



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk

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

July 2009

Foundry Tales

3. The Foundry Visitors' Book Finally Catches Up!

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry has welcomed many notable visitors over the centuries, but it hasn't always had a souvenir of the occasion. Indeed, the visitors' book was only purchased in 1919, on the day after King George the Fifth and Queen Mary had visited to witness the casting of bells for Westminster Abbey and had offered to sign a book, only to be told that the foundry did not possess such a thing!

In early February 2009 the owners, Alan and Kathryn Hughes, were contacted by phone and asked whether the foundry would be able to host a visit by a "high profile visitor", who could not yet be identified, on the 25th of March. The caller added that this would be a visit we would not want to turn down. Although the foundry is (thankfully) very busy for the next year or more, a visit was agreed in principle. Soon afterwards a local police officer dropped a hint that we were to host a royal visit, and a security visit from the palace a few days later confirmed this – but which member of the royal family was it?

Two weeks before the day we were at last told that a date had become free in the Queen's busy schedule and that she had specifically asked for a visit to be arranged to meet people working in manufacturing companies in the East End of London, including the foundry. The Duke of Edinburgh had also expressed an interest in these visits so would come too!

A certain amount of tidying up (lots!) and planning of work in progress ensured that the Royal party would see the foundry as a working environment, with plenty going on, but with no

risk to the visitors. Security on the day was tight, including a visit by two lovely but rather worryingly titled "explosive dogs" to ensure the site was bomb free, and police on the door two hours before the appointed time to check all visitors were known to us.

The Royal party arrived at 4.20 pm, having already visited a soft drink bottling plant and an umbrella factory, and were introduced to the owners by the Lord Lieutenant of London in full uniform including sword and spurs. Alan accompanied the Queen around the works, followed by Kathryn accompanying Prince Phillip and about 10 others followed on (lady in waiting,

equerry, private secretaries, security officers etc.). I was given the task of looking after the palace press officer, 2 reporters, 2 photographers and a film cameraman, who arrived before the visit, left after the visit and all had to be in position to record the visit in all areas of the works without getting in the way. A certain amount of scurrying along alternative passageways and "unofficial" routes ensued!



The Queen and the Duke were introduced to the office staff, myself included, followed by all the foundry staff at their workplaces, and took a great interest in everything, seeming to thoroughly enjoy their visit. It all ended at 5.15 pm with a presentation of gifts by Alan and Kathryn's two daughters, and the signing of the visitors' book.

After 90 years the book finally holds the signature of the reigning Monarch!

Mark Backhouse

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Numbers of ? Quiz

7 S on a FPP	7 Sides on a Fifty Pence Piece
100 P in a P	100 Pence in a Pound
4 LC	4 Leaf Clover
20 FO in a P	20 Fluid Ounces in a Pint
3 M in a B	3 Men in a Boat
26 L in the A	26 Letters in the Alphabet
180 HS in D	180 Highest Score in Darts
7 W of the W	7 Wonders of the World
1815 Y of the B of W	1815 Year of the Battle of Waterloo
18 H on a GC	18 Holes on a Golf Course
1977 Y of the SJ	1977 Year of the Silver Jubilee
32 DF at which WF	32 Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes
1906 Y of E in SF	1906 Year of Earthquake in San Francisco
3 C in the F	3 Coins in the Fountain
40 W	40 Winks
70 TSY and T	70 Three Score Years and Ten
7 DS	7 Deadly Sins
12345 OICAF	12345 Once I Caught A Fish Alive
9 P in the SS	9 Planets in the Solar System
77 SS	77 Sunset Strip
5 GR	5 Gold Rings
29029 H of ME (F)	29029 Height of Mount Everest (Feet)
147 MB in S	147 Maximum Break in Snooker
7 B for SB	7 Brides for Seven Brothers
20 H in a T	20 Hundredweight in a Ton
4711 EDC	4711 Eau De Cologne
4 and 20 BB B in a P	4 and 20 Black Birds Baked in a Pie
6 W of KH the E	6 Wives of King Henry the Eighth

Editorial



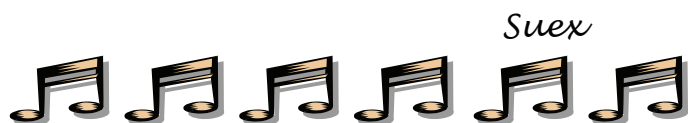
I'd firstly like to say thank you to everyone who took the time to write and tell me how much they enjoyed my first attempt at editing the Newsletter. It was made so much easier by all the good articles that you sent in. I hope you enjoy this edition as much. At first I

thought it was going to be rather slim but I have had to hold back one or two items for the October edition.

I would have liked to have had a bit more for the Around the District section but we can't have everything can we well not yet anyway!

I have included a letter on page 17 from a gentleman in Bickley who wrote saying how much he enjoyed the Newsletter. The comments of the young Horton Kirby ringers on what they liked about bell ringing (Around the District April 2009) inspired further thought from him about our reasons for ringing. I wonder does any one else have any views on this topic?

Now don't let me hold you up, read on.....



120 club

April 4th drawn at Cudham, district meeting

1 st	80	Margaret Macey (Foots Cray)
2 nd	84	Ros Farmer (Foots Cray)
3 rd	8	Gabrielle Stook (Ash)
4 th	16	Colin Senneck (Ash)

May 9th drawn at Chelsfield, district practice

1 st	71	David Brown (Bromley)
2 nd	113	120 club
3 rd	21	Doug Fisher (Biggin Hill)
4 th	108	120 club



June 28th drawn at Farningham Trophy

1st	7	Peter Warr (Shoreham)
2nd	63	Chris Lawrence (Bromley Common)
3rd	105	120 Club
4th	84	Ros Farmer (Foots Cray)

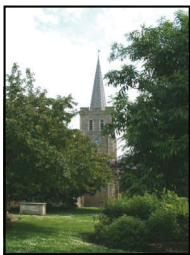
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A Days Ringing in East Kent

For our Autumn bell ringing outing Nick Wilkins arranged a day's ringing in East Kent that would provide a ring of three bells, and rings of four, five, six, eight, ten and twelve.

Our first tower was Minster-in-Thanel, a heavy ring of five bells, the tenor weighing 17cwt. In 1995 these were in our national list of unringable bells on the grounds that they could not be rung continuously for 15 minutes by an average Sunday service band. There was some groaning from up above but a big problem is that the ringer of the treble is unable to see the ringer of the tenor because of a poor rope circle. Indeed, it is not a circle! I was made aware of this six months ago and so with us here was Brian Butcher, the KCACR Bells Advisor. We hope that his investigations may lead to one of the bells being placed differently in the frame and the situation changed for the better.



A short drive took us to Monkton, our ring of three bells. Rings of three offer very little to the change ringer because only six changes are possible. Few three-bell installations are ringable and many others are in poor condition: they are a bit of a curiosity. At first sight it seemed that the bells might be rung from the ground floor but we were fooled, those were swing chiming ropes. A climb of a 33-rung ladder inclined at about 80 degrees was necessary to reach the ringing room. Above us we could see the three 17th century bells in their metal frame of 1911, there being no floor between them and us – a potentially dangerous situation should a clapper fall out or a stay or slider come adrift and fall on the ringers. They rang well but we did not stay for long!

Ash-next-Sandwich provided our ring of ten bells. They were augmented from eight by Taylor's in 1978. I have a memory that some of the cost was met by an American gentleman but I could find no reference to it. The fifth and tenor bells had been recast in 1927 at Whitechapel – it is surprising what difference a good tenor bell makes to a ring. The other bells may be quite ordinary but if the tenor is melodious, the whole ring sounds good.

Our ring of twelve was at the Waterloo Tower in Quex Park, Birchington, part of the Powell-Cotton estate. The tower stands in a clump of trees in the middle of a meadow. The only critics of our ringing were a group of bullocks grazing at one end. The bells date from 1818/19 and are maintained by local ringers. The Powell-Cotton family continues to be interested in keeping them in good condition. On the interior walls are painted the details of the early peals, the first being rung by The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. As Nick and I are members of that Society, we were pleased to see that. The bells go well and it was good to see that both Kurtis and Phoebe, watched by their grandparents, could ring here.



Lunch at Deal was really special because it was at 'The Three Compasses', a restaurant, run

daughter Vibeke this gorgeous excellent view of right across the



former pub, now a by Elsa and Knut's younger and her husband Nick. On sunny day we had an the seafront and pier and English Channel to the French coast. Elsa tells me that (her) Nick has his own boat and has been known to catch some of the restaurant fish himself. Apparently, at the right time of the year, one can reach out and catch Dover sole with one's hands. It was good to be joined here by Anne Townsend, who was recovering from being knocked down by a car whilst walking along a Chislehurst pavement. Encouragingly, she later managed a little ringing.

We took two hours over an enjoyable lunch but had to leave in order to ring on the six bells at Ringwould. They were recast in 1887, almost certainly to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Unusually the ground floor ringing room has a barrel-shaped wooden ceiling. The rattle of the ropes as they pass through the wooden ceiling bosses almost drowns the sound of the bells. In the church is a memorial to Sir John Bland Sutton, one time President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who died in 1936 and who, a dedicated teacher, had "spent so many hours teaching students over the dead with the hope of aiding the living."

A mile or so down the road is Walmer, nominally our ring of eight. However, the wheel of the fourth bell had broken and although Brian Butcher had tried to mend it earlier in the day, he was unable to do so in time for our visit. Thus, we were confined to ringing the seven remaining bells of this well-maintained ring.

On the way to our last tower, Sevington, near Ashford, we drove along the coast for a short while and were grateful to Karen for pointing out the street lights of France across the 'Little Pond'. Sevington Church was floodlit. It stands a mile from the village, access to which is across a dual carriageway. We could appreciate the need for a toilet in this isolated building but were mystified as to why the diocesan authorities allowed it to protrude so far into the ground floor ringing room as to make it impossible for the ringers of the treble and tenor to see each other. The bells were rehung in 2004, which explained why they were not listed in the current 'Dove's Guide published in 2000. Prior to 2004 they were without stays or sliders and, although not intended to be rung full circle, they were so rung occasionally by experienced ringers.

As we left Sevington, church we were much amused by the text over the door, 'Enter into his courts with praise'. Within an hour we were home, tired but happy. Our thanks are due to those who transported us, to those who met us and welcomed us to their towers, to Elsa for the lunch arrangements and to Nick for all the arrangements he had made.

John Barnes

Eltham's Christmas Dinner



On a frosty Friday evening in January, the Bromley Cricket Club car park rang out with the sounds of dancing shoes making their way into the club house. And as you can see from the photo there was dancing aplenty, by a brave few at any rate, and I'll let you guess which ones were the most pleased by the singer's comment about the young ones being on the dance floor.



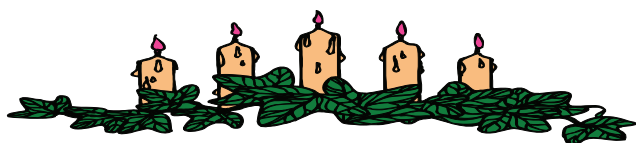
However before the dancing there was of course the meal itself, a large selection of meat, fish and quiche served with new potatoes and crusty rolls followed by a choice of two puddings. Not so much food that we couldn't all engage in some animated conversation though!

This was followed by short speeches on how the year had gone, and thanks to Jean Pailing and the rest of the committee for organising the night, before moving onto the raffle (where remarkably no-one got back what they had donated).

After which the sensible ones retired to the bar to browse through the photo albums of previous dinners and outings, which had been brought along by Len Dumper, while back in the cleared dining room a conga formed to slalom through the balloons.

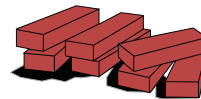
All in all it was agreed that everyone had a fun evening and thought has already turned to planning for next year.

Katherine Trill



How to Properly Place New Employees

1. Put 400 bricks in a closed room.

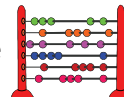


2. Put your new employees in the room and close the door.

3. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours.

4. Then analyze the situation:

a. If they are counting the bricks, put them in the Accounting Department.



b. If they are recounting them, put them in Auditing.

c. If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in Engineering .

d. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.

e. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.

f. If they are sleeping , put them in Security.

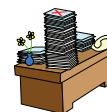


g. If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology.

h. If they are sitting idle , put them in Human Resources.

i. If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved , put them in Administration.

j. If they have already left for the day, put them in Marketing.



k. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning.

l. If they are talking to each other, and not a single brick has been moved, congratulate them and put them in Top Management.



Finally, if they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor heard from, then put them in Government.



Around the District

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

Well, we're still out here, entertaining the passing horses, cows and skylarks. The band is slowly growing and we are managing some extra activities. We have been furiously fund raising now our tower repairs are complete, to have the bells refurbished. It's the usual moving goalposts game, every time we think we have it sorted something happens.

We took the handbells out to a local "Torch" group at Christmas, as well as being the entertainment at the 'friends of Ash church AGM' and welcoming people to our community Mothering Sunday service in the local primary school.

Christmas saw the usual burst of activity, followed by our New Years ring when we have a 'bit of a do' and celebrate with unusual seasonal related beers, Santa's Nuts, Rudolph's Revenge, and of course Bellringer.

We have many different engineers in our band, so we had a techies outing, to help celebrate the steeple keeper's retirement to see the Vulcan at Duxford. It was such a success I have had a plethora of suggestions for the next one. We have also begun a new practice for our mature/retired ringers on Tuesdays, culminating in a pub lunch. We are a cheerful bunch and it seems to be popular.

Gabrielle Hayes

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Since the beginning of April, two peals and five quarter peals have been scored. The first peal was especially arranged, composed and rung with best wishes to Lynn and Don Pointer to celebrate their 70th birthdays and in anticipation of their Golden wedding anniversary. The peal was also Dominic Meredith's first peal of Stedman. Dom, along with David Brown also achieved their first peal of Surprise Royal at the beginning of June which was rung to mark the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings and a 40th birthday compliment to James Hardy.

As is usual after Easter, many of our band attended the Hereford Ringing Course to learn, help and meet up with ringing friends. An enjoyable time was had by all.

The Arts Festival, held at St George's for a week in May was a great success with the tower open to the general public for guided tours of the bells and the impressive view from the top. This yielded interest from two ladies who have since had a couple of handling sessions. We also received contact from a lapsed ringer who indicated her two children would like to learn the art. The district training day on 20 June was held at St George's and by all accounts it proved to be another successful venture.

Our relationship with Bromley Parish continues to strengthen with mutual support for both practices and Sunday mornings. We welcome anyone who wishes to attend our practice night, 7.30pm – 9.30pm on Thursday evenings, followed by drinks in The George.

David Macey

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

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

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Nothing much to report since last time. We continue to get good numbers for practice and most Sundays with everyone making steady progress. We have added Funeral ringing to our repertoire and even have a Wednesday wedding in July.

Rupert

CUDHAM

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

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Since the last newsletter our AGM has been held, which as ever was an excellent evening of fine wine, tasty nibbles (thanks to the Ogilvies for hosting) oh and maybe a little bit of discussion about how to ensure the next year is another good one for us as a Tower and as ringers. One thing we have elected to try is weekly objectives on the board to help the Captain organise the evening's ringing, which is already proving helpful. Our learners continue to develop as do some of our more established ringers. Let's hope we can keep it up.

Katherine Trill

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

Ringing continue to progress slowly at Horton Kirby but we have managed to ring Bob doubles with just HK ringers. Might seem a small thing to some but to us it was a huge breakthrough. We are lucky to have gained a new ringer, Karen, who helped us to achieve it.

The youngsters are also progressing and another, Rachael, joins Hannah, Katie and Ellie to ring on Sunday. The village school has a Leavers Service in the Church each year which we always ring for. This year 4 of our young ringers are leaving and will be ringing with us along with one of the Mum's. It doesn't matter that they are not yet service ringers – however good or bad - they are all welcome to join us and they enjoy ringing for their school.

Sue Allport

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

Ladybirds in the Belfry

Shoreham tower has been home to hibernating ladybirds for two successive winters. They cluster around the window arches in groups.

They appear to be the Harlequin variety which experts believe arrived in southern England in 2004 from Asia via North America. Our most common native species has seven spots, but the harlequin is noticeable because it has between 15 and 21 spots and is slightly larger and rounder.

Unusually, Harlequin ladybirds hibernate in buildings in large groups and can be seen piled on top of one another for warmth, increasing their chances of surviving the cold. There are reports of them biting but none of the Shoreham ringers have reported any problems!



The name Ladybird comes from the middle ages when the colourful insects were known as the "beetle of Our Lady". They were named after the Virgin Mary because in early religious paintings she was often shown wearing a red cloak. The seven spots symbolise the seven joys and seven sorrows.

Does any other tower have any wildlife in residence?

Our appeal for new ringers mentioned in the last Newsletter has had some success. Amanda started with us a couple of months ago and is doing very well thanks to Philippa and Frank and we also have some teenagers interested but who are a bit shy of it all at present. Hopefully they will get over that and join us.

Alison Collins

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Visitors are very welcome but please check beforehand to find out if there is a practice.

If when you arrive you are unable to get into the church please ring the tower mobile 07906475454 and someone will come and let you in.

If anyone is interested we have back issues of Ringing World - 1991-1996 - if anyone would like them we will be delighted to pass them on.

Yvonne Wright

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

Our normal schedule, 8pm-930pm:

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

Although, due to window damage and pigeon damage, we are not always at Woolwich for the time being.

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:

JULY 2009 (all dates Wednesdays)

1	ST. JOHN'S DEPTFORD
8	GREENWICH
15	No Practice
22	GREENWICH
29	TBC: School Hols GREENWICH

AUGUST

No practices (School hols);
start again Weds 2nd September

Graham Long

3 Ringers Swap Bells for Bridges

Those who noticed that Carol (Christchurch, Erith), Karen (Horton Kirby) and Sue (Ash by Wrotham) were absent from service ringing on Sunday 31st May little knew that by the time "Look to, Treble's going" had been called, they had already "Gone" and were



well into a 33 mile Charity Bike Ride through London. The route took them from close to Tower Bridge all the way to Hampton Court Palace via 14 bridges and Richmond Park.

Carol did her best to promote bell-

ringing on route, even if this was the 'bicycle-bell' variety, as it rang its own method relentlessly over every bump! However, it did help keep us together in the mass (2400) of other cyclists taking part.



Between them, they raised over £500 for the Stroke Association and would like to thank all those who supported or sponsored them.

Carol, Karen & Sue
Aka "The Clangers"

Training Day

The latest quarterly training day took place at St George's Beckenham on Saturday 20 June. Under the supervision of training officer, Dave Brown, five students and a number of helpers covered a varied range of requests from plain hunt on seven through to Cambridge Surprise Minor. Despite ringing for nearly five hours (with the sound control closed), the day was very relaxed with an hour for lunch and a stop for afternoon tea. The benefit of being in one location, with no added travel or bells to raise and lower led to more available time on the end of a rope.

Progress was made by all students who had the choice of being able to ring on either the front six, back six or back eight as they felt comfortable. It is obvious that these training days are beneficial. It requires students to come with an open mind to learning, helpers prepared to spend time on the end of a rope and a desire from all parties to achieve a common goal.

The training day is especially useful if you are trying to learn something. You have the advantage of ringing with a solid 'support band' in a friendly, welcoming environment. The next scheduled training day is Saturday 15 August. Please contact Dave Brown for more details.

David Macey

Interesting English

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce .
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 5) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row .
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present .
- 8) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 9) They were too close to the door to close it.

o There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

o English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France .

o Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted.

But if we explore its paradoxes we find that:

o quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing,

o grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

o If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth?

Pre-Hereford Tour 2009

Every year on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after Easter Monday, a group of Lewisham District Ringers (along with various friends they've collected over the years) go on a short ringing tour to the Welsh Borders, in preparation for the Hereford Ringing Course, which takes place the following weekend. This is an account of some of the things that happened over the course of the three days. Names have been withheld to protect the guilty – please feel free to try and guess who is referred to.



Tuesday 14th April

Lane End, Buckinghamshire


9:40 Tour organiser arrives twenty minutes early at first tower, rather than forty minutes late (as is usual). Much surprise.

Hambledon, Buckinghamshire

10:55 Arrive to find village suffering from power cut. Listening to the bells is the only entertainment the residents have and they've pulled up chairs in the churchyard to listen. No pressure...

10:57 Odd thumping noise from belfry as we pull off. Stand it up and ring each bell individually. No problems. Pull off again. Thumping resumes. Stand again. Pull off again. Thumping resumes. Give up and go into changes. Thumping stops. Odd.

Turville, Buckinghamshire

11:30  Much excitement that this is the church from 'The Vicar of Dibley'.

11:37 Band attempts to ring Erin Doubles. Spend more time working out the line than actually ringing a 120.

Berrick Salome, Oxfordshire

12:32 4th has a 'dodgy clank' according to local.

12:35 4th does indeed produce a very odd noise.

12:47 'Dodgy clank' identified as being a G harmonic instead of a G#.

Little Milton, Oxfordshire

2:38 Intimidating vertical climb to ringing chamber accomplished unscathed.

2:48 We ring Cambridge Minor. Some ringers starting to regret large lunch.

Whitney, Oxfordshire

3:44 Large park by the church full of unsuspecting, innocent civilians enjoying the late afternoon sunshine.

3:46 Start looking for tower entrance.

3:50 Still looking.

3:52 Still looking.

3:55 Find tower doorway after wandering through building site and squeezing between scaffold poles.

4:00 Start ringing – bells were worth the effort.

4:20 Exit tower. Park now empty.



Littledean, Gloucestershire

7:04 Arrive at hotel to discover it has been refurbished. Am now in en-suite room!

Blaisdon, Gloucestershire

7:48 Ringers arrive at pub. Everyone else leaves.

Wednesday 15th April

Pershore, Worcestershire

10:48 Arrive at Pershore Parish Centre to find it abandoned and locked. Band decides to take a quick look inside Pershore Abbey.

10:53 Key holder arrives – lock-out averted.

11:03 Desperate scramble to avoid ringing in planned quarter. One ringer discovers he has lost a lens from his glasses and has to go to the optician. Very cunning.

11:08 Decision made to abandon quarter and just ring some good touches instead.

11:21 Certain band member goes wrong in Bob Doubles.

11:24 Another band member goes wrong in Bob Doubles.

11:29 Yet another band member goes wrong – this time treble bobbing. Large breakfast taking its toll?

Harvington, Worcestershire

12:32 Finally ring clean 120 of Bob Doubles.

Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire

2:28 Lunch universally thought to be excellent.

3:23 Certain band member goes wrong in Bob Doubles again!

3:28 We can't ring Grandsire either. Lunch was perhaps slightly too excellent.

Crowle, Worcestershire

4:05 Local band seems to take an unseemly delight in how bad the bells are: Whiteboard in the tower announces "Welcome to Crowle, the worst bells in Worcestershire"

4:07 Local band are wrong. Crowle are very possibly the worst bells IN THE WORLD!

4:16 Treble rope breaks. Much relief. Confine ourselves to ringing the middle six, which are... still quite bad actually, but not as bad as the full eight.

Salwarpe, Worcestershire

4:41 Consider playing pooh sticks on canal tunnel by church. Realise game would take too long as canal isn't flowing.



5:08 District secretary asked to run ringing. Responds by making everyone ring his favourite method – St. Clement's College Bob Minor!

Dodderhill, Worcestershire

5:35 Church looks a bit wonky from outside.

5:41 Church is very wonky and tower floor distinctly not flat.

5:43 Climb up Eastern face of tower floor completed.

6:47 Quarter of Grandsire Triples scored – despite dodgy floor.

Thursday 16th April

Littledean, Gloucestershire

8:46 Desperate attempts to learn Hereford Surprise Major over breakfast.

8:53 Waitress describes a particular band member as "not normal". Very perceptive.

Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire

10:01 Another power cut.

10:16 Lights come on halfway through a touch of Grandsire triples.

10:30 Hereford Surprise Major scored – learning methods over breakfast proves surprisingly effective.

Goodrich, Herefordshire

12:28 Consternation for the pub staff when they discover that the party of 12 they booked for has turned into a group of 27!

1:32 Disaster – pub has run out of pâté! Certain ringer has to go without!

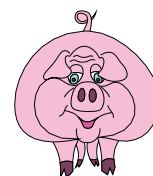
1:48 Disaster averted - extra pâté found.

3:16 Ringing finished at final tower. Tour over. We've survived.

Dominic Meredith



.....
This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed at home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none.
And this little piggy had influenza A virus
subtype haemagglutinin protein 1 neuraminidase
protein 1



Bristol, London, Belfast and Glasgow via Beckenham!

The original idea was David Macey's but it was soon taken up by the rest of us surprise major ringers who regularly attend Thursday night practices at Beckenham. We would attempt a peal of Horton's four. The four are the surprise methods London, Bristol, Belfast and Glasgow and are named after the composer Roddy Horton who was the first person to compose a peal of these four methods spliced. It is widely recognised as being extremely difficult and has been rung - and lost - by some of the best bands in the country.



All of us could ring London and Bristol competently, some of us had rung quarters or peals of Glasgow and Belfast and some had already rung a peal of Horton's four, albeit not recently. Therefore the project did not sound too daunting when we embarked on it in January 2007 but wisely, David, the conductor and organiser, decided to proceed by easy stages. Initially there were more than eight ringers involved with no designated treble ringer so that often meant attempting each stage more than once to give everyone a chance to ring a working bell.



First we attempted a quarter of Belfast and initially managed only a long touch but by mid- February we had scored two quarters both at Beckenham. In March we rang a quarter of London, Bristol and Belfast spliced. This seemed



relatively straightforward. All three methods have the same lead end order which makes it easier. It seemed as if we were three quarters of the way to our final goal, maybe this wasn't going to be as difficult as everybody claimed.

Then we hit Glasgow. Glasgow is a tricky method, several place bells have unexpected starts, it has 4/5 dodges, unusual in a surprise major method and the lead end order is the exact opposite of the other three methods. Despite this, after one

failed attempt we successfully scored two quarters of Glasgow in June 2007.

It was time for our first attempt at splicing all four methods. As a change from our usual haunts of Beckenham and Bromley, in July 2007 David arranged for us to visit four towers in Surrey; Carshalton, Benhilton, Mersham and Godstone. The plan was to attempt a quarter at each tower. This was when we first realised just how difficult this was going to be. Introduce Glasgow into the mix and touches instantly rise to new level of difficulty. With none of us totally confident, one slip by any ringer was likely to drag the rest of us into the ensuing melee. None of the quarters was scored that day but, far from being disheartened, we'd all found the experience helpful. We redoubled our efforts to ensure that we were absolutely certain of all the methods and to learn as many signposts as possible to haul ourselves back on to the blue line if we did have the misfortune to fall off it.



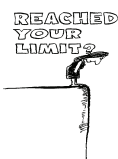
The following month a quarter of four spliced came home 132 but for the first time we had managed to go the distance. Then in October we scored two successful quarters adapted from parts of the peal we planned to attempt. By this time we had gained a valuable new ringer when the composer, Roddy Horton, joined the local band at Beckenham.



Apart from the quarters we continued to practise splicing the four methods by ringing touches on practice nights and by 2008 we were ready to attempt the peal. The original group of ringers had now been whittled down to a final eight and all the attempts during this year were at Beckenham with the same band ringing the same bells. The first attempt in February lasted just forty minutes but the second attempt, a week later, went for an hour and a half. It settled down almost

from the outset and until it fired out the ringing was of an exceptionally high standard. This gave us all confidence. The third attempt in April fired out after two and half hours, probably less than twenty minutes from the end. We were disappointed but determined. We now knew we could do it but we all had to guard against fatal lapses in concentration that can arise as you get tired towards the end of a peal. In Horton's four there's no time to relax.

The next attempt was scheduled for Saturday 14 June and the previous Monday we scored a good quarter peal. Unfortunately the peal attempt was miscalled quite early on so we rang a good quarter instead and then we all spent the afternoon and evening at Roddy's barbeque which was more than adequate compensation.



Our fifth attempt was scheduled for Saturday 27 July 2008. There were suggestions that if we did not score this time we ought to shelve the whole project for a while. Was this clever psychology on David's part? Nobody wanted to fail now but it was the hottest day of the year and even with the window open and four fans going full blast it was still uncomfortably hot in the ringing room at Beckenham. Despite the discomfort the ringing was good and confident with very few trips until we were close to the same point where we lost the third attempt. Then somebody went wrong and for a few



anxious moments, the ringing became very choppy. We all struggled to retain or regain our place in the method and then to everyone's relief it settled down again. After this scare the ringing once more became confident and fault-free as if we all realised that this time we were in with a real chance of success. In this composition 'queens' comes up eight leads from the end. Afterwards Roddy assured us we rang it in fine style, perfectly struck but I don't think any of the rest of us even heard it; we were far too busy concentrating. That day the words 'That's all' were the sweetest words in the English language. After more than eighteen months of hard

work we had finally succeeded.

It is now almost a year since we scored the peal and a peal board commemorating our success hangs in Beckenham tower as a permanent reminder that as a local practice night band we achieved what for most of us is one of the hardest things we have ever rung.

Special thanks and congratulations must go to David Macey for coming up with the idea in the first place and for persevering when some of us doubted that we'd ever make it! Not only did he arrange all the quarter and peal attempts but as well as ringing the methods he had to learn and call the compositions. The peal was a first in these four methods spliced for three of the band, but it was also David's first peal of spliced as conductor.

Dave Brown and Christine Webb

The Peal Report

Kent County Association, Beckenham Kent, St George
Sunday 27th July 2008 in 2h 15m (14 cwt)
5024 Spliced Surprise Major (4 m)
(1344 Glasgow, 1248 London, 1216 Belfast,
Bristol;113 com.atw)

Composed by Roderick R. Horton

- 1 Dominic D Meredith
- 2 Christine M Webb
- 3 David P Macey (C)
- 4 Roderick R Horton
- 5 David S Brown
- 6 James J Hardy
- 7 Jeremy R Byers
- 8 Peter Valuks

First spliced as Conductor

First of these 4 methods spliced: 2,5,7

Wishing Mark Jones continuing recovery

Rung by a local practice night band

The Dartford Peal Book

Since I reported in the last newsletter about the return of the Peal Book we have been busy discovering quite a lot of its History. We knew that Dartford had 223 peals recorded on Felstead but had little knowledge of their content. Finding the Peal Book has inspired us to pursue the hunt.



The book contains some 11 peals, of which 6 were rung at Dartford, the others being rung at Crayford, Bexley, Woolwich & Erith St Johns. (see end of article). The book is titled the 'Guild of West Kent Ringers' and the peals record, in addition to the names of the ringers, their towers, all of which were local. The book has a gap of 11 years from November 1879 to May 1890 and the peals which followed were rung at Holy Trinity in 1896, 1898 and 1906. After another gap of 13 years which included the First World War and the recasting and re-hanging of the bells in 1917, a peal was rung in 1919 in celebration. There is a draft for a further peal in 1922 pencilled in.



Our first contact was the County Webmaster who put out a plea to whoever had rung a peal at Dartford recently, to let us have the details, plus a suggestion that maybe the Book did not

really belong to Dartford Holy Trinity. The only result from that enquiry was a peal which we already knew about.

My next contact was the KCACR Librarian who has been fantastically helpful. Their records go back to 1880 when the KCACR was formed. As our first peal was in 1746 and by 1879 13 peals had been rung at Dartford I need to fill in some history. Brenda and I, while searching in the tower found an interesting little book. It was very yellow with age, and appeared to be a very early format of the handbook. There was no date but it had obviously been produced on a typewriter. From it we learned that until 1880 ringing was done by Societies who were not organised in any formal way. The oldest Peal boards in the tower have the titles of the societies at the top.



In the 1870s a move was made to organise ringing more formally and in 1880 the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (KCACR) was formed. This divided Kent into 5 Districts. It was later decided that this was too few, so a sixth, Lewisham District, was created in 1891. This was fiercely resisted by the Trinity Ringers which may account for the gap in the ringing in the 1880s and the gradual cessation of records. (If anyone knows who or where the Trinity Ringers were during this time, we'd be very interested to hear).

The KCACR has all the peal records going back to 1880 that

were rung for/by Kent County Association. Using Felstead I have produced a sheet for each of the 223 peals, so that the names, duration and the society can be filled in. So far have 44 have been completed with information coming from the peal boards in the tower (17), the Peal Book (4), a handwritten list found in the Peal Book (21) and Campanophile (2). I am hoping that the Royal Cumberland Society who rang 2 of the early peals in 1763 and 1775 will be able to furnish details and we know the KCACR Library can provide most of the rest. There should only 13 to find, so not bad going. The very early ones are the problem and finding those may be difficult. Fingers crossed that the KCACR can point us in the right direction.

When I first contacted the Librarian, she was most concerned about whether we were going to write in the book because as it is not strictly ours, we shouldn't. It is a piece of what latter Government Departments have appeared to want to destroy, namely Heritage. Also modern inks and pens are not suited to the old paper so it is fortunate in some ways that the peals were never written up. What we now intend to do is create, using the computer, a loose leaf file that can be added to and kept up to date as a permanent record of Holy Trinity's Heritage

Since starting this, I have had the most welcome news – the details for the first peal at Dartford in 1746!! And what's more the record for it may be the oldest extant written record for a peal. This has to be checked, but..... fingers crossed.

Along with this came the news that we shall soon get the records from Canterbury, so by the time you read this we may have a complete record. Some of the older societies and their records are being traced and many seem to have ended up, appropriately, in the British Library. Below are the details of the "peals" recorded in the West Kent Book. If your tower is there and you do not have the details, please feel free to ask for them. Apologies to those of you who know the early history of Ringing Societies but there are probably many amongst us who don't and may be interested, as we were.

Esther Correia

The Peals (in the order they appear in the book)

17th November 1877		
St. Paulinus Crayford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2 hrs. 59m
5th August 1876*		
St Mary Bexley Kent	Treble Bob Major	25mins
1st March 1878*		
St John Erith	Grandsire Minor	28mins
23rd November 1878		
St Paulinus Crayford	5040 Grandsire Triples	3hrs 5m
11th January 1879		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	3hrs 6m

Ascribed to A.S.C.Y Dartford

14th November 1879		
St Mary Woolwich	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 56m
27th May 1890		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 54m
10th December 1896		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 58m

Ascribed to Dartford Society

12th February 1898		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 54m

Ascribed to A.S.C.Y Dartford

8th February 1906		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 50m

Ascribed to Kent County Association

29th November 1919		
Holy Trinity Dartford	5040 Grandsire Triples	2hrs 54m
1st peal since the recasting and re-hanging of the bells in 1917, ascribed to KCA		

*These are quarter peals? though described as peals in the book
Note that the 1st 2 are not in date order.

Peals not ascribed to a Society are presumably the Guild of West Kent Ringers



Ringling at Southwark Cathedral



For several years now, we have arranged to ring at Southwark Cathedral for the Lewisham & Greenwich Archdeaconry Service. This is always held in May when Churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives are sworn in for their year of office.

This year, the service took place on 18th May and we were able to have a good ring before the service. We were also able to go up onto the tower roof and have a good look over London. The ringing was reasonable on these quite difficult bells and we were able to ring some Triples on the back 8, rounds on 10 and ended with rounds on all 12 bells – we didn't ring the sharp 2nd this year, as it is a bit tricky to handle!

As well as our own ringers, I would like to thank Rupert Cheeseman, Dominic Meredith, Sue Cameron, Chris Lawrance, Jan Odell (from Foots Cray – the Southwark bells

are a little heavier!) and her brother, Graham Cuthbert (from Harrietsham) for assisting us.

Several of us stayed for the service and were warmly thanked by many of the congregation for our ringing. In the Market Porter, afterwards, the Archdeacon came over and thanked us for ringing and shared a beer with us – the Harveys Bitter from Sussex going down very nicely (I have to say that I was introduced to this beer as a teenager by Tom Barlow (Maidstone) when we were ringing in Eastbourne during the late 60s and 70s).

We hope to ring again for this next year – please watch out for the date and join us.

More news from The Meridian Ringers

- At the time of writing, we are just about to go on our Summer mini outing to Kent on Saturday 20th June. By the time you read this, we will have rung at Ospringe, where one of our ringers' mother is the Vicar, Teynham and Lenham; we will also have had a long and leisurely lunch at The Chequers, Doddington.
- On Wednesday 15th July, one of our former ringers Rev. Nettie Rose is to be instituted as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints Church, New Eltham [no bells]. Therefore, our practice night is cancelled, but we will be going for a quarter peal on the following day. Nettie is the daughter of the late Rev Canon John Ardley who sadly died in 2004. John was a loyal member of the Woolwich band for nearly 30 years and is sorely missed.
- Our practice night schedule (8pm-930pm) continues to be at Greenwich most Wednesdays, but the 1st/5th Wednesdays are at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich. All are very welcome to join us at any time. To check please call me on 07729 820009 or email: graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk
Please note there are no practices during August – we start again on 2nd September.

Graham Long



I just heard on the news that, "Swine Flu could potentially be a threat to every single person in the world". Well it's a good thing I'm married then, isn't it?

The doctor asked me how long I'd had the symptoms of Swine Flu. I said it must have been about a Weeeeeeeeeeeeeek!

I hear there's now a sine flu as well. Someone on the news was going off on a tangent about it.



Bells in Bermuda

Visiting friends in Bermuda recently we went to a popular tourist area called Dockyard where we came across a clock with bells cast at Whitechapel.



The clock was installed in 1856 but what made more interesting was the display showing photos and illustrations



from Whitechapel about how bells are cast. On contacting Whitechapel I discovered that the bells were cast 25 years ago for John Smith & Sons of Derby, Clockmakers who were responsible for the restoration of the clock.

Bermuda consists of more than 200 islands, mostly tiny and the bells were named after the 3 main islands that the Bermuda Dockyard occupies Ireland, Boaz and Watford.

The bells are mounted outside the building that houses the clock, the mechanism of which is fully displayed inside.

Ireland, the largest bell, strikes the hour and is tuned to G. Boaz and Watford, referred to as Tang and Ting because of the sound they make, are tuned to C and E.



Bermuda became a British Colony in 1684 and until 1995 the Royal Navy had a base there. When war was imminent between Britain and France it was decided that the island should be protected by regular soldiers and the first arrived in 1701 with the final withdrawal in 1953. During their time there the British Army built and manned over 80 forts but a shot was never fired in anger. I was especially interested in this part of Bermuda's history because my great great grandfather was stationed there with the Duke of Wellingtons regiment at the end of his service career in 1888.

Bermuda is a small but beautiful island that is well worth a visit!

Sue Allport

Ringling Master's bit

In May, the district visited the new 8 at Chelsfield for the first time. They have done a good job with the augmentation and once the new ropes have bedded in they should be a fine ring. It was excellent to see more people than at other recent practices. Please come again! The ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Cambridge major and the evening was nicely rounded off in the local pub.



David and the Eynsford/Farningham ringers are again organising a ringing competition - The Farningham Trophy. This year there is a handicapping system in place meaning that



bands have to attempt to ring a method or rounds and call changes up to their ability rather than well within it. There will also be a tune handbell ringing competition to add a bit of variety as well as a Barbeque so please come along and support it.



The previous day the district will be looking to win the County 8 bell competition at Tenterden against the other 5 districts. It's a few years since we last won so we'll be looking to go one better than last years runner up position.

Thank you to Sue, and everyone who contributed, for producing such a good newsletter last time. Hopefully this one will be just as good but it only will be if people keep sending stuff in.

Rupert

District Events

1st Aug.	District Practice Chislehurst, St Nicholas, 10am to 12 NOTE Morning Practice
15th Aug	District Training Day. Contact Dave on training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk for details
Sept	District Practice
10th Oct	Annual District Meeting, St Mary Cray, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service then tea, meeting & evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

The Farningham Trophy

A warm afternoon, a village setting, six bands ready to demonstrate their skills, a BBQ fired up, tea brewing, six pleasant and manageable tower bells and twelve handbells hopefully manageable though that remained to be seen! Yes, the Farningham Trophy was taking place on Sunday 28 June, the church's Patronal Festival.



The trophy is a small bowl, complete with bolt holes, turned from the elm of an old Farningham headstock. The restoration of the bells in 2008 provided all new fittings. And the trophy this year has the benefit of a plinth kindly provided by Jim Hardy.

The intention of the competition is to accommodate ringers whatever their ability. This year's rules have had a little tweaking and require bands to select a competition method or call changes in line with the ability of at least two of the band members.

While Trophy ringing was taking place, bands were also taking turns at practicing for the handbell tune ringing challenge. Rachel and Mark Backhouse had provided the handbells and music for All People That On Earth Do Dwell. With Churchwardens as judges, renditions were given by five teams. All performances were creditable though some not without the odd hitch amusement. in the bar was as which handbell



Erith cum HK cum Dartford Band

There were joint winners of the handbell challenge, the Crayford band and the Eynsford and Farningham band.

The Trophy judges were Anne and Jeremy Pratt who provided helpful comments to the bands and their conductors. The competition victor was the Beckenham (David) band with a score of 27:

Treble	Jeremy Byers
2	Christine Webb
3	Rosemary Stretton
4	David Brown
5	David Macey (C)
Tenor	Terry Guntrip



David Macey receiving the Trophy from the judges

Other placings were:

2.	Eynsford and Farningham	33
3.	Beckenham (Ross)	47
4.	Erith Christ Church	56
5.	Horton Kirby	79
6.	Crayford (test piece a few changes short)	

Jeremy Byers rounded off proceedings with thanks to the E&F folks for their organisational endeavours and to Mark and Rachel for the handbell challenge.

This is a competition for all and where bands can amalgamate. If you missed this year's, maybe you will be at Farningham on the last Sunday of June 2010 - for some Trophy fun and conviviality.

David Hilling

Letters Page

Dear Sue,

I have just had an opportunity to read the April Newsletter. Congratulations – there were some good and interesting articles. And my best wishes to you for taking on what can sometimes be an arduous task.

I laughed at the section on *Church Bulletins* – and I read with interest the section entitled *Around the District* with particular reference to the comments from Horton Kirby. I really think it great that eager young people are coming into the bell towers; we need to do all we can to encourage them and keep them - the more the better.

However, the views of the young people got me thinking. I hear and see so much about bell ringing being a great hobby/ good exercise for heart and mind, etc. but very little acknowledgement of where most bells are hung; and, indeed, the main reason for ringing them. Yes, a hobby maybe but, first and foremost they are situated mainly in church towers I believe to proclaim God to the people, to call the people to worship and to join with them at the various stages of their lives in celebration and thanksgiving, sometimes mourning, but always giving Him the glory. Now what could be better and more exciting than that?!

Alan Skinner

Bickley



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Cudham on 4th April 2009

30 people attended the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Rhiannon Meredith and David Macey (Beckenham), Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman (Crayford), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield) and Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby).



2. Minutes of the District Meeting at Dartford

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (Proposed: Nancy Gay; Seconded: Lizzie Duffey)

3. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Michael Hutton	Erith (Christchurch)	Rachel Backhouse	Mark Backhouse
Roddy Horton	Beckenham	David Macey	Dominic Meredith
James Drew	Hayes	Hilary Burtonshaw	Jean Thody
Olivia Truelove	Hayes	Hilary Burtonshaw	Jean Thody

4. 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	80	Margaret Macey	Foots Cray
2 nd	84	Ros Farmer	Foots Cray
3 rd	8	Gabrielle Stook	Ash
4 th	16	Colin Senneck	Ash

KCACR Committee Meeting Report

Brenda Barton reported:

£1306 was raised for the BRF by the sale of the late Peter Romney's books

The Jubi Peal has been put into storage. There has been some discussion of sending it to Australia due to the proliferation of portable rings in the area

The meeting was reminded of the importance of getting new incumbent clergy to ring a bell at their induction.

County Handbooks are now ready. Brenda requested that members still try to sell advertising by asking non-ringing friends or acquaintances who might have something they want advertised

Ash and Stone-next-Dartford have received grants from the BRF.

Stone-next-Dartford are training up new ringers at Swanscombe. All help gratefully accepted. Brenda has contact details.

The County Eight Bell Competition will be on 27th June at Tenterden

The County Six Bell Competition will be on 28th September at Lynstead

The Essex Trophy will be held at Hythe and the method will be Erin Caters

5. AOB

Jim Hardy reminded the meeting the District is still one district rep short and that he intends to stand down at the next AGM and therefore the district will also need a new chairman Brenda Barton expressed her thanks to Sue Allport for producing a fantastic newsletter

6. Vote of Thanks

Jim Hardy proposed a vote of thanks to the Cudham band for organising the tea, Canon Penny Avann for conducting the service and Trish Leonard-Morgan for playing the piano.

Agenda

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers Lewisham District

Quarterly District Meeting at Eynsford, Saturday 11th July 2009

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting at Cudham on
4th April
3. Matters arising.
4. Election of New Members
5. 120 Club Draw
6. KCACR Committee Report
7. Any Other Business
8. Vote of Thanks