



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2002

Tonbridge Take Home Win

The County 8 Bell Competition took place at Speldhurst in the Tonbridge District on 22nd June, with four Districts taking part. It was felt that the other two Districts would have shown a little more in the way of social graces had they actually told the organisers they weren't coming, but this is 2002 after all, so what more can one expect? However . . .

A splendid tea was provided by the locals, the weather was not too hot and not too cold - ideal in fact for standing round the churchyard listening to the ringing and gossiping with old friends - and it's fair to say that a good time was had by all (at least until the results were given out).

The question of the draw was a bit of a puzzler for County Hon Gen Sec Peter Dale. We'd heard on the grapevine that one of the Districts was not coming so we were able to narrow the draw numbers down to 5, but no one knew anything about the other District, so it was decided that we'd draw for 4 and tell the missing 5th band they'd have to ring last anyway. So far so good, but it then transpired that one of the 4 teams was not yet complete. After some discussion it was agreed that another draw be made, which was done, and the new ringing sequence duly posted on the noticeboard outside the tower. Then . . . you've guessed it - the missing ringers turned up so it was back to plan B. Or do I mean A?



The Lewisham Band - Last in the competition but first down the pub afterwards!

The judges were Ken Davenport from Wokingham and David Struckett from Finchampsted, both in what used to be called Berkshire. Ken started the results ball rolling by telling us that he was doing just what his son told him he did best - telling other ringers what to do, whilst not getting involved himself! They had attempted to keep records of peal speeds, but somehow they'd managed to forget after the first couple of entries, so we had to be content with straight comments and results. [*Actually teams 1 and 2 rang quite slowly, while teams 3 and 4 rang much faster. Hope this helps. - Webmaster*] Ken noted that all teams had had problems with the oddstruckness of some of the middle bells and that all had varied their speeds from lead to lead. David then came to centre stage and announced the results as under:

posn	District	rang	faults
1st	Tonbridge	4th	52
2nd	Canterbury	1st	55
3rd	Ashford	2nd	70
4th	Lewisham	3rd	91

Eric Roughley and Peter Dale concluded the proceedings by thanking the judges, the local ringers for their excellent arrangements, and all the participants and team organisers.

From KCACR.org.uk

Next District Meeting

District Meeting
St. Nicholas, Chislehurst
on
Saturday 13th July

Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to

Mark or Ireen Jones

on 020 8467 2***

or mark1.jones@virgin.net

by Wednesday 10th July please.

Chairman's Bit

What with changing jobs and having a short – much too short! – break in Ireland at the end of June, once again Rupert's deadline has caught up with me. (I am now starting to run out of sensible excuses, so be prepared for some really inventive ones in future!)



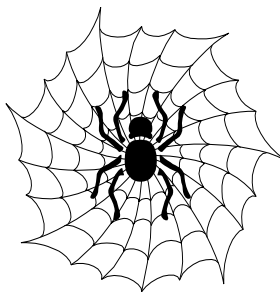
My last piece was written shortly before the Association AGM, although the District's main organisers were thanked both then and at the April Quarterly Meeting. But everything did go well, especially the catering, and there is no harm in congratulating ourselves again on a job well done.

Recently, some of the liveliest discussion within the District has been taking place on the Yahoo Mailing List. In particular, we have seen some forthright views about what (if anything) the County Association means to the Lewisham District, including whether we are getting too worried about our relatively small contributions to the Bell Restoration Fund in comparison to the other Districts. I don't want to rehash the reasonable points made on both sides of the argument, but I think it is true to say that we only really have contact with the County as a whole when we need something from them – and then we are very grateful to have access to their knowledge, goodwill and funds. And putting something back – which in practical terms does tend to mean fund-raising for the BRF – can have other, less quantifiable, benefits to the District itself in terms of simply getting together socially and having a good time. My own view is that we could do more, without getting too hung up on self-flagellation [unless that is what you're into, of course... Sponsored floggings, anyone?].



Finally, the District's placing in the County 8-bell Striking Competition has raised more debate. Note I say "placing" rather than "performance" – I don't think we need have any complaints about the latter. The most pertinent comment probably came from Jim Hardy as we stood the bells at the end of our piece, before we even heard the results. "Wherever we come, we can be proud of that piece of ringing". I think

we would all concur with that – whatever t h e



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

Multiple District Births!

The District is proud to announce the following births:

5th April- To Kerry and Alan Saunders (Beckenham) a daughter. Abigail Grace weighed in at 9lb 2oz.

24th April- To Peter and Clare Fevyer (Beckenham/Westerham) a son. James Henry weighed in at 5lb 2oz.

27th April- To Ruth and Nigel Pointer (Beckenham/St Mary Cray) a daughter. Tamsin Elizabeth weighed in at 7lb 8½oz. A sister for Bethany.

Well done!!



District Meeting at Crayford.

The meeting at Crayford was conducted smoothly. After the service, an excellent tea was served. Ringing after the meeting was very good, and included Stedman Triples, Bristol S. Major and 8-spliced. Thank you again to Crayford for their hospitality.

District 6-bell Competition.

The 6-Bell Competition this year was held at Bexley on the back 6. Once again, a good overall standard was achieved. The ringing was judged by the District Master and Deputy Master and the results were as follows:

1 st	Chelsfield	48 faults
2 nd	Bexley	66 faults
3 rd	Eltham	71 faults
4 th	Crayford	78 faults
5 th	Chislehurst	96 faults
6 th	Erith Christ Church	124 faults

It is rewarding to see this many bands entering and I hope next year will be as good, if not better!

A.G.M. day 2002 1st April.

Despite the sad news of the death of the Queen Mum, the proceedings went ahead as planned. I feel that it is particularly appropriate that so many of the Districts' bells were rung at this time, to celebrate the life of one who touched so many people's hearts.

The day was a success only because of the efforts of those who helped with the many tasks that made everything happen. Special thanks go to Len Morley and his committee of Carol Eastaugh, Sara Hardy and Margaret Heald, as well as all those who served on tables, cleared up afterwards, and opened up their towers. Thank you all.

Editorial



Well I suppose it is my fault. I do keep asking for articles but it wasn't until I started putting this edition together that I realised quite how much stuff I really had. Well done everybody.

As those of you who are members of the Lewisham District E-group will know (and if you are not then it is well worth joining, http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district for more details) the newsletter is now on line. It's in its original colour format which certainly adds something to the pictures. I consider this to be an addition to the current paper edition and certainly do not intend the website to replace it.

All the editions of the newsletter that I have produced can now be found on line at www.dartford26.freeserve.co.uk

Please let me know what you think of it, both positives and negatives. Any help or advice would be gratefully received.



District Bob Doubles Training Day

It was with some amount of trepidation that I agreed to go to learn Bob doubles on Saturday 23rd February, basically because I thought I wouldn't know anyone and they would all be older than me.

Luckily, Jayne picked me up and took me to the start of the day at Eltham tower, which I had previously visited, plus there were people I knew including Margaret who arranged everything for me to go, also Philippa who first taught me how to ring the bells at Sidcup.

After a MacDonald's lunch, Eltham pubs aren't youth friendly, we went to my tower at Sidcup. This gave me more confidence, especially after all that theory!

Then I travelled again in Steve's car to Crayford, by then I knew it was an enjoyable day. I was invited to visit three towers, which I hope to do. Lots of hard work went into organising the event, but I think it was well worth it and I was glad I attended.

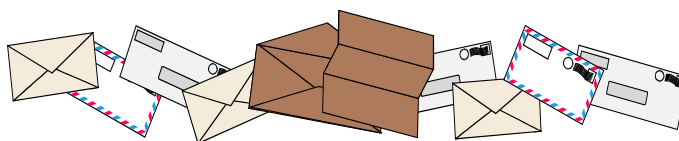
On practice night I managed twice, with help (lots of nods and winks) to go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way round on the two. John my tower captain was pleased.

Matthew Vagg

(Many apologies to Matthew for not including this in the last newsletter. My filing system failed me. - Ed)

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

**COPY DEADLINE -
28th September 2002**

to
Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman
** Church Road
Erith
Kent
DA8 *PG

☎ 01322 439***

✉ Rupert@dartford26.freeserve.co.uk

✉ cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net

Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother 1900 - 2002

This evening (9th April), at St Paulinus **Crayford**, we scored a well struck stately quarter of Grandsire Triples in thanksgiving for the life of the Queen Mother. We also wish to dedicate this quarter to the memory of Princess Margaret, and to mark the interring of both in the tomb of the late King George VI this evening. A half-muffled peal of Yorkshire was also rung on Saturday 6th April by a visiting band. (*Alex Britton*)

There was a peal of Love Bug Surprise Major on 6th April at **Bromley Parish Church**, rung open in thanksgiving for the life of the Queen Mother. (*Dickon Love*)



At **Biggin Hill** on 9th April, we rang half-muffled rounds and call changes from 11am to 11.25am, just prior to the Queen Mother's funeral and then tolled the tenor 101 times. Two of the ringers (Alex Hallinan and Marc Hanscombe) were released from school for the occasion. (*Nancy Gay*)

The band at **Hayes** met as usual for practice night on 9th April and rang half-muffled call changes and plain hunt. Then, with the arrival of a visitor from Bromley Common, we were able to ring a touch of Bob Doubles with one of our ringers unaffected. Also 11-year-old Zachary Burrows, who has recently learned to handle a bell, rang half-muffled rounds on three for the first time. (*Sue Fisher*)

At **Dartford**, the Vicar would not allow muffles for Easter Day, but within an hour or so of the announcement by the BBC on the Saturday, we had the tenor raised and tolled 101 blows in memory of the Great Lady's life. We fitted the muffles for the Tuesday of the funeral, when we rang about 40 mins of call changes half-muffled with the tenor open. We raised the bells singly, starting at 9.30 and rang until about 10.25. We then lowered them singly. (*Deryck Jones*)

At **Eltham**, we rang with the bells half-muffled between Sunday 31st March and Tuesday 9th April, for Sundays, the AGM and a Tuesday practice. Also, ringing was specifically arranged for the Queen Mother on Monday 8th April (an attempt at a quarter that was sadly not successful) and Tuesday 9th April (45 minutes of general ringing prior to a special memorial service in the church at 8pm). (*David Holdridge*)

At **Beckenham** we rang open for Easter Sunday morning, and then 1274 Plain Bob Triples half-muffled in memory of the Queen Mother in the afternoon. The bells remained half-muffled until the funeral. (*James Hardy*)

The **Chelsfield** ringers rang a half-muffled quarter of 1260 Doubles (2m) on Sunday morning 7th April immediately before the Family Service. (*Jim Rooke*)

Foots Cray rang a half-muffled quarter on Wednesday 10th April for the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. (*Margaret Macey*)

West Wickham rang a quarter on 17th April, in memory of the Queen Mum. It was rung open by members of our regular band. (*Alys Helm*)

From KCACR.org.uk



ALL SAINTS, FOOTS CRAY

Musical Brownies?

“So who’s good at maths then?” I found myself asking a group of 7-11 year olds. Nearly all of them put up their hands. Plenty of time yet to become disillusioned I thought! Nevertheless, it was encouraging that they all enjoyed numbers because I was just about to explain the intricacies of Plain Hunt.



No, I was not running some recruitment campaign to ‘catch ‘em young’; I had in fact been coerced into taking my daughters Brownie evening. Several weeks earlier, Brown Owl had waylaid me on behalf of a couple of girls who would be leaving in July. These Brownies had earned nearly every badge available- except for the bellringing one- and she wanted to know whether I could help.

Having checked out what was required it soon became obvious that tower bells were out, partly because of the age of the girls and partly as the requirements were obviously set by someone who had not the faintest idea about ringing!

The handbell section looked more promising though- the only difficulty being that Crayford does not possess a set of handbells. Having enlisted the help of Rupert, Cathy and Andrew, we quickly discovered that St Mary Cray had a large set, which they were prepared to lend. Over the next 4/5 weeks, Andrew and myself tried to master ringing two bells at once- not easy when we often struggle to ring one in the right place!

We planned our evening and all too soon it arrived. Nine Brownies turned up (several others were involved in a school production) and we set out a ring of twelve- perfect with Rupert, Andrew and myself joining in to keep some semblance of order. We started out by learning the different parts of the bell and guessing what each was made of. They



were then shown how to ring the handstroke and backstroke, which they discovered was not as easy as it looked. Each had just one bell and, having learnt to ring it as best they could, we then proceeded to ring rounds quite successfully.



The Plain Hunt theory session turned out to be a revelation. Having explained how the bells swap over in the most child friendly way I could think of, the girls were able to predict the



next line of ringing with very little help. One perceptive child even noticed how each bell moved in a diagonal pattern.

Having looked at the theory, we then went on to ring Plain Hunt on twelve in a game that I called ‘Musical Brownies’. Everyone had one bell which they held onto all the time. They were then lined up and moved with their bell, up and down the line, until they got back to their original position. We listened carefully for back rounds and I was very pleased when it did come round successfully.

Although an hour and a quarter seemed a long while to fill up, it soon went, leaving no time for tune ringing, the music for which was kindly lent by Dartford. The girls all appeared to enjoy the evening, seeing and doing something they had never experienced before. The vast majority, of course, will never do anything like it again, but you never know. One day you might have someone knocking on your tower door saying “... years ago when I was a Brownie...” and you’ll know where that spark of interest came from!

Debra Say

With grateful thanks to those towers and individuals that lent their bells, music, time and experience to make the evening a success.

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00



BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

The efforts of the tower captain have been centred on his garden following a request from his wife (allegedly something along the lines of "do it or else"). James Hardy, being a man to do things properly, has consequently been spending the last month bricklaying, squeezing mini diggers into small gaps, filling skips and laying concrete until it was coming out of his ears (Only the 6 bags of cement in the hall, 8 in the cupboard under the stairs and 5 in the dining room to go!!!).



Consequently progress on the ringing front has been limited.

We went for a mini ringing tour on Saturday of Jubilee weekend and are pleased to announce successful quarters at Deptford and Biggin Hill. We failed to score at Lewisham but still rang to mark the Jubilee. Thanks to everyone who came out to ring on the Saturday.

Congratulations to Steve Kennett who scored his first quarter at Deptford. Also congratulations to Rhiannon Meredith on her first in Cambridge Minor on a very hot Sunday afternoon.

Unfortunately the peal attempt to mark our Rectors retirement was unsuccessful - a rerun is planned.

Last week we had the pleasure of the company of the University of Aberystwyth ringing society who had a weekend tour around Kent and London.

If you ever feel like joining us for practice please, come along - we are a friendly bunch. Also if you have any suggestions for district events, it's an ideal time to mention them as you will probably have the ear of the Ringing Master and Deputy. The gift of a beer is likely to ensure any reasonable suggestion is acted upon.

Jeremy Byers

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

Last month, the Bexley ringers were sorry to say goodbye to Jessica Vale, who has moved to Dorset. Unfortunately, the tower will be losing two more ringers later in the summer when Phil and Emma Jarvis will be moving to the Maidstone

District. Visiting ringers are always welcome at St. Mary's on Thursday evenings but it is wise to check, particularly during the holiday season, that we are meeting.

BICKLEY

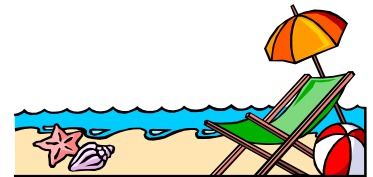
Practice Wednesday 20:00

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00



BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

It is almost three years since our band virtually doubled in size due to an influx of recruits eager to ring in the Millenium. The new members were able to ring in 2000 and have continued to make good progress. Our practices are well attended by locals and the occasional visitor and this allows us to tackle a variety of methods.

A major achievement occurred this Spring when we successfully rang two quarter peals after a couple of earlier failed attempts. The first on 9th March was significant in being the first quarter rung by the local band for twenty one years and was dedicated to record this achievement and as a Ruby Wedding compliment for Ken Gristwood, one of the band. It should be mentioned that before joining us in 1999, Ken was a ringer in his youth but had not handled a rope for forty-nine years!



Saturday 9th March 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble	Roger Standingford
2	Sara Scott (First quarter)
3	Alistair Scott
4	Gary Robinson
5	Christopher Lawrance (First as Conductor)
Tenor	Ken Gristwood

The second quarter on 4th May was a farewell compliment to the Rev. David Graham leaving St Luke's to become Priest-in-Charge of St Mary the Virgin, Hayes.

Saturday 4th May 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble	Ken Gristwood
2	Roger Standingford
3	Alistair Scott
4	Andrew Scott (First inside)
5	Christopher Lawrance
Tenor	Rob Duke (First Quarter)

Chris Lawrance

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

There is no earth shattering news from Crayford. Things have ticked along. We have rung several quarters this year, including ones for the Golden Jubilee and the death of the Queen Mother. Sunday attendance is usually good; we often have enough to ring all eight but numbers on practice nights have dwindled. It is not often we get the chance to ring triples. We usually stick to doubles, that is Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman. We do venture out into other things but this does very much depend on who turns up.

We did have a new recruit but we haven't seen her for a while; perhaps we frightened her away! It comes back to that thorny old problem of how to attract new recruits and then how best to keep them. I think bell ringing is something a lot of people would like to have a go at, but then the realisation comes that it is not as easy as it looks and demands a great deal of time and commitment. I do feel bell ringers tend to be overlooked by the churches they serve, very probably because we are not seen, only heard and taken for granted as a result.

Andrew Sinclair

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

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Following the death of the Queen Mother, we half-muffled the bells for all ringing between Sunday 31st March and Tuesday 9th April, for Sundays, the County AGM and a Tuesday practice. Also, ringing was specifically arranged for the Queen Mother on Monday 8th April (an attempt at a quarter that was sadly not successful) and Tuesday 9th April

(45 minutes of general ringing prior to a special memorial service in the church at 8pm).

On a happier note, for the first time in many years, we entered a team for the 6-bell striking competition, and were well pleased to come third, beaten only by the locals (Bexley) and Chelsfield (as usual).

Also much enjoyed was an outing in May to the East Malling area. Twelve ringers, six towers, with not too much driving between them and plenty of time for lunch, rounded off with tea, scones and cake provided by the Vicar of East Malling (recently moved there from my local church on Shooters Hill). A spring outing is a new departure for us, and one that may be repeated.

Finally, for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, on the Bank Holiday Monday we rang 576 changes of Cambridge Minor. (Actually, it was an attempt at a quarter which then fired out shortly into the 720, but the first description sounds better!)

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

Following our May quarter peal (we generally try and attempt one each month), we are pleased to record that all of our band (including six millennium ringers) have now rung a quarter peal. First quarter congratulations are due to Les Brett, Barbara Carpenter and John Simpson.

For the Queen's Golden Jubilee, we rang a quarter peal on the Saturday and had general ringing on the Tuesday morning, mainly based around 'Queens'. Some of us were also able to help out at other towers around the District. We also had a Jubilee 'project' in the form of a method by the name of Regina Bob Major. Thanks to some outside help, we were able to ring it several times. It was nice to know that it did actually work!

On the maintenance front, we have placed an order with Whitechapel to replace the bearings to bring us into the modern world! We shall be carrying out much of the work ourselves, one bell at a time, so it will be some time before we see (feel!) the finished results.

Rachel Backhouse

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

It was lovely to see so many ringers at the District Practice at St Johns last month. We really appreciated hearing all 8 bells in action. As some of you commented, the bells are much easier to hear, now that the ceiling in the room above us has been removed and the sound chute cleared of debris.

We are struggling to keep a regular practice night going on Wednesdays, as there are so few of us but we have two

learners who seem keen. If anybody feels like coming along or could help, please give me a ring on 01322 442348 or email me at margaret@misfit.freemove.co.uk

Margaret Heald

EYNSFORD / FARNINGHAM

Practice Friday 20:00 / Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

On the 2nd of June we were able to ring a quarter peal at Farningham for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We rang Plain Bob Doubles with a completely home band. Farningham Church has had a new flagstaff put up and the service preceding the quarter dedicated it, so that was included in the footnote.

We are slightly short on numbers at the moment due to people moving away and such like, but we manage to ring different things. We practice every Friday and could sometimes do with some help with some methods so anyone is welcome. As you may know, we hold a Major practice at Eynsford every first Friday of the month which are very successful. Sometimes it almost becomes a district event, so if you want a guaranteed ring of an 8 bell method, then please come along. We might break the rule only once if anyone wants to ring Stedman Triples.

Martin Luffman

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

GREENWICH

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

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Greetings from Hayes! Yes there are a few of us still here!

With the Queen Mother's funeral being on a Tuesday and with us not having a quarter peal band, we met as usual for practice night and rang half-muffled Call Changes and Plain Hunt. Then Chris Lawrance from Bromley Common turned up and enabled us to ring a touch of Bob Doubles with one of our ringers unaffected. The Hayes ringers who rang for the Queen Mum were Jon Fox, Hilary Burtonshaw, Jean Thody, Val Bracey, Jamie Drew, Chris

Muggridge, Mary Rowedder and myself. Also Zachary Burrows, aged 11, who has recently learned to handle a bell, rang half-muffled rounds on three for the first time.

Chris Muggridge rang very well in the touch of Bob Doubles, even though he hasn't had the chance to do it for a couple of months. Any visitors who could help us attempt touches more often would be very welcome.

On a positive note, we may be struggling but we still manage to ring for both the main services on Sundays, while many other local towers no longer ring for Evensong.

Sue Fisher

Within the last six weeks, we have lost a Curate (retired), rung for the Jubilee, had ringers involved in a 'Pageant of the last 50 Years' and rung for our new Priest-in-Charge.

Many of us are not up to ringing anything too grand, but we are enthusiastic. Our tower captain Sue Fisher has been less in evidence because of back trouble, and we said 'goodbye' to Stephanie Webb, a former tower secretary and deputy captain. Stephanie has been ringing with the tower for seventeen years and sadly, is moving away to Dorset. We would be very pleased to see anyone on our practice nights, Tuesdays at 8.00pm.

Mary Rowedder



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, ERITH

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

Ringling at St Mary Cray has been taking definite strides forward recently - the open day we held for "Ring in 2000" gave us 3 new recruits and one returning ringer, and they are making good progress. We ring six bells on most Sunday mornings, and on practice nights we can ring Bob Doubles competently. We sometimes manage some rather more fragile attempts at Grandsire Doubles, St Simon's Doubles or Bob Minor.

During 2001, the two younger recruits each rang their first quarter peal. James Lessey rang the tenor to a couple of Doubles methods (half muffled), for the

death of one of our parishioners, and Grace Clements rang inside to Grandsire Doubles in thanksgiving for the life of another church member. Both quarters included some help from outside the tower.

In May 2002, we were progressing to the stage where an attempt with an all home band was feasible.

A flurry of births and birthdays provided the perfect excuse, and despite some early nerves in the first couple of extents, we managed to score:

St Mary Cray, Kent
Wednesday 1st May 2002 in 44 minutes
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Lynn Pointer
2 Daphne Drury
3 Grace Clements
4 Don Pointer
5 Nigel Pointer (C)
6 James Lessey

By a Sunday Service Band.
Birthday compliments to James (17) and Grace (18); also to welcome Tamsin Elizabeth Pointer, born 27/4/2002.



Since we discontinued our formal monthly joint practices with Foots Cray last year, we have organised some Wednesday evening "tower outings" every few weeks in lieu of them. So far this year, we have been to Chislehurst, Bickley, Southwark and St Mary-le-Bow.

Visitors are always welcome on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm - but we don't practice every week, so it's always worth a 'phone call first.

Nigel Pointer

SHOREHAM

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Practices vary from simple doubles methods to touches of surprise methods, depending on numbers. A recruitment drive in the form of notices in the local church magazine and the residents' magazine proved worthless. Successful quarters were rung, firstly in memory of the Queen Mother's life (Double Oxford & Bob Minor) and the Golden Jubilee (Bob Minor). May 11th saw our annual tower outing which this year took us just in to Surrey. A successful day was had by all, with ringing at Nutfield, Merstham, Kingswood, Banstead

and Carshalton towers. Our next event will be our annual BBQ next month.

Judith Fry

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00

In today's paper, a focus group debated the problem What sex is a computer? The group divided into a male and a female group.

The females decided the computers should be referred to as male - because, in order to get their attention, you have to turn them on. As soon as you get one you realise that, had you waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

The men voted to refer to them as female because even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval..... and as soon as you get one, you find yourself spending half your wages on accessories.

According to a news report, a certain school in Streatham, South London was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night, the caretaker would remove them and the next day, the girls would put them back. Finally the Head decided that something had to be done. So she called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the caretaker. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night. To demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors, she asked the caretaker to clean the mirrors. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers, and then there are educators.

Biggin Hill Training Day

St Mark's ringers, Monica, Lou and Marc Hanscomb (three generations) and Alex and Natasha Hallinan (sisters), benefited greatly from our Lewisham ringing "family" on 20 March. Twelve hardy souls gave up a Saturday to work us to death - I mean work us up to a higher standard, of course! - on a training day.

Monica volunteered to be chauffeur, and duly conveyed us to Addington village for our first session at 9.30 am. The church is charming and the bells lovely to handle, and after 45 minutes under James' cheerful (if somewhat hung-over) tutelage, everyone had hunted to Bob Doubles at least once.

Off to West Wickham. There the bells were more idiosyncratic (as they deserve to be, being quite ancient!) and it was much harder work. To Marc's delight, Alex Britton sent him on a hunt through the graveyard for a special tombstone. There were two, in fact, to a man and his daughter, named Bellringer.

By then, flushed with success and not a little exertion, we were ready for lunch. The George at Hayes had not seen such a big and noisily merry crowd for some time judging from the looks we received. Much of the laughter was at poor James' expense. We will probably never again see him in a pub with orange juice before him. Bad luck - it was the day after the ASCY informal dinner. Enough said! It was heroic for him to be there at all!

Our afternoon began at Hayes church, not heavy bells, but



tricky because of the long draught. Most of us are unaccustomed to this but by the end of that session, almost everyone had rung inside to a plain course of Bob Doubles.



Back to Biggin Hill for the final session of the day. With the new trap door in place we all managed to crowd in for comfortable ringing on our own bells, the "nicest sounding" of the day according to Marc, Alex H. and Natasha. (I don't think they're prejudiced. Do you?). By then Bob Doubles was beginning to make some sense, and some hopeful talk of quarter-peals was bandied about.

We all want to thank - most whole-heartedly - everyone who helped on the day: Margaret Macey, who kick-started me to get it organised and rounded up the other helpers; James Hardy (in name and constitution - amazing!); Alex Britton, Rachel, Christopher and Robert Backhouse; Nick Wilkins; James Rooke; Angela Wilkins; Cathy and Rupert Cheeseman; and Jeremy Byers (also a survivor of the night before!).

After all that excitement it was back to earth with a bump for the next few weeks. Without an experienced band around you it is very hard to maintain the same level. Visitors, please come on Wednesday nights! Our bells ARE lovely (and we're OK too!).

Our young learners are progressing much more quickly now. Matthew Allan has rung on Sunday mornings and the others have been invited too. By the time you read this, there will have been a presentation of badges at church, Matthew, Kylie and Simone Story and Rachel Moger—Blue Award and Marc Hanscombe—Green. Congratulations to all!

Nancy Gay

News Flash! Lou Hanscomb's first quarter-peal. Many thanks to Nick Wilkins, who master-minded it.



Friendly advice from the past to a certain Tower Captain

'Things pertaining to Mars are ascribed to the head and testicles because of Aries and Scorpio; which is why people whose senses are staggering and who have a pain in the head because they are drunk with wine find immediate relief by plunging their testicles into cold water, or washing them thoroughly with vinegar.'

Cornelius Agrippa, *De Occulta Philosophia* 1510

50 Happy and Glorious Years

Well, apart from one or two hiccups, healthwise, that's how our 50 years of marriage has been; 1952 to 2002 on the 15th of July to be precise.

We both learned to ring at St. Luke's Church, Heywood, Lancs, and that is where we were married. The church has a splendid tower topped by a tall, slender spire, housing a superb Gillett and Johnson 8, tenor 21 3/4 cwt. and second to none in the area.

Our first quarter peal together, Plain Bob Minor, was rung at Heywood, on the back six. How majestic that sounded (or so we thought at the time).

Peggy's first peal was our first together, Stedman Triples, at our first attempt, unfortunately not at Heywood. Eventually, Peggy did ring a peal of Double Norwich at Heywood, becoming the first lady to ring a peal on the bells of St. Luke's.

Most of our peal ringing was done between 1950 and 1960, at



After 1970 we only rang one peal together, Erin Caters, rung half-muffled at Rochester for the funeral of the Duke of Windsor. I rang one further peal at Farningham, Cambridge Minor, with our eldest son, Ian, his first peal and possibly my last. The late and sadly missed Tony Lewis called it from the treble. Graham John and Keith Brown also rang in it.

We became disillusioned by the Church Commissioners' treatment of Farningham Parish Church in the early 1970's, and as a result of this we gave up ringing. Unfortunately, our new band at Farningham did not survive for long after our departure (who knows, perhaps the feelings of some of

the members were as strong as ours). We felt that in standing up for our principles we had let the rest of the team down, but that's another story!

During our period of non-ringing our energies went into designing and physically building a holiday home in France which we still have after 28 years. The project both strengthened and enriched our relationship, with not one moment of regret.

After several years the love of ringing lured us back, much older and finding it rather difficult to remember those methods and principles which we had thought were well-entrenched in our memories. No more peals, just a few quarters and service ringing. Our ringing has deteriorated; our health most certainly has. We rang in 2000, not knowing it probably was Peggy's last ringing experience. In January she suffered an accident which resulted in her being unable to stand long enough to ring.

Eleven years of retirement and two 70th birthdays well passed, but our marriage goes from strength to strength.

We hope this small potted ringing history will be of interest to our KCA CR friends, as we celebrate our Golden Wedding and head, hopefully, towards our Diamond Anniversary.

Your prayers joining ours in thanksgiving will be greatly appreciated.

Peggy and Geoff Mills



ST. LUKE'S VIEWED FROM THE MEMORIAL GARDENS

which point we both started intensive study courses, gaining Technical and Educational Qualifications to further our careers. Can you imagine, two proud Lancastrians having to thank Leeds University for that !

Peggy only rang one peal between 1960 and 1970. I did slightly better with just six.

In 1970 our efforts to attain a career change came to fruition and we moved to Kent: new jobs, new home, new lifestyle, (still happy and glorious). We were welcomed most heartily at Eynsford. We remember ringing at ground level, then, the congregation having to pass between the ropes as they entered the church. Colin Lucas was ringing master, and we have particularly happy memories of those times: outings, practices followed by a short session in the local, ringers parties etc. At this time we also trained a band of young ringers at Farningham to a standard where the band was self-sufficient.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee 1952 - 2002



We rang for 15 minutes after the 10.30 service at **Hayes** on Sunday morning. We couldn't raise a quarter peal band, so we rang rounds and call changes and plain hunt, very nicely as a matter of fact.

Sue Fisher

At **Crayford** we rang a quarter of Plain Bob Triples on 4th June instead of our usual practice, and there was also a quarter of Cambridge Minor at **Christ Church, Erith** on 1st June.

Rupert Cheeseman

A quarter of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles was rung at **Biggin Hill** on 28th May, and Louise Hanscomb rang her first quarter peal at first attempt. Nick said it was the best first attempt he'd ever heard. Lou was rock solid. Inside next time!

Nancy Gay

We rang a quarter of Bob Minor at **West Wickham** on 5th June to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Alys Helm

At **Chelsfield** there was a local band peal of 4 Minor methods on Saturday 1st June and also a local band quarter of Grandsire/Plain Bob Doubles on Sunday 9th June. These involved a total of ten different Chelsfield ringers. Five Chelsfield ringers also participated in a quarter of Grandsire Caters at Greenwich on Thursday 6th June and I believe that there was also a quarter of Grandsire Caters there on Tuesday 4th June.

Nick Wilkins

On 1st June **Horton Kirby** (with a little help from Frank Rogers of Eynsford) rang 60 changes on thirds (twice). This followed the village's late May Fayre and during the children's tea party! Many people commented that the bells sounded lovely - slowly getting there! With such perfect weather it was a good day.

David Crowhurst

The Greenwich/Woolwich ringers who also at times ring at Lewisham and Deptford, rang all 4 towers on Jubilee Tuesday. Several regulars were otherwise engaged, and we were very glad of reinforcements from Erith, and Alison

Parsons from Hawkhurst. We had some good ringing at **Woolwich** and **Deptford** in the morning. At Deptford, Rev. April Keech asked us to the Vicarage for coffee, even though she was moving to Hoxton in 2 days time. She has been a most ringable Vicar during her 7 years at Deptford.



In the afternoon we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters at **Greenwich** with 3 firsts on 10 (Christopher and Robert Backhouse and Graham Long). The day was completed with a good quarter of Grandsire Triples at **Lewisham**.

Bill Lanyon

On 1st June there was a peal of 5 S Minor at **Downe**, a peal of Cambridge Minor at **Penge** and, on 5th June, a peal of 7 S Minor at **Sidcup**.

Simon Davies

A merry band of ringers (particularly after lunch) went out for a couple of quarters on Saturday 1st June.

Deptford - Plain Bob Triples - congratulations to Steve Kennett who rang his first quarter at first attempt on the tenor.

Lewisham - Grandsire Triples was miscalled due to Rhiannon not ringing inside.

Biggin Hill before the Church Jubilee Barbecue - Plain Bob Minor - congratulations to Nancy Gay on her first Bob Minor for ??? years and good to see Sara Hardy on the end of a rope again too.

And on Sunday at **Beckenham** - Cambridge Minor - congratulations to Rhiannon who rang her first of Surprise.

Jeremy Byers

At **Dartford**, we rang mixed Call Changes and Plain Hunt for 44 mins. This was the longest piece of ringing ever attempted by Marian Wansbury, Deryck Jones and Esther Correia. During the evening 9 ringers rang in all, including a visitor from Monks Kirby in Warwickshire.

Esther Correia

A quarter of Bob Doubles at **Foots Cray** was rung on 2nd June.

Margaret Macey

KCACR AGM 2002

Christ Church, Erith

The County AGM was held at Christ Church, Erith, on Easter Monday, 1st April 2002. The day was a great success and the Lewisham District and all involved with the organisation are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Officers for the coming year were elected. The two main changes of personnel were the replacement of Frank Lewis as Chairman by Eric Roughley, and the election of Brian Butcher to take over from Peter Romney as convenor of the Bell Restoration Subcommittee. Especially thanks are due to Peter, since he has been doing this job for around 13 years and has brought the art of DIY restoration work to a peak not attained by many (if any) other associations. Thanks, Peter - we're glad that you haven't actually hung up your spanner yet and will remain on the subcommittee.

Frank Lewis



14th April 2002

Dear Len,

On behalf of the Association please accept my belated thanks to you and all the other helpers for your efforts at Erith on Easter Monday. I have written separately to The Revd John Draycott to thank him for welcoming us to Christ Church, but in my letter to Mary Andrews I neglected to thank her and David Holdridge for their readings.

It is easy to take for granted all the organisation behind the scenes when events run so smoothly but I very much appreciate the hard work of your organising team. In particular I should like to congratulate those who prepared and served the meal, the bar stewards, the planners of the ringing programme, and the tower stewards.

I hope that I have not forgotten anybody and am only sorry that I just missed the opportunity to convey the Association's thanks to your District's quarterly meeting.

With best wishes,
Peter Dale
KCACR General Secretary



KCACR

Committee Meeting

4th May 2002

Parish Share - Applicable in Rochester Diocese only. Any income generated for bell restoration boosts the Parish Income for the year and increases the contribution that the Parish has to make towards Diocesan funds. Certain items can be off set so that the Parish Share is unaffected, such as repairs to the organ or the fabric of the Church, bells, unfortunately, are not treated this way. The Secretary had taken this issue up with the Diocese. The view now is that any Parish affected will need to donate their money to the Bell Fund and this will then be taken into account when grants are approved by KCACR. This does not apply to the Southwark Diocese.

Ringing World Diary - A letter had been received asking if KCACR would consider reducing the information published in the diary (Page 10 of this year's diary). After discussion the meeting felt that this would be inappropriate.

Conducting Day - To be held on 24th - 26th October. There was a good response from people wishing to learn how to conduct. There are still some places left and the course will cover a variety of methods from Bob Doubles to almost anything that is asked for (subject to demand).

Publicity - The "Welcome to the Association" leaflet and Tower Certificates for Jubilee Ringing is now available (please contact Len Morley). The County Web Site has now had 9160 hits (now over 10,000 - Ed), the post of Web Master will be required in future, if anyone is interested. Please note: children's names will not be entered on the Web.

Bell Restoration - Sub-committee report circulated, grants approved for Lyminge (£3000) and Wingham (£1450). Approval given to the Bell Restoration Committee to purchase a trailer for equipment storage and transporting equipment (£1575+VAT). Approval was also given to raise the maximum grant level from £3000 to £4000. It was suggested that the old trailer (much smaller and lighter) might be used to transport the jubi peal around when required. A problem has also been experienced with a visiting band at Bicknor where considerable damage has occurred. The visitors rang with permission but it was felt that a future handbook disclaimer would be useful to help safe guard the Association from claims from visiting ringers.

Chatham Dockyard Bells - There is a change of use in respect of the Dockyard Church. However, it has been decided that the tower and the bells will remain. The Restoration Subcommittee has had some input and future ringing will be

limited.

Membership Secretary – Urgently required, apparently we may have a volunteer in the Lewisham District

50 Year Certificates - These are to be presented to Maisie Cooper and Mary Marshall. Arrangements will be held to do this at their home towers.

Review of KCACR Committee – Peter Romney presented the proposed changes to the present structure. This will reduce the number of members from the present 40 to around a dozen. The frequency of the meetings will double and it is hoped to bring the Committee closer to the Districts to enable more decisions to be made at District level. Discussion followed chiefly about the role of administration. It was also felt that at least one Central Council Rep should attend meetings. A long discussion took place about the role of Vice Presidents and their right to attend. This was resolved when the 2 Vice Presidents present advised they were happy with the proposals. It was felt that the Handbook Editor should attend. Peter Romney will revise the document. It will then be circulated to the Districts for discussion at the July Meeting. Any comments are to be fed back by the end of August (Len Morley will collate these). If the Districts are in favour of the proposed changes they will, after amendment, be formally ratified at next years AGM. All members subscribing to the Lewisham District Group email will receive this information before the meeting.

Later in the year the working group will meet to take account of any amendments and any revision of the rules that might be necessary.

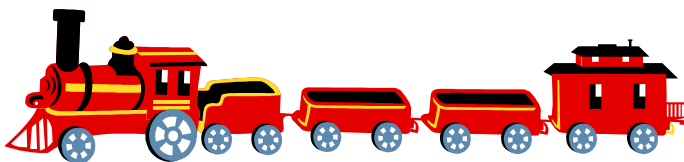
Eight Bell Competition – To be held at Speldhurst on 22nd June 2002. The method is a plain course of Yorkshire Surprise Major, draw is at 4.15pm for a 4.30pm start. Refreshments will be available in the Church.

Essex Trophy – 10 bell competition to be held on 14th September 2002, Dr P.Barnes will seek members for the band, the method is Pudsey Surprise Royal. Judging will be the second half only.

Six Bell Competition – To take place at Bethersden on 28th September 2002.

Future Events – Speldhurst Barn Dance - To be held on 29th June 2002, tickets can be obtained from Frank Lewis. All proceeds go to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Len Morley



Please would the newsletter editors publish the below document because it needs to reach as many members as possible, as soon as possible.

The working group would like to formulate a set of recommendations for change to next year's AGM, together with the rule changes needed to implement them. If you refer to Rule 16(ii), the need to expedite this matter will be clear.

The working group must let me have their proposed revisions of the Rules by 1st September so that I can forward them to the Districts in time for the Annual District meetings in October. The group would prefer Districts to consider the attached report and wishes to have members' reactions before they draft their proposed alterations to the Rules.

Any reactions to the working party's report should be sent to Peter Romney, details in the front of the Handbook.

Thanks,
Peter Dale
KCACR General Secretary



Report to the General Committee on the structure of the General Committee and organisation of the Association

The General Committee agreed to set up this working group at their November meeting in 2001. The Lewisham District were proposing a motion leading to greater flexibility and a reduction from three to two in district representation on the General Committee. At the same time the Tonbridge District had produced a discussion document to consider the structures and activities of the Association and was intending at a later date to propose the setting up of such a group.

This report is divided into three sections. The first considers the activities of the Association and how far these meet the stated objectives. Do the objectives need to be modified? Secondly we consider how these objectives might best be achieved and thirdly, we make specific recommendations.

The objectives of the Association are well-known:

- to encourage service ringing in the county.
- to have ringers recognised as church workers.
- to ensure the proper use of bells and belfries.
- to encourage the cultivation of the art of change ringing.

If we look at the activities of the Association they can be summarised as follows:

- ringing for church services
- teaching
- practice meetings at tower and district level
- quarter peal and peal ringing
- bell restoration and maintenance

Certainly we do actively work towards the stated objectives but two important activities (training and bell restoration) in relation to time and effort spent on them, are not mentioned as such in the stated objectives (Although the former is implicit in 1 and 4 of the objectives).

The Association is organised into districts which largely

determine their own structure and have representation at county level through stated officers – district secretary and district representatives – but in addition all districts seem to have a chairman and ringing master(s). We think this is right and that much of the activity of the Association must inevitably occur at district level. At county level, we have a General Committee that we believe to be too large and cumbersome. We see the function of the General Committee as one of co-ordination and help to the districts in organising activities. This, we believe, can be achieved more effectively with a small committee and a group of sub-committees.

In looking at ways of achieving greater efficiency within the Association we do not seek to alter the structure at district level to any great extent but we do suggest a significant alteration at county level.

We consider that it is not necessary for every officer of the Association to be a member of the General Committee. This in no way implies criticism of any of the officers. On the contrary we are full of admiration for the work which they already do. Neither does it mean that we consider some to be more important than others. But some officers – e.g. the Peal Secretary and the Librarian – to a large extent record what has happened and do not need to be full members of the Committee. They would still be elected officers, they should have discretion to follow projects which interest them (e.g. the book of remembrance for members lost in war) but there would be basic tasks which the particular officer would be expected to carry out and, being elected at the AGM, they would remain answerable to the Association. There would also be occasions when it would be appropriate for them to be invited to attend general committee meetings (e.g. in giving an annual report of their activities).

We propose that the General Committee should be made up of:

- Chairman
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Convenors of the three existing sub-committees
- Handbook Editor
- One of the Central Council Representatives
- One representative from each district.

and that officers elected at the AGM include:

- Chairman
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Training Officer
- Bell Restoration Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Peal Secretary
- Librarian
- Handbook Editor
- Membership Secretary
- Central Council Representatives.

County officers not on the General Committee would be invited to attend meetings whenever appropriate.



Sub-committees would have the power to co-opt members.

We anticipate that the smaller General Committee would allow more flexibility within the Association. If they were to meet more frequently – say each quarter – it would be possible to refer matters back to the districts more easily and decisions could be made more quickly.

We would maintain the present sub-committees to cover:

- Recruitment and publicity
- Training
- Bell Restoration and Maintenance

These sub-committees would operate in the same way as they do now.

The Training Sub-committee might well be a forum for the district ringing masters whose involvement could help in developing and implementing the activities of the sub-committee.

We suggest what might be the responsibilities of the various officers in a separate appendix.

We suggest that the person to represent each district committee on the General Committee would normally be the district secretary. However there may well be occasions when that particular person is unable to attend a meeting in which case there should be arrangements for

another specified district officer to attend instead (e.g. Chairman or ringing master). We would not wish to dictate to the districts the composition of their committees but would expect to see a chairman, secretary, treasurer and ringing master. (We acknowledge that two or more of these offices could be combined in one person but that is up to the districts to decide)

We think the Association should consider carefully the situation with regard to trustees. A trustee has important and quite heavy responsibilities and it does not necessarily follow that the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are the right people or give sufficient continuity to the task. There is a strong case for having a separate election for these positions.

In line with these recommendations we propose that the Objects of the Association be modified to read:

“The objects of the Association are the maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area and the recognition of ringers as church workers: the proper care and use of bells and belfries: encouragement of its members in the art of change ringing: assistance to parishes with the maintenance and restoration of bells and the recruitment of ringers.”

Lastly, if these proposals are sent to the districts, it will be necessary, after this stage, to prepare proposed alterations to the rules, which would necessarily follow with their implementation. These alterations would be presented as part of any proposal at an AGM.

Philip Barnes, Hazel Basford, Nick Davies, Len Morley,
Eric Roughley, Mike Worthington, Peter Romney

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
16 March 2002	Eltham	5088	Spliced Surprise Major 8m.	02/339
06 April 2002	Bromley	5184	Love Bug Surprise Major	02/481
06 April 2002	Crayford	5184	Yorkshire Surprise Major	02/484
06 April 2002	Woolwich	5024	Johannesburg Surprise Major	02/411
20 April 2002	Bickley	5056	Bristol Surprise Major	02/460
20 April 2002	Chislehurst, Annunciation	5024	Rutland Surprise Major	02/461
21 May 2002	Chislehurst, Annunciation.	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 11m.	02/573
01 June 2002	Downe	5040	Surprise Minor 5m.	02/645
01 June 2002	Penge	5040	Cambridge Surprise Minor	02/645
05 June 2002	Sidcup	5040	Surprise Minor 7m.	02/648

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
09 January 2002	Foots Cray	1260	Mixed Doubles	02/442
17 February 2002	Erith, Christ Church	1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/268
20 February 2002	West Wickham	1440	Plain Bob Minor	02/298
03 March 2002	Bexley	1260	Grandsire Triples	02/390
06 March 2002	Erith, St John	1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/344
09 March 2002	Bromley Common	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/366
10 March 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 4m.	02/529
10 March 2002	Crayford	1260	Stedman Doubles	02/392
24 March 2002	Crayford	1260	Grandsire Triples	02/392
07 April 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 2m.	02/492
10 April 2002	Foots Cray	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/494
12 April 2002	Greenwich	1260	Grandsire Triples	02/495
17 April 2002	Chelsfield	1260	St Martin's Bob Doubles	02/529
17 April 2002	West Wickham	1440	Double Oxford and Plain Bob Minor	02/505
21 April 2002	Erith, Christ Church	1260	Doubles 3m.	02/494
01 May 2002	St Mary Cray	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/580
04 May 2002	Bromley Common	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/575
04 May 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 4m.	
05 May 2002	Chelsfield	1320	Minor 2m.	
05 May 2002	Crayford	1280	Bristol Surprise Major	02/552
18 May 2002	Chelsfield	1272	Primrose Surprise Minor	02/622
19 May 2002	Erith, Christ Church	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/599
28 May 2002	Biggin Hill	1260	Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles	02/599
01 June 2002	Erith, Christ Church	1440	Cambridge Surprise Minor	02/659
02 June 2002	Farningham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/660
04 June 2002	Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Triples	02/659
04 June 2002	Greenwich	1259	Grandsire Caters	02/660
04 June 2002	Lewisham	1260	Grandsire Triples	02/662
05 June 2002	West Wickham	1260	Plain Bob Minor	02/666
06 June 2002	Greenwich	1296	Grandsire Caters	
09 June 2002	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 2m.	
30 June 2002	Chelsfield	1320	Plain Bob Doubles	

Congratulations to:

Barbara Carter rang her first quarter, the treble to Grandsire Doubles at Erith Christ Church and Barbara Edwards her first, the Treble to Grandsire Doubles at Erith St John.

Sara Scott rang her first quarter on the 2nd to Plain Bob Doubles and Christopher Lawrence his first as Conductor in the same quarter at Bromley Common, which was the first quarter by a local band for 21 years.

Lesley Barclay and Clare Pruden rang the 2nd and 3rd respectively to St Martins Doubles at Chelsfield for their first in the method, and Anne Townsend her first as cover in same quarter.

Jeremy Byers rang the 4th to Bristol Surprise Major at Crayford for his first in the method.

Clare Pruden rang the 2nd to Grandsire Caters at Greenwich for her first Caters inside.

Andrew Scott rang the 4th to Plain Bob Doubles at Bromley Common and Rob Duke the tenor, for their first quarter.

Louise Hanscomb rang a quarter at the first attempt on the treble to Doubles at Biggin Hill and Elsa Sjovorr rang the 2nd to Plain Bob Doubles at Chelsfield at her first attempt.

Robert Backhouse rang the 3rd to Cambridge Minor at Erith Christ Church for his first in the method. Robert Backhouse rang the treble, Christopher Backhouse the 2nd and Graham Long the tenor to Grandsire Caters at Greenwich for their first on 10.

Graham Long rang the treble to Grandsire Triples at Lewisham for his 175th quarter.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4757 June 28, 2002 Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Crayford on Saturday, 13th April 2002

The Chairman, Mr. David Holdridge, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Sara Hardy of Beckenham, Mrs. Monica Hanscomb of Biggin Hill, Miss Philippa Rooke of Chelsfield, Mrs. Nancy Robins of Crayford, Mr. Denis English and Mrs. Ann English of Horton Kirby and Mrs. Barbara Edwards and Miss Megan Heald of St. John's Erith.

Following the apologies, a minute's silence was observed in memory of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and of Mr. George Rose, a member of St. John's Erith band, both of whom had died since the last meeting.



2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been printed in the District Newsletter, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mrs. Margaret Macey.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

Mr. James Hardy thanked everyone who had helped in the kitchen with the Annual General Meeting lunch on Easter Monday and all the cooks. He also thanked Mr. Len Morley who had co-ordinated the arrangements. The Chairman extended this vote of thanks to those who had opened the towers for visiting ringers.

Training Day

Mrs. Margaret Macey thanked everyone involved with the Training Day. She went on to comment that the response for the forthcoming Training Day at Biggin Hill had already been good. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Macey for organizing these events.

4. CORRESPONDENCE



ST MARK, BIGGIN HILL



There had been no correspondence.

5. SUGGESTED QUIZ AT CRAYFORD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BRF

Mr. Alex Britton drew members' attention to page 22 of the current Association Handbook concerning donations to the Bell Restoration Fund. In the hope of boosting the amount donated by this District, the Crayford band were willing to organize a Quiz on Saturday, 30th November. Members were interested in this suggestion and the Chairman ask Mr. Britton to go ahead with the arrangements. Members were asked to book the date and to encourage their friends to attend (there would be no questions about ringing).

6. B.B.C. BELLS ON SUNDAY

The Secretary had been told by Mr. John Barnes that more recordings were needed by the B.B.C. for the 'Bells on Sunday' programme. The B.B.C. now did their own recording for this programme and liked to record several pieces of ringing on one day. Mr. Barnes suggested that the six bands that had taken part in the District Six-bell Striking Competition that morning should be offered for recording. This was agreed. In appreciation of this ringing, the Secretary was asked to enquire from Mr. Barnes whether the B.B.C. would be prepared to make a donation to the Bell Restoration Fund.

7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

BECKENHAM	Mr. Ross Hartley		P. Mr. James Hardy
			S. Mr. Jeremy Byers
BIGGIN HILL	Miss Louise Hanscomb (jnr.)	}	P. Mrs. Nancy Gay
	Mr. Marc Hanscomb (jnr.)	}	S. Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman
ELTHAM	Mr. Geoffrey P. Barnes-Warden	}	P. Mr. Len Morley
	Miss Jane Harries	}	S. Mr. David Holdridge

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. George Rose

Miss Megan Heald paid a tribute to Mr. George Rose, who had been a regular ringer, choir member and generally involved with the church at St. John's, Erith. He had left a wife and two children and members were asked to remember them in their prayers.

Structure of the Association

Mr. Len Morley had attended a meeting of the Working Party which had been formed to consider the structure of the Association. It had been proposed that the existing Committee should be reduced to 12 - Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Conveners of the three existing sub-committees and one representative from each District. Some additional ringers would attend meetings by invitation. It was proposed that this Committee should meet 4 times a year so that they were able to feed back information

more quickly. Generally, members were in favour of these suggestions.

Abigail Grace Saunders

Mr. Jeremy Byers congratulated Alan and Kerry Saunders on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace. Good wishes were extended to this family from the meeting.

Jubilee Ringing: 1st - 4th June

Each tower was encouraged to give consideration to arranging some special ringing to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

Striking Competition

Six teams had entered the Striking Competition held at Bexley earlier in the day and the first three places were taken by Chelsfield (1st), Bexley (2nd) and Eltham (3rd).

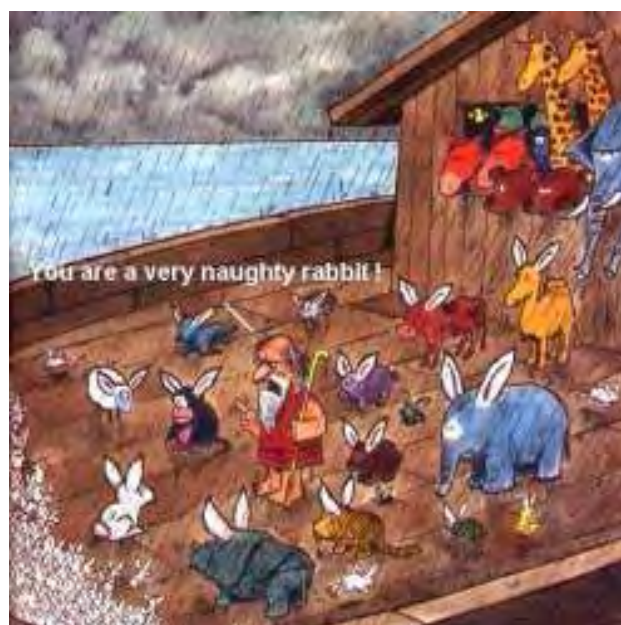
Mr. James Hardy and Mr. Jeremy Byers were thanked for judging the Competition and the Bexley band were thanked for hosting the event and for providing refreshments. A trophy, to the winning band, and certificates were awarded.

Newsletter

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the Newsletter. Spare copies were available. Members were asked to send details of any special ringing for the Queen Mother to Frank Lewis.

Vote of Thanks

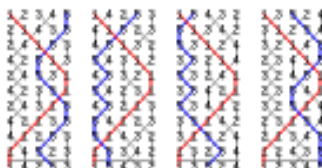
Mr. Len Morley proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Anthony Lane for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr. Jeremy Ducker for playing the organ and to the local band for providing an excellent tea.



District Events and Special Methods

Saturday 20th July. District Practice: Chelsfield, 7.00-9.00p.m.
Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Bob Doubles, Canterbury S. Minor, St. Simon Doubles (see below).

Wednesday 31st July. District Practice: Southwark Cathedral, 6.30-8.30p.m. (Note Wednesday).
Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 11, Little Bob Maximus, Cambridge Royal/Maximus.



Saturday 24th Aug. District Practice: Chislehurst, St. Nicholas, 7.00-9.00p.m.
Special Methods: Call Changes, Stedman Triples, 8-spliced (CYNsprLB).

Saturday 14th Sept. District Practice: Downe, 7.00-9.00p.m.
Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Bob Minor, Cunecastre S. Minor.

Saturday 12th Oct. Annual District Meeting: West Wickham, 3.00p.m. Bells, 4.30p.m. Service.

Saturday 26th Oct. County Training Day: Conducting Day.
(Contact Catherine Lewis on 01959 563767 by 10th Sept to book)

Saturday 26th Oct. District Practice: Woolwich, 7.00-9.00p.m.
Special Methods: Call Changes, Grandsire Triples, Lewisham District Surprise Major.

Saturday 16th Nov. District 6-bell Call Change Competition: St. Mary Cray, 2.30p.m draw.

Saturday 23rd Nov. District Practice: Venue to be confirmed, 7.00-9.00p.m.

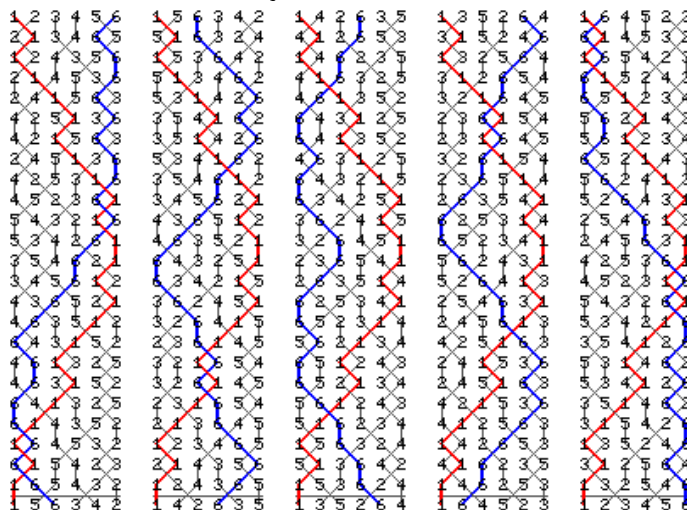
Saturday 7th Dec. District Practice: Beckenham, 7.00-9.00p.m.
Mulled wine and mince pies!!
Special Methods: Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 9/10, Bristol S. Royal. (experienced 10-bell people please attend!!)

Saturday 14th Dec. Carol Service: Erith, St. John the Baptist.

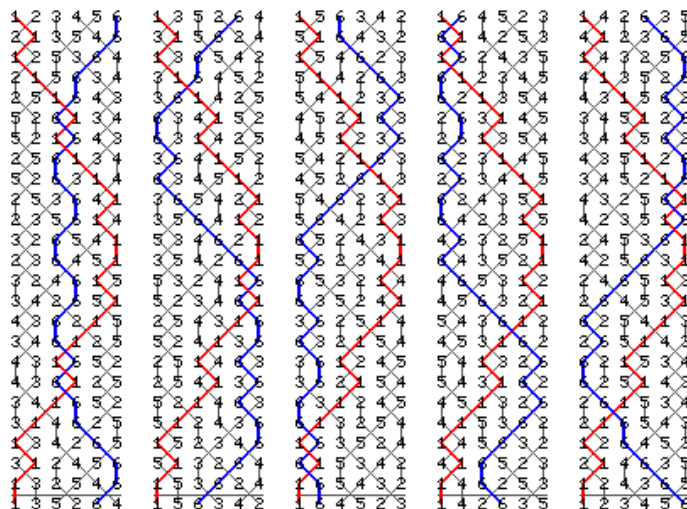
The practices are specifically aimed at all abilities, so please come along. The purpose of listing "special methods" is to encourage as many people as possible to look at the same thing in order to reduce the demand for different requests during practices which are subject to time limitations. It also provides an opportunity for individuals' requests for specific methods to be met, and rung with a band of pre-warned enthusiasts!

Please do not be discouraged, in any way, from attending a practice simply because you don't know the special method(s) or perhaps because they are a little too advanced for you. Practices will, as far as possible, be tailored to suit those who attend. If you would like to request a specific method or practice, please let James Hardy or Jeremy Byers know - either by email or 'phone or by asking!!

Canterbury Surprise Minor



Cunecastre Surprise Minor



QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 30th November 2002

St. Paulinus Church Hall, Crayford

Full details in the next newsletter

Proceeds to the BRF

Put the date in your diary now!

