



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

APRIL 2012

Kent 10 Bell Challenge



L to R front David Hilling, David Macey(C), Alex Britton, Louise Palmer, Peter Swift
L to R back Jeremy Byers, Chris Sheasby, Jim Hardy, Colin Wyld, Ian Mills

The Kent 10 Bell Challenge doesn't happen every year, or even every other year, so when it does, it pays to be prepared. This year, it was on 25th February at St Lawrence-in-Thamet. David Macey did an excellent job of preparing, by selecting the Lewisham District band and ensuring that we'd had sufficient practice, beforehand. Despite David's hard work, we were left guessing what the rules would be, right up to the afternoon of the competition, as they were to be discussed at the General Committee Meeting earlier on the same day.

Following a quarter peal and two further practices at Beckenham, we had one final practice at Wye, which was tinged with sadness, as Colin Wyld's father had passed away, shortly beforehand. Colin kindly agreed to ring despite his grief.

Only three teams entered, but the standard of ringing was high. Our practising paid off, and the test piece, a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Royal was duly completed in style. The judging was ably undertaken by Peter Niblett, who placed the teams as follows:

Position	District	Rang	Faults	
1st	Lewisham	1st	21	3h 7m
2nd	Canterbury	3rd	31	3h 5m
3rd	Ashford	2nd	36	3h 6m

Ian Mills

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Chairman's bit ...

Most of you will be reading this at the Quarterly Meeting at Chelsfield, my home tower, and so a warm welcome to everyone. We seem to have escaped with a relatively mild winter and, indeed, we've had some unusually fine, warm and sunny weather in March. The only people not happy with this will be the gardeners among you as there's been a lack of rain and now a hose pipe ban in the south east.

Since I last prepared a few words for the Newsletter I've been to a couple of District Practices – The Annunciation at Chislehurst and at Eynsford, both on Fridays. Whether the attendance levels have been due to the fact that Friday may be a little more convenient for most people, I don't know, or is it the variety of methods that we are attempting? In any event, it's encouraging but I'm sure the Ringing Master or Deputy will be pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions on how it could be improved even more.

Of course, it's not only Diamond Jubilee year but also Olympic year and I'm sure there will be plenty of ringing to celebrate both events, including the Kent Quarter Peal Week in the summer. One of the methods we are attempting at District Practices is Five Rings Triples and I wonder how many of you have rung it. We've succeeded at Chelsfield both on a special practice night and also on a traditional Chelsfield Monday evening. We haven't yet extended the plain course by putting some bobs in but that will be next!

By the time you read this, Easter will be over and I hope yours was enjoyable. I plan to attend the KCACR AGM and ringing on Easter Monday hosted by the Ashford District (based in Headcorn) and hopefully I will have seen a good number of you there.

At Chelsfield we are continuing to train the ringers for St Giles, Farnborough who are doing very well. Installation works are due to commence on Monday 21st May and we are hoping the bells will be ringable for the Jubilee weekend. Any offers to help will be greatly appreciated and there's more about this project under 'Farnborough' within the Newsletter.

Happy reading!

NW



Editorial



I am finishing off this edition of the Newsletter on a very damp and dreary Easter Monday evening. Typically as soon as a hosepipe ban is announced it rains! We need rather more than this I know to replenish stocks but why does it always have to come on a Bank Holiday! We have been very lucky this winter avoiding all the awful snow of the last one—lets hope the summer will be better than the last too!

The Newsletter this time is a little 'thin'. Obviously not a lot has been happening around the towers.

At Horton Kirby we had our last Bells Dance which was a brilliant evening but apart from that not a lot has been happening. Maybe as the year moves towards summer there will be more to report.

We have the Diamond Jubilee to celebrate in June and then the Olympics in July—I wonder how many of you have managed or even tried to get tickets to any of the events or even the Jubilee concert?

So on to the reading—I hope you find something to interest you in this edition but if not maybe you'd like to submit something for the July copy?

SueX

In the newsletter this time...

Kent 10 Bell Challenge	1
District Officers Email Directory	2
Chairman's' bit	2
Editorial	3
District Striking Competition	4
120 Club Report	5
News from the Towers	
Ash by Wrotham	6
Chelsfield	6
Eltham	6
Erith Christ Church	7
Farnborough	7
Horton Kirby	7
Keston	8
Annual Report of Cinque Ports Ringing Centre	8
David H. Kingston	9
Bell Casting for St Giles Farnborough	10
The old ones are the best	11
Crayford Outing	12
Tribute to Sue Fisher	13
Leave of Absence from Horton Kirby	14
Minutes of the January District Meeting	15



**Crayford
Tower
Outing
Group**

District Striking Competition



L to R Lesley Barclay, Bob Pruden, Philippa Rooke, John Barnes, Nick Wilkins (C), Jim Rooke

A pleasant afternoon greeted the 5 bands who had come to take part in the 2012 striking competition at Shoreham. Chris Giddins from Southwark and Gill Harris from Stepney had agreed to come along and judge and once they were ensconced in the churchyard the competition began. Everyone completed the test piece of 240 changes of a method of their choosing and there was some general ringing while the judges deliberated.

Ian thanked the Shoreham band for providing the tea and biscuits and being excellent hosts. He then introduced the judges. Chris thought that the bells were challenging but that everyone gave it a good go. He then gave the following comments on each band.

Band 1 - Started well with occasional minor faults.

Band 2 – Good consistent leading. First 120 was better than second.

Band 3 - Inconsistent hand stroke leading. Ringing felt a bit nervous.

Band 4 - Started shakily but grew in confidence. Second 120 was better than the first.

Band 5 - Very nervous piece of ringing but well done for a good go.

The results were then given in the time honoured reverse order as follows:

Position	Rang	Tower	Faults
1st	1st	Chelsfield	13
2nd	2nd	Beckenham	18
3rd	4th	Crayford	25
4th	3rd	Eltham & Chislehurst	42
5th	5th	Erith, Christ Church	75

Chelsfield now go forward to represent the district in the County competition at Chalk in September.

Rupert Cheeseman

Lewisham District 120 Report

Income

Shares sold 114	£1140-00
Prizes not taken 2011-12	£55-00
Prizes not taken 2010-11	£30-00

Totals	£1225-00
BRF contribution for 2011-12	£673-59

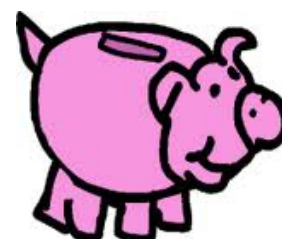
Expenditure

Prizes	£520-00
Bexley Council Fee	£20-00
Expenses (postage etc)	£6-41
Reissue 2010-11 lost cheque	£5-00

£551-41

January draw held at Eltham District Meeting January 14th 2012

1 st	107	Brenda Barton (Dartford)
2 nd	58	Liz Brett (CC Erith)
3 rd	51	Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield)
4 th	37	John Chenery (Horton Kirby)



March draw held Shoreham Striking Competition March 3rd 2012

1 st	118	120 Club
2 nd	91	Doug Fisher (Biggin Hill)
3 rd	44	Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common)
4 th	102	Frances Wallis (c/o CC Erith)



We will start again for 2012-13 at the April meeting at Chelsfield. Please consider joining and help our district contribute to the BRF. This was our best year to date in terms of members, please support us again.

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

Rachel Backhouse



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

We're still busy out here in a distant corner of the District. Numbers for practice on Tuesday and Saturday are picking up and several recent occasions have seen members from other towers present enabling PB. We'll have to progress to bob courses. We have been following some of P. Dale's CPRC ideas on Kaleidoscope, causing much merriment, as we consistently failed to be able to count to three. This is early stages, and we are weeks behind what PD is doing. We had our usual remembrance on St Agatha's day. We managed to ring changes including Queens, for the accession on Feb 6.

We were delighted to share in Dartford's Xmas Dinner, held with its usual gusto in February.

Our latest outing was to the Ideal Home Exhibition and the Science Museum.

Some of us are fortunate enough to be joining Crayford's tower tour.

We have plans to visit some open towers on Easter Monday. Our summer outing will involve two towers and a ringing course at CPRC.

We look forward to ringing for the Jubilee week-end and the Olympics, with two train trips along the way, as well as the church fete.

Gabrielle Stook

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Tuesday 20:00

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

We continue to ring twice on Sundays and have a vibrant practice on Monday evenings when all standards are catered for.

We've been pleased to continue welcoming some Farnborough ringers to the early part of our practice and they can ring bells up and down and have been improving their bell control, ringing call changes and some have rung plain hunt.

As our Monday practice progresses we ring more advanced things such as surprise major (spliced Yorkshire and Cambridge has been achieved) Stedman and Five Rings Triples. Visitors always welcome

Nick Wilkins

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

CUDHAM

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

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

DOWNE

Practice Monday 20:00

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Since the last newsletter we have hosted the District Practice, and we must express our thanks for our new vicar, Rev. James Bryson for the effort he put into making his sermon relevant. Well done also to Pauline, Chris and Marnie for the excellent tea afterwards.

Our AGM has been held and we have committed to ringing for the Olympics and the jubilee this year, and we are very lucky to have the Torch going past our Tower on a Saturday

morning. This will also hopefully kick start another recruitment drive.

We would also like to get more interesting methods under our belt, so look out in future issues for announcements about which methods we'd love to have visiting ringers come and help us with once in a while. For now we're keen to see Stedman make an appearance more often - so if anyone fancies some Stedman practice once week, let us know on ringing@thetrills.net and we will be able to pick a practice to commit to it.

Katherine Trill

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

Practice night on Monday 6th February was different as we decided to mark the day that Princess Elizabeth became Queen in 1952. We also had a birthday to celebrate!

All ringing had a 'royal' theme. Everyone, including both our learners, rang Queens on either 6 or 8 bells. We also rang 'April Day' – the Queen's birthday falls in April.

Handbell ringing provided much amusement. Everyone had a go at ringing either 'God Save the Queen' or 'Happy birthday' on the handbells. However, the real challenge was ringing Plain Hunt Royal on handbells. Rachel, Mark and Robert gave a demonstration of the lapping technique using six bells and then everyone had a go in teams of five on ten bells.

We had a break for refreshments with cakes provided by both Rachel and Shirley - to celebrate both the accession and Eloise's birthday. In passing, it is interesting to note that the majority of those present were born after 1952 and even those of us alive at that time have only very vague memories of the event!

When initial information about the route of the Olympic Torch Relay was released, it looked likely that Christchurch would be on the route. This has now been confirmed – on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd July, the Torch will arrive at Erith yacht club and travel through Erith up to Christchurch and then along Bexley Road and through Bexley borough to Danson Park. We have not yet decided what to do to mark this – however, watch this space!!

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

Teaching of 18 ringers for St Giles is proceeding very well at Chelsfield and a number are ringing plain hunt and looking to progress further. The learners are across the age range spectrum and include an encouraging number of youngsters from age 9 years upwards and families.

Thanks are due to the Rector at Chelsfield, Rev Paul Spreadbridge, for allowing the regular use of the bells and all those that have helped with the teaching.

A provisional start date of Monday, 21st May for the building work necessary for the installation has been pencilled in and, in bell hanging terms, this is not a major job so we are hopeful the bells will be ringable by Friday, 1st June in time for the Jubilee weekend. Indeed, there's a wedding booked for Saturday 2nd June and bells have been requested!

If anyone is interested in the project and wishes to assist at the end of May, please let me know.

I'm aware that the new Dove's Guide is due to be published soon and believe that I've just got sufficient details to the publishers in time, even ahead of the bell installation (the on-line version of Dove will be updated subsequently) for Farnborough to appear. Intriguingly, as the previously existing 9 cwt G&J bell will also be ringable, Farnborough may appear with a footnote that it has seven ringable bells!

I prepared an article for a non ringing audience at St Giles which is produced elsewhere in this Newsletter. Some of the basics about bell casting will be well known to many but I thought that it might provide some interesting content for a number of readers.

NW

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday 20.00

Ringling continues to progress albeit slowly (which suits some of us) but we have, for the time being at least lost our youngsters which is a shame. We still seem to have plenty of ringers on Sunday morning though as we are often joined by Rupert and Cathy Cheeseman.

We had our annual tower clean on Maundy Thursday and are

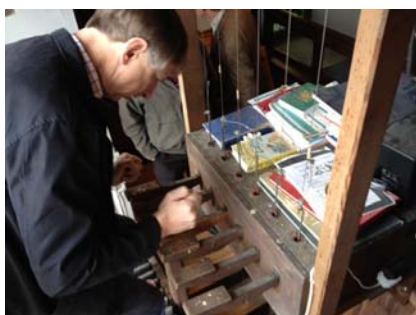
now looking to fit the new bell ropes. We have had a lot of problems with excessive wear on the ropes in the past and we are trying to ensure that we can prevent as much of this as is possible with the new ropes.

We held the last Bells Dance on the 24th March which is sad but you can have too much of a good thing! I for one thoroughly enjoyed myself as anyone who came could testify to! Over the last 6 years we have raised over £4,000 from just having fun. The majority has been spent on augmenting to 8 bells and having the tenor recast but the £600 raised this time is being donated to a different project within the church. During the 2nd World War the stained glass was removed from the west window to protect it from possible bomb damage and this lay in the 'loft' just off the ringing chamber for many years until rediscovered when the bells were restored in 2000. As you can imagine it was not in the best condition and work has now begun on raising money to pay for the restoration of the window – another worthy project which we are all keen to see completed.

Sue Allport

KESTON

John Barnes, Nick Wilkins and Doug Fisher recently visited Keston church where Doug adjusted the wires to the six chiming bells (2cwt tenor).



The photo shows Nick hitting the wooden clavier chime keys.

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

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

Annual Report of the Cinque Ports Ringing Centre 2011



Beginners' practices were held at the Centre on 50 Saturday mornings. 42 students, 28 helpers, and 12 tutors are recorded in the book. Average attendance was between 13 and 14; total attendance was 678, compared with 656 in 2010.

26 towers were represented, 4 more than last year. 6 towers that attended in 2010 didn't participate in 2011, but 7 towers were new to the Centre and 3 towers came back after a year's absence. Training levels ranged from bell handling to Stedman Triples; commonly used teaching "methods" are Mexican Wave, Flying Dutchman, Cloister, and Bastow.

There is now a new band at Deal, but the East Langdon initiative failed due to lack of local commitment. "Insight into Ropesight" was re-run for Bekesbourne and Ash-by-Wrotham, as the course in October 2010 had been over-subscribed. Jean Easley, one of the Centre's tutors, attended an ITTS course in Thanet, run by Peter Dale. She is about to complete Module 1 certification.

The Centre produced a promotional flyer, initially for Heritage Open Days, but copies are now available for recruitment, and for church visitors.

The Centre will participate once again in Heritage Open Days in September 2012..

Weekly learner practices will continue as usual, and afternoon practices on particular topics may be offered on demand. It is intended to attempt quarters on a more regular basis.

Greater involvement would be needed from the Districts to assess if there is demand for more ITTS courses.

Peter Dale

David H Kingston

David Kingston was born on 20th September, 1932. He trained as an actuary, working for a long time at Sun Life's offices in Borough High Street, before becoming freelance in his late 50s.

He learned to ring at Hornsey in Middlesex – a tower with a ring of six bells left orphaned after the church was pulled down. He was Tower Captain there when the bells were finally condemned and taken out of the church, recast and sent elsewhere. He would tell the story about how they were ringing there one evening when the gudgeon of the 4th broke, and that was it, they were never to ring there again.

He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1951 in a belfry election before a peal of Cambridge Major at Holloway. He admittedly had very little to do with the Society in the decades after that, and soon moved to Bishops Stortford. In 1969 he moved to Bromley and joined the local band at the Parish church, the Society of Bromley Youths, who at that time was led by Percy Spice. David became Treasurer in 1976, Deputy Tower Captain in 1979 and then became Captain in 1983, which was a position he held ever since. In that time he has been responsible for training dozens of ringers at Bromley, and when a new ring of bells was put into the Bromley suburban church of Bickley, he was responsible for training the band there too.

Fifty years after joining the College Youths, he rang his second peal for the Society at St Ebbe's, Oxford, and attended his first dinner that year when he took wine with the Master to celebrate his half-century membership. This started his new relationship with the Society, and he would be an occasional visitor to the Society practice when his own band at Bromley Parish Church were not practising. He had great delight in practising Stedman Cinques and went on to attend every ASCY dinner ever since. He was also a regular attender at Beckenham on a Thursday night, and involved himself in the ringing and the social activities there. He was very interested in turning his actuarial mind to the mathematics behind change ringing, and he even went as far as producing a peal proving program that he wrote himself in Microsoft Excel. Aside from ringing, David was very active in Bromley Parish Church and was a member of the "Men's Group" that would



immerse themselves in all sorts of activities connected with the church and outside. He loved rambling, and would often be out on long walks with various walking clubs. He felt frustration when many footpaths were closed through the foot and mouth disease. He was a remarkably fit man, and he only returned a few months ago from a demanding cycling holiday in Vietnam (at the age of 79!). He was also a talented musician, an accomplished pianist and was treasurer of the Ripley Recital Club.

David's last peal was in 2007: Bristol Major conducted by Phil Rogers, at Bromley Parish Church. A few years after that he decided that he would retire from peal ringing, until I suggested that we ring an ASCY peal made up of local members past and present to mark his 60th year of membership last October. He was very

keen on the idea, even suggesting a practice peal earlier in the year just to make sure that he would be ok for it! Alas he was gone before it was attempted. However he did get to see a framed photo recently mounted on the wall of Bromley ringing room wall, of him being congratulated on his 60th year ASCY membership by the Master, Phil Goodyer.

David was fit as a fiddle, and enjoyed his Christmas Day and Boxing Day ringing. However a few days later he suddenly collapsed and was diagnosed with a torn aorta. He had two operations and his body went into shock. All the doctors could do was put him into an induced coma and rely on the fact that he was such a fit and active man to allow his body to heal itself, and everyone seriously believed it could. But it was a coma he wasn't to wake up from and he passed away on 7th January. His funeral at Beckenham Crematorium was a very busy affair and attended by many people from all the groups with which he associated himself.

David's passing has come as an awful shock to those of us who rang with him in Bromley and Beckenham and he has left a huge hole in the leadership at the Parish. He was a true gentleman in every respect and loved by everyone who knew him, young and old. He will be sorely and bitterly missed, and our thoughts go to his wife, Joan, and his two daughters, Julia and Hilary.

DICKON LOVE

Bell Casting for St Giles, Farnborough



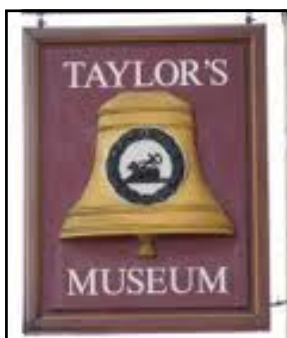
Thursday 16th February 2012 saw a group of about 30 people from the Orpington area travel to the Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough to witness the casting of a new bell to complete the new peal of bells shortly to be installed

in the tower at St Giles, Farnborough.

Some of these people, including an encouraging number of youngsters, are learning to ring on the bells at St Martin's Chelsfield while others that descended on Loughborough are members of the St Giles congregation. In addition, some Chelsfield ringers and friends also attended. The casting date had been deliberately agreed with the foundry to coincide with half term week so that school-aged children, who make up a good percentage of the learners, could attend.

The bell foundry is a working factory and so there were strict rules to adhere to such as no open-toed shoes and a list of attendees had to be given in to Mary Barrass of Taylor's on arrival. Mary is an experienced ringer and has rung on almost all the peals of bells worldwide – close to 6,000 – so we were in good hands!

It was lunch time when we all checked in at the foundry entrance which houses the foundry shop and forms the meeting point for the museum tour. We were fortunate to learn that our afternoon was Rev who has a long with Taylor's and is responsible for a Margate. David has tower at St Giles and been very helpful with advice and encouragement in getting the St Giles bell project running. He has extensive experience with bell installation works, particularly with light bells and has been a Diocesan Advisor and is an Honorary Life Member of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers. In fact, David is so keen on all things associated with bells that he undertook to act as our guide during a period of leave from his Kent parish!



which houses the foundry shop and forms the meeting point for the museum tour. We were fortunate to learn that our afternoon was Rev who has a long with Taylor's and is responsible for a Margate. David has tower at St Giles and

While the furnace was heating up the bell metal for our bell, we had the benefit of David's knowledge and he showed us a



range of bells in the Taylor's museum from different eras and we could see how, over the centuries, the bells have changed in shape and sound. More modern bells are tuned in a highly sophisticated way compared to their predecessors that were frequently cast in a

field adjoining the church and then roughly tuned by having chunks chipped off them with a hammer and chisel!

After spending some time in the museum we then went on a tour of the foundry where we saw various bells some of which were awaiting installation or looking for a new home after being removed from a tower as part of a bell project. One such example was the old tenor bell from St Michael's, Cornhill which became redundant when a new peal of 12 bells was installed in 2011. The old tenor - the heaviest bell - weighed in at a massive 2 tons and 2 hundredweights!



We then moved on to the tuning workshop where we saw and heard our five bells which have already been cast and are awaiting

the final bell of the ring of six being cast that afternoon.

Also there was the 9cwt bell removed from the tower of St Giles on, 2nd January, and taken for a service at Taylor's before being returned with the new peal of six bells.



The old ones are the best ...

It was explained to us that to cast a bell there is an inner and outer mould and molten bell metal is poured in the gap and that any inscriptions have to be produced back to front so that they read correctly on the finished bell. The inscription has to be type set very carefully as misprints aren't easy to rectify!

We were shown an example of an historic error 'LOVE DOG' ! We hoped the inscription for our bell was double checked so no such error arises!



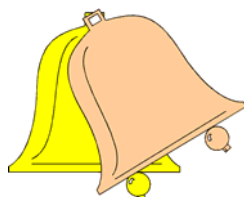
For most, the highlight of the trip was still to come. We were informed that the bell metal in the furnace was up to the required temperature and ready for pouring into the mould. We were directed to a viewing gallery where we could see the last minute checks to the liquid bell metal and then the overhead gantry transported the container across the foundry to the pit where our bell mould was waiting. The metal was poured and then stirred to ensure that any air bubbles are removed as these could give rise to a flaw in the casting.

Once all the hot work was finished we were allowed down on to the foundry floor to see the mould at close quarters. It needs several days to cool down before the mould can be removed and the bell can then be tuned the following week.

After this we returned to the foundry shop and made a few purchases before going on our way.

To round the day off, the ringers among us drove to Clifton, a southern suburb of Nottingham, to ring on the three peals of bells there; one ring of six bells and two rings of eight. Two of these are light and not dissimilar to those going in at St Giles and interestingly these two rings of bells were at churches in Farnborough Road! Once ringers had adjusted to the lighter bells they acquitted themselves very well and the younger and smaller ringers were particularly able to shine as the bells were not physically demanding.

After that we all went on our separate ways tired but very happy with the day's events and eagerly awaiting the installation of our new ring of bells.



Nick Wilkins

Two Aerials meet on a roof - fall in love - get married

The ceremony was rubbish but the Reception was Brilliant.

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

Two blondes walk into a building.....you'd think at least one of them would have seen it.

Ireland's worst air disaster occurred early this morning when a small two-seater Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery.

Irish search and rescue workers have recovered 1826 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy.

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen; it said 'Parking Fine.'



"Oh, I do like to be beside the Seaside tours"

(title courtesy of Rupert Cheeseman)

Or

The Crayford Outing 2012



The long awaited Crayford outing for 2012 was finally announced; this time it was to be in Kent, in the Deal area.

As it was a comparatively long drive, an early start was the order of the day, however we arrived at the first tower Holy Cross, Goodenstone, at a very reasonable 10.00am. This was a very nice 6 bell ring, and we eased in gently with rounds and call changes.

Tower 2, St Mary the Virgin, Wingham, a lovely 8-bell tower, had an upstairs

ringing chamber with balcony. Several of us (while waiting for our next turn to ring) took the opportunity to purchase some delicious preserves on sale downstairs at £2 per jar. A bargain! Later, whilst looking at the view of the church over the balcony, we spotted a familiar figure - Len Dumper, ex-Chislehurst ringer, who now lives around the corner. He'd popped in to have a go and meet old friends. Nice to catch up with him!



Swiftly on to Tower 3, St Leonard, Deal. This had an interesting and unusual spiral staircase to ascend before ringing in the first floor chamber. Not to everyone's taste but very pretty. Some of their ringers had been very talented in the craft department, as beside each bell was a small homemade mat complete with bell number in Roman numerals, and a picture of a mouse (one holding a Sallie.)

At last it was time for a well-deserved lunch! Amazing how ringing all morning made us all so hungry! The Bowling Green pub was well able to provide for all our tastes with a lovely lunch followed by a totally unnecessary dessert – whose idea was that? It was so nice that we overran the (should have been) ample 2 hour lunch allowance and were consequently late arriving at Tower 4, St Mary, Walmer, near Walmer Castle. The bells here were quite heavy and by far the most difficult of the day – one of our party commented that it was not the tower to ring a quarter in – let alone a peal!



As a result we were quite happy to move on to Tower 5, St Nicholas, Ringmould, which was a ground floor ring of 6. The bells were generally agreed to be 'flighty' and due to a long draft and a chamber between the ringing room and the belfry where the ropes were housed in tubes, it was really noisy and very difficult to hear what was going on from inside. Outside in the churchyard there were some very old and interesting Yew trees; one was hollow and big enough for someone to stand inside! After ringing in this most difficult tower, we felt the need for some liquid refreshment and



headed off to the local pub for a well-earned pint.

So a good time was had by all and Rupert had even managed to find two towers he hadn't visited before! Thanks Rupert for arranging a great day out.

Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman

Tribute to Sue Fisher

The words I am reading are at tribute to Sue but they are also her words which were written before she became too poorly and went into hospital. I can see through the words, as hopefully you can, that Sue was a lady who looked to the future and was a person who planned.

Sue's childhood was dogged by illness and misdiagnosis which had a lasting effect through her life. She grew up in Hayes and went to Hayes Primary School and Langley Park Girls. She did well at modern languages and obtained a place at Goldsmith College. After two terms came the diagnosis of a kidney condition and dropped out of University feeling she wanted a fresh start.

Sue joined Customs & Excise in 1984, both at Orpington and then seven years at Croydon Excise on promotion, followed by work in personnel and with VAT. Having worked with C&E for 13 years she was held back for promotion partly due to health problems but eventually became an Executive Officer in 1999 and then in 2003 further promotion to Higher Executive Officer and her dream job of Training Officer which she loved. This gave her a tremendous boost but was devastated when her training job was discontinued because of a reorganisation.

Sue then became involved in the life of St Mary's, Hayes and learnt to ring there becoming Tower Secretary and later Tower Captain for over 20 years. Later, back pain made it hard to carry on but St Mary's was like a family to her. Sue was confirmed in 1986, served on the PCC and was Sideman for several years at the church. Sue became involved in Church panto and performed in a trilogy of murder mystery plays where the audience guessed the murderer to raise money for Demelza House.

Sue had a life-long love of music, learnt the piano as a child and in her 40's attended singing workshops at Missenden Abbey and St James' Spanish Place with Elizabeth Nash and Gerald Pieti. Sue also ran the St Mary's handbell ringers for many years and initiated some of the team in reading music. In later years participation gave way to listening to music for relaxation. The bell ringing led to many close friendships with ringers throughout the country, mainly through The Ladies Guild of Change Ringers who she joined in 1986. She also became the Independent Examiner of Accounts for the Guild in 2008, a role she remained proud of and honoured to take on.

From St Mary's Sue went to the church of St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield. Sue already knew Jim and Philippa Rooke and was greatly moved by the warm welcome and also the support of the ringers during her illness and stay in hospital. In Sue's words "I was particularly chuffed to be included in the Striking Competition Band and overjoyed to be in the

team that won the county striking competition in 2008".

The Ladies Guild holidays were a great source of enjoyment and resulted in strong friendships with Mary Sterry who gave unwavering support through troubled times and with Carolyn Dawson who also proved a tower of strength. We packed each other's parachutes – they would know what Sue meant but there were also many other friendships including Betty Baines, Marie Carson, Helen Webb who Sue would like remembered. Sue writes "I am sorry if I have left anyone out. The Ladies Guild have been my lifeline!"

I tried to pray whilst in hospital and was comforted by the people at St Mary's, Hayes, St Martin's, Chelsfield and St Mary's, Bexley and was particularly touched by a visit by the vicar of St Mary's, Bexley at the request of a good friend, Mary Andrews and also by the Footprints in the Sand poem that was sent to me from St Mary's, Hayes.

Sue had a lifelong love of animals and had pets from childhood, Buster the cat, Winnie and Rufus the guinea pigs, Holly and Clover the retrievers who were a great source of joy and laughter. Then there was Charlie the rescued tabby cat who to Sue's amusement was found one day in a small basket that was used to serve bread rolls. He loved being danced around the room to Buddy Holly and Glen Miller but loved piano concerts too. For a small cat he had a big personality and strong opinions. She loved to visit the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge and was delighted there to have a swan feed from her hand. Sue writes she would like to have a bench there in her memory as she used to imagine herself there to help her sleep.

Sue writes "Please find my list of hymns and music for my funeral. The hymns I have chosen are uplifting and a source of joy to me. Above all I don't want dirges. The people at Chelsfield are brilliant! I'd like my thanks expressed to them during the service.

God bless you all."



This was read at Sue's funeral, submitted to the Newsletter by Lesley Barclay.

Leave of Absence from Horton Kirby

Escaping the English winter each year has its draw backs in regard to my aspiration for improving as a ringer. However, this year I was able to combine an amazing adventure of hiking, cycling and sailing with grabbing a few towers 'down under'.

Last year ticked off Auckland – right by the sky tower, but this year I just happened to be in the right place at the right time for Hobart, Wellington, Dunedin and Christchurch (Papanui). These are my recollections.

St. David's Cathedral, Hobart, TAS

A lovely peal of 10 bells (12 bells tuned to a set of 10 plus two semi tones) 1096Kg. We rang on 6 bells as the peak 'summer holiday' season meant we only had 7 ringers present. However, with an experienced band we were able to ring some decent methods (towers 'down under' seem averse to ringing call changes and plain hunt). We enjoyed socialising afterwards and this led to an invitation for some 'guided' walking on Mount Wellington later that week.

There are also bells at the Greek Orthodox Church in Hobart but it seems these are rung at agreed times only.

Wellington Cathedral of St Pauls, NZ

Lovingly known by the locals as the pink elephant. Another lovely peal of 14 bells with names and weights proudly displayed in the ringing chamber for all the visitors they receive after Sunday services. 1400Kg. I usually find cathedral ringing a bit overwhelming. However, it was a surprise and a luxury to arrive in the ringing room by express lift. Largely I trebled to triples methods and at my request we rang plain hunt and call changes on 10 bells. Once again I felt I had not let the 'up over' side down.



First Church of Otago, Dunedin, NZ

This is the only Presbyterian Church with bells outside of Britain. A nice light peal of 8 bells for change ringing (12 for clavier tunes). 6-3-26.

Very few people attended practice, including the person I had corresponded with, and clearly I was not expected. The band were focusing on learning Bob minor. It would have been nice to have rung a decent touch of Bob doubles or Grandsire doubles but it was practice night after all.

St. Pauls, Papanui, Christchurch, NZ

8 bells 6-0-26. My thanks to Robbie Richards for allowing me to join the band for Service ringing and making me feel very welcome. The wooden tower lays claim to being the 'wobbliest' in the world – though this may be before it was strengthened with a steel frame. It was sad that on the same day we heard the news that Christchurch Cathedral would not be rebuilt.



Well that leaves 2 towers in NZ (Hamilton and Old St. Pauls) as a good reason for me to return one day. As if I need a reason.....

Karen Robinson



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Eltham on 14th January 2012

Two minutes silence was held to remember Sue Fisher and David Kingston.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Tom, Shirley, Anthony and Eloise Scarth (Christchurch, Erith) Karen Robinson (Horton Kirby) Deryck Jones (Dartford) Rhiannon Meredith (Beckenham)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

Proposed: David Macey Seconded: Dominic Meredith.

3. Matters Arising

Work has been done at Lewisham Tower with help from a number of ringers at a taster session. (DM)

A band will be organised by the ringing master to compete in Essex Trophy (IM)

4. Election of new members

Jonathan Slack of Stepney – ratified

Stephen John Bailey of Greenwich. Prop: Graham Long. Sec: Alan Munden

Jenna Louise Birley of Greenwich. Prop: Graham Long Sec: Chris goldsmith

Dennis John Golding of Crayford. Prop: Rupert Cheeseman Sec: Cathy Cheeseman

Gerald Pigott of Crayford. Prop: Cathy Cheeseman Sec: Rupert Cheeseman

Colin Alton of Dartford. Prop: Brenda Barton Sec: Esther Correia

Anette Cutts of Dartford. Prop: Esther Correia Sec: Brenda Barton

John Bonney of Bexley. Prop: Sue Cameron Sec: Ian Mills

All elected unanimously..

5. 120 Club Draw

	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	107	Brenda Barton	Dartford
2 nd	58	Elizabeth Brett	CC Erith
3 rd	51	Philippa Rook	Chelsfield
4 th	37	John Chenery	Horton Kirby

6. KCACR Committee Report (SC)

Any changes to the rules for 6,8 &10 bell competitions will have to be discussed at AGM. Old rules used until then.

Ringling for England –23rd April. Coordinated nationally– suggestions to Sue Cameron.

Officers for the County:

Chair, Treasurer and Handbook Editor will not be seeking re-election. In addition, The Secretary will serve only one more year – this to provide continuity.

7. AOB

Training (DM) Days will be moved around – not all at Beckenham. Contact Dom with requests.

There are District practices every month (DM) some on Fri evenings, some on Sat mornings and others on Sat evenings.

Report from Ringing Master in newsletter P9 (IM). Ring the music – Five Rings Triples. Olympic Torch will be coming through the district on Sun 22 July.

All the bells Project – 8am on Friday July 27th.

Events are all on the website (RC)

6 Bell Striking Competition – Shoreham on 3 March

Subs to Rachel - £10 and £5 concessions. New category – Full time Education -£5

8. Vote of Thanks

Sue Cameron proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. James Fryson for conducting the service and James Graham for playing the organ. The Eltham band were thanked for the tea.

Meeting closed at 6.45

Next meeting at Chelsfield on Saturday 14th April

Quarter Peals rung in memory of David H Kingston.

Beckenham , Kent
Sunday January 8th 2012
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Elizabeth Duffy |
| 2 | Lucy A Jones |
| 3 | Dominic D Meredith |
| 4 | Nigel Pointer |
| 5 | Alexander J Britton |
| 6 | Jeremy R Byers |
| 7 | Dickon R Love |
| 8 | James J Hardy |

Rung before evensong in fond memory of David H Kingston
Who died yesterday, 7th January 2012.

Bromley, Kent (SS Peter & Paul)
Friday February 3rd 2012
1260 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Helen J Valuks |
| 2 | Rosemary K Tuhey |
| 3 | Christine M Webb |
| 4 | David P Macey(C) |
| 5 | Louise C Palmer |
| 6 | David S Brown |
| 7 | James J Hardy |
| 8 | Dickon R Love |

Rung prior to the funeral service of David H Kingston,
42 years a ringer at this church and 28 years Tower
Captain.