



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 2020

John Barnes 1933-2019 RIP

It was lovely to see so many people at John's funeral, as he cared very much about keeping up with old friends and acquaintances, travelling miles to see people who were now elderly and sometimes had no other relatives, and to go to their funerals. When I was young, John's nickname was John Serious, but I think one of the most striking things about



John was that he cared deeply about a lot of different things, and that things of vastly different scale carried equal merit to him. He was as much concerned about the state of the churchyard toilet as he was about the progress of a multi-thousand-pound bell restoration grant.

John had already been ringing at Chelsfield for nearly twenty years when I started to learn, so I asked some of those who rang with him when he arrived in 1961 for their memories those early days. When John came to ring at Chelsfield there were only six bells and they were rung from the ground floor, so Sunday ringing had to finish 15 minutes before service to allow the choir to get ready. Philip Lane has many photographs of that time, and several show a very young John in his trademark tweed jacket, jumper and tie ringing or standing behind to assist someone to learn something.

Ann Blatcher felt that when John was born he was already programmed in with ringing methods! Whilst she was struggling to learn even the simplest, he would come to ringing method-perfect. She doesn't recall seeing him trying to learn something, he always seemed to know it. David Manger was Tower Captain here in that time and remembers John was already a capable ringer, having learned to ring in his home county of Norfolk and gained experience when at college at Culham. He was therefore a great asset to

the band, although, as now, there were a good number of ringers; David remembers him always traveling by bike, which he would park by the vestry door (no risk of theft etc. in those days!)

John's first quarter at Chelsfield was on 5th May 1962, when he rang the 5th to Grandsire Doubles, which was conducted by David Manger from the treble, and which was rung immediately after the wedding of Ann and Tom Blatcher. His first peal at Chelsfield was not until 26th June 1971, the tenor to St Clements and Plain Bob Minor. This was Felicity Mussell's first peal as Conductor and also first peal at first attempt for four of the band, Mary Salmon, William Barter, Gillian Barter and a certain Nicholas Wilkins on the treble. This sounds to me like a typical moment of John encouraging a band to push themselves a bit further, more of which later.

In the 1970's Nick Wilkins remembers that John regularly used to cycle to Chelsfield from his home in Leamington Avenue. His Sunday routine was to cycle to Chelsfield for 8am communion then cycle home, go to London to ring and then, in the evening cycle to Chelsfield again for Evensong ringing and stay to the service, as he appreciated Choral Evensong, which continues here to this day.

Anne Rueff remembers that in those days John would ring for evensong at Chelsfield and then go home. "I'll be back in time for the sermon" he would say. Why he went home she didn't know but she remembers it striking her as very odd that he would want to hear the sermon, which to her at 14 or 15 was the most boring part of the service! But with hindsight it shows that John had a very strong faith, and that he wanted to hear the preachers thoughts on scripture.

In more recent times John became a regular Sidesman at Evensong, much to my frustration as Tower Captain, as once a month one of our most experienced ringers disappeared downstairs at 6.15 to give out books, and so our service touch had to be a little less grand than it might have been. However, he was really just staying true to his nature of giving as much of himself as he could to the things he cared about and felt were important. For example, he would always come here to ring for the early services on Christmas and Easter morning (we used to ring at 6.30am) before driving to London to take part in the service ringing circuit. He carried this on right until this year, ringing here at 7.30am

at Easter before travelling to London. Likewise, he would always come here on a Monday night to join our practice, usually at around 9pm, having been to the St Martin in the Fields practice first, just to ensure we had enough to ring more complex methods so people could progress.

Jen Thomas remembers his generosity, both with his advice and buying drinks in the pub after practice. He always showed interest in and encouragement of the Kent Young Ringers. Anne Rueff remembers this goes right back – Chelsfield's striking competition success of 1974 was a fine example of his support of young ringers, he was more than twice the age of any of the other ringers in the band. She says they thought he was off the end of the scale old, when he was only 41!!

Nancy & Doug Fisher remember how John encouraged those struggling in the foothills with practical advice, praise and challenges. One night in the pub he talked about ringing Orion, a complex 12 bell method. When Doug, a Plain Bob Triples man, asked a few interested questions, he said, "I'll write it out for you," and next week at the Five Bells presented Doug with the extraordinarily dense blue line, saying, "Now if you learn one bell a lead at a time...!" There was a twinkle, but an iron one, in his eye. Unlikely, perhaps, but one bell at a time almost anything is possible!

John didn't hold official posts here or with the KCACR, channelling his energy into the Cumberlands and Central Council, but he was very proud of his 50+ years membership of Kent, and continued to pay his subs long after he was eligible for free membership. He was also very supportive of both our augmentation to eight and Farnborough's installation of a new six, and more recently Sidcup's refurbishment programme.

Actually John did hold one office for the bellringers here at St Martins, that of 'Magazine article coordinator'. He used to write an article for the parish magazine every month without fail, and would also encourage others to do so, about a myriad of bell-related topics, not just outing and competition reports but bell-founding, ringing at Ypres, what ringing out the old Year and in the New entails, another successful restoration project elsewhere, and even a detailed account of a train journey back from Charing Cross to Orpington that had taken a very strange route. I think we may have the best-educated lay community in the country about all things ringing. I do remember he got very cross once when he'd put a huge amount of effort in to get several articles written, to give to the editor to use as back up whenever he was short, only to see the whole lot be printed all at once in the next edition.

In latter years John struggled with hearing loss but it didn't stop him ringing – only once did the ringing actually break down because John had misunderstood what we were doing. He adapted his ringing style when his arm was injured in an accident and never rang a blow out of place. When he started to suffer from

ringing vertigo, which I know he found extremely frustrating, he wouldn't give in to it, but found ways to cope. He realised that if he rang the sixth here, the close proximity of the table and ladder gave his brain some sort of bearing and he didn't suffer as much, so that became 'his' bell.

Another of the 'small' things John cared about was the delivery of refreshments after the service. The ringers are signed up to a rota for tea and coffee after evensong on the first of the month, and John would always send a detailed reminder email and bring his trusty back-up box of tea, coffee and biscuits. Having commented earlier on his faith and his determination to hear the sermon, I'm afraid in the last few years he hadn't been able to hear the Rector even with the assistance of his hearing aids and the loop system, so he used to bunk off the sermon and go and cut up the cakes. He was always very generous, and would serve up far more than people could eat, and so had to pressgang people into finishing it off.

Also after Evensong, or any church gathering, woe betide you if you expressed even the slightest interest in ringing – John's evangelism about it was legendary. The day after he died I was scheduled to read the lesson, from 2 Timothy Chapter 4, and it was very fitting - 'proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable, convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.' John's last peal at Chelsfield was of Yorkshire on Saturday, 10th May 2014 to welcome Rev John Tranter as Rector. His last quarter here was on 30th July this year, one extent each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor, rung in memory of Nicholas Martin, former Chelsfield Tower Captain and another member of the band in the 1960's.



And what of the churchyard toilet? This was another small thing that was very important to John. We have an outside toilet down at the end of the churchyard, and John felt strongly that it should remain open as a facility for the community. He took over the cleaning and maintenance of it when the previous post-holder was no



longer able to do so, and this included providing some very high standard toilet roll. Every Sunday evening the casual observer would see an old man in a mac walking up the church path with a single toilet roll in his hand, the end occasionally flapping in the breeze. But he didn't go straight down and install his precious cargo, he would come up to the ringing chamber and plant it on the table in the middle of the room. Many was the time I was forced to explain this strange behaviour to visiting

ringers, and he earned the nickname 'The Master of the Rolls'... This year someone has cottoned on to the fact there's a brand new toilet roll appearing every Sunday, and keeps stealing it. John was outraged and urged us to do something, but was adamant the toilet should not be closed. In the end he came up with his own solution and started cutting up newspaper into small squares, rationing style...I think we still have one set in the ringing chamber ready to go!

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Bells and Bell Ringing



Bells are an alloy of copper and tin. They are tuned by revolving them mouth-upwards and using a cutting tool to produce a basic note and harmonics.

Our bells comprise a ring of twelve plus a sharp 2nd bell. They were cast at Whitechapel in 1988. They range in weight from 4 cwt to 29 cwt. In the base of the spire is a separate service bell cast at Gloucester in 1725, and weighing 5 cwt. It is about the same age as the present church.

We ring from 9.00 to 10.00 on Sunday mornings and for other occasions and practice. Sometimes our bells are rung by visiting ringers. Every year we have a Dinner and an Outing when we ring at other churches.

In Britain we ring bells full-circle. Having first raised the bells to the mouth

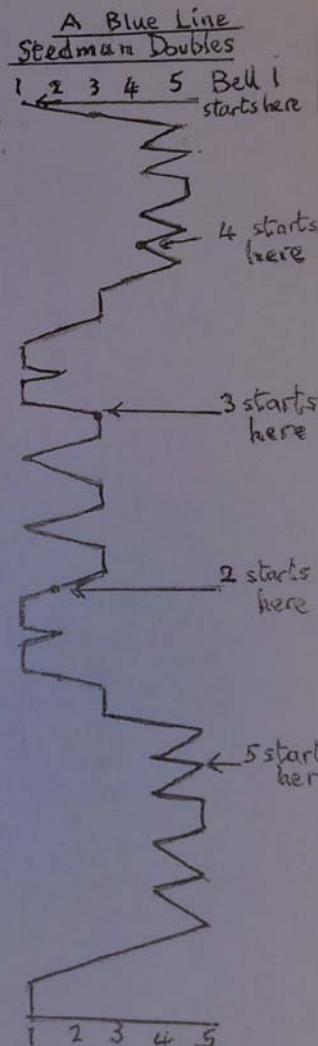
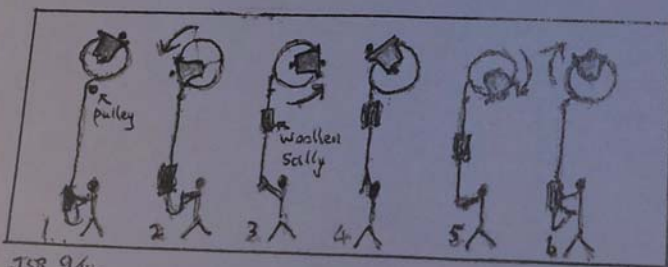
-upwards position, where they can be set or rested, they are revolved first in one direction and then in the other direction. A bell sounds almost at the end of its revolution, about two seconds after the ringer has pulled the rope.

Bell ringing - campanology - is a 400 years old skill. Great strength is not needed. If you can ride a bike you can ring a bell.

Change-ringing involves ringing the bells in a constantly changing order without repetition. We do not learn the changes but instead we memorise our path amongst the other bells.

A path is called a blue line or simply a line. Ringing bells is a service to the Church and is part of worship. It offers ringers enjoyment, challenges and satisfaction as well as travel and a social life.

To find out more you are welcome to contact John Barnes 01689 853666 - john4bells@waitrose.com



One last challenge from John - a few months ago, when he was already ill but still very much with us, and ringing at a Surprise practice, he told Nick and I, 'I want the home band to ring a course of Bristol at my funeral!' There was that twinkle in his eye - he knew that although one or two of the band could ring it, several more of us were perfectly capable, we just hadn't put the effort in. Another message of faith - we needed to make the most of the talents we have. So we took up the challenge, and we did our best to learn it, and we did our best to ring it as well as we can after the service, but I asked the congregation to forgive any minor trips, as it was very new to some of us but we wanted to fulfil his wish.

We miss his stomp up the stairs at ten past six on Sundays, or ten past nine on Mondays. As Lesley Barclay said, we loved him, he was an inspiration. He was a true and loyal servant of our St Martin's, as well as 'the one in the Fields', may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Philippa Rooke

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Chairman's bit

Happy New Year! At Chelsfield we rang the Old Year out and the New Year in, as we have done for as long as I've been a ringer (40 years...I started very young!) I suspect it's been happening there since the revival of the band in the late 50's, and I know many towers are not able to do it any more, so I feel very blessed that we can still carry on this tradition.

Now we're into the New Year the Committee's brains are full of the County AGM. I'm delighted to say we now have leaders for all the key parts of the day:

- Rhiannon Meredith has kindly offered to lead a team to deliver the traditional lunch

- Peter Norwood will be our Pub Landlord for the day and sort out a bar, including craft beers with the support of the Hopper's Hut from Sidcup

- Natalie Slator is going to run the raffle

- Nick Wilkins is working on the churches/routes for the open towers before and after the main event

BUT! They will all need help, and we will need people to set up the church and the hall for the service, lunch and meeting, and clear up after. All hands on deck! There will be jobs that require muscle, but there will also be jobs like selling raffle tickets and handing out service sheets, being a messenger between church and hall etc. If you can help on the day please email our dedicated AGM email address at KentAGM@lewishamdistrict.org.uk and let us know

- how long you can help for (even an hour could be useful)

- whether you can manhandle tables and chairs, are happy serving food or drink, or would prefer a lighter admin task

A reminder of the outline of the day:

Date: Easter Monday 13 April 2020

Venue: St Nicholas Chislehurst

Time of events: 12 noon Service, 1pm Lunch (or after service finishes if later), 2.30pm Annual General Meeting

Setting up and clearing up - from early in the morning till early evening!

Open towers help - Nick will message about this separately when the routes have been finalised

We only have to do this every six years, and we'll need help from the whole District to make it happen, so please put it in your diary if you haven't already and let us know as soon as you can if you can help.

Thank you!

Philippa Philippa Rooke
Chairman
Lewisham District
KCACR

Editorial



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

A reminder that KCACR subs are now due. I can collect cash/cheques like usual at the district meeting. Alternatively contact me if you'd rather do a bank transfer. Subs have changed this year and are now £15 for anyone under 80. 80 and over are free.

Also a further reminder in case you missed it on the opposite page that we are hosting the County AGM this year. Therefore, any offers of help will be gratefully received.

Cheers,
Rupert

120 club

Many thanks to all who bought shares last year. It is now time to start thinking about the 2020-21 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 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.

Elizabeth Brett

October 12th Annual District Meeting, Erith, Christchurch

1st	£20	74 – Philippa Rooke, Chelsfield
2nd	£10	44 – Helen Sims, Ash
3rd	£10	27 – Nigel Parsons, unattached
4th	£5	52 – Lesley Barclay, Horton Kirby.

November 16th Call Change Competition, Horton Kirby

1st	£20	81 – Sue Cameron, unattached
2nd	£10	108 – (unsold – prize to BRF)
3rd	£10	11 – Margaret Heald, Erith St. John's
4th	£5	72 – Megan Smith, Cudham.

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KCACR Handbook 2020

The process of issuing the 2020 Handbook is the same this year as it was for last year in that all towers will automatically be issued with one copy. If you would like your own personal copy, this needs to be requested via the KCACR website by 22nd March 2020.

The request form can be accessed from the menu home page of the website under Handbook>2020 Handbook Request, or directly via <https://kccacr.org.uk/association/kccacr-handbook/2020-handbook-request/>

Best Wishes
Debra

December 6th. District Practice, Erith St. John's – Double Draw

1st	£20	85 - (unsold – prize to BRF)
		79 – Natalie Slator, Erith Christchurch
2nd	£10	70 – Jim Rooke, Chelsfield
		33 – Blanche Griffin, Eynsford and Farningham
3rd	£10	106 - (unsold – prize to BRF)
		114 - (unsold – prize to BRF)
4th	£5	49 – Esther Correia, Dartford
		78 – (unsold – prize to BRF)

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

CRAYFORD

We were pleased to be able to enter 2 bands into the call change competition at Horton Kirby and came a very creditable 3rd and 5th especially as they were balanced and not A and B teams.

Since the last newsletter we have rung 8 quarters including firsts of Remembrance Day Doubles, Grandsire Minor and Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh Doubles as well as our annual date touch.

Rupert

Sunday 10 November 2019

1260 Remembrance Day Doubles in 43mins

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

Rung half muffled following the Remembrance Sunday service and act of Remembrance at the local War Memorial.

First in variation for all.

(Poyle Bob Doubles with a Reverse Canterbury Bob)

Sunday, 1 December 2019

1304 Grandsire Minor in 45mins

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brenda Barton | 2. Debra Say |
| 3. Ann Saunders | 4. David Gyles |
| 5. Andrew Sinclair | 6. Rupert Cheeseman (C) |

Rung before the evening Advent Carol service and as a get well soon to Peter Skinner.

First in method for all.

Sunday, 22 December 2019

2018 Doubles (11m/v) in 68mins

(11m/v: 120 each Gold, St Osmund, Noviomagus, Eynesbury, In Memoriam, 240 each St Martin's, Crayford, St Simon's, St Paulinus, Plain Bob and 219 Grandsire)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brenda Barton | 2. David Gyles |
| 3. Sue Cameron | 4. Andrew Sinclair |
| 5. Rupert Cheeseman (C) | 6. Debra Say |

The 11th annual date touch rung before 9 Lessons and Carols.

200th quarter; 1.

Sunday, 5 January 2020

1260 Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh Doubles in 42mins (3v: 420 Gold, 360 Frankincense and 480 Myrrh)

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

Rung after morning service for Epiphany.

First in variations for all.

(Westminster II Bob, St Hilary Bob and Blackburn Place all with an Old Hudibras Single)

HAYES

As you will know, there is no longer a band of ringers at Hayes but some of The Meridian Ringers and ringers from St. Luke's, Bromley Common do some occasional ringing for services, weddings and other special events.



Since the October issue, the following ringing has taken place, which has been greatly appreciated by the congregation and the local community:

28th September & 11th October – weddings

6th October – Evensong

3rd November – Annual Memorial Service

8th November – Lewisham District evening practice

17th November – Evening Communion Service

22nd December – Carol Service

3rd January 2020 – Kent Young Ringers Visit

The Lewisham District will be holding its' District Meeting at Hayes on Saturday 11th January – ringing 3.30pm, Service 4.30pm, followed by tea and business meeting and ending with some evening ringing.

In 2020, the aim is to try and continue to ring for a service about once a month, some quarter peals and some occasional general ringing practices. There is also a possibility of organising a Tower Open Day sometime during the spring to demonstrate the bells and hopefully to get some of the local community to take up ringing and get a regular band ringing at Hayes again.

Graham Long

SIDCUP

Over the past year we have been gradually recruiting a few new ringers:

One is now ringing for Sunday services with us.

One is able to ring in rounds with someone standing by.

One has started to link both strokes together.

One is a returning ringer who just needs practice.

It is hoped that by this time next year we will have a competent rounds and call changes band as well as the Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper/Ringing Master, our local ringer and a valued supporting ringer.

The Steeple Keeper is ringing a peal attempt with David Dearnley and fellow peal ringers to commemorate the life of Bernice Hyde (of Sidcup) 50 years ago, who died age 17 and was a ringer at St Johns. We are hoping her family and friends will visit during the peal. (Peal attempt at 11am and refreshments available).

The clapper refurbishment will be happening on 18th February and work carried out by TLB Services. The clapper balls will be rounded off, the worn bushes replaced and the grease caps replaced for grease nipples, and the tenor clapper replaced. Runner-boards will be sanded down and the tenor clapper replaced. Donations to this refurbishment have been given most generously, and we thank those who have helped to allow this work to take place.

The frame and headstocks have been repainted – the bells and fittings now look much fresher and this should help preserve the frame and headstocks. The woodwork including wheels, stays and crown pads on front 4 bells are being preserved using specialist preserver.

Debbie Runting

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

We have continued with our normal ringing pattern, with our usual practice night on Wednesdays, 8pm-9.30pm, 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 for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We don't ring at Woolwich much these days as access is quite difficult at times due to The Deeper Meaning Life Church using the balcony for their services and meetings; there has also been a pigeon infestation which needs to be resolved.

Ringling for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich is continuing on a regular basis and this has been much appreciated by the congregation and ministry team at St. Alfege's. We had a busy time ringling for weddings on three consecutive Saturdays in October; there was also a visiting band from the N & E District of The Middlesex Association. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get enough ringers to ring for Midnight Mass but we did have ringling for the Advent Carol Service and The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Greenwich. For our final practice in December (18th) we had some fun ringling with festive callings for call changes and rang some carols on some mini handbells.

We have some good attendances at practice nights, sometimes ringling all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods and some work on Treble Hunting Minor. We have a dedicated learner's practice from about 7.15pm on Wednesdays which has



been a real asset, then a session from about 8.30pm for more advanced ringling.

We plan to arrange some more of our two-hour Ringling School Workshops in due course, with some intense work on Doubles work, plain hunt on 6 and 7, and Bob Minor.

The extensive renovation work at St Alfege's is nearing an end and the site is gradually being cleared. Last year several peal boards were found in the crypt and some of these have been professionally restored by a contractor, Tristram Bainbridge, some of his work includes restoration work for clients such as the V & A museum. There has not been enough money to pay to have all the boards professionally restored but we were lucky that Tristram was able to come and do a restoration workshop which showed us the do's and don'ts so that we can do our own work on the remaining boards.

Our new ropes are on order from Avon Ropes and we hope to have them soon.

We had ringling at 12 noon on 1st January to welcome the New Year which included Rounds, Call Changes and Firing on 6 and 8 Bells; Touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. This also saw the first ringling for about 30 years for Alex Coode - she rang some assisted rounds. Eddie Coode listened to the ringling in the car park - our best wishes to Eddie who is recovering from treatment.



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

www.meridianbells.webs.com

Graham Long

Nick, Nick!

Call Change Competition 2019

In May 2018 I rang a three hour peal at St Clement Danes in London and one of the ringers was a certain Nicholas Elks. At the end of the peal he asked me if I'd be interested in ringing in a Nicholas peal as he knew of a few other Nicholas's and I said I would.

I heard nothing for about a year but was then approached by Nicholas Wilson (whom I'd never met before) saying in an email that he was attempting to gather together eight Nicholas's and ring a peal at a church dedicated to St Nicholas on St Nicholas's Day, 6th December, 2019. Further, we were going to attempt to ring a new method and we therefore had naming rights and so would call the method St Nicholas's Day Surprise Major.. We also decided to form a new ringing society - The St Nicholas's Society, which has a very limited and exclusive membership!

Nicholas Wilson succeeded in getting together eight Nicholas's, many of us not having met before, and so we entered the tower at Islip in Oxfordshire on a wet and windy Friday afternoon and embarked upon the peal of this new method. After 2 hours and 48 minutes the bells happily came into rounds and it was mission accomplished.

This year..? Well, conveniently St Nicholas's Day in 2020 is a Sunday and the method we rang does extend to 10 bells so there are plans afoot to go to a 10 bell tower dedicated to St Nicholas and, with two more Nicholas's, ring another peal. Watch this space.....

Nick Wilkins

St Nicholas's Society

Islip, Oxfordshire

St Nicholas

Friday 6 December 2019

5088 St Nicholas's Day Surprise Major in 2hr 48mins

1. Nicholas K Allsopp
2. Nicholas A Elks
3. Nicholas A Churchman
4. Nicholas R Wilson
5. Nicholas J Clarke
6. Nicholas T Smith
7. Nicholas J Green (C)
8. Nicholas Wilkins

First peal in the method. Rung on St Nicholas's Day.

St Nicholas's Day Surprise Major:

x38x14x58x16x14x58.1236x1256.78 le12



There was a good turn out of seven bands for the call change competition on Sat 16th Nov at Horton Kirby. Everyone rang well and the result was:

1st	Chelsfield	18 faults
2nd	Farnborough	39
3rd	Crayford R	42
4t	Ash	45
5t	Crayford A	51
6th	Greenwich	60
7th	Horton Kirby	63

Thanks to HK for refreshments and hosting and to Catherine and Jamie for judging.





INVICTA

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



INVICTA

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Erith, Christ Church 12th October 2019

15 people attended representing 6 towers, 2 unattached members & Jen Thomas (Youth Officer, KCACR)

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Eddie & Brenda Coode (Bexley), Debbie Runting (Sidcup), Stephanie Runting (Sidcup), Alexander Runting (Sidcup), Margaret Heald (Erith, St Johns), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), David Holdridge (Eltham), Ian Mills (Eltham), Lee Lucas (Crayford), Dave Gyles (Ash).

Thoughts and prayers were extended from everyone present to Alan Munden (Greenwich), John Barnes (Chelsfield) and Eddie Coode (Bexley) who are all unwell at present, not forgetting Mary Andrews (Bexley) who has given so many years of service but is no longer able to ring.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (13th July 2019 at Cudham)

Posted to the website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.

Proposed: Nick Wilkins Seconded: Svetlana Sokolova. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere – Nil

4. Election of New Members

There were no new members put forward for election.

5. Officer Reports

Ringling Master; Nick Wilkins. There have been two practices every month over the last year, including August this year when we went to Wilmington, but excluding September.

These consist of one general practice often, but not always, on a Friday evening and one Surprise Major practice at Chelsfield on the second Wednesday evening of the month. Additionally, there has been a 10-bell practice on a Thursday evening at Beckenham every 2/3 months. The next is 14th November.

Last year on 17th November the call change striking competition was held at Farnborough and won by the host tower who claimed the youngest and oldest ringers on the day.

On 2nd March the District Method Striking competition was held at Ash and won by Chelsfield who then came 4th in the County Competition 2 weeks ago at Seal.

On 29th June a band from the District competed in the County 8 bell Striking Competition coming a close and creditable second to the home District, Rochester. The method was Turramurra S Major.

The District enjoyed a successful joint outing with the Tonbridge District to London on Saturday August 10th organised by Dan Jarvis and next year it's our turn to arrange it.

Turning to the general health of ringing in the District, the practices have seen varying numbers attending, from low to very high. It does worry me that some towers in the District seem to be struggling with low ringer numbers or worse still, there are towers that are silent, or virtually so.

As ever, I'm very grateful to those that support me with the ringing in the district. Diane, as deputy, deserves a mention. Also, in relation to getting silent towers back to life, Graham Long deserves special praise for moving to Hayes and getting the bells there ringing as well as retaining Meridian Ringer responsibilities.

Finally, although not an official District practice, it's heartening that on Wednesday afternoons at Farnborough there's a training practice for improvers and particularly young ringers which is proving popular and productive. For this, thanks must go to Lesley Barclay as well as Jen Thomas and Catherine Lewis who assist and indeed run much of it, particularly when I'm away.

Membership Secretary; Rupert Cheeseman. 20 people have been elected this year, 18 adults, 1 junior and 1 associate member.

Training Officer; Tom Hinks. Tom was unable to attend the meeting as he was judging a striking competition in Somerset, but had sent through the following report.

We have held three successful training events so far in 2019: a handling workshop at Beckenham, a listening workshop in the parish rooms at Bromley parish church, and a 10-bell training day in East London. Of these, the two Wednesday evening



workshops had the best take-up from the District. The next training event will be another Wednesday evening handling workshop on 6th November, again at Beckenham church. My plans for future training events include evening workshops on recruitment, handbell ringing, and simple conducting. Saturday training days can also be easily arranged, and a Plain Bob Doubles one is likely in the new year. Do please send requests for specific training to the training officer email address.

Tom was thanked for all his efforts in organising more training events than usual during the past year.

120 Club Administrator; Liz Brett. Fewer shares have been sold this year so donations to the BRF will be higher if those unsold numbers are drawn.

6. KCACR – Report from 3rd August 2019

Natalie Slator outlined the main points from the General Committee meeting:

- The Kent committee is seeking an independent examiner for the annual audit. If anyone is interested please contact the Secretary, Treasurer or Chairman.
- Consideration being given to alternating District meeting dates to free up more Saturdays for training.
- BRF grant of £20K has been agreed for Rochester Cathedral for augmentation and renovation.
- Training Fund guidelines adopted with Kent Young Ringers now having a separate fund. Charitable Trust status is being investigated.
- The Kent Mobile Ring project has been discontinued and the bells handed back to David Cawley who already has a tower in mind for them.
- The bookstall has ceased trading but some material may be accessed directly from Catherine Lewis. Clothing sales can be accessed via the County.
- The complaint and grievance policy reviewed annually has been adopted without any changes.
- The Association 8-Bell Competition will be held in the Tonbridge District on 27th June 2020 with a 9.45am draw. Note the proposed date change to avoid a clash with the 12-Bell.
- Essex Trophy – 12th September 2020 - Kent to host, Ashford confirmed. Suggested method Swindon S Royal.
- Kent Young Ringers – 4th April 2020 SEECOM, hosted by Essex, 28th June 2020 Farningham Trophy, 4th July 2020 Ringing World National Youth Competition, York.

Membership Database

The proposal for members to pay subscriptions online and to update their own details is driven by GDPR and data protection. The KCACR is seeking one or two Districts to trial the new system and Lewisham has been approached as the smallest District in terms of members. Several questions were raised concerning this request:

Does one tower representative collect subscriptions and update for all? Rupert Cheeseman confirmed Doug Davis has said they could. Anyone can pay the subs. There must be a way for non-internet users to access the information/system. Will consent be needed for a third party to access data? Payment of subs and updating database information are two very different things. New members – can they be elected at any time, not just at District meetings?

If we agree to take part in the trial, perhaps we will be able to influence in how it works. It was mentioned that membership numbers may decrease with the introduction of fees in January for those who are currently entitled to free membership. Rupert Cheeseman to send an email to Doug Davis raising our questions and to confirm our agreement to taking part in the trial. Rupert said he still had some membership cards that have been uncollected and asked that next year they be handed out at the same time as the new Handbooks.

County AGM

St Nicholas Chislehurst has been confirmed as the venue. Briefly, we urgently need a catering contact to feed around 50 people for no more than £10-£12 per head. We also need somebody to organise a bar selling craft beer/soft drinks and a raffle selling tickets on the day and coordinating prizes beforehand. Nick Wilkins will be arranging several routes in from Kent and stewards will be needed in towers that will be asked to be available for ringing. Individual towers will be contacted in the New Year. Natalie Slator offered to coordinate the raffle. Sue Cameron mentioned that a Facebook group for Chislehurst might be a source for local information.

Risk Assessment

All towers should have a risk assessment – County template to be circulated by email to tower contacts for discussion and feedback.

ART Courses

Everyone is encouraged to go on ART courses which are currently free of charge for Kent ringers. Matters Arising: The subject of coordinating District Meeting dates to aid training which was raised at the General Committee Meeting, was brought up for discussion. There was no strong feeling either for or against but picking the first Saturday each quarter could be difficult at New Year.

7. Election of Officers

Peter Morris took the chair for appointment of the Chairman.

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Philippa Rooke	Sue Cameron	Natalie Slator
Secretary	Debra Say	Nick Wilkins	Peter Morris
Membership Secretary	Rupert Cheeseman	Sue Cameron	Natalie Slator
Ringing Master	Nick Wilkins	Rupert Cheeseman	Ann Saunders
Asst Ringing Master	Diane Reynolds	Nick Wilkins	Sue Cameron
Training Officer	Tom Hinks	Rupert Cheeseman	Natalie Slator
District Rep	Natalie Slator / Chris Davine	Diane Reynolds	Liz Brett
120 Club	Liz Brett	Nick Wilkins	Chris Davine
120 Club Asst	Deryck Jones		
Youth Officer	Nick Wilkins	Rupert Cheeseman	Diane Reynolds
Newsletter	Rupert Cheeseman	Debra Say	Sue Cameron

It was decided in view of the increasing number of young ringers in the District, a newly elected post of District Youth Officer be created, a role which Nick Wilkins has been fulfilling unofficially, and is happy to continue. Thanks were extended to Natalie Slator and Chris Davine for running the bookstall for a number of years which has now been disbanded.

6. Event Updates and Results

- Chelsfield represented Lewisham District in the County 6-Bell Striking Competition held on 28th Sept at Seal and came fourth.
- District Practices – 18th Oct Bexley, 8th November Hayes, 6th Dec tbc.
- Joint outing with Tonbridge to London in August was a great success. Lewisham to arrange in 2020, provisional date set for 8th Aug. Nick Wilkins to liaise with Catherine Heathcote from Tonbridge District.
- Call Change Competition – to be held at Horton Kirby on Sat 16th Nov, all towers encouraged to enter.
- District Meeting Venues 2020 – Hayes confirmed for Jan, provisionally Chelsfield for March, Shoreham for July and Erith, St Johns for October.
- County Youth Competition takes place at Sturry on 2nd Nov. Youth is classed as 25 or under. Any towers with ringers fitting this category to let Nick Wilkins know.
- Carol Service – Graham Long had emailed the District committee prior to the meeting to suggest a District Carol Service which he was happy to coordinate. A discussion took place to see how many members would attend such a carol service and it was generally felt that another event at that time of year when many already have other ringing/family commitments might be too much. A vote was taken and only 50% of those present would support this proposed event which was felt insufficient for the carol service to go ahead. Philippa Rooke to report back to Graham Long.
- Philippa outlined a Ringers Evening taking place at Chelsfield on Sunday 20th Oct at 6.30pm with guest speaker Neil Jones, Tower Captain of Rochester Cathedral. All are welcome and details can be found in the Oct Newsletter.

9. 120 Club draw

Profits Allocation- This subject was being revisited after the question was raised at the April meeting. The Kent Young Ringers are now being funded separately to the Training Fund and the BRF and so there was a suggestion that the allocation of profits could be split between BRF/KYR/Training. Liz Brett advised that the beneficiary cannot be changed for this year but could be altered from April. This subject will now be carried forward to the January meeting with Liz emailing the District e-group to outline the options beforehand.

The draw took place as follows:



	No	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	74	£20	Philippa Rooke	Chelsfield
2nd	44	£10	Helen Sims	Ash
3rd	27	£10	Nigel Parsons	Unattached
4th	52	£5	Lesley Barclay	Horton Kirby

10. Any Other Business

Rupert Cheeseman thanked contributors to the latest Newsletter.

11. Vote of thanks

Liz Morris proposed a vote of thanks to Mother Monica Cameron for taking the service, to Edward Sage for playing the organ and the Erith Christ Church band for providing such a lovely tea and allowing us to ring the bells. There was also a special mention for the home-made cakes and desserts which we all enjoyed.

Next meeting will be Saturday 11th January 2020 at Hayes.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT EVENTS 2020

- Sat 11th Jan Quarterly Meeting: Hayes, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Fri 24th Jan District Practice: Chislehurst, Annunciation, 7.30 - 9.00pm
- Wed 12th Feb District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Thur 13th Feb District 10 bell Practice: Beckenham, 7.50 - 9.30pm
- Sat 15th Feb District Practice: Lewisham, 10.15 - 12.15pm
- Sat 7th Mar District 6-bell Striking Competition: Crayford, 2.30pm draw
- Wed 11th Mar District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Fri 20th Mar District Practice: Eynsford, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 28th Mar Quarterly Meeting: Chelsfield, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Wed 8th Apr District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Mon 13th Apr County AGM: Chislehurst, St Nicholas.
- Fri 24th Apr District Practice: St Mary Cray, 7.30 - 9.00pm
- Fri 1st May District Practice: Dartford (TBC), 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Thur 7th May District 10 bell Practice: Beckenham, 7.50 - 9.30pm
- Wed 13th May District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Fri 5th Jun District Practice: Farningham, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Wed 10th Jun District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 4th Jul District Practice: TBC, 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Wed 8th Jun District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 11th Jul Quarterly Meeting: Shoreham, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 8th Aug District Outing with Tonbridge: Towers TBC, all day

Further dates on the website...

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 nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Nick on master@lewishamdistrict.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@yahoogroups.co.uk