



*KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE
RINGERS*

ASHFORD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

September/December 2015

Price £1 – free on the web

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ASHFORD DISTRICT OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
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| Treasurer | Donald Holden 134 Church Road, Willesborough, TN24 0JQ | donald.holden@ntlworld.com 01233 631615 07811 356047 |
| Ringing Masters | Vacant (2no) | |
| District Reps. | Richard Bourne – As above Pam Manger – As above | pamela.manger@btinternet.com |
| Youth Rep | Vacant | |
| Newsletter Editor | Peter G Sims – As above | |
| Bookstall | Daniel Lavender | ADBookstall@gmail.com |
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| Clothing Sales | David H Gower Perth Cottage, 6 Cylinder Road, Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4QG | 01303 267809 |
| J Castell Library | Held at Lydd Tower | |

Some articles in this Newsletter may have previously appeared on the KCACR website www.kcacr.org.uk that we highly recommend to all KCACR members as an ideal way of keeping up with current affairs within the KCACR and ringing in general. Our thanks to them for allowing us to reproduce any items.

From the editor

For the less experienced ringers still struggling with basic handling, ringing in rounds, call changes, or initial stages of method ringing, the District Committee are running some more 'Rounds and Beyond' training sessions. For full details see pages 2 and 6. If you are an experienced ringer, don't be surprised if you get approached by Richard Bourne to help out. Even if he doesn't approach you, you may like to approach him in order to volunteer. If you think one or two of your ringers would benefit from the extra practice on different bells with more helpers, please recommend it to them, or better still, bring them yourself.

Wishing you all a very good Christmas and a happy New Year. Hopefully the ringing will also be good

Peter Sims

Forthcoming Meetings/Events 2016

Whether you are a Rounds ringer or a Surprise ringer, an Association member or a non-member, you are welcome to ring with us at any of the meetings listed below. We look forward to ringing with you!

| Date | Where | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 16 January | BRABOURNE (8) | Business Meeting* |
| 20 February | ALDINGTON (6) (TBC) | Morning ringing 10.30 – 12.30 followed by pub lunch |
| 19 March | HOTHFIELD (6) | Ringling Meeting |
| 16 April | GREAT CHART (8) | Business Meeting* |
| 21 May | HIGH HALDEN (6) 4.45pm draw. Running tea | Striking Competition |
| 18 June | BURMARSH (6) | Ringling Meeting |
| 16 July | WYE (10) | Business Meeting* |
| 13 August | QUEX PARK (12) 3pm ‘No Rules’ Striking Comp. | Joint meeting with Canterbury District |
| 17 September | PLUCKLEY (6) 4.45pm draw. Running tea | Call Change Competition |
| 15 October | FRITTENDEN (8) | A.D.M.* |
| 19 November | WOODCHURCH (6) | Ringling Meeting |
| 17 December | WILLESBOROUGH(6)/SEVINGTON | Carol Service |

Unless otherwise noted above, all events consist of ringing from 3.00 to 4.15pm, with a service at 4.30pm. The service is followed by tea (and a meeting where marked with *) and then evening ringing usually until 9pm.

Ringers of all standards (from rounds to spliced surprise) are very welcome and will happily be catered for. If you are trying to learn a new method then this is an ideal opportunity to ring with an experienced band and to have someone ‘hovering behind’ to guide you through if necessary. Please tell one of the Ringling Masters what you would like to ring and they will try to arrange something to suit you.

NB As at present we don’t have any Ringling Masters, the Chairman will be nominating a volunteer to run the ringling session by session, so please let them know what you would like to ring (and don’t be surprised if you get ‘asked’ to volunteer!).

Basics and Beyond Programme 2016

| Date | Where | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 February | Hythe (10) | 10.00am – 12.30pm |
| 2 April | Lydd (8) | 10.00am – 12.30pm |
| 4 June | Pluckley (6) | 10.00am – 12.30pm |

120 Club

| Draw | 1st prize £30 | 2nd prize £20 | 3rd prize £10 |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 2015 | 106 Marcus Palmer, Smarden | 036 Barbara Wilkinson, Non ringer | 015 Jean Vidler, Headcorn |
| July 2015 | 109 Nigel Spencer, Hythe | 041 Em Bear, Non ringer | 028 Simon Bass, Headcorn |
| August 2015 | 098 M. Whitehead, Saltwood | 078 Shirley Marshall, W’boro | 041 Em Bear, Non ringer |
| September 2015 | 017 Alan Hipkiss, Smarden | 028 Simon Bass, Headcorn | 075 Janet Bayne, Wye |
| October 2015 | 086 Martin Howland, Saltwood | 095 Unsold – Proceeds to BRF | 105 R. Bourne, Frittenden |
| November 2015 | 091 Unsold – Proceeds to BRF | 003 Albert Phyll, Non ringer | 036 Barbara Wilkinson, Non ringer |

Tickets for 2016 will go on sale in the new year – available from Mike Godfrey, Ray Lucas and Peter Sims. Cost is £10 each with 10 draws in the year. All profits go to the County Bell Restoration Fund

KCACR Subscriptions 2016

Subscriptions for 2016 are as listed below and are due on 1st January 2016.

If you haven't already paid them, please pay them to me in person at Meetings or send them to me – address below.

Cheques/P.O.'s etc., made payable to K.C.A.C.R. If you require a receipt by post please include a stamped addressed envelope. Alternatively you may collect your receipt at a subsequent meeting.

Practising members: Adult - £10.00 Life Membership - £150.00 Up to 18 and over 65 - £5.00

Non-resident Life Members - £7.50 Associate members, not less than £1.00.

THE FULL ADULT SUBSCRIPTION RATE – CURRENTLY £10.00 – is payable by BOTH MALE and FEMALE MEMBERS between the ages of **18 to 65**.

Practising members are urged to maintain continuous membership for the following reasons:

- So that you have continuous Insurance cover provided by KCACR for all your ringing activities
- Practising Members aged 65 or more with 25 years unbroken practising membership are entitled to FREE MEMBERSHIP [Rule 4.(i)(b)]

Donald Holden – 134 Church Road, Willesborough, TN24 0JQ

Ashford 10 bell practices

Every 1st Tuesday of the month 7.30 – 9.00 ten bell / method practices. For more details contact Claire Walker.

Quarter Peal Database

KCACR's Quarter Peal Secretary (Anthony Leaves qpsec@kcacr.org.uk or 01892 531104, address see Handbook) would like to hear from you if there is an error in the data recorded or where you can provide additional data where records are incomplete.

Recently the QP Secretary has added data notified to him regarding 45 QP records from 1998 to date, where the data was incomplete. Anthony hopes that this might result in someone being able to provide additional data.

So any error, any omissions, please let Anthony know and he'll amend database entries accordingly.

KCACR Publicity Panels

If your tower is hosting an event to publicise ringing the KCACR publicity panels are worth borrowing. They are light, portable, and easy to assemble (see KCACR website for the pretty pictures).

If you want to borrow them contact Tim Munt at tim@muntonline.com 01622 891724 or 07590 918994.

Tower Roundup**Appledore**

We practice every Friday evening from 7.30 until 9pm, when we adjourn to The Black Lion. Visitors are always welcome, although we would like a call before if there will be a lot of you. We ring for Sunday service at 10am. There is no service on the fifth Sunday of the month, so no ringing then. We also have a lively social calendar so come along and get involved.

Ashford

All ringing is strictly by arrangement. Quarter peals for services on Sunday evenings and ringing for special occasions/services (as requested by the church authorities) by invitation only. Contact Claire Walker on portersmill@yahoo.co.uk, 07759 633903

Benenden

We practice by arrangement on Wednesday evening, so check before you come: karenlebon57@gmail.com
12-bell practice 1st Friday of the month, by arrangement. Service ringing 9 am Sunday.

Biddenden

Sunday Service ringing takes place every 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at 9.00am and every 2nd & 4th at 10.30am. Practice night is Tuesday at 7.45pm. All visitors are welcome.

Brookland

Practice night Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm. No practice at the moment due to lack of people. If you would like to join us please let us know and we will see if a band of 6 can be found. Tower Captain Ken Abrey ken.abrey@talktalk.net

Cheriton

Sunday morning ringing takes place from 8.50 to 9.25; practice night remains Wednesday 7.30 to 9.00 - and an extra ringer or two is always a help! Richard Wilsher (tel: 01303 211364; email: richard.wilsher@gmx.co.uk) is now tower captain in place of David Frowd who is now vice-captain after serving for 10 years as captain, and our tower secretary is now Glynis Burbery, 23 Alexandra Corniche, Hythe CT21 5RW (tel: 01303 264070; email: geburbery@hotmail.co.uk).

Folkestone

Sunday Service takes place at 1030h. when we ring from 1000 - 1025h. We continue to practice on Tuesdays 1930h to 2100h by arrangement.

Frittenden

Practice night is every Monday 7.30 to 9.00pm. Sunday service ringing 8.45 to 9.30am.

Great Chart

Service ringing on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00-9:25am. Practice night remains nominally Wednesday 7:30-9:00pm but we have too few regular attendees to practice every week at the moment. Kennington hold practices here on 1st & 3rd Mondays. Contact gfcoker@ntlworld.com to check.

Ringing times and short notice updates for Great Chart can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/bellsgfc/>

Headcorn

Practice night is every Thursday at 7.30pm. Sunday service ringing is at 9.15am.

Hothfield

Ringing takes place on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30am. Practice by arrangement. Contact Martin Luffman ml_154@hotmail.com and 01233 611889.

Kennington

You can find details of practices and Sunday ringing times at <https://sites.google.com/site/bellsgfc/> or contact gfcoker@ntlworld.com

Service ringing from 11:00am (after the service so a bit variable). Practice Monday 7:30-9:00pm – 1st & 3rd Mondays we practice on 8 bells at Great Chart. Contact gfcoker@ntlworld.com.

Little Chart

There is no regular Sunday ringing nor practices at Little Chart. We ring at occasional Sunday Services – all welcome to join us. Details of Sunday ringing times can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/bellsgfc/> or contact gfcoker@ntlworld.com

Lydd

Practice night Monday evenings (except on Bank Holidays) 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Sunday morning ringing at 10.00am - 10.30am. Tower Captain Margaret 01797 367606

Lympne

The tower secretary is Mrs Annie Anderson, Pilgrim Cottage, Church Road, Hythe. Tel 01303 267594. Ringing times are: Practice - Monday 07.30, Sunday – 10.15 for 10.45 service.

Pluckley

We hold our practice on Tuesday night 8pm - 9pm. Please email emma@pluckleyringers.co.uk to confirm beforehand. Following the practice, we adjourn to the Black Horse. Sunday service ringing is every Sunday except the 5th Sunday off the month. 10.30am - 11am.

Sevington

No practice and no service ringing at present. Updates can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/bellsgfc/> or contact gfcoker@ntlworld.com Please note, although these are a light 4 (tenor 8cwt) they have a long draft, are not the easiest of bells to ring and are not recommended for learners.

Smarden

Sunday Service ringing takes place every 1st Sunday at 10.15am and every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday at 8.45am. Practice night is Wednesday at 7.45pm. All visitors are welcome. On odd occasions recently, due to lack of numbers when key people are away, we have had to cancel practice, so it is worth checking in advance with Tim Munt on tim@muntonline.com

Stone-in-Oxney

Please note the Stone practice has been moved to Monday evenings from 19.30 to 21.00. As before, please ring Frank Wenham on 01233 758362 to confirm if you are thinking of coming. Stone always ring for Evensong on the first Sunday of the month, 17.15 to 18.00.

We have five new recruits at Stone who are now capable of ringing for services.

Tenterden

We practice every Monday from 7:30- 9:00pm. Sunday service ringing is from 9:00 - 9:30am. Visitors are very welcome.

Woodchurch

Practices are on Wednesday 18.00-19.00 but best to call Julian West in advance on 07887 748692 or julian.west@tiscali.co.uk

NB: If there is no entry for your tower it's presumably because nothing is going on! Likewise, if the information is wrong, it's because nobody bothered tell us of any changes. Please keep us informed of what you are doing and any changes, then we can pass on the correct information. Ed!

Kilifi Update

As you probably already know, the training tour of the UK by four of the Kilifi band (Betty Ngetsa, Deborah Mulobi, Lennox Mwarandu and John Malala) has concluded with high success, and the trainees returned to Kenya full of ambitions to teach what they have learned to the rest of the band. None of this would have possible without your support and that of many others, and we are all deeply grateful. We have sent off a report with photos, which will in due course appear in The Ringing World; a much fuller version may be perused now on the website of the Whiting Society.

What next? We are planning to bring another four here in the summer of 2017, giving a full year and more, to raise the funds; so if you are planning to repeat your generosity in 2016, with a donation to the Central Council's Kilifi Fund, that would be brilliant. However, I think it even better, if you can spread the load a bit, by running a small fund raising event e.g sponsored quarter peal, or just pass the hat round at your Branch/District meeting, or any other fund raising event during the year, which may commend itself to you.

A further fund raiser, is a superb CD of the wonderful singing of the Kilifi church choir (which includes almost all the ringers). Lots of people have already bought a copy, but we still have about 40 left, and are happy to sell you a copy for £10, plus £1 for packing and postage if you want one by post. Every penny of the £10 goes into the Kilifi Fund for the next training tour. Email me if you want one (karenlebon57@gmail.com), with your postal address, and I'll supply my bank details for BACS transfer payment.

Thank you again for your support.

Rod Lebon

Training Update & Opportunities

Cinque Ports Ringing Centre:

The centre is based at St Mary's church, Dover. Practices take place every Saturday morning 10.00 – 12.00 with 3rd January 2015 starting the new season. Sessions are relaxed and informal with a coffee break at 11.00 and donation of £1 (50 pence juniors) per hour to cover costs. The centre can also offer Modules 1 & 2 of the ITTS training scheme. Contact Centre Manager (Peter Dale) or Course Secretary (Barbara Dale) on barbaradale@fastmail.fm 01304 823217 or have a look at the KCACR web site for full details.

Silencing Bells For Teaching Purposes:

See KCACR website for a very useful guide on silencing bells and 3 different suggestions. Some of the pictures give you a whole new respect for tyres, inner tubes and ropes!

On Line Glossary of Ringing Terms:

All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask in case others laughed at you (what is a Burdette? Q set? Nottingham 8? Scissor dodges?) then go to the KCACR website and check out John Harrison's glossary of ringing terms.

Method Practices at Hythe – 4th Friday of each month

Every 4th Friday of the month the focus will be on “mid range” methods such as Stedman, Cambridge etc. Practices will be tailored according to the wishes and abilities of those present on the night. Method practices planned for June 26th and July 24th. Learners are welcome from 7.30 on other Fridays in the month. To gain entry to the tower remember to press the buzzer on the left hand side of the West door if you arrive a little late. For more information contact Nigel Spencer 01303 260524.

District Practices

Basic Skills & Beyond

These sessions focus on bell handling, rounds, call changes, grandsire, and plain bob. The sessions are aimed at newer and less experienced ringers and sessions have been very well attended with people saying that they enjoy these and would like more of them.

The aim of the Basic Skills sessions is to help people feel more confident to ring generally and subsequently to attend District Meetings (you are always welcome anyway, but its nice to feel you have found your feet & recognise some friendly faces).

The new District Committee has organised bi monthly practices starting at 10am on the 1st Saturday of the month. The first 3 practices are at Hythe, Lydd and Pluckley – see also page 2. As before the aim is for light refreshments (drinks & biscuits) to be available and it's nice to thank the host tower for making their bells available by leaving a donation towards use of the bells.

Ashford Farmers Market

On the first Sunday of each month you can wander down Ashford's Lower High Street TN24 8TD and visit the Farmers Market from 10.00 – 2.00.

The market is of particular interest to bell ringers as Pluckley's Emma Leech hosts a cake stall selling some seriously yummy cakes. I can fully recommend the Tiffin cakes but my particular favourite was the Easter cake sporting an adorable bright yellow edible model bunny. Next month pop along and say Hi and buy!

Claire Walker

County 8 Bell Competition Saturday 4th July

Ashford District's very own Headcorn tower hosted the county competition. This year Ashford District was able to field a team so we were already ahead of last year. Our plucky team (David & Pam Manger, Richard Bourne, Tim Munt, Steve Davis, Richard & Karen Edwards, and Mike Godfrey) did their stuff and then enjoyed the buffet whilst waiting for their rivals to finish their performances.

It was a very hot day, and the ringing chamber felt hotter as the competition progressed. Officially there were 2 judges, in practice there were some 48 judges as everyone listened to their rivals and passed judgement. Lots of friendly banter with folk trying to psyche out their mates, catch up on gossip with friends, or some serious colouring book activity (the very young waiting for Mum & Dad to finish their bit).

This year's test piece was a touch of 224 Little Bob Major which the judges thought was one that gave plenty of scope for error with the dodges. Other feedback noted the different speeds at which teams rang, the different time period taken to recover after hiccups, and particular comment about some rushed hand stroke leads.

The results:

- 1st Rochester District 21 faults
- 2nd Lewisham District 29 faults
- 3rd Canterbury District 30.5 faults
- 4th Maidstone District 33.5 faults
- 5th Tonbridge District 39.5 faults
- 6th Ashford District 43 faults

Countywide Email List

County has set up a county wide email mailing list and details appear on the KCACR website. To sign up go to <http://eepurl.com/bvXRJD>. The intention is to use this approach to broadcast news, updates and any information that will be useful to ringers across the County. Everyone is encouraged to sign up.

St. Mary's, Willesborough

Please be advised that the church of St. Mary's, Willesborough, is now CLOSED until at least July/August due to refurbishment. The whole site is now classed as a building site with a strictly no access policy.

As such there will be no ringing at Willesborough until further notice.

Christine Marshall

Does anyone have an update on the above as we are now in December? Ed

Funding Opportunities

Heritage Lottery Fund

Does your tower have any anniversaries coming up? If you think this fund might help you publicise ringing and help recruit members then have a look at the Heritage Lottery Fund Website (p.s. Claire Walker used to work for them and would be happy to help towers talk about possible applications).

Bell Restoration Fund (KCACR)

See the KCACR website or the full guidelines for a Bell Restoration Fund grant application and practical assistance. The main message is to contact the KCACR Bell Restoration Officer BEFORE quotations are considered / requested.

Grant monies are available for up to 5 years from the date of offer, then lapse and a new application would be required.

Alan Bourne

A Tribute given by David Manger at Alan's funeral

When I moved to Frittenden in the mid '60s, there was no ringing here at St. Mary's. Harry Baker had taught several people to ring, but was now too old to continue running the band himself.

Two or three years later, Jack Poile decided to start the band again, in order to ring on Sundays and for special occasions. He recruited those who had been taught earlier by Harry and also contacted me.

I started to ring with the newly constituted band who rang call changes, called from cards. Some of these very old cards still exist in the ringing room. But among these ringers were three brothers; Eddie, Arthur and Alan. Eddie had been in the army and during his travels had learnt some basic change ringing and now saw the opportunity to expand the band's repertoire in this direction thus creating much more variety and interest to the ringing. Such a development was enthusiastically taken up by the youngest brother, Alan. Alan proved to be a very capable learner and quickly understood the theory of change ringing and by 1973 was ringing quarter peals. In May of that year we rang the first quarter peal by an all local band for at least 19 years.

Jack was now finding it difficult to climb the stairs and ring, so asked Alan to take over the captaincy of the band. At the same time, Alan accepted the responsibility of Steeple Keeper; a job he continued to undertake until earlier this year. This job consists of ensuring the bells and fittings are maintained in good order and fit for use; ensuring the greasers are topped up, the bearings are free and not worn and the ropes are in good condition; he learned to splice ropes when needed; a valuable skill which gave much peace of mind after a rope breakage. Few among you will have been beyond the ringing room at Frittenden, but I can assure you it is a nightmare place to work in – dark, very cramped, difficult to stand up in and with the constant danger of banging your head or falling into one of the bell pits. In winter it is cold and draughty. It is a tribute to Alan that our bells have required no attention from a foundry for at least the last 50 years. Along with these responsibilities he undertook the duties of clock-winder; this is not a simply a matter of poking a key in a hole and turning it. It requires setting up a heavy staging and turning the winding handles many times (Alan counted the turns, but I have forgotten the number) until the weights have been pulled up a matter of thirty feet or so. He was still undertaking this weekly task until June of this year.

As tower captain, he taught many people to ring, some of whom are here today. Some have moved away but continue to take the benefits of their experience to their new homes. Alan often used to say that if all the people he had taught still rang at Frittenden, we would have the finest band in the County!

Alan started to arrange weekly quarter peals at other local towers, a practice we all much enjoyed and continued for nearly twenty years. In all, Alan rang a total of some 500 quarter peals. Our band continued to improve in the quality of our ringing and we started to enter the annual District striking competition. At first, of course, we did not achieve much, but between 1978, when we came second, and 2004, we won the trophy 11 times, came second 7 times and third 7 times. The highlight came in 2000 when we won the County trophy, against competition from such as Canterbury, Maidstone and Tonbridge. And all this from a small rural village called Frittenden. During the 1970's the Ashford District was in the ascendancy becoming the envy of other Districts in the County and it was during this period that Alan was elected District Ringing Master, a position which involved organising the ringing at our monthly meetings. It is not an easy job when you have a tower full of 25 – 30 ringers of widely varying abilities, all having their own particular objectives. Alan retained this position for several years.

If all this sounds like a history of recent Frittenden ringing – it is. But Alan was crucial to the successes of those days; without him we could not have achieved any of this. Frittenden obtained a reputation as somewhere that good and useful practice could be obtained and attracted visitors from other local towers, which in turn, of course, helped us to improve our own standards. He also used to visit other local towers on their practice nights, in particular, Headcorn, Smarden and Biddenden, where his help and experience proved invaluable.

Alan was a local boy, born in the village and lived here until the last few years when he moved to Smarden to be with Linda. He was a choirboy in his young days and often talked of the pranks he and his brothers got up to in and around the village. He worked locally, taking an interest in many aspects of life; the birds of the fields and orchards, classical music and cricket, particularly Kent and, of course, his garden. He often appeared with produce from his working environment – the conference pears he brought up some autumn practice nights were the sort you dream of.

Even after he moved to Smarden, he continued to consider Frittenden his home. His contribution to ringing, to this church and to this village cannot be underestimated. His loyalty and the conscientious way he carried out his various tasks will not be forgotten. He will be seriously missed. Rest in Peace, Alan.

Minutes of the Ashford District KCACR Business Meeting**Saturday 18th July 2015 Mersham****Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman, Peter Sims, thanked Mersham for use of the bells and members of the District Committee for providing the refreshments.

Apologies of Absence

Frank Wenham, Richard & Karen Edwards. The Chairman commented on the reduction in numbers attending District Meetings and welcomed suggestions for encouraging attendance.

Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising

Minutes of last Meetings (Kingsnorth and New Romney) were circulated, accepted as correct, and signed by the Chairman as adopted.

Matters Arising**District Competition Day**

Discussions took place about various options, depending on the applications to take part in the competition day, in particular the Striking Competition element. Soundings around the District indicated that towers who would normally enter could not field teams this year. The Chairman asked those present to encourage towers who would not normally submit a team to take part. Depending on applications, judges might be 'in house'.

It was agreed that, if no entries were received 2 weeks prior to the event, then it would be converted into a ringing session focusing on the newer and less experienced ringer.

Election of New Members

No nominations were submitted. The Secretary noted that 10 new members were elected at the New Romney meeting the previous month.

Correspondence

Previously circulated in the monthly update emails.

Firsts

Rebecca Nightingale (Ashford) first Quarter Peal, Sue Childs (Tenterden) first peal (part of the 300 campaign), first in method (Harlech Surprise Major) for David & Pam Manger in recognition of the Magna Carta anniversary.

Updates**Programme 2016/17**

The Committee has devised a programme and the District Secretary is contacting prospective host towers to seek confirmed hosts. The programme covers early 2017 to allow for Handbook distribution at the County AGM.

District ADM

The Chairman said that the new Committee was potentially short of a number of officers for the new year as the District Secretary was not seeking re-election and there were no candidates for Ringing Masters at present. The role of District Secretary was discussed and it was mentioned that the post holder did not have to be a ringer.

Health Matters

The Meeting received updates of Frank Lewis, Tom Barlow, Brian Butcher and Alan Bourne. It was agreed that the District Secretary would send a card from the District to Alan.

Forthcoming Events

8th August: Quex

19th September: Competition Day, Saltwo

17th October: ADM, Ashford

21st November: Stone in Oxney

19th December: Wittersham/Ebony (Carol Service & Social)

Any Other Business**Handbook**

Time Munt, Handbook Editor, mentioned the Membership Database which had been set up and that District Treasurers had been circulated with details of how to log on and update it. The Database would form the basis of future Handbook updates and relied on Treasurers to maintain data (names of paid up members). It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting would discuss this matter.

Treasurer's Interim Report

The total amount I have received so far this year for the BRF is £434 (£1562). This being made up of £376 (£570) from the Spliced Fund and £58 (£307) from raffles.

Subscriptions paid so far £1181.50, some having been paid in advance and banked last year. I do still have some subs outstanding.

Practicing Members

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Adult | 106 (99) |
| Junior | 11 (9) |
| Students | 9 (5) |
| NRLM | 1 (1) |
| Life | 32 (33) |
| Free | 26 (26) |
| Associate | 11 (11) |

Donald Holden, District Treasurer
17th October 2015

New Members

If you are thinking of proposing new KCACR members PLEASE ensure you use the current nomination form (**version 2.8**). Completing the new form requires a bit of forethought and planning as nomination forms must (if the proposer or seconder is not an elected District Officer) be countersigned by a relevant District Officer. The Officer must be in a position to confirm that the nominee is able to ring rounds unassisted and lower a bell.

Nomination forms are available to download from the KCACR Web Site or direct from Pam Manger.

Matters from General Committee Meeting held on 1st August 2015

- A minute's silence was held to remember Frank Lewis who recently passed away
- Work on the accounts is well underway and the outstanding grants for Wrotham and Broomfield have now been paid
- Doug Davis is looking after the KCACR website for the time being in the absence of an official Webmaster
- Due to lack of interest, it is likely that the ITTS Module 1 course scheduled for 31st August and the ITTS Module 2 course scheduled for 19th September will be cancelled
- The grant application for Hollingbourne was reviewed but not increased, however an offer of a short-term loan will be made
- Following updated figures and information from St. Peter in Thanet, a maximum grant of £10,000 was agreed
- It was agreed that we should retain a separate Training fund, and final details around usage and process would be decided at the next meeting
- It was agreed that we would investigate the possibility of re-printing the bell handling posters available at the Central Council meeting in Hull
- The Youth Striking Competition this year will be Call Changes only and will be held on 24th October at Chalk
- It was agreed that a County Mailing list would be setup to help communication across the Association
- A membership database has been established and is in the early stages of being updated; Membership cards will also be looked at for the coming year
- It was agreed that a County Surprise Major practice would be setup and trialled
- The 2015 County 6-bell Striking Competition would be held on 26th September at Godmersham, 2.45pm draw
- The date of the final General Committee meeting in 2015 was confirmed as 28th November

Doug Davis

VAT Recovery

The County Committee meeting spent a lot of time talking about works to various bells and towers and the VAT recovery position.

VAT can currently be recovered on some bell related aspects (if the church in question meets the Listed Buildings criteria and the values also meet certain levels) however H. M. Customs & Excise is changing the rules so VAT recovery on listed buildings etc. expires in **March 2016**

The main message – get your works done ASAP to make sure VAT can be reclaimed otherwise your future bill for works will be much higher as you will have to raise the money to cover VAT as well as the works (a strong financial ouch!).

Matters from General Committee Meeting held on 28th November 2015

- The accounts for 2013/2014 are just about ready to be audited thanks to the work of the Treasurer with help from Caroline Stockmann
- Information for the 2016 handbook will shortly be requested by the Handbook Editor via District Secretaries and Treasurers
- Guidelines for the use of the Training Fund were finalised and agreed
- A grant of £2,500 was awarded to Canterbury St. Dunstan to rehang the back 3 bells on new gudgeons and bearings
- The membership database is now in place and nearly up-to-date, and will be used by District Treasurers to update membership records ready for the 2016 handbook
- It was agreed that we will provide membership cards to every member, to be printed by the Secretary and provided to District Secretaries to distribute
- A poster about the Facebook groups and County mailing list has been sent to District Secretaries, and an A5 copy will be included in every 2016 handbook
- Following the success of the inaugural Youth Striking Competition, Revd David Cawley is now preparing a trophy as a gift to the Association
- At the 2016 AGM in March, we will currently be seeking a new Training Officer and at least 1 new Central Council Rep for the next triennium
- The County 8-bell Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 2nd July, 9.45am draw, in the Canterbury District. Tower, method and touch TBC
- The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 24th September, 9.45am draw, in the Lewisham District. Tower TBC.
- The dates of the General Committee meetings in 2016 were agreed as 27th February, 23rd April, 27th August and 26th November

Doug Davis

The Occasional Ringer

He might best have been described as an occasional ringer. Whenever there was an important occasion, he could be guaranteed to turn up. He had amazing personal radar: he could detect an approaching bishop from a great distance. An archbishop would be tracked from afar. He had unrivalled knowledge of Church affairs with excellent contacts throughout the diocese and beyond. Suave and affable, he knew everyone who mattered.

Whenever an eminent member of the clergy visited the church for a confirmation service, the unveiling of a foundation stone, or a pastoral visit, our reliable occasional ringer would arrive five minutes after service ringing of thirty minutes commenced. First, he hung his jacket on a peg selected with care, for his were bespoke clothes not to be soiled with those of common folk. He looked about the ringing chamber to see who he recognized. Each would be approached individually, hand shaken with enquiry about health and wellbeing. Then he would insist on being introduced to those who to him were strangers; each had to be introduced one by one and questioned. How long had they been ringing, where did they live, were they acquainted with any local notables – if so, who and in what connection.

It was then time to get down to the serious business of ringing. But not yet. Which bell would be ring? Which bell did he normally ring? Was it the second ... no, maybe it was the third? The deliberation took some time. Once the choice had been made he caught hold of the tail end. How long was the rope? Did it need to be taken up or let out? More consultation. Finally, the ringers were all ready.

More delay. What was the method, he asked? Further discussion followed. No, he didn't ring Minor, only Doubles. Although, as he reminded the tower captain, there had been a time when he'd learned Bob Minor, only he'd never mastered the single. So the tower's limited repertoire of double methods was listed. Perhaps it would be safer, given that it was an important service, to stick with Plain Bob Doubles. Remind him: a bob at $\frac{3}{4}$ down ... run in and ... what then? $\frac{3}{4}$ down next time. It might be better to ring a plain course.

We've all been, or known, rusty ringers who haven't handled a bell for a long time. Maybe he should turn the bell over once or twice to get the hang of it again. His handling had never been good, but now he couldn't set the bell for several strokes, and the stay was taking severe punishment.

At last, go Bob Doubles. With arms flailing, the occasional ringer fell at the first hurdle, a $\frac{3}{4}$ down dodge. Could we start again, please? Wisely the conductor set us off on Plain Hunt on five. It wasn't much better. Stand.

"Look at the time!" exclaimed the occasional ringer. "Sorry to leave you but I must take my place in the family pew." It simply wouldn't do for him to be seen scrambling into the front pew at the last moment in full view of the congregation.

Ringling was to cease five minutes before the service started, and the fifth had to be lowered to be chimed as the service bell. So there was no time for further ringling.

After the service, the occasional ringer would be introduced to all the dignitaries who were present. He was, they were reminded, one of the parish's valued bellringers. But he had so many other activities and commitments (some, it was said, in the National Interest) that he could not attend bellringing as regularly as he wished. In fact, regular he was, but not frequent. We ringers knew that we would be most unlikely to see him again until the next important occasion.

Written by Walter Knight and taken from *The Ringing World*, 19th June 2015

I'm sure we all recognize 'The Occasional Ringer'!! Ed

Ashford District Bookstall

Since taking over the bookstall, sales have increased with the new 10th edition of Doves Guide being the best seller. I would like to thank everyone who has bought something from me in the past.

Daniel Lavender
Ashford District Bookstall

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|---|--------|---|---------|
| Sticky Back KCACR Logo | 15p | Method Construction | £3.00p |
| Stick Front KCACR Logo | 50p | Method Splicing | £3.00p |
| Place Notation | 50p | Teaching Unravalled | £3.00p |
| One-Per-Learner | 84p | The Learning Curve Volume 1 1999-2001 | £3.00p |
| The Follow-on Book | 84p | The Learning Curve Volume 2 2002-2003 | £3.00p |
| The Ringer's Exercise Book | 84p | The Learning Curve Volume 3 2004-2005 | £3.00p |
| Beginners' Grandsire | £1.00p | The Learning Curve Volume 4 2006-2007 | £3.00p |
| Beginners' Plain Bob | £1.00p | Doubles & Minor for Beginners | £3.00p |
| Criblines 1 | £1.00p | Judging Striking Competitions | £3.50p |
| Criblines 2 | £1.50p | Learning Methods | £3.50p |
| Organising an Outing | £1.50p | Splicing Bell Ropes Illustrated | £3.50p |
| Service Touches | £1.50p | Triples & Major for Beginners | £3.50p |
| Simulators and Teaching | £1.50p | Quarter 500 | £3.75p |
| Sound Management | £1.50p | Standard 70 | £3.95p |
| Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles | £1.50p | Getting it Right | £4.00p |
| Towards Better Striking | £1.50p | Grandsire | £4.00p |
| Doubles Collection | £2.00p | KCACR Handbook 2013 | £4.00p |
| Kadeidoscope Ringing | £2.00p | Collection of Plain Minor Methods | £4.00p |
| One Way to Teach Bell Handling | £2.00p | Ringing Skills | £4.00p |
| Raising and Lowering in Peal | £2.00p | Teaching Tips | £4.00p |
| Starting a New Band | £2.00p | Treble Dodging | £4.00p |
| Teaching Beyond Bell Handling | £2.00p | Tutors Handbook | £4.00p |
| Tower Captains Handbook | £2.00p | Bell Club | £5.00p |
| Beginners' Guide to Change Ringing on Handbells | £2.50p | Standard 8 Surprise Major Methods | £6.00p |
| Change Ringing on Handbells | £2.50p | The Ringer's Handbook | £6.95p |
| Conducting Stedman | £2.50p | Listen to Ringing CD | £8.00p |
| Organising a Bell Restoration Project | £2.50p | Listen to Ringing Live CD | £9.00p |
| Ringing Basics for Beginners | £2.50p | The New Ringer's Book | £9.50p |
| Ringing Circles | £2.50p | Bellhandling DVD | £10.00p |
| Will You Call a Touch Please, Bob? | £2.50p | KCACR Tie | £10.00p |
| Conducting and Coursing Order | £2.95p | Diagrams 2011 (blue) | £12.00p |
| A Schedule of Regular Maintenance | £3.00p | Dove's Guide (10 th edition) | £15.00p |
| Collection of Principles | £3.00p | The Tower Handbook | £16.00p |
| Major Compositions | £3.00p | | |

Although Daniel has been unable to be at many of the District Meetings in 2015 due to work commitments, he now expects to be much more regular during 2016 so please make the most of getting your ringing books and ringing paraphernalia through him and making it worth his while carting a suitcase of books to each meeting - Ed