



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

OCTOBER 2010

## County 6 Bell Champions



*Back Row Jeremy Byers, Jim Hardy, Ross Hartley  
Front Row: Dominic Meredith, Rhiannon Meredith, David Macey*

The County 6-bell competition took place on a cold but sunny day at West Wickham on 25 September 2010. The draw was carried out at 2.45 pm with two Districts (Maidstone and Canterbury) not having arrived. It was agreed that they would ring 5th and 6th.

Ringing commenced at 3.00 pm and by 4.10 pm when five Districts had rung three of the ringers from Canterbury District had still not arrived so the Hon Gen Secretary declared them to be disqualified.

The judge Michael Moreton was ready to give his deliberations and the results. He commenced with a joke, gave a few comments on the ringing and then advised the results. Beckenham, representing the Lewisham District, were declared the winners.

Dominic Meredith thanked Michael Moreton for judging and presented him with a bottle of wine. The Hon Gen Secretary thanked the ladies of West Wickham for tea and everyone for coming.

Position	District	Rank	Represented by	Faults
1st	Lewisham	4th	Beckenham	51
2nd	Tonbridge	3rd	Tonbridge	76
3rd	Maidstone	5th	Maidstone All Saints	78
4th	Rochester	1st	Meopham	103
5th	Ashford	2nd	Brabourne	118

Margaret Funnell (from KCACR Website)

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# District Calendar

9 <sup>th</sup> October	ADM: Beckenham
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Call Change Competition
8 <sup>th</sup> January	QDM: Bromley Common
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Training Day (tbc)
5 <sup>th</sup> March	District Striking Competition
9 <sup>th</sup> April	QDM: tbc
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Training Day (tbc)
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	County Eight Bell Striking Competition Lewisham District
9 <sup>th</sup> July	QDM: Shoreham
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Training Day (tbc)
24 <sup>th</sup> September	County Six Bell Striking Competition Maidstone District
8 <sup>th</sup> October	ADM: Bexley

# Editorial



It's good to see that, after a bit of prompting, we have got some good articles and news in the Newsletter this time. I was getting a little worried as the deadline drew near (and passed) especially as the last edition was a little thin! Well done to everyone who came up trumps in my hour of need and thank you to

my regular contributors – yes I do have some!!

Congratulations must go this time to Beckenham for their triumph in the County 6 Bell Competition and to the Lewisham District ringers who made up 70% of the Kent band helping them to second place in the Essex Trophy – maybe next year as Ian Mills put it 'we shall sparkle' and take the trophy.

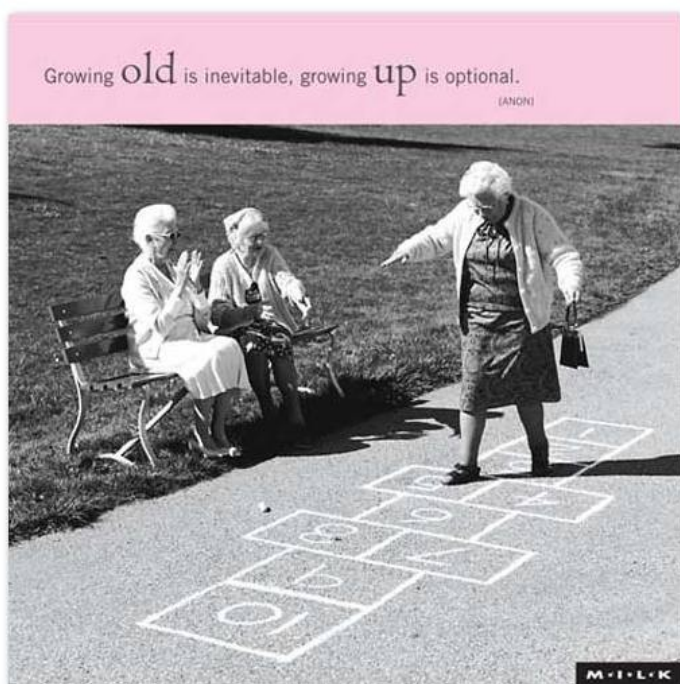
The Call Change Competition is our next challenge (well, it is for some of us!) so maybe these success stories will inspire more towers to take part. Although 9 teams entered last year two of these were from Beckenham (who won) and two were from Horton Kirby (who didn't!) so not many towers were represented. The most I have seen, in my limited experience, is 10 at Downe one year so maybe this year we can equal or better that.

Well, enough of me now down to reading. Enjoy!

*Suex*

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# A Walk for Life

On June 26th my colleagues and I went for a lovely stroll in the countryside. We started at Christchurch Gate at Canterbury Cathedral and a few hours later finished at Dover market square. I suppose, due to the bellringers' obsession (me included) with weights & measures, distances, duration, speed and all things statistical, I should provide some detailed information. We started at 07:38 and finished at 15:20. That's 7 hours and 42 minutes. The distance, according to GPS, was 20.3 miles giving an overall average speed of 2.6 mph and a moving average of 3.2 mph. Highest point was 300m

The route we used is the final part of the North Downs Way which runs from Farnham to Dover and is a well-trodden tramp through fields and villages, across bridges and inevitably along motorways. The day was extremely warm - overcast at first but misty sun emerging to batter us from early afternoon. I urged the team to get into training in the months and weeks leading up to the day but I don't think my advice was heeded. As a result of our experience (only I had done any form of long-distance walking in the past), our fitness levels, and the weather we found the day extremely difficult and were virtually on our knees when we ordered our beers at the finish line.



This was a sponsored event organised by my colleagues and me in tribute to our late colleague and friend Gavin Williams. I had known Gavin for about 5 years before he was diagnosed with a mediastinal germ cell tumour in the chest wall in October 2009. This was a rare form of the disease and treatment has a high rate of success. However, after a short and intense programme of treatment, Gavin passed away in April this year. He was 26 years old and is terribly missed by his

family, friends and colleagues. Before this ordeal, Gavin was an extremely fit and healthy young man and during his treatment, he never complained and took everything with bravery, dignity and the minimum of fuss.

All the proceeds from the walk have been sent to Cancer Research UK and, so far, we have raised £3,615 (plus Gift Aid where applicable).

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading independent organisation dedicated to cancer research and you can learn more about the excellent work this charity does on their website at <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org>. Clearly, greater



understanding of the causes of cancer will help in the fight against this disease and your donation will help in this fight.

Though none of this is ringing-related, many members of the Lewisham District have already sponsored the event and I hope that others find some interest in it. Any other donations, of course, would be greatly appreciated

and can be made at <http://www.justgiving.com/canterbury-dover> or by cheque made payable to Cancer Research UK and sent to me at 44 Shirley Crescent, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 4AZ. Please also complete a Gift Aid form if applicable which can be found at <http://supportus.cancerresearchuk.org/download.aspx?id=5010>.

My thanks to the team who persevered to the end and also to all of our sponsors - it has been a truly overwhelming response. Cancer really does affect us all. Let's do all we can to fight it.

Thank you.  
Mark Jones

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# Essex Trophy - Kent's Best Performance in 25 Years

When I volunteered to ring for Kent in the 2010 Essex Trophy, ten months ago, I didn't expect to be given the task of organising the band. Ten months later, after much planning and preparation, I'm delighted to report that the Kent band managed to produce its best performance in twenty five years, almost beating the home team.

I am grateful to David Macey and John Keeler for making the job so much easier. David organised a quarter peal attempt of Bristol Surprise Maximus for the Lewisham District quarter peal week, and John Keeler kindly included me in his Tuesday night peal attempts. This provided two lists of potential volunteers from which I was able to complete the band with six months to spare. After setting aside some dates for practice sessions, all that remained was to find suitable towers to practice at, nearer the time.

On Saturday 11th September 2010, we arrived at Coggeshall, Essex, with five other teams, to take part in the Essex Trophy 10 bell striking competition.

Unfortunately, on the day, Kent were drawn to ring first; this is not generally considered a good slot, but we nevertheless

managed to produce a "confident" piece of ringing, according to the judges, Tim Peverett and Simon Rudd. However, the Essex band, who rang third, won the competition with some "sparkling" ringing.

The results in full are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Essex	116 faults
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kent	148 faults
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Surrey	231 faults
4th	Guildford	259 faults
5 <sup>th</sup>	Hertford	263 faults
6th	Sussex	264 faults

I would like to thank the team once again, for turning up to all the practise sessions, and for producing a confident piece of ringing on the day.

Let's hope we can sparkle next time.

I Mills



The band in order of ringing and front L to R, then back L to R

1. David Hilling
2. Liz Barnes
3. Gwen Rogers
4. Peter Swift
5. Damien Smith
6. Mark Chittenden-Pile
7. David Macey
8. Peter Valuks
9. Ian Mills (C)
10. Phil Rogers

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# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

We have had a busy time. You probably saw us on the front of 'The Ringing World', nobody was more surprised than me to see us there. The rehang was judged a success by those who helped us celebrate at the rededication and those who joined us for the District Meeting. Both occasions generated fun and laughter as well as comparisons about the bells. For the record, they haven't lost character, but they do sound more like a set, they are much easier going and less off-putting for our learners.

We've had one tower outing to Swanage, pulled by 'Tornado', unfortunately our tower grab failed. By the time this is published we will probably have had a second to Weymouth for an outing on the sea-going paddle steamer 'The Waverley'. We will try to fit in a tower grab here too, but timing looks a bit tight.

The fete was blessed with good weather, and trips up the tower were an ideal opportunity to link us into the community, and try to recruit more ringers.

We will have our second summer garden party, and hope the weather stays fine and some weddings to ring for.

Our next project is refurbishing the handbells.

Gabrielle Stook

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

## BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*



TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER WE SAID GOODBYE TO MATT ALLAN. The skinny quiet boy who started ringing 10 years ago is a lanky, funny, clever young man off to university. Matt was a vital member of the band, through his reliability, his quickness, his willingness to act as deputy, and, not least, his self-deprecating wit.

In the morning service we presented him with that symbol of a ringer's dedication—an engraved pewter tankard (useful at Uni, we expect!) and a humorous mock certificate celebrating his personal contributions to many hilarious times in the tower.

We wish him the best of luck in his studies. We also hope he will relish university life—and find a local tower to further develop and enjoy his ringing.

And we look forward to his visits home!

**PEOPLE COME AND GO IN EVERY TOWER.** Though sad to lose Matt, we're delighted that new recruits have climbed the stairs! On Saturday mornings we now have a regular beginners' practice from 10.30. Some of the session is conducted on tied bells, but as the learners progress open bells will be necessary. And on Tuesday evenings we are starting earlier (at the old time of 7.30) to accommodate learners who cannot come on Saturday.

Nancy Fisher

## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## BROMLEY COMMON

*Practice Thursday 19:45*

## CHELSEFIELD

*Practice Monday 20:00*



We continue to hold generally well attended practices on Monday evenings with visitors from both inside and outside the District. Ringing is across the spectrum from Plain Hunt up to 'poor man's' spliced - namely spliced Major but not all Surprise Major methods! Grandsire and Stedman Triples are also regularly rung on Mondays and on Sundays, too.

Nick Wilkins

## CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

*Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00*

## CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*



## CUDHAM

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

We continue to improve the ringing room, since the last report we have had a spider made by a local wood turner so that we can stop looping the spare ropes around the clock supports, blanked off the sound tubes, sealed around the ceiling edges and unbelievably yes - it is less noisy. We also painted the ceiling in a very fetching grey from Farrow and Ball!!! (Very posh – Ed)

We have done some repairs to the brickwork around the window using Jon Fry's special mix (it's a secret) and repainted the blackboards, and my word we are almost in technological heaven with the mounting of a white board, although no marker pens as yet!!

All we have to do now is paint the walls, fix some seats, adapt the hatch, level the ropes etc etc etc, should all be done by next week ha ha!!

Also we have 2 young learners (1 9 and 1 11) and 1 slightly older learner (circa,1978) so if any one feels the need to assist at the early learners session it's from 7.30 to 8 before our usual Monday practice.

....And a cry for help.....How do we enable ringers to get 'Ropesight'? For some it's like finding the Holy Grail, an almost unattainable mystic goal that others have found yet no-one knows the way they got there. We can only give them well meaning clues and of course everyone's road to finding the elusive 'Ropesight' is slightly different. So if anyone can help us with a definitive method of achieving it, please let me know (bondsalive@btinternet.com)

I know we could send them to Dover in October, but it's a long way etc etc etc .....

Laurence

## DARTFORD

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## DOWNE

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

We have been out of action for quite a time while our Church was being rewired - the first 3 weeks the ringing chamber was full of scaffolding and then there were the piles of electrical repair kit which was 'put out of the way' in our chamber and then, when the new lighting was fitted, it was big enough to illuminate an underground station and instead of being replaced high up in the chamber to give a good

spread of light it was put on the side wall quite blinding whoever rang no 1 or 6 bells meaning that we missed another 2 evening practices! However all has been put to rights now and we are getting back into rhythm again.

Bridget.

## ELTHAM

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

Eltham have had to bid a fond farewell to Becca Jones. Becca joined us as a result of attending Rose Bruford College. And now she has graduated she is leaving us for the more exciting climes of New Zealand where she assures us she will try the bells. However we saw her off in style with Karaoke and Chinese and she also managed to fit in her second quarter, trebling to Grand Sire before she left. We'll miss her both as a friend and as a Sunday ringer!



**Eltham, London**

Sunday, 19 September 2010 in 42 mins

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Rebecca Jones
- 2 David Holdridge
- 3 Caroline Ogilvie
- 4 Diane J Reynolds
- 5 Ian G Mills (C)
- 6 Angus Ogilvie

Rung as a farewell compliment to Rebecca Jones.  
1st away from cover - 1.

On the upside, Tom Baird has now been lured into learning by his girlfriend and established ringer Tiffany!

Meanwhile on Operation Tidy Up, the notice board is now installed and the carpet has been ordered. All we need now is to learn London and our years objectives are done.

Katherine

## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

A report on our recent outing is elsewhere. In other news, three of our band are off to University. Robert Backhouse graduated from Cambridge and is now going to St. Andrews. Following their success in the IB examination, Paul Lucia will be studying at the University of East Anglia and Anthony Scarth is going to Aberystwyth. We are sending Christchurch ringers to all parts of Great Britain! We wish them all well with their studies.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on 25<sup>th</sup> July which was Anthony's First Quarter (and his sister Eloise's first inside). It was rung as a Ruby Wedding compliment for John & Jacqui Peal and also to congratulate Robert, Anthony and Paul.

Erith, Kent  
25th July 2010  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

Anthony Scarth  
Carol Eastaugh  
Eloise Scarth  
Rachel Backhouse (C)  
Mark Backhouse  
Tom Scarth

1st quarter 1, 1st inside 3

Liz Brett

## ERITH (St John the Baptist)

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## EYNSFORD

*Practice 1st (Surprise Major) & 3rd Friday 20:00*



## FARNINGHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

Tuesday bell practice at Hayes Tower is cancelled until further notice. Anyone wanting information should contact Tower Captain, Jon Fox.

Val Bracey

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

For a change there are quite a few things to report this quarter.

At last we have enough money to buy our new tenor. Those of you who have been to Horton Kirby will know that ever since we augmented to 8 bells we have been raising money to have our tenor recast. When Whitechapel hung our 2 new trebles in July 2007 they advised us that the tenor could do with a bit more weight. The present tenor was never intended to be rung as a tenor but when we first had the bells restored for the Millennium we were all novices and did not realise the significance of this. So 10 years on we now have the necessary funds and are about to order the recast subject to obtaining a faculty. This will improve the ring as the tenor will hopefully not sound so dull. The Bell Restoration people have offered us a lot of help which will keep costs down and we are very grateful to them for this. So hopefully before next year's wedding season starts we will have our newly recast tenor in place.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July we at last had our 2 new trebles dedicated by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge and following this we rang a quarter peal of plain bob doubles in celebration. This was rung with a 6,7,8 cover to allow as many home ringers to be included as possible.

Horton Kirby, Kent  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles with 7,6,8 cover in 43m

1. Terry Elcock
2. Karen Robinson
3. Sue Cameron
4. Lesley Barclay
5. Nick Wilkins (C)
6. John Chenery
7. Jon Pettifer
8. Mick McDonnell

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 6



This month sees us saying goodbye to one of our young ringers, Hannah Elcock, as she goes off to uni in the wilds of Loughton in Essex. She will be studying Technical Theatre and we wish her well in this and hope to see her when she is back for the holidays.

Our most senior ringer, affectionally know as 'closer John' Chenery and his wife Chris celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. Congratulations to them both for what is quite an achievement these days.

Sue Allport



## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## PENGE

*Ringling by arrangement*

## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 19:45*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## SIDCUP

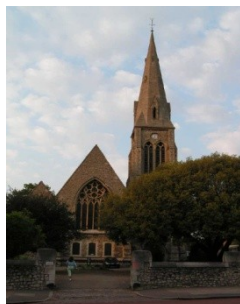
*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

**The Meridian Ringers**



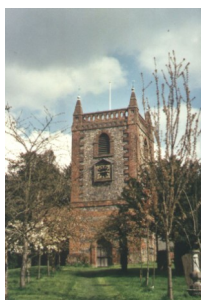
St. Alfege, Greenwich - ring of 10 – tenor 23 ½ cwt.

St Mary, Woolwich - ring of 8 - tenor 12 ¾ cwt.

St. John, Deptford - ring of 8 - tenor 14cwt (bells are on plain bearings)

Greenwich is having major renovation work being done at the moment and is covered in plastic sheeting. Recently the top sheeting has been removed and the wonderfully gilded vane is now visible. We are still able to ring unless advised at any time.

Our practices are mostly at Greenwich, at the moment, on Wednesdays, 8-930pm, but it is best to check in advance.



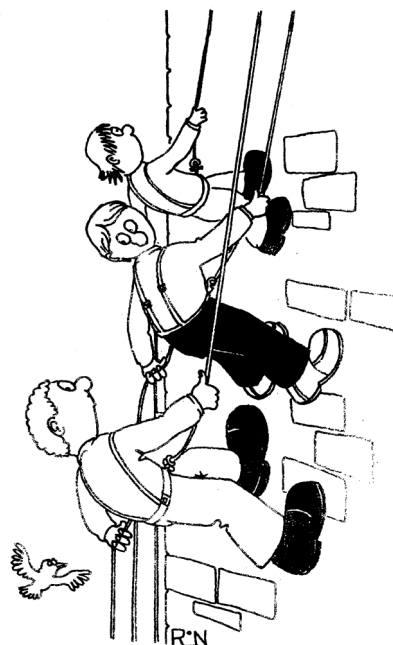
Recently we have been getting some visitors at practices and have been able to ring all 10 bells on several occasions. We have had quite a few weddings and are now trying to ring for the Choral Evensong service on the last Sunday of each month, 545-630pm.

Visitors are always welcome to our practices and service ringing. For more details, check out our website: [meridianbells.webs.com](http://meridianbells.webs.com)

### WEDS 1ST - PRACTICES restart - GREENWICH

Graham Long – [graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk](mailto:graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk)

### St Gargople's



The bell ringers could not be persuaded to stay for the service

This space, or preferably a bigger one, could have had your article in it!  
Please support your Newsletter— it's nothing without you in it!

# Bobbing Along to Bobbing (and elsewhere)

*'A nice experience to try different rope lengths and bell weights. Being in a new tower provided a unique insight as to how other churches operate'*

*'An enjoyable experience. It was interesting looking round the churches and venturing up the steps to the bell towers. At Hartlip, the bells were so loud it was difficult to hear the call changes. When we moved on to Bobbing the length of the ropes made it more difficult to control the bells. At Newington, the bells had a lovely tone but you could feel the tower shaking!'*

*'I really liked trying out the different bells to see which bells were the nicest. It was exciting to see what different towers look like, but I much prefer our one!'*

*'It is very strange ringing bells that you do not know, these at Hartlip appeared much more direct. It was very difficult to hear Rachel making the call changes so I just watched the pained expressions on her face when I got it wrong or the nod of approval if I got it right, there was more pain than nods!! One of the joys for me is listening to the technical chat and Robert was being both technical and provocative, I think.'*

These are just some of the comments made by the new members of the Christchurch band on their first ringing outing, which took place on September 11<sup>th</sup>.



*Bobbing*

Christchurch has not had an outing for a few years so we decided at our AGM in Spring to arrange one. Our learners have all reached the point of being able to ring different bells and some have already rung in other towers. We aimed for early Autumn before a number of the band departed for university. Liz and Les' daughter Frances lives very near Milton Regis church (just outside Sittingbourne) and suggested visiting that area. Unfortunately Milton Regis is undergoing tower repairs but we arranged to ring at Hartlip, Bobbing and Newington.

Six of the group rang for an early wedding at Christchurch and then it was off down the M2 to Hartlip, where we all met – eleven in all. We climbed the very narrow stairs up to the small ringing chamber, which has a rather uneven floor.



*Hartlip*

Ringling up was an experience in itself – the bells are deafening! However, everyone had a turn, ringing call changes, plain hunt or both. We then rang down. Our next stop was Bobbing. Good for those who did not like the stairs at Hartlip as it is ground floor ringing. Bad for those who dislike long draughts – the ropes were very long! We were also warned about a dodgy stay on the second. However, after ringing up, we all managed to take part in some reasonable ringing and it was an excellent place to learn the importance of pulling through firmly. We rang call changes but did not attempt any Treble Bobbing! We managed to ring down without breaking the stay!

Then it was on to Newington, our final tower. There had been a wedding earlier so the bells were up. As before, we rang call changes, plain hunt and finished with a plain course of Grandsire Doubles. Several of us found these bells the easiest – both to handle and to hear. However, for those who had not experienced it before, feeling the tower move during ringing was disconcerting! For most of us, this was our favourite tower of the three.

The day finished at Frances' house. She and her husband Terry provided tea and cakes and the entertainment was provided by nine month old Benjamin, who has just learned to crawl. Thanks to Rachel for organising the outing, to those at the towers who met us and to Frances and Terry for the refreshments,

The following day, twelve of us met at the 'Running Horses' in Erith for a Belfry Lunch. Thanks to Dennis for organising this. We had an excellent Sunday lunch – the 'Chocolate Explosion' is highly recommended!

Liz Brett



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# Eltham & Chislehurst Ringers Outing



Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010 was the date for the Eltham & Chislehurst ringers outing. With 5 towers to visit (Billingshurst, Shipley, West Grinstead, Cowfold and Bolney in West Sussex) we had a full day ahead.

Some of us set off from home on Saturday morning and some made a weekend of it, staying with a ringing friend who we 'roped in' to join us.

We had ringers young and not so old, ranging from a youthful Thomas, Bryony, Emma, Jamie and Ben up to Katherine, Peter, Len D, Marnie, Hilary, David, Neville, Shelagh and Chris, not forgetting friend Dawn. Christine and Rebecca also came along to lend their support.

With so many of us relatively

new to ringing it was mainly Call Changes that were the order of the day, but some of those more experienced of us managed to get in a bit of Plain Bob Doubles too!

One of the highlights of the day came at Shipley where they had a Dummy Bell, enabling some of us to practice ringing up and down while the main ringing was going on. There was some slight cause for alarm at West Grinstead where the ropes were at least as high as



Chislehurst, but with no rope guides. Very scary!!!

The hard work of organising had fallen to Neville, who deserves a big thank you, as the day went off very well. We were lucky to have the sun with us all day, and were amply replenished after 3 towers by a satisfying lunch, and finished off

the day with a delicious high tea! So a lot of fun was had by all! Here's to next year!

Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman





# The Margaret Macey

The afternoon of Sunday 19th September saw the official launch of the Margaret Macey Educational Fund at the family home in Wren Road. The process to reach the launch had proved challenging at times but approximately 40 people attended the event to share happy memories, talk to friends and support what many feel to be a worthwhile legacy in Margaret's name. A wonderful spread of sandwiches and cakes was provided by the 'catering team', additional chairs provided and covers put up in case there was any rain - fortunately there wasn't.

Margaret's husband, Barry, welcomed everyone with the following address:



Barry Macey

*'Good afternoon everyone. I welcome you to the launch of the educational fund in Margaret's name. As most of you know, Margaret was well into bell ringing and whenever possible gave of her time and effort to new ringers to help them progress. With this in mind, it was decided before the funeral we would set up a fund to help achieve this.'*

He then passed to David to give a background to the fund and how it will work. Details of this are located opposite. During the afternoon some handbell ringing became audible by an enthusiastic group, firstly Plain Hunt Minor then a 120 of Plain Bob Minor. As more people became interested, Plain Hunt Major, then Royal and Maximus were attempted before 6 brave ringers attempted Plain Bob Minor on both the front and back 6 of the ring of 12 - not a bad effort.

Although this was not a fundraising event, the opportunity to contribute was made available and those trustees present at

the end of the day were astounded and overwhelmed by the generosity. Further donations have been received and an exact figure will be announced in due course. It is hoped that those people who the fund is aimed at will be proactive in applying to the fund.

Our thanks must go to everyone who attended, those who helped to set everything up and the catering team for the food.

David Macey



The Trustees : Jim Hardy, Rhiannon Meredith, Gary Barr, David Macey and Ann Rueff

## 120 Club

120 club draw held at Ash (District meeting) on July 10<sup>th</sup>

1 <sup>st</sup>	22	David Brown (Bromley)
1 <sup>st</sup>	29	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	69	Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17	Ian Nurdin (Ash)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	113	120 club
3 <sup>rd</sup>	71	Roger Long (Chislehurst, St Nicholas)
4 <sup>th</sup>	117	Dominic Meredith (Beckenham)
4 <sup>th</sup>	31	Jeremy Byers (Beckenham)

I have a few cheques that have been issued but not yet paid in. If you've seen your name mentioned as a winner in the last few months but not had a cheque please let me know. If you want to donate your winnings to the 120 club that's fine but it makes my accounts easier if any outstanding cheques could be cashed.

Rachel Backhouse

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# Educational Fund



The fund has been established to distribute grants where appropriate to further the development of ringers in the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (KCACR) through approved ringing courses. Grants will be awarded by the trustees no more than once a year and may cover whole or partial costs of the individual attending the course.

The specific aims of the fund are:

- To provide grants to enable further instruction and education in the art and science of change ringing
- The advancement of change ringing knowledge in the Lewisham District through approved ringing courses
- To encourage the attainment of high standards of performance in all forms of change ringing.
- 

## Who can apply?

Applications can be made by any person for a full or partial bursary towards the cost of attending an approved ringing course in accordance with the criteria specified below.

## Our criteria for applications

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Be a practising member of the Lewisham District of the KCACR and have fully paid the relevant subscription for the year in which the application is made
- Be a regular Sunday service ringer at a tower within the Lewisham District of the KCACR

## Applying

The application form asks for some basic information about the applicant and the reasons for applying to the fund. A supporting statement from a referee should also be provided. The referee should have a thorough knowledge of the applicant's ringing career and will preferably be the applicant's primary instructor, tower captain/ringing master, or the district training officer. If it is not possible for any of these individuals to act as referee, another experienced ringer from within the district should provide the supporting statement. The referee's statement should outline:

1. The current level of skill the applicant has attained in change ringing, and whether this is on tower or hand bells.
2. How previous tuition away from usual practice night lessons (for example on training courses or especially arranged quarter peals) has assisted in the applicant's progress.
3. How the proposed ringing course will benefit the applicant.

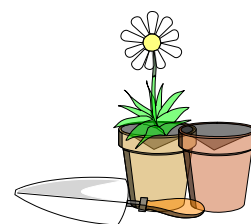
Applications will be invited in October for ringing courses taking place in the following calendar year to allow applicants to apply for courses with funding secured. The grant(s) awarded each year will be paid once confirmation of a place on the chosen course has been received. If the applicant selected for a grant is not successful in obtaining a place on their chosen course, the trustees may decide to allow the chosen applicant to use the grant for a different ringing course, redeploy the money to an alternative applicant, or keep the grant for use in subsequent years.

## Assessment

The trustees will meet to discuss applications and make grants to one or more applicant as and when they see fit. Any award of grant is at the trustees' absolute discretion.

## Follow up

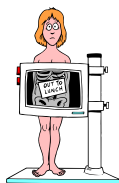
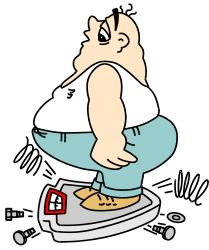
Within three months of attending the ringing course, successful applicants must provide the trustees with a brief report on how the fund has helped their progress in change ringing. The follow up information will be made available to any person requesting it as evidence on how the fund is meeting its objectives. With the applicant's permission, the report may also be used to publicise the fund's presence, aims and objectives, and fundraising activities.



## From the organisation which gives us our health and costs over 120 billion pounds per annum.....

*These are sentences actually typed by Medical secretaries at the NHS in Glasgow :*

1. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
2. Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.
3. Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
4. She has no rigors or shaking chills but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
5. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
6. On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
7. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
8. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
9. Discharge status:- Alive, but without my permission.
10. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert, but forgetful.
11. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
12. She is numb from her toes down.
13. While in Casualty, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.



14. The skin was moist and dry.

15. Patient has occasional, constant infrequent headaches.

16. Patient was alert and unresponsive.

17. She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until she got a divorce.

18. Skin: somewhat pale, but present.

19. The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.

20. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

21. When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

22. The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of fuel and crashed.



23. She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

24. Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Smith, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.

25. The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stock broker instead.

26. By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped, and he was feeling better.

27. Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.





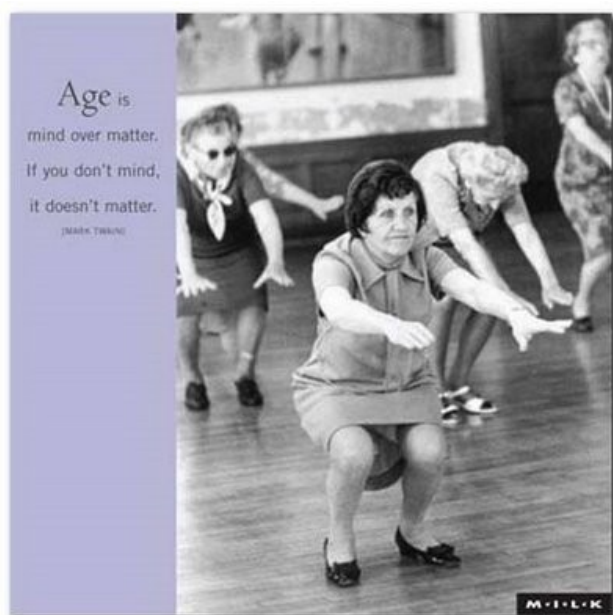
# Training Officers Report

There have been four training days over the past year, three at Beckenham and one at Chelsfield and Downe. Attendances were generally good, with only the August training day not being full. For next year I'm planning to organise three training days, provisionally on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> July (venues tbc). These will follow the same format as the training days have over the past few years, with intensive practice of a specific method. These are mixed ability days, with students usually ranging from plain hunt to methods such as Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor.

In addition to the standard training days I'm planning on organising a day specifically looking at bell handling. This is a bit of an experiment, where we're looking to try and correct handling faults that recent learners have acquired before they become ingrained. If you think you might benefit from this, or you think your tower has a learner who might benefit, please get in contact with me. Please be aware that these dates may be subject to change based on the availability of towers/helpers.

If you have any questions about the training days or training in general, please feel free to get in touch at [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk).

Dominic Meredith



## The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover



It's about this time of year that we would normally start advertising our courses for the following year, but we're trying a different approach in 2011.

We've usually offered three or four courses per year, on dates fixed at our half-yearly meeting in July. It's always difficult to pick dates so far ahead and we've never been able to predict the take-up for each course. Some, like "Putting in the Bobs" on 26 June, had to be cancelled for lack of interest while others were over-subscribed.

On several occasions we ran courses where three or more participants came from the same tower. This situation led us to the idea of offering courses on demand in 2011, hoping this will be more successful than fixing dates and choosing topics ourselves.

It so happens that "Insight into Ropesight" on 30<sup>th</sup> October will be a good test of the new system. Among the many applicants are two groups of four or five ringers from the same tower; to avoid being overwhelmed on the day, we propose to run a separate course on a different date for each tower.

Other courses we have run successfully in the past include:

- Bell Control, Striking, and Call Changes
  - Calling Call Changes
  - First Steps in Treble Bob
  - Plain Bob Major and Little Bob
  - First Steps in Stedman
  - First Steps in Surprise
  - Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples
  - Rope splicing
- Putting in the Bobs (elementary conducting)

We shall welcome requests from towers, groups of ringers, or individual learners, for help with these topics, or any other subject. Please don't hesitate to contact me:

[ptdale@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:ptdale@dsl.pipex.com)

Peter Dale

# The Chairman's bit

How has your summer been? Has your tower suffered from depleted numbers when you and others have been away?

Have you managed to partly offset this shortage by going somewhere else if holidaying where there are bells, to help them out with their ringing, particularly on a Sunday or perhaps on a practice night?

I'm pleased to say I managed to do 'my bit' while in Ireland by ringing at St. Mark's and St Donard's, Belfast and also Hillsborough on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August when on a ringing tour and so enabling bells to be rung for service that otherwise would have remained silent. Additionally, it was possible to 'make a difference' by attending practices at Cork and Christ Church, Dublin. Ireland boasts some glorious bells, many of them quite heavy, but there's a sad lack of ringers, especially outside the main conurbations. In Cork, Stedman Cinques was rung on a practice night and a large variety of unusual ringing on the 16 at Christ Church, Dublin, including simultaneously Bob Doubles on three sets of five with the 46cwt tenor covering!

The end of September is when the Kent County Six Bell striking competition takes place. My tower, Chelsfield, was relieved of the responsibility of representing the District by dint of Beckenham winning the District competition. Beckenham took full advantage of home District advantage by winning the competition at West Wickham by a good margin and congratulations to them!

At the time of going to press, the Chelsfield ringing outing is about to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Towers include the newly augmented 12 at Portsmouth Cathedral. The two new cathedral trebles were cast by Taylors, who cast the new Chelsfield trebles.

I hope the AGM at Beckenham will be well attended and I look forward to seeing you all there.

NW September 2010



# Ringling Master's Annual Report

It's been another busy year in the district as a whole. A very successful quarter peal week was held in February. 34 quarters were scored altogether. Over 90 people took part and for 9 of them it was their first quarter. Plain Bob Doubles was easily the most popular method rung. Other notable performances were a district band ringing Bristol Maximus at St Magnus, London S Royal at Beckenham, ringing two quarters of Surprise Major at Horton Kirby and Bromley at the same time and the first by an all Cudham band "for years". Here's hoping it can be repeated next year. A side effect of this is that for this first time for a long time (ever?) we are only one tower away from ringing at least one quarter in every tower in the district and hopefully by the time you read this, one will have been scored there too.

The call change competition took place in November at Farningham. A very healthy 9 teams entered, the overall standard was good and Beckenham 'George' retained their title. Please think about entering a band this year. It's a fun event that focuses the bands mind on their striking, not that they should ever not be doing so! Towers are welcome to join together to form bands if need be.

The March striking competition at Dartford had 5 entries with Beckenham again coming away with the trophy. They then went on to win the County competition at West Wickham in September. So many congratulations to them. The final district competition of the year, The Farningham Trophy, which is a handicap competition to try and level out the bands, was won by the local team.

The County 8 bell competition headed to the seaside with a day trip to Margate. For the third year in a row the local team won but Lewisham put up a good showing. Hopefully we'll make home town advantage count next year and after a string of podiums finally reach the top step.

District meeting were held at Chelsfield, Bromley and Ash and regular Training Days were organised by Dom. With all the meetings, competitions and training days it was difficult to fit in District practices and only a couple were held. Hopefully a few more can be fitted in next year.

*Rupert*

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# Letter's Page

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*Dear Bell Ringers of Beckenham,*

I can understand that ringing the church bells on a Sunday is a tradition of this fair Isle, even though I am sure that after 2000 years people know

- a). that the church opens on a Sunday and
- b). where the church is.

In fact I am a firm believer of retaining English traditions and I enjoy watching the Morris dancers when they visit the Jolly Woodman in the late spring/early summer.

As you are aware, especially in England, a Sunday is generally considered to be a day of rest and as such I often like to spend half of it asleep, especially if I have spent Saturday night celebrating the glory and splendour that is life. The other half is often spent visiting family members or socialising with members of the community whilst reading, contemplating and discussing important worldly matters.

Now you may think I am talking about going to the pub with my mates (and the wife of course) to read the papers, watch the football and babble away to each other. And you would be right. But please consider this, we are always polite and courteous, never get into brawls and are generally fine upstanding members of this community. In fact just the other day I got a roll of kitchen towels off the top shelf in Waitrose for a lady who was more vertically challenged than myself, then again I am 6'2" and getting at those 'hard to reach' products is not an issue.

What I would ask of your kind selves, is that when you play the church bells early on a Sunday morning (I would consider pre-10:30am as early), would you please think about varying the ringing (and may I say, even to my sleepy, and hearing impaired self, it is bell ringing of a very high standard) by playing a little tune as the current playlist is somewhat limited. May I suggest that you perhaps start with something traditional, with a view to than working through the decades up until the present day. Of course, if you are limited for time you could perhaps do a 30 mini mix.

To start you off I have put below an example of a possible playlist, involving bells, bell like noises or other matters of relevance.

Traditional bell ringing ditty

1950s: Rock Around The Clock - Bill Haley & His Comets

1960s: My Ding A Ling – Chuck Berry

1970s: Anarchy In The UK by Sex Pistols\*

1980s: Like a Prayer - Madonna

1990s: Tubthumping by Chumbawamba

2000s: Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) by Beyoncé

2010s: Bonkers by Dizzee Rascal

\*Sorry about No. 4 but the punk era is notoriously difficult.

As you can see this would both inject some much needed change into the bell ringing playlist as well as catering to the tastes of both young and old. I feel that it may even attract new members to your congregation.

I hope that my suggestions are of interest and that you may be able to include them into your Sunday session, now that's an idea... a CD of Bell Ringers: The Sunday Sessions. Anyway I digress, I genuinely do feel that this could be of benefit to the community and will brighten up people's days for miles around.

I am glad to be of service and hope that once you have had a chance to discuss this with 'The Boss', some of my ideas may be put into action.

Wishing you all the best and happy bellringing,

Joe Milvus







# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



## LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Ash-by-Wrotham on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### 1. Election of a Chairman

In the absence of the District Chairman, Ross Hartley was elected to chair the meeting. Proposed: Dominic Meredith;  
Seconded: Brenda Barton

### 2. Apologies for Absence

20 people attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from David Macey, Helen Valuks (Beckenham), David Brown and Chris Webb (Bromley), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield), Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman (Crayford), Esther Correia (Dartford), Lesley Barclay and Karen Robinson (Horton Kirby) and Alex Britton (Unattached)

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes and they were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: Rachel Backhouse; Seconded: Ross Hartley



### 4. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Dennis Vick	Christchurch Erith	Mark Backhouse	Rachel Backhouse

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## 5. 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	22	David Brown	Bromley
1 <sup>st</sup>	29	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	69	Chris Lawrence	Bromley Common
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17	Ian Nurdin	Ash-by-Wrotham
3 <sup>rd</sup>	113	120 Club	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	71	Roger Long	Chislehurst
4 <sup>th</sup>	117	Dominic Meredith	Beckenham
4 <sup>th</sup>	31	Jeremy Byers	Beckenham

## 6. KCACR Committee Meeting Report

Sue Cameron was welcomed to her first meeting. Lewisham District now has two District Reps for the first time in several years.

The Tower Risk Assessment is now available on the KCACR website. Members should be advised that a risk assessment should be in place for every tower.

The August KCACR committee meeting will discuss what can be done about the handbook. Brenda Barton explained that the committee were looking at ways to reduce the costs of the handbook as it was becoming too expensive. The meeting expressed a feeling that the really important information in the handbook is the lists of towers, members and contact details; everything else is expendable.

It was also suggested that Postcodes for towers (for use with Sat Nav systems) be included.

The County Six Bell Competition will be held at West Wickham on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The draw is at 2.45. Lewisham District is responsible for finding the judges.

Congratulations are due to the Lewisham District band that finished third at the County Eight Bell Competition on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The 2011 KCACR AGM will be held at Speldhurst on Easter Monday.

## 7. AOB

### A G Hill Memorial Fund

The secretary reported that no progress had been made on the A G Hill Memorial Fund. The committee will consider what books to buy using the fund and report back at the AGM.

### Training Days

The training officer reminded the meeting that the next training day is on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and still has places available. The October training day is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be focused on handling.

## 8. Vote of Thanks

Deryck Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. John Peal for conducting the service, to Jenny Paddy for playing the organ and to the Ash band for organising the tea.

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# Paraprosdokians

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you then we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a camp fire?

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

I thought I wanted a career; turns out I just wanted pay cheques.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify...." I put DOCTOR.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

The last thing I want to do it hurt you. But it's still on the list.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America?

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need one to sky dive twice.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

Hospitality: making your guests feel at home, even when you wish they were.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

I bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you want to catch it as when you are in it.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

I always take life with a pinch of salt ... plus a slice of lemon ... and a shot of tequila!