



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2002

District Training Day A Great Success

Following a few weeks of e-mails flying around and many phone calls Saturday 23rd February 2002 arrived. My Friday evening was spent wondering if I'd thought of everything and would all the students and helpers turn up at their relevant towers at 9.30am on Saturday morning.



So I arrived in the car park at Beckenham at about 9.20am relieved to see other ringers had also arrived. This session gave us a chance to see what our students could do and get to know each other. By the time we arrived at Eltham for the theory session the urn was boiling and coffee/tea on the go - very welcome it was too. The helpers did their own thing whilst the students had a crash theory course in Plain Bob Doubles, then we split up for lunch - it was a case of having to, considering there were 34 of us altogether.



2.30pm saw us regrouping ready for another practical session followed by an hour's break for a cup of tea (if you were lucky) and then on to the final towers of the day. Many of us met up in "The Chequers" at Farningham for social lubrication. Everyone seemed really charged up with the progress they had made during the day and were keen to take their new found skills back to their home towers. Finally, a few of us went to "The Viceroy" at Beckenham for a well deserved Curry. I must admit to being on a high, myself, by the end of the day.

I would like to say well done to all the students. I'm sure you all learned something from the day even if you're not sure at the moment what it is. That's not unusual after a concentrated course like this. However you will have lots of information stored away in your brain which will emerge when you least expect



it.

To the helpers I can do nothing except say a big **THANK YOU** for giving up your time to help others. I'm sure that as time goes on our students will become the helpers of years to come.

Finally **THANK YOU** to Jeremy, David and James for leading the groups, and to James for doing the theory session.

We look forward to seeing all students at future District Practices, meetings and at other towers which will help you to build on the work done on the training day.

Next District Event

District Meeting

Crayford

on

Saturday 13th April.

Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to

Alex Britton on 01322 556*** or

alex@ajbritton.fsnet.co.uk

by Wednesday 10th April please.

Chairman's Bit

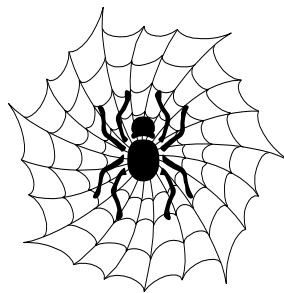
I really had planned to prepare this well in advance, but the Editor's "final request" for articles caught me by surprise as usual...

The deadline also means that I cannot say much about the Association AGM, which as I write is still a week away. It would therefore be tempting fate to make assumptions at this stage about its being a great success... However, what I can do in advance is to thank those on the "AGM Sub-Committee" for all their efforts over the last couple of months: Len Morley, Sara Hardy, Carol Eastaugh and Margaret Heald. Ensuring that a large event like this takes place at all is a difficult task, and I know that they have put in a lot of work, not least in cajoling the rest of us to do the various jobs that need to be done! Many thanks to them, and to all who have offered their help in any way.

The AGM comes round to the Lewisham District once every six years. Something that comes round even less often is a Royal Golden Jubilee. As you probably know, the focus of the national celebrations will be the long weekend of Saturday 1st - Tuesday 4th June. Unlike "Ring In 2000", there has been no attempt by the Central Council to orchestrate a set time when all bells should be rung. However, it has been suggested that ringing before or after the National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, on Tuesday 4 June, may be most appropriate.

It would obviously be good if as many as possible of the towers in the Lewisham District could mark the event in some way. Some may already have plans in hand to do so. If not, why not think about it now? Peals, quarter-peals, general ringing - it is up to you! I would suggest that if you have difficulties in getting people together on the 4th June, then any day over the long weekend would be just as good - or, for peals and quarters, any time during the rest of the year.

David Holdridge



What's been happening - News from the Website

For the latest county and district news see the KCACR website at www.kcacr.org.uk

This has links to other ringing websites including James' district one at:
www.jameshardy.supanet.com/lewishamdistrictnews.htm

District Meeting at Eltham

The Meeting at Eltham was very well attended, and the discussion focused mainly on the forthcoming AGM. A lovely Tea was provided by the local band and many thanks go to them for that, and for the use of their fine bells.

District Practice at Beckenham

The practice at Beckenham on the 26th January was well attended. We rang Stedman Caters, Cambridge Royal, and plenty of call-changes.

District Practice at Eynsford

The District practice at Eynsford on 9th February was less well attended, but we rang Kent Surprise Major and some spliced (C,Y,N,S,B) and the ringing was mostly good.

District Practice at Cudham

The practice at Cudham was very good. These are difficult bells to hear and to ring, and everyone acquitted themselves very well. We rang call-changes on 10, Little Bob Major, Plain Bob Royal, and a touch of Stedman Caters. Thank you to the local band for the tea and coffee! There were approx. 25 members present.



From The Lewisham District Website

This is a "true story" in (Letters) Daily Mail. (Thurs.)

Going to bed the other night I noticed people in my shed stealing things. I phoned the police but was told no one was in the area to help. They said they would send someone over as soon as possible. I hung up. A minute later I rang again.

"Hello", I said "I called you a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to hurry now because I've

shot them".

Within minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, plus a helicopter and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars red handed.

One of the officers said "I thought you said you'd shot them", to which I replied "I thought you said there was no one available."

Editorial



It has been a busy three months for the district. In addition to the usual district practices, a very successful Plain Bob Doubles Training Day was run in February and by the time you read this, the district will have hosted the County AGM.

Many apologies to anyone who had to pick up the last newsletter from their local sorting office due to my being a bit stingy with the required postage. One newsletter and envelope normally comes in under the minimum weight limit but I forgot that this was a bumper edition, with four extra pages as well as additional flyers. I will double check in future.

Please keep your articles coming in, as the newsletter is what you make it.



For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives:

At a recent computer exposition (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated:

"If General Motors had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon".

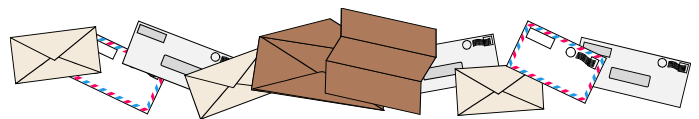
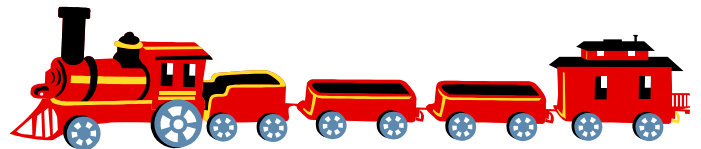
In response to Bill's comments, GM issued a press release stating:

"If General Motors had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:-

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason, you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "General Protection Fault" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask "are you sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time GM introduced a new car, car buyers would have to learn to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

In the newsletter this time...

District Training Day - A Great Success	1
Chairman's Bit	2
News from the Website	2
Editorial and Contents	3
Plain Bob Doubles Training Day - Your Comments	4
News from the towers- Beckenham	6
Bexley	6
Bickley	7
Bromley	7
Crayford	7
Downe	8
Eltham	8
Erith (St. Johns)	8
Foots Cray	9
Horton Kirby	9
Crayford Tower Outing to Essex	10
6 Bell Striking Competition Rules	11
Peals and Quarter Peals Rung In The District	12
Minutes of the District Meeting at Eltham	13
Midweek Ringers	16



I will as usual, be seeking articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, reports and tower news for the next issue. Get them in early!

**COPY DEADLINE -
28th June 2002**

to
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DA8 *PG

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The Plain Bob Doubles Training Day

Your Comments

I hope you've recovered from the Training Day. I just wanted to say thank you to all the helpers and towers who contributed to Saturday's event. Without you, the whole thing would not have been possible.

Well done to all the students. You worked hard and I hope you feel that the day was worth while. It is up to you now to continue the good work by visiting other towers, ringing with different people and attending District events.

One suggestion I have made to some people for further improvement is to arrange a focused outing for your tower. If you ask, it should be possible to arrange for some more experienced ringers to come along to help you progress. So in some ways it's up to you.

Margaret Macey

I would like to add my thanks to Margaret for taking the time and the considerable amount of effort that it took to organise the Training Day. It was a pleasure to help and see so much progress made during the day. As Margaret says though, the important thing now is to consolidate what has been learnt.

The following are some of the very positive comments received by Margaret and myself from students and helpers on the course. - Ed

Firstly I would like to thank all the people involved in preparing the training day, and particularly the helpers who had great patience and humour as well as considerable stamina to keep ringing all day.

Now does anyone remember leaving a hooded sports top with a zip front in the pub in Farningham at the end of the day? It was handed to me by someone who had been sitting near the ringers who thought it belonged to one of us. If it is yours, or you know who it might belong to, please let me know and I will arrange to get it back to you.

Megan Smith

Firstly let me thank you for the terrific job of organising the

day, it all went very smoothly. I think making the key-holders of the towers part of the group was a real knock-out blow as we did not have to wait around while someone with a key was found. And they knew their way to their own tower!!

As for the day itself, I thought it was EXCELLENT. I have been struggling with PBD for some months at Crayford



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SIDCUP

where they have tried really hard with me but it just wasn't getting anywhere, or so I (and they) felt. Then Philippa suggested I go to Chelsfield as I'd had to stop going to Crayford for a while. Although I've been there only 2 or 3 times and am just getting used to their bells, things were beginning to fall into place so all the hard work of David and Rupert has started to bear fruit. I think a different instructor helped, he was able to pinpoint problems differently.

Then came 'the day', and I was able to consolidate all I'd learnt with a completely strange band of talented helpers who all had different ways of explaining the problems and their solutions - wonderful - I feel I progressed so much. Not only did I manage to get through a plain course without hiccup, it happened again and again! So much so that they even tried a touch with me 'affected' and it happened!! Up until now, if Crayford tried a touch with me unaffected, it would all fall to pieces at my feet.

The theory session later in the morning was well placed too as

after an initial try-out, the theory made more 'sense' and I think it was more helpful that way! I found James' descriptions and explanations very clear and although arriving late and not getting sight of the paperwork until after the session, I found it really helpful and discovered, with his clear explanations, that I DID understand place notation after all! I learned what to do at a 'bob' which, hitherto had been as clear as mud to me but once I got the idea of the 'place bell' method, well, then things started to hum! It is now clear to me that, once I've learned what each place bell's work is, not only will I be able to 'take hold' of any rope, but a bob won't cause me the trouble I feared.

YES, altogether, I can say, from the bottom of my heart, a great 'thank you' to ALL concerned for a really great day's ringing and a terrific boost to my confidence. I had begun to think that I might have reached my limit - a sort of depressing feeling that I won't get any further but now I can see light streaming in at the end of this particular tunnel!

Long may this continue!!

With grateful thanks to everyone,

Deryck Jones

I arrived with trepidation at a tower where I had only rung twice before (others I'm sure were at towers strange to them) and not knowing most of my fellow students but recognising most of my tutors/helpers. It felt daunting to pull off the first time to show what you could do but I needn't have worried. All were caring, considerate and most helpful. It's just a shame that the brain couldn't always keep up.

Conclusion! What a great day out. I would recommend it to anybody - convivial company AND progress too. Thanks to Margaret and her army of friendly tutors and helpers for their great efforts. Now its off to a quiet corner to try to take in the theory!!

One thankful trainee

Brenda Barton

P.S. Hope the curry session was just as enjoyable.

Everyone who attended the District one-day ringing course came away thinking the time was well spent. To start with Margaret demonstrated her brilliant organising skills, for the



LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEFORE RINGING AT CRAYFORD

whole day went as planned - all the students and helpers got to their starting point on time - and if the odd problem did crop up, I was unaware of them. So a BIG thank you to Margaret.

The theme for the day was ringing inside to Bob Doubles. We were divided up into three groups, each group having its own band of helpers, and each group visiting three towers in the area. Mid morning, the whole course came together to listen to James Hardy describe the 'inner' secrets of bob

doubles. There were plenty of breaks for coffee and lunch although Weatherspoons failed to deliver and most of us resorted to McDonald's opposite. I find McD's a bit threatening, but Matthew guided me through the procedure like an old hand.

Our helpers were first class. They must have been, for they managed to get me through ringing Bob Doubles on the second. Many people have tried to get me to do this, and failed - towers are littered with them! But these helpers were special, they kept smiling and encouraging us on. So a great thanks to the helpers, too.

Those with the greatest stamina (and a liking for curry) forgathered later at a curry chippy at Clockhouse where a good helping of indigestion was taken on board. Margaret was thanked again, and given a bunch of flowers, while James was presented with a somewhat suggestive toy that had been picked up off the floor at McDonald's earlier in the day.

A good day all round.

Steve Kennett

Thank you for organising such a good day. As a student I came back inspired to learn more.

Best wishes

Maria Soltysiak

Many thanks for organising Saturday. I thought it went extremely well and Dave and I both enjoyed it a lot, despite our misgivings about having volunteered for a whole day of Bob Doubles (well actually we cheated a bit and rang some Grandsire - but don't tell anybody!)

Thanks again for all your hard work - let's hope we see some of the 'pupils' at district events in future!

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

The band at Beckenham continue to enjoy the support of a multitude visitors on practice night - thanks to all who continue to attend.

News is a little thin on the ground, however the recent AGM highlighted two or three matters of interest. Recruitment has been raised as an issue of concern and we now have a "task force" who will be looking at the issue with a view to suggesting ways of encouraging new recruits to the exercise. Watch this space!

The forthcoming retirement of our Rector and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, both sufficiently close for ringers to have sore hands for two weekends in a row, brought forward some suggestions for quarters and peals. Hopefully we will score some firsts for members of the band.

Tower works continue. The pulley's have all now been serviced and a new set of ropes is currently exercising the bell control skills of the whole band. Plans for additional works including the refurbishment of the clappers continue and will hopefully occur before the retirement of the Rector.

Finally the AGM did once again highlight the matter of punctuality - amazingly good on the Sunday after the AGM. Please remember that practice times are 7-50pm prompt on Thursday's. Service ringing is 8-55am meet for ringing 9am to 9-30am. Sunday evenings by arrangement.

By the time the newsletter is published we will have enjoyed our annual Holy Week dinner - currently 25 are pencilled in to sit down to dine together. The post Easter period sees a large number of the band heading towards Hereford and the delights of the ringing course. Then on into the wedding season.



Best wishes and a Merry Easter from all at Beckenham.

Jeremy Byers

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

Bells ap-peal to Mary

A 65-year-old woman has achieved an unusual anniversary - half-a-century of ringing Bexley's bells.

Mary Andrews, of Wansunt Rd, Bexley, will celebrate 50 years of bell ringing at St Mary's Church Bexley, next month. And she reckons to have climbed the iron ladder to the ringing room at least 10,000 times since she started at Christmas 1951, aged just 15. The church had been short one



ringer and a school friend invited Mary to help out. She soon moved to ringing the tower bells.

Miss Andrews who is also churchwarden, treasurer, electoral roll officer, chairman of the Friends of St Mary's, and wedding bookings secretary at the church hopes to continue for many more years.

She said: "One is always learning something new. There are plenty of new challenges around and this is one attraction."

Miss Andrews said she has enjoyed the social side of ringing which has taken her all over the country. She has cycled to a Maidstone church and back and ridden a scooter all the way to Denbigh in Wales and back to ring various bells.

Her advice to anybody considering bell ringing as a new hobby is it is a regular commitment but not only for budding musicians: "It's best for people who are interested in music or figures. You don't ring tunes as it were, it's all done mathematically."

From the News Shopper (20/2/02)

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

A peal was rung just before Christmas on 21st December.

This took 2 hours 46 minutes with 5140 changes. It was rung in aid of the church's 10 year anniversary after the fire.

A quarter peal was rung on 19th January of 1260 Stedman Triples which took 45 minutes. This was rung in memory of Eileen Stedman and Joan Rogers.

It was nice to welcome a group of visiting ringers to the tower just before the New Year as they were on a tower outing.

Elizabeth Cruickshank

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Our main achievement has been for two of our young beginners to ring their first quarters on the treble to Bob Doubles. They both rang well.

Sunday 10th February 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble	Matthew Spencer (First quarter)
2	Freda Cannon
3	David S Brown
4	Jeremy Clitheroe
5	David H Kingston (C)
Tenor	Christine M Webb

Sunday 17th February 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

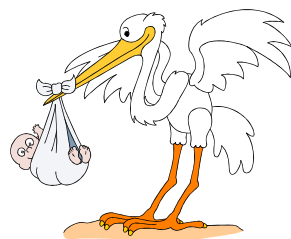
Treble	Paul Kay (First quarter)
2	Christine M Webb
3	Dickon R Love
4	David S Brown
5	David H Kingston (C)
Tenor	Nic Hodson

Congratulations to Nic Hodson (tenor) and his wife Alison on the arrival of Matthew Peter whose birth took less time than a quarter peal. It was so swift that dad had to do the delivery at home unaided. We are pleased to say all went well. Dad mopped his brow a few times.

On Boxing Day, we rang our customary quarter, this time Stedman. It was one of those times when all went well and we were pleased with ourselves and the ringing.

Practice night on Tuesday continues to be a struggle to get enough ringers to make it worthwhile and to give our learners regular opportunity to make progress. If you wish to join us on practice night, please check first.

David Kingston



BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00 (1st Wednesday at Annunciation)

CRAYFORD

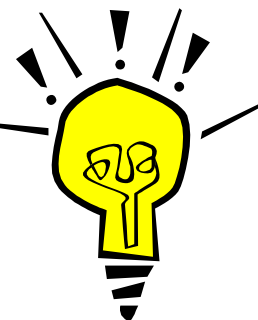
Practice Tuesday 19:30

Things have continued to plod along. With the help of our regularly visitors we have started to ring Triples more frequently. Which has made a change from our regularly diet of Grandsire, Stedman and St Simons Doubles and Plain Bob Minor. Hopefully, we should venture onto Cambridge Minor shortly. We have also gained a new recruit, Diane, who is progressing well.

We have rung a number of quarters this year. Firstly, one of Stedman Triples that tapped along really nicely. Stedman Doubles was scored in March and was Debra's first in method. Finally, Grandsire Triples was rung for the Palm Sunday Confirmation Service.

Unfortunately, we lost a half muffled quarter for the death of Princess Margaret when someone in the church decided to play around with the fuse box and turned off the ringing room lights! Luckily, this happened with a band of experienced ringers and nobody lost control of their rope but it has made us realise that we really ought to have some form of emergency lighting in the tower.

Rupert Cheeseman



CUDHAM

Practice Monday (except 1st) 19:45

Joint Practice with Downe

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DEPTFORD

DOWNE

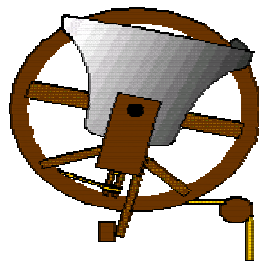
Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

Church's bells will toll again

After four years of hard work and dedication the Downe Bellringers are looking forward to hearing all six bells at St Mary's Church pealing out across the land by mid-April.

The ringers first learned in 1998 that that one of the bells was unsafe to ring. When they discovered that it would take at least £3,600 to bring all six bells up to modern day standards of safety they feared that the bells would be silenced altogether.

Now thanks to their efforts, the parish church at Downe will continue to ring out with bells that witnessed several hundred years of history. Two of the bells were cast between 1385 and 1418, another dates back to about 1500 and the remaining three were cast in 1903. The bells themselves are sound but work is needed on the headstock which supports them.



Donald King, captain of the bellringers who has been ringing bells for the church for 22 years, said: "There are trusts and charities which are sympathetic to bell renovation and they have provided a fair sum of money to this project. However it has to be said that it is the bellringers themselves who have made it all possible by collections in practice sessions and donating fees for ringing at weddings."

The Reverend Tim Hatwell said: "Much praise has to be given to the bellringers for their dedication in making this possible. It has been a piece-by-piece operation but we have been able to ring the bells for weddings and occasionally for services."

From the News Shopper

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

As predicted in the last newsletter, we had a busy start to the year. On 13th January, Lucy Behan celebrated her birthday by ringing her first quarter-peal - the second to Plain Bob Doubles, which she did faultlessly. It was also my first in the method as conductor - although I didn't tell her that until afterwards! Working backwards through the weekend, the previous day we hosted the District's January Quarterly Meeting - for the first time in many years, surprisingly. And

the day before that, we held our third joint dinner with the Chislehurst ringers - see report elsewhere (Presumably!) [Unfortunately not -Ed].

After that start to the year, anything would seem quiet. The Surprise Minor practices took place as usual



on the second Monday of the month, with a welcome step forward into an attempt at some Surprise Major in March (so they tell me - I'm afraid I wasn't there!). One of our ringers, Pauline Morley, attended the Bob Doubles Training Day in February - along with husband Len and myself as helpers - and gained valuable experience and practice. On 1st March, we entered a team for a local Charity Quiz Night at Charlton House. While we didn't win, we didn't disgrace ourselves either. And if there had been a prize for the table with the best selection of "snacks and nibbles" we would definitely have won.

Finally, by the time you read this, we will have had our Annual Tower Meeting (held on the Tuesday of Holy Week, just in case anyone thinks they can have a week off from thinking about ringing). But if anything significant comes of it, it will have to wait until next time for a report...

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

It was with great shock and sadness that we heard of the sudden death, from a brain haemorrhage, of George Rose on 2nd March. George started ringing a few years ago when Andrew Young came to help restart the band at St John's. He continued to ring regularly at practices and for services. We will miss him greatly.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung at St John's on 6th March as a tribute to George.

Treble	Barbara Edwards (first quarter)
2	Robert Backhouse
3	Christopher Backhouse
4	Rachel Backhouse
5	Mark Backhouse
Tenor	Margaret Heald

Margaret Heald

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

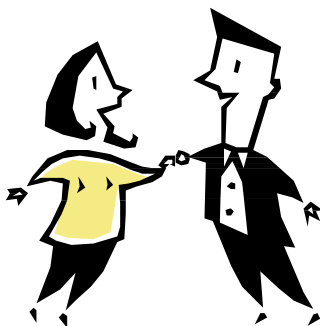
Not much changes. We struggle to maintain practices at Foots Cray, sometimes with only four ringers. The arrival of a visitor is cause for celebration and allows us to try Bob Doubles. If numbers are really short we go and ring with

Sidcup who have problems of a different sort - they have quite a few ringers but like us, lack the experience to help them to move forward.

This seems to be a problem in quite a few towers in the district. It's the problem which resulted in the training day on February 23rd which started with me trying to find a way of helping Foots Cray ringers to move on. It's a problem which has resulted in a focused outing for Biggin Hill in April because we were unable to fit everyone onto the last day. Nancy Gay is arranging the towers for the Biggin Hill day and I put out the appeal for helpers - what a wonderful response - fourteen offers of help! It seems that if you ask for help you stand a good chance of getting it, especially if you are prepared to do some of the work yourself.

I know the latter was not about Foots Cray but about ways of helping ourselves and each other. Why not try visiting another tower in the district? Get to know their ringers by visiting on a fairly regular basis. Let the tower captain know what you are currently learning to ring and be prepared to use non-ringing time constructively by standing behind a more experienced ringer who is doing what you are trying to do. Attend District Practices and tell the Ringing Master what you want to do. Ask for a stander behind if you need one and get to know your district officers and ringers from other towers. Ringers in the District will help you but they need to know that you are prepared to help yourself.

Finally from Foots Cray's point of view 'Visitors are always Welcome'. It's worth phoning me before setting out just in case we are going somewhere else. Remember, just one visitor can make all the difference to a practice.



Margaret Macey

GREENWICH

Practice 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

Horton Kirby had their first Ringers' AGM on 21st March - Resumé:

We rang at all major services in the last year - even some without our tutors! There were only four weddings but unfortunately more than one funeral.

There were no changes to the 'officers'. We decided it was not a good time to do so because amendments could not now be made to the handbook. So we're having an EGM in September to make probable changes to the constitution.

It was a good year for us with many more 'ups' than 'downs'. Everyone is enthusiastic and we are planning our second tower tour for May.

There will be continue to be two weekly practices for the next 6 months at least and we will then decide which evening the main practice will be.

As always, huge thanks to our counsellors - Frank Rogers, Philippa and Jim Rooke - with whose help & dedication we progress and continue to keep the neighbours happy - most of the time! Progress includes Bob and Grandsire doubles when there are enough helpers. Unfortunately, rope-sight is still elusive.

David Crowhurst

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing br arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

SIDCUP

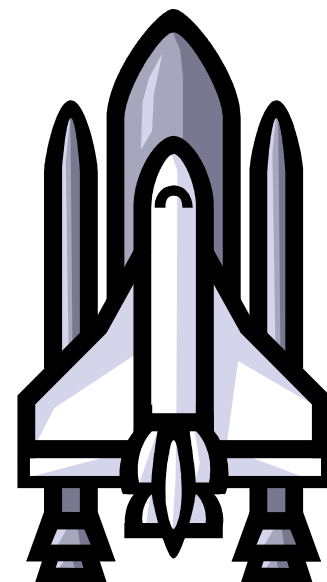
Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00



SPACE WHAT SPACE?

St. Paulinus Tower Outing To Essex

Saturday 9th February 2002

Essex has unfortunate associations in the minds of some. Boy racers in souped up Ford XR3s, with spoilers, stripes and lights. Furry dice, Capri's and Brute belong to a former era – which I do not remember! There is an inevitability about the girls too; the Sharons and the Traceys who wear the Uniform of white stilettos and very little else (if the jokes are anything to go by), but no, not one white stilie in sight! [See! Essex girls are ok really - take me for example! - Ass. Ed] The Essex we saw was a place of quiet single-track lanes, pretty villages, remote churches, quiet inlets and marshes; the vast mirror of sky and water.

Our first stop was at Fryerning, a hamlet near Ingatestone. A small church is surrounded by fields with that typical Essex feature of a red brick tower which was of the 15th Century and rather ornate. The bells, a ring of six, were obviously not rung that often and after a rather tinny sounding raise, went very nicely. Cambridge Minor was rung though not by me! I got a go at Grandsire Doubles; I am trying to get my bobs and singles right and some Plain Bob Doubles was rung. There was a nice story here about a rector who didn't approve of the ringing of peals. However on the 1st August 1725, a group of miscreant ringers invaded the belfry and rang a peal to mark the anniversary of the accession of George I. They were locked in as a result and had to break free by bashing a hole in the brickwork! From here we went on to Great Baddow which has one of those large square towers, with a tall steeple which was rather picturesque looking. This was a very fine ring of eight and we all agreed that this was the best tower we visited. The church and tower were very well kept and the ringing chamber was an open gallery, overlooking the nave. The bells went like a dream and had a velvet tone to them; we managed Plain Bob Triples, Cambridge Major, Stedman Triples and Plain Hunt on seven. It was obvious the tower attracted a large number of visiting ringers and the local band was of a high standard, for that afternoon they were going to ring a peal of Rutland.

Then we set off for All Saints, Maldon. This was a ground floor ring at the back of the church, in a curious triangular shaped area one stepped down to. The floor sloped and the rope circle was quite small so it had a mildly claustrophobic feel. It had a long draught, a cracked stay on the fourth and what with the close proximity of the other ringers it did not make for a comfortable ringing experience. After the gloss of Great Baddow these were matt surface bells; we managed Stedman Triples and a few other things but no one was terribly sad to leave.



ALL SAINTS, MALDON

Then it was time for lunch and we repaired to the nearby Rose and Crown which was a nice old pub with no pretensions. The fact it was full of locals was a good sign. They served a good pint of beer and provided a very ample lunch. I had a huge roast pork dinner for the sum of £3.95 which was superb value. We managed to make space for pudding and again, great helpings of the old favourites: spotted dick and custard and chocolate pudding and cream to name a few of the eatables. After a leisurely two hour affair we ventured out into the High Street and down to the other end of the town to the Church of St Mary the Virgin. Maldon is an ancient place but there is not the preciousness one associates with over conservation. It is well lived in and has that atmosphere of people who are comfortable with themselves and know who they are.

St Mary's stands overlooking the River Blackwater. The masts of old Thames sailing barges were visible over the ancient lopsided roofs of the cottages facing the river. There, on the little hillock the church was built on, the wind came unhindered up the estuary off the sea. Here, one could see the vague beginnings of the fen country, with the wind, the water and the silence. What can I say of the bells of St Mary's? If we were talking of a place in Madame Tussauds these would have been found in the Chamber of Horrors! To be fair it was not the actual bells themselves but it was the environment in which one found them. The vicar had mentioned that in the interests of safety, no more than eight people should be in the ringing room at any one time. A slight over zealotness perhaps?

Six Bell Striking Competition Rules

IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO WIN!

The District Six-bell Striking Competition will be held at **Bexley on Saturday, 13th April**. The draw will be at 10.30 a.m. There is an entry fee of £1.50.

Notwithstanding the rules, which are set out below, subject to the approval of the District Ringing Master, bands who have insufficient of their own ringers may seek assistance from a neighbouring tower. Such bands enter the Competition on the clear understanding the District will be represented in the County Competition by the most highly placed Sunday Service band (see rule 1).

1. All competitors must be regular members of the Sunday Service Band for which they are ringing and be members of the KCACR. Members who wish to ring for a tower other than the one shown on the receipt for their current annual subscription must obtain the approval of the District Officers at least one week before the Competition.
2. Each band may spend not more than two minutes in preliminary ringing. The bells must then be stood.
3. Each band shall attempt to ring 240 changes.
4. Only one attempt by each band is permitted.
5. The choice of method is left to the discretion of each band.
6. Towers may enter more than one band, but no ringers may ring more than once.
7. A maximum of 20 whole pulls of rounds will be allowed before the start of the method. The judging will be on the actual 240 changes and any rounds at the end, plus any rounds over and above the permitted 20 whole pulls at the start. Failure to stand at the end of the test piece will not be faulted, but will be noted and taken into account in the event of a tie.
8. The names of those taking part (up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.
9. **The entry forms for the Competition must be received by the District Secretary at least seven clear days before the date of the Competition. Neither late nor telephone entries will be accepted.**
10. A representative of each tower shall be available for the draw and the order adhered to, unless the band has a prior commitment for service ringing at their own church.

If your band wishes to enter the Competition, please complete the form sent to your tower and return it to Mary Andrews, ** Wansunt Road, Bexley, DA5 *DH with your entry fee by **SATURDAY, 6TH APRIL**.

An obsession with insurance claims maybe? Not so, if anything it was an understatement of the most casual kind. One climbed up to the ringing room in a sort of make shift wooden cage, the stairs were of elementary construction and the whole thing looked as though it had been knocked up in about five minutes, two hundred years ago! The floor in the ringing chamber sloped and rose like a fairground ride and the floorboards once thick no doubt, had the appearance of ice cream wafers. There were plenty of holes, down through which one could helpfully see the ground. It gave me a severe case of jelly leg! Ironically I did my best ringing here when we rang a touch of Grandsire Doubles but then I find that fear concentrates the mind wonderfully! After resisting the temptation to imitate John Paul II when we reached the ground, we left for Little Baddow.



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GREAT BADDOW

Little Baddow is a pretty place and stands at the foot of Danbury Hill. It is located down narrow single-track lanes where you pray you don't meet another vehicle, except to say I got stuck behind a tandem, but it was a tandem with a difference; a sort of double tandem with four largish souls wobbling about on the top. The church was an ancient one with a magnificent medieval wall painting of St Christopher and near it, a much faded depiction of the devil with his arrow tipped tail. The ringing room was an open gallery with a lovely solid floor! The bells, a ring of eight were very old; the 14 cwt tenor was cast in 1380 and is one of the oldest in the county. It was a wonderful experience to ring a bell that had sounded out at the time of The Canterbury Tales. We managed Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and some Plain Hunt but by this time the light had faded and we were all in need of refreshment. We left Little Baddow for the nearby village of Boreham and to a pub with a very friendly landlord. We quenched our thirst and mulled over the events of the day. It was a good day and has certainly left me with a taste to see more of Essex, particularly the northern part of the county but if any of you get the chance to ring at Great Baddow then go, because they are lovely bells. The only downside to the day was that Cathy lost her pink hat! [I've now sent an SAE to the pub and they kindly returned my beloved hat! - Ass. Ed]

Andrew Sinclair

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
27 October 2001	Bromley	5120	Medway Surprise Major	02/135
17 November 2001	Deptford	5152	Glasgow Surprise major	02/54
15 December 2001	Bromley	5056	Yorkshire Surprise Major	02/32
16 December 2001	Beckenham	5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	02/30
22 December 2001	Bickley	5040	Doubles 1p/6m.	02/81
06 January 2002	Ash by Wrotham	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor 30m.	02/188
12 January 2002	Chislehurst Ann.	5120	London Surprise Major	02/110
19 January 2002	10 Wharton Rd, Bromley	5440	Love Bug Surprise Major	02/140
19 January 2002	Beckenham	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	02/137
10 February 2002	Beckenham	5055	Stedman Caters	02/242
23 February 2002	Deptford	5056	London Surprise Major	02/265

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
29 May 2001	St Mary Cray	1269	Doubles 2m.	02/140
06 December 2001	Woolwich	1260	Doubles 2m/1p	01/1286
15 December 2001	Cudham	1320	Plain Bob Doubles	02/87
16 December 2001	Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/92
20 December 2001	Woolwich	2001	Doubles 2m1p1v	02/40
23 December 2001	Crayford	1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/92
24 December 2001	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/217
26 December 2001	Bromley	1260	Stedman Triples	02/62
06 January 2002	St Mary Cray	1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/141
13 January 2002	Crayford	1296	Stedman Triples	02/145
13 January 2002	Eltham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/141
13 January 2002	Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	02/145
19 January 2002	Bickley	1260	Stedman Triples	02/217
20 January 2002	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/167
27 January 2002	Eynsford	1280	Plain Bob Major	02/194
05 February 2002	Woolwich	1260	Plain Bob Minor	02/220
10 February 2002	Bromley	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/244
10 February 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
15 February 2002	Eynsford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/244
17 February 2002	Bromley	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/244
24 March 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor	

Congratulations to:

Jeremy Byers rang his first peal inside, the 4th to Yorkshire Major at Bromley.

James Lessey rang the Tenor to Doubles at St Mary Cray for his first quarter at the first attempt. Alison Wilson rang the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Cudham for her first attempt and Rita Cox who rang the 2nd in the same quarter for her first inside. Andrew Sinclair rang his first on the Treble in Grandsire Doubles at Crayford. Grace Clements rang the 4th to Grandsire Doubles at St Mary Cray for her first attempt. Rupert Cheeseman achieved his 350th quarter ringing Stedman triples at Crayford. Lucy Behan rang the 2nd to Plain Bob Doubles at Eltham, which was also David Holdridge's first in the method as Conductor. Melanie and Angela Wilkins rang the 2nd and 3rd respectively for their first of Stedman Triples at Bickley, which was also Nick Wilkins' first in the method as Conductor. Les Brett rang the Treble to Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church Erith for his first quarter. Matthew Spencer and Paul Kay rang the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Bromley for their first quarters (two different occasions of course!).

From The Ringing World up to issue No.4743 March 22, 2002.

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the District Meeting held at Eltham on Saturday, 12th January 2002

Mr. David Holdridge was in the chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Jessica Vale from Bexley, Mrs. Nancy Gay and the Biggin Hill band, Mrs. Lesley Barclay, Mr. David Crowhurst and Mr. Jon Pettyfer from Horton Kirby, Miss Marian Wansbury from Dartford, Mrs. Barbara Carpenter from Christ Church, Erith, Mrs. Barbara Edwards and Mrs. Megan Heald from St. John's, Erith, and Mr. Martin Parsons, Mr. Nigel Parsons and Mrs. Penelope Parsons from Greenwich.



2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. John Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman, after the following amendments had been made:

Page 1: Apologies for Absence: Mrs. Marian Wanbury to read Miss Marian Wansbury

Page 2: Millennium Committee: Mrs. Ruth Hardy to read Mrs. Ruth Pointer

Page 5: Vote of Thanks: Mr. Mark Jones to read Mr. Alan Saunders.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Quiz

Miss Freda Cannon, who had kindly distributed copies of a Quiz which she had compiled in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund, said that she had received 7 entries. The winner was Mr. Len Dumper from Eltham with Mr. David Holdridge from Eltham and Brian and Janet Raynor from Otford in the Tonbridge District taking 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Miss Cannon was applauded for the work she had put in to this venture which had raised £60.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There had been no correspondence.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EASTER MONDAY, 1ST APRIL 2002

The church and hall at Christ Church, Erith, had been booked for the Annual General Meeting and a deposit paid on the hall. There was some discussion as to whether the kitchen would be large enough to cater for the anticipated number of lunches required and the possibility of using another venue was considered but decided against. It was agreed that it might be necessary to offer soup, followed by a cold main course with

jacket potatoes. It was decided to form a working party to co-ordinate the arrangements for ringing, the service and the lunch. The following agreed to serve on this - Mrs. Carol Eastaugh, Mrs. Sara Hardy, Mrs. Margaret Heald and Mr. Len Morley.

Mr. Hardy asked representatives of all the towers present at the meeting to find out which members of their tower would be willing help and in what capacity, e.g. serving lunch, looking after a tower etc. and send a list with contact numbers to Mr. Morley by the end of the month. He also asked that a representative from each tower should find out whether their bells would be available for an hour on the day between 9.30 and 11.30 and between 4.00 and 8.00 and to E-mail him with this information and a note of any preferences as to times.

Mrs. Eastaugh asked whether she should approach the Incumbent at Christ Church to see if he was willing to conduct the service and the Secretary said that she should do so. Miss Mary Andrews pointed out that there were ringing clergy both in the District and elsewhere in the county who might like to be asked to take part in the service. One of these persons would, undoubtedly, be prepared to conduct the service if there was no one available from Christ Church.



CHRIST CHURCH, ERITH

6. NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Morley reminded the meeting of the motion from the District that had been submitted for consideration at the General Committee Meeting in November suggesting that two, rather than three, members should represent each District on the General Committee and that the choice of which two officers should attend should rest with the District. The General Committee had decided to form a working group to look into this matter and the appropriate rule changes. Even if a decision was taken in favour of this motion, the changes would not come into effect until after the A.G.M. in 2003.



Miss Andrews proposed that Mr. Morley should represent the District on the working group. This was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman and agreed unanimously.

7. DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Expenses

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman explained that he had written to the Association's Treasurer, Mrs. Cathryn Hills, to ask, particularly in view of the low level of expenses claimed by the District, if it would be acceptable to charge the cost of supplying one Newsletter to each tower free (currently £4.00 per copy). The Treasurer had agreed that this could be done for the current year and Mr. Cheeseman formally proposed this course of

action. This was seconded by Mr. Hardy and carried unanimously.

Poster of Events

Mr. Cheeseman said that he had circulated posters giving details of District events. He had further copies if anyone could take copies to towers not represented at the meeting or for individuals who wanted a personal copy. The Secretary pointed out that the summer Quarterly Meeting would not be at Farningham. Enquiries were being made to see whether it could be held at one of the Chislehurst towers.



8. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The re-election of Mr. Morris Cook of Holy Trinity, Dartford, was agreed on the proposition of Mrs. Esther Correia, seconded by Mr. Deryck Jones.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Training Day

Mrs. Margaret Macey said that she was arranging a Training Day on 23rd February for Bob Doubles ringers. She already had a list of members wishing to take part and would take further applications. She particularly wanted helpers and anyone willing to assist was asked to contact her as soon as possible. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Macey for taking on this task.

Mid-Week Service Ringing

Mrs. Macey said that she was working on the list of ringers who were available for funerals or weddings on weekdays. Volunteers who had not given her their names were asked to contact her. [This has now been collated and appears at the end of the minutes - Ed]

Tower Returns

The Secretary read out a list of towers who had not sent to her the Tower Returns, which had been distributed by Mr. Dickon Love. She asked for these to be posted to her as soon as possible.



District Practices

Mr. Hardy drew attention to the fact that the first practice of the year was to be on 26th January. Details of this and two further practices were in the Newsletter.

Hobbies Exhibition at Bromley

Mr. Hardy had been sent details of a Hobbies Exhibition at Bromley on Sunday 24th March. It had been suggested that the District might like to take part in this as an aid to recruiting. The Chairman felt that it would be of greatest interest to the local ringers at Bromley and it was agreed that a Sunday was not a good day to get ringers to man such an event. Possibly something aimed at recruiting could be

organized after the A.G.M.

Tutor at Hereford

Mr. Jeremy Byers offered his congratulations to Mr. Hardy who had been invited to be a tutor on the Hereford Course. Members responded with their congratulations.



Call Change Competition

The Chairman offered his congratulations to the Crayford band on their success in the Call Change Competition: a well-deserved win.

Newsletter

Mr. Cheeseman announced that 22nd March would be the deadline for the next Newsletter. He thanked everyone for their contributions to the current edition and urged members to send him material for the next one in good time.

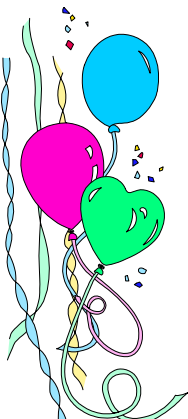
Vote of Thanks

A warm vote of thanks to the Vicar of Eltham, the Rev. John Neal, for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr. Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the local ringers for preparing and serving an excellent tea was proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins and carried with acclamation.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting and members returned to the tower for evening ringing.



RINGERS AVAILABLE FOR MIDWEEK RINGING



ANDREWS	Mary	Bexley	01322 523***	finches@tiscali.co.uk
BARNES	Ann		020 8300 4***	
BRITTON	Alex	Crayford	01322 556***	alex@ajbritton.fsnet.co.uk
CANON	Freda	Greenwich	020 8697 0***	
EASTAUGH	Carol	Erith CC	01322 342***	Castaugh@yahoo.com
KENNETT	Steve	Beckenham	020 8659 7***	steve@profact.co.uk
MACEY	Margaret	Foots Cray	020 8302 4***	mmacey@nascr.net
OSBORNE	Angie	Eltham	020 8309 5***	
POINTER	Don & Lyn	St.Mary Cray	01689 836***	
ROBINS	Nancy	Crayford	01322 551***	
ROOKE	Jim	Chelsfield	01689 607***	James_Rooke@ukgateway.net
SAY	Debra	Crayford	01322 527***	dsay@talk21.com
WEBB	Chris	Bromley	01322 667***	chris@cwebb88.fsnet.co.uk

