



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.fsnet.co.uk

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

JANUARY 2003

Bromley Last Minute Winners

The clear but chilly afternoon of Saturday 16th November saw nine District bands from eight towers compete for the trophy at St. Mary Cray. Once again we see an excellent amount of interest in this event, which I find very pleasing. The competition was judged by me, (the District Master), since no other judge had been found. I felt that most of the ringing was fairly good, although I might have hoped for some even more "special" ringing on these fine bells. Most bands did not seem to ring with the confidence that is fitting for their abilities. Please don't take these competitions too seriously! Just chill-out and enjoy your ringing.

There seemed to be some confusion regarding the meaning of the rules, and I hope that this can be cleared up before the next competition. I look forward to seeing even more bands enter next year!

The results were as follows:

- 1st Bromley Parish -15 faults
- 2nd Crayford -21½ faults
- 3rd Horton Kirby -24 faults
- 4th St Mary Cray -25 faults
- 5th Chelsfield Green -27 faults
- 6th Erith, Christ Church - 32½
- 7th Eltham -33 faults
- 8th Dartford -37 faults
- 9th Chelsfield Blue -49 faults

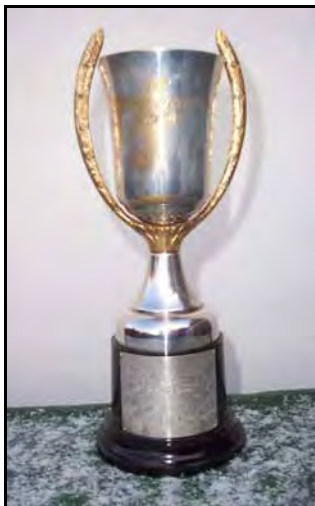
Jim Hardy

The placing of the ringers was:

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Treble | Chris Webb |
| 2 | Paul Kay |
| 3 | David Brown |
| 4 | Matthew Spencer |
| 5 | David Kingston |
| Tenor | Alec Thompson |

Paul and Matthew are still at school and have been ringing for about two years. Alec is nearer my age and started about 10 years ago.

David Kingston



The Arthur Richards Trophy
Awarded to the
K.C.A.C.R Lewisham District
Call Change Competition



THE WINNING BROMLEY BAND

Next District Event

**District Meeting
St. Mark, Biggin Hill
on**

Saturday 11th January

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to

Nancy Gay on 01959 572***

or ne_gay@yahoo.co.uk

by Wednesday 8th January please.

Chairman's Bit

For those of you who enjoyed the Quiz at Crayford last November, here is another question for you. Who was it who said "You should make a point of trying every experience once, excepting incest and folk dancing"?

(The answer is the composer Arnold Bax - and not George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, George S. Kaufman, Sir Thomas Beecham, or any of the other people to whom this remark has been attributed. And even Bax claimed it had been said to him by "a sympathetic Scot".)

What all this is leading up to is the suggestion that something every ringer ought to experience at least once is ringing a peal.

There are lots of people out there who seem to spend all their spare time ringing the things (I think the record for 2001 was 211, which works out at nearly four a week). More common are those who ring the occasional one from time to time, or who have perhaps rung one or two and have decided that enough is enough.

But there may be some of you out there who have a secret yearning to give it a go, but don't quite know how to go about it. If you're still reading (instead of turning the page quickly with a shudder) then perhaps you are one of them. It's something we don't do very much of in the Lewisham District - at least not as part of what I would describe as "District events", involving those who support District ringing in general. Perhaps this is because those who want to ring lots of peals go up into town and join the Cumberlands or College Youths.

But I've been thinking that people ought to be given the chance to have a go, and that we might aim to have some more "first pealers" in the Lewisham District in 2003. Looking back through old newsletters, none of the peals rung in the District appear to have included any since November 1999, when a peal at Eynsford contained three - one on the treble, one on the tenor and one inside! However, on a more positive note, I do know that a recent peal at Chelsfield included one of their ringers, Bobby Lawes, whose first peal this was - and two of the other ringers in the band hadn't rung a peal for 33 years! This was a more or less local effort, and congratulations to all of them.

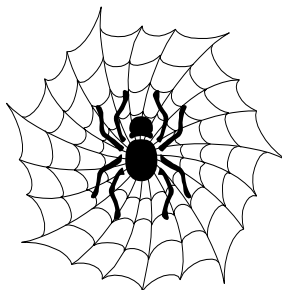
If you've rung a few quarter peals and enjoyed the experience, then a peal is the logical next step. So if you think you might be up for it, then speak up! Perhaps start by discussing it with your Tower Ringing Master - alternatively, Ringing Masters might like to raise the question themselves with any likely candidates. Or have a word with me, or with the District Ringing Master. You might like to talk over such things as the method to ring, the tower (your own or somewhere else), who the conductor and other ringers could be...or to seek



reassurance that it isn't as awful an experience as you might think.

At least if you've done it once, you never need do it again. And who knows, you might even enjoy it!

David Holdridge



What's been happening - News from the Website

For the latest county and district news see the KCACR website at www.kcacr.org.uk

This has links to other ringing websites including James' District one at:

www.jameshardy.supanet.com/lewishamdistrictnews.htm

Annual District Meeting at West Wickham

The A.D.M. passed off without a hitch and a good service was followed by an excellent tea and a reasonably short meeting where some new members were elected, and some old friends re-elected. The District officers remain unchanged, but it should be noted that Mary intends to stand down from her amazingly long service as District Secretary, which spans a total of 40 years!

The afternoon continued with some rewarding ringing, and of course, a visit to the pub.

District Practice at Woolwich

This practice on 26th October, was the least well-attended of the year (until Dartford anyway! - Ed) with only 13 members present. We did, however, manage some creditable ringing on these difficult bells. We rang Grandsire, Stedman and some Surprise Major.

District practice at Dartford

23rd November - Once again, a potentially useful practice was not well attended. Only 12 people were present. We did, however, manage to ring "Stanwell Little Bob Triples"!?!?!?

District Practice at Beckenham

The practice at Beckenham on 7th December was attended by 20 members. We rang Plain hunt on 9 and 10, Call Changes, Stedman Caters, Cambridge S. Royal, and several good attempts at Bristol S. Royal. We will work more on Bristol in the coming year. The event closed with mulled wine and mince pies.

District Carol Service at St. John, Erith

A great deal of effort was put into the arrangements for the Carol service at St Johns. It is a shame therefore that a few more District members didn't turn up. Our thanks go to the local ringers for their hard work, and I hope that the event will be better attended next time.

From The Lewisham District website

Editorial



It is good to have plenty of copy again and some of it in earlier this time which makes life easier in putting the newsletter together. We want to thank in particular, those people who sent in their articles by either rich text format (not plain) email or as a word attachment as this cuts down on the time we need to spend formatting considerably. If everyone could do this, it would be great!

This time around, the subs for the newsletter will have to be increased to £5.00 in order to cover increased printing and postal costs. We are doing away with the two tier pricing structure for second copies to the same address as it now appears that it is no cheaper to post the second copy anymore. We trust that you will still consider the newsletter to be good value for money and continue to subscribe.

Congratulations to Bromley who, despite only deciding to enter at the last moment, took a clear win in the Call Change Competition.

We wish you all the best for the forthcoming year,

Rupert and Cathy



Once upon a time, allegedly, in a nice little forest, there lived an orphaned bunny and an orphaned snake. By a surprising coincidence, both were blind from birth.

One day, the bunny was hopping through the forest, and the snake was slithering through the forest, when the bunny tripped over the snake and fell down. This, of course, knocked the snake about quite a bit.

"Oh, my," said the bunny, "I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, since I'm also an orphan, I don't even know what I am."

"It's quite OK," replied the snake. "Actually, my story is much the same as yours. I, too, have been blind since birth, and also never knew my mother. Tell you what, maybe I could slither all over you, and work out what you are, so at least you'll have that going for you."

"Oh, that would be wonderful" replied the bunny.

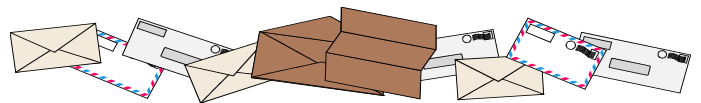
So the snake slithered all over the bunny, and said, "Well, you're covered with soft fur; you have really long ears; your nose twitches; and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny rabbit."

"Oh, thank you! Thank you," cried the bunny, in obvious excitement. The bunny suggested to the snake, "Maybe I could feel you all over with my paw, and help you the same way that you've helped me."

So the bunny felt the snake all over, and remarked, "Well, you're smooth and slippery, and you have a forked tongue, no backbone and no balls. I'd say you must be either a team leader or possibly someone in senior management".

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We will as usual, be seeking articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, reports and tower news for the next issue. Get them in early!

**COPY DEADLINE -
23rd March 2003**

to

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Terrors of the First Quarter Peal

I remember the date so well – Thursday 10th October 2002. We were happily ringing Frank’s Squiggly Bits (something to do with Bob Doubles?) at our tower practice when suddenly I was struck, no not with the bell rope or with some dread disease (that was to come later), but with rope sight. Now you can’t keep that sort of thing to yourself, “I could see the ropes” I proclaimed as we finished ringing. It was like the star in the east at the end of a long tunnel full of bends – it had flashed on and off before but that night it was definitely on! Frank and Lesley looked at each other and smiled. I wasn’t to realise the significance of that smile until our tower outing.

On the morning of the outing Lesley, Frank and Philippa got together and before we had even touched a rope they had it all planned and we first heard those dread words quarter peal!

Mick and I decided we ought to get some practice in. We tried Chelsfield - along with 17 others! – and Eynsford. I practised trebling to touches of Bob Doubles while Mick tenored behind – he even covered to some strange things like Reverse Canterbury (?) – and it was still there, the light!

The date was set and the closer it got the more nervous we became. More and more bends appeared in the tunnel and the light completely disappeared only flashing rarely, so it was with relief (although not for him) that Mick succumbed to the dread disease. As an engineer working on the lifts and their rather dubious contents (not the people, I hasten to add) at Thamesmead, he always joked that some dire illness would claim him, and it did. Swine fever was closely followed by club foot and the quarter peal had to be postponed. Shame! Maybe we should wait until after Christmas we suggested but no “We’ll do it next Sunday” they said.

Sunday 1st December dawned and as we started ringing for morning service we soon realised things weren’t destined to run smoothly. The nerves hadn’t really set in then but they weren’t far away. Lesley (was she nervous too?) called a strange change which resulted in a bit of clanging and banging but then, who’s perfect? But as we stood the bells, or I tried to stand the treble, we realised it had gone up wrong. While they rang

some plain hunt I sat out wondering what else could possibly go wrong. It was bound to be the quarter I decided, so why not cut our losses and give up now? I glanced across the tower at Mick ringing the 3 and realised that he too must be suffering from nerves because, just like my light, he too was flashing (I don’t think I need to elaborate). That caused a titter around the tower and was the third thing to go wrong. I thought there may be hope yet for our quarter.

All too soon we were back in the tower. We took hold of the ropes and after some deep breaths I said “Look to” Then as Frank called the dreaded words “Go Bob Doubles” it all seemed to go wrong. My legs started to shake and my mind went blank. The light wasn’t even flashing now. It had gone out. At the first bob I cried “I’ve lost it”. “Plain course” said Frank quickly calming me down and I got into a good rhythm counting my place and watching the ropes, with the band

taking me from lead - a smile from Lesley, a nod from Jim, almost a bow from Frank and Karen looking me straight in the eye or calling me when I drifted. Mick rang steadily at the back always in the right place.

Time seemed to stand still at first, the only light relief for me being when Karen almost forgot to make seconds. Standing opposite her I saw the look of horror on her face and we both laughed as she quickly pulled the bell into place. Then there was Lesley beaming all over her face, and Frank said those wonderful words “This is all”.

It was over! We’d done it! We’d rung our first quarter peal at the first attempt! Apart from feet that had gone numb and aching backs, we were as pleased as punch, over the moon, on top of the world, happy as a dog with two tails. After all the worrying of the last few weeks it was over, we’d done it. So then, in the true tradition of bell ringers, it was down to the pub to celebrate!

We’d like to thank Frank Rogers and Lesley Barclay for all their hard efforts and patience at helping us achieve this and Karen Barter and Jim Rooke for ringing with us.

Sue Allport



ST MARY, HORTON KIRBY

Crayford Quiz Night

On Saturday 30th November twelve teams assembled at St Paulinus Church Hall to have their little grey cells tickled in aid of the County Bell Restoration Fund. Our first task was to complete the three interesting table quizzes - one about sweets, a picture quiz and one with convoluted explanations of well known sayings.

The quizmaster, Andrew Sinclair, then took us through the ten rounds of questions with our answers being efficiently marked by Debra Say and Rupert Cheeseman. The questions had all been set by Alex Britton who provided a challenging but very enjoyable evening. He was prevented from attending by BBC choral duties.

After the raffle was drawn it was announced that the magnificent sum of £405 had been raised by the evening. The winning team was from Christ Church, Erith but the winners of the booby prize were equally delighted as they carried home their holly decorated loo rolls!

Thank you to everyone who made the evening such an enjoyable and lucrative one.

Judith Cheeseman

??????????

I would like to add my thanks to everybody who came along to support the Crayford Quiz Night and made the evening such a success. Thanks also to Horton Kirby who unfortunately could not send a team but still sent a donation for the BRF.

Alex came up with a varied and interesting quiz which, judging by the closeness of the teams at both the top and bottom, was a fair test.

The best answers of the night were the team that identified the above photo as the Mombasa bomb site, the team containing a number of local councillors who thought that this person was Michael Fish and that nobody knew the county town of Cornwall. See the bottom of the next column if you don't know either.



Mombasa Bomb Site??



Michael Fish??

So could you have done better.....?

1. In which English county would you find the village called "Nasty"?
2. In 1965 Julie Andrews won an Oscar for Best Actress, in which film?
3. Who was the first female "Blue Peter" presenter?
4. New figures say Britons have 149, the Dutch have 158 and the French 167. What exactly?
5. Which mountain range is closest to Aviemore?
6. What cloth was illegal in Scotland from 1745 to 1782?
7. Who is Baroness of Kesteven?
8. Which football team does John Major support?
9. Which giant airship exploded in New Jersey in May 1937?
10. Whose catchphrase was "Ooh you are awful but I like you"?
11. At the start of a game, how many pawns are on a chessboard?
12. The answer is a proverb... A mobile section of petrified matter agglomerates no bryophytes.
13. Allow somnolent quadrupeds that are Homo Sapiens's greatest comrades to remain reclining. (Another proverb)
14. The answer is a sweet.... High class throughfare
15. The answer is a sweet.... Mother's local.

Rupert Cheeseman

St Paulinus, Tony Blair, Bodmin
 1. Hertfordshire - half way between Stevenage and Bishop's
 Stortford. 2. Mary Poppins 3. Letia Williams 4. Bouts of
 lovemaking per year 5. The
 Cairngorms 6. Tartan 7. Margaret
 Thatcher 8. Chelsea 9. The
 Hindenburg 10. Dick Emery 11. 16
 12. A rolling stone gathers no moss
 13. Let sleeping dogs lie 14. Quality
 Street 15. Mars bar

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Thursday 20:00

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Happy New Year.

By the time this gets around the district, the New Year will be well upon us and the Christmas festivities will be a memory. January is a time for resolutions and mine will be to turn up on time to practice (not that I've been moaned at much lately). So in case anyone else needs a reminder of ringing times, Beckenham ring at the following times:

Thursday 7:50 (prompt please) to 9:30

Sunday 8:55 meet for 9:00 service ringing, evenings by arrangement

If you are late there is a door bell high up behind the drain pipe on the left hand side of the entrance doorway. Alternatively, stand in front of the flood lights and attract attention that way. That is to say we are not looking to attract exhibitionists, however if they are able ringers, they will be more than welcome.

Jeremy Byers

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

There is not much news from Bexley for the Newsletter except that our fourth is going to be recast and will be going to Whitechapel in the New Year.

Also, as you probably know, we are short of ringers and visitors on a practice night are very welcome. Always phone me to make sure that we are having a practice.

Mary Andrews

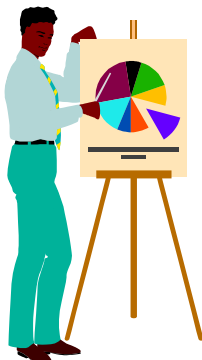
BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Wednesday 20:00

I've been interested in the last few "Learning Curve" articles in the Ringing World. Biggin Hill is definitely in the blue curve, and not likely to move for all the



reasons given. However, there are positive aspects of having a "blue" tower. The kids have a lot of fun; we always have a Sunday band; ringing for weddings is eagerly sought and the kids are forever bringing friends along.

This Christmas we decided to let the congregation get to know better our young ringers (several of whom attend different churches). With the loan of handbells from St Mary Cray (many, many thanks, Nigel!), our seven young ringers accompanied the last carol ("The Carol of the Bells", of course) in the Carol Service, to the great delight of ringers, singers and listeners. I had written the part for four ringers, nine bells, but no one, including those already in the choir, wanted to be left out, so Marc, Simone, Matthew, Jess, Rachael, Alex and Tasha stood in front of the choir, some ringing their part from memory. It was a simple arrangement, but everyone loved it; and as the congregation left the church, we were already up the tower ringing away. As I battled out of the church door I heard: "Oh, listen. Don't they sound lovely! Look, you can see them up there!" and the carpark was full of watchers and listeners for several minutes.



Happy New Year, everyone!

Nancy Gay

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

A quarter peal of 1280 Rutland Surprise Major was rung on Boxing Day at St Peter and St Paul, Bromley. A quarter on Boxing Day has now become a tradition. In the years 1963 to 1975 peals were regularly rung but then the tradition died out, to be resurrected in 1989, since when quarters have been rung with only three years being missed.

The ringers this year were Treble: David Brown, 2: Rosemary Tuhey (Frank Gates' daughter), 3: Chris Webb (conductor), 4: Nigel Pointer, 5: Dickon Love, 6: Jeremy Byers, 7: David Kingston, 8: James Hardy.

David Kingston

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

Well, what sort of year have you and your tower had in 2002?

In this, Jubilee year, there was the opportunity for plenty of celebratory ringing in June but also, earlier in the year, there were two Royal funerals when bells were rung in sadness, often half-muffled.

Ringing takes on many forms, from Rounds and Call Changes through method ringing in various degrees of difficulty to quarter peals and peals. The important thing is that bells are rung and rung as well as possible with the available resources, i.e. ringers.

Following the Millennium recruitment drive, there are mixed signals on the current state of ringing just two years later. On the one hand a number of the Millennium recruits are still with us, but not all, and in some areas and at some towers there has been a net loss of ringers over the last two years. Seeking to retain ringers and also teach new ringers is a matter that is exercising the minds of many of us.

At Chelsfield, we are fortunate in having a fairly large 'squad' of ringers but we, nor anyone else, can afford to be complacent. We have to be constantly on the alert to look out for and teach new recruits to provide for the inevitability that some trained ringers will from time to time move away, sometimes be simply unavailable or, dare we admit it, occasionally just lose interest!

The topic of training and retaining ringers could be the subject of a dissertation in itself! However, one important ingredient is that any ringer needs to feel motivated and this is greatly assisted by being needed. If, at a six-bell tower, fifteen people turn up to ring for the thirty minutes prior to a Sunday service, it is obvious that a number of them are going to sit around for quite a time and if it happens regularly, some are soon going to decide not to bother. No surprise there! If, however, there are several ringing opportunities on a Sunday, there is more likelihood of being able to even out the numbers. We do this at Chelsfield by not only ringing twice every Sunday but often ringing three times.

We also try to ring up to everyone's capabilities including, from time to time, quarter peals and, twice this year, peals have been rung, one with a local band and the other with a majority of local ringers including a first pealer. This was an impressive performance by Bobby Lawes who was only elected a member of the Kent County Association in October and rang his first peal in November! Sadly, however, the peal was in memory of a longstanding Chelsfield ringer, Charles Rowe.

At the time of typing this article, ten days before the year end

to meet the deadline, seventeen quarter peals have been rung at Chelsfield, all of which included at least some Chelsfield ringers and seventeen Chelsfield ringers have rung at least one quarter at Chelsfield in 2002 including a couple of 'firsts', the most recent being on Sunday, 8th December, when young Christopher Fry rang his first quarter with dad, Jon, in the band. The number of different ringers from other towers succeeding in a quarter peal runs well into double figures.

Of course, ringing is about much more than 'just' achieving success with quarter peals and peals but these are nevertheless ways by which ringers can measure and challenge themselves to improve their ringing.

In the Christmas Issue of *The Ringing World* (page 1275) Alan Buswell comments that although the Jubilee and indeed, Royal funerals, have created specifically identifiable increases, the general countrywide trend in ringing quarter peals seems to be downward. This contrasts locally with Dickon Love who has recently indicated that the Lewisham District appears to be on course for an increase in both the number of quarter peals rung and the number of towers in the District in which they were rung.

Despite apparent national trends, we can only have an impact within our local sphere of influence but if we do well and that is repeated up and down the country, then our local trend will be reflected more widely. So well done to everyone in the

District who is involved in whatever level of ringing because all forms of ringing interrelate and are more interdependent than we often imagine! (For example just see Dickon Love's website details, <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/dickon.love/kentbells/farnborough.htm> about St. Giles, Farnborough where there is a glorious Gillett bell weighing nearly 10 cwt hung for full circle ringing and which has recently attracted

interest from visiting ringers!)

So we should all be inspired and encouraged with whatever form our ringing takes and aim for and achieve even more next year and in the meantime enjoy our festive ringing and have a very Happy Christmas.

Nick Wilkins

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice 1st Wednesday 19:30

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00 (1st Wednesday at Annunciation)

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:30

And so another three months have passed and it's time for a Tower Report, doesn't time fly. So what's new at Crayford?



Well, not a lot really. Tuesday practices and Sunday service ringing continue in much the same fashion as mentioned in previous Newsletters. However, as we are now at the end of another year, perhaps we could take this opportunity to thank David Osenton as Ringing Master, for continuing to lead us (and for his endless patience!).

We have continued to succeed in our efforts to ring a quarter peal every month with Andrew Sinclair ringing his first Minor on the treble to Plain Bob Minor in October. Plain Bob Triples was rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday whilst Grandsire Doubles was the method of choice in December for the Crayford District Brownie Guide carol service.

In November we organised a quiz evening which was well supported with teams entering from within the District as well as from St. Paulinus church and beyond. A raffle boosted the proceeds even further and thanks must be given to Sainsbury's who donated some of the prizes. Everybody seemed to have a good time and most importantly £405 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund.



Debra Say

CUDHAM

Practice Monday (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

In November we were one of the 9 bands in the Call Change Competition but, after a good start, owing to a dispute over who should be following whom, we blew it. Still they do say that it is not the winning that matters but the taking part. Better luck next time, eh?

Also in November, we took part in Crayford's quiz and, although 2 of our team failed to turn up at the eleventh hour, we were able to join 2 ladies on their own. After leading at half time, we were beaten into joint 3rd place by the worthy winners (creep, creep, because they are helping us out with our attempts to learn Bob Doubles).

Come December and we are seeking everybody's help. Our vicar has been approached by a gentleman, by name Colin Everson, who used to live in Colney Road, Dartford and whose grandfather, Samuel Everson rang the treble in a peal of Grandsire Triples at Holy Trinity on February 6th 1904, rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths. The names of the other 7 (in order of bells 2-8) are as follows: Robert Brett, Edward Everson (Colin's uncle), George Cullum, Frederick J. French, Henry (aka Harry) Simmonds, Herbert J. Castle and George Taylor.

Colin now lives in Spilsby in Lincolnshire and is interested in ringing a commemorative peal on February 6th 2004, (or

nearest Saturday) which would also be the Queen's Accession Day and an early 60th birthday peal for himself. Colin says that he went to St. Albans, York Road, and Dartford Grammar Schools, the latter from September 1955 to July 1960. We are trying to find relatives/friends of any of the above and would be grateful if anybody has any information at all, especially the College Youths who have members in our District. As part of this enquiry, I wrote to the local freebie newspapers and the News Shopper responded by asking for a photo shoot on December 11th. By this time, you have probably seen the resulting article and photos (see page 20 - Ed). Please, do not criticise the way we are holding the ropes, we said it was wrong but photographer's licence had its way.



If anybody can provide any information, we would be very grateful. Please send to esther.correial@btinternet.com ASAP as Colin is hoping to come down to Dartford in mid-January to see us. If any of you feel you would like to help out with the peal, please let me know. We shall need 8 able-bodied people and at the moment, I do not know how much help Colin can provide.

Esther Correia

DEPTFORD

DOWNE

Practice 1st Monday 20:00 Joint Practice with Cudham

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

We failed to maintain the momentum of our recent performances in the Call Change Striking Competition, slumping back to seventh place this year. But we were only half a fault behind Erith in sixth place, and hope to return to form next year.

Joint Surprise Minor practices with Chislehurst have continued, usually on the second Monday in the month. Norwich has now entered the repertoire, and in December Beverley and Surfleet were successfully rung. We have even rung Cambridge Major on a number of occasions, and this may indicate the way in which these will develop in future.

We entered two teams for the Crayford Bell Restoration Fund Quiz Night. Perhaps we spread our resources too thinly, since our teams only managed fifth and sixth places. But we had a good time, despite some harsh (but consistent! - Ed) marking by the judges! Next time, we need to bring in some experts on sport and current events...

Ringing on Tuesdays and Sundays has continued to trundle

on. As I write this, we are still looking forward to the usual lots of ringing around Christmas and New Year. If we survive, we can look forward to what I am tempted to call the Annual Dinner at Chislehurst Golf Club in January – this will be fourth year it has taken place, so is close to becoming a tradition...

David Holdridge

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

EYNSFORD

Practice Friday 20:00

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00 by arrangement

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

GREENWICH

Practice 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday 20:00

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

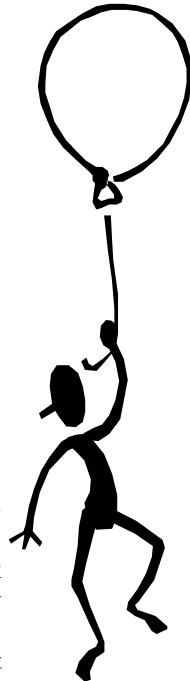
HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday

On 12th October our second tour took us to St. Mary Cray, Brasted, Sevenoaks, Eynsford & Farningham. The idea to sneak in for some advance practice at SMC nearly back-fired when DC broke a stay on the two. It was not a nice experience but at least getting a replacement should not be difficult as the stay maker's woodwork shop is the closest building to the main door of St. Mary's, Horton Kirby!

Sevenoaks was also a new one for most of us and was very good - even though the raising of the tenor was exhausting. Some of our team did part of their learning at Brasted and Farningham so here we were on more familiar bells.

Lunch at the Bull in Otford was prevented by a power cut so we went to the Plough at Eynsford, where the food and liquid refreshments more than met expectations. Possibly post-lunch ringing deteriorated at St. Martin's due to lapses in concentration - maybe thoughts of ending the day at the Chequers in Farningham, which has by far the best ale selection in the whole area.



Our thanks to Philippa and Frank Rogers for guiding us throughout a long day without too many howlers.

So, perhaps our practise at SMC paid off at the Call Change Competition on 16th November. Coming third was a big surprise but obviously we were all delighted. We also have two new recruits - welcome to John and Terry - who started in October, so possibly we will be able to enter two teams one day.

David Crowhurst

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Wednesday 19:45

SHOREHAM

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

It was lovely welcoming everyone to the ADM in October. Our practice nights normally consist of standard Double and Minor methods and when numbers allow, we venture to some Surprise methods.

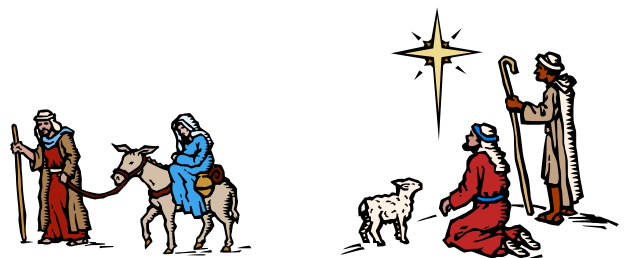
Wed 11th December saw our Christmas meal at the Tally Ho in Knockholt, and on Sat 14th, six of us took the handbells to the Cheshire Home in Bromley and played some carols for their Christmas party, which was well received by the residents.

Judith Fry



WOOLWICH

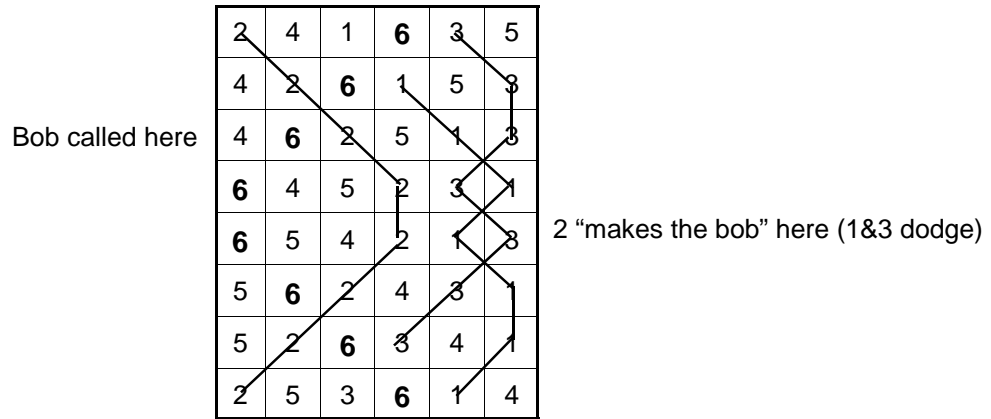
Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00



The Bob in Original Minor or "How to ring a touch of Plain Hunt on 6"

A bob can be made when any one of the bells is on the lead; the bob is called at the back stroke just before the leading bell reaches the lead:

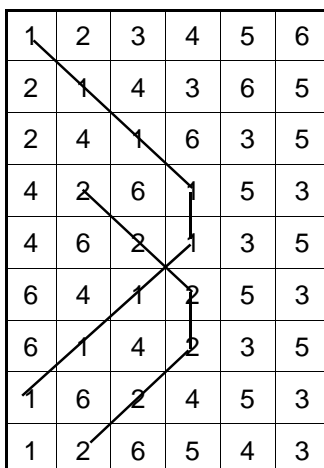
Illustration
(6th as lead bell)



When the bob is called:

- ◆ the bell about to lead is the lead bell at the bob and is unaffected (see 6)
- ◆ the bell actually on the lead "**runs out**" and is unaffected (see 4)
- ◆ the bell in 4th's place on the way down "**runs in**", takes the lead bell off the lead and is unaffected (see 5)
- ◆ the bell in 3rd's place is passing the lead bell in 2-3 on the way up (see 2). This bell makes 4th's place and runs in - it "**makes the bob**"
- ◆ the bell in 6th's place is about to leave the back and hunt down to lead, but is blocked by the bell making the bob; this bell must "dodge 5-6 down" (see 3)
- ◆ the bell in 5th's place is going up to the back and must "dodge 5-6 up" with the bell already there- it then lies behind (see 1)

Two Bobs in Succession



Bob (made by 1)

Bob (made by 2)

4 is the lead bell at the first bob and **runs out** at the second bob

6 **runs in** at the first bob and is on the lead for the second bob

Neither 4 nor 6 is affected. (However, if a third bob were called 4 would make it)

1 **makes the first bob** and **runs in** at the second one

2 **runs out** at the first bob and **makes the second bob**

3 and 5 must dodge for each bob ("double-dodge")

Date Touches

2003 Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles

Part 1: 324 Plain Bob Minor (On page 30 of the 2003 RW Diary)
(SSPSSSSPSPPSx2+PPP)

Part 2: 420 Grandsire Doubles (3x120+60)
(PBPBPSx2,PBPSPBx2,PSPBPBx2,PBPBPB)

Part 3: 720 Plain Bob Minor
WHWx3,HS, repeat

Part 4: 539 Grandsire Doubles (4x120+59)
(SBSPx3,SPSBx3,BSPSx3,PSBSx3,PSBSPP)

2003 Erin Triples by I.G Mills

(adapted from a 5040 by E.W Martin)

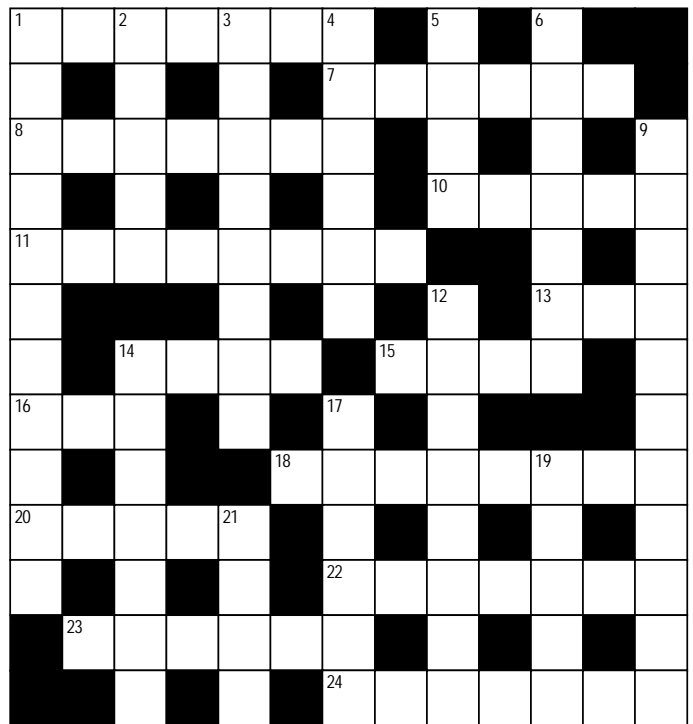
1234567

- 4523716 1.4.5.6
- 7453126 3.4.7s.9s.10 (12 sixes)
- 3147256 1s.4s.5.6
- 7415326 1s.3s.4.5
- 5241736 2s (2 sixes)
- 4325716 4.6
- 5213476 (a)
- 3512 (b)
- 1725436 1s.4.7s.10 (12 sixes)
- 2175346 (c)
- 7412356 (d)

- 2154736 (a)
- 4251 (b) | A
- 5421376 (c)
- 2745316 (d)

- 5271346 A
- 1524376 A
- 4157326 A
- 7521436 (a)
- 1352746 2s (2 sixes)
- 5431726 (d)
- 1324576 (a)
- 4123 (b)
- 2731546 1s.4.7s.10 (12 sixes)
- 3271456 (c)
- 7523416 (d)
- 3751426 A
- 1372456 A
- 2135476 A

- (a) = 1s.3.5
- (b) = 5
- (c) = 1s.4
- (d) = 4.6



ACROSS

- 1 Calls methods for unmarried people (7)
- 7 Smallest bell by three (6)
- 8 No thanks - new Diocesan Association makes special notes (7)
- 10 Sense variation in plain course (5)
- 11 Rounds end - finish overdone (5,3)
- 13 Do this in getting ahead of another bell (3)
- 14 Poetic Irish principle (4)
- 15 If you need one, this is it! (4)
- 16 An aid to higher ringing - "Bob" to mix ends (3)
- 18 Deputy church warden made sins unreliable (8)
- 20 What one does behind in bed late (3-2)
- 22 A possible aid for long-haired ringer - strangely, in earth (7)
- 23 Steer wildly - model on road (6)
- 24 Change damnest method (7)

DOWN

- 1 Sacred ringer (7,4)
- 2 Without dried leaves inside, it's not easy (2,3)
- 3 Comes down on edge or fall (8)
- 4 Obstructs choir seats (6)
- 5 Knew old method (4)
- 6 Abrupt movement from fluid weight (7)
- 9 Change Lord Mayor (11)
- 12 Low type of dancing shows the way (4,4)
- 14 Compasses for numbers of bells (7)
- 17 Major rowing teams (6)
- 19 Note four bell method - but not American (5)
- 21 Holiday letter missing, we hear (4)

A New Entry at 3 in the Charts.....

The more observant among those of you who have received the 2002 County Handbook may have noticed a new entry this year in the Lewisham District section under the 3-or-more-bells category. This is Christ Church Bexleyheath, which is the big stone Victorian church next to ASDA in the Broadway, and it has neither tower nor steeple nor bellcote. The entry in the handbook is not new because the bells are new, but rather because I, Jeremy Ducker and Alex Britton, who are all familiar with the sound of them, have only just got round to doing something about it!

The architect's original design for Christ Church, in the early 1870's, included a magnificent Gothic spire. However the local congregation could only just afford to build the main body of the Church by the late 1870's, and the aisles and transepts some time later. A temporary roof (which has only



CHRIST CHURCH, BEXLEYHEATH

recently been replaced!) was built to cover the vaulting of the crossing where the spire was intended to be, and the three bells are situated in the airspace between them, with louvre panels to east and west. Stahlschmidt in his *Bells of Kent* of 1881 gives out-of-date information, as he lists the single bell of 1836 in the predecessor Christ Church, the Chapel-of-Ease built in 1835. The steeple of the Chapel survived into the 1920's but we do not know what happened to the 1836 bell.

The three existing bells are approached by a dark, narrow, long and steep spiral staircase, definitely not for the claustrophobic! All were cast by Warner's of London and hang in a wooden frame just above the brick vaulting of the chancel. One, which has a wheel and stay but no rope or slider, is dated 1887, and the others, hung dead on cross beams, are dated 1889. The ropes of their Ellacombe chiming hammers terminate down at ground level in a rack for eight (also bearing a Warner's plate), so obviously it was originally hoped that more bells would be added. The bells are chimed regularly for services and weddings, but, with the high position of the louvres and the noise in the street outside,

really make little impression.

I have so far been unable to find out when the bells were installed; they are listed in an insurance inventory of about 1896, but neither the church accounts nor the register of church services for the period have any helpful references. I have done some searching in local newspapers, but there are rather a lot of those (and the print is very small!). Warner's records have been lost. It should not be assumed that, just because the bells are dated 1887 and 1889, they were installed in those years.



I did the attached about Christ Church Bexleyheath bells a month or two ago but have only recently got onto email so I could actually send it! Life down here is quite busy. I was lucky to get another museum job, albeit temporary, so that is giving me a good introduction to museums in the area.

Bellringing at Yeovil is very different from Bexley - a 40cwt ring of 10 (even the treble is a bit heavier than the tenor at Bexley)- so we're largely limited to basic ringing. However there are also regular more advanced practices in the area so I'm learning some new things too.

Jessica Vale



EVER WONDERERED...

- ..why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- ..why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- ..why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- ..why doctors call what they do "practice"?
- ..why you have to click on "Start" to stop Windows?
- ..why lemon juice is made with artificial flavour, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?
- ..why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?
- ..why there isn't mouse-flavoured cat food?
- ..who tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavour?
- ..why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- ..why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- ..why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- ..why they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box ?
- ..why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- ..why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?



Page 11 Crossword Answers

Across: 1 singles, 7 treble, 8 notanda, 10 touch, 11 that's all, 13 cut, 14 erin, 15 clue, 16 box, 18 sidesman, 20 lie-in, 22 hairnet, 23 street, 24 stedmman.
 Down: 1 sanctus bell, 2 no tea, 3 landslip, 4 stalls, 5 kent f lounces, 9 whittington, 12 blue line, 14 extents, 17



Ringing Roadshow 2003 is being held at the Lincolnshire Showground, 4 miles north of Lincoln City centre, on Saturday 26 July 2003 from 10:30am until 5:00pm. It will be a marvellous happy day out for ringers and their families. There will be lots of fun and all sorts of information to discover. Catering is being supplied by people used to dealing with large numbers of people at that location. It is a day out organised by ringers, for ringers. Absolutely everything to do with bells will be there, and this event follows and builds upon the success of previous Roadshows:

- Knowle in 1997 where 1000 people attended
- Tewkesbury in 1999 where 2000 people attended
- Keele in 2001 where 2500 people attended

At Lincoln we are planning for an attendance of 3000 people. You can relax in the beer tent, listen to bells on fairground organs, enjoy the beautiful sound of a carillon, and have a go at change ringing on handbells. You can listen to top quality handbell music, talk to the bellfounders, bell engineers and bellhangers, buy and order bellropes, and handbells, and buy your loved one some bell jewellery. You can buy books of all sorts, and have a go on a mini ring. You can buy CDs, and a whole range of bellringing software. You can purchase knitware, order peal boards, and have a go at a frog race! You can talk to Central Council Committees, people dedicated to serving the needs of the exercise. You can browse many association stands, and discuss projects with English Heritage. You can go to any of six very varied seminars, and enjoy a ring at a tower or two on the way home, as well as on mini rings during the day.

You could even meet the Editor of *The Ringing World*!

There is only one thing you cannot do: you simply cannot miss the Ringing Roadshow!

Entrance charges

- 18 years and over : £3
- 12 years and over but under 18 : £1
- Under 12s will be admitted free

There will be no other concessions

When you pay the entrance charge you will be given a free Souvenir Programme. This has a four colour cover, and contains details of the event, and a short explanation of the contribution of each exhibitor/standholder. It is a handy pocket sized booklet, 210 mm by 99 mm, which tells you all about the day and is a souvenir for the future.

For more details logon to:

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/info/prag/roadshow/roadshow.htm>

KCACR AGM

EASTER MONDAY 2003 – MAIDSTONE DISTRICT

The County AGM this year will be on Easter Monday 21st April and will be based at Staplehurst. A variety of towers within the Maidstone District will be open on three routes leading towards Staplehurst in the morning and back to neighbouring Districts in the early evening. A day of ringing, a service at All Saints, Staplehurst at Noon, lunch at 1 p.m. at Staplehurst Village Centre followed by the AGM at 2.30 p.m. is being organised for Kent Ringers.

Lunch tickets will be £6 each for a 3-course meal of soup, salads, cold meats or fish and Jacket Potato with dessert or cheese & biscuits. Due to the limited space at Staplehurst Village Centre, a maximum of 90 lunch tickets will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. Alternatively a list of local pubs and restaurants serving food is available on request. Those wishing to book lunch tickets should apply with cheque payable to K.C.A.C.R. and s.a.e. to: Sue Bassett, ** Hanmer Way, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 *NR. Closing date for Lunch Ticket applications is 31st March 2003.



A licensed bar will be available, with beer from local ringers Debbie & Phil Goachers' Brewery together with wine and soft drinks. It is also likely that the County Bookshop will be open during the afternoon. All KCACR members are welcome to attend the AGM at 2.30 p.m. at Staplehurst Village Centre, which will

be followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. Staplehurst bells will be available after the meeting if required and other towers will be open on three routes leading out of the District, to round off this special day.

During the meeting, a pre-booked crèche can be arranged if required. Please contact Sue Bassett with details of your child's age, so that suitable activities can be organised in advance.

Tower List, Location Map showing car parks and other useful details will be posted on the Maidstone District Website at: www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk or can be obtained from Sue Bassett at the address above (please enclose s.a.e.).



PEALS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
14 September 2002	Greenwich		5040	London No.3 Surprise Royal	02/1016
21 September 2002	Beckenham		5000	Spliced Surprise Royal	02/1086
26 October 2002	Bromley		5088	Ealing Surprise Major	02/1160
27 October 2002	Chislehurst, Annunciation		5088	Bristol Surprise Major	02/1160
02 November 2002	Greenwich		5021	Stedman Caters	02/1186
19 November 2002	Beckenham		5080	Spliced Surprise Royal 5m.	02/1232
30 November 2002	Chelsfield		5040	Doubles 7m.	

Congratulations to:

Bobby Lawes who rang the Treble to Doubles at Chelsfield for his first peal and Lesley Barclay who rang the 3rd in the same peal for her first inside and first peal for some 33 years.

QUARTERS RUNG IN THE DISTRICT

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.	
21 August 2002	Downe		1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	02/1000
21 August 2002	Hayes		1260	St Clements Minor	02/1000
08 September 2002	Bromley		1250	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	02/996
15 September 2002	Erith, Christ Church		1260	Plain Bob Minor	02/1045
21 September 2002	Woolwich		1260	Grandsire Doubles	02/1048
22 September 2002	Lewisham		1250	Cambridge Surprise Major	02/1095
13 October 2002	Crayford		1260	Plain Bob Minor	02/1141
19 October 2002	Farningham		1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/1140
20 October 2002	Chelsfield		1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	
27 October 2002	Eynsford		1260	Grandsire Triples	02/1215
03 November 2002	Chelsfield		1320	Minor 2m.	
10 November 2002	Chelsfield		1260	Doubles 2m.	
10 November 2002	Crayford		1260	Plain Bob Triples	02/1235
14 November 2002	Chelsfield		1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
17 November 2002	Erith, Christ Church		1260	Plain Bob Doubles	02/1260
24 November 2002	Bromley		1250	Superlative Major	02/1260
01 December 2002	Horton Kirby		1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
08 December 2002	Chelsfield		1260	Doubles 4m.	

Congratulations to:

Christopher Fry who rang the Treble at Chelsfield to Doubles at his first attempt.

Sue Allport and Mike McDonnell who rang the Treble and Tenor respectively to Plain Bob Doubles at Horton Kirby for their first attempt.

Brenda Barton and Deryck Jones rang the 2nd and Tenor respectively to Plain Bob Doubles at Farningham for their first quarter.

Susan Collins rang her first on the Treble to Grandsire Doubles at Woolwich.

Neil Lucia rang the Treble to Plain Bob at Christ Church Erith for his first of Minor and Andrew Sinclair emulated this exactly at Crayford.

Marianne Baker rang the 3rd to Lincolnshire at Bromley for her first of Surprise and Alice Baverstock rang the 2nd in the same quarter for her first in the method. Marianne also rang the 3rd to Cambridge Major at Lewisham for her first in the method.

From The Ringing World up to edition No.4781 December 13, 2002.

Jim Rooke



KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at West Wickham on Saturday 12th October 2002

The Chairman, Mr. David Holdridge, opening the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly Mr. Eric Roughley, the Chairman of the Association, and Mr. Tony Hopkins, previously a member of the West Wickham band and now living and ringing in Norfolk.

Deaths – Mr. Charles Rowe and Mrs. Jean Woolford

Members were very sorry to learn of the deaths of Mr. Charles Rowe of St. Martins, Chelsfield (obituary in the current Newsletter) and of Mrs. Jean Woolford of Zeals in Wiltshire. Jean, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Barnett, learned to ring at Crayford where her father was tower captain. Members stood in silence in memory of these two people.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Steve Kennet and Ms. Catherine Wood of Beckenham; Mr. David Brown, Mr. Dickon Love and Ms. Christine Webb of Bromley; Mr. Mark Jones and Mr. James Tate of Chislehurst; Mr. Deryck Jones, Mr. Peter Rose and Miss Marian Wansbury of Dartford; Mr. Christopher Backhouse, Mr. Mark Backhouse, Mrs. Rachel Backhouse, Mr. Robert Backhouse, Mrs. Carol Eastaugh, Mr. Adrian Lucia and Mr. Neil Lucia and Mr. John Simpson of Christ Church Erith; Mr. Martin Luffman of Eynsford; Mrs. Margaret Macey of Foots Cray, Mr. Andrew Sinclair of Crayford; Mrs. Ann English and Mr. Denis English of Horton Kirby; and Mrs. Yvonne Wright of Sidcup.



2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been printed in the District newsletter, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman, seconded by Mr. Rupert Cheesemen.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairman reported that Mrs. Jean Pailing's book on the Rev. Francis Murray, a previous Rector of St. Nicholas Chislehurst, had been launched at a service the previous Thursday. The service had been preceded by a quarter peal of Stedman Triples.

4. CORRESPONDENCE – RULE CHANGES

The Secretary had received details from the General Secretary of rule changes. These were explained to the meeting by the Chairman, assisted by Mr. Roughley. In some general discussion Mr. Jeremy Byers pointed out that the District would prefer to send to the General Committee Meetings two representatives, but not necessarily the Secretary and a District Representative. Mr. Byers moved that the proposed rule changes

should be adopted. This was seconded by Miss Freda Cannon and carried *nem con*.

5. REPORTS

Ringling Master

The Ringling Master, Mr. James Hardy, said that overall ringing had been encouraging and some younger ringers had made good progress. Two training days had been held and had been very successful. Throughout the District, there did seem to be a shortage of new ringers.

Secretary

The Secretary's report had been circulated and was accepted. No report on membership and income and expenditure had been received from the Assistant Secretary. The Secretary was asked to request a written report for the next Newsletter from Mr. Mark Jones (*see page 19 - Ed*).



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WEST WICKHAM

Mr Charles Rowe

Miss Philippa Rooke said that Mr. Rowe had continued ringing until the late eighties. He was a loyal member of the Chelsfield band, always rang the tenor behind and was always willing to help out when needed.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman (Mr. Roughley took the Chair for this election)

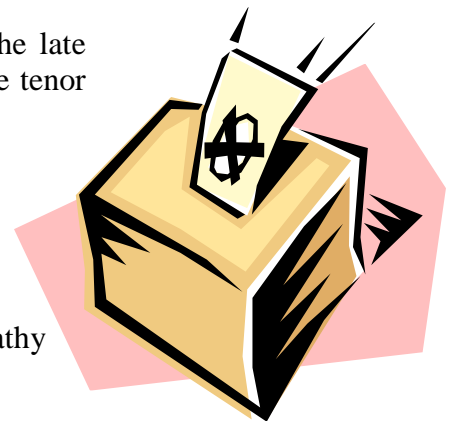
Mr. David Holdridge was re-elected on the proposition of Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers.

Ringling Master

Mr. James Hardy was re-elected on the proposition of Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers.

Assistant Ringling Master

Mr. Jeremy Byers was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. James Hardy, seconded by Miss. Rhiannon Meredith.



District Representatives

Mrs. Sara Hardy was re-elected on the proposition of Miss Rhiannon Meredith, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Byers.

Mr. Len Morley was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Jeremy Byers, seconded by Miss Philippa Rooke.

Press Representatives and Newsletter Editors

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman and Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman were re-elected on the proposition of Miss Mary Andrews, seconded by Miss Freda Cannon.

Sales Representative

Mr. James Rooke was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Len Morley, seconded by Mr. Nicholas Wilkins.

Secretary

Miss Mary Andrews was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Len Morley, seconded by Miss Philippa Rooke.

Assistant Secretary

Mr. Mark Jones was re-elected on the proposition of Mrs. Pauline Morley, seconded by Mr. James Hardy.



7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

CHELSEFIELD

Mr. William Robert (Bobby) Lawes P. Mr. Nicholas Wilkins S. Mr. James Rooke

HAYES

Mrs. Janet Fox and Mr Jonathan Fox P. Mr. James Hardy S. Miss Rhiannon Meredith

WEST WICKHAM

Mr. Paul Showell (re-election) P. Mrs Alys Helm S. Mrs Judith Fry



8. PROGRAMME FOR 2003

Possible Joint Meeting with the Rochester and Maidstone Districts

Mr. Simon Davies said that the possibility of a joint meeting between the Lewisham, Maidstone and



Rochester Districts, perhaps at Ash, Stansted and Meopham, had been raised at a recent meeting of the Maidstone District. This suggestion was put to the members and the majority were in favour of the idea. Mr James Hardy agreed to follow up this matter.

The following programme for 2003 was agreed, subject to confirmation:

11 th January	Quarterly Meeting, Biggin Hill
1 st March	6-Bell Striking Competition, Chelsfield
12 th April	Quarterly Meeting, Bromley Common
12 th July	Quarterly Meeting, Sidcup
11 th October	Annual Meeting, Bexley
15 th November	Call Change Competition, Downe
13 th December	Carol Service, Beckenham

Regarding the possibility of holding the Call Change Competition at Downe, it was felt that some of the local people might be upset by the noise. On the suggestion of Mr. Jeremy Byers, it was agreed to refer this back to the Ringing Master and his Deputy. Mr Jon Fry offered to look into the matter.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12-bell Practice

Mr Jim Hardy enquired whether members wished him to arrange another 12-bell practice – introduction to 12-bell ringing – at Southwark and/or South Croydon. This suggestion met with approval.

Quiz Night, Call Change Competition and Carol Service

Mr. Rupert Cheeseman reminded members of the upcoming Quiz Night to be held at Crayford in aid of the BRF on 30th November, of the Call Change Competition to be held at St Mary Cray on 16th November and of the Carol Service, to be held at St. John's Erith on 14th December. Anyone wishing to take an active part in the Carol Service – reading or singing – was asked to contact Mrs Margaret Heald.

District Practice

The next District Practice was to be held on 23rd November at Dartford.

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman proposed a warm vote of thanks to the Vicar of West Wickham for conducting the service and for the use of the bells; to the organist; and to the West Wickham ringers for an excellent tea.



Secretary's Report 2002

Meetings and Competitions

Quarterly Meetings were held at Eltham, Crayford and St. Nicholas Chislehurst. Six teams entered the District Striking Competition, held at Bexley. It was won by Chelsfield, with Bexley in second place and Eltham in third. Chelsfield went on to represent the District in the County Striking Competition which was held at Bethersden on 28th September. The Six-bell Call Change Competition will be held at St. Mary Cray on 16th November. The other events in the calendar for the end of the year are the Quiz Night, in aid of the BRF, at Crayford on 30th November and the Carol Service at St. John's Erith on 14th December. In addition to these District events, the Association's Annual General Meeting was held at Christ Church, Erith on Easter Monday, 1st April. The success of this event depended, as always, on the co-operation and hard work of a large number of people. Doubtless, those concerned are glad that our turn only comes round every six years!

Death

It was sad to read in the current Newsletter of the death of Charles Rowe, a ringer at Chelsfield from the early fifties to the late 70's.

District Newsletter

Rupert and Cathy continue to produce an excellent Newsletter. We are, indeed, grateful to them. The best way we can show our appreciation is by producing material for the Newsletter without too many reminders!

Membership Summary 2002

Town	Adult	Senior Citizen	Junior	Life	Associate	University	25 Years'	Total
Beckenham	14					2		16
Bexley	10							10
Bickley	5	1						6
Biggin Hill	3		3			2		8
Bromley	4			1				5
Bromley Common	5							5
Chelsfield	11	3	2	1	1	1	1	20
Chislehurst, St Nicholas	9	2	1	1				13
Crayford	9	2		1				12
Cudham	5							5
Dartford	3	3		1				7
Downe	4	1						5
Eltham	11		1					12
Erith, Christ Church	11		4					15
Erith, St John the Baptist	5							5
Eynsford	9	2						11
Foots Cray	7							7
Greenwich	2		1	1				4
Hayes	5							5
Horton Kirby	3	2						5
Lewisham	1							1
Penge	1							1
Sidcup	6	2	1					9
St Mary Cray	4							4
Unattached	2							2
West Wickham	2	1			1	2	12	7
Woolwich	7							7
Totals	162	20	14	6	1	6	3	212

Financial Statement 2002

Income

162	Practising Members	£9.00	£1458.00
20	Senior Citizens	£4.50	£90.00
14	Junior Members	£4.50	£63.00
1	Associate Member	£2.50	£2.50
	Arrears		£31.50

Expenditure

BRF	£536.12	Balance	£2181.12
Total	£2181.12		£2181.12



District Carol Service

St John the Baptist, Erith 14th December 2002

Margaret Heald and the band at St Johns really pushed the boat out this year when they hosted the bell ringers Carol Service. The service had been thoughtfully put together, with some lovely readings and all my favourite carols! It was nice to see John Betjeman get an airing with a reading from his poem 'Christmas'.

The choir put on an excellent performance, as did the organist Andrew Handley. St. Johns is an oasis, a little reminder of ancient Erith and would once have overlooked the Thames but is now surrounded by buildings. Sitting inside listening to the carols, it was easy to forget the 21st century and think about all the past generations who had sung carols here.

The Rev. Joy Fulton made us very welcome and we enjoyed tea and mince pies afterwards. We rang before and after the service. Margaret said how nice it was to hear the eight being rung. St Johns has new bell ropes, which is just as well because the last time I rang here, I broke the rope on the two!

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and I for one would like to say a big thank you to St Johns for the effort which had very obviously been put in to making the Carol Service a success.

Andrew Sinclair



CENTRAL SCHOOLS AND ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

I am currently plugging in the 2002 quarter peals into the Handbook. Thought the District might be interested to know that more quarters have been published this year so far than appeared for last year. There has also been an increase in the number of towers with quarter peals in them. The full sets of stats will appear in the Handbook, and the list of quarters so far rung will appear on the KCACR web site soon too.

Dickon Love



At the end of another year of ringing I wish all in the `district` a Happy New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to various ringers/towers for the warm welcome, advice & assistance they have given me over the last few years (too many to mention but they know who they are). Special mention however must go to Len Morley for his persistent though patient teaching, Rupert Cheeseman for his risk taking/encouragement and my fellow tower ringers who kept me going through my lean years.

Furthermore, all the ringers at Holy Trinity, Dartford would like to thank Rachel Backhouse, Mark Backhouse and Martin Luffman for their very practical help in progressing the tower ringing over the last year.

Brenda Barton

That name rings a bell!



DING DONG: Bellringers Ann English, Peter Rose, Esther Correia, Andrew Boyd-Bell, Marion Wansbury, Denis English and Deryck Jones at work

Relatives of Dartford men involved in a marathon bell peal held 100 years ago are being sought to celebrate the event's centenary.

Dartford's Holy Trinity Church was contacted by the grandson of one of the original bellringers, who held a three-hour peal in 1904, hoping to trace relatives for a centenary full peal in 2004, which takes approximately three hours and features eight bellringers and 5040 different combinations of rings. The last full peal was in 1993 (Doesn't the one we rang of Yorkshire there in 1997 count then? – Eds).

Colin Everson, 58, who grew up in Colney Road, requested this peal to celebrate the centenary of his grandfather's achievement.

He is looking for anyone with the surnames of Everson, Brett, Callum, French, Simmonds, Castle or Taylor who think their ancestors took part 100 years ago. If you can help, or are interested in taking part in bellringing, call Esther Correia on 01322 220***.

From the News Shopper (18/12/02)