



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

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

APRIL 2009

## Look to, Treble's Going, She's Gone!



Those words that are all too familiar to ringers usually signify the start of ringing. But at St. Martins, Chelsfield on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February it signalled the lowering of the treble bell down the tower, never to return!

One would not normally expect an augmentation to encompass the **removal** of a bell from a tower. However, this

was all part of the process that had already seen the casting of three new bells at Loughborough on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January and would culminate on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February with completion of the augmentation of the bells to a full octave of eight.

For a number of years Chelsfield has had a strong and thriving band and in recent times there have often been a number of ringers on Sundays and Monday evening practice nights sitting out and whom we wished as much as possible to include in the ringing. Additionally, we wanted more bells at the lighter end of the range to allow young and old

to ring comfortably and also eight bells would allow more complex methods to be rung for those wanting a challenge.

The augmentation idea had been discussed for several years at Chelsfield but had not progressed because of the fund raising requirements of the new Brass Crosby extension which cost over £400,000 and which was completed two years ago.

However, at the ringers AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, chaired by the Rector, the reasons for the augmentation were discussed and the Rector supported these. We are very fortunate that our Rector, Canon Leslie Virgo, is a great supporter of bells and bell ringing and, indeed, during his 35 years as Rector at

Chelsfield, he has been elected as an Associate Member, of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers in recognition of his support to the ringers over many years!

Following our ringers AGM and subsequent PCC approval we then embarked upon the process of obtaining quotes for the work and the tough task of fund raising.

The six bells at Chelsfield comprised a 1672 back five cast by John Hodson which was subject to the addition of a 1936 treble. Whilst there was nothing wrong with the treble it was widely considered as not best matching the old back five and therefore the proposed augmentation included the resale of



the treble and the casting of three new trebles intended to match the back five bells.

Fortunately donors were identified for the requisite three new bells which constituted about three quarters of the augmentation costs, with the remainder being for the frame extension and labour. As is often the case, we undertook to provide able bodied labour assistance to the bell hanger in order to keep labour costs to a minimum.

So, after receiving quotes for the work, and as

we were proceeding well with fund raising, we sought a Faculty and placed an order in the Autumn of 2008 for the casting of three new trebles to profiles that would match the old back five bells and this included the bells being cast with precisely the same metal composition as the 1672 bells for which purpose a sample was taken.



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The emotional experience of seeing our new bells 'born', otherwise known as cast, almost brought a tear to the eye of many of the Chelsfield ringers and friends on 8<sup>th</sup> January at Loughborough. The 1936 treble has been offered a new home at Nunney, Somerset, arranged through the Keltek Trust and where it is intended to comprise the new second of an augmentation to eight. Interestingly Nunney is now the home tower of a former Chelsfield ringer!

Installation works took place during the week commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February which was half term week. A rota of helpers assisted the bell hanger and they were vitally supported and sustained with liquid and solid refreshments provided by catering volunteers. The installation all went to plan, despite as is almost inevitably the case with such a project, one or two frustrating episodes, and the newly augmented bells were ringable by Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, meaning that the tower was only silent for one Sunday.

To allow local ringers to familiarise themselves with the bells, a practice was held on the afternoon of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman Triples were achieved. Then, by way of celebration on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we rang three quarter peals; one, paradoxically, of doubles on the back six so a bell donor could ring 'his' bell, the new third. This was followed by Bob Major and Grandsire Triples which allowed other bell donors to ring their bells. In total 17 different ringers participated.



Some of the bell donors L to R Melanie & Nick Wilkins, James Ingham and Fiona & Richard George

A project like this would not have been achieved without the very hard work and dedication of many people and it would be invidious to mention individuals as there is the danger that someone's name would be overlooked but suffice it to say it has been a great team effort.

We are delighted with the very good eight bell rope circle and the excellent match that has been achieved with our five 1672 bells and think visitors will be impressed, too.

NW

# Editorial



I was persuaded to take on this job by Rupert on bended knee at the January meeting. How can any girl refuse a man on bended knee especially as Cathy was in the back ground saying 'Take him!, take him!' I must admit I was a bit nervous as I've never done anything like this before. I was assured that it was a simple task and that I would get lots of help, the only problem could be getting articles in and a lot of nagging may be needed – I think everyone in our tower would say I'm good at that so maybe I do have the necessary qualifications!

I have been pleasantly surprised with the number of articles that have been sent in – some I know due to the last two Newsletters not materialising but all to my benefit. I was especially pleased with the front page – not bad for a first effort even if I do say so myself. Aside from that though this Newsletter would be nothing without all your articles so please keep them coming! I have added a quiz for a little light relief – no prizes but I shall save the answers up for the next edition to keep you in suspense. Any new ideas you have for future editions please let me know.

All I can say then is please read and enjoy!

*Suex*

## Farningham Trophy



**Sunday 28th June 2009  
Draw 2.30pm**

Enjoy this sociable event and the delightful Farningham Bells.

All bands accommodated

call changes, doubles or minor.

Contact David Hilling with indications of interest and for rules

[dphilling@btinternet.com](mailto:dphilling@btinternet.com)

## In the newsletter .....

Look to, Treble's Going, She's Gone	1
District Officer email Directory	2
Editorial & Contents	3
Chislehurst & Eltham's Ringer's Outing	4
Dartford Festival	5
Around the District	
Beckenham , Biggin Hill	6
Crayford, Dartford	7
Downe, Eltham	8
Erith (St Johns)	8
Eynsford & Farningham	8
Footscray, Horton Kirby	9
Shoreham, West Wickham	10
Woolwich, Greenwich	
and Deptford	10
Bell Ringing on the Broadway	11
The Tsar Bell	12
Church Bulletins	12
The Missing Peal Book	13
Training Day	13
120 Club Report	14
Numbers of ? Quiz	14
In the year 2009	15
Ringling Masters Annual Report	16
Crayford Outing	17
District Call Change & Striking Competitions	18
KCACR AGM	19
County 6 Bell Competition	20
Upcoming District Events	20
County 10 Bell Challenge	20
Minutes of Januarys District Meeting	21
Agenda for Aprils District Meeting	24

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# Chislehurst and Eltham Ringer's Outing 2008

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September a large selection of ringers and accompanying friends and family descended on Cambridgeshire for a chance to ring at some new towers.



Jean Pailing had done an excellent job in selecting rings that were hung well and not too heavy. This was bonus not just to the many learners, but also to us more established ringers who have been known to be found hiding by the time of the last tower, under the pretence of admiring the stained glass windows, due to exhaustion.

The towers visited were Trumpington, Harston, Barrington, Meldreth and Orwell, all of which we would recommend to others thinking of making a visit to the area. The scenery between churches was very attractive, with Barrington in particular being a delightful old fashioned village along a green, with many thatched cottages.

It was here we stopped for lunch at the Royal Oak, who served us very efficiently considering there were over 30 of us eating, with delicious meals that gave us the energy to keep going until the afternoon tea. Said tea was taken after the last tower, at Wimpole Hall who I can now vouch do a very tasty cream tea.

As ever the day was a pleasant mixture of ringing, gossiping

while waiting to ring and contemplating how long till we get to eat again. The most noticeable thing about the day though was not just the large number, but how many were first time "outingers".

This picture is everyone who had never been on a ringing outing before, who appeared to benefit from the more intensive practice session as well as hopefully enjoying the day.



Left to right

Back Row: Neville Wilding, Ben Cutting, Michael Currans, Mark Currans.

Front Row: James Cutting, Rebekah Wilding, Thomas Wilding, Emma Wilding, Bryony Holdridge



*Who's First Quarter slippers are these?  
See page 7*

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# DARTFORD FESTIVAL



Lowering the Trafford Ring by winch

Our 2 day festival in July included 2 mini-rings: The Charmborough Ring on the Saturday and the Trafford Ring on the Sunday. With the expertise and help of the groups owning the rings and that of Lewisham district members I am pleased to say it went very well.

District members were involved in the design / printing of publicity material, logistics, erecting/ disassembly, information and people services, teaching and demonstrating. This support was provided by Ash (4), Bexley (1), Chelsfield (2), Crayford (7), Eltham (1), Erith (CC) (6), Horton Kirby (2) and Dartford (5).

Thank you all for your efforts whether 2 hours or 2 whole days the event could not have happened without you.

Many, many under 8's enjoyed tolling - sometimes very enthusiastically. Older youngsters and adults tried full-circle ringing with good results. I was very pleased also to witness the efforts of an 80year old with partial sight and hearing. The joy on his face from this experience was amazing. Two bands also appreciated the chance to ring quarters (see campanophile).



The time before and during the weekend was very busy for me but worthwhile as so many people from the area appreciated a new activity. Some have already actively started learning and others, particularly youngsters, may follow in the future.

Brenda Barton

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# Around the District

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

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## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

Since the last newsletter in July 2008, achievements have been plentiful at Beckenham. We finally scored our local practice night band peal of Horton's Four on one of the hottest days of the year (see below for details).

Beckenham, Kent,

St George

Sunday 27 July 2008 in 2h 50m (14cwt)

**5024 Spliced Surprise Major**

(4m: 1344 Glasgow, 1248 London, 1216 Belfast, Bristol; 113 com.atw)

Composed by: Roderick R Horton

Dominic D Meredith

Christine M Webb

David P Macey (C)

Roderick R Horton

David S Brown

James J Hardy

Jeremy R Byers

Peter Valuks

Some of the band are now progressing with the Pitman series of peals. We continue to have a varied practice night in terms of numbers but Surprise Major is frequently rung along with an assortment of six bell methods to further Helen, Lizzie and Rosemary. We are still grateful to **ALL** our visitors for their support and expertise which enable the band to further their repertoire.

In November we held our annual ringing outing, this year to Bredgar, Harrietsham, Lenham, Pluckley and Great Chart. In the same month, a Beckenham band entered the call change competition and was placed first. This is the first time in a number of years that a Beckenham band has been able to fulfil the 3 non-peal ringers' criteria.

We hosted the District training day at the end of January which proved a success. The convenience of sound-control

meant that the tower could be used for the whole day, thus minimising travel and maximising the time on the end of a rope.

Since the beginning of July 2008, four peals and seventeen quarters have been scored.

We now practice from 7.30pm – 9.30pm followed by drinks in The George and visitors are most welcome, but if arriving after 7.30pm, please ring the doorbell on the left-hand side of the door behind the drainpipe.

David Macey, Secretary.

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## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

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## BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

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## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

Since our change to a Tuesday night practice (8.00 to 9.30) we have been able to progress to plain courses of Bob Doubles - and even managed to ring it on a Sunday morning. Small potatoes to some but a great advance for us!

We still have very small numbers and would welcome the occasional visitor.

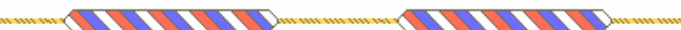
St Mark's is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Moving Church this year and I plan a tower demonstration on our open day on Sat 4th July and hope to schedule a peal during the year with as many of our ringers as possible.

Nancy Gay

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## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*



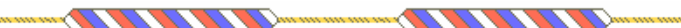
## BROMLEY COMMON

*Practice Thursday 19:45*



## CHELSEFIELD

*Practice Monday 20:00*



## CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

*Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30*



## CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

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



## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

Since the last newsletter was published we have continued to progress as a tower. We still get our regular visitors on a practice night but also had two new ringers, Tom and Rob, start as a direct result of having the Charmborough Ring in Bexleyheath town centre in September (see report on page 11). We now regularly ring all 8 to call changes on a Sunday morning. Sue and Louise have rung their first quarters and Graeme his first on the treble. Louise was so relaxed about it that her and Cathy rang it in slippers!

We went for a tower outing to Essex in January and rang at the unusual glass tower in Basildon and are now looking at going slightly further a field for an outing in the summer. We entered both the call change and striking competitions and came a very creditable second in the striking one.

Sunday, 10 August 2008 in 0:43

1279 Grandsire Doubles

1 Sue Cameron

2 Cathy Cheeseman

3 Astrid Fairclough

4 Andrew Sinclair

5 Rupert Cheeseman (C)

6 Graeme Jefferson

Rung half muffled in memory of Charles McQuillan (1933-2008) who died on the 30th July 2008. First quarter; 1.



Sunday, 8 March 2009 in 0:43

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Louise Warner

2 Alison Warner

3 Rupert Cheeseman (C)

4 Cathy Cheeseman

5 Andrew Sinclair

6 Trevor Warner

After morning service. 1st quarter; 1.

Rupert Cheeseman



## CUDHAM

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



## DARTFORD

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

Dartford have been quite active over the last months. We visited Whitechapel Foundry (Thank you, Mark, we thoroughly enjoyed it), we had a barbeque, courtesy of Graeme, helped with the Charmborough ring (which together with the Trafford ring we hosted for the Dartford Festival in July) in Bexleyheath, helped Crayford with their very successful open day, lots of people going up and down the tower for the view and to see the bells in action from both above and below and then in late October we had a Tower outing to Ospringe, Throwley, Sheldwich, Rainham and Gillingham. This was a very enjoyable day and gave some of our learners a chance to sample different bells. Many thanks to those who came along to give us "ballast". Here's to the next one. In January, 2 of us went on the Crayford outing, very enjoyable, and in February we are holding our Christmas lunch, by the time you read this it will have been eaten and if anything like last year's, very much enjoyed. Many thanks to June for her excellent organisation.

Esther Correia



## DOWNE

### *Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham*

Bell ringers like a challenge and they don't come any better than evensong on 15<sup>th</sup> February: a Church filled to capacity, the Bishop of Rochester, the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley and the Mayor of Bromley all in attendance. Many of Charles Darwin's descendants were also present for this service commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Darwin, who eventually lived in Down House for 40 years was a seeker after truth and spent 20 years testing his theory to his own satisfaction before publishing his Origin of Species. The Bishop spoke of the relationship between religion and scientific discovery.

Our newly-formed band of ringers were undaunted by the unusual audience and rang rounds and call changes before and after the service. An informal reception followed in the Village Hall.

Bridget Robbie

## ELTHAM

### *Practice Tuesday 20:00*

More good news on progress from Eltham tower. Yet more new learners, Chris and Shelagh, have joined the group to swell our numbers even further. In fact the post practice trips to the pub are now so well attended that the pub next to the church is almost getting too small for us! So we expect to see the Sunday numbers rise further again soon as well.

Socially, the annual dinner in conjunction with our friends at Chislehurst was the most recent event and will be reported on in the next magazine.

Katherine Trill

## ERITH (Christ Church)

### *Practice Monday 20:00*

## ERITH (St John the Baptist)

### *Practice Wednesday 20:00*

In January the ringers at St John's decided that it was time to undertake some refurbishment of the bells as far as our fund

allowed. Consequently, at the end of January the pulley blocks were taken to Whitechapel bell Foundry for refurbishment and now have sweetly running nylon wheels. The clappers of five bells have been removed, checked and replaced, and two wheels have been straightened to run true.

The result is that so far we have five bells which are easier to handle and look forward to having the other three back in service soon.

At the same time we have been removing the accumulated debris of possibly seventy years or more (dust birds' nests, pigeons and other assorted detritus) from between the bell frame and the tower walls. The debris was about eighteen inches deep, not an enjoyable or easy task with trowels and two coal scuttle shovels bought at great expense -£1.98 – from Wolverhampton. So far we have filled 38 sacks of rubble and will need at least another two Saturday mornings to complete the task.

However we can already feel the difference in the handling of the bells and in the more mellow tones we hear from the ringing floor.

We would especially like to thank Mark Backhouse for his advice, expertise and practical help in removing and fitting the pulley blocks and clappers. We also appreciate the help and support that he and Rachel give us to keep ringing going at St John's

## EYNSFORD

### *Practice Friday 20:00*

## FARNINGHAM

### *Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement*

The Eynsford and Farningham band is pleased with the results of the Farningham bells restoration. Many District members will by now have had the opportunity to sample the improved ring which is a delight to ring and to hear. Locally the restoration was billed as

The 100 Years Service recognising the period since the significant works carried out in 1904.

Financially, the restoration was accomplished with support from The Friends of Farningham Church, the PCC, the local community,

the KCACR BRF and the Eynsford and Farningham Charitable Bell Restoration Fund. The Foundry's charges were reduced by assistance from local ringers and from the KCACR Heavy Gang in removing and rehangng the bells. All frictional parts were



renewed and the bells were retuned.

The ringing chamber has had a makeover which will be completed soon with the installation of enhanced lighting, a new door and a window that opens.

More Wednesday practices are being held than previously, including the third Wednesday Surprise Minor session.

Ringer recruitment is underway with several introductory sessions held. We are also exploring the installation of a simulator and a dumb bell.

The Farningham Trophy competition will be held on Sunday afternoon 28 June 2009, the day of the church's Patronal Festival. The competition was inaugurated last year with the aim of holding a sociable event accommodating all levels of ringing ability. The Trophy rules have had a little tweaking as we strive for a more level playing field for all of the bands.

David Hilling

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## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

Ringing at Foots Cray moves on slowly, over the last few months Colin and Clare have been on a ringing course run by David Brown, our District Training Officer, they had a really good day and worked on touches of Bob Doubles. We try to continue the good work at Wednesday practices but it's quite difficult when there are only five of us. We are privileged to welcome Rachel Backhouse to one practice a month and this helps no end – thank you Rachel. We try to ring for all Sunday services at Foots Cray but of course it's not always possible if more than one person is unavailable. Early in March all the Foots Cray ringers assisted in the Family service – the first time we've been asked. It was good that all the ringers turned out and took part in one way or another, I was really proud of them. Visitors are always welcome at Foots Cray but do phone first just in case we have had to cancel.

Margaret Macey

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## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

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## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday 20.00*

Views on bell ringing from some of our young ringers:

Henry, 11 – I like bell ringing because it's fun.

Charlotte, 11 – I like bell ringing because its fun and I see my friends.

Rachael, 13 – Bell ringing is a hobby for all ages. It is fun meeting new people and learning something new.

Lucy, 12 – I like it because it's really, really fun - but I don't like the stairs!

Ellie, 11 – I like bell ringing because it gets me out on a Thursday and I get to see my friends.

Tom, 11 – I like ringing because it is a good chance to meet friends and it's really fun.



Back : Henry, Katie,  
Rachael, Charlotte  
Front Row: Michael  
from Chelsfield, Tom  
& Ellie

Well ringing certainly gets the thumbs up in our tower. I think they enjoy it because when the bells are tied they are allowed to 'play' on them – they practice ringing up and down, seeing how many times they can stand hand and back stroke in a row (there's a league table on the wall!), playing cat and mouse. Then, when the other ringers arrive they practice ringing in rounds and some have progressed to call changes and beyond. It was brilliant to arrive at our practice last week to see all 8 bells being rung by young ringers – maybe not perfectly but still progressing very well.

Stop press—Ellie rang for her first Sunday service on the 14th March and very well she did too.

Well done Ellie. Lets hope the others catch you up soon!

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## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

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## PENGE

*Ringing by arrangement*

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## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 19:45*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*

### MORE RINGERS NEEDED AT SHOREHAM

Shoreham tower are eager for new recruits as getting enough ringers for Sunday service is a weekly challenge! Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield) heads up the team and is assisted by Frank Rogers (Eynsford). Further assistance to keep the Shoreham band going is given by Sue Allport and Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby) who regularly make up the numbers on practice night.

Posters encouraging new recruits are highly visible in Shoreham village and existing ringers have been given a personal target: to recruitment at least one new ringer each! Bets are being taken and no-one is safe walking down Church Street!

Shoreham has 8 bells and the ringing chamber is on the ground floor. The church is in a beautiful setting. If you can help in anyway contact Alison Collins email:

[Alison.collins@thackraywilliams.com](mailto:Alison.collins@thackraywilliams.com)

## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

We were lucky enough to get a new recruit in October, Brian has made good progress and is now ringing confident rounds. Brian is a retired gentleman and heard from one of our ringers that we needed some new recruits to carry on the tradition of bell ringing

Our Christmas meal was held in January at Topolinos in West Wickham and Ash Wednesday saw 12 of us tenpin bowling , with Roger being victorious. Two enjoyable evenings.

Judith Fry

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

*Affiliated to the London Docklands Ringing Centre*

Our normal schedule, 8pm-930pm:

1 <sup>st</sup> Weds	Woolwich
2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds	Greenwich
3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds	Greenwich
4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	Greenwich
5 <sup>th</sup> Weds	St. John's, Deptford

The programme for the next month, subject to changes and additions is listed below. However, due to window damage and pigeon infestation we are not ringing at Woolwich at the moment until the church authorities there remedy the situation.

We have three recruits at Greenwich and they are progressing well – this included two of them ringing rounds on all ten recently.

Visitors are very welcome to join us for ringing and refreshments after practices.

Hopefully, some of you will have seen the article on the KCACR website about Freda's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last September – if not it is well worth a read.

*Also note there is a practice at St. James, Bermondsey every Tuesday at 730pm*

When Greenwich is not available, e.g. Concerts, we ring at Deptford.

The programme for the next few months, subject to changes and additions:

APRIL 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

1	GREENWICH (+ visit of Ladies Group from St George, Perry Hill)
8	GREENWICH (half muffled for Holy Week – TBC) [schools on holiday]
15	GREENWICH – tbc; [schools on holiday]
22	GREENWICH
29	ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD

MAY 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

Date to confirm	Possible ringing at Southwark for Lewisham Archdeaconry Service
6	ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD or Woolwich (TBC)
13	GREENWICH
20	GREENWICH
27	GREENWICH - TBC, Half-term holiday

JUNE 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

3	ST. JOHN'S DEPTFORD or WOOLWICH (TBC)
10	GREENWICH
17	GREENWICH
24	GREENWICH

GDL

# Bell Ringing on the Broadway

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the shoppers in Bexleyheath were treated to an unusual sight when the Charmborough mini ring was brought to the town centre. For those that don't know the Charmborough Ring are a scaled down version of normal church bells. There are 6 bells with the tenor weighing in at 94lbs.

This event is taking place as part of the Mayor of London's Open Rehearsal weekend. [www.openrehearsal.co.uk](http://www.openrehearsal.co.uk) Open Rehearsal gives audiences a unique opportunity to get behind the scenes and experience how London's world-class creative and cultural organisations create everything from performing arts to fashion, from art and film to museum collections.



It was an early start for the team putting up the ring but just over an hour and a half later it was up and ready to ring just as the first shops were opening and shoppers arriving. The ring is large for a mini ring and consequently fairly straight forward to ring on once people got used to there being no stays and therefore not letting the bells go too far over the balance.

The day consisted of a mix of demonstrations of bell ringing by the local bell ringers and have a go yourself sessions. The News Shopper turned up to take photos.



We reckon that a couple of hundred people must have had a go and many thousands must have heard them. Hopefully it'll plant the seed in some of their minds and they'll come along and have a go on the real things. Already we've had a couple of lads turn up at Crayford to learn after they had a go on Sunday.



More information about the Charmborough Ring can be found at [www.bellringing.co.uk](http://www.bellringing.co.uk)

Thanks go to everyone who came along and helped out during the day.

Rupert

# The Tsar Bell

We visited Russia last summer, primarily to view a total solar eclipse in Siberia, but we spent a few days in

Moscow. So naturally we went to see the biggest bell in the world – the Tsar Bell – in the Kremlin. It weighs almost 202 tons and stands over 6m high. It has never been rung as it cracked during casting. It now stands on a pedestal next to the Ivan the Great Bell Tower in the Kremlin, together with its clapper.



It was commissioned by Empress Anna Ioanovna, niece of Tsar Peter the Great. From the start, the project seemed doomed! A Frenchman asked to cast the bell judged that it was too big to be made. A Russian team was found willing to try and in 1735 the cast was filled with bronze. However, during a fire in 1737 overheating and uneven cooling caused a large chunk weighing more than 11 tons to crack from the bell. For another century the monster lay in its casting pit, and it was only in 1836, on a second attempt, that the bell was at last raised from the pit and placed on its pedestal.

Liz and Les Brett  
Christchurch, Erith

# Church Bulletins

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS ) appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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# The Missing Peal Book

In recent years our Senior Member has, each time a Peal has been proposed/rung, bemoaned the loss of our Peal Book. The one at Holy Trinity went missing long before I joined in 1990 and nobody had a clue as to its whereabouts until....One Sunday evening our phone rang and I was greeted by

“Are you Esther Correia? Are you still in charge at Dartford?”

Catching on I replied, “Yes, if you mean ringers. What can I do for you?”

“Do you have a Peal book?” was the next question.

“Funny you should ask that, our senior member is always wondering where it is. We haven’t seen it in years.”

“Well, I’ve got it”

“And you are?”

“Chris Saunders from Leeds in Kent.”



Recovering from the revelation and thinking I know somebody who will be pleased to hear this, I asked

“Well, how come?”

to which the answer came

“Alex Britton. How can I get this to you?”

When I revealed that my mode of transport is a pushbike, he did some quick thinking and asked if I knew the Mick Jagger Centre. Having assured him that I did and could get there I arranged to meet him on the Tuesday when he goes to a Dance class.

I duly turned up on the Tuesday but.... he had forgotten the book, (just as well given the size of it) only remembered it when he got on to the motorway, too late to turn back.

More chat revealed that the book had been given to one of the Leeds ringers who did calligraphy to write up several peals in the style in which the rest were already written. This youngster was 14ish then and since has gone through University, worked, got married, had children and moved to the North of England. At which point, Mum decided to clear out her cupboards and unearthed our Peal Book which she delivered to Leeds in the hope they could return it to us. Brenda was going to Leeds for a committee meeting so at the end of November, we re-acquired our Peal Book.

There is a lot of work to be done, including finding the details for all the missing peals so if anyone out there has rung a peal at Dartford at any time, or knows of anyone else, and can let us have the details we would be very grateful to receive them.

The moral of this tale is: if you have lost something from your tower, get people to spring clean early, you may be pleasantly surprised at what turns up.



P.S. We are still not totally sure of how the book got to Leeds so apologies to Alex if the story is wrong, perhaps he can correct it.

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## Training Day

Saturday, 24th January was training day at St George's, Beckenham. I was one of half a dozen learners from different towers - all at different ages and stages. It was great to see learners I had met before, and also to meet others for the first time. There was definitely a feeling we were all in the same boat together, but the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, thanks to Dave Brown and the helpers, all of whom really can't be thanked enough.

After a cup of tea/coffee and chat, and Dave having checked which methods we wished to ring, we went to work with a will. The methods were varied and included Plain Hunt, Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, and Kent, and because of this it was all ringing rather than theory. We had a break for lunch, and then it was back to work for the afternoon session. Sound control has been installed in the Beckenham tower, and this meant that we could stay there the whole day without worrying the neighbours too much - well, hopefully.

I think most of us feel nervous and reluctant about putting our names forward for this sort of thing, but I would encourage other learners to give these training days a try. Let's face it if you really hated it you wouldn't have to come again(!), but on the other hand you might well find it a rewarding and encouraging experience.

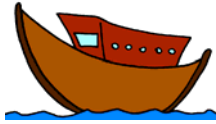
Rosemary Stretton



# In the year 2009

In the year 2009 the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said,

"Once again, the people of the earth have become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark, Noah, and save two of every living creature along with your family and a few good humans. I am going to flood the earth and drown everyone else: all six billion of 'em."



He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying,

"You have six months I will start the unending and forty nights. Get



to build the Ark before ing rain for forty days on with it!"

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his backyard – where no Ark was even in the process of being built.

"Noah!" He roared, 'I'm just about to start the rain! Where is the Ark that I asked you to build?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval from the Local Council and I have been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system.

My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site, even though in my view it is only a temporary structure. We had to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision over that.



"Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark 's move to the sea. I assured them that the sea would be coming to us, but they refused to believe me.

"Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we spotted owl, an endangered species. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I save the owls – but no go!



"Then when I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will and argued that the accommodation was too restrictive, and that it was 'cruel and inhumane' to put so many animals in such a confined space.



"Then the local County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they had conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flooding of the world.

Also, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many workers I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say that I can't use my sons. They insist that I have to hire only CSCS accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

"To make matters worse, Customs and Excise authorities have seized all my assets, claiming that I am planning to leave the country illegally, taking endangered species with me.

So forgive me, Lord, but I estimate that it will take at least ten years for me to finish this Ark and get it loaded with all the animals that you want saved."



Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a beautiful rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and said,

"You mean that you are not going to destroy the world after all?"

"No", said the Lord. "The British Government has beaten me to it."



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# Ringling Master's Annual Report

*(Originally written for the October Newsletter and ADM)*

It's been another up and down year for District ringing with attendances at practices and meetings being very variable. The low point probably being when only 10 people turned up for the annual practice at Southwark. This is certainly one practice which we will need to decide whether it's worth running again. The up points are that those people that have turned up to the practices have benefited from them and have had a chance to progress.

Dave has continued to run quarterly training days which have been well received. Again, just like the practices, anyone is welcome to come along to them but you need to let Dave know in advance. Anything, within reason, will be accommodated on these days and they will be tailored to whoever can attend, from first steps into plain hunt and upwards.

The call change competition took place in December at Chelsfield. Five teams took part with Eltham coming out on top and defending their title. Only three teams made it to West Wickham for the striking competition. Chelsfield won and went on to win again in the County Competition held at Aldington. The next district competition is the call change one held this year at Horton Kirby on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> November so please try and get a band together for that.

To celebrate their newly rehung and restored bells, Farningham also ran their own striking competition this year which had teams ringing methods or call changes. There was a good turn out of teams for this and the Beckenham method team took home the unique trophy made out of the part of old head stocks. After this year's success David Hilling is looking to run it again next year, possibly with the introduction of a handicapping system to even out the playing field.

The district, or at least the Bromley borough part of it, was asked to ring on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September as part of the Go South Go Festival to celebrate the Paralympic torch handover to London. It was a shame that, even with 3 months notice, only 3 towers could raise a band to do this but that was always going to be the problem with being asked to organise ringing on a weekday afternoon. Thanks though go to the towers that did manage it.

And finally, as part of the Open Rehearsal weekend, the district was asked whether it could host the Charmborough ring at a venue in Bexley borough that would enable as many people as possible to come along, hear it and have a go. The obvious place was on The Broadway, Bexleyheath and it duly provided entertainment there on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September (see report on page 11).

Rupert Cheeseman  
District Ringing Master

## The Ringing Master Writes . . .

Well a fair amount has happened in the district since the last newsletter. Beckenham and Chelsfield have won the call change and striking competitions respectively and the District came a close second in the County 10 bell challenge that took place at Greenwich. Chelsfield have recently completed a successful augmentation. They ditched their old treble and had three new ones cast to make the District's newest ring of 8.

District practices have continued to have variable attendances. This newsletter contains a poster for this year's programme so please come along and make use of the practices and training days especially if they are being held in your tower. Keep an eye on the district website though in case there are any last minute changes. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The 120 club "shares" are now up for renewal with the first of ten draws taking place in April. Still priced at £10 each please contact Rachel for more details. The 120 Club raised £520 for the Bell Restoration Fund last year so please make sure it continues to be a success this year.

And finally, can I say a big thank you to Sue for taking over the newsletter. I know how time consuming it can be to put together but the feedback that I got while I was doing it was that it was well worthwhile. Please make sure that you support it as it can only be as good as your contributions!

(Sorry .... Missed this off printed copy! Ed. )

# Report on the Crayford Outing

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, a group of Crayford ringers ventured across the river into Essex, the focus of the outing to be the glass tower at Basildon where many people had not been before.

The first tower I had planned was Grays. After mentioning Grays to a few people, I had been met with various facial expressions which were not all totally positive and so I was wondering what I had organised for our band, some of who are quite new to ringing. We managed them very well considering the long draught as it turned out. The ropes fall in the chapel to the side and are therefore very visible to the congregation which can only be a good thing to raise awareness of what we do.

The second tower was also one where I wasn't sure what we would come across after receiving dire warnings about Hastings stays and how we must not put any learners on the front 3 in case of causing damage. Not one to baulk at such a challenge, we arrived and found that the treble had the biggest box of them all to stand on which made it look like the tenor!! We managed them very well with no damage caused!!

Next was the glass tower which stands in a prominent place in the middle of Basildon shopping centre. We joined the local practice and enjoyed meeting the locals, including a blind ringer whose confidence in catching the sally every time earned my admiration. All in all, they were very welcoming.



Very conveniently, there is a pub directly opposite the glass tower and feeling that a Saturday lunch time may be quite busy time to descend in quite such large numbers, I had booked a table. In the event the manager had completely forgotten and it was quite a muddle and not a little time before we were sitting and eating! Still, the food was good and we all made it to the next tower.



Downham was our next stop and were very pleasant to ring as well as having good views from the top of the hill.

The last tower organised was Orsett as I had heard it was a good set of bells and also very conveniently close to our

crossing back over the river at the end of the day. These bells went well and we rang some very nice Cambridge as well as



plenty of practice at bob doubles and rounds and call changes. What I hadn't expected was the dimming of the lights and everyone singing Happy Birthday to me!! Sue brought in a lovely cake she had baked covered in candles that I just about managed to blow out. Thanks Sue!

After ringing down, we all had a piece each in the kitchen that was downstairs with the kind permission of the ladies who had let us in.

They later took a lovely picture of us all to round off a super day.



Most of us then adjourned to the local pub where I learned to play darts - well not strictly true unless hitting the light above the board rather than the dartboard itself counts!! I thought it was great to see ringers of all ages from our tower mixing together socially since this kind of thing helps a tower bond together as a team and therefore hopefully to ring with each other better.

Most of us all drove off home after saying goodbye, not realising that Mary had got a puncture and ended up stuck outside the pub for ages.

Cathy Cheeseman

## District Call Change Competition

A good entry of 6 teams took part in this year's District 6 Bell Call Change Competition at Horton Kirby on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. Rhian and Gordon from Meopham were the judges.

The results were as follows

Position	Tower	Faults
1 <sup>st</sup>	Beckenham	24
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chelsfield	41
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chislehurst	58
4 <sup>th</sup>	Horton Kirby (Senior)	65
5 <sup>th</sup>	Crayford	73
6 <sup>th</sup>	Horton Kirby (Junior)	90

Congratulations to Beckenham for winning the trophy and thanks to Horton Kirby for hosting and to Rhian and Gordon for judging.



Horton Kirby Juniors  
Phoebe, Charlotte, Annie, Hannah (caller),  
Katie & Amy

(I thought the Horton Kirby (& Chelsfield) Junior band—average age 15½ deserved a special mention—Ed)

Rupert Cheeseman

## District Striking Competition

A bright Spring day welcomed the four towers that assembled at Crayford on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March for the District Striking competition. Ross Hartley was the judge and as he went to sit in the churchyard the draw was made. First time entrants Horton Kirby kicked off the competition and rang Grandsire Doubles. Next to go were the home band who rang Plain Bob Doubles. Reverse Canterbury was the choice of Erith and finally Chelsfield concluded the competition with Plain Bob.

Ross wasted no time in coming up with the result and was soon making the following comments about each band.

Band 1 - Struggled a bit with the rhythm at the beginning with a few crunchy bits but it did improve by the end. The tenor set a very good beat.

Band 2 – On the whole very consistent piece of ringing. Set off very purposefully. On the whole the errors were few and far between with just a couple of significant crunchy pieces which were recovered from quickly.

Band 3 – Started with some good solid rounds but the initial changes were unsteady. As touch progressed it improved and last 20 rows were very good.

Band 4 – Fell asleep in this one! A very positive piece of ringing. Striking metronomic and Tittums came up very well.

The results were then given in the time honoured reverse order as follows:

Position	Rang	Tower	Faults
1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Chelsfield	6.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Crayford	21
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Erith (Christ Church)	44.5
4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Horton Kirby	70

The trophy would have then been presented but Chelsfield were that confident about retaining it that they managed to leave it behind!

Chelsfield now go forward to the County competition to be held at Lynsted in the Canterbury District where they will be defending the trophy that they won last year.

Rupert Cheeseman

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# KCACR AGM

The AGM of the KCACR will be held at [Aylesford](#) on  
Easter Monday, 13 April 2009.

The service will be at 12 noon, and lunch (cost £8) will be in the [Brassey Centre](#) (just by the bridge). Tickets are now available and may be obtained from Tina Bastow, Aylesford secretary, 66 Rochester Road, Aylesford ME20 7BJ, [bastow@freeuk.com](mailto:bastow@freeuk.com) or phone 01622 710607. If applying by snail-mail, please enclose SAE. Cheques should be made payable to "Aylesford PCC"

The menu for lunch will be shepherd's pie followed by apple pie (vegetarian option available too: please let Tina know when booking) and there will be a licensed bar (Goacher's of course).

There will be 22 towers open for ringing during the day. Go here to see which ones [www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/ringinginfo.pdf](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/ringinginfo.pdf)

Please note that parking is limited at the Brassey Centre and the church. If you click on "Parking" on the map you will find some other parking spaces shown up.

The PRO and the Chairman are not seeking re-election, but all other officers are prepared to stand again. Note, however, that we are still short of a Training Officer.

Nomination forms for elections may be obtained by going to [www.kcacr.org.uk/forms/kcacr\\_off\\_nom\\_form.pdf](http://www.kcacr.org.uk/forms/kcacr_off_nom_form.pdf) Completed forms should be sent to the General Secretary, Margaret Funnell, by 31 March please.

For a PDF version of this notice suitable for your tower notice board go to [www.kcacr.org.uk/forms/agmprog09.pdf](http://www.kcacr.org.uk/forms/agmprog09.pdf)

Copies of accounts and officers' reports for 2008 will be available on [kcacr.org.uk](http://kcacr.org.uk) once they've been completed.

# County 6 Bell Competition

On a beautiful sunny afternoon on 27th September all six districts met at Aldington in the Ahford District . The draw took place at 3.45pm with ringing commencing just after 4.00pm.

The judges, Jonathan and Anne Franklin from Ringmer, Sussex, found a suitable place just outside the churchyard from which they could hear the bells but could not see the participants. Both judges tried out the bells before the competition started.

For those of us just listening the bands produced good ringing with no one firing out.

The local ringers produced a magnificent tea on a running buffet basis so as soon as a band had rung they could partake of a welcome cup of tea and food. Our thanks go to Judith de Leeuw and ringers from the area. After all bands had completed their test pieces the judges gave their comments before giving the results. Jonathan said we had given him a hard task as the ringing was very good. He made comments on all the bands and generally said that the small bells were clipping at backstroke. The speed of the ringing varied and one team actually rang an extra 60 changes which were of course judged and led to extra faults. He then gave the full result which made Chelsfield of the Lewisham District the winners. The trophy was then presented to the winning band.

The chairman thanked the judges and the local ringers for providing the tea.

The full results are set out below.

*Margaret Funnell  
(From [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk))*

posn	District	rang	represented by	faults
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lewisham	5th	Chelsfield	19½
2nd	Maidstone	3rd	All Saints'	26
3rd	Ashford	1st	Hythe	44
4th	Canterbury	6th	St Dunstan's	46
5th	Rochester	2nd	Meopham	53
6th	Tonbridge	4th	Tonbridge	54



Nick Wilkins,  
Bob Pruden,  
Sue Fisher,  
Karen Barter  
(didn't ring) Jim  
Rooke, Philippa  
Rooke & John  
Barnes

# District Events

- 4<sup>th</sup> Apr.** Quarterly Meeting: Cudham, 3.30pm bells, 4.30pm Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Apr.** KCACR Annual General Meeting: Aylesford, Maidstone District.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Apr.** District Training Day. For more info email [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May** District Practice: Chelsfield (tbc), 7.00 - 9:00pm.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jun.** District Training Day. For more info email [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jun** Farningham Trophy: Farningham, SS Peter and Paul.
- Call change and method ringing competition. More details to follow but a handicapping system will be tried.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jul.** Quarterly Meeting: Eynsford, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# County 10 Bell Challenge

The County 10-bell challenge (originally a sort of needle match between Lewisham and Ashford) was held on Saturday 29 November at St Alfege, Greenwich, with five of the KCACR Districts entering teams. The judges were Richard Pearce and Ruth Blackwell from the Guildford Guild, who produced the results as under.

From [kcacr.org.uk](http://kcacr.org.uk)

Position	District	Score
1st	Canterbury	78%
2nd	Lewisham	77%
3rd	Maidstone	75%
4th	Ashford	71%
5th	Tonbridge	Did not complete the touch



# KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

### Minutes of the District Meeting at Erith, Christchurch 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009

26 people attended the meeting.

In the absence of the District Chairman and Secretary, Rupert Cheeseman acted as Chairman and Rachel Backhouse took the minutes.



#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dominic Meredith (Beckenham), Esther Correia (Dartford) and Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield).

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The following corrections were made to the previous minutes under item 6 120 club results: Terry Alcock to read Terry Elcock and Sue Alcock to read Sue Allport.

The minutes were then accepted as a true record proposed by Cathy Cheeseman and seconded by Lesley Barclay.

#### 3. Matters arising

There had still been no offers for people to take up the posts of District Newsletter Editor and second District Representative. Brenda Barton (our current rep) said that the District Representative need only attend two meetings a year (at Leeds) usually lasting from 9.30am –noon as she would attend the other two meetings.

A proposal was made for District Newsletter Editor. Sue Allport of Horton Kirby was proposed by Rupert Cheeseman and seconded by Lesley Barclay. All members were asked to contribute items and Dominic and Rupert as previous editors would be available for advice and support.

Cathy Cheeseman enquired as to the status of the Stone-by Dartford project. There was no firm information available but it was thought that there were issues regarding the frame.

The County 10 bell challenge striking competition was held at Greenwich on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Five districts entered and our team came a very close second to the Canterbury District. Rupert anticipates issuing a challenge to the holders in two years time. Freda Cannon was thanked for arranging the tower, use of hall and the teas.

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#### 4. Election of new members

The following were proposed and duly declared elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Gill Sammons	Bromley	Dickon Love	David Kingston
Christopher Sheasby	Bromley	Dickon Love	David Kingston
Louise Warner	Crayford	Cathy Cheeseman	Rupert Cheeseman
Matthew Warner	Crayford	Rupert Cheeseman	Cathy Cheeseman
Thelma Harrold	Downe	Simon Sleath	Donald King
Stephen Hunt	Downe	Simon Sleath	Donald King
Caryn Newell	Downe	Simon Sleath	Donald King
Gary Weekes	Downe	Simon Sleath	Donald King
George Cooban	Dartford	Brenda Barton	Graeme Jefferson
Bryony Holdridge	Eltham	David Holdridge	Brenda Barton
Diane Reynolds	Eltham	Ian Mills	David Holdridge
Andrew Fisher	Eynsford	Anthony Fisher	David Hilling

#### 5. 120 Club draw

The winning numbers for this month are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	97	Unclaimed, back to 120 club
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17	Margaret Heald (St John Erith)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	41	Colin Senneck (Ash)
4 <sup>th</sup>	55	Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby)

#### 6. KCACR Committee Report

The county AGM is to be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Aylesford. Further details including the meal and towers available will be posted on the county website.

There will be a proposal at the AGM to increase the subscriptions to £10 from the current £9 (and presumably the others pro rata).

Posts that will be requiring new nominees will be Publicity Officer, Training Officer and Chairperson as the present incumbents will not be standing again.

The county 6 bell striking competition will be held at Lynstead (Canterbury District) on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please advise of any members known to be due their 50 years membership certificates this year.

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A proposal is to be made on behalf of the Maidstone District to amend the way in which names are to be recorded in the County Handbook. The suggestion is that a person's name should be listed under their main tower (i.e. the tower through which they pay their subs) as normal and that for any other towers with which they are associated their name should be listed in italics. This would make record keeping easier for treasurers and the handbook editor and would perhaps also identify the true strength of a band. There were three suggestions made as to how the vote could be put to the County AGM. It was the feeling of the meeting that none of these accurately reflected the proposal put forward as we understood it and we would request an amendment to the wording of the suggested proposals for the vote.

## **7. Any other business**

Rachel Backhouse reminded the meeting that subscriptions for 2009 were now due. Also that renewal forms for the 120 club (new season to start in April) were now being sent round to towers.

The call change striking competition was held at Horton Kirby on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Beckenham came 1<sup>st</sup>, Chelsfield 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chislehurst 3<sup>rd</sup> with 6 teams entering.

Rupert reported that the district website had just had its 5000<sup>th</sup> hit. He would continue to endeavour to keep the information up to date.

Next district events are a Training Day on January 24<sup>th</sup> (please contact David Brown) and quarterly meetings at Cudham (April 4<sup>th</sup>), Eynsford (July 11<sup>th</sup>) and St Mary Cray (October 10<sup>th</sup>).

Rupert discussed district practices which have had very varied attendance levels. He proposes to make some practices 'training evenings' whereby people will ask in advance for the methods they would like help with and then Rupert will make sure enough helpers attend to make this possible. These will be in addition to the training days organised by David Brown. Some practices will continue to be run on the current format and there will be a mix of morning and evening practices. As soon as a list of practices is arranged lists will be issued to towers and posted on the district website and Campanophile.

## **8. Votes of thanks**

Sue Cameron proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar, Rev John Draycott, for taking the service and to the Christchurch Erith ringers for making their tower available at short notice and for providing the teas and coffees.

# Agenda

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers  
Lewisham District

Quarterly District Meeting at Cudham,  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting at Erith (Christ Church) on 10<sup>th</sup> January
- 3 Election of New Members
- 4 120 Club Draw
- 5 KCACR Committee Report
- 6 Any Other Business
- 7 Vote of Thanks