



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 2019

Tower Reps Scheme

As you may know, the District 'committee' (ie the elected officers) are now meeting on a regular basis outside of District Quarterly Meetings. To my knowledge this hasn't happened before in my nearly 40 years of membership, except around the planning of County AGMs! Although these meetings have been triggered by the planning of the next County AGM in our District, in 2020, I hope they will continue after that as they are useful.

One of the things we've agreed is to trial a Tower Reps scheme, where each member of the committee has three or four towers in the District that they are officially the rep for at meetings. The idea is they would visit these towers on a practice night (if they have one) every couple of months, and communicate information about business that's arisen since the last District Quarterly meeting. The ringers at the tower can also ask them to let the committee know anything they would like to flag up or ask about, for example help in training new learners, or issues with their church. Many other Districts have this system and I think it's a good idea, so we're going to try it out. If you have any queries and can't be at the meeting at Greenwich on Saturday 13 April, please contact me, Philippa, at chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

The Committee Rep for your tower is:

Ash by Wrotham – Debra Say

Beckenham – Tom Hinks

Bexley – Debra Say

Bickley – Rupert Cheeseman

Biggin Hill – Philippa Rooke

Bromley Common – Tom Hinks

Bromley Parish – Tom Hinks

Chislehurst, Annunciation – Chris Davine

Chislehurst, St Nicholas – Chris Davine

Chelsfield – Philippa Rooke

Crayford – Rupert Cheeseman

Cudham – Rupert Cheeseman

Dartford – Deryck Jones

Deptford – Liz Brett

Downe – Rupert Cheeseman

Eltham – Chris Davine

Erith, Christ Church – Natalie Slator

Erith, St John – Natalie Slator

Eynsford – Diane Reynolds

Farnborough – Nick Wilkins

Farningham – Diane Reynolds

Foots Cray – Natalie Slator

Greenwich – Liz Brett

Hayes – Nick Wilkins

Horton Kirby – Nick Wilkins

Lewisham – Chris Davine

Penge – Tom Hinks

Shoreham – Philippa Rooke

Sidcup – Nick Wilkins

St Mary Cray – Philippa Rooke

West Wickham – Diane Reynolds

Woolwich – Liz Brett

District officer e-mail directory

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Assistant Master:

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Tom Hinks

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Sales Representative:

Chris Davine and Natalie Slator

sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Rupert Cheeseman

newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

120 Club:

Liz Brett and Deryck Jones

120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Peter and I joined the Meridian Ringers outing yesterday (4th April) and would like to say how much we enjoyed the day, we were made to feel extremely welcome as we have been by everyone wherever we have been since joining, and were given the opportunity to ring at each tower.

We would like to thank everyone for making this day enjoyable and would also like to encourage other new and not so new ringers if given the chance to join in with outings, training and appropriate practices.

Liz Morris

KCACR Handbooks

If you pre-ordered a KCACR Handbook for 2019 these will be available for collection at the Quarterly Meeting at Greenwich on Saturday 13 April. There will be one copy for each tower, and one free copy for each person who ordered online before the deadline. If you're not able to be at the meeting please ask someone to collect it for you, or let Philippa Rooke, Debra Say or Rupert Cheeseman know and we will work out how to get your copy to you. If you did not pre-order a Handbook but would like one it can be downloaded free at <https://kcacr.org.uk/members-handbook/> using the code on your membership card which will be distributed after the County AGM. If you would like a printed version, these cost £4 and will be available from the District Bookstall at meetings after the County AGM on Easter Monday.

Philippa Rooke
Chairman
Lewisham District
KCACR

District 10 bell training day

The Lewisham District held a very successful 'introduction to 10-bell ringing' training day on Saturday 30th March. Sessions at the two contrasting rings of 10 at Limehouse and Stepney in the East End of London enabled the students to hone their 10-bell skills across the course of the day. Excellent progress was made during the day, as people moved from call changes to plain hunt on 9, and others rang plain courses and touches of Grandsire Caters with increasing confidence. Many thanks to all the helpers whose hard work made the day possible. Look out for details of future training events coming up later in the year!

Tom Hinks



Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time.

The KCACR AGM on Easter Monday is this year hosted by the Canterbury District in Chilham which means that it's our turn next year. So look out for requests for help nearer the time.

Cheers,
Rupert

120 club

102 shares were sold for the 2018-19 draw. Many thanks to all who took part. At present, just over half the shares have been sold for the coming year – buy yours now! Shares may be purchased via an email to me and bank transfer. The application form has been sent as a Word document to tower contacts, simply complete it and return to me. I will give you the bank details and email your share certificate once payment is received. Numbers are allocated sequentially but, if you would like a particular number, please indicate this. However, preferred numbers cannot be guaranteed.

Accounts for 2018/19

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
102 shares @£10	£1020	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£130	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£3.48
TOTAL	£1150	TOTAL	£563.48
		To BRF	£586.52

January 2019 District Meeting, Sidcup
 1st £20 John Chenery, Horton Kirby
 2nd £10 Rachel Backhouse, Thatcham
 3rd £10 Daphne Paterson, E&F
 4th £5 India Ferguson, Foots Cray

March 2019 Striking competition, Ash
 1st £20 Jackie Wickham, Erith, St John
 2nd £10 Natalie Slator, Erith, Christ Church
 3rd £10 Deryck Jones, Dartford
 4th £5 To BRF

Liz Brett

In the newsletter this time...

District Reps Scheme	1
KCACR Handbooks	2
District 10 bell training day	2
Editorial	3
120 club	3
District Egroup	3
News from the Towers:	
Bexley	4
Crayford	4
The Meridian Ringers	4
KCACR AGM	6
District Bookstall	7
District Clothing	7
District Striking Competition	8
Minutes of January District Meeting	9
District Events	12

Lewisham District Egroup

Do you want to be kept up to date with District events and training opportunities? If so, are you currently signed up to the District e-group?

The e-group was set up a while ago now to enable information to be shared easily and quickly around the District, but in order to receive these emails, you need to subscribe to the group. To do this please send an email to lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk in order to be accepted to the group.

Debra Say



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BEXLEY

They say things come in threes and this is certainly true at Bexley! Ringing was suspended at the end of 2017 while work was carried out to stop pigeons getting into the tower, and this was followed by a second temporary suspension in the spring of 2018 when a piece of flint fell out of the tower and it was deemed unsafe for ringing to continue until work to secure the tower was completed.

Unfortunately, last autumn brought another issue since, following a routine inspection of the bells, evidence of beetle damage was noticed in the octagonal wooden spire which sits atop the stone tower. Sankeys, a pest control company, reported the presence of both deathwatch and furniture beetle.

St. Mary's PCC has accepted the estimate for the work needed and Mary is currently awaiting permission from the Diocese of Rochester before a date can be arranged for the work to be carried out. Thursday practices are expected to resume in early June, but if you are not on the regular Bexley email list for updates and want to come along, please check with Eddie Coode who will know whether there are enough ringers to make a practice worthwhile.

Debra Say

CRAYFORD

We have continued to have generally well attended practices and ring on most Sundays. Our newest recruits have now moved on to attempting plain hunt on the treble to methods and are now regulars on a Sunday. More advanced methods have been rung with the help of our regular visitors. Double Oxford minor, Original minor, Plain Bob Triples and Stedman Triples have all been attempted and quarters have been scored in some of them. We continue to combine with Eltham for a monthly Stedman Triples practice and it was nice to help Brenda and Eddie score their first quarter of Cambridge Minor.

In holy week we will be going for our usual curry instead of ringing.

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

1260 Double Oxford Bob Minor in 41mins

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Peter Skinner | 2. Debra Say |
| 3. Sue Cameron | 4. David Gyles |
| 5. Andrew Sinclair | 6. Rupert Cheeseman (C) |

With birthday compliments to Sue for last Sunday.

1st in method; 2&4

Sunday, 3 March 2019

1260 Cambridge Surprise Minor in 42mins

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Peter Skinner | 2. Brenda Coode |
| 3. Ann Saunders | 4. Eddie Coode |
| 5. Debra Say | 6. Rupert Cheeseman (C) |

With birthday compliments to Debra for yesterday and to Emily Skinner, Peter's daughter, for 28th Feb.

First in method; 2 & 4.

Tuesday, 9 April 2019

1260 Stedman Triples in 43mins

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jacqueline Barlow | 2. Ann Saunders |
| 3. Lesley Barclay | 4. Debra Say |
| 5. Nick Wilkins | 6. Rupert Cheeseman (C) |
| 7. Terry Barnard | 8. Thomas Barlow |

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Richard Say and Elizabeth Whitwood taking place at Scarthingwell RC church on Saturday 13th April.

1st Stedman triples; 4.

Rupert

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

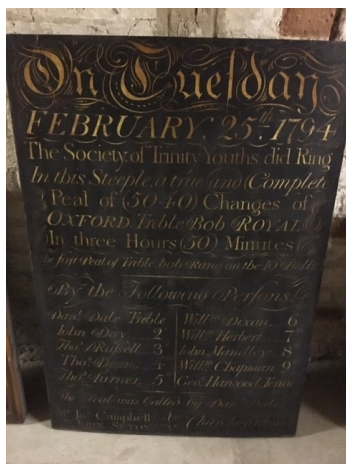
The Meridian Ringers

We have continued with our normal ringing pattern, with our usual practice night on Wednesdays, 8pm-930pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. 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 for practices, although we have had a recent problem there with a pigeon infestation so we need to do some clearing up in due course.

Ringing for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich is continuing on a regular basis and this has been much appreciated by the congregation and ministry team at St. Alfege's.

We have some 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. Our learners, Lynn, Maria and Caroline, are making very good progress and we have a dedicated learners practice from about 7pm on Wednesdays which has been a real asset. We have recently had a new recruit, Stella, who is from Vietnam – so widening our ever increasing worldwide ringing team! She has made an excellent start and is very keen.

It has been in our minds to also consider specialised tuition and extension work for those who have only been ringing for a couple of years or so (and longer!). We have arranged three Ringing Schools on Saturday afternoons in the first part of this year. These have been of a real benefit and there has been some intense work on ringing up and down in peal, Plain Hunt and Doubles work – our thanks to those who have helped out with these vital sessions. More of these are planned for this year.



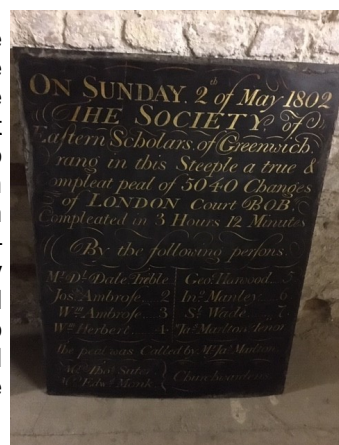
If anyone has been to Greenwich recently (or if you attend the meeting on 13th April you will see it) will have noticed that there is extensive renovation work going on at St Alfege's. The church has received a grant of £1,836,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Heart of Greenwich, Place and People project, thanks to the National Lottery. The project aims to reinforce

the church's position as a heritage asset at the heart of Greenwich, reveal and interpret our hidden spaces and heritage for visitors, school children, their families and a diverse local community. There are essential repairs being undertaken to the fabric, which will bring to light the splendid work of Nicholas Hawksmoor, improved access to and facilities in the church and enhanced landscaping, signage and interpretation.

The project includes:

- cleaning, conservation and lighting of the north and south elevations
- repairs to the roof
- a new access ramp and creation of a new entrance visible from the street
- two wheelchair accessible toilets
- landscaping and a community memorial garden
- immersive events in the crypt for schools
- other heritage related events and lectures
- an increase in the number and training of volunteers

As part of this work we were asked to inspect some peal boards which were discovered in the crypt. It was particularly moving to discover peals boards from 1794 and 1802 which are in remarkable condition – these will be professionally restored and other peal boards will be cleaned, so that they can be displayed at various places in the church.



We rang a quarter peal in memory of Ken Deller, our much loved friend who died January 2018, on the first anniversary:

Greenwich, St Alfege

Sunday, 26 January 2019 (8½ in A)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 43mins

1. Hazel Bing	2. Bill Lanyon
3. Michael Robinson	4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C) (250th qtr)	6. Alan Munden

Rung prior to Choral Evensong, in memory of Ken Deller (26.1.2018).

Also, remembering Canon John Ardley (2.2.2004) and Richard Bing (4.2.2005).

Ken's family listened to the quarter and visited the ringing chamber afterwards: Barbara (wife), Nicola, Jeremy and Philipa (children) and Victoria (granddaughter).

All of the Meridian ringers wish to be associated with this quarter.

Kate Flavell and Linda Georgiades (nee Foddering), well known London ringers, have been aiming to ring at all ringable towers in the Great London area. Two towers had evaded them – St John's, Deptford – where they came to ring for Evensong in February and Woolwich where we rang a quarter peal with them:

Woolwich, St Mary Magdalene

Wednesday 13th March 2019

1260 Grandsire Triples In 48 minutes

1. Hazel Bing	2. Kate Flavell
3. Bill Lanyon	4. Linda Georgiades
5. Graham Long	6. Michael Robinson
7. Paul Flavell (C)	8. Jim Odell

Congratulations to Linda and Dinos Georgiades on their wedding on Monday.

Justina, one of our Lithuanian ringers, rang her first quarter in February:

Greenwich, St Alfege

Sunday, 24 February 2019 (8½ in A)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 42mins

1. Justina Pupeikyte	2. Bill Lanyon
3. Jim Odell	4. Graham Long (C)
5. Michael Robinson	6. Alan Munden

Rung for Choral Evensong.

First quarter at first attempt; 1.

After the quarter, there was a short celebration with a traditional Lithuanian Cinderella Honey cake served! Justina's mum, Lina, Hazel Bing and Edward Gormley joined in afterwards to ring before the service.

For Ash Wednesday and for the first two weeks of Lent we have had the bells half muffled. This has been a useful experience for those not used to ringing half-muffled. As it turned out we also rang for a memorial service with some general ringing and Alan and Justina tolling the tenor before and after the service.

For various reasons, our usual post-Christmas ringers' dinner didn't happen until the first week of March. However, it was well worth waiting for as we had a splendid time at The Sydney Arms, Chislehurst.



Our most recent event was a Midweek Outing on 4th April when we were joined by some ringing friends from Crayford, Bexley, Erith, Ash, Foots Cray, Harrietsham and Bromley Parish Church. It was especially pleasing to welcome back Mike Medway who has been away from ringing for some time but quickly slotted back into it. The aim was to make sure that everyone on the trip had a good opportunity to take part regardless of their experience and some were able to ring things for the first time.

The first tower was Shorne – quite a challenging ring with a long 60 foot draft and being on plain bearings but some reasonable ringing was done. The second tower was Cobham where some good ringing took place with some rounds, call changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire Doubles, Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor.

There was a splendid lunch at The Leather Bottle, opposite the church.

The tower after lunch was Chalk where the same ringing programme took place with some very good ringing at times. The bells are a delightful lightish ring and people especially loved ringing on the historic 1384 bell.

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

www.meridianbells.webs.com



Graham Long

KCACR AGM

The County AGM this year will be on Easter Monday, 22nd April and will be based at Chilham. The day will comprise a service, lunch and the Annual General Meeting itself. A variety of towers within the Canterbury District will be open on 2 routes leading towards Chilham in the morning and one route away to neighbouring Districts in the evening.

Service

The service will take place at St Mary, Chilham CT4 8DA starting at 12 noon, and will be preceded by ringing by an invited band from 11.45am. There will however be open ringing from 11.00 - 11.45am.

Lunch

Lunch will be in the village hall at 1pm, and the cost will be £15 per head (£7.50 for children) for a chef-prepared 2-course meal followed by tea and coffee. The menu for lunch can be found on the county website. All dietary requirements will be catered for but these must be notified when booking lunch. Advance booking is essential.

Lunch will be by ticket only as follows:

- Please send a cheque made payable to "KCACR Canterbury District" to Mrs B M Davies, Bell House, *, Kingfisher Place, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury CT4 7DJ no later than 15th April. Please enclose an SAE for tickets to be returned.

The closing date for booking lunch is 15th April.

There will be no bar so members are asked to bring their own drinks and glasses.

Annual General Meeting

All KCACR members are welcome to attend the AGM at 2.30pm in Chilham Village Hall. Chilham bells will be available after the meeting and other towers will be open on routes leading out of the District.

Parking

Parking is available in Chilham Village Hall with disabled parking spaces, the car park at the bottom of Taylors Hill, between the hall and the church, and the village square. All parking is free. A map is at the end of this brochure.

SatNav Information

Chilham Church Postcode: CT4 8DA Grid ref: TR069537

For further info please e-mail the District Secretary at canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk

Towers

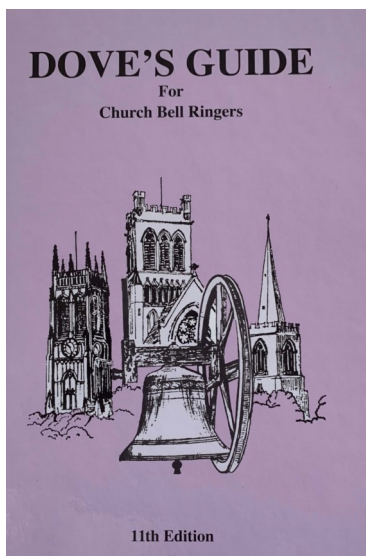
Details of the tower routes are shown below. Any changes or updates to this list will be posted on the KCACR website (www.kcacr.org.uk).

9.00-10.00am	Teynham (6)	Lyminge (8)
9.30-10.30am	Ospringe (8)	Elham (8)
10.00-11.00am	Sheldwich (8)	Waltham (6)
10.30-11.30am	Boughton under Blean (8)	Godmersham (6)
11.00-11.30am	Chilham (8)	
11.30-12.00pm	Chilham (8) (Service touch by invited band)	
4.30-5.30pm (approx.)		Chilham (8)
5.30-6.30pm		Throwley (8)
6.00-7.00pm		Newnham (6)

District Bookstall

Hello everyone

I have mentioned before the new Dove 11 books which are on offer at the moment through Catherine Lewis at a cost of £12.50. The offer lasts until 13th April 2019 order and payment must be made to Catherine and the books will be available for collection at the County AGM on the 22nd. If you can't get there tell Catherine and she will pass it to us or a member of your choice who will be there.



Either send her your name, tower and district by email, text or Messenger and transfer £12.50 to 20-76-55, 6334****, C M Lewis Ringing putting your name in the reference or order by post enclosing a cheque for £12.50 made out to KCACR to Catherine Lewis, Mallans, ** Main Road, Sundridge TN14 6EF

Email: cmlewis339@gmail.com

The bookstall will be at Greenwich on Saturday 13th April for the District Meeting, we are taking it to all district meetings. If you wish to buy anything you can buy it on the day by cash (we can't accept cards) or look at the books and order online through the KCACR website.

We also have the current price list for KCACR Clothing (see on right). As orders are small at district level they are dealt with centrally through the county organiser Catherine Lewis. The colour chart and price list will also be at the District meeting at Greenwich on Saturday and the meetings following through the year. They will also be at district practices if anyone wishes to see them.

If you ever need anything apart from the present offer of Dove 11's and clothing which is website order only please email the lewisham sales and we will get it to you asap, I try to get to the district practices as well.

All the best
Chris Devine and Natalie Slator
Lewisham Bookstall

Embroidered KCACR clothing

Colours, sizes and prices March 2019



F: Ladies option - usually more shaped and less spacious

T-shirt (180M) £16, (180B) Child £12.50
Child 1-2 to 11-12: As below, but not Convoy grey or Lime

XS: As below, but not Convoy grey

S - 2XL: Azure blue, Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convoy grey, French navy, Light Oxford, Lime, Pure gold, Purple, Sky, White, Winter emerald, Yellow

3XL - 4XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, French navy, White

Short sleeve polo shirt (539M/F) £21, (539B) Child £14.50

Child 1-2 to 11-12: As M below, but not Convoy grey or Lime

XS - 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convoy Grey, French navy, Light Oxford, Lime, Pure gold, Purple, Sky, White. Also M only Winter emerald and Yellow. 3XL - 4XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, Classic red, French navy, Light Oxford, White. 5XL - 6XL: Black, Bright royal, French navy, White

Classic sweatshirt (762M) £22, (762B) Child £16

Child 1-2 to 11-12: As below, but not White

XS - 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright red, Burgundy, Classic red, Light Oxford, French navy, Purple, Bright royal, Sky, White, Winter emerald

3XL - 4XL: Bottle green, Bright royal, French navy
Outdoor Full or Quarter zip fleece (870M/F or 874M) £29/£28

XS - 4XL: Black, Bottle green, Bright royal, Burgundy, Classic red, Convoy grey, French navy

Outdoor Fleece Gilet (872M/F) £27

XS - 2XL: Black, Bottle green, Burgundy, Classic red, Convoy Grey, French navy, Bright royal
Hoodie no zip (575M) £25, (575B) Child £22

Child 1-2 to 11-12: As below, but not Lime

XS - 3XL: Apple, Black, Bottle green, Classic red, Light Oxford, Lime, French navy, Fuchsia, Purple, Bright royal, Sky, White

Hoodie full zip (266M/F) £31

XS - XL, XXL - 3XL (M Only): Apple, Black, Bright royal, Bottle Green, Classic red, Convoy Grey, French navy, Fuchsia, Light Oxford, Lime, Purple, Sky, White. 4XL (M only): Black, French Navy, Light Oxford

Rugby shirt (FR100) £29

S-4 XL: Black, Burgundy

Details of sizes are on the KCACR website

To order: either email me your requirement and transfer payment to 20-76-55, 6334****, C M Lewis Ringing, putting your name in the reference

or post me the information enclosing a cheque for payment, made out to me, at ** Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks TN14 6EF. 01959 563***

Catherine Lewis, cmlewis339@gmail.com

District Striking Competition

As this year's District Six Bell Striking Competition got under way, two of Chelsfield's team were racing cross-country from the lovely wedding that had just taken place at St Martin's, to Ash-by-Wrotham to make up the team. Jim and I arrived separately as the first team to compete began their test piece. Whew! They are good, I thought as I gathered breath and a cup of tea.



We were all to ring a "method". Unlike "rounds"-- where the bells just ring, neatly!, down the scale until told to stop, or "call changes", where the bells stay in position until the conductor instructs two bells to swap, then a few strokes later two more bells to swap-- method ringing requires each bell to change position every stroke. The ringers have to know not only the pre-determined pattern or method (Bob Doubles, this time) but what to do when "bob"

is called by the conductor, and how all the bells change places...all the time striving to keep the striking as even as clockwork. (Indeed some listeners think church bells are ring by a mechanism!)

The competition is a test of accurate and even ringing, a 240 of any method the team chooses, usually on bells at a church which has not entered a team. St Peter and St Paul, Ash, has a 8cwt six, high in the tower, rung from the ground floor; so long, long ropes, relatively light bells, combined with the usual expectation of odd-struck-ness found in any ring of bells, makes quite a challenge to visiting competitors.

That first team that had so impressed represented Eltham. David Holdridge conducted Ian Mills, Diane Reynolds, Eddie and Brenda Coode and Ann Saunders. Second up were Crayford, conducted by Rupert Cheeseman. A few crunches as they got the measure of the bells in the warm-up minutes, then off! Debra Say, Peter Skinner, Andrew Sinclair, David Gyles and Sue Cameron made up the team, and they rang very impressively, too.

Chelsfield was last to ring. In the warm-up we found the bells needed a firm hand but had no awkward peculiarities. We alerted the judge we were ready, took a deep breath and were away. Our band, conducted by Philippa Rooke, was Jim Rooke, Clare and Bob Pruden, Lesley Barclay and I. An occasional wince, but no downright clashes later it was over. We breathed again and thought, well, that was pretty good.

Our judge that day was Michael Moreton from St Peter's Croydon, hugely experienced and highly regarded in

ringing circles. I am glad that I did not have to make the decision, as all the teams displayed very fine ringing. We waited for Michael's deliberations, had more tea, drew the 120 Club winners and debriefed. Whatever the result, we thought, it was pleasing that we were the only band that day that was made up entirely of regular Sunday band ringers, and even more so to have Clare there, recovering so well, and Jim so accurate on the tenor despite a serious hearing deficit.

The result:

With 34 faults – Eltham

26 faults – Crayford

Drum roll and oohs of pleased surprise; 18 faults – Chelsfield!

The trophy is back where it "belongs" in our ringing chamber! We will defend our title in the County Championships in September.

St Peter and St Paul is a small double nave church, bright and airy, with wonderful light oak crown-post beams supporting the roof, a curved oak altar rail and fine carving on the pulpit. The tower is on the west end, so parishioners use a south porch for a principal entry. Access on the north side leads to a valuable toilet block and a neat kitchenette in the north aisle of the church, from which cakes, fruit and hot drinks were offered to us. There is happy evidence of Messy Church and general loving and artistic care in the church. I particularly liked the composite painting of the church made up of dozens of foot-square canvases in every style and medium imaginable.

The bells themselves are quite distinctive. Cast mostly in the eighteenth century, they all still have their canons (the crown-like "handles" by which they are strapped to their headstocks). Three were cast in pits in a nearby field in 1717 by John Waylett, a skilled itinerant bell founder from Bishops Stortford who cast bells from



Cambridgeshire to Kent. The other bells were all cast at Whitechapel: The tenor, the heaviest bell (8cwt - 3qr - 11lb: in modern money 991lb or 450kg) in 1727 by Richard Phelps; the treble in 1795 by Thomas I Mears and the lightest bell, the second, in 1856 by Charles and George Mears. None of the bells was re-tuned until 2010, a tribute to their makers' skill.

Nancy Fisher
(Written for the Parish Magazine)



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St John's, Sidcup 12th January 2019

25 people attended representing 9 towers, 1 unattached member and 1 from Rochester District

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Pete & Liz Morris (Crayford), Sue Cameron (unattached) & Deryck Jones (Dartford)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (13th October 2018 at Ash)

Posted to the website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.

Proposed: Rupert Cheeseman Seconded: Brenda Barton. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
Bernadette Katchoff	Chislehurst, St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Chris Davine
Lee Lucas	Crayford	Rupert Cheeseman	Debra Say
Rachel Dean	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Tracey Burch
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins
Michelle Vardy	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Tracey Burch
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins
Peter Rushbrook	Horton Kirby	Lesley Barclay	Martin Bailey
		Witness to Lowering	Nick Wilkins

All were elected unanimously and welcomed

5. KCACR – Report from 24th November 2018

- Role Descriptions and GDPR – The outline of jobs that needed doing in Districts would be circulated as advice. A Membership Communications subgroup will be set up to work on the issue of GDPR and advise.
- Insured thresholds – Members wished to know if 75+ members were insured to teach and whether students of an older teacher were insured. Would it be possible to push up insured thresholds to 80 without impacting the insurance costs?
- Mid-week 10 bell practices – Phil Barnes is planning bi-monthly meetings to focus on three towers; Ashford, Maidstone and Rochester (if possible)
- Treasurer's Report – Margaret Funnell advised that Districts need to be encouraged to collect and send in subscriptions promptly by 31/01/2019.
- Feedback from around the districts to the proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2019 was noted. Personal accident cover for over 75s was considered most important.
- The issue of District Bookstalls was raised as the Rochester bookstall had been dormant for some time. Was it worth retaining? Catherine Lewis agreed that the bookstalls needed updating and might be better to order online. Sale of KCACR Clothing and other miscellaneous items (videos, glasses, badges) were a similar issue. They both need a proper website process with more publicity. Catherine will report back to next General Committee.

Officers' Reports:

- Training – David Grimwood is working on a series of training sessions for 2019 and requested a budget from the Training Fund to support these and members' expenses. Doug Davis commented that we should use simulators more in training. Phil Barnes proposed and all agreed that a maximum of £2,000 be available for training in 2019.

- Youth – Jen Thomas reported that everyone had been very impressed with the Youth Trophy which had now been engraved with the past 3 years' winners. The SEECON event would now be at Horton Kirby on 06/04/19. Volunteer helpers are needed. A budget to support Youth events, shirts, and competition entrance fees would be useful. Jen Thomas agreed to present a budget in February.
- Central Council Representatives – Phil Barnes reported that the next meeting of the Central Council may be in the London area over the first full weekend in September 2019.
- Bell Restoration – Brian Butcher reported that the Faversham restoration proposals to rehang and recast a light 10 had been opposed by a large number of very strong conservation groups. Local ringers had not been represented in decision-making. They and Brian Butcher had grave concerns that retaining the existing bell frame, fittings and bells would not improve them for the long-term engineering or safety, so Brian could not recommend BRF or Rehanging Team support at this stage. Brian Butcher commented that the tower at Faversham was not a strong structure and a new metal bell frame could help to stabilise it. After much discussion it was agreed that Phil Barnes would write a letter expressing concerns about retention of old bell frames, etc., being a fundamental flaw as bell installations were functional not beautiful
- Health & Safety – Peter Simms reported that he had not been made aware of any accidents within the Association but there had been an issue at Eastry where a stay had been broken by a visitor. Phil Barnes reported that he had been contacted by both the visiting band from Monkton and the Tower Captain at Eastry to provide advice on the issue to each. The accounts given by the two parties were different but it appeared that the novice visitors had overreached themselves and discussion ensued as to how such bands could be supported within the Association. No conclusion was reached but Jen Thomas commented that Tonbridge District had Stewards appointed to oversee a group of towers to provide advice as needed. Phil Barnes also asked District Reps to ensure that the basic competence of ringers was assessed by District officers before election of new members, as required by the rules.
- The issue of Dementia and fitness to ring had been raised by a member for advice from the Association insurers. The insurers had suggested the Association needed to do Risk Assessments but Tower Captains also needed support and guidance. It was a difficult issue of competence, protection of themselves and other ringers. Brian Butcher suggested that if a ringer with dementia had been stopped from driving then they were likely to be unsafe to ring. Phil Barnes and Peter Simms agreed to work on this issue with David Kirkcaldy of the Central Council.
- Safeguarding – Nigel Spencer emphasized that he would not be seeking re-election at the AGM. It was not an onerous task but would need someone who could work within procedures, confidentially and promote good practice. Suitable candidates should be made known to Nigel asap.
- Publicity – Jen Thomas expressed disappointment that the Young Ringers' feature in Blue Peter had been postponed again.
- Grant application – Works to replace one bell at Chilham had now reached a happy ending. After a short discussion it was agreed to accept the Trustees recommendation to authorise a grant of £1,516.11 towards this work
- Handbook timetable details have been circulated by Doug Davis. Doug advised that an Order Form for Handbooks would shortly appear on the Website. Details to be sent to District Secretaries.

Striking Competitions

- SE England Youth Striking Competition – 06/04/2019, Horton Kirby. Volunteer helpers required, contact Jen Thomas.
- Tewkesbury Shield – 04/05/2019 - £15 entry. Touch of Stedman Caters. Agreed not to enter a team this year.
- County 8-bell Competition – 29/06/2019 - Rochester District – Tunstall. Plain Course of Turramurra Surprise Major.
- Essex Trophy 2019 – 14/09/2019 – Christchurch, Southgate. Stedman Caters. Cathy Cheeseman requested that “new” ringers be considered for the team. Phil Barnes agreed but commented that it was not the committee's job to mandate who takes part but a cohesive band would be needed.
- County 6-bell Competition – 28/09/2019 – Tonbridge District is discussing a venue.
- Essex Trophy 2020 – Kent to host on second Saturday in September. Phil Barnes to explore Ashford, agree host tower and touch.

Forthcoming Events

- AGM 2019 – Easter Monday – Chilham. Arrangements are in hand. Attendees would need to bring their own alcohol as no License was available.
- AGM 2020 – Set date (Rule 5) – Phil Barnes recommended the second Saturday in May would avoid clashes with Bank Holidays, Easter and school holidays. Agreed this would be circulated as a proposal for discussion by Districts at their January Quarterly meetings, then confirmation by General Committee in February.
- Dates of 2019 meetings - 23/02/2019, 27/04/2019, 27/07/2019 and 30/11/2019

Points Raised on some of the above issues:

Clarification has been sought and received from the insurers regarding the issue of extending insurance cover currently enjoyed by those up to age 75, to age 80. The insurers advise they are unwilling to extend cover irrespective of any additional premium. Older members retain the £1000 death benefit but are advised to check their own personal insurance for cover.

Rule Change Proposal – Philippa reminded everyone that this was the last opportunity to talk about the rule change proposal before the County AGM and she summarised the fee increases for the various age groups and life members, along with the proposal to reduce the number of members needed for a quorum at the General Council Committee meetings. No questions were raised from the floor so the proposals will now go to the AGM for discussion.

County AGM 2020 – The proposal to move the AGM to the second Saturday in May from 2020 raised several points:

- There are concerns about parking restrictions on a Saturday compared to a bank holiday Monday. A larger car park will therefore be needed.
- Any venue will need to have no conflicting weddings
- Many people have to work on a Saturday which could affect attendance
- Finding a suitable venue for the meeting could be more difficult on a Saturday compared to a bank holiday.
- Traffic in our district on a Saturday is a particular issue being the most northerly and with half the area being in south-east London. Many areas are completely gridlocked by lunchtime which would make travelling around very slow and difficult.

A question was raised asking why the date was being changed and Cathy Cheeseman (Assistant Secretary, KCACR) explained that it was felt having the AGM on Easter Monday impacted family time and was in school holidays. By moving the date, it was hoped to increase attendance.

Natalie/Chris were asked to go back to Phil Barnes at the next meeting on 23rd February to raise our concerns and to explain that whilst we are not completely averse to a change of date, it was felt that of all the Districts, Lewisham was not best placed to trial a new day/date in 2020. We would therefore like to ask if the date could remain as Easter Monday for 2020 and that if the date change from 2021 proves successful, then Lewisham will be happy to follow the new pattern

Nick Wilkins mentioned the possibility of Bickley as a venue as it has a suitable hall with good kitchen facilities and unrestricted parking. He offered to contact a friend who deals with the hall bookings there but Philippa Rooke asked him to hold off for now until the Chairman and/or Secretary have contacted Jeremy Clitheroe after the committee meeting. More help will be needed if Bickley is eventually selected as there is no local band. It was agreed that the committee would meet separately to start the initial planning and everyone was requested to start asking around for contacts for caterers and someone to provide a simple sound system.

6.Events

- Five bands, representing four towers, entered the call change competition in November which was won by the home band of Farnborough
- The Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 2nd March, provisionally at West Wickham
- The District practices on Fri 22/3 and Fri 5/4 at Chislehurst, Annunciation and Hayes respectively, are now confirmed and Nick Wilkins encouraged everyone to attend where ringing will be tailored to whoever turns up.
- The 10-bell practice at Beckenham on Thurs 28/2 is still awaiting confirmation
- Lewisham took part in the County Youth Striking Contest held at Kingsnorth in November. There were only four teams and Lewisham came last, but were congratulated on entering a band.
- This year's Call Change Competition will be held on Sat 16th Nov at Horton Kirby

7. Training

The new Training Officer, Tom Hinks, was at the meeting. He confirmed his plan was to hold one evening training event and one whole day event per quarter. He is trying to arrange a bell handling workshop at Beckenham on a weekday evening during the last week of January. The whole day session for ringing on higher numbers will be in London hopefully at St Dunstan and St Magnus the Martyr. Further details of both events will be sent to towers by email when confirmed. Tom confirmed he had had around five responses to his email sent at the end of November asking towers for their training needs.

8. Membership & Handbooks

Rupert Cheeseman reminded everyone that subs were due by the end of January and for this year, remain at £10 for adult members up to the age of 65, £5 for those 65 or over and those aged 18 or below. Members aged 65 or more with 25 years of unbroken membership are free.

Debra Say reminded tower contacts to update their tower details on the KCACR website by 25th February ready for the 2019 handbook. Login details have already been provided by email. Towers are now also additionally requested to add if they have a simulator in the notes box to aid County training.

Personal copies of the 2019 Handbook are free of charge but must be ordered through the KCACR website if required, by 25th March. One copy per tower will be provided automatically.

Notification of ringers who have passed away since the last handbook and any obituaries should be sent to Debra.

Please direct any questions re updating tower details to Debra Say and any questions re membership to Rupert Cheeseman.

9. 120 Club

	No.	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	80	£20	John Chenery	Horton Kirby
2nd	98	£10	Rachel Backhouse	Thatcham
3rd	35	£10	Daphne Paterson	Eynsford & Farningham
4th	6	£5	India Fergusson	Foots Cray

Liz Brett said she is still awaiting confirmation of the licence from Bexley Council who are being very slow. Numbers are now being sold for the April 2019 draw onwards via Liz/Deryck. Rules and application forms are on the District website.

10. Any Other Business

Members were encouraged to use the bookstall to buy or even just to look and then buy online. A list of books can be found on the KCACR website under 'Shop'.

Tom Hinks was congratulated for making the front page of Ringing World (Issue 5620 11/1/2019) for his part in the record length of 14-spliced Fourteen. Congratulations were also extended to Steph Runting (Sidcup) for her first peal, her 18th birthday and her appearance in the Blue Peter bell ringing feature.

A minute taker will be needed for the next meeting at Greenwich as Debra Say is unable to attend – there were no volunteers. Rupert thanked contributors to the latest newsletter and asked that any further Ringing Remembers performances are added to bellboard.

11. Vote of Thanks

Ian Mills gave a vote of thanks to Chris Kitchener for taking the service and to Richard Sutton the organist. Thanks were also extended to the Sidcup band for providing a such a lovely afternoon tea.

Next Meeting – Saturday 13th April at Greenwich

LEWISHAM DISTRICT EVENTS 2019

- Sat 13th Apr Quarterly Meeting: Greenwich, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Wed 1st May Training evening: Listening skills for better striking
- Wed 8th May District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Thurs 9th May District 10 bell Practice: Beckenham, 7.50 – 9.30pm
- Fri 17th May District Practice: Cudham, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Wed 12th Jun District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Fri 28th Jun District Practice: Erith, Christ Church, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Wed 10th Jul District Surprise Practice: Chelsfield, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 13th Jul Quarterly Meeting: Cudham, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Fri 26th Jul District Practice: West Wickham, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 10th Aug District Outing with Tonbridge: TBC, all day
- Fri 13th Sep District Practice: TBC, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 12th Oct Quarterly Meeting: Erith, Christ church, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Fri 18th Oct District Practice: TBC, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Fri 8th Nov District Practice: TBC, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 16nd Nov District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Horton Kirby, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 6th 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 Nick 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