



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

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

JANUARY 2016

Lewisham Youth Strike Gold!

Sat 21st Oct - County Youth Striking Competition.

It was a chilly, misty morning at Chalk but the teenagers and near-teenagers were in surprisingly lively spirits considering the early start. Only three of the six Districts fielded teams but there was a wide range of ages (and heights) on display. The rules were that each member of the band had to be under 25, and the team had to ring a test piece of 100 whole pulls of call changes. Each band was given a 20 minute slot within which they could take as much time as they wanted to practice, as long as they completed their test piece by the end of the slot. Our team had the oldest average age but that was only 17½, although they were heard to wonder who all the 'little people' were! There were a few slightly older cheerleaders supporting the bands, and it was lovely to see Tom Barlow in such good spirits after his recent health issues. There was a suggestion that an 'oldies' scratch band should compete to give the youngsters a run for their money, but thankfully this didn't materialise - it could have been embarrassing!

After some short open ringing to get used to the bells, the draw took place at 10am. The competition ringing was completed within about an hour, with each team showing excellent determination, and the listening bands supportively clapping the band that had just emerged from the tower. A little more open ringing allowed people from different teams to have a ring together, while the judge, Mike Bale, assembled his thoughts.



Mike is the current Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, and trains a lot of young ringers and bands from scratch. He gave some good comments and constructive criticism, summarised here:

Band 1 (Lewisham) - Good overall, no major errors and no errors leading which helps. The ringing slowed up during the test piece but it didn't affect the ringing. The band made good use of the practice, but they only used half of their 20 whole pulls of rounds. There were slight errors when the changes were made.

Band 2 (Tonbridge) - Practice session didn't settle quite as well as the first band. Did use all of the 20 whole pulls to settle at the start of the test piece. Changes through the test piece didn't settle, particularly moving the treble off lead unsettled things. Possibly the conductor was worried about counting off changes before the next change was due.

Band 3 (Maidstone) - Came across as more confident in the practice but was short. Used all 20 whole pulls and started nicely, then a bit of a rough patch. Returned to rounds in the middle then set off again, and the second half was more settled.

Position	District	Rang	Faults	Average Age
1st	Lewisham	1st	61	17½
2nd	Maidstone	3rd	125	16½
3rd	Tonbridge	2nd	163	13½

Congratulations to our band, 1. Alex Fishburn (Sidcup), 2. Tamsin Pointer (St Mary Cray), 3. Rebecca Hardy (conductor, Beckenham), 4. Bethany Kirrage (Dartford), 5. Thomas Wilding (Chislehurst), and 6. Bethany Pointer (St Mary Cray). They can go on to organise a band to represent the KCACR at the Ringing World National Youth Competition in London next July.

Philippa Rooke

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Call Change Competition

Saturday 15th Nov saw ringers from all across the district gather at Farningham, home to the pleasant ring of six, for the district call-change competition.

The church was a warm welcome from the cold outside, and we were greeted with tea and cakes from the local ringers [*superb cupcakes Sue! - Ed*]. After the draw, ringing commenced and generally the standard was very good and it was great to see some ringers who normally shy away from competitions taking part, especially some fellow youngsters. In total seven teams took part, with some towers joining forces to represent many towers in the district [*13 in total ☺ - Ed*].

It took around an hour for all the teams to ring their test piece, and before the results were delivered, some method ringing took place to finish off the day.

Results were as follows:

Place	Tower	Score
1st	Crayford / Dartford	82%
2nd	Downe / Cudham	80%
3rd	Erith / Dartford	78%
4th	Chelsfield / Chislehurst / Sidcup	76%
5th	Eynsford / Farningham	74%
6th	Eltham	64%
7th	Horton Kirby / Farnborough	54%

As pointed out by the judge; if you didn't come in the top 5, don't worry! Even if you came seventh you were still ahead of the 23 towers that didn't take part.

Alex Fishburn



Editorial



Thanks to the small select group who made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time.

WRITE AND ADJUST TO SUIT CONTENTS AND MONEY MATTER

Include Youth practice and striking comp

Pic on p4 +12

Cheers.

Rupert

In the newsletter this time...

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Money Matters

It's that time of year again! Subs are due on January 1st but remain unchanged as follows:

Adult £10 Over 65s £5 Under 18s £5 Full time education £5

All monies to me please, cash or cheques payable to Kent Association of Change Ringers.

It's also time to start thinking about the 120 club which will start for 2016-17 at the April district meeting. All are welcome to join, ringers or not, the only restriction being that you must be aged 16 or over. As usual forms will be sent out with this newsletter or can be copied from the district website. £10 gets you one share for the year with ten draws each time with prizes of £20, £10 x2 and £5 each time (two sets of winners in July and December). All profits go the Bell Restoration Fund and several towers in the district have received grants from the BRF in the last few years.

Draw held October 11th at Horton Kirby

1st 77 Ian Mills (Eltham)

2nd	34	Hannah Clark (Hayes)
3rd	48	Esther Correia (Dartford)
4th	55	Mark Backhouse (CC Erith)
Draw held November 21st at Farningham		
1st	114	120 club
2nd	116	Margaret Heald (Erith St John)
3rd	90	Alex Britton
4th	36	Alastair Scott (Bromley Common)
Draw held December 12th at Dartford		
1st	92	120 club
1st`	95	Margaret Heald (Erith St John)
2nd	58	Ian Nurdin (Ash)
2nd	74	David Hilling (Eynsford)
3rd	48	Esther Correia (Dartford)
3rd	38	Rob and Jackie Duke (Bromley Common)
4th	64	Ken Springate (CC Erith)
4th	107	Brenda Barton (Dartford)
Thank you all for your continuing support		
Rachel Backhouse		

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

Sunday 5.30pm

On Saturday 10th October, ringers from Bromley Common and Addington, Surrey embarked on a jointly organised outing to mid Sussex. We visited Fletching (8), Chailey (6) and Burgess Hill (8) in the morning then Cowfold (6) and Twineham (5) in the afternoon. Lunch was spent at The Sportsman, Goddards Green, a pub highly recommended for anyone planning an outing in that area.

The towers selected for the day suited all ringing abilities and enabled a wide range of methods to be rung throughout the day. Of particular interest to Bromley Common ringers was the ringing at Burgess Hill. Like our tower, this has Taylor bells, is of brick construction, has an upper chamber and handled and sounded exactly like ours. Everyone had an enjoyable day and look forward to the next outing this year .



Chris Lawrance

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Sunday 9.20am

October to December is always a busy time of year with Sunday evening services to ring for most weeks. We usually attempt a quarter for these and scored 9 out of 11 including our annual date touch. We ended up ringing 22 this year and for the 5th year in row were the leading quarter peal tower in the district.

On practice night, other than the standards of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles we've also been attempting Double Oxford Minor. 2 visitors in December meant that we could successfully attempt Stedman Triples and Cambridge Minor. Our method of the month this year has been the doubles variation of the same name. We've quartered these in different towers in the county and completed at least one every month.

We've also had a new ringer start to learn. Lizzie is getting on very well and is already ringing rounds and call changes.

Rupert

Saturday, 10 October 2015

1340 Birthday Doubles in 45mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Debra Say
3. Sue Cameron
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Mary Hayward

Rung on the Patronal Festival and to celebrate the 40th birthday of Melissa Cheeseman, Rupert's sister. 1st in variation; 2.

Sunday, 8 November 2015

1260 Grandsire Triples in 46mins

1. Sue Cameron
2. Rachel Backhouse
3. Debra Say
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Mark Backhouse
6. Helen Webb
7. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
8. Brian Ashmore

Rung half muffled before High Mass on Remembrance Sunday. 1st Grandsire Triples; 3.

Sunday, 22 November 2015
1280 November Doubles in 42mins

1. Brian Ashmore
2. Sue Cameron
3. Helen Webb
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Debra Say

Rung before the evening Praise Worship service and in memory of CS Lewis who died today in 1963.
1st in variation for all.

Sunday, 13 December 2015
2015 Doubles (8m/p) in 1 hr 5mins

1. Debra Say
2. Sue Cameron
3. Helen Webb
4. David Holdridge
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

The 7th annual date touch rung in memory of Margaret (Peggy) Mills who passed away on 27th Nov.
Longest length; 1.

Thursday, 24 December 2015
1280 Christmas Eve Doubles in 41mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Helen Webb
3. Debra Say
4. Lesley Barclay
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung between the Nativity and Candlelight Carol services and with birthday wishes for tomorrow to Rita Barnes, mother of Debra.
1st in variation; 2,3,4.

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00
Sunday 9.15am

Happy New year everyone.

Ring continued regularly over the Autumn even with slightly fluctuating numbers. We entered the striking contest, (I am sure the results are else where in this newsletter) for a couple of the band it was their first competition so it gives something to build upon

and hopefully do better in future years.
We recently had the bells and bell frame inspected by Whitechapel's so I'm sure future newsletter will have all about the work we need to have done.

Tom Baird

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am

Earlier this year, Roger Booth of the Isle of Dogs issued a challenge to all towers in the London area. Teams would ring a test piece which would be scored using the latest Abel ringing simulator to mark striking. They have sensors on all eight bells, so can record a band ringing a touch on any number of bells (up to 8), and play it back afterwards, with a graphic display. They can also import the file into 'Hawkear' (the CAS Striking Analysis software used by the National 12 Bell Striking Competition), and mark the faults or allocate a % score. The band could also have a printout showing how accurately each bell struck. The winner would be the team with the lowest points score.

After some discussion, we thought it would be an interesting and valuable experience. Six of us were able and willing to take part and we practised call changes and arranged to visit the Isle of Dogs on November 4th. Although the church is close to Island Gardens DLR station, a strike on the DLR on that day meant that we met near the 'Cutty Sark' and walked through the Greenwich foot tunnel. We met Roger at the church and joined him and a young ringer for their practice. The bells are lighter than at Christchurch and took a little while to get used to. After a delay (while Roger got the software to work), we rang two test pieces on the back six and looked at the results. It was interesting to see how much variation there was in the striking! Although we had been aware of the obvious uneven striking, the software picked up even tiny variations! We also rang some Grandsire Doubles to give their young ringer practice trebling to this method. After thanking them and saying our farewells, we made our way back to Greenwich and on to our homes. We all agreed it had been a most useful experience.

To date, only one other tower (Kingston) has taken part so, although we did not win, we feel we have come an honourable second! Results are:

Kingston 1: 28 Faults (96%)

Kingston 2: 41 Faults (94%)

Erith 1: 94 Faults (82%)

Erith 2: 94 Faults (82%)

Roger later emailed the printouts from our test pieces and we studied them - one immediate result is that we now concentrate on closing the gap on back-stroke leads!

The first peal at Christchurch was of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, rung immediately after the dedication ceremony on June 5th 1915. The 50th anniversary was marked with a further peal of DNCBM and so for the centenary the choice of method was obvious. There was an unsuccessful attempt on June 6th (but we rang a good quarter instead) and on November 28th most of the band reassembled for a further attempt and this time we scored. As in 1915 the band was drawn from around the Lewisham district. Thanks are due to Anthony Scarth and Andrew Young, both sometime members of the local band, who rang in June but were unable to make the return visit.

Saturday, 28th November 2015

5008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 3hr 3mins

1. David P Hilling
2. Rachel Backhouse
3. Mark D Backhouse
4. Peter V D Swift
5. David Holdridge
6. Rupert Cheeseman
7. Colin J E Wyld (C)
8. Ian G Mills

And so our centenary year comes to its end. The Heritage Lottery Fund were most anxious that we spent all of our grant money (we were about 8% underspent) and so they funded a lunch for the volunteers who helped with our series of open days and have agreed to pay for the new peal board which will be hung in the bottom of the tower.

Liz Brett and Rachel Backhouse

FARNBOROUGH

Sunday 9.30am, other times by arrangement

Six quarter peals and one peal were rung at Farnborough during 2015.

Most recently on Monday 21st December, Noeni Austin, aged 11, covered on the tenor to a quarter peal of Doubles and the following day, 22nd December, her brother, Jamie, aged 12, rang his first peal on the treble. This peal also included another first pealer, Alex Fishburn, who covered on the tenor and the standard of striking was a credit to both young first peelers.

Nick Wilkins

Monday, 21 December 2015

1260 Doubles (5m: 60 Stedman, 240 Grandsire, St Simons, St Martins & 480 Plain Bob) in 37mins

1. Juliet Austin
2. Catherine Lewis
3. Bobbie Fairclough
4. Lesley Barclay
5. Nicholas Wilkins (C)
6. Noeni Austin

First QP at first attempt; 6 (age 11)

Tuesday, 22 December 2015

5040 Doubles (4m:2 extents of Grandsire, 12 of Plain Bob and 14 each of St Simons and St Martins) in 2hr 23mins

1. James D Austin
2. Catherine M Lewis
3. Nicholas Wilkins (C)
4. Jacqueline M Barlow
5. E Lesley Barclay
6. Alexander M Fishburn

First peal at first attempt; 1 (age 12) & 6.

Remembering Frank Lewis who encouraged many youngsters including James and who greatly assisted with the installation of these bells in 2012.

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 9.15am

In October, a number of our ringers went on a tour of Whitechapel bell foundry, a very interesting visit for both ringers and non-ringers.

The following weekend we had our annual tower outing to the Kent/Sussex border. Unfortunately we had a lock out at our first tower, but then had a good ring at the 8 bell towers of Wadhurst and Burwash. After a leisurely lunch, we rang at Kilndown, which



has a vertical iron ladder to the ringing chamber, but a nice ring of 6.

A quarter of Plain Bob Minor was attempted in the district quarter peal week, but unfortunately due to a missed call, the method did not come round.

2015 has seen us lose 3 members of our band, but we have a new recruit, Louise, who is making good progress and we have managed to keep the bells ringing on Sundays.

Judith Fry

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-930pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. We usually have good attendances at practice nights, sometimes ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods and some work on Treble Hunting Minor. We are usually doing some service ringing for the monthly Choral Evensong at Greenwich and also ring for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We occasionally also have a monthly

practice at Woolwich but, again, it is best to check our website for the dates.

Since having the clappers renovated and reinstalled on 1st September 2015 we have been quite busy. We



Ringers at Greenwich after ringing at noon on New Year's Day 2016

have had some weddings and on 26th September we rang for The Ordination of the Curate at Greenwich, Rev. Caroline Risdon and then also had a visiting band from Hastings.

On Friday 9th October one of our ringers, Ken Deller, celebrated his 80th birthday.

We rang a quarter peal for this and Ken and Barbara kindly laid on lunch for us afterwards at The Kings Arms.

Greenwich, St Alfege

Friday, 9 October 2015

1280 Plain Bob Doubles with 8,6, tenor cover in 46mins (Tenor 23½ cwt in D)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Shelagh Norman
3. Brenda Coode
4. Eddie Coode
5. Graham Long (C)
6. Ken Deller
8. Jim Odell
10. Alan Munden

To celebrate Ken Deller's 80th birthday. Also, to mark the 87th birthday of Freda Cannon [Tower Captain Emeritus]. 50th quarter together 5 & 8. Jan Odell joined in afterwards to ring a touch of 80 Plain Bob Doubles.

Michael Robinson wishes to be associated with this quarter.

For St. Alfege's School we rang for their Harvest Festival in October and for their Christmas Carol Service in December.

One of our ringers, JJ, was successful in ringing his first quarter peal in November:

Greenwich, St Alfege

Friday, 16 November 2015

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 43mins (Tenor $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt in A)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Angela Jackson-Smith
3. Andrew Sinclair
4. Eddie Coode
5. Graham Long (C)
6. JJ Aiston

1st attempt; 6.

In memory of all the victims of the Paris attacks, 13th November.

Rung for Lewisham Quarter Peal week.

Emma Roberts and Alan Munden joined in for some general ringing afterwards.

For the Christmas season we rang for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Greenwich and Midnight Mass. For New Year's Day, we had ringing from 12 noon at St Alfege's and then at St. John's with 16 ringers taking part; one those who rang was Neil Coode who has rung about once in the last 30 years - he did very well, and, as they say, just like getting back on and riding a bike! Eight of us went on to ring at St. John's and then just as we had started to lower 3 bells another ringer came up the tower - she hadn't rung for a while but lives in the road behind the church; so we rang one bell up and she was able to join us for a quick burst of rounds - hopefully she might be able to come to some of our practices in the future.

A reminder that Freda Cannon, our Tower Captain Emeritus, is now resident at Fairmount Residential Care Home, Mottingham Lane, Mottingham, SE9 4RT, Tel: 020 8857 1064. She would welcome visitors at any reasonable time. Alan picks Freda up to bring her to Greenwich so she can go to Evensong and hear us ringing once a month.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events - please check our website for further details www.meridianbells.webs.com

Graham Long



Lewisham District Events 2016



- Sat 9th Jan Quarterly Meeting: Greenwich, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrct.org.uk
- Sat 23rd Jan District Practice: Ash by Wrotham, 10.00am - 12.00
- Fri 19th Feb District Practice: Bexley, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 20th Feb County Youth Practice: Chelsfield, 12.00 - 3.30pm
- Sat 27th Feb District Training Event. Times and venue tbc. Email training@lewishamdistrct.org.uk for details
- Sat 5th Mar District 6-bell Striking Competition: Farnborough, 2.30pm draw
- Sat 12th Mar District Practice: Bromley Common, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- Mon 28th Mar KCACR Annual General Meeting: Tunstall, (Rochester District)
- Sat 9th Apr Quarterly Meeting: Bexley, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrct.org.uk

More events in 2016 to follow....

Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up.

Please check the district website www.lewishamdistrct.org.uk nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian on master@lewishamdistrct.org.uk

For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at www.kcacr.org.uk

If you would like to join the Lewisham District email group to get reminders/updates of district events please visit

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district or email lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk

From the Bexley Archives Facebook page



Rachel found the photo on the left and Mary has provided the details below:

Thank you very much forwarding the photo. Next to me is Mary Beresford (nee Ward), Judith Cox (died a year or two ago), Dennis Hall (Dennis, who taught me to ring, died some years ago - Parkinsons.), and finally Beverley Winter (nee Thompson). I think on her marriage Beverley moved to Coventry and subsequently to Worcester. We normally exchange Christmas cards. I cannot remember whether I had one from her last year. I learned to ring at Bexley in 1952 and Beverley was ringing there at that time.

Mary Andrews

Ringling Tour of Australia

In the Spring of 2015 I received an email from a long standing ringing friend whom I met when at college in Portsmouth 40 years ago, asking if I'd be interested in a three week Australian ringing tour in late October and early November 2015. Whilst I had previously been on a two week 'flying' ringing visit to Australia, normally a three week trip would have been impossible due to leave constraints but, by chance, the dates being proposed tied in quite nicely with my proposed retirement and so I said a tentative 'yes'.

The proposed outline itinerary started in Perth, followed by Adelaide and Melbourne, then driving to Sydney via Canberra and ringing at towers along the way. It was intended that the group be made up of twelve ringers who shared the tasks of organising towers, hotels and transport. The party mainly consisted of 'mature' (older/retired!) ringers, with four couples and four singles.

We all made our own arrangements for flights, some doing stopovers, others going direct. I did not travel out with anyone else from the party and flew with Etihad via Abu Dhabi to Perth. Most of us arrived in time to join Sunday morning service ringing at St George's Cathedral, Perth on 24th October. After morning coffee and a short walk to the famous Swan Bell Tower, we joined their learners practice followed by general ringing (with an opportunity to purchase a St Martin's Society polo shirt) and a couple of quarter peals. The Swan Bell Tower is



spectacular - a purpose built futuristic tower of steel and glass, right next to the Swan river and housing the former bells from St Martin in the Fields, London, as a tourist attraction. It's well worth looking it up on line!

We used the train to visit some other nearby towers and, after getting used to ringing rooms with air conditioning, we were surprised to see the sign saying "please turn off heating when leaving". On the way back into Perth we stopped at Cottesloe beach to enjoy fish and chips while watching the sun go down over the Indian Ocean (and fighting off the seagulls that had designs on our food). It was here that Prince Charles has previously been photographed with a 'beach babe'!

There is no sound control on the bells at the Civic Centre tower at Rockingham, south of Perth and where the bells are open to the elements. The owner of nearby Andiamo's restaurant doesn't like the bells, so we arranged to eat there before ringing to placate him. Several of us took on the 'bush tucker trial' in true Celebrity style by trying "Moreton Bay Bugs". Described by some as "poor man's lobster", I'd certainly recommend them if you get the chance.

Perth is a beautiful small city with a mixture of colonial and new buildings. We saw a plaque on one building stating it was the oldest building in Perth ... dated 1830. With some free time available, Kings Park and the botanical gardens were well worth the visit and our one hour drive inland to ring at York was like a trip back in time..

A three hour flight to Adelaide (and oddly a two and a half hour time difference) brought us the joys of Adelaide Town Hall bells, accessed from the back of the dress circle of the concert Hall. These bells have to be described as challenging, but definitely not to be missed.

This was a busier city with the usual friendly, caring locals shown by the notice in a shopping mall saying "The more you weigh the harder you are to kidnap."



Stay safe, eat cake!" A day off from ringing enabled the group to divide and visit local attractions. I caught the tram for a 30 minute ride to a glorious beach at Glenelg and I also saw some Sheffield Shield cricket at the Adelaide Oval. A statue of Bradman stands outside.



faced our first heavy traffic in Australia as we crept our way across the eight lane Harbour Bridge - impressive in many ways. We splashed out on our final accommodation, staying at the Harbourside Apartments at McMahons Point, with views directly facing the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

After morning ringing at Walkerville, a break in the itinerary gave the opportunity to walk back into the city along the river, listening to frogs calling, and seeing pelicans a possum and a kookaburra. After lunch we gathered at St Francis Xavier catholic cathedral where two of our party were telling a tale of getting stuck in the middle of the River Torrens on a pedalo with the wind blowing the fountain water across them. They did later confess that their main concern was missing the planned quarter peal at the cathedral!

Flying into Melbourne, we collected three vehicles at the airport for use for the rest of the tour. On Melbourne Cup day, we headed out of the city to ring at Geelong and Ballarat where, as well as ringing on the church bells there, we were all pleased to ring at the Town Hall (only available to us as it was a Bank Holiday for Melbourne Cup Day).

Our road trip to Sydney was a good way to see some beautiful Australian countryside and wildlife and on many occasions we saw kangaroos in the wild and also emu.



The towers we rang at on the road are too numerous to list in full but included gloriously sounding place names

such as Wangaratta (cathedral), Wagga Wagga, Yass, Goulburn (cathedral), Menangle and Orange where the locals turned out in force to provide us with refreshments and souvenir cards saying 'I am an Orange peeler' - with apologies for spelling!

After 5 days we finally we reached Sydney where we

We rang at all of the towers in and around Sydney and at the end of the trip, on my last day before flying home in the evening, I rang a peal of Turramurra Surprise Major at Turramurra with the others in the band being Sydney locals.

Some in the party climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge and those who did declared that having climbed all those steps they were disappointed to find there were no bells at the top!

Our last full day in Australia as a group was rounded off in the evening by having dinner at the 360 Bar and Dining, a revolving

restaurant at the Sydney Tower Eye. Although the planned after dinner SkyWalk was cancelled due to earlier storms, the meal was a fantastic way to finish a great trip.



All too soon our three week tour was over. During our tour we rang at 47 towers and scored 25 quarter peals. Some hardy folk arrived early and others left late, giving them a chance to ring some additional quarters.

Throughout the tour, the locals were very friendly with, sometimes, the whole band turning out to meet and ring with us. Some bands kindly provided refreshments, including food as well as drinks. Thanks go to everyone who hosted us in such a generous way.

Nick Wilkins



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St George's, Beckenham 10th October 2015

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Rachel Backhouse (Erith CC), Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman (Greenwich), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield), Esther Correia & Deryck Jones (Dartford), Peter Skinner (Chislehurst, St Nicholas), Janis Roddy (Bromley Common), Alex Britton (unattached).

2. Minutes of last meeting (11th July 2015, Erith CC)

Posted to website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.
Proposed: Mark Backhouse; Seconded: Elizabeth Brett. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Mark requested that Rupert send any photos of the Erith Birthday cake to Rachel.

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Alexander Fishburn	Bromley	Mark Backhouse	Chris Davine

Elected unanimously and it was good to see him at the meeting and at previous events.

5. Officer Reports

Ringing Master, Ian Mills: District Practices have been held monthly and well attended with the format of Fri evenings, Sat mornings and Sat evenings.

Training Officer, Ian Mills: two of the three events have taken place; the first was raising and lowering in peal. This was very popular and probably enough interest to run another one. The second was an introduction to hand-bell ringing, not too many took part, but it was enjoyed by those who attended. Since it was run, more interest has been shown so another session may be arranged. There is one more Training Event scheduled for 7th November, details will be circulated when more info available.

Quarter Peal week is scheduled for 8th - 15th November. If anyone wants to ring in one or assistance in ringing a quarter peal, please contact Ian.

Membership Sec, Rachel Backhouse: (Presented by Sue) There were 10 new members elected in the last year. Total membership numbers down 11 to 212. Most of these have not been lost to ringing but moved away from the area or moved district.

120 Club, Rachel Backhouse: (presented by Mark) £572.06 went to BRF. It runs on the 'Financial Year' (April to April) and 115 shares were sold out of possible 120 - the most sold yet. So far for this year 103 have been purchased.



6. Election of Officers

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Philippa Rooke	Rupert Cheeseman	Lesley Barclay
Secretary	Sue Cameron	Philippa Rooke	Bethany Kirrage
Membership Secretary	Rachel Backhouse	Brenda Barton	Les Brett
Ringling Master	Vacant		
Asst Ringing Master	Diane Reynolds	Sue Cameron	Bethany Kirrage
Training Officer	Ian Mills	Lesley Barclay	Natalie Slator
District Rep 1	Chris Davine	Philippa Rooke	Elizabeth Brett
District Rep 2	Natalie Slator		
120 Club	Rachel Backhouse	Brnda Barton	Jim Rooke
Newsletter	Rupert Cheeseman	Diane Reynolds	Bethany Kirrage
Sales	Shelagh Norman	Rupert Cheeseman	Bethany Kirrage
	Chris Goldsmith		

Notes on appointments

- The vacant Ringing Master position will hopefully be re-addressed in January. In the interim, Rupert and Sue will organise towers for the District Practices next year and invite Guest 'Ringing Masters' to run a practice whenever Diane is not available.

7. 120 club draw

	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	£20	Ian Mills	Eltham
2nd	£10	Hannah Clark	Hayes
3rd	£10	Esther Correia	Dartford
4th	£5	Mark Backhouse	Erith CC

8. KCACR report on the meeting held on 1st August 2015

- A minutes' silence was held to remember Frank Lewis who recently passed away
- Work on the accounts is well underway and the outstanding grants for Wrotham and Broomfield have now been paid
- Doug Davis is looking after the KCACR website for the time being in the absence of an official Webmaster
- Due to lack of interest, it is likely that the ITTS Module 1 course scheduled for 31st August and the ITTS Module 2 course scheduled for 19th September will be cancelled
- The grant application for Hollingbourne was reviewed but not increased, however an offer of a short-term loan will be made
- Following updated figures and information from St. Peter in Thanet, a maximum grant of £10,000 was agreed
- It was agreed that we should retain a separate Training fund, and final details around usage and process would be decided at the next meeting

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- It was agreed that we would investigate the possibility of re-printing the bell handling posters available at the Central Council meeting in Hull
 - The Youth Striking Competition this year will be Call Changes only and will be held on 24th October at Chalk. Lewisham has a team that will be entering - Good Luck!
 - It was agreed that a County Mailing list would be setup to help communication across the Association, approx. 100 have signed up so far. Please consider signing up.
 - A membership database has been established and is in the early stages of being updated; Membership cards will also be looked at for the coming year. Doubt was expressed in our meeting as to the need for this.
 - It was agreed that a County Surprise Major practice would be setup and trialled, the first is set for 31st October at Wrotham 10 - 12 noon.
 - The 2015 County 6-bell Striking Competition would be held on 26th September at Godmersham, 2.45pm draw. Lewisham went on to win this - well done Chelsfield.

9. Past Events and Upcoming Events

- County 6 Bell Competition was won convincingly by Chelsfield at Godmersham.
- 17th October District Practice at Downe 10 - 12 noon.
- 7th November District Training event - further details to follow.
- 8th - 15th November Quarter Peal Week
- 21st November, Farningham - Call Change competition- no more than three peal ringers can be in a band but towers can combine. Full details on the website.
- 12th December District Practice at Dartford 7 - 9pm.

10. AOB

- Philippa reminded the meeting that the Lewisham District is due to hold next year's County 6 bell competition; Nick Wilkins is offering Farnborough as host.
- Request for details of what is available from the Book stall to be placed on the district website and if possible for the stock be brought to meetings by someone else if Chris or Shelagh are unable to make it.
- Rupert thanked those who had contributed to the newsletter during the year, more articles are always greatly received.

11. Vote of Thanks

Alex Fishburn, our newly elected member, thanked Rev Tina Kelsey for taking the service and Nicholas Wibberley the organist. He gave special thanks to the Beckenham band for hosting the meeting, letting us ring their bells and for providing such a delicious and plentiful tea.

Next meeting will be Saturday 9th January 2016 at Greenwich.



Striking Competition
Saturday 5th March
Farnborough
2.30 draw
