



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

JULY 2017

Lewisham Strike The Right Note

County Eight Bell Striking Competition - the inside story....

I'm delighted to report that a band representing the Lewisham District won the County Eight Bell Striking Competition on Saturday, 24th June. The competition piece was a plain course of Yorkshire. Some of you might have seen details and photographs on the KCACR website so I won't repeat these here but this doesn't tell the whole story!

In recent years the competition has been held on the first Saturday in July but it was decided to bring the competition forward a week to avoid the National Youth Striking Competition although, unfortunately and unwisely in my view, the new date clashed with the National 12 Bell Striking Competition at nearby Southwark Cathedral! This not only made it difficult getting a judge but depleted the number of ringers in the Lewisham District that were available as many were either competing in or going to listen to the 12 Bell Competition at Southwark. Due to our proximity to London, I think this disproportionately impacted on our District.



As District Ringing Master it was my responsibility to not only find a judge (Tom Lawrence) and get a band together but also to sort out a tower. Even that wasn't straightforward. I originally approached St John's, Erith but was advised that although at any other time they would be very happy to welcome us, 24th June was St John the Baptist Day and there were things going on in the church that meant we couldn't ring there. I therefore approached Shoreham (boasting a different dedication!) via Philippa who helps with the ringing there as I thought those bells would be a good test for a County Competition. Holding the competition at Shoreham was cleared with the potential problem that the only sink/catering facility is in the tower and clearly would be inaccessible during a ringing competition. Arrangements were therefore made with the nearby pub to provide breakfasts and refreshments throughout the morning and this worked very well. I think ringers from other parts of Kent were pleasantly surprised at this rural corner of the Lewisham

District and on the day everything went fairly smoothly albeit lawn mowing had to be stopped as the judge wouldn't have been able to hear the bells and the organ and choir practice in the church were thankfully inaudible in the ringing chamber!

Our winning band featured, on my calculation, four new ringers to the competition so they currently boast a 100% success rate - quite an achievement and it will make selection for next year's competition very interesting!

As a result of our win, I've just got the trophy engraved and it's interesting looking at the previous winners since the inaugural competition in 1985. Over the 33 years the winning totals by the various Districts are:- Ashford 3, Canterbury 6, Lewisham 15, Rochester 2 and Tonbridge 7. Much to my surprise it appears Maidstone District haven't had a win - but it's their turn in rotation to host the competition next year, so we'll have to be on top form to be competitive!

Many thanks to everyone at Shoreham for hosting the competition and particularly to Philippa who made many of the arrangements.



Nick Wilkins

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Bromley Common Outing

On Saturday 20th May, 22 bellringers from St Luke, Bromley Common and St Mary's, Addington held a late Spring outing to towers on the Kent/Sussex border. We rang at Brenchley (8 bells), Kilndown (6) and Hawkhurst (8) in the morning and Wadhurst (8) and Frant (6) in the afternoon.

On arrival at the delightful village of Brenchley, ringers took advantage of a coffee at The Bull just along from the church. On entering the church, the first challenge of the day presented itself: steep wooden steps to the ringing room, not unlike those found on a barque. Once these were overcome the time allocated for ringing allowed for everyone of our large group to enjoy ringing the bells.



Between Brenchley and the next tower, a torrential downpour occurred making driving difficult. This turned out to be a local downpour as there was no sign of rain on arrival at Kilndown. We had been told in advance that access to this tower was via a vertical ladder. However, nothing could have prepared us for the challenge that lay ahead. The ladder was of steel construction and moved slightly as one ascended. It is fair to say that with the issue of the ladder and a small ringing room, a number of our band decided to stay on terra firma. However, those that made it upstairs found the bells were pleasant to ring.

Hawkhurst has a heavy ring of bells: characteristic for the area. Access to the large ringing room is via a long spiral staircase. The tenor bell weighing just over 23cwt required the combined effort of two ringers to raise. The local tower captain stayed during our slot to advise on the idiosyncrasies of some of the bells. Her presence enabled us to ring Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Triples.

Lunch at The Greyhound, Wadhurst went smoothly as menu options had been notified in advance. Essential with such a large number to ensure arrival at the next tower goes as planned.

Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time. There have been a number of interesting things going on.

This will probably be the last district meeting that Mark and Rachel will be at before their move west. They are long term stalwarts of the district and will be greatly missed by the many towers that they have helped over the years. I wish them well for the future.

It does mean that we will need someone to take over the running of the 120 club, which for the first time has sold all 120 shares this year. This is our district's main contribution to the BRF.

Rupert

After lunch it was a short walk to our next tower in the village of Wadhurst. This was our first ground floor ring of the day allowing the group to watch ringing taking place through glass panelled windows. The more experienced ringers rang Little Bob Major and Plain Bob Major. The obligatory outing photo was taken at this church as some of the ringers were not able to stay on for the last tower.

A short drive took us to the final tower of the day in Frant where we rang the relatively light six. As the ringers of Bromley Common and Addington tend to be more used to ringing six bell methods a much wider repertoire of methods could be rung, including Cambridge Minor.

The number of ringers on this outing was much higher than normally come along but everyone managed to have a go on the bells chosen for the day.

Chris Lawrance



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120 club

Thanks to your generosity all 120 shares in the club have been sold for this year.

As I'm sure you will have heard by now Mark and I are in the process of moving away from the area so I need someone else to come forward to take over the running of the 120 club which is the main fundraiser for the BFR from the Lewisham District. Please get in touch if this is something that you could consider.

Many thanks,
Rachel Backhouse



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH

Practice Tuesday 11.00am & Saturday 9.00am
Sunday 10am

It is 300 years since three of the bells at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Ash near Sevenoaks were cast in a nearby field and hung in the tower. A Birthday Celebration took place on June 24th and June 25th in the Church in conjunction with a Flower Festival and Choral Concert all with "bells" as a theme.



On Saturday morning Ash Change Ringers hosted visiting ringers from local Church Towers and the Lewisham District. Escorted trips to the Bell Room and top of the Church Tower were a popular attraction in the afternoon.

Notable visitors were Mr John Gladdish and family, descendants of a Church Warden of the same name who paid for the number four bell in 1717. Choirs from New Ash Green Junior School and Ash Church with The



London Octave Choir and Les Arthuriens Choir from Brittany performed an evening concert combined with readings, poetry, recorder music and guitar. A stirring



performance of Purcell's Bell Anthem rounded off the evening.

Ian Paddy

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45
Sunday 9.20am

It's been another busy few months at Crayford and we continue to be grateful to our regular visitors for continuing to support us. Two of them scored quarter firsts - Brian of Reverse Canterbury and Neville his first inside of Plain Bob.

We continue to try different variations, I don't mind being the latest with Up to you and Wherever you want still to come. Unfortunately, we lost an attempt of Julie McDonnell New Bob Triples to celebrate her 50th birthday just after half way. We'll be having another go though.

Rupert Cheeseman

Sunday, 9 April 2017

1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles in 42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Debra Say
3. Brian Ashmore
4. Sue Cameron
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung before the Palm Sunday confirmation service and with 18th birthday wishes to Charlie Yates, godson of Sue.

1st in method; 3.

Saturday, 20 May 2017

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 43mins

1. Shelagh Norman
2. Debra Say
3. Neville Wilding
4. David Holdridge
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung prior to the wedding of Gordon and Kerri-Anne Rollo.

Completes a quarter on every date of the year; 5. 1st inside; 3.

Tuesday, 30 May 2017
1260 I Don't Mind Doubles in 42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Debra Say
3. Thomas Wilding
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Neville Wilding

For every tower that has a ringer who says "I don't mind" when asked what to ring. :)
1st in variation for all.

Thursday, 15 June 2017
1300 Doubles (4m) in 43mins

1. Neville Wilding
2. Brenda Barton
3. Debra Say
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Shelagh Norman

Rung before the 8pm service to celebrate 50 years since the ordination of Fr Joe Hogarth.

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am

We are continuing to ring under Natalie's captainship. Preparing for Mark and Rachel's move, some of us are having a turn of calling changes, stopping and starting methods and even calling bobs and singles. Quite a challenge!

In April we rang to remember Private William Barton-Young (London Scottish). He was a Christ Church, Erith ringer and much respected librarian who died in the Great War in France on 10th April 1917. A bronze plaque to him was set up in the original Erith Library in Walnut Tree Road and his name is recorded on the war memorial at Christ Church. We rang April day Doubles to commemorate his sacrifice on the centenary of his death.

Shirley Scarth

EYNSFORD (St Martin)

Practice Wednesday 19:30 (alt with Farningham)
Sunday 9.00am

Sunday 18th June 2017

The following was written by Jan Wilkes of the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society.

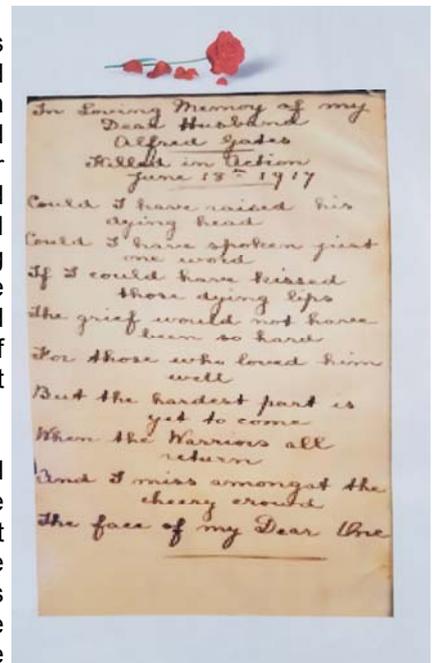
The bells of St Martin's pealed on Sunday for Private Alfred Gates on the suggestion of The Steward of the Rolls. The Central Rolls of Honour commemorate those



bell ringers who fell in the Great War 1914-18 and the Second World War 1939-1945. The Central Council commissioned a handwritten Memorial Book for each war. These books can be viewed in a display case on the way to the ringing chamber at St Paul's Cathedral. On Sunday the current Steward, Alan Regin, brought this book for us to see and together with a small display put together by Barbara Cannell and myself the book lay open so we could see the entry for Alfred. He lived in Eynsford with his family from 1909 to 1917 when he was killed at Messines on 18th June 1917. I would like to thank every one involved with making this special afternoon possible, especially the bell ringers who rang a full peal, the bells rang out for over two and half hours.

Two of Alfred's grandchildren and great grandchildren were there and together with other people who had come along I noticed lots of reminiscing and laughter. None of us had met Alfred Gates, but some of us may now feel that we know him.

Life in Eynsford during Alfred's time was a little different and attached are some photographs that show the village as he would have seen it. The full display is in the church and will remain there for two weeks.



Kent County Association
Eynsford, Kent
St Martin
Sunday, 18 June 2017 in 2h 51 (9–2–13 in F#)
5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Composed by C. Middleton

1. Peter J Joyce
2. Caroline A Stockmann
3. Ronald F Diserens
4. David P Hilling (C)
5. Philip R Jarvis
6. Daniel R Jarvis
7. Ian G Mills
8. Alan Regin

Commemorating Private Alfred Gates of Eynsford, bell ringer. Rung exactly 100 years after his death on 18 June 1917 aged 38. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) "D" Coy. 8th Bn. Service No.G/7533. Commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

During the peal grandchildren and great grandchildren of Alfred Gates were at a reception in St Martin's organised by the local history society. Following the peal they met the ringers and a granddaughter of Alfred Bates read a poem written to his memory by his widow.

FARNBOROUGH (St Giles)

Occasional practices by arrangement and quarter peals rung frequently on Tuesday mornings Sunday 9.30-10am

If anyone in the District hasn't yet rung at Farnborough (the bells have now been in for five years!) and wishes to come along just to ring, or to ring a quarter peal, then please let me know so that arrangements can be made.

Nick Wilkins

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

We have continued with our normal ringing pattern but there has been nothing very significant in the last few months. However, we had pleasant mini outing on 4th April with ringing at St. Luke's, Bromley Common; Westerham and Downe and a nice lunch at the Queen's Head, Downe.

There have been a few weddings recently at Greenwich and on Sunday 18th June we rang for the launch of a special exhibition at Greenwich – this was four panels which have been made by a team of embroiderers over the past five years and is called Christ in Greenwich – this is a modern depiction of various biblical stories; if you get a chance do try to visit it as it is a splendid display

One of our team, Emma Roberts recently rang her first quarter, at the first attempt and the striking was of a very high standard.

Isle of Dogs, Christ Church
Sunday, 25 June 2017
1260 Plain Bob Doubles (Tenor 10-3-27cwt in F#)

1. Emma Roberts
2. Roger Booth (C)
3. Andrew Booth
4. Graham Long
5. Roderic Bickerton
6. Paul Harding

First quarter at first attempt; 1. 25th quarter; 3.



Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-9.30pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. We usually have good attendances at practice nights, sometimes ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods and some work on Treble Hunting Minor.

We usually ring for the monthly Choral Evensong at Greenwich and also for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We occasionally ring at Woolwich.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events – please check our website for further details.

www.meridianbells.webs.com

Graham Long



INVICTA

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT



INVICTA

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St Mary's, St Mary Cray, 8th April 2017

30 people attended representing 10 towers, 2 unattached members and a Life member, non-resident.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Esther Correia (Dartford), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman (Greenwich), Jim and Lizzie Hardy (Beckenham), Ian Mills (Eltham) and Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield).

2. Minutes of last meeting (14th January 2017, Greenwich)

Unfortunately due to printing problems Rupert was unable to get the Newsletters printed prior to the meeting, however they had been posted on website and circulated via email prior to the meeting. There were two copies available at the meeting and an incorrect date was amended. Proposed: Mark Backhouse; Seconded: Rupert Cheeseman.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Nil.

4. Proposed Rule Change

At the October ADM Dr Phil Barnes spoke about a proposed rule change which related to the aims of the Association, to focus more on Ringing and Ringers.

The current aims have remained unchanged since 1880 and list five aims:-

- i. The establishment, maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area.
- ii. The recognition of ringers as church workers
- iii. The proper care and use of bells and belfries
- iv. The cultivation of the art of change ringing
- v. The safety and wellbeing of its Members

It is proposed to amend the aims of the KCACR to one overarching aim which reads:-

'The aim of the Association is to foster ringing in the historic county of Kent by promoting and protecting the interests of ringing and ringers'.

At the October ADM a discussion ensued around whether the church aspect of ringing puts some people off, some felt that their main reason for ringing was to glorify God. Others were concerned that the word 'bell' had been removed so the type of ringing could be ambiguous.

A full transcript regarding the proposed rule change was circulated around the district. It is now a stand-alone agenda item at this meeting having given people more time to think about it before it is voted on at the AGM on Easter Monday at Cranbrook.

Ringers had been encouraged to attend today's meeting to discuss views on pros and cons of the proposed change. The Chair explained that if anyone was unable to attend the County AGM, the Chair will be attending and would be happy to proffer concerns/views in an impartial manner on behalf of the District. However, anyone wishing to vote on the rule change can only do this in person at the AGM which any member is able to attend.

Comments from the meeting today were as follows:-

- There was no mention of 'church' or Change Ringing in the new aim. Could be a single bell or ellacombe chime. Is that the intention?
- There was a view that the church should be mentioned in it somewhere as it is in the Association Prayer.
- Could it be amended slightly to say "In churches and elsewhere"?
- What ringing does it refer to as there is no mention of church or ringing?
- How does this simplified version compare to aims of other associations?

- Surrey Assn’s website doesn’t actually mention church in its title.
- Does the omission of the word ‘church’ make it more inclusive?
- Is it to simplify it? What do the rules say? When read in context, do they make it clear that it is church change bell ringing?
- In the new Aim, nowhere is it mentioned the correct use of bells and belfries and maintenance of them.

The Chair read the first two rules from the handbook which do clearly mention churches and change ringing.

1. The Association shall be called “The Kent County Association of Change Ringers” and shall operate in the geographical county of Kent and that part of London formerly in the county of Kent. All towers in this area with three or more bells hung for full circle ringing shall be included in the annual Handbook and, unless information to the contrary has been received, will be considered to be in union with the Association.
2. The Association shall be affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and shall abide by its rules and decisions on matters relating to ringing.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed that the Chair would make a suggestion to propose an amendment to the rule change to include the phrase “in churches and elsewhere” when the rule change is discussed and subsequently voted on at the County AGM on Easter Monday.

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Emily Pruden	Chelsfield	Clare Pruden	Bob Pruden
		Witness to lowering	Philippa Rooke
Steve Haynes	Eynsford & Farningham	David Hilling	Jack Barker
		Witness to lowering	Sue Cameron
Mark Harris	Beckenham	Lizzie Hardy	James Hardy
		Witness to lowering	TBC
Dr Julie McDonnell	NRLM (Brede)	Alexander Britton	Sue Cameron

Emily was elected as a Junior Member. Steve Haynes was re-elected having been a member several years ago. Mark Harris, a Surprise ringer was elected pending witness to lowering to comply with the rules of the Assn. Dr Julie McDonnell was elected as a NRLM having been nominated prior to a Peal at Chiddingstone on 18th March 2017. Alex Britton explained briefly that Julie is suffering terminal cancer, leukaemia and founded the charity Strike Back against Blood Cancer last year. Since that time she has raised over £7million all through bell ringing. Various methods have been named after her and these methods raise money from ringers and from some very generous sponsors who have pledged money for various challenges and for every time one of these methods are rung. He encouraged everyone to support this if they could. Two days before this peal, Julie had received her latest dose of chemotherapy and was instructed to have a couple of days of bed rest, but Julie being Julie, rang a Peal – 3hrs on the end of a bell rope! Julie is due to feature in the Easter Sunday Songs of Praise.

6. KCACR report on the meeting held on 25th February 2017

- The 2016 accounts have been completed and now just need to be audited. An auditor is being sought to be appointed at the AGM.
- All ringers in the Association using social media should be asked to be mindful what they post online, as even private comments could be taken & picked up by the media
- The new website is being actively updated by some of the Districts, and the membership database is also being well used
- The Handbook is on track all bar a couple of outstanding items which are due to be with the Editor before 12th March 2017
- The meeting was reminded that we all need to ensure we follow the good practice of there being more than one

person in the tower when work is being done

- The Kent Young Ringers are putting in their request enter the RWNYC in Birmingham this year, entry fee has been paid. Jen Thomas is also organising a band for the SE Youth Competition later in the year.
- All plans are in hand for the AGM at Cranbrook on Easter Monday, and the details are now on the website. The Handbook Editor is not seeking re-election.
- 33 responses were received from the Mobile Ring survey. In general, those who responded felt it was a good idea to have a mobile ring. Following some discussion, it was decided that the project will go ahead and further details will be presented at the AGM.
- Following a request for consideration, it was decided that the Association would not contribute towards the St. Paul's Cathedral fundraising effort
- Following a request for consideration, it was decided that the Association would not send an annual donation to the Ringing World at this time
- The Committee agreed that the Association would support the Central Council PR Committee's Armistice Day 2018 initiative, including a planned recruitment campaign using dedicated ringing schools across the County
- The County 8-bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 24th June, 9.45am draw, in the Lewisham District. Touch is a plain course of Yorkshire S Major
- The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 23rd September, 9.45am draw, in the Maidstone District
- The General Committee meetings for 2017 will be held on 22nd April, 26th August and 25th November



7. Events Update and results

- Striking competition took place in March at Farningham with only three bands taking part which was disappointing. The competition was won by Chelsfield who will go on to represent the district in September's County competition. It was great to be able to base ourselves in the new church room especially as there were works going on in the church.
- A training Day had been held at St Mary Cray concentrating on the step up from plain hunt to method. It was a successful event, with a couple ringing their first blows in plain bob doubles. Others had a few issues with handling the bells and some dedicated assistance with this is planned to enable more progress to be made next time. It was requested that earlier notification of the event across the district and request for helpers may draw more success for future practices. It is hoped the next training event will take place in May/June time.

8. Upcoming district events

17/04/17 County AGM at Cranbrook.
21/04/17 District Practice at Hayes
13/05/17 District Practice at Lewisham
09/06/17 District Practice at Foots Cray
24/06/17 County 8 Bell Competition at Shoreham
08/07/17 QDM at Bickley

The 8 bell competition is being held at Shoreham but it is a District responsibility not just down to Shoreham, so please consider offering to help out with things like refreshments.

- A venue for the October ADM is required

9. 120 club draw

	Prize	No.	Name	Tower
1st	£20	14	Liz Brett	Erith, CC
2nd	£10	63	Megan Smith	Cudham
3rd	£10	40	Lesley Barclay	Horton Kirby
4th	£5	77	Ian Mills	Eltham

Thanks were given to Rachel Backhouse for managing the 120 club which raised £507.26 last year. This is the last year that Rachel will be running the club as she and Mark will be moving out of the district to somewhere west of London, Berkshire area. This will be a massive loss to Erith CC and the District as both Mark and Rachel have been staunch supporters in supporting towers and the district attending virtually every meeting and practices. Offers from anyone willing to take over the 120 club as our only fundraising activity for the BRF are very welcome.

10. AOB

Philippa Rooke asked for a show of hands as to how many of those present used any of the following means of communication.

The County website.

The County Facebook Page

The Lewisham District email distribution list

The County email distribution list

Rupert Cheeseman thanked those who had contributed to the Newsletter and apologised again for them not being ready for this meeting. Every attempt will be made to distribute them along with the handbooks and membership cards as soon as possible after the County AGM. If anyone has contact with more than one tower please let Rupert or Sue Cameron know so the 'Ringers' Post' can be utilised where possible.

Natalie Slator asked if any of the Lewisham District Towers had offered to host the ART Module I. Alex Fishburn said that Sidcup could possibly help.

11. Vote of Thanks

Rupert Cheeseman thanked Rev Paul Prentice for taking the service, Alex Fishburn for playing the organ, and of course the St Mary Cray band for providing very tasty refreshments and allowing us to ring their bells.

Next meeting will be Saturday 8th July 2017 at St George's, Bickley.

Lewisham District Events 2017

- Sat 8th Jul Quarterly Meeting: Bickley, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 29th Jul District Practice: Chislehurst, St Nics, 10.00am - 12.00
- Sat 12th Aug District Outing (with Tonbridge District), various towers in London by public transport
- Fri 15th Sep District Practice: Horton Kirby (tbc), 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Fri 6th Oct District Practice: TBC, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 14th Oct Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Fri 10th Nov District Practice: TBC, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 18th Nov District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Downe, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 1st Dec District Practice: TBC, 8.00 - 9.30pm

Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up.

Please check the district website www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian on master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at www.kcacr.org.uk

If you would like to join the Lewisham District email group to get reminders/updates of district events please visit http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district or email lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk