



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk

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

JANUARY 2004

Beckenham not feeling Downe

There was a very good turn out at the District Call Change Competition held at Downe on 15th November. Ten teams from ten different towers took part. It was especially rewarding to see some from towers that hadn't taken part for a while, especially the new band from Shoreham.

Jason and Helen Hughes from Croydon were the judges and the results were as follows:

1st	Beckenham	8.5 faults
2nd	Cudham	10.0
3rd	Erith, Christ Church	10.5
4th	Crayford	11.0
5th	Eltham	12.0
6th	Horton Kirby	13.0
7th	Bromley Parish	14.5
8th	Biggin Hill	17.0
9th	Chelsfield	19.0
10th	Shoreham	23.0

So congratulations to Beckenham and thank you to the judges and to Downe for hosting the event and providing such excellent refreshments.

Rupert Cheeseman

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all those members of the Lewisham District who attended the Carol Concert given by the Sine Nomine Choir and to those who sent donations. Much appreciated. The aim was to raise money for research into Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and the total amount raised, from the concert and donations, was at least £1000.

Thank you.

Jean and James Pailing

Next District Event

District Meeting
St. Mary the St John's, Erith

on

Saturday 10th January

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to

Margaret Heald on 01322 442348

or margaret@misfit.freemove.co.uk

by **Wednesday 7th January please.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mary's Bexley on Saturday 11 October 2003
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - Call Change Competition
 - District Carol Service
4. KCACR Committee Meeting report
 - St John's Deptford bells
 - Recruitment and Young Ringers Group
 - Child Protection Act
5. Events – District, County, other
6. Bell Restoration Fund – fund raising ideas
7. Election of new members
8. Any other business
9. Vote of thanks

Chairman's Bit

Those of you who were at the Annual District Meeting in October (and could hear what was being said...), may remember that I asked people to think about possible fund-raising schemes for the County Bell Restoration Fund. This has been included as an Agenda item for the forthcoming Quarterly Meeting on Saturday 10th January at St John's Erith, so do please come along with your ideas.

The arguments about fund-raising have been well-rehearsed over the last few years, but it comes down to the fact that the Lewisham District does tend to contribute less to the Kent Bell Restoration Fund than certain other Districts. We're not quite the worst offender in this respect, but in 2002 only the Rochester District raised less than we did, and the others raised significantly more. There are arguable demographic and geographic reasons why this might be the case, but it is a fact that we do tend to organise fewer fund-raising events than others, which is something that we ought to be able to remedy.

Just to start you off, here are three that I came up with:

- (a) A sponsored quarter-peal day. There are various ways in which this could work: possibly trying to ring quarters in all the District's Towers in a day/weekend, involving as many ringers as possible; or maybe a single band trying to ring lots in a day? (For what it is worth, my experience is that the difficulty/challenge of the ringing bears little relation to the amount raised - people will still give more or less the same amount of money regardless).
- (b) A District 120 Club. The great advantage of this is that it is not just a one-off event, but raises money on an on-going basis. It does take some effort to set up, and needs a keen volunteer (or volunteers) to make it a success (although other Districts already run them, and would presumably be able to give advice).
- (c) A District Open Day/Tower Grab, with all towers open for ringing. As far as I am aware, the last time we held one of these was in 1992 (anyone remember how much it raised?). Again, takes some organising, but can raise upwards of £1000. (Of course, what really brings out the Tower Grabbers is somewhere that has been unringable for the past 50 years or so, but in any case I would think that there must be a new generation of grabbers who missed the 1992 event, and would find a Lewisham Open Day attractive).

As I said, just some ideas, none of them particularly original. If you have a view on any of these, please come along and have your say - or better still, let us hear your own. Best of all, come prepared to volunteer to help with one!

David Holdridge

Secretary's Bit

Lewisham District Quarterly Meeting Saturday 10th January 2004 at St John's Erith

As a new feature, the agenda for the next Quarterly Meeting is published in this Newsletter as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

The aim is to make meetings more productive by giving you advance notice of issues to be discussed so that you have a chance to think about them before the meeting. This does not, of course, stop you from raising other issues actually at the meeting. It would, however, be helpful if in future there are particular matters that you would like raised that you let me know in advance (preferably before the newsletter deadline date) so that I can add them to the agenda.



There are three issues in particular for discussion at this meeting:

Recruitment and Young Ringers Group – this is a County Group on which Len Morley is our representative. Recruiting and retaining ringers, young or old, is a perennial problem for most towers. Do you have any good ideas, strategies that have worked for you in the past that you can share with other towers?

Child Protection Act – this has become a very important issue of late. There is a guideline on 'best practice' at the back of the Ringers' Diary. Different dioceses may have different requirements and specific procedures may be laid down by individual PCCs. Tower Captains should ensure the child's parent or guardian completes a permission form before teaching commences. Tutors may need to be police checked. What are your experiences of how child protection procedures are working in practice?



Bell Restoration Fund – compared with some other districts we do not raise large amounts for the BRF. Following on from Eltham's very successful quiz night, have you any other fund raising ideas?

Chris Webb – District Secretary



Editorial



Happy New Year to you all. Firstly, apologies for not getting this edition of the newsletter out earlier but as it is a record size of 24 pages we've got a good excuse!

As can be seen on page 5, Mary was given a good send off as District Secretary at the ADM at Bexley. Thanks again Mary for all your hard work over the years.

The new newsletter subscription remains at £5 for a year's supply of 4 editions. Renewal forms should be in your newsletter. Each tower will continue to receive one free copy.

The KCA CR subs this year remain at £9 for adults and £4.50 for children and OAPs. I'm sure that Mark will be happy to relieve you of your money.

And finally, spam has got the better of Rupert's current email address and therefore it has now been changed to rupert@crayford42.fsnet.co.uk. Please use this address in the future for sending any articles, tower news, cartoons, pictures, etc. - all gratefully received.

Rupert and Cathy



Although we have only been ringing for a few years, one of the occasions we particularly enjoy is the annual District Carol Service. This year's one last Saturday at Beckenham was really enjoyable - the music was superb. The Beckenham band had also laid on seasonal refreshments for after the service. The only disappointment was the numbers attending. I feel it is a great shame that more people do not support this event. It was similar story last year - an excellent service at St John's Erith was poorly attended.

Although the run up to Christmas is a busy time for all of us, surely a few more people could spend just a couple of hours at the Carol Service?

Elizabeth and Les Brett



Page 4 Book Quiz Answers

1. Little Women 2. Black Beauty 3. Rebecca 4. Frankenstein 5. War and Peace 6. A Clockwork Orange 7. King Solomon's Mine 8. Kidnapped 9. Watership Down 10. The Maltese Falcon 11. Ivanhoe 12. 1984 13. Just William 14. Guinness Book of World Records 15. Treasure Island 16. Room at the Top 17. Diamonds are Forever 18. The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy 19. The Thornbirds 20. Murder on the Orient Express 21. The Tale of Peter Rabbit

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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 -
14th March 2004**

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How's your handling?

Ask any ringer who's helped out on a ringing course what the commonest fault is that students come with, and you will almost always receive the reply "handling".

Students that come on courses obviously come with the desire to learn some new practical skill, such as Plain Hunting or to learn a new method. The one thing that inevitably holds them back is poor handling. Invariably, a course tutor has to make a decision on whether to cure the handling problems or push on with teaching what they've come to learn and usually the handling takes second place.

So why is it so important?

Handling is the basic ability to control the bell, bringing it back at exactly the right time. As soon as you start to ring Plain Hunt or any method, you need to master the ability to place the bell at each stroke accurately in the change.

A neat handling style makes it easier to learn these techniques. Unfortunately, when the bells start ringing and you are concentrating on counting your places, remembering the blue line and what happens at a bob or single, your brain focuses on these things. Your handling takes a back seat as you engage autopilot. Bad habits and untidiness can quickly creep in.

So when did you last take a look at your handling?

Try checking your handling when ringing something simpler such as Call Changes. Do your hands pull straight through? Do you flick the rope down when pulling down from back stroke or does the sally walk around the ringing room? Are your hands together on the sally and tail end or does the tail end get between your hand and the sally when you reach up to catch the sally?

Well, being self-aware is important, but can only be of limited use, so ask a friend or your Tower Captain to check your style for bad habits.

In an attempt to address the problem, I'm thinking of running a handling workshop, probably in July 2004. The format is still to be decided, but I am thinking about getting the video camera out so that you can see your own faults. If you are interested, please drop me an email at my new email address jeremy.byers@byersfamily.co.uk. Please note that I will be expecting you to attend a couple of District Practices before the course so that I can assess your style beforehand, as time will be limited on the day.

Once I have an idea of the level of interest, I will start planning the event – emails from potential helpers would be appreciated as well.

Best wishes for the New Year

Jeremy Byers

Eltham Quiz Night

Congratulations to Chislehurst who thrashed the rest of us at Eltham's Quiz Night on the 29th November. It was a very enjoyable evening and Eltham were splendid hosts.

David Holdridge kept us all in line and did a fine job as Quiz Master; I do know what that's like since you tend to shout yourself hoarse! The questions were a good mixture as were the prizes.

Over three hundred pounds were raised for the Kent Bell Restoration Fund, so thank you Eltham for all your hard work and for making the evening such an enjoyable one.

Andrew Sinclair

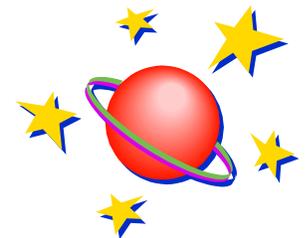
????????????????

From the Eltham Quiz Night:

Can you find the book titles from these cryptic clues?

For example 'A whale of a tale' would be 'Moby Dick'

1. Small Ladies
2. Belle Noir
3. Wife of Isaac, mother of Esau and Jacob
4. RINK NETS A FEN (anagram)
5. Holst's Mars and Venus
6. A Citrus windup
7. King David's successor's pits
8. Child slept
9. Has this aquatic vessel sunk?
10. The George Cross Island's bird of prey
11. Garden tool of the terrible
12. Big brother is watching you
13. Fair Bill
14. Pure Genius' album of discs
15. Destination of the Hispaniola
16. Attic
17. Carbon crystals are eternal
18. The Baedeker for the one who thumbs a lift to the stars
19. The prickly fowls
20. A killing on the eastern train
21. Mr McGregor's vegetable poacher



Lewisham District Secretary retires after 40 years

There can have been few members of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers who were unaware that the Secretary, Mary Andrews, would be retiring at the Annual District Meeting on the 10th October, after having served in the post for over forty years. In fact, she was first elected to the post in 1959, and had a short break from the job in the 1970s, so the full forty years of service covers an even longer period. It was not of course coincidental that the ADM was held at Mary's home tower of Bexley, where she has been a ringer for an even longer period. Indeed, she has recently completed fifty years membership of the KCACR.



Mary is not one to make a song and dance about anything, but the District was naturally not prepared to allow her to go quietly. The District Chairman, David Holdridge, read a fulsome tribute to her from Alex Britton, one-time Association Secretary, and presented Mary with a large bouquet of flowers and a further gift from the District in the form of a Whitechapel handbell, engraved with a suitable inscription. Not one but four (or was it five?) cards were required to carry the signatures of all those District ringers who wished to join in thanking Mary for all her work. A number of quarter peals were rung at towers across the District, as well as two peals. Finally, the latest District Newsletter (available on the District website) contains an article by Freda Cannon, who has known Mary for all of these forty years (and probably longer!).



Details of the two peals, at Horton Kirby on 19th July and Eynsford on 28th September, have been submitted separately. Details of those quarters known to have been rung as a tribute to Mary may be found below.

Quarter peals rung to mark the retirement of Mary Andrews as Secretary of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers, after over forty years service.

Ash by Wrotham, Kent. 20 Sep, 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles: Rachel Backhouse (C) 1, Brenda Barton 2, Christopher Backhouse 3, Robert Backhouse 4, Mark Backhouse 5, Deryck Jones 6.

Beckenham, Kent. 2 Oct, 1260 PB Triples: Sara C Hardy 1, Christine M Webb 2, Rhiannon M Meredith 3, Alice

Baverstock 4, David S Brown 5, Jeremy R Byers 6, Mark A S Jones (C) 7, Andrew C N Holmes 8.

Biggin Hill, Kent. 24 Sep, 1260 PB Doubles: Louise Hanscomb 1, Jennifer Gay 2, Nicholas Wilkins 3, Nancy Gay 4, E Lesley Barclay (1st as C) 5, Julian Hemper 6.

Canterbury, Kent. (Cathedral) 28 Sep, 1311 Stedman Cinques: Ian G Mills 1, David P Macey 2, Sara C Hardy 3, Christine M Webb 4, Peter V D Swift (C) 5, Lucy A Weston 6, Jeremy R Byers 7, David Holdridge 8, Alexander J Britton 9, Mark A S Jones 10, James J

Hardy 11 David S Brown 12.

Chelsfield, Kent. 3 Sep, 1260 Doubles (5m): Nicholas Wilkins (C) 1, Angela Wilkins 2, James Rooke 3, Robert Pruden 4, Philippa Rooke 5, Ann Blatcher 6.

Chislehurst, Kent. (S Nicholas) 22 Sep, 1260 Minor (2m): Peter Skinner 1, Nigel Pointer (C) 2, James Tate 3, Angus Ogilvie 4, David Holdridge 5, Mark Jones 6.

Crayford, Kent. 14 Sep, 1269 Doubles (3m): Carol Eastaugh 1, Debra Say 2, Andrew Sinclair 3, Margaret Macey 4, Rupert Cheeseman (C) 5, David Holdridge 6.

Cudham, Kent. 2 Oct, 1260 PB Doubles: Alison Wilson 1, Alison Dyer 2, Vernon Benning 3, Nicholas Wilkins (C) 4, Jon Fry 5, Paul Alexander 6.

Dartford, Kent. 21 Sep, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Rachel Backhouse 1, Christopher Backhouse 2, Robert Backhouse 3, Mark Backhouse 4, Andrew Sinclair 5, David Holdridge 6, Alex Britton (C) 7, Deryck Jones 8.

Eltham, Kent. 5 Oct, 1260 PB Triples: Andrew Sinclair 1, Ruth Holdridge 2, Jean Pailing 3, Peter Skinner 4, David Kingston 5, David Holdridge 6, Ian Mills (C) 7, Leonard Dumper 8.

Erith, Kent. 21 Sep, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Christopher Backhouse 1, Carol Eastaugh 2, Robert Backhouse 3, Rachel Backhouse (C) 4, Mark Backhouse 5, Neil Lucia 6.

Foots Cray, Kent. 17 Sep, 1260 PB Doubles: Ros Farmer 1, David Holdridge 2, Margaret Macey (C) 3, Rupert Cheeseman 4, Andrew Sinclair 5.

Horton Kirby, Kent. 1 Oct, 1260 PB Doubles: Mick McDonnell (1st Q away from Tenor) 1, Nicholas Wilkins 2, Julian J Hemper 3, Richard D Barker 4, E Lesley Barclay (C) 5, Martin Bailey (1st Q) 6.

West Wickham, Kent. 10 Sep, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Alys Helm (C) 1, David Gebbett 2, Judith Fry 3, John Perrin 4, Mike Christie 5, Phillip Sullivan 6. 1st in method for all.

From The Ringing World, 4830 p1124

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

We are still alive out here on top of our hill, in the sticks.

Due to our other commitments, we are holding (a fairly) regular practice on Saturdays at 9am. Please give us a ring at 8am on the day if you are thinking of joining us to confirm if there will be a practice. With only 7 regular ringers, we frequently struggle to make a band.

I am very grateful for the help and support the tower received during our recent difficulties and the kindness shown to this newby when phoning strangers. I hope to have the pleasure of meeting more of you over time, not just because I'm having a "clueless" moment.

Gabrielle Stook

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

On the 14th November 1903, the Tower, Clock and Bells of St George's Beckenham were dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. To mark the Centenary of this event, the 9.30 Eucharist on November 16th 2003 had a ringing theme. Canon David Grimwood gave the Sermon during which we demonstrated Plain Hunt on 7 using handbells and eight "volunteers". We also arranged a display at the back of the Church, gave a demonstration in the tower at the end of the service, and in the afternoon rang a Peal of Grandsire Caters, 5003 by Mark C.Liebenrood, who used to ring with us at Beckenham during the late 80's.

James Hardy

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

Following the re-casting of our 4th bell in April, the remaining seven have recently been to the Whitechapel Foundry for the wooden headstocks to be replaced by steel ones. The removal of the bells from the tower and their re-hanging has been done by the Association's Bell Restoration Team, plus Alex Britton and Percy Hicks. We are most grateful to them all.

We hope to be practising regularly from Thursday 8th January (8 pm). Visitors are always welcome but it is wise to check with me before coming (01322 523071).

Mary Andrews

The bells were rehung in two batches, culminating on Sat 13th

December with an immediate tryout on all 8 that afternoon. The bells were also rung the next day for the two Sunday services. I believe by now certain adjustments might already have been made (e.g. on first rehanging the tenor was "very" light set at handstroke), but my initial personal reaction is that they ring much more easily than they did, with more smoothness, and with far less odd struckness than before. The newly rehung bells have twiddle pins in the headstocks, making any future necessary adjustments to odd struckness much easier to achieve.



In short, they now ring more like I happily remember how they were when I first rang there 22 years ago.

Alex Britton

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

The peal of Yorkshire Surprise rung on 25th October was the 100th on the bells installed after the church was destroyed in the war. The Ringing World will probably show the peal of Spliced rung on 6th December as the 100th due to my inability to count. The peal of Spliced was David Brown's first peal of Eight Spliced. Well done David.

David Kingston

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

We successfully rang a quarter peal of 1320 Plain Bob Doubles on Thursday 28th August. It was the first in method for Jackie Duke and is recorded under First Quarters on page 904 of the 4821st edition of the RW for 19th September. A previous attempt with Jackie failed after 30 minutes so we were pleased for Jackie this time round.

Chris Lawrance





Repairs: Peter Romney and Alex Britton remove the bells from the church

Church rings in the changes

The bells at St Mary the Virgin Church are to fall silent while repairs are carried out. Seven of the eight bells were removed from the tower of the Bexley Village High Street church on November 15th so wooden headstocks can be replaced with metal ones. The bells, weighing between 150kg and 350kg, are to be taken to Whitechapel Bell Foundry, east London, for the work.

This is the first time they have left the church since being installed in the building's unique candle snuffer shingle tower in 1938. It is hoped the work on the bells will be finished by Christmas.

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 19:45

The last few months have had their highs and lows. We have a new recruit, Natasha, who has taken to ringing like a duck takes to water. I am sure she won't mind me saying that she is a very quick learner, so we have high hopes of her – not that there is any pressure Natasha!

On a sad note, we lost one of our longest serving ringers, Peter Dear, on the 6th October 2003. Peter died unexpectedly and suddenly which, was a great shock to all of us. Peter was a delightful man, and while not the best ringer in the world, a fact with which he would have readily concurred, he brought a sense of fun with him on Sunday mornings. He was a gentleman and always immaculately dressed with a taste for loud ties. We all feel his loss very keenly and Sunday mornings are not just the same with out him, particularly when we ring down. It just isn't the same without someone shouting "Pull Peter, Pull!". Our sympathies go to Lucie his wife of thirty years.

Practice nights are a mixed bag and depend very much on who turns up, on what we can ring. The staple diet tends to be Doubles but we have been ringing Plain Bob Minor and Cambridge Surprise Minor, which is something. It is much rarer for us to be able to ring Triples, but when Bexley's bells were out of action, we had the pleasure of the Bexley band coming along which made so much difference. Sundays are more problematic, we tend to muddle through and our thanks go out to Brenda and Deryck from Dartford who come along so that we can ring six. Four are just dire and sound so mournful. We have achieved a lot this year, what with decorating the ringing room, we have splashed out on new muffles and have been able to ring a quarter a



month; a goal we set ourselves at the beginning of the year. Let us hope that this coming year will improve our fortunes, particularly on the recruitment front. I realise this is a problem most of us suffer from and if any one out there discovers a means of attracting people to their towers - short of throwing a blanket over them and dragging them in off the street - share the secret!

A Happy New Year to all of you.

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

We've had a fairly busy autumn at Eltham, with both ringing and other activities. In October, we rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples as a tribute to Mary Andrews, with a band of local ringers and others (including Ruth Holdridge in her first quarter for over seven years).

Also in October, Peter Skinner organised another walk, this time near Sevenoaks. A fine autumn day made for good walking weather, and the day was much enjoyed by all those who went.



REHUNGING THE BELLS AT CHRIST CHURCH,

In November, we entered the District Call Change competition at Downe. I was pleased with our position of 5th out of 10, which was an improvement on 7th out of 9 last year. Special congratulations to Hilary Smith, ringing in her first striking competition.

There have been three peals attempted in the tower this autumn, all of them successful. Both the Cumberlands and a Kent band rang Bristol (the latter in memory of Tony Lewis), and a Kensington-based band rang Lincolnshire. These bring the yearly total up to five, which is an annual record – three in a year being the previous best. Eltham has never been one of the District's "peal factories", but I'm always pleased to see bands coming here to ring peals, and the Vicar is generally happy to allow them, as long as we have reasonable notice and the attempts are not too close together.

Finally, we organised a quiz in aid of the County Bell Restoration Fund. Seven teams entered (including two from Horton Kirby!), with Chislehurst emerging as winners. Thanks to all who entered: a cheque for £304 was sent to the County.

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

We have finally completed the work on our bells. The headstocks on the 7th and Tenor were removed in November – they came off surprisingly easily! They were taken to Whitechapel. The old plain bearings on the 7th were replaced with ball bearings and new gudgeons. New roller bearings were fitted to the existing gudgeons on the tenor.

On December 6th several members of the band worked to raise the headstocks back up to the bell frame and then fit them back on the bells. A chain hoist made the job of lifting them back up quite easy. The headstocks were fitted without too many problems and we were able to ring all eight on the Sunday. We are particularly grateful to Trevor from Swanscombe and Andrew from Dartford for their help.

During the summer Carol Eastaugh reached a notable milestone – her hundredth quarter peal. The quarter- Cambridge Minor (Conducted by Andrew Young) – was rung at the church of St. Deinst, Llangarron, Herefordshire during a bellringing holiday. We also rang a quarter of Stedman Doubles in September – a tribute to Mary Andrews and also as a compliment to Christopher Backhouse and Adrian Lucia, leaving for university. A quarter of Grandsire Doubles in October was Neil Lucia's first inside and Les Brett's first as cover.

Elizabeth Brett

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

The ringers at St John's are looking forward to hearing all eight bells ringing at the January Quarterly Meeting. On a good day we can manage six.

We have one item of good news - Megan Heald had a son (David) on 9th October, a brother to Helen. Hopefully Megan will soon be back ringing. We would also like to join with other struggling Wednesday towers for occasional visits elsewhere. Please keep us posted.

Margaret Heald

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

GREENWICH

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

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00



HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

Since our very successful outing we have started training 4 new recruits! Issy, the wife of Martin, one of our ringers, and also his daughter Charlotte and her friend Elysia; a real family affair. Also Hannah, the daughter of Terry, another of our ringers who only started learning himself last year.

Another milestone was the first quarter for Martin Bailey, who covered for our quarter for Mary Andrews and also for Mick McDonnell (who you may remember from the Terrors of The First Quarter) who rang the treble for the first time. We may be taking our time learning but we are getting there!

Sue Allport

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

In October West Wickham tower lost a dear friend. John Fry was a member of the West Wickham band from 1962 to 1992 when he had to stop ringing due to health problems. He was a loyal member, regularly ringing twice on Sundays, practices and weddings. His wife Margaret also rang briefly with us in the 80's. He was a gifted man especially in engineering, design and woodworking. He leaves many articles of his handiwork in our tower.

A quarter peal of St Simon's Doubles was rung in his memory by the following band:

1. David Gebbett
2. Alys Helm
3. Judith Fry
4. Paul Showell
5. Jackie Toulmin (C)
6. Ron Ockleford

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00



Prayers... Postmarked



Ever felt your prayers went unanswered? Try sending a letter to God and chances are it will end up - as many do each year - at an Israeli post office in Jerusalem, where they are read and sent on to the holy Western Wall.

The letters come from all over the world. The elderly ask for good health. Others seek heavenly remedies for debts, relationship assistance, or help finding jobs. Children mainly ask God to spring them from homework assignments.

"We have hundreds and thousands of letters sent to either God or Jesus Christ and for some unknown reason they all come to Jerusalem," said Yitzhak Rabihiya a postal spokesman.

"Dear Sir," begins one letter whose address reads "God of Israel" and whose request is for help landing a job as a bulldozer driver.

As long as anyone at the post office can remember, the letters have turned up at the Postal Authority's center for undeliverable mail.

In the tiny warehouse, eight workers sort problem envelopes into pigeon holes labelled for junk mail, government bureaus, social security and health insurance offices and "Letters to God."

Puzzled by what to do with the letters, one worker started taking them to the Western wall, a remnant of the ancient Second Temple compound and Judaism's holiest site, where Jews traditionally stuff tiny notes of prayer in the cracks between its hulking stones.

"From there, it's not in our hands," Rabihiya said.

Eventually, the notes and letters left at the Wall are buried on Jerusalem's outskirts along with materials considered too holy for the garbage dump.

The notes offer a sometimes charming glimpse into people's private wishes. A man from Saulsbury, Tenn., wrote a tiny message and asked the postmaster to deliver it to the Western Wall, because he heard a rumour that would work.

It reads: "Please help me to be happy. Please help me find a nice job in Tallahassee or Monroe or some nice place and find a good wife - soon. Amen, Daryl."

The postal workers' favourite anecdote is about an Israeli man who wrote a letter to God describing his crippling poverty and asking for 5,000 shekels. Postal workers were so moved they collected 4,300 shekels and mailed it back.

"After a month the same person writes again to God," Rabihiya recalled, "but this time he writes, 'Oh, thank you God for the contribution, but next time please don't send it through those postmen. They're thieves; they stole 700 shekels.'"

Jason Keyser

From Express, a publication of the Washington Post. (3rd Oct '03)

A Walk in Knole Park

The day started with 15 spirited walkers meeting at the One Tree Hill National Trust car park at 10 o'clock. The weather was a cool and crisp autumn day, and perfect for walking.

Peter Skinner, Chislehurst, lead the walk, (planned in conjunction with Len Morley, Eltham). We were soon strolling through the bracken of Knole Park. The 1,000 acre park is renowned for its Sika and Fallow Deer and we saw several small herds.



As the path through Knole Park undulated, we walked towards the manor house.

Knole is a calendar house, consisting of 7 courtyards, 52 staircases and 365 rooms. The original part of the house was built in the 15th Century; however, it was enlarged and embellished in 1603 by the 1st Earl of Dorset, Thomas Sackville (cousin to Queen Elizabeth I). Sackville's descendants have continued to live here since the 17th Century.

In 1946 Knole was granted to the National Trust.

The intrepid walkers did not manage to visit all of this fantastic house, however, we did take an unscheduled stop to sample the wares of the teashop!



We continued in a north-easterly direction, enjoying the autumn sunshine, so much so that we missed our path and wandered in the direction of the golf course! A slight detour and we were back on track and well on the way to our stop for lunch.

We stopped at the Bucks Head public house in the village of Godden Green. We sat near a raging log fire, and enjoyed the pleasant food, ale and conversation.

Unfortunately, we lost (don't take this too literally!) four of our walkers after the pub, who I believe had had a "tip off" about the gradients after lunch!!

We strolled out of the pub in the direction of Bitchet, away from Knole Park. After a shallow climb, the going got a little steeper. We rambled through Lord's Spring wood and Diantshatch.

After a short, steep climb we caught our breath and enjoyed the stunning views of the Weald of Kent. Then back along the footpath leading over Rooks Hill and Bitchet Common.

Little did I know I would need to borrow Peter's industrial hard hat! With a bumper crop of fruit on the chestnut trees, I was prey to a falling spiky chestnut!! Ooouch!

We arrived back at the car park having enjoyed a day in the countryside.

Well done Peter and Len for organising this super walk!

Geoff and Jane Barnes-Warden



You know you're living in 2003 when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
 2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
 3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
 4. You e-mail your mate who works at the desk next to you.
 5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have e-mail addresses
 6. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
 7. When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "0" or "9" to get an outside line.
 8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
 10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
 11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
 12. Contractors out number permanent staff and are more likely to get long-service awards.
- And the real clinchers are...
13. You read this entire list, and kept nodding and smiling.
 14. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "friends".
 15. You got this email from a friend that never talks to you anymore, except to send you jokes from the net.
 16. You are too busy to notice there was no No. 9.
 17. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a No.9.
 18. And now U R laughing at your stupidity. ;-)



The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover



Six students took their "First Steps in Treble Bob" at Dover on Saturday, 29th November, although two or three confessed to having rung the treble to a Treble Bob method before. The Canterbury, Ashford and Lewisham Districts were represented and it was good to have someone coming from as far as Dartford. This confirmed our belief, when we first thought of having a Ringing Centre at Dover, that an hour's journey is not too much to expect for a good day's ringing.

Philip Larter led the group with some previous Treble Bob experience. He took them from Treble Bob hunting in the morning through to Kent Major in the afternoon. Peter Dale introduced those who had never before tried Treble Bob to Bastow Minimus. They quickly progressed to Minor, and by the end of the day had either rung a working bell to a course of Kent Minor, or trebled to Kent or Oxford Major.



The success of any course depends upon having enough good helpers and, at any time throughout the day, we were lucky to have at least ten willing instructors in attendance. Their efforts were much appreciated, as was the constant flow of tea and coffee provided by Barbara Dale. It was intensive, but very rewarding, and it couldn't have been too tiring because there were several offers of help with the next one.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

at

The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

Saturday, 6th March 2004

"PLAIN AND LITTLE BOB MAJOR"

This course will examine how Plain Bob extends from Doubles to Minor, and thence to Major. Little Plain Bob will be introduced during the latter part of the day, as it provides a good link between Plain and Treble Bob methods. The course is intended for those who can ring an "inside" bell to touches of Bob Doubles, or plain courses of Bob Minor, and who wish to move on to even-bell methods.

Saturday, 29th May 2004

"FIRST STEPS IN STEDMAN"

This introduction to Stedman is for those who have never

rung it before, or who may have made one or two attempts to ring Stedman Doubles. The method will be broken down into its component pieces of work, which will be practised separately. Preparatory work will include 3-bell exercises, and Cloisters Doubles or Triples. It will be assumed that students attending this course are able to ring and strike Plain Hunt with some confidence.

Later in the year there will be courses run on "Kaleidoscope Ringing" (30th Aug) and "First Steps in Surprise" (27th Nov).

Each course will start at 10 am and finish at about 4.30 pm, with a break for lunch. The fee is £8 for KCACR members, £10 otherwise, payable on application. Forms are available from Barbara Dale: email pandbdale@yahoo.co.uk, or telephone 01304 823217. Completed forms should be returned at least four weeks before the event.

About the Centre....

The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre is based at St Mary's Church in Dover town centre. It was established at the end of 2002, when the octave was re-hung in a new frame and a new ringing gallery constructed. The ante-room that leads directly on to the gallery is primarily a choir vestry, but the centre can use it for theory classes and practical work with hand bells. We have just completed our first year of operation.



The tenor weighs 15½ cwt, but much of the training is on the "front" six, with a 9¼ cwt tenor. The clappers are fitted with tyre mufflers, which make it very easy to "silence" all the bells for use with a simulator. We used our grant from the Worshipful Company of Founders to purchase a David Bagley simulator, and to improve the existing Abel computer system.

It is unusual to have two types of simulator at the one centre, so we are fortunate in having the best of both systems. Our aim is to make these facilities as widely available as possible, and we plan to run a series of familiarisation sessions for instructors and group organisers. In the mean time, any group can book the centre for £8 per hour, on the understanding that one of us will be needed to operate the equipment, and it fits in with normal church activities.



Peter Dale

Fast food in Kent

Saturday 21st September was the day when ringers from St Nicholas (Chislehurst) and St John the Baptist (Eltham) went on their annual one-day sprint through the Kentish countryside, only stopping when spotting a church or a nice pub (unfortunately, the visits to nice pubs were less prevalent!)

This year, Westerham (8, 23-0-17) was the town to experience our first ringing that began at 9:30. Even with the addition of at least three knots in each of the bell ropes, they still took a lot of effort to strike well. After ringing a selection of basic methods and getting very sore hands we moved on towards Edenbridge (8, 14-0-7), fuelled by the promise that they were a superb ring. The promise was justified – everyone seemed to enjoy the ringing because they were relatively easy and sounded fantastic from both inside and out. We rang a mixture of Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Bob, Stedman and Cambridge.



SS. PETER & PAUL, EDENBRIDGE

I would have been quite happy to stay here for longer but the fact that our next visit would be followed by lunch convinced me to move on. After tracking down the whole group (most of whom had found a market across the road) we set off, completely missing the turning for Hever (6, 9-0-25) – due to someone from the local council designing a signpost the size of a postage stamp and then hiding it behind a large tree.

We all managed the unusual entry into the ringing room, which involved climbing up a narrow wooden ladder and then stepping backwards onto the floor above, only using the head of the person below you as a foothold if absolutely necessary. We rang Plain Bob Minor and mixed Doubles- there would have been more variety but the pub across the road was far too tempting and by half-way through, there were only seven of us left in the tower! The saying “*If you can't beat 'em, join 'em*”, sprang to mind but we soldiered on until 12:15 and then went to enjoy our lunch at the “Henry VIII” pub. The food was definitely the quickest I have ever seen on a ringing outing - it arrived as soon as we walked through the door!

After lunch, our first tower was Chiddingstone (8, 17-0-5) where we had to fight our way through coach-loads of tourists and then wait for a little while before getting hold of the keys. But this must have spurred us on because there was some very good ringing when we got inside, with a selection of Rounds and Call Changes, Stedman Triples and Plain Bob Triples.

Just down the road was Cowden, (6, 7-2-15) which was a ground floor ring with a long draft at the end of the aisle. The first piece of ringing started in the manner of “Look to... treble's...ooh...gone!” but we soon got the hang of the surprisingly light bells and succeeded in ringing Grandsire, London and Stedman among other methods.

With only one tower left for the day, we descended on the Burrswood tea-rooms. Set in the rolling Kent countryside, they were a very welcome stop for a ‘cuppa’, some sandwiches and slice of cake. I’m sure each slice was more than half of the original cake!

Our sixth and final stop for the day was Speldhurst (8, 13-1-26) which was a perfect tower for finishing the day on. Because some of our more experienced ringers had had to leave early, we were short on numbers but still managed good touches of Plain Bob Triples and Cambridge Minor.

Overall, it was a brilliant day out, with some very high quality ringing. So on behalf of everyone involved, I would like to thank Len and Roger for their organisation - and one other thing...if I could have the number of the person they book the weather with year after year, that'd be great.

James Tate



“Go ahead and book the tower for January 2014 please, I’ve got the peal band.”

HK Outing to Romney Marsh

We had a beautiful day for our outing this year to Romney Marsh and were joined by ringers from Eynsford and Farningham and Chelsfield. The sun was shining and the roads were clear so we had a good run down to Hythe, our first tower, and the first time many of us had rung on 10 bells! It is a beautiful church set up above the town through some lovely narrow winding streets. After a quick solo on the baby grand by Julian it was up to the bells. We managed very well, I think (with a bit of help from our friends) and after some Plain Hunt on 9 and a quick visit to the bones, an unusual feature of the crypt, it was on to Lydd.

The bells here are a favourite of Nick Wilkins, who had joined us by now, as they are a Gillet and Johnston 8. They were lovely bells and we managed some very acceptable Call Changes and a bit of Plain Hunt on 7 this time.

Our last stop before lunch was Warehorne. Unusual ground floor ring here. It was almost as if bells were an afterthought, so they used the shed tacked on the side for a ringing chamber! These bells were a little harder to ring than the others had been, particularly the 2 which had a new, very springy rope. We managed OK except when Mick decided that it was an anticlockwise ring and tried to follow the 4 instead of the 2 in rounds! We stopped here for lunch in the Woolpack Inn opposite and very good it was too!

After lunch it was on to Brookland with the lovely pyramidal tower. These were a challenge because apart from having lots of onlookers being another ground floor ring, the bells are also very loud inside the ringing chamber. It was an interesting tower and well worth a visit.

Our final stop was at High Halden. This was the complete opposite to Brookland as the bells were extremely quiet inside. We finished the day with some quite good ringing and then, after polishing off Karen's special "bell ringers outing biscuits" we started on our way home, well pleased with our outing.

As always we are grateful to our helpers who came along and made the day such a success!

Sue Allport

Dartford not up for the Cup

After a gap of many years it happened - an outing. Very few towers arrange an outing in dreary November. As I was charged with the task of arranging it (my first) I kept it simple. Not too many miles, not too many towers, not too many people (thanks to Sue Allport for her hints).

We set off on a dull looking day with our maps and itinerary but with the proviso that one topic was not to be mentioned. Why? It's because the date was the 22nd and to a large number of people a day of anticipation...of England winning the Rugby World Cup. Yes, I'd picked World Cup Final day England v Australia (you might suppose that I have no interest in rugby but you'd be wrong).

We enjoyed our ringing thanks to our guest conductors even if one or two people disappeared from the ringing chamber occasionally! (It wasn't my fault that they went into extra time just as we got to Cobham!! - Ed)

Tower 1. Milton-next-Gravesend (8,11-3-2). These bells are not rung very often, even on a Sunday due to a lack of people. Rupert Cheeseman was in charge.

Tower 2. Cobham (6, 13-3-13). David Osenton's turn to sort us out. Now guess where we had lunch? Why as close to the church as we could get, the Leather Bottle. The repast was enjoyed. We can recommend the food and the location, particularly in summer with all the picnic benches would be idyllic.

Tower 3. Northfleet (8,16 cwt). One reason we chose this tower was that Rupert had not been here before (it was a 1st for many other ringers but not all). Jim Rooke lead the ringing in this anti-clockwise tower.

Thanks go to Rupert, David, Jim and Carol Eastaugh without whom the outing could not have taken place. They helped us ring methods we don't often have a chance to ring. A variety of methods were rung including Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 5 and 7, Plain Bob Triples, Stedman Doubles, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles with 7,6,8 cover.

Brenda Barton



The Horton Kirby ringers and friends at St. Leonards, Hythe

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
31 August 2003		Chislehurst Ann.	5152	Spliced Surprise Major 4m.	03/900
14 September 2003		Beckenham	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	03/948
23 September 2003		Beckenham	5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	03/972
28 September 2003		Eynsford	5152	Yorkshire Surprise Major	03/1141
04 October 2003		Eltham	5024	Bristol Surprise Major	03/1092
26 October 2003		Bromley	5152	Yorkshire Surprise Major	03/1092
26 October 2003		Chislehurst Ann.	5088	Belfast Surprise Major	03/1092
26 October 2003		Eltham	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	03/1092
08 November 2003		Eltham	5056	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	03/1142
15 November 2003		Crayford	5024	Red Lumb Surprise Major	03/1164
16 November 2003		Beckenham	5003	Grandsire Caters	03/1163

Five of these peals were rung for the KCACR and one each for the College Youths, the Cumberlands, the Guildford D.G., the London C.A., the Oxford D.G. and the Beckenham Guild.

Congratulations to:

Jeremy Byers who rang the 6th to Grandsire Caters at Beckenham for his first on 10 which was also Chris Webb and Jim Hardys' first of Caters.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
20 July 2003		Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	03/1003
24 August 2003		Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	03/927
26 August 2003		Biggin Hill	1260	Doubles 4 p/m	03/981
26 August 2003		Downe	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	03/981
26 August 2003		Horton Kirby	1260	St Clements Minor	03/981
26 August 2003		Sidcup	1260	Plain Bob Minor	03/981
28 August 2003		Bromley Common	1320	Plain Bob Doubles	03/904
31 August 2003		Crayford	1284	Plain Bob Minor	
07 September 2003		Farningham	1260	Plain Bob Minor	03/927
10 September 2003		West Wickham	1260	Stedman Doubles	03/1124
14 September 2003		Crayford	1269	Doubles 3m.	03/1124
17 September 2003		Foots Cray	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1124
20 September 2003		Ash by Wrotham	1260	Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles	03/1124
21 September 2003		Dartford	1260	Grandsire Triples	03/1124
21 September 2003		Erith Ch Ch	1260	Stedman Doubles	03/1124
22 September 2003		Chislehurst St N	1260	Minor 2m.	03/1124
23 September 2003		Bromley	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1049
24 September 2003		Biggin Hill	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1124
01 October 2003		Horton Kirby	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1124
01 October 2003		Woolwich	1260	Grandsire Triples	03/1028
02 October 2003		Beckenham	1260	Plain Bob Triples	03/1124
02 October 2003		Cudham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1124
05 October 2003		Eltham	1260	Plain Bob Triples	03/1124
08 October 2003		Chislehurst St N	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1025
12 October 2003		Crayford	1260	Grandsire Triples	
12 October 2003		Farningham	1260	Plain Bob Minor	03/1098
15 October 2003		Foots Cray	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1051
17 October 2003		Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Triples	03/1073
26 October 2003		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor	
09 November 2003		Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 1p/4m.	
09 November 2003		Crayford	1260	Grandsire Doubles	
09 November 2003		Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	03/1145
16 November 2003		Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	03/1194
18 November 2003		Greenwich	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	03/1168
06 December 2003		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
06 December 2003		Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor	

Congratulations to :

Tricia Dale who rang the Tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Greenwich for her first quarter at her first attempt.

Jackie Duke who rang the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Bromley Common for her first quarter.

Martin Bailey who rang the Tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Horton Kirby for his first quarter and to Mick McDonnell who rang the Treble in the same quarter for his first away from cover.

Niall Finucane who rang the Tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Chelsfield for his first quarter at the first attempt and to Bobby Lawes who rang the 3rd in the same quarter for his first inside.

Elizabeth Brett who rang the 3rd to Grandsire Doubles at Christ Church Erith for her first inside.

Matthew Spencer who rang the 3rd to Plain Bob Doubles at Bromley for his first inside.

Helen Kettle who rang the Treble to Plain Bob at Farningham for her first of Minor.

Anne Townsend who rang the 2nd to Plain Bob at Chelsfield for her first of Minor inside and to Clare Pruden who turned the Tenor in for the first time in the same quarter.

Richard Barker who rang the 4th to Grandsire Triples at Eynsford for his first on 8.

Lesley Barclay rang the 5th to Plain Bob Doubles at Biggin Hill for her first as Conductor and rang the 2nd at Eynsford for her first of Grandsire Triples.

The Stedman Doubles at West Wickham was the first in the method (sic) for all, as was the quarter of Reverse Canterbury Doubles at Ash by Wrotham.



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

The Chairman, Mr. David Holdridge, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the Association's General Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Funnell.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Dominic Meredith from Beckenham, Miss Jenny Gay, Miss Louise Hanscomb and Mrs. Monica Hanscomb from Biggin Hill, Mr. David Kingston from Bromley, Mr. John Barnes and Mrs. Angela Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mr. Mark Jones from Chislehurst, Mr. Alex Britton from Crayford, Mrs. Brenda Barton from Dartford, Mr. Christopher Backhouse, Mr. Mark Backhouse, Mrs. Rachel Backhouse and Mr. Robert Backhouse from Christ Church, Erith, Mrs. Barbara Edwards and Mrs. Margaret Heald from St. John's Erith, Mr. David Hollis from Lewisham, Mr. Richard Bing from Woolwich and the Foots Cray and Sidcup Bands.



Death

Members were very sorry to learn of the death, the previous Monday, of Mr. Peter Dear, and stood in silence in memory of him. He had been a loyal member of the Crayford band for many years.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Len Morley.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Shoreham

The Chairman told the meeting that Miss Philippa Rooke had been going to the Shoreham practice on Monday evenings. Miss Rooke said that the band, who started to learn to ring in October, were ringing good rounds and Call Changes. She will need additional help but preferred to contact individual ringers as required.

Quarter Peal Day at Dover - 16th August

Mr. Jim Hardy apologized that he had not arranged for a band to ring at Dover. He said that he would pass on his apologies to Mr. Peter Dale.



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BEXLEY

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Amendment to Rule 7



The Chairman read a letter from the General Secretary. In it she set out a motion that the second sentence of the new rule 7 be amended as follows:

After 'Publicity Officer' insert 'one of the Central Council Representatives.

Mrs. Funnell went on to say that the Ashford District, supported by the Canterbury District, had requested an amendment to the new rule 7. The second sentence of the new rule to read:

'The General Committee shall consist of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Bell Restoration Officer, Training Officer, Publicity Officer, Central Council Representatives and Representatives from the Districts'.

After some further clarification from Mrs. Funnell and detailed discussion, on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Miss Christine Webb, the District approved the new rule 7. They did not support the Ashford District amendment. The Representatives will take this decision forward to the next General Committee Meeting.

BBC Recordings for 'Bells on Sunday' Programme

The Secretary had received a letter from Mr. John Barnes saying that he had written to the appropriate BBC person offering towers in the District for the 'Bells on Sunday' programme. He knew his letter had reached the right person but regretted that he had still (after 15, possibly 24 months) heard nothing from them.

The late Mr. Walter Dobbie

The Secretary said that, on behalf of the District, she had written to Mrs. Dobbie expressing condolences on Mr. Dobbie's death. He had been a Vice-President of the Association.

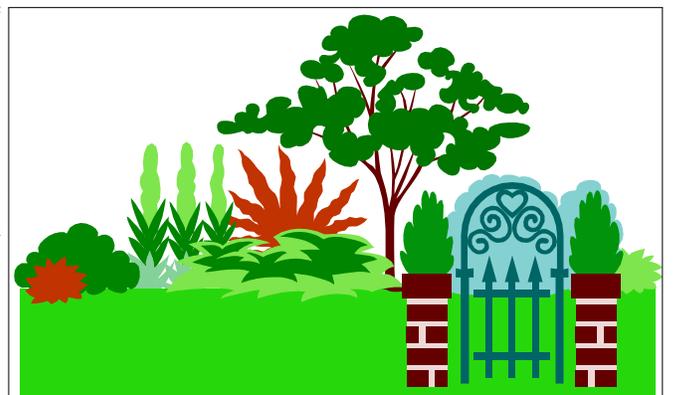
5. REPORTS

Ringling Master

The Ringling Master had circulated a copy of his report (*see page 21 - Ed*). In addition, he told the meeting that the District had been successful in ringing a quarter peal at Canterbury Cathedral. The Chairman thanked Mr. James Hardy for all his work during the year.

Secretary

The Secretary's report had been circulated (*see page 22*). It was pointed out that the Six-Bell Striking Competition had been won by the Chelsfield, not the Bromley, band. Miss Mary Andrews apologized for this error.



Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary had supplied a written report (*see pages 20+21 -Ed*), which showed that 11 new members had been elected and 24 had not paid their subscriptions. It was pointed out that Biggin Hill had not been included in the list of towers that had paid subscriptions. Mr. Rupert Cheeseman mentioned that the financial report did not show any deductions made directly by the County to cover District expenditure, for example, the cost of providing a copy of the Newsletter to each tower.

The Chairman said that Mr. Mark Jones felt that instead of Assistant Secretary, his job title should be Membership Secretary. This change was proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers and passed nem con.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All the officers, except the Secretary, were willing to stand again. The following were proposed:

Mrs. Margaret Funnell took the chair for the election of the **Chairman**:

Mr. David Holdridge Proposed by Mr. Len Morley, seconded by Miss Philippa Rooke

Ringling Master

Mr. James Hardy Proposed by Miss Christine Webb, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers

Assistant Ringling Master

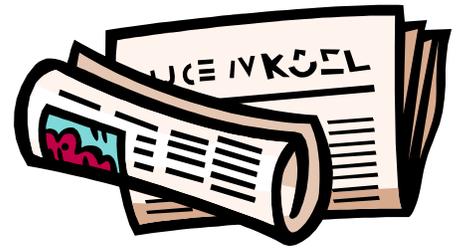
Mr. Jeremy Byers Proposed by Mr. Andrew Boyd-Bell, seconded by Mr. James Hardy

District Representatives

Mrs. Sara Hardy and Mr. Len Morley Proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Mr. James Rooke

Newsletter Editor and Press Representatives

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman and Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman Proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Mr. Nick Wilkins



Sales Representative

Mr. James Rooke Proposed by Mr. Nick Wilkins, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman

Secretary

Miss Christine Webb Proposed by Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Miss Phillips Rooke

Membership Secretary

Mr. Mark Jones Proposed by Mr. James Rooke, seconded by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman

These proposals were put to the meeting en bloc and the officers were elected nem con.

At this point the Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary warmly for her work for the District over the last forty years and presented her with four cards, a bouquet and a gift in appreciation of her service. Miss Mary

Andrews was delighted with these gifts and expressed her thanks. The Chairman then read out a tribute to Miss Andrews which had been written by Mr. Alex Britton, who was unable to attend the meeting as he was singing with the BBC Chorus in a concert at the Barbican.

7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

CHELSEFIELD

Mr. Alistair Musselwhite (jnr.)	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke
Mr. John Watson	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Jonathan Fry
Mr. Finucane Niall	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke
Miss Annabelle Sarah Wilkins (jnr.)	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. James Rooke



ERITH, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Mr. Christopher Jonathan Parry Read	Proposed by Mrs. Margaret Heald, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh
Mr. William Arthur Brookes	Proposed by Mrs. Margaret Heald, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh

Ratification

Prior to a peal at Biggin Hill:

Mr. Julian Hemper	Proposed by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Vernon Benning
-------------------	--

These new members were elected nem con.

8. PROGRAMME FOR 2004

Subject to confirmation with the Incumbents concerned, the following venues were agreed for 2004:

10 th January	Quarterly Meeting	Erith, St. John the Baptist
6 th March	Six-bell Striking Competition	Crayford
3 rd April	Quarterly Meeting	Bromley
10 th July	Quarterly Meeting	Shoreham
9 th October	Annual District Meeting	Biggin Hill
20 th November	Call Change Competition	Ringling Masters to arrange a tower
11 th December	Carol Service	Horton Kirby

Looking further ahead, Mr. James Hardy mentioned that in January 2005 the Beckenham tower would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of their hosting their first Quarterly Meeting. Members would hear more about this in due course.



9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Recruitment Working Party

Mr. Len Morley said at the last County Committee Meeting each District had been asked to nominate a ringer to form a Working Party to consider the question of recruitment of new members and to make recommendations to the Association. It was agreed that Mr. Len Morley should attend the first meeting and report back.

BRF

Mr. Len Morley pointed out that District had only raised £508 during the year for the BRF. He felt that this was not good enough and drew attention to the quiz night, which had been arranged by the Eltham ringers. Posters had been circulated to all towers and further copies were available. The Chairman asked members to consider ways of fund-raising for the BRF.



Beckenham

Mr. James Hardy mentioned that church centenary events were being held at Beckenham. On 16th November the service at 9.30 would include a celebration of the tower and bells. Visitors would be welcome.

Greenwich/Woolwich

Miss Freda Cannon asked members to phone her and check arrangements before attending ringing practices at Greenwich or Woolwich

Call Change Competition

In order that towers would know to whom Call Change Competition forms should be sent and at the request of Miss Mary Andrews, Miss Christine Webb gave members her address and telephone number:

6 Nursery Close, Swanley. BR8 7HH. Telephone: 01322 667705



Christmas on the Home Front

With reference to the item 'Christmas on the Home Front' on page 5 of the Newsletter, Mr. James Rooke drew attention to the fact that Mrs. Angela Wilkins's telephone number should read: 01689 875000.

Carol Service

Mr. James Hardy said that Mr. Mark Jones was hoping to form a District choir for the carol service on 13th December at Beckenham. Anyone wishing to take part was asked to contact Mr. Jones.

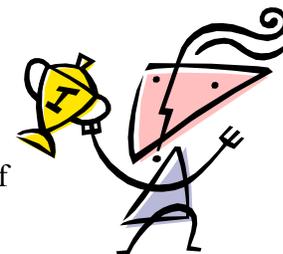
Newsletter

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman thanked everyone who had contributed to the Newsletter during the year. He went

on to remind members of forthcoming District Practices.

Call Change Competition

The Chairman encouraged towers to enter the Call Change Competition, details of which had been circulated at the meeting.



PSP Concert

The Chairman urged members to support the PSP Concert, details of which were given on page 5 of the Newsletter in an article written by Mrs. Jean Pailing.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Jeremy Byers to the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. Charles Potter, for conducting the service and for the use of the church and the bells, to Mrs. Margaret Barefoot for playing the organ and to the local ringers for preparing and serving tea.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Summary 2003

Town	Adult Citizen	Senior	Junior	Life	Associate	University	25 Years'	Total
Beckenham	9	1				1		11
Bexley	7							7
Bickley	5	1						6
Bromley	4	1	2	1				8
Bromley Common	5							5
Chelsfield	12	3	1	1	1	1		19
Chislehurst, St Nicholas	10	2		1				13
Crayford	10	2		1				13
Cudham	3	2	1					6
Dartford	4	3		1				8
Downe	5							5
Eltham	11		1					12
Erith, Christ Church	10		4					14
Erith, St John the Baptist	3	1						4
Eynsford	7	4						11
Foots Cray	6					1		7
Greenwich	2		1	1				4
Hayes	9							9
Horton Kirby	3	2						5
Lewisham	1							1
Penge	1							1
Shoreham	2							2
Sidcup	7	4	1					12
St Mary Cray	4							4
Unattached	2							2
West Wickham	7	3	1				2	13
Woolwich	7							7
Totals	156	29	12	6	1	3	2	209

Financial Statement

Count	Type	Sub	Total
156	Adult	at £9.00 each	£1404.00
74.29%			87.97%
3	University	at £0.00 each	£0.00
1.43%			0.00%
2	25 Years'	at £0.00 each	£0.00
0.95%			0.00%
6	Life Member	at £0.00 each	£0.00
2.86%			0.00%
29	Senior Citizen	at £4.50 each	£130.50
13.81%			8.18%
12	Junior	at £4.50 each	£54.00
5.71%			3.38%
1	Non-Resident Life	at £7.50 each	£7.50
0.48%			0.47%
1	Associate	at £0.00 each	£0.00
0.48%			0.00%
210	Standard Membership Subtotal		£1596.00
100.00%			100.00%

Bell Restoration Fund	£508.00
General Fund	£5.00
Subscriptions Arrears	£76.50
Associate Members' Donations *	£2.50

Sub Total **£2,188.00**

Expenditure Account

Subscriptions	0.00
BRF ^	10.00
General Fund	0.00

Sub Total **£10.00**

^ Money taken to cover general expenses

Grand Total **£2,178.00**

BRF donations 2003

Name	BRF Donation
Cannon, Freda	£10.00
Chelsfield Tower	£26.00
Crayford Tower	£405.00
St Mary Cray Tower	£10.00
West Wickham Tower	£50.00
Woolwich Tower	£7.00
Total	£508.00

Ringling Master's Report

2002-3 has been a good year for the District- many of its members have made progress in many areas of ringing, several "firsts" in new methods, and several new members have joined us. Unfortunately, it has not been a good year for me – several serious attacks of back trouble have left me with very little time to do many of the things that I wished to do this year, and I feel that the organisation of events etc. has suffered as a result.

At Beckenham, the number of new recruits has tailed-off, and we now need a new initiative to encourage more to come along. I wonder if this is the case in general? We must be careful not to be complacent after the successes of the Millennium efforts, otherwise the benefits of all that hard work could be diminished.

There has been a fair turnout for most practices, and a good standard of ringing has been achieved for the most part. While I am pleased at the progress made by many of our members, and at the attendance levels, we still seem to be failing to attract "locals" to attend when the practice comes to their tower. This is a long term "illness" for the district, and I'm not sure if there is a cure. Any ideas would help.

At County level, the 8-bell competition was very successful, with Lewisham coming first. Unfortunately, Chelsfield did not manage another win in the 6-bell this time, but there's always next year! I hope that next year will see us win both competitions, keeping Lewisham District firmly on top.

The Newsletter has again been great this year, and I would like to thank Rupert and Cathy for keeping the District informed of news and events. The web-site has not been fully up-to-date as it should have been, but is now catching up. Prospective practice dates are being finalised now.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the other officers for their hard work in keeping the District going, with a special thank you to Mary for her long service, and to all of the members for their effort and loyalty. Thank you.

James Hardy



Secretary's Report

Meetings and Competitions

Quarterly Meeting have been held at Biggin Hill, Bromley Common and Sidcup. The six-bell Striking Competition took place at Chelsfield and was won by the Chelsfield band. The remaining events for the year are the Call Change Competition at Downe on 15th November and the Carol Service at Beckenham on 13th December.

Death

It was with very great regret that we learned of the death, last Monday, of Peter Dear. Peter had been a loyal member of the band at Crayford for many years.

Newsletter

The District is most fortunate in having an excellent Newsletter produced by Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman. We are indeed grateful to them for the energy and enthusiasm which they put into this every quarter.

Membership and Ringing

You will, I hope, receive separate reports from the Ringing Master; also from the Assistant Secretary concerning membership and income/expenditure for the year.

On a personal note...

Since this is my last report as District Secretary, I should like to take the opportunity of recording a few observations. I joined the Association at the Quarterly Meeting at Beckenham on 31st January 1953. It was on that day and before I entered the ringing room that I first 'experienced' the late Phil Corby in action. During subsequent years I rang with him on a number of, always lively, occasions. Among many other characters, I remember the late Alexander Young, who was, I believe, a London ringer, and always wore a wing collar and, of course, the Three Wise Men.

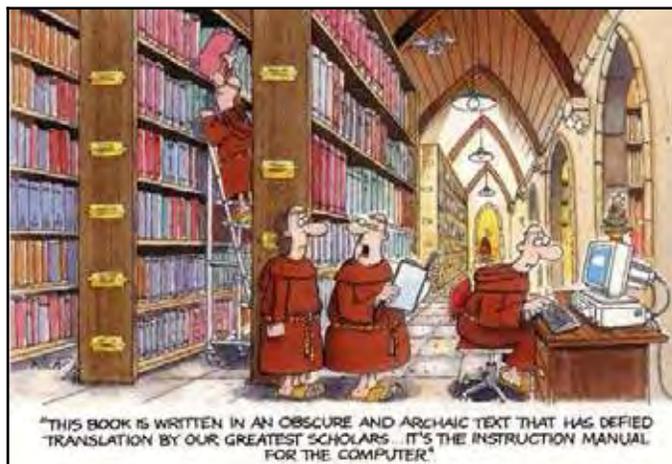
Quarterly Meeting are much more peaceful now than in my youth. Heated arguments among the male ringers were not uncommon! When I took over from Alf Hill, I was the first lady Secretary in the District, having previously been the first lady Ringing Master in 1956, 1957 and 1958, and the first lady District Representative, with Arthur Richards of West Wickham, in 1958 and 1959. After my election as District Secretary, one ringer actually wrote to me and made it quite clear that a man should have been elected District Secretary. It was not a job for a lady. Wickedly, I did wonder if he wanted the position himself!

I have enjoyed my many years of ringing, particularly teaching new ringers both at Bexley and, many years ago, a

new band at Woolwich also, more recently, helping to teach the new bands at Bickley and Horton Kirby. I have happy memories of ringers and ringing in many towers throughout the British Isles on outings and holidays.

My very best wishes go to my successor as District Secretary and, to members of the District, just one piece of advice: however large or small your band is, keep recruiting and training new ringers. The future of the exercise depends on it and it is a responsibility that we all share.

Mary Andrews



Handbooks

The way handbooks have been distributed in the past is for the Secretary (and more recently me) to take them along to District events and for people to collect them for their own towers and near-by towers.

This has worked well until recently when I've not been able to attend so many District events (or any for that matter!) and I can't see this improving in 2004.

You can all tell what I'm working towards can't you?

I would like a kind volunteer to take charge of the whole handbooks issue as currently it's not fair on members who have to wait for their books (patiently). Some people have still not received their 2003 copies (though this is more to do with the fact that I haven't got enough to round this year - any news on this Dickon?). It's not that I don't want the job - it's because I know someone else will do it more effectively.

It's not a big responsibility: you just have to remember to bring the things along everywhere you go. I can provide a list of members with their towers.

If anybody's interested, let me know.

Mark Jones

KCACR Meeting 22.11.03

This was the first meeting with the new committee structure (max. of 2 people per District, normally the District Reps but can be another Officer provided they are introduced at beginning of meeting), there were 16 people present and progress was much swifter.

Publicity

New KCACR leaflets are now available. Len Morley has a small supply or alternatively Frank Lewis can provide larger quantities. The website still attracts visitors (average 14 a day). Promotional ideas for the display panels would be appreciated by Frank Lewis, who will be producing a sketch of proposed layout for Committee approval prior to finally completion. He is still seeking new ones should anyone know of any that may be available.

Bell Restoration

Grants of £4000 were approved for re-hanging the bells in existing frames at Bekesbourne and Cliff. Mention was also made that some Dioceses are now seeking a faculty for small works required on church bells. Towers are asked to advise the Incumbent and PCC in writing prior to undertaking any work, especially if you wish the Church to pay.

Peter Romney is due to have a site meeting at St.John's, Deptford following issues highlighted by Chris Cooper who is anxious to ring there. It was agreed that The District Ringing Master would be contacted to ensure that a representative of Lewisham District may also be present.

125th Anniversary Service and Dinner.

This was scheduled to be held at Canterbury Cathedral, however due to a problem at the Cathedral it has now been brought forward a week, the new date being *May 14th 2005*. A service in the Cathedral will be followed by a silver service lunch in an adjacent Cathedral Building where the association is committed to catering for a minimum of 100 people.



Membership Database

Peter Dale explained that in 1995 it was suggested that a membership database would be useful for the association. Since this time a lot of work has been done gathering data but consideration must now be given to the expected output. For instance, do we wish it to be able to provide past member queries or identify where subscriptions had been paid, etc. It was pointed out that Maidstone District already run an Excel programme for membership payments. A final agreement was reached that a sub-group lead by the Chairman, would analyse the issue and re-specify data and future requirements. Sara Hardy has volunteered to represent the Lewisham District and serve on this group.

Recruitment and Young Ringers Group

The following people will participate on this group:-

Ashford	Fred Pearson
Canterbury	Philip Larter
Lewisham	Len Morley
Maidstone	TBC
Tonbridge	Astrid Fairclough
Rochester	TBC



Anyone with ideas that can be fed into this group, please contact Len Morley.

Striking Competitions

8 Bell Contest to be held at Ospringe on June 26th 2004, 2.45 draw. Method to be Double Oxford Bob Major.



6 Bell Contest, to be hosted by the Lewisham District, will be held at Penge (subject to confirmation) on September 25th '04.

Essex Trophy to be held at Hornchurch on September 11th '04.

Officers 2004

Any current KCACR officers wanting to stand down at the next AGM (Easter) must have their intended resignation in by January 1st 2004. The Handbook Editor and Membership Secretary have already given notice that they will not be standing again. Anyone wishing to be considered for these positions should let your District Representatives know as soon as possible. It has been suggested that the Handbook Editors role can be split to ease the workload with one person doing the editorial work and a second person taking care of the advertising.

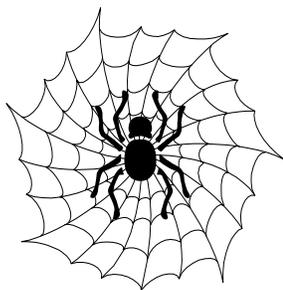
Child Protection Act

Problems have been experienced in some Parishes where PCC's have been asking for documentation to be kept in towers where training involving children takes place. There is a guideline on "best practice" which can be found on the Central Council web site or in the back of the diary. KCACR will support all policies put in place by the respective Dioceses. This may mean that tutors will need to be Police Checked and Tower Captains should ensure that permission forms (available on Central Council Web site) are completed by the child's parent or guardian prior to ringing/teaching. The ultimate decision about procedures can vary dependent upon the PCC.

Forthcoming Events

Dover will host a regatta on the weekend of 14th and 15th August 2004, where activities all along the sea front will include a firework display, dragon boat racing and a mobile belfry. It is hoped that each District will be able to provide a band for a quarter peal to add to the festivities.

Len Morley



What's been happening - News from the Website

District Carol Service at Beckenham

The District Carol Service was held at Beckenham on Saturday December 13th. It was attended by approximately 30 members, perhaps a little disappointing, but those who came enjoyed an excellent service. The service included six lessons and carols, with two solos by Lucy Weston and two organ solos and a voluntary by Mark Jones, who played the organ throughout. Mark also arranged the order of the service. My thanks go to both of them for all their hard work and skill.

After the service, we enjoyed some mulled wine, mince pies, stollen, extra ringing and chat! An excellent start to the festive season! May I wish all District members (and everyone else!) a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable and successful New Year.

District Practice at Crayford

The Practice at Crayford on Saturday 6th December was attended by 16 people who rang Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Crayford Little Bob Major!?!?! , Cambridge, Yorkshire and 8 Spliced S Major. Most of the ringing was good. Please come to the next practice at Beckenham on 24th January.

District Practice at Chelsfield

The Practice at Chelsfield was held on November 15th, after the Competition at Downe. I was particularly pleased to welcome some of the Shoreham ringers, one of whom rang plain hunt for the first time, and did so very well - well done! We rang Cambridge, Beer Treble Place Minor, Grandsire Doubles, Stedman Doubles, Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 5, Plain Bob Minor and Single Oxford Bob Minor. Approximately 14 people attended the Practice.

Annual District Meeting at Bexley - 2003

The 2003 A.D.M. was held at Bexley on Saturday 11th October. Ringing commenced at 3.00 p.m. and finished with a course of Bristol Surprise Major for the service touch. After the service, the local band provided a lovely tea, which was followed by the business meeting. After debating several issues, the officers for the period 2003-4 were elected. The officers for 2002-3 were all re-elected with one notable exception - Mary Andrews retires after 40 years of service to the District in the post of Secretary, having also served in other capacities in the past. The Chairman read a letter from Alex Britton, honouring Mary's commitment and service which was both complimentary and humorous, after which he

presented, on behalf of the members, a gift, some flowers, and four cards signed by District Members. Our thanks go to Mary for her long and distinguished service.

The job of Secretary was split into two posts a couple of years ago, and whilst we retain the Secretary position, the position of Assistant Secretary has now been re-named Membership Secretary. Mark Jones was elected to fill this role, having served as Assistant last year. Christine Webb was elected to the post of Secretary, and will deal with correspondence, organising meetings, minutes, etc.

Dates and venues for 2004 events were chosen and appear in the District Meetings / Practices / Other Forthcoming Events sections of the web-site.

The election of several new members followed, along with the usual A.O.B. and the meeting finished somewhat later than usual. As a result, evening ringing at Eltham never got started, but the Pub did!

James Hardy

Upcoming District Events

Sat 10th Jan District Meeting: Erith, St. John's, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service.

Sat 24th Jan District Practice: Beckenham, 7-9p.m.

Sat 7th Feb District Practice: St. Mary Cray, 7-9p.m.

Sat 6th Mar 6 Bell Striking Comp: Crayford, 2.30p.m. draw.

Sat 13th Mar District Practice: Dartford, 7-9p.m.

Sat 3rd Apr District Meeting: Bromley Parish, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service

Sat 24th Apr District Practice: Horton Kirby (tbc), 7-9p.m.

Sat 8th May District Practice: Chislehurst, St Nicholas (tbc)



BRASTED BELL RESTORATION PROJECT

"The Archbishop's Garden" - a son et lumière

The fascinating story of Brasted and the valley, from the Beaker People to traffic calming. Also, an exhibition of historical local photographs. Wine, soft drinks and nibbles available. Performances in St Martin's, Brasted - Friday 30th January (8pm) and Saturday 31st January (6pm and 8pm). Tickets £5 (£3.50 6pm performance) from 01959 563767 or on the door if still available.