



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

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

JANUARY 2018

## District Quarter Peal Week

The District Quarter Peal 'week' is from Friday 9th March to Sunday 18th March. The plan is to make this as useful as possible by allowing ringers to attempt something that they haven't rung before. Also, I'd like to see Quarter Peals attempted in most, if not all, of the towers in the District. Volunteers welcome to help with organising Quarter Peals, please.

Thanks,

Nick Wilkins

### Lewisham District Events 2018

- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan      Quarterly Meeting: Greenwich, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jan      District Practice: Chislehurst, Annuciation, 7.30 - 9.00pm
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb      District Practice: Biggin Hill (TBC), 7.30 - 9.00pm
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb      District 6-bell Striking Competition: Downe, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> to Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Mar      Quarter Peal week. Please ring a quarter in your tower.
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Mar      District Practice: Woolwich (TBC), 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr      KCACR Annual General Meeting: TBC, (Ashford District)
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Apr      Quarterly Meeting: Erith, St John, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jul      Quarterly Meeting: Crayford, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Aug      District outing to London
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Oct      Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Nov      District 6-bell Call Change Competition: TBC, 2.30pm draw

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

Please check the district website [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk) nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian on [master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://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](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district) or email [lewisham\\_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk)

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Rachel Backhouse

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# Call Change Comp

The district call change competition took place at Sidcup on Sat 18th November. Only four bands entered this year and Ben Kipling was the judge.

There was a good standard of ringing and a close result with Crayford just winning.

1st Crayford  
2nd Chelsfield  
3rd Farnborough  
4th Bromley Common



Rupert

# Alan Regin, MBE

I thought you'd be interested and pleased to learn that Alan Regin who came to address us at Chelsfield on Ringers Sunday in October has received an MBE for Services to Bellringing!

You will recall that he has not only done a lot of work over many years on the Rolls of Honour commemorating bellringers lost in action in WW1 but also been a driving force and Trustee in respect of the installation of the peal of bells at Ypres in Belgium.

I'm sure everyone in the ringing fraternity and also more widely will think it a very well deserved recognition.

Nick Wilkins

# Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time.

A new year dawns and so KCACR subs are due (£10 Adults, £5 Senior / Junior). Please can you get them to me as soon as possible.

The Striking competition takes place at Downe on Sat 24th Feb and the District Quarter Peal week runs from 9th to 18th March so please try and support these events.

*Rupert*

## 120 club

Many thanks to all who bought shares last year – all 120 were sold. It is now time to start thinking about the 2018-19 season; the first draw will be at the April District Meeting. There are 10 draws during the year. Shares are £10 and each draw has four prizes - £20, £10, £10, and £5, with double the number of prizes in July and December. All profits go to the Kent County Bell Restoration Fund.

You do not have to be a Kent member or even a ringer to purchase shares, but shares cannot be sold to anyone under 16. Application forms are attached or may be printed off the District website. Share numbers will be allocated sequentially. If you wish to have particular numbers, please indicate this. However, preferred numbers cannot be guaranteed.

### October 2017 Annual District Meeting, Chelsfield.

1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Rachel Backhouse	CC Erith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Margaret Heald	St John's Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	Dave Horne	Eynsford

### November 2017 Sidcup

1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	Esther Correia	Dartford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Margaret Heald	St John's Erith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Tom Scarth	CC Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	John Cheney	Horton Kirby

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### December 2017 Eltham (Double Draw)

1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	Chris Davine	Eltham
1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	Diane Reynolds	Eltham
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Steve Haynes	Eynsford & Farningham
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Ian Nurdin	Ash
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Tom Scarth	CC Erith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Natalie Slator	CC Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	Frances Wallis	Milton Regis
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	John Cheney	Horton Kirby

Liz Brett



...no I don't think you're the real Father Christmas!  
I think you're up there pinching lead off my roof!!

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thurs  
Sunday ??am

For some time we have considered the idea of starting an eight bell practice as although we have eight bells method ringing is usually confined to minor methods. As our band could not run such a practice alone, we took soundings from two local towers to see if anyone was interested in taking the idea forward. The response was positive and the first practice took place last November. Since then we have held monthly practices in place of the regular practice. We have managed to ring various methods, for example Little Bob Major and St Clements College Bob Triples. The new practice appears to be well received and gives experienced ringers from six bell towers the opportunity to practice eight bell methods.

Chris Lawrance

## CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 20:00  
Sunday 9.30am

Another 3 months have flown by. In November it was 140 years since the first peal on the bells so we decided to ring another one to commemorate it. This was a first attempt for Debra and she almost went as far as saying she enjoyed it!



We've named a couple more variations. Ringing In Memoriam for the annual memorial service and Platinum Anniversary for the Queen and Philip's anniversary.

We were also glad to help out Julie McDonnell reach her quarter peal target for the year by inviting her along to our Christmas Eve quarter.

Rupert Cheeseman

Saturday, 18 November 2017  
5040 Grandsire Triples in 2hr 56mins  
Composed by JJ Parker

1. David Holdridge
2. E Lesley Barclay
3. Debra Say
4. Richard A Pearce
5. Cathy L A Cheeseman
6. Alexander W Runting
7. Rupert J Cheeseman (C)
8. Andrew Sinclair

Rung to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the first peal on these bells on the 17th November 1877.  
First peal; 3. First triples; 6 and as conductor.



Sunday, 5 November 2017 in  
0:43  
1260 In Memoriam Doubles in  
43mins

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

Rung half muffled before the annual memorial service.  
Believed to be the first quarter rung in the variation of In

Memoriam (11 b/dc - Eynesbury Bob with Plain Bob Bob and London Single)

Tuesday, 21 November 2017  
1260 Platinum Anniversary Doubles in 42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Peter Skinner
4. Debra Say
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Neville Wilding

Rung to mark the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, who were married on 20th November 1947.

50th qtr; 3. Believed to be the first quarter rung in the variation of Platinum Anniversary (94t - Poyle Slow Course with a Minster Bob)

Sunday, 24 December 2017  
 1260 Grandsire Triples in 45mins

1. Brenda Barton
  2. Julie McDonnell
  3. Caroline Stockmann
  4. Debra Say
  5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
  6. Andrew Sinclair
  7. Cathy Cheeseman
  8. Helen Webb
- Rung before the Christmas Eve carol service.



## ERITH, Christ Church

*Practice Mon 8pm  
 Sunday 9.15am*

Bit thin on the ground in the bell tower now, however we have continued to ring on Sundays, for Christmas services and for the Carol Service by Tree Light. We also rang the handbells at the Christmas Tree Festival which was great fun.

Before Mark moved he managed to compose 70 call changes which we rang on practice night to commemorate the 70th wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Phillip on the 20th November 2017. This was the band:-

Treble: Natalie Slator	Bell 4: Dennis Vick
Bell 2: Shirley Scarth	Bell 5: Les Brett
Bell 3: Liz Brett	Tenor: Mark Backhouse (C)

Regarding Rachel and Mark's move to Thatcham, we all enjoyed a farewell meal at the Riverside Fish and Steak House, and following the Church service on the 3rd December we presented them with, among other gifts, a commissioned painting of Christ Church, Erith. Mark and Rachel not only rang at this church they also lent their expertise to other local towers, helped young



learners and put in a tremendous amount of work for the Bell Tower Centenary.

On Christmas Eve Eloise conducted 120 Joyous Doubles call changes to wish them luck and happiness in their new home as they move on from Christ Church and also to congratulate Adrian on the birth of his daughter. This was the band :-

Treble: Natalie Slator	Bell 4: Matthew Smith
Bell 2: Shirley Scarth	Bell 5: Anthony Scarth
Bell 3: Eloise Scarth (C)	Tenor: Adrian Lucia

Shirley Scarth

## FARNBOROUGH

*Practice  
 Sunday 9.30am*

No regular evening practices but we have been training a few new ringers including youngsters on weekday afternoons after school and this is proving successful. Sunday ringing is from 9.30 - 10.00am.

During 2017, 45 quarter peals were rung at Farnborough and two have already been rung on 2nd January, 2018. If anyone is interested in ringing a quarter peal, perhaps of something they haven't rung before, please let me know.

Additionally, seven peals were rung at Farnborough in 2017.

Nick Wilkins

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

### The Meridian Ringers

We have continued with our normal ringing pattern, with our normal practice night on Wednesdays, 8pm - 930pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. Indeed, we had several concerts at Greenwich which

clashed with our Wednesday practices during November and December so we were able to hold practices at St John's and Woolwich instead. We usually ring for the monthly Choral Evensong at Greenwich and also for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We occasionally ring at Woolwich. We are also going to attempt to ring for some Sunday morning services at Greenwich as from January [again, please check the website].

There are usually 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. For our final practice before Christmas we rang several courses of Antelope Doubles.

Our learners are making good progress and have achieved Levels 1 & 2 on the Learning the Ropes scheme.

We rang two quarters recently in memory of the tragic train disasters at St John's/Lewisham and Hither Green.

Greenwich, St Alfege

Tuesday, 7 November 2017

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 43 minutes (8-2-14)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Shelagh Norman
3. Graham Cuthbert
4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C)
6. David Connearn



*In memoriam, to mark the 50th anniversary of 5 November 1967 Hither Green, London SE6.*

49 rail passengers died and many more were wounded after a commuter train derailed. The 19:43 express train was travelling from Hastings to Charing Cross when at 21:16 it crashed off the rails between Hither Green and Grove Park stations near the Southern Region Continental goods depot, on the bridge which crosses the South Circular Road.

Deptford, St. John's

Tuesday, 5 December 2017

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 44 mins (Tenor: 8-1-7)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Roger Booth
3. Jim Odell
4. Graham Cuthbert
5. Graham Long (C)
6. David Connearn

*In memoriam. Rung to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the train crash near St. John's station on 4th December 1957.*

Two trains crashed in dense fog just outside Lewisham - 90 people were killed and nearly 200 more were injured. The crash deflected one of the trains into an over-bridge, which then collapsed onto the packed carriages below that were carrying 2,000 evening rush hour commuters.



Maurice Coombs, whose father Thomas Coombs died in the crash, came to St John's church to listen to the quarter peal.

We were very pleased that we were able to raise a band of 6 to ring for Midnight Mass at St Alfege, Greenwich this Christmas.

One of our team, David Connearn recently rang his first quarter on the treble at the first attempt at Rotherhithe on Saturday 30th December, 1260 Grandsire Doubles, with Edward Gormley ringing the tenor.

On Monday, 1 January 2018, ten of us met up at Greenwich at noon to ring for the New Year. Rounds, Call Changes, Firing on 10, Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob Triples.

The band send their best wishes to Alan Munden who is currently undergoing treatment.

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

[www.meridianbells.webs.com](http://www.meridianbells.webs.com)

Graham Long



*Back Row, l-r: Andrew Booth, Jim Odell, Eddie Coode, Graham Long, Edward Gormley.*

*Front row: Roger Booth, Hazel Bing, Jan Odell, Naoko Nakatani, Brenda Coode*



INVICTA

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



INVICTA

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting, St Martins, Chelsfield 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

26 people attended representing 9 towers, 2 unattached member and 1 from Rochester Dist.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Graham Long (Greenwich), Brenda Barton (Dartford), Diane Reynolds and Ian Mills (Eltham), Margaret Heald (Erith, St Johns), Judith and Jon Fry (West Wickham), Rachel Backhouse (Erith CC).

**2. Minutes of last meeting** (8th July 17 at Bickley)

Posted to website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record. One spelling correction to Daphne Paterson's name (only one 't')

Proposed: Nick Wilkins Seconded: Mark Backhouse. Voted unanimously.

**3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere – Nil**

**4. Election of New Members**

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Audrey Allaway	Farnborough	Nick Wilkins	John Barnes
Victoria Watson			
Kathy Besgrove	West Wickham	Judith Fry	John Fry
Anthony Besgrove			
Louise Baine		Witness to lowering	Nick Wilkins
Jamie Hamper			
Suzanne Fever	Ash by Wrotham	Brian Ashmore	Julia Kilfoyle
		Witness to lowering	Sue Cameron
Susan Heads	Ash by Wrotham	Brian Ashmore	Julia Kilfoyle
Frank Cottee			

Witness to lowering for Susan and Frank to be verified by Rupert Cheeseman

All voted in unanimously with Susan Heads and Frank Cottee to be ratified once witness to lowering a bell safely has been confirmed. A warm welcome was given to all and it was great to see so many of the new members in attendance at the meeting.

**5. Officer Reports**

**Ringling Master, Nick Wilkins.** Practices have been held monthly and I am still trying to ensure that all the towers in the district are visited. Many of the practices have been on Friday evenings however four have been on Saturdays. I am keen to reach out to more ringers across the District as although the practices are generally well attended it tends to be by the same people, I would really like to encourage ringers from other towers to come along too. Ringing is tailored to who attends so should be inclusive. I am concerned at the general health of ringing as there are a few towers in the district where there is little ringing taking place and I would like to actively try and do something about this particularly holding practices at these towers.

The Lewisham District won the County 8 bell striking Competition in June and the district call change competition was won by the home band at St Mary Cray last November. Chelsfield won the district striking competition in Farningham in March. I would encourage as many towers as possible to enter the district call-change competition in November and the striking competition in the New Year.

I am proposing to hold a Quarter Peal week 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March which would include the weekends at either end of the week. I will be looking at key people in the district to assist and try and get a quarter rung in all the towers in the district if at all possible.

Natalie Slator thanked Nick for organising the practices and felt that everyone was made very welcome whatever their level of ringing and he was more than welcome to use Erith CC for a practice.

Doug Fisher put forward a suggestion that perhaps a practice night 'away-day' where a tower such as Chelsfield went to another tower where less ringing takes place instead of attending Chelsfield that Monday. Mark Backhouse picked up on this and suggested that it could be that if there was a 5<sup>th</sup> practice night in a month then that be the night for an away day. Others agreed that this would be a nice idea to try and implement.

**Training Officer, Alex Fishburn.** Unfortunately Alex couldn't attend this meeting and was standing down due to it being his last year at university and therefore lack of time to dedicate to the role. It was believed that there had been at least two training events during the year; one a ringing up and down in peal and another of plain hunt however this one ended up more as a handling clinic to give the participants better bell control in order to assist their plain hunt.

**Newsletter Editor, Rupert Cheeseman.** Thank you for all who contribute to the content of the newsletter, it is appreciated. The newsletter is what you make it, the more items submitted make a better newsletter. If you would like colour version it is available for printing on the district website.

Rupert was thanked for continuing to compile it for us.

**120 Club, Mark Backhouse on behalf of Rachel Backhouse.** This was the last year that the club will be run by Rachel as she and Mark will be moving out of the area. During this time over £7000 has been raised for the Bell Restoration Fund. For the first year ever all 120 balls were sold. The club is not confined to 120 balls and there are spare balls should the number be increased. There are two volunteers to take over the running of the club and it is convenient that one of these people lives within the borough of Bexley where the club is registered and can continue there.

Philippa Rooke, thanked each of these officers for their excellent work throughout the year, it really is appreciated.

## 6. Election of Officers

Cathy Cheeseman (Rochester District) took the chair for the appointment of the Chair.

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
<b>Chair</b>	Philippa Rooke	Lesley Barclay	Nancy Fisher
<b>Secretary</b>	Sue Cameron	Nick Wilkins	Liz Brett
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Rupert Cheeseman	Natalie Slator	Les Brett
<b>Ringing Master</b>	Nick Wilkins	Rupert Cheeseman	Natalie Slator
<b>Asst Ringing Master</b>	Diane Reynolds	Lesley Barclay	Lisa Cole
<b>Training Officer</b>	Lesley Barclay	Doug Fisher	Karen Barter
<b>District Rep 1</b>	Chris Davine	Liz Brett	Nick Wilkins
<b>District Rep 2</b>	Natalie Slator		
<b>120 Club</b>	Liz Brett	Mark Backhouse	Natalie Slator
<b>120 Club Asst</b>	Deryck Jones	Natalie Slator	Nick Wilkins
<b>Newsletter</b>	Rupert Cheeseman	Nick Wilkins	Nancy Fisher
<b>Sales</b>	Shelagh Norman	Lesley Barclay	Alex Britton
	Chris Goldsmith		

Signatories for the 120 club will now be Liz Brett, Deryck Jones, Brenda Barton and Penny Parsons.

Philippa Rooke thanked all past officers standing down, those remaining in post and those new to their roles your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

## 7. Proposed Rule Changes

The meeting discussed the proposed rule change which, subject to further discussion at the General Committee meeting in November, will be voted on at the County AGM on Easter Monday, 2nd April. The County had asked for



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feedback in time for the meeting in November. Details of the proposals have been circulated to the towers in advance and copies were made available at the meeting. To enable further discussions to take place in towers the information was also in the current newsletter circulated today.

The proposal is to replace the Ringing Master and Chairman of the districts with the single position of Master, which is commonplace in other ringing associations.

Comments from those attending were that overall intention was positive in that it focused the business of County and District more towards actual ringing, and reduction of the overall size of the committee, however there were strong concerns that it put far too much pressure on just one person. It only works if there is the right person in each district to have the time available to take on the many facets of the role. They would have to act in the role of Ringing Master as we know it, attend both the County and district meetings, chairing the latter. Different skills are required in these roles and to find someone who is skilled at all of them may be a tall order. The District Reps reported that it had been suggested that the Master at County level would have sub-committees to assist with some of the workload, but this is not clear in the proposal. If so, the incumbent would need to be a good delegator and have people happy to be delegated to.

The District would like clarification on

whether The Master (at County level) would have sub-committees to assist with some of the workload.

who could represent the Master at the County meeting if they were unable to attend.

when the changes come in to affect, and whether there were different timelines for County and District. One part of the rule change proposal states it would be immediately after the AGM if the change was supported, another part stated November.

the term of office for the County Master - the rule change states 3 years, but is that only an election every third year or re-elected annually?

Mark Backhouse proposed that a new wording be put to the County for consideration "The District Master and one other district representative will serve on the committee for the ensuing year". This was seconded by Les Brett and passed by the meeting.

The Chair and the Secretary will contact the county for the above clarifications, the district reps will take our feedback to the next county meeting and it will be an agenda item for January to discuss further to give people the best information with which to make a decision and vote at the County AGM.

## 8. 120 club draw

	No	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	65	£20	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2nd	98	£10	Rachel Backhouse	Erith CC
3rd	54	£10	Margaret Heald	Erith St Johns
4th	118	£5	David Horne	Eynsford and Farningham

## 9. KCACR report on the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 16

It was agreed that we will prepare & conduct a census across all towers in the Association to allow us to better understand the state of ringing today

The accounts have now been audited and just need to be submitted to the Charities Commission. The Auditor has commented that the accounts are far too complicated, and this will be reviewed with him, including how the Districts account for the income from the sale of clothing books

It was agreed that the recruitment/training plan as part of the Armistice Day proposal will be dropped for the time being due to lack of resources, however the idea will be revisited

Diocesan Safeguarding Training has now started to be arranged and delivered, so all towers should be aware of this

The trailer has been ordered for the mobile ring, currently due to be delivered sometime around mid-October. Pricing for the addition of lettering to the bells has also been received and this will be passed to David Cawley who would like to pay for 'KCACR' to be put on each one

Faculty applications can now be made entirely online

Following the last meeting, it has been decided we will only provide one printed copy of the next handbook for every tower, and anyone else wanting a printed copy will be able to place an order at a cost of £4 from December and these will be available for collection At the AGM as normal. Otherwise the handbook will be available online, and it

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will be possible for this to be updated on a regular basis

Some proposed rule changes around the introduction of an Association Master and District Masters, and changes to the make-up of the General Committee, were discussed and will be made available online as soon as possible and circulated to Districts ready for their ADMs in

October

Following a proposal from the Secretary, it was agreed that the Association will pay for all expenses related to the Kent Young Ringers attending out of county events such as the South East England and National Youth competitions, to not allow cost to be a deciding factor in whether a young person can attend

The County 6 bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 23rd September, 9.45am draw, at East Malling

The final General Committee meeting for 2017 will be held on 25th November, probably in the new venue which was well received today

#### **Report on previous events and & upcoming events**

The joint outing with Tonbridge District to London on 12<sup>th</sup> August was very successful and very well attended. The date for next year has already been set, 11<sup>th</sup> August and will be organised by Lewisham. Nick Wilkins offered to organise the event and suggested visiting the towers in the Docklands area in our District.

28/10/17	County Youth comp	Otford	
10/11/17	District Practice	Erith St Johns	8 – 9,30pm
18/11/17	Call Change Comp	Downe	2.30pm draw
07/12/17	London Ringers Carol Service	St Clement Danes	7.30pm

Greenwich have offered to host the January QDM on 13th and we will take them up on this offer. It was recognised that will be the third year in a row that the January meeting would be held at Greenwich, and concern was expressed that this does not become a fixture as other towers should take their turn. Having meetings at as many towers as possible across the District helps get the message that we're serious about the church-related side of ringing across to different parish priests and encourages ringers from the host tower to come to at least one meeting a year.

Venues are needed for the remaining meetings in April, July and October, please consider volunteering your tower to host one.

The District Striking competition is usually held on the first Saturday in March, however Rupert Cheeseman will be away on that date so requested that it be brought forward a week. This was agreed as Crayford are one of the regular teams taking part. Date of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 was set. A tower to host is required.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Philippa Rooke spoke about officially adding the role of Youth Officer to the district posts and asked Nick Wilkins if he could take on this role organising any youth bands as required. Nick agreed but requested that towers let him know of any under 25s in the towers that would be interested in joining a youth band.

Rupert thanked all contributors to the latest newsletter

Philippa extended the invite out at this meeting for anyone who wanted to attend the Annual Chelsfield Ringers' service the following evening where Alan Regin would be talking about the Ypres Bell project. Open ringing from 5.45pm before the service starting at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Lesley Barclay asked if anyone had information on Insurance for ringing. Advised that details can be found in the handbook regarding County insurance for members, no age is mentioned. Others advised to check with their particular church; many use Ecclesiastical Insurance but there may be an age specified there.

Sue Cameron requested a volunteer to take the minutes of the next meeting in January as she would be unable to make the meeting. Sue stated that Diane Reynolds may be able to assist, Liz Brett also offered to undertake this task. Sue gave thanks in advance.

Nick Wilkins conveyed a request on behalf of Michael Owen for wedding ringers required at The Annunciation, Chislehurst for 12.45pm meet for before and after ringing, £20 payment.

#### **11. Vote of thanks**

Rosemary Stretton gave a vote of thanks to the reader, Ken l'Anson and Gwen Bowen for playing the organ. A big thank you to the Chelsfield band for laying on such a wonderful tea which we all enjoyed.

**Next meeting** – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Greenwich.

