



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk

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

JULY 2003

KCACR Membership - what's in it for me?

The following article by Peter Sims in a recent Ashford District Newsletter seems to answer a lot of questions we hear voiced from time to time. Any comments to webmaster (Frank Lewis) or Peter would be appreciated. - Website Ed

As a relatively long serving member of the Ashford District Committee and District Representative on the County Committee of the KCACR I am often asked questions like: Are there any benefits of me being a member? What do I get for my annual subs? Where does all the money go? or, Why can't I be a ringer without bothering having to join the KCACR? All very good questions and effectively asking, "What does the Association do for its members?"

For a normal member the fee is £9 per year (very cheap by anybody's reckoning - about 4 pints of beer, or 2-3 weeks average spend on the lottery). "But what do I get for it?" is the normal response. First and foremost the fact of being a member of a long established charitable ringing association - the only one that covers the whole of Kent, which in turn is part of the national Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Maybe the objects of the Association should be used as a reminder of what it is all about:

'The establishment, maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area: the recognition of ringers as church workers and the proper care and use of bells and belfries; the cultivation of the art of change ringing.'

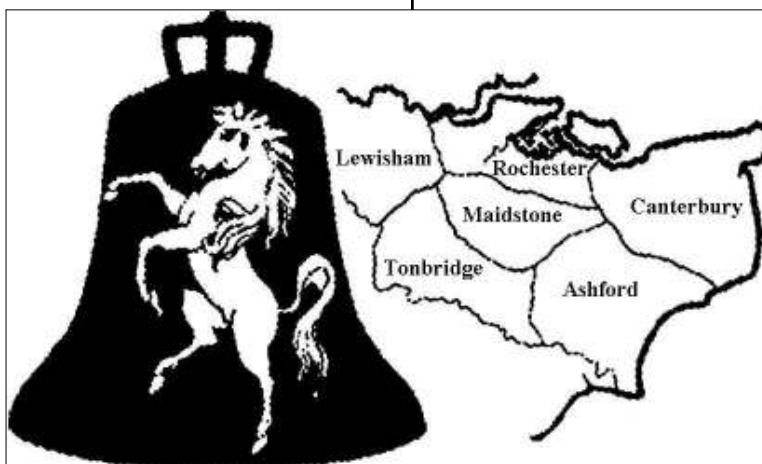
How do we go about trying to achieve this? The answer is: in a variety of ways, but primarily the ringers from the

Districts meet on a monthly basis to share time together, practise things they might not otherwise be able to ring and generally share good news and bad news alike, encouraging and helping each other wherever practical. Many members

frequently go to other towers to assist at weekly practice sessions, and quite a few help out with Sunday service ringing at other towers in addition to their own.

But who gets my £9 per year? 50% of all subs goes immediately to the Bell Restoration Fund, whereby it is used to keep bells around the county in a suitable state for ringing. The latest grant was £4000 to Eastchurch - a small parish church with a

population of a few hundred. Without this grant towards the overall cost of £16,000 for major works the bells would probably have fallen into a permanent state of disrepair.



Next District Event

District Meeting
St. John the Evangelist, Sidcup
on
Saturday 12th July

Bells 4.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.
Names for tea to
Yvonne Wright on 020 8300 7***
or RebeccaWright@compuserve.com
by Wednesday 9th July please.

Fundraising for similar projects forms a significant part of our activities.

Of the remaining £4.50, approx. £1.50 is paid on insurance for all members. Insurance carried by individual churches for ringers varies considerably and in some instances doesn't even exist. The insurance via KCACR covers all paid up members for both personal accident (whereby the individual can claim for injuries they suffer as a result of ringing activities, including those suffered whilst travelling to and from ringing), or for public liability (whereby somebody may decide to sue a ringer as a result of some damage they feel has been inflicted upon them or their property during the course of a ringing activity). As most of you are well aware, in this increasingly litigious age, everybody thinks it is their right to sue for almost anything, so to have the knowledge of good insurance cover is very comforting. Full details of the cover should be available in your tower, but can be obtained from the District Secretary on request.

A further £1.50 is spent providing every member with their own copy of the KCACR Handbook. This was recently reviewed as "one of the best, if not the best, in the country". The massive work of preparing the Handbook ready for printing is done entirely on a voluntary basis. Approx. 50p is spent on publicity and training material, particularly aimed at trying to encourage new ringers as well as generally spreading the news about bells and ringing. Another 50p is spent on officers' expenses attending national meetings (please note; nobody is paid by the Association and many of the officers pay their own expenses as well as giving up their time to attend these meetings). The final 50p is spent in a variety of ways, including postage, payment of auditors and general running expenses, Nobody derives any financial benefit from the Association and many give a great deal. This is typified by the fact that even this newsletter is paid for entirely by the generosity of various individuals - tower copies are distributed free and the money from any copies sold to individuals is donated to the Bell Restoration Fund. (Peter is speaking about the Ashford District here, but most other Districts work in much the same way. - Website Ed)

If you think the Association should be "giving more", the question is, "What more would you like and how much more are you prepared to pay for it?" The last time a significant increase in subs was put before the county membership at an AGM it was overwhelmingly defeated. If you feel strongly that the Association should be doing more, please speak out constructively. Perhaps the final question should not be, "What more can the Association do for me?", but, "What more can I do for the Association?"

From www.kcacr.org.uk - the home of the KCACR on the web

Chairman's Bit

100 Years Ago - The other week, I was browsing through an old copy of Bell News from 1903, when I came across a note of a meeting of the Lewisham District at St Mary's Woolwich on Saturday 31st January. At this meeting, it was noted that Eltham was "admitted into union with the County Association" (along with Sidcup), and also that the Eynsford band also wished to join this district, "it being more convenient for them to reach meetings at the towers in it". Sadly, I came across this nugget too late to make anything of it at the time, but the fact that my tower has been affiliated to the Kent County Association for 100 years would seem to be worthy of some sort of celebration.

I imagine that a number of other towers in the District must have joined at about this time. Other than being aware that the Association as a whole was founded in 1880, I confess that I don't know much about its history, and particularly that of the Lewisham District itself. Perhaps someone with some information might like to write about it in a future edition of the newsletter?

Surprise Royal - Changing the subject completely, thanks are due to the Ringing Master for organising a special Surprise Royal practice at Beckenham on 24th May. I thought this went very well, and indeed some of the success was carried over to the regular District practice the following month, when we again managed to ring London and Cambridge Royal. The Lewisham District isn't exactly over-endowed with 10 bell



towers, and the chances to ring Surprise Royal are therefore pretty limited. Indeed, generally speaking ten does seem to be the "Cinderella" number in ringing, sitting uneasily between eight (reasonably available for those who are able to make the effort) and twelve (the sexy option for high-fliers, available at College Youths and Cumberland practices). Apart from the band at St Mary Abbots Kensington, (somewhere out West, apparently), there are certainly no London towers whose local bands can offer advanced ten-bell ringing on a regular basis (by which I mean 8-spliced as a "standard method").

In other words, this was a very welcome opportunity for those of us (including myself) who find ten a nice compromise between not-too-demanding and a-bit-too-hard-to-be-wholly-enjoyable. I look forward to building on the good start we have made, and hope the next Surprise Royal practice is equally productive.

David Holdridge

Editorial



After a request at the last District Meeting to produce the newsletter earlier I thought it would be an easy task in mid May when there were just enough articles for a newsheet! But everyone has done us proud again and try as I might I could not cram it into 16 pages so we are back with a bumper 20 pages again and still produced earlier!! Many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Also as a response to a request, the minutes of the previous meeting held at Bromley Common, have been on the newsletter website (www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk) for the last couple of months so that anyone interested can peruse them at their leisure before the next meeting. Details of forthcoming District events and the special method blue lines are also available on this site.

Having mentioned recruitment in the editorial last time, we at Crayford, have run some successful tower open mornings which as well as gaining a couple of potential ringers, have been a useful PR exercise for gaining recognition within the church. If any other towers decide to hold a similar event, then don't forget to write an article for the next newsletter. Due to our own holiday commitments, could I please request any contributions to be sent to us by 10th September at the latest.

Until next time.....

Rupert and Cathy



Bible Puzzle

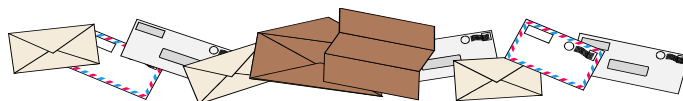
The following puzzle appeared in the parish magazine of St. Martin's, Maidstone. Be warned, you may need a copy of the King James Bible to help you complete it! Answers on p14.

Can you find sixteen books of the Bible in the text below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke): it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a few fascinating moments for you. Yes, there will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will admit it usually takes a minister to spot one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you compete. Relax now for there are sixteen names of the books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes - but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

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

**COPY DEADLINE -
10th September 2003**

to

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MERMAIDS AND COWS

The weather was wonderful for a ringing outing, sunny but not too hot, when assorted vehicles assembled at SS Peter & Paul, Edenbridge at the start of the West Wickham/Cudham ringing outing. We marvelled at the old church clock, which has only one hand, and dates from possibly the 16th century. The ringing chamber was a sort of minstrels gallery, with interesting bell mats made by Susan Horniman, depicting bells with relevant numbers. A touch of Grandsire Triples started the ringing off, with contributions from West Wickham, Cudham and Chelsfield ringers. A second attempt sounded even better. Then followed Rounds and Call Changes for the less experienced folk, and Kent Major for the "experts", which sounded lovely. After that was Plain Hunt on 7 and a final touch of Bob Triples before it was time to go off to the next tower, St Mary Magdalen at Cowden.

There is an interesting mermaid statue in the graveyard and the tower is a ground floor ring, with huge wooden tower support beams inside. There is also a set of chiming ropes, but I don't know if they are used. Off went the band with Grandsire Doubles, followed by Cambridge. Then a touch of Bob Doubles (with me on 2!) for which I am grateful for Nick Wilkins help, as otherwise I wouldn't have got through it! The more experienced band rang Stedman, then a touch of Bob Doubles before the experts rang Double Oxford. The final ringing was a plain course of Grandsire, rung by a mainly Cudham band.

The next tower was St Mary the Virgin at Hartfield which is another ground floor ring. Yellow Welsh poppies nodded outside the door. There was a spot of rain here, but nothing too substantial. The ropes are in the church porch, which also contains a map of the graveyard showing where all the plots are, which created quite a lot of interest. It was getting towards lunchtime and Alison Dyer (Cudham captain) had brought some "cow biscuits" for us to nibble, which brought on waves of nostalgia among the assembled ringers (actually, they are officially "malted milk" biscuits). First ringing was another touch of Bob Doubles, with two of us less experienced folk inside, so it didn't go quite as well as the previous tower. Then Cambridge - which stuttered a bit, perhaps too near lunch! After that Grandsire Doubles with young Chris Fry on the treble, followed by St Clements by the experienced band and then a textbook lower, before going off to The Anchor for lunch. This is a 14th century pub and provided good food, although one or two people took a while to be served, not surprising as there were

at least sixteen of us! Chris Fry ordered a kebab that astonished everyone by being served vertically on a sort of wrought iron hanging hook - very fancy!

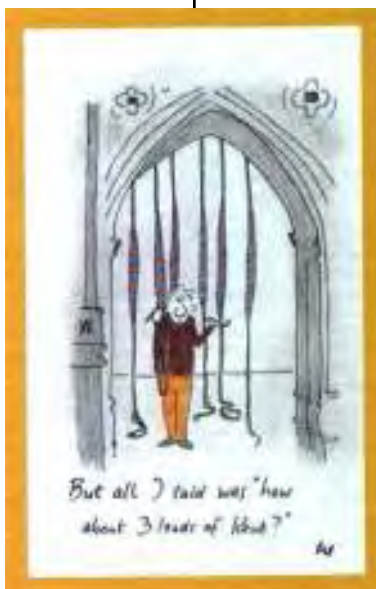
After lunch it was time to go deep into the Ashdown Forest and Pooh country to visit a very modern looking church, Christchurch at Fairwarp. The car park is very easy to zoom past, but we all got there eventually. This is an 8 bell tower with bells dating from 1936, lots of stairs to go up and the heaviest ring of the day. There are some very odd sound effects in the ringing chamber if the door is open, particularly if the door to the belfry is open as well. First off was Plain Hunt on 7 (not our best effort!) followed by a very good touch of Grandsire Triples. This was followed by Kent and, not to be daunted, another go at Plain Hunt on 7. Several people took the opportunity to go up into the belfry to look at the bells, and then it was time to ring down, successfully ending in Queens.

Now it was time for the last tower of the day, St Mary at Newick. The car park was down a very narrow road, but we all managed to get there, even my camper van. I had offered to take the key back at the previous tower, and so arrived to find ringing already started. The experienced band were ringing Bob Minor, but it was obvious they were difficult bells, as the striking was not as good as I had heard the rest of the day. I was soon to find out myself as I ended up on the treble for rounds and call changes. They are very long ropes on a very light (5cwt tenor) ground floor ring, which were quite difficult to get the hang of. Undaunted, the experts rang Kent. I had a look round the church and there are some very interesting new windows that were put in for

the Millennium - etched rather than stained glass. With the late afternoon sun streaming in they looked very effective. We then rang another touch of Bob Doubles, with Alys giving me assistance as I was on number 5, and after that it was time to take the bells down.

So, another outing came to an end, very tiring, very enjoyable and as always I would like to thank Jon Fry for organising it and all the tower captains who allowed us to ring in their churches. Looking forward to next year - hope I will be better at Bob Doubles then!

Megan Smith



Tom Cullingworth - An Appreciation

I distinctly remember the date that I first met Tom; it was 17 June 1972. Normally it is difficult to pin-point a day or date when you first meet someone, but I have a reason for remembering this date as will be explained below.

The significance of this date was determined 50 years earlier on 17 June 1922 when my maternal grandparents were married at East Farleigh Church. As their Golden Wedding Anniversary approached my sister Angela and I, who at that stage were both enthusiastic and fairly new to the Exercise, wanted to pay a ringing tribute to our grandparents. We decided we wanted to ring a full peal on the six bells that East Farleigh had at that time and that I would seek to 'conduct' it.

John Barnes at Chelsfield was approached to see if he could ring and he advised that he was unavailable but suggested that I contact a ringer local to the East Farleigh/Maidstone area by the name of Thomas Cullingworth. This I duly did and informed him by telephone of the background and our intention to ring a peal of Bob Minor. He said he would be very pleased to participate and at my request was willing to ask three other ringers to complete the band. Tom also asked what I planned to call and I duly sent him the details and the order of the seven different 720's concerned. On subsequently telephoning Tom to check that he had received the details he informed me that his wife Lily had read my letter out to him as he was registered blind! This was one of the astonishing facts about Tom; his wife, Lily, would recite methods/blue lines and compositions to Tom for him to learn and he would then recite back before ringing- an amazing achievement for not only Tom but Lily too!

Having made the necessary arrangements we turned up on the appointed day and I remember that on arrival we had a problem with an obstinate clock hammer. Even with his almost non-existent eyesight, Tom had no hesitation in clambering up to the belfry to

scramble around and free the offending hammer which allowed us to ring the bells up.

With the family, including grandparents, listening we went into changes and 2 hours 49 minutes later the bells came back into rounds to successfully complete the celebratory peal. With the calibre of the other band members that Tom invited, there were no major scares and it was reassuring to know that Tom was following all the calls and ensuring that we achieved our goal with a delighted family listening on.

Interestingly, despite Tom ringing 2,350 peals, his late wife, Lily, rang only about 30 but I did ring in at least one with both of them. Tom was a modest, unassuming man who was just as happy helping improvers at a local tower as he was ringing peals but some of the statistics of his ringing life, as mentioned by the Rev. David Grimwood in his eulogy at Tom's funeral are worth repeating here.



ALL SAINTS, MAIDSTONE

Tom's peal ringing career stretched over 60 years. He rang peals in all the ringable towers in Kent and rang 501 peals at All Saints, Maidstone. This is some achievement on a 32cwt ten: he rang the tenor to something like 80 peals and circled the tower nearly 30 times! I believe he also rang over 200 peals at each of St. Michael & All Angels, Maidstone and East Farleigh (now 8). He was as legendary a ringer of heavy bells as Lily was of preparing sumptuous teas!

Tom was a giant of a man in every respect except stature and it was a privilege to have known him and rung with him. May he rest in peace.

Nick Wilkins

(There is a full transcript of the Rev. David Grimwood's eulogy on the KCACR website at www.kcacr.org.uk - Ed)

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Things at Beckenham continue in much the same vein as usual. Turn up, ring, and then go to the pub!

Well not exactly. The Beckenham Guild is coming up for some important centenaries in the next year or so. November sees the dedication of the bells and hopefully we will be having ringing to celebrate this event.

We have decided to try and tidy the ringing room up - 10th July - any visitors care to wave a cleaning cloth will be most welcome. Then following from this, we hope to have a recruitment drive to encourage new ringers into our newly cleaned ringing room.

On practice nights we are currently looking at Belfast Surprise Major - an exciting step forward as at least 5 of the band are trying their first blows in the method. No doubt this will inevitably lead to some exciting splicing if we ever master a plain course.

If there are any District members at a loose end on a Thursday evening, please come and join us. If you are looking to ring a particular method we will always try and ring it for you (assuming that constraints of time and the band do not preclude it).

Both James Hardy and myself would like to thank all the regular visitors who come and join us on a Thursday evening and help boost our practice nights. Please continue to come.

Jeremy Byers

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Progress!

Our young ringers - Rachel, Simone, Matthew and Jess - have all reached Call Changes stage. It may seem a small achievement, especially over a longish time, but when the



whole band is learning together, without accomplished "old hands" to help them out, each little step comes only after hours of crashing and clashing together. Some practice nights have seen only two or three more able ringers amongst the learners. It is a real tribute to the youngsters' determination that they have done so well.

We have a new recruit too - an "oldster" this time. Fred Driver (some time retired and rashly thinking of new hobbies to pursue), responded to an appeal after the morning service and is just reaching the comfortably co-ordinated stage (sort of!). I haven't yet dared tell him that the "two steps back" stage is yet to come. But he's enjoying the manic company of a small towerful of teenagers on Wednesdays.

Nancy Gay



BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Practices at Bromley Parish will be discontinued during July and August. Practices in September and afterwards are by arrangement and will start at 7.30.

David Kingston

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

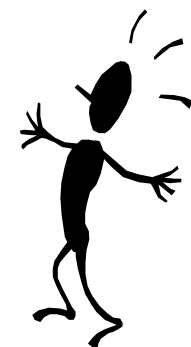
Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00 (1st Wednesday at Annunciation)

At the AGM held on 16th April, Peter Skinner was elected Tower Captain. This was because of the retirement of Roger Long who has served for many years. Roger will continue as Secretary and Treasurer and the Chislehurst ringers would like to thank him for all he has done for the tower as Captain.

After many weeks we were pleased to hear, at last, from



James Tate who has taken himself to Australia. He is finding Perth a very hospitable place and his days consist of a session on the beach, bellringing, sightseeing, and, rather mysteriously, knocking on doors in the evening! (he's selling financial services!)

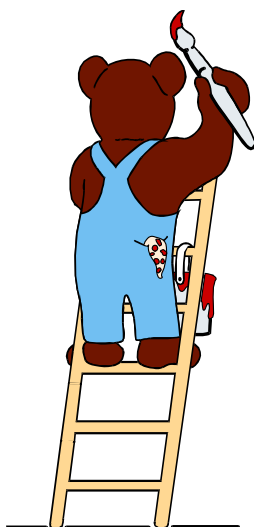
Jean Pailing

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

From the April newsletter, you will have been aware that we were hoping to change our practice times. Following the discovery that our main protestor had moved house, this has been duly implemented. Practice is now from 19.45 to 20.15.

In May we held two very successful open mornings after Sunday service. The primary aim was to encourage some new recruits to come along but also to raise the profile of the ringers within the church. We attracted about twenty people overall, along with associated family members. A brief explanation and demonstration was given before each person was invited to have a go, under strictly controlled conditions of course. A visit to see the bells and admire the view from the top of the tower was offered for those not too faint-hearted to accept the challenge. (Ours are not the easiest bells to access!). This resulted in a rather unusual request for one of us to take some wedding photographs, looking down on the bridal party a few weeks later.



As a P.R exercise, this event was worthwhile but more importantly we attracted two new learners, Mark and Vanessa. They have now attended several practices and two tied-bell sessions and are progressing very nicely. We hope to introduce them to the District in due course.

Like Beckenham, we also decided that our ringing room was looking rather shabby. It has since been thoroughly cleaned and plans are afoot to paint the walls and ceiling. If only we could agree on which colour! For the curious among you, please come along on to a Tuesday practice to see what we decide.



Although we rarely have enough to ring Minor or Triples, we have been more adventurous recently with Doubles methods. This has resulted in a quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury rung at Dartford and more noteworthy (Any quarter at Dartford is noteworthy! - Ed), a quarter comprising of six Doubles methods rung at Crayford. Both of these were 'firsts' for

Andrew and myself and counted towards our aim this year of ringing at least one quarter every month.

Debra Say

CUDHAM

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

Two new babies were born recently to Cudham ringers - Juliet and Alison. Juliet's, her first, is a boy called James Douglas Austin and Alison's is a girl called Seraphina who is a sister to Theo.

Megan Smith

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DEPTFORD

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

We had our tower annual meeting during Holy Week. For once, we had a change of officers, and I found myself elected Ringing Master. Len Morley had been doing the job for about 12 years now, and for the last couple of years he had been dropping hints that it was probably somebody else's turn. In an unguarded moment I must have shown an interest and that was all that it took! Very many thanks to Len for all his hard work in training and maintaining the current band.

The following week, at the second attempt, we rang our date touch of 2003 Minor (720 Cambridge, 1283 Plain Bob), ably called by Ian Mills, whose idea it had been in the first place.

It has been a good year for band-related weddings so far. On Saturday 17th May, the marriage took place of Len Morley's daughter, Rachel, to Philip Vial. We rang a quarter of mixed doubles immediately after the wedding: my personal thanks go to the ringer of the treble, whose counting skills stopped us ringing 1140 changes instead of the more conventional 1260...



Rachel and Philip were married here at Eltham. Two members of our band, Jane Harries and Geoff Barnes-Warden, decided to go slightly further afield, and had their wedding in Austria. Although none of us actually managed to

make it over there for the ceremony, our thoughts were very much with them, and another quarter was rung on the preceding Sunday. We look forward to congratulating them in person at their barbeque in July.



There was also a peal on 26th April, which I arranged for daughter Bryony's sixth birthday (and ended up calling, although that had not been the original plan – the loss of my chosen conductor with kidney stones 10 days before led to a hasty learning of Mr Middleton's well-known composition of Cambridge). Not known at the time, this turned out to be almost exactly 100 years since the first peal in the tower – 7 Minor on 13th April 1903.

Finally, (before I am accused of talking up too much space), we opened the tower to visitors on the morning of the Church Bazaar in June. I can't say we were inundated with visitors, but a number of people came up to look around the ringing chamber, and a couple of the braver ones peered through the trapdoor to see the bells themselves. There was one glimmer of a possible recruit, but we will have to wait and see if anything comes of that.

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

We reported last time on the work that was in progress on our bells. The work on the front six has now been completed and, thanks to a generous grant from the KCACR Bell Restoration Fund, we can afford to carry out similar work on the 7 and Tenor bells. (Work will commence on these in the Autumn).

It was a pleasing experience when all eight were rung again. Now that most of our bells are easier to ring, the less experienced members of our band are more confident in tackling the larger bells! The new ropes (from Peter Minchin) have arrived and are being fitted one at a time, as each one is being stretched prior to fitting.

While the various bells were out of action, we took the opportunity to clean the bell-frame, removing the build-up of grease and pigeon droppings! We are now repainting it. Safety in the tower has also been improved with the installation of emergency lighting in the ringing chamber and additional lights on the stairs.

And finally, the phone number for myself, the Tower Secretary at Erith, Christchurch is 020 8303 1*** and not as printed in the



KCACR handbook.

Elizabeth Brett

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

GREENWICH

Practice 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

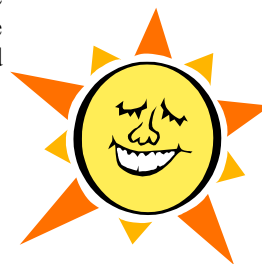
Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

The most important event since the last Newsletter for Horton Kirby has been the ringing of the first peal. This was not only the first on the new bells, but also the first ever in the tower. It was 3rd time lucky after 2 attempts back in December 2001. As Philippa had helped us such a lot during our long learning curve we gave the peal to her, but due to work commitments and back trouble she was not able to get a band together until now. So on 29th March we finally achieved it (I say we rather loosely as we only have one home tower ringer, Lesley Barclay, capable of such a feat). The band consisted of:

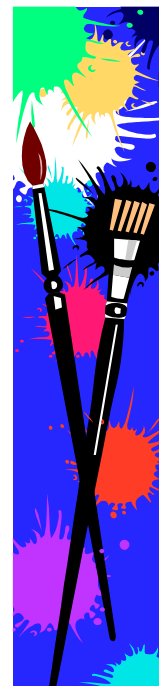
1. Jim Rooke
2. Lesley Barclay
3. John Barnes
4. Philippa Rooke
5. Clare Pruden
6. Nick Wilkins (Conductor)



and they rang St Clements, Cambridge and Plain Bob in 2hrs 38mins.

After that anything was possible..... So two of our ringers, along with four of our good friends and patient helpers from Eynsford and Farningham, rang a quarter of Bob Minor.

1. Sue Allport
2. Lesley Barclay
3. Julian Hemper
4. Frank Rogers
5. Richard Barker
6. Martin Luffman (Conductor)





ST MARY, HORTON KIRBY (CIRCA 1911)

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

Easter Sunday saw the start of ringing at the 10.30 service under the guidance of Ringing Master Frank Rogers. We are indebted to Catherine Lewis and her husband, who along with Frank, have given up many hours of their time to teach us.

Although we are a small band we hope to gradually increase in numbers. Visitors are welcome with any level of experience to come along and visiting bands from Essex and Surrey have enjoyed ringing our eight bells.

Yvonne Avery

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sidcup is looking for a new tower captain long term and/or someone to help out with practices most weeks at present. We have new members who need help and encouragement.

Yvonne Wright

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00

This was a first in method for the fifth ringer and first minor for the treble. I was only persuaded to ring after being promised that I could add up my four quarters to make a peal...all lies!

After a request from our local Scout leader we invited the Scouts to visit the tower one evening. We entertained(?) them with some Rounds and Call Changes and a burst of Plain Hunt and then after ringing down, took them up to see the bells. They seemed suitably impressed, but that could have been more from being able to go out on to the roof of the tower afterwards and look out over the village. That was until a short, very sharp shower, forced everyone to run for cover..... not easy when there is none!

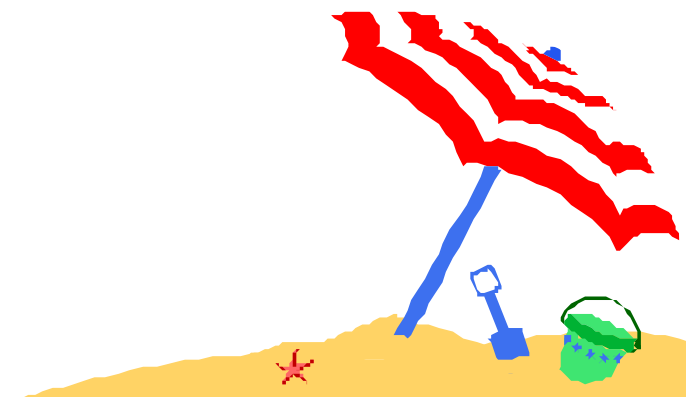
Finally, one of our ringers, Helen Kettle, got married on June 7th. Although the wedding was at Eynsford, as that is where they now live, four of our band managed to go and ring for her despite being rather involved with cooking burgers at our village fete – you have to get your priorities right!

It was a lovely day and we all thoroughly enjoyed the ringing particularly when Helen and her Dad Tim, also a ringer from Somerset, came and rang with us. Another plus was the champagne and cakes left in the tower for us by Helen and Adrian. It was much appreciated although the ringing deteriorated somewhat afterwards. The day finished off really well when almost our entire tower joined them at their reception for a really good party.

Sue Allport

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday



A Ringers Cake

Lesley asked me to send you a picture of the cake I did for her birthday. She also thought you might like me to describe how I did it, in case you think it is suitable for the newsletter (I did -Ed). Here goes:-

It was a rich fruit cake, iced and decorated with royal icing. I designed it using Artworks on my RISCOS, drawing the blue (and other colour) lines individually and using the "snap to grid" function to keep them neat. Artworks also allows text entry and manipulation as well as adding the little pictures to represent the candles and bell decorations.

I chose half a course of London Surprise Minor and a course of Stedman Doubles because they were Lesley's favourite challenges at the time. Not quite symmetrical but near enough to satisfy the eye. As they are both 60 changes, the lines were at the same angles, which I thought was important.

I printed the design at the exact size needed, then pinned it onto the top of the cake and made pinprick holes through the paper into the icing at every point where the blue lines changed direction. Then I "joined the dots", piping with white royal icing, and piped the lettering. When the icing had dried I painted the white lines with food colouring and some very fine paintbrushes, using red and blue as in Diagrams and other colours for the other lines. That was probably the slowest and trickiest part because it was important to avoid mistakes, which would make the colours run together and look wrong. Well, maybe there were one or two small mistakes but no one else noticed them.

I chose red for the lettering because it is vivid and energetic, just like Lesley, and gold for the candles and plastic bells because it is the traditional colour for 50 years. I used five candles, one for each decade. Finally I piped a shell border to give a finished look, like framing a picture.

Yes, the whole thing took hours, and was eaten a few hours later, but I still think it was worth it. The great thing about this sort of art is that I do not have to give it house room!

Karen Barter



Guidelines on Child Protection in the Context of Bellingring

These Guidelines have been prepared to provide a working document for Tower Captains and those teaching children to ring. They are not intended to be exhaustive and should be read in the context of the Church of England House of Bishops' Policy on Child Abuse and equivalent documents from other churches as well as the Government publication *Safe from Harm*, and the guidance issued by your diocese and parish church.

Introduction

Most dioceses have their own policy on child protection which tower captains should follow. Churches should also have an appointed person to whom any suspected cases of child abuse must be immediately reported. Tower Captains should find out who this person is. Some churches have a procedure for carrying out police or other checks and taking up references on anyone likely to be responsible for looking after children in the tower.

Suggested Guidelines:

- **Always** have two adults present when children are being taught.
- Invite parents of any trainees to come and watch a training session before allowing their child to start to learn. Require a parent to attend the first training session and ensure that the parent fully understands what is involved in learning to ring.
- Make sure a parent is responsible for delivering the child to and collecting the child from the tower.
- Ask parents to sign a "permission to ring" form.
- Keep an attendance register.
- Be aware of the insurance position for children.
- Never allow children up amongst the bells apart from an initial demonstration visit if it is safe to have one.
- For tower outings get parents to sign a detailed permission form. Organisers should be aware of Health and Safety and other issues: for example, it is inadvisable for a child to travel alone in a car with an adult.

Points to Check:

- Church insurance - does the policy have a lower age limit? In some churches this is 12 years of age.
- Is it possible to prevent inquisitive children from wandering up amongst "up" bells?
- Is there a tower Health and Safety Policy? Is it reviewed regularly? Is there an accident log book?
- Is there a first aid kit for minor accidents?
- Are you aware of any medical conditions affecting the children being taught? For example, epilepsy, diabetes.
- Is there an attendance register?
- Find out the name of the church's appointed person and the procedure to be followed in the event of a child making a disclosure about possible abuse. Always follow up such allegations, avoid detailed questioning of the child and never promise confidentiality.

Kent Picture Quiz

Each of the pictures illustrates a Town or Village in Kent so thinking caps on. No prizes - it's just for fun! Answers on page 14.



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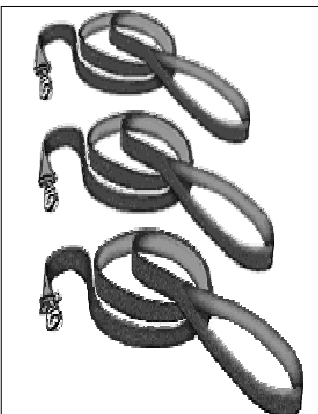
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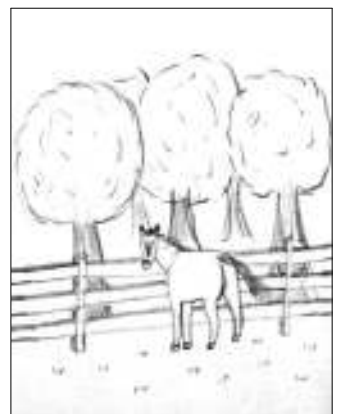
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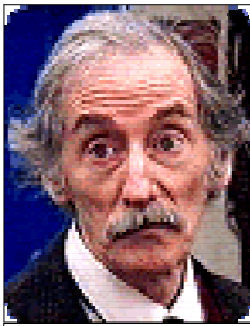
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12

The Experience

"I just can't do it, darling. When I signed the contract they didn't mention anything about having to learn to ring bells". These were the first words Francis Matthews spoke to me when we gathered for the second training session. We had a great deal of sympathy for his plight. He and three regulars from the show:- David Lonsdale (David), Peter Benson (Bernie) and Geoffrey Hughes (Vernon) had been allotted a mere two sessions of 4 hours duration to learn to handle a bell. In addition Francis, the most nervous of them, was supposed to be the expert, showing the others how to do it, and the script required him to ring a bell up to the balance whilst explaining what was happening. A tall order for an expert to achieve "on camera" without fumbling.



Peter Benson

Practice and filming took place at Wath-juxta-Ripon, a small village in North Yorkshire with a ground floor ring of six, which are not the easiest to handle as they are only 7½ cwt and a longish draught. It had been chosen for easy access and because of the approximate match with the church being used for the exterior shots. Our involvement came rather late as the first approach was to the PCC and local ringers, and then extra help was drafted in. The teachers were Philip Dale (Kirklington), Ian Johnson (Masham), Martin Kirk, David and Jennie Town (Northallerton), with Caroline Birdsell (Kirklington) and Jane Bastow (PCC) providing welcome refreshments and dealing with local issues. We were paid for our services and this money was donated to the augmentation fund for Pickhill bells.

All the actors (or artists as we learned to call them) worked extremely hard. Peter told us about the difficult things they had to do on set. These included the odd bit of welding and attempting to get old and temperamental vehicles to stop "on the mark", especially worrying when the vehicle is a bus full of rather elderly extras! All agreed that ringing was the hardest thing they had had to learn. However, by the end of the second session all

but Francis were feeling fairly confident and they were all handling on their own and following a bell rung steadily. Meanwhile we had a first chance to look at the script and made alterations to some glaring errors, although we had no control over the story-line, and what we had heard about it made us a little uneasy.

The next morning we arrived at Wath at 08.45 and already there were vans, cables and people everywhere. The first scene to be shot was purely dialogue so there was quite a time to hang around. This gave us an opportunity to chat to people who didn't look too busy and find out the diversity of jobs involved in a day's filming. We also made inroads into the tea and coffee, which was provided all day long.

Noreen Kershaw, director, and Paul the First Assistant Director were determined to try to get things right and safety was always paramount in their minds. The bells were rung down for any scene which didn't actually involve ringing, and Paul made sure that the crew knew "the bells are up, do not touch the ropes" on all other occasions. We had had to make certain "adjustments" and one of these was to turn Wath into an anti-clockwise four. We were using bells 2 -5 and the second is so flighty that Francis, who was supposed to be on the treble, would have found it impossible. No sound was being recorded during the ringing anyway as this was to be dubbed later. The ringing room is so small that we had agreed that the ropes would have to hang to the ground during the recording of some of the dialogue, as any knots would

obstruct the artists' faces. The bells were actually "down" at this stage anyway and so were quite safe.

It was extremely cosy in that small room with the artists, two cameramen, one sound man and various ringers squashed in tiny corners just out of shot! The main problem came with the first filming of the three "learners" ringing together - we thought they looked very insecure, but Noreen complained that they

were "too good". These three are part of the comedy element of the show and they were meant to be hopeless. After they had pointed out that in fact it was unsafe to try to ring badly, it got a little edgy and we were very unhappy about the way



things were going. Noreen had a script to film and a very limited time in which to do it, and we could understand her problem since we could do nothing to change the basic story-line.

We had another go, and the artists did what they were employed to do – they acted! So



David Lonsdale

David, who was in fact the most competent handler but who plays a rather "simple-minded" character, started gazing up, so of course he naturally caught the sally too soon and lost control. Meanwhile Peter looked very scared and nervous and under-pulled, with the same effect. Neither were in any danger since the bells are light, they were in fact pretty competent and there were ringers nearby at all times, but it will

not be ringing as we might prefer it to be portrayed!

Aside from the misgivings about how the ringing would look to those "in the know" and what signals it might give to others (e.g. that they could just get hold and have a go), the rest of the day was enlightening and we were treated extremely well. We were driven to the lunch site where we had a two course meal on the "canteen bus" and later there was afternoon tea too. I don't understand how they aren't all terribly overweight! We were amused by the sight of Peter Benson negotiating steps whilst carrying four puddings in a very practised manner. We wondered if he had been a waiter whilst "resting" at some stage, or perhaps this was another talent he had acquired on the "Heartbeat" set!

We were told that it was not a typical day's filming as it was all on one enclosed site so there were no problems with keeping back the public, as there often are with outdoor scenes. There were only five artists involved so limited need for make-up, and costume changes but a lot of technical problems with the size of the place. There were many other occasions when the filming involved ringing, so we spent a lot of the day ringing bells up and then down again for safety and were very pleased they had not chosen a heavier ring.

I was trying to learn a method for a peal the following Saturday, and the blue line and grid provoked much comment and gave many opportunities to explain just how complicated ringing could be. We did a demonstration of handbell ringing too. Everybody seemed very interested and very appreciative of our involvement.

Eventually the dialogue was completed and we simply ran out of time when it came to filming the bells and frame. The crew

work very long hours day after day as filming takes place during most weeks of the year, consequently, an effort is made to try to keep to time. The space upstairs is very tight, and it was going to be very difficult technically in any case. However, two of the sound crew very kindly stayed on to record the bells.



This was tricky as at no time had the ropes ever fallen in anything approaching rounds! The bells were recorded individually as we rang them up, so that bits could be dubbed in. Then we tried to copy what had happened when the three bells had been rung, with two of them dropping fairly rapidly – remembering that they were supposed to be the back three and not the bells which had been rung. Then, for the "better" ringing we did some plain hunt on four, as bits of this might just possibly coincide with the fall of the ropes. We realised that at no time had any of them, other than the artists, heard where a bell actually strikes when it turns over, but our offer to help in the editing process was politely refused.

Three of the artists had transport arranged for them so had to leave when the filming finished, but Geoffrey Hughes lives locally during the filming, and so he dashed off to get changed, and then returned to have a ring on open bells. He rang the fourth to rounds on six, with Martin standing by, and he did extremely well with minimal assistance. It is a shame his filming commitments make it unlikely that he could take it up as a hobby.



Geoffrey Hughes

After this we met up with the Directors and soundmen for a couple of pints in the local. It had been hard work but incredibly interesting and all the crew were very appreciative of our efforts. The end result may not be ringing as we know it, but that is the point of the story-line, and the aim of the programme is light early-evening entertainment. At one point in the dialogue David says "I'm going to miss all this - being part of a team. I've never been part of a team before." I felt this captured the spirit of one of the main attractions of bell-ringing as a hobby.

Jennie Town
on www.campanophile.co.uk

Memorial Quarters in Eastbourne

Sadly, my stepfather Terry Beck, died just before Christmas. Although Terry was not a particular churchgoer he did attend Christ Church, Eastbourne for occasional services often connected with his grandchildren. Terry and my mum, Pauline, had met up with the Woolwich and Greenwich ringers on some outings and attended one of our summer dinners.

I told my mum and Fr. Neil Chatfield, the Vicar, that we would come down to Eastbourne sometime to ring a memorial quarter. It then came to light that one of our ringers, Bill Lanyon, also had a family memorial to commemorate. His great grandfather (times 4) was buried in St. Mary's, Eastbourne in 1803. We therefore decided to make this a joint event and also ring at another couple of towers in the area. I contacted Alan Baldock who kindly helped with the arrangements and provided some ringers for us. We duly rang two well-struck quarters.

My mum kindly arranged lunch at her friends', John and Maureen Males, house which proved to be a splendid occasion! John is an organ builder and we were able to have a look round his workshop as well as walk around the huge garden. We also went for a quarter of Stedman Triples at Hailsham but unfortunately this went wrong after about 30 minutes. The day then ended up with general ringing at Chiddingly.

Many thanks to Alan and the Sussex ringers who took part. Non-quarter peal ringers who took part were Jenny White, Ken Deller, Trish Dale, Penny Parsons and Canon John Ardley. John kindly said a prayer before the Christ Church quarter.

The day proved to be a successful venture and we hope to reciprocate with a visit of the Sussex ringers to London and to do a repeat trip next year.

Graham Long

Quarters:

St. Mary, Eastbourne,
17 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Alan Baldock (c), 2. Christine Baldock, 3. Graham Long, 4. Alan D. Pink, 5. Stephen Beckingham, 6. Bill Lanyon, 7. Nigel Parsons, 8. Richard Bing.

In memory of Charles Smith Mortimer, great grandfather (x4) of the sixth ringer, who died 30 March 1803 and is buried in this church.

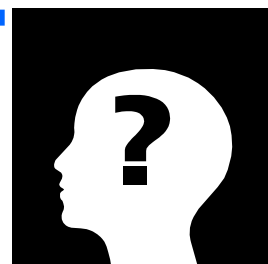
Christ Church, Eastbourne,
17 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Stephen Beckingham, 2. Bill Lanyon, 3. Christine Baldock, 4. Alan Baldock, 5. Alan D. Pink, 6. Graham Long, 7. Nigel Parsons (c), 8. Susan Collins (first on eight).

In memory of Terry Beck, 11 May 1941 to 13 December 2002, stepfather of the sixth ringer.



QUIZ NIGHT



Date - Saturday 22nd November 2003

Time - 7.30 p.m.

Venue - Eltham Church Hall

Further Details to follow but book the date in your diaries now!



Quiz answers

1. Sandwith 2. Dymchurch 3. Cliffe 4. Headcorn 5. Edenbridge 6. Leysdown 7. Tonbridge 8. Hever 9. Leeds 10. Loose 11. Maidstone 12. Paddock Wood

Kent Picture Quiz Answers

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke): it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a few fascinating moments for you. YES, THERE will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will admit it usually takes a minister to spot one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you compare. Relax now for there are sixteen names of preachers found fifteen books in twenty minutes - but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

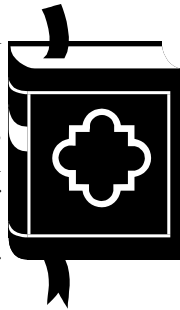
The sixteenth one was PREACHER - the alternative title to Ecclesiastes. It is only to be found in the King James version.

Bible Quiz Answers

Religious Observances

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (or should have been!):

1. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
2. Announcement in a church bulletin for a national PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."
3. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
4. Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8pm in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
5. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
6. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
7. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
8. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
9. Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
10. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
11. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
12. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
13. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
14. During the absence of our Pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
15. The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."
16. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
17. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
18. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
19. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
20. Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
21. The Priest's group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed



potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

22. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
23. Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
24. The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.
25. Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.
26. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
27. This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
28. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
29. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
30. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
31. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
32. Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
33. The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."



-----Original Message-----

From: Sheila Charles [mailto:sheilacharles@hotmail.com]

Sent: 05 June 2003 04:17

To: ringing-chat@bellringers.net

Subject: [r-c] Just to introduce myself to the group

Hi all, thought I would join the group in order to dig out a few old contacts. I was a ringer at St. John's in Sidcup Kent in the mid seventies.

Unfortunately, I then gave up when I started work. I now live in Victoria, Australia and I am back ringing at St Pius in Heidelberg. Would love to hear from any one who might remember me.

Sheila Charles

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
22 February 2003		Eltham	5152	Yorkshire Surprise Major 03/345
29 March 2003		Horton Kirby	5040	Minor 3m. 03/416
05 April 2003		Lewisham	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major 03/394
08 April 2003		Beckenham	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal 03/395
26 April 2003		Eltham	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major 03/465
03 May 2003		Bickley	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major 03/491

The above peals were rung for the KCACR except those at Lewisham (Friends of Dorothy) and Bickley (College Youths).
Congratulations to :

James Tate who rang the 4th to Yorkshire Surprise Major at Eltham for his first peal.

Lesley Barclay rang the 2nd to 3m. Minor at Horton Kirby for her first peal on an inside bell. This was also the first peal on the bells.

David Holdridge rang the Tenor to Cambridge Surprise Major at Eltham for his first peal in the method as conductor.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
21 February 2003		Bromley	1280	London Surprise Major 03/468
02 March 2003		Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 03/301
09 March 2003		Bromley	1344	Stedman Triples 03/300
23 March 2003		Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 03/374
28 March 2003		Greenwich	1282	Cambridge Surprise Royal 03/468
29 March 2003		Woolwich	1288	Grandsire Triples 03/372
30 March 2003		Chelsfield	1320	Plain Bob Minor 03/468
05 April 2003		Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Triples 03/472
05 April 2003		Eltham	1260	Stedman Triples 03/472
06 April 2003		Chelsfield	1320	Plain Bob Minor 03/468
06 April 2003		Crayford	1260	Stedman Doubles 03/420
13 April 2003		Crayford	1260	Stedman Triples 03/442
20 April 2003		Deptford	1260	Grandsire Triples 03/468
20 April 2003		Eltham	2003	Cambridge & Plain Bob Minor 03/468
06 May 2003		Greenwich	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 03/494
14 May 2003		Horton Kirby	1260	Plain Bob Minor 03/593
17 May 2003		Eltham	1260	Doubles 4m. 03/593
18 May 2003		Chelsfield	1260	Minor 2m.
25 May 2003		Crayford	1260	Grandsire Doubles 03/591
04 June 2003		Chelsfield	1272	Minor 3m.
08 June 2003		Chelsfield	1272	Minor 3m.

Congratulations to:

Ken Deller who rang the Tenor to Grandsire Doubles at Greenwich and Richard Barker the 4th to Plain Bob Doubles at Eynsford for their first quarters at the first attempt.

Brenda Barton who rang the 3rd for her first of Grandsire Doubles at Crayford.

Andrew Sinclair who rang the 3rd to Stedman Doubles at Crayford for his first Stedman.

Chris Fry and Julian Hemper who rang the Treble and 3rd respectively to Plain Bob at Chelsfield for their first minor.

Sue Allport, the Treble, and Richard Baker, the 5th, to Plain Bob at Horton Kirby for their first minor.

Rhiannon Meredith and Michael Royaltton-Kisch who rang the 4th and 6th for their first Stedman Triples at Bromley.

Lesley Barclay for ringing her first touch of Norwich on the 2nd to 3m. Minor at Chelsfield.

Rachel Backhouse, the 2nd, and David Brown, the 4th, for their first London Major at Bromley.

Angela Wilkins and David Brown who rang the 3rd and 7th to Cambridge at Greenwich for their first Surprise Royal.

From The Ringing World up to edition No.4808 June 20, 2003.

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Meeting held at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, on Saturday, 12th April 2003

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Sara Hardy of Beckenham, Mrs. Nancy Gay of Biggin Hill, Mr. David Kingston of Bromley, Mr. Jim Rooke of Chelsfield, Mr. Alex Britton and Mrs Debra Say of Crayford, Mr. Len Dumper and Mr. David Holdridge of Eltham, Mrs. Carol Eastaugh of Christ Church, Erith, and Mrs. Margaret Macey of Foots Cray.



In the absence of the Chairman and on the proposition of Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. Len Morley and with the approval of the members, Mr. Mark Jones was invited to take the chair, which he did and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 Miss Freda Cannon.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.



5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Bill Belsham of Sidcup, was re-elected on the proposition of Mrs. Yvonne Wright, seconded by Mrs. Ann Barnes, and the following were elected:

BROMLEY	Mr. Paul Kay (jnr.)	}	P. Miss Christine Webb
	Mr. Matthew Spencer (jnr.)	}	S. Mr. David Brown
FOOTS CRAY	Miss Janice Odell		P. Mrs. Margaret Macey
			S. Mrs. Jan Cass
SHOREHAM	Mr. David Avery	}	P. Mr. Rupert Cheeseman
	Mrs. Yvonne Avery	}	S. Mr. Mark Jones

Members were pleased to learn that Mr. Frank Rogers was training a new band at Shoreham. The election of Mr. and Mrs. Avery brought that tower into union with the Association.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annual General Meeting

Mr. Len Morley reminded members that the Association's Annual General Meeting was due to be held at Staplehurst on Easter Monday. He urged members to attend this meeting, particularly as the constitution of the General Committee, a matter which had been raised by the Lewisham District, would be on the agenda. Members were reminded that in essence this would lead to a smaller General Committee and more flexibility in its composition.

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

Mr. Richard Bing reminded members about the concert at the Redhill Theatre by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain. Details were available in the Newsletter.

Newsletter

Miss Freda Cannon enquired whether it would be possible to send the Newsletter out earlier. Mr. Rupert Cheeseman said there would be no difficulty about this if members were able to let him have their contributions earlier. Mr. Mark Jones took this opportunity to thank Mr. Rupert Cheeseman for another excellent Newsletter.

Simulator Sessions (County event)

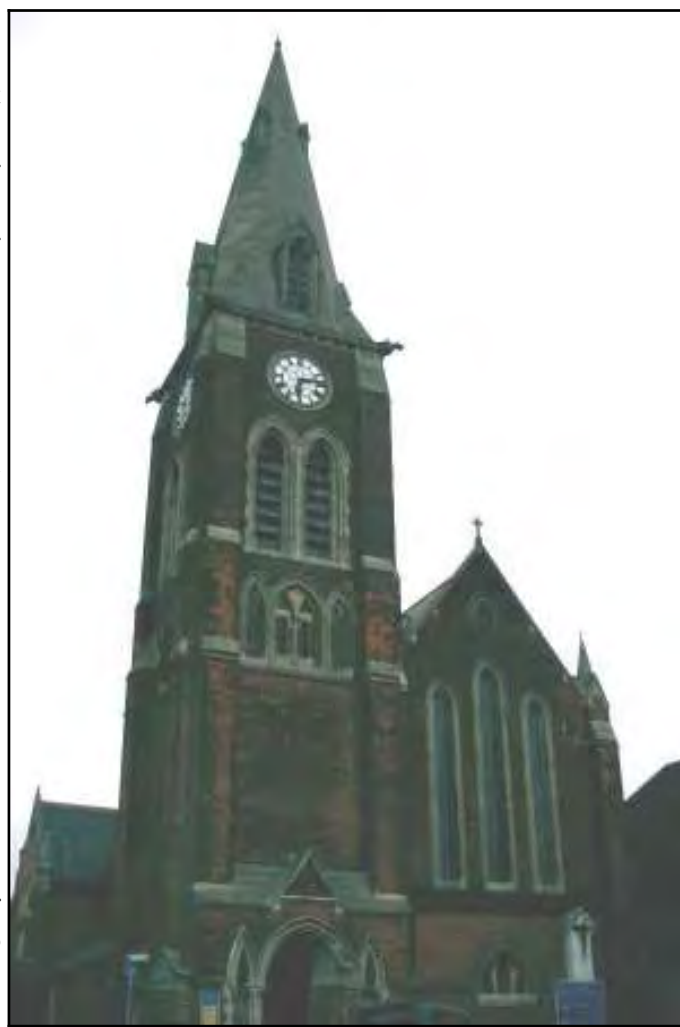
Mr. Rupert Cheeseman informed the meeting that, due to lack of support, the simulator sessions had been cancelled.

District Website

Mr. James Hardy apologized for the lack of activity on the District's website. It would be up-dated as soon as possible.

Vote of Thanks

Miss Freda Cannon proposed a warm vote of thanks to the Vicar of Bromley Common, Canon Insley, for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr. Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the local ringers for an excellent tea.



ST LUKE, BROMLEY COMMON

KCACR Meeting 2nd May 2003

AGM 2004 - Next year will be the Rochester District's turn to host the event. They had written to the General Secretary asking if approval could be given to them organising a grand draw prior to the event where each district would be asked to sell tickets prior to the AGM. The purpose being, to raise funds for the BRF which was duly approved.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP - The KCACR membership application form refers to the "Conditions of Membership" but there doesn't appear to be a formal set of words to indicate what these conditions are. The meeting decided that the following action be taken:-

- Form on the Web to be adjusted to remove this reference.
- The Secretary is to write to all Districts to collate information about each District's understanding of what constitutes the "Conditions of Membership"
- The Secretary and Chairman following receipt of this information to put together a form of words.

TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT - Generally all events organised had been well supported, except for the simulator sessions in Holy Week, where the interest had not been as good as expected. In future this type of training will be incorporated into "whole day" training. The sub-committee asked for their budget to be increased from £300 to £500, this was subsequently approved.

It is worth noting that each District can apply to Catherine Lewis for a grant towards specific training in the Districts, prior to any training event, details of income and expenditure and anticipated shortfall would be required.

Discussion also took place about who can use the KCACR name and logo and what the criteria should be for allowing anyone to do so. It was decided that this item should be discussed at the next meeting to enable each district to have the opportunity of discussing this and making their views known.

PUBLICITY - Boards now at Brasted, Frank Lewis to update them. If anyone has any suitable information please advise Frank as soon as possible. The yellow parish leaflet is currently being reprinted, the "welcome flyer" will also be updated. The meeting also approved the appointment of Frank Lewis as Web Master.

MOBILE PHONE MASTS IN TOWERS - There was some discussion about this following news that one tower without ringers has recently had equipment installed without any apparent consultation with any bellringers or telephone engineers. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the Diocese asking that ringers and engineers are consulted prior to any faculty being given, thus ensuring that all Health and Safety implications can be taken into account.

BRF GRANT APPROVAL - The following grants were approved:-

Brasted	£4000
Erith, Christchurch	£2500
Nettlestead	£3500
Orlestone	£300
Smarden	£ 3 0 0 0



providing that Whitechapel approve the proposed single beam support for the bells.

Beneden the grant was reduced by 50% to £1000 and is only to be paid on the proviso that they need it.

Rochester, St Margaret approval was withheld because it was felt there was insufficient information available.

It would be helpful in future if any tower seeking a grant for their bells can ensure that the District Reps are aware of all relevant circumstances.

125th ANIVERSARY SERVICE AND DINNER

Bellringer's Service with a Bellringers Organist is proposed for the 3rd Saturday in May 2005 where it is hoped the Archbishop will, as patron, make an address. Later the same day there will be an evening dinner, venue to be confirmed.

HANDBOOKS- Several people raised issues about mistakes in the new Handbooks and delivery procedures. It was decided that the District Secretaries and the Editor should meet for a "Pre-Publication Meeting" to resolve these issues before going to print.

DATES

24.5.03 Quex - 12 bell practice, everyone welcome but must be able to ring minimum of Grandsire Cinques

28.6.03 8 bell striking competition - Method Stedman Triples - calling sequence to be 240 changes as per page 51 of the Ringing World Diary.

5.7.03 Quex Barbeque 7.30pm. Camping will also be available.

26.7.03 Ringing Roadshow at Lincolnshire Showground, 85 exhibitors are expected along with a fairground organ featuring some Taylors bells

13.9.03 Essex Trophy to be held at East Meon

29.9.03 6 bell competition to be held at Thannington



Months where 5th Saturday 12 bell practice at Canterbury Cathedral

NEXT MEETING - will be on August 23rd 2003 where the following will be discussed:-

KCACR - Aims and objectives of the society - feedback would be helpful

Conditions of Membership - again feedback required please

Approval to be given to the Lewisham District suggestion that substitute officers should be allowed to attend KCACR meetings (up to a maximum of 2 officers at each meeting) thus hopefully providing some flexibility and better communication.

Len Morley

Nettlestead Open Day

Did you realize that there were only 7 towers in Kent with a ring of 5 bells? Why not come along to St. Mary the Virgin at Nettlestead (see under Maidstone District in the Handbook) on Saturday 6th September, 2003, between 10.00am and 6.00pm and enjoy an almost unique experience?

We are currently fund raising to enable us to have the bells overhauled and put onto roller bearings. We also hope to have a new bell cast to augment the ring to 6 bells.

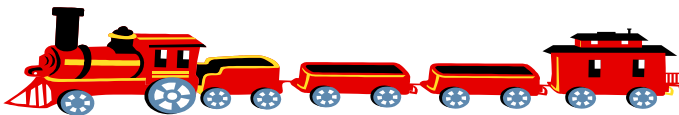
Our own organist and her predecessor are also helping us to raise funds by doing a twelve hour organ marathon.

So why not come along - we are on the B2015 - sign posted parking is available in the field in front of the Church. We would like a donation of £1 per ringer please. Refreshments will be available all day. If you would like a Ploughman's lunch it would be helpful if you could phone' 01622 871743 to book by 31st August.

Our Tower Captain David, will be attempting to do a 1000 piece jigsaw during the 12 hours. Each piece will be numbered and you are invited to 'buy a piece', there will be spot prizes. We will also be having a bric a brac stall.

So why not book this date in your diary. Have a ride out and see our lovely 15th Century church with very old stained glass. Have a listen to our organists play our Father Willis organ who built the one in the Royal Albert Hall, have a lunch, tea or a snack, and most important, have a ring on 5 bells.

We look forward to seeing you.
Marguerite Allen



In tidying up the KCACR correspondence files for my successor, I am reminded of a request from Bernard Gambrill of Union Railways. He suggested that bells be rung along the route of the new rail link when the first train enters service in September 2003.

This dates from nearly three years ago when I had only just become Secretary, and I recall how disillusioned I was by the almost totally negative response from the General Committee. Mr Gambrill is himself a ringer, and has connections with the Association through his uncle, Alf Gambrill, of Ash by Sandwich.

In my reply, explaining that the Association did not wish to be part of the celebrations, I did mention to Mr Gambrill that this did not preclude individual effort. It will be the opening of the first new main line railway in this country since 1892; anyone who wishes to mark this event by ringing bells may obtain details from Mr Bernard Gambrill, Head of Public Affairs, Union Railways (South) Ltd, 106 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 4TU. Tel 020 7681 5000.

Peter Dale

District Events and Special Methods

Sat 12th July District Meeting: Sidcup, 4.00p.m. Bells, 4.30p.m. Service.

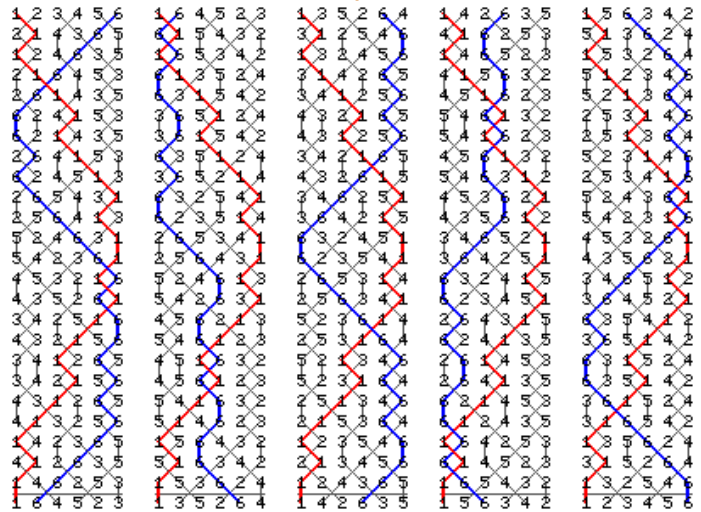
Sat 19th July District Surprise Royal Practice: Beckenham 7.00-9.00p.m.

Special methods: Cambridge, Yorkshire and London No.3.

Sat 26th July District Practice: Horton Kirby 7.00-9.00p.m.

Special methods: Grandsire Doubles & Norfolk S Minor

Norfolk Surprise Minor



Wed 27th Aug District 12 Bell Practice: Southwark Cathedral 6.30p.m. - All welcome.

Sat 13th Sept District Practice: Chislehurst (Annunciation) (tbc) 7.00-9.00p.m.

Sat. 11th Oct Annual District Meeting: Bexley

Sat 25th Oct District Practice: TBA

Sat 15th Nov Call Change Competition: Downe, 2.30p.m. draw.

Sat 15th Nov District Practice: TBA

Sat 6th Dec District Practice: TBA

Sat 13th Dec District Carol Service: Beckenham.

