



# 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)

JULY 2011

## County 8 Bell Champions

The County 8 bell competition was this year held in the Lewisham district on the relatively new ring of 8 at Chelsfield on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. 5 districts took part with only the Rochester District not turning up. Mary Holden from Kensington and Robert Sworder from Southwark Cathedral had agreed to come along and judge. Once they were seated in the church yard the draw took place. Rather typically the only team short of ringers, due to being delayed by an accident on the A2, were drawn first. So once it had been agreed to move them from first to last the competition began.

The bells are just odd stuck enough to make them a real challenge and the chosen method, Uxbridge S Major, is not one that most of the ringers would have been overly familiar with. There are plenty of places in it to make trips and disrupt the ringing. Everyone completed the test piece and were left to wait for the judges verdict.

Peter Sims thanked the judges for coming along and then it was over to them to make some comments and give the results. Mary started by saying that the bells certainly seemed to be challenge and especially the 6<sup>th</sup>. She then went through each team in turn.

Team 1 (peal speed 3hr 1m): There was a variability in the leading and this caused the back of the change to become squashed up.

Team 2 (2h 54m): Started well but a method mistake in the second lead took a bit of time to get over.

Team 3 (2h 39m): Set off confidently. The ringing was quick & threatened to run away with itself but always got back under control.

Team 4 (2h 55m): A bit uneven to start with but the last 2 leads were very good.

Team 5 (2h 55m): Some speed inconsistencies.

The results were then given in the traditional reverse order.

Position	Team	District	Faults
1st	3	Lewisham	34
2nd	4	Ashford	53
3rd	5	Canterbury	55
4th	1	Maidstone	67
5th	2	Tonbridge	82
6th		Rochester	DNS



So in the end it was a comprehensive victory for the home

team and a cracking piece of ringing it was too which we all thoroughly enjoyed ringing.

Thanks go to Chelsfield and their ringers for hosting the competition and for providing such a splendid tea.

Rupert Cheeseman

# District officer e-mail directory

**Website:**

[www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Chairman:**

Nick Wilkins

[chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Secretary:**

Dominic Meredith

[sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Rachel Backhouse

[memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Ringling Master:**

Rupert Cheeseman

[master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Assistant Master:**

Ross Hartley

[ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Training Officer:**

Dominic Meredith

[training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**District Representatives:**

Brenda Barton

[rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

Sue Cameron

[rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Sales Representative:**

James Rooke

[sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Sue Allport

[newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

## The Chairman's bit

You are likely to be reading this at the Quarterly Meeting at Shoreham or shortly afterwards, once the Newsletter has reached its readers. Thanks again go to Sue for producing the Newsletter in an accurate and timely manner and the difficulties of production runs are well illustrated by the problem with the Kent Report this year.

Since the District QM in April, the Kent AGM was held at Speldhurst in the Tonbridge District on Easter Monday. Apart from the business meeting, there was the chance to ring at a number of towers in the Tonbridge District and renew ringing friendships and acquaintances.

During the last three months we have not only enjoyed the late Easter weekend but had an extended holiday the following weekend covering the Royal Wedding and May Day Bank Holiday. The Royal Wedding was an opportunity for celebratory ringing in many forms and durations!

That weekend I took the opportunity on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, to ring at the newly installed bells at Stone by Dartford which, although close to some of the Lewisham District Towers, is affiliated to the Rochester District. The bells (8cwt ring of six) are very pleasant and worth a visit. Perhaps some of the Lewisham District ringers could go along to help the Stone ringers but best to make contact with the locals there first to make sure that what is intended will be helpful and of benefit to them.

On the subject of new bells, the PCC at St Giles, Farnborough has approved a scheme to install a new, light ring of six bells (tenor approx 2 3/4cwt) so keep an eye on the Newsletter for details of progress with this exciting prospect, as hurdles still have to be overcome.

At the end of May I went to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on a ringing trip. Many excellent bells were rung but none finer than the new 8cwt ring of eight at St Mary's. These bells were cast by Whitechapel to Gillett & Johnston profiles and are possibly the finest bells I have ever rung on! They are well worth a visit.

That reminds me that we are entering the summer holiday period so, if you are holidaying anywhere near a ring of bells, why not pop along and try to help out that tower? You might just make a difference to what they can ring and if, perchance, you are in the southwest, make the effort to go to St. Mary's, you will not be disappointed!!

NW June 2011

# Editorial



Welcome to the July edition of the Newsletter. As always thank you to those who have sent in articles and Tower news. I have also had some quizzes and jokes which is always good. I haven't been able to use them all this time so look out for more in future editions.

Well done to the ringers who brought home the County 8 Bell Trophy. We maybe had a slight advantage as it was held on home ground but it doesn't always work out that way!

The recast tenor is now in place at Horton Kirby and sounds beautiful so if you haven't been along to ring it yet you will be most welcome to come to our practice night. Rather than write an article I have portrayed the event from dismantling, through making the mould to casting, tuning and reinstallation in a montage of photos. If you are able this is better viewed on the website to see them all in glorious Technicolor.

I hope you enjoy this edition and don't forget to get together your future news and articles for the October ADM edition. I will be waiting .....

## Suex



### County 8 Bell Champions



L to R

Peter Swift, Rachel Backhouse, Rupert Cheeseman, Dominic Meredith, Nick Wilkins, Colin Wylde, David Macey, Ian Mills

## In the newsletter this time...

County 8 Bell Champions	1
District Officers E mail Directory	2
The Chairman's Bit	2
Editorial	3
Horton Kirby's Tenor Recasting in Pictures	4
News from the Towers	
Ash-by-Wrotham	6
Biggin Hill	6
Chelsfield	6
Crayford	7
Cudham	7
Dartford	7
Downe	7
Farnborough	8
Horton Kirby	8
Shoreham	8
The Meridian Ringers	9
Ringing Advert	9
Calling Our Young Ringers	9
Bell Handling Day	10
Ringing as Art	10
Hereford Ringing Course 2011	11
120 Club Results	12
Sweetie Quiz	12
Ads We'll Never See Again	12
Colin Jeal's 90th	13
The Ringing Master Says	13
Minutes of the April District Meeting	14
The BMA on the PM's Health Care Proposals	16

.....





# H K Tenor Recasting





---

# in Pictures



---

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

Well, the ten of us did enjoy the RW Centenary. The beginners had first rings away from home, as well as firsts on the mini-rings. They were also introduced to the wider world of ringing through the service, the glorious handbell concert, listening to the carillon, hearing the great and the good ring, as well as meeting other ringers. Yes, we did have sore feet, but we saw some lovely churches and lots of London without tourists.

We rang for the Royal Wedding and Bishop James visit for the confirmations. We also managed to have a small group ring at some of the open churches on Easter Monday.

The rope sight course, kindly organised by Peter Dale and CPRC, had six of us working really hard to raise our skills. The improvements are noticeable, though the need for a refresher/follow up, is apparent.

We have been able to maintain both practices, with the Tuesday group working on P:B and reverse court place minimus, and the Saturday group focused on bell-handling, rounds and call changes. We have continued our attendance at Holy Trinity practice, and been able to resume attendance at St John's.

Our fete will have happened by the time this is published and we'll be looking forward to our steam train outing, and later the garden party.

Gabrielle Stook

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

## BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

## BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

**MILESTONES!** Doug and Nancy were very excited a week or so ago. Why? Our little band of Saturday morning young learners had progressed to ringing rounds all together!



Phoebe, Henry and Maisie are steadily becoming competent in their bell-handling skills. Indeed, some of the "oldsters" quite envy the ease with which they coil their ropes when ringing down, and even petite Maisie has no difficulty in raising a bell that weighs considerably more than she does.

Phoebe is becoming a reliable call change ringer, and has joined the band on Sunday mornings when she can. Henry and Maisie, who have also rung on Sunday mornings, are not far behind.

**A SECOND MILESTONE** happened during a Tuesday practice. We not only rang Bob Doubles, but a touch! After years, it seems, of striving, our home band—Monica, Nancy (conducting), Doug, Matt, Andrew and Alan—reached a significant peak in the foothills of ringing.

Now that Matt is at Uni, we struggle again. However, we continue on the sometimes hilarious journey towards the next peak.

Andrew Scott is now our Tower Captain.

Nancy Gay

## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## BROMLEY COMMON

*Practice Thursday 19:45*

## CHELSFIELD

*Practice Monday 20:00*



We continue to ring the bells regularly, twice on Sundays plus Monday practice nights (8.00 - 9.30pm). Ringing is across the spectrum from rounds, call changes and plain hunt up to spliced major. Visitors always welcome.

In June we held our AGM which was chaired by Ann Blatcher as we are in an interregnum. Bob Pruden stood down as tower captain to be replaced by Philippa with Nick as deputy.

On Saturday, 18th June, a garden party was held by the family of Elsa Sjovorr, one of our ringers who died in January. As part of the celebrations of Elsa's life we rang a local band quarter peal of St Martins Bob Triples. St Martins was Elsa's favourite method.

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 generally well attended and we have more regularly been ringing touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples. We've had a new ringer start, Sue, but unfortunately this will counteracted by losing Alison, Trevor, Matthew and Louise who will be moving down to West Pennard, Somerset in a few weeks time. Alison has rung here for over 30 years and Trevor over 20 so they'll all be much missed. At least thought it'll be a good excuse for a tower outing down that way to go and visit them.

Rupert

## **CUDHAM**

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

At Cudham we have a lot of learners and their ages are as follows

Alex = 11, William = 14, Theo = 10, James = 12, Molly = 15  
Gary = 40 something, Beryl = 40 something, Jane = 50 something

I do an early session for them from 7.30 until start of our normal practice at 8.00 but I could really do with some help, its great having so many enthusiastic learners and I want them to all go on to be long term ringers and this will only happen if they are able to see some regular progress that stimulates and encourages them.  
If anyone can help please come along, check with me first please.

Also we have got some Whitechapel bods giving the bells and ropes a once over on 28th June so it will be interesting to see what they recommend...and how much etc

Laurence Bond

## **DARTFORD**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

I think that most of you know of our problems with the clappers and the fact that we got them back in with the new pit floors for Christmas ringing. However, on Palm Sunday as we were finishing ringing there was a loud bang up above and on investigating we found that the 5 clapper had fallen out. It was put back in for Evensong and all appeared well,

until 10 days later during practice it fell out again. After consultation with WBF, the staple bolt was taken up there and the top re threaded, the nuts and bolts had previously been too big and were not holding, how they had lasted as long as they did is a mystery. It was fortunate that we had done the pit floors, otherwise things could have been very nasty.

We are now back to 8, and have actually been able to ring all 8 on several occasions, though not for the Royal Wedding. We did manage to do some general ringing for that.

We have managed to keep going although ringing without the 5 does alter things somewhat, it ties senior brains in knots on occasion. Our "family" which came in March have not reappeared but the "new" learner who came in January, having started to learn elsewhere has stayed with us and made very good progress. Brenda and I continue to go to Crayford and Deryck now goes to Stone to help teach their learners. We rang a quarter peal for QP week and are hoping to ring one for the Confirmation Service on Sunday 19th June which also happens to be our Patronal Day.

We continue to survive. Our next project is to strengthen the Clock Chamber floor and then perhaps we shall be able to have an open day for people to go up to the roof, something which has proved a big attraction at other towers.

Esther Correia

## **DOWNE**

*Practice 1st Monday 20:00*

We have been working hard learning "Bob Doubles". We can now ring it once through with members of our own band. Now, this may seem straight forward enough to many of you who have rung for several years, but at Downe this is a real achievement. Over half the band came into this having never rung a method before! They have all worked extremely hard, and we are looking forward to learning our "bobs" and ringing for longer. The ambitious tower captain keeps talking about quarter peals but I think that may be some time in the future.

We've also been using new technology. With the aid of an iPod and a couple of Apps we have been listening to and looking at the lines for many methods - most of which we had never heard of! A special mention to the app Mobel, which simulates the sounds of bells ringing a variety of different methods. If you like, you can join in on a virtual rope!!

Finally, on a more serious note, we have been increasingly concerned about health and safety issues regarding access to our bell tower. To access and maintain the bells currently

requires a climb of many metres up a vertical wall mounted ladder and this is not seen as being ideal. We are therefore well on the way to proposing a new ladder which would give safer access to all. Some impressive design work has been produced and we are in discussions with various interested parties.

Simon Sleath

## **ELTHAM**

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## **ERITH (Christ Church)**

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## **ERITH (St John the Baptist)**

*Practice 1st*

*Wednesday 20:00,*

*then Thursdays 20:00*



## **EYNSFORD**

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

## **FARNBOROUGH**

In May, the St Giles, Farnborough, PCC approved the installation of a light ring of bells. For expenditure of the level that this project requires, this then had to go before a joint St Giles and St Nicholas PCC meeting which was held on 15th June and, I'm pleased to say, the project was again approved.

The proposal is to install a ring of six bells, tenor approx 2.75cwt in E, with the existing 9cwt Gillett & Johnston bell being repositioned in the belfry but remaining for full circle ringing. The ringing chamber will be upstairs, reached by a standard staircase, a bit like St Mary Cray and Chelsfield and the six bells will be in a 'grillage' frame.

There are still hurdles to overcome but this is an exciting project for the District and particularly for those connected with St Giles church.

Nick Wilkins

## **FARNINGHAM**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **FOOTS CRAY**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **HAYES**

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## **HORTON KIRBY**

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

Progress continues to be good with our young ringers. They are now a regular feature on Sundays mornings and will be ringing for their first wedding soon. We are very lucky as we fairly regularly have 10 to ring for Sunday Service.

As I'm sure you will have seen from the previous pages that our big news is the recasting of our tenor. It was removed on May Day and transported to Whitechapel with the help of the 'heavy gang' from the KCACR Bell Restoration people. It was recast on the following Friday with a new inscription but using the old Mears letters to keep the link with the old bell. The weight was increased from 5-2-26 to 6-1-2. It has now been re-hung and some of you will have enjoyed ringing it at the last District Practice. The sound of the bells has definitely been enhanced by the beautiful resonance of the new bell (not necessarily with our ringing—Ed!)

Sue Allport

## **LEWISHAM**

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## **PENGE**

*Ringling by arrangement*

## **ST MARY CRAY**

*Practice Thursday 19:30*

## **SHOREHAM**

*Practice Monday 20:00*

Philippa Rooke has accepted the position of Tower Captain at Chelsfield. This will leave her too busy to carry on running the practice night for Shoreham. Shoreham tower have seen a decline in the number of ringers generally and are struggling to get a band together for Sundays. A meeting was called for 28 June to discuss a way forward. Those present all wish to maintain Sunday ringing if at all possible. Therefore arrangements are on going to set up a rota for alternate weeks. Existing ringers will join other local bands for practice and Frank Rogers would be happy to assist by leading a Shoreham practice night once a month starting in September.

Alison Collins

## **SIDCUP**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **WEST WICKHAM**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*



## WILMINGTON

### WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD The Meridian Ringers

Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-930pm, mostly at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich (please check beforehand).

Firstly, congratulations to Louise Price and Peter Norwood on the birth of their daughter Charlotte on 26th May at 5.20am, she weighed 7lb 7oz.

We are having some good turnouts at practice nights, regularly ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods. We are usually doing some service ringing for the monthly Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month) at Greenwich.

Greenwich tower's major restoration has been now been completed. We are now hoping to have some internal decoration, new lighting and a new carpet in the near future.

Our outing to Buckinghamshire was a great success with ringing at Buckingham, Whaddon, Maids Moreton and Stowe, where Bill Lanyon learnt to ring when he was at Stowe School. There were only 5 bells in those days but they were augmented to 6 in 1988. However, we were able to ring "proper" Stedman Doubles on the back five, with no cover, to recall Bill's former days at Stowe. We had a splendid lunch at The Old Thatched Inn, Adstock. Some ringers stayed over on Friday night, some on Saturday and then rang for morning service at Buckingham Church. Many thanks to Jeremy Gilliland for the arrangements.

Recently, we had our mid-summer dinner, to celebrate several July birthdays, at The Village Taverna, Lee Green.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events – please check our website for further details: [www.meridianbells.webs.com](http://www.meridianbells.webs.com).

GDL

My mate's missus left him last Thursday, she said she was going out for a pint of milk and never come back!

I asked him how he was coping and he said,

*"Not bad, I've been using that powdered stuff."*

## NEED HELP WITH RINGERS FOR MIDWEEK WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, SERVICES OR OTHER EVENTS?

### THE MERIDAN RINGERS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT

We now have several ringers available to help out during the daytime for weekday events.

On Mondays and Fridays we have complete bands available, on other days some ringers are also available.

For more details, please contact:  
[graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk](mailto:graham.long@staffpriory.co.uk)

## Calling our young ringers

Dominic, our Training Officer, is keen to organise a ringing event specifically for the under 16's or under 18's depending on how many there are in each age group. This could take the form of a practice night or a training day or even a ringing outing.



At the moment we don't know how many ringers in our district fall into these age groups so maybe we could ask all towers to initially let Dom know if

they have any young ringers who would like to take part. Then, if there is sufficient interest he can look into organising a special event. Many other districts already do this so it would be good if we could too!



Sue Cameron

# Bell Handling Day

On 19 March 2011 we attended a bell handling day at Beckenham. If you have never been on a day like this consider it, as it is well worth having a go. There were 4 trainees and 3 tutors, a generous ratio which meant that when not ringing there was time for discussion.

The first 'task' was to be videoed! No-one wanted to do this at first, but we eventually, reluctantly, agreed. Then we had some individual 'ringing' on tied bells to identify and attempt to correct our faults. During a quick tea/coffee (and biscuits) break we watched our videos and were amazed to see what we looked like while ringing and how obvious our faults appeared. We returned to the tower determined to put right all our faults! At the end of the session we were videoed again, this time we couldn't wait and all wanted to be first. How noticeable was the difference between the before and after tapes. Our faults had disappeared! (Well, dramatic improvement).

So we'd like to say a big thank you to Rhiannon, Dominic, James, Becca and Laura for their participation, help and advice, (and patience). And to those of you considering a training day - don't hesitate!

Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman

This is a true story, proving how fascinating the mind of a six year old is. They think so logically

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class.

She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read. 'And so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'

The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?'

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly...

'I think the man would have said - 'Well, F\*\*\* me!! A talking pig!'

The teacher had to leave the room.

Daphne Patterson



# Ringling as Art

On Friday May 20th we went to an artistic event in Sittingbourne. Andrew Dodds, the artist in residence at Swale, had arranged for two neighbouring towers at Bobbing and Milton Regis to engage in a call and response. The first tower would ring for five minutes and the second tower would then respond. Similar patterns would then follow. The title Andrew gave this work was "Tho I am but small I will be heard among you all", which is the inscription on the second bell at Chalfont St Giles (1742 by Robert Catlin). Bells have been used for many purposes over the years including marking labour times, warning of danger, calls to bear arms and to mark the evening curfew at 8.00pm.

When we arrived at Milton Regis we were greeted with a glass of wine followed by a tour of the tower. The first floor ringing chamber is the largest in Kent and second largest in England – 25ft x 25ft and easily big enough to hold a district meeting! Up two more floors for a look at the bells. These are mounted in a massive wooden frame. The 5 heaviest bells are hung side by side and date from 1682 with the treble, at the back swinging at right angles to the others, dating from 1934. The tenor weighs in at 10-3-13. There is plenty of room for more bells but the tower is so solidly built with walls 4 feet thick that it does not move when the bells are rung; any further bells would cause serious structural damage.

Back to the ground floor and outside to listen to the call and response. Sadly the wind direction was not favourable and the background noise from traffic and a very vocal blackbird meant that we could not hear Bobbing's responses.

Milton Regis does not have a band (there is one local ringer) so the bells were being rung by volunteers from Rochester district. As they knew we were ringers they kindly invited us to take part in some rounds and call changes. Although the bells are fairly light the ropes are very long and springy so they are not easy to control.

The evening ended with the bells being rung down and the tenor chimed for five minutes as it would have been in earlier times to mark the curfew.

Liz and Les Brett. Erith, Christchurch



# Hereford Ringing Course 2011

Hooray! First, we got confirmation of availability and our places on the 2011 Hereford Ringing Course. Then we found out from the trustees of the Margaret Macey Educational Fund that we'd be eligible for a grant towards costs. We applied, were successful and were the first to receive a grant from the fund towards the cost of tuition, food and lodging. This was the icing on the cake! Now we couldn't wait to get started.

When we arrived at Hereford we met up with a few familiar faces from Beckenham and were introduced to our tutor, Garry Barr (co-incidentally another trustee) who we hadn't met before. After a Welcome Meeting and a refreshing cuppa, it was off to our first church of the tour where our tutor could assess our skills (not so many in our case). Then back to the bar, to talk over the experiences and down a few pints from a choice of some very good bitters! This was when we realised that as everyone in the room was a bell ringer they were eager to talk to us about how well – or otherwise – we had each done that day, and also knew what we meant and how it felt when we couldn't stand our bells or dodge quickly enough. How great to find like-minded



people whose eyes didn't glaze over when we gushed about how good we had all been!

Our next day was made up of lectures, learning more skills and tips and tower visits where we put

these skills into practice. As it was also the day of the (Royal) wedding we fired the bells to mark the occasion, then the helpers rang a touch of Cambridge for the Duke and Duchess. This is a good time to mention that all the helpers we met were practising for a sainthood. They were patient, kind, encouraging and helpful and didn't seem to mind that they had to plain bob 50 times per session.

The course pace was so hectic that we hardly had time to think, but everything was so well organised that a lot of ringing was crammed into the schedule along with the lectures to consolidate what you knew and had learned.

By Saturday we had got into the swing of the racing pace and had calmed down and realised how much we were enjoying

ourselves. Too soon to become complaisant - in the evening we visited Hereford Cathedral and actually rang there!!!



On Sunday, the last day, we had still more lectures and final ringing before we had to say (tearful) goodbyes to our new (best) friends – this was the only sad part. But as we said goodbye we all added 'see you next year'.

So, if you have been considering applying to the Hereford Ringing Course, what are you waiting for? Although when we arrived we found that we knew several people there, by the end of the course we had made lots of new friends and contacts. We also met a famous author! Author of our favourite bell-ringing book, no less!

We'd like to say a big thank you to all the organisers, tutors, helpers and fellow students at Hereford. And an equally big thank you to the Trustees of the Margaret Macey Educational Fund for deeming us worthy to receive the grant. We feel that we put the funds received to good use (and our tutor, Garry, agreed).

On a final note, if you are fortunate enough to attend a by-invitation-only late party, be prepared to mingle with the 'cool kids', get 'plastered' and eventually get up before you go to bed!

So, here's to next year, we hope to see you there!

Shelagh Norman and Chris Goldsmith

# 120 Club

Draw held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Erith, St John

1 <sup>st</sup>	95	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	98	Rachel Backhouse (CC Erith)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	66	John Stook (Ash)
4 <sup>th</sup>	85	Chris Webb (Bromley)

Draw held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Sidcup

1 <sup>st</sup>	102	Frances Wallis (c/o CC Erith)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	43	Rob and Jackie Duke (Bromley Common)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6	Clare Osmond (Footscray)
4 <sup>th</sup>	79	Margaret Heald (Erith, St John)

Draw held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Horton Kirby

1 <sup>st</sup>	36	Martin Bailey (Horton Kirby)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	22	Carol Eastaugh (CC, Erith)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	41	Terry Elcock (Horton Kirby)
4 <sup>th</sup>	93	Deryck Jones (Dartford)

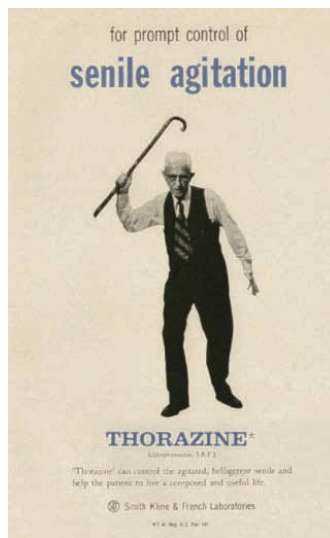


## Sweetie Quiz

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. High class thoroughfare?   | 2. 100% Au?                     |
| 3. Clever folks?              | 4. Sport for Princes?           |
| 5. Good children get these?   | 6. Equipment for felines?       |
| 7. Assorted girls?            | 8. Spin around?                 |
| 9. Noisy insect?              | 10. Outside meals?              |
| 11. Easily blown?             | 12. Toothless drink?            |
| 13. Ten cent pub?             | 14. Pub pins?                   |
| 15. Dark occult?              | 16. Mothers local?              |
| 17. Edible fasteners?         | 18. Wobbly infants?             |
| 19. Lost them?                | 20. Talk quietly?               |
| 21. Various black items?      | 22. Garden flowers?             |
| 23. Dairy holder?             | 24. Arranged marriage partners? |
| 25. Frankie Vaughn wanted it? |                                 |

Sue Cameron (Answers next time!)

Ads we'll never see again  
.....they wouldn't dare!





# Colin Jeal's 90th

Colin Jeal, from Bexley and regular visitor at Crayford, celebrated a significant birthday last month when he turned 90. His daughter, Hilary, organised a surprise birthday party for him. It was a popular day for parties as a certain royal couple decided to get married that day too. Unaware of this party, Colin organised his own birthday meal just for his ringing friends. So we ended up celebrating twice. :-)



## Crayford, St Paulinus

Sunday 1st May 2011

1290 Doubles (5m/v: 240 each Southrepps, Reverse Canterbury, Kennington, Plain Bob and 330 Grandsire) in 41mins

1. Carol Eastaugh
2. Brenda Barton
3. Andrew Sinclair
4. Cathy Cheeseman
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Sue Cameron

Rung to celebrate Colin Jeal's 90th birthday today, following morning service.

Most m/v; 2. 1st as cover.



Rupert

# The Ringing Master says...

It was good to see so many people at the District practice at Horton Kirby in June. Methods rung ranged from Plain Bob Doubles to Bristol but as usual practices will continue to be tailored to whoever turns up. Following the July meeting and training day, the next district event will be a new idea for this year- an outing with the Tonbridge District to London on 13<sup>th</sup> August. At the time of writing this is still in the planning stage but hopefully more details will be available at the meeting. Please keep the date free.



Having had a few near misses since last winning the County 8 Bell competition in 2003, the district band made home advantage count and scored a convincing win in this year's competition at Chelsfield. In doing so we stretched our overall lead since the competition began 27 years ago, having now won it 11 times. A full list can be found on the County website.

Finally, for those who are wondering where the KCACR handbooks this year there was a small problem with the printing of them but they should be ready to be distributed shortly.

## The Way Ahead.....



"It was the best we could do whilst the churchbells are being replaced – and O Sole Mio is quite a nice tune."

Rupert



# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



## OF CHANGE RINGERS

### LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at St John's, Erith 9th April 2011

#### 1. Minute's Silence

Before the meeting started a minute's silence was held for Denis English of Horton Kirby.

#### 2. Election of Chairman

In the absence of the District Chairman and Secretary, Rupert Cheeseman was elected to chair the meeting and Dominic Meredith to take the minutes.

Proposed: Sue Allport, Seconded: Pauline Morley.



#### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ross Hartley (Beckenham), Bob Pruden, Philippa Rooke and Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield), Cathy Cheeseman (Crayford), Mark Backhouse, Rachel Backhouse and Carol Eastaugh (Christchurch Erith), Lesley Barclay and Karen Robinson (Horton Kirby).

#### 4. Minutes of the District Meeting at Bromley Common on 8th January 2011

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Sue Cameron; Seconded: Liz Brett.

#### 5. Election of new members

The following new members were elected:

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Louise Palmer	Bromley	Chris Sheasby	David Macey



---

## 6. 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	95	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	98	Rachel Backhouse	Christchurch Erith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	60	John Stook	Ash by Wrotham
4 <sup>th</sup>	85	Chris Webb	Bromley

## 7. KCACR Committee Meeting Report

The County Eight Bell Striking Competition will be held at Chelsfield on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The draw is at 2.30 and the competition will start at 3.00. The method is Uxbridge Surprise Major.

The Inter-District Six Bell Competition will be held at Hunton (Maidstone District) on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

The Essex Trophy will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

An Association Quarter Peal Week has been suggested. There will be further news at the AGM.

County Sweatshirts will be displayed at the AGM. Order can be placed there or via Jim Rooke.

Catherine Lewis will be holding a 'Teaching to Teach' course in the summer. Venue and date to be announced.

The website had its 100 000<sup>th</sup> hit in January.

Southfleet ringing requests should be made to Peter Joyce (see handbook for details). Ringing should only be attempted by experienced ringers.

Stone-next-Dartford will be holding an Open Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

50 year membership clarification: In the future the 50 year membership certificates will be due for those made members 50 years before the AGM of that year. Non-Resident life membership does not count towards this.

The County Health and Safety Officer advised he has been involved with issues involving a Lewisham District tower which has now been resolved.

## 8. AOB

The Ringing World has sent its thanks for the work of Lewisham District in opening towers for the Ringing World Centenary Open Day.

Andrew Scott is the new tower captain at Biggin Hill.

Rupert Cheeseman thanked everyone for taking part in the District Quarter Peal Week.

The Chelsfield Fair is on 9<sup>th</sup> July. There are plans for general ringing and some quarter peals on the Ambergate Campanile. If you are interested in ringing please contact Bob Pruden.

## 9. Vote of Thanks

Brenda Barton proposed a vote of thanks to Reverend Neal Bunker for conducting the service, to Joanne Heald for playing the organ and to the St John's Erith band for organising the tea.

---

# The British Medical Association has weighed in on the Prime Minister David Cameron's health care proposals.

The **Allergists** voted to scratch it, but the **Dermatologists** advised not to make any rash moves.

The **Gastroenterologists** had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but the **Neurologists** thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

The **Obstetricians** felt they were all labouring under a misconception. **Ophthalmologists** considered the idea short-sighted.

**Pathologists** yelled; "Over my dead body!" while the **Paediatricians** said, "Oh, Grow up!"

The **Psychiatrists** thought the whole idea was madness, while the **Radiologists** could see right through it.

**Surgeons** decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The **ENT** specialists wouldn't hear of it.

The **Internists** thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the **Plastic Surgeons** said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter...."

The **Podiatrists** thought it was a step forward, but the **Urologists** were peed off at the whole idea.

The **Anaesthetists** thought the whole idea was a gas, and the **Cardiologists** didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the **Proctologists** won out, leaving the entire decision up to the loonies in London .