



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

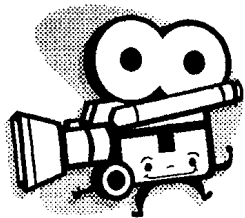
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THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk

April 2006

Foundry Tales

Many months ago I wrote about a film company that wanted to take some shots in a London church, which resulted in some foundry staff (including me) moving a desiccated body down a tower and back up again. Working in front of film and television cameras is, unfortunately, a hazard of the job at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Most filming, of course, happens in the foundry or in church towers while we are doing our normal work.



Any job involving bells being removed or replaced in a tower is a major project for the church concerned, and often the customer will wish to make a record of the event, usually by one of the parishioners making an amateur video. In any case, whenever we make a new bell we invite a small number of representatives to witness the cast, and cameras are always put to good use during the pouring of the metal. Sometimes though, a parish will persuade their local BBC or Independent television station to highlight the project, so a film crew is present, and may want to film other processes going on to tell a fuller story, often including a visit to the tower during installation.

Occasionally we are contacted directly by a film or television company wanting to produce a program including a bit about bells, often following up a story about the Liberty Bell, Big Ben and the Palace of Westminster, or a current news story. A few years ago, for example, we were commissioned by the city of London to cast a bell as a gift to the city of New York as a symbol of support after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre "Twin Towers". The casting of this bell was covered live by Sky News and attended by the Lord Mayor of London, the American Ambassador, the Archbishop of Canterbury and dozens of press photographers – a very busy day!

The most recent piece of filming to be screened on television was a program produced as part of a series about people with "A Passion for Churches". We were contacted by a company wanting to film a current project as it progressed, but being the brainchild / pet project of one "enthusiast". Various projects were identified to them to contact, and we heard no more for a while. Eventually they decided to produce a programme about a project that had been completed a couple of years ago, but very much the "baby" of Lord Raynham. This involved us re-enacting his visit to the foundry on a cast day, providing the historical background to the job (me again!), and attending site to recreate some bell hanging activity.

The finished programme turned out to be a very good advertisement for the Church, bell ringing, and incidentally, the foundry. It all goes to show what can be achieved by careful editing!

- Mark Backhouse

Notes from KCACR meeting held on Saturday 25th February 2006

10 Bell Challenge

It was reported that the Lewisham District would host this event and will decide on date, venue, method and notify all other districts.

St. Nicholas – Deptford

Slow progress due to problems making contact with the Keltec Trust to sign the loan agreement. Once this has been achieved James Hardy, Dickon Love and Roger Booth will look at the feasibility of the idea and prepare a range of options for consideration.

BRF

It was reported that the fund since 2000 has had no charitable status, it seems there was lack of continuity when Officers were appointed and because IR did not receive accounts they assumed that the BRF was no longer functioning. However, action has been taken to rectify the situation and it is hoped that it will be possible to reinstate the charitable status from 2000.

AGM

Easter Monday - routes and lunch details now available on the web site. In addition, anyone interested in participating in the scratch choir would be welcome – again details available on the web site. The program for the day is:-

11am Quarter Peal at Benenden, 2 ringers from each district required

12 noon Service at Benenden

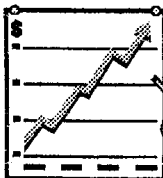
1pm Lunch in the Village Hall

2.30pm Meeting

Nominations are required for Chairman and Handbook Editor (forms available on web site.)

County Peal Fees

Agreed to increase these to 50p along with the possibility of a County Peal Book to be kept to record each peal rung.

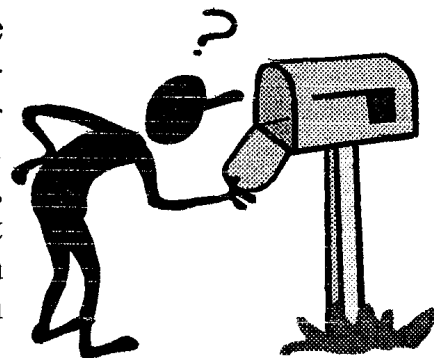


Chairman's Chain

Reported that this is now full, decided to investigate cost of acquiring a new chain of office, the present one would then be kept by the County Librarian.

The Chairman's Section

Unfortunately, the Chairman was unavailable for interview this month. You, dear reader, will have to wait until the next edition for a statement from him.



Coming soon to a meeting near you...

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FOR THE CAKE

125 g (4 oz) butter

225 g (8 oz) dark soft

brown sugar

2 eggs

142 ml (1/4 pint) soured cream

175 g (6 oz) plain flour

5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder

2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) bicarbonate of soda

50 g (2 oz) Cadbury Bournville cocoa

FOR THE FILLING

40 ml (2 Tbs) Cadbury Bournville cocoa

125 g (4 oz) butter

150 g (5 oz) icing sugar, sieved

Vanilla essence

FOR THE FROSTING

200 g bar of Cadbury Bournville chocolate

40 ml (2 Tbs) Cadbury Bournville cocoa

142 ml (1/4 pint) double cream

Two 20 cm (8-inch), shallow cake tins, greased and base-lined. **For the cake, cream together the butter and sugar** until the mixture is light in colour and texture. Gradually beat in the eggs, and then the soured cream (the mixture looks curdled at this stage). Sieve together the dry ingredients and fold them into the mixture. Divide the mixture equally between the tins. Bake at Gas Mark 5/190°C/375°F for 30 – 35 minutes, until cooked. Turn out on to a wire tray to cool.

Make the filling by mixing the cocoa with 40 ml (2 Tbs) of boiling water to a smooth paste, allow to cool. Beat together the butter, sieved icing sugar and essence, until light and fluffy. Beat in the cocoa. Slice the cake in half and then sandwich the halves together with the filling.

For the frosting, melt the chocolate carefully. Make the cocoa into a paste with water as before and mix with the chocolate. Slowly whisk the cream into the chocolate until smooth and thickened. Spread the frosting evenly over the cake with a palette knife.

Serve in slices, with whipped cream or ice-cream.



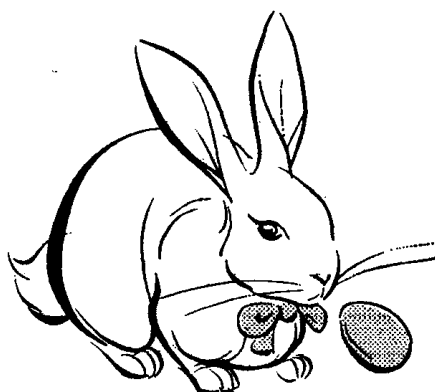
Editorial

Isn't it amazing how time flies? I was in a relaxed frame of mind earlier in the month, but then I was suddenly struck by a feeling of Newsletter-induced panic. Despite my initial concerns, this edition of the Newsletter was knocked out over a weekend. And now, as I put the finishing touches to it (after consuming a ridiculous amount of tea in the process) I can relax once more for another three months. Thanks again to those individuals who have contributed to this edition. The Newsletter really is what you want it to be, so please keep sending your articles in!

Happy Easter!

Cheers,

Ross Hartley



KCACR AGM

KCACR AGM. Easter Monday, April 17th

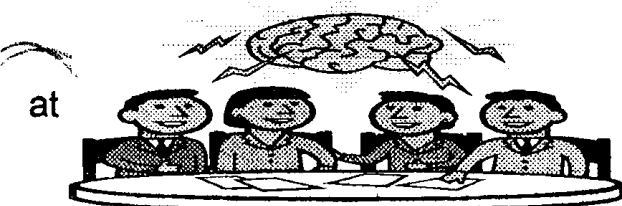
2006.

12 noon

service

St.

George



Benenden (12), followed by lunch in the village hall. Meeting 2.30pm. Lunch tickets £10.00 each (for a Steven Haynes special) available with ringing programme from Peter Sims, 17, Cunningham Crescent, Wayfield, Chatham, ME5 0ES. (01634 830045). Please make cheques payable to KCACR and include a stamped addressed envelope by April 3rd latest. Ringing programme will be available on the KCACR website.

In the newsletter this time...

Foundry Tales	1
Notes from a KCACR Meeting	2
The Chairman's Section	2
Death by Chocolate:	
The Ultimate Ringer's Cake	2
Editorial and Contents	3
Tall Ships: A Review	3
The American Judicial System Works...	4
The Story of St. Nicholas, Deptford, Part 2	5
A Puzzle	6
News from the Towers	6-8
Surprise Royal Success	8
120 Club Report	9
Minutes from the last meeting	10-12
KCACR 8-Bell Report	12



I recently
hauling on a
different

spent a week
very
sort of rope—

on a Tall Ships Youth Trust brig, carrying 18 sails
and a crew of 48, around the Canaries.

You cannot imagine how much fun it was!

All my childhood dreams of pirates,
midshipmen and heroes were acted out. Storms
at sea were surmounted (force 8 gale—I was
horribly seasick!), ratlines climbed, yards
braced, sails set. I stood at the helm, hands on the
big mahogany and brass wheel with canvas taut
above my head and dolphins leaping to starboard.

Marvellous!

My rope splicing now includes eye splice,
long splice and grommet (not very necessary in
a belfry) and I know more knots that you want to
hear about! Interestingly, the Prince William (built
2001 in Appledore) carries no natural fibre ropes;
all are polyester, even the gaskets which feel as soft
as hemp. About 15 miles in total!

There was a bell, too!

- Nancy Gay

The American Judicial System Works

These passages are taken from a book called Disorder in the American Courts, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan.

ATTORNEY: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

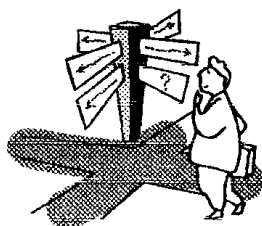
WITNESS: We both do.

ATTORNEY: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

ATTORNEY: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.



ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: Uh, he's twenty-one.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Uh....

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

- Sue Allport

The Story of St. Nicholas, Deptford: Part II

A New Ring of Bells Required

Last month I told the story of the bells that used to hang in the tower of St Nicholas, Deptford, considered to be the first ring of eight ever to be installed in Kent. The story now continues with news of how a ring of bells is to be returned to this venerable tower.

A good deal of bell restoration work has been going on in the Docklands and wider area, mainly spear-headed by Roger Booth. Bells have been transferred from unsuitable towers to suitable towers in an effort to get them all ringing. A ring of six bells was cast for St Paul's, Homerton in 1890 from the metal of five of the six bells that used to hang in the tower of All Hallows Staining in the City of London. (Those who ever travel to Fenchurch St will see the remains of this tower, probably unaware that it used to contain an 8 cwt ring of six.) The Homerton bells were removed from the tower in 1983 with a view to being installed in the tower of St Anne, Limehouse. In the event, Limehouse received a larger ring from St Peter's, Walworth leaving the Homerton bells available for reuse elsewhere. They were acquired by the Keltek Trust (a trust that deals with the relocation of second hand bells) and a suitable new home was sought.

In the mean time, the church in Deptford was awarded a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the rather dilapidated tower, indeed, the grant appeared large enough to fund the best part of a new ring of bells too. The Keltek Trust therefore offered St Nicholas' the six bells from Homerton for a very small sum, donating the tenor bell in the process.

The restoration work on the tower started in 2000, but was beset with a number of problems including the liquidation of one of the contractors. By the time the work was complete (and very impressively too), there was no money left for the bells. Keltek was still keen to see the bells go to Deptford, so it extended their payment deadline several times. However, no fundraising was taking place in the church, and it appeared that only the Rector and the Docklands ringers were interested. At that point Jim Hardy and I got involved to try to move things along. A grant was requested from the Association to settle the cost with the Keltek Trust, thereby securing the bells for Deptford. Quotations for hanging the six bells with two new bells in a new frame in the tower were sought from various bell founders and hangers, and the project was costed. The new ring of eight would be rung from a new ringing gallery, would weigh about 8 cwt, and would be an important part of the regeneration of that area of Kent. The total cost is expected to be in the order of £80,000, a sum that has already been dented by a number of pledges.

Once the new Rector is established, members of the District will be working with the church and Roger Booth to see this project through. Hence there is no specific timeframe set for the installation of the bells, but once there is, more will be announced here and at meetings.

If anybody is interested in helping with this project when it gets off the ground, they are invited to contact Dickon Love (details in the Handbook under Deptford).

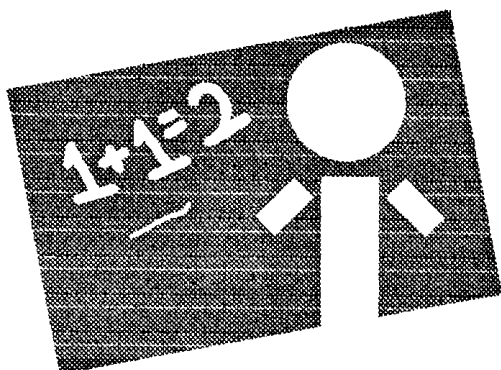
Details of the old bells and pictures of the belfry can be seen in "Lovesguide to the Church Bells of Kent", http://kent.lovesguide.com/deptford_st_nicholas.htm

- Dickon Love

A Puzzle

Attendance at Beckenham has been flagging a bit lately (*Never! – Ed.*), so for a recent peal they could only manage some poorly struck Grandsire doubles.

Using the clues below, can you work out who rang which bell, what reason each of them had for ringing the peal, and what each ringer was day-dreaming about at the point when they went wrong?



1. It was the ringer of the 2nd who rang only because of peer pressure. This was not Jim.
2. It was worrying about Parish Council politics that made the ringer of the 5th go wrong. Fortunately this person was not the conductor.
3. Dominic rang in the peal to avoid revising for his exams. He rang nearer the front than both the conductor and the person who was daydreaming about forthcoming holiday plans.
4. The person with the new car (which was either Ross or Jim) rang nearer the front than the person who rang in the peal to circle the tower.
5. It was not the treble ringer who was worrying about having lost their keys.
6. Ross rang the 3rd and Jeremy rang nearer the back than Jim
7. Jeremy did not ring the peal to circle the tower.

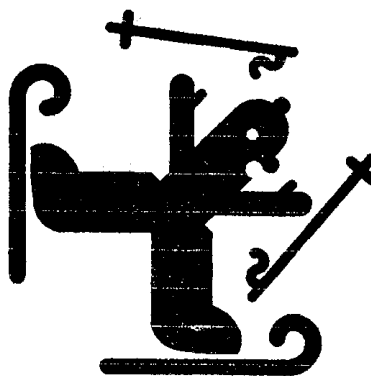
Name	Bell	Reason for ringing	Subject of daydream
Ross			
Jeremy			
Alice			
Dom			
Jim			

- Alice Baverstock

News from the Towers

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

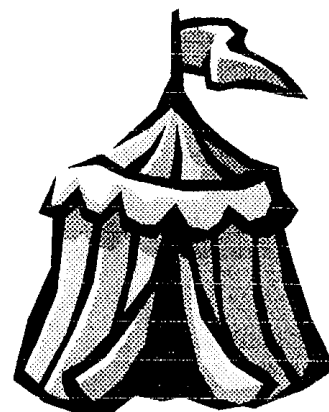
Practice Saturday 09:00 to 11:00



We were delighted that so many of you were able to come and exercise our bells on 4 March. There were some familiar faces mixed in with others new to us – though judging from the chat you all knew each other well.

Now you've found us, you've no excuse for not lending us a hand with our "learner band" (and we're all learners here) as we try to move from simple call changes to plain hunt. The comments about our shirts and cards surprised us (and if you want to know how to do it give us a shout). We hope you enjoyed your afternoon in the sticks, blessed with sunshine, snow-drops and bells.

Our next big event will be a quarter peal for Lyn Briers on the 24th June at 1:00pm to remember the last time when she was active in "her tower with her bells". This will also open our village fete so if you fancy a day in the country and some ring please let us know. As a beginner band we can't do this from our own resources, we will be grateful to any and all of you who help us to do this..... and if you want to do something grander, just give us a call.



BROMLEY COMMON

Practice by arrangement

"Silver Ringing Anniversary"

Last month marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the current band of bell-ringers at Bromley Common. It was early in 1981 that I approached the vicar of St Luke's, to ask if I could form a band of ringers for the church. I had learnt to ring at St Luke's in my youth and on my return to the church noticed the absence of bells ringing each Sunday. The vicar readily agreed to my request, appointed me as tower captain and gave me names of potential recruits, some of whom had rung elsewhere in the past. The previous band had disbanded some four years beforehand following the tower captain's move away from the area and also due to dwindling numbers. Although our bells were occasionally rung by visiting ringers during this period, there was no local band in place to ring for services or weddings.



Over the years a large number of people have joined the band: experienced ringers or new converts who wanted to have a go at ringing. Many have stayed as members for a number of years whereas others have just passed through the area. Each has contributed their time and effort and thus ensured that the bell-ringing tradition has been maintained at St Luke's. That said, in recent weeks our numbers have fallen for various reasons and practices have been by arrangement only. Hopefully this is a temporary blip as we plan to ring a quarter peal in celebration of our Silver Anniversary with the help of local ringers.

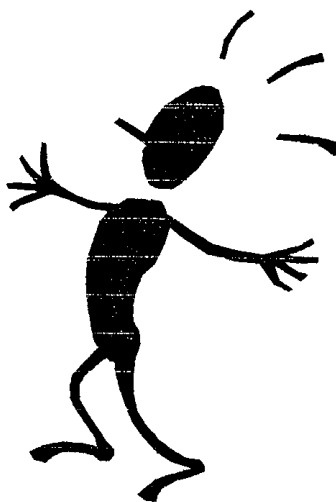
- Chris Lawrance

A fish swam into a wall. Damn.

- Anonymous

BROMLEY PARISH

Practice Tuesday @ 7.30 pm



The overhaul of the bells at Bromley Parish has been completed and with new bearings the "go" is noticeably improved. The oddstriking of the 5th and 6th has also been reduced.

The bells are available for peals - not more than 4 a year.

- David Kingston

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday @ 8 pm

We still continue to have better attendances at practices than for Sunday morning ringing, although there are good reasons why this is the case, and it is nice to have the opportunity on Tuesdays to stretch ourselves a little. Indeed, recently we have managed occasionally to ring plain courses of Cambridge Major - which meant brushing away a few cobwebs for several people! Thanks to those visitors who enable us to do this.

We entered the District 6-Bell Striking Competition again this year, and were pleased to come second. Some members of the band commented that this was the ideal result, since it meant we didn't have to go on to compete against the other Districts later in the year!



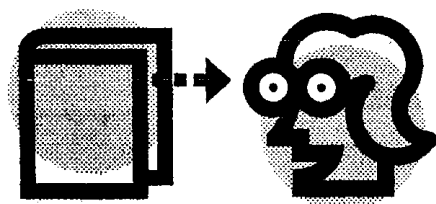
A visiting band from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a peal of Cornwall Surprise Major in February, and a quarter of London Surprise Major was rung (after an earlier failed attempt) by a mixed band of Kent ringers, from the Lewisham and Rochester Districts.

- David Holdridge

EYNSFORD AND FARNINGHAM

Practice Friday @ 8 pm; Wednesday 8 pm by arrangement, respectively.

At Eynsford on the 1st Friday of every month a 'Major' practice takes place from 8 - 9:30 pm.



At Farningham on the 3rd Wednesday of every month a 'Surprise Minor' practice takes place from 8 - 9:30 pm. Usually

a method will be announced to look up or learn but we are happy to ring any Surprise Minor method as required.

- Martin Luffman

Surprised at Surprise Royal success

At the beginning of the year, some people consider reforming themselves and give up bad habits, such as smoking, lazing on the couch, excessive alcohol consumption, etc.

This year, however, my resolution was concerned with improving my brain power! Having reached a stage where Surprise Major was becoming a little more comfortable, I was thinking about giving Surprise Royal a go. And so, one Sunday morning over a cup of tea, a plan was hatched. I thought that organising a Royal quarter after a few practices was the way forward; breaking myself in gently was the idea. Someone else had a different idea, and suggested that we should go straight for quarters, with a view to ringing the Standard 8 Royal. And so we did. (Cheers Nigel.)

Our first attempt at Cambridge Royal was slightly hesitant and required another two attempts before we scored it at the third go. We all agreed that we could have done better. It's amazing how adding another two bells to the situation makes everything so much more difficult. It took another couple of quarters before my rope-sight was finally up to the job, and this was quite fortunate, because we had scored Yorkshire and a respectable quarter of Lincolnshire, and had now arrived at Superlative.

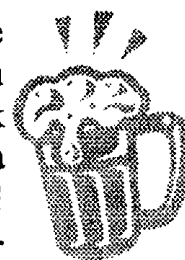
The previous three methods had been fairly easy to learn because they extended from the Major relatively logically; however, Superlative was another proposition altogether! It took a good two weeks of looking at the line before it all sunk in, and there were certainly some nerves on the evening of the quarter. Arguably, this was our best performance so far as a group, possibly due to the fact that everyone had gone away to spend some time looking at it in detail, which resulted in a more focused effort. Pudsey and Rutland followed in consecutive successful attempts, and then we were left with the last two of the series: Bristol and London.

These two were, without a shadow of doubt, the hardest methods I have rung. Bristol is so bendy that it gives you no room for error: if you put a point in the wrong place, you're doomed! Despite this, we scored Bristol at the first attempt and had another run at it the following month for the purposes of consolidation. London was relatively easy after that, but still required a massive amount of effort to get to the end, especially following a hard day's work!

Now that we have reached the end of the Standard 8, we are attempting a little bit of spliced. In March, we went for 3-spliced (CYB) but lost it after twenty minutes. It was a good effort though and I am hopeful that we will be successful next month when we have a second run at it! I also think there is some scope for taking a break from the Standard 8 and ringing some other Royal methods. This is something we will do if there is enough demand!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have been involved in this little project—and also those who have stepped in at the last minute when people have had to drop out.

I thoroughly recommend the idea of organising your own ringing. Not only is it very satisfying when it goes right, but more often than not it's the only way you will progress to the next level. So think of something you want to ring, get a band together, and go and have fun! Just remember that the feeling of despair when you lose a quarter can always be washed away with a little beer focus!



- Ross Hartley

120 Club

Draw held at district meeting at West Wickham on January 14th

1 st	Number 34	Len Dumper (Eltham)
2 nd	Number 44	David Hilling (Eynsford)
3 rd	Number 12	Jeremy Byers (Beckenham)
4 th	Number 98	120 Club

Draw held at Striking Competition held at Ash on March 4th

1 st	Number 69	Rob and Jackie Duke (Bromley Common)
2 nd	Number 94	Mrs D Bates (Non ringer c/o Beckenham)
3 rd	Number 95	120 Club
4 th	Number 12	Jeremy Byers (Beckenham)

Annual Report

We have now been through a whole year, my thanks to all who have supported me in whatever way. In total I sold 94 shares to 74 people from 19 different towers. Of the 40 prizes drawn 33 went to 25 different people representing 15 towers. The 120 Club claimed the other 7 prizes and these have gone to the BRF. The luckiest this year have been Mick McDonnell from Horton Kirby who won three prizes; Margaret Macey from Foots Cray and her husband Barry who won with each of their four shares and the four shares I sold through Crayford that all won. The distribution of prizes was as follows:

1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100	101-110	111-120
3	2	1	5	5	4	2	6	3	5	3	1

Accounts

Income	94 shares @£10	£940-00
	Interest	<u>0-34</u>
		£940-34

Expenditure	Prizes	£465-00
	Council Fees	52-50
	Photocopying	20-00
	Purchase of balls for draw	15-00
	Other expenses (mainly postage)	<u>10-27</u>
		£562-77

Total donation to the BRF **£377-57**

Next year expenses should be reduced by around £70 as I will only have to pay the annual fee to Bexley Council (£17-50), I have enough photocopying to last for 4 or 5 years and the draw balls were a one off expense.



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John the Baptist West Wickham on Saturday 14 January 2006

Apologies for absence

24 members attended the meeting with apologies for absence received from Len and Pauline Morley (Eltham), Alex Britton, Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), Sara Hardy (Beckenham) Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch Erith), Monica Hanscomb (Biggin Hill) and Andrew Sinclair (Crayford).

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Crayford on Saturday 8th October 2005
The minutes were approved on the proposal of James Hardy, seconded by Rupert Cheeseman.

Matters arising

Call Change Competition

Six towers had entered a team for the competition held at Horton Kirby and the Chairman congratulated Crayford on being the winners.

District Carol Service

The annual District Carol Service had not taken place in 2005 because of the declining level of support and no tower had offered to host it. Members were asked for their views given that the Carol Service was quite a major event for the host tower to organise if support were to be minimal. Comments included:

Making the Carol Service a biennial rather than an annual event

Holding the Carol Service on a weekday evening rather than a Saturday

Holding an Epiphany Carol Service after Christmas

Seeking to join forces with another District

Having a District Practice instead possibly followed by mince pies & mulled wine.

It was agreed that members would try to seek the views of their own towers, that the secretary would also ask for members' views and the issue would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

KCACR Committee Report

Proposed increase to the KCACR peal fee

The secretary informed the meeting that a proposal to increase the peal fee from 20p to 50p would be made at the next County AGM. Nobody thought this was unreasonable.

10 bell challenge

Rupert Cheeseman agreed to contact the Ashford District to arrange a 10-bell competition between bands from each of the two districts.

Possible re-organisation of the districts within KCACR

The secretary told the meeting about a proposal from the Maidstone District, which was having problems with low attendance at meetings and the recruitment of officers, to reduce the current six districts to three or four. Members were asked for their comments on the principle of this proposal. The general feeling of the meeting was that this would not solve the problem. It would increase the distance that members had to travel to attend district events and would act as a disincentive. It would not necessarily produce a larger pool of people from which officers could be drawn. A personal approach to individuals to ask them to take on various roles within the district, probably for a set period was thought to be more effective. Reorganisation could cause resentment among some towers.

St Nicholas Deptford

James Hardy told the meeting about the project, in which Dickon Love and Roger Booth and himself were involved, to get 6 bells originally from Homerton hung in St Nicholas Deptford. The bells were currently in Whitechapel bell foundry and were owned by the Keltek Trust. The County is willing to lend money to help secure the bells, but a fundraising effort is still needed. This is not helped by the fact that the church is currently in interregnum. However the area where the church is located is an up and coming one, the kind where, experience has shown, that recruitment of ringers should be relatively easy. A team of people is now required to help with the project; initially the work is likely to involve letter writing. Anyone who is interested should contact James Hardy.

Events

The Deputy Ringing Master, Rupert Cheeseman, told the meeting that he had prepared posters and small leaflets for each tower listing events for the forthcoming year. Information was also on the District website. There was one change to the current programme. Because of a wedding Bromley Common was unable to host the next Quarterly Meeting on Saturday 8 April. Instead this would take place at St John's Erith which had originally agreed to host the October Annual District Meeting

120 Club

As several participants in the 120 club said they were more interested in winning a prize than its actual value, Rachel Backhouse asked members whether they would prefer to have double the number of prizes in the two draws in June and December instead of the same number of prizes but double the value. This was put to the vote and carried.

Rachel Backhouse reported that she expected the 120 Club to raise about £300 for the BRF in 2005/06. Provided membership remained high the amount raised in 2006/07 should be greater as there would be no initial set up costs to deduct from the profits. She reminded members that they needed to renew their membership before the end of March.

The ninth draw was held and the winning numbers were:

£20 34

£10 44

£10 12

£5 98 (as nobody had bought this share the money went back in the fund).

The Chairman thanked Rachel for all her hard work in making the 120 Club a success.

Election of new members

The following new member was elected:

CRAYFORD

Natasha Ann Chesley Proposed by Rupert Cheeseman Seconded by Cathy Cheeseman

Membership subscriptions

Members were reminded that membership subscriptions were now due, £9 for adults, £4.50 for those under 18 and over 65, and should be paid to the Mark Jones, the Membership Secretary.

District Officers

The Chairman reminded members that the District Representatives were increasingly reluctant to continue in this role in the face of other commitments. Members were asked to consider whether they or other members they knew would be willing to stand. There are four County Committee Meetings a year, usually held at Leeds but both representatives do not have to go to every meeting, the duties can be shared.

Freda Cannon asked for the postal address of Ross Hartley, the Newsletter Editor as she did not have

e-mail access. His address was given as 1 Prickley Wood, Hayes BR2 7EU and for future reference it is on the back of the annual programme leaflet.

Kaleidoscope Ringing Book

Jim Rooke told members that he had copies of the Kaleidoscope Ringing Book for sale.

Tower details

The secretary asked that any remaining towers that had not submitted amended details for the 2006 handbook, should do so as soon as possible.

Website update

Rupert Cheeseman informed members that the website had been updated.

Engagement

Members congratulated Lucy Weston and Mark Jones on their recent engagement.

Vote of thanks

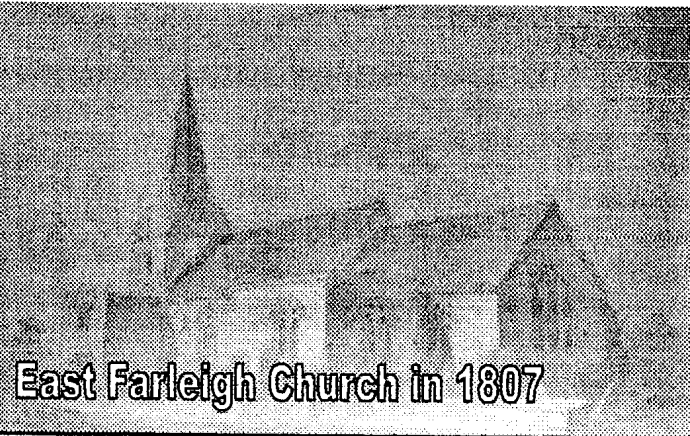
Nancy Gay proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Tim Giles for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Beryl Holloway for playing the organ and to the West Wickham ringers for a splendid tea.

The County 8 Bell Striking Competition

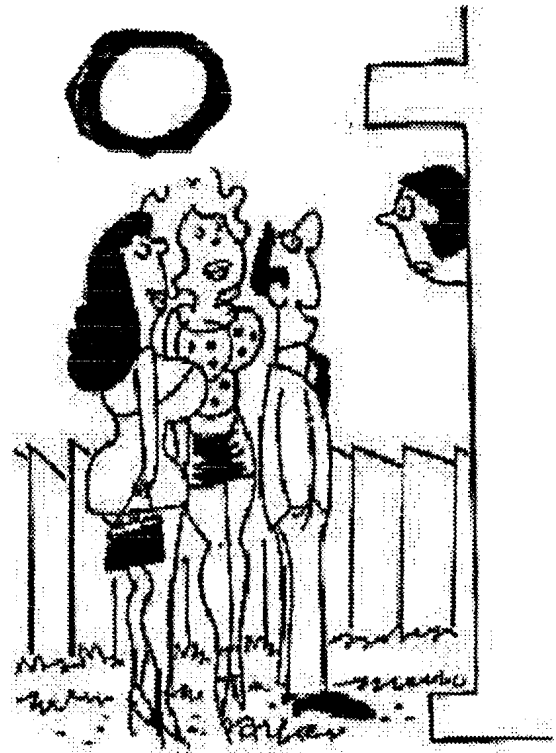
The County 8 Bell Striking Competition this year was held at East Farleigh in the Maidstone District. It was a bitterly cold day with a biting wind blowing across the valley but thankfully there was a warm hall and plenty of tea on tap.

The Lewisham district band didn't exactly do themselves justice, but at least we beat the band who had one ringer who had not rung the method before! *(I'll leave it to you to work out where Lewisham were placed! - Ed.)*

- Rupert Cheeseman



East Farleigh Church in 1807



"CAN YOUR TED COME BELLE RINGING TONIGHT?"