



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk)

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

OCTOBER 2004

## 120 Club

For those of you who haven't heard about the proposed 120 club or don't know how it works this is intended to be a brief introduction. We hope that this will be a good way for the Lewisham District to raise money for the County Bell Restoration Fund and will also be something that can be targeted at those members who aren't routinely able to make it to District events.

We will be aiming to sell 120 (or more if we're really successful!) shares at a cost of £10 for one year's membership. There will be 10 draws a year with prizes totalling £45 each draw and hopefully double prizes twice a year. One of the points that we would like the next meeting to consider is how you would like the prizes split; eg 3 larger prizes of £20, £15 and £10 or perhaps more chances to win with prizes of £20, £10, £10 and £5 or £15, £15, £10 and £5 say.

Because this falls under the auspices of the Lotteries and Amusements Act it has to be registered with the local authority. As this involves a registration fee (£35) and an annual fee (£17.50) thereafter we need the authority of the meeting to go ahead. I am willing to act as the named promoter (unfortunately I won't be able to attend the October meeting) unless anyone else is desperate to take this on! Assuming all goes to plan we should be able to start selling tickets in January with the first draw to take place next April. We will be grateful for any volunteers to sell tickets around the district next year.

Rachel Backhouse

## Next District Event

**District Meeting  
St. Mark, Biggin Hill**

**on  
Saturday 9th October**

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

Names for tea to  
Nancy Gay on 01959 572\*\*\*  
or [ne\\_gay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ne_gay@yahoo.co.uk)  
by **Wednesday 6th October please.**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at SS Peter and Paul, Shoreham on Saturday 10 July 2004
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. KCACR Committee Meeting report
5. Reports: Ringing Master  
Secretary  
Membership Secretary
6. Election of Officers: **Retiring**  
Chairman David Holdridge\*  
Ringing Master James Hardy  
Assistant Ringing Master Jeremy Byers  
District Representatives Sara Hardy  
Len Morley  
Press Representatives & Rupert & Cathy Cheeseman  
Newsletter Editors  
Sales Representative Jim Rooke  
Secretary Christine Webb  
Membership Secretary Mark Jones  
\* not seeking re-election
7. Election of new members
8. Programme for 2005  
8<sup>th</sup> Jan DM - Beckenham (tbc)  
26<sup>th</sup> February County 8 bell competition  
5<sup>th</sup> Mar Striking Competition  
9<sup>th</sup> April DM  
9<sup>th</sup> July DM - Deptford  
8<sup>th</sup> Oct ADM  
19<sup>th</sup> Nov Call change competition - Horton Kirby (tbc)  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol service
9. Bell Restoration Fund – update on current plans  
- District open day  
- 120 club
10. Any other business
11. Vote of thanks

# Chairman's Bit

At the October ADM, I shall have completed my third year as Lewisham District Chairman, and will therefore be standing down to make way for a new candidate. It hardly seems like three years since I was first elected, and I can safely say that have thoroughly enjoyed the job. The most stressful thing about it has definitely been having to think of something new and hopefully relevant to write about for the newsletter - I don't think I've missed an edition, despite the occasional despairing email from the editor, reminding me that the deadline has yet again passed! (You haven't. It's been good not having to worry about filling this column. Thanks - Ed)



In standing down, I would like to put on record my appreciation for the work of all the other District Officers. In particular the two Secretaries, both Chris Webb and her predecessor Mary Andrews, for keeping me on the straight and narrow during the meetings, and for ensuring that I was fully briefed beforehand!



In addition, one aspect of the Lewisham District which has made the Chairman's job very much easier - and it is something that you sometimes fail to appreciate until you have

seen what can happen when it is absent - is an ability to work together in a positive and forward-thinking manner, without allowing meeting debates to degenerate to the level of slanging matches and personal abuse. Long may this continue! I would like to wish my successor the very best of luck, and very much hope that he or she enjoys the job as much as I have.

Finally, one special item that I'd like to draw to your attention to is the KCACR's 125th Anniversary next year. As you will hopefully be aware by now, there will be a Service and lunch at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, with various other events being planned. This should be an excellent day, and a chance for the whole of the County to get together. Some towers may have on their walls the photograph taken at the Centenary celebrations in 1980 - in fact, a number of you may well have been there! It is clear from the size of the gathering that ringers from a lot of the Association's towers were there, and it would be good if we in the Lewisham District could show a good turn-out in 2005. More details will become available in due course, but please put the date in your diaries now.



David Holdridge

# Secretary's Bit

## Lewisham District Annual District Meeting Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at St Mark Biggin Hill

The agenda for the meeting is printed on page 1 of this Newsletter.

The main business of the Annual District Meeting is to elect District Officers for the coming year and arrange venues for the quarterly and annual meetings in 2005 as well as the two District Striking competitions, the call change and the six bell. Please consider whether your tower could host one of these and let us know at the meeting.

8<sup>th</sup> Jan DM - Beckenham (tbc)  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb County 8 bell competition  
5<sup>th</sup> Mar Striking Comp  
9<sup>th</sup> April DM  
9<sup>th</sup> July DM - Deptford (tbc)  
8<sup>th</sup> Oct ADM  
19<sup>th</sup> Nov Call change comp - Horton Kirby (tbc)  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol service

At this meeting two other important items will be discussed:

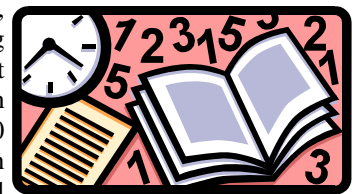
- The District Open Day
- The 120 Club

Both will need your support if they are to be effective in raising money for the County Bell Restoration Fund.



Philippa Rooke has already undertaken a great deal of work to arrange the Open Day and will be explaining what help she will need from all of us to make the day a success.

Rachel Backhouse, meanwhile, has been battling with the paperwork to find out exactly what is involved in setting up and running a 120 Club and registering it with the Local Authority. We will be seeking your views on some of the details of the 120 Club and asking you to approve the appointment of a small sub committee to run it. Last, but not least, we will be asking you to buy shares in the 120 Club and persuade others to do so. Subject to the approval of this meeting we hope to have them on sale at the beginning of 2005 with the first draw taking place in April 2005.



I look forward to seeing you all at Biggin Hill and hearing your views.

Christine Webb  
District Secretary



# Editorial



So another year has flown by and it's Annual District Meeting time again.

What with various anniversaries coming up, some of next years meetings have already got volunteers to host them but more are still needed. The proposed dates are on page 1 so, especially if your tower has not held one for a while, think about volunteering.

All the district officers posts are up for election as well and a list of them can also be found on page 1. David has come to the end of his 3 years in office and so a new chairman will definately be required. Hopefully, the new one will as good at submitting articles as David!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter over the last year. Keep the articles coming, the newsletter is what you make it.

*Rupert and Cathy*



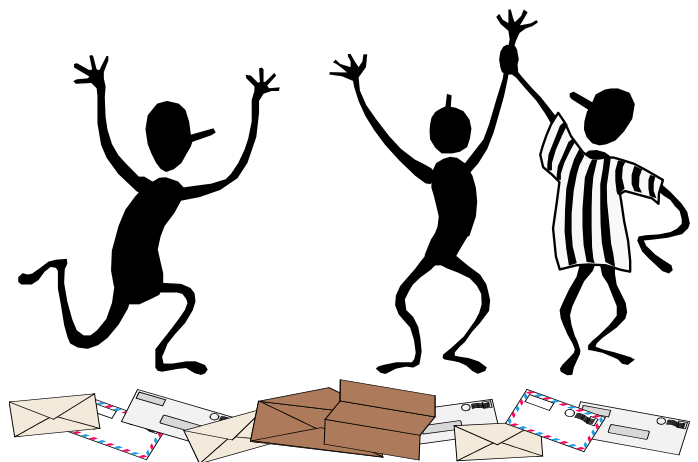
15 useless things sometimes found in ringing rooms by "Oddstruck"

1. Last year's wedding list.
2. An out of date Ringing World calendar.
3. A pre-war carpet sweeper which puts more dust back on the carpet than it removes.
4. A pile of 20 Ringing Worlds, all the same, dated 1974, which features the tower on the front page.
5. An old bell rope, much spliced, which is now too short to be of use, but kept 'just in case'.
6. A tin of solid grease, guaranteed to stop any bell dead in its tracks if put in the bearings.
7. A box which used to contain handbells, now just used as a dump for odds and ends (the handbells were "borrowed" by the tune ringers 10 years ago and never returned).
8. A pile of last year's unwanted Association reports.
9. A wall chart showing blue lines of the standard 8 surprise major methods. The local band can manage plain hunt doubles on a good day.
10. An old conical fire extinguisher, labelled "purchased June 1954" on it and not serviced since.
11. Half a roll of wire netting left over from the latest attempt to exclude the pigeons.
12. A bag of ancient assorted muffles, whose straps will all break at 10.30 on Remembrance Sunday.
13. A couple of mouldy hassocks, used in place of a solid wooden box if the rope is too short for one of the ringers.
14. A broken stay, mended with metal straps, kept 'for emergency use'.
15. An old computer, brought up to the ringing room in the hopes that it could be turned into a ringing simulator, but now gathering dust under the bench due to lack of anyone with the technical know-how.

From The Ringing World 4874

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

**COPY DEADLINE -  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

to  
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✉ [cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net](mailto:cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net)

# A trip around Leicestershire

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September the St. Martins bell ringers drove up to the Leicestershire area for our annual ringing outing. It was to be my second Chelsfield outing as I went on last year's outing to East Sussex.

The first 'tower' was, in fact, not a church but the ring of bells at the Loughborough Bell Foundry. After setting out from the Orpington area quite early the Chelsfield ringers, together with ringing friends from nearby towers, arrived in Loughborough at 9.00am for one hour of ringing on the foundry bells. These are ten 'light' bells with the tenor bell being 6cwt which is the equivalent of the fourth at Chelsfield. Because they are so light they were quite tricky to ring. They needed a lot of skill but not too much physical effort and even young Michael Pruden had a go!

After ringing on the bells we enjoyed an interesting tour of the bell foundry and were able to buy souvenirs in the gift shop at the end. The foundry claims to be the largest bell foundry in the world and is one of only two in the country - the other being at Whitechapel in London. I would thoroughly recommend visiting it to anyone and it is possible to arrange a visit through the museum curator.

After finishing our tour of the bell foundry next on the itinerary was All Saints, the Parish Church in Loughborough. This is also a ring of ten bells but a complete contrast in weight with the tenor bell weighing 30cwt. After brief general ringing my dad arranged a quarter peal for five of the more experienced Chelsfield ringers together with some of the friends. They successfully rang Grandsire Caters, taking 50 minutes and working up a thirst on the heavy bells for the lunchtime break!

After lunch we drove southwards round the edge of Leicester to a ring of eight bells at Oadby. Arrangements to ring here were made by my dad with Andrew Young, known to many Chelsfield ringers, as he had previously lived in, and rung the bells at, Erith.

We then had a short drive into the countryside. We followed Andrew and his wife Diana in their car as they knew the best route and they had also arranged the next two towers. Firstly, it was Kings Norton, a heavy and loud ring of eight bells in a huge and imposing tower: then on to the adjoining parish of Gaulby where we rang the six bells and which, unlike Chelsfield, were rung from the ground floor which makes the rope handling a little tricky. After enjoying afternoon tea that was being served in the church we said goodbye to Andrew

and Diana and headed off for our last tower of the day.

Oakham was our destination and is in the small county of Rutland. These bells had been recommended to my dad as a magnificent and heavy (tenor 25cwt) peal cast by his favourite founder, Gillett & Johnston. 'Gilletts' as they are widely known were based in Croydon and although they still exist as a company, now working only on church clocks, they ceased casting bells in the 1950's. In the past they have cast large and famous bells including the 'great bell of Bow' before it was recast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry following wartime damage. The bells at Oakham met everyone's expectations - even my dad's - although by now, because I was getting a little tired, I found them a bit heavy for me.

Once we finished ringing at Oakham, we drove home which was straightforward and only took about 90 minutes during which I had a doze in the car.

I really enjoyed the day and can't wait for the next outing. Hopefully before next year's Chelsfield outing, I will be lucky enough to go on an outing organised by one of our neighbouring towers whose ringers came on ours.

Annabelle Wilkins, age 10

p.s. please note that Chelsfield has it's annual ringers Sunday, this year on 17<sup>th</sup> October when, for evensong (6.30pm). The Rev. David Grimwood, who is a well-known ringer, will be giving the sermon. We will be pleased to see as many of our Lewisham District ringing friends as possible at Chelsfield that evening for the Service.

Loughborough, Leics

All Saints

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2004 in 50½ mins (30-2-0)

1277 Grandsire Caters

Treble	Karen E Barter
2	Clare R Pruden
3	E Lesley Barclay
4	Nicholas Wilkins
5	John S Barnes
6	Bob Pruden
7	Nick Kimber (C)
8	Mark Backhouse
9	Nigel R Parsons
Tenor	Julian J Hemper

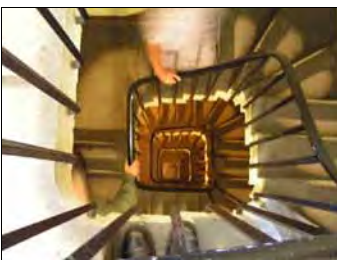


ALL SAINTS, LOUGHBOROUGH

# The Clock Tower, Westminster

Esther Correia organised a visit to Big Ben through her MP, Dr. Howard Stoate. For anyone wishing to visit, you need to write to your local MP who will arrange a time for you to be given a tour of the Clock Tower. Esther organised this visit for the Dartford branch of the University of the Third Age but was unable to attend herself, because she was on holiday in Spain at the time.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September, there were a party of twelve of us who met up in Westminster Hall and stood beneath the glorious hammer beam roof of William Rufus; he was the one who was killed under highly suspicious circumstances in the New Forest in 1100. This was not before we had gone through the formidable security process of entering the Houses of Parliament. I sometimes have to visit prisoners in Belmarsh Prison as part of my job, and the security procedures at Westminster were just as rigorous.



We were met by a guide who warned us there were 306 steps to climb. He had been in the job three weeks and mentioned that during the first week, he had barely enough puff to deliver his talks! The tower is 96 metres high and

was constructed after the disastrous fire of 1834 that destroyed most of the old Palace of Westminster. What struck me was how ordered everything is; not a cobweb in sight! From the bottom of the tower, you can look up to the top, and the sight of all those stairs reminded me of a drawing by the artist Giambattista Piranesi! We rested at the Prison Room; this is the first room one comes to and is so named, because if a member of the Lords or Commons misbehaves, they can be detained there – You'd think it would be bulging, but the last to be so detained, was in 1880 when Charles Bradlaugh refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to Queen Victoria. It is rumoured that Emmeline Pankhurst, the leader of the women's suffrage movement also spent a night in captivity here.



From here, we laboured up to the Clock Face or faces, which measure 7 metres in diameter and one, can walk round and inspect all four faces. Behind each face, the wall is decorated with low energy light bulbs, which illuminate the faces at night; they were once lit by gas. On this wall, little casement windows open out from the Clock Room where the clock mechanism is housed.

After we got our breath back, we then made the final assault up to the bells themselves and our guide timed it, so that we should be there when the clock struck midday. The views across London from here are truly amazing. There are five bells; the four quarter bells weigh from one to four tonnes and Big Ben weighs 13.5 tonnes. It is 2.7 metres in diameter and 2.2 metres in height. There are microphones located above the bells, so when you hear the chimes on the BBC World Service, they are live! When the hour struck, it was very loud but not deafeningly so, and it was quite something to stand beside the great bell as it struck twelve.



From there, we descended to the Clock Room to see the mechanism. This was designed by the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy and Mr. Edward Denison QC MP. They suggested the Clockmaker Edward Dent should build it. The mechanism itself weighs about five tonnes. The pendulum is 3.9 metres long, weighs 300 kilogram's and beats every two seconds. The clock weights, three in all, weigh nearly 2.5 tonnes between them. These used to be wound by hand, and it took two men two hours, three times a week to do this. The weights are now raised by a machine. The clock room is pristine and has that lovely smell of clock oil. On the pendulum are a pile of pre-decimal pennies; the addition of one penny will cause the clock to gain two fifths of a second in twenty-four hours.



The tour lasts an hour and is well worth going on, but I do not envy that guide, having to conduct three tours each day; he certainly earns his crust making that climb! Afterwards we went to the tearooms for some well earned refreshment, and saw the old Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker waiting in the queue. Mind you, my most original meeting with a politician was in Foyle's bookshop, where I collided with a rather untidy looking old man. As we held on to one another, apologising profusely, I looked up and said "You're Michael Foot". He agreed that he was, apologised once more, bumbled out into the Charing Cross Road and jumped on a bus!

Andrew Sinclair

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

## BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*



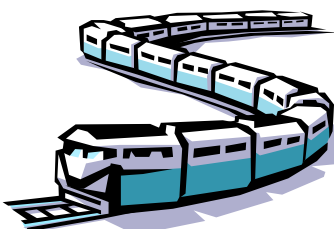
Summer means lots of ringing at other towers, learning techniques, keeping friendships alive and "networking". Regular visits to friendly towers like Chelsfield help us to progress, but also are fun! And it helps our newest ringers to realise the importance of good handling. Heavier bells demand different handling!

Speaking of heavy-will 48cwt do you? Another chance to ring at Southwark Cathedral was eagerly grabbed and our intrepid band set off on a Wednesday evening first to gawp, then, trembling, to take hold and pull. The very heavy bells, very long ropes and eyes of very expert ringers were all intimidating, but almost everyone had a go, Rachel ringing commendably well (especially for such a small person!) Standing in the rain with a cola outside the pub in Borough Market perhaps did not thrill the youngest, but it was the talk, not the beer that was important!

What was the most memorable moment? Marc ringing down the tenor, certainly rates. "Who, me?" he asked incredulously as he was hauled up to the box and took hold. All eyes watched approvingly as he made smooth coils and ended with a chime that took him off his feet. What a thrill!

Or maybe it was Lou getting on the wrong train! Thank goodness it stopped at East Croydon before going on to Brighton!

Nancy Gay



## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## 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)*

## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

It's been another up and down few months. The ups have been scoring 4 quarters including ones for David Macey's grandmothers 90th birthday and Andrew's parents 40th wedding anniversary, with a number of firsts in them including first major and first Stedman triples for Andrew and first triples for Brenda. The down's have been the continuing struggle for ringers, although cancelled practices due to holidays did give us the chance to go out to Eltham, which was a benefit for both bands.

Rupert Cheeseman

## CUDHAM

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

## DARTFORD

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## DEPTFORD

*Occasional ringing by the Greenwich/Woolwich bands.*

*For details or requests to ring contact:*

*Graham Long 020 8244 4\*\*\*; 07729 820\*\*\* or*

*e-mail: graham.long@priory.bromley.sch.uk*

We have rung for several weddings this year and had a practice night in May. On July 17<sup>th</sup> we were planning to ring a quarter to mark the 149<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Church - unfortunately we did not have enough time for this as we were due to ring for a wedding at Greenwich but we managed a well struck touch to mark the occasion.  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2004



720 Grandsire Doubles (6, 8 cover) in 25mins

Treble	Susan Collins
2	Freda Cannon
3	Penny Parsons
4	Bill Lanyon
5	Nigel Parsons (C)
6	Ken Deller
Tenor	Graham Long

Next year, will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - we hope to have the Lewisham district meeting at St. John's in July, and there will be other special events which will require the bells to be rung during the year.

Graham Long

## DOWNE

*Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham*

## ELTHAM

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

As usual, the holiday season has meant that we have occasionally been short of numbers for ringing. However, unlike last year, as far as I can remember we have only had to cancel one practice due to lack of numbers, and have managed to ring every Sunday. Once or twice we have benefited when Crayford have cancelled their practice, and some of the ringers have come over to us. This has sometimes enabled us to ring things that we wouldn't normally manage, so is a good thing all round.

Other visitors have included a lady visiting from Dublin, who came up three weeks running, and a student living in Mottingham (Lisa Hooper), who had been learning to ring at University in Plymouth, and had been told by her Tower Captain to try and get some ringing during the holidays! Although initially only at the learning to handle stage, she made definite progress during the couple of months she was with us - let's hope we see her again during future holidays.



We also enjoyed our usual joint outing with the Chislehurst ringers; this year visiting towers to the south-east of Maidstone, the highlight of which was the chance to ring on the new twelve at Benenden. Congratulations also to the pub in Benenden, which managed to deal very well with the large number of ringers who descended on them for lunch.

The deadline for this newsletter means that I'm unable to report on our performance in the County Six-bell competition at Penge - this may be a good thing! (It is! See page 16 - Ed)

On the non-ringing side of things, many of us attended a barbecue hosted by Peter Skinner in July - sadly, my own holiday arrangements meant that I had to miss this. Peter has also continued to arrange regular Saturday walks, which have

been much enjoyed by those who have taken part. Many thanks to him.

David Holdridge

## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## ERITH (St John the Baptist)

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## EYNSFORD

*Practice Friday 20:00*



**Jean Luffman**, a ringer at Eynsford and Farningham for many years, died in August. She had become unwell in March. She is survived by her husband John and their three sons, one of whom, Martin, is known by many in the District. Jean had led a full and active life. Her interests included the British Legion and dancing, as well as bell ringing. She is much missed and the sympathies of all who knew her go to her family.

**Work on Eynsford's bells** will commence shortly by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The clappers will be overhauled with those on the treble and second being enlarged to increase volume. New pulleys are to be installed. The band is cleaning the bell installation and painting metal fittings.

**The first Friday Major practices** continue to be very well supported, with 22 attending in September. The standard surprise major methods are rung based on ringers' requests. The evening typically concludes with a David special - a well struck touch of Stedman Triples!

David Hilling

## FARNINGHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement*

The newly commenced Farningham Surprise Minor practice has already attracted much interest, the last practice being attended by 13 ringers from across the District. Methods rung were Cambridge, Norwich and London with a touch of Stedman to finish.

All welcome, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8pm. Next practice 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Julian Hemper

## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

Towards the end of August the ringers at Foots Cray were very sad to say farewell to Jan and Roger Cass who have moved down to Church Crookham in Hampshire for a quieter life, although with grandchild number 1 due at Christmas I'm not sure how quiet it will be. Anyway we wish them every

happiness in their new home and assure them of a warm welcome whenever they choose to come 'home' and at the same time to thank them for all the support and friendship they have given to Foots Cray ringers over the years.

Now, however, we have the problem of too few ringers, there are now only three of us (and no we don't plan on ringing two bells each), plus a ringer in the congregation who will occasionally help with service ringing.



So what to do?

We are thinking of having one practice a month at Foots Cray but it can only happen if we can have some help, so I am asking if ringers from the District will help us to keep the bells at Foots Cray ringing on the **second Wednesday in each month**. We hope to visit other fairly local towers on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in each month if this is agreeable with the tower captains.

In the meantime I will try to get some new beginners - not easy as you all know, so wish me good luck.

**Please give me a ring if you are willing to help us out either occasionally or regularly on the second Wednesday of the month (next one 13<sup>th</sup> October). Thanks in anticipation.**

Margaret Macey  
020 8302 4\*\*\*

## GREENWICH

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

## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday*



In July we managed to ring a quarter peal of Bob Doubles with 4 of our own ringers in it - our best achievement so far. We rang to celebrate the 1400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rochester Diocese. A peal for this celebration, with outside ringers, will hopefully be arranged before the end of the year but we also wanted to do the best that we could for it with home ringers.

Treble	Helen Isaac
2	Julian Hemper
3	Nicholas Wilkins
4	Sue Allport (1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter inside)
5	Lesley Barclay (C)
Tenor	Martin Bailey

Our new recruits continue to progress well and hopefully will

be able to help us out with our weddings next year. I think we have 5 or 6 booked already. We have another new young ringer, Ellie, who is progressing at an amazing rate - both strokes with help at her first attempt! The learners didn't ring much over the summer as Lesley was away but now they are back into full swing.

Do read John's article on bell ties. He spent a lot of time and effort in perfecting these and they work very well. As he says himself he is one of our more mature ringers and although it took him a long time to master bell control he is making progress. He is a loyal Sunday ringer - his ambition when he started - and always comes to practice. He has a big problem hearing his bell when ringing so "Closer John" is frequently heard resounding across our tower to help him with his striking. John, always good humoured, says that is what will probably be written on his tombstone!

By the time this newsletter is published, we will probably have been on the outing that I said (in the last edition) I would never, ever arrange again. Hopefully this one will go better - if I've got the times right!

Sue Allport

## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## PENGE

*Ringling by arrangement*

## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 19:45*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WOOLWICH

*Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00*



# Upcoming District Events

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct District Meeting: Biggin Hill, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 6 Bell Call Change Comp. Farningham, 2:30p.m.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol Service: Horton Kirby, 4:30p.m. service

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan District Meeting: Beckenham (tbc), 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service.





# Bells, boats and a birthday



The seed of an idea was sown a year ago, following the success of last year's regatta and a renewed acquaintance with the Lichfield mobile belfry at the Lincoln Roadshow. Given the centuries-old connection between bells and shipping, it seemed appropriate to bring the two together for this year's Dover Regatta. When we realised that Godfrey Gray would celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13<sup>th</sup> August (the Friday of Regatta weekend), the scene was set for a great ringing weekend. Godfrey has been Dover's Tower Captain for over forty years.

Some careful arranging between St Mary's ringers and the Canterbury District brought together large numbers of ringers to Dover for the double celebration. 5090 Cambridge was rung on the Friday evening, conducted by Godfrey's daughter Susan. While this was in progress, St Mary's ringers were helping to erect the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry on the seafront. Fortunately the torrential rain had eased sufficiently for us to complete the task as planned. The weather cleared and we all enjoyed some trial ringing on the delightful little bells, followed by fish and chips on site with some of the peal ringers. "Goodnights" were then said to the "night-watchers", Jane Baker of Walmer and two of her sons who were camping in the belfry for the weekend.



Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and at 9 o'clock the mobile belfry was open for business, while other stallholders were still setting up. Attracted by the sound of the bells, people were soon coming to have a go. The Regatta organisers had allocated us a prime site, central to the all the attractions that stretched the whole length of the promenade - and just to windward of the Churchill Hotel's barbecue! But there couldn't have been a nicer setting, with three cruise ships berthed at the Western Docks, cross-channel ferries plying constantly to and fro via the Eastern Arm, and the back-drop of Dover Castle and the White Cliffs.

At 11 o'clock a Canterbury District band gave the public a demonstration of change ringing, 1290 Grandsire Doubles for the birthday. The Lichfield team, assisted by KCACR officers Catherine and Frank Lewis, then remained on the seafront while the "locals" adjourned to the Parish Centre for the birthday party. There will be a separate news report about Godfrey's birthday, and all the ringing for him, but it was good to see so many of his old friends there to sing "Happy Birthday" as he cut into a superb cake, made by Jo Horton of Sturry. These proceedings ended with another quarter of

1290 changes, at St Mary's this time.

Ringing continued throughout the weekend at both sites. The mobile belfry was one of the prime attractions on the seafront and we were kept busy with an almost non-stop stream of visitors. Over the two days some five hundred people tried their hand on the bells, including Dover's Mayor, and the Carnival Queen with members of her court. Seafront visitors were directed to St Mary's, where we recorded more than two hundred who came to see the church, and the ringing on the open gallery. Another three quarters were rung at St Mary's on the Saturday for the Regatta, and one on the Sunday afternoon. Several of the quarter-peal ringers stayed well into Saturday evening, joining us for a Chinese meal before watching a most impressive firework display over the harbour.

It was a remarkable weekend that owed its success to the way in which so many people contributed. Thousands of people had seen tower bells and change ringers in action, and a number had indicated that they were likely to investigate further at their local tower - what more could we ask? The final ringing was for "Songs of Praise" at 5pm, the concluding event of the Regatta, after which rapid dismantling took place. Then the hard-working

Lichfield team were on the road again at the start of a six-hour journey home.

Our grateful thanks to everyone involved but especially to Ray and Wendy Daw and Dennis and Marjorie Clive from Lichfield, for their patience and expertise; to Cleverley and Spencer, Stonemasons, who were our joint sponsors together with the Kent County Association of Change Ringers; to Dover Town Council and the Regatta organisers for inviting us; to Dover District Council for a Community Grant towards providing polo shirts, and Finger Print (UK) Dover for help with putting our logo on the shirts; to the Halifax Building Society who gave us tee shirts and base-ball caps; to all the ringers from throughout Kent, and beyond, who supported and helped in any way; and to members of the public at the Regatta for their interest. Lastly, but by no means least, to our ringing vicar, David Ridley, for his support and encouragement, and for sanctioning more than eight hours of ringing at St Mary's.

Peter Dale



# Kaleidoscope Clapper Ties

The Kaleidoscope course on August Bank Holiday Monday morning was attended by thirteen students and four helpers from five towers, although Kaleidoscope ringing is such a new concept that it was rather academic to draw a distinction between students and helpers.

A prompt start with some theory was quickly followed by practical work on the three basic Kaleidoscope elements of long places, short places, and dodging. Everyone seemed happy to work in pairs on silenced bells and they soon “got the hang of it”. When the simulator was switched on, people began to appreciate more fully the effectiveness of the Kaleidoscope system. The basic work was easy enough to follow, but the discipline it imposed upon bell control in order to strike it accurately demanded a high level of concentration.

A welcome coffee break was taken before embarking upon some more advanced routines, involving up to three pairs of bells working simultaneously on different sequences. The dodge-place-dodge “Treble Bob” combination was popular, while the more ambitious attempted Kaleidoscope “Yorkshire”. Finally the silencers were removed and the townsfolk of Dover were treated to a thirty-minute kaleidoscope of sound.

Most of the students agreed that the system has distinct advantages over call-changes. Instructions are given separately from commands, so everyone knows well in advance which bells are to do what, and where. Each student was given a copy of Gordon Lucas’ book at the end of the course, as an incentive to try sequences of their own in their home towers.

Peter Dale



“FIRST STEPS IN SURPRISE” at the Dover Ringing Centre  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November - 1.30pm to 5pm

This course is for those who would like to know how to approach the learning of more complex methods. It will be suitable for ringers who have already acquired ropesight and good listening skills in plain methods or Treble Bob on six bells. The course will use a Kaleidoscope approach to introduce elements of Cambridge, with a view to ringing a plain course or touch in the method by the end of the day. The cost of £4 includes course notes; cups of tea will be provided. Further information and application forms available from Barbara Dale, Tel 01304 823\*\*\* or email [barbaradale@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaradale@fastmail.fm)

Peter Dale

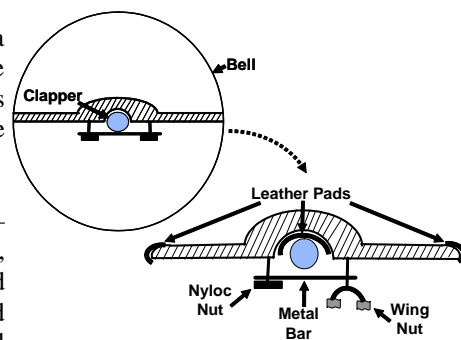
# Clapper Ties

As a late recruit to Bell-ringing, with a learning curve flatter than a billiard table, I had ample opportunity to observe the problems of tying the bells for silent ringing. This usually involves rather unsightly and awkward groping around in a very restricted space with little light, only to have to reverse the process a short time later. I saw various versions of ties whilst visiting other towers and tried to incorporate many of the best features into my version.

The main considerations seemed to be:

1. Ideally the clapper should silently replicate open bell movement – almost impossible to achieve - but holding it centrally was certainly better than tying to one side.
2. Ease of fitting and removal even if you couldn’t really see what you were doing!
3. Protecting the bell and clapper from damage.

My solution was a “milk pail” style yoke which holds the clapper in the centre of the bell.



Fitting is simple – The metal bar, slotted at one end is swung aside and the yoke is fitted around the clapper. The bar is then swung back over the threaded stud and the wing nut tightened.

The first tie was so successful that demand increased and we are now able to tie all 6 bells at Horton Kirby. Each one, tailored to fit its own particular bell, has been varnished and numbered by my wife.



Finally, to complete my act of appreciation for the support I receive from the St Mary’s ringers I added a rack to hold all 6 ties and maintenance spanners.

Happily they are now “resting”, awaiting the next beginners!

John Chenery

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PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
12 June 2004		Bexley	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 4m. 04/637
26 June 2004		Chelsfield	5040	Surprise Minor 7m. 04/685
26 June 2004		Downe	5040	Surprise Minor 7m. 04/685
29 June 2004		Chislehurst Ann.	5024	Glasgow Surprise Major 04/684
25 July 2004		Farningham	5040	Minor 4m. 04/805
31 July 2004		Erith St J	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m. 04/804
28 August 2004		Chislehurst St N	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 6m. 04/902

The peals at Chelsfield and Downe were rung for the Oxford DG, that at St Nicholas Chislehurst for the Cumberlands and the remainder for the KCACR.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
23 January 2004		Erith St J	1250	Cambridge Surprise Major 04/784
11 February 2004		Farningham	1260	Minor 2m. Kent & PB 04/787
20 February 2004		Bromley	1344	London Surprise Major 04/786
20 March 2004		Cudham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/786
31 March 2004		Biggin Hill	1260	Plain Bob Minor 04/907
03 April 2004		Horton Kirby	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/784
25 April 2004		Bexley	1260	Stedman Triples 04/689
08 June 2004		Crayford	1284	Plain Bob Minor 04/740
20 June 2004		Crayford	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor 04/740
20 June 2004		Cudham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/713
20 June 2004		Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles 04/667
26 June 2004		Dartford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/740
27 June 2004		Hayes	1260	Grandsire Doubles 04/688
28 June 2004		Eltham	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor 04/742
30 June 2004		Farningham	1260	Grandsire Doubles 04/713
30 June 2004		West Wickham	1260	Doubles 2m. 04/764
09 July 2004		West Wickham	1260	Plain Bob Minor 04/784
10 July 2004		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor 04/784
11 July 2004		Crayford	1260	Stedman Triples 04/742
13 July 2004		Horton Kirby	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/787
17 July 2004		Chelsfield	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor 04/786
18 July 2004		Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles 04/765
20 July 2004		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles 04/784
24 July 2004		West Wickham	1440	Plain Bob Minor 04/789
03 August 2004		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
08 August 2004		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor
09 August 2004		Shoreham	1280	Rutland Surprise Major 04/832

Congratulations to :

Annabelle Wilkins rang the Tenor at Horton Kirby to Plain Bob Doubles at her first attempt.

Heather Miller rang the Treble at Chelsfield to Plain Bob Doubles at her first attempt, as did Bobby Lawes for his on a separate occasion.

Andrew Boyd-Bell rang the 6th (768 cover) at Dartford to Plain Bob Doubles at his first attempt.

Chris Muggridge rang the Tenor at Hayes to Grandsire Doubles for his first quarter and Jamie Drew rang the 5th in the same quarter for his first in the method.

Sue Allport rang the 4th at Horton Kirby to Plain Bob Doubles for her first inside.

Phillip Sullivan rang the 4th at West Wickham to Doubles 2m. for his first inside.

There were two firsts as Conductor, Jon Fry calling Plain Bob Doubles at Cudham and Carol Eastaugh calling Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church Erith.

Louise Hanscomb rang the Treble at Biggin Hill for her first of Minor.

Brenda Barton rang the 2nd at Crayford for her first of Bob Minor inside.

Andrew Sinclair rang the 4th at Crayford for his first touch of Cambridge and the 5th at the same tower for his first of Stedman Triples. This latter was also Rupert Cheeseman's first Stedman Triples as Conductor.

Lesley Barclay rang the 2nd at St John's Erith for her first of Cambridge Major.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4873 September 17, 2004.

Jim Rooke



# KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

### Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at SS Peter and Paul Shoreham on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2004

*Nicholas Wilkins spoke in memory of Vernon Benning, whose home tower was Brasted but who lived in the Lewisham District. The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence.*

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Sara Hardy (Beckenham), Carol Eastaugh (Christ Church Erith), Jeremy Byers (Beckenham), Jon Fry (Cudham), Deryck Jones, Esther Correia, Marian Wansbury and Peter Rose (all from Dartford), Dickon Love (Bromley) and Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham).



#### 2. MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT ST JOHN'S ELTHAM ON SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2004

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Jim Rooke, seconded by James Hardy.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### Item 6 Events

The Chairman confirmed that, at the last County AGM, Mary Andrews was elected as a Vice President of the Association. The meeting congratulated her.

##### Item 9 Surplus Funds

James Hardy confirmed that the surplus funds left over from the Millennium Quiz Night had not yet been used to purchase a supply of *One Per Learner* books for distribution to new recruits. He agreed to take this forward. It was agreed that the books, once purchased, should be kept on the bookstall for distribution as required.

#### 4. KCACR COMMITTEE REPORT

##### Central Membership database

Graham Cottle is working to produce a central membership database to replace those held by individual districts. Districts will have the authority to amend their own records and the database will be transportable to allow for a change of personnel within the districts.

##### KCACR 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As previously announced a special service and dinner will be held in Canterbury on 14 May 2005. The cost of the meal is yet to be advised. It is planned to produce some celebratory memorabilia. Anyone with any suggestions for this or any queries was advised to contact Sara Hardy, one of the District representatives.

##### Proposed rule change on criteria for membership

The Secretary outlined a rule change proposed by the Ashford District. Before being proposed for membership of the Association a ringer should be able to ring rounds and call changes and raise and lower a bell. Furthermore a District Officer, who should first satisfy him/herself that the required standard has been met, must second the proposed new member's nomination.

During the ensuing discussion a number of points were made:-

- There is no problem with having a minimum standard; the problem is defining it.
- It is not desirable to exclude ringers from membership, who could benefit.
- Some ringers may have physical problems that prevent them from raising/lowering a bell.
- Do we need formal membership criteria? In practice ringers are not nominated for membership until they have shown a level of commitment to the exercise. This usually means that they can ring rounds and call changes competently.
- Is insurance an issue? Do ringers need to be members to be covered by insurance? It was noted that the insurance carried by



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individual churches should cover learners in the early stages.

- What about towers that already demand higher standards of their ringers than those proposed, before nominating them for membership?
- Nobody was in favour of formal verification by a District Officer. This was seen as too much red tape and possible a slur on the integrity of the local Tower Captain making the nomination.
- Ideally a ringer nominated for membership should attend the District meeting at which s/he was to be proposed, or, failing that, a District Practice. This would give the members an opportunity to see the level of expertise the ringer had reached, bearing in mind that the ringer was probably having to handle unfamiliar bells. If there were concerns, the election could be deferred whilst help was offered to allow the ringer to reach an appropriate standard.
- What about handbell ringers? They seem to be excluded from the proposed criteria.



#### Child Protection Policy

The Secretary confirmed that copies of the Central Council's Child Protection Guidelines together with a letter to the Tower Captain and the PCC had been sent to the secretary of every tower in the District.

#### Webmaster

The County Webmaster, Frank Lewis, has been co-opted on to the Committee. It is to be proposed at the next County AGM that the Webmaster be a permanent member.

#### Publicity Officer

The County has established a sub-group to discuss whether a Publicity Officer is needed. The responsibilities could include producing publicity material suitable for local towers to aid recruitment. Anyone with any views or ideas on this issue should pass them on to Sara Hardy. The Secretary also asked that, if anyone knew of someone willing to take on this post or were interested themselves, they should contact Sara Hardy.

#### Changing the date of the County 8 bell striking competition

The following views were expressed:-

- It was generally agreed that it should be changed to avoid a clash with the National 12 bell competition.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April could clash with Easter or with the Hereford Course, with which several members of the District were heavily involved.
- It was pleasant to hold the event in the summer and therefore could it not be moved to an earlier Saturday in June? Would it be such a major problem if it clashed with one District's event?

### **5. EVENTS**

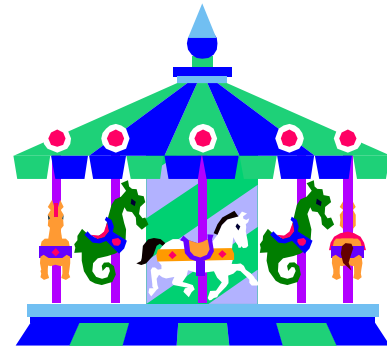
The following events were announced:-

#### County Events

August 7<sup>th</sup> 2004 - Elementary School at Dover

August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 - Dover Regatta

September 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 - County 6 bell striking competition at Penge



#### District Events

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 - Annual District Meeting at Biggin Hill

The Chairman announced that, as he was coming to the end of his 3 year term he was intending to stand down at the ADM and therefore nominations for Chairman would be needed.

The next District Practice was scheduled to be at Beckenham on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July. James Hardy announced that, owing to difficulties with that date he planned to reschedule it for the following Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July. This was subject to confirmation.

Freda Cannon announced that October 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration and rededication of the bells at Greenwich. It was planned to use this occasion to launch a recruitment drive. Each District would be invited to bring a peal band to Greenwich.

### **6. BELL RESTORATION FUND**

#### Proposed District Open Day

Philippa Rooke thanked members of the District who had helped her to plan this and offered helpful suggestions.

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The proposed date was now Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004 (Following some more discussions after the meeting the date is now set for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 - Ed). It was planned to open all 31 towers in the District. This date did clash with some other events outside Kent but in adjacent areas so it was decided to go ahead anyway. This would mean the event could be held before it was too late in the year. All towers were asked to confirm to Philippa as soon as possible if and when they could be open on that date.

It was noted that volunteers would be needed as stewards to ensure the event ran smoothly. It was agreed to charge £15.00 for a day ticket.

#### 120 Club

Rachel Backhouse confirmed that she had obtained the relevant forms from Bexley Council to register under the relevant act to run the 120 club. The initial process seemed quite complicated but the aim was to hold the first draw in February 2005. Further details would be available at the ADM in October.



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

The following new members were elected:

#### **DOWNE**

Paul Roy Martin	proposed by Bridget Robbie	seconded by Donald King
Simon Robert Sleath	proposed by Donald King	seconded by J C Bowers
Valerie Yeates	proposed R D Shaw	seconded J C Bowers

#### **SIDCUP**

Mira Harris	proposed by Yvonne Wright	seconded by Rachel Backhouse
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#### **HORTON KIRBY**

Susan Mary Ann Allport	proposed by Lesley Barclay	seconded by Nicholas Wilkins
Martin David Bailey	proposed by Lesley Barclay	seconded by Nicholas Wilkins
Michael M <sup>c</sup> Donnell	proposed by Lesley Barclay	seconded by Philippa Rooke

#### **EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM**

Richard David Barker	proposed by Lesley Barclay	seconded by Nicholas Wilkins
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### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### District Newsletter

Rupert Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the latest issue of the District Newsletter. Jim Rooke asked if anyone would be willing to take over the job of listing the peals and quarter peals rung in the District that appeared in the Newsletter. He had done this for a long while and felt that it was time for a fresh approach.



#### District practice at Southwark Cathedral

James Hardy confirmed that this would now take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004. He urged all those who would like to try ringing on twelve bells to attend. He anticipated having a core of experienced 12 bell ringers to support the less experienced.

#### Handouts for towers

The Secretary said that she now had a supply of leaflets about the KCACR, which towers might find useful for general information and recruitment events. There was also an updated list of County Training events, one copy for every tower.



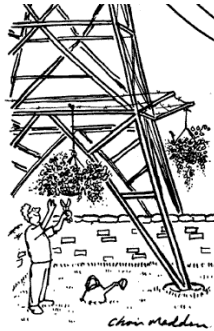
### **9. VOTE OF THANKS**

Rachel Backhouse proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Richard Freeman for taking the service, to the organist, Danny Kingshill and to the Shoreham ringers for a delicious tea.

# KCACR Meeting 21.08.04

## 8 Bell Striking Competition

Our concerns about the proposed date of 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April were noted. The date has now been set for the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in February, next year it will be on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Beckenham (back 8), method to be Erin Triples.



## Correspondence

Another letter had been received from Q.S.Fore Ltd advising that a telecommunications mast is to be installed at St. Peter and St. Paul, Seal. Brian Butcher to liaise with the Church and the company to ensure that due consideration is given to the bells and ringers. In future enquiries would be forwarded to Brian to progress and simply report the outcome.

Confirmed that The Ringing World diary entry would take the same format as present but the Secretary is to ask if we may have a possible addition of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner date.

## Training

It was reported that the County Elementary Ringing School, held on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2004, had been a success. During the course of the day a couple of students mentioned that there had been no encouragement from their Tower Captain to attend KCACR meetings because there were "not ready". There was some discussion about this, before someone pointed out that it is possible to make someone an "Associate Member" prior to full membership. It was felt this would benefit new recruits by helping to provide a sense of "belonging".

## Publicity

There have been no volunteers for the post of Publicity Officer. As a consequence nothing more can be done at present. Mention was made of a firm called "Supalite" which supply publicity boards. These are easily transported and erected and would provide an ideal backdrop for any event. No decision was taken pending the outcome of the "Retention and Recruitment Committee" findings.

## Bell Restoration

Authority was given to Brian Butcher to purchase a bulk supply of pulley blank's which are made from some form of "composite" material and wear better than the plastic ones currently supplied by the Foundries. The following activities are going on at towers throughout the County.

EASTCHURCH Problems with faculty for a new doorway, hope to resolve by early 2005.  
SUNDRIDGE Work planned for early 2005

BRASTED Order about to be placed with Foundry, work to commence late this year.  
NETTLESTEAD Work planned for early 2005  
AYLESFORD Front five bells to be rehung in existing frame, early 2005.  
STANFORD Rope refitted to single bell.  
CHILLENDEEN Inspection of single bell report made, work completed locally.  
WALMER Frame/fittings all tightened, new pulley's to be fitted.  
WICKHAMBREAUX Pulley's now in stock pending fitting.  
SHOREHAM Odd struckness to be investigated.  
KENNINGTON Odd struckness cured.  
BEKESBOURNE Work planned for early 2005.  
STROOD ST MARY Investigate unknown chime of three.  
BIGGIN HILL Problem with treble clapper.  
SANDWICH ST PETER Request to inspect Curfew Bell.  
SMARDEN Work to proceed on original specification in Autumn.  
LEEDS Specification currently being decided.  
SEVINGTON Consultation with inspecting architect to establish if these bells can be hung for full circle ringing.  
BENENDEN Flat 6<sup>th</sup> to be added.  
SOUTHBOROUGH Repairs to chime and one ringing bell.  
BROMLEY (ST PETER & ST PAUL) Various repairs and replacement of main bearings.  
HIGH HALDEN Ringing chamber to be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> floor.  
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL Repairs completed.  
BLACKHEATH Surveyed by Dickon Love with some interest in installing a light ring.

## Retention and Recruitment of Ringers

Committee has met and looked at issues concerning young ringers, publicity and raising our profile at events such as the County Show. The Ashford District are currently working on a questionnaire. It is hoped that this will prove useful to circulate to other districts to assess issues as seen by existing members.

## Membership Database

Gerry Cottle has built the base but still has a lot of work to do in populating it. In time he will make contact with the districts.

## KCACR - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It was confirmed that the Archbishop of Canterbury would be unable to officiate. David Say will now take the service in the Cathedral at 11am on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005. This would be

# County 6 Bell Final

followed by a photo at 12 noon and lunch in the Education Centre at 1pm. The cost of the lunch (silver service) will be £25.00 per person, tickets will shortly be available. We have to pay for a minimum of 100 persons.

Sara Hardy provided advice on suitable memorabilia to mark the occasion for such items as a limited edition of engraved glass tankards, mugs, pens, key rings, etc. The sub-committee will decide on the products to be promoted and the art work to be used. These are to be available from the beginning of 2005.

A peal will also mark the occasion. It was decided that the quality of this ringing must be top class. As a consequence, the ringers will be selected on ability rather than equal numbers from each district.

## Minimum Standard of Competency

Ashford District had previously proposed that there should be a minimum standard of competence from anyone wishing to be a KCACR member. Generally other districts agreed with the principle but disagreed about the method of nominating someone (District Officer only). Most felt that Tower Captain recommendation was sufficient. Some felt that raising and lowering a bell should not be part of the requirement. Ashford District, having ascertained the views of other districts, now have to decide whether they wish to provoke a rule change or not for the next KCACR AGM.



## Forthcoming Events

Maidstone District "Rock and Roll" evening on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Lewisham District Open Day - January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 (to be confirmed)

8 Bell Striking Competition at Beckenham on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2005

Elementary Training Days - April 1<sup>st</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> 2005.

KCACR 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Luncheon on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005 at Canterbury Cathedral.

Len Morley

Lewisham District was the host for this event for 2004 and they chose St John the Evangelist, Penge as the tower to test the Districts on their striking. The bells certainly needed concentration and effort especially the 3 with the tenor running a close second.

The Secretary arrived late due to having been ringing for a wedding and then going to Penge via Crystal Palace. Eventually the draw took place about 4.05pm with Maidstone District having asked to ring last as they were not going to arrive until after 5.00pm. The judges were safely ensconced in the church behind a screen, due to the rather inclement weather.

After all the teams had rung a very welcome tea was served. The Chairman then thanked the Rev Philip Venables for the use of the church, the Lewisham District for hosting the competition, Sara Hardy and her helpers for a magnificent tea and the judges, Janice Higgins, ringer at St Mary Abbots Kensington, and James Hardy who had been co-opted on the day as it had not been possible to find another judge. The five teams who were there when the draw took place agreed to James judging as it was felt preferable to have two judges.

The judges then gave a brief résumé of the ringing, saying that the ringing was good although the bells were difficult. Then came their verdict as to who was the winner, announced in reverse order of course!!

Position	District	Tower	Faults
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tonbridge	Hadlow	7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rochester	Meopham	11
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Canterbury	Sturry	22
4 <sup>th</sup>	Maidstone	All Saints, Maidstone	26
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ashford	Frittenden	34
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lewisham	Eltham	39

Margaret Funnell

## The Perfect Tower Captain

A recent survey asked for all the qualities people expect from their Tower Captain and fed them into a computer. The results show that the perfect Tower Captain:

- Is 28 years old, tall, slim, athletic, always willing to catch hold for the less popular touches, can sort out 'fire-ups' in a trice, condemns poor striking and sloppy handling but NEVER upsets anyone.
- Works tirelessly to recruit and train ringers, maintains the bells, can splice ropes effortlessly, drives a 7-seater to be able to give lifts to most of the band to meetings and always donates his wedding fee to the bell fund.
- Is a person of limitless patience, gentleness, kindness and tact but is also a strong vigorous and decisive leader who is never drawn into belfry squabbles.
- Has a natural rapport with the teenage members of the band but is always very patient with the 'mature' learners.
- Spends much of the week organising extra ringing and quarter peals,

chasing absent members and organising social events but is always available when any of the band phone or visit.

- Is a competent but modest ringer, well known nationally but who always has time for the local association, who inspires and enthuses the rest of the band, a capable administrator, fund-raising genius and a d-i-y- expert.

Does your Tower Captain measure up?

If not, simply send this article to six other bands that are tired of their Tower Captain too. Then bundle up your Tower Captain and send him to the tower at the top of the list. In one week you will receive 1653 Tower Captains in return and at least one of these should be perfect!

Have faith in this article.

One Tower broke the chain and got their old Captain back in less than 3 weeks!

From The Ringing World 4822