



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk)

January 2006

## New Bells for Deptford? By Dickon R. Love



St Nicholas is the ancient parish church of Deptford, situated on Deptford High Street which itself is the other side of the town from St John's. In 1552 the tower had a spire and is recorded as having five bells. It was rebuilt in 1697-8 and in 1700-1 a ring of eight bells was cast and hung for ringing in a new frame. This was very significant and demonstrates the wealth and prestige of the town as this was **the first ring of eight ever in Kent**. (There is a slight possibility that All Saints', Maidstone were augmented from six to eight a few years earlier, but this is very uncertain.) This would have been something that all ringers in the area would have marvelled at, just as some might marvel at the installation of a new ring of sixteen! The bells were cast by a pair named Samuel Newton and Isaac Hadley of Cripplegate in the City of London. Very few bells were cast by these gentlemen, and Deptford was the only known ring of eight by them (and therefore very probably the only ring of eight they ever cast). The tenor was about 20 cwt and was later recast at Whitechapel in 1842.

A violent storm hit the tower in 1901 which severely weakened it. The top was rebuilt and at the same time the bells were rehung by John Warner and Sons in a new two-tier frame made of cast iron. They were rededicated in 1904 by the Bishop of Rochester. Warner had been foolish in his design. The bells in the top tier were all made to swing in the same direction and the steel beams supporting it were inserted into the pillars between the two louvre openings. The bells were therefore very difficult to ring and in time caused cracks to appear in the tower. The last of 107 peals on the bells was rung in 1939, conducted by Phil Corby.

The church was badly damaged in the War and the bells were removed from the tower and put into storage. Despite being returned shortly afterwards, they were still in a dreadful state. Various quotations were offered to the church to rehang the bells, although by 1955 the 5<sup>th</sup> was reported to be cracked, with the 4<sup>th</sup> 'possibly cracked'. The costs were mounding and the church showed little interest, being more inclined to scrap the lot. Mears & Stainbank pleaded with the church to perhaps just keep the middle six as a ringing peal, but to no avail. The church resolved to scrap the middle six completely in 1956 and retain the treble and the tenor with the money raised used to restore the church.

These two bells hang here today. They were rehung without their wheels in the lower frame with their clappers adapted for clocking. From inside, all that can be seen now at the back of the church is a door leading out of nowhere halfway up the tower where the ringers used to emerge into the now removed ringing gallery. The peal boards that marked some ancient and distinguished peals have also been removed, and two ropes used to clock the two bells dangle limply from the ceiling to the ground.

For 50 years this old tower has remained silent. Deptford for a time lost much of its prestige and the memory of the bells was forgotten. However things are changing. Deptford has revived as an important community in the south of London bringing with it a new wave of prosperity – and six bells have been acquired by the Kent County Association to hang in the tower ... but that story can wait until the next edition of the Newsletter.

*Details of the old bells and pictures of the belfry can be seen in "Lovesguide to the Church Bells of Kent", [http://kent.lovesguide.com/deptford\\_st\\_nicholas.htm](http://kent.lovesguide.com/deptford_st_nicholas.htm).*

# 120 Club

Shares will be on sale for the 2006-7 season starting from the January District meeting at West Wickham.

At this meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss whether to change the distribution of prizes for the July and December draws from 4 large prizes to 8 standard ones (i.e. from 1 x £40, 2 x £20 and 1 x £10 to 2 x £20, 4 x £10 and 2 x £5).

It looks as though our first year will raise around £350 for the Bell Restoration Fund. Next year with lower expenses and (hopefully) more members (we had 94 out of a possible 120 this year) we should be able to raise more money for this worthy cause.

Winners have been spread around the district -21 people from 14 towers- but some have been luckier than others.

And the recent winners are...

October 8<sup>th</sup> drawn at Crayford (District AGM)

- |                 |    |                       |
|-----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 75 | Sue A (Horton Kirby)  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 31 | Nancy G (Biggin Hill) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 56 | Barry M (Foots Cray)  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 82 | Pauline V (Sidcup)    |

November 19<sup>th</sup> drawn at Horton Kirby

(Call Change Striking competition)

- |                 |    |                          |
|-----------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 43 | Margaret M (Foots Cray)  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 79 | John C (Horton Kirby)    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 37 | Len D (Eltham)           |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 8  | David K (Bromley Parish) |

December 10<sup>th</sup> drawn at St Mary Cray (District practice)

- |                 |     |                       |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 26  | Frank R (Eynsford)    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 76  | Mick M (Horton Kirby) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 52  | Len M (Eltham)        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 110 | 120 Club              |

- Rachel Backhouse

# The Chairman's Section

As the expectations of Christmas 2005 become memories, thoughts turn towards 2006 and what the New Year can bring.

Apparently in the UK the top five New Year's resolutions are:

1. Lose weight
2. Give up smoking
3. Save money for a special event
4. Keep spending within a budget
5. Find anew job

If none of these appeal to you, or perhaps you don't have any vices to give up, then why not make a few ringing related resolutions?

These can be anything you like but might include:

- Learning a new method
- Ringing a quarter peal
- Ringing a peal



- Attending another tower for practice
- Going on a ringing outing
- Going on a ringing course

Setting goals is a good way to keep things "fresh and fun". So if you are suffering from an excess of Christmas spirit, why not get out there and have some ringing fun?

I look forward to seeing you at District events in 2006. Happy New Year.

- Jeremy Byers

# Editorial

I'd like to start in a very traditional way by wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. I hope that Father Christmas brought you everything you wanted.

Secondly, on behalf of the District, I'd like to thank Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for their efforts in producing this newsletter over the last five years. Whilst scrolling through past issues (and trying to put together this one!) I realised just how much time they must have spent slaving away in front of a computer screen, and I think they deserve a lot of credit for their sustained effort. I hope that over the coming year I can achieve their high standards!

Finally, I'd like to thank those readers who have contributed to this month's issue. Without your articles, puzzles, and stories the newsletter wouldn't exist, so thank you.

I hope you enjoy reading it!

Cheers,

**Ross Hartley**

## STANDARD 7 WORDSEARCH

Which of the Standard 8 cannot be found in this word search?

D	B	C	A	M	B	R	J	S	A	T	E
F	E	G	D	I	R	B	M	A	C	R	V
A	R	E	E	D	I	Y	G	N	I	S	I
S	I	N	G	Y	S	A	E	H	A	S	T
T	H	S	F	O	T	M	S	S	T	L	A
P	S	T	I	R	O	N	I	O	D	G	L
E	K	A	B	K	L	O	L	J	R	U	E
C	R	N	L	O	N	D	O	N	I	A	P
I	O	D	C	K	B	Y	I	V	T	O	U
L	Y	N	I	C	O	U	L	F	R	U	S
A	I	O	N	T	S	H	I	R	E	T	A
L	C	S	T	E	A	D	M	I	N	T	Y

- Alice Baverstock

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## January Give-Away: District Practice Coupon - one for every reader!

Bring the coupon below to the next District Practice to

This coupon entitles the bearer to free entry to the next District



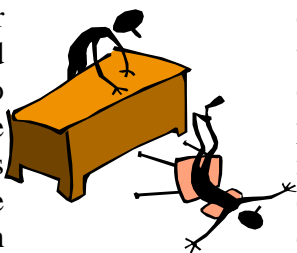
(Monetary value = 0.0000001p)

**Another reminder for you (as if you needed one!): I am seeking new material for the next issue of the Newsletter which will be published in April. Please keep sending me your articles and stories! Thanks.**

# Lewisham District Call-Change Competition: A Review

When Margaret Macey first suggested to us that we enter the call change competition to be held at Horton Kirby on 19th November, our reactions ranged from incredulous laughter to dumb-struck horror.

Her conclusion that we should take the opportunity to compete on bells that are probably the nearest to ours in weight in the whole district didn't offer much comfort!



Therefore it was with a sense of trepidation that we found ourselves shivering in St. Mary's on the 19th upon learning that we'd drawn to ring third.

Our chosen band (not that there was a huge amount of choice when there are only seven of us and one was unable to ring on the 19th!) consisted of Margaret and Ros (the experienced hands), myself, Colin, Lisa and Jeff (the distinctly inexperienced quartet!)

Making our way up the steps to the tower, the nerves had definitely started to kick in for some of us! After getting off to a relatively calm start with some good rounds, it was at last time to start the test piece. It had been our aim to get through the piece from start to finish without falling apart, which, despite a particularly "trying" patch in the middle in which a couple of us got a bit "lost", we were very pleased to do.



Despite being placed 6th (although we like to think of it as 6th out of 31 rather than 6th out of 6!), the most satisfying part of the day had to be learning of judges' Jim and Dominic's apparent jaw-dropping surprise when we all managed to stand our bells together!

After the competition, there was the opportunity for some of us to ring rounds and call-changes with other more experienced ringers (useful when our regular band is made up mainly of novices).

Overall, we all had fun, are proud of what we achieved, and took some valuable lessons away from the day.

Many thanks to the guys at Horton Kirby for the tea and fabulous cakes (much needed after a scary first competition experience!), the judges, and also to Margaret, for having enough faith in the band to enter us in the first place!

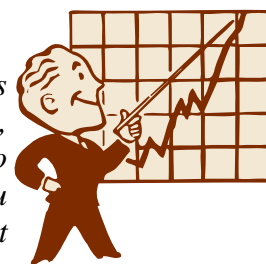
- Clare Osmond

## The Results

POSITION	TOWER	FAULTS	RANG
1st	CRAYFORD	13	4th
2nd	CHELSEFIELD	17	5th
3rd	ELTHAM	27	1st
= 4th	ERITH (CHRIST CHURCH)	29	6th
= 4th	HORTON KIRBY	29	2nd
6th	FOOTS CRAY	40	3rd

*Congratulations to those who took part in this event. It isn't the winning but the taking part that counts!*

*District events such as this, as well as the District Practices, can offer you the chance to have a go at something you may not get to do very often at your home tower and can only benefit you in the long-term. They're well-worth turning up for!*



- Ed.

Your (very small) article could have gone here!

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# A few words from the Secretary

## The 120 Club

I am sure everyone will agree that in its first year the 120 Club has been a great success. Our thanks must go to Rachel Backhouse who has done a splendid job in negotiating the Byzantine bureaucracy need to get the whole project off the ground and keeping it in being, providing the wherewithal to make the draw i.e. a bag of hand crafted balls and, last but not least, actively marketing the scheme so that close to a hundred shares were sold in 2005.

We now need to build on the initial success. Perhaps those of you who have already had a win (or two!) will need no further encouragement to continue to subscribe but if the 120 club is to flourish we all need to subscribe again before April and to urge those who didn't participate last year to do so this time. As an added incentive we are going to discuss whether you would like to have a greater number of smaller prizes instead of the twice yearly 'double money' draws we originally agreed. That way more of us will have a chance of winning. Sounds a good idea to me!! But most important of all, let's see if we can sell **all 120** shares in 2006 and maximise the District's contribution to the Bell Restoration Fund.

## The Carol Service

For the first time in several years Lewisham District did not have a carol service. Attendance has fallen off quite markedly recently and no tower came forward this year to offer to host it. Instead a District Practice was held at St. Mary Cray followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Attendance here was quite small so this raises the question: Is it too close to Christmas to organise any kind of District event (carol Service or practice), has everyone just got too many other competing demands on their time? Or would you like a Carol Service but perhaps every other year instead of annually alternating with a District practice followed



by festive fare? Or abandon the Carol Service in favour of a District practice? Or return to the annual Carol Service? We would like to try to gauge what the District would like and, more important what the members are prepared to support. Please ask the members of your tower for their views and we will return to the topic at a future District Meeting to decide what to do for December 2006.

## District Representatives

Our District currently has 2 representatives (Sara Hardy and Len Morley) who attend the quarterly County Committee meetings, which are usually held at Leeds. Both Sara and Len have done this job for a number of years and both now have family commitments that make it difficult for them to continue. Nobody came forward at the Annual District meeting to take on this job but it would be good if someone would consider taking on this role. If you think you would like to do it, or you know someone else who might do talk to Len or Sara about what is involved. We do not have to wait to the next ADM to elect new representatives. A potential representative could go to a meeting as a substitute for one of our current reps, just to see what it is like.



## Membership Subscriptions

Just a reminder that these are due in January:

Adult	£9.00 p.a.
Up to 18yrs & over 65 yrs	£4.50 p.a.
Life Membership	£120.00

Please pay your subscriptions to the Membership Secretary – Mark Jones.

Last, but not least, a Happy New Year to everyone.

- Chris Webb



# News from the Towers

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM (belated news)

*Practice: Saturday @ 9 am*

We're still ringing in the middle of the fields, competing with the sky larks, tractors and the village cricket team for attention. We have been fortunate in being able to persuade Deryck Jones of Holy Trinity, Dartford, to help with our practice. It has been a fairly regular event and we're progressing. There are 4 regular learners and a few occasional learners (life does have a habit of getting in the way) as well as 'old' lags like myself.

The tower was open for the church fete and many came to admire the displays though not all felt capable of climbing the tower. We mounted a static (and silent) display at the village fete as an awareness exercise - most of the houses are too far away to hear the bells. We did manage to ring for the World War 2 Peace commemoration and all our young ringers and learners were presented with a coin and medal, with the essential bells on the obverse, as a lasting reminder.

It was with great sadness that we celebrated the life of our tower captain, Lyn Briers on August the 19th. Our thanks are extended to all who came. We are grateful to all those who are helping us maintain ringing at Ash Tower.

- Gabrielle Stook



## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice: Wednesdays @ 9 pm*

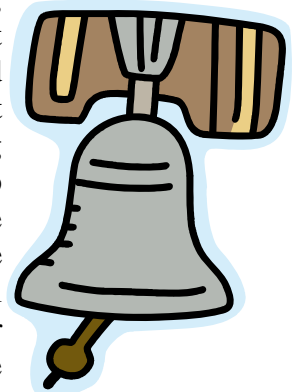
Two major commemorations have occurred since last I reported: the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II (marked in July, halfway between VE and VJ days) and the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar. Although we could not rise to quarter peals, the Biggin Hill band rang for both these occasions; our



band included Fred and Alan each time. These dates had more powerful connotations for them than for the younger ringers, and they were proud to participate.

Sadly, the Trafalgar ringing was made sober by the morning's airplane crash in the valley. All who have died in battle and the two who died in that crash were remembered in our prayers.

Everyone enjoyed decamping to Southwark for the district practice. Mel coped wonderfully well on her first BIG bells and long, long ropes. Clambering to the top of the tower remains the highlight for most of the band. What a wonderful experience it was to gaze over the glittering city, whilst the bells tolled and the tower rolled beneath our feet!



School and work commitments mean that our band has shrunk, so that most practice nights we only have six or seven ringers. Even so, we are (literally!) crashing ahead. Alan can handle basic plain hunt now, and is getting more confident with bells swapped over and starting from different places, Fred KNOWS plain hunt, but his bell still does not follow his brain! It has been a triumph of perseverance for him, especially as there is no-one to stand with him—just me bellowing at him: “after

Marc! After Mel! LEAD NOW!..."

We have three ringers ripe for Bob Doubles, but as they are youngsters they don't get to other towers unless I can take them, and we seldom have visitors. I so want them to make the breakthrough. However, without an example of good method ringing before them, they have little idea of the fun and possibilities. I do hope Rhiannon's idea of a young ringers' outing will be taken up by her successor and made to work! My lot are keen!

Because of complaints from one near neighbour we have had to turn down a few requests from visiting ringers for quarter peals and some outings, which is sad. Thanks to James Hardy, the PCC now has good plans for sound control in the tower. I am waiting for feedback!

- Nancy Gay

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## BECKENHAM

*Practice: Thursdays @ 7.50 pm*

Our practices continue as normal, usually with a good turnout. As has been written before, we are grateful to the many visitors who come to our practices and enable us to ring more bells! So thank you to those who fall into this category—and please continue to come along!



Brenda has been a regular visitor recently and is making good progress with her Triples ringing. Other activities include a Surprise Royal quarter on the third Monday of the month, which has been running since February. Despite a few occasions when some individuals' brains felt like they were disintegrating, we are now 7/8ths of the way through the Standard 8; no doubt a report will follow in due course.

- Ross Hartley

## ELTHAM

*Practice: Tuesday @ 8 pm*

Practices continue to be quite well attended at the moment, and we have recently been starting the practice early to accommodate learners. Cambridge Minor and Grandsire Triples are now rung fairly regularly, with occasional forays into London Minor and Stedman Triples.



We entered the District Call-Change Competition, and were pleased to come third (the first time we have been "placed" in this competition since 2001). This was achieved despite one of the band suffering from flu, and having to be dragged from

her sickbed to ring. My thanks go to the other bands for allowing us to ring first, (not that there is ever much enthusiasm for that particular slot!)

A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. This was also intended to mark the departure of our longest-serving ringer, Len Dumper, who moved in October to Wingham, in the Canterbury District. He joined the band at Eltham in the mid-1970s, so has been ringing here for over 30 years, while being a member of the Chislehurst band as well. We wish him and Susan well for the future, and hope to see him ringing whenever possible.

One of Len's last tasks was to organise, together with Roger Long, the usual joint outing with Chislehurst. The usual difficulties in finding a date to suit everyone meant that this took place later in the year than usual, but fortunately the last Saturday in October was fairly dry and not too chilly! A good day's ringing was rounded off by a particularly fine tea.



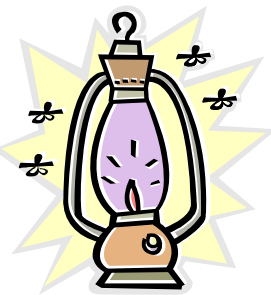
- David Holdridge

**ERITH**  
**(CHRIST CHURCH)**

*Practice: Monday @ 8 pm*

Some time ago, we upgraded the lighting in the ringing chamber and also installed emergency lighting. We now know it works! On the evening Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> there was a short service to switch on the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice 'Lights of Love'. Prior to the service we intended to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples. We were about one third through when the main lights went out. Happily the emergency lights cut in immediately and we managed to keep on ringing.

The main lights came on again after a very short while (as well as fluorescent tubes we have a normal bulb – this is important as, when power comes back on, there is a delay before the tubes light up). Unfortunately, the quarter failed, but not because of the blackout!



About two years ago, one of the Swanscombe ringers, Trevor, started attending our practice nights.



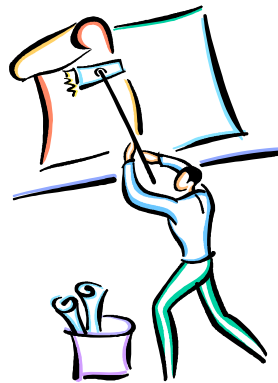
Unfortunately, last February he was struck down with a condition that resulted in an almost total loss of sensation. The good news was that he would get better, but it would take time. After many weeks in hospital and a long course of physiotherapy he is well on

the road to full recovery. We were delighted to welcome him back at the beginning of December and he has even started ringing again.

We have recently been joined on Sundays by Andrew, an experienced ringer who has moved into the area. We hope he will be able to attend practice nights as well.

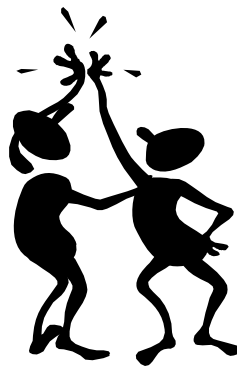
**HORTON KIRBY**

*Practice: Thursday @ 8 pm*



Those of you who took part in the change ringing competition will have seen that the redecoration of our church is now complete. Some of us are not that impressed but at least it is now cleaner and brighter and parts of the wall do not come away with you if you happen to lean on them.

We enjoyed hosting the competition (even if we didn't do very well!) but it would have been nice to see more bands entering.



We have been on another outing as I said we would be doing in the last newsletter, but as Rupert, who came with us, has written such a nicely illustrated report on the website (*which has magically appeared overleaf!* -Ed.) I won't bore you with more details. I'd just like to add our thanks to Rupert, Frank, Julian and Nick for coming with us and helping. It

really does make our outings more worth while when we have this help. People don't seem to need much persuading to come because we always have a good time and not only because of the weather (I am not a witch – I'd just like to make that clear!)



Finally, from all of us to all of you, a very Happy New Year.

- Sue Allport



# Horton Kirby Outing

## Kaleidoscope Ringing

**The Weather Witch does it again!**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

The Horton Kirby outing this year crossed the river to Essex. Bad weather has not normally been a feature of HK outings and this year was no exception as their very own weather witch did her stuff again. She wove her magic as a lovely warm and sunny day greeted our arrival at the first tower, Stisted.

The ringing room is accessed through a trap door in the floor and health and safety must have paid a visit judging by the many gates and fences around it. The ringing must have had an effect on the locals as an ambulance was heading into the village as we left!. In fact they seemed to follow us around all day.

We then moved onto Witham for the first 8 bell ringing of the day. Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 7 and Grandsire Triples were all rung successfully. Next was Tollesbury to have a ring on the lightest 10 hung in a church. Everyone had a go at Plain Hunt on 9 which was a first for most people.

Lunch was at the Queen's Head in Tollesbury. Most of the meals had been pre-ordered but some how our order had been confused... what are the odds on two groups of 17 people turning up for lunch!?! The pub did well though and the delay did give us the chance to sit out in the garden in the sun.

Suitably refreshed we moved onto Maldon for the final two towers of the day. First was the 8 in an unusual triangular tower and then the 6 with what looked like a less than sound floor.

Thanks go to Sue for organising such an enjoyable day.

- Rupert Cheeseman

A few months ago at a District event, I saw a small booklet upon Jim Rooke's bookstall entitled *Kaleidoscope Ringing – A Change Ringers Alternative to Called Changes*, written by Gordon Lucas. As many of the ringers at Cudham & Downe are competent at Plain Hunt & Call Changes, I felt it was worth a try to give a bit of variety, especially for weddings.

It allows relatively inexperienced ringers to join in with a piece of ringing that, when well struck, does give the impression to a non-ringer, that something rather more complex is being rung. For the learner, it is easy to pick up, and has the advantage over call changes in that you can tell everyone exactly who they will be following and when, before anyone catches hold to start. That way, the learner can take hold with confidence, knowing in advance where to place their bell.

We try it in its simplest form, and it has to be said that it does work very well on the light ten at Cudham, perhaps less well on the six at Downe, if only because there are less bells to mix up.

For those who have not come across the idea of kaleidoscope ringing before, it is simple in principle. It is felt best to maintain a steady lead with the treble, and a firm tenor to help. Bells are paired up in between, and each pair is told which type of work they will use when a start is called. There are three choices – either simple dodging, “short” places where each bell does two blows above/below its partner, or “long” places – of four blows above/below its partner bell. With the ten at Cudham, we usually have bells 2 & 3 dodging, 4 & 5 doing short places, 6 & 7 dodging, and 8 & 9 following up with long places. By that means, there will be eight rows of changes before rounds comes up again, and the pattern repeats thereafter. Calling an end to it is an art in itself: to judge when rounds is about to come round can be tricky with the higher numbers.

*(Continued overleaf)*



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# District Event Reports

*(Taken from the Lewisham District Website, which is mostly written and maintained by  
Rupert Cheeseman)*

## District Practice at Crayford (12/11/05)

There was good turnout, two bands and a spare, despite the relatively late change of venue. As usual the ringing was tailored to those that were there, so methods ranged from Rounds and Call Changes to 8 Spliced Surprise Major with Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kent and Stedman in between.



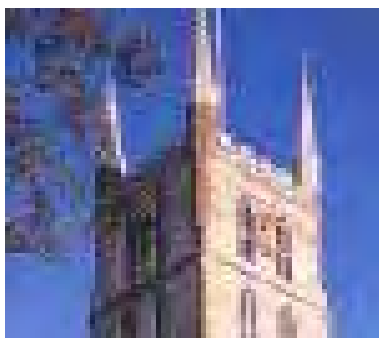
## District Practice at Eltham (15/10/05)

A disappointing 11 people made it to the practice, although the relatively late notice of venue probably didn't help. It was worthwhile for those that did turn up though as they had the chance to ring things that they would not necessarily have been able to ring at their local practice.

## ADM at Crayford (8/10/05)

Unfortunately, the service had to move forward quarter of an hour at the last minute due to a band rehearsal in the church but most people seemed to have got the message and made it in time. Rev. Anthony Lane took the service and the lack of an organ lead to some hearty singing by the congregation. The tea and meeting took place in the more cosy Youth Hall at the back of the main church hall. 22 people attended the meeting.

## District Practice at Southwark Cathedral (31/8/2005)



Nearly 30 ringers ventured out of Kent for the district's annual trip to London. The standard of ringing was generally good on what are not easy bells. There were plenty of people ringing here for the first time but everyone rang at least rounds on 12. Grandsire Caters, Little Bob Royal and the new front eight were also rung. There was also the chance to go up on the roof and enjoy the views over London as the sun set. Going over to The Market Porter for a drink or two afterwards rounded off the evening nicely.

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*KALEIDOSCOPE RINGING (Continued from previous page):*

On the six at Downe the options are more limited, but it is possible to have the treble & tenor involved if you like, and if the ringing is steady then that should not prove a problem.

Gordon Lucas' booklet has 20 pages, priced at £1.50 and I'm sure Jim can get hold of more copies, as it is a Central Council Publication. It goes on from the brief resume above to more complex versions, which give even more varieties. For bands with perhaps less experience in method ringing, it can provide a means to brighten up a wedding with something other than Rounds & Call Changes, and will give learners another facet of ringing to study. I'd certainly recommend trying it, at least.

- Jon Fry

# Battle of Trafalgar 200th Anniversary Ringing

## SS. Peter and Paul, Ash by Wrotham

We rang for Trafalgar and the ringers and supporters were rewarded with a bottle of specially brewed beer.

## St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield

A quarter of Bob Minor was rung on 22<sup>nd</sup> October

## St. Paulinus, Crayford

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
1260 Plain Bob Minor in 42mins

1. Rachel Backhouse
2. Brenda Barton
3. Carol Eastaugh
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Mark Backhouse

Rung to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

## Holy Trinity, Dartford

General ringing took place on Saturday prior to a civic service held in the church to commemorate the battle.

## St. Mary, Horton Kirby

General ringing on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.



## St. John the Baptist, Eltham

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
1260 Grandsire Triples in 43mins

1. Peter Skinner
2. David Holdridge
3. Rupert Cheeseman
4. Diane Reynolds
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Len Morley
7. Ian Mills (C)
8. Len Dumper

Rung to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar; also as a farewell tribute to Len Dumper, ringer of Eltham for 34 years.

## St. Alfege, Greenwich

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
5200 Stedman Caters in 3hr 9mins  
Comp: R C Kippin (Arr. D P Hilling)

1. Alan D Flood
2. Christopher H Rogers
3. Fr David A Gibbons
4. Michael J Uphill
5. Rupert J Cheeseman
6. Nigel R Parsons
7. David P Hilling (C)
8. Colin J E Wyld
9. Matthew J Hilling
10. Michael R Worthington

Rung to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

## St. John the Evangelist, Penge

A peal was attempted here on Saturday morning but came to grief in the 2<sup>nd</sup> extent.

## SS Peter & Paul, Shoreham

6 bells fired; rounds and call changes on 8 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.



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# Eltham and Chislehurst Tower Outing

## 29th October 2005

The Eltham and Chislehurst tower outing this year went to mid-Kent. 19 ringers made it bright and early to a misty Chart Sutton for the only 6 of the day.

Next it was onto Frittenden where we arrived to find a captive audience for our ringing - sheep in the church yard!



Headcorn was the last tower before a welcome lunch. An unusual staircase lead to the ringing room and some pretty good ringing was managed on this heavy 8.

The pub was just across the road. The food had been pre-ordered but they obviously had not been warned about ringers thirsts as only one barmaid was left to manage on her own. The food was impressively quick though and began appearing well before the drinks had been sorted.

*[No chance of complaints from the locals at Frittenden...]*

A lock-out almost occurred at Marden but luckily the key holder lived next door to the church and came straight over after a phone call to her.

There were no such problems at Brenchley, the final tower of the day, but the fourth was incredible deep set and one of the more experienced ringers even had to admit defeat trying to pull it off.

A feature of these outings is going to a tearoom to round off the day and this time was no exception with the added reason that it was Roger's birthday. Cherrytree's did us proud with endless tea, sandwiches and some enormous slices of cake.



*[David Holdridge skilfully navigates the tat in the tearoom]*

The walls and shelves were heaving under an amazing amount of old bric-a-brac with various people showing their age by remembering buying some of the items!



Thanks go to Roger and Len (who unfortunately could not make the outing himself due to his recent move away from Eltham into Kent - his organisation skills will certainly be missed at Chislehurst and Eltham) for organising the towers and tearooms.

Rupert Cheeseman





# The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

Catherine Lewis has written some adverts for a few 'ringing courses' at the Dover Cinque Ports Ringing Centre. These courses are scheduled for various times in the New Year. They cover a wide array of topics and look like being excellent value for money! All contact details are included in the articles below.

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## **Rope Splicing**

**Saturday 28 January 2006**

**from 2 to 5 pm**

Find out how to make a long and a short splice, and know how to decide which one to use. Cost £3. **Please book by Friday 20 January.**

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## **Follow-on Practice**

**Saturday 22 April 2006**

**from 2 to 5 pm**

This will be an opportunity to reinforce topics covered by the KCACR Elementary School on 31 March. Please book by **Saturday 8 April.**

The Ringing Centre is also happy to support District training events with follow-on courses two or three weeks after the main event. Please would District training organizers contact us at an early stage if they would like to take advantage of this offer.

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## **Basic Skills and more...**

**Sessions are held every Saturday morning**

10-11 am: Coverage of the basic skills of bell handling, raising and lowering.  
11am coffee. 11.15 am to 12.15 pm: exercises in bell control, plain hunt, and method ringing. **No booking required.**

For bookings, further details of any of the above, or a map showing parking please contact Barbara Dale (email [barbaradale@fastmail.fm](mailto:barbaradale@fastmail.fm) or telephone 01304 823\*\*\*.)

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# Minutes from the last meeting...

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

### *LEWISHAM DISTRICT*

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Paulinus Crayford on Saturday 8 October 2005.

The meeting stood to observe a minute's silence in memory Lyn Briers of Ash-by-Wrotham and Steve Gill of Sidcup and Cudham.

#### **Apologies for absence**

22 people attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Philippa Rooke, Nicholas Wilkins (Chelsfield), Cathy Cheeseman, Mark Jones (St Nicholas Chislehurst), Mary Andrews (Bexley), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), David Hilling, Tony Fisher and Richard Barker (Eynsford & Farningham).

#### **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John's Deptford on Saturday 9 July 2005**

The minutes were approved on the proposal of Andrew Sinclair, seconded by James Hardy.

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **KCACR Committee Report**

##### Public Liability Insurance

In response to a request for clarification of what risks were covered by the County policy, Eric Roughley, the County Chairman said that the issue had now been clarified. Members were covered for minor maintenance. It was the Bell Restoration Working Group that was adversely affected and so far this had been resolved by asking the church where work was being undertaken to get an extension of their policy. With the Personal Accident policy the maximum age for which cover is provided is 70. Updated information about the County insurance policies was to be put on the KCACR website.

##### Proposal for a County Ringing Master

This was raised at the last County Committee meeting where it was agreed that Frank and Catherine Lewis would draft terms of reference for such a post. It would then be discussed at the next Committee meeting before the Districts were asked for their views.

##### New membership database

Graham Cottle has developed this and it is now ready for testing. Mark Jones, this District's Membership Secretary has already had discussions with him.

##### Proposal to change the date of the County AGM

The County Committee proposed changing the date of the County AGM to the fourth Saturday in April, mainly to allow sufficient time for the Annual Report to be printed and distributed. The County Chairman explained that the rules allowed the AGM to be held at any time between Easter and July. There was a short discussion but no strong views either for or against the proposal were expressed.

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## Reports

### Ringling Master's report

James Hardy made the following points in his report:

Many members have made progress in various areas of ringing, with several 'firsts' in new methods.

Organisation of events has suffered this year, partly because the Ringling Master has had family and work pressures. Unfortunately the Deputy was also unable to help much. This has had an adverse impact on attendance at District events.

Turnout for most practices has been limited but generally a good standard of ringing has been achieved, however we are still failing to attract 'locals' to attend when the practice comes to their tower.

Recruitment is a major problem for many towers and one that needs to be addressed.

Some individuals have arranged ambitious projects e.g. Nigel Pointer has organised a series of Spliced Surprise Minor quarter peals up to 29 spliced using all but one of the standard 41. Ross Hartley has organised Surprise Royal quarter peals, Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Superlative No2 have been scored so far.

At County level we did not do well in the 8-bell competition and Beckenham's performance in the 6-bell competition was very average.

Thanks to Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman for the excellent Newsletter again this year and to Rupert who has taken over the Lewisham District website. Thanks to all who have helped out during the year.

### Secretary's Report

Christine Webb made the following points in her report:

- Two of this year's quarterly meetings were held to coincide with particular events. The January meeting at Beckenham marked 100 years since the tower first hosted a quarterly meeting. The July meeting at St John's Deptford coincided with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. The third meeting, in April, was held at Bromley Parish.
- A new innovation this year was an attendance book to give us a record of attendances at meetings in addition to the apologies for absence we have traditionally recorded. Attendance at quarterly meetings ranged from 18 to 36. Attendance at most District practices was also recorded with numbers attending ranging from 11 to 20.
- The District Call Change competition attracted only 5 entries compared with 10 in the previous year, and was won by Crayford. The 6-bell competition also attracted 5 entries and was won by Beckenham. Their team subsequently came 4<sup>th</sup> in the County competition. In the County 8-bell competition the District team was disqualified or ringing the wrong touch.
- The Carol Service at Horton Kirby, though only attended by a small number, was very enjoyable.
- This year there has been a major effort to increase the District's contribution to the BRF with the successful launch of the 120 Club. Thanks are due to Rachel Backhouse for dealing with the bureaucracy and managing to sell over 90 shares.
- A number of District members had died during the year, Peter Rose, Richard Bing, James Pailing, Steve Gill and Lyn Briers.

**Thanks were due to the other officers and all those who have helped during the year.**

### Membership Secretary's Report

Mark Jones submitted a written report making the following points:

- Current membership totals 208 compared with 226 on 2004 and 223 in 2003
  - 24 members lapsed in 2005 compared with 14 in 2004 and 17 in 2003
- There were 6 new members in 2005, 14 in 2004 and 17 in 2003

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The financial statement shows total income from subscriptions is £1543.50. £167.58 has been paid to the BRF mainly raised from raffles; it does not include money raised from the 120 club or from the District Open Day held on 1 January 2005.

### **Election of Officers**

The following officers stood down:

Deputy Ringing Master – Rhiannon Meredith

Press Representatives & Newsletter Editors - Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman.

The following Officers gave notice that, if elected, they were only prepared to serve for one more year:

Ringing Master – James Hardy

Secretary – Christine Webb

District Representatives – Sara Hardy and Len Morley. Both these officers had family commitments that were making it increasingly difficult to attend County Committee meetings and would prefer to stand down this year if other nominees could be found.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

#### Chairman

Jeremy Byers Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Margaret Macey

#### Ringing Master

James Hardy Proposed by Jeremy Byers seconded by Christine Webb

#### Assistant Ringing Master

Rupert Cheeseman Proposed by James Hardy seconded by David Holdridge

#### District Representatives

Len Morley

Sara Hardy

In the absence of any formal proposals for these posts it was suggested that these officers, neither of whom were able to attend the meeting, should be asked if they were willing to continue in post for the time being. It was noted that they could ask another District member to attend a County Committee meeting in their place if they were unable to do so.

#### Press Representative & Newsletter Editor

Ross Hartley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman seconded by David Brown

Ross Hartley indicated that he intended to act as Newsletter editor for the coming year rather than undertake a longer term commitment.

#### Sales Representative

Jim Rooke Proposed by Jon Fry seconded by Brenda Barton

#### Secretary

Christine Webb Proposed by Jeremy Byers seconded by Ross Hartley

#### Membership Secretary

Mark Jones Proposed by James Hardy seconded by Jeremy Byers





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### **Election of new members**

The following new members were elected:

#### **FOOTS CRAY**

Colin Osmond Proposed by Margaret Macey seconded by Rachel Backhouse

Clare Osmond Proposed by Margaret Macey seconded by Rachel Backhouse

Jeffrey Marshall Proposed by Margaret Macey seconded by James Hardy

Lisa Marshall Proposed by Margaret Macey seconded by James Hardy

The meeting congratulated Lisa and Jeffrey on their recent marriage.

### **Programme for 2005/6**

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.

#### **2005**

19 November Call change competition Horton Kirby

#### **2006**

##### **Quarterly meetings**

14 January West Wickham

8 April Bromley Common

8 July Dartford

14 October (ADM) St John's Erith

##### **District Practices:**

15 October 2005 Eltham

12 November 2005 Beckenham

##### **Striking competitions**

4 March 2006 6-bell competition

18 November 2006 Call change competition

It was agreed that the Ringing Masters would arrange a suitable venue for these events.



### **Carol Service**

This is normally held on the second Saturday in December but in view of falling numbers attending this event in recent years it was agreed to ask the membership if they were prepared to support this event before asking a tower to host it.

### **Bell Restoration Fund**

#### 120 Club

The draw took place and the winning numbers for this month were:

1<sup>st</sup> 75

2<sup>nd</sup> 31

3<sup>rd</sup> 56

4<sup>th</sup> 82

#### Raffle

The raffle held at this meeting raised £40 for the BRF.

### **Advent Carol Service at Cripplegate**

The Secretary reported that she had received an e-mail from Gwen Rogers inviting members of the District to the Advent Carol Service at St Giles' Cripplegate on the evening of Monday 28 November 2005 to be followed by the annual Ringers party which, this year, is organised by the College Youths

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**Newsletter:** Rupert Cheeseman thanked all those who had contributed to the Newsletter over the last 5 years and he hoped that people would continue to support the new editor.

**Call Change Competition**

The Secretary advised members that entry forms for the call change competition were now available and could be collected from her. Any not collected would be posted out with the remaining tower copies of the Newsletter.

**Vote of thanks**

Margaret Macey proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Anthony Lane and the Reverend Judy Evans for conducting the service and to the Crayford ringers for the excellent tea.

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# Agenda for the District Meeting (West Wickham, 14th January 2006)

## THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS LEWISHAM DISTRICT

### A G E N D A

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Paulinus Crayford on Saturday 8 October 2005
- Matters arising from the minutes:
  - call change competition
  - district carol service
- KCACR Committee Meeting report:
  - Proposed increase in peal fees
  - St Nicholas Deptford
- Events: District & County
- Bell Restoration Fund:
  - 120 Club
- Election of new members
- Any other business:
  - Membership subscriptions for 2005
  - Lewisham District Representatives
- Vote of thanks

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## ***Next District Practice!***

**SAT 28th JANUARY 2006 @ Christ Church, Erith (7-9pm) ALL WELCOME!!!**