



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2001

Canterbury Canter to 8 Bell Victory

The competition this year took place at Hoo St Werburgh in the Rochester District on 23rd June. A touch of 280 Oxford Bob Triples was the test piece and five of the six Districts competed. The judges were Jason Hughes and David Bath from St John's, Croydon. The draw took place promptly at 3.45 and the first team went into changes 15 minutes later. The Hoo ringers provided teas throughout the afternoon.

By the time the judges were ready to announce the results, the final team to compete had taken their tea and a few touches of general ringing had taken place. Frank Lewis, Chairman of the KCACR, welcomed everyone to Hoo, and Jason began by thanking the Association for inviting David and himself to judge the competition. He explained briefly how the judging had been carried out and then asked David to comment upon the performances.

David's remarks were constructive and helpful; he didn't single out particular failings but offered general advice where he felt that improvements could have been made. Peal times had varied from 2hr 56min to 3hr 10min and in the event it was the three teams that avoided these extremes who had benefited in the final analysis. Jason then returned to centre stage and announced the results as under:

<i>posn</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>rang</i>	<i>faults</i>
1st	Canterbury	5th	38
2nd	Rochester	3rd	51
3rd	Ashford	2nd	53
4th	Tonbridge	1st	75
5th	Lewisham	4th	100

Philip Larter received the trophy on behalf of the Canterbury District and Frank Lewis concluded the proceedings by thanking the judges, the local ringers for their excellent arrangements, the Rev'd David Low for the use of the bells, and all the participants and team organisers. It had been a very successful afternoon, blessed by lovely weather.

Frank Lewis

Chelsfield Enjoy Minor Success

The 2001 District Striking Competition was held at Penge on 28th April. There was a disappointingly low turnout with only four towers taking on the challenge of this difficult ring.

Catherine Lewis from the Tonbridge district was the judge. Unusually for a district striking competition, a wide variety of methods were rung. Chelsfield, the only tower to ring minor, were placed first with 88 faults, followed by Beckenham (100), Eynsford (102) and Chislehurst, St Nicholas (182).

Next District Meeting

Eynsford
on
Saturday 14th July

Service 4.30p.m.

Tea to follow in the Olive Seal Hall
Evening ringing at Eynsford

Names for tea to Elizabeth Stoneham
either by 'phone 01474 853*** or
email elizabeth@stoneham.org

KCACR.ORG.UK

New use for a website

Traffic is slowly increasing on kca-cr.org.uk (the hit rate is running at just over 9 per day, which is not bad for an association site), but I'd still like a bit more feedback from you the punters. Had an interesting contact on 2nd January. A chap in a village not far away was getting married on the 13th and his local tower didn't have a band. By some means or another he located the KCACR site and made both email and phone contact to ask if anyone could fix up some ringing. Being the decent lot we are, this did of course happen, but it puts a whole new area of interest in the frame. (*Thanks, Lewisham District, for making this happen.*)

... and now it's happened again. This time we had a request from a lady in Peterborough who wanted bells for her impending wedding and actually contacted the KCACR website for help. It seems that the locals weren't able to find a band, but working from the Garden of England and enlisting the help of a Kentish expat we have now ensured that the lady will have bells for her nuptials. (*Thanks this time to Judith Rogers for her help.*)

5k and rising...

We have now had the 5000th hit on the site since the counter restarted (as I write we're up to 5088, and it's our 4th birthday). Although we didn't find out who visitor 5000 was, we were pleased to hear that a regular visitor, Mal Williams, clocked in at number 5001. Congratulations Mal, a genuine KCACR mug will be yours before long.

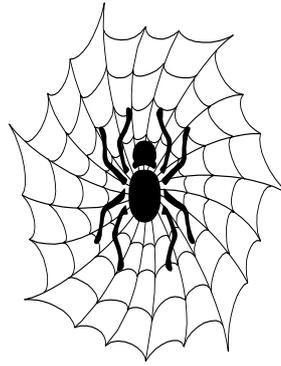
We understand that David Cowley nearly made the 5000 spot but something to do with a sermon seems to have got in the way. If we hear more of this we'll let you know. In the meantime thanks to everyone who has supported the KCACR site over the 4 years it's been running - the total hits probably now amount to over 7000 - but keep 'em coming.

Frank Lewis
Webmaster
Frank@kca-cr.org.uk

E-group for Lewisham District

As was mentioned at the last meeting Dickon Love has set up an email group for our district, through which we can all send and receive group emails, news and gossip. Personally I use it to remind people about District practices and meetings.

To find out more and become a member, log onto www.smartgroups.com/groups/Lewisham_District



What's been happening - News from the Website

District Practice at Horton Kirby

For those who missed the opportunity to ring on this fine new six- bad luck! They are indeed a fine ring of bells. We rang Call-Changes, Plain hunt on 5, Bob Minor, Stedman, Cambridge and Wells S. Minor. A good evening was enjoyed by all.

District Practice at Greenwich

On the 19th May, a good turn-out at Greenwich resulted in us ringing Yorkshire Royal, Erin Caters, Little Bob Royal, and Stedman Caters. The latter was not good, so we shall be practising this in the near future!! The benefits of the work that the locals and the K.C.A. Bell hanging experts have carried out were instantly apparent; the bells now go much better. Thank you to everyone who came.

District Meeting at Deptford

The afternoon began with half an hours ringing including a service touch of Stedman Triples. A lively service was then conducted by Canon April Keech. Everyone adjourned upstairs to the church hall where packed lunches were eaten washed down with tea and coffee provided by the Beckenham Band. The meeting passed uneventfully but not too slowly. A variety of methods were then rung on these challenging bells with a brief interval caused by having to go and push start one member's car!

District Practice at Ash

The District Practice at Ash-by-Wrotham started slowly - a lock-out was narrowly avoided! Once underway, we rang Call Changes, Plain Bob, Stedman, London, Old Oxford Delight and some Spliced. There were a good number of attendees, (about 25) and most of them adjourned to the pub afterwards for beer and a good chat. It's good to go to one of the towers that we don't visit too often, and I hope we return soon, hopefully to be joined by some of the locals.

From The Lewisham District Web Site @
www.callnetuk.com/home/jameshardy/lewishamdistrictnews.htm

Editorial



It has been another busy 3 months for the district. A Quiz Night, 2 district practices, a ringing course, district and county striking competitions, visits from Radio Kent and The Kentish Times and probably other things that you have not told me about (shame on you!).

Yellow KCACR Training Posters should be appearing on your tower walls shortly. Please make use of the courses that are being run. As I am sure those people who have been on courses will testify, nothing beats a day or two's intensive ringing to progress your ringing skills. You also get to meet and exchange ideas with people who are having the same struggles as yourself. A problem shared is a problem halved!

And finally, as I am always seeking to improve the newsletter, I would welcome any feedback, good or bad, regarding it.

OPEN DAY

Date: Saturday 1st September 2001
Open from 1000 - last admission 1600 hrs

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd.
34 Whitechapel Rd.,
London E1 1DY

All welcome

Admission: £7 adult / £4 child

Visit the historic foundry where Big Ben and the original Liberty Bell were cast and learn how bells are made.

Due to the age of the Foundry, it is regretted that disabled access is not available

All children under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for their conduct and safety.

Coach parties are requested to contact us directly so we can stagger their suggested arrival times in order to prevent visitor congestion

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I am as always seeking articles and would like as much copy as possible for the next issue - get writing!!!!

**COPY DEADLINE -
23rd October 2001**

to
Rupert Cheeseman
** Church Road
Erith
Kent
DA8 1*PG

☎ 01322 439***

✉ Rupert@dartford26.freeserve.co.uk
✉ Cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net

????????????????

Dartford Quiz Night

????????????????

LOOK TO!

Here's a starter for 10:

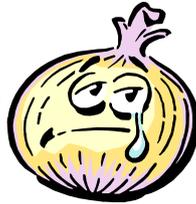
Who presented University Challenge before Jeremy Paxman?

And your supplementary questions:

On which river does Lisbon stand?

Which garden vegetable gets its name from the Latin for pearl?

What was the 'Empress of Blandings'?



These were just some of the posers set by the Dartford ringers to the eleven teams of people who took part in their quiz evening in May. The atmosphere was tense and the rivalry fierce as the credibility of each tower was on the line.



Round 1 was on entertainment:

Which novel was read, unabridged and non-stop on radio 4 on Boxing Day 2000?

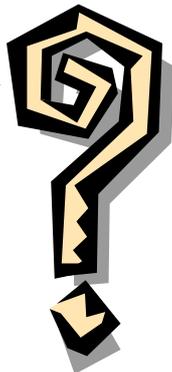
There was little to choose between the teams after the first round although team 2, (sorry but I haven't got a note of who they were) took an early lead by

playing their joker and scoring full marks.

Round 2 was on animals:

Which animal supplies milk for Mozzarella cheese?

Disaster! One of the Erith teams played their joker and only managed to answer five out of a possible eight questions and the rest of us fared only slightly better. A similar fate befell one of the Crayford teams in the very next round as we discovered what little we knew about Britain!



Which city is served by Dyce airport?

And so the evening progressed with the scoring as close as ever. Some teams played their joker

well (i.e. they were lucky!) whilst others were less fortunate. At the end of ten rounds, only 17 points separated the eleven teams. It would all boil down to the 'London Quiz', that we had been given on a piece of paper to complete during the evening.



What is the correct name for Westminster Abbey?

Who lives at No. 1, London?

What did Bazilgette do for London?

Despite being a group of people living within 15 miles, and in many cases, working in London, this was not going to be as easy as it first appeared. However a

superior knowledge was shown by the joint Eltham/Chislehurst team who narrowly clinched victory from Crayford by just 1½ points, with Erith a further 1½ points behind them in third.

A raffle was also held during the break and by the end of the evening £240 had been raised towards the Bell Restoration Fund. Altogether, this was a very enjoyable evening and on behalf of all those took part, many thanks to Esther and her crew who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

Answers to the questions can be found at the bottom of the page.

Debra Say



Seen on a board at St Mary's Rotherhithe,

"Fear God, Honour Ye King

Whoever comes here these ropes for to handle
Must comply with these rules for buying of candle
For each oath that you swear or bell that you
throw

Deposit your two pence before that you go

These rules are so just and orders so plain
Who refuseth to comply shall not practice again
Without paying one shilling to wipe off the stain"



Dartford Quiz Answers
Bamber Gascoigne, Tagus, Onion, Fig, Harry Potter & the
Philosopher's Stone, Buffalo, Aberdeen, Collegiate Church of
St. Peter, Duke of Wellington, Sewer System

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BECKENHAM

Practice's at St George's are on the up after the enforced lay off in May. Our thanks to Eltham and Lewisham for letting us practice so that we wouldn't forget what a bell rope was.

At the moment London Major is the surprise major method that's taking most of the time - three weeks practice and we've just about managed a plain course (most fire ups coming in the last lead just when the band thinks it's got it right). A range of other methods from Bob Doubles to Stedman Caters continue to be rung for the benefit of all attending. Hopefully practices will continue in the same vein for the summer as most of our University students seem to be back (I don't know in my day we had to study.....etc etc).

Anyway if you are at a loose end on Thursdays please come and join us - 7.50pm until 9.30pm.

Jeremy Byers

CHELSEFIELD

Monday evening practices are currently well attended with methods up to Surprise Minor being rung. We have recently had a number of visitors coming to our practices, some on a regular basis, but will nevertheless be pleased to see more.

Particularly as we approach the main holiday season, it may not be viable to continue with practices at some towers with a number of ringers away but we rarely have to cancel a practice at Chelsfield for this reason and quite often ring on Bank Holiday Mondays!

Practice time is from 8.00ish to 9.30pm and if you wish to make absolutely sure that we are ringing on a particular Monday, please contact either Jim Rooke (01689 607***) or Nick Wilkins (01689 830***).

Nick Wilkins

CRAYFORD

Whilst Sunday service ringing is generally well attended, Tuesday practices are usually less so. We are unable to progress beyond Doubles methods due to our lack of inside ringers. Indeed, with only four of us regularly available, it only takes one to be absent and then Minimus has to be the order of the day! Recently we have been trying to incorporate St Simon's and St Martin's into our repertoire with varying degrees of success. Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire are rung depending on the needs of

those attending.

On a personal note, I recently rung my first quarter of Plain Bob Minor. This was a product of the 'Hereford in Kent' course which Andrew and I benefited from greatly. I would like to thank those who organised and helped on the course and 'nursed' me through the quarter.

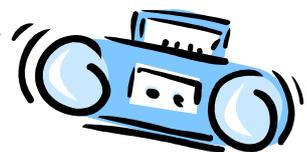
We would occasionally like to venture into the uncharted waters of Minor and beyond so visitors are always most welcome.

Practice night is Tuesdays from 7.30ish to 9.00pm-no later due to problems with the neighbours.

Debra Say

DARTFORD

It would appear that BBC Radio Kent is doing a sort of Bells on Sunday (Radio 4) & to that end are going round the county recording bells. Dartford did not know this so when I got a 'phone call from said radio asking if they could record Dartford's Bells (somebody likes them!!!), I had to do a bit of quick thinking.



You will recall that we are somewhat under strength at the moment and have been appealing for an Anne Robinson. Erith Christ Church (i.e. the Backhouse family) have been coming to us on the 4th Wednesday to try to teach us the rudiments of Plain Bob Doubles so I promptly booked the recording for that night (it was what they wanted anyway). So on the 27th June we were duly recorded, ringing rounds and call changes on the full 8. We did quite well and by the time you read this, the recording will have been broadcast.

After that we got down to our doubles, we had a lot of helpers that night strangely enough. So if you are in Kent and the 'phone rings one evening..... well, you never know.

May I take this opportunity to thank those who supported the quiz in aid of the Kent Bell Fund. We raised £240 towards the £2000 requested. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves (we did - Ed). As our numbers are down to a basic 5, anybody who would like to join us on Sundays at 8.50am or 5.30pm will be very welcome.

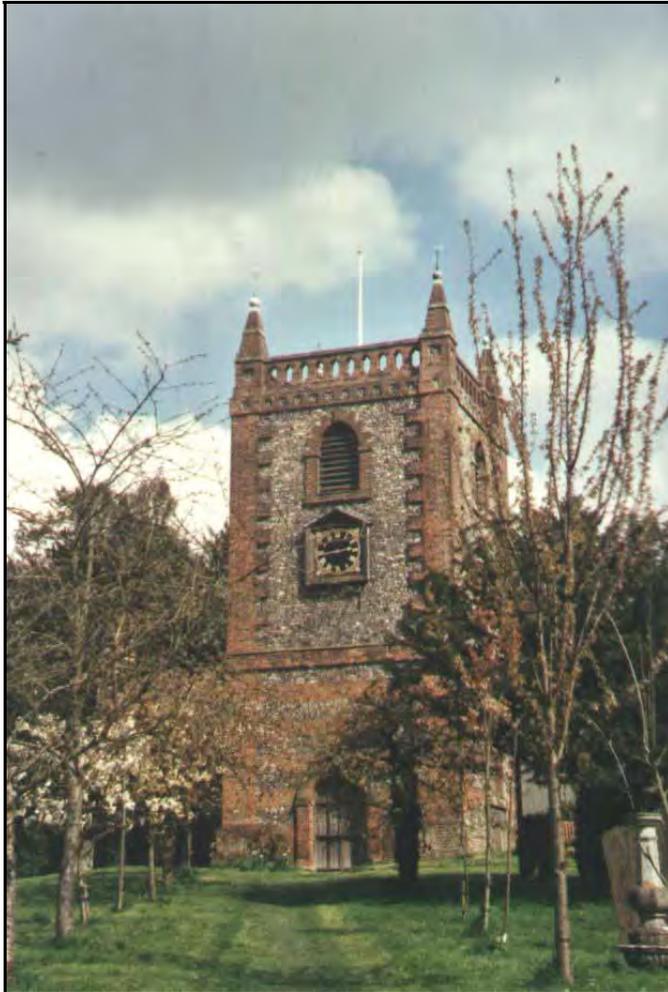
Esther Corriea

ELTHAM

Things have continued to tick over satisfactorily at Eltham over the past few months. Steady progress is being made in

Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles, and at one especially well attended practice recently we even managed Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples.

The problem of finding ways for learners to make that "next big step" is one that we have been addressing recently. A recent innovation is to have a monthly "special method" practice, jointly with Chislehurst. The idea is to ring a single



SS PETER AND PAUL, SHOREHAM

method all evening, targeted at those people from both towers who will benefit from the concentrated practice, supported by the more experienced ringers. So far two of these have taken place- Plain Hunt at Eltham in May, and Stedman Triples in June at Chislehurst. Those present, both learners and helpers, seem to have found these both beneficial and enjoyable (if hard work!), and we hope for equal success with Plain Bob Doubles at Eltham in July.

Another way is to encourage our ringers to support District events, and there are usually at least a couple of us at ringing meetings and practices. We entered two teams for the Quiz in May at Dartford, one of which came first: congratulations to them. One of our ringers was in the District band that "competed" in the Association Striking Competition at Hoo St Werburgh in June - and it's the taking part that counts, isn't

it?!

On the social side, another successful joint event with Chislehurst took place on Sunday 1st July: a barbeque, magnificently hosted by Peter Skinner and family. Well over 30 people attended, indulging in apparently limitless amounts of food and drink (including some magnificent puddings), and revealing some unexpected skills (or otherwise) on the croquet lawn.

Finally, like most bands, we are always seeking new ways to gain recruits. On Tuesday 3 July, we arranged for a reporter and photographer from the "Kentish Times" to visit the tower. They took pictures of the bells and the ringers, showing particular interest in the oldest and youngest ringers present (names withheld to protect the innocent!). The intention is that the article will appear in various local editions of the paper on 13 July - and probably already will have done so by the time you read this. Whether anything will come of it, only time will tell - hopefully there will be something to report in the next newsletter.

David Holdridge

HORTON KIRBY

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the district practice at HK on 16 June. It was quite a good turnout.

We have a lot of visiting bands at the moment. Four wanted to come on 14 July - is there something special about this day? We decided to have only one visiting band on any one day and hope that is understandable as there are sensitivities with the people living near to the church.

The effectiveness of the sound control has been professionally measured and achieves a good reduction. We may need to do a bit more work.

Nearly everyone in the village appreciates the bells and hopefully complaints will be few. One comment I heard recently from a couple who have supported the restoration.

John - "it's those wretched bells again" (half jokingly)
Christine - "no, John; it's the ice-cream van"!

At our ringers' meeting on 5th July, it was unanimously agreed that Lesley Barclay should be our Ringing Master. With her skills, enthusiasm and drive Lesley is the ideal person to have this role.

Anyway, we continue to make progress and have great support from Philippa, Jim and Frank. Teaching 15 is not an easy life.

David Crowhurst

The 2001 "Not the Hereford" Ringing Course

Thursday 19th-Saturday 21st April

As news that the out-break of Foot and Mouth had claimed yet another victim - the Hereford Ringing Course - reached me, I was very disappointed. Having been ringing for three years, and having heard all the stories that accompany this event, I would miss the first one that I was eligible to attend. I was not the only one who felt this way; veterans of this excursion from my tower were also shaking their heads in disbelief. Following a call from Jo Moreton (co-founder of the Hereford Ringing Course), Margaret "you Maycey some improvement" Macey and James Hardy put their thinking caps on and came up with a solution: a three day ringing course to be held in the district. The itinerary hinted at a very intensive few days and we soon found out that this was to be the case.

Starting on Thursday 19th April at Beckenham, the six students were split into two groups: one focusing on Plain Hunt, and the other on Plain Bob Doubles/Minor. And so the course began. After respective theoretical sessions, and a practical at Beckenham, we proceeded to Eltham, and discovered that the selected pub for lunch put on very good food, but was distinctly lacking on the Real Ale front. After time had been allowed for meals to go down, the next practical session began in earnest, with progress being made in both groups. On our return to Beckenham for tea at 5.15pm, it soon dawned upon us students, and in particular, the helpers, that there were still two and a quarter hours before the day's ringing would be over, as Thursday is Beckenham's practice night. The second practical session at Beckenham that day was not as productive as the first two, as brains were beginning to switch off by this stage. We adjourned to the fish shop for a welcomed meal, and then returned for the practice night, leaving most of the ringing to the other members of the Beckenham band and the regular attending visitors not on the course. The sighs of relief were distinctly audible as the fifteen or so of us wandered to the Jolly Woodman, to discuss the day's activities, and examine hands for any signs of blisters.

Friday morning came and another theory session got us back in the groove for ringing, with enthusiasm fully restored after the hard day experienced previously. While waiting to be let in at Bermondsey, we engaged in an unplanned, pre-ringing "team building exercise" (Don't ask but it involved untying

human knots!). A much needed lunch was enjoyed in The Mayflower, Rotherhithe. Beer and food was consumed, with one particular member being very fussy about the amount of cream that should be given out with helpings of fudge cake. Once the dust had settled from this dispute, we walked the hundred yards down the road to the church. The ringing commenced in a very nice room, complete with chandelier. Although the bells were a bit "clangy", to use the offered technical term, it was plain to see (no pun intended) that the theory taken in earlier was beginning to pay off. The "plain hunters'" rope-sight began to improve, and the Bob Doubles group (freshly up-graded to Minor) began to follow the calls of 'bob' and 'single' being hurled at them. As this session ended and people were whisked away in various cars, talk began of the social evening at AMF Lewisham Bowling. But first, thirsts had to be quenched, so the Wetherspoon's in Lewisham, a worthy candidate, was visited, and definitely got my vote. The bowling, after explaining to a few people that the idea was to hit the little white things at the other side of the room with the ball (two of our group managed to get over half way through the first game before hitting anything!), passed very well. It certainly made a change from the more traditional approach of sitting in the pub.

The final day began in Foots Cray church hall, where a 'Questions and Answers' session began after many people thought that perhaps it was time to announce that they were "Mr. X, and an alcoholic". Then on to Crayford for the first practical session of the day, on perhaps, the best light eight in the District. The students found these bells slightly harder as they "zipped" along, leaving less much-needed thinking time, but they were definitely the more pleasing to listen to. After a very pleasant lunch in The King's Arms, Shoreham, a walk up the road along the picturesque river to the church followed, with yet more progress made in the chosen 'disciplines'. We may have unwittingly encouraged a few visitors to the church to take up the hobby, so we couldn't have been doing too badly! This marked the end of the official bit of the course - what followed, for most, was the journey back to Beckenham to take advantage of Jeremy's hospitality in eating pizza and drinking plenty of beer at Chateau Byers. Events which were witnessed included a perfectly struck (!) method rung on hand-bells and a slightly unwise decision to play 'Twister'.

Despite being informed that Lewisham was "no Hereford". I think that the students benefited greatly from the three days and I would like to thank on behalf of them, the organisers, and not least the helpers, who put up with six learners crashing into them for three days. I have been reliably informed that I will reap the benefits in a couple of week's time. Just give me a couple of days for the hangover to clear first.

Ross Hartley



Proof Reading and "Proof Understanding"

These are actual clippings from church bulletins and newspapers. It's amazing what a little proof-reading would provide....

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals".

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8pm in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands".

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water" The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".

Next Thursday there will be try outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy".

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours"



'Ring in the Millennium'

A personal reflection

I wanted to do something to celebrate the Millennium and during a conversation with my friend Megan (in the local pub!), we discussed Bell Ringing. Having expressed interest Megan put my name forward to Philippa (chairman of Lewisham District), who took me on board along with many other learners.

This was a totally new experience for me. To ring simple rounds at Sidcup on New Years Day was a wonderful achievement. This was now my tower. Soon the bell unfortunately 'took over' and I thought it was time to give up and decided it was not for me. Then I remembered how much time Philippa had spent teaching, muffling the bells, up and down to the belfry etc and the help from Sidcup Tower. I owed it to these people to give something back, but how?

Megan came to the rescue again, giving me details of a Beginners/Improvers course at 'The Fire Ring in the Forge' (now known as the Fire Ring and the Marches Teaching Belfry). Having read the course details, I was not sure this was for me, however, I decided to give it a go and took myself off to Shropshire.

This was the best thing I could have done. The course complimented Philippa's teaching, gave me the confidence I needed especially with bell handling. Having rung for my first service at Clungford was an added bonus.

This particular weekend is specifically for beginners and improvers on thin skis because the course is small - four students. It is tailored to individual needs. I came home mentally exhausted with blisters on my hands and aching shoulders but I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE COURSE! - is this enjoyment??

I returned to Sidcup with a more positive attitude and was pleased when John (tower captain) commented on my bell handling - at least he does not have to stand behind me now!!

I would thoroughly recommend the weekend course to anybody who is starting ringing or who has been ringing for sometime. There is a lot of opportunity to improve - for example a bell computer program, hand bells, videos, reading material etc.

Finally, the food is excellent!

Mary Hayward

Friends

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother of pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold.

He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out,

"Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

"Can my friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in, too?" the traveller asked.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road which led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me!" he called to the reader. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there". The man pointed to a place that couldn't be seen from outside the gate. "Come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveller gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump."

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveller filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for them.

"What do you call this place?" the traveller asked.

"This is Heaven," was the answer.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveller said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No. I can see how you might think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who'll leave their best friends behind."

Notes from KCACR Meeting held on May 5th 2001

Handbook - All known discrepancies were noted. A request was made for any further problems to be directed to Dickon Love.

Insurance - The Secretary advised the meeting that a list of the most frequently asked questions was being compiled and would be sent out to all districts.

Reports were received in respect of Training, Publicity and Bell Restoration (see next column).

David Sheehey reported that a Membership Secretary is still being sought. He was aware of two people possibly interested.

Golden Jubilee - A Bank Holiday on 4.6.02 will commemorate the occasion. County will produce a certificate to be available to any towers wishing to ring something to mark the occasion, detail to be left to each individual tower.

Sevenoaks Ringing Books - These are ancient books on ringing, some in a state of disrepair. Two books which are duplicated are to be sold to pay for the restoration and secure keeping of the remainder.

St. John's Deptford Ringing Books - Raised by Nick Davies who was concerned that if they were not properly cared for they too might fall into disrepair. It was resolved that Nick, Hazel Catlett (County Librarian) and Jim Rooke (Lewisham District Librarian) will liaise with the Vicar, Rev. April Keech to discuss the issue and progress to ensure that all interested parties are satisfied.

New Kent Rail Link - A request has been received from Connex asking if KCACR would like to organise ringing at towers along the route on 28.9.03 when the line is officially opened, this being the newest railway line for over 100 years. The meeting felt that we shouldn't support such an event as the construction of it has blighted the Kent countryside. This was carried by a vote. However, it was subsequently decided to keep our options open to review this decision should the Rail Company wish to provide a suitable donation towards the BRF and also to ask the Districts for their views.

Telecommunication Aerials - Concern was expressed about the increased use of church towers by telephone companies, there are operational and health and safety issues which must be taken into account prior to any agreement being made. A leaflet with this detail is to be compiled and sent to each district. Also Publicity will make recommendations about how to deal with any enquiries.

BRF fund - It was noted that Lewisham District had raised the smallest amount of money towards the fund (published in the handbook) last year. The suggested target for the current year is that each tower should aim for £50.00, with a minimum target of £1000.00 for each district.

Bell Restoration Sub-committee Report for December to April, 2001

The period since the last report in November has been very quiet for Bell Restoration.

Waltham bells have at last been finished. This is now a pleasant-going ring of six that sounds normal! The work has been carried out by Hayward Mills.

The three bells at **West Peckham** have also been rehung with Taylors carrying out the work.

Lyminge have decided to have their bells rehung with new fittings. They have already had the clappers renovated and the rest of the work is likely to be carried out at the end of the year. We shall assist.

We have given advice at **Eastchurch** about the general state of the bells and have offered to carry out the site work when they have raised sufficient funds for the scheme.

Gravesend and **Biggin Hill** both have Hastings stays and we have given assistance. At **Gravesend** we have identified problems and explained how to get over them. At **Biggin Hill**, one bell was giving trouble because the stay was a fraction too long and we have corrected that.



At **Ightham** we have greased the pulley wheels but the clappers need rebushing. At **Elham** we have fitted a new stay and given advice at **High Halden**.

At **Thurnham** they are proposing to install a rope guide and re-rope one of the bells. The work being necessary because a kitchen and toilet have been installed at the base of the tower.

Staple have decided to have their derelict ring of four rehung dead and we have offered to carry out all the site work for them. Two of the bells will also be tuned and one will need welding.

The impending rehang at **Dover** seems to be a little nearer and there is a chance that we shall be taking them out of the tower this summer.

There are no grant applications for this meeting to consider.

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
25 February 2001		Chislehurst Ann	5120	Cornwall Surprise Major	01/455
13 April 2001		Shoreham	5088	Spliced Surprise Major 5m:	01/584
15 April 2001		Eynsford	5088	Amsterdam Surprise Major	01/455
07 May 2001	Beckenham	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal		01/535
19 May 2001	Eltham	5152	Spliced Surprise Major 16m:		01/586
28 May 2001	Cudham	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal		01/608

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
21 January 2001		Crayford	1280	Cambridge Surprise Major	01/487
04 February 2001		Bromley	1260	Grandsire Triples	01/354
04 February 2001		Eynsford	1440	Plain Bob Minor	01/329
18 February 2001		Bexley	1260	Grandsire Triples	01/380
18 February 2001		Bromley	1250	Superlative Surprise Major	01/358
18 February 2001		Erith Christ Church	1260	Grandsire Doubles	01/356
25 February 2001		Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	01/358
11 March 2001		Crayford	1280	Crayford Surprise Major	01/384 & 490
18 March 2001		Bromley	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	01/407
01 April 2001		Bromley	1250	Pudsey Surprise Major	01/438
08 April 2001		Eynsford	1260	Stedman Triples	01/434
07 May 2001		Chelsfield	1320	Plain Bob Minor	
10 June 2001		Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 4m.	

Congratulations to:

Adrian Lucia who rang his first quarter inside, Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church, Erith.

Anne Townsend (treble) and Lesley Barclay rang their first of Minor, Plain Bob at Chelsfield.

James Tate rang his first of Grandsire Triples at Bexley.

Simon Morris and Jeremy Worthington (Sevenoaks) rang their first of Stedman at Eynsford, and Simon his first of Cambridge at Crayford.

Cathy Cheeseman and David Brown rang their first of Superlative at Bromley.

Finally, the quarter of Crayford S.M. at Crayford was a first for all the band.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4703 June 15, 2001.

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St. John's, Deptford, on Saturday, 28th April 2001

The Chairman, Miss Philippa Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming members, particularly those who had also taken part in the Striking Competition at Penge during the morning. She went on to mention that the Newsletter had been circulated and thanked Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for their work in compiling it.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. Sara Hardy of Beckenham, Mr. Jeremy Clitheroe and Miss Elizabeth Cruickshank of Bickley, Mrs. Nancy Gay, Mrs. Monica Hanscombe and Mrs. Lis Stewart of Biggin Hill and Mr. Roger Long of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Tower Photographs

Mr. Len Morley reminded members that Mrs. Hazel Basford, the county Librarian, was very keen to have photographs of all bands in the county as a millennium record. Photographs were to be sent to Mr. Morley before the General Committee Meeting on 5th May.



B.R.F.

Members were reminded of the Quiz, on 12th May, which was being arranged by the Dartford band as a fund-raising event for the B.R.F.: each District has been asked to raise £1,000 for this fund during the year.

Subscriptions

It has been agreed at the Annual General Meeting that subscriptions should remain the same for 2002 except that Junior Members and Senior Citizens should pay £4.50. It had also been decided that the subscription rate for Junior Members and Senior Citizens should always be 50 per cent of the rate for Adult Practising Members.

Vice-President

Mr. Donald Niblett of the Canterbury District had been elected a Vice-President of the Association at the Annual General Meeting at Sandwich.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Foot and Mouth Disease

The Chairman read to the meeting an E-mail clarifying the situation regarding tolling on Sundays to show sympathy for the farmers during the foot and mouth disease crisis. Ringing was only required on the one Sunday on which it had been requested, not each Sunday.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER

Mr. Steve Edwards of Farningham and Eynsford was elected as a practising member on the proposition of Mr. Martin Luffman, seconded by Mr. Deryck Jones.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Central Council Newsletter

Copies of this Newsletter were available. Members were asked to take these and pass them round to other ringers.

Handbook

Copies of the Handbook were available for collection. An E-mail had been received from Mr. Dickon Love, the Handbook Editor, explaining that he had heard from the printer that the delay in receiving the Handbooks in time for the A.G.M. (some copies were available) was because the copy for the Kent and Yorkshire Associations (the country's two largest) arrived for printing at the same time and the Yorkshire one got priority. Some errors had been found and members were asked to let the District Secretary have a note of these in writing as soon as possible. Details would then be sent to the Editor.

Striking Competition

The Striking Competition at Penge had been judged by Mrs. Catherine Lewis. Four teams entered and certificates were issued to the teams placed first, second and third as follows:

1st Chelsfield
2nd Beckenham
3rd Eynsford/Farningham

Bookstall

Mr. Jim Rooke reminded members to make use of the bookstall and mentioned that two copies of a recently published new book on learning methods were available.

District Web Site

Mr. Jim Hardy asked for pictures which would be of interest for the web site.

St. John's Hall



Members had been allowed to use the church hall for the tea and business meeting and were asked to contribute towards the cost. A collection was taken at the end of the meeting.

District Practices

Mr. Hardy said that the last few practices had been well attended. The next one would be at Greenwich. Ringers were warned about the danger of their cars being clamped and were asked to see Miss Freda Cannon, who would provide drivers with a parking disk.

Striking Competition

Mr. Hardy said that he would like to see more entries for the Striking Competition. He reminded members that extra ringers could be found if a tower was short of a ringer; also that joint bands were accepted.

Newsletter

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman thanked those who had contributed to the recently issued Newsletter. He went on to make a request for material for the next issue, and for more subscribers.

Replacement for Hereford Course

Mr. Jeremy Byers said that because the Hereford Course had been cancelled owing to Foot and Mouth, the District had run its own Course, which had been very successful.

Smart Group

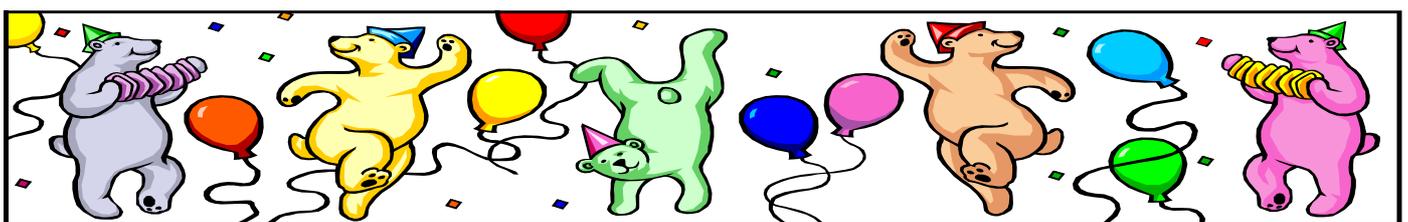
Mr. Hardy said that Mr. Love had set this up and explained briefly what it involved. It was free and further details will be put on the District's web site in due course.

County Membership Secretary

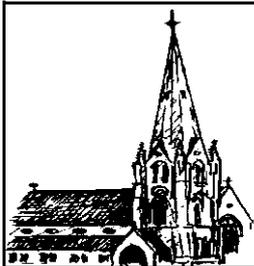
Attention was drawn to the fact that this vacancy had not been filled at the A.G.M. Interest in the position was expressed by Mr. Steve Kennett.

Votes of Thanks

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Deryck Jones, to the Vicar of St. John's, Canon April Keech, for conducting the service and for the use of the bells and the church hall, to Mr. John White for playing the organ and to the tea makers.



The Bears tried hard to contain their feelings about the meeting finishing



Around and About the district

ELTHAM MAKES THE NEWS

Recently Hilary (one of our ringers) managed to make contact with the Kentish Times and persuade them to visit and run a feature article in the hope that new recruits may be found. On Tuesday 3rd July a photographer and reporter arrived and spent quite a time writing copious notes complimented with a large selection of photographs.

They promised that an article will appear in the Kentish Times around 13th July. We have asked that they put this article in all areas they cover within our district. The hope is that this will produce enquiries by people wishing to learn. For our part, we will contact the relevant Tower Captain and ask that every enquiry is followed up.

Len Morley

COMPETITION CORNER

The following peal report will not be sent to the Ringing World for publication until after the competition deadline for entries of 31st July!

Fill in the missing information- entries should be sent to the newsletter editors accompanied by a bell restoration donation or pledge. Entries not allowed from family or friends of the ringers or those with inside knowledge!

Tues. 27th June 2001
St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield (11)
5040 Minor (7m)

1. Nicholas Wilkins
2. Angela Wilkins
3. John S Barnes
4. Nigel R Parsons
5. Martin J Turner
6. Alan Regin

- 1) Name the methods
- 2) Name the conductor
- 3) What are the footnotes?
- 4) What was the time?- to be used as a tiebreaker if necessary.

A bottle of wine will be given to the most accurate entry and another may be awarded for the most amusing footnote(s) if not too insulting! The newsletter editors and representatives of the band will judge the entries.

Nick Wilkins

COUNTY 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

Subtitled "And the first shall be last"

Saturday 23rd June saw a stalwart band from Lewisham District head down to Hoo St Werburg to defend its County 8 Bell Trophy that it had won with such style and elegance last year ringing a superlative touch (sorry that should be a touch of Superlative).

Unfortunately it was not to be.

After starting at a brisk pace we committed the cardinal striking competition sin of making method mistakes which resulted in a couple of "crunchy patches" (That's the nicest way I've heard of describing a fire up - Ed). Unfortunately efforts to bribe the judges or at least hope they might have a brief bout of tinnitus were unsuccessful and we scored a massive 100 faults placing us 5th out of five (six really as Maidstone declined to send a team).

Thanks to the band at Hoo for an excellent tea, to David Macey for putting in that bob that Jim was about to miss, the pub for such excellent beer for Jim Hardy to drown his sorrows and for David Kingston and myself for abstaining from alcohol so that the drinkers got home in one piece.

There is an upside to all this... it's now someone else's problem where to scribe their district's name on the trophy as Lewisham used the last space up last year.

We shall be back!

Jeremy Byers

GET WELL SOON

Jim Hardy is currently 'enjoying' spending more time with his family while he recovers from pulling a muscle in his back. Apparently he can cope with lying about all day but not being allowed a beer is causing a serious problem! We wish him a speedy recovery.



MISSING!



The District 6 bell Striking Competition Trophy has been missing from its rightful home since 28th April! It was last seen at Bromley Parish Tower but has not yet been received by its new custodians, Chelsfield. Could anyone spotting the Trophy within the next 10 months please pass it to Philippa Rooke (District Chairman) or a representative of Chelsfield Tower!!

Thank you.
Nick Wilkins