



# 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 2011

## Essex Trophy

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, seven "Ringers of Kent" and three "Kentish Ringers" ventured to St Peter's, St Albans to attempt to ring a faultless plain course of London (No.3) Surprise Royal, this year's test piece for the Essex Trophy – a prospect that proved too daunting for some would-be entrants.

The Kent band this year was almost the same as last year, consisting of 70% Lewisham District, 20% Ashford District and 10% Maidstone District ringers. Peter Valuks was unavailable to ring this year, but Colin Wyld kindly agreed to take his rope.

Three practices were arranged prior to the contest, and some even managed to fit in a quarter peal attempt, as well as stand in for an absent ringer at a competitor's practice.

Kent rang third, with a creditable performance, impressing the graveyard pundits. Alas, the Guildford team took advantage of a late draw, and managed to impress the judges, John and Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth, even more. No team managed to complete the test piece without making a trip, and every team made it through to the end of their test piece.



For the second year running, Kent came a close second; on the positive side, this year we were an even closer second than last year.

Next year, the Essex Trophy will be held somewhere in Sussex, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The Kent band will be organised by the District that wins the Kent 10 Bell Challenge Competition, which will be held somewhere in Kent on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

I have enjoyed organising the band for the last two years, and now appreciate what an achievement it must have been for the Kent band that won the trophy 26 years ago.

Front Row: David Hilling, Liz Barnes, Gwen Rogers,, Peter Swift, Damien Smith

Back Row: Mark Chittenden-Pile, David Macey, Colin Wyld, Ian Mills, Phil Rogers

Ian Mills

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# Chairman's bit...

I hope you all had a good summer, despite the unremarkable weather, and have settled back into your 'normal' routines, whatever they might be!

This Newsletter will probably be first read by attendees of the Annual District Meeting at St Mary's Bexley.

Ironically, in the last month the Rev Paul Spreadbridge has moved from St. Mary's, Bexley to become Rector of St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield where we have welcomed him with a peal and quarter peal following his induction on 8<sup>th</sup> September. We wish Paul all the very best and look forward to getting to know him as he settles in to his new parish.

At the October Annual District Meeting we elect Officers to the various roles within the Lewisham District. Please consider whether you could offer yourself up for consideration for any of the posts. Of course, the jobs require varying amounts of work but it is important that we fill all the posts with willing volunteers and I hope there will be a good level of interest in all the posts.

Next month, in November, we contest the District call change competition and I hope there will be a healthy number of entrants. Please do your best to try to enter a band from your tower.

As I was about to send this contribution to Sue, I was made aware that due to Health & Safety issues arising from pigeons in the tower at Bexley, and the risk of psittacosis, ringing has ceased there. This will be only a temporary setback, we hope, but Bexley have previously, and very sadly, lost a ringer to psittacosis so caution is, of course, required. Consequently it is necessary to find somewhere else to ring on the day of the ADM.

Finally, it may sound premature to be wishing everyone Season's Greetings but the next Quarterly Meeting will be in the New Year so enjoy the Festive Season and your ringing in the meantime!

N.W.



# Editorial



It was really difficult producing this quarter's newsletter mostly due to the beautiful, unseasonably hot day just outside my patio doors! I could really think of better things to do with the weekend mainly involving a good book, glass of wine and a comfortable chair! Still there's always tomorrow or so they promise us .....

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles, news and photos – without you there would be no newsletter. Several of you have been on outings which it is always good to read about. Horton Kirby is hoping to have one in November if all goes to plan. It's a big responsibility for me because as any of you who have been on our outings will know I have been renamed the weather witch. If I organise the day whatever time of year the sun seems to shine. Mmmmm ..... let's see what happens this time!

Well I hope you enjoy this edition but before you start reading can I put in an early plea for the January edition. I will be in Australia for the majority of December as our son is getting married in Sydney on the 17<sup>th</sup> so I won't have a lot of time, jet lag allowing, to put the newsletter together. So please, if you have articles that you could send to me early I would be eternally grateful. News can wait until my return but anything you could send would make by life a lot easier. Now you can read on.....

*SueX*

## Sweetie Quiz answers

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Quality Street     | 2. All Gold      |
| 3. Smarties           | 4. Polo          |
| 5. Treats             | 6. Kit Kat       |
| 7. Dolly Mixtures     | 8. Twirl         |
| 9. Humbug             | 10. Picnic       |
| 11. Fuse              | 12. Wine Gums    |
| 13. Dime Bar          | 14. Skittles     |
| 15. Black Magic       | 16. Mars Bar     |
| 17. Chocolate Buttons | 18. Jelly Babies |
| 19. Marbles           | 20. Wispa        |
| 21. Licorice Allsorts | 22. Roses        |
| 23. Milk Tray         | 24. Matchmakers  |
| 25. Moonlight         |                  |

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# Carol Eastaugh



The Christchurch, Erith band were sorry to have to say farewell at the end of August to Carol Eastaugh. Carol and her husband John have moved to Carhampton, near Minehead, which will take them near to Carol's parents, one of her sisters, one of their sons and two

grandchildren. At her last practice we presented Carol with a mini bellrope light pull which she was especially pleased with as she was leaving hers behind for the new owners of her house.

Carol learnt to ring as a teenager at Cobham, Kent and then like many gave up ringing for other things. Twenty years ago she returned to ringing turning up one Monday night in October 1991 at Christchurch. She remained a loyal member of the band over the years and also regularly supported Crayford and Bexley practices. A few years ago Carol's husband John served as Mayor of Bexley and in his official capacity joined in a mini outing held by the six towers in Bexley which gave us some good coverage in the local press.

We didn't see quite so much of Carol that year as official duties rather took over! We have enjoyed her company over the years and wish them both well in their new life.

Rachel Backhouse



# 120 Club

Draw held at Shoreham on July 9<sup>th</sup>

1 <sup>st</sup>	48	Fran Horton (Beckenham)
1 <sup>st</sup>	18	Andrew Fisher (Eynsford)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	83	Mark Backhouse (CC Erith)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	94	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	95	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	26	Janis Roddy (Sidcup)
4 <sup>th</sup>	49	John Barnes (Chelsfield)
4 <sup>th</sup>	74	Esther Correia (Dartford)

Draw held at Christchurch, Erith on September 19<sup>th</sup>

1st	113	Roger Long (Chislehurst, St Nicholas)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	75	Graeme Jefferson (Dartford)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	62	Kenneth Gristwood (Bromley Common)
4 <sup>th</sup>	53	Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield)

I have sold an amazing 114 shares for this year so thank you to you all.

There are still several cheques that haven't been cashed yet, some from several months ago. If you know you have one of these it would help me considerably if they could be presented to your bank sooner rather than later!

Rachel backhouse



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# County 6 Bell Competition

Following our success in the Lewisham District Striking Competition in March, the Beckenham band embarked on a trip down to Hunton, in Maidstone District, to defend the trophy we won last year.

Unfortunately we were drawn to ring last (the person responsible will not be getting that job again) as we spent most of the afternoon carefully listening to and assessing the other teams (for the more diligent members of the band) or sitting in the church hall, steadily devouring the sandwiches and cakes provided (the other two members of the band, plus a couple of hangers-on). The ringing improved over the course of the day, culminating in St Dunstan's, Canterbury producing a very fine touch of Grandsire Doubles immediately before we were due to ring, so it was with some trepidation that we entered the ground floor ringing room. The bells proved to be near perfect for a striking competition; pleasant sounding but with just enough odd struckness to provide a challenge. We, like Canterbury, were ringing Grandsire Doubles and although our practice piece had its problems we quickly settled into what we felt was a good rhythm and produced a piece of ringing that we were pretty happy with. We left the church and repaired to the village hall for a restorative tea and to await the results.

After a short wait the judge, Graham Haywood from Nottingham, came to make his announcement. He provided a thorough assessment to the ringing in his comments, noting in particular that the bands had split into two distinct groups of three when choosing a speed, one having a peal speed of roughly three hours and the other being about ten minutes quicker. It will surprise nobody who rings with us regularly that Beckenham produced the fastest piece of ringing, with a peal speed of 2h 48m. After the comments the results were given as follows.

Placed	District	Rang	Tower	Faults
1 <sup>st</sup>	Canterbury	5 <sup>th</sup>	St Dunstan's, Canterbury	13
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maidstone	2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Saints, Maidstone	13½
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rochester	4 <sup>th</sup>	Meopham	15½
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lewisham	6 <sup>th</sup>	Beckenham	17½
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tonbridge	1 <sup>st</sup>	Hadlow	33
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ashford	3rd	Frittenden	35½



So we failed to defend the trophy but congratulations should go to St. Dunstan's, Canterbury for a really excellent piece of ringing. Here's hoping the trophy comes back to Lewisham District next year!

Dominic Meredith

.....  
A Yorkshireman's wife dies and the widower decides that her headstone should have the words "She were Thine" engraved on it.

He calls the stone mason, who assures him that the headstone will be ready a few days after the funeral. True to his word the stone mason calls the widower to say that the headstone is ready and would he like to come and have a look.

When the widower gets there he takes one look at the stone to see that it's been engraved "She were Thin".

He explodes - good grief, man, you've left the flamin' "e" out!

The stone mason apologises and assures the poor widower that it will be rectified the following morning. Next day comes and the widower returns to the stone mason - "There you go sir, I've put the "e" on the stone for you".

The widower looks at the stone and then reads out aloud - "E, She were Thin".

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# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

On 25<sup>th</sup> Sept we began the process of saying goodbye to our Ministry team, John and Jackie Peal, with 40 and 20 years service, much of it within the District. Unusual in that they frequently 'dropped into' Saturday practice. Our contribution to services and special occasions was acknowledged publicly and appreciated. They



supported the fund-raising for the rehang and led a very special celebratory service. They were so aware of the bells that if we didn't warn them that we were doing some extra ringing they would arrive 'hot foot' (usually hot wheels) to ensure all was as it should be. They will be much missed. We wish them a happy, relaxed and well-earned retirement.

In other areas, we continue to run a Tuesday morning practice followed by a pub lunch, which while originally aimed at senior ringers, now includes those on shift work, returned uni students, part-time workers and others who can manipulate their time to share with us. We are managing plain courses of PB and Bastow, with some kaleidoscope. We are making tentative steps to other methods. Saturdays sees our learners making steady progress. We have lost some ringers due to work moves but we remain hopeful that we can achieve our aim of 6 bells, six ropes full every Sunday, eventually.

Gabrielle Stook

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

It is with regret that ringing has stopped, for health reasons, here due to losing a two year battle against pigeons. The pigeons have been getting in despite the tower being seen to on at least four occasions, and now we believe there are rodents as well. We are now seeking another firm to do the job and hopefully this time they will be more successful. We will let people know as soon as the tower is safe for ringing.

Margaret Bellinger

## 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*

Ringling continues as usual across the spectrum from rounds and call changes to Surprise Major and Stedman Triples.

During the last month we have welcomed Rev Paul Spreadbridge as our new Rector and our gain is sadly Bexley's loss! We have rung a peal and a quarter peal with 15 different ringers to celebrate Paul's arrival.

We currently have three 'new' ringers although only one is learning from scratch as another is a returning ringer having rung at Chelsfield in the 1960s and 70s and the third initially trained elsewhere but has moved into the area and we welcome them all very warmly. Hopefully we will soon be able to propose them as members of the KCACR.

Visitors on Monday evenings are always very welcome and we ring at 10.30am and 5.45pm on Sundays if anyone is passing by. QPs by arrangement.

N.W.





## **CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)**

*Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00*

## **CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **CRAYFORD**

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

## **CUDHAM**

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

Cudham Bellringers Summer Outing 10 September  
Our great friends Paul and Vanessa Reid, moved to Fairlight last year, so this summer's outing was planned with them in mind. We decided that if we went close to their new home, then they would be able to join us, so this year's tour went from North to South on Romney Marsh. We visited 4 towers, starting at Kingsnorth, followed by Warehorne and Brookland in the morning, followed by lunch in Dymchurch and ending up in Burmarsh.

We had 21 ringers including Paul Reid, 2 from Hever and 1 from Downe, 4 non ringers including Vanessa Reid who is unable to ring at the moment, 3 dogs and a special guest appearance from a convalescent – all of which made for a busy and thoroughly enjoyable day. The sun shone, the lunch was perfect, the towers were not without their challenges and we were watched as we rang at Brookland by a coachload of German tourists. It was also the first tour for some of our beginners and they too had a great day. Everyone had the chance to ring at every tower, although some took the option to sit outside and listen on occasion – a great idea too!

The optional finale was a ride on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway, which was enjoyed by those who went on it, all the dogs went and it was a smashing end to a fabulous day out, riding through the Kent countryside with the smell of the steam engine, looking at Romney Marsh sheep, ducks and herons, all in late summer sunshine. Any takers for next year.... ?



Laurence Bond

## **DARTFORD**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

An odd quarter with bursts of activity followed by very basic stuff. The 4 rope disappeared up the chute one morning

when a learner was ringing and we discovered that the slider and stay had only just been making contact and a bounce had been sufficient to break that contact. Graeme and I raised the slider box so that the stay & slider would work only to find that the stay was cracked. So email to WBF on the Monday, measurements and diagram to them Thursday, stay ready Friday & delivered to me at Shoreham at the District Meeting Saturday. How's that for service!!! We put the new stay back, worked on the 5 rope hole which had to be enlarged and moved further over in the process to prevent the rope rubbing against the beam which is what has caused the rope to fray and break.

Maurice now has the measurements for the new trap door on to the roof so maybe those of you who have not viewed Dartford from above may be lucky in the near future. The treble clapper has had its shoulders shaved, the frame has been inspected and the bolts tightened where necessary, so we have had plenty to occupy ourselves. August was not a very busy month, various people on holiday or other



occupations but the bells have been rung nevertheless. Deryck continues to go to Stone to teach (Thursdays) and ring (Sundays). I have joined him some Sundays and was invited to a social evening to celebrate their Patronal Festival.

September has again seen reduced numbers; Graeme busy working, June caring for her father, Annette in Spain, Brenda off to her Olympic meetings, and Deryck taking a well earned break on a steam train weekend. We are still awaiting permission to clear the old pew fronts from the clock chamber so that we can finish the work up aloft, as nobody other than the ringers is officially allowed up there until the floor is sorted. This is a pity as earlier this month we were approached by 2 ladies from Oz who wanted to go aloft to note the changes in Dartford. One of them had been born in Dartford and been taken up the tower on a primary school visit, no such thing as 'elf and safety' in those days. Sadly we said no can do, 'elf and safety' rules (take that how you like).

Esther Correia

## **DOWNE**

*Practice 1st Monday 20:00*

## **ELTHAM**

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*



## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

This news covers six months as, owing to email problems, the July news was not received.

In April, the Scarth family went up to London for the *Ringling World Centenary Day*. Shirley writes:

'We had a great time. Firstly we had a tour of the Whitechapel Foundry to see how bells are cast which was extremely interesting - well worth another visit. Next we headed to St Saviour's for the Youth Contest and exhibition. Sadly we couldn't visit many towers, but plain hunting at St Botolphs, Aldgate with six unknown ringers was memorable. Sightseeing at Westminster Abbey was next, followed by fun on the mini rings in Dean's Yard. Glad we went and would like to try more towers in the future.'

In July we welcomed Anthony Scarth back, after his first year at Aberystwyth. He has carried on with his ringing and is now starting to tackle Grandsire Doubles inside. Robert Backhouse has now completed his MA at St. Andrew's and is back in London.

In August, most of the band took part in the joint Lewisham/Tonbridge ringing outing to London (in fact we made up most of the Lewisham contingent!). It was a very enjoyable experience ringing at five towers and progressing from 8 to 10 and finally 12 bells. The day started at Bermondsey and then Rotherhithe, Limehouse, Stepney and finally Cornhill.

It was a good experience for us all. Everyone got at least one ring at each tower with ringing tailored appropriately. It also gave us plenty of exercise! As well as walking between some towers, accessing the ringing chambers in many of them meant climbing lots of stairs! It was interesting to have a quick look at the churches - sadly, some of them look somewhat neglected

Our learners continue to progress well - with one now ringing unaided. Two have now started Sunday service ringing. Our regular visitors on practice nights mean we can continue to work on different methods - All Saints is popular.

We have had several weddings this summer but, perhaps because of the recession, some are cancelling the bells.

At the end of August, we said farewell to Carol - Rachel writes elsewhere about this.

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

**Progress Report on the Installation of a peal of six light bells**

During the last three months steady progress has been made with this project.

Generous donations have been received from individuals as well as the KCACR and The Friends of St Giles and there is money in an established Tower Fund to put us in touch with the target cost although additional donations will be very welcome.

A structural engineer has inspected the tower and approved the proposal and currently the grant of the Faculty is awaited.

Because this proposal has progressed quite quickly, we have not yet started training ringers for Farnborough but will be doing that soon and offers of help with this will be appreciated.

We are hopeful that the bells will be in before too much longer and are sufficiently optimistic to perhaps offer to host a Quarterly Meeting next year in 2012!

N.W.

## FARNINGHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday 20.00*

Ringling continues despite the fact that Lesley seems to have been on holiday permanently since the middle of July! We are fortunate to have a very able deputy Tower Captain in Mick who makes sure we still turn up for practice and for Sunday service.

Our two young ringers are regulars on Sundays and are progressing well - partly with the incentive of money to be made ringing for weddings. Unfortunately we have only had three this year (and only two of those wanted bells) and they were not able to ring at either. Still there is always next year .....

Sue Allport





## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## PENGE

*Ringling by arrangement*

## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Thursday 19:30*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

Many towers have Certificates on display, showing the achievements of their band at Striking or Call Change Competitions over the years. Which tower has the oldest on show?

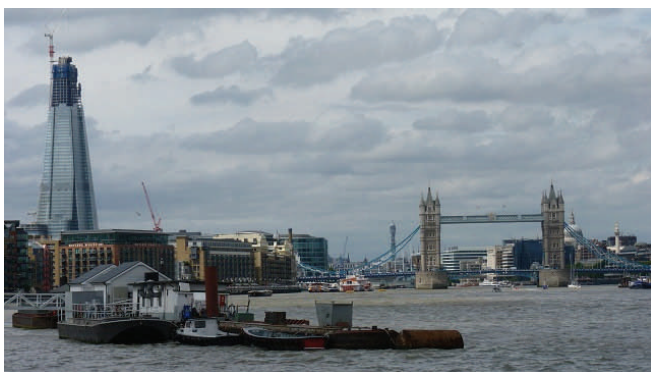
There is one from 14 February 1970 at West Wickham, when the band took second place at that years Striking Competition. It is all handwritten, rather than printed (no computer generated forms then) and it's signed by E A Barnett, Vice President. Anyone got an older one?"

No need to ask which tower has most - I'd guess it would be close between Beckenham & Chelsfield....

Jon Fry

## WILMINGTON

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD The Meridian Ringers



# District Outing

On 13th August, members of the Lewisham and Tonbridge districts met up in London for an outing. Tonbridge had held one the previous year but this was the first time for many years (ever?) that Lewisham had been on one. Throughout the day 30 ringers took part with a fairly even split between the districts.

The day was intended to be done by public transport so Bermondsey underground station was where most people emerged to ring at the nearby tower. The ringing room is compact but there was just enough room for everybody and there was some good ringing to start the day ranging from Rounds and Call Changes to Surprise Major.

Next it was a short walk along Jamaica Road to Rotherhithe. Having worked up an appetite lunch was next on the agenda. There was no set pub but a few suggestions so people headed off in different directions. We walked along the river to The Ship. Unfortunately there was going to be a long wait for food so we had to make do with a drink and watched the boats going up and down the Thames.

Having had trip on the new East London overland line and the DLR, everyone met up again at Limehouse to have a ring on the first 10 of the day. There was then a short walk to the final 10 at Stepney where we rang up to Grandsire Caters and Little Bob Royal.



There were two alternative options for getting to the final tower at Cornhill - bus or tube. People tried both and the bus turned out to be slightly quicker but only by a minute or two. After much debate, it was recently decided to replace the old ring of 12 at Cornhill. The new ring are a vast improvement on the old bells both in sound and the ringing circle. Bearing in mind the lack of experience of our band on 12 bells, we didn't do too bad and even managed a plain course of Stedman Cinques. The day then ended for the hard core in the Cross Keys.

Thanks go to Tim and Catherine for organising the day and to everyone who turned out and made the day such a success.

Rupert

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# Mark Jones

“Respect, gentle and modest” – three words used to describe Mark Jones, chosen by his widow and relayed by the priest during his eulogy at his funeral. And these were just a subset of the many words of admiration and yes, respect, that all those present had for their departed friend, who had passed away after a long battle with cancer on 5<sup>th</sup> July, aged just 36. Mark Alexander Sinnett Jones was born in 1975 to Irene and Stephen, being one of four brothers. They lived in Chislehurst where his mother was a ringer. He was taught to

ring from the age of 10 at the parish church of St Nicholas under the expert guidance of Colin Wyld. His first peal was Plain Bob Triples in May 1990, which was conducted by Colin and is recorded on the wall in the tower.

He went to St Olave’s Grammar School in Bromley where he developed into a talented musician with remarkable expertise in the piano and organ. He won the School Prize for Musicianship and in November 1993 became the first pupil to play for the School’s Annual Commemoration Service at Southwark Cathedral. At the end of his final term at school, the orchestra performed the demanding Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No 3, with Mark as the piano soloist.

He matriculated in 1994 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied Music. He joined the University Guild and rang with them as often as commitments to his musical duties would allow. At Cambridge he met Lucy Weston, herself a ringer and musician of talent, who was a member of Magdalene College choir. Their relationship blossomed and they were married in 2007 at a beautiful service of fine music at Durham Cathedral. They were married by a school friend of Mark’s, Fr Crispin Pailing, who had the sad duty of also presiding over his funeral four years later.

After Cambridge, Mark returned to Chislehurst and resumed his full support for the local band. He taught a number of ringers and he would often arrange quarter peal bands to help them progress on 6 and 8 bells. He was a big supporter of the Lewisham District and served as its first Membership Secretary, creating the database now used by the district to track its members. He also took over the reigns as Master of the District Choir that used to sing for the Carol Service, and

reminiscent of the film “Sister Act”, he managed to work some miracles.

He didn’t neglect his own ringing. Apart from Cambridge, his main 12-bell training ground was Southwark, and Phil and Gwen Rogers and Michael Uphill were key influences in his development. He became a solid and reliable striker and handler of a bell and soon became an essential part of the Southwark team at the time. He took part in its early

ventures into the National 12-Bell Striking Contest and was present in all of the Cathedral Society’s early peals of maximus. He was duly elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1999 and regularly attended their Tuesday evening practices, advancing his skill and repertoire. Like his music, Mark was particular about his peal ringing, and of the 117 peals he rang, 37 were for the College Youths, with 29 for Kent and 27 for the Cambridge University Guild. He rang in many impressive peals on all numbers. On six bells he rang the 41 surprise minor (all the work) and various other peals of spliced minor. On eight bells he rang several peals of 23-spliced, including the compositions by Chandler, Hull and Smith. His finest hour on twelve bells was perhaps a peal of Pipe’s cyclic 7-spliced

maximus (the “Red” series). Indeed, it was after ringing such an advanced peal that he was heard to comment how nice it would be to attempt a peal of (just) Bristol Maximus! Mark clearly didn’t need the stepping stones afforded to most other ringers of this repertoire!

Mark and Lucy moved from Chislehurst to Bromley. When other musical duties allowed (he was frequently engaged to play the organ at one church or another) both Mark and Lucy supported the band at Bromley Parish Church, where Lucy also sang in the choir. A few years later they then moved to Elmers End and they also supported St George’s Beckenham. Their love of real ale would often lead them to CAMRA celebrated pubs such as The Red Lion in Bromley or The Jolly Woodman in Beckenham. They shared a love of fine wine and good food, and delighted in hosting dinner parties for their friends. Photography was another passion of his and he



collected a fine portfolio of images that he had captured. Mark was always in demand as an organ recitalist, and he was booked for performances all over the country. When asked how he ever found time to practise, he replied "I don't. My recitals are my practice." Such was his talent. He worked with the London Ringers' Choir which sang each Advent at Cripplegate, quickly winning the respect of the church's equally discerning Director of Music, Anne Marsden-Thomas. The news that Mark had been diagnosed, shortly after his wedding, with the rare form of cancer known as sarcoma, came as a great shock to many. Typically Mark fought his way through the chemotherapy, the operation to remove the tumour and the subsequent radiotherapy. As unpleasant as this road was, Mark remained an inspiration, and the news that he had been given the all clear was received with universal delight, although recovery from the treatments themselves then took some time. He and Lucy made full use of his renewed health, attending ringing events that in the past had been impossible such as the Cambridge University Guild Dinner, and going away on holiday. He was also able to return to work (he worked at Boosey & Hawkes for several years, but latterly moved to First Title), to the ringing room and to the organ stool.

Alas, this window was all too short. The cancer returned much more quickly, he was diagnosed terminal and four weeks later passed away at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Mark's funeral was held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July in a packed St George's Beckenham. He planned the service himself with a long list of musical items that a large choir, made up of some of his many choral friends, expertly delivered. Unsurprisingly Bach featured no fewer than four times, such was his love for the great composer. Even his bellringing instructions were carried out to the letter ("no odd bell stuff, muffles or crap ringing"). And with great poise and dignity, his widow delivered the reading "Footprints in the sand". This remarkable and moving service was indeed a fitting concert to bid Mark farewell, after which he was afforded the honour of being laid to rest in the ancient churchyard of St Nicholas, Chislehurst.

Mark was simply a nice guy, a modest guy, and a guy with a passionate and accomplished talent on the organ, the piano, as a choir master and even composer; he was an accurate, reliable and technically very competent ringer; loving son, conscientious godfather and devoted husband; a man of standards. He was also a good friend to those who were fortunate to count him amongst their friends.

There is no doubt that as the diapasons swell in the halls of Heaven, the celestial choir had better be on its toes, because they have Mark to deal with now. Yet at last he can rest in peace.

DICKON R LOVE

## Training Report

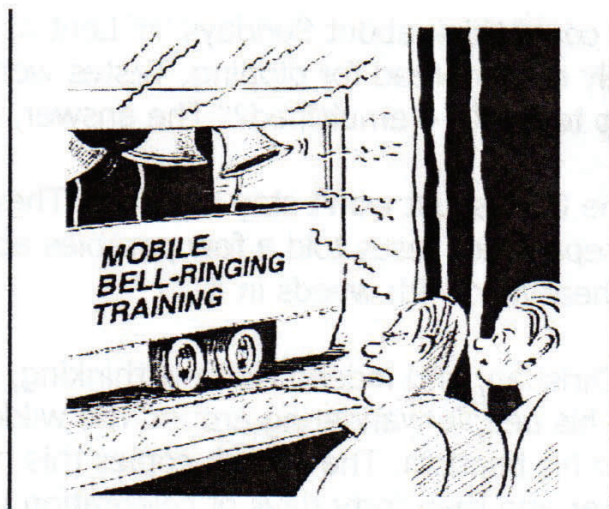
Attendance at training events has been generally disappointing, with a couple of training days being postponed or cancelled due to lack of interest. One event that was well attended was the bellhandling morning, where four students spent the morning improving their ringing skills with the aid of expert tuition and video analysis. I hope to run a similar session this year, provided there is sufficient interest. As far as the general training days go, I hope to run at least two of them, although if there are relatively few people interested then they may be truncated to training mornings. One other idea that I hope to try (given a suitable venue and sufficient helpers) is a ringing up and down in peal morning, where students will have the chance to ring up and down repeatedly on three or four bells and hopefully gain the skills which will allow them to step up to higher numbers.

Dates for training events are still to be arranged – keep an eye on the e-mail lists, newsletter and website for more information.

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

Dominic Meredith

**"I'll never complain about ice-cream van chimes again!"**





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# The Margaret Macey

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.



# Educational Fund

The trustees were overwhelmed by the number of initial donations made in memory of Margaret, and were delighted to be able to award grants to three members of the district this year. Chris and Shelagh from Eltham wrote in the June newsletter about their experiences on the Bob Doubles group at the Hereford Ringing Course in April, and Brenda shares her account of honing her Cambridge Surprise Minor skills on the Bradfield Ringing Course in this issue. We would like to encourage all members of the District to seriously consider whether they would benefit from a bursary from the fund to attend a ringing course.

## What is a Ringing Course and what can I learn on one?

Ringing courses can span one day or several, can be run by a local association/guild or independently by a group of experienced ringers, and can be residential or non-residential. Tutors will lead groups often ranging from bell experience and call changes to Surprise Major and Stedman Caters and everything in between! Practical sessions are interspersed with theory lessons, which might provide a fresh way of looking at a method or have helpful hints and tips. Tutors are supported by an experienced band of helpers, so that you can be confident that everyone else is in the right place when you're ringing. Residential ringing courses will often have additional activities that you can choose to do in the evening too, such as learning to ring up and down in peal, visiting local towers, or additional talks and seminars.

## Which Ringing Courses can I apply for a bursary for?

We will consider applications for grants for more or less any ringing course that you would like to go on in 2012. Some suggestions of residential courses attended by Lewisham District members this year are:

The trustees are now inviting applications for grants for ringing courses in 2012. Applications close on 5th November 2011.

Course Name	Dates for 2012	Groups	Approximate cost (2011 prices)	Applications open	Applications close
Hereford	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Rounds & Call Changes Elementary Change Ringing Plain Hunt on Five Plain Bob Doubles Grandsire Doubles Plain Bob Minor Treble Bob Minor Surprise Minor Stepping up to Triples & Major Stedman Triples & Caters Surprise Major	£240 (includes en-suite accommodation, tuition, and all meals)	End of December (see Christmas issue of The Ringing World)	End of January
Bradfield	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Bell Experience Plain Hunt Plain Bob Doubles Grandsire Doubles Stedman Doubles Plain Bob Minor Surprise Minor Stedman Triples Surprise Major	£185 (includes accommodation with shared facilities, tuition, and all meals except for Friday and Saturday lunch)	N/K	25 <sup>th</sup> April
Essex	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Groups ranging from Rounds & Call Changes to Double Norwich Court Bob Major	Not known. Further details available from the EACR Education Officer ( <a href="mailto:education@eacr.org.uk">education@eacr.org.uk</a> )	End of December	Early February

Further information and a copy of the application form can be obtained from the district website [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk) or by emailing [TheMargaretFund@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:TheMargaretFund@lewishamdistrict.org.uk) If you'd like to informally discuss ringing courses or applications to the fund please speak to either Rhiannon Meredith or David Macey at a District event or contact them via the website.

Rhiannon Meredith

# Bradfield Course

How to improve/consolidate my ringing is the question? Is getting out & about the best answer? Some are fortunate that they have a mentor to show the path forward; some are in towers where they are at the median for that tower, so they progress; some work hard on their computer.

BUT there are other options----the local or distant courses. Thanks are due to Dominic, and helpers, at the local courses which I've found very helpful and can recommend, whatever stage you are at. I've also tried the more distant courses-----This year I attended BRADFIELD Course thanks to a great grant from the **Margaret Macey Educational Fund**. It was to work on my Cambridge Surprise Minor; it's very rare that I get to practise this locally.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself—and learnt.

The mystery of place bells was explained again (some need more of this than others!) We spliced bob minor with the surprise (that was new for me) and progressed to touches so I'm edging closer to a quarter. By the end the more high flying students rang other surprises.

The towers we visited were good and varied with a bit of challenge; the helpers first class (congratulations to them, they had to work very hard). The organisation from beginning to end went smoothly (including my special meals) with some general lectures being extremely well received (the side – splitting laughter echoing down the corridor).

I can highly recommend Bradfield and my tutor Colin Parker. His explanations/explorations at group times were very thorough and expandable. Further help was also available 1 to 1.

I'm just left now with one problem—where/how to get the regular practice for Cambridge? SUGGESTIONS PLEASE!

Thanks Again Margaret I feel your presence!

Brenda Barton



## Dear Milkman..

I've just had a baby, please leave another one.

Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.

Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.

Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole.

Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.

Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.

When you leave my milk knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.

My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?

Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

Please send me details about cheap milk as I am stagnant.

From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.



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# Eltham & Chislehurst's Outing

On the Friday night of the 2nd Sept, Rupert and myself amongst others were chilling out quite late in David Hilling's back garden by the pool, glass of wine or beer in hand following the Eynsford practice and it occurred to me that Ian had decided not to stay for a drink because of the ringing outing the following day with the Chislehurst and Eltham ringers. 'How strange' I thought. 'Surely popping down to Eastbourne for the day doesn't preclude staying out a bit the night before? It's not that far.'

Well now I know why Ian made that decision. It's a lot further than I thought and the Sat Nav did weird things and got cross with me which made me cross with it and we got stuck behind a tanker on the A25 with no overtaking places long enough for our much loved old Yaris to pick up enough speed to get past etc etc. So in rather familiar fashion for Rupert and we ended up getting to the first tower just as people were walking out!! Therefore, having been asked to do the write up, I can't comment on how people found Willingdon... However, it was a very picturesque village and I wouldn't have minded living there.



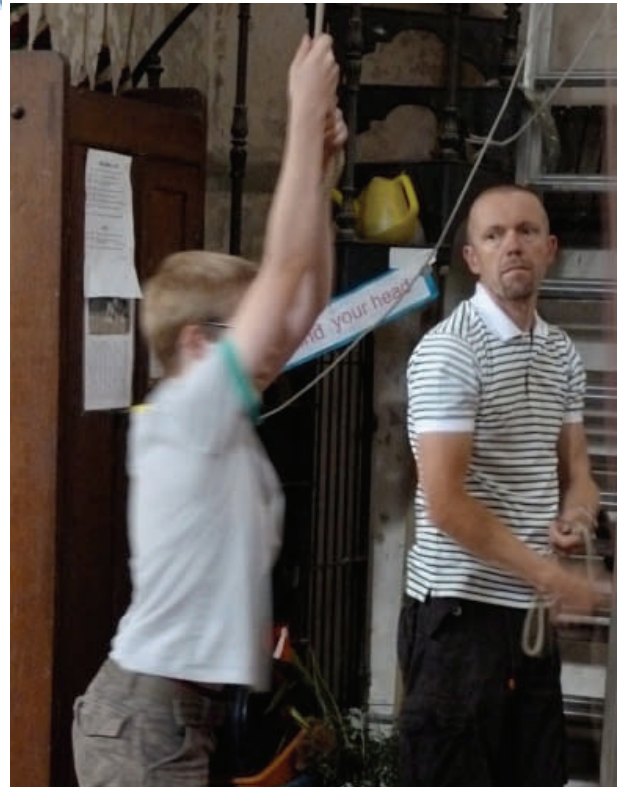
The next tower, All Saints in Eastbourne was interesting in that we realised how spoilt for space we had been at the previous tower! I loved the way the tenor ringer gets his/her own little corner box to ring on. When we pulled off first, it all went a bit haywire for a moment as the sound was unexpected. I talked to one of the local ringers who explained that the sound from the bells has been put through speakers as they could not be heard without them. Certainly I enjoyed listening to them outside and some of us





One of the hardest things in life is getting going again after lunch. The body just wants to sleep! But we had two more towers awaiting us! Christ Church is an 8cwt ring of 8 and they sounded rather nice. We rang Rounds + Call Changes up to Cambridge here and some nice Stedman.

Whilst sitting there listening, it was really good to see the results of Peter's teaching in watching Thomas ring. His style is perfect. It is so nice to see young people especially get taught well as it helps so much later on when ringing methods. I wish everyone had the chance to get as good a teacher as I was privileged to get when learning to ring.



Our last ring of the day was the 6 at Pevensey which is a ground floor ring situated in the transept. There is a rather splendid iron spiral staircase going up the side of the wall which I was itching to climb to get some good photos. We rang some Cambridge Minor amongst other things and these went OK providing they were pushed along a little which was quite hard as even a short person like me was off the sallies at the top when turning the bells in. I also learnt here that my voice was not loud enough when calling as poor Roger thought I had called for plain hunt rather than plain bob resulting in some rather interesting changes- sorry Roger!



Just round the corner from the church in Pevensey is what every belfry needs I think- a pub which serves coffee and SUPERB cake for £3! There was a choice of coffee + walnut, chocolate, lemon, banana and treacle tart. I contemplated asking the lady for a small portion of each but then reflected that might come across as greedy. Flasks of coffee and tea were refreshed regularly and we all had a jolly good chat. Diane and I managed to sneak a bit of Rupert's lemon cake when he was not looking and nearly got away with it. Then Roger offered us a piece of chocolate cake which he could not manage and I manfully resisted Diane's attempts to ruin my diet entirely by waving spoonfuls enticingly in front of my face. I really wish fruit could taste like chocolate. Whoever can crack that one will earn a fortune!



Some people then said goodbye after what had been a really excellent day. A few of us though met up at a pub in Chiddingley on the way home where Angus managed to utterly muller a wooden bench by merely committing the offence of sitting on it. Apart from a bump on the head he was OK I am pleased to say. The arrival of an old Morris Minor in the car park from a bygone age elicited sentimental oohs and aahs from the older generations on the table remembering an age when things were better...

And so a lovely day concluded. Thanks must go to Angus for organising the day and to those who ran the towers which is not always the easiest of jobs. Good food, good company and some bells - what more could you wish for? The ability to get up earlier maybe?

Cathy Cheeseman







# THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



## OF CHANGE RINGERS LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Shoreham on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011

### 1. Minute's Silence

Before the meeting started a two minute's silence was held for Mark Jones.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Rooke (Chelsfield ), Rhiannon Meredith (Beckenham) and Carol Eastaugh, Tom Scarth, Shirley Scarth, Eloise Scarth, Anthony Scarth (Erith CC)

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.  
Proposed: Rupert Cheeseman Seconded: Sue Cameron.

### 4. Election of new members

Lottie Davies (Downe) and Phoebe Bellfield (Biggin Hill) were elected new members.  
Rupert Cheeseman to clarify with Kent Sec. about rules concerning new members and ringing down.

### 5. 120 Club Draw ( a double draw)

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	48	Fran Horton	Beckenham
1 <sup>st</sup>	18	Andrew Fisher	Eynsford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	83	Mark Backhouse	Erith CC
2 <sup>nd</sup>	94	Deryck Jones	Dartford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	95	Deryck Jones	Dartford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	26	Janis Reddy	Sidecup
4 <sup>th</sup>	49	John Barnes	Chelsfield
4 <sup>th</sup>	74	Esther Correia	Dartford

### 6. KCACR Committee meeting report

24/9/11 Teach the teachers course – Catherine Lewis

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New Vice President – The Venerable Philip Down Archdeacon of Ashford

Child Protection Legislation is due in November. Parishes have responsibility to ensure CRB checks are in place. It was suggested that ringing masters should be checked.

Complaints in the Rochester District regarding the new membership criteria brought in at the county AGM. (see under election of new members)

Rule change suggested such that the split of monies to General Fund and BRF are made retrospectively. A rule change will be proposed at the next AGM.

Association Quarter Peal Week Friday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 2012  
8 bell striking competition won by Lewisham district at Chelsfield on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011

Essex Trophy 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 – Ian Mills agreed to find a band. To be held at St Peter's, St Albans. Method: London (No 3) Surprise Royal.

Inter District 6 bell competition 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011 at Hunton, Maidstone District. Lewisham district will be represented by Beckenham.

A question was asked about how to attract more members and help them feel proud of the association – especially younger members.

There was an incident in a tower due to an obstruction on a wall.

Central Council comes to Leeds, Kent in 2014

Next County Meeting 20/8/11

## **7. AOB**

Cathy Cheeseman informed the meeting KCACR Sweatshirts were available from Helen Webb

Dominic Meredith asked about how one makes a rule change. This concerned rules for the 8 Bell competition – they are very thin. It was proposed to adopt some of the 6 Bell rules. Nick Wilkins asked Dominic if he would be prepared to put some rules together and bring them to the October meeting. Rachel Backhouse asked district reps to raise this at the next County meeting in August. Christine Webb suggested 2 mins was not sufficient for a warm up and asked that be included.

Nancy Fisher told the meeting of Biggin hill Tower shut down because of a crack which was found to be not hazardous and ringing resumed. There is an ongoing issue of water leaks. The threat of more masts and radiation hazard is now gone.

District website; Rachel Backhouse gave information that the County website has dates published and a link to the Lewisham district site. Rupert Cheeseman to put Newsletter on and update events

Training days – 6<sup>th</sup> Aug Beckenham 10-4. Day tailored to requests. Helpers and students please contact Dominic Meredith

13 August – a joint outing with Tonbridge to London Towers. Details through Tower contacts.

Stone Bells are in and ringing. Practice is Thursday at 7.30 – doors are locked so be in good time. Contact is the Vicar – Rev Ken Clarke

The Secretary explained the delay in producing handbooks. Due to printing omissions and some pagination errors.

## **8. Vote of Thanks**

Mark Backhouse proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Richard Freeman for conducting the service and the booklet for the order of service and the Shoreham band for the tea.

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## INSTALLING HUSBAND

### A woman writes to the IT Technical support Guy

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and I noticed a distinct slowdown in the overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as NEWS 5.0, MONEY 3.0 and CRICKET 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system..

Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed,

---

DEAR Madam,

First, keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system.

Please enter command: ithoughtyoulovedme.html and try to download Tears 6.2 and do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update.

If that application works as designed, Husband1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewellery 2.0 and Flowers 3.5..

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Silence 2.5 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT under any circumstances install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.)

In addition, please do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly.

You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance.

We recommend: Cooking 3.0 and Hot Looks 7.7.

Good Luck Madam!

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