



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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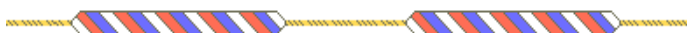
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk JANUARY 2005

District Open Day - What a great success!

You will all be extremely pleased to know that we raised the magnificent sum of over £1,075 for the BRF through Saturday's Open Day. This is a very good result considering that we didn't have any 'new' towers and that I made a significant error with advertising in the Ringing World (as did the organiser of a similar event). The day attracted some 60+ ringers from right across the country and it was good to meet up with ringing friends from far and wide.

It remains for me as one of the event organisers, to ensure that everyone involved in making yesterday such a success is thanked. To do this I need your assistance. Please could you pass our thanks on to clergy and church authorities for the use of their bells, to members for turning out to open towers, act as stewards or run the ringing, provide refreshments, guard churches or guide visitors to toilets etc. Please place a copy of this on your notice boards and do draw your ringers attention to it.

Thanks again and best wishes for the New Year to all.
Margaret Macey on behalf of Philippa Rooke (who cooked up the idea) and Rhiannon Meredith



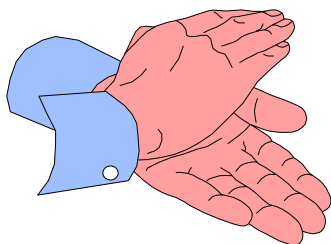
From the nabbers (tower grabbers!) egroup:

On behalf of all the Nabbers who went on the Kent open day on Saturday, may I say a huge THANK YOU to Margaret and all the gang for such a well organised day. Knackering but great fun.

Cheers
PJ

Hear, hear. An excellent Day!

Graham & Sue



Crayford Call Change Champs

A small but select group of ringers meet at Farningham on 20th November for the District Call Change competition. The result was:

1st	Crayford	41 faults
2nd	Chelsfield	52
3rd	Horton Kirby	54
4th	Erith, Christ Church	62
5th	Dartford	77



So congratulations to Crayford and thanks to the Farningham ringers for the tea and use of their bells and to Chris Rusby for judging.

Rupert Cheeseman

120 Club

I hope to be able to have 120 club tickets for sale at the January meeting but at the time of writing (mid December) the matter is out of my hands. Following my call to Bexley Council the form for registration under the Lotteries Act has moved out of the in tray where it had been languishing and is hopefully now on its way to the police.

There were one or two problems with the form: Why wasn't I applying to Lewisham Council seeing as we were the Lewisham District (as far as I'm concerned the application could just as easily gone to Greenwich, Bromley, Dartford or Sevenoaks Councils!) and what exactly was the address of our Head Office, a question that I felt unable to answer! For the sake of paperwork it's now my home address!

Anyway whatever happens in the next few weeks I will be taking promises of interest if unable to actually sell tickets at the January meeting. The first draw will be in April.

Rachel Backhouse

New Chairman's Bit

Happy New Year

If you were expecting a column by David Holdridge then you may have well missed the result of the Annual District Meeting which saw some changes in the officers of the district.

The new team is

Jeremy Byers	Chairman – that's me
James Hardy	Ringling Master
Rhiannon Meredith	Assistant Ringling Master
Chris Webb	Secretary
Mark Jones	Assistant Secretary
Cathy &	Press, Publicity &
Rupert Cheeseman	Newsletter editors
Sara Hardy	District Rep
Len Morley	District Rep
Jim Rooke	Sales Rep

I hope that you will all support the team in 2005.

I ring at St George's Beckenham, where I first laid my hands on a bell rope on 4th May 1993 at the age of 26. Since then I have had the opportunity of ringing at a wide variety of churches and a wide variety of methods. Many of the opportunities that have allowed me to get where I am today have come from district or district related events. I am a great believer in the need to get out and ring at other towers other than your home tower. It is an opportunity to experience other bells and to meet other ringers who will happily share their experience with you. If you are at all nervous or unsure about going out to ring at new towers, why not come to a district practice. Please remember that the district is here to help and promote ringing. If you are at all unsure, phone a district officer and have a chat.



As to 2005 there are a couple of events that I would like to bring to your attention. It is the 125th Anniversary of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers – there are going to be some events later in the year, so please keep your eye on the KCACR website at www.kcacr.org.uk or see the posters that should be appearing in your towers.

Also, we are trying to set up a "120 Club" to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund. Rachel Backhouse is currently pursuing this and struggling with red tape. Once the scheme is up and running, I would urge you to support this so that we can support the BRF. The tickets will be available to non ringers as well, so please encourage your friends to support this too.



Finally, by the time this comes out the New Year Open day will have happened. I would like to say a big "Thank you" to all involved in supporting and organising this. You can imagine how tricky getting 31 towers open on one day on a route that is reasonable must be – I am sure the day will be a great success.

Best wishes for 2005
Jeremy Byers

Secretary's Bit

The agenda for the meeting is printed in this Newsletter. The meeting is being held at Beckenham to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Lewisham District meeting held at this tower.

Our major fund raising project for 2005 is the 120 Club. More details will be available at the meeting. The experience of other Districts has shown that it is possible to raise more than £500.00 annually for the Bell Restoration Fund, but only if you are prepared to buy tickets and persuade others to do so. Remember participants do not have to be members of KCACR or even ringers themselves. The only stipulation is that they must be 16 years of age or over.



Just a reminder that subscriptions are due for renewal in January:

Adults	£9.00
Up to 18 years & over 65 years	£4.50

Please pay them to the Membership Secretary, Mark Jones.

By now every tower should have received a copy of their entry in the 2004 Handbook with a request for any amendments for inclusion in the 2005 Handbook. It was sent to the tower secretary at the address listed in the 2004 Handbook. If any tower has not received one, please contact me on 01322 667***

If you have not already returned your copy to me at ** Nursery Close Swanley Kent BR8 *** please do so **as soon as possible** and by **Saturday 15 January 2005** at the latest.

If you would prefer to return your amendments electronically please e mail me on chris@cwebb88.fsnet.co.uk (N.B. my e mail address in the 2004 Handbook is incorrect!) and I will send you an electronic version for amendment. If possible please use the tracking facility to indicate where changes have been made.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.
Christine Webb

Editorial



Happy New Year to you all.

Already it has been a busy one with a very successful Open Day being held in the district on New Year's Day. Thanks to Margaret, Philippa and Rhiannon for organising it and everyone who turned out to support it after what was probably a late night the evening before.

With proceeds also going to the BRF, the 120 Club will shortly (Bexley Council willing!) be up and running. Please support this and try and persuade non ringing friends and relatives to also get tickets. You may even win... someone has to!

Maybe with these two projects we can finally rid ourselves of the tag of smallest contributors amongst the districts to the BRF? This is a useful cause which most of our towers have benefited from at some point or other over the years.

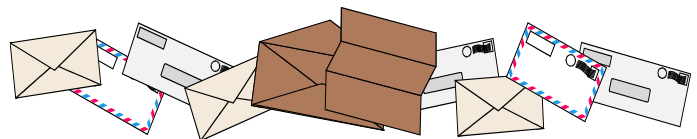
And finally, the newsletter subs will remain at £5 for the next year. Renewal forms should be in your newsletter. Each tower will continue to receive one free copy.

Rupert and Cathy



In the newsletter this time...

Lewisham District Open Day	1
Crayford Call Change Champs	1
New Chairman's and Secretary's Bits	2
Editorial and Contents	3
A Bank holiday walk in Kent	4
125 in 2005	5
News from the towers-	
Biggin Hill	6
Bromley Common	6
Chelsfield	6
Crayford	7
Dartford	7
Eltham	8
Erith (Christ Church)	8
Foots Cray	8
West Wickham	9
The Cinque Port Ringing Centre	10
Kent AGM at Otford	10
Peals and Quarter Peals Rung In The District	11
Minutes of the ADM at Biggin Hill	12
Upcoming Events	16
District Meeting Agenda	16



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

**COPY DEADLINE -
20th March 2005**

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

☎ 01322 439***

✉ rupert@crayford42.fsnet.co.uk
✉ cathy.cheeseman@virgin.net

A Bank Holiday Walk in Kent

On a lovely clear January day, 13 Eltham and Chislehurst ringers and friends met at Holly Hill car park near Harvel, Kent for a walk to Cobham and back again. This was first walk that we had been able to attend in an almost monthly series of walks that have been organised by Peter.

It was nice to get out of town but it only took 100 yards of walking to come across the first of four burnt out cars that we encountered during the day.

The first part of the walk was through the wood. The ground was sodden and muddy and we had to make regular detours off of the path to avoid the lakes on it. It was somewhere along these paths that we detoured from our intended route. Peter was guiding us by map and GPRS so quite how this happened he's was not sure but one minute we were 5m out and then the next, we were 50m out without having seen another path that we could have taken. It just proves that technology is only so good.

We were still heading towards Cobham so we kept going. At least we had got out of the mud and back onto solid roads! We did miss going past a mausoleum though.

Lunch was at the Ship Inn in Cobham. There was an

impressive list of real ales on the wall but Christmas and New Year seemed to have taken its toll and they were down to the last two. You were not in luck if you wanted a jacket potato either! However, having said that, the steak and ale pie was very good and filling.

We started the walk back by going through Cobham churchyard. Thankfully, the ground was now only soft and not muddy. We passed through Luddesdown and soon came upon a stile with a difference. There was a special hole with a gate to lift up especially made for dogs to pass through. After encouragement from the group, Cathy managed to squeeze through the hole without any harm apart from two muddy knees.

After this, we arrived in the tiny hamlet of Dode. Virtually wiped out by The Black Death in the 14th century, all that remains of the original village is the small, former Norman church, which was last used as a place of worship in 1367, then deconsecrated. Restored in the Victorian era, it is now a popular venue for civil wedding ceremonies.

We got to walk by this church twice as the GPRS told us to go past a byway (which appeared to go in the right direction) and instead tried to get us to climb over a fence and through a

wood a bit further up the road. So we ignored it and went back to the byway. It was the right decision as after a steep climb up a hill we were back in the car park.

Many thanks to Peter for organising the day which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Cathy and Rupert Cheeseman





The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

125 in 2005

A celebration of 125 years
of the KCACR

Saturday 14 May 2005

- 11am: Service at Canterbury Cathedral
- 12 noon: panoramic photo session
- 1pm: Anniversary Luncheon in the International Study Centre at Canterbury Cathedral (licensed bar available)

Tickets for the 3-course Luncheon cost £25 from
Frank Lewis, ****, Main Road, Sundridge,
Sevenoaks TN14 6EF
(cheques payable to KCACR please)

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

From the News Shopper, 22nd December 2004:

No silent night for sleepers

Residents warn there could be a serious ding dong if they do not get peace on Earth this Christmas.

Householders living near St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill, are urging church leaders to curb the antics of overly enthusiastic bell-ringers.

The church has removed its sound-proofing to stop the spread of damp and neighbours say the hours of ringing on Wednesday evenings and at weekends is leaving them desperate for a silent night.

Pensioner Colin Pascoe, 60, of Church Road, said: "If I went up to the church and played a ghetto blaster at that level, they would soon have the police down to remove me."

Late one Friday night a note was slipped through his door warning him there would be a non-stop peal of bells for three hours from 10am the next morning and suggesting he went out.

The church's vicar, the Reverend Chris Kitchener, said the church planned to carry out sound-proofing work to the bell tower in the near future. He said: "We are taking the issue seriously but at the same time we don't think it is unreasonable to ring on a Sunday morning and to practise."

"The bells have been here for 40 years and bell ringing is a growing hobby."

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00



BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

We rang a quarter of Plain Bob Doubles on Thursday 11th November. This was dedicated to the 1400th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Rochester and the wedding, on 23rd October, of the daughter of Rob and Jackie Duke. This was Jackie's first successful quarter inside (after two abortive attempts).

Chris Lawrance

1260 Plain Bob Doubles
rung in 43 minutes on the front 6.

Treble	D Alastair Scott
2	Jackie Duke (1st inside)
3	Sara E Scott
4	Christopher D Lawrance (C)
5	Gary Robinson
Tenor	Rob Duke



CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

Not much to report for this newsletter.

Due to a number 'injuries' our ringing resources have been depleted resulting in a reduced quarter peal count this year.

We hope that Philippa's back, Angela's arm and Niall's back will all improve allowing them to actively contribute in the New Year.

Even our junior ringing has been a bit more erratic on Sunday mornings at 9.00am due to the unavailability of a quorum with the necessary two adults.

Nevertheless, on the two Thursdays before Christmas I took two of our younger ringers to Horton Kirby's practice allowing them to ring with four of the younger HK ringers which they all found enjoyable and beneficial. The oldest of the six ringers is 13 and the HK bells are ideal for these youngsters.

Our practices on Mondays continue to be generally well attended. Ringing ranges from rounds and Call Changes up to Spliced minor which we are able to ring most Mondays. By the time you read this, the District Fund Raising Open Day will have taken place. It started at Chelsfield and naturally it is hoped that everyone participating had an enjoyable day and that plenty of money was raised for the KCACR Bell Restoration Fund. Well done to the organisers.

That just about completes the news so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year from the ringers at Chelsfield.

Nick Wilkins

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

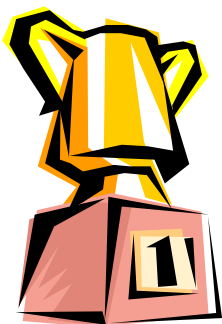
Practice Wednesday 20:00 (1st Wednesday at Annunciation)

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Things appear to be on the up for Crayford. We have gained a new recruit Kelly, thanks to Natasha, and she is doing well at mastering bell handling. It will not be long before she is ringing rounds and into changes.

It was very gratifying to win the Call Change Competition at Farningham. This was a real first for Natasha who has not even been ringing for a year yet. She acquitted herself very well indeed.



We still manage to ring a quarter a month and would like to thank everyone who has helped us out with these this year. I have had two firsts; I called my first quarter on Remembrance Sunday - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles (half-muffled) and managed to get through it without making a mistake - miraculous! And I scored my first peal on the 28th December - 5040 Grandsire Triples. I had heard all the horror stories, blistered and bloody hands, people flaking out, but apart from cramp in my left foot, I felt fine. I would like to thank all concerned for their help, encouragement and support - I can admit it to all of you, I felt really chuffed!

Practice nights can be a bit thin. We had shortages over the summer and autumn, due to holidays and such, so we gate crashed Eltham on a those occasions and our thanks are extended to them. It was a mutually profitable arrangement because it meant that we could both ring methods we would not normally manage and we hope to continue regular visits in the New Year.

The next thing on the horizon is the visit of the Mayor, Cllr. John Eastaugh on February 5th, who will be touring the Churches in the London Borough of Bexley in order to promote bell ringing. It would be so nice to think that we might gain some recruits from this, after all we can but hope.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Andrew Sinclair

CUDHAM

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

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Since the last missive we have been quite active. On the 20th we went to Farningham to take part in the annual District Call Change Striking Competition. We came 5th (out of 5) but are consoled by the thought that it is the taking part that matters, and anyway there are 26 other towers that didn't even bother to come so really we are 5th out of 31!!!!!!! (that's what the District Chairman said and we are sticking to it!)

Sadly one of our ringers, Peter Rose, died in November. The Church was full for the service of celebration of his life on November 15th. We rang the bells for him to come into the church and to go out. 11 ringers turned up to ring, 5 of whom came from other towers but had rung often with Peter.

On the 28th, before evensong on Advent Sunday, we rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob doubles for Peter. This was all the more remarkable as we started very late and only just squeaked home in time. Marian and I were to have had a lift down to church but due to traffic problems, we had to rush down later than we had planned and were hot and bothered on arrival, with no time to cool off. However we made it and for Marian and I, it was our first quarter. Congratulations to us as we are the oldest members of the band.

Happy New Year to all and we welcome visitors to the tower but it is probably best to check with us first.



Esther Correia



Andrew S, Brenda, Martin, Marian, Esther, Deryck, Rupert, Andrew B-B after ringing Marian and Esther's first quarter

28th November 2004

1260 Plain Bob Doubles with 768 cover rung in 46 minutes

Treble	Andrew Sinclair
2	Brenda Barton
3	Marian Wansbury (1 st quarter)
4	Rupert Cheeseman (C)
5	Martin Luffman
6	Esther Correia (1 st quarter)
7	Deryck Jones
8	Andrew Boyd-Bell

Rung open to celebrate the life and service of Peter F W Rose, late ringer of Holy Trinity, and the life of Albert J G Barton, father in law of the 2nd ringer who died on 9 November in Tonbridge.

DEPTFORD

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

This “reporting period” got off to a bad start, when we had to cancel two practices running in October, owing to lack of numbers (everyone seemed to be away at once). Luckily, things picked up again after that; we have again been pleased to welcome visitors from Crayford on a couple of occasions, to our mutual benefit, I hope.



Unfortunately, we were unable to enter a band for the District Call Change Competition in November, for the first time in several years. As usual, it had been a bit of a struggle to put together a team from within the band, and when one of them fell ill on the morning of the competition, I made the decision to withdraw, rather than field a team that did not comply with the rules of the competition. This was a shame, as our “practice touch” at the practice that week had been quite respectable – not that that is always a pointer to performance on the day!

The monthly Monday evening quarters have continued – London Major was successful in October, and Double Norwich in November. We are trying spliced Bristol & Double Norwich next, which is likely to prove an exciting challenge...

Finally, Angie Osborn celebrated a significant birthday, which she marked with a party for family and friends – both ringing and others - on 6th November, which was much enjoyed.

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

Carol Eastaugh celebrated her 60th birthday in November. We rang a quarter peal of 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor on 28th November. The quarter was originally planned for the previous Sunday but we were informed that a ‘surprise party’ was being planned for that date. A suitable story was invented to give to Carol as the reason for the change in date!



We rang half-muffled on Remembrance

Sunday with new muffles. The old ones probably dated back to the First World War - in fact, one had been so often repaired that nothing of the original remained!



Practice night on Monday 22nd November came to an abrupt end when there was a tremendous crash from the belfry just as we were ringing call changes to finish. Investigation revealed that the clapper on the Tenor had snapped off and, in falling, had also broken the slider. Luckily, Whitechapel foundry were able to effect speedy repairs and we were able to ring all eight again by Sunday December 5th.

And finally, we have done a bit to help spread change-ringing into Europe. Robert Backhouse had a French exchange student staying during November and Guillaume attended four Monday practices. By the final night, he was able to ring in rounds unaided. He was keen to learn and enjoyed taking part.

Elizabeth Brett

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Foots Cray ringers have been able to practise at home on the second Wednesday of each month except December. This has been possible thanks to the support of visiting ringers, if you can help on this day each month please let me know by the day before the proposed practice so that I can let you know if it has to be cancelled.

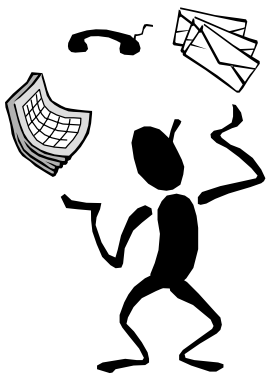
We have gone visiting on the fourth Wednesday, not always to the same tower and are grateful to those towers for making

us welcome. We now have two new learners who are doing very well and I hope that before long I shall be asking for helpers to enable them to start ringing with others.

It was very disappointing to see only twelve ringers at the District Practice at Foots Cray in December, mind you it meant more mulled wine, mince pies and stolen for those who were there!



On December 12th a peal was attempted for the 1400th anniversary of the Diocese of Rochester, unfortunately two attempts came to grief – well if you will try Stedman Doubles! (It seemed like a good idea in the pub! - Ed) Any way a very creditable quarter was scored instead. Thank you to David Holdridge, Ian Mills, Rupert Cheeseman, Mark Jones and Nigel Pointer for their efforts.



Finally on 1st January 2005 it was good to see about 56 ringers go through Foots Cray on the Open Day, all seemed to think they were 'good fun', 'challenging' or 'different' – we think so too.

Happy New Year.

Margaret Macey

GREENWICH

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

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringling by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

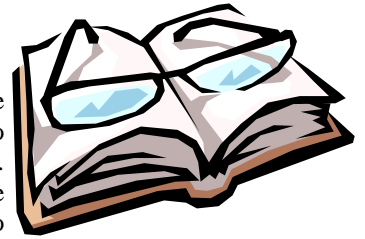
SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00



WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00



Practices vary from simple doubles methods to occasional surprise evenings. Our numbers remain the same after loosing Phil to University but persuading Roger to return after nearly 10 years not ringing, since his retirement. For our Christmas meal we went to the Greyhound in Keston. and a lovely evening was had by all.

Judith Fry

WOOLWICH

Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00

How stupid are some people?





The Cinque Ports



Ringling Centre at Dover

Six students from three districts took their "First Steps in Surprise" at the end of November. To avoid conflict with Advent events at Dover the course was run at Lyminge, where the simulator is identical to Dover's. The Lyminge ringers were delighted to see it put to such good use and their kind hospitality was very much appreciated.

The kaleidoscope approach allows method elements to be practised out of context and student reaction to this was very encouraging. The success of the course was also due in no small part to the enthusiasm of the instructors, and their willingness to try such an innovative teaching style. Thank you folks for all your hard work in getting people through their first few leads of a "complicated" method.

In January the Centre celebrates the completion of its first year of Saturday morning "clinics". These have helped a succession of beginners to consolidate their basic skills, allowing them to advance more rapidly on to method ringing. Towers from five Districts have been represented during the year and the benefit to the students has been appreciable.

Without the help of a willing team of instructors it would have been impossible to sustain the regularity of these weekly sessions. They have been so valuable that the plan for 2005 is to concentrate the Centre's resources on this weekly programme. After all, where else do beginners have the opportunity for long periods of solo bell handling, raising and lowering, and bell control exercises? For further information and a town plan please contact Barbara Dale, email pandbdale@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01304 823***.

Peter Dale



AGM

2005

Easter Monday:

28 March

in the Tonbridge District

Service at Otford 12 noon

Three-course lunch 1 pm

Meeting in Village Hall 2.30 pm

Towers open from 9am and after meeting

For lunch tickets (£7, cheques payable to "Tonbridge District KCACR", stating if vegetarian option is required) and/or tower programme send SAE **by 14 March** to Jane Nielson, ** Westerham Road, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2PX (01732 452***)

PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
04 September 2004	Hayes	5040	Surprise Minor 3m.	04/926
11 September 2004	Ash-by-Wrotham	5040	Minor 4m.	04/973
19 September 2004	St Mary Cray	5040	Minor 7m.	04/973
02 October 2004	Eltham	5056	Bristol Surprise Major	04/1045
02 October 2004	Shoreham	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	04/1022
03 October 2004	Eynsford	5088	London Surprise Major	04/1021
09 October 2004	Sidcup	5040	Minor 5m.	04/1140
23 October 2004	Biggin Hill	5040	Minor 3m.	04/1093
23 October 2004	Bromley	5088	London Surprise Major	04/1093
24 October 2004	Chislehurst Ann.	5120	Glasgow Surprise Major	04/1093
06 November 2004	Dartford	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 8m.	04/1140

Congratulations to:

Ross Hartley who rang the 5th at Biggin Hill which peal included his first extent of Kent Treble Bob Minor.
Richard Barker who rang the Treble at Sidcup for his 1st peal.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
29 August 2004	Crayford	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	04/957
05 September 2004	Eynsford	1260	Grandsire Triples	04/931
12 September 2004	Crayford	1260	Grandsire Triples	04/957
12 September 2004	Erith Ch Ch	1280	Cambridge Surprise Major	04/957
13 September 2004	Eynsford	1280	Yorkshire Surprise Major	04/957
21 September 2004	Woolwich	1260	Doubles 2m/1p.	04/978
10 October 2004	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Minor	
31 October 2004	Farningham	1440	Cambridge Surprise Minor	04/1171
11 November 2004	Bromley Common	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	04/1171
14 November 2004	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
12 December 2004	Chelsfield	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	

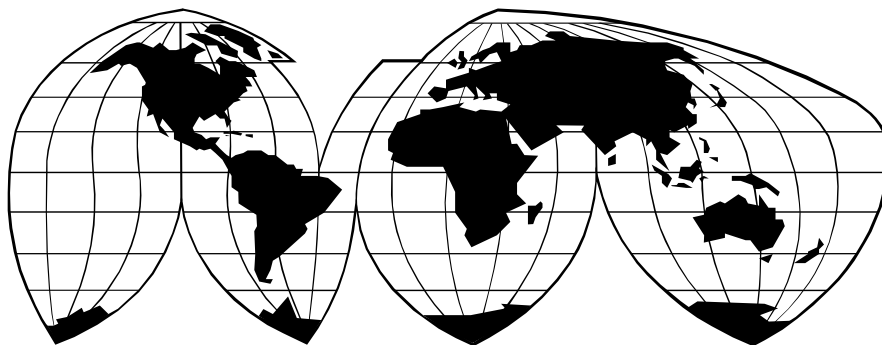
Congratulations to :

Brenda Barton who rang the 2nd to Grandsire Triples for her 1st on 8 and this was also Christopher Backhouse's 50th quarter.
Andrew Sinclair who rang the Treble to Yorkshire at Crayford for his 1st of Major.
Robert Backhouse who rang the 3rd at Christ Church Erith to Cambridge for his 1st of Surprise Major.
Julian Hemper who rang the 2nd to Cambridge Minor at Farningham for his 1st of Cambridge inside.
Sally Davis who rang the 3rd at Chelsfield for her 1st of Cambridge inside.

This report is quite unusual in that as many peals were rung as quarters, and of the peals two were rung for the Cumberlands and all the rest for the KCACR.

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4885 December 10th, 2004.

Jim Rooke





KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mark Biggin Hill on Saturday 9th October 2004

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Ann Barnes, Roger Long, Maralyn Evans (St Nicholas, Chislehurst), David Brown (Bromley Parish), Andrew Sinclair, Debra Say (Crayford), Margaret Heald (St John's, Erith), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), Philippa Rooke, Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Rachel Backhouse, Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch, Erith).



2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at SS Peter & Paul Shoreham on Saturday 10th July 2004

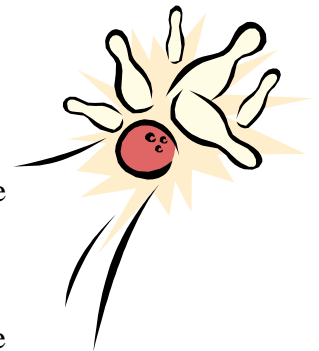
The minutes were approved on the proposal of Cathy Cheeseman, seconded by James Hardy.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. KCACR Committee Report 8 bell Striking Competition

This is to be moved to the fourth Saturday in February. Next year it is in the Lewisham District and will be on 26th February 2005 at Beckenham.



Publicity Officer

There were no volunteers for the post of Publicity Officer. Nothing more will be done at present.

Retention & Recruitment of Ringers Committee

This looked at raising the profile of ringing, for example at the County Show. The Ashford District is to prepare a questionnaire to assess the issues as seen by current KCACR members.

125th Anniversary – 14th May 2005

As previously announced there will be a service in Canterbury Cathedral at 11a.m. followed by a photograph and then lunch at 1pm. Tickets for the silver service lunch will be on sale from 1st December 2004 at a cost of £25 each. There will be a quarter peal before the service and a peal in the afternoon. Memorabilia, including a mug and a glass tankard will be available from 1st January 2005.

125 in 2005

Minimum competency

Most districts thought that the Tower Captain's recommendation was sufficient when proposing someone for KCACR membership. It was left to the Ashford District to decide whether or not they wished to propose a rule change.



5. Reports

Ringling Master's report

James Hardy said that there was little new to report. Some people had made good progress and it would help if more ringers could be encouraged to come along to meetings and district practices. It was clear that recruitment was still a major problem throughout the district.

Secretary's report

Christine Webb reported that meetings had been held this year at St John's Erith, Eltham and Shoreham. All were quite well attended, though very few submitted their names for tea at the Shoreham meeting, which was rather discourteous to the local ringers. The Carol Service at Beckenham was a very enjoyable occasion though only attended by a small number. Encouragingly ten towers, a third of those in the district, entered a team for the Call Change competition held at Downe, which was won by Beckenham. The six bell competition, held at Crayford, attracted only five entries and was won by Eltham. They were not able to repeat their success in the County competition, held at Penge, where they were placed sixth¹.

Membership Secretary's report

Mark Jones circulated copies of his report and highlighted the following points:

- There has been a slight increase in membership compared to last year. There are now 220 members, still slightly fewer than in 2002.
- So far this year 11 new members have been elected, but 15 have not renewed their membership.
- Total income is down compared with 2003 because less has been raised for the BRF. Hopefully this will change in 2005 with the 120 Club and the planned District Open Day.
- Thanks are due to Jeremy Byers who has now taken over distribution of the Handbook.



6. Election of Officers

The Chairman had come to the end of his third year of office, and would therefore be standing down. All the other officers except the Assistant Ringing Master were willing to stand again. Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman said that, although they were willing to prepare the District Newsletter for another year, they intended to stand down in 2005 and would like to hear from anyone in the District who was interested in taking over from them so that there could be a smooth transition.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman

Jeremy Byers	Proposed by James Hardy	seconded by Ruth Pointer
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Ringling Master

James Hardy	Proposed by Jeremy Byers	seconded by Rhiannon Meredith
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District Representatives

Len Morley	Proposed by Nigel Pointer	seconded by Mark Jones
Sara Hardy	Proposed by Jeremy Byers	seconded by Don Pointer

Press Representatives & Newsletter Editors

Rupert & Cathy Cheeseman	Proposed by James Hardy	seconded by Nancy Gay
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Sales Representative

Jim Rooke	Proposed by Mark Jones	seconded by Jon Fry
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¹Out of six.

Secretary

Christine Webb Proposed by Freda Cannon seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Membership Secretary

Mark Jones Proposed by Freda Cannon seconded by Rupert Cheeseman

There were two nominations for the following post:

Assistant Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman Proposed by Simon Davies seconded by Cathy Cheeseman
Rhiannon Meredith Proposed by Jeremy Byers seconded by James Hardy

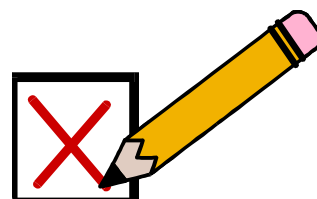
Following a vote, Rhiannon Meredith was elected.

7. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

CHRISTCHURCH, ERITH

Paul Lucia Proposed by Elizabeth Brett seconded by Les Brett
Laura Coshall Proposed by Carol Eastaugh seconded by Mark Backhouse



8. Programme for 2004/5

The Secretary outlined the programme for the coming year, and, where appropriate, asked for towers willing to host forthcoming events, subject to confirmation by the incumbent.

2004

20th November Call change competition Farningham
11th December Carol Service Horton Kirby



2005

Quarterly meetings

8th January Beckenham – 100th Anniversary of the first quarterly meeting there
9th April Bromley Parish
9th July Deptford - 150th Anniversary of the church
8th October (ADM) Crayford

Other events

26th February County 8 bell competition Beckenham (back 8)
5th March 6 bell striking competition Biggin Hill
19th November Call change competition Horton Kirby
10th December Carol service Venue to be arranged



9. Bell Restoration Fund – update on current plans

District Open Day – 1 January 2005

Rhiannon Meredith said that the route would be confirmed shortly. Some amendments had been necessary as some towers, scheduled for the start of the day, were not able to have the bells rung this early. Meanwhile forms were being distributed to all towers to gather information about parking and toilet facilities and stewards available, if any. Towers were asked to return these as soon as possible. It was anticipated the 125th anniversary memorabilia would also be on sale during the day.

120 Club

Christine Webb reported that all the preliminary work on this had now been completed. Initial registration with the local authority costs £35 and then there is an annual fee of £17.50. As required, before further progress could be made, the meeting approved the setting up of the 120 Club and the appointment of a promoter. Rachel Backhouse, although not able to be present at the meeting, was willing to fulfil this role. She was duly appointed as promoter and would be assisted by other members of the committee. The names of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (the District Membership Secretary) had to be registered with the local authority.



Shares will be on sale from the beginning of 2005, with the first draw taking place in April. Shares may be purchased by anyone; they do not have to be ringers themselves, but for the club to be a success about 100 shares need to be sold.

Members were asked whether they would prefer a larger number of small prizes or fewer but slightly larger prizes. There seemed to be a slight preference for a larger number of smaller prizes. Details will be finalised by the committee and publicised to members in January.

Jeremy Byers thanked Rachel Backhouse and Christine Webb for the work they had done to help set this up.

Raffle

The raffle held at this meeting raised £24 for the BRF.



10. Training

James Hardy returned to the issue of training. Several towers in the district were struggling and needed help to progress. One suggestion might be a rota of helpers prepared to visit other towers. Training days could be organised, subject to demand. Two training days were being considered, one on basic maintenance and a second on tower management. However self-help was also important. District practices were held regularly on a Saturday evening and aimed to cater for the needs of all who attended. Visiting other towers or combining practice nights might also help ringers to progress.

The Ringing Master asked whether the meeting would like him to organise another district practice at Southwark Cathedral in 2005. A show of hands indicated support for this.

11. Proposed rule changes for 2005

The secretary informed the meeting that there were three rule changes to be proposed at the County AGM next Easter Monday.

Change to rule 1

This was designed to ensure that unitary authorities in Kent were not excluded from the area where KCACR operates. There is currently only one unitary authority in the county, Medway, but as this is still classified as the County of Kent, the rule change may be unnecessary.

Change to rule 4

This was designed to introduce a minimum standard of competency for membership of KCACR.

This proposal by the Ashford District was discussed at the last district quarterly meeting. Although the original suggestion, that a District Officer should second all nominations, has now been dropped, other objections raised to the rule at that meeting still stood. They were that:

- Handbell ringers would be excluded
- Ringers who were competent but were for some reason unable to raise or lower a bell would be excluded
- To have a formal standard written into the rules was unnecessary, it was sufficient to rely on the good sense of those attending the meeting at which any new member was elected.



Change to rule 7

This was designed to make the Webmaster a member of the General Committee.

This was agreed to be a sensible change.

12. Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate

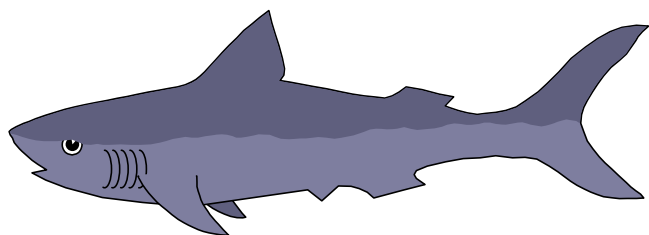
The Secretary reported that she had received an e-mail from Gwen Rogers inviting members of the district to an Advent Carol Service at St Giles' Cripplegate on the evening of Monday 29th November 2004. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Red Herring.

13. Map of towers in the KCACR

The Secretary said that she had a sample of the map prepared by the Ashford District. It was on sale for £3 or £5 laminated plus £1 postage and packing.

14. Vote of thanks

Jeremy Byers proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar of St Mark's, Chris Kitchener for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Juliette Allan for playing the organ, to the handbell ringers and to the ringers of Biggin Hill for the excellent tea.



Upcoming District Events

Sat 8th Jan District Meeting: Beckenham, 3pm bells, 4.30 service

Sat 5th Mar 6 Bell Striking Comp: Biggin Hill, 2.30p.m. draw.

Sat 9th Apr District Meeting: Bromley Parish, 3p.m. bells, 4.30p.m. service

Sat 9th Jul District Meeting: Deptford. 4:30 service

Sat 8th Oct ADM: Crayford. 3pm bells, 4:30 service

Sat 19th Nov Call Change Comp: Horton Kirby. 2:30 draw

Sat 10th Dec Carol Service: tba

This years District practices have not been organised yet but the proposed dates for them are 15th Jan, 12th Feb, 12th Mar, 16th Apr, 7th May, 11th Jun, 16th Jul, 13th Aug, 10th Sep, 15th Oct and 12th Nov.

Please contact Jim or Rhiannon if you want to find out the venues and are not on the district egroup. To become a member of the egroup send an email to:

lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk

Next District Event

District Meeting
St. George's, Bexkenham
on
Saturday 8th January

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

Names for tea to

Sara Hardy on 020 8659 ****

or jameshardy@supanet.com

by Thursday 6th January please.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mark's Biggin Hill on 9th October 2004
3. Matters arising from the minutes
 - call change competition
 - district carol service
4. KCACR Committee Meeting report
 - Recruitment & retention of ringers – committee report
 - 125th Anniversary
5. Events – District, County, other
6. Bell Restoration Fund
 - District Open Day
 - 120 club
7. Election of new members
8. Any other business
 - Membership subscriptions for 2005
 - KCACR AGM – nominations for Officers
9. Vote of Thanks

