



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

APRIL 2004

Eltham's Recipe for Success

On Saturday 6th March, five teams met at St Paulinus Crayford, to take part in the Lewisham District Striking Competition. After each team had completed their test piece and had their fill of tea and cakes, with thanks to the Crayford ringers, the judges, Katie Town and Andy Bradford from London, announced the results of what turned out to be a closely fought contest with ringing that any Sunday service band would have been proud to produce. The task of choosing between the top two teams was particularly difficult, with little to differentiate between them, other than rhythm and consistency.

Commiserations must go to the Chelsfield band for coming such a close second, when the verdict could so easily have gone the other way. Nevertheless, as a member of the winning team, and one who first entered this competition about thirty years ago, I am very grateful to the judges for giving me and my fellow Eltham team members our first taste of success and our first opportunity to partake in the County Six Bell Striking Competition at Penge in September, an event that we look forward to with fear and trepidation!

Could it be that our new tower captain, David Holdridge, has come up with a winning formula? What is the secret of our success? Is it the crack band of ringers David has carefully selected, or the hours and hours of practice we put in? Well, all will be revealed no doubt, but for now I'm afraid our recipe for success must remain a closely guarded secret, in case our competitors seek to gain a strategic advantage by adopting similar tactics! We'll just have to wait until September to see if we can repeat our amazing feat.

For the record-keepers and historians, the marks were as follows:

1st	Eltham	91%
2nd	Chelsfield	89%
3rd	Beckenham	83%
4th	Erith	81%
5th	Crayford	77%



Ian Mills

Next District Event

District Meeting
St. John the Baptist, Eltham
(NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)
on Saturday 3rd April

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

Names for tea to
David Holdridge on 020 8856 6***
or email david.holdridge@ntlworld.com
or DMSD-SEC1@defence.mod.uk
by **Wednesday 31st March please.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at St John's Erith on Saturday 10 January 2004
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - District Six Bell Striking Competition
4. KCACR committee meeting report
 - St John's Deptford bells
 - Possible subscription increase
5. Recruitment and Young Ringers Group
 - What makes a successful tower?
 - Would a budget from County help?
6. Events
 - County AGM at Rochester
 - District events
7. Bell Restoration Fund – fund raising ideas
 - 120 club
 - District open day
 - Raffle
8. Election of new members
9. Any other business
10. Vote of thanks



Chairman's Bit

Usually at this time of year, I'd be passing on my congratulations to the winning team in the District Six Bell Striking Competition, but this year that might look like blowing my own trumpet. But any striking competition performance is first and foremost a team effort, so I feel safe in congratulating the other members of the victorious Eltham team for their performance. Last year in this column I commented that Chelsfield were not invincible – thanks for proving me right! But it was, as the judges said, a very close-run thing between first and second place, and I'm sure Chelsfield will be back next year. Eltham now go forward to represent the District at the County Competition on 25th September, which we are hosting this year at Penge. Whether we will be able to capitalise on home advantage remains to be seen!

This is also the time of year that many towers take advantage of the Holy Week break from ringing to hold the tower AGM. It is easy to regard them as a bit of a bore, but AGMs are a good opportunity to take stock of your tower's progress over the past year, and to make plans for the coming twelve months. It's a time for old officers to retire, and for new ones to be elected. It's not an easy job holding any office of responsibility, so I'd like to add my personal thanks to all those who are retiring from office this year, and my best wishes to those taking up the reins for the first time.

Finally, don't forget the County AGM on Easter Bank Holiday Monday (see below). This year it is being hosted by the Rochester District, with the Service being held in Rochester Cathedral. Hopefully, we can show a good turnout from this District for this important event, especially during the Rochester Diocese's 1400th anniversary year.

David Holdridge

Secretary's Bit

The agenda for the Quarterly meeting is published in this Newsletter.

The issues we are planning to discuss at this meeting are:

Recruitment and Retention of Ringers

A county committee has been set up to address these issues. It is looking particularly at how to attract young ringers. Len Morley is our representative and would welcome your ideas on what makes a successful tower. Would having a budget from County help? [See Len's report on page 15 for more details.]

Bell Restoration Fund

Since the last meeting I have found more details about how other Districts run their 120 clubs. I shall be reporting back to the meeting on this so we can decide whether we want to go ahead with this for 2005. It is probably not realistic to have the first draw before then, as there is some preparatory work to be done in advance, not least in persuading people to buy shares! Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone and Tonbridge Districts all have a 120 club, and all appear to run on similar lines. There is information on each relevant District website. If you are interested, these can be accessed through links from the County website www.kcacr.org.uk



Any more fund raising ideas are always welcome!

Chris Webb

The AGM of the KCACR will be held at Rochester on Easter Monday, 12th April 2004.

Lunch tickets will cost £6 and are available from Neil Jones, *** High Street, Wouldham, Rochester ME1 3**. Requests for tickets should be no later than 31st March, and should be accompanied by an SAE and a cheque made out to Neil Jones. If vegetarian meals are required, please notify Neil. There will be a licensed bar.

The meeting will be at 2.30pm, also in The King's School Hall. Note that the election of officers will include the CC reps for the new triennium starting in 2005. The Handbook Editor, Publicity Convenor and Membership Secretary are not seeking re-election, but all other officers are prepared to stand again. Completed nominations forms should be sent to the General Secretary, Margaret Funnell, 40 Trubridge Road, Hoo, Rochester, ME3 9EW, by 31st March please.

9.00 to 9.45	Swanscombe	9.00 to 9.45	Wormshill
9.15 to 10.00	Northfleet	9.15 to 10.00	Milton Regis
9.45 to 10.30	Milton next Gravesend	9.45 to 10.30	Gillingham
10.15 to 11.00	Meopham	10.15 to 11.00	Rainham
10.45 to 11.30	Cobham	10.45 to 11.30	Wouldham
12.00 Service. Rochester Cathedral, 1.00 Lunch. King's School Hall, The Precincts, 2.30 AGM, King's School Hall			
5.15 to 6.00	Frindsbury	5.15 to 6.00	
6.00 to 6.45	Cliffe	6.00 to 6.45	Sittingbourne
7.30 to 9.00	Hoo St Werburg	7.30 to 9.00	Tunstall

Editorial



Congratulations go to Eltham for their close win over the defending champions Chelsfield in the 6 Bell Staking Competition. Good luck at Penge in September.

Recruitment and the BRF are two of the topics up for discussion at the District meeting. These are regular problem topics so if any one has any new ideas they'd like to share then please come along and share them.

Elsewhere in the County, the Maidstone District have produced a video entitled "Look to and Learn Plain Hunt". It costs £11.50 and a poster advertising it has been included in all the tower copies. Brasted are holding a Country Fair to raise money for their bell restoration project. (see page 16 and poster).

Happy Easter.

Rupert and Cathy



Once again Len Dumper has done us proud with his organization of the Chislehurst and Eltham Ringers Annual Dinner held, as in past years, at the splendid Chislehurst Golf Club.

There were lots of posh frocks and DJ's to be seen and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. Special thanks must go to James Tate, who regaled us with his gap year adventures in Australia, and the joint effort of David Holdridge and Hilary Smith on the doings of Chislehurst and Eltham's social and ringing year.

Marnie Knight

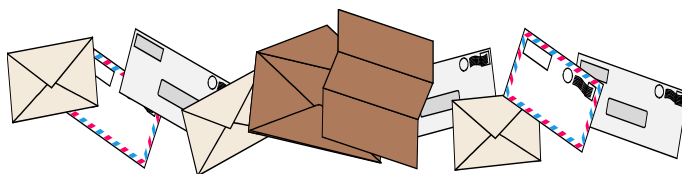


Jeremy Johnson and I are getting married on the 17th April at St Mark's Church Biggin Hill. I would love to see as many of my ringing friends at the ceremony at 3.30pm and for cake and bubbly at the church afterwards. There will be ringing before (for a prior wedding) and after. I hope to see you there

Jenne Gay

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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 -
26th June 2004

to

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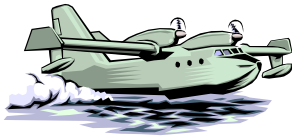
✉ rupert@crayford42.fsnet.co.uk
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Obituary for CANON JOHN ARDLEY (1939-2004)

John Ardley died on Sunday 1st February 2004, on the Eve of The Feast of The Presentation of Christ in The Temple.

John was born in Southend Lane, Bellingham in July 1939 and went to St. Dunstan's Church. He was a very active member at St. D's for many years and was one of several parishioners who eventually went into the ministry. John was educated in South East London, going to the Central Boys School and from there to work in insurance in London.

He was then called up to do National Service (one of the last to do so) in the RAF. John then decided to train as a teacher and went to King Alfred's College, Winchester. He returned to South East London and eventually became Head of RE at Malory School.



It was at this time that he felt called to the vocation of priest and he enrolled on the Southwark Ordination Course in 1970. In the same year he was successful in gaining a Bachelor of Divinity degree from London University.

John was made Deacon in 1972 and went to St. John's Caterham to serve his first curacy and was ordained Priest in 1973.

In 1975, the redundant bells of St. Mary-at-Lambeth, were installed in the fine tower at St. John's, Caterham and John started to learn to ring.

In 1976, John, his wife Jeanette and their children Annette and Jonathan, moved to Abbey Wood when he was appointed Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church (1976-1984). He joined the ringers at St. Mary's, Woolwich and continued to be a member until his death.

At Abbey Wood his ministry developed and his experience in the outside world and his outlook on life endeared him to many people. Such was his success that he was made Sub-Dean of Woolwich (1977-1984). Along with the late Rev. Michael Harding, John and several parishioners were responsible for setting up a church bar which proved to be an invaluable source of income but also a social link with the wider community.

I became Organist at Abbey Wood in 1981- John and I became firm friends from the first day we met - and I can vouch for his wonderful approach to Christian living which John inspired in the parish and further afield. An example of this was on one Advent Sunday when I had overslept - John had noted my absence about ten minutes before the service and phoned me. Quite calmly, he advised me of the situation and said something like "Don't worry, we can start



by singing the Litany unaccompanied and we'll see you when you get here".

John was noted for a sense of humour. At the time, the Borough Dean of Greenwich was Canon Clifford Lacey. One day whilst walking down from the vicarage, John came across some graffiti on the wall of the local post office. This read: "Dean Lacey's got a spotty bum" - John found this very amusing, even though it was pointed out that Dean Lacey was a lad from the local comprehensive school and not the Borough Dean!

John was not known for his sporting prowess but he did walk on the hallowed turf of the old Wembley Stadium, albeit as part of the crowd for the visit of Pope John Paul in 1982.

At Abbey Wood (only one bell) the congregation had nine ringers - ringing regularly took place at Woolwich. In 1983, the church celebrated its' 75th anniversary and as well as the usual celebrations, a quarter peal was rung at St. John's, Erith, the nearest tower to Abbey Wood.

John was always keen to organise rather special events - examples were an outdoor service in the ruins of Lesnes Abbey and a Deanery confirmation service on the parade ground of The Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich.

There were some splendid ringers outings arranged by Richard Bing. These were combined with the choir and other parishioners taking part and Evensong being sung towards the end of the day. There were also parish outings to Walsingham which John advertised as being a "mixture of the holy and the alcoholic". Wine tasting evenings at the Ardley's house were always a delight as were the Vicarage parties.

John moved to Sydenham in 1984 to become Priest in Charge of All Saints and St Michael's Churches - a challenging merger of two difficult parishes. John was appointed Rural Dean of West Lewisham from 1995 when he was able to hand over St. Michael's to one of his curates as a separate parish again and he became Vicar of All Saints from 1995. In the same year, he was made an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral and became Ecumenical Dean of Lewisham from 2000. He was active in many areas of Diocesan life and served on many committees and working parties.

John was probably the most knowledgeable person about the history and workings of the Southern Region Railway and he and his son Jonathan had a splendid model railway layout.

The last important event John was responsible for was the Archdeaconry of Lewisham Service at Southwark Cathedral in May 2003. I was privileged as John asked me to organise the music for this with the aim of everyone being able to have a good sing! John reminded us all that after the service he looked forward to seeing many for a drink in *The Market Porter*. It was truly a splendid occasion which included a

John Simpson

hymn for which John had written the words *Christ Our Passover Is Slain* and I composed a new tune for this as a gift for his forthcoming 30th Anniversary of Ordination. We were due to celebrate this anniversary in October 2003 but John was taken ill on the day before the service. The service had to be postponed – sadly it was never held.



John spent several weeks in hospital and had a pacemaker fitted. He came out of hospital a short while before Christmas and was able to take some part in services. John was able to join us for our annual Ringers Dinner on 9th January, although he was clearly not himself. Unfortunately, he had a stroke on 28th January and was readmitted to hospital where he died on 1st February.

John enjoyed ringing and was delighted when asked to ring Stedman Doubles on practice nights. As far as my records show, John rang about 18-20 quarter peals, one half peal (a peal attempt called round) but most of all he was a committed member of the band at Woolwich. In recent years, we have been a joint band with the ringers at Greenwich and our local hostelry has been the Ashburnham Arms. Here, John became a very competent player on the bar billiards table.

John was an excellent and extremely hard working priest who was an inspiration to lots of people in so many ways. Above all, he had a great sense of humour, was down to earth and could relate to the 'average person in the street'. He was a caring person, an excellent listener and often helped many people in a calm, compassionate and constructive way. We shall never forget the times when the odd drunk strayed up into the ringing chamber – John treated them with tact and care, usually laying his hands upon them and offering to say a prayer for them – they always went away with a feeling of thanks.

In heaven, John will certainly be pulling on some bell ropes, and pulling a few pints. Most of all he will be pulling for Christ in the midst of the Communion of Saints. John was a great friend and we shall all miss him very much. May he rest in peace – and rise in glory.

Graham Long



The Woolwich/Greenwich band were shocked to hear that John, who had a pacemaker fitted last year and was thought to be well on the road to recovery, had had a stroke and died on Sunday 1st February.

He joined the Association in 1977 and was an enthusiastic member of the Woolwich/Greenwich band when his duties allowed. He did not have time to attend District events, but preached at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 1984.

Whilst Vicar of Abbey Wood, he had a band of ringers in the congregation but no bells, so they practised at Woolwich instead.

Freda Canon

It was with great sadness that the Christchurch, Erith band learnt of the untimely death of John Simpson on January 22nd, aged 53. On the day of his funeral we rang all 8 bells half muffled, with the help of ringers from St John's Erith and Dartford, for about 20 minutes at around the time the family were due to leave the house.

John came to us as a learner in the autumn of 1999 and was thus able to join with us for the ringing to greet the Millennium. It took a little while before he could grasp the idea that ringing wasn't just about strength; being a big chap, to him that was the obvious way to get out of trouble! I suspect that like many adult learners it was something he wished he'd found out years before. He made steady progress and had rung a few quarter peals and had been keen to ring in our peal attempt in March for the Diocesan 1400th anniversary

John was a faithful member of our band and was always early, I'm sure that if most of us lived as close as John did to the church, we wouldn't even have left home at the time John was to be seen waiting on the steps. The only times he was missing was when he was at a Knights meeting, or helping out at Aylesford Priory. He was always keen to join in and enjoyed visits to other towers for meetings and particularly the teas! John was a Roman Catholic and belonged to Our Lady of the Angels but this didn't stop him helping out at our bazaars (on the hoop-la which the ringers have been lumbered with since we were 'volunteered' by Alfred Hill: and according to the plaque in our ringing chamber he died in 1967!) and he also helped with the locking up of the hall.



He was a great help and a tireless worker when we were overhauling the fittings to our bells. He spent many cold and dirty hours helping with the fitting of new pulleys, then with the changing of the bearings and then scraping and painting the frame. When we had the bellhanger from Whitechapel last January come to change the treble headstock, John provided bed and breakfast.

The last time I saw John was just before Christmas when he was in the Royal Marsden. He was looking forward to the time when he would be able to come ringing again and commented on how he didn't think much of the Sunday ringing he had heard from his hospital bed!

He was a loyal and faithful servant and will be greatly missed by us all.

Rachel Backhouse

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Beckenham staggers on, welcoming the regular visitors who make our practice so good each week. Our thanks to all our visitors for coming and helping out.

Currently the practice ranges from Rounds through to Spliced Surprise Major. At the advanced end we are working up to six Spliced (Standard Eight less Pudsey and London). For those who have some spare brain power, try learning Belfast. We have a go at that when the spirit moves us.

The tower decorating continues and we hope to complete it in the next month or so. Please bring your sunglasses. You have been warned.

If you do fancy an evening ringing please come and join us – please phone to check about practices in April and May as we tend to have a number of concerts in church which may mean that we have to move or cancel practice.

Jeremy Byers

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

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



CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Like Beckenham, we continue to stagger on and we too are indebted to our regular visitors.

We've continued to attempt a quarter a month and have so far scored Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge Minor (having met short for Triples) and a 1440 of Plain Bob Minor as a birthday compliment to Debra.

February saw our annual tower outing which this year took us to 5 towers in Essex. Ranging from the anti-clockwise, and hard to strike, Stansted Mountfitchet to the grand church but very quiet (until we found the speaker!) bells at Thaxted. Thanks to Debra for organising the towers and to our many honorary Crayford ringers without whom we would not have rung half the things that we did.

In March we hosted the District 6 Bell Striking Competition where our tea, coffee and cakes went down better than our ringing did with the judges. Congratulations to Eltham on a hard fought win.

Rupert Cheeseman

CUDHAM

Practice Monday (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DEPTFORD

Occasional ringing arranged by the ringers from Greenwich/Woolwich. Contact Graham Long for further details/requests to ring:

graham.long@priory.bromley.sch.uk
020 8244 4*** (home)
07229 820*** (mobile)

We recently held a practice at St. John's when several of us braved the blizzard, snow and ice. There was a visiting group from Essex who were on an outing in the area. There was some very good ringing of Cambridge Surprise Major and Grandsire Triples.

Graham Long

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham



ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

The year started on a high note, with our fifth annual dinner at the Chislehurst Golf Club, held jointly with St Nicholas Chislehurst – although there were a good number of friends and fellow-ringers from other District towers present, including Dartford, Beckenham and Crayford. [Full report elsewhere?] {On page 3 and we certainly concur that it was a very enjoyable evening - Ed}

During the second half of last year, the second-Monday Surprise Practices went through a bad patch, and for a number of months in a row there were insufficient ringers to hold a practice. As an experiment, we decided to arrange a quarter-peal instead. The first of these (Yorkshire Major) was rung on 12th January, with successful attempts at Rutland (February) and Stedman Triples (March) – yes, I know Stedman isn't Surprise, but some may say it's a lot trickier!

We have had one visiting band so far this year, from St Mary Abbots Kensington, who rang a peal of London Major.

Finally, the big news was our surprise victory in the District 6 Bell Striking Competition – surprising to us, anyway! [see report on page 1 - Ed]

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

Following our recent AGM, Julian Hemper has been appointed Tower Secretary for both Eynsford & Farningham and any enquiries regarding ringing at either tower may be made through him on 01322 861***.

Watch this space for further news in the future!

Julian Hemper

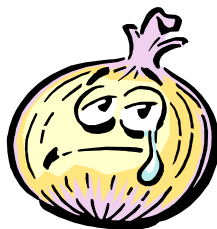
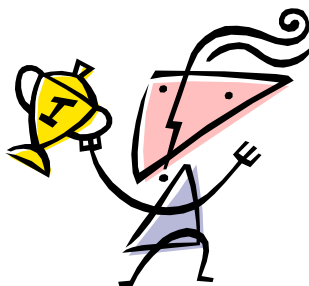
FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Life at Foots Cray is never easy. As some of you know, we had to stop ringing a couple of months ago when cracks appeared in the church ceiling and



then a chunk of plaster descended to floor level. It was decided that we would play safe and cease ringing until the surveyors said otherwise.

In the interim we attended practices at the Annunciation, Chislehurst, Sidcup and St.Mary Cray and we offer our thanks to them for their hospitality. I am pleased to say that we have been given the OK and will resume ringing for both services and practice nights from Easter, although there will be no practise on April 14th. As usual, we would love to see visitors, especially those who are happy to help us extend our repertoire.

Margaret Macey

GREENWICH

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

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

Not a lot to report since the last newsletter. Our new ringers are progressing well under the watchful eye of Lesley. They joined together with the young Chelsfield ringers when they came to our tower in March, which was very good practice for them particularly, to ring with others of the same age, although the Chelsfield ringers are more advanced. We hope they will soon be up to Sunday ringing standard so some of us may get the occasional lie in!

We are not sure if it is the improved standard of our ringing or just coincidence, but this year we have 9 weddings in our church compared to just 1 last year.

We are still working hard at Grandsire – it's a slow process – but we can now ring it on Sundays! At least one person in the village noticed, because he asked if we'd learnt a new tune!

Visitors our always welcome to our tower, but be warned, we work you really hard!

Sue Allport

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45



SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

With Phillipa's help and perseverance, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel for plain hunt. With a crew of helpers brought along by Phillipa, we have finally, after many tortuous and exasperated attempts to master any of it, had a practice night where the penny dropped. Hopefully this will be the start of a new phase for all of us.

We are planning our first ringing outing in May and look forward to ringing together at Kemsing, Brasted Speldhurst and Leigh, none of which would have been possible without the help and support from Frank and Phillipa.

Yvonne Avery

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

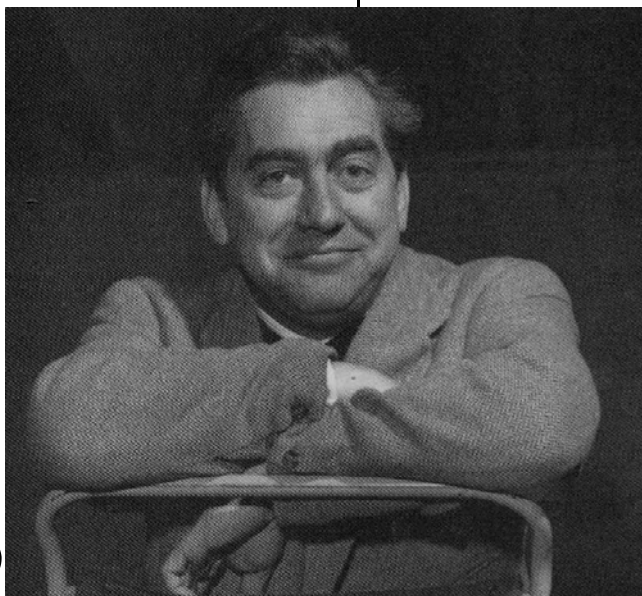
WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00

Hulton Archive Picture Collection



"A pint! That's very nearly an armful!"

Tony Hancock's blood donor sketch may be nearly 50 years old but it can still raise a laugh. Of course. Tony was wrong about that pint...

Actually, we've never taken a pint of blood from anyone. That myth goes right back to the famous Hancock sketch, 'The Blood Donor'. Hancock's immortal words seem imprinted on the British collective memory. "A pint! Why that's very nearly an arm full!" protests the comedian when he decides to "give so that others may live."

So it's not surprising that so many people still think donors give a pint of blood. You don't. A pint is actually 568ml, but an average donation is 470ml. We call it a unit. We used to collect blood in glass bottles that looked rather like milk bottles, which we're sure has also helped to perpetuate the pint of blood myth.

There are plenty of other myths out there too. Over the years, as science and medical understanding have progressed, our rules about who can and can't give blood have changed many times. But often it takes longer for the message to get out to donors, the public and the wider health care community.

The truth about jaundice

Take jaundice. Many people were told that because they'd had jaundice as a baby, they couldn't give blood. Years ago that was correct, but, since the introduction of the test for hepatitis, now generally anyone who has had jaundice as a baby can donate. Yet, time and time again members of the public are surprised when we tell them it will be OK to give blood.

Then there is drinking. Often people tell us 'You won't want my blood, I drink too much.' However, drinking alcohol in moderation before giving blood is no problem. But if you are drunk or very hung over you should not donate as you are not well enough at that time.

How about smoking? Many people believe they can't give blood because they smoke. This has never been the case - in fact in the very early days of blood donation, cigarette rations were actually handed out after giving blood. Of course, we stopped that particular practice years ago!

Our recent advice was not to smoke for two hours after donating. We now think that's being over-cautious so we're withdrawing it.

Giving life can begin at 40.

There is some misunderstanding about age too. Since 1998 we have been promoting the new age criteria, 17 to 60 for new donors, and up to 70 for regular donors (if you are aged

between 60 and 70 and have given blood in the last five years you may continue giving).

People in their 40s and 50s can think it's too late to start giving. Changing this impression is proving one of our most difficult challenges. New donors joining in their 40s and 50s can be among the most dedicated donors we have. So please remind your friends that saving lives can begin at 40!



We could go on about the myths of blood donation, the needle size, whether it hurts, fainting and so on. The list is as long as your arm. Also, with over 450 rules governing the donor selection process, things change all the time. Which could be how new myths begin of course! But the rules are there for very good reasons - and only change for very good reasons.

That's why it's so important that each time you come to give blood you treat it like the first, as either your health or our rules could have changed since your last donation.

From The Donor Summer 2003

Don't forget the Blood Donor Helpline number 0845 7 711 711

Are you getting old?

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 60's, 70's and early 80's probably shouldn't have survived, our baby cots were covered with brightly coloured lead-based paint which was promptly chewed and licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, or latches on doors or cabinets and it was fine to play with pans.

When we rode our bikes, we wore no helmets, just flip flops and fluorescent 'spooky dokey's' on our wheels.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or airbags - riding in the passenger seat was a treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle and it tasted the same.

We ate chips, bread and butter pudding and drank fizzy pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle or can and no-one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then went top speed down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into stinging nettles a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and could play all day, as long as we were back before it got dark. No one was able to reach us and no one minded.

We did not have PlayStations or X-Boxes, no video games at all. No 99 channels on TV, no videotape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet chat rooms. We had friends, we went outside and found them.

We played elastics and street rounders, and sometimes that ball really hurt.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones but there were no law suits.

We had full on fist fights but no prosecution followed from other parents.

We played knock-and-run and were actually afraid of the owners catching us.

We walked to friend's homes.

We also, believe it or not, WALKED to school; we didn't rely on Mummy or Daddy to drive us to school, which was just round the corner.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls.

We rode bikes in packs of 7 and wore our coats by only the hood.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law.

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them. Congratulations!



Pass this on to others who have had the luck to grow as real kids, before lawyers and government regulated our lives, for our own good.

For those of you who aren't old enough, thought you might like to read about us.

This my friends, is surprisingly frightening.....and it might put a smile on your face: The majority of students in universities today were born in 1983.....They are called youth.

They have never heard of We are the World, We are the children, and the Uptown Girl they know is by Westlife not Billy Joel.

They have never heard of Rick Astley, Bananarama, Nena or Belinda Carlisle.

For them, there has always been only one Germany and one Vietnam.

AIDS has existed since they were born.

CD's have existed since they were born.

Michael Jackson has always been white.

To them John Travolta has always been round in shape and they can't imagine how this fat guy could be a god of dance.

They believe that Charlie's Angels and Mission Impossible are films from last year.

They can never imagine life before computers.

They'll never have pretended to be the A Team, Red Hand Gang or the Famous Five.

They'll never have applied to be on Jim'll Fix It or Why Don't You.

They can't believe a black and white television ever existed and don't even know how to switch on a TV without a remote control.

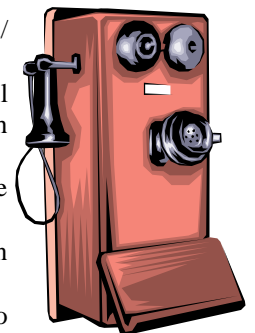
And they will never understand how we could leave the house without a mobile phone.



Now let's check if you're getting old...

1. You understand what was written above and you smile.
2. You need to sleep more, usually until the afternoon, after a night out.
3. Your friends are getting married/ already married.
4. You are always surprised to see small children playing comfortably with computers.
5. When you see teenagers with mobile phones, you shake your head.
6. You remember watching Dirty Den in EastEnders the first time around.
7. You meet your friends from time to time, talking about the good old days, repeating again all the funny you have experienced together.
8. Having read this article, you are thinking of copying it for some other friends because you think they will like it too...

Yes, you're getting older!!!!





The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover



Saturday, 29th May 2004 "FIRST STEPS IN STEDMAN"

This introduction to Stedman is proving to be quite popular and we have brought the **closing date forward to Thursday 15th April**. If there is enough demand, it may be possible to run a second group at another venue. The course is for those who have never rung Stedman, or who may have made one or two attempts to ring Doubles. Applicants should be able to ring and strike Plain Hunt with some confidence.

The course starts at 10 am and finishes 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 823***. Completed forms should be returned by

Thursday 15th April. DROP-IN "CLINICS"

Since the middle of January, the Centre has been running weekly "clinics" on Saturday mornings, from 10 to 12. These address problems with basic skills such as bell handling, raising and lowering, and striking. The simulator is used for a variety of exercises designed to improve bell control, and for foundation work in learning methods.

For a beginner, the thought of visiting a different tower can be quite daunting, but learning at these sessions takes place in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere that helps to boost confidence. More experienced ringers are welcome to accompany learners from their own tower; their help will be very much appreciated.

Booking is not necessary, but it is advisable to telephone Barbara before coming, particularly if help with methods beyond Plain Hunt is wanted - 01304 823***. Learners are asked to contribute £1 per hour towards the Centre's expenses.

(N.B. The clinic on 29th May will be at a different venue; please phone for details)

Monday, 30th August 2004 "KALEIDOSCOPE RINGING"

Ever since it appeared on www.kcacr.org.uk people have been asking what kaleidoscope ringing is. Devised by Gordon Lucas from Langdon Hills, Essex, it is a system of exercises designed to develop good bell control, accurate striking, and an understanding of the concept of "place". At the introductory level the scheme starts with place-making and dodging, but it can be extended as an aid to learning methods: kaleidoscope Yorkshire, or Superlative even!

The kaleidoscope system is probably best seen in operation to

appreciate its value fully. It offers a fresh approach to beginners and tower captains alike and this event should appeal to everyone. It will take the form of a practical workshop, running from 10 am to 1 pm. If there is enough demand, a second session from 2 to 5 pm may be possible.

Anyone who has used kaleidoscope will be most welcome; otherwise the traditional concept of "students" and "helpers" will not apply. Everyone attending will be able to see how the scheme works, and if they might like to adapt it to suit their own circumstances. A charge of £4 will be made to all delegates, therefore, payable on application. Forms are available from Barbara Dale: email pandbdale@yahoo.co.uk, or telephone 01304 823***. Completed forms should be returned **by Saturday 31st July**.

13th to 15th August 2004 "Regatta Ringing"

The Dover Regatta this year will be the biggest and best yet. Festivities are planned to start on the Friday evening with music and a laser light display on the seafront, and a peal attempt at St Mary's in the town centre. A variety of events will take place during the weekend, including the traditional dragon boat races and a firework display over the harbour on Saturday evening. There will be displays and stalls along the promenade, together with a French market, and The Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry!

Ringling on the Sea Front

Dover Town Council and The Kent County Association of Change Ringers are sponsoring the mobile belfry, which will operate throughout Saturday and Sunday. It will give members of the public "hands-on" experience, and a chance to see demonstration ringing; complete bands are welcome to pre-book times for the latter. We shall need plenty of stewards to cover both days and offers of help with this will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Barbara or Peter Dale, tel 01304 823***, or email pandbdale@yahoo.co.uk, for details.

Ringling in the Town

A programme of quarter peals and general ringing is being arranged at St Mary's, to alert people in the town to events on the harbour. We invite bands representing each of the six Districts to ring quarters during the weekend, four on Saturday and two on Sunday afternoon. Please would organisers contact Mary Andrews, tel 01304 852*** or email maryand@tiscali.co.uk, as soon as possible to book their preferred day and time.

With such a full programme of ringing at two locations, and all the activities around the harbour, this promises to be great family event. Further details will be published nearer the time, as soon as the Regatta programme is available.

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
06 December 2003	Bromley	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m.	04/8
20 December 2003	Bickley	5056	Cambridge Surprise Major	04/33
07 February 2004	Beckenham	5040	Zelah Surprise Royal	04/203

All three peals were rung for the KCACR.

Astrid Fairclough rang the 3rd at Bickley for her first of Cambridge and of Surprise.

David Brown rang the 5th at Bromley for his first of 8-spliced.

(Clare Pruden of Chelsfield rang the 3rd to a peal of Grandsire Caters at Reigate for the KCACR for her first of Caters inside.)

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
09 November 2003	Bexley	1260	Grandsire Triples	04/108
19 November 2003	Horton Kirby	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	04/183
30 November 2003	Beckenham	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	04/11
03 December 2003	West Wickham	1320	St Simon's Doubles	04/61
21 December 2003	Crayford	1260	Doubles 3m.	04/158
24 December 2003	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 2m.	04/182
28 December 2003	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 1p/4m	04/182
04 January 2004	Bromley	1250	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	04/112
04 January 2004	Chelsfield	1440	Kent Treble Bob Minor	
08 January 2004	Crayford	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Campanophile
11 January 2004	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles 2m.	04/182
11 January 2004	Crayford	1260	Grandsire Doubles	04/159
11 January 2004	Farningham	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	04/184
16 January 2004	Bromley	1264	Double Norwich Court Bob Major	04/184
18 January 2004	Beckenham	1280	Spliced Surprise Major 5m.	04/181
25 January 2004	Chelsfield	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	
25 January 2004	Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	04/184
01 February 2004	Farningham	1440	Plain Bob Minor	04/233
08 February 2004	Crayford	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	04/233
09 February 2004	Eltham	1344	Rutland Surprise Major	Campanophile
10 February 2004	Woolwich	1260	Doubles 1p/2m	04/230
14 February 2004	Dartford	1280	Doubles 2m.	04/233
22 February 2004	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Doubles 3m.	04/253
08 March 2004	Eltham	1253	Stedman Triples	Campanophile

Congratulations to :

Stephanie Rueff from Redhill (the daughter of Anne Rueff née Barter) rang the Treble to Doubles at Chelsfield for her first quarter at the first attempt, at the age of 13.

Julian Hemper rang the Treble to Cambridge Minor at Horton Kirby for his first of Treble Bob.

Andrew Sinclair rang the Treble to Cambridge Minor at Crayford for his first of Treble Bob.

Richard Barker rang the 4th to Cambridge Minor at Farningham for his first in the method.

Julian Hemper rang the 3rd at Eynsford for his first of Grandsire Triples.

Len Morley rang in the Stedman Triples at Eltham which was his first in the method and it was also Mark Jones' first in the method as Conductor.

Rhiannon Meredith rang the 2nd at Beckenham to 5-Spliced Surprise Major for her first of spliced and this was also Jeremy Byers most methods spliced. Rhiannon also rang in the Rutland at Eltham for her first in the method.

Debra Say rang her 25th quarter.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4846 March 12, 2004

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John's Erith on Saturday 10th January 2004

The Chairman, David Holdridge, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2004 and especially Eric Roughley, the County Chairman.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Bing (Woolwich), Dominic Meredith (Beckenham), the Hanscombs (Biggin Hill), Roger Long (St Nicholas Chislehurst), Debra Say (Crayford), Deryck Jones (Dartford) and Sara Hardy (Beckenham).



2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Bexley on Saturday 11th October 2003

Subject to two minor amendments the minutes were approved on the proposal of Nancy Gay, seconded by Cathy Cheeseman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

The Call Change Competition held in November 2003 was very successful, attracting entries by teams from ten different towers, including Shoreham who were congratulated on entering a team so soon after training a new band. The ringers of Downe were thanked for ably hosting the event.

The District Carol Service at Beckenham was unfortunately only poorly attended, but those who went enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of the service that took place in the choir stalls and the excellent refreshments provided afterwards. Thanks go to Mark Jones for playing the organ, Lucy Weston for her solo singing and to the Beckenham ringers for hosting the event.



4. KCACR Committee Meeting report

St John's Deptford

There was concern about possible work being carried out on the bells at Deptford by a ringer who is not a member of KCACR and therefore not covered by the County's insurance. At the last County committee meeting it had been agreed that a meeting should be arranged at Deptford by Peter Romney to include the incumbent (Rev. Christine Bainbridge), the Lewisham District Chairman and Ringing Master (David Holdridge and Jim Hardy), and the Southwark Diocesan Bells advisor (Bob Cooles). It was suggested that Graham Long from Woolwich, who has been taking ringers to Deptford and has been in contact with the incumbent about this matter, should also be involved. Since nothing further had so far been heard, it was agreed that the District Secretary would contact Peter Romney to see if progress could be made on arranging the meeting.

Recruitment and Young Ringers Group

This group, set up by the County, has yet to meet. Len Morley, who is the Lewisham District representative on the group, asked for any ideas towers might have on strategies for recruitment. Nancy Gay (Biggin Hill) spoke of the advantages of training several young people at once and attracting them initially through a tower open day or by arranging for the church's young people's group to visit. Another suggestion to publicise ringing was to have a mini ring erected in a shopping centre. Towers were encouraged to pass any further ideas and suggestions to Len Morley for him to feed into the group.

Child Protection Act

Len Morley stressed the importance of this and said that the County's policy was to back whatever safeguards the PCC wanted to put in place. There are useful guidelines at the back of the Ringers' Diary and helpful information on the Central Council's website, including a sample form to download to obtain parental permission for a child to learn to ring. General discussion revealed that tutors at a number of towers in the district are expected to be police checked. It was noted that this is a comparatively straightforward and speedy process and is required for teaching youngsters to ring even if the person concerned has already been through a CRB check for another purpose.

5. Events

The Chairman drew attention to the list of District events on a poster which was included with every tower's newsletter, and urged members to attend.

County events included the Six Bell Striking Competition on 25th September 2004 which it was the Lewisham District's turn to host. Penge had been proposed as the venue. The County Eight Bell Striking Competition was to be held at Ospringe, on 26th June 2004, the method was Double Oxford Bob Major.

Dover will be hosting a Regatta on the weekend of the 14-15th August. Every District was invited to provide a quarter-peal band to add to the festivities.

A major event for 2005 is the KCACR's 125th Anniversary service and dinner to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on 14 May 2004.

The secretary drew attention to training events organised by the County for which there was a poster for every tower and also to a number of Ringing schools throughout the country that are advertised in *The Ringing World*.



6. Fund raising ideas for the Bell Restoration Fund

A number of suggestions were made. These included a:

- sponsored quarter peal day
- 120 club with a monthly draw
- District tower open day
- raffle at each Quarterly Meeting

After some discussion Philippa Rooke agreed to organise a district tower open day to take place on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2004. It was hoped to include some towers where bells had only recently been installed to make the open day more attractive, which could best be achieved by including one or two towers bordering on our district such as Otford and Chevening. Jeremy Byers agreed to organise a raffle for the next quarterly meeting. The 120 club was especially appealing because of the possibility of obtaining money from interested non-ringers. The Secretary agreed to contact other Districts that were already running 120 clubs with a view to finding out how best to organise this and to report back to the next meeting.

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

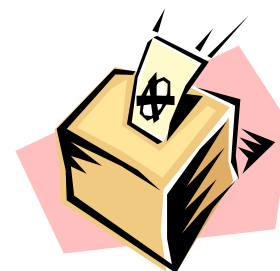
GREENWICH

Kenneth George Deller

proposed by Bill Lanyon, seconded by Freda Cannon

Patricia Dale

proposed by Bill Lanyon, seconded by Freda Cannon



8. Subscriptions for 2004

Members were reminded that subscriptions for 2004 were now due. They remained unchanged at £9 for adults and £4.50 for under 18s and over 65s. These should be paid to the Membership Secretary, Mark Jones.

9. Nominations for County Officers

Members were told of the current vacancies for a Handbook Editor (with the possibility that this post may be split so that one person deals with advertising and the other does the editorial work), a Membership Officer and a Publicity Officer. In addition the Central Council representatives for 2005 were up for election. Members were encouraged to consider possible nominations for these posts. Such nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Margaret Funnell, by 31st March 2004 in time for the County AGM on Easter Monday, 12th April 2004.

10. District Practices

Jeremy Byers, Deputy District Ringing Master, drew attention to the schedule of District practices and urged people to attend. He particularly encouraged local ringers to attend when a district practice was being held at their own tower.

11. Introduction to the Lewisham District

Mark Jones said that he was working on an *Introduction to the Lewisham District* for new members.

12. Newsletter

Mark Jones congratulated Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for another excellent District Newsletter. Rupert Cheeseman apologised that it appeared too late to be circulated prior to the meeting. He reminded everyone that annual subscriptions for the Newsletter were now due. The cost was unchanged at £5.00.

13. Bookstall

Jim Rooke reminded everyone about the bookstall. Some new County leaflets were available as well as some bargain mugs and the usual range of ringing books. Freda Cannon commented that some ringing leaflets were on display in Bromley Library. Cathy Cheeseman said that she had placed them there.

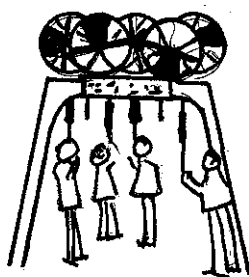
14. Vote of thanks

David Kingston proposed a vote of thanks to the lay reader, Ann Richardson, for an enjoyable service, to the organist Roger Chapman and to the ringers of St John's Erith for a splendid tea.



Bob Doubles Training Day

On a damp and windy Saturday in March, 3 students gathered in Foots Cray's church hall to listen to our district ringing master talk about the theory behind Bob Doubles as a prelude to a day of ringing. This included some interesting ideas for learning methods in general – e.g., breaking the method down into each of the positions; identifying the circle of work; how to understand place notation; how the bobs work etc.



This was followed by the first practical session at Horton Kirby, where several helpers joined the students. This started with plain hunt, to ensure that the student's were happy with the bell and to check if ropes needed adjusting etc. After making some initial adjustments, we settled down to ringing our first plain courses of Plain Bob, with several goes each.

At the end of the first session, we adjointed to the Fighting Cocks (Horton Kirby) for a pub lunch. This was followed by a quick trip down the road to Eynsford for the second practical session, where we started ringing touches. We then moved on to Crayford for the final session of the day, where, you guessed it, we rang some more touches of Bob Doubles! Towards the end of the session we rang up the front two bells and rang some call changes on 8 to have a change.

Our thanks to James Hardy for so ably running a very enjoyable day of ringing; and also to the helpers – Jeremy Byers; Rhiannon Meredith; Christine Webb; David Brown; Margaret Macey; Jim Rooke and Brenda Barton – as well as the towers. A donation (in addition those already made to the towers) will be made to the county bell restoration fund.

As this day was such a success, it has been proposed that a day will be run in the autumn for those wishing to learn Grandsire Doubles. Further details will follow as to the exact date.

Andrew Boyd-Bell



KCACR Meeting 28.2.04

A much shorter and productive meeting, the main issues to report are:-

Bell Restoration

Eastchurch now have a faculty going through to allow a new door to be cut into the existing stairs.

Erith local work now completed

Biggin Hill have requested a report from Taylor's of Loughborough to identify what work is required.

Hartlip have requested a faculty for bell restoration work and for the installation of a memorial plaque at the base of the tower

Recruitment and Retention of Bellringer's

A meeting with all Districts represented, except for Maidstone, had taken place. At the meeting it became clear that by "pooling resources" there may be ideas that have worked successfully in one part of the County that could be applied in other locations. All towers are asked to give Len Morley a note briefly outlining their success stories. It would also be helpful to have your thoughts about what makes a successful tower as well as what assistance you feel the County or your District could provide to support recruitment in your area.

Grant Applications

Sundridge – two bells to be repaired, all six to be tuned and re-hung in existing frame with new fittings. Frame to be strengthened, total cost £48,197.00. Grant £4000.00 agreed.

125th Anniversary Service and Luncheon

Service at Canterbury Cathedral booked for 11am on 14th May 2005 followed by luncheon facilities in the New Study Centre have been booked, speakers still to be arranged.

Vice President Nomination

Mary Andrews has agreed to be nominated at the AGM on Easter Monday.

AGM

This year the service will be at Rochester Cathedral at 12 noon followed by a lunch in The King's School Hall at 1.00pm. Tickets will be £6.00 available from Neil Jones.



Striking Competitions

8 Bell Competition – to be held at Ospringe on 26th June 2004, method is Double Oxford.

6 Bell Competition – to held at Penge (subject to confirmation) on 25th September 2004.

Essex Trophy – to held on 11th September 2004 at Hornchurch, method is Stedman Caters.

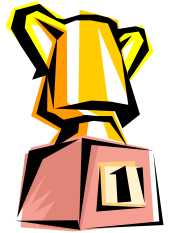
Forthcoming Events

Ringling Roadshow – next one will be held at Newbury Racecourse on 10th September 2005.

6th June 2004 from 2pm until 5pm Chevening Gardens will be open to the public in aid of the Brasted Bell Restoration Project where "The Bell Meadow Belfry" from Warnham will be in use.

At the Dover Regatta on 14/15th August 2004 will be the "Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry which will be used to promote bellringing and support the Regatta. Peter Dale from Dover is seeking volunteers to help steward the belfry which will be located somewhere along the sea front.

Len Morley



Recruitment and Retention of Ringers

The first "County Meeting" concerning the above was held last weekend (7th February). Arising from this meeting all towers are asked to tell me how, in recent years, you have managed to recruit new ringers and having recruited them are they still with you? If they have left do they still ring?

It would be helpful to identify any success rate if you have had some sort of "recruitment drive", if you advertised, where did you advertise and how good was the response.

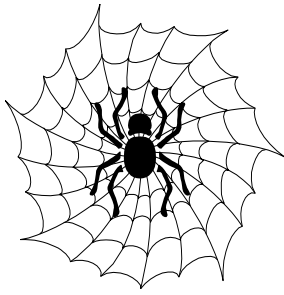


Finally, if anyone has any tips on retaining ringers, please share this valuable information. If, of course, there are any specific barriers to recruiting, such as finance, please indicate and tell me what level of finance you feel would be appropriate.

I'm sorry if all this appears to be a bit dreary. All information, however small would be greatly appreciated. Please respond before 30th April in time for the next meeting on the 9th May.

Len Morley





What's been happening - News from the Website

District Practice at Beckenham.

The District Practice at Beckenham on 24th January was attended by approximately 15 people, and whilst this was not a great turnout, the ringing was of a very high standard. We rang Call Changes on 10 (twice), Plain hunt on 9, Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters, Little Bob Royal, Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples, Yorkshire S.Royal, and spliced London No3, Cambridge, Yorkshire & Little Bob Royal. We then went to the Pub!

Olive L.Rogers

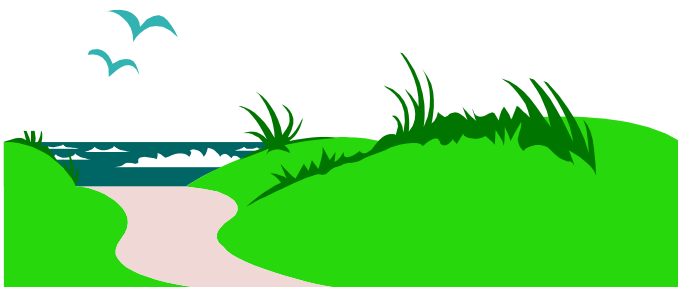
It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of Olive Rogers on Friday January 16th at the West Middlesex Hospital. Olive had been in hospital for some three weeks. Whilst Olive was not a District ringer, she was one of the best-known London ringers of the post-war era, and very much involved at Southwark, amongst other towers. She and her husband Harold achieved a great deal for London ringing, welcoming many to the exercise. She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Harold, son Chris, and her larger family.

The funeral will be held on Tuesday 27th January at All Saints, Isleworth, at 12.00 noon, followed by a cremation at Mortlake Crematorium. All are invited to attend the church, and refreshments are available afterwards.

Quarterly District Meeting at St John's Erith

The meeting at Erith on 10th January was well attended (approx. 45 people) and was preceded by some good ringing including Grandsire, Stedman, Call Changes and 8-spliced, a service touch of Bristol, a pleasant service and a fantastic tea. Many thanks go to the local ringers for their hospitality. The meeting was not too long, and mainly uneventful. After the meeting there was more ringing until 8.30.

James Hardy



Upcoming District Events

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

Sat 24th Apr District Practice: TBA, 7-9p.m.

Mon 12th Apr KCACR AGM, Rochester Cathedral. The service will be at 12 noon in the Cathedral, with lunch in The King's School Hall, The Precincts, at 1pm. Tickets £6. Ringing at various towers during the day. See www.kcacr.org.uk

Sat 8th May District Practice: Chislehurst, St Nicholas, 7-9p.m.

Sat 12th June District Practice: Cudham (tbc), 7-9p.m.

Sat 10th July District Meeting: Shoreham, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service

Sat 9th Oct District Practice: Biggin Hill, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service

The District practices are specifically aimed at all abilities, so please come along. Practices will, as far as possible, be tailored to suit those who attend.

COUNTRY GARDEN FAIR

Sunday 6 June 2004, 2 - 5.30 pm
in Chevening Gardens (Grid: 489577), Sevenoaks
by kind permission of the Board of Trustees of the
Chevening Estate

In aid of Brasted Bell Restoration Project

We will have The Bell Meadow Belfry - George Francis's mini ring (8) from Warnham. Some of the time we'll be letting non-ringers, have a try on them (for a fee!). Small children can have a go quite safely. At other times there'll be an opportunity for real ringing.

There will be many craft and other stalls. Please let Catherine (01959 563***) know if you can suggest anyone who might like to bring one - space filling up fast.

A rare opportunity to wander around the attractive gardens and lake and to get lost in the maze.

Demonstration by dogs from HM Prison at Belmarsh.

Raffle for a mountain bike and other prizes.

Usual cups of tea and ice creams. Children's slide. Bouncy castle. Etc, etc. Further attractions are still being arranged at time of going to press.