



*KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE
RINGERS*

ASHFORD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

March/June/September/December 2016

Price £1 – free on the web

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Sept ASHFORD DISTRICT OFFICERS

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Secretary	Pam Manger Shearway Cottage, Shearway Lane, Headcorn TN27 9LR	ashfordsec@kcacr.org.uk 01622 890675
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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

Well it's been a long time since the last Newsletter!

In part down to pressure of work, but in large part because nobody apparently noticed that there hadn't been one for a long time, or at least didn't comment if they had.

Following the discussion about the Newsletter at the Annual District Meeting it was decided to start producing them again, but with more input from the District!!!! and some fun pages (quizzes etc.) - see pages 17 & 18 for the first efforts. Quiz contributions from anyone are welcome.

This one is a bumper copy as it contains all the stuff that Sheila had been putting together for the last 4 'non produced' copies.

Have a good Christmas and a prosperous 2017

Peter Sims

Forthcoming Meetings/Events 2017/2018

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	
21 January	APPLEDORE (8)	Business Meeting*
18 February	LITTLE CHART (6)	Morning ringing 10.30 – 12.30
18 March	CHERITON (8)	Ringling Meeting 5 – 9pm, tea 6.30 – 7.30pm
8 April	BIDDENDEN (8)	Business Meeting*
20 May	KINGSNORTH (6) 4.45pm draw. Running tea	Striking Competition
17 June	BROOKLAND (6) (tbc)	Ringling Meeting 5 – 9pm, tea 6.30 – 7.30pm
15 July	HEADCORN (8)	Business Meeting*
16 September	PLUCKLEY (6) (tbc) 10.30am start	Call Change Competition
21 October	BENENDEN (12)	ADM*
18 November	LYDD (8)	Ringling Meeting 5 – 9pm, tea 6.30 – 7.30pm
16 December	DYMCHURCH/NEW ROMNEY (tbc)	Carol Service
20 January	HYPHE (10) (tbc)	Business meeting*
17 February	TBA (6)	Morning ringing 11.00 – 12.30
17 March	ROLVENDEN (8) (tbc)	Ringling Meeting 5 – 9pm, tea 6.30 – 7.30pm
21 April	FOLKESTONE (8)	Business Meeting*

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 Ringing Masters what you would like to ring and they will try to arrange something to suit you.

NB As we are continuing without any Ringing Masters, the Chairman will be nominating a volunteer to run the ringing 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 2017

There is the realisation from the District Committee, that on occasion we've been rather overwhelmed by success in terms of the numbers of both learners and helpers.

Our plan for the first meeting of 2017 on January 7th and for the year is that the session will be split in half and the number of learners limited. Between 10a.m. and 11a.m. we will concentrate on bell handling, rounds and call changes, and between 11.15 and 12.30 p.m., plain hunt and any method requested, generally on six bells. Please note the following:

- 1) places will be limited to 6 in each group on a first come first served basis with a waiting list for cancellations and possibly to run a second tower according to demand.
- 2) Learners must ask for/confirm their place at the latest by a week before the given date. I will be the coordinator and communication preferred is email on richardhbourne@hotmail.com but my phone numbers are 07768149681 & 01580712005.
- 3) TC's. Would you please encourage your learners of all ages and abilities to apply and assure them that the sessions are relaxed and non-threatening.
- 4) Helpers. I'm concerned to use your time efficiently. We will have 6 helpers per morning. If you would send me your availability asap for the following dates I will confirm with six of you in good time a request that you come to a specific practice. The dates are: January 7th at Brabourne. March 4th, May 6th, September 2nd and November 4th venues to be agreed.

Richard Bourne

Other Events

17th April 2017 KCACR AGM hosted by Cranbrook (Tonbridge District)

120 Club

<i>Draw</i>	<i>1st prize £60</i>	<i>2nd prize £30</i>	<i>3rd prize £20</i>
December 2015	056 Ray Lucas, Brabourne	037 Helen Creeke, Non ringer	022 Mike Godfrey, Folkestone
March 2016	034 Hythe Tower, Hythe	005 Sheila Phyll, Smarden	122 Oswald Phyll, Non-ringer
April 2016	087 Jill Russell, Wye	006 Ted Phyll, Non-ringer	076 Jane Bass, Headcorn
May 2016	125 Rosie Fletcher, Wye	112 Sue Childs, Tenterden	038 Jean Vidler, Headcorn
June 2016	70 Kumi Wilkinson, Non ringer	45 Frank Wenham, Stone	15 Jean Vidler, Headcorn
July 2016	87 Jill Russell, Wye	69 Michael Marshall, W'boro	128 Barbara Randall, Wye
Aug 2016	125 Rosie Fletcher, Wye	33 Maggie Mansfield, Wye	41 Em Bear, Non-ringer
Sept 2016	99 Mike Godfrey, F'stone	30 Pam Manger, Frittenden	34 Hythe Tower
Oct 2016	38 Jean Vidler, Headcorn	62 Saltwood Sparrows	111 Brian Butcher, Hythe
Nov 2016	35 David Wilkinson, F'stone	72 Fred King, Hollingbourne	111 Brian Butcher, Hythe

Tickets for 2017 are now available from Mike Godfrey, Alan Bourner, Frank Wenham and Peter Sims. Cost is £10 each with 10 draws in the year. All profits go to the County Bell Restoration Fund. The 10 monthly draws start again at the March meeting, but you can join at any time during the year at a proportional rate.

Treasurer's Interim Report for 2016

Costs of running district

Magazine	£60.00	
Organist	£50.00	
Postage	£18.59	
		£128.59

Fund raising income

Raffles	£227.50	
120 Club	£10.00	
Social events	£36.25	
		£273.75

Spliced Fund £580.00

Total paid to BRF £853.75

Membership

Adult	94	
Senior Citizen	58	
Junior & Student	12	
Associate	8	
Non resident life		
Life & 25 years	55	
Total	227	
		£1,254.50

Donald Holden
October 2016

KCACR Subscriptions 2017

Subscriptions for 2017 are as listed below and are due on 1st January 2017.

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

Quarter Peal Database

KCACR's Quarter Peal Secretary (Anthony Leaves qpsec@kcaacr.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.

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.

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.

Brabourne

Alan Bournier is the new contact for Brabourne. Phone 01303 812604 or email jbourner@pobroadband.co.uk Practice night is Friday 7.30 til 9.00pm.

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: geburbury@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

There are currently no practices at Stone-in-Oxney. Please ring Frank Wenham on 01233 758362 for further information. Stone always ring for Evensong on the first Sunday of the month, 17.15 to 18.00.

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!

Wedding at Kilifi

Those who have visited, and generously supported, the Kilifi band, may recall their splendid visit here in the summer, which culminated in a magnificent sung public proposal of marriage by John Malala to Deborah Mulobi, immediately and gladly accepted.

They have now set the wedding date - 31st December 2016; and would be delighted to have any UK ringers as guests at what will undoubtedly be a splendid celebration - and a Kenyan wedding really is something! We hope there may be enough such visitors to make it a ringing festival as well; if you are interested in a visit to Kenya at this time, please let me know so I can assess what ringing there might be.

Even further ahead, we hope to repeat the very successful training tour of last year, for another group from Kilifi, in summer 2017; and are therefore seeking to use the rest of this year, to raise the necessary funding for air fares and visas, as before. Any direct contributions to the Central Council's Kilifi Fund will of course be welcome - with warmest thanks to some who have already contributed. However, the purpose of this is to suggest, not so much putting your own hand in pocket, but rather, when considering your ringing calendar for the rest of this year, to think about running a sponsored quarter or peal, or any other fund-raising activity, even if simply passing the hat round your band or at a local district meeting. We still have a good stock of the CD's of the magnificent choir of St. Thomas, well worth putting on in the car or anywhere else, so do ask me if you'd like one for £10, all of which will go into the Fund.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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. 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. 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

Basics & Beyond

The format for the Basics & Beyond practices is changing. Due to the popularity of these practices it has been decided to organise them a little better. Therefore, the plan for the first meeting of 2017 on January 7th and for the rest of the year is that the session will be split in half and the number of learners limited. Between 10am and 11am concentration will be on bell handling, rounds and call changes, and between 11.15am and 12.30pm, more call changes and plain hunt and any method requested, generally on six bells. Please note the following:

- 1) Places will be limited to 6 in each group on a first come first served basis with a waiting list for cancellations and possibly to run a second tower according to demand.
- 2) Learners must ask for/confirm their place at the latest by a week before the given date. Richard Bourne will be the coordinator and his preferred method of communication is email on richardhbourn@hotmail.com However you can contact him by phone on 07768149681 or 01580712005 if email is not convenient.

The aim of the Basics & Beyond practices remains the same as previously i.e. 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).

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. Next month pop along and say Hi and buy!

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.

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.

Matters from the ADM held at Frittenden on 15th October 2016

1. 2 new members were elected from Benenden (a hive of training activity at the moment).
2. We managed to fill most of the District Officer positions, with the exception of Youth Rep. David Manger proposed and David Wilkinson seconded that we should continue without Ringing Masters and the Chairman to nominate someone to be in charge at each event.
3. Thanks were extended to all last year's officers including those unofficial posts such as 120club/raffles, bookstall, tea committee and clothing rep.
4. There was some discussion about the Newsletter and Sheila Phyll expressed her regret that nobody had commented on the demise of the Newsletter this year!
The Dist Sec commented that she had missed seeing the paper copy in the ringing room and several others agreed. Daniel Lavender suggested that a quiz in each copy, possibly with a prize, might be appreciated and David Wilkinson agreed to help with this. It was decided to print a Christmas edition and reconsider the situation in the New Year. The Newsletter does depend on NEWS however and that is only available from the readers.
5. The proposed programme for towers for 2017/18 was agreed in principal.
6. The Rule Change planned to come forward at the next AGM (you received a copy of it in a previous update) was discussed and the great majority of those present voted to leave the aims of the Association as they are written.
7. Sadly the discussion about the possible mobile ring, using bells donated by Rev. David Cawley, had a very negative response.

You may be bored by now but the following points are things you need to do:-

If you have any belfry news you MUST send it to Sheila Phyll at sphyall@btinternet.com as soon as possible.

If you wish to make a comment about the mobile ring yourself there is a questionnaire on the KCACR website <http://kcacr.org.uk/a-mobile-ring-for-the-kcacr/>

Bells for St George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

St George's church in Ypres was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, designer of the Menin Gate. It was built to serve the British community that settled in Ypres after the First World War and is a focal point for any pilgrimage to Ypres. Chairs, windows, wall plaques and kneelers all commemorate individual soldiers, regiments, battalions, school old boys, and others. It's a place of poignancy, of countless stories.

The impressive church tower of solid construction may have been intended to house a ring of bells but that didn't happen at the time. Now, during these WW1 centenary years, a group of bell-ringers is aiming to have a peal of eight bells installed there. They will be the first bells hung for English change-ringing in Belgium and will honour the men who lie in the surrounding fields, in marked or unmarked graves. The aim is to raise £195,000 to cast and install the bells, improve the acoustics within and outside the tower, and fit a CCTV system so that the bells and ringers may be seen in the church.

Anglican services are held at St George's every Sunday and the bells will be a sound of home for pilgrims and visitors to the cemeteries. The fund-raising group is a Registered Charity, spearheaded by London ringer Alan Regin. His interest was triggered by the bell ringers' Roll of Honour kept in a display cabinet in the north tower of St Paul's Cathedral. It contained 1,076 names and when Alan asked what was known about the men the answer was "It's just a list of names, isn't it?"

Not any more. Over the past 25 years, Alan has spent thousands of hours visiting war cemeteries in search of the graves of young soldiers who were bell ringers and his research has uncovered over 200 more names. He has recorded well over a thousand stories, their occupations, their parents, home towns and villages, and the day each died. He is always reminding bell-ringers in Britain to honour individuals on the centenary of their deaths by ringing bells at churches where the men themselves rang.

Alan Regin talks movingly on this subject and the project "Bells4StGeorge" is his most significant act of commemoration yet in that it embraces all soldiers who perished irrespective of whether they were bell ringers or not. The project's own website www.bells4stgeorge.org has the history of the Memorial Church with some details of the project but there's a more detailed account at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/bells4stgeorgeypres>. Donations can be made through either of these sites, or by applying an email to Alan Regin info@bells4stgeorge.org for the project's account details.

New top ends!

Stone in Oxney as you all know sits on a hill just off the marsh. The marsh is renowned for having a very damp atmosphere that drifts off the marsh and on to the hill and into the belfry of St. Mary the Virgin, doing the sisal ropes no good at all. It was basically just the part of the rope that sits in the belfry which started to rot and the occasional broken rope happened which was getting more difficult to splice. To get a non-stretch top put in by the bell rope manufacturers would be very expensive so an alternative was sourced. By talking to a sailing friend of mine I was put in touch with Joe Taylor at Lydd who I arranged to meet and discuss what I required. Nothing seemed too much trouble, even though he had not got the particular size of rope needed but said he could get it within a few days and when it was in he would give me a ring, which he did. He did all six ropes plus one for a spare at a very reasonable price, which I did not question but could not believe, getting change from £110.00 for all seven. The only visible difference between Joe and the bell rope manufacturer is the splice, Joe's is a hand splice and the bell rope manufacturer is a machine splice, but for the saving does that matter?

I thought before I put this into the newsletter I would make sure that all was working ok and have given the ropes a year's test, ringing for Sunday service and also on a practice night plus a couple of quarter peals. If you have a similar problem and need a new top end put in and do not mind a hand splice give Joe a ring on 07709493001 or contact by email at sales@ropeloft.co.uk

Frank Wenham

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Ashford on 17th October 2015

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the record of proceedings of this meeting was not made available to the new Committee. These minutes are a brief resume written from memory by the incoming District Secretary.

Sadly, since the previous meeting, Alan Bourne passed away in August. A tribute to Alan, written by David Manger, is attached to these minutes and the Chairman expressed his sorrow at losing a ringer who had been a stalwart of the District since the 1970s.

The Chairman, Peter Sims, opened the meeting by welcoming those present to Ashford. The attendance was very low for an ADM.

A vote of thanks was expressed to those involved in the Service and those supplying tea and making local arrangements.

Apologies for absence were given.

The minutes of the meeting held at Mersham on July 18th were read and agreed.

There were no matters arising.

A District Officers Report was received from the Secretary; this is the only report as we have no Ringing Masters.

The following Officers were elected: Chairman – Peter Sims; Secretary – Pam Manger; Treasurer – Donald Holden; District Representatives – Pam Manger and Richard Bourne; Deputy Chairman – Richard Bourne; Assistant Secretary – Sandy Jeffries.

The following agreed to hold other posts: Newsletter Editors, raffles and 120 Club – Peter Sims and Sheila Phyll; Bookstall – Daniel Lavender; Clothing Sales – David Gower; Tea Committee co-ordinators – Mary Marshall and Sally Potter.

The Jon Castell Library is to remain at Lydd.

The Chairman offered the thanks of the meeting to Claire Walker who had stood down as Secretary. She had worked tirelessly for the District for 4 years and her lively monthly updates would be greatly missed. Thanks were also expressed to Peter and Sheila for the efforts in 2014/15 and Mary Marshall for the excellent teas.

Christopher Cooper was elected to membership of the Association by a majority decision, with one against and two abstentions.

The proposed towers for 2016/17 were discussed and were well in hand. The few members present seemed happy with the present format of meetings. Basics and Beyond practices would continue.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Beer Flip

(for bellringers before a long peal)

Eight yolks of eggs, beaten with sugar, orange juice and spices. The whites beaten separately until firm and stiff.

One quart of strong beer made hot and poured upon the yolks, and then poured back again from a height, so that it froths high.

The whites of the eggs are added to the froth and the whole served swiftly while hot.

(From Food in England by Dorothy Hartly)

Minutes of the Ashford District KCACR Business Meeting Held at Brabourne on 16th January 2016

Vote of Thanks: David Wilkinson thanked the Rev. Campbell, who stood in for Rev. Rosignol, Steve Smith the organist, Charles Sinden and Alan Bourner who made all the local arrangements and the Brabourne and Aldington ladies for an excellent tea. The Chairman emphasised that all this had been achieved at quite short notice.

Welcome to members and visitors: The meeting was well attended with 39 people signing the attendance book and the Chairman welcomed 3 visitors from the Canterbury District.

Apologies for absence: These were received from Tim Munt (Headcorn) and Corrine Orde (Benenden).

Minutes of the last meeting: These were not presented to the meeting as they had not been received from the previous secretary. It was hoped to acquire some details of the meeting in the future.

Matters arising: Consequent to the above there were no matters arising.

Correspondence: Catherine Lewis had sent out details of embroidered KCACR clothing and this had been circulated to the members by e-mail. She had also sent a message asking if members knew of any businesses who would like to advertise in the handbook this year, at a cost of £50 for a full page and £25 for a half page. Anybody interested should contact Catherine or the District Secretary.

District meetings for 2016: Meeting cards had been distributed at the carol service and the details on these were confirmed with the exception of November which is under debate. At the recent District committee meeting it had been decided to reintroduce special methods at District Meetings. The methods for February at Aldington will be Reverse Canterbury Bob Doubles and Primrose Surprise Minor; in March at Hothfield they will be Little Bob Minor and Bourne Surprise Minor. The blue lines will be included in the Secretary's monthly update.

Basics and Beyond Practices: These had proved very popular in 2015 and would continue bi-monthly for the first six months of this year. The first practice would be on the first Saturday of February at Hythe, the second in April at Lydd and the third at Pluckley in June. Richard Bourne asked that as many learners as possible should attend these practices and requested that experienced ringers should let him know if they could help. A piece of paper was passed around for members to show their willingness to help.

Treasurers Report: This was given to members for their perusal. Sadly this shows a steady decline in membership and money raised. The Chairman reiterated the importance of the spliced fund which is a source of money for the Association from outside the membership.

Election of Members: Katharine Marsh of Frittenden, proposed by David Manger and seconded by Pam Manger was elected to the Association and presented with her certificate.

Firsts: Pam and David Manger and Steve Davis rang Restormel Castle Surprise Major to a quarter peal. Natasha Robinson rang her first quarter peal in more than one method, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Forthcoming Events:

- February 6th, Basics and Beyond practice at Hythe, 10.00 – 12.30.
- February 20th. District Meeting at Aldington, 10.30 – 12.30, followed by lunch at the Duke's Head, Sellindge. The Secretary will circulate menus to members and requires their choices by February 13th.

Any Other Business: The Secretary had reinstated an old list of e-mail addresses for members for the monthly updates. She asked that anyone knowing of a member not receiving these should get them to e-mail her so that she could add them to the list.

The Treasurer and the Committee had recognised a need for the District to have a bank account, so that money could be paid into it before moving it into the County account. This could be done online and only one signatory would be required for a transaction. The Treasurer, Donald Holden proposed and Association Vice President, David Manger seconded a motion to open an account. This was passed by the members with no dissenters and one abstention.

The Chairman encouraged members to buy their 120 club numbers for 2016. Sadly, Ray Lucas was no longer an agent for selling numbers, because of ill health, but Alan Bourner and Frank Wenham had offered to help along with Peter Sims and Mike Godfrey. The raffle raised £55.

The meeting closed at 18.30 and ringing continued until 19.45.

Minutes of the Ashford District KCACR Business Meeting Held at Great Chart on 16th April 2016

Vote of Thanks: Richard Bourne thanked the Rev. Timothy Wilson for allowing us to use the church and for putting us in touch with their reader, Derek Goodwin, who took the service. Also to Tony Shaw who played the organ and reinstated old copies of Hymns Ancient and Modern so that we could sing the Ringer's Hymn. The tea was excellent and was supplied by Mary Marshall and Pauline Pullen, who also made the local arrangements.

Welcome to members and visitors: The meeting was well attended with 29 people signing the attendance book, and several members who left before the service. The Chairman welcomed Liz Shearman as the only visitor from outside the District.

Apologies for absence: These were received from Gay Quearney and Alice, Jennifer and Rosemary Holden.

Minutes of the last meeting: These were supplied as written documents during tea.

Matters arising: Missing ADM minutes – these had not been forthcoming and it was decided to glean information from those present on the day so that an abbreviated set of minutes could be drawn up by the Secretary. The minutes of the January meeting were agreed and signed.

Correspondence: The following was received from Kate Flavell (CCCBR).

BBC Music Day takes place on Friday June 3rd and we'd like bell ringers across the UK to get involved. The inaugural BBC Music Day in 2015 reached an audience of over 15 million. It united over 50 partners who delivered more than 20 live music events and over 17 hours of coverage. Events included a magical 73-mile musical relay along Hadrian's Wall, a special educational needs and disability youth concert with The British Paraorchestra in Bristol and a world record-breaking music initiative in Cardiff. The second BBC Music Day takes place on Friday June 3 2016. The theme is collaboration and coverage is planned from 6am to midnight with involvement from the majority of BBC services. Ideas in development include live music events right across the UK and a BBC TV concert at a beautiful location in the South West. There's a plan for pop up music events across the UK and an ambition to unite 100 communities across 50 iconic bridges around England. BBC Music Day digital content will include a bespoke website, targeted social media and a rolling live page, pulling together all the special moments throughout the day. Church bells are a wonderful symbol of community cohesion and since Music Day is all about uniting people through music, we'd love to find a way to make bell ringing a part of BBC Music Day this year. We're exploring the possibility of bells ringing around the UK, from our cities, from our towns and villages all at the same time at 7pm on Music Day. **If you and your team are interested in taking part, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Miriam.williamson@bbc.co.uk to find out more.**

Election of New Members:

Name	Proposer	Seconder	Tower
Pamela Ann Banfield	Rod Lebon	Karen Lebon	Benenden
Marye Humphery	Rod Lebon	Karen Lebon	Benenden
Gavin Jon Hogben	Rod Lebon	Karen Lebon	Benenden
Susan H Glossop	Rod Lebon	Karen Lebon	Benenden
Ellen Coomber	N Spencer	B Butcher	Hythe
Miles Sixsmith	T Munt	R Bourne	Headcorn

Re-election of Members:

Maureen Poole	B Butcher	M Chapman	Hythe
Keith Osborne	B Butcher	M Chapman	Hythe

County Committee Meeting: a) Mobile ring project – volunteers were needed to become part of the group charged with setting this up and running it. Those interested to contact Brian Butcher or the County Secretary. b) In memory of Frank Lewis the Association will contribute towards a peal board in Brasted church and set up a digital Archive in his name. c) The County Youth Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 22nd October.

District 6 bell competition: This is to be held on Saturday 21st May at High Halden, starting at 4.45pm. It is hoped to have at least 5 towers entering.

County 8 bell competition: To be held on Saturday 2nd July at Herne.

Basics and Beyond Practices: These continue to be popular. Two more events will be arranged for September and November.

Firsts: A Quarter Peal of Littleport Little Surprise Maximus at Benenden rung by Stephen Davis and Richard Edwards.

Future Events: Apart from those mentioned above, Basics and Beyond Practice at Pluckley on June 4th at 10.30am.

Any Other Business: John Dawkins had not received a Handbook or a Membership card

The meeting ended at 18.25pm. The raffle raised £47.00

Ashford District Striking competition May 21st 2016

After the great disappointment last year, of being unable to raise any interest in a striking competition, we were very pleased that 8 bands were cajoled into entering this year. The competition was held at High Halden, a pleasant ring of bells but difficult to hear in the ringing room, which also doubles up as one of the entrances to the church and has some of the kitchen facilities in it. Mary Marshall became very adept at running in to get water for the urn in between bands.

The judges, Sue and Chris Bassett from Staplehurst managed to find a sheltered spot where they could hear the bells and missed being soaked when the last band finished ringing just as a massive black cloud drifted over. It was such a near miss that they had to do their final calculations in the porch while thunder rumbled around outside.

The overall standard of ringing was very acceptable and Sue's introductory comments were quite flattering. We had decided to ring 240 changes despite there being 8 bands (and one or two moans) and Sue complemented us on our decision, as all the bands settled in the second 120 to give a truer picture of their ability. Chris commented on each band in turn and then gave us the results as follows (the marks are the total faults from both judges).

Final position	Tower	Comments	Ringling position	Faults
1	Ashford	Very pleasant to listen to, settled well in the middle, tenor kept a focused beat.	2	72
2	Willesborough	Very confident ringing, settled well after a shaky start, right speed for bells.	8	74
3	Folkestone	Poor start. Average speed, second half much better. Leading a little slow but well accommodated.	4	77
4	Hythe	Slow, plodding to start, much better in second half, good finish.	3	89
5	Tenterden	Faults were repetitious, leading uneven but improved. Good speed, tenor sometimes a little slow.	6	102
6	Frittenden	Rushed start then slower, settled in the middle but not an even speed. Good team work.	5	132
7	Appledore & co.	Similar faults in each course, improved after shaky start. Nice to listen to but some close handstroke leads.	7	142
8	Smarden.	A little slow with faults in clumps. Some good sections with members compensating for each other. Some uneven leading.	1	145

Our thanks go to the judges for patiently judging 8 lots of 240 changes, and to Mary, Marilyn and Sally who prepared an excellent tea under trying conditions.

Minutes of the Ashford District KCACR Business Meeting Held at Wye on 16th July 2016

The Chairman requested that a minutes silence be kept in memory of Iris Smith of Ashford, who passed away on June 19/20 at the age of 95.

Vote of Thanks: The Chairman thanked Alan Ramsay for taking the service, Maggie Mansfield for the local arrangements and Mary Marshall and her helpers for preparing another splendid tea.

Welcome to members and visitors: 19 ringers signed the attendance book and the Chairman welcomed Donald Heath from Romford and Brenda Davies and Jim Phillips from the Canterbury District.

Apologies for absence: These were received from Frank Wenham, Sally Potter (who had helped with tea but had to leave before the meeting), the Edwards family and Donald, Alice, Jennifer and Rosemary Holden.

Minutes of the last meeting: These were supplied as written documents during tea.

Matters arising: It was noted that the district came 5th in the 8 bell competition. There was general dissatisfaction that there was only one judge, despite the rules stipulating that there should be two, and it was requested that the subject be raised at the next County Committee Meeting. The minutes of the April meeting were agreed and signed.

Correspondence: The Kent Young Ringers are keen to try ringing on handbells so the Gen. Sec has asked if there are any bells that could be loaned to them from within the County.

Nigel Spencer has sent revised Child Protection (Safeguarding) Guidance which has been circulated around the District.

Election of New Members: There were no ringers standing for election.

County Committee Meeting: a) To avoid complaints about ringing from residents who had moved into new housing within close range of the church, a form of relevant wording should be put into the contracts. b) In memory of Frank Lewis, the Association will contribute towards a peal board in Brasted church and set up a Digital Archive in his name. c) The County Youth Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 22nd October.

Firsts: Alice Holden rang 1-2 to a quarter peal of Little Bob Max. with the Exeter University band. Stephen Davis rang a peal of 41 Spliced Surprise Minor. Natasha Robinson rang a quarter peal of two Doubles methods. David and Pam Manger rang a quarter peal of of a new method which was named Old Heathfield Surprise Major by the band. Sue Childs rang a quarter peal of Beverley and Surfleet Surprise Minor.

Forthcoming Events: August – the District had been invited to join the Canterbury District at Quex Park for an informal competition afternoon. Call change competition at Pluckley on Sept 17th. County 6 bell competition at Farnborough on Sept 24th, the district to be represented by Ashford. ADM at Frittenden on Oct 15th. Further Basics and Beyond practices to resume in September.

Any Other Business: Mike Godfrey has been unwell but is improving slowly. There will be no practices at Stone until further notice but practices will be held at Appledore every Friday.

A productive discussion was held about District meetings in the future and the following points were made:-

Different timings should be considered, particularly for the summer meetings. Could the quarterlies be moved? A show of hands indicated that no body wanted to completely remove the Church service from the event but the majority felt that they were most appropriate at the Quarterly meetings. The committee will try to keep these ideas in mind when devising next year's programme.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm. The raffle raised £28.

The following was first published in the Ringing World, June 10, 2016 edition. For anyone who has been on an 'Open Day', they will know exactly what Richard Hartnell is talking about!

You'll hate it and you'll love it

Richard Hartnell navigates another Open Day

Pre-dawn. It's cold, wet and overcast. For the righteous early-risers it's porridge oats, wholegrain toast and Earl Grey tea, for the less virtuous, a fag and black coffee (three sugars). Either way, in keeping with twitchers, train-spotters, tegeologists and a whole host of 'baggers' these early-risers are on a mission, for today is Open Day day. The chance for every Society and Association the length and breadth of the land to raise funds (gift aid: yes please); for the next bell project has arrived. And hundreds of sad bellringers will travel hundreds of miles to stand, in the persistent rain, outside some little-known church queuing patiently for the dubious privilege of ringing the bells.

In the villages, towns and cities in some far-flung region, they will gather and do what they have done for years. Some will come to mop up Sheepshire, others will be closing in on some portentous milestone. One will have travelled 200 miles simply to ring on this new six, installed by an enthusiast in a village with a population of barely 50. They will come from all parts with abilities to match. Groups of four will endeavor to stay as groups of four, knowing that only in this way will they have an outside chance of some decent ringing. These will graciously concede positions in the queue, simply to achieve this end. Some, travelling alone, will be less fortunate and suffer bad Bob Doubles because they end up with the same group for six straight venues. All present will be attempting to avoid the band of new learners, doing the rounds with their tutor, who is keen that they gain some experience and, perversely, wreak havoc amongst the rest.

There is Bob (I'll call him Bob to avoid confusion with Bill). Bob knows everyone and everyone knows Bob (in principle only). Bob has done the rounds for years and makes a habit of doing open days. Bob's approach is not subtle. On arrival at a church, he will search the long, snaking queue for a vaguely familiar face. A cheery "hello", with the follow-up "haven't seen you in a while", leads to Bob's insertion in the queue, a dozen places from the front. The hapless victim, who only just recognizes Bob, is excruciatingly and painfully embarrassed, not for himself, but for the hundreds behind him who, by now, are chuntering in that peculiarly English way, about "the back of the queue being the other side of the lych-gate" and "what's happened to good manners, like what we had in the Good Old Days?". Bob is impervious, gets his tower and moves on.

Bill on the other hand, is a much kinder and gentler being, at least to his fellow ringers. He is from an old school, shuns technology other than his motor carriage and certainly has no truck with GPS or SatNavs. His is a world of OS (1:63360 scale, if you please), for which blue road of the M variety are twenty years away. He has an inordinate ability to decode even the obscurest of detail from these maps. Every yellow road, ford and low bridge is registered. For Bill can find a short cut better than anyone. On one trip Bill saved two miles by bouncing across a ploughed field, then scattering grazing heifers before taking a bridal way fit only for ramblers and horses. He emerged on a metalled road, had time to shut the gate and arrived two minutes before the hordes.

And what of the ringing itself? At best it can be astounding. We once met a well-known biking ringer, complete with leathers, who said he hoped to be the weakest in the particular band. When it happened, he rang Stedman and announced that he could "now die happy". At worst it will be dire. "Let's ring major", on an eight where the tenor sucks and blows like a beached whale, or "how about some triples?" for which the tenor ringer insists on joining in. Someone has a particularly musical touch they want to foist on the company. Unfortunately, the roll-ups, Queens and 7-6s are all lost in what is best described as a 'melee'. And someone will declare "that was fun".

To avoid such a possibility, get there early, for the quality of the ringing you will experience is, I suspect, proportional to your position in the queue. To effect this, and best of all, hope that the venues will open before the advertised time. Most of the stewards are locals, have never experienced an open day and are just plain delighted that the bells are being rung. They arrive very early because they are keen to give a good impression. They're taken aback by the line of people stretching into the distance. Rarely are they briefed about protocol or etiquette. Under the weight of numbers they just open up, collect the money, if they remember, direct you to the khazi and tell you to enjoy the bells. You scramble for the bells, in approximate groups of six and depart, smug that you're ahead of that group of learners and safe in the knowledge that the course of whatever-you-like was at least as good as it gets. The poor folk, the stragglers who arrive at the correct start time find the local wallah preparing to lock up. Plain hunt on a minor four is the best you can anticipate. These disgruntled folk leave, vowing to write to the *Ringing World* but never do. They put it down to experience and head home, knowing that it will be ever thus.

The bottom line is that it's the game we play and we know the rules, and the rules are there to be broken and we'll do what we can, if there is a chance to ring bells that wouldn't ordinarily be available to us. We'll scurry from village to village, block the driveways of private houses, curse tractor drivers for whom the 'pull in if more than eight vehicles are following' rule has no meaning then compare the experiences of our conquests over a pint in the pub, with other like minded ringers. And next year, we'll be back for more of the same. Brutal.

Matters from General Committee Meeting held on 27th August 2016

- The accounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015 have now been audited and a compliance certificate issued
- On recommendation from the auditor, it was agreed that we will try once more to find the missing Sage Accounts software, and then re-purchase if required
- The grant award for Eastling has been cancelled following a note from the incumbent there
- The new KCACR website went live recently, and soon content owners will be able to edit/add their own content to the site
- A schedule for the creation of the 2017 handbook has been created by the Handbook Editor
- Catherine Lewis has agreed to look into arranging a Module 2F ART course in the County if sufficient interest exists
- The Secretary is going to write to the incumbent at Strood to ask if their project to install a ring of bells is still going ahead
- A proposed rule change to be considered at the 2017 AGM will be circulated to Districts ready for their ADMs in October
- A final request for volunteers to help with the KCA Mobile Ring will be made by the Secretary, along with a member survey to ascertain if there really is a need/want for this as is already thought – deadline 31st December 2016 to make a decision
- The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 24th September, 9.45am draw, in the Lewisham District at Farnborough
- It was agreed that the Kent Young Ringers band could enter the County 6-bell competition effectively as a 'scratch' band, for competition practice
- The County Youth Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 22nd October at Otford
- The Association are entering a band in the Essex Trophy being held at Writtle, Essex on Saturday 10th September
- The final General Committee meeting in 2016 is on 26th November

Doug Davis

The Fun Pages

Quiz

David Wilkinson has very kindly prepared a quiz for you all to have a go at over the Christmas and New Year break. See if you can answer the questions and then submit it to the Editor, Peter Sims, by 7th January. The first person to submit all the correct answers will win a small prize to be given out at the District Meeting at Appledore on Saturday 21st January. Good Luck!

1. Which "grande dame of drag" was born Daniel Patrick Carroll in 1927?
2. Which TV series is/was filmed in the grounds of Welford Park near Newbury, Berkshire?
3. What is Britain's largest native terrestrial reptile?
4. What connects Philadelphia, Bonn and Winchester?
5. Which brass instrument is named from the Latin for little bull?
6. What is the popular name of Beethoven's Piano Sonata no.14?
7. What is the hardest substance in the human body?
8. How many men walked on the moon?
9. The late Queen Mother lived through the reigns of how many British monarchs?
10. What is the largest bone in the human body?

The Woman Marine Pilot

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it.

The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories. There were all the regular types of stuff: spilled milk and pennies saved. But then the teacher realized, much to her dismay, that she had missed Janie.

Janie, do you have a story to share? "Yes ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my Mommy. She was a Marine pilot in Desert Storm, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol, and a survival knife. She drank the whiskey on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break, and then her parachute landed her right in the middle of 20 Iraqi troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, till the blade broke, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands.

"Good Heavens," said the horrified teacher. "What did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?"

"Stay away from Mommy when she's been drinking."

Wordsearch

No prizes for this one, but see if you can find the 26 method related words hidden below. As well as reading left to right, the words are up, down, back-to-front and diagonal.

A	I	D	B	E	N	O	D	N	E	H	C	N	I	W	S
D	P	O	F	V	C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E	U	U
C	S	U	G	I	F	P	K	W	X	K	L	M	M	C	R
H	W	B	E	T	A	Q	S	R	E	B	E	I	O	N	P
J	I	L	E	A	N	U	C	O	T	N	X	N	G	D	R
Y	C	E	S	L	S	T	E	D	M	A	N	O	T	H	I
R	H	S	O	R	O	Z	A	V	M	F	B	K	X	E	S
U	E	T	R	E	V	R	U	C	N	I	R	N	I	R	E
B	P	S	M	P	U	D	S	E	Y	O	N	W	N	Q	I
R	O	E	I	U	B	R	T	L	Y	T	M	I	V	P	W
E	L	L	R	S	R	O	Y	A	L	U	Z	I	M	B	R
T	E	P	P	X	L	N	K	E	M	S	A	L	S	U	J
N	T	I	Y	E	R	I	S	D	N	A	R	G	V	T	S
A	N	R	O	J	A	M	Y	N	I	T	R	A	M	T	S
C	A	T	E	R	S	A	L	O	H	C	I	N	T	S	Z

ANTELOPE

CAMBRIDGE

CANTERBURY

CATERS

DOUBLES

ERIN

GRANDSIRE

IPSWICH

KENT

MAJOR

MAXIMUS

MINIMUS

MINOR

NEW

PRIMROSE

PUDSEY

ROYAL

ST MARTIN

ST NICHOLAS

ST SIMON

STEDMAN

SUPERLATIVE

SURPRISE

TRIPLES

WINCHENDON

YORK

The Chauffeur

After getting all of Pope Francis's luggage loaded into the limo at the airport, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' asks the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kms. (Remember, the Pope is Argentinian and Fangio the famous racer was Argentinian.)

'Please slow down, Your Holiness,' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license – and my job!', moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches; but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph.

'So bust him,' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that. He's really important,' said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed, 'All the more reason!'

'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The President?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?'

Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'



The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

The first of our “drop-in clinics” for beginners was in January 2004 and twelve years later our Saturday morning sessions are still going strong, albeit catering for a much wider clientele. Practices start at ten o’clock and the first half-an-hour or so is for beginners. It’s an opportunity to practise handling a bell, setting it, and raising and lowering, but we don’t teach bell handling from scratch. There’s usually some rounds-based exercises before a break for coffee and the last hour is reserved for change ringing. We finish at twelve o’clock

Attendances in 2015 ranged between eight and twenty-two, the average weekly attendance over the forty-nine practices being fourteen. Five of the six Districts and twenty-eight towers were represented, including two from outside Kent. Methods rung included Ashford Little Bob, Bastow Minimus and Minor, and Cloister. Part of our remit is Public Relations and we welcomed a total seventy-nine non-ringing visitors during the year, including forty-one on a Heritage Day and many from overseas.

There’s a common misapprehension that we still cater only for beginners but in fact they are now in the minority. Once they have sufficient bell control we regard them as learners rather than beginners and introduce them to simple methods. By breaking things down into small steps, each with a high chance of success, plain courses are mastered quite quickly. However, we are also trying to cultivate ropesight but we don’t always have a band capable of touches.

So, when we appeal for more support, we are not asking towers to refer beginners to us. There is a desperate need for the learners to have around them some steady ringers who will not fall apart after a bob is called. Let us hope that in 2016 more help does become available and the method ringing for learners really takes off.

Peter Dale

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

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
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