



# 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)

APRIL 2018

## Eltham not Downe

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February was a cold but bright and sunny day for the District Striking Competition, which this year was held at Downe.

The start was a little delayed due to five of the Crayford band having to ring at a wedding beforehand where the bride did not oblige by being on time, but with the judges, Catherine Heathcote (Lamberhurst) and Alex Runting (Oxford) outside, the draw was made.

First to ring were Chelsfield followed by Eltham, then Crayford and lastly the combined home team of Downe/Cudham. The afternoon was not without incident, with three out of the four bands experiencing various issues – a member of the Chelsfield band missed the sally during the test piece, somebody from the Eltham band knocked his glasses off his face onto the floor and then had trouble seeing, the fourth bell rope became untucked while Crayford were ringing and the treble ringer from the same band had a major coughing fit for half of the ringing and could hardly breathe!

So once all four bands had rung and we had all enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea/coffee with cakes and biscuits, it was time for the two judges to give their verdict.

Catherine started by making a couple of general observations, firstly that these were lovely sounding bells and secondly that she had noticed that both the third and the tenor were quick at handstroke. She went on to give a detailed breakdown of each bands performance.

Team 1 – Chelsfield – Their practice piece was very good but the start of the test piece was somewhat different. She wasn't to know, but this was the missed sally incident. The changes were steady with the second 120 rung much better. Despite a missed dodge, the ringing settled nicely.

Team 2 – Eltham – There was some kind of accident in the first 20 changes of the test piece (the glasses incident) but it settled again very quickly. The ringing was steady and even, and this was the slowest ringing of the afternoon. It was described as sedate and enjoyable.

Team 3 – Crayford – This ringing was irregular in places during the first 120 (no surprise due to the coughing) but it did settle and the second 120 was much better. The leading was singled out as being very good.

Team 4 – Downe/Cudham – This team rang plain courses and became more confident throughout. There were, however, gaps at backstroke leading.

The results were then read out in reverse order:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eltham 83%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chelsfield 77%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Crayford 60%
- 4<sup>th</sup> Downe/Cudham 56%



Thanks were extended to both judges with gifts presented and also to the Downe/Cudham ringers for providing refreshments, and so a very enjoyable afternoon came to a close just as the sun was starting to set.

Debra Say

# District officer e-mail directory

**Website:**

[www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Chairman:**

Philippa Rooke  
[chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Secretary:**

Sue Cameron  
[sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Rupert Cheeseman  
[memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Ringling Master:**

Nick Wilkins  
[master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Assistant Master:**

Diane Reynolds  
[ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Training Officer:**

Lesley Barclay  
[training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**District Representatives:**

Chris Davine  
[rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)  
Natalie Slator  
[rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Sales Representative:**

Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith  
[sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Rupert Cheeseman  
[newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**120 Club:**

Rachel Backhouse  
[120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# Farningham Trophy

The Eynsford and Farningham ringers are holding The Trophy competition and invite bands to Farningham on Sunday 24th June at 1pm. This is a relaxed event held biennially which was inaugurated in 2008 following restoration of the Farningham bells and fittings. The Trophy bowl was turned from one of the wooden headstocks removed during the restoration.

As well as the striking contest there will be a fun handbell tune ringing competition, refreshments and a bbq.

To help provide a level playing field regarding method choice the rules contain the following:

Each band must contain a minimum of two ringers performing at or very close to their level of achievement.

Do come along and have some fun on a Summer Sunday afternoon at Farningham on 24th June. Contact David Hilling on [dphilling@gmail.com](mailto:dphilling@gmail.com).

David Hilling



# Editorial



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

There were 4 teams for this year's striking competition which is better some years recently. Eltham were the worthy winners and finally broke Chelsfield's hold on the trophy.

Don't forget that the district's main fund raiser for the KCACR BRF (Bell Restoration Fund) - The 120 Club - starts its new year at the April District meeting. Still only £10. All balls were sold for the first time last year so try and make sure that happens again this year.

*Rupert*

## 120 club

All 120 shares were sold for the 2017-18 draw; many thanks to all who took part. Rachel Backhouse stood down as Promoter last October and Deryck Jones and I took over. We would like to express our appreciation of all Rachel did and for making it easy for us to carry on running the scheme. At present, just over half the shares have been sold for the coming year – buy yours now!

Accounts for 2017-18.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
120 shares @£10	£1200	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	0	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£22.57
		TOTAL	£582.57
		To BRF	£617.43

## In the newsletter this time...

Striking Competition at Downe	1
Farningham Trophy	2
Editorial	3
120 club	3
News from the Towers	
Bexley	4
Crayford	4
Eltham	4
Eynsford and Farningham	5
The Meridian Ringers	5
Ken Deller and Roger Long RIP	7
Strike Back Express	8
Minutes of January District Meeting	9
District Quarter Peal Week	12

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 available from me 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.

13th January 2018 District Meeting, Greenwich.

1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	John Chenery	Horton Kirby
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Deryck Jones	Dartford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Liz Brett	CC Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	Mark Backhouse	CC Erith

16th March 2018 District Practice Woolwich

1 <sup>st</sup>	£20	Margaret Heald	St John's Erith
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£10	Esther Correia	Dartford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£10	Liz Brett	CC Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	£5	Megan Smith	Cudham

Liz Brett

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## BEXLEY

A crack was spotted in the tower wall in December which curtailed ringing while it was investigated. The repairs have now been carried out. Luckily just in time to ring a quarter after the Vicar's last service.

Sunday, 1 April 2018

1320 Grandsire Doubles in 43mins

1. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
2. Brenda Coode
3. Debra Say
4. Eddie Coode
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Jim Odell

Rung on Easter Sunday and as a farewell to the Rev Alison Letschka following her last service at Bexley.

Rupert

## CRAYFORD

Since the last newsletter, we have held a couple of open mornings after Sunday service and have had about 30 people come up to the ringing room and have a go at ringing. Through this and various other bits of word of mouth we now have 5 new learners - Carol, Janet, Lee, Liz and Pete. All are doing well and just taking their first steps into rounds.

We have also gained as a regular visitor a returning ringer from Ash. So Dave rang his first quarter for 43 years in January. We also successfully scored a quarter of Kent minor having now managed to practice it more regularly on a Tuesday.

Rupert

Tuesday, 30 January 2018

1260 Plain Bob Minor in 43mins

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

First for 43 years; 4.



Tuesday, 27 February 2018

1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 44mins

1. Eddie Coode
2. Debra Say
3. Peter Skinner
4. David Gyles
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Rupert Cheeseman (C)

Cos the snow didn't stop us!!

First in method; 2, 3 & 4.



Thursday, 29 March 2018

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42mins

1. Debra Say
2. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
3. Sue Cameron
4. David Gyles
5. Peter Skinner
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung before the Maundy Day service and to mark Sue's retirement on Easter Monday after 30 year and 27 days in the Metropolitan Police.

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

1293 Minimus and Doubles (7m) in 43mins

(24 Plain Bob Minimus, 240 each St Osmund, Eynesbury, St Martin's, St Simon's, Plain Bob and 69 Grandsire)

1. David Gyles
2. Lesley Barclay
3. Sue Cameron
4. Debra Say
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Neville Wilding

In loving memory of Nora Cheeseman, Rupert's Nan, who passed away on 5th April.

## ELTHAM

Practices continue to be reasonably well attended, with ringing ranging from rounds and call changes up to Cambridge Minor and Stedman Triples (with everyone there and the wind in the right direction).

In January, we rang a quarter of Plain Bob Doubles, which was Chris Davine's first attempt – congratulations to her!

Sunday, 14 January 2018 in 42 mins  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Chris Davine
  2. Ian Mills (C)
  3. Debra Say
  4. David Holdridge
  5. Alexander Runting
  6. Diane Reynolds
- First quarter - 1.

We also rang a quarter for the District quarter-peal week (assuming you stretch the definition of "week" slightly beyond the traditional 7 days).

Tuesday, 20 March 2018 in 43m  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Brenda Coode
2. David Holdridge
3. Thomas Green
4. Steve Fitton
5. Ian Mills (C)
6. Eddie Coode

Birthday compliment to Brenda Coode.

We were also delighted to secure first place in the District Striking Competition at Downe in February, for the first time since 2004. It was a busy day, as we also held our annual tower dinner that evening, but it did mean we were able to show off the trophy.

Finally, we have recently introduced a monthly programme of Stedman Triples practices, with the intention of giving ringers in some of the local towers an opportunity to ring it – opportunities being sometimes hard to come by. These are usually held at Eltham, although in February we visited Crayford (thanks, Rupert). The practices have so far catered for ringers who are already familiar with plain courses, but need practice with bobs and singles. However, ringers who have perhaps rung touches of Stedman Doubles and would like to try plain courses of Triples would also be welcome.

If anyone else is interested in attending one of these practices, please let me know. We would also welcome more experienced ringers to make up bands. The next of these is being held at Eltham on Monday 16 April, starting at 7:30.

David Holdridge

## EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM

Many congratulations to Jo Colston on her first quarter peal.

Farningham, Kent  
SS Peter and Paul  
Sunday, 18 February 2018 in  
42m (9–2–23 in A□)

- 1280 Plain Bob Doubles
1. Jo Colston
  2. Caroline A Stockmann
  3. Isabel M Pearce
  4. Catherine M Lewis
  5. Rupert J Cheeseman (C)
  6. Richard D Barker

First quarter peal 1. Birthday compliments to Flo Barker (25), Morgan Carter (10) granddaughter of 1, and Philip McGarvey father of 1.

Beware of bells that become deeper set!

This is the cracked stay on the 4th at Eynsford.



David Hilling

## 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. 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 for practices.

It is very pleasing to note that some of our ringers have been able to ring several times since January for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich. This has been very well appreciated by the congregation and clergy – the Vicar, Rev. Chris Moody has told us that some people heard the bells ringing and came along to join in a service and some of them have started to worship at St Alfege's on a regular basis.

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

Once again, we hosted the District Quarterly meeting on 13 January at Greenwich – there was some good ringing, a service, a splendid tea and the business meeting.

Sadly, one of our much loved members, Ken Deller, passed away on 26 January (a full obituary is elsewhere in this newsletter) – he will be greatly missed by all of us.

On 2nd February, there was a quarter peal at Greenwich to celebrate Eddie Coode's 80th birthday:

Greenwich, St Alfege  
Friday, 2 February 2018  
1280 Plain Bob Doubles in  
44 minutes (8–2–14 )

1. Shelagh Norman
2. Eddie Coode
3. Brenda Coode
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Graham Long (C)
6. Jim Odell



*On the Feast of Candlemas. 80th birthday compliments to Eddie Coode.*

*After the quarter, Jan Odell and Hazel Bing joined in to ring a touch of 180 PB Doubles. An enjoyable lunch followed in The King's Arms, Greenwich.*

The recent cold snap and snow did not deter us and we were able to hold practices (although we changed the timings a little) and ring for services. There was also a District practice at Woolwich on Friday 16th March.

We rang two quarters recently for the Lewisham District Quarter Peal Event:

Foots Cray, All Saints  
Sunday, 18 March 2018  
1380 Plain Bob Doubles in 40 mins (Tenor: 3½cwt)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Graham Long (C)
4. Eddie Coode
5. Jim Odell

25th together: 1 & 3

Rung in memory of Ken Dodd who passed away during this week, especially on the "Diddy" bells of Foots Cray. Rung for Lewisham Quarter Peal week.

A 120 of Plain Hunt followed: 1 Andrew Sinclair, 2 Graham Long, 3 Ros Farmer, 4 Jan Odell, 5 Brenda Coode.

Greenwich, St Alfege  
Sunday, 18 March 2018  
1260 Doubles (60 Stedman, 1200 Plain Bob Doubles) in  
43 minutes (8–2–14 )

1. Brenda Coode
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Eddie Coode
4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C)

## 6. Hazel Bing

Very belated compliments to celebrate the wedding of Dan Cocker (Greenwich ringer) and Ania Osinska married in Warsaw, Poland in 2016; and for the birth and baptism of their daughter, Maria Edith Cocker, in 2017.

For Lewisham Quarter Peal week.

All of The Meridian Ringers continue to 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



# Ken Deller RIP

Ken was a well respected and highly valued member of The Meridian Ringers, Greenwich. In the late 1990s he was introduced to us by our much missed friend the late Canon John Ardley and came along to learn to ring at Woolwich. John and Ken knew each other through their membership of The Dulwich, Sydenham and Crystal Palace Rotary Club and also through links in The Southwark Diocese.



Although Ken came to ringing later in life he became a competent and reliable ringer mostly ringing rounds and call changes, covering to various methods but also managed to learn to plain hunt to doubles. Ken regularly helped to ring for services and weddings and enjoyed several of our weekday mini outings of three towers and a nice lunch.

Ken rang four quarter peals in total; his first at Greenwich in 2003, one at Woolwich in 2005 when Ken and his wife Barbara celebrated their Ruby wedding. His last two quarters were both at Greenwich in 2015, one to celebrate Ken and Barbara's Golden Wedding, the other to mark Ken's 80th birthday – both of these followed by splendid lunches at The Kings Arms, Greenwich.

Ken was a long standing member of St. John's Church, Goose Green, East Dulwich which has one bell, hung for ringing full circle (10-1-26; 1864 Mears). He did a lot of charitable work and in particular he and Barbara organised the weekly Over 55s Lunch Club at St. John's. They were also Trustees of The Elms Residential Care Home – their fundraising Curry Evenings at The Dulwich Tandoori for The Elms and other charities were legendary and several of us remember those most enjoyable evenings.

Ken was a fond family man and he was very proud of all their achievements. Often Ken was away on various trips with his daughter, Philipa, when she was head of HR for Tui Travel and doing inspections and visits throughout the world – some of these were just one day ventures to places like New York, Rome and Venice but Ken always thoroughly enjoyed them and also lots of other travelling with Barbara. Ken and Barbara's son Jeremy is a very well-known artist who was The Turner Prize winner in 2004.

Ken was a true gentleman, a great friend and fun to be

# Roger Long RIP

Roger Long was, for half a century, a stalwart of Chislehurst ringing. He learnt to ring at the church of the Annunciation, where he was a lifelong worshipper and active participant in the ministry. However most of his ringing was at St Nicholas where he was for many years tower captain and secretary of the ringers. Roger was elected as a member of the KCACR in 1962 completing 50 years membership in 2012.

Roger rang standard methods well but did not aspire to ring anything beyond that. He rang one peal and many quarters but his main interest was in visiting other towers; being particularly pleased to have rung at Windsor Castle. The outings he organised with Len Dumper were a highlight of the Chislehurst ringing calendar. Carefully planned, the route would be tried out beforehand, a hostelry for lunch identified, menus obtained and distributed with details of the itinerary; so that the day, as always, went with a swing.

In addition to his involvement with church and ringing Roger was, although unmarried, a devoted family man, supporting his sister in law and her children following the untimely death of his brother. At his funeral, fond reminiscences of Roger's involvement with his family reminded us of happier times.

Roger had many interests outside ringing, music and scouting being important. He was an accomplished organist; and also put this skill to good use playing for services at a number of district meetings. As the leader, for many years, of a cub scout pack in Mottingham he combined his interests in music and scouting by teaching the cubs to ring carols on handbells and then taking them to entertain pensioners in care homes in the area. The noise inside the hut during pack meetings was ferocious but Roger and his deputy seemed impervious to it giving their time and energy (and hearing?) for the good of the community.

Roger epitomised the quiet reliable ringers who turn out, rain or shine, to welcome worshippers to church, and take justifiable pleasure in a job well done.

Colin Wylde



with, he had a very quiet, quick and smart wit and he was a great servant to many people and organisations over many years - we will all miss him very much.

May he Rest In Peace. And Rise In Glory.

Graham Long

# THE STRIKE BACK EXPRESS

On Saturday 29th July 2017 The Strike Back Express, a specially chartered vintage train owned by Hastings Diesels Limited, travelled all the way from Hastings to Bath and back. In Bath the bell-ringers on the train had the opportunity to ring the bells at three churches in the city. All profits from ticket sales and other donations went to Strike Back Against Blood Cancer.



At 07:37 The Strike Back Express left Hastings, at the start of its journey to Bath. I planned to join The Strike Back Express at Reading. At 11:00 The Strike Back Express arrived. The train is Class 201 Hastings Diesel Electric Multiple Unit No. 1001. I got on board. My seat is in coach D, adjacent to the carriage vestibule. The Strike Back Express departed from Reading half an hour late, but despite the delay, I'm already enjoying the journey! Just after departing from Reading I went to the buffet car. The buffet car is exactly the same as the one at Tunbridge Wells West Station on the Spa Valley Railway. A wide range of refreshments are on sale in the buffet car.



The Hastings Diesels Sales Department is also located in the buffet car, with a number of Hastings Diesels Limited souvenirs for sale. I bought an enamel Hastings Diesel Electric Multiple Unit badge. It depicts the front end of Hastings DEMU No. 1001. I'm feeling so excited to find the badge for sale!

At 12:00 The Strike Back Express whizzed through Box Tunnel. It is dug through Box Hill, between Chippenham and Bath. The tunnel is a significant structure on the Great Western Main Line. It was built for the Great Western Railway between 1838 and 1841 under the direction of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It is believed Brunel designed the tunnel so the sun would shine through on only one day a year – the 9th April – Brunel's birthday.

At 12:07 The Strike Back Express arrived at Bath Spa. I got off The Strike Back Express and took a photograph of the front motor coach. I then watched The Strike Back Express depart. The thumping noise the diesel engine made was just Diesel Traintastic!

Hastings DEMU No. 1001 is the first in a fleet of diesel electric multiple units built by British Railways Southern Region in the late 1950s. The trains are nicknamed 'thumpers' by enthusiasts because of their distinctive engine noise. Hastings DEMU No. 1001 has two diesel engines, one in each motor coach. Each diesel engine

is connected to a dynamo. The diesel engine drives the dynamo, and the dynamo generates the electricity to make the train go.

After watching The Strike Back Express depart from Bath Spa I still felt too excited to do anything else, but I needed to get my breath back before my first bell-ringing practice session in Bath at St Mary's Church. I had one go at ringing rounds and call changes at St Mary's Church Bath. I rang the tenor bell. I then went to a bell-ringing practice session at Christ Church Bath.

Next I decided to explore the beautiful city of Bath. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the Waterstones bookshop I bought four postcards depicting different photographs of Bath. I also bought a large book called A World of Information. From cloud classification to Roman numerals, an essential miscellany of fascinating facts for curious minds.

A little later I went into a small pub called Coeur de Lion, located in Northumberland Place. It is the smallest pub in Bath. I had my lunch there. When I had finished in the pub I went for another walk around the city. I then went to a bell-ringing practice session at St Michael's Church Bath. I then walked to Bath Spa Station, from where I had to get The Strike Back Express to Reading.

About half an hour after departing from Bath Spa The Strike Back Express joined the Reading to Taunton Line near Westbury. I met Julie McDonnell. Julie took a photograph of me standing by my seat. I am holding my model of Stephenson's Rocket, Graham, my teddy bear, my Flying Scotsman returns to steam coin and my ticket clipper. My Hastings Diesel Electric Multiple Unit badge is pinned to my Holiday Club T-shirt.



At 19:05 The Strike Back Express arrived at Reading. I got off and watched the train depart. The thumping noise the diesel engine made was just Diesel Traintastic! I watched the train until it was out of sight. It has been a memorable event and I will always look back on it with great enthusiasm.

Edward Gormley





INVICTA

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



INVICTA

**Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St Alfege, Greenwich 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

26 people attended representing 12 towers.

It was with great sadness that the meeting was preceded by a minute of silence in memory of Roger Long of Chislehurst who died shortly before Christmas. He was a longstanding member of the District and Association.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Alex Britton; Sue Cameron (both unattached); Mary Andrews (Bexley).

**2. Minutes of last meeting** (14th October 17 at Greenwich)

Posted on website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record. Proposed: Lesley Barclay; Seconded: Jim Rooke.

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

**4. Rule Change Proposal**

Philippa Rooke summarised the proposals which had been initially discussed at the ADM in October 2017. A number of issues had been raised which she had taken up with the KCACR Chairman Daniel Brady.

Regarding things to be clarified:

- a) *Whether the Master (at County level) would have sub-committees to assist with some of the workload.*

*Not yet decided*

- b) *Who could represent the Master at the County meeting if they were unable to attend. As it reads, it would be just the secretary, and the current secretary would not have the time available to attend both District and County meetings which may lead to a post to be filled in the district if the rule change went ahead.*

*As at the moment, if the Master was unable to attend, they could be substituted by anyone.*

- c) *When will 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 positions elected at the AGM would change with immediate effect. District reps would stay on the general committee until the district ADM's in October, when districts would elect a new committee (compliant with the rule change if passed). This would make the November meeting the first one with a fully reformed general committee. Basically this is to prevent districts needing to do any reworking of their committee's mid-year.*

- d) *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?*

*This is to formalise the current gentleman's agreement of a 3 year term. There would still be an election each year. This could possibly be amended to read "a maximum term of three years" or something to that effect.*

The meeting discussed these points at some length and Philippa suggested that anyone with a particular interest

should attend the County AGM on Easter Monday. Particular concern was expressed regarding the lack of a formal 'substitute' to attend Committee meetings should the District master be unable to attend. There was a need for a democratic process to nominate a substitute.

It was noted that there is no consistency across Districts regarding office holders and responsibilities.

#### 5. Membership and Handbook Update.

Rupert Cheeseman said that subscriptions were now due. In addition, all members needed to sign a form (distributed to towers) stating that they were willing for their personal data to appear in the handbook and on the website (this is to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation).

Handbooks: Each tower will receive ONE free copy. Additional copies may be purchased - £4. The Handbook may also be downloaded from the KCACR website at no cost to members.

#### 4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
James Butler	Dartford	Deryck Jones	Natalie Slator
Lina Pupeikiene	Greenwich	Graham Long	Alan Munden
Justina Pupeikyte (Jnr member)			
Lily Tang		Witness to lowering	Shelagh Norman
Joanna Colston	Eynsford	David Hilling	Richard Barker
		Witness to lowering	Rupert Cheeseman

Nick Wilkins asked for the ratification of the election of Jo Dorling as a non-resident Life Member following election before a peal at Chelsfield on 15th October 2017.

All of the above were elected unanimously.

#### 7. 120 club draw

	No	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	71	£20	John Chenery	Horton Kirby
2nd	115	£10	Deryck Jones	Dartford
3rd	14	£10	Liz Brett	Erith Christchurch
4th	57	£5	Mark Backhouse	Erith Christchurch

#### 8. KCACR report on the meeting

- Finance. Funds in General Account were getting low – all subs would go to this account.
- ART Courses – Two had been held in the County.
- Diocesan Safeguarding – Full details on County website; Canterbury under way, Rochester to follow.
- Mobile Ring. Trailer now delivered; storage now sought.
- Census. Thanks to all who sent in forms; null returns also needed. Data now being analysed.
- Handbook. One per Tower free. Full information on County website.
- Proposed Rule Changes. Much feedback had been received (to their surprise!)
- County 8-Bell competition: Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June 9.45. Maidstone District to host.
- County 6- Bell competition: Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 9.45 Rochester District to host.
- Youth competition – tba.

- 
- Finance – Tonbridge and Canterbury districts had been awarded ‘floats’. Funds getting short and subscriptions were likely to rise and the Over 65 concession removed.

There was general agreement at the meeting that the subscriptions were very good value; particularly as they included insurance. There was some discussion on what the County spent money on.

### 9. Report on previous events and & upcoming events

County Youth Competition – 14<sup>th</sup> November at Otford. Congratulations to the Lewisham District Band who came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of four. They are a young band- all well under 25. Towers are urged to encourage young ringers to meet those from other towers.

Call Change Competition – 18th November at Sidcup.

1st. Crayford; 2nd – Chelsfield; 3rd – Farnborough.

Philippa presented the trophy to Crayford and certificates to all three towers.

Forthcoming meetings: Erith, St.John’s April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Crayford July 14<sup>th</sup>

A venue is still needed for the ADM on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> February. District 6-Bell competition at Downe. Draw 2.30.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> November. District Call Change competition. Draw 2.30. Venue – TBA

District Practices:      26<sup>th</sup> Jan Chislehurst, Annunciation      7.30 – 9pm  
                                 16<sup>th</sup> February Biggin Hill (tbc)                      7.30 – 9pm  
                                 16<sup>th</sup> March Woolwich (tbc)                                      8 – 9.30 pm

Nick Wilkins spoke about Quarter Peal Week; 9<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March. He asked for volunteers to coordinate a cluster of towers. It was hoped to ring a Quarter in every Tower.

### 10. Any Other Business

- Rochester District were fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease – ringing Ray Morgan Bob Triples.
- There is no ringing at Bexley; damage to the tower.
- Bromley Common; access to belfry is currently difficult as there has been a breakdown of the agreement with Hope Church, the new tenants.
- Lesley Barclay and Nick Wilkins had appeared on BBC London news on 5th January, talking about bellringing.
- Edward Gormley said that he had written an article about his journey in July on the ‘Strike Back Express’ – copies were available from him. He had also written a book, which he hopes to publish, on the restoration and re-consecration of the bells at Southwark cathedral.
- Nick Wilkins gave details of the annual joint Lewisham/Tonbridge outing to London; this year it will be on Saturday 11th August. It was hoped to ring close to our district, visiting three towers north of the river and three to the south. A Weatherspoon’s pub had been suggested as a suitable lunch stop!

### 11. Vote of thanks

Andrew Sinclair proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, Rev. Chris Moody for taking the service, to the organist Graham Long and to the Greenwich band for an excellent tea and for permitting all to ring the bells.

Philippa Rooke thanked Liz Brett for taking the Minutes of the meeting.

**Next meeting** – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Erith, St John.



---

# District Quarter Peal Week 2018

Thank you to everyone who organised, facilitated or rang in quarter peals during the recent QP week.

The outcome was that 19 QPs were rung in 16 different District towers as follows:-

20 Mar 2018	Eltham (St John the Baptist)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
20 Mar 2018	Farnborough (St Giles)	1320 Paddington Surprise Minor
18 Mar 2018	Chislehurst (Annunciation of BVM)	1260 Grandsire Triples
18 Mar 2018	Foots Cray (All Saints)	1380 Plain Bob Doubles
18 Mar 2018	Greenwich (St Alfege)	1260 Doubles
17 Mar 2018	Chelsfield (St Martin of Tours)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
16 Mar 2018	Dartford (Holy Trinity)	1312 Praseodymium Surprise Major
15 Mar 2018	Bromley Common (St Luke)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
15 Mar 2018	Cudham (SS Peter and Paul)	1260 Grandsire Triples
13 Mar 2018	Crayford (St Paulinus)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
13 Mar 2018	Downe (St Mary Magdalene)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
13 Mar 2018	Farnborough (St Giles)	1320 Goat Fell Surprise Minor
13 Mar 2018	Farnborough (St Giles)	1260 Doubles
12 Mar 2018	Horton Kirby (St Mary)	1280 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)
12 Mar 2018	Shoreham (SS Peter and Paul)	1344 Cassiobury Surprise Major
11 Mar 2018	Farningham (SS Peter and Paul)	1260 Doubles (2m)
11 Mar 2018	St Mary Cray (St Mary)	1260 Doubles (2 Methods)
10 Mar 2018	Shoreham (SS Peter and Paul)	1260 Doubles (2m)
9 Mar 2018	Bromley (SS Peter and Paul)	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

This is half the towers in the District. I'm aware that at least one QP was lost and one rung at another tower just outside the 'week'.

Excluding the three bell tower at Wilmington, this means that QPs were rung at half the District towers and, further, a couple weren't ringable during the 'week'.

Perhaps we can particularly try to ring QPs in the future in these remaining towers and also get more ringers to achieve firsts.

Nick Wilkins

---

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Apr District Practice: Beckenham, 3.00 - 5.00pm

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 11th Aug District outing to London (Docklands area)

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