



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk)

OCTOBER 2021

## Crayford take the Chequered Flag

Following on from a successful virtual call change competition in November 2020, the committee decided to go ahead with a virtual 6-bell striking (method) competition, held on the first Saturday in March when our in-person competition would usually take place.

Four bands entered – Chelsfield, Crayford, Eltham and Eynsford – and Nick sourced a judge in Tom Lawrance. Tom is the tower captain at Holborn, St Giles-in-the-Field and a highly experienced ringer, composer of methods and competition judge, although we were a little nervous when we found out on the morning of the competition that he had never used Ringing Room before! Fortunately, our fears were unfounded and Tom delivered probably the most hilarious round up of each ringing performance that any of us had ever heard. This was all based around his observation that this is the LewisHam(ilton) District and was therefore F1 themed.

Band 1 (Crayford – Plain Bob Doubles)

Had engine problems on the 10th lap (lead) and on the 11th lap, the engine seemed to fail completely. They started again and the second time round the circuit the wheels stayed on. A very consistent performance and the last two laps were excellent. A good peal speed of 3hr 21mins.



### Band 2 (Chelsfield – Plain Bob Doubles)

An exciting ride but not the most consistent. A visit to the pits for maybe a cup of tea three quarters of the way through slowed the ringing down, but there were plenty of overtaking manoeuvres in the final course. A peal speed of 4hr 7mins.

### Band 3 (Eltham – Plain Bob Minor)

Started very purposefully but spun off on the second lap. They started again but it took a while for the tyres to warm up but by the 8th lap it was very good, although it tailed off after this. Peal speed of 4hr 6mins.

### Band 4 (Eynsford – Plain Bob Doubles)

An interesting technique with this band for coping with virtual ringing, overtaking wasn't an issue but a determination to avoid crashes seemed to be the tactic. Half way through the first run they ran out of petrol, the second attempt failed to make it off the grid but the third attempt was completed despite hitting a patch of oil on lap 9 and they stately and competently passed the finishing line, only to crash into the flag bearers' box at the end. Peal speed of 4hr 8mins.

The results were then announced in reverse order:

1st Band 1 – Crayford 76%

2nd Band 4 – Eynsford 68%

3rd Band 3 – Eltham 66%

4th Band 2 – Chelsfield 58%

That makes a clean sweep of virtual competitions for Crayford, the same band having also been victorious in the call change competition last November. We would just like to say though that these wins undoubtedly reflect the fact that we have held weekly virtual practices since the beginning of April 2020.

Debra Say

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The Crayford band: 6. Pete, 5. Rupert, 4. Dave, 2. Debra, 3. Andrew, 1. Liz (clockwise from top left)

# Editorial



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

With a return to in person ringing, it is also a return to the paper copy of the newsletter for each tower. It's been nice to see people again at real practices and pleasing that those held so far have been well supported.

Cheers and stay safe,

*Rupert*

## 120 Club Report

Once again, this was a difficult year. However, with a number of virtual practices and meetings on Zoom we were able to keep the draws going. September saw the first 'live' draw for well over a year during the District practice at Shoreham. 61 shares have been sold so far for the current year (68 in the previous year). Thanks once again to everyone who bought shares

Once again, most of the applications for shares this year were made via email – this is in many ways much easier. Up-to-date application forms are available on the Lewisham District website. Emailing applications saves both paper and postage and I have also been emailing share certificates back to members. Most payments have been by bank transfer. I would encourage those who are happy to continue membership each year to set up a Standing Order with their bank – this is even easier to administer. A Standing Order for payments of £10 per share to be made in February or March for the new draw year (starting in April) will ensure continuing membership.

Liz Brett

INCOME 2020/21		EXPENDITURE 20/21	
68 shares @£10	£680	Prizes	£540
Unclaimed prizes	£240	Council fee	£20
		Expenses	£14.95
TOTAL	£920	TOTAL	£574.95
		To BRF	£345.05

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## Timing & Format of Future Quarterly Meetings

As we return to in-person quarterly meetings, I've been wondering whether this is a good opportunity to review the timing, and possibly the format of future meetings.

You are probably aware that we have been holding virtual meetings at 10am, mainly because the internet seemed more stable at that time rather than the afternoon slot we always had in person. However, several people have suggested that they would prefer the morning meetings to continue once we can meet again, with the main benefit of leaving the rest of the day free.

A very valid point has also been made about the advantage of having the January meeting in particular in the morning, which would avoid travelling in the dark when the days are short. Morning meetings also leave the afternoon free for ringing at weddings but conversely, some members have commitments on Saturday mornings and would rather the meetings stay in the afternoon.

Then there is the question of whether we should keep the service element and the tea, which could easily be adapted to lunch should the decision be made to hold morning meetings instead. Personally, I'm in favour of



retaining both, the service to emphasise our commitment to the church and the tea/lunch for a social chat, but you may feel very differently and the committee would like to hear from you.

The committee have agreed to discuss this with everyone who comes along to the July meeting, but if you are unable to attend then and have strong feelings one way or the other, please email me on [sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk) as it's important we take on board the views of everyone.

I thought as a start I would ask the five other District Secretaries what arrangements they have in their Districts to see if we can learn anything from them, and this is what I had back:

Ashford District  
10.30-12.30 Ringing  
12.30 - 1.30 Lunch  
1.30 - 2.30 Meeting  
Ringing after if requested

Canterbury District  
No reply

Maidstone District  
QM January  
Ringing 3.00-5.30 pm, Meeting 4.00 pm  
QM April  
Ringing 10.00 am-12.30 pm, Meeting 11.00 am  
QM July  
Ringing 10.00 am-12.30 pm, Meeting 11.00 am  
ADM Oct  
Ringing 3.00-4.30 pm  
Service 4.30-5.30 pm  
Tea & Meeting 5.30 pm  
Further ringing.

Rochester District  
Either  
Morning ringing incorporating meeting from 10.00 till 12.00  
OR Afternoon ringing at 2.00 or 3.00 p.m. incorporating meeting and tea and possible evening ringing  
It seemed preferable to have a morning meeting in the winter months.  
The ADM is more traditional being a 2.00 or 3.00 pm Ringing  
4.30 Tea and Meeting  
5.30 evening ringing if required.

Tonbridge District  
No Reply

Debra Say



## Ringling Master's Report

The last year has been dominated by Covid restrictions which has meant very little real tower bell ringing until recently.

Consequently until the last couple of months, practices have generally been a held online using Ringing Room in conjunction with Zoom. Ringing Room is a clever platform and this enabled us to maintain some form of contact with each other although, I think it true to say, a number of us, me included, found it more difficult ringing methods online than on proper tower bells. That said, it has been a way of learning and some ringers have made excellent progress on Ringing Room.

I recall we quite often managed Stedman and Grandsire Triples and did very occasionally try Surprise Major. We also had some fun ringing things such as plain hunt on eleven. I'm particularly grateful to Rupert who enthusiastically and capably looked after some of the online ringing.

Most recently there have been 'in person' practices on the reasonably well ventilated ground floor rings at Chislehurst (St Nicholas) and Shoreham.

In November we held an online call change striking competition on Ringing Room judged by Caroline Stockmann. The results were close with Eltham and Crayford scoring the same but Crayford being deemed the winners by virtue of their ringing speed - if peal length, the Crayford band would have been in the pub a full hour before the Eltham ringers!

In March we held a method competition ringing 120 changes also on Ringing Room. Tom Lawrance amusingly announced the results using motor racing analogies and Crayford were again the winners.

Having served as Ringing Master for six years it was probably about time for me to stand down and give someone else a chance in any event and, I'm afraid, the very limited normal ringing over the last year has reinforced my view on this. Additionally, I've had additional family responsibilities which some of you will be aware of.

I'm therefore not seeking re-election but would like to thank everyone in the District for their support and wish my successor the very best of luck moving forwards.

Hopefully they will get as much satisfaction and pleasure out of the role as I did up until the last year and push standards upwards at the monthly practices, both 'normal' and 'advanced' as well as the ten bell practices.

Finally, I apologise that I'm not personally at the ADM but I'm spending a few weeks in Spain trying to relax after a demanding year so far which has included the death of my aunt on Easter Sunday and sorting out Probate and the sale of her property.

Nick Wilkins

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## CRAYFORD

We were glad to finally resume in person practices when the government allowed in July having been back ringing with limited people on Sunday's since Easter.

Ringing with the trapdoors open to provide more ventilation isn't ideal but needs must. We borrowed a CO2 monitor and glad to find that the readings were not to bad.

Thursday, 30 September 2021  
1260 New Bob Doubles in 45mins

1. Debra Say
2. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
3. David Gyles
4. Ann Saunders
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Peter Hartley

Rung before the reinstated BCP evening service.  
First in method; 3&4.

Rupert

## EYNSFORD

Due to other competing events on a Wednesday, the Eynsford practices have returned to the old Friday night slot. 7 to 8pm.

Rupert

## HAYES

As you may 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.

Obviously, ringing was very restricted during the pandemic but since the relaxation of restrictions, there has been some ringing. The ringing chamber is rather cramped, but we have been able open the main church door, by the fifth and the tenor, so we can get good ventilation. This might be more of a challenge during cold conditions.

The following is a list of special ringing, with the most recent first:

Saturday, 24 July 2021  
A Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles  
Treble Shelagh Norman                      2 Fraser Storie  
3 Svetlana Sokolova                      4 Bill Lanyon  
5 Graham Long (C)                      Tenor David Connearn  
Special ringing to mark The Retirement of The Rector,

The Revd. Napo John.

Also, congratulations to Nicholas Wilkins becoming a grandfather - Jenson Barnaby New, born 17th July 2021. Also, 75th birthday compliment to Mike Medway, former Meridian Ringer, now living in Westgate-on-Sea. All the Meridian Ringers and the Bromley Common ringers wish to be associated with this quarter peal.

Sunday, 4 July 2021

320 Plain Bob Doubles - Rung for The Farewell Service of Revd Napo John, on his retirement as The Rector of Hayes.

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

A Quarter Peal of 1260 Doubles (2m) - 660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob

Treble Shelagh Norman	2 Bill Lanyon
3 Graham Long	4 E Lesley Barclay
5 Nicholas Wilkins (C)	Tenor Janice Byrne

In memory of Jean Thody (1.11.1947 to 5.6.2021), whose funeral took place today at The Bluebell Cemetery. Jean was a stalwart of St Mary's Church as a member of the choir, Mothers Union, The PCC and many other committees. Jean was also previously a ringer here for many years and was a member of the Kent County Association 1995-2005.

Also, in memory of Patrick James Moore, OBE (18th May 1931 to 1st June 2021) on the day before his Memorial Service in St Mary's.

Monday, 7 June 2021

640 Plain Bob Doubles – an Eighth rung in memory of Phyllis Jones, a long standing member of St Mary's, on the day of her funeral at The Bluebell Cemetery.

Saturday, 17 April 2021

Tolling 99 and 41 - the fifth bell was tolled for the church being opened at 10am for prayers and lighting of candles in memory of Prince Philip.

The bell was then tolled 99 times at 2.30pm and then at 2.45pm was tolled 41 times, in lieu of a 41 gun salute, prior to Prince Philip's funeral service at Windsor.

Friday, 9 April 2021

Tolling 99 - The Treble and Tenor bells were tolled 99 times each and the tenor was lowered in 99 blows in memory of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who died today aged 99. 10 June 1921 - 9 April 2021.

Sunday, 14 March 2021

Tolling and Tolling 33 - All six bells were raised and tolled for Mothering Sunday Parish Communion. The tenor bell was also tolled 33 times in memory of Sarah Everard.

Sunday, 28 February 2021  
Tolling

Thursday, 11 February 2021  
Tolling 93

Friday, 5 February 2021  
Tolling 100 and Tolling 70 - the tenor was tolled 100 times at 12 noon in memory of Captain Tom Moore and, remembering the 100,000+ who have died during the pandemic.  
Afterwards, the fourth bell was tolled 70 times in memory of Alan Munden, ringer at Greenwich 30.1.1950 to 22.1.2021.

Thursday, 17 December 2020  
Fast Tolling - The fifth bell was rung to remind the parish that the church was open for Private Prayers. Also, rung to wish Tom Hinks and Helena Mattingley all the best for their wedding on Friday 18th December.

Wednesday, 11 November 2020  
92 Tolling - The tenor bell was tolled 92 times before and 92 times after the Funeral Service in church today of Patricia Maud Miles (23 July 1928 to 13 October 2020).  
The tenor was also tolled 92 times at 1140am to mark what would have been the ringer's father-in-law's 92nd birthday, William Oliver (11 November 1928 to 28 May 2020).

Sunday, 8 November 2020  
Tolling - The tenor was tolled at 11am during the 1030am online service. Service at The War Memorial with laying of wreaths at 12 noon - 12 strikes on the tenor, then tenor tolled and rung down after the service.

Thursday, 5 November 2020  
76 Tolling - Rung in Memory of Thomas Milner Barlow, on the day of his funeral at St. Michael's, Maidstone. There were two sessions of tolling - on the treble for 1030am and on the second for 1130am - as the church was open for private prayer and the tolling was also for the reading of names being remembered as part of All Souls Commemoration this week.

Sunday, 1 November 2020  
Tolling - The third and fifth bells tolled before the Service of Commemoration for All Souls. Remembering those we love but see no longer.

Thursday, 29 October 2020  
77 Tolling - Rung before Holy Eucharist, in loving memory of Thomas Milner Barlow (29th October 1943 to 15th October 2020), mentor and a great friend to many, on what would have been his 77th birthday today.

I also rang the following, four-in-hand, on handbells:

THE CHURCHYARD OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,  
HAYES, KENT  
Saturday, 16 January 2021  
1296 Singles and Minimus (3m)

HAYES (The Study, Everard Avenue)

Wednesday, 6 January 2021  
1296 Minimus (3m) - Rung four-in-hand for The Feast of The Epiphany, and in memoriam of Robin Ware (1953-2020).

Saturday, 26 December 2020  
1296 Minimus (4m) - Rung four-in-hand. To celebrate Christmas. Also, in memory of John Edrich and Robin Jackman, former England and Surrey cricketers.

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. Unfortunately, as there is currently an interregnum there are no Sunday Evening services which we have often rung for. 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.

## MERIDIAN RINGERS

It is almost a year since our last report in the Newsletter.

Our normal ringing pattern:  
Wednesdays 730pm-900pm – 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 [but not at the moment as there are no Evening services due to the interregnum].  
We also ring at Hayes occasionally, usually for a Sunday Evening service once a month [but not at the moment as there are no Evening services due to the interregnum]. See separate item for Hayes elsewhere 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 was a pigeon infestation, although the birds are no longer there but some major professional cleaning is needed.

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 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.

Obviously, the most significant happening in the past year was the passing of our dear friend, Alan Munden,

whose obituary is included in this newsletter.

Last autumn ringing was restricted once again due to the pandemic, but the following special ringing, which includes some Eighths (which I wrote about in the Ringing World) took place at Greenwich, starting with the most recent (more details are on Bellboard):

Friday, 27 August 2021  
480 Plain Bob Doubles – before wedding.

Friday, 27 August 2021  
640 Plain Bob Doubles - An eighth rung after wedding. Also, rung in memory of Ted Dexter (15.5.1935 to 24.8.2021), former England and Sussex cricketer.

Wednesday, 21 July 2021  
100 Plain Hunt Doubles - On practice night, to mark The Inauguration of The Hundred Cricket Competitions, not far from here, at The Oval, Kennington.

Friday, 16 July 2021  
640 Plain Bob Doubles – An Eighth rung as birthday compliments to Bill, Hazel, Graham and Shelagh (who all rang in the eighth). Also, remembering our dear friend, Revd Canon John Ardley (2.7.39 to 2.2.2004). Rung before Marriage Service. Also, congratulations to Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common) and Ann Lawrance on the date of their 44th wedding anniversary - 16th July 1977 at St. Mary The Virgin, Hayes, Kent.

Wednesday, 23 June 2021  
360 Plain Bob Doubles, 240 Plain Bob Minimus, 150 Grandsire Doubles – Three separate touches, rung in natural daylight in memory of Richard Bing. We have aimed to ring on the nearest practice night to Midsummer's Day for many years without any electric lights - this was originally Richard's idea, and we continue to do this every year.

Monday, 31 May 2021  
440 Plain Bob Doubles, Rounds, Call Changes and Plain Bob Minimus (rung by an all ladies band), 640 Plain Bob Doubles, - Three separate touches, the last one being an Eighth, for 'New Year's Day' Ringing. We have a tradition of meeting up to ring at 12 noon on 1st January every year and have pictures from previous years displayed in the ringing room. Obviously, we were not able to do this at the start of 2021 - so we decided to transfer the day to the May Bank Holiday. Remembering past ringers who took part in New Year's Day Ringing in previous years - Freda Cannon, Ken Deller, John Ardley and, especially, Alan Munden who passed away 22nd January 2021.

Wednesday, 26 May 2021  
274 Minimus and Doubles (2m) - 74th birthday compliments to John Bonney (27.5.1947), who rang the tenor.

Sunday, 2 May 2021  
400 Plain Bob Doubles - Rung by request and with the

authorisation from the Clergy and Churchwardens for the Revd Caroline Risdon's final service at St Alfege. Revd Caroline is to be the new Vicar of St John's, Eltham from June 2021. (We also nominated Revd Caroline to be an Associate Member of KCACR).



Sunday, 11 April 2021  
399 Doubles (2m) - Rung by request and with the authorisation of the Clergy and Churchwardens, before the special Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the life of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

Sunday, 4 April 2021  
Rounds and Call Changes - To celebrate the Feast of Easter, rung before Choral Eucharist.

Tuesday, 23 March 2021  
400 Plain Bob Doubles - Rung for The Induction Service of Revd Simon Winn as Vicar of St Alfege's. (By request and with special permission of the Parish Clergy and Churchwardens; on distanced bells, a well ventilated ringing chamber, masks worn etc, and all the ringers having had their first vaccinations). Also, marking the National Day of Reflection.

Wednesday, 27 January 2021  
Tolling 70 - Three separate sessions, rung by Hazel Bing, Jim Odell and Graham Long  
Tolling in Memory of Alan Munden (30 January 1950 to 22 January 2021).

(Special permission was authorised by The Parish Priest and The Churchwardens).

Each ringer went up the tower one at a time and rang three separate bells which Alan would have rung





on the most occasions, especially the 6th and the tenor. In recent months, it was the 3rd that he rang mostly.

Thursday, 3 December 2020

Tolling

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

76 Tolling - Rung five times, by Hazel Bing, Jan Odell, Jim Odell, Graham Long, Edward Gormley  
Each ringer tolled a bell for 76 strokes, in memory of Tom Barlow (1943-2020), on the eve of his funeral at St. Michael's, Maidstone.

Due to Tier 2 restrictions, each ringer went up the tower one at a time to ring their bell. This ringing also marked the end of ringing for a while due to the national lockdown from November 5th.

Wednesday, 28 October 2020

76 Tolling - The tenor was tolled 76 times by Graham Long in memory of Thomas Milner Barlow, 29 October 1943 - 15 October 2020, on the eve of the day that would have been his 77th birthday.

Graham was taught to ring by Tom at St. Saviours, Eastbourne in the late 1960s. Not only were there some great ringing experiences, and there were some great fun times which included being introduced to the delights of Harvey's Best Bitter.

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

500 Plain Bob Doubles - Wednesday Evening Commemoration Ringing. In memory of the first anniversary of the passing of Giuseppina Radaelli's mother, Natalina Maralla (24.12.24-19.10.19). Luigi Vincenti wishes to be associated with this special ringing for a much loved and special lady.

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

500 Plain Bob Doubles - Wednesday Evening Commemoration Ringing. In Memory of Ken Deller (1935-2018), a much loved local ringer, whose 85th birthday would have been on 9th October.

Ken was a true gentleman, a great friend and fun to be with, he had a very quiet, quick and smart wit and he was a great servant to many people and organisations over many years - we all miss him very much.

Also, to mark Edward Gormley's 10th Anniversary of organising the Sidepersons rota at All Saints, Blackheath.

Recent ringing at:

ST. JOHN'S, DEPTFORD

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

Tolling 101, Rounds and Call Changes on Five Rung for the funeral service of Melvina Elmina Ducasse (19th November 1919 to 11th February 2021).

Rung by request and with permission from the clergy and church authorities, with the necessary safety measures in place.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events and for socialising afterwards, usually at The Ashburnham Arms.

Our website address is: [www.meridianbells.webs.com](http://www.meridianbells.webs.com)

Graham Long

## Learning the Ropes

On Sunday 25th July I went to Christ Church on the Isle of Dogs to ring a quarter peal of 1260 Kennington Bob Doubles.

Date: 25 July 2021

Method: Kennington Bob Doubles

Changes: 1260

Time: 43 minutes

1. Piers Myers
2. Colin Friend
3. Michael Crockett
4. Bogumila Myers
5. Louise Booth (Conductor)
6. Edward Gormley

After ringing the bells down in peal Louise Booth presented to me the certificate I have been awarded for completing Level 4 of the Learning the Ropes Progressive Learning Scheme.

Louise also presented to me a Learning the Ropes Level 4 badge. It depicts one yellow bell, one red bell, one green bell and one blue bell on a blue background.

I enclose a photograph of me holding the badge and certificate I have been awarded for completing Level 4 of the Learning the Ropes Progressive Learning Scheme. I thought you would like to have it. Colin Friend took the photo.

With Best Wishes,  
Edward





# Esther Correia RIP

I knew Esther from the bell tower in Holy Trinity Dartford.

Esther was both captain and secretary of the bell ringers and at first appeared to be quite tough and stern but after getting to know her she had a soft center – but it was not worth getting on the wrong side of her – she had a formidable intellect. Esther was a teacher and those teacher characteristics of keeping control of a classroom remained with her even in the ringing room.

After Andrew had asked me to say these few words I said would he – Andrew – like to vet my sentences – he kindly said no but also said make sure there are no grammatical mistakes or you'll annoy Mother.



*To Celebrate the Life of*

**ESTHER CORREIA**

5th October 1935 - 22nd May 2021



Thames View Crematorium  
Monday 14th June 2021  
at 3.00 pm

The current Holy Trinity bell ringers - and many are here today - have a deep gratitude and respect for her many years of hard work keeping the tower going, organizing outings, going to competitions and generally fronting the bell tower to the outside world.

Esther, Brenda and I once many years ago met up for a long weekend outing organised by St Paulinus Crayford tower for a trip to the Glastonbury area. When I went to pick up Esther from home Francis came to the door and

holding up a 10 pence piece said 'here's two bob not to bring her back'.

I did all the driving – and people asked what it was like have those two - Brenda and Esther for several hours couped up in a small car – well - the answer was they kept each other amused with solid lively chatter about every aspect of the surroundings that left me to concentrate on getting there and back in one piece. We had a great time – including visiting Wells Cathedral and the Cheddar Gorge and watching cheddar cheese in the making.

Esther has left a legacy – a cupboard full of minutes / notes and peal board information that will need to be sorted one day – and an example of good leadership and notes with no grammatical errors.

May she rest in peace.

Graeme Jefferson (read at her funeral service)

Monday, 14 June 2021  
1260 Grandsire Doubles in 47mins

1. Ann Saunders
2. Debra Say
3. David Gyles
4. Lesley Barclay
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung half muffled in celebration of the life of Esther Correia (1935-2021), Tower Captain and Secretary of this bell tower whose funeral took place today.  
The bellringers quiz team will never quite be the same, or probably as successful, again!

Dartford, Holy Trinity  
Saturday, 3 July 2021  
1260 Doubles (6m/p: 60  
Stedman, 240 each Reverse  
Canterbury, St Martin's, St  
Simon's, Plain Bob and  
Grandsire) in 45mins

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

Rung in celebration of the life of Marian Wansbury (12/2/1924-7/4/21), a long serving member of this tower having started ringing here in the early 70's.



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# Alan Munden RIP

Sadly, Alan passed away in Darenth Hospital on 22nd January. Over the past few years Alan had fought cancer bravely and was able to resume ringing as much as he could. Unfortunately, in recent months he also suffered from heart problems and was taken into hospital in January this year as he had breathing problems and had caught Covid.

Alan hailed from Northallerton, North Yorkshire and learnt to ring along with his father, Norman, in the late 1950s. He rang his first quarter peal in 1967 but recalled ringing something special for the funeral of Winston Churchill in 1965 (although I have not been able to find any documentation for this).

In the late 1960s Alan came to London to join The Metropolitan Police Service where he met Liz who was also in the police service. They were married at St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate, City of London on 27 October 1973 eventually settling in Bexleyheath. Alan eventually joined the Police Traffic Service, which was his passion.

In the late 1970s Alan's dad, Norman was visiting London and Liz went to the local library and found out that ringing took place at St Mary's, Woolwich. So, Alan and Norman went along the following Wednesday where they were welcomed by Hazel and Richard Bing, who became firm family friends from that day. Alan soon joined the local band and Liz also learnt to ring - when both couples had baby boys, Liz and Hazel used to take turn to attend practices or to babysit.

Due to family and work commitments Alan was not always able to be at ringing so much in the 1980s and 1990s but he tried to support the band, when it was possible, especially for service ringing and ringers' outings when his dad often came down from Yorkshire to join in. Sadly, Alan's dad, Norman, died whilst ringing at St Michael's, Maidstone on one of these outings, October 1988.

When Alan retired from the police after 30 years' service, he did various other jobs, including some coach driving and then became a Traffic Examiner at The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). He really loved anything to do with transport and travel.



When the size of the bands at Greenwich and Woolwich diminished the bands joined forces in the late 1990s and eventually became The Meridian Ringers (Greenwich, Deptford, and Woolwich) with Alan as one of the driving forces. As well as being a ringer, Alan was the tower treasurer, purchaser of the tower chocolate tins, helped organising business matters such as annual dinners, polo shirts and sweatshirts, and tower necessities, especially the beautiful carpet at Greenwich. Most importantly, Alan was an excellent and very understanding teacher of new ringers.

Although he was not an expert in terms of method ringing, he was an excellent tenor cover ringer, a task he really loved, just like his father, Norman. He was particularly forthright on good bell handling technique and good striking and many of his former pupils will attest to that. He was particularly devoted to ringing for Sunday services and weddings and often helped at St Mary's, Bexley, particularly in tolling for funerals. Alan rang about 50 quarter peals, although there may have been more that are not recorded. He was a great team member, in so many respects.

Alan was a most friendly man and if he ever saw people hovering about outside the church would encourage them to experience the surroundings by showing people round and talking about the history of the church and bellringing.

He was an excellent raconteur with a whole collection of anecdotes and experiences which he would recount especially over a couple of beers – even if there was a hint of exaggeration on many occasions!! If there was anything you ever needed help or advice on Alan would be there. Most of all he was a loving and caring family man – husband to Liz, father to Andrew and Ruth, and grandfather to Elliott and Esther.

He will be greatly missed by us all. May he rest in peace – and rise in glory.

Graham Long

