grandsire Triples at Beckenham.

Martin Parsons (Treble) and Vic Edwards (Tenor) rang their first quarter, Grandsire Doubles at Woolwich.

Miranda Tyrie rang the Tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Chelsfield at her first attempt.

And finally Helen Kettle (Treble) and Ben Costley (Tenor), both members of the Horton Kirby band, who rang Plain Bob Doubles at their first attempt. This was the first quarter on the bells, rung immediately after their dedication by the Bishop of Tonbridge.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4674 November 24,2000 and elsewhere.

Jim Rooke

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## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

### LEWISHAM DISTRICT

#### Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Dartford on Saturday, 14th October 2000.

The Chairman, Miss Philippa Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly the General Secretary, Mr. Peter Dale.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the County Chairman, Mr. Frank Lewis, and the following District members:

Mrs. Fiona Byers and Mr. Steve Kennet from Beckenham  
Mrs. Monica Hanscomb, Mrs. Nancy Gay and Mrs. Liz Stewart from Biggin Hill  
Mr. David Kingston and Mr. Dickon Love from Bromley  
Miss Angela Wilkins from Chelsfield  
Mrs. Ann Barnes and Mr. Roger Long from St. Nicholas, Chislehurst  
Mr. Peter Rose from Dartford  
Mr. Len Dumper from Eltham  
Mrs. Rachel Backhouse from Christ Church, Erith  
Mrs. Marilyn Hayward and Mr. Simon Morris from Foots Cray  
Miss Freda Cannon from Greenwich  
Mr. Jon Pettyfer from Horon Kirby  
Mr. David Hollis from Lewisham  
Mrs. Yvonne Wright from Sidcup

#### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### Handbooks

The Chairman said that the Secretary had received over one hundred faulty copies of the Handbook. As requested by members at the previous meeting, a letter had been sent to the Mr. Dickon Love, the Handbook Editor, and it was understood from him that the Association would attempt to obtain a discount from the printer on the cost of the Handbooks for 2001. The matter will be raised at the County Committee Meeting in November.

##### Downe

Mr. Hardy enquired whether Downe bells were back in use and he was assured that they were.

##### Certificate Writer

Mr. Byers said that if no one had been found to write the certificates for the District, Mrs. Caroline Gould from Eynsford would be prepared to take on this work. Mr. Byers was told that Mrs. Debra Say from Crayford had volunteered for this job after the last Quarterly Meeting.

##### Southwark Cathedral Evensong

Posters advertising the service at Southwark Cathedral on 19th November to which all ringers were invited were passed round. Mrs. Macey had recently been approached about the District Choir singing at the service. Mrs. Macey said that she had explained that the choir did not sing together on a regular basis but got together for special occasions. She had confirmed to the organizer of the service that the District Choir would be happy to support any choir that was singing at this service.

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#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **Insurance**

The Chairman said that the Secretary had received some correspondence about insurance and this would be available for inspection after the meeting. The Chairman also mentioned that the answers to questions on insurance which were raised at the previous meeting had been given on page 9 of the current Newsletter.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated, was accepted.

##### **Ringling Master's Report**

The Ringling Master said that progress during the year had been pleasing. The second practice at Southwark had been useful and he would arrange further practices there. Members were encouraged to keep the Ringling Master informed about their needs regarding the content of practices. The Chairman thanked Mr. James Hardy and his Deputy, Mr. Jeremy Byers, for all their work during the year.

##### **Press Representative**

The Chairman read a report from Miss Jessica Vale. Miss Vale, who was not seeking re-election, was convalescing following a recent operation. The Secretary was asked to write and thank her for her work as Press Representative and to wish her a speedy recovery. The Chairman said that she felt it would be better if the press and the district sales duties were separated and that the former became a part of the work of the Newsletter Editor. She planned to pursue this point later in the meeting.

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Mr. Byers, who was not seeking re-election as Editor of the Newsletter, stressed that it was the **District's** Newsletter and urged members to support his successor. He suggested that a report should be sent to the Editor immediately something of interest was available, i.e. following a tower outing. The Chairman thanked Mr. Byers for all his work in producing the Newsletter but went on to stress that she did not wish a possible successor to be deterred by the fact that they might not be able to produce such an elaborate Newsletter. It was understood that not everyone had access to the same facilities for producing such documents.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

##### **Chairman**

Mr. Dale took the chair for the election of the Chairman.

Miss Philippa Rooke - proposed by Miss Mary Andrews, seconded by Mrs. Margaret Macey. There were no other nominations and Mr. Dale declared Miss Rooke elected and she returned to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Other elections, all unopposed, were as follows:

##### **Ringling Master**

Mr. James Hardy - proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman.

##### **Assistant Ringling Master**

Mr. Jeremy Byers - proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. Len Morley

##### **District Representatives**



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Mrs. Sara Hardy and Mr. Len Morley - proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Don Pointer.

#### **Newsletter Editor**

The change of duties as suggested by the Chairman in item 4, was agreed and Mr. Rupert Cheeseman, assisted by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman, was elected - proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mrs. Margaret Macey.

#### **Librarian/Sales Representative**

Mr. Jim Rooke - proposed by Mr. Nick Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Mark Backhouse.

#### **Secretary**

The Chairman pointed out that the Secretary will have served the District for forty years in 2003 and wished to stand down then, if she was not replaced earlier. In order to facilitate a smooth hand over of the administrative side of the District's affairs, it was suggested that as from the Annual District Meeting in 2001, an Assistant Secretary should be appointed, possibly with a view to that person being responsible for the membership side of the work. Anyone who was interested was asked to talk to the Secretary.

Miss Mary Andrews was re-elected - proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. Jim Rooke.

### **7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The following new members were elected:

#### **CHELSEFIELD**

Miss Miranda Tyre (jnr.)                      P. Mr. Nick Wilkins                      S. Mr. Jim Rooke

#### **ERITH, CHRIST CHURCH**

Mr. Neil A. Lucia (jnr.)                      P. Mr. Mark Backhouse                      S. Mrs. Carol Eastaugh  
Mr. John Simpson                      )

#### **FOOTS CRAY**

Miss Miriam R. Ross                      P. Mrs. Margaret Macey                      S. Mr. James Hardy

#### **HORTON KIRBY**

Mrs. E. Lesley Barclay                      P. Miss Philippa Rooke                      S. Mr. Jim Rooke

### **8. PROGRAMME FOR 2001**

The following programme, subject to confirmation, was agreed for 2001.

13th January	Quarterly Meeting: Christ Church, Erith
28th April	Striking Competition: Penge (10.30 a.m. start) Quarterly Meeting: Deptford
14th July	Quarterly Meeting: Eynsford/Farningham (2nd choice Chelsfield, 3rd choice Ash)
13th October	Annual District Meeting: Beckenham
17th November	Call Change Competition: Crayford
15th December	Carol Service: Dartford

It was agreed that if permission was obtained to hold the April Quarterly Meeting at Deptford, the Secretary should ask the Vicar

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if it was possible to use the tea-making equipment in the church and that members should be asked to bring their own food. The Secretary was given permission to make alternative arrangements if the proposed venues were not convenient to any of the churches.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Mr. & Mrs. Hardy**

On behalf of the meeting, the Chairman congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Hardy on the birth of Christopher David, who was attending his first meeting at the age of 10 days.

### **Call Change Competition**

The Chairman said that queries had been raised regarding the Call Change Competition rules 4 and 5

(rule 4 A tower shall be allowed to enter any number of bands but no ringer may ring for more than one band. If a ringer rings for Sunday Service at more than one tower then the home tower takes precedence.)

(rule 5 Any tower wishing to enter, finding itself short of one ringer, can notify the District Ringing Master or Deputy Ringing Master, who can supply the extra member. The extra member must not have already entered the Competition.)

and suggested that the following should be added to rule 4: No ringer may ring more than once in the Competition

There was some general discussion about Call Change Competition rules and it was agreed that since the event was a local one and the winning band did not go forward to represent the District in a county competition, some flexibility should be permitted by the Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master. It was stressed that it was the intention to encourage as many bands as possible to enter this Competition. The Chairman's proposed rules change was accepted.

### **Bell Restoration Fund**

The Chairman read an extract from the Secretary's Report in which it had been pointed out that donations to the Bell Restoration Fund had amounted to £162.30 and that sum and the additional income from covenanted subscriptions was all that the District had contributed towards the £2,000 which each District had been asked to raise during the year for the B.R.F. The Chairman said that this was not good enough. She drew attention to the Maidstone District's proposal regarding a 120 Club and asked members to give this serious consideration. She also said that Mr. David Crowhurst had kindly offered to run a Quiz for the B.R.F. at Horton Kirby on Friday, 12th January. Members were asked to put forward suggestions for fund-raising at the January Quarterly Meeting.

### **Carol Service**

Members were urged to support the Carol Service at Sidcup on 9th December. Mrs. Yvonne Wright had enquired whether there would be a District Choir for this event. If not, she had offered to see if the church choir would be available. Mrs. Macey said that they had a wedding at Foots Cray on 9th December so she would not be able to train a choir and the Secretary undertook to contact Mrs. Wright and ask her to see if the church choir would be willing to sing at the service.

### **Otford**

Details were given of a concert by the Sevenoaks Handbell Ringers at Otford on Saturday, 21st October in aid of the Otford Bell Fund.

### **Fairfield**

The Secretary had received details of an Ashford District Quiz Evening, following their Carol Service at Fairfield on 16th December. Profits from the Quiz would go to the B.R.F.

### **County Training Events**

The Chairman drew attention to the poster, which had been circulated to all towers, giving details of various county training events, particularly the bell handling clinics which would take place during Holy Week. The need to book early was stressed.

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### **District Practices**

The Ringing Master apologized for the delay in arranging District practices. Details would be put on the web site as soon as possible.

### **Vice-Presidents**

Mr. James Hardy proposed that Miss Mary Andrews's name should be put forward for consideration as a Vice-President of the Association. This was seconded by Miss Philippa Rooke and agreed by the meeting. The Secretary said that Miss Freda Cannon had asked her to put forward the name of Mr. Peter Romney and that she would be happy to second this proposal. This nomination received the approval of the meeting.

### **Newsletter**

There was some discussion about the possibility of putting the Newsletter on the District's web site but Mr. Hardy said that it was too large for the space which he had available.

### **Mr. Peter Dale**

Mr. Dale said that he had already put forward the names of Miss Andrews and Mr. Romney as possible Vice-President. He also said that he wanted to make three points:

1. He wished to thank the meeting for making him welcome.
2. Both he and Mr. Frank Lewis would like to have a copy of the District's Newsletter. He was told that a copy was sent to Mr. Lewis and that one would be sent to him.
3. Mr. David Sheekey would not be seeking re-election as Membership Secretary at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Eynsford**

Mr. Martin Luffman drew attention to the special practice that is held at Eynsford on the first Friday of each month. All are welcome.

### **Vote of Thanks**

Mr. Luffman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev'd. Martin Henwood, the Vicar of Dartford, for conducting the service, for the use of the bells and of the church hall, and to the Dartford ringers for the tea and local arrangements.

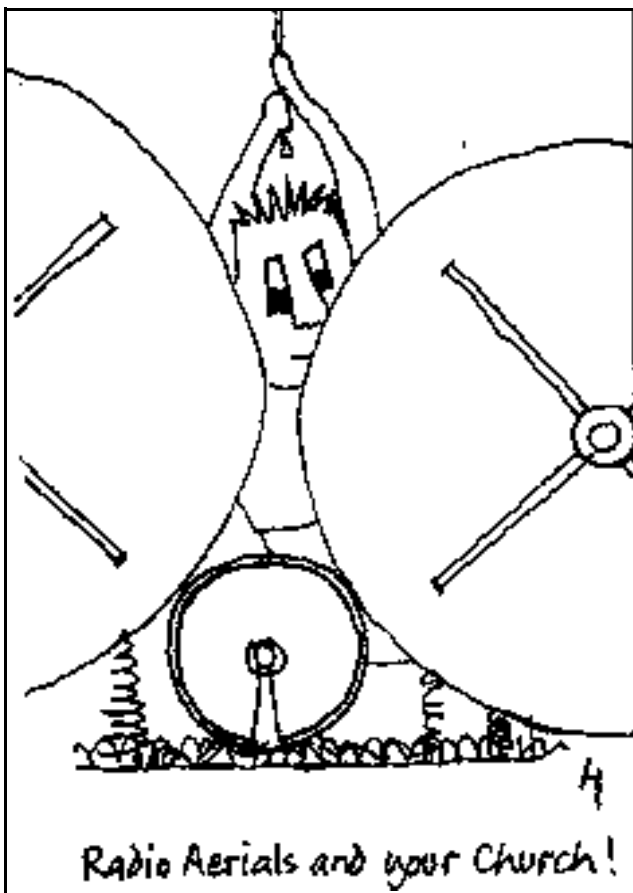
## Central Council acts on Radio Aerials

All incumbents of The Church of England have been circulated with a letter from Richard Hopgood, Director of Policy for the Telecommunications Working Party, of the Archbishops' Council. It describes the potential value to churches arising from the installation of radio aerials as part of the 'third generation' telecommunications licences auctioned by the Government. The purpose of the letter is to establish sufficient interest from churches to enable the Archbishops' Council to negotiate preferred status with one of the major telecommunications companies.

The Officers of The Central Council are concerned about the impact that the installation of aerials in towers will have on ringers and ringing and has written to Mr Hopgood outlining concerns and asking for discussions. The letter is reproduced below.

Ringers need to be aware that their incumbent is being asked to indicate their church's interest in the project before the end of January 2001. It is therefore urgent that ringers take the initiative to ensure that their views are considered in the response.

C. H. ROGERS  
Honorary Secretary, CCCBR  
21 December 2000



From The Ringing World No. 4678/79 page 1292

Mr R Hopgood  
Telecommunications Working Party  
The Archbishops Council  
Church House  
Deans Yard  
London SW1P 3YS

Dear Mr Hopgood

I refer to your letter to incumbents dated 27 November 2000 concerning the installation of radio aerials in churches.

Since bell ringers are likely to have to share accommodation with the radio aerials and the associated cabling, telecoms equipment, power supplies, screening meshes, etc., I think you will agree that we have more than a passing interest in this subject.

We are concerned on several counts:

- 1 The level of radiation to which those in close proximity to the transmitter would be subjected,
- 2 The difficulty of installing bulky equipment in a usually cramped space;
- 3 The likely effect of the equipment on the internal and external acoustics of the bells;
- 4 The installation of equipment without consultation with those currently occupying the space and the potential damage to existing equipment, e.g. the bells;
- 5 The division of responsibility for the security of the tower (usually placed upon the bell ringers);
- 6 The safety of all concerned when rapid access is required

We have some experience of the installation of a radio aerial and associated equipment in the tower of Guildford Cathedral, where many of the above concerns are still an issue, despite the fact that the sheer size of the Cathedral and the existence of a full time Administrator would seem to make it a more ideal site than most.

I hope you will agree that this represents a sufficient area for concern to warrant further discussion and I will ring you early in the New Year with a view to arranging a meeting.

Our organisation represents bell ringers worldwide. In the UK alone we represent about 45,000 people, all of whom could be affected by this telecommunications initiative.

Yours sincerely  
C. H. ROGERS, Hon. Secretary

Letters from The Ringing World No. 4680 page 24



### And finally on a personal note...

Cathy and I would like to thank all our bell ringing friends for the many offers of help that have been made over the last week following the sudden death of my dad. It is lovely to know that we are in your thoughts.