



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS www.kcacr.org.uk OCTOBER 2020

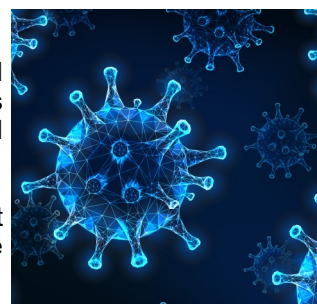
Covid and the return to ringing

Around the middle of September Nick Wilkins contacted me to say that in speaking with the other Districts, questions had been raised about what was happening with ringing in the individual Districts. We quickly realised that it was important the committee found out the answers, both for ourselves and for Nick to feed back to the Kent County Association, who wanted to look at the wider picture in Kent as a whole.

This was the perfect opportunity to utilise the District Rep scheme introduced 18 months ago whereby each committee member acts as a personal contact for 3/4 towers, and so each officer was tasked with obtaining the answers to a small number of questions from the towers they represent. These were then forwarded onto me to collate into one document before I shared them with the rest of the committee. The questions asked if the band had stayed in contact over the last 6 months, whether services had resumed, had the bell installation been checked and a risk assessment completed, whether ringing had resumed and if not, what was the reason and finally, if no ringing at present, was there an anticipated start date.

It really was very pleasing that the rep scheme worked so well and the replies started to land in my inbox within 24 hours. Within a very short time frame, 29 out of the 30 ringable towers within the District had responded, so a big thank you to all tower contacts who were involved in this for making my life easier than it could have been!

Now I'm not about to share the entire survey with you all as it would run to several pages, but there are some generalisations and a few specific interesting points which deserve to be shared.



Firstly, the vast majority of bands have stayed in touch with one another by a variety of means – email, Zoom, Whatsapp, Ringing Room and occasional socially distanced meets once restrictions allowed - but if there was a prize in this category, Horton Kirby would be the winners.....they took their laptops to the pub for some socially distanced virtual ringing using Ringing Room! Second prize goes to Greenwich who have been ringing handbells on the green outside St Alphege's and third prize to Chelsfield who in addition to regular Zoom meetings, have also organised a couple of in person meet ups in a pub garden for those who felt able to come along.

Sunday service ringing has now resumed at 18 out of 29 towers and of those who have not restarted, the reasons are understandable such as the ringing room is too small, the age profile/vulnerability of the local band and of course some towers had an issue with insufficient ringers even before the pandemic struck. On a positive note for service ringing, Farnborough and Chelsfield are now both ringing for a midweek service which wouldn't have happened pre-Covid but the current situation means they now want to do so. I've awarded the prize in the service ringing category to Farnborough and specifically to Nick who is sometimes ringing two bells.... video required please!

And lastly, several towers have taken the opportunity to carry out some maintenance. Bickley have taken their ropes off for repair and refurbishment, Bromley Parish are painting the bell frame but the refurbishment prize goes to Ash who decided their ropes were looking a bit dirty so they took them off at the beginning of lockdown and have washed and rehung them....now that's above and beyond!

So that's my slightly tongue in cheek round-up of what is happening but on a more serious note, it has allowed the committee to identify any weakness in the District and has already prompted the Crayford band to offer service ringing to Bexley once a month. The survey has therefore already had a very practical use and the results will be fed back to the County as requested.

Debra Say

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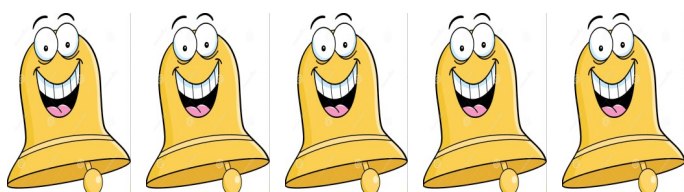
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Chairman's bit

Well, this is it, my last 'Chairman's Bit' as I'm retiring at the Annual District Meeting on Saturday. Many articles are currently written along the lines of 'who would have thought, this time last year' etc, so I won't go into all that, but it is a very odd way to end a stint as Chairman. However, I've been really heartened to read the results of the ringing survey we conducted over the last few weeks. It was good to get so many responses, partly I hope as a result of having the Tower Reps system in place so you have more direct contact with the committee. It was also good to see how many towers have been able to resume ringing in some form, and have embraced that despite all the limitations put on it. It can be disheartening to ring rounds & call changes on three for just 15 minutes, but at Chelsfield we've been told many times by members of the congregation how glad they are to hear the bells, how uplifting it is, so it's worth it. You never know who is listening and how much it might mean to them.

You might not have been able to do resume, and are worried about how that will affect your band, if so that is a genuine concern. If you haven't tried online chats and Ringing Room now might be time to have a go, and if you would like more information on that contact the committee because several of them are becoming experts! You could also attend the online District Practices with Ringing Room, and you don't have to join in straight away, it's possible just to be an observer and see how it all works. Just make it clear when you sign in, the Ringing Masters will understand. The other option is handbells, you don't have to be experts and ring two, you can ring one each in a socially distanced circle and ring rounds and call changes. If you don't have access to handbells, you can use your thumbs – I'm not joking! Thumb up, thumb down for the different strokes – it takes a bit of practice but it keeps the ringing brain ticking over. I'm also hanging on to the thought that ringing stopped for a much longer period during WWII but it did manage to get going again.

I'd like to end by saying a huge thank you to my two District Secretaries, Debra Say and Sue Cameron, who were both brilliant in keeping me on track with all the admin and things that needed to be thought about. Also to the District Committee who all worked with enthusiasm to plan the County AGM, now postponed to next year, and then in many different ways to keep an online presence going for the District during this current situation.

Philippa Rooke
Chairman
Lewisham District
KCACR

Editorial



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

Well what a strange year it has been. When I last wrote an editorial in January, I'd have never guessed that the next District Meeting that we'd have wouldn't be until October and would be sat in our own homes via zoom. And generally if we want to ring on more than 4 bells it has to be virtually on Ringing Room.

We have also lost a number of experienced ringers who have passed away since January. John Cannell, Peter Skinner, Percy Hicks, Angus Ogilvie and Geoff Mills Rest In Peace.

Cheers and stay safe,

Rupert

Guidance for Ringing

During Coronavirus Restrictions

Just a reminder, here are the links for advice on ringing during the current situation. This is carefully thought through guidance from the central body that looks after the interests of bellringers and we strongly advise everyone to follow it. If your local incumbent and churchwardens have put in place stricter controls for the safety of the parishioners then of course this takes precedence.

Updates will normally appear via the KCACR and Lewisham District e-lists but it's worth checking directly with the websites from time to time just to see if there's anything new.

www.cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/

and

<https://kcacr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your Tower Rep or any member of the District Committee.

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A quick recommendation if you are looking for some ringing-related reading material for the coming weeks. The Central Council have published, for free via their website, a series of articles called the Learning Curve, which were originally published in the Ringing World between 1999-2007. Each one is a page long and the series covers a wide range of topics, including bell handling, raising and lowering, striking, method ringing and calling touches.

The articles can be found at:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/learning-development/>.

Thanks, and all the best,
Tom

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BEXLEY

With no current active band at Bexley and with ringers to spare at Crayford due to the limited number of people allowed to ring on a Sunday, the Crayford band is going to start ringing for the morning service at Bexley roughly once a month. The first one of these took place on Sunday 4th October.

Rupert



CHELSEFIELD

At Chelsfield we were able to start ringing again in the middle of August, as the church resumed services on Sundays and Wednesdays. There hasn't been a midweek service for several years but the current situation led the Rector to reintroduce it, as a way of having more than one service a week without doing lots of Covid-cleaning, so it's good for us as we get to ring twice a week! We can only ring three, or four if two members of the same household are available, but at least we are able to ring and we rotate the band between sessions as best we can so that everyone that is able to has a turn.

On practice nights, Mondays, we been meeting on Zoom since the very beginning of lockdown. Numbers vary but we often have ten people on screen chatting about bell-related and other things. We tried going to the pub once or twice, and sitting in the garden, but now the weather's changed that's not so easy.

Philippa Rooke

CRAYFORD

With no Newsletter since January, I suppose any tower news should cover the last nine months but unsurprisingly, there is little to pass on! Three quarter peals were rung before lockdown began, the last of which we wanted to go ahead with despite the advice

not to do so, as it was in memory of our dear friend and fellow ringer, Peter Skinner, who died the week before. Peter rang with us every Tuesday evening right up until he was admitted to hospital in November 2019 and he could always be relied upon to turn out for a quarter peal. Knowing he really liked the sound of Grandsire, there really was no other choice of method for this poignant quarter.

Sunday 2 February 2020

1260 Candlemas Doubles in 42mins

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Brenda Barton | 2. Debra Say |
| 3. Rupert Cheeseman (C) | 4. David Gyles |
| 5. Andrew Sinclair | 6. Peter Hartley |

Rung on the feast of Candlemas.

First in variation; 2&5.

Tuesday, 3 March 2020

1260 Doubles (6M) in 43mins

(6m: 240 each St Osmond, Eynesbury, St Martin's, St Simon's, 120 Plain Bob and 180 Grandsire)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brenda Barton | 2. Ann Saunders |
| 3. Debra Say | 4. David Gyles |
| 5. Rupert Cheeseman (C) | 6. Andrew Sinclair |

Rung half muffled in memory of Rev Joe Hogarth (1932-2020) whose funeral took place at this church today. Rest in peace Father Joe.

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42mins

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

Rung in celebration of the life of Peter Skinner (1954-2020). Tower Captain at St Nicholas, Chislehurst and regular ringer at and friend of St Paulinus, Crayford who died on 11th March



Once lockdown began, the Crayford band started meeting virtually almost straight away on our usual practice night and we trialled our first virtual ringing session on 7th April via Zoom and Ringing Room. We found this quite difficult in the early days but all agreed it was worth persevering and we have held a weekly virtual practice ever since with anything from 8-12 attendees.

Ringing has moved on from basic rounds and call changes back in April to include method ringing now. Strangely we are finding the best thing that we ring on it is Stedman Doubles! We've even had a go at plain hunt on 9 which is obviously something we could never do in

the tower. We have found even those who were only just progressing to ring the treble to methods in the tower, have been able to continue learning and are doing really well. We have even managed to retain our learner who was barely able to handle a bell back in March and he is now able to ring plain hunt.

On Friday 8th May the band rang Rounds & Call Changes on 10 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day but as we know, nothing compares to 'proper' ringing and our wish was at last realised when services resumed at St Paulinus on Sunday 19th July. With the bells and installation duly checked, risk assessment carried out and approval obtained from our very supportive Rector, a rota was established for 4 ringers to ring for 15 minutes every Sunday morning. Following the results of the District ringing survey which was carried out (see separate report in Newsletter), some of the Crayford band are also now providing service ringing once a month at St Mary's Bexley who are very grateful for our help.

Debra Say

DOWNE

Over the last couple of years, the number of bell ringers in Downe has decreased, a decline which has been experienced across many towers. At the beginning of 2019, we had five ringers and a young learner.

The early part of 2019 year went well, with us ringing most Sundays, though only on 5 bells. With the help of the Cudham ringers we were also able to ring on all 6 bells for special events such as the Downe May Queen. In May we were then hit with the awful news of the sudden death of one of our ringers, Richard Shaw, which left us devastated. More bad news was to follow with the ill health of two of our ringers. With the help of ringers from Cudham and Hever we managed to keep the practices on the 2nd and 4th Mondays going but ringing for Sunday services came to a halt.

The silence of bells on a Sunday did not go unnoticed and in November a group of villagers came forward to say that they were interested in learning how to ring. So, in December with the help of Alison and Jon from Cudham, we ran a taster session and four people enjoyed it so much that they wanted to have more lessons.

Due to availability we were not able to run the next session until February. To see if we could boost the number of learners, I put out a plea for ringers in our Parish Magazine and on Downe Mailing. This resulted in three more people coming forward.

We have now run three more sessions and I have to say a massive thank you to Alison, Jon and Rupert who have been doing the teaching for me. Unfortunately, the onset of the Coronavirus has brought a temporary stop to the sessions, however we now potentially have seven people interested, so hopefully some of these will go on

and become ringers.

The other good news we have had is that our two people who had health issues have been to a couple of practices. In addition, our young learner Samuel is ready to become a full member. So hopefully, we will have a full band again soon.

Caryn Newell
(written in March just before lockdown)

FARNBOROUGH

Initially under lockdown we held Zoom and Ringing Room 'practices' on some Wednesday afternoons to roughly coincide with the time of what was previously the normal Wednesday afternoon practice. During the summer holidays these ceased but we are contemplating resuming.

Up until early August there were no services at Farnborough and hence no ringing. Initially outdoor services started up on Sundays and these are now inside the church if the weather is inclement. The Rector is very enthusiastic and eager to have the bells rung so, following the carrying out of a Risk Assessment, we ring for Sunday services and also now ring prior to the Thursday service which we have never done before.

With the restriction on numbers ringing at one time, this allows the rotation of our ringers so every two or three weeks everyone gets a ring. The normal minimum of bells rung is 1, 3 & 5. By having family 'bubbles' and/or me ringing two bells we have managed to sound up to five bells on a Sunday morning.

Since the last Newsletter things have moved on rapidly with regards to augmenting the bells to eight by way of 'top and tail' - a new treble and heavier tenor and this requires the current 4th bell to be tuned down half a note.

The PCC approved the project just before lockdown on Monday 16th March and there was an article in the Ringing World on 19th June, page 600. The Public Notice in connection with the Faculty has gone on display and by the time of publication of this Newsletter the Faculty may well have been granted.

I have a provisional date with Taylor's of Loughborough for casting the two new bells of Thursday, 29th October. With current Coronavirus restrictions it is uncertain whether it will be possible to view the castings. Anyone who is interested should contact me.

The new treble bell is to solely bear the name of John Barnes a resident of the parish of Farnborough for over 50 years. Donations via Just Giving towards this exciting and extremely worthwhile project will be very welcome:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Bells4Farnborough>

Nick Wilkins

HAYES

As you will know, there is no longer a band of ringers at Hayes but some of The Meridian Ringers and ringers from St. Luke's, Bromley Common do some occasional ringing for services, weddings and other special events.

The Lewisham District held its' District Meeting at Hayes on Saturday 11th January – ringing 3.30pm, Service 4.30pm, followed by tea and business meeting and ended with some evening ringing. This was a very successful occasion – many thanks to The Rector, Revd Napo John for taking the service for us.

Before lockdown we were able to ring for Evening Services on 1st February and 1st March.

When lockdown was announced I was able to ring at Hayes:

Sunday, 22 March 2020 in 5m

Tolling

Fourth bell (5-3-21 C#) rung to show the community that St Mary's Church is open for prayer and to mark Mothering Sunday. It was possible to collect some daffodils at the church. Best wishes to all mothers at this difficult time.

On a personal note, I decided to do some four in hand ringing at home and in the Churchyard at St Mary's, Hayes. Ringing four in hand is not easy but I did manage to ring a quarter peal amazingly!
Details, which can be found on Bellboard:

Sunday, 28 June 2020 Hayes (St. Mary The Virgin, Churchyard), Kent

480 Singles and Minimus (3m)

Monday, 22 June 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

528 Singles and Minimus (2m)

Sunday, 7 June 2020 Hayes (St. Mary The Virgin, Churchyard), Kent

486 Singles and Minimus (6m)

Sunday, 31 May 2020 Hayes (St. Mary The Virgin, Churchyard), Kent

A quarter peal of 1284 Singles and Minimus (8m)

Sunday, 24 May 2020 Hayes (St. Mary The Virgin, Churchyard), Kent

768 Singles and Minimus (7m)

Sunday, 17 May 2020 Hayes (St. Mary The Virgin, Churchyard), Kent

480 Singles (4m)

Sunday, 10 May 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

336 Singles and Minimus (2m)

Friday, 8 May 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

450 Singles and Minimus (5m)

Sunday, 26 April 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

480 Minimus (2m)

Sunday, 19 April 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

180 St Alphege Minimus

Thursday, 16 April 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

96 Double Court Place Minimus

Sunday, 12 April 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

288 Minimus (3m)

Sunday, 5 April 2020 Hayes, The Study, Everard Avenue, Kent

96 Single Court Place Minimus

Thursday, 26 March 2020 Hayes (Garden Shed, Everard Avenue), Kent

24 Plain Bob Minimus



Since the relaxation of restrictions, I have done the necessary risk assessments and measuring rope distances at St Mary's. Although ringing would be possible on 3, it will not be possible to ring there for the time being due to the rather cramped space in the ringing chamber. However, I have inspected the bells and did ring all the bells.

Thursday, 3 September 2020 Hayes, Kent

Tolling: Ringing Up and Down

I intend to go in every 6-8 weeks to ring the bells up and down just to see that all is OK.

When things return to some sort of normality, the aim is to try and continue to ring for a service about once a month, some quarter peals and some occasional general ringing practices. There is also a possibility of organising a Tower Open Day sometime to demonstrate the bells and hopefully to get some of the local community to take up ringing and get a regular band ringing at Hayes again.

Graham Long

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

Up until the Coronavirus lockdown, we continued with our normal ringing pattern:

Wednesdays 8pm-930pm – Practice (usually at Greenwich)

Beginners' session 715pm to 8pm – Wednesdays at Greenwich

Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich [depends on availability] – 915am to 10am

Choral Evensong at Greenwich – last Sunday of the month, 540pm to 630pm

Sunday Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates].

We also ring at Hayes occasionally, usually for a Sunday Evening service once a month, at least (see separate item for Hayes in the newsletter).

We don't ring at Woolwich much these days as access is quite difficult at times due to The Deeper Meaning Life Church using the balcony for their services and meetings; there has also been a pigeon infestation which needs to be resolved.

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. We have a dedicated learner's practice from about 715pm on Wednesdays which has been a real asset, then a session from about 830pm for more advanced ringing.

We plan to arrange some more of our two-hour Ringing School Workshops in due course, with some intense work on Doubles work, plain hunt on 6 and 7, and Bob Minor.

On 18th January The Thomas Tallis Society, which rehearses and performs regular concerts at St Alfege's had a special concert and they asked us to ring for this – and kindly gave us a £100 donation:

Saturday, 18 January 2020

600 Plain Bob Doubles in 20mins

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Emma Roberts | 2. Hazel Bing |
| 3. Graham Long (C) | 4. Jim Odell |
| 5. Bill Lanyon | 6. Alan Munden |

Rung to celebrate the 100th birthday of Trevor Dannatt, RA, the distinguished architect, before a special concert given by The Thomas Tallis Society - Trevor has been a Patron of the Choir for over 50 years.

The ringing concluded with firing and a good ring down in peal.

The new ropes for Greenwich, from Avon Ropes, arrived in January and we put them on the bells on Friday 31st January. We had the ropes blessed at our practice on 11th March when The Revd Caroline Risdon, Assistant Priest conducted a short service in the ringing chamber. Revd Caroline devised the order of service for this – if anyone would like a copy for any sort of blessing for bells, I can send this on.

The team who rang and helped to install the new ropes at Greenwich today. L-R: Hazel Bing, Bill Lanyon, Jim Odell, Naoko Nakatani, Graham Long, Edward Gormley, David Connearn [Janet Caruso took the photo]

With the onset of the lockdown, church services were suspended and churches were allowed to remain open for private prayer [this changed on the evening of 22nd March when all churches were ordered to be closed], I was asked if it were possible for the clergy to be able to chime a bell to acknowledge that the church was open.

I therefore arranged to install these at Greenwich and Deptford on Friday 20th March. Whilst at St John's, Deptford I also tolled the tenor in memory:

St Alfege, Greenwich Friday, 20 March 2020
Tolling Graham Long

Rope fitted for chiming the third bell (6-1-5 note D) as The Bishop of Southwark has asked clergy to ring a bell when prayers or private services are held during the current situation. Graham gave a brief instruction on how to chime the bell to the Assistant Priest, Revd Caroline Risdon.

St John, Deptford Friday, 20 March 2020
Tolling Graham Long

Rope fitted for chiming the third bell (5-1-21 note D) and a brief instruction on how to chime the bell was given to The Team Rector, Revd Canon Peter Farley-Moore.

St John, Deptford Friday, 20 March 2020
Tolling Graham Long

The Tenor (14-0-18 F) was tolled 72 times in memory of Fr. Alan Dupuy (1948-2020), whose funeral took place on Wednesday 18th March at St George's, Forest Hill, London SE23. Graham is The Director of Music at St George's - Alan was a great supporter of church music and particularly enjoyed listening to voluntaries by J.S. Bach, good hymn singing and Taizé chants. He will be sadly missed. May he Rest In Peace - And Rise In Glory.

In order to keep people connected we ran Zoom meetings for a while but have discontinued with these now we are able to ring in the towers again, even on a limited basis.

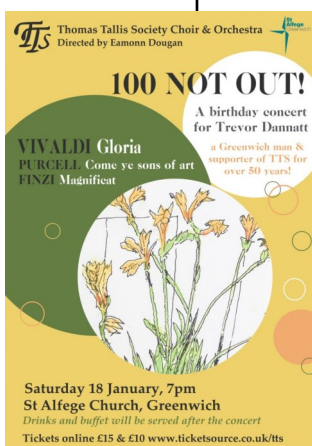
When lockdown started to ease at the end of June we started to meet to ring handbells – nothing very advanced, and some just ringing one bell - in the churchyard at Greenwich and are continuing to do this until we are able to ring in the tower for longer than 15 minutes at a time.

We have a socially distanced space arranged for us in The Ashburnham Arms after ringing to meet up for drinks and a chat (far better than Zoom meetings!).

David Connearn and I inspected the bells at Greenwich and Deptford and did the necessary risk assessments and measuring distances in anticipation of ringing again. We have been able to ring on Sundays from 12th July – 4 bells at Deptford and 6 at Greenwich (or 7 if we had two from the same household ringing, although under the guidance of only 6 meeting we can't do this any longer). We also rang for VJ Day at Deptford and Greenwich.

I contacted the Parish Priest and Churchwardens at St Alfege's to see if it would be possible for us to do some Commemoration Ringing on Wednesday evenings. They were incredibly supportive of this and we started to do this on 12th August and have rung for memorial and celebratory occasions every Wednesday.

Several of us have had people we know who passed away in the past few months or those whose



anniversaries were around particular times of the year. On one occasion, the Priest and family members came to listen to us when we rang for a PCC member's first anniversary of passing.

On happier notes, we have also rung for the birth of my granddaughter, Rachel Joy; for Giuseppina and Luigi's grandson, Christian; and for the birth of Dan and Ania Cocker's third daughter, Frances Cecilia.

Here is a list of some of our Commemoration Ringing (more details are on Bellboard, including some photos):

AT ST. ALFEGE, GREENWICH
Wednesday, 30 September 2020
Rounds, Call Changes and Ringing Down In Peal
Wednesday, 23 September 2020
Rounds and Call Changes, Ringing Down In Peal
Wednesday, 16 September 2020
480 Plain Bob Doubles
Sunday, 13 September 2020
420 Plain Bob Doubles
Wednesday, 9 September 2020
Rounds, Call Changes and Firing
Wednesday, 26 August 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Wednesday, 19 August 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Sunday, 16 August 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Saturday, 15 August 2020
Rounds and Call Changes, 75 Tolls on Tenor

Wednesday, 12 August 2020

Rounds and Call Changes
Sunday, 9 August 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Wednesday, 29 July 2020

176 Plain Hunt Minimus
Sunday, 26 July 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Sunday, 19 July 2020
Rounds and Call Changes
Sunday, 12 July 2020
140 Doubles (2m)

AT ST. JOHN'S,
DEPTFORD:

Saturday, 15 August 2020
60 Plain Bob Singles, Rounds and Call Changes
Sunday, 12 July 2020
120 Plain Bob Singles

We look forward to when we will be able to ring with less restrictions but will continue to carry on ringing as much as we can in the next few months.

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

www.meridianbells.webs.com

Graham Long



LEWISHAM DISTRICT EVENTS 2020/1

All 'real' practices, meetings and competitions currently remain suspended for the foreseeable future. However, virtual ones are still taking place.

Sat 10 th Oct	Virtual Annual District Meeting: Your home, 10am. Send names for the zoom invite to sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
Sat 24 th Oct	Virtual District Practice: Your home, 10.00am - 12.00
Sat 21 st Nov	District Virtual Striking Competition: Your home, 10am draw (tbc or a Virtual District Practice)
Sat 12 th Dec	Virtual District Practice: Your home, 10.00am - 12.00
Sat 9 th Jan	Virtual Annual District Meeting: Your home, 10am. Send names for the zoom invite to sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
Mon 5 th Apr	KCACR Annual General Meeting: Either virtual or in the Lewisham District tbc
Sat 10 th Apr	Annual District Meeting: Either virtual or in person tbc
Sat 10 th Jul	Annual District Meeting: Either virtual or in person tbc
Sat 9 th Oct	Annual District Meeting: Either virtual or in person tbc

Further dates on the website...

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

Around the district on two wheels

Unfortunately this article has nothing to do with bell ringing itself. Despite that I thought I put a few words together anyway... just to share what unavailability of ringing has done to me and how pathetically desperate I am to be nearer those places that we have lost access to.

After a couple of running injuries, I've settled on the idea of cycling instead. Must say that I'm not a driver and didn't have any idea about how to behave on the road. Every single roundabout scares the life out of me! That inner turmoil and lack of confidence couldn't totally quell my willingness to get away from the kids for a couple of hours to keep me sane (if you've met my kids you know what I mean). So I've made a brave decision to cycle to the district towers that I've rung at... to begin with.

There are 33 towers in Lewisham District (not including those with unringable bells), which is 12 more than I've rung at. Why not do them all, I thought in the end. Every journey was evidenced with a picture of my bike in front of each church. To my absolute delight some of the 'models', that were so

gracefully posing for my photos, greeted me by chiming the time.

It took me 17 trips, about 240 miles (not including the distance that I cycled before realising that I'm going the wrong way), a set of new inner tubes and tyres (old bike), one grazed knee and hand (no other human or animal were harmed). I've discovered places I've never heard of and learned some absolutely fascinating historical facts. I believe that all that time I've spent travelling around the district benefited me both physically and intellectually.

I've selected a few pictures. See if you can spot the bike and recognise these churches (apologies for my poor photographic skills).

I'm full of hope to ring at all 33 towers when ringing returns, looking forward to visiting every single church again and not just hopelessly wander around graveyards but pull some ropes and make some noise.

Svetlana Sokolova



Answers on page 11

John Cannell RIP

John Cannell was taught to ring by Arthur Richards at St John's West Wickham, he joined the band in 1947 and was a member for over 50 years.

John was taken by the ringing bug and it was not long before he rang his first quarter peal in January 1950. By November 1950 he had conducted his first quarter peal and rang his first peal in September 1950 at Crayford, with Phil Corby conducting it. In the 1950's and 1960's quarter peals were rung regularly at St John's for morning and evening services and John's name appears in the majority of these in the tower records. He rang 10-15 peals a year in the early 1950's with local ringers and rang 71 peals during his lifetime.

John also rang in London and was elected a member of the College Youths in 1951. He regularly rang in St Botolph's Aldgate for Sunday morning service, once a month.

He met his wife, Susan, in the belfry at St John's and they were married at St Mary's Hayes in 1957.

In late 1978 I joined the band with three friends to work towards the Girl Guide bell ringing badge. John and Arthur Richards taught us to ring. With John's encouragement and support, I rang my first quarter peal in November 1979, conducted by John and 40 years later I am still ringing.

I have fond memories of my early days in the belfry ; the inspiration and friendship from the established and competent band at the time , the annual ringing outings organised by John, ringing hand bells, being made welcome in John's family home for the annual AGM and occasionally ringing the New Year in.

St John's had a very strong band in the late 1970's and 1980's and everyone had their favourite bells, John favoured the back bells. They were always well maintained, as John was a long term friend with Will Hughes, proprietor of the Whitechapel bell foundry who joined the St John's band after the war and rang until his death in 1993. After that John continued the close association between the foundry and the tower, through Will's son, Alan.

John became tower captain in 1980 following the death of Arthur Richards, and stepped down at the end of 1990. He remained an active member of the band until 2000, when he had to reluctantly stop ringing regularly for health reasons but he continued to support the band and visit the tower occasionally.

During the 1980's and 1990's John arranged for the band to ring Christmas carols on the hand bells for late night shoppers in Bromley, raising money for the local Shaftsbury School, he loved being able to share his passion of bell ringing with others. In his retirement, he shared his knowledge working with a local school, occasionally taking groups of pupils to St Mary's tower, Hayes.

John had been unwell for some time having suffered with viral encephalitis following an operation last year. He had been living in a care home since then and died

peacefully on April 5th with his family by his side. He was 86 years old.

John was a kind and generous man and I was privileged to ring with him and that he shared his enthusiasm and knowledge of bell ringing with me.

Judith Fry

Angus Ogilvie RIP

Angus Ogilvie learnt to ring in around 1970 at St Peter's Brighton, under the tutelage of Albert Bond, and led a group who re-furbished the ring of four at St Mark's Kempdown. It was at St Peter's that he rang his first peal, Stedman Caters, in 1972, and rang a total of 122 peals between then and 1988. He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, which he joined in 1973, and was a regular attendee at the Tuesday evening practices in central London up until the mid-1980s. David House, who proposed him for membership, remembers him as "a popular companion, at the bar as well as in the tower".

Having later moved to Mottingham with his family, Angus withdrew from serious ringing for a while, to focus on his family and career, but took it up again at St Nicholas, Chislehurst, in the mid-1990s when Rupert, his son, was old enough to start learning. Here he became a regular service ringer and rang a number of quarter-peals with the local band. I first met Angus shortly after I started to ring at St John the Baptist, Eltham, in 1997. By that time St Nick's had a close relationship with Eltham, including an annual joint outing, so I saw him quite regularly, and rang in several quarter-peals with him.

Then, around 2005, his wife Caroline also returned to ringing, initially on handbells, but was persuaded by the silver tongue of Len Morley to come to the Tuesday night practice at Eltham, whose bells were slightly lighter and easier than St Nick's. To the great benefit of the Eltham practice, Angus came with her, and for at least 10 years they were both regular attendees. He was a real asset to both bands, always with a positive comment about even the shakiest piece of ringing, and a word of encouragement for new or less experienced ringers.

Sadly, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2009 and although he was able to continue ringing for a while, he eventually had to hang up his rope. He rang his last quarter-peal in 2012, at Eltham, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Even after he was unable to ring, he used to meet up with us in the Park Tavern after the practice, when it was always good to see him, and he would join us at other social events such dinners, outings and picnics. We'd been looking forward to seeing him again after the end of the Covid19 lockdown, but sadly that was not to be. Angus died in Lewisham hospital on 18th August 2020 due to complications following surgery (chest infection, followed by pneumonia), exacerbated by Parkinson's. May he rest in peace.

David Holdridge

120 Club

120 Club Results

Accounts 2019/20

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
88 shares @£10	£880	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£170	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£12.43
TOTAL	£1050	TOTAL	£572.43
		To BRF	£477.57

Plenty of shares are still available for 2020/21. Shares are £10 and each draw has four prizes - £20, £10, £10, and £5, with double the number of prizes in July and December. All profits currently go to the Kent County Bell Restoration Fund.

You do not have to be a Kent member or even a ringer to purchase shares, but shares cannot be sold to anyone under 16. Application forms may be downloaded as either word document or pdf together with a copy of the Rules and Conditions.

Share numbers will be allocated sequentially. If you wish to have particular numbers, please indicate this when you apply. However, preferred numbers cannot be guaranteed.

They can be emailed to me and payment made by Bank Transfer (Lewisham District 120 Club, Sort code 20-06-72, Account No 73064662, Ref: Your name). Alternatively, application forms can be posted to me in bulk from Towers, together with payment (Please ensure you put the correct postage on the envelope).

Philippa and Nick made the draws while the district events were suspended. They are now back taking place during the virtual district events.

Good luck and stay safe.

Elizabeth Brett

Cycle Churches (left to right):

West Wickham, Wilmington, Ash by Wrotham

Chislehurst Annunciation, St Mary Cray, Keston (6 bells hung dead)

January 11th District Meeting, Hayes

1st	£20	111	– David Holdridge, Eltham
2nd	£10	103	– (unsold – prize to BRF)
3rd	£10	2	– Liz Brett, Erith, Christchurch
4th	£5	22	– Daphne Paterson, E&F

March 28th Electronic draw by Philippa and Nick

1st	£20	56	– Sue Allport, Horton Kirby
2nd	£10	60	– Rachel Dean, Horton Kirby
3rd	£10	99	– Diane Reynolds, Eltham
4th	£5	58	– Peter Rushbrook, HK

April Electronic draw by Philippa and Nick

1st	£20	43	– David Hilling, E&F
2nd	£10	52	– Unsold, prize to BRF
3rd	£10	118	– Unsold, prize to BRF
4th	£5	3	– Jon Fry, West Wickham

May Electronic draw by Philippa and Nick

1st	£20	76	– Unsold, prize to BRF
2nd	£10	45	– David Hilling, E&F
3rd	£10	49	– Deryck Jones, Dartford
4th	£5	73	– Unsold, prize to BRF

June Electronic draw by Philippa and Nick

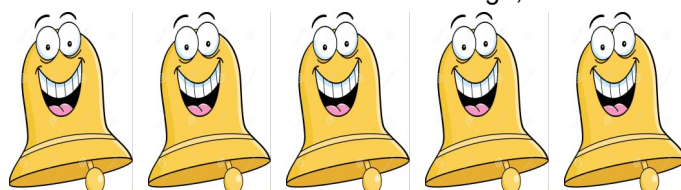
1st	£20	106	– Unsold, prize to BRF
2nd	£10	70	– Unsold, prize to BRF
3rd	£10	90	– Unsold, prize to BRF
4th	£5	93	– Unsold, prize to BRF

July 4th Virtual District Practice

1st	£20	65	– Unsold, prize to BRF
2nd	£20	38	– Jan Odell, Fooks Cray
3rd	£10	8	– Jim Rooke, Chelsfield
4th	£10	32	– Margaret Heald, Erith St John
5th	£10	24	– Sue Allport, Horton Kirby
6th	£10	18	– Peter Rushbrook, HK
7th	£5	112	– Unsold, prize to BRF
8th	£5	16	– Deryck Jones, Dartford

September 19th Virtual District Practice

1st	£20	92	– Unsold, prize to BRF
2nd	£10	100	– Deryck Jones, Dartford
3rd	£10	62	– Judith Cheeseman, Crayford
4th	£5	108	– Richard George, Chelsfield



KCACR - Items for Notification

The KCACR General Secretary has asked for three items to be brought to the attention of all members and these will be raised at the ADM being held via Zoom on Saturday 10th October. For anyone unable to attend, the details of these items are shown below:

1. Notification of Rule Change

"9.

(i) Representatives of the Association on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers shall be elected ~~triennially~~ from current Practising Members, ~~such election to take place at the~~ at each Annual General Meeting of the Association ~~approximately 12 months before the first meeting of each session of the Council.~~ The number of representatives so elected shall be as currently prescribed by the Central Council."

2. Notification of Proposal for KCACR to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The General Committee will be putting forward the following proposal at the AGM 2021 and that there are 6 Powerpoint slides on the Website to explain the benefits of this proposal at <https://kcacr.org.uk/association/agm/>

'That the KCACR be registered with the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation, and merged with Registered Charity No. 261294 The Kent County Association of Change Ringers' Bell Restoration Fund'.

A new draft Constitution is currently being worked on. Much of the document wording is as prescribed by the Charity Commission but members will have the opportunity to comment on the detail prior to the AGM 2021.

3. 2021 Subscription Renewals Process

Arrangements are being made for individual subscription renewals with online payment (with a facility for some group renewals where PCCs pay members' subscriptions) to begin 1st January 2021. Full details of this new process will be circulated nearer the time and assistance will be given to make subscription renewals as easy as possible for everyone concerned.



New Ringing Center?

At a Chelsfield ringers EGM on Monday 31st August we discussed ways in which we could do something at Chelsfield as a tribute to the memory of John Barnes. Over many decades John did a colossal amount for bellringing and sat on the Central Council from 1969 and attended last year's meeting even though very ill at that stage.

We've concluded that a ringing centre at Chelsfield would be an appropriate tribute. We think Chelsfield would make an excellent location as it has good parking, is well connected to the road/motorway network, has the Brass Crosby room with kitchen and toilet facilities, is not too far from a station and there is a bus that runs up to the village.

The only other ringing centre that we could think of in Kent is at Dover, the other end of the County, although there are ringing centres in the Surrey Association area.

I'm investigating the set ups elsewhere with other training centres but want to make the District aware of this exciting and worthwhile proposal and receive any comments and suggestions that people might have.

Many thanks,
Nick"



A bellringer's lament.

So we have to Single mindedly Stay at home now and no longer Sally forth to call people to worship. It's all very Dodgy. Restrictions are being Doubled and Tripled every day. It's not just a Minor glitch but a Major problem now. A right Royal mess. No apPealing to common sense or Catering for different opinions. It makes the heart Cinque. I'd bet a few Bob that when I'm a Grandsire and finally Clapperd out no one will believe my Tail when I tell what happened this year.

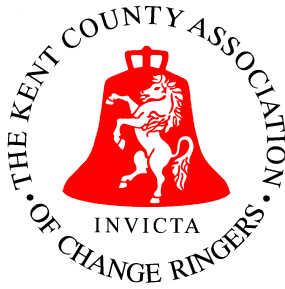
Lewisham District Egroup

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@yahoogroups.co.uk in order to be accepted to the group.



Debra Say



Chairman: Dr Phillip Barnes

Piltdown House
Maidstone Road
St Mary's Platt
Sevenoaks
TN15 8JE

01732 885443

October 7th 2020

Dear member

I am writing to update you with some news about the Association's plans to register as a charity.

Notice has been given of a proposal to the 2021 Annual General Meeting the aim of which is to register the whole Association as a charity and to merge it with the Bell Restoration Fund, which is already a charitable fund.

The wording of the motion states specifically that the Association will be registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (one of a number of potential structures for a charity) and we have received a number of queries and feedback since notice of the motion was given.

As a result the principal officers together with David Grimwood, who had led the work for the General Committee, have revisited the precise forms of charity structure that are possible to see which seems best suited to the Association's current needs and which will mean the least change in how the Association runs on a day to day basis.

There are two structures that the KCACR might adopt: a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) or an unincorporated Charitable Association. Both forms allow the KCACR to register for Gift Aid, to apply its funds not only for Bell Restoration but also for other charitable works in connection with ringing including training and development of ringers and to elect Trustees thus increasing accountability to members and our communities and churches.

The principal difference is that incorporation would give the KCACR a separate legal status as a "corporate body", which in itself provides some individual protection for trustees and would allow it to employ staff or own premises (e.g. as a training centre or headquarters). While these features have some attractions they come with a more rigid set of legal requirements which would mean some quite significant changes to how the KCACR is run and even which of our officers are elected and which are appointed.

On balance, we are coming to the view that the Association should aim to register as a Charitable Association rather than as a CIO. The financial benefits are the same and the enhanced governance and accountability from having elected charity Trustees are the same. It would however have less effect on our day to day running than becoming a CIO. Should we ever wish to expand our activities in a way that the benefits of incorporation outweighed the downsides then we could apply to convert to a CIO structure.

With best wishes.

Phillip Barnes
Chairman

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St Mary the Virgin, Hayes, 11th January 2020

24 people attended representing 15 towers.

The meeting opened with Philippa thanking Graham Long for getting the bells at Hayes ringing again and for hosting the District meeting.

A minute's silence was then held in memory of John Barnes (Chelsfield), John Stook (Ash) and Rev Stanley Evans (Vice-President KCACR 1944-2019) who have all passed away since our last meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Sue Cameron (Unattached), David Holdridge (Eltham), Ian Mills (Eltham), Ann Saunders (Unattached).

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (12th October 2019 at Erith, Christ Church)

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

Proposed: Svetlana Sokolova Seconded: Peter Morris. Voted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By	Competency Assessed By
Chris Fry	West Wickham	Judith Fry	Jon Fry	Nick Wilkins
Ellis Baker (Junior Member)	Farnborough	Nick Wilkins	Lesley Barclay	Nick Wilkins

Chris Fry is the son of Jon & Judith Fry and was previously a member before going to university. He now rings at West Wickham and is being re-elected.

Ellis Baker is 9 years old and has recently rung his first quarter peal at Farnborough, details in the January Newsletter.

Both were elected unanimously and welcomed to the Association.

5. KCACR - Report from 30th November 2019

Natalie Slator outlined the main points from the General Committee meeting:

- The plan to trial the new membership database to allow payment of subscriptions online in 2020 has been put on hold. The procedure for paying subscriptions for 2020 will remain unchanged.
- The trailer and mini bell ropes from the disbanded Kent Mobile Ring project are for sale.
- An independent examiner is still required for the annual audit – contact the KCACR Secretary, Treasurer or Chairman if interested.
- 120 clubs to obtain their own Lottery Licences.
- Stock remaining from the bookstall will be available for purchase at the AGM on 13th April. Catherine Lewis may run an independent bookstall in the future. Clothing can be ordered via Catherine Lewis through the KCACR website.
- Feedback is requested to the idea of alternating District meeting dates to free up more Saturdays for training and other ringing events.
- The possibility of introducing a call change option at the County 6-bell competition, maybe as a separate contest on the same day, has been raised. It is suggested that if this goes ahead, no ringer would be permitted to ring twice in the competition. Feedback is requested to this proposal.
- Consultation regarding the application for Charitable Status for the Association is to be undertaken.
- Members are encouraged to attend the Central Council AGM and Roadshow in Nottingham on 4th-6th September

- SEECON Striking competition – 4th April in Essex, Association 8-bell – 27th June at Chiddingstone, RWNYS – 4th July in York, Essex Trophy – 12th September at St Mary the Virgin Ashford, Kent Youth Inter-District competition – 7th November in Lewisham District.

Matters Arising:

Membership Database - Lewisham had previously agreed to trial the new subscription system in 2020. Rupert Cheeseman advised that he thought the delay was due to the lack of email addresses held for members. It is expected that these will be gathered during 2020 ready for the trial in 2021.

Examiner for Annual Audit - Philippa Rooke asked if anyone was interested and able to apply for this role. There were no firm offers but Debra Say said she had heard that somebody from another District had possibly come forward since the General Committee meeting.

Alternating District meeting dates - This was previously discussed at the October meeting and once again there was no strong feeling for/against the idea from those present. The Lewisham District Committee will now discuss the proposal and return formally to Sue Bassett (KCACR Secretary).

6. KCACR AGM – 13th April 2020

Venue – St Nicholas, Chislehurst

Lunch – Rhianon Meredith has kindly offered to lead a team to deliver the traditional lunch; the cost has been set at £15

Bar – Peter Norwood will be running the bar selling craft beers with the support of The Hoppers Hut in Sidcup

Raffle – Natalie Slator is coordinating and will be needing ideas for prizes

Open Towers – Nick Wilkins is organising two routes leading to Chislehurst and one route leading away from the venue later in the day. Four towers are being arranged on each route and volunteers will be needed to run each of the towers, especially at Foots Cray bearing in mind how light/difficult they are and the lack of a home band.

VOLUNTEERS will be needed for lots of other jobs on the day from setting up and clearing up to selling raffle tickets and serving the lunch and drinks. A dedicated email address has been set up for volunteers to offer their time and Liz Brett will be coordinating so if you are able to help on the day, please email KentAGM@lewishamdistrict.org.uk to let us know how long you can help (even an hour could be useful) and whether you can move tables/chairs or would prefer lighter duties or admin tasks.

7. Event Updates and Results

- A poster has been produced for each tower and is included in the January Newsletter, detailing all District practice dates and events plus towers where already arranged, for the whole of 2020.
- The joint outing to London with the Tonbridge District is confirmed as 8th August 2020 and will include ringing at West Ham, Bow and Clerkenwell (tbc).
- The Call Change Competition took place on Sat 16th November at Horton Kirby and was won by Chelsfield. There was a good turnout of seven bands which was very pleasing. Thanks are extended to Horton Kirby for hosting the competition.
- The District 6-Bell Striking Competition will take place on Sat 7th March at Crayford, 2.30pm draw and all towers are encouraged to enter. Rules have been relaxed a little over recent years, so if a tower does not have a complete band, consider entering a joint band.
- The Farningham Trophy takes place on 28th June.
- Training – Tom Hinks was at the meeting and outlined his proposal to hold a raising and lowering training event on a Wednesday evening at Beckenham shortly, plus a Saturday in March to concentrate on Plain Bob Doubles/Minor. Dates to be advised in due course.
- Ringing Out for Peace – Backed by the Central Council of Bellringers, this event has just been announced as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. All bells are asked to ring at 7pm (if possible) on Friday 8th May which is a Bank Holiday.

8. 120 Club

Profits Allocation- This subject was again up for discussion following both our April and October 2019 meetings. A question raised by Natalie Slator at the General Committee meeting in November concerning the needs of the various funds, has resulted in a proposal for the County to investigate the setting up a general fund for all 120 Club profits. This would allow the County the flexibility to allocate the profits depending on need each year.

The proposal was therefore to leave the BRF as the sole recipient for April 2020-March 2021 pending a decision from the County on a general fund. A vote was taken and was supported unanimously.

The draw then took place as follows:

	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	£20	111	David Holdridge	Eltham
2 nd	£10	103	Unsold	BRF
3 rd	£10	2	Liz Brett	Erith, Christ Church
4 th	£5	22	Daphne Patterson	Eynsford

9. Any Other Business

Rupert Cheeseman thanked contributors to the latest Newsletter.

He also reminded everyone that KCACR subscriptions are due at the new rates - £15 for adults (18-80), £7.50 for juniors (under 18), over 80's are free.

Personal copies of the new 2020 Handbook need to be requested via the form on the KCACR website as per the email previously sent by Debra Say.

Tower contacts are asked to provide details of any anniversaries, marriages, births, deaths/obituaries for inclusion in the 2020 Handbook to Debra Say by mid-February. DS to email all tower contacts next week.

10. Vote of Thanks

Judith Fry proposed a vote of thanks to Rev Napo John for taking the service and for allowing the use of the church and ringing of the bells. Thanks also go to Graham Long for playing the organ and to Jim, Hazel and Graham for organising a splendid tea, assisted once again by Chris and her lovely baking.

Next Meeting – Saturday 28th March 2020 at Chelsfield

SIGNED as a true record by.....

DATE.....