

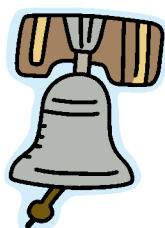


Lewisham District Newsletter

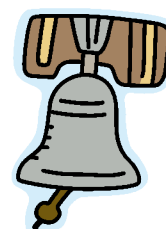
The Lewisham District On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

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

OCTOBER 2009



LEWISHAM DISTRICT QUARTER PEAL WEEK 2010



FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY - SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY



The aim of the week is to get as many people ringing in as many quarter peals in as many towers as possible so there will be lots of 'firsts' - in quarters, methods and conductors.

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Quarter Peal Week

It's been many years since the last Lewisham District quarter peal week. The aim of the week is to get as many people ringing in as many quarter peals in as many towers as possible (at least one per tower would be a good start...a target of 31 then!!). Please start thinking about what quarters you would like to ring but be realistic. The idea is that people will try something new, so there should be lots of first quarters, lots of firsts in method, and lots of firsts as conductors! You could even attend a District Practice to try what you would like to ring.....

The key to the success of this event is communication so an email address has been set up for you to let us know if you will be attempting a quarter, if you need any assistance with arranging an attempt or if you'd be available to help with quarters in other towers. It would be good if all towers could let us know by the time of the January newsletter whether or not they will be attempting any quarters. This will give an idea of towers that may need to 'rent a band' to ensure one is rung there.

If there is something in particular you would like to ring or conduct but there is not an available band at your tower, let us know and we'll try to assist you.

In addition, we suggest a minimum donation of £1.50 per rope is given to each tower for the use of the bells or alternatively to the Kent Bell Restoration Fund (BRF).

Please contact the following email address for assistance:
quarterweek@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
or for general queries speak to Rupert Cheeseman on 01322 439923

Editorial



Rupert didn't warn me just how quickly these months pass by when he persuaded me to take on the Newsletter. Four times a year sounds really easy but the time just flies! Thank you to everyone who has sent in Tower news or articles and photos – they are all most welcome and without them of course there would be no Newsletter. I'm still hoping for that time when every tower in the district sends in a report. If your tower hasn't sent anything in this time have a look at what others have written and try for the January edition. Now that's really scary because another year will have passed!

Maybe this year we will see more towers entering the Call Change Competition (providing we find a tower to host it!). At Horton Kirby we always try to scrape together a band to enter with varying degrees of success – last year we had a combined band of under 19's from HK and Chelsfield. Although they didn't win at least they took part. I know some towers have problems with having too many peal ringers to put in a band but maybe joining with another tower is the answer especially if it gives young ringers a chance to take part.

Now on with the reading. I hope you enjoy this latest edition and look forward to all your articles for the next!

Suex

Imagine

I spotted this on the KCACR website and thought it rather unusual! Some of you may have already viewed it but if not the link is here

*No, the KCACR hasn't taken on a music critic, but we thought ringers in general might be intrigued by these two links to YouTube. You've probably read/heard about the rendition of John Lennon's Imagine on the bells of Liverpool Cathedral. This took place on 16 May as part of Liverpool's Futuresonic (an Urbanfest of art, music and ideas), and was performed three times between 12 and 1pm on that day. The first link is an [external view](#), while the other is an [internal view](#) showing the ringers doing their stuff. Well worth a click we thought. (Talking of clicks, you may find that the best way to make the thing work is to **right** click on the link and select "open in new window".)*

From kcacr.org

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Cuddham Bells Restoration Project

In many towers there is often informal talk about doing work on the bells, and from time to time, a spring clean may happen, when a few hardy volunteers have a sweep out, dust and polish a bit, and the place looks a little tidier for a while.



Cudham is no different – and for years we have been lamenting on how our bells are far too loud in the ringing chamber, and our ringing circle is definitely a square, and the treble has a stay made of what was described in one report as “hedgerow material”. Something needs to be done about it.



Well the church held a flower festival in May, and quite by surprise donated the proceeds to the bell ringers, to be spent on improving the bells. That proved to be a catalyst, to galvanise some action on our part. Armed with that financial spur, materials were purchased, and in the last

week in May, myself and my son, Chris, with some help from Paul Alexander & Lawrence Bond, made a start.

For five days, we had a serious clear out of the belfry, cleaning out old junk, dust, rust and old bird’s nests. The redundant clock chime wiring was rusted beyond repair, so has been disposed of; however the hammers, pulleys are the like have been retained, just in case anyone wants to restore it in the future (the tenor hammer has been kept as it is, because it works – when the clock is functioning!). A lot of effort went on cleaning down the steel bell frames, to which we then applied Hammerite Black, to prevent future rust developing. It looks much better now than it did, and is just the start of the works we hope to achieve.



We have sought a faculty for those works that need one, and Lawrence has arranged for the clappers to be re-bushed. Four are presently being done, with the other six to follow later. We also hope to move the tenor rope out from its corner by about a foot or so, to try and create a better view from there of the rest of the bells – it will also help the ringers of seven, eight & nine to see the tenor, and hopefully be able to lead more correctly. This can be achieved by using an extra pulley block, and drawing the rope out – if the bell does not handle too well with it in place, we can always restore it to the old position.

Other parts of the project include a new hatchway to reach the bells themselves, as ours is heavy, and moving it by pushing it up and then across, whilst balancing precariously at the top of a vertical iron ladder is not ideal. The problem is compounded by having the rope of the sixth dropping through the middle of it as well. There are designs in mind to cope with that, so we hope to deal with that later on. We also aim to try some noise suppression (any suggestions, anyone?) as ours is a notoriously noisy ringing chamber, which does make calling & conducting particularly difficult. Lastly, we also aim to add a lick of paint to the ringing chamber itself. But one thing will remain untouched – our hedgerow material stay will stay! It is perfectly adequate for the treble, and there is no reason the replace it other than it is not made of ash. It’s not broken, so we’re not fixing it!



Since the initial report, we have now had all the clappers re-bushed with new pins (well, apart from No. 6, which has an older style leather baldrick, we found out). The initial trial ring showed one slight flaw, as the new pin in No 2 bell was slightly too tight. Ringing it was a strange experience – as the strike came a good two or three seconds after you would expect it to strike (if at all).

After adjustment, all was well, and there has been an immediate improvement to the sound of the bells in the ringing room. Previously a noisy ringing chamber directly below the bells, there is now a lot less clatter (nothing to do with the striking, I assure you), as the clappers no longer wobble about inside the bell, but neatly strike each side without lateral movement. It really has been a transformation.

A couple of other odd jobs in amongst the bells have been done, such as fixing loose rope shrouds and wheel rims, and sanding & polishing the sliders. Now that the sliders have had beeswax polish applied, they slip across their runner boards very well.

Future parts of the Project remain to be tackled, which include:-

- Lifting each bell out of its pit to have the gudgeon pins & main bearings cleaned out and regreased.
- Making a new access hatch, to enable much easier access to the bell chamber.

- Moving the tenor rope out by a foot or so from its corner site, to improve the ringing "circle"
- Repainting the ringing room

As the Project progresses, it takes on a momentum of its own, in that what was originally seen as rather difficult, now seems much more achievable, as we have already done the hardest & dirtiest part of the whole scheme. We have been offered assistance in lifting the bells from Frank Lewis, and will gratefully learn from his experience with the BRF. The rest we will do ourselves when time allows, and we hope that the end result will be one that the flower festival organisers will be pleased with.

Jon Fry

District Events

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@lewishamdistrct.org.uk
31st Oct	Training Day, various district towers. Please contact Dave at training@lewishamdistrct.org.uk for more details.
14th Nov	District Practice, Beckenham St George 7 - 9pm tbc
21st Nov	Call Change Competition venue to be confirmed but please note <u>2pm Draw</u>
5th Dec	Training evening 7—9pm
	2010
9th Jan	District meeting tbc

Go Stedman!

GO STEDMAN

When attempting another of Stedman,
I'm so nervous before we begin,
For, despite all the tips I've been given,
I'm not sure which way to go in.

When my left foot is forward, I'm Slow bell,
When my right foot is forward, I'm Quick;
Or I could splay my feet (like a penguin
or Chaplin) - that might do the trick.

When going in Slow, it's so easy -
There's only one way to be sure -
The bell you're first over in thirds place,
You were over first blow in five-four.

Look at the two bells beneath you,
And ring after each one in turn;
If they let you through, you're the Quick bell -
And that's all I needed to learn.

I think of the beer coming after,
and I wonder how long we've to go....
Just a moment of lapsed concentration,
And I find I'm in Quick, not in Slow.

So my second in thirds, I was second;
When I thought I was second, I led;
And I ring just a little bit slower,
while I sort it all out in my head.

I dodge up in four-five and six-seven,
Then seven-six down and five-four,
And I know that I'm in the slow this time,
Because of what happened before.

Then I'm ringing with full concentration,
With each blow so carefully planned,
As the ringing's dissolving around me,
The conductor just has to say "Stand."

S.W.P.

This poem, sent in by Karen Robinson of Horton Kirby Tower was written by a ringer from East Kent. As Karen says ringers have many talents!

Around the District

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

A Bolt from the Blue (Line)
During practice on 16th July Beckenham tower was struck by lightning, resulting in a bright flash, a loud bang and several of our sound amplification system microphones blowing up. Possible causes include the fact that the conductor [sic] was ringing 5ths place Bristol Surprise Major at the time. Despite this setback the touch was safely scored.



Dom Meredith



BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Tuesday 20:00

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations at St Mark's, the church had an "Autumn Explosion" of talents on 25 September. We ringers rang the day in and out, and provided a display: a flowery "ring" of flowerpot bells; the stunning KCACR banners; "The Craft of Ringing" DVD; books, pictures and information sheets. In between the day's musical presentations, we lured hardy souls up our tower to have a "tug". It's always delightful to see the surprise on the faces of folk who thought all you had to do was grab a rope and pull. (One of these was a reporter from Rochester Link. We will be anxious to see the next issue!) I doubt if we got any new recruits for ourselves, but at least two girls were enthusiastic enough to take away information to help them pursue ringing at their nearest towers.

Oh! And we now have new ringers' polo shirts, with the new St Mark's logo and proudly proclaiming "Bell Ringers"!

Nancy Gay

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

Other news (Tower Outing report in progress!).

We continue to have generally good attendances on Sundays and practice nights and have tried to ring more Minor and Triples when numbers allow. We have scored a couple of quarters and even took a band down to Dartford to ring a quarter after the Confirmation Service there.

As part of the Patronal Festival on 10th October. We will be ringing a quarter, running trips up the tower and giving people a go. Trips from about 10:30 if anyone would like to come along.

Once Alison and Trevor bought a cottage in West Pennard it was never going to be too long before we decided that a tower outing to Somerset would be good idea. Too far for a day trip so a long weekend in August was agreed upon. A dozen of us enjoyed a good weekend of ringing,



walking, shopping, skittles and cream teas. We only rang at 6 towers but we certainly had a variety ranging from a 2cwt garage ring to the heaviest 5 in the world at East Pennard which everyone managed very well.

Rupert Cheeseman

CUDHAM

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

Cudham village show and fete was held on August bank holiday, The Cudham Bell ringers had a stall which raised about £100 and was called 'Be a CUDHAM BELL RINGER'. Sharon Bond designed and painted a picture of the Cudham tower from a photo and we cut holes in appropriate places, see picture attached. Each hole had a bell hanging from it and you had 4 squash balls for a £1 to throw through the holes - highest score of the day won the prize....a Bottle of BELLS Whisky. Megan Smith in the picture manned the stall for most of the day and we had great fun.



Laurence Bond

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

We are carrying on as usual. Not many weddings this year but some of us have been busy ringing for other towers, filling in the gaps in the holiday period. We have been "sociable" in going to Ash to their "Shed launching Party", and going on a ringing weekend in Somerset, arranged for us by Crayford's Alison & Trevor, for which many thanks. We thoroughly enjoyed the break and we appreciate the effort and thought that went into it. These events are **probably** described more fully else where. We are losing our 18 year old who is off to Oxford in October, but a have new recruit in Kevin who joined us in July. Rumour has it that our new Curate and his wife are interested so we may well be busier than usual in the Autumn.

Our Peal record is almost complete, 3 missing of 223 and now Andrew at Crayford is cataloguing their peals. I can thoroughly recommend it as a project, it gives a fascinating insight into social history and more, as well as the history of the church and its officials.

Esther Correia

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

Our recent newcomers are now ringing with us on a regular basis on Sunday mornings as well as at our weekly practice. Such is their enthusiasm that the daughter of one new member, Daisy Weeks, who is studying the Art of Film Making at College, chose to make her first film not about drugs or one of the other hazards of modern life but about a long standing tradition, that of Bell ringing! We warned her of the possible dangers of bringing a camera into the Tower so a lot of care was taken in filming from various interesting angles without incurring any danger to them, us or their cameras! In addition they interviewed several members about the History of Bell ringing. The result was a very interesting, a well edited little film. We all look forward to their future work.



Bridget Robbie.

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Eltham Tower - one busy Sunday morning
Yes folks the promised day arrived just the other week, when we had enough to ring all 8 bells for Sunday service, with people sitting out! It was really good to see that the hard work done by our teachers had resulted in so many being confident to ring for service, so well done everyone. Although as ever we remain grateful for the Chislehurst ringers who join us on a Sunday to swell our numbers.

Elsewhere in this newsletter (page 10) you will see a write up on the annual ringing outing (a great day out as ever) and coming up we have the Isle of Wight weekend, the Christmas season and then in January our annual dinner. There are also plans to ring a quarter peal in honour of the retirement of our Vicar, Reverend John Neal, who is sailing off to pastures French at the end of the month for a well deserved rest. We have been lucky to have a Vicar so supportive of the ringers and can only hope his successor is as friendly.

Katherine Trill

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

Practices over the summer have been well-attended. Some evenings we have had over 20 in the ringing chamber. We are delighted to have a number of learners who are all making good progress. One is now ringing on Sunday mornings.

The band and its regular visitors have been practising lots of different Doubles methods – including Cloister and All Saints as well as the usual Grandsire and Plain Bob! We have also all had a go at Treble Bobbing.

Once again we have not had many weddings – numbers have been decreasing for the past few summers.

Elizabeth Brett

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

With regard to the article in the last newsletter regarding the Dartford peal book - the 'peal' of Grandsire Minor is recorded on a peal board in our tower (St John's Erith). It records that 720 changes were rung. We assume that this is recorded as the maximum number of permutations on six is 720. From the church log book it appears that this was rung as the last extent on the six bells before they were augmented to the current eight bells.

Margaret Heald

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 20.00

Our tower is still at the stage of perfecting Bob Doubles just moving on to bobs. We have been a long time getting here because we have 5 or sometimes more ringers at the same stage at the same time. We have occasionally been able to ring just bob doubles all practice which has been very helpful, but most evenings Lesley has to cater for all stages of ringing down to plain hunt on 8, 7, 6 and 5 and rounds and call changes so that no one is left out to get bored. We only

have achieved bob doubles with help from Jim Rooke and Frank Rogers who never seem to tire of our slow progress!

Mick McDonnell

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGGE

Ringings by arrangement



ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

We have been fortunate at Shoreham to have found two new ringers: Amanda Hopkins is new to ringing and John Smith comes from ? where he also rings. Philippa Rooke still comes along to teach us and we continue to have support from Frank Rogers with Sue, Mick, Terry and Issie sometimes joining our practice nights from Horton Kirby. Visiting ringers are always most welcome.

The church extension plans may have been turned down again but we are looking forward to having the ringing chamber decorated, recarpeted and generally spruced up.

Alison Collins

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00



WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

Affiliated to the London Docklands Ringing Centre

WEBSITE: www.meridianbells.webs.com

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

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:

OCTOBER 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

7	WOOLWICH
14	GREENWICH
21	GREENWICH
28	GREENWICH (TBC – half term)

NOVEMBER 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

4	ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD or WOOLWICH tbc
11	GREENWICH
18	GREENWICH
25	GREENWICH

DECEMBER 2009 (all dates Wednesdays, except where shown)

2	ST. JOHN'S DEPTFORD OR WOOLWICH tbc
9	GREENWICH (depending on Concerts/ School Carol Service)
16	GREENWICH (depending on Concerts/ School Carol Service)

Other dates in December to be confirmed.

We had a few weeks break from practices during the summer although we did ring for some weddings.

Just before the summer break we were pleased to welcome Dan Cocker to our team. Dan has recently returned to the UK, having been in New York for a while where he was a member of the band at Trinity Church.

We rang a quarter peal, details below, to celebrate the Institution of one of our former ringers as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, New Eltham.

By a quirk of fate, the entry for this quarter was in the Ringing World, 7th August and two pages later there was a quarter rung in New York to say goodbye to Dan Cocker!

The Parish Church of St. Alfege, Greenwich

On Thursday 16th July 2009

A Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire & Plain Doubles
In 46 minutes

1 Vicky Duguid	1st Qtr	4 Jim Odell
2 Hazel Bing	1st Inside	5 Graham Long C
3 Bill Lanyon		6 Daniel R Cocker
		1st Qtr outside New York

Rung to celebrate the Institution of Rev Annette Rose (née Ardley) as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, New Eltham (one bell) on the previous evening. Nettie is a former ringer of Woolwich and her father was the late Canon John Ardley, for many years a ringer at Woolwich and Greenwich.

Anyone is always welcome to our practices and refreshments afterwards.

Graham Long graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk

Graham Long

If Tommy Cooper were alive today

This lorry full of tortoises collided with a van full of terrapins—it was a turtle disaster.

I told my girlfriend I had a job in a bowling alley. She said 'Tenpin?' - I said 'No permanent'

I went to the doctor and said to him 'I'm frightened of lapels'. He said 'you've got cholera'

I met the bloke who invented crosswords today—can't remember his name. It was P something T something R.

I told my mum that I'd opened a theatre. She said 'Are you having me on?' I said 'Well I'll give you an audition but I'm not promising anything'

I was reading this book today, The History of Glue—couldn't put it down.

I phoned the local gym today and asked if they could teach me to do the splits. He said 'How flexible are you?' I said 'Well I can't make Tuesdays or Thursdays'.

I bought some Armageddon cheese today, and it said on the packet 'Best before end'.

Chislehurst & Eltham's Ringing Outing

The First Rule of Outings always used to be Someone Must Bring Mints. However in these modern times the new First Rule must now be Do Not Rely On The Satnav. Or at any rate, not unless you have been clever and uploaded the specialist map of Towers off the Dove's web site.

However by careful application of such golden rules as "look for Church Lane" and "keep driving till we see a spire" we all eventually made it to the first tower of the day, although admittedly some a bit later than others.

The towers were suggested by Colin, who used his contacts in the area to ensure that all the towers were easy to ring, which was appreciated by learners and established ringers alike. An order of the day was then produced by the organisers, Neville, Peter and Emma who had to balance our ringing and eating needs very carefully. Which thankfully they managed.



First tower was Sts Andrew & Mary in Watton at Stone a very statuesque church. At first sight they looked to be a long draught but in fact they were a nicely hung 8. After this warm

up we moved to St Mary in Aston, a ring of 6 with a side order of Bat (the plastic variety thankfully).

The last tower before lunch was St Peter in Benington, easily the most well appointed of the day's churches judging by the amount of photography taking place (anything to avoid ringing), but also the steepest of stairs to ascend to the ringing chamber of 8. I would also recommend reading their peal boards if you are ever there, which are far from self-effacing!



Lunch was then in The White Lion in Walkern which none of us would hesitate to recommend if you are ever in that area as the food was delicious. Some of us also found the art on the wall to be delightful, although sadly the Gallery wasn't open so one of us wasn't able to impulse spend £300 (ahem).

Thanks to the organisers' planning in pre-ordering, and the prompt service of the staff, we managed to get fed and out again in time for the afternoon's first tower of St Nicholas in Great Munden. This church is in fact no longer consecrated but remains in use for community events such as concerts. Which explained the bed that we found in the centre of the

ringing chamber! (Thankfully the occupant wasn't in it at the time).

Due to a concert that evening we only had half an hour on this 6 before the last Tower of the day of St Mary the Virgin in Westmill. This last 6 were the lightest of the day, no doubt appreciated by those with flagging energy levels, though not as much as the last activity of the schedule – The Tea Rooms in Westmill on which we descended like Biblical locusts, in need of fortification for the long journey home!



(According to Katherine this photo sums up the day—Ed)

Katherine Trill



**ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
OTHAM
SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER
7.00PM**

Local Artists

**Damien Smith
Carla Ovenden**

**Will entertain with a mixture of
music and song, providing an evening's
enjoyment to cover a wide range of
tastes.**

**Ticket cost of £8 will include a glass of
wine**

More details: Mal. Williams 01622 861143

Training Day

On Saturday 15th August I attended a training day at St George's, Beckenham. There were four learners including my husband & myself & eleven trainers & helpers.

We started off with a cup of coffee & Dave asking us which methods we would like to work on. Then we were all given several opportunities to work on our chosen methods with a good steady band around us. There was an hour's break for lunch & another tea break during the afternoon.



Everybody was very encouraging & supportive & all of us learners made progress. In my own case it highlighted some basic areas to work on when ringing bells which had longer draughts than I was used to at my own tower. I also found that when I tried ringing at my home tower afterwards my 'Bob Doubles' had improved thanks to the tips I was given on the training day.



I really enjoyed the day & would like to say a big thank you to Dave & the team at Beckenham for all their patience & help. They regularly give up a Saturday to help people like me progress with their bell ringing. I would strongly encourage anyone thinking of attending a training day to take the plunge & go along. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Isobel Bailey

Best of the Rest

It was a glorious sunny day when the 6 Districts descended on Tenterden for the annual 8 bell striking competition. After Westerham last year, the heavy bell theme continued this year on what is the heaviest ring of 8 in Kent weighing in at nearly 28cwt. Slow steady ringing was going to be the order of the day. We decided that Goudhurst (25cwt) would be a suitable place to go and practice on the way down in the morning and so warmed up there with a couple of attempts at the competition touch - a 224 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Paul Flavel and Robin Leale from Kingston upon Thames were the judges and they were impressed with the general standard of ringing. They then announced the results as follows:

1st Ashford, 90.0%, 3hr 41m (peal speed)
2nd Lewisham, 87.5%, 3hr 47m
3rd Canterbury, 80.8%, 3hr 29m
4th Tonbridge, 79.5%, 3hr 25m
5th Maidstone, 77.5%, 3hr 28m
6th Rochester, 70.9%, 3hr 41m

So we narrowly lost out to the home band for the second year in a row but with only a couple of minutes practice to get used to the bells it was still an impressive result. Thanks go to everyone who took part and we'll have to see if we can go one better next year.

Rupert



The photo is band order L-R. 1. Cathy 2. Rachel 3. Me. 4. Mark Backhouse 5. Nick 6. Ian Mills 7. David Hilling (C) 8. Colin Wyld)

The Big Five, plus Two

Summer holidays, often in mainland Europe, usually mean no bell ringing for a couple of weeks but my summer holiday this year was more than a little different!

It was decided to venture further afield and South Africa was the chosen destination. Flights to and from Cape Town were booked late in 2008 for August this year and then the itinerary started to fill in. Table Mountain, Robben Island, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and Cape Point were among the mandatory sights around Cape Town. Vineyards at Stellenbosch were to follow as was whale watching from the shore at Hermanus, driving the Garden Route, Drakensberg mountains, battlefields and game parks!

It was only once the basic details had been decided upon that I thought perhaps there would be the chance to ring while on holiday and so I did some research on the bells of South Africa. There are only eight rings of bells in this large country; two in and around each of the four major cities Johannesburg, Grahamstown, Cape Town & Durban. The holiday itinerary would only take me to Durban after Cape Town and so I made contact with ringers at those two locations with a view to ringing there if possible.

With a busy schedule I was not going to be around for mid week practices and in Cape Town it was not going to be possible to ring at Woodstock, as they are only rung on one Sunday per month which was not the Sunday I was to be there but ringing on the ten at Cape Town Cathedral was possible. Similarly in Durban, the ring of eight bells is unavailable due to dry rot problems in the tower but arrangements were made to ring on the ten at St Mary, Greyville.

So, on Sunday 9th August having earlier in the day been to Robben Island and seen Nelson Mandela's prison cell, I took myself to Cape Town Cathedral. Not only was this going to be my first ring on the African continent but it was a quarter peal attempt, to be conducted by Derek Carr of Bristol, previously of Canterbury. A modest choice of Bob Minor was a huge achievement with a first of



Minor for the treble ringer, Theresa Henderson. In the UK we take for granted the relatively close proximity of towers such that it's possible to go elsewhere to practise and improve one's ringing. In South Africa the four cities with towers are hundreds of miles and many hours apart and it's not easy to arrange joint practices where resources can be pooled and ringers can practice and improve.

All participants, including the two of us from the UK, were delighted with the success of the QP and so were the locals and thanks to Ed Elderkin with whom arrangements were made.

The following day I left Cape Town and proceeded eastwards taking in the Garden Route and a wonderful Game Park, the Shamwari, where the big five; lions, leopards, elephants, rhino and buffalo were seen. The big five are so named as they were originally considered to be the most dangerous animals to man. However, in making that judgement someone must have overlooked crocs and hippos which were also seen on the holiday!

Following the Game Park a flight was taken from Port Elizabeth to Durban where arrangements had been made with Simon Milliken to ring early on Sunday morning, 16th August. Naively, I had asked in my e-mail exchanges with Simon if it would be possible to walk from my sea front hotel but I was advised that mainly on security grounds he would collect me from the hotel at 7.10am! This Simon kindly did and we were at St Mary's by 7.30. Simon asked if I was willing to call the QP which was to be of Bob Doubles and I agreed. So we went into changes at 7.45 and a sedately paced QP on the front six of the ten came round at 8.30 to the delight of all but particularly the treble and tenor ringers, husband and wife, Delia & Brian Hoffmann, who were ringing their first QP.



I don't think I've ever completed a QP by 8.30 am on a Sunday morning and we all then adjourned to a nearby bar for breakfast.

Again, the ringers in Durban have very few opportunities to stretch themselves ringing wise and are pleased to see any visitors. I was made very welcome and would have loved to be around longer to join them on a practice night on their underutilised but lovely ring of ten bells.

My ringing may not have been to the level of the peal tour of Roy LeMarechal, which has recently featured in the Ringing World but I found it hugely rewarding and allowed me to bag two rings of bells (and quarter peals) as well as the big five, or perhaps that should be seven, on my trip to South Africa. I most certainly intend to return!

Nick Wilkins

**South African Guild
Cape Town, South Africa
St George's Cathedral
Sunday, 9 August 2009 in 43mins (10cwt.)
1260 Plain Bob Minor**

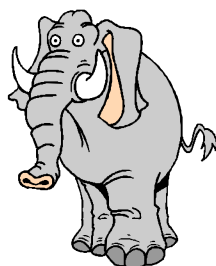
- 1 Theresa Henderson
- 2 Ed Elderkin
- 3 Nicholas Wilkins
- 4 Anne Stewart
- 5 Dick Holmes
- 6 Derek Carr (c)

Rung on and to celebrate South Africa's Women's Day.
First of Minor by 1.

**Durban, SA
St Mary, Greyville
Sunday, 16 August 2009 in 45m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Delia Hoffmann
- 2 Jeanne Brewis
- 3 Catherine Alborough
- 4 Nicholas Wilkins (c)
- 5 Simon Milliken
- 6 Brian Hoffmann

First attempt 1 & 6.



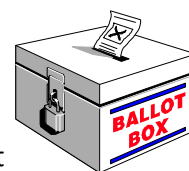
Ringing Masters Bit

It's that time of year again when the District holds its Annual General Meeting. This year it's being held at St Mary Cray which is as about as central as it gets in the District so there's no excuse for not coming along!



Ringing from 3:30, service at 4:30 then tea, meeting and evening ringing.

As with every year, all Officer posts are up for election. There will certainly be at least a couple of vacancies and a number of others have expressed a wish to step down either this year or next. So if you are interested, or want to know more about what is involved, please contact either myself or the relevant Officer.



We will also be after volunteers to host the District Meetings next year. So please consider it especially if you have not hosted one for a while.

It's been a number of years since the District has held a Quarter Peal Week so it was felt that it was something that is well worth reintroducing. The "week" will run from Friday 21st to Sunday 28th February. Quarter Peals are a good way of getting a better understanding of a method.



It is hoped that during this week as many towers (all of them is the aim!) and as many ringers as possible will take part. If you don't think that your tower can raise a band for a quarter or if there is something that you would not normally get the chance to ring a quarter of then please contact us and we will see what we can do to help out. If you don't ask, we won't be able to help! There is an advert on page 2 with more details.

Rupert

County 6 Bell Competition 2009

On a beautiful sunny afternoon on Saturday 26 September five of the six Districts met at Lynsted for the annual County 6-bell competition. Unfortunately Tonbridge District was unable to attend. The bells were rung up about 3.40 pm so the judges could assess if there were any odd struck or difficult to handle bells, especially as they have only recently been augmented to six.

Alex Britton was judging the competition together with the Association Secretary who agreed to assist as the second judge was unable to attend at the last minute. As the Hon Sec was judging she passed over to Brian Law the task of carrying out the draw and stewarding for each District.

Ringing commenced at 4.00 pm and at about 5.30 pm when the last band had just completed 120 changes the rope on the fifth rope broke! There was nothing in the rules to say what should be done in these circumstances so after discussion with the bands and the judges it was agreed that the first 120 of each band would be judged.

The judges then made their deliberations and went into the church to deliver the results. Alex Britton gave comments on each band. In general it was felt that the treble, third and sixth caused the most problems. The speed of ringing varied and likewise the methods rung. Two bands rang Plain Bob Doubles, and the other bands rang Grandsire Doubles, Little Bob Minor

and Cambridge Surprise Minor respectively. Finally the result was declared and Willesborough, representing Ashford District, were declared the winners. The full results are set out below. The Trophy was presented by Alex Britton.

The Secretary then thanked Alex for judging, all the bands for competing and the ringers from Lynsted for the splendid tea. The full results are set out below.

Margaret Funnell

<i>posn</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>rang</i>	<i>represented by</i>	<i>faults</i>
1st	Ashford	2nd	Willesborough	24
2nd	Rochester	4th	Bobbing	25½
3rd	Lewisham	5th	Chelsfield	26½
4th	Maidstone	3rd	Staplehurst	28½
5th	Canterbury	1st	St Dunstan's	38

From kcacr.org

True Reports from British life!!!

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house."

(The Daily Telegraph)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like.

(The Guardian)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast guard spokesman commented, "This sort of thing is all too common".

(The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbour master radioed a coast guard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff.

(Aberdeen Evening Express)

Mrs. Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled -

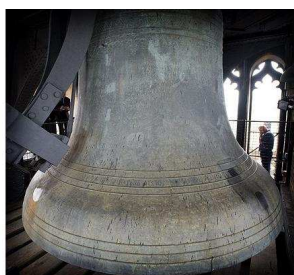
"He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler.'"

(Bournemouth Evening Echo)

Foundry Tails

1. A Fox in the Foundry?

As some of you will know, 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the installation of the Great Clock of Westminster and the first strike of its hour bell Big Ben. Big Ben was actually cast by the Whitechapel bell foundry on the 10th of April 1858, the 150th anniversary of which we celebrated last year with much news media attention.



Some weeks after our April 2008 celebrations we were approached by a group of young people wanting to film in the foundry to mark the occasion (a bit late!). This group had never produced a film before but wanted to make a programme about how bells are made using a cartoon character called "Guy Fox" – a little bit out of the ordinary!

We receive requests to film / photograph / record sound in the foundry regularly, it seems like **EVERY** month, so we have to be selective about who we can accommodate. So, thinking they had bitten off more than they could chew, I nevertheless invited them round to do a recce, to find out more about us, and for us to find out more about them.

It transpired that they represented an organisation called "Guy Fox History Project", who are lottery funded and produce information for schools, mostly maps, leaflets, guides, teachers' packs etc. They aimed to make a 10 minute film on "How to Make a Bell" as part of a project titled "Happy Birthday Big Ben", and back it up with a poster and other teaching material. The finished articles would be available free to schools as the cost of production is met with lottery money. If their enthusiasm was anything to go by this was going to be fun, so we said yes.

Three or four filming visits and lots of telephone and email consultations later, they announced that they would launch their project in May 2009 to coincide with the anniversary of the starting of the clock, inviting us to a grand "opening" at

City Hall on the South Bank. Unfortunately no foundry staff could make the date (I was in China), but we have been sent copies of the poster and have seen the film. I must say that for a totally inexperienced team, using basic equipment, they have

done a pretty good job – even they say they don't think they'll ever make such an interesting film again.

For those of you with internet access, why not visit their website at www.guyfox.org.uk click on the "Happy Birthday Big Ben" project and follow the links to the film, OR just go on You Tube and search for "How to make a bell".

Happy foxhunting!

Mark Backhouse

120 club

July 11th drawn at Eynsford (District Meeting)

1 st	56	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
1 st	28	Marian Wansbury (Dartford)
2 nd	16	Colin Senneck (Ash)
2 nd	13	Jim Rooke (Chelsfield)
3 rd	77	David Kingston (Bromley)
3 rd	48	Antony Fisher (Eynsford)
4 th	111	David Holdridge (Eltham)
4 th	115	120 club

September 16th drawn at Sidcup (practice night)

1 st	117	120 club
2 nd	119	Ian Mills (Eltham)
3 rd	9	John Stook (Ash)
4 th	32	Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield)



HORTON KIRBY VILLAGE SOCIETY Autumn Concert

Popular songs from the shows
and light opera.

The Singers

formerly of

The Guildhall School of Music

Saturday 14th November, 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church, Horton Kirby

Tickets £8.00

Concessions £6.00

(includes interval refreshments)

Contact: newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

All proceeds go to St Mary's Church

The Sackville Singers Celebration for The Moving Church

Anthony Dawson
Musical Director

Christopher Harris
Accompanist

Featuring

Amazing Day by Classic FM's John Brunning

In Romney Marsh by Peter Young

And choral favourites, including works by
Bruckner and Mendelssohn.

Saturday 17th October, 2009 7.30 pm

St Mark's Church

Biggin Hill

Tickets £10 ~ £25 for family

01959 572170

Including refreshments

Or from the church ~ 01959 572312

THE SACKVILLE SINGERS have been singing together and raising money for local and national charities since 1979. Anthony Dawson has been Musical Director since 1985. The choir plays an important role in the musical life of Sevenoaks, supporting young singers—several of whom will perform in this concert, and encouraging the performance of music by local composers. The choir has established a reputation as one of the finest amateur chamber choirs in the South East.

THIS CONCERT WILL FEATURE a wide range of both familiar and new music, from motets and madrigals to lively romps. John Brunning himself will be here to hear his charming new work.

It promises to be an evening not to miss!



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Eynsford on 11th July 2009

19 people attended the meeting

1. Election of Chair

In the absence of the District Chairman Ross Hartley was elected to chair the meeting (Proposed: Dominic Meredith; Seconded: Lesley Barclay).

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Brenda Barton (Dartford), Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman (Crayford), David Kingston (Bromley), Margaret Macey (Foots Cray), David Macey and Rhiannon Meredith (Beckenham),

3. Minutes of the District Meeting at Dartford

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (Proposed: Sue Allport; Seconded: Nick Wilkins).

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Ross reminded the meeting that Jim Hardy will be standing down as District Chairman at the AGM in October.

5. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Neville Wilding	Chislehurst St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Ian Mills
Emma Wilding	Chislehurst St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Ian Mills



6. 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	56	Deryck Jones	Dartford
1st	28	Marion Wansbury	Dartford
2nd	16	Colin Senneck	Ash
2nd	13	Jim Rooke	Chelsfield
3rd	77	David Kingston	Bromley
3rd	48	Tony Fisher	Eynsford
4th	111	David Holdridge	Eltham
4 th	115	120 Club	

7. KCACR Committee Meeting Report

Brenda Barton couldn't attend the meeting but she sent her report in to be read out.
AGM 13th April 2009:

The members at the meeting agreed not to increase subscriptions from the present rate. Division of money from subscriptions remains at 50% General Fund, 50% BRF.

The Handbook Editor reported some districts had not returned any information (presumably later than date circulated) so last year's details were printed in the handbook.

The new chairman is Peter Sims.

Lambeth Palace sent a letter thanking all members for their service.

David Manger has become a Vice President after nomination by the General Committee and voting by members present.

There has been a rule change to rule 7, line 4: After Treasurer insert 'elected Vice Presidents'.

Peal fees have increased to 50p per ringer.

The Essex Trophy (an inter county competition) is at Hythe this year on 12th September.

The Inter District 6 bell striking contest is at Lynsted on 26th September.
General Committee Meeting 2nd May 2009:

The personal Accident Policy & Public Liability Policy (£1 million limit) has been

renewed. Enquiries will proceed on whether it is necessary to increase this limit.

The Treasurer was granted the money to purchase a Sage package to help the accounts procedures.

New Child Protection legislation comes out in October. An Association policy may appear around that date.

The new publicity boards (seen in the district, last July, at the Dartford festival) can be loaned from Peter Dale but as they are popular they must be booked in advance.

Doris Colgate (Sevenoaks) was presented with a 75 year Association Certificate at a civic service in June.

I presented details of a `Ringing Around The Olympics` meeting which Rupert and I attended about setting up a ringing school with a 10 week course. This one for the completely new ringer and located around the Olympic site. It is not just for people in that area but for our area also. To that end I circulated a poster within the district .Did you find interesting places to display them?

Please let me know as we desperately need to find ways of encouraging residents of Greenwich/Woolwich/Lewisham/Deptford to think about learning to ring as the area is so short of ringers.

A short journey on the DLR and they could be embarking on the journey of a lifetime.

8. AOB

Brenda Barton passed on her congratulations to the Lewisham District Eight Bell Striking Competition Team, who narrowly missed out on the top spot to the home team.

David Brown relayed the news of Margaret Macey's car accident. The meeting joined him in passing on their best wishes.

David Brown also reminded the meeting that the next District Training Day was on the 15th August at Beckenham.

David Brown also said that he was considering standing down as District Training Officer at the AGM in October.

9. Vote of Thanks

Nick Wilkins proposed a vote of thanks to the Eynsford band (especially Sylvia MacKenzie) for organising the tea, Frank Rogers for conducting the service and Hannah Barker for playing the organ (Seconded by Lesley Barclay).

Agenda

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers Lewisham District

Annual District Meeting at St Mary Cray, Saturday 10th October 2009

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting at Eynsford on 11th July
3. Election of new District Officers
4. Election of new members
5. KCACR Committee Report
6. 120 club draw
8. Child Protection Guidelines
9. Any other business
10. Vote of thanks