



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

APRIL 2011

## A New Ring of Three Discovered in the Lewisham District



Keen followers of the lists of ringable towers may have spotted that a new tower has crept into the lists in the Lewisham District, namely St Michael, Wilmington. It had always been said that the three bells here formed a chime, with rumours even that the wheels were half wheels. However recent inspections have shown that there are in fact three bells hung for full circle ringing. In November, a group from the Lewisham District went along to inspect the belfry with members of the church, including the Rector, Churchwarden and James 'The Bell ringer'. There we learnt that the bells are normally chimed before service from the ground floor by James, chiming all three at once. The ropes (which the tower notice says date from 1981) have very short spliced-in tail ends which are ideal for this sort of chiming but quickly run out if anyone tries to ring the bells up very high, let alone to the balance!

Access to the belfry itself is very difficult as it involves propping a ladder up against a wall so that it comes within a couple of feet of another ladder that angles back across the tower to a central trap door. Climbing this ladder and then climbing across the gap between the two ladders is not for the faint hearted! A quick inspection of the belfry has shown the fittings to be in fairly good condition, although the frame can be heard to shunt



around. The parish intends to put in a proper floor under the tower during 2011 so that access can be possible using a single ladder. At this time, a better inspection will be conducted 'with spanners' to establish how safe the frame is.

In the mean time, it was demonstrated that the bells could be rung up and stood, but only by the tallest people (the church doesn't have ringing boxes). The District has however made contact with James to encourage him to learn to ring. Visitors are not encouraged to go to Wilmington to ring the bells full circle until the frame has been properly inspected and tightened, and new ropes presented. However, once this is done, there is every likelihood that the three bells could be happily rung to changes, and the church is likely to be very welcoming. Watch this space!

More details about the bells and more photographs may be found on <http://kent.lovesguide.com/wilmington.htm>.

Dickon Love

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## One liners.....

A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time....

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!

I was at a cash point yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

A new Middle East crisis erupted last night as Dubai Television was refused permission to broadcast 'The Flintstones'. A spokesman for the channel said. "A claim was made that people in Dubai would not understand the humour, but we know for a fact that people in Abu Dhabi Do."

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70!!! Blow that, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

Went around to a friend's house today. His wife was sat there with their new-born baby. She asked if I'd like to wind it. I thought that was a bit harsh so I gave it a dead leg instead.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

I was driving this morning when I saw an RAC van parked up. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself 'that guy's heading for a breakdown.'

Well, if you don't send me more articles what else can you expect? - Ed!

# Editorial



Welcome to the April Newsletter. A bit shorter than usual as I didn't get so many articles sent to me or even much in the way of Tower News. However all that I received was excellent—in fact I had two articles about the same thing! I thought, well, they've both bothered to write something so rather than combining them I decided to print both. Such is the power of the Editor!

It would be really nice if, for the next newsletter, one of those who went on the Bell Ringing trip to Australia in February would write about it and include some photos. I'm sure most would be interested to read about it.

I rang for a wedding at Shoreham church a couple of weeks ago. As we emerged from the ringing chamber to an empty church, the best man came back through the door clutching a flower pedestal. Clearly not knowing where it belonged, he asked to everyone's amusement 'Excuse me. Do you work here?'

I'm not sure that ringing for a wedding could be classed as work — certainly none of us could live off the proceeds!

*Suex*

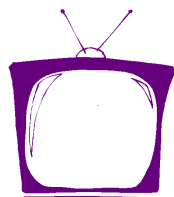
## TV Licensing

Some of the excuses collected by TV Licensing over the last 12 months included:

**No deal—** "I've got no licence because when I called TV Licensing they refused to barter with me. Everything should be up for negotiation."

**Don't work with animals—**

"My house was invaded by a squirrel which weed on the TV, so now it doesn't work properly."



**Downright dim—** "I don't watch the television; I just use it as a light in the dark"

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## Chairman's bit...

You will probably be reading this at the Quarterly Meeting at St John's, Erith and I'm very sorry that I will be absent again due to a family skiing holiday in France. No, I don't go skiing every holiday, but this QM has fallen at the start of the Easter Holidays so please accept my apologies.

Since the last QM in January the District has held the method Striking Competition at Bickley and may I offer my thanks to those at Bickley who made arrangements to host this and particularly to Lesley Barclay, District Secretary, who suffered a baptism of fire by being left to organise much of the event and to Rachel Backhouse for judging. It was unfortunate that a number of District Officers were absent, myself included!

What is very disappointing is that there were only two bands that entered and I can't ever remember such a poor turnout. I'd be interested to know why bands from more towers didn't enter and what might be done to attract more entries next year. Having said that, congratulations to Beckenham who won and to Chelsfield for coming second!!

I think Rachel should be congratulated for her hard work in fund raising for the KCACR Bell Restoration Fund via the 120 Club and also thanks to her very able assistant, Mark!

I also think Sue Allport deserves special thanks for producing an interesting and timely Newsletter every three months. This is done against a background of having to chase and remind people like me and others that it's time to submit material and it is greatly appreciated Sue and the Newsletter is very good read. Well done, thank you, Sue!

Finally, may I remind everyone that the KCACR AGM is on Easter Monday and is being hosted by the Tonbridge District with Spedhurst being the focus. Please do go along as the Lewisham District has not historically been well represented. I'm sure you will enjoy the day with ringing at a good number of towers that are open during the morning and latter part of the afternoon, in between which there's a Service, meal and meeting.

NW March 2011

## Ringing Master says

Not as many quarters were rung for quarter peal week as last year but there were still a number of firsts – Shirley rang her first quarter, Sue her first treble bob, Cathy called her first surprise, Rosemary first as cover, Rachel and Mike first Glasgow, Jonathan first triples and Jackie her first Grandsire.

Beckenham beat Chelsfield in what turned out to be a two horse race for the District Striking Competition at Bickley. They now get the chance to defend their County trophy in September.

The Call Change trophy, held by Crayford and Dartford, has been re-plated and a new plaque added and is now looking very smart again.



As a bit of advanced warning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, it is intended to have a joint district outing with Tonbridge. This will be by public transport to London. More details nearer the time but keep the date free. As with all district events everybody is welcome.



The Winning Crayford & Dartford Call Change Band

Rupert cheeseman

# Eltham & Chislehurst Christmas Meal

Once again, members from Eltham and Chislehurst towers came together on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 for their belated Christmas dinner and dance, organised by Jean, who did her usual terrific job.

The venue for this year was a return to the Bromley Cricket Club where a delicious choice of main courses and desserts were on offer, with second portions available for anybody who had room for more.

After speeches from Jean and Eltham's Tower Captain, David, we went on to draw the raffle. A slight hiccup occurred here when a satisfied winner chose a stylish pair of

black shoes as their prize only to find that they belonged to Marnie. She, of course, couldn't be persuaded to part with them. After that excitement we had to vacate the dining room while the tables were removed to allow those of us who chose to dance off their excess pudding.



The music was provided by Dawn, a visiting ringer from Cuckfield, who brought her pre-recorded ipod with a good selection of 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s music. She

also luckily saved the day, when the arranged dock and speakers were not compatible, by using her own. Good job she'd organised a back-up!

A good time was had by all, although it was noted that there were not so many up dancing as in previous years, possibly because when we vacated the room we ended up in the bar. Here's to next year, when dancing will be compulsory or you get no second helpings!



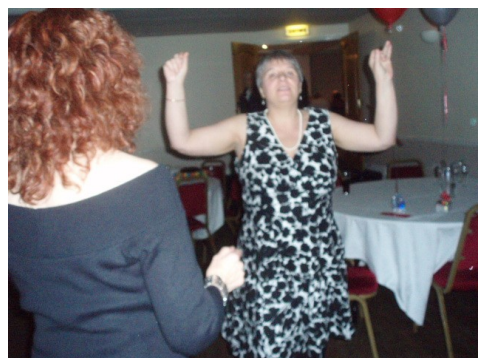
Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith

This year saw us return to our old and much favoured haunt of Bromley Cricket Club for the Ringers Dinner.

As ringers began to congregate around the bar new ringers were introduced to old dons and greetings were exchanged between friends. After a somewhat lengthy wait for the favoured beer to be connected we moved down to the private dining area to begin the fight for where to sit. Once we were all in we were able to go up in tables to collect our meals.

There was a wide choice of food; steak pie, Spanish chicken, fisherman's pie and vegetable lasagne with generous servings and additional side options of salad or vegetables. We were allowed to choose on the night which was a relief to those of us who normally forget what we have pre-ordered all those weeks before! Angus Ogilvie made full advantage of the choice on offer by persuading the caterers to give him a bit of everything. An idea that many of his table companions stole when going up for dessert!

A summary of the year was delivered by Eltham Tower Captain David Holdridge and then the excitement of the raffle could



begin. Many a bottle and box was re-homed, as was nearly the fate of a spare pair of shoes Marnie Knight had bought with her! We headed back to the bar whilst some of the tables were cleared away to make way for dancing. Music was kindly arranged and provided by Dawn Hall, who set the ball rolling on the dance floor along with her good pals Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman. Fun was had with balloons and the conga but



the dance floor was noticeably quieter this year without Rebecca Jones' art of dragging reluctant ringers down to boogie!

The non-dancers still had a good night though with plenty of reminiscing and

campanologist chit chat. As the ringers departed the club mutterings of "is it that time already?" and "doesn't time fly" gave Jean Pailing and the rest of the committee cause to pat themselves on the back for organising another successful dinner.

Tiffany Kelly

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# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

It's been a bit bleak out here over the winter with some practices cancelled because the road to the church was treacherous. The situation wasn't helped by the Tower Captain being unable to ring for 3 months. Matters are now improving with 'returners to ringing' and learners swelling the band. The Tuesday group now has sufficient regular attendees to make a stab at Plain Bob most weeks. Some more experienced ringers and especially a conductor would be very welcome additions. Practice time is 10.30 am to 12.00 followed by pub lunch. We are trying to maintain regular monthly visits to the Cinque Ports Ringing Centre.



Our New Year ring and party went well. The Tuesday group held a small service for St Agatha's day. A small group enjoyed an outing to Shrewsbury, steam-hauled by 'Duke of Gloucester'. We are taking two groups to the 'Ringing World Centenary' events. I'm expecting sore feet.

Our future plans include a rope sight training course, summer garden party and of course, the fete.

Gabrielle Stook

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

## BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## BROMLEY COMMON

*Practice Thursday 19:45*



## CHELSEFIELD

*Practice Monday 20:00*

Regular Monday practice nights are well attended with a good range of ringing and we have a steady stream of visitors who are very welcome. As is the case with many churches, there will be no ringing in Holy Week. and we have to arrange a date for our Ringers AGM, probably in May.

Nick Wilkins

## CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

*Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00*

## CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

Practices continue to be well attended but Sunday's are more variable. We've started ringing some doubles variations to add a bit of simple variety to our repertoire and scored a quarter of Christmas Eve on Christmas Eve. One of our regular visitors, Colin, will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May so I'm sure we'll be ringing something for that.

Rupert Cheeseman

## CUDHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00 (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe*

## DARTFORD

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## DOWNE

*Practice 1st Monday 20:00*

## ELTHAM

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

The new vicar was inaugurated at St John's at the start of February, and several of us rang for his service. This was shortly after our yearly dinner took place, a write up for which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter. And aside from the social aspect, we have Tom now joining us for practice ringing on a Sunday as well as another new starter recently.

Katherine Trill



## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

We marked the District Quarter Peal Week with a Quarter of Grandsire Doubles on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. It was Shirley Scarth's First Quarter – well done! – and was also a farewell compliment to Chris Backhouse (see below).

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42 minutes.

1. Shirley Scarth;
2. Carol Eastaugh;
3. Eloise Scarth;
4. Rachel Backhouse (C);
5. Mark Backhouse;
6. Tom Scarth.



We are pleased to have three young learners, who started after half-term and are making steady progress.

We recently introduced a new 'aid' to our practices – a tape recorder. After some experimentation, we found that the best position for the microphone was down the stairs from the ringing chamber. We now tape some pieces of ringing. It is most instructive to listen to what, at the time, seemed a reasonable piece of ringing! Every clip, clash and incidence of uneven striking is immediately obvious! It certainly makes us think more about good striking.

One week, we recorded two sets of call changes. Rachel then asked us all to listen to both and mark them. As most of us had never marked before, there was some discussion on how to do it – several different methods were adopted.

Interestingly, both sets of ringing gave about the same result – regardless of how they were marked.

Finally, Chris Backhouse will not be able to ring much for a while – he has finished at Oxford and now has a job at CalTech in Pasadena, California doing post-doctoral research. His nearest tower will be Seattle - a mere 950 miles away!

Elizabeth Brett

## ERITH (St John the Baptist)

*Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00, then Thursdays 20:00*

## EYNSFORD

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

## FARNBOROUGH

Prices for a bell installation are being obtained. As ever, cost is a major consideration and options under consideration are the use of a redundant ring of bells from elsewhere, the casting of G&J profile bells to match the existing 9cwt bell

that would become the tenor of a ring of six or the installation of a light ring of bells.

Nick Wilkins

## FARNINGHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday 20.00*

Good news at Horton Kirby this week as we have just heard that we have that we have now got the Faculty to allow us to recast our tenor. The order went into Whitechapel before Christmas, subject to Faculty, and with the funds also now in place we should be able to start work hopefully before the wedding season begins in June.



When we augmented to 8 we were advised by Whitechapel that our tenor could do with a bit more weight. It was never meant to be a tenor bell and unless it is rung very closely to the 7 it can sound a bit flat, or as one unkind visitor remarked "It sounds cracked"! This improvement with the full support of our PCC will hugely improve the sound of our bells (and hopefully our ringing too!!).

Some other really good news is that our two youngest ringers, twins Henry and Charlotte, are now ringing on Sundays and they even managed the Sunday that the clocks changed. They are doing very well and hopefully will also be ready to ring at weddings.

Another of our ringers, Karen Robinson, has just returned from a long holiday sailing in New Zealand. Thankfully she was nowhere near Christchurch when the earthquake struck although we were all rather worried until we heard that she was safe. She had a fantastic time but we are glad to see her back!



Sue Allport

## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## PENGE

*Ringling by arrangement*

## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 19:45*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*

Some of you may know that a marble bust was stolen from the church at Shoreham by thieves using an unusual method of transportation. The following was posted on the Kent Police website appealing for witnesses.

Police are appealing for information about a theft that happened at **St Peter and St Pauls' Church**, in **Shoreham**, Sevenoaks.



Some time **between 12pm on Friday 28 January and 7.30am on Sunday 30 January**, a marble bust of a woman, measuring around two feet high, was taken from the church. A non-motorised wheelchair also went missing at the same time. It is thought that the wheelchair may have been used to take the bust away, as it is very heavy.

Fortunately (but not for him!) the 'unsuspecting' person who purchased the bust took it into Sotheby's to be valued and it was spotted by vigilant staff as stolen property and recovered. Not sure if he took it in using the wheelchair .....

Alison Collins & Sue Allport

## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WILMINGTON

**WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD**  
**The Meridian Ringers**



# Training Update

## 19<sup>th</sup> February

Unfortunately the Training Day scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> February was cancelled due to a lack of interest

## 19<sup>th</sup> March

The 19<sup>th</sup> March saw four intrepid students come to Beckenham for a bell handling training morning. The idea of a bell handling morning is a bit of an innovation for the Lewisham District, having not been attempted since the creation of the District Training Officer role. Despite this all the students made very good progress, with the videoing of each person's ringing style proving especially helpful in allowing learners to identify and correct their faults. I hope to run a similar event next year. Thanks must go to Rhiannon Meredith and James Hardy for providing expert tuition on the day.

## Forthcoming Training Events

The next two training days are on 21<sup>st</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Venues are still to be confirmed. If you are interested in coming on either of these training days or would like more information please contact me via [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk).

Dominic Meredith





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# Lewisham District 120 Club

## Annual Report

### Income

Shares sold 96	£960-00
Prizes not taken	£30-00

### Expenditure

Prizes	£470-00
Bexley Council Fee	£20-00
Expenses (postage etc)	£14-45



Totals	£990-00	£504-45
BRF contribution for 2010-11	£485-55	

January draw held at Bromley Common District Meeting January 8<sup>th</sup> 2011

1 <sup>st</sup>	52	Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	56	Terry Elcock (Horton Kirby)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	43	Tom Scarth (CC Erith)
4 <sup>th</sup>	47	John Chenery (Horton Kirby)

March draw held at Bickley Striking Competition March 5<sup>th</sup> 2011

1 <sup>st</sup>	51	Sue Allport (Horton Kirby)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	63	Margaret Heald (St John's Erith)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	99	Simon Sleath (Downe)
4 <sup>th</sup>	89	Sue Cameron (Horton Kirby)



We will start again for 2011-12 at the April meeting. Please consider joining and help our district contribute to the BRF. This was our 6<sup>th</sup> year and we have now passed on over £3000 to the fund.

It costs £10 for 1 year with 10 draws a year and at least 4 prizes (£20, 2 by £10 and £5) each time (double the number of prizes in July and December). The only restriction is that you must be aged at least 16 to hold a share in your name. Forms always available from me or they can be printed off from the District Website.

Rachel Backhouse



# Quarter Peal Week

## **Eynsford, Kent**

St Martin

Friday, 11 March 2011 in 0:44 (9-2-13)

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Sue Cameron
- 2 David Hilling
- 3 Tony Fisher
- 4 Lesley Barclay
- 5 Rupert Cheeseman
- 6 Cathy Cheeseman (C)

For Lewisham District Quarter Peal week and remembering the victims of the Japanese earthquake.

1st treble bob; 1. 1st surprise as conductor.

## **Crayford, Kent**

St Paulinus

Saturday, 12 March 2011 in 0:43 (11-2-15)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Alison Warner
- 2 Brenda Barton
- 3 Rupert Cheeseman (C)
- 4 Andrew Sinclair
- 5 Berkeley Ferro
- 6 Matthew Warner

Rung half muffled in memory of Lesley Drake who died 11th February and to support Vince, Tom, Matthew and Joe in their grief. Also, in memory of Jean Lee, aunt of Alison and Matthew. Part of district quarter peal week.

## **Erith, Kent**

Christ Church

Saturday, 12 March 2011

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Shirley Scarth
- 2 Carol Eastaugh
- 3 Eloise Scarth
- 4 Rachel Backhouse (C)
- 5 Mark Backhouse
- 6 Tom Scarth

With the band's best wishes to Christopher Backhouse shortly to take up a research post at Caltech, Pasadena and for Lewisham District Quarter Peal week.

First quarter; 1.

## **Beckenham, Kent**

St George

Sunday, 13 March 2011 in 44 mins (14 cwt)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Ross E Hartley
- 2 Helen J Valuks
- 3 Elizabeth Duffey
- 4 David P Macey (C)
- 5 David H Kingston
- 6 Jeremy R Byers
- 7 James J Hardy
- 8 Terry M Guntrip

For Evensong and Lewisham District quarter peal week.

## **Crayford, Kent**

St Paulinus

Sunday, 13 March 2011 in 0:42 (11-2-15)

1260 All Saints Doubles

- 1 Andrew Sinclair
- 2 Brenda Barton
- 3 Rachel Backhouse
- 4 Mark Backhouse
- 5 Rupert Cheeseman (C)
- 6 Matthew Warner

Before High Mass and for Lewisham District Quarter Peal week.

## **Beckenham, Kent**

St George

Thursday, 17 March 2011 in 37 Mins (6 cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Jeremy R Byers
- 2 Dominic D Meredith
- 3 David H Kingston
- 4 Thomas A Winter
- 5 James J Hardy (C)
- 6 Rosemary A Stretton

1st as cover; 6

Rung for Lewisham District Quarter Peal Week.

## **Eynsford, Kent**

St Martin

Friday, 18 March 2011 in 42m (10)

1250 Glasgow Surprise Major

- 1 Mark Backhouse
- 2 Rachel Backhouse
- 3 Nicholas Wilkins
- 4 Jeremy Byers
- 5 Ian Mills
- 6 Michael Worthington
- 7 David Hilling (C)
- 8 David Macey

First in method 2, 6. A compliment to the conductor on a significant birthday.

## **Bromley, Kent**

SS Peter & Paul

Friday, 18 March 2011 in 44 Mins (16-2-8)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Jonathan C Payne
- 2 Helen J Valuks
- 3 Alice M Baverstock
- 4 David H Kingston
- 5 Cathy L A Cheeseman
- 6 Dominic D Meredith
- 7 James J Hardy (c)
- 8 Rupert J Cheeseman

1st Triples; 1

For Lewisham District Quarter Peal Week.

### Beckenham, Kent

St George

Sunday, 20 March 2011 in 47 Minutes (14 cwt)

1330 St Simon's Bob Triples

- 1 Rosemary A Stretton
- 2 Roderick R Horton
- 3 Rhiannon M Meredith
- 4 Jeremy R Byers
- 5 David H Kingston
- 6 Dominic D Meredith
- 7 James J Hardy (c)
- 8 Ross E Hartley

Rung before Evensong during Lewisham District Quarter Peal Week.

A birthday compliment to Dale Meredith, father of 3 & 6.

### Bromley Common, Kent

St Luke

Sunday, 20 March 2011 in 46 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Megan Smith
- 2 Jackie Duke
- 3 Phil Stott
- 4 Nigel Pointer (C)
- 5 Chris Lawrance
- 6 Rob Duke

First Grandsire inside; 2

For Lewisham District Quarter Peal Week.

### Chelsfield, Kent

Sunday, 20 March 2011 in 44m

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Nicholas Wilkins(c)
- 2 Jean Pailing
- 3 Robert Pruden
- 4 Juliet Austin
- 5 Karen Barter
- 6 Jim Rooke
- 7 John Barnes
- 8 Richard George

For District Quarter Peal Week.

### Dartford, Kent

Holy Trinity

Sunday, 20 March 2011 in 0:45 (18-2-1)

1260 Doubles (2m)

(720 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob)

- 1 Esther Correia
- 2 Sue Cameron
- 3 Len Morley
- 4 David Holdridge
- 5 Rupert Cheeseman (C)
- 6 Andrew Sinclair

Before Choral Evensong and as part of Lewisham District Quarter Peal week.

## Call Change Competition

The competition, held in November, took place at Downe.

There was a Fair going on at the church hall which provided a pleasant distraction from the competition. There was a good entry of 8 bands and once the judges, Tim Lynch and Catherine Heathcote from the Tonbridge District, were ensconced in their car the draw was made and the competition started. Each band had a couple of minutes practice and then rang 120 changes with at least 12 call changes during it.

When it came to the judging, Tim started off with some general comments. The bells are challenging and some bands coped better than others. The 2 seemed to cause particular problems. The rules are different from the Tonbridge District in that they do not allow just one bell to lead. The bells do not turn quickly, the fastest team, F, took 4:10 (2:55hr peal speed) and the slowest, team E, 5:00 (3:30hr). In general it was clean rows that were scored, hence the relatively low scores, with the highest percentage winning.

A. Had some good leading. Had to pro rata the score as the Steward couldn't count the number of changes (wonder who that was Nick?)

B. Good general piece of ringing. Tenor adjusted to what was going on in front.

C. Good syncopation.

D. Bit of hesitation. A lot of adjusting. An elastic band.

E. Slowest band, wondered why. Lovely change into Kings and improved after that.

F. Practice piece good. Felt on a different day could have done better.

G. Confident practice piece. Chose a faster speed.

H. Generally even ringing. About right speed.

Then the results were given as follows:

C. Crayford / Dartford 57%

B. Beckenham 50%

D. Chelsfield 48%

G. Horton Kirby 46%

E. Downe 45%

F. Erith CC 35%

A. Bromley 30%

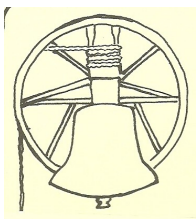
H. Eltham 23%

So the Crayford / Dartford band won the trophy. Thanks to Downe for being such good hosts and for Tim and Catherine for coming out to judge.

Rupert Cheeseman

(Photo of winning band on page 4)





# Bell Ringers



## Ambitious Apprentices

The Eynsford and Farningham ringers have some keen trainees whose efforts have been rewarded with the first badge of achievement, the blue badge for 'Ambitious Apprentices'.

Over recent months Poppy and Molly Goldsworthy, Blanche and Sarah Ogunko and Dave Glenister have been working on their handstrokes and backstrokes and are becoming useful members of the bell ringing team. They are now able to ring 'rounds' with the rest of the band. There are many challenges ahead for them as they work towards the green badge, Happy Hunter, and the red badge, Artful Dodger. This will involve new skills of ringing up in peal, ringing down in peal, leading and hunting. The dodging comes later!

Both Eynsford (8) and Farningham (6) have splendid bells which can be heard on Sunday mornings, on practice nights, and ringing out for weddings and other occasions. It is good to have enthusiastic new members in the band to maintain the tradition of bell ringing in the villages. Three of the bells at Farningham were cast in 1656 and Eynsford's oldest bell was cast in 1746.

Other young recruits in the band are Callum Bridel and Thomas Marshall.



Molly Goldsworthy, Sarah Ogunko, Poppy Goldsworthy and Blanche Ogunko

David Hilling



# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



## OF CHANGE RINGERS

### LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Bromley Common on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011

#### Minute's Silence

Before the meeting started a two minute silence was held for Elsa Sjovorr of Chelsfield



#### Election of Chairman

In the absence of the District Chairman Rupert Cheeseman was elected to chair the meeting. Proposed: Dominic Meredith, Seconded: Lesley Barclay.

#### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Hardy, Lizzie Duffey and Ross Hartley (Beckenham), Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield), Esther Correia (Dartford), Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch Erith), Sue Allport (Horton Kirby), Alex Britton and Karen Robinson (Unattached).

#### Minutes of the Annual District Meeting at Beckenham on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: Rhiannon Meredith; Seconded: Cathy Cheeseman.

#### Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Amelia Ellen Halford	Sidcup	Janis Roddy	Mark Backhouse
Francis Roddy	Sidcup	Janis Roddy	Mark Backhouse

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## 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	52	Mick McDonnell	Horton Kirby
2 <sup>nd</sup>	56	Terry Elcock	Horton Kirby
3 <sup>rd</sup>	43	Tom Scarth	Christchurch Erith
4 <sup>th</sup>	47	John Chenery	Horton Kirby

## KCACR Committee Meeting Report

Following the requests made for the appearance of postcodes in the handbook they will be included in this year's edition.

The Vice-President and the meeting congratulated Ian Mills and his team on coming second in the Essex Trophy, a far better result than Kent has achieved for many years.

'Ringing for England 2011' are advising that as St George's Day falls in Holy Week, ringing would take place on 2nd May 2011. The committee agreed that each tower should make their own decision as to whether they wish to participate.

The Treasurer reported that the decision taken at the AGM to transfer BRF funds into the General Fund was illegal; therefore it needs to be paid back. This leaves a big hole in the General Account. It is therefore likely that subs will rise in 2012.

Please note that reinstallations of bells will attract VAT at 20%.

Rule changes to come up at the AGM:

Practicing Members. The insurers insist our rules need a definition and competency level stated. This is possibly contentious so if you want to have your say or to vote please come to the AGM.  
Student Membership Subs will also be voted on at the AGM.

Forthcoming Events:

26<sup>th</sup> March: Ringing World Centenary celebrations  
25<sup>th</sup> April: KCACR AGM, Speldhurst  
29<sup>th</sup> April: Royal Wedding  
2<sup>nd</sup> July: County Eight Bell Competition, Bromley  
24<sup>th</sup> September: Inter District Six Bell, Hunton

## KCACR Handbook Returns

The Secretary reminded everyone that the KCACR Handbook returns were now due. Some of the returns were handed out at the meeting and the rest will be distributed by post.



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## AOB

### Secretary

Lesley Barclay agreed to serve as an interim secretary until the end of the year, with the proviso that she was unavailable for the April meeting. She was duly elected. Proposed: Rupert Cheeseman, Seconded: Jim Rooke.

### A G Hill Memorial Fund

The books provided by the A G Hill Memorial Fund money have been purchased and will be distributed on a first-com-first-served basis. The list of books will be distributed at the April meeting.

### Ringling World Centenary

Various Lewisham District towers will be open for the Ringling World Centenary.

### Call Change Competition

Rupert presented certificates for the Call Change competition. He also reported that the trophy is in the process of being refurbished.

### Margaret Macey Educational Fund

Rhiannon Meredith reported that three applications were received for the fund and that all three were awarded bursaries.

## Vote of Thanks

Rupert Cheeseman proposed a vote of thanks to Canon Michael Insley for conducting the service, to Francis Roddy for playing the organ and to the Bromley Common band for organising the tea.

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# District Events

**KCACR Annual General Meeting:** Monday 25th April, Speldhurst (Tonbridge District)  
See the KCACR website for details.

**District Training Day:** Saturday 21st May. TBC. 10-4.  
Contact Dom on [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk) for details.  
District Practice: Saturday 4th June, Horton Kirby, St Mary, 7-9pm.

**County 8 bell Striking Contest:** Saturday 2nd July, Chelsfield, (Lewisham District). 2.45pm draw. Method: tbc.

**District Meeting:** Saturday 9th July, Shoreham, SS Peter & Paul  
3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service then tea, meeting and evening ringing.  
Names to tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**District Training Day:** Saturday 23rd July. TBC. 10-4.  
Contact Dom on [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk) for details.

**District Outing** (with Tonbridge District): Saturday 13th August, Various London towers by public transport.

**County 6 bell Striking Contest:** Saturday 24th September, Hunton (Maidstone District). 2:45 draw.

**District Meeting:** Saturday 8th October, Bexley, St Mary  
3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service then tea, meeting and evening ringing.  
Names to tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**London 12 bell Striking Contest:** Saturday 22nd October, Shoreditch.  
District Practice: Saturday 12th November, Eltham, St John the Baptist, 7-9pm (TBC)

**6 bell Call Change Contest:** Saturday 19th November, Sidcup, St John the Evangelist (TBC).  
2.30pm draw. Method: 120 of rounds and call changes.

# For the girls.....



Inside every older person is  
a younger person  
wondering.....  
what happened?



If you can't be a good  
example then you'll have  
to be a horrible warning



The hardest years  
are those between  
10 and 70



I refuse to think of them as chin  
hairs more like stray eyebrows



I'm not going to vacuum until  
Dyson invent one you can ride  
on!



Behind every  
successful man is a  
surprised woman