

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk

OCTOBER 2001

Chelsfield Analysis of Kent again

County six-bell competition 2001

This took place at Lamberhurst on Saturday 22 September 2001, and once again all Districts entered a team. The judges, David Dearnley and Stephen Wheeler, announced the results as under:

Posn	District	Represented by Fau		
1st	Lewisham	Chelsfield	30	
2nd	Tonbridge	Tonbridge	46	
3rd	Ashford	Frittenden	54	
4th	Maidstone	All Saints	56	
5th	Rochester	Tunstall	61	
6th	Canterbury	St Dunstan	71	



Our thanks go to the judges, the Lamberhurst ringers, especially Bob and Jenny Overy and Lois Haskell, for a steady supply of tea, and to Rev Diana Bourne for permission to use the bells.

Frank Lewis

Forthcoming Events

13th Oct. Annual District Meeting: Beckenham. (see below)

27th Oct. District Practice: Crayford, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Bob, Crayford Little Bob Minor / Major

17th Nov. District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Crayford, 2.30 p. m.

24th Nov. District Practice: Biggin Hill, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Special Methods: Call Changes, Grandsire Doubles, Biggles Bob Minor

8th Dec. District Practice: St. Mary Cray, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Bob Doubles, St Mary Cray Bob Minor

15th Dec. Carol Service: Dartford. 4.30 p.m.

Annual District Meeting

Beckenham on Saturday 13th October

Ringing 4.15p.m. Service 5p.m.

Tea and meeting to follow
in the Church Hall

Names for tea to Sara Hardy
either by 'phone 020 8659 2*** or
email jameshardy@callnetuk.com

KCACR.ORG.UK

6k and rising . . .

It was only at the end of June that we had news about having reached the grand score of 5000 hits on the site, but here we go, on 1 October, with just over 6k, an increase of a thousand in 3 months. Thanks for all your interest folks, but do please keep the news coming in, or there may not be much to read!

Frank Lewis Webmaster Frank@kcacr.org.uk

Changes to the Lewisham District E-group

I have decided to move the Lewisham District Email Group to a different "home". I was originally recommended "Smart Groups" by an eminent ringing friend of mine who told me of various new services that this new Email Group was going to implement. Unfortunately they have not materialised, so I have decided to move the group to Yahoo Groups, mainly because most (if not all) the other Email Groups are on Yahoo (formerly also called EGroup). It means that if any of you are members of more than one group and you need to change your email address or settings, etc., you need only do it once. It also makes it easier for me to manage as Owner/Moderator.

I shall move all the email addresses and also the events calendar that Rupert put on to the new group.

The new group email address is:

lewisham district@yahoogroups.co.uk

If anyone has any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dickon Love Moderator, Lewisham District Email Group DrLove@slb.com

P.S. If you would like to learn more and to join the the lewisham_district group please visit http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district

New Chairman Required

Dear all

As some of you will know, my job has been pretty busy for the last couple of years, but I had hoped that it would calm down after this summer. However, this is not proving to be the case and, after much deliberation, I have decided that I must resign as Chairman at the ADM this Saturday.

I apologise for the short notice - as late as last week I could see my working hours being reduced over the next few months, and therefore I would at last have more time to spend on other things at evenings and weekends. However on Friday I was told that from January I would be helping my new boss to set up a completely new department - a different ball-game altogether! In the circumstances I cannot commit to the role of Chairman in a District that is hosting the County AGM next year.

I would be grateful if you could pass this message on to as many people as possible before next Saturday, and start to think of a possible replacement. As this is such short notice I have agreed with Mary that if no-one is able to come forward at the ADM I can stay in the post until January, but it would be much better to have a new Chairman from the start of the new administrative year.

If anyone would like to contact me to discuss the 'job-specification' I would be happy to talk to them - I can best be reached on my mobile (07958 962***)

Once again sorry for the last-minute announcement.

Philippa

Friends Reunited

I have been on this web site below and it's brilliant.

You can put in your junior school and senior school and which years you were there (it doesn't matter how long ago it was!). And see who else has joined the web site from your school, you can read about what they are doing now and send e-mails to them. I only joined yesterday and I have already been in touch with 2 people I went to school with.

The address is: http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk

Carole

Editoria

Welcome to the fourth and final Lewisham District Newsletter of the year.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it during the last 12 months. We have managed to fill at least 16 pages each time with a variety of

different things. I hope you think all the cajoling has been worth it!

Thanks also go to Dickon for setting up the district email group (see page 2). It has made it much easier for me to request articles as well as reminding people when the next district event is taking place. If you are on email, and are not one of the 66 already in the group, then I would strongly recomend that you subscribe today.

And finally, as you can see from the letter on page 2, Philippa has decided that, because of work pressures, she can no longer continue to be District Chairman. Thank you for the work you've done for the last few years and good luck in your 'new' job. So get those thinking caps on and while they are there don't forget that Mary is looking for an assistant as she nears her fortieth year as secretary and towers will be required to host next years meetings.

Plain Hunt Wordsearch

Magic

Zebedee

To find the words, pick a letter to start from, and then trace the blue line for plain hunt. You could start by going in or out and you could be hunting on any number of bells.

All the unused letters spell out five children's programmes. Send these into the editor by the end of the year and there will be a small prize for the first correct entry drawn out of the hat.

Roundabout

Florence

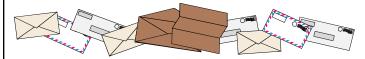
Brian

Dougal

Ermintrude		Daisy		Mr Rusty				
D	M	R	F	M	В	D	Z	Y
T	О	L	О	N	A	Е	L	Е
Е	О	U	I	U	В	G	R	В
R	В	G	О	Е	N	M	I	A
Е	A	R	M	D	I	D	C	О
L	N	R	I	N	Е	Y	A	R
D	R	C	A	Т	Н	Е	В	N
U	A	N	Е	Т	R	О	Е	M
S	A	I	L	О	U	U	W	В
W	Т	S	R	Т	A	S	D	A
О	Y	Y	P	Т	U	P	W	Е

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I, or my successor, will as usual, be seeking articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, reports and tower news for the next issue. Get them in early!

COPY DEADLINE - 23rd December 2001

to
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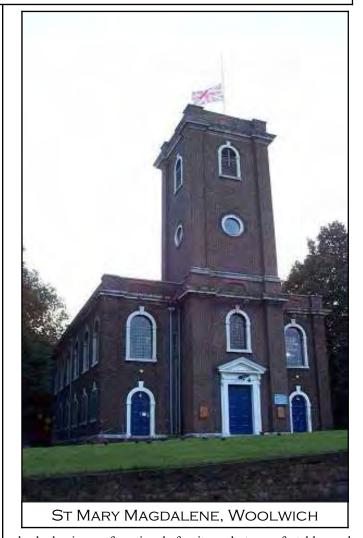
is for Apathy

These are dark days just at present. The events that took place in New York on the 11th September have changed the world forever.

We can no longer allow ourselves the luxury of feeling we are untouchable and that conflict is something that only happens 'somewhere else'. Perhaps we have been too complacent but at any rate we can no longer afford to take certain things for granted; namely freedom, tolerance and peace. There are those who hate us for these qualities and that the life we have, somehow undermines their own. If you want to oppress people then you have an advantage if they are poor, ignorant, hungry, fearful and kept in a state of perpetual conflict. Hatred thrives on ignorance and fear, and is completely destructive.

Thinking about these things makes one realise just how much we have to be grateful for. We all moan far too much and sometimes lose sight of the fact that we are able to say what we feel, vote for whom we choose, believe in what we like, wear what we like and are able to express these sentiments. There is so much about our way of life that is so valuable and worthy. Take what we all do, the ringing of church bells; just imagine if this was prohibited and that practising the Christian faith was punishable by death. We console ourselves with the thought that this is unlikely but we are foolish indeed if we simply assume that things will just carry on without our determination that they will. Take for example the poor old Church of England; a much maligned institution; a worn, battered and





bashed piece of national furniture but comfortable and irreplaceable. It might try to be all things to all people but I say 'good' to that. The Church of Christ should be there for anybody and everybody. The Christian way is not through indoctrination or bombardment but by demonstration; hatred can only be eclipsed by love and nowhere is this demonstrated more fully than in the example of Jesus Christ. Let us be glad. Let us be confident and moreover let us be thankful for what we are and what we have.

People tend to take for granted that bells ring on a Sunday but give little thought to the fact that it is people like us that make them ring. Otherwise, it would probably die out and be one of those things people vaguely remember. All the time we do this, all the time the angries of Tunbridge Wells write to the papers, or people sit in trees to prevent a favourite piece of countryside from being destroyed, or little old ladies arrange jumble sales to fund raise for the hungry and less well off; all the time people are prepared to stand up for what they believe in, then maybe we shall be safe from those nasty little beings who strive for our souls.

Andrew Sinclair

NEWS FROM THE TOWE

BICKLEY

First some misprints from this years handbook to be noted. We no longer practice alternate Wednesdays with Bromley Common but we have our own weekly rehearsals each Wednesday evening from 8-9.15, although it is still worth ringing to confirm it is on.

The new Secretary is Miss E. Cruickshank, *, Glen View Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 *QQ. 020 8460 1***.

Our thanks go to Jean Brown for all her hard work over the past few years as secretary. We continue to hold weekly practices at St Georges on a Wednesday evening, although we don't have a large quantity of ringers, we do have our regular, loyal band which enables us to ring most Wednesdays and on Sunday mornings.

We have been mainly concentrating on bell control, striking, call changes and plain hunt which we have all found very beneficial. With our many weddings at St Georges a strong band is essential.

One quarter peal has been done this year before our annual fete in June.

We would always welcome any visitors either on a Wednesday or Sunday morning to join us.

Elizabeth Cruickshank

Apologies to Elizabeth for not printing her tower report last time - Ed

BIGGIN HILL

Everything's peachy at Biggin Hill

Anyone seeing several be-grimed, be-dusted and be-splattered folk emerging from Biggin Hill belfry recently need not have feared. The ringers have not been mutated by microwaves. We have merely been redecorating the belfry. After many years' inroads of water and invasion by telecom engineers, at last we have our space to ourselves again. Thanks to church member John Eldridge (not a ringer,



unfortunately), the master painter under whom we served our apprenticeship, the ringing chamber is now a warm peachy cream. ("Irish Cream" John told us. "How about some Bailey's!" asked Monica.) The place is quite transformed! There is more to come, as the young ringers have decorating ideas of their own, so more anon.

Speaking of young ringers, one of our recruits, Matthew Allen, has rung on Sunday for the first time. We are very pleased with his progress.

On Sunday, 16th September, we rang half-muffled out of respect for those in America and throughout the world who suffer innocently from terrorism. Congratulations to Jenne Gay who with the help of friends from Chelsfield, rang her first quarter peal of Stedman Doubles that same day. The quarter peal was also rung half muffled. It was the first quarter peal rung at Biggin Hill for some years to include members of the home band. (I donged the tenor!)

Nancy Gay

BROMLEY

On 16 September we rang a peal at Bromley Parish of 5152 Rutland Surprise. We welcomed our new vicar, Michael Camp but the peal was also to mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Gillett and Johnson bells cast to replace those destroyed in the war. We wanted to ring on the actual anniversary of the dedication but it meant that the band seriously lacked local ringers which was a pity.

David Kingston

CRAYFORD

After our plea in the last newsletter for some visitors, especially inside ringers, I am pleased to report that we have had a steady stream of willing volunteers during the last few months. Our band has also been strengthened recently with the addition of Alex Britton who has begun to ring again following his bout of ill health and the experience he brings is most welcome. These days, not only can we venture into minor methods but also into triples so that those of us who need to practice these can do so without always having to go elsewhere. Thank you to everyone who has enabled this to happen.

Sunday ringing continues to be well supported and whilst practice was cancelled on September 11th following the tragedy in New York, the bells were rung half muffled on the Sunday after as a mark of respect. This prompted several members of the congregation to express their thanks and to comment how beautiful it sounded. Isn't it pleasing to know that some people do listen and appreciate what we do, especially in these troubled times.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the District Practice on 27th October and the Call Change Competition on 11th November. Come and ring and you'll understand why we think we have the best light eight in the District!

Debra Say

PS Alex is not only welcome because of his ringing ability but also because he enjoys a beer in The One Bell afterwards!

ELTHAM

Things have been fairly quiet at Eltham over the summer. The article in the Kentish Times - mentioned in the previous newsletter - duly appeared on the 13th July as promised. It included two colour photographs, one of all the ringers and one of the reporter having a handling lesson from Len Morley. The article itself wisely avoided too many technicalities, and concentrated on what a friendly bunch we are. Sadly, however, despite giving a phone number and an open invitation to come along, it failed to generate any new learners. But it was good publicity, and a chance to remind people that ringing isn't done by a machine - at least not here!

The monthly "special practices" held jointly with Chislehurst have continued. Plain Bob Doubles and Minor practices have taken place at Eltham in July and September, and we continued to work on Stedman Triples at Chislehurst in August. Those participating found them very useful, although we could always have done with a few more "experts". We also had a joint tower outing to the Sittingbourne area of Kent - a full report appears elsewhere (in the nick of time! - Ed).

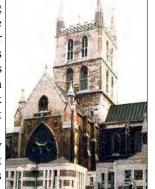
It is a measure of the relative strength of the band that we have managed to ring at least six bells every Sunday and Tuesday over the summer, a time when holidays can leave towers with insufficient ringers. The only cancellation was the practice on September 11th, when it was not thought appropriate to ring.

David Holdridge

FOOTS CRAY

We are sorry to have lost the regular services of our Ringing Master - Simon Morris. He is to be congratulated, along with other young ringers, on his exam results this summer which secured his place at Durham University. Simon has taken a job at Southwark Cathedral and is taking a year out before venturing north.

We would like to thank him very much for all the help and support he has given the Foots Cray ringers



and wish him every success in the coming years.

Foots Cray is now short of experienced ringers, we lost our two youngest ringers prior to the summer exams and now with the loss of Simon we are just 6. If anyone has a Wednesday evening free we would love to see you at Foots Cray practices (8-9.30pm). However, it would be wise to contact Margaret (020 8302 4***) before coming as if numbers are very short we may go visiting. Our ringers are in the process of consolidating Plain Hunt and moving on to Bob Doubles.

We were very proud to ring for the induction of Rev. Ann Uphill on Monday 10th September and with the help of two visiting singers/ringers managed rounds and call changes, plain hunt on 4 and 5 and Plain Bob Doubles. On Saturday 8th September we rang a quarter peal to welcome Ann. The details are as follows:

Saturday 8th September 2001 at All Saints Foots Cray, Kent 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 36 minutes 1. Ros Farmer 2. Jan P Cass

3. Margaret E Macey
4. Simon J Morris

5. Alan D Saunders (C)

Rung to welcome Rev. Ann C Uphill to the position of Rector of the United Benefice of Foots Cray with North Cray on behalf of both parishes.

Margaret Macey



An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout out, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations that he would shout, "There isn't any Lord!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD! God, I need food. I am having a hard time. Please, Lord, send me some groceries."

The next morning, the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "HA... HA. I told you there was no Lord! I bought those groceries, myself! God didn't!" The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and saying, "PRAISE THE LORD! He not only sent me groceries, but He made the Devil pay for

County 6 Bell Competition - an insiders view

At the risk of becoming boring, this month's article is about our triumph in the Kent County 6 bell striking competition again.

On Saturday 22 September a band of 6 ringers from Chelsfield congregated at St Mary's Lamberhurst to take part in the final of the Kent County 6 bell striking competition. We were competing against the finalists of the other 5 districts.

Whilst sitting on a wooden bench in the sun just outside the church porch and listening to the other bands, the ringing seemed to be of a very high standard. However, there is a big difference between passively listening to ringing and actively taking part. We were drawn to ring last so - good or bad - had a while to wait before our turn.

At the end of the competition the judges made their comments and finally announced the results. Every team had rung



Doubles methods - three rang Grandsire Doubles and two rang Bob Doubles. The comments pertaining to our particular piece of ringing were that whilst we took a while to settle down the second half of our ringing was very good and the tenor ringer was complimented on his ringing. Well done, you know who you are!! Several other tenor ringers were singled out

for ringing too slowly. Another compliment was that our leading had been good whilst other bands had been erratic. All in all as a team we did ourselves proud and upheld my maintained belief that leading is an all important part of good ringing. Some learners are not taught to leave a noticeable gap at hand-stroke. Good tenor ringing is also an integral part of team work and ringing the tenor behind should not be seen as an easy option.

The results were as follows:

District	Tower	No of Faults
Lewisham	St Martins, Chelsfield	30
Tonbridge	SS Peter & Paul, Tonbridge	46
Ashford	St Mary, Frittenden	54
Maidstone	All Saints, Maidstone	56
Rochester	St John the Baptist, Tunstal	1 61

Canterbury St Dunstan, Canterbury 71 We had hoped for a hat-trick as we won the Kent trophy in 1998 and 1999. Unfortunately St Mary's Frittenden won it last year. However, as the Captain of Frittenden used to ring at Chelsfield and whose band's ringing last year was exemplary, I won't hold their win in 2000 against them - much!

My enjoyment of an afternoon sitting in a sunny spot with a pleasant view overlooking the churchyard and local golf course was heightened by meeting an 'old' work colleague from the 1980's who, whilst not a ringer themselves, was there as the wife of a local ringer. Talk about a small world. We spent time reminiscing about old times and recalling colleagues some of whom I could picture but whose names, at times, escaped me.

Also, it so happened that one of the judges was someone who had learnt to ring at West Wickham and with whom we were friendly with in the 70s. So for me another trip down memory lane. The fact that we gave him a lift back to Orpington Station had nothing to do with us winning - honest. In all a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

By the time you read this we will have been on our annual ringing outing and held Ringers Sunday - can the year have really passed that quickly? What a busy life we ringers lead!

Angela Whitley



Marriage is grand; divorce is seventy five grand.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.



Politicians and nappies have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.

An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.

There will always be death and taxes; however, death doesn't get worse every year.

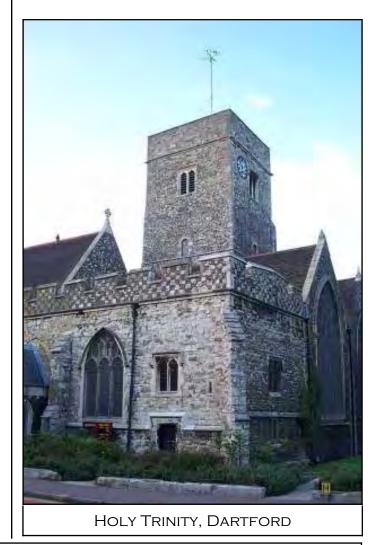
Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time. I think I have forgotten this before.

A Church Bell Ringer's Guide to Keeping the Ringing Master in Line

- 1. Never be satisfied with the band placing. If the Ringing Master places you round the front end, insist on your preference for the back end and vice versa.
- 2. Complain about the temperature of the ringing room, the lighting, the lack of space, or a draught. It is best to do this when the Ringing Master is under pressure.
- 3. Point your head to the carpet just before an important dodge with a learner.
- 4. Ask for a change of Tenor ringer or special method. Ask often. Give the impression you're about to quit. Let the Ringing Master know you're there as a personal favour.
- Loudly clear your throat during the ringing (Tenor ringers are trained to do this from birth). Quiet ringing room acoustics provide good opportunities for blowing your nose if sitting out.
- 6. Long after a piece of ringing has gone by, ask the conductor if your handstrokes were too wide. This is especially effective if your handstrokes were perfect, or if you were not ringing at the time.
- 7. Wait until well into a practice before letting the Ringing Master know that you don't know the special method.
- 8. At dramatic moments in the ringing (while the Ringing Master is emoting wildly correcting people missing dodges) slow up so much that the ringing sounds as if it is going backwards.
- 9. Look at your watch frequently. Shake it in disbelief occasionally.
- 10. Whenever possible, ring your bell either slower or faster than the rhythm set by the tenor ringer. This is excellent ear training for the Ringing Master. If he hears the clash, deny it vehemently and claim that he must be hearing the hum of the bells.
- 11. Tell the Tenor ringer, "I'm not sure of your beat." They are always sensitive about their "rhythm technique", so challenge it frequently.

- 12. If you are ringing a method with which the Ringing Master is the least bit unfamiliar, ask him as many questions as possible about the path of individual place bells. Occasionally, draw the line twice and ask his preference for which is correct, making certain to draw it exactly the same both times. If he remarks on their similarity, give a look of utter disdain and mutter under your breath about "subtleties of inflection".
- 13. Ask the tenor ringer if he has listened to the Birmingham recording of the piece you are ringing. Imply that he could learn a thing or two from it. Also good: ask the conductor "Is this the first time you've called this composition?"
- 14. Just before a peal starts, tell the Ringing Master that you are rusty with the method(s) (this also works well with peals of Spliced Surprise). Ask him to keep an eye on you during the peal because of it. Watch his face drop and the blood pressure rise!
- 15. Remember a shout of "roll up" means "fire up".

A. Painintheneck





The band which for forty-five years held the record as the youngest to ring a peal. They rang a peal of Plain Bob Major at Crayford, Kent (tenor 12½ cwt). The band was: *standing* - E. A. Barnett, W. Dobbie, J. J. L. Gilbert (conductor), A. Jones, and J. Pack; *seated* - M. Pack, P. Stone, and P.

From Bell-ringing by Ron Johnson

"Success is the Crowning Glory of Perseverance"

A TRIUMPH OF YOUTH!

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

ESTABLISHED 1880

On SATURDAY, 21st APRIL, 1934,

Eight Members of this Association rang upon the sweetly toned Bells in the grand old Ivy covered Stone Tower of

St. Paulinus Church, CRAYFORD, KENT.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR

Consisting of 5024 Changes, in 2 hours and 50 minutes

Tenor 12! cwt. in the Key of F

PERFORMERS

PERCY STONE (Nuneaton) Treble
ARTHUR W. JONES (Croydon) 2nd
PHYLLIS E. TILLETT (Ipswich) 3nd
WALTER H. DOBBIE (Sittingbourne) 4th

MARGARET PACK (Egerton, Kent) 5th
JOHN J. L. GILBERT (Sheffield) 6th
JOSEPH T. PACK (Loughborough) 7th
EDWIN A. BARNETT (Crayford) Tenor

Composed by FRANK BENNETT

Continued by JOHN J. L. GILBERT

This is the Youngest Band ever to accomplish a true and complete Peal on Church Bells. The average age was 15 years 2 weeks; the Youngest Binger being 13 years 3 months, and the Oldest 17 years 8 months

The Conductor was only 15) years!

Many old and well-known Ringers of great experience, who heard the Peal, have frequently testified to the accurate and truly wonderful ringing throughout this magnificent achievement

"A Briton's Native Music is Old England's Mevrie Bells"

THE DIST OF THE DEGAMESTS P. S. DAWE.

On the tower wall at St. Paulinus, Crayford

Chelsfield Tower Outing

Saturday 29th September saw the Chelsfield ringers head off to Suffolk for their annual outing. They were joined by friends from Greenwich (Nigel, Penny and Martin Parsons), Horton Kirby (Lesley & Amy Barclay) and Canterbury (Becky Towner & Jane Kennett). Due to the popularity of the outing, the mini-bus was oversubscribed and two additional cars (people carriers, actually!) had to carry the enthusiastic additional ringers.

One pickup point was near Orpington and another at Bluewater. Due to the very wet and hence slow travelling

conditions two of the vehicles arrived a little late at the first tower, Bredfield, a 11cwt six. Nevertheless, everyone got a good ring and by having the flexibility of three vehicles some set out in advance of the rest for the second tower, Hollesley a 17cwt Taylor eight. These were very nice bells and some good ringing was achieved including



Grandsire Triples. The third and final tower of the morning was the newly restored and augmented 10cwt ring of eight in the pretty village of Orford. Ringing here stretched up to Cambridge Major. A glorious church in the centre of the village and immediately adjoining the Kings Head pub where children of all ages were not only tolerated but welcome according to the sign outside. We had reserved space in the restaurant and the food was superb, especially the local seafood. Across the road from the pub was a smokery where a number of purchases were made and the village also features

a castle. Orford was definitely worth the visit!

First after lunch was the 7cwt six at Tunstall with its attractive box pews (yes, there is also a Tunstall in Suffolk) followed by Ufford, a 13cwt eight. This church boasted some wonderfully carved pews and a magnificently ornate and lofty 500 year old font cover. The penultimate tower was the only ground floor ring of the day, the isolated church of Burgh, 8cwt six and finally the highlight for many, the lightest (8cwt) twelve in a church, Grundisburgh. The general view was that these bells are excellent. The audibility of the bells individually and collectively was good, the rope circle fine and the bells were a pleasure to ring. For many on our outing it was their first ringing on twelve and very respectably managed. We rang plain hunt on 11, Grandsire Caters and finished off with a whole course of Cambridge S8. The village of Grundisburgh is very pretty and boasts a ford that we did drive through although, because the day was so wet, one could be forgiven for thinking that it was just another flooded road!

Thank you to everyone who took part and the towers that hosted us, it was a great day, and here's to Oxford for the 2002 outing!

Nick Wilkins

St Nicholas' Bell Ringers Outing 2001

The bellringers of St Nicholas' had their annual outing on 8th September. As has been the case in recent years, we opted for home territory and went to the area of northern Kent surrounding Sittingbourne.

We were a mixed bunch of characters: from the regular mainstays like Roger Long to the youngest Ring-in-2000-recruits, such as Bradley Collins and James Tate. We were even honoured enough to have to some people from St John the Baptist, Eltham join us!

The residents of Teynham were first to witness our onslaught. A ring of six bells which gently woke us up after the thoroughly unsociable start time of 9.30. (I didn't think it was light at that time on a Saturday morning!) They were followed by those of Lynsted and Bredgar. All three of these opening towers, however, were merely a prelude to the main attraction of the day: lunch. Oh, and we did some ringing too!

The Sun Inn at Bredgar provided sumptuous meals for us all despite the ubiquitous confusions over who ordered what. How many prawn cocktails *did* Roger order? How many did he eat (see picture)?

As a reasonably experienced person on the subject of ringing



outings, the Tower After Lunch is always the one at which bands usually perform worst. I'm happy to say that the St Nicholas band kept firmly in line with tradition and made a complete pigs ear at Frinsted. Let's just say I think some of us thought that we did some ringing - but weren't absolutely sure. I bet the neighbours were! Shame because this place arguably had the nicest bells of the day. (I believe that they used to be a five and were recently augmented to six)

Now, all the bells we had experienced so far had been light and easy compared to our difficult (and frankly horrible) bells at St Nicholas. Our fifth tower however was at Borden. These bells were neither light nor easy and hearing the bell-frame move above us, we knew that we were in for a treat. We moved on from this place as soon as we could, swiftly writing the word *Borden* in our book of places never to visit again. Just as we left, however, I had the very great pleasure of meeting the famous ringer, Alf Peck. Funny, I thought he'd been dead for years. (No jokes about dead ringers please.)

One of the great institutions of the Chislehurst ringers' outing is afternoon tea. We were hosted this time by the Oad Street Craft Centre where we had the opportunity to quaff pints of tea and gorge ourselves on clotted cream. There was also the opportunity to browse the craft shop where we found an astonishing array of things

that people had lovingly "made".....

Our finale was at Hollingbourne where we managed to ring some spliced - something we'd been attempting all day. A great achievement to end a great day.

Our thanks go out to Roger Long and Len Dumper (once again) for this well-organised and successful day. (Can you imagine how



chaotic lunch would have been *without* them?) They even managed to get the weather right. Please may we have many more of them in the future?

Mark Jones

The Learning Curve Learning The Ropes

Walk into a ringing chamber and you don't see bells, you see ropes. We take the ropes for granted, but they play a vital role. The rope is the only connection between you and the bell - your only means of control. You want to ring the bell, but to do so you have to ring the rope. Some ringers have problems with ropes and many ringers have problems with some ropes. This month we think about ropes, how they work, and how to get the best out of them when ringing.

Don't push

Let's start with the basics. Ropes can be pulled but not pushed. That might seem a silly thing to say, but some ringers do push their ropes, without realising it. If your arms rise more rapidly than the rope, then it goes slack and you are pushing it. It won't affect what the bell does, but it has a big effect on what the rope does. Ropes are floppy things and they move quite fast. That is not a good combination. If you want your rope to behave, then keep it taut for as much of the time as possible.

The speed of the rope varies from slow to very fast during each cycle, so to keep a small controlled amount of tension on the rope, your arms must rise at exactly the same speed as the rope. Any faster and the rope goes slack, any slower and you have let go! You can't even take the easy option of just letting the full weight of your arms hang on the rope all the time. It would be extremely painful as it jerked your hands from rest every stroke and would completely mess up your attempts to control the bell. So you must learn how to move your arms at exactly the same (varying) speed as the rope.

If you get it wrong, and the rope slackens, the spare rope flops to the side. A slack rope behaves a bit like a whip- the small sideways movement is magnified as it travels along the rope. With a whip the

energy dissipates at the end with a loud crack but with a bell rope it is reflected back down from the rope guide to the sally. It might take a second to do so, but then it disrupts your handling even further.

Dancing sallies

A well behaved sally bobs- the word conjures up images of elegant ladies doing a little curtsey. Sallies are not always so well behaved- sometimes they dance wildly like dervishes. It is not hard to see why ringers who haven't mastered the art of managing the rope are frightened of it. They might not say so, but it is obvious from their expression and behaviour. Some people say that if you meet a wild animal it can sense whether you are afraid, and if you are it will attack you. A bell rope is not a wild animal, but seeing the same sally respond so differently to different ringers, you might be tempted to believe this old saying.

We noted that the rope magnifies the effect of a slack rope. If you mishandle it, it reacts even more violently, often mirroring what you do to it. Snatch it and it will jerk and twist. Push it away from you and it will swing back at you. Pull it towards you if you stand back, and it will swing away making you chase after it.

Faced with such erratic movements it is tempting to try to 'round up' the sally by sweeping your arms in an arc to catch it. You might catch it, but in doing so you will lash the tail end around too. As soon as you release the sally, the energy stored in the swinging tail portion passes through the sally to launch another wave of disturbance up the rope. That in turn will hit you the following stroke.

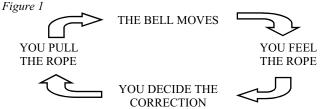
The key to a well behaved rope is vertical hand movement. If you make no deviations from the straight line, you give the rope no disturbances to amplify. Having said this, some ropes are less forgiving than others. If the rope is 'drawn', ie the rope guides take it out of the vertical, then it will have some sideways movement of its own as it comes down. The best way to counter this is to maintain a little tension on the rope for as long as possible, to reduce the time the rope can move sideways.

Springy ropes

An ideal rope will give you a perfect feel for what the bell is doing and allow you to apply finely adjusted forces to control it. The movement of one end is exactly coupled to the movement of the other. A stretchy rope messes up both the feeling and the fine control, because the two ends are not perfectly coupled. What you feel on your end is not the same as what the bell is doing on the other.

A springy rope stretches whenever you, or the bell, apply force to it. As the rope stretches (and unstretches) the relationship between the movement of your hands and the bell changes unpredictably so you can less accurately control the force applied to the bell. Also when you pull, the small delay as the rope stretches makes the effect on the bell a little later than you expect, so you can't control the timing so accurately either. To cap it all, the 'soggy' rope makes it harder to judge how much force you need anyway.

You might not have realised it, but when you ring, you, the bell and the rope form a feedback loop, as shown in figure 1.



It is well known (to control engineers anyway) that adding delay into a feedback system can make it go unstable and oscillate. With a very springy rope this can indeed happen. As your arms interact with the rope, tension waves travel back and forth along it and make the bell feel as if it is moving in jerks rather than smoothly. Oscillations are more easily triggered by jerks than by a steady pull, so rough handling causes more problems.

In former years, all towers of any significant draught had to endure springy ropes from time to time, as new ones bedded in. That problem can now be reduced by using pre-stretched polyester top ends for the ropes, but you still meet it from time to time. Some inferior grades of polyester rope stretch a bit- not as bad as new natural fibre ropes, but unlike natural fibre ropes, they never bed in and harden.

Twisting ropes

When you lift your hands to grip the sally, the rope between the sally and the tail end in your hand should hang neatly without any twists or kinks. If it doesn't then there is a reason. If the hanging rope twists around itself, it is because the rope is slightly twisted. You sometimes see inexperienced ringers take hold, and on noticing the twist, stand back slightly to look to see what is causing it. In doing so, they move the hand holding the tail end away from the sally and the twist disappears. Thinking the problem has solved itself, they take hold again and are puzzled when the twist returns. The reason is simple. The narrower the loop, the less force it needs to make it twist.

The simplest way to remove the twist is to rotate the tail end half a turn or more in your hand. Ideally do this before you start ringing, but you can also do it if you notice a twist while ringing. Do it between backstroke and handstroke, the same as you would take in or let out a little rope to adjust the length to match the speed. Some people find it obvious which way they need to turn the tail end to make the twist go away, but others find it hard to visualise. You can teach yourself when not ringing. Hold the rope as if you were about to ring it and then turn the tail end until the loop twists. Then turn it to untwist the loop until you see how it works.

There are other ways to straighten the rope at the start. You can drop it on the floor and pick it up again. This might work, but if you picked it up wrongly the first time, you might just do the same thing again. I have seen it done three times in a row, producing the same twist every time! Or you can drop the rope, take hold of the sally with both hands, slide one hand, then the other, to the rope end, and take hold again.

Commonly, the twist is only half a turn or so, caused by the way you pick up and get hold of the rope. In more severe cases, people have found that the rope becomes progressively more twisted as the ringing progresses. It might not be noticed during an ordinary touch, but becomes really bad when ringing a quarter peal. In this case, there is something wrong in the handling that progressively rotates the rope.

It is quite normal, and indeed desirable, to make continual adjustments to the position of your hands on the tail end. If you move up and down the tail end in a relaxed way, you should not introduce any twists. If you are tense, or use exaggerated hand movements, then you could twist the rope slightly each time you make an adjustment. Generally, the more gentle- and relaxed you can make your rope handling, the less likely you will be to have problems.

If your rope does not behave properly, get someone else to take a critical look at you while you ring, noting what your hands do to the rope. People have been known to do many strange things including little flips or twists, e.g. the 'Morris flick' and even moving both hands around on the tailend before pulling down from backstroke. They are often unaware of what their hands are doing until shown the evidence on a camcorder. If you have never used one, why not organise a session so you can all look at your rope handling in detail.

It could be revealing.

Tail End From The Ringing World July 6, 2001 p682

Those Of Us Born Before 1945

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble-driers, electric blankets, air conditioning, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent, a Big Mac was an oversized coat and crumpet was had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars

and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins. Sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before Day Care Centres, Group homes and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors,

yoghurt or young men wearing earrings. For us time sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato. Hardware meant nuts and bolts and software wasn't invented.

Before 1945 "Made in Japan" meant junk, the term "making out" meant how you did in your exams. A stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker bus to the depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable. Grass was mown and "coke" was kept in the coal house. A joint was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a mother's lullaby, Eldorado was an ice cream. A gay person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more. Aids just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder some of us are so confused and there is such a great generation gap today.

But, by the grace of God we have survived!

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place Changes	Method	RW page no.	
28 April 2001	Chislehurst St N.	5088	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	01/634
29 May 2001	Chislehurst Ann.	5088	Spliced Surprise Major 4m.	01/632
26 June 2001	Chelsfield	5040	Minor 7m.	01/853
01 July 2001	Farningham	5040	Minor 4m.	01/756
07 July 2001	Ash by Wrotham	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor 14m.	01/756
07 July 2001	Eltham	5056	Dorchester Surprise Major	01/947
07 July 2001	St Mary Cray	5040	Surprise Minor 7m.	01/756
21 July 2001	Chislehurst Ann.	5056	Spliced Surprise Major 7m.	01/804

The peal at St Nicholas, Chislehurst on 28 April was rung for the St Mary Abbots Guild and that at Eltham on 7 July for the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. The remainder were all rung for the KCACR.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place Changes	Method	RW page no.	
10 June 2001	Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Minor	
24 June 2001	•	1260	Plain Bob Triples	01/759
14 July 2001	Farningham	1320	Northumberland Surprise Minor	01/810
15 July 2001	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 4m.	01/881
15 July 2001	St Mary Cray	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	
16 July 2001	Eltham	1280	Rutland Surprise Major	01/788
22 July 2001	Eynsford	1280	Plain Bob Major	01/808
28 July 2001	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor	01/881
26 August 200	01 Beckenham	1260	Plain Bob Minor	

In a very low total of quarters rung/published since the last newsletter, one of the few achievements footnoted was that Robert and Christopher Backhouse rang their first quarter of Plain Bob Major at Eynsford on the 3rd and 4th bells respectively. Congratulations to them both.

Also, congratulations to Debra Say, at Crayford, and Rhiannon Meredith, at Beckenham, who both rang their first quarters of Plain Bob Minor. Both were products of the "Not the Hereford" ringing course run in the district at Easter.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4717 September 21, 2001.

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS





Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Eynsford on Saturday, 14th July 2001

Election of Chairman

In the absence on holiday of Miss Philippa Rooke, Mr. Jeremy Byers was elected Chairman for the meeting on the proposition of Mr. Jon Fry, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. James Hardy, Mrs. Sara Hardy and Mrs. Ruth Pointer from Beckenham, Mrs. Monica Hanscomb from Biggin Hill, Mrs. Anne Townsend, Miss Philippa Rooke, Miss Angela Wilkins and Miss Melanie Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mrs. Nancy Robins and Mr. Andrew Sinclair from Crayford, Mrs. Brenda Barton, Mrs. Esther Correia and Mr. Deryck Jones from Dartford, Mr. Len Dumper, Mr. Len Morley and Mrs. Pauline Morley from Eltham, Mr. David Hilling from Eynsford, Mr. David Crowhurst and Mr. Jon Pettyfer from Horton Kirby, Mr. Nigel Pointer from St. Mary Cray and from the bands at Greenwich and at Woolwich.



2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were accepted unanimously on the proposition of Mr. Mark Backhouse, seconded by Mr. Jim Rooke.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Website

Apologies were conveyed to the meeting from Mr. Jim Hardy that the District Website was out of date. Mr. Hardy had been out of action for the past two weeks. The new list of District practices would be displayed in due course.



4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The District had received some information from a Travel Company. Some details were circulated and other information was available if any tower wished to arrange a tower holiday.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annual General Meeting - Easter 2002

After some discussion, it was agreed that Crayford should be approached to see if it would be possible to hold the Association's Annual General Meeting there on 1st April 2002. Volunteers to help with the catering would be sought at the next meeting.

Wedding at Lewisham

Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman had received a letter requesting ringers for a wedding at Lewisham on the following Saturday. Anyone able to help was asked to contact her.

Newsletter

It was pointed out that copy for the next edition of the Newsletter was required by the end of September, not the end of October.

Ringing Courses for Beginners

Mrs. Yvonne Wright mentioned ringing courses for beginners and Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman said that she had the details.

The Ringing World

Mr. Jim Rooke said that he had some spare back numbers of The Ringing World. If anyone was not familiar with this publication, they were invited to take one.



Eynsford - Major Practice

Members were reminded that a major practice was held at Eynsford on the first Friday evening of each month - everyone welcome.

County Training Notices

Attention was drawn to the yellow training notices, copies of which had been distributed to all towers.

Votes of Thanks

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Margaret Macey to the Rev'd. Hazel Salmon for taking the service, to Mr. Jeremy Ducker for playing the organ and to the Eynsford band for the local arrangements and providing and serving tea.



District Practices and Special Methods

The next practice is on 27th October at Crayford (7-9). Please see the events poster for a full list of practices and special methods. Each tower has been given one for their ringing room wall.

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 '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 November and 5th December. And 12 bell ones, for more advanced ringing, on 10th October and 14th November.

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