



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2002

Call Change Champions Crayford

The 2001 Call change competition was held on the 17th November at Crayford. No less than nine teams took part, which is great, and I feel reflects the good health of most District towers. It is encouraging to see some "new" bands entering, and I would encourage more to follow their example. I hope we can enjoy a similarly good turnout for the method competition in April.

The competition was ably judged by Lucy Reeve, who did a splendid job, and made positive and helpful comments about the afternoons ringing having spent a long time in a very cold, and increasingly dark Churchyard. Our thanks again to Lucy.



The Arthur Richards Trophy
Awarded to the
K.C.A.C.R Lewisham District
Call Change Competition

The results were as follows:

- 1st Crayford 93%
- 2nd Eltham 83%
- 3rd Beckenham 81%
- 4th Chislehurst 76%
- 5th St Mary Cray 75%
- 6th Horton Kirby 74%
- 7th Erith Christ Church 69%
- 8th Erith Joint 66%
- 9th Chelsfield 65%

Congratulations to Crayford for a splendid performance, and to the other bands for some very good ringing. I felt the overall standard was very pleasing.

James Hardy

[From KCACR.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk)

Congratulations must also be due (this is the webmaster poking his nose in!) to Horton Kirby, the newest tower in the District, on their admirable performance. It really is very encouraging to see newer bands taking part in local activities. For those who've not already checked out the HK stuff, try clicking on

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/fwcml/horton.htm>

*Frank Lewis
KCACR Website Editor*

Next District Event

District Meeting

Eltham

on

Saturday 12th January.

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to

Len Morley on 020 8319 0***

by the previous Wednesday please.

So Who Is Our New Chairman?

Just before Christmas, Rupert suggested that I might like to do a "Message from the Chairman" for the newsletter. What with this being the start of a New Year, and my only having been elected Chairman in October, I thought it may be a good opportunity to do all that "looking ahead to the future" thing. But then I decided that since many people may not know much about me, it might be best to start with a look back to the past instead, and write a brief "Ringing CV" instead. (Now that I have been elected, it is probably safe to do so!)

I was taught to handle a bell in 1982, at Ripon Cathedral. On moving to London in 1985, I rang with the St Mary Abbots Guild at St Vedast Foster Lane and St Mary Abbots Kensington, where I was Secretary from 1989 to 1995, and Ringing Master from 1996 to 1998. I also rang extensively with the London County Association in its heyday, when the eight bell practices gave the opportunity to ring any of the Standard 8 Surprise Major, and Surprise Maximus was regularly rung at practices on twelve. I also somehow contrived to be elected to the College Youths in 1988, although other commitments on a Tuesday mean that I rarely have an opportunity to ring with them now.

I met my wife, Ruth, while ringing at Kensington, and we were married in 1995. Our daughter, Bryony, was born in 1997, since which time Ruth has found less time for ringing, but will still catch hold when Bryony lets her! 1997 was also a significant year, in that it was then that we moved from West London to Shooters Hill, and I started to ring at Eltham. Until now, I have somehow managed to avoid election as a District officer, but am very much looking forward to serving as Chairman.

Among specific ringing milestones, I rang my first quarter peal in 1984: tenor to Bob Doubles, on the front six at Ripon Cathedral. I've rung a further 830 since then (of which a single one was on handbells - Plain Bob Minor - and without doubt one of the hardest!). My first peal was two years later, in 1986: treble to Cambridge Major, at Thorne, in South Yorkshire. The total to date is now 335: a flurry of enthusiasm during the late eighties and early nineties having now slowed down to a more manageable dozen a year or so!

And that's more than enough about me. To finish, I look forward to meeting as many members as possible at District and other events during the year -especially at the Association Annual General meeting at Erith on April 1st.

David Holdridge

KCACR.ORG.UK

7k and rising . . .

It was only at the end of June that we had a bit about having reached the grand score of 5000 hits on the site, but here we go, in mid December, with just over 7k, an increase of 2000 in 5 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

KCACR Membership Database

The KCACR is considering putting the Membership Database on the World Wide Web in a secure environment to allow authorised people (such as District Secretaries) to update it and co-ordinate the collection of subscriptions, to allow the Membership Secretary to run reports from it, and to allow the Handbook Editor to produce the membership details for the Handbook.

But we don't have the necessary expertise in the current KCACR Committee to actually build the thing, although we have detailed designs (it is not a complicated design).



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELTHAM

Are there any members of the Lewisham District who could help with this?

Or do you know of anyone who can help us?

Please let me know.

Dickon Love
KCACR Handbook
Editor
DrLove@slb.com

Editorial



Welcome to the first bumper edition of the Lewisham District Newsletter of the New Year.

It's that time of year again to collect subscriptions for the newsletter. However, with the approval of the meeting on Saturday, there will be one slight change this year. Each tower in the district will receive one free copy of the newsletter. Additional copies will still be able to be bought for £4.00 (£3.00 for two to the same address) for the year. I hope that this will meet with your approval as it will guarantee that everyone in the district will be kept informed of what is going on in the district..

And finally, congratulations to Ruth Hardy, who wins a free copy of the newsletter for a year, for being the only one to enter last times quiz. The answers were Trumpton, The Wombles, Rainbow, Playaway and Bod.



I saw this bloke chatting up a cheetah, I thought "he's trying to pull a fast one".

So I said to this train driver "I want to go to Paris". He said "Eurostar?". I said "I've been on telly but I'm no Brad Pitt".

So I said to the Gym instructor "Can you teach me to do the splits?". He said "How flexible are you?". I said "I can't make Tuesdays".

Do you know I've got a friend who's fallen in love with two school bags, he's bisatchel.

But I'll tell you what I love doing more than anything: trying to Pack myself in a small suitcase. I can hardly contain myself.

Now you know those trick candles that you blow out and a couple of Seconds later they come alight again, well the other day there was a fire at the factory that makes them.

So I met this gangster who pulls up the back of people's pants, it Was Weggie Kray.

So I said "Do you want a game of Darts?", he said "OK then", I said "Nearest to bull starts". He said "Baa", I said "Moo", he said "You're closest".

You see I'm against hunting, in fact I'm a hunt saboteur. I go out The night before and shoot the fox.

The other day I sent my girlfriend a huge pile of snow. I rang her up, I said "Do you get my drift?".

So I rang up British Telecom, I said "I want to report a nuisance caller", he said "Not you again".

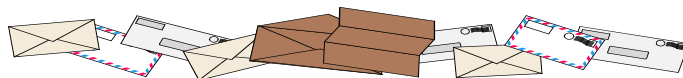
Now did you know all male tennis players are witches, for example Goran, even he's a witch.

So I was in Tesco's and I saw this man and woman wrapped in a barcode. I said "Are you two an item?".

So a lorry-load of tortoises crashed into a train-load of terrapins, I thought "That's a turtle disaster".

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

**COPY DEADLINE -
22nd March 2002**

to
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☎ 01322 439***

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Call Change Competition 2001

What the judge said

General Remarks

Every team displayed great potential - this is the wonderful thing about ringing: no matter what stage you are at, there is always room for improvement - we're always learning; for that reason, there aren't really any losers in this competition.

It appeared that the second, fourth and fifth caused biggest problems to all the bands - and this is no reflection upon the individuals who rang these bells; it was very much an interactive thing.

One word of advice I would give is to milk the rules for all they're worth - really utilise the practice time: only 2 or 3 bands did this. Also, along the same lines, if you're allowed to ring 12 whole pulls of rounds, DO SO! The more chance of settling one has, the better.

Individual Remarks

TEAM 1 Chelsfield 65% 9th

Consistently good leading and excellent tenor rhythm from the outset. However, I sensed general unease in this ringing - perhaps nerves, associated with being the first out of the hat, which is always rotten! Loads and loads of changes rung - much more than required! A feeling of effort came through, though.

TEAM 2: Erith Christ Church, 69%, 7th.

Good overall rhythm, but some slow handstrokes at the end of the row and occasional holding up of handstroke leads a bit too much caused the odd traffic jam! Again - loads of changes: must be masochists! Nevertheless, another good effort: with more practice, improvement will be the only outcome.

TEAM 3: Horton Kirby, 74%, 6th.

As with Team 2, too much holding up of handstrokes made it difficult to establish a rhythm, but the overall feeling was one of concerted effort.

TEAM 4: Eltham, 83%, 2nd.

This band meant business from the word go, setting a good speed and rattling along. The transitions from one change to another were particularly good. A few dropped handstroke leads marred it slightly. Very good indeed.

TEAM 5: Crayford, 93%, 1st.

This team's practice and test pieces were metronomic - I was tapping my feet along to this performance. Every handstroke gap was consistent and perfect in duration. The only thing that was disappointing (although it didn't much spoil the overall effect) was occasional slight hesitation towards the end of some handstroke rows. Excellent!



TEAM 6: St Mary Cray, 75%, 5th.

Interestingly, the majority of this band's faults were incurred at backstroke. I felt there was not enough "oomph" at handstroke, so bells were not quite reaching the balance and dropping. This of course, meant that there was no real rhythm established. Notwithstanding, there is great potential there: just concentrate on bell control and all will be well!

TEAM 7: Erith Joint, 66%, 8th.

I felt this ringing was a little too fast for the comfort of the band in general. This meant that transitions from one change to another were not as good as they might have been if the bells were being rung at a slightly gentler pace. As with team 6, concentrate on bell control and the obvious potential that is there will come shining through.

TEAM 8: Beckenham, 81%, 3rd.

Good general rhythm, but transitions from one change to another, taking time to find the metre of the row again, incurred most faults. Overall impression of concentrated effort, though.

TEAM 9: Chislehurst, 76%, 4th.

Like Team 7, I felt the choice of speed was not comfortable for the ringers. As with Team 1, there seemed to be nerves there - perhaps because they were the last to ring? Almost as bad as being drawn first! However, if they put the brakes on a bit, everything will become easier and sound better. Good effort!

Lucy Reeve

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Ringling at St Georges has recently been variable - whilst we often ring 10 for service, there is room for improvement in the strength and number of "locals".

Practices are generally good, thanks to the help of our regular friends and visitors, and with a few more experienced visitors we could ring 8-spliced major and basic surprise royal more often. I do feel, however, that we have not recruited any new people for some time now, and that we should be doing so. I wonder if any other towers feel the same, perhaps that after the "millenium" drive things have fallen a bit flat. If so we must revive them!!

James Hardy

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

We have not had a bad year. The bells have been rung twice every Sunday and about once a month they are rung three times on a Sunday_ sometimes this additional ringing is by way of a quarter peal. Practices on Mondays have generally been well attended with some visiting ringers most weeks and we have rung up to Stedman and Surprise Minor but also ring plenty of rounds and call changes, plain hunt, Bob Doubles etc.

Our ringers have continued to assist at other towers where experience in depth is not so readily available. We have also been able to help ringers from other towers achieve 'firsts' for quarter peals and a total of 15 were rung at



Chelsfield in 2001 and whilst each quarter contained predominantly local ringers a number of ringers from other towers have participated. One peal was rung on the bells with three local ringers.

A most enjoyable outing to Suffolk took place in September and for 2002 we look forward to going to Oxford. We managed to win back the Kent County Association six bell striking competition trophy and unlike the previous year were able to enter a band in the District Call Change Competition which, with one exception, featured a completely different team of ringers from the Kent Competition. Also, one ringer who qualifies by virtue of Sunday Service ringing at another tower rang for that tower in the Call Change Competition.

All in all, not a bad year but as with all reports there is always scope to do better and we will try to do this in 2002. If anyone would like to join us on our Monday evening practice, we will be very pleased to see you.

Nick Wilkins

[Sorry about the small type for this but I'd already finished the newsletter when I received it. In future can I have articles more than a week in advance of the quarterly meeting please!]

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00 (1st wednesday at Annuciation)

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:30

Following our success in the call change competition, it is pleasing to report that it was not a fluke and that we have continued to produce some good pieces of ringing on both practice night and Sunday morning.

We have rung a number of generally well struck quarters peals with several firsts in them. Andrew rang both his first quarter, the tenor to Plain Bob Triples, and his first inside, the third to Plain Bob Doubles. Debra rang her first triples, the fourth to Plain Bob Triples.

I agree with Jim about recruitment as, while we usually get eight to ring on a Sunday morning, we do not have enough to have people sitting out. However, the question is, "How is it best to recruit them?"

Rupert Cheeseman

CUDHAM

Practice Monday (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DEPTFORD

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

ELTHAM

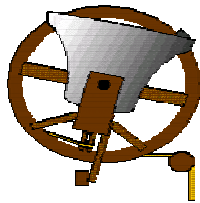
Practice Tuesday 20:00

Two bits of good news to report at Eltham this time round. Firstly, we were well chuffed with our performance at the District Call Change Competition at Crayford in November. To be beaten into second place by the home team was no shame - and those who heard their performance will agree that it was pretty much unbeatable. It was our best ever performance in the competition, and after managing third place in 2000, we will have to pull out all the stops in 2002!

Secondly, we have been equally delighted to welcome a "ready-made ringer" to the band: Jane, who has recently moved to the area with her partner Geoff. Just as pleasing, Geoff is himself learning to ring. Having moaned in a previous newsletter about the need for visiting ringers so we could ring Cambridge Minor, we now have one of our own!

Which leads on neatly to latest developments in the ongoing series of monthly "special practices" held jointly with Chislehurst. During the last few months, these have taken the form of Surprise Minor practices here at Eltham (our back six being rather more conducive to this sort of thing than St Nicholas!). We have been concentrating on Cambridge, London and York - both singly and in spliced - and although December's practice was a bit of a damp squib (it's hard to ring Minor with only five ringers...), hopefully things will take off again now Christmas is over.

We are now looking forward to a busy weekend - the latest joint Chislehurst/Eltham New Year dinner on Friday 11th January, the District Quarterly Meeting here on Saturday, a quarter-peal attempt on Sunday, the next Surprise Minor practice on Monday and the usual practice on Tuesday. Never let it be said that our bells are under-used!



David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

We are pleased to see proof of further progress in the belfry. Liz Brett, one of the recruits from the open day here in 1999, has just rung her first quarter peal. Her husband came as chauffeur and to tend moral support (his attempt won't be far away). He had a book to read but never turned a page. Liz said the time went very quickly, she was concentrating very hard on what she had to do, not content with one first in the band, for good measure, Robert scored his first as conductor - very clear and confident-sounding he was too.

Sunday October 21st

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42 minutes.

Treble Elizabeth Brett (1st quarter peal)
2 Christopher Backhouse
3 Robert Backhouse (1st as conductor)
4 Rachel Backhouse
5 Mark Backhouse
Tenor Mike Hutton

Congratulations also go to Christopher and Robert Backhouse on ringing their first peal on December 28th. We played away and rang a family peal at Stapleford in Wiltshire so you'll have to look out for Salisbury Diocesan Guild peals in The Ringing World.

The bells were rehung and augmented to six for the Millennium after many years of silence. The project was already under consideration by the parish but the arrival of two experienced ringers (and one of them the vicar!) five years ago provided the additional impetus needed. On her patch of five parishes Granny now has 3 ringable sixes and two unringable fours; South Newton ring card changes off cards, Great Wishford, where Grandad taught the boys to ring, has suffered from ringers moving away from the village while Stapleford has a keen band, all but one adults, who have made great progress.

Rachel Backhouse

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Still we struggle, but despite few members, we managed to ring for all services over the Christmas thanks to our small but loyal band. Unfortunately we were unable to enter a band for the Call Change competition although yours truly went to support those who did and finished up ringing for Chislehurst. Everyone did very well. We met short on Wednesday 2nd January, just four of us, but had a fun evening, Miriam had lots of practice trebling to Plain Bob Minimus and then Ros, Jan and myself quickly learnt Single Court so we had a go at that. We did succeed although I forgot to call 'That's all' at the end of our one successful course. However, we had all had a fun evening that I hope proved useful for our learner.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our practice but do please give me a ring (020 8302 4**) to check that the practice is taking place as if we are going to be short we



decamp elsewhere.

Now is the time to think about various courses taking place during the year - Hereford and Essex (see advertisement on page 12) just after Easter and Sparsholt at the end of August plus one or two smaller courses all of which are advertised in the recent editions of the Ringing World. Alongside these is the Bob Doubles training day we are trying to organise within the district (see advertisement on page 16). People are prepared to give up time if you are prepared to put in the effort - give it some thought and act appropriately.

Everyone at All Saints wishes you a HAPPY NEW YEAR and looks forward to seeing all our visitors!

Margaret Macey

GREENWICH

Practice 2nd and 3rd Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

It's been a busy few months for the ringers at Horton Kirby. See page 8 to find out why.

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing br arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

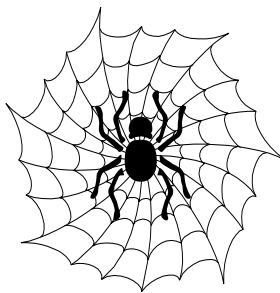
WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

For the story of the West Wickham Tower outing see page 9.

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00



What's been happening - News from the Website

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

Annual District Meeting at Beckenham

The meeting at Beckenham on 13th October started with ringing, followed by Evensong led by Canon Derek Carpenter. After the service, we moved to the Church Hall for tea (sausage, beans and jacket potato) and this was followed by the business meeting. With an attendance of about 60, David Holdridge was elected Chairman, replacing Philippa, who has retired from office. Mark Jones was elected to the new post of Assistant Secretary. All other posts remain unchanged. A big thankyou goes to Philippa for the work that she has done for the District.

District Practice at Crayford

The District Practice at Crayford on 28th October was attended by about 30 people, and we rang Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Triples, Crayford Little Bob Major (with 4ths and 6ths place bobs) (in separate touches!!) , Call Changes, Stedman Triples, and 5-Spliced S. Major (B,S-,L-,L,C-,Y,N, C-).

Despite the ringing room being rather hot, and a little cramped, the ringing was pretty good.

District Practice at Biggin Hill

The District Practice at Biggin Hill saw 16 members come together to ring Biggles Bob Minor (cheers Rups), Plain Bob minor and doubles, Stedman, London Surprise, and spliced Cambridge and London. Most touches were successful, and fairly well struck. I hope as many of you as possible will come to next months practice at St Mary Cray.

District Practice at St Mary Cray

The Practice at St Mary Cray was attended by about 15 members, who rang Plain Bob, Grandsire, St Mary Cray Bob Minor, Call-changes, Stedman, and some spliced. The ringing was mostly very good, and all very encouraging.

District Carol Service at Dartford

The annual carol service on the 15th December was, once again, an excellent event. The District Choir performed well (with the help of some visitors) under the watchfull eye of our Director of Music, Mark Jones. Our thanks go to Mark for his hard work and organisational skills, to Stephen R. Davies M. A., F.R.C.O. for playing the Organ, and to the local band for the fine refreshments. Thanks go also to those in the congregation for supporting this event at a busy time.

From The Lewisham District Website

New Experiences for the Horton Kirby Ringers

Two firsts for Horton Kirby in the space of eight days - a tower tour and our entry to the call-change competition - at least since the 1950's when the old bells were last rung regularly. I do not know if the HK ringers from 40 years ago were as active.

Our tour on 10th November was very enjoyable and well supported with over 20 taking part, including our tutors and helpers / guests. We started at Stansted (difficult number 5) followed by Kemsing (smaller bells than HK) and on to Otford who, like us, are new to the trials and tribulations of a steep learning curve. We finished at Chelsfield, where some had rung before. A few of us went to Horton Kirby to put on the muffles and ring up in preparation for ringing at the Remembrance Service the following day.



Our grateful thanks go to all the towers visited; always made welcome and hopefully we will go back again soon. Everyone had a really good day (I think) but quite tiring, not helped by a long lunch in the Wheatsheaf at Kemsing! Still it was also good news for the pub with 20 extra customers turning up. Visiting five towers in one day certainly made me realise just how different and interesting the church buildings and rings are from each other. A good experience and one we will repeat in 2002.

Our entry to the competition on 17th November was a little daunting. We were all at least a bit nervous but Philippa dragged us up to the tower. Our preparations were not helped by an injury to one of our team falling off his shed roof; the lengths people go to for an excuse! Due to unavailability of eight others we needed a guest on the day - so special thanks to Cathy Cheeseman.



To finish sixth far exceeded our expectations and with a few more points we could have come fourth - beginners luck? We were all relieved when it was over and without major mistakes or mishaps. So we ought to look forward to next year's competition with more confidence and knowledge of what not to do.

As ever, our huge thanks are due to all our mentors who come regularly to our practices, especially to Philippa and Jim Rooke (also on Sunday mornings) and to Frank Rogers. I am not sure I know about the patience of a saint but I do know the patience of a bell ringing tutor!

David Crowhurst



West Wickham Tower Outing

Saturday 20th October 2001

This year eight of us together with three guests ventured over the Thames into Essex, on a day that was overcast and damp, but at least remained rain free. Our first tower was Fyfield, a nice ring of 6, but 6¾ cwt being much lighter than we were use to meant the treble was quite challenging, but once this was mastered we progressed from Bob Minor to a course of Cambridge.

The next tower was Bobbingworth set right out in the Essex countryside. Unfortunately due to the lack of a local band, the bells are seldom rung and because the bells are rung from the church porch, the locals are concerned that the ropes may get vandalised or someone may commit suicide. The ropes are therefore pulled up into the upper chamber, and after Mike had kindly threaded the ropes through the appropriate garter holes we rang Plain Hunting for our learners followed by a course of Cambridge, then Kent and finally Stedman.

Our third tower was High Ongar, another good ring of six. The tower had recently been painted and the smell obviously encouraged us to ring well and Oxford Treble Bob was added to our successes. Lunch followed and on the recommendation of the local Tower Captain we descended on the Foresters Arms, where a good lunch was had and we had time to reflect on our successful morning.



Bentley Common was not an easy tower to find, but it is a beautiful fairytale tower in appearance but with only tea-cups for bells inside. It has a tiny 4cwt ring of six and these proved to be a real challenge not helped by the relatively long draft. But with time and determination and the help of the local ringer the band moved from Plain Hunt to Cambridge.

Our last call of the day was to South Weald, our only ring of eight but coming from a six bell tower it did seem to be daunting. However, we successfully rang Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major and Stedman Triples.



It was lovely to receive such a warm welcome at all the towers and I would like to thank Vernon Benning (Brasted) Rita Cox (Brasted) and Paul Alexander (Cudham) for joining us to make it a very successful day.

Judith Fry

District Choir

Our District Carol Service was held this year in Holy Trinity church, Dartford on the afternoon of a rather chilly Saturday 15th December. It had been requested for the District Choir to come out of its aestivation and to enhance our worship as it has on many occasions previously. I was very pleased to be organising and directing the choir this year.

In November I sent out an email to the Lewisham District email address (lewisham_district@yahoo.co.uk) requesting any budding singers to come forward and join the ranks. We had three rehearsals during the two weeks prior to the service including one on the day. Although a rather disappointing response to my emails had resulted in only a handful of people coming forward the choir really did well. Primarily we led the singing of the congregational carols complete with descants and last-verse arrangements, but we also sang three choir-only items: Ding Merrily on High, Sans day Carol and The Angel Gabriel. I am pleased to say that the choir did really well and made an excellent sound. Holy Trinity is a lovely church in which to sing so please can we come again? Unfortunately the choir turn-out was duplicated in the congregation with disappointing numbers attending.

Due to the rather lack-lustre response to my requests for singers, we enlisted the help of some extras to boost the sound. For this I am indebted to Alex Britton for his innumerable contacts and friends in the choirs of which he is a member, not to mention the singers themselves for the time which they gave up. I was very fortunate to have my old music teacher from school, Stephen Davies, to come and provide us with accompaniments on the fine (and loud!) organ at Holy Trinity. Our roles reversed, it was strange to conduct him for a change (and I expect the feeling was mutual)! Whilst in thanking mode, I should also like to thank the ringers at Dartford for their hospitality and especially Esther for sorting out the orders of service.

Now, you may have noticed that the title of this piece is not the District Carol Service but the District Choir. The first time we sang was the 1992 Centenary Service at Lewisham, conducted by Margaret Macey and I believe it has performed nearly every year since. It is something from which our District greatly benefits - what other bell-ringing society could boast such a splendid band of singers and such rowdy (sorry, rousing) singing? The purpose of this article, therefore, is to muster support for the choir and its future activities. Next year's Carol Service is on Saturday 14th December at St John's, Erith [and before that there is the County AGM - Ed]. I know it is incredibly early to ask people to commit but what I ask is that people (singers and non-singers - or if you like choir and congregation) pencil it in their diaries - now. No, you haven't done it. Do it NOW please.

I have conducted the choir on two occasions and I really do enjoy doing it (despite my comments during rehearsals) but it is only possible with support. I know there are loads of good singers out there so please remember to come along because it is a lot of fun. If the District wants a carol service then its members must support it.

Mark Jones

Beckenham Guild of Bell Ringers - Welsh Branch...

The problem with recruiting teenagers is that, in most cases, you drag them up to be a reasonably useful member of the band and then, just when you're able to reap the benefits of having another legal drinker at the post-practice pub session, they thank you by leaving for university! At least, this is what seems to have happened at Beckenham. I am now in my second year at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (UWA), studying for an Environmental Earth Science degree and was joined there in September by Ross Hartley (another Beckenham ringer) who has just started a BSc Geography course.



For those who have never heard of Aberystwyth ('Aber' for short), it's a small, Victorian coastal town in mid-Wales, miles from anywhere of use and a tedious six hour train journey from Beckenham. If you walk for twenty minutes in any direction from the town centre you will either end up in a field full of sheep or in the sea! However, the scenery is exceptionally beautiful, the people friendly and the University well respected throughout Britain and the World. Oh yeah, and there are 56 pubs 'n' clubs in a square mile, ensuring cheap alcohol and venues for all tastes!

St Padarn's Church in the village of Llanbadarn Fawr on the edge of the town and about 15 minutes walk from campus, houses the only ring of bells for 18 miles. There are two societies that ring at St Padarn's: the UWA Society of Change Ringers (UWASCR) and Llanbadarn Fawr Bell Ringing Society (LLFBR), the former consisting of past and present students and staff at the university and the latter encompassing both students and local ringers. Within six months of arriving in Aber in September 2000, I found myself elected as both Tower Captain and UWASCR Ringing Master. I'm still not entirely sure how this happened, but it may well have been the result of the consumption of too much alcohol... This news was received with much hilarity back 'home' in Beckenham, especially as a week before the elections the existing 12cwt 8 were removed in order for a major restoration and augmentation project to take place. The fact that for the first seven months I was TC of a tower with no bells seems to have struck many as rather ironic! We finally got the bells back in early September, all of the dismantling and construction work having been done by a core of about five students, four parishioners and one bell-hanger, and now have a fine 18cwt 10 (plus #7).

UWASCR holds two dinners and two weekend long tours each year, which are well attended by past and present members. My first event as Master was our Christmas dinner, held in one of Aber's seafront hotels. The usual traditions were upheld, such as the (absolutely disgusting) Loving Cup, 'Drink Wine with the Master' and the telephone book game

(probably best not to ask...), and I even managed to avoid giving a speech! Next up is the Spring tour to Worcester, which luckily involves only a small amount of organisation from me, as most of it was arranged by last year's Master before Foot and Mouth scuppered our plans. Being a student at Aber also qualifies you for membership of the Welsh Colleges' Society of Change Ringers. UWASCR is currently the most active student band within WC's and their tours are an opportunity for good company, good ringing, lots of alcohol and great fun! We can also go on both the Southern University Association and Northern University Association weekends (well, Wales can be argued to be in both the north AND the south). In November on the NUA weekend in York, Aber and Bangor students combined to form a Welsh Colleges' striking competition band. Considering that a) before the test piece we had never rung together as a band, b) the bells were a difficult 5cwt eight and c) last year the Aber band managed to come last with 'lots' of faults, we were exceptionally pleased with our fifth place (out of 12), especially as second, third, fourth and fifth places were separated by only four faults! This was absolutely nothing to do with the fact that one of the judges was an ex-Aberystwyth ringer.... I suspect, however, that the other universities present now think I'm a complete nutcase as, when the results were read out in reverse order, I was heard to declare (ok then: shout) something along the line of 'Yay! I don't believe it! We're not last!'. Too much beer on an empty stomach has a lot to answer for....

Before too long yet another Beckenham ringer will be embarking on a university education. We have been unable to convince my brother Dominic that Aberystwyth really is THE university to go to, but he assures me that wherever he does end up he will definitely join their ringing society. Jim 'n' Jeremy will at least be spared having three of us away at the same time, because by the time Dom's gap year is over I should have finished my degree. I have had it on good authority that I will be made to pay for deserting Beckenham, so I'd better move back home asap!

If you're going to university soon then enjoy yourself! Most universities have a ringing society so find it and join - you'll almost certainly find a ready-made group of friends to slot into. Meanwhile, if you happen to spot any suspicious looking dragons around the district in June be sure to come and say hello: the UWASCR summer tour is coming to Beckenham....you have been warned!

Rhiannon Meredith

Master of Logistics Take a Bow!

Have you tried getting

- 68 people
- on 5 separate courses
- to 15 separate sets of venues
- on one particular day?

Well if not, and if like me you struggle to get two people to synchronise their diaries, or a band for a quarter, spare a thought for Catherine Lewis – organiser supreme.

On Saturday 27th October the KCACR training day happened!

What? Oh yeah, they're the posters that are always on the wall in bright colours - which we forget to sign up for! If this describes you, I suggest you make the effort to clear your diary now and tell Catherine you want to go on the next day. which of course is already on a bright poster on your tower wall.

This year's October training day consisted of a number of groups aimed at helping those ringing doubles and minor on to triples and major. I was rope fodder on the Grandsire Triples course overseen by Frank Lewis. A day's ringing at three towers (2 grabs) saw our students move from nervous plain courses at the start of the day to confident well struck touches by the end of the afternoon. Not bad considering the usual ringer's lunch and a near lock out (oops sorry Frank I promised not to mention that!) immediately afterwards.

Anyway if you've ever thought about attending as a student I strongly recommend it – you will enjoy it and might even learn something.

If you've been asked to assist as a helper and turned Catherine down please think again. As usual with all these events it is the ability to get hold of enough helpers to ring around students that is the key to all these things. Your reward for helping will probably be sore hands and hopefully satisfaction in seeing fellow ringers progress in the exercise.

I must admit that I thoroughly enjoyed myself (the bright sunny day did help) and look forward to being asked back (I hope). Thank you Catherine (and your team if there is one) for your efforts, everyone on our group seemed to move forward.

If you did go on the course as a student please remember that one day is not enough – if you can make the effort to get out to a tower nearby which rings triples or major in the next week or so it will help. It's easy to lose the skills that you've just picked up, and practice will see you consolidate and improve them.

Jeremy Byers

Future County Events

Holy Week 2002 - Rope splicing

Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 March 7.30 - 9.30

Sessions will be held at several places according to demand. Can you already do both long and short splices? If so please could you get in touch and volunteer to help teach?

Bookings by 22 February please.

Conducting Day

Saturday 26 October 2002

Visiting tutors: Steve Coleman, Neil Donovan, Michael Henshaw

There will be groups, with both theory and practical sessions.

There will probably be broadly three areas of work:

- simple bob calling: where to call, how to look up a touch
- watching progress of the ringing and picking people up when they go wrong
- using coursing orders

However, we will plan the day according to the requirements of the participants - particularly those who book early!

Bookings by 10 September please.

Training Days

We are still offering our popular whole days - either on Rounds and Call Changes or on Plain Hunting ie learning Ropesight. If there are four or eight of you needing the same thing, ask and we'll try to fix it. These days are intended to give ideas and concentrated practice, to be followed up by attending other suitable practices and meetings.

Some resources provided by the CC Education Committee

Training Directory (8th Edition) for 2002 is available now, giving much information including details of national ringing courses which are open to anyone.

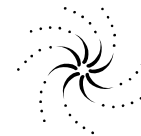
Network for Ringing Training - a very valuable discussion group for those interested in teaching people to ring. A lilac-coloured flier on it should be in every Kent tower, but ask if you want more copies. Or for more info click on www.ds.dial.pipex.com/fred.bone/CC-EdC to go straight to the CC Education Committee's page on the CC website.

For bookings or further information on any of the above please contact Catherine Lewis on 01959 563767 or email her at CatherineMLewis@cs.com

The Jubi Peal

Walter Dobbie's Portable Silver Jubilee Ring (the Jubi Peal) is now being looked after by Arthur Vidgeon.

Any requests to borrow this equipment should be addressed to Arthur at advidgeon@werburgh.co.uk. There is no hire charge, but a donation to the BRF will be requested.



Six Bell Striking Competition Rules

IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO ENTER THAN TO WIN!

The District Six-bell Striking Competition will be held at **Bexley on Saturday, 13th April**. The draw will be at 10.30 a.m. There is an entry fee of £1.50.

Notwithstanding the rules, which are set out below, subject to the approval of the District Ringing Master, bands who have insufficient of their own ringers may seek assistance from a neighbouring tower. Such bands enter the Competition on the clear understanding the District will be represented in the County Competition by the most highly placed Sunday Service band (see rule 1).

1. All competitors must be regular members of the Sunday Service Band for which they are ringing and be members of the KCACR. Members who wish to ring for a tower other than the one shown on the receipt for their current annual subscription must obtain the approval of the District Officers at least one week before the Competition.
2. Each band may spend not more than two minutes in preliminary ringing. The bells must then be stood.
3. Each band shall attempt to ring 240 changes.
4. Only one attempt by each band is permitted.
5. The choice of method is left to the discretion of each band.
6. Towers may enter more than one band, but no ringers may ring more than once.
7. A maximum of 20 whole pulls of rounds will be allowed before the start of the method. The judging will be on the actual 240 changes and any rounds at the end, plus any rounds over and above the permitted 20 whole pulls at the start. Failure to stand at the end of the test piece will not be faulted, but will be noted and taken into account in the event of a tie.
8. The names of those taking part (up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.
9. **The entry forms for the Competition must be received by the District Secretary at least seven clear days before the date of the Competition. Neither late nor telephone entries will be accepted.**
10. A representative of each tower shall be available for the draw and the order adhered to, unless the band has a prior commitment for service ringing at their own church.

If your band wishes to enter the Competition, please complete the form sent to your tower and return it to Mary Andrews, ** Wansunt Road, Bexley, DA5 *DH with your entry fee by **SATURDAY, 6TH APRIL**.



HEREFORD RINGING COURSE

A THREE DAY COURSE

From Thursday, 4th April to Sunday, 7th April, 2002

The course will consist of lectures on a wide variety of topics and a good deal of practical work in towers. There will be groups ranging from call-changes and plain-hunting on three and four bells to Surprise Major.

For brochure with full details and application form send a C5 (229mm x 162mm) stamped addressed envelope. to Mr W F Moreton, 6 Bar Lane, Wakefield, West Yorks WF1 4AD. Completed applications must be received by the closing date of 31st January, 2002.



Essex Ringing Course

4th-6th April 2002

A 3 day non residential course

BASED AT HONEYWOOD SCHOOL, COGGESHALL, ESSEX

Tutor Groups ranging from Call Changes to Cambridge, Stedman and Calling and Conducting

Other ringing related lectures covering change ringing on handbells, rope splicing, calling simple touches, and achieving good striking also available to students and helps.

Helpers are also required for each group.

If interested please write to the address below.

For a brochure and application form please send a stamped self-addressed envelope (C5 size) to:
(Closing date for applications is 16th February 2002)

**Mrs Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court,
Chelmsford CM2 9PF**

or visit the EACR website on

www.eacr.org.uk

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PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
16 September 2001	Bromley		5152 Rutland Surprise Major	01/1045
07 October 2001	Eynsford		5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	01/1067
07 October 2001	Farningham		5040 Surprise Minor 7m.	01/1067
09 October 2001	Chislehurst Ann.		5120 London Surprise Major	01/1068
13 November 2001	Chislehurst Ann.		5024 Bristol Surprise Major	01/1194

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
05 May 2001	Biggin Hill		1260 Plain Bob Minor	01/1197
05 May 2001	St Mary Cray		1260 St Clements College Bob Minor	01/1198
08 September 2001	Foots Cray		1260 Plain Bob Doubles	
09 September 2001	Chelsfield		1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor	01/1119
16 September 2001	Biggin Hill		1260 Stedman Doubles	01/1119
16 September 2001	Erith Ch Ch		1260 Doubles 3m.	01/1024
27 September 2001	Deptford		1260 Doubles 3m. including Stedman	01/1071
30 September 2001	Chelsfield		1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor	01/1119
07 October 2001	Chelsfield		1320 St Clements College Bob Minor	01/1221
14 October 2001	Crayford		1260 Plain Bob Triples	01/1195
21 October 2001	Erith Ch Ch		1260 Grandsire Doubles	01/1142
01 November 2001	Chelsfield		1320 Plain Bob Minor	01/1221
11 November 2001	Chelsfield		1320 Minor 2m.	01/1219
11 November 2001	Crayford		1260 Grandsire Triples	01/1220
08 December 2001	Horton Kirby		1260 St Clements College Bob Minor	
09 December 2001	Chelsfield		1260 Doubles 2m.	
16 December 2001	Chelsfield		1260 Doubles 2m.	
16 December 2001	Crayford		1260 Plain Bob Doubles	
23 December 2001	Crayford		1260 Grandsire Doubles	
26 December 2001	Bromley		1260 Stedman Triples	

Congratulations to: Amy Barclay who rang her first quarter at the first attempt, the treble to Doubles at Chelsfield. Elizabeth Brett rang the treble to Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church Erith for her first quarter, in which Robert Backhouse rang the 3rd for his first as Conductor. In the Plain Bob Triples at Crayford, Debra Say rang the 4th for her first of Triples and Andrew Sinclair the tenor for his first quarter. In a quarter of Cambridge at Chelsfield, Martin Parsons rang his first Treble Bob treble and Lesley Barclay her first touch in the method. Clare Pruden rang the 3rd at Chelsfield for her first of Cambridge inside. Jenne Gay and Martin Parsons rang their first of Stedman Doubles at Biggin Hill on the 2nd and 4th respectively. Robert and Christopher Backhouse rang 2 and 3 to three Doubles methods at Christ Church Erith, their first in more than one method. Martin Parsons rang the treble to Doubles including Stedman for his first in three methods. And finally, Andrew Sinclair rang his first quarter inside, Plain Bob Doubles, at Crayford.

From The Ringing World up to edition No.4729, December 14, 2001.

Jim Rooke

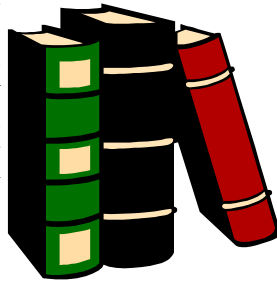
KCACR November Meeting

Interim Reports

Treasurer - none

Peal Secretary - Peals up to 23.11.01 are 99 (104 in 2000), 5% down, the projection for the year is 104 (129 in 2000) again 5% down.

Librarian - Roll of Honour project now nearly completed. St. John's Deptford books are in good condition. There are a few security issues and these are being attended to by the Lewisham District. Tower photo's for 2000 still wanted. Any copies of historic photos for archives would be appreciated.



Membership Secretary - New Secretary being sought, job to be simplified with introduction of direct input facility hopefully shortly to be available to all District Membership Secretary's. Meeting to be arranged shortly to progress matter.

Reports were also received from each District.

Handbook 2002

There will be a Tower Census to verify information and any tower late in returning the information will miss out, since there will be a tight deadline. There is still advertisement space to sell - £30.00 full page, £25.00 half page. Approval was given to drop the use of Mrs/Ms in favour of just using the first name followed by the surname, the exception being District and Tower Secretary's who are likely to have correspondence addressed to them.

Each District will also be asked to request how many additional copies of the Handbook are required to ensure that sufficient are available for sale.

Proposal from Lewisham District to amend Rule 7

Len Morley proposed that the number of people attending County meetings are reduced from the present 3 to 2 persons and that any 2 people could be selected to attend providing that they are either a nominated District Representative or another Officer, ie Chair, Secretary, etc. The meeting resolved that each District should elect a representative to attend a working party co-ordinated by Peter Romney to look at the size of the general committee and associated change of the rules to ensure the committee can operate effectively. The results and recommendations are to be made to the next County meeting in May 2002.

Forthcoming Events

AGM - Lewisham District - 1st April 2002, venue Christ Church, Erith for lunch and meeting.

County 8 bell Competition will be held in the Tonbridge District on June 22nd 2002, venue to be confirmed, method - Yorkshire Surprise Major.

County 6 bell Competition to be held in Ashford District at Kings North on September 28th 2002.

Golden Jubilee - June 4th 2002, left to local towers to arrange. Special Certificate will be available for towers ringing peals and quarter peals.

Ringling World Roadshow - Next one to be held on July 26th 2003 at the Lincolnshire Showground.

Ashford District Open Day in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund is on May 6th 2002, 44 towers will be open, tickets £10 daily or £2 at each tower.

Training - Rope splicing sessions during Holy Week - 26/27 March 2002. Conducting Day October 6th 2002

Len Morley



Church Newsletter excerpts:-

"Don't let worry kill you - let the church help."

"Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."

"O come all ye faithful, sin in exultation."

"Mr. Smith is also a close relative of his brother Wilbur in the church."

"After today's service, coffee and donuts will be served in the basement. Please come down and say hell to the pastor."

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

"The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer."

"Children will be led in sinning and Bible study."

"This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends."

"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Beckenham on Saturday, 13th October 2001

The Chairman, Miss Philippa Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly the Association's Chairman, Mr. Frank Lewis, and Mrs. Catherine Lewis.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Nancy Gay from Biggin Hill, Mr. David Kingston and Mr. Dickon Love from Bromley, Mrs. Ann Barnes and Mr. Roger Long from St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, Mr. Alex Britton, Mr. Andrew Sinclair and Mrs. Debra Say from Crayford, Mrs. Marian Wanbury from Dartford, Mr. Len Dumper from Eltham, Mrs. Rachel Backhouse, Mr. Les Brett and Mrs. Liz Brett from Christ Church, Erith, Miss Megan Heald from St. John's, Erith, Mr. Martin Parsons, Mr. Nigel Parsons and Mrs. Penny Parsons from Greenwich, Mrs. Lesley Barclay, Mrs. Ann English and Mr. Denis English from Horton Kirby.



2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Jon Fry.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes. The Chairman explained that there was no correspondence (item 4) so she proposed to re-name this item 'Rule Change'.

4. RULE CHANGE

The Chairman explained to the meeting that both Mrs. Sara Hardy, one of the District's Representatives on the General Committee, and Miss Mary Andrews, the Secretary, found it difficult to attend meetings of the Committee. They also felt that the Committee was far too large. For the consideration of the members, they wished to propose:

that 2 (not 3) officers from each District should serve on the General Committee and that the choice of which two officers attend Committee Meetings should be left to the individual Districts.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Lewis was consulted about the size of the Committee and he said that it was around 36. The proposal was put to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously that the suggested rule change should be forwarded to the General Secretary so that it could be discussed at the November Committee Meeting. It was also agreed that even if the General Committee did not agree to the reduction in District representation, the District should ask that the Committee should give consideration to the second part of the proposed rule change (regarding choice of officers to attend Committee Meetings).

5. REPORTS

Two reports had been circulated, the Master's Report and the Secretary's Report, both were accepted: the former on the proposition of Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Mr. Mark Jones, and the latter on the proposition of Miss Mary Andrews, seconded by Mr. Jim Hardy. Mr. Hardy added that the new web address was available from him.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Unfortunately, owing to work commitments, Miss Rooke was not able to stand for re-election. The Secretary passed on a message from Mrs. Barclay of Horton Kirby thanking Miss Rooke for all the help she had given to the new band at that tower.

The following officers were elected:

Chairman (Mr. Lewis took the chair for this election) Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Len Morley	Mr. David Holdridge
Ringin Master Proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman	Mr. Jim Hardy
Assistant Ringin Master Proposed by Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Mr. Len Morley	Mr. Jeremy Byers
District Representatives Proposed by Mr. Mark Jones, seconded by Mr. Don Pointer	Mrs. Sara Hardy and Mr. Len Morley
Press Representative and Newsletter Editors Proposed by Mrs. Ruth Pointer, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh	Mr. Rupert & Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman
Sales Representative Proposed by Mr. Don Pointer, seconded by Mr. Jim Hardy	Mr. Jim Rooke
Secretary Proposed by Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Miss Freda Cannon	Miss Mary Andrews



At the previous Annual Meeting, Miss Andrews had made it clear that she did not want to serve as District Secretary for more than forty years (October 2003) and suggested that the District should consider appointing an Assistant Secretary to take responsibility for the payment of subscriptions. An election for this position was, therefore, held.

Assistant Secretary Proposed by Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman.	Mr. Mark Jones
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7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

BECKENHAM Dr. Marianne R. Barnes
Proposed by Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers.

CHELSEFIELD Mr. James Heys and Mr. Keith Burton
Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mrs. Angela Wilkins

NON-RESIDENT LIFE Mrs. Catherine Wood
Proposed by Mr. Jim Hardy, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers.

8. PROGRAMME FOR 2002

The following programme was agreed:

12 th January	Quarterly Meeting	Eltham
13 th April	Six-bell Striking Competition	Bexley (a.m.)
	Quarterly Meeting	Crayford (p.m.)
13 th July	Quarterly Meeting	Shoreham or Farningham
12 th October	Annual Meeting	West Wickham or Chelsfield
16 th November	Six-bell Call Change Competition	St. Mary Cray
14 th December	Carol Service	St. John's, Erith



ST MARTIN OF TOURS, CHELSFIELD

Representatives of towers concerned were asked to confirm with the Secretary by the end of October whether or not they would be available.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, EASTER MONDAY, 1ST APRIL 2002

The Chairman explained that the hall at Crayford would not be large enough for the A.G.M. The hall at Christ Church, Erith, was much larger and would be available. It was agreed that the meeting should be held at that tower. The Chairman went on to stress that this event was to be hosted by the Lewisham District, not by the Christ Church Erith band. Help would be required with catering, arranging the service, the District choir etc. Discussion about these matters would be held at the January Quarterly Meeting. Mr. Mark Backhouse asked whether a microphone would be needed. It would, and he kindly offered to deal with this.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Carol Service

Mrs. Esther Correia asked those who had offered to read at the Carol Service to get in touch with her after the meeting.

Millennium Committee

Mrs. Ruth Hardy said that there was a cash balance of £49 left over from the Millennium Committee and that this was to be used for training purposes. She wanted to see this taken forward and anyone with

suggestions was asked to contact one of the Beckenham ringers.

Ringers for Mid-week Weddings

Mrs. Margaret Macey said that she was up-dating the list of ringers who were available for mid-week weddings and would circulate it in due course.

Bell Restoration Fund - Quiz

Miss Freda Cannon had kindly arranged to circulate copies of a Quiz to raise money for the B.R.F. Copies were available from her at £1.50 each.

Call Change Competition

Mr. Hardy urged all towers to enter the Call Change Competition. He stressed that preparing for such competition was beneficial and it was not the winning but the taking part that was important. Members were also encouraged to enter the Striking Competition for similar reasons.

Six-bell Striking Competition

Not because it was her tower she emphasized but on behalf of the District, the Chairman congratulated the Chelsfield band on winning the County Six-bell Striking Competition which had been held at Lamberhurst on 22nd September.

Christmas Cards

Mr. Mark Jones said that he had a flier for Christmas cards - pictures of London towers. An order form was available.

Newsletter

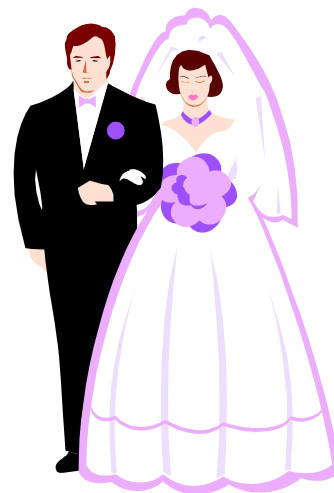
Mr. Rupert Cheeseman said that the next Newsletter would be put together over the Christmas holiday period. He thanked all those who had contributed during the past year.

Vote of Thanks

Mrs. Megan Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of Beckenham, Canon Derek Carpenter for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr. Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the Beckenham ringers and friends for serving an excellent tea.

Vote of Thanks to the Chairman

Miss Freda Cannon proposed a warm vote of thanks to Miss Philippa Rooke for conducting the meeting and for all her past work for the District. This was received with acclamation.



Master's Report 2001

2001 has been another good year for the District, with many of its members making good progress in many areas of ringing, several of them scoring "firsts", and several new members.

At Beckenham, the number of new recruits has tailed-off, and we now need a new initiative to encourage more to come along. I wonder if this is the case in general? We must be careful not to be complacent after the successes of the Millennium efforts, otherwise the benefits of all that hard work could be diminished.

There has been a good turnout for the practices, and a good standard of ringing has been achieved for the most part. While I am pleased at the progress made by many of our members, and at the attendance levels, we still seem to be failing to attract "locals" to attend when the practice comes to their tower. This is a long term "illness" for the district, and I'm not sure if there is a cure. Any ideas would be helpful.

The Call change competition was very well attended (10 bands) and we heard some good ringing. The method competition was not so well attended, and the ringing reflected the difficulty level of the bells. I hope for better attendance next year. (Please).

At County level, the 8-bell competition was a disaster, and entirely my fault. Unfortunately, alcohol deprivation led to my complete inability to ring Oxford Bob (old duffer's) Triples, and a last place result. Fortunately, Chelsfield saved our reputation by winning the six-bell competition, so well done to them.

I hope that next year will see us win both competitions, keeping Lewisham District firmly on top.

The Newsletter has been great this year, and I would like to thank Rupert and Cathy for keeping the District informed of news and events.

E-communication has been a problem in recent months. After several weeks off with back trouble, I finally attempted to update the web-site to find that it was not accessible for viewing. After many excuses (too numerous to list here) from Callnetuk and several missed promised deadlines, the old site is still down. I am pleased to announce, however, that the site is now running on a new server (supanet) and I hope that this will be as reliable as Callnetuk was for the previous two years. There are still some minor updates to be done, and I hope to complete these soon. As always, if you see errors, or have anything to add to the site, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the other officers for their hard work in keeping the District going and to all of the members for their effort and loyalty. Thankyou.

James J.Hardy.

KCACR Subscriptions 2002

As agreed at the Association's Annual General Meeting on Easter Monday 2001, subscriptions for this year, which became due on 1st January, are as follows:

Practising Members	£9.00
Senior Citizens (over 65) and Junior Members (under 18)	£4.50

They should be paid to Mark Jones (** Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 *AG) - cheques made payable to KCACR. Donations to the Bell Restoration Fund should be paid separately since the cheques have to be paid into different accounts. Only those members whose subscriptions are paid by the end of February are covered by the Association's insurance.

Since the Association has still not been able to establish its charitable status, there is no need for members who were previously willing to covenant, to pay their subscriptions separately.

Tower Census 2002

I notice the claim from one tower [in the previous newsletter] that there was a misprint in the Handbook regarding their practice night. Actually, this is the information that was submitted on the Tower Census. The next Census for the Handbook has now been distributed, so towers are urged to check that the information is correct before returning it. I will then try my best to ensure that the Handbook properly reflects this.

Dickon Love
Handbook Editor



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