



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

July 2006

Brownies tour the belfry at Beckenham



Brownies from the 15th Beckenham Pack spent a June evening exploring the St George's bell tower to see what they could see from the very top. Tower Captain, James Hardy, ably assisted by ringers Ross Hartley and Jeremy and Fiona Byers, shepherded the 14 Brownies and their leaders up the tower. The Brownies climbed the spiral stairs, passed through the ringing room before squeezing past the clock and then climbing an iron ladder to find themselves level with the church's ring of 10 bells. Then, it was fingers-in-

ears-time as Fiona rang the treble (weighing, James told the girls, about the same as nine Brownies) so they could see the bell in action.

Two more ladders, and the Brownies and their leaders were on the roof, 110 feet above ground. After gazing for miles on a sunny June evening, Ellie, Emily and Gemma made their Brownie promises, the first Brownies ever to do so on the roof of St George's church. Back in the ringing room, each girl got to chime the treble, and in groups, chimed the 14cwt tenor, before making it safely back to solid ground.

A massive thank you to James, Ross, Jeremy and Fiona for helping the Brownies. Brand-new Brownies Ellie, Emily and Gemma had an evening they'll not forget in a hurry.

- Lizzie Duffey



Cocktail Receipes

Why spend an absolute fortune on cocktails in swanky bars up in Town, when you can create your own for next to nothing to enjoy in your own garden in the heat of the summer sun? Here are three recipes to make some of the best drinks around.

1. 3AM ON A SCHOOL NIGHT

Ingredients:

1 shot Jack Daniels
4 shots mixed fruit juice

Directions:

Mix the fruit juice and the Jack Daniels together and drink quickly.

2. BLOODY MARY

Ingredients:

1.0 dash Lemon juice
1.0 Wedge Lime
0.5 tsp Tabasco
2.0 drops Tabasco
1.5 oz. Vodka
3.0 oz. Tomato Juice

Directions:

Shake all ingredients (except lime wedge) with ice and strain into an old-fashioned glass over ice cubes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add the wedge of lime and serve.

3. GIN SLING

Ingredients:

2.0 oz. Gin
0.5 each Juice of Lemon
1.0 each Peel Twist Orange
1.0 tsp Powdered Sugar
1.0 tsp Water

Directions:

Dissolve powdered sugar in mixture of water and juice of lemon. Add gin. Pour into an old-fashioned glass over ice cubes and stir. Add the twist of orange peel and serve.



Chairman's Bit

Editorial

Isn't technology amazing? Thanks to wireless broadband, I am able to sit in the garden in the blazing sunshine, and spend my time coughing as the fumes from our next-door-neighbours' BBQ cloud the garden like the fall-out from Chernobyl.

Thankfully, a pint of Summer Lightning is helping to keep my throat moist. Once again, numerous people have sent in articles to fill the expanse of white screens



which greet me every three months as I prepare to blend random articles into a publication which is coherent and vaguely interesting.



This the penultimate newsletter which I will be editing; the post of Newsletter Editor is wide-open and up for grabs at the AGM in October. This position is not difficult to master—all you need are a few basic IT skills and a

creative mind. If you don't have these, then a few spare hours one weekend every three months will suffice.



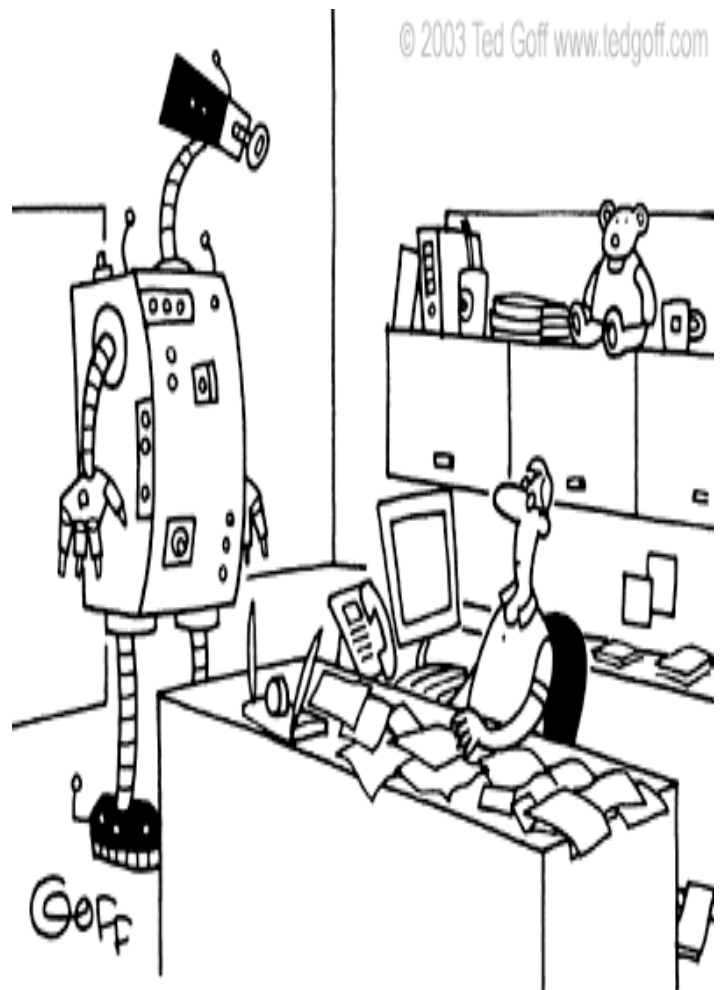
Please do contact me if you feel up to the job—it would be a shame for the Newsletter to die a death come October.

Thanks for reading...

Ross Hartley

In the newsletter this time...

Brownies visit Beckenham	1
Summer Cocktail receipes	2
Chairman's Bit	2
Editorial and Contents	3
News from the Towers	4-5
West Wickham Tower Outing	6
Total Eclipse in Turkey	7
120 Club Results, Agenda for DM and notification of next DP	8



"Management would like to thank you for inventing the Fire-O-Robot. You're fired."

News from the Towers

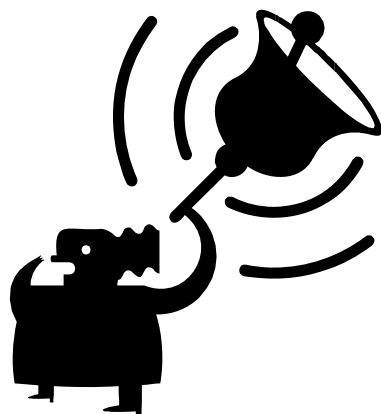
Beckenham (Practice Thursday 7.50—9.30 pm)

Practices recently have been very productive, with the ringing ranging from rounds and called-changes, through Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples, to 8-spliced. Again, we are indebted to our visitors who make it possible to ring these things!

Our two recent recruits—Lizzie and Rosemary—are doing incredibly well. Lizzie is now beginning to learn to lead and cover, as well as consolidate called-changes, whilst Rosemary is on the verge of cracking called-changes. Well done to them both.

We are also hopeful that some of the Brownies who visited the tower earlier in June will be curious enough to come back and begin handling lessons!

The Beckenham Guild has managed to acquire some handbells through Ebay! They cost a mere couple of hundred pounds and are in superb condition. We have 12 bells plus a couple of extra ones which enable us to ring on various numbers and keys; these are currently being 'test-driven' in the Constitutional Club after practice on Thursdays.



Hopefully it won't be too long before some quarters of Bob Minor start appearing on Campanophile.

- Ross Hartley

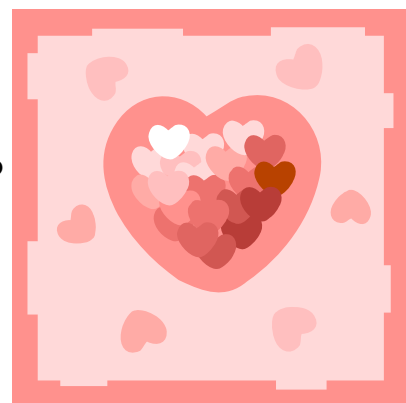
Biggin Hill (Wednesday 7.30—9.00 pm)



cuses!

St Mark's ringers have lately been hit by exams and illness -- not to mention the dreaded aging process that means that youngsters go off to do other things just when they get proficient and interesting! Boyfriends and jobs are such feeble excuses!

Nevertheless the troops go on, and the oldsters (too boring to gallivant elsewhere?) and those too young to vanish yet (Hoorah for Mat and Mel!) keep the bells going. "Young" Doug is coming along famously, ringing on Sundays now



(when he isn't kicking himself for making mistakes!) and practice nights continue to be jolly, if noisy.

- Nancy Gay

Crayford (Tuesday 7.45—9.15 pm)

We are continuing to struggle along. Practicing most weeks but unfortunately not all so if you were thinking of coming along then it is always best to phone first.

We are going to have a stall at the St Paulinus School summer fete on the 8th July. We are borrowing the KCACR Jubi peal to have at it which should be something different for them.



The Jubi Peal in all its glory

All the stalls are going to be done to a World Cup theme. We don't know who our country is going to be yet but it'll be interesting to see how we manage to combine bells and maybe Iran or Angola!

- Rupert Cheeseman



Eltham (Tuesday 8.00—9.30 pm)

We held our Annual Meeting on the Tuesday of Holy Week as usual. In the absence of any other candidates, David Holdridge was re-elected as Ringing Master, and Katherine Trill was formally elected Secretary, in succession to Len Dumper.

Practices continue to be well attended: one memorable week we had a total of 18 people in the tower, which must be some kind of record. Very welcome, but also rather crowded in our little ringing chamber!

Recently, we've been delighted to welcome Peter Brooks to the band, originally from Adelaide but currently resident in Eltham. He has been a real asset, especially on Sundays, and hopefully he'll be around for some time yet.



The ringers have also been in holiday mood recently, with trips to Guernsey (April) and Austria (June) very much enjoyed. The Guernsey trip even included a bit of ringing. Thanks especially to Len Morley and Peter Skinner for their organisation of these.

Finally, we rang a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major on 23 April, dedicated jointly to HM Queen Elizabeth II and Bryony Holdridge for their birthdays (80 and 9 respectively), and for St George's Day. It also turned out to be Caroline Ogilvy's first quarter on tower bells for rather a long time!



Elizabeth

- David Holdridge

West Wickham Outing - June 10th 2006

Despite the temperature being 30 C and England's first World Cup match, 10 of us set off to East Sussex for our annual outing. The first tower was Waldron; despite being a ground floor ring with a long draught, the bells rang very smoothly and once we'd mastered having 2 extra bells both Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples were accomplished. Our next tower was East Hoathley. Although only 9 cwt, they were hard work with a very domineering tenor bell, but a creditable course of Kent was achieved. The next tower was Chiddingly, which, according to my old Sussex report, was a 6-bell tower; however, they had been augmented to an 8 in 1998. We

just could not get use to these bells: they were strangely positioned in the ringing circle, and there did not seem to be much of a bell at the end of the rope, although we did attempt some surprise on the back 6.

We then
the "6 Bells"
and by the time
goal had been

We then
along endless
Warlbeton, a
handful of
and a church.
only 10 cwt
and we were
sound control,

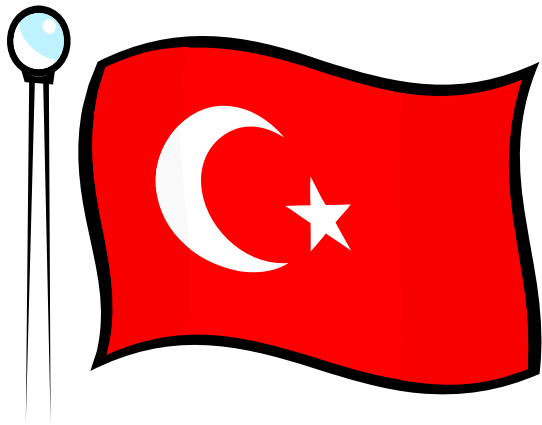
treble, as the sound came down the staircase in the corner, a split second after you expected it. The last tower was Mayfield, a very impressive church

stopped for lunch at
opposite the church
we left England's own
scored.

seemed to navigate
country lanes to get to
tiny village with a
houses, a farm, a pub
Again despite being
they were hard work,
also distracted by the
especially on the



Total Eclipse in Turkey



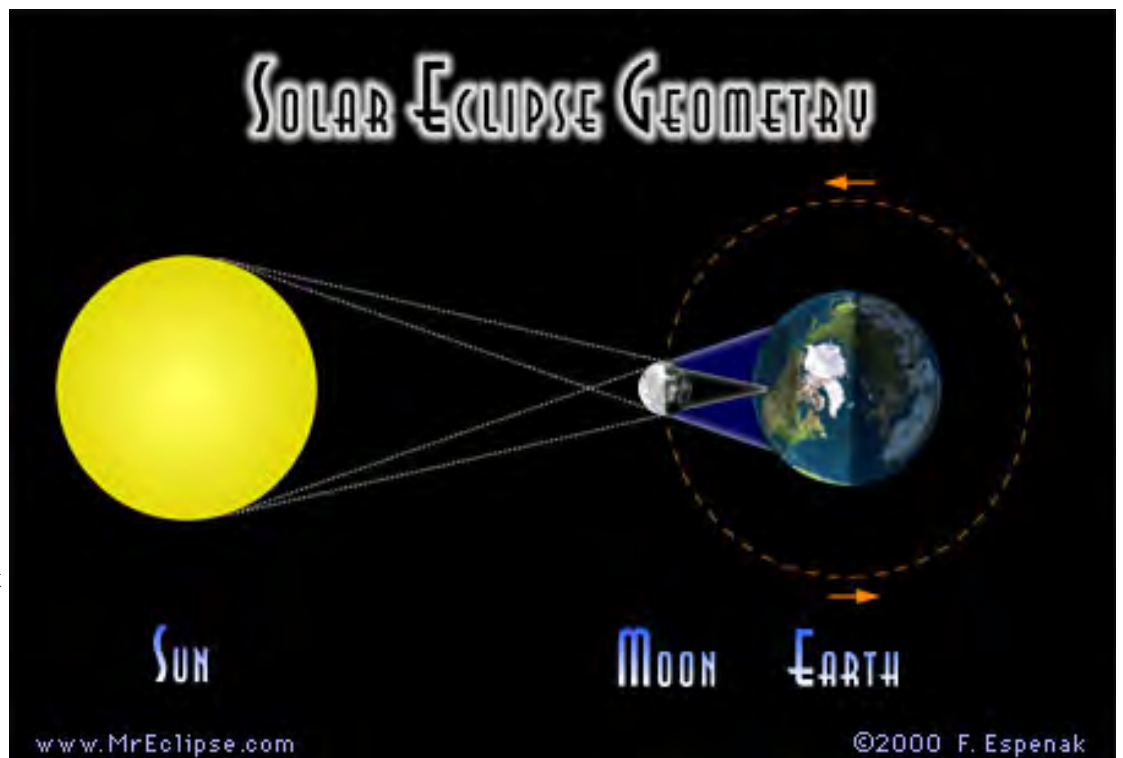
This is nothing to do with bells, but we thought it might be interesting! We went to Turkey in March to view the total eclipse. We travelled with a very friendly group of fellow 'eclipse chasers' and, as we spent nearly a week in Turkey, we also got to see some of this most fascinating country. March 29th dawned with clear skies and we drove to the small town of Hacibektas in Cappadocia where there was an ideal site from which to view the eclipse. As we set up our cameras and telescopes (all with solar filters to allow safe viewing of the sun) the excitement mounted! At 12.46 local time we saw 'first contact' as the moon's disc started to creep over the surface of the sun. For over an hour the moon steadily advanced but, until the last 15 minutes or so, the sky seemed as bright as usual. However, as to-

totality neared, the light faded and colour vanished. It became very cold! The last glimpse of the sun produced the magnificent 'diamond ring' effect and, at 14.02, we had totality. The filters were removed and we could look at the sun with the naked eye. (If you saw the 1999 eclipse from London you were no nearer to totality than we were with 15 minutes to go; totality, when it comes, is awe inspiringly different).

The corona was immediately apparent – bright filaments stretching out into space. Close observation also revealed pinkish spots – these are prominences; huge jets of flame shooting out from the sun. Looking around the sky, Venus could be seen clearly. Although the sky overhead was dark, all round the horizon was like a twilight sky. We took a number of photos through our telescope including the one above. Totality lasted just over 3 ½ minutes and then, with another 'diamond ring' the sun returned and everyone cheered! Quite quickly, the light and the warmth of the sun returned.

To finish on a bell-related note – our hotel in Istanbul was opposite a mosque so we were woken very early by the 'call to prayer'. So, next time your neighbours complain about the bells on a Sunday, remind them that, in a Muslim country, the 'call to prayer' is broadcast five times a day, every day, starting before dawn!

- Liz and Les Brett



120 Club Results

District Meeting Agenda

A big thank you to all of you who have joined the 120 club this year. I have sold 106 shares this time an increase of 13 on our first year.

Results for the first 3 months are as follows:

April 8th drawn at St John's Erith (Quarterly meeting)

1 st	20	Liz B (Christchurch, Erith)
2 nd	6	Deryck J (Dartford)
3 rd	67	Jim R (Chelsfield)
4 th	62	Ros F (Footscray)

May 20th drawn at Bickley (District practice)

1 st	3	Tom S (Christchurch, Erith)
2 nd	113	120 Club
3 rd	9	Mary A (Bexley)
4 th	48	Caroline G (Eynsford)



June 26th drawn at Christchurch, Erith (Practice night- district practice at Cudham cancelled)

1 st	50	Martin L (Eynsford)
2 nd	104	120 Club
3 rd	2	FT Driver (Biggin Hill)
4 th	97	Freda C (Greenwich)

Saturday 8th July 2006—Dartford

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St John the Baptist, Erith on Saturday 8 April 2006
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. KCACR Committee Meeting report
 - Peal fee
 - Charity status for BRF
 - Restructuring of the Association
 - Child protection
 - Handbook
 - Essex Trophy
 - Training Co-ordinator
5. District Events
6. Bell Restoration Fund
7. 120 Club
8. Election of new members
9. Any other business

DISTRICT PRACTICE!

Shoreham

The next DP will be at the above venue (SS Peter and Paul) on **Saturday 22nd July 2006**. Ringing commences at 7pm and will run until 9 pm. ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME!!!!

(YOUR ARTICLE COULD HAVE GONE HERE!)