

INVICTA

LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWS

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

January 2008

See the Website at: www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk for the latest news and information

Training Report 2007

David Brown, District Training Officer

During 2007 there were three training days. The first in March began at Horton Kirby on a very cold morning with a theory session ably led by James Hardy, who is the County Training Officer. After some welcome warm refreshment the trainees proceeded to put the theory into practice by ringing Plain Hunt on five for the next hour and a half. After lunch we rang on the back six at Eynsford. The trainees found these bells more challenging, but nevertheless they were making good progress. Farningham was the last tower of the day and by then everyone was ringing more confidently. It was encouraging to see that this had been a very successful day.

The second training day in June began at Bromley Parish, where most of the ringing took place on the front six. Here the trainees were able to practise Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles and Treble Bob Hunt. In the afternoon we moved to Beckenham practising on six of the ten bells. Once again a day of concentrated practice provided a big confidence boost for the trainees and also brought improvements in ringing style.

The November training day took place at Bromley

Parish and was just a morning session as there were only two trainees. They responded well to the challenge of much heavier bells and to the novelty of having a tenor covering, as they had been taught to ring at Foots Cray and by the end of the morning could ring plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles with much more confidence.

In my first year as Training Officer I found it very encouraging that those who came to Training Days clearly derived great benefit from the experience. We all know how difficult it often is in local towers to have sufficient experienced ringers to support the less experienced and Training Days provide the opportunity for learners to ring with a strong band around them and with someone to stand behind them to offer help and guidance. However attendance at a Training Day is not a 'magic bullet' ensuring future ringing success. Training Days are just a platform from which to launch future practice and learning. Especially in towers where the local band is not particularly strong, learners need to go out to other towers. There is a list of all the towers and their practice nights in the Handbook. Visitors can always contact the tower secretary to find out if the band is definitely ringing on a particular date and to ask what they usually ring on a practice night. In addition

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Forthcoming District Events:

Quarterly District Meeting:

Saturday 12th December, Beckenham, St George. 3.30 bells, 4.30 service then tea, meeting and evening ringing. Names for tea to: names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

District Practice: Saturday 26th January, 7-9, venue tbc

District Practice: Saturday 16th February, 7-9, venue tbc

District Training Day: Saturday 23 February, venue tbc. Closing date for applications: 9th February (all enquiries/applications to David Brown

Six Bell Striking Competition: Saturday 1st March, 2:30, venue tbc

Barn Dance: 8th March, Horton Kirby

District Practice: 15th March, 10-12, venue tbc

County AGM: Monday 24th March, Perry Hill, St. George.

Quarterly District Meeting:

Saturday 12th April, Dartford, Holy Trinity. 3:30 bells, 4:30 service, then tea, meeting and evening ringing.

County Subscriptions Due!

County subscriptions are due on January 1st, and as far as I am aware, continuing at the current rates: Adults £9, Juniors (under 18) and Senior Citizens (over 65) £4.50. If you won't see me in person please post to: 27 Clive Road, Belvedere, Kent DA17 5BJ. Thank you to Mark Jones for his work over the last few years and for handing over what looks like a fairly idiot proof system

Rachel Backhouse



The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Lyminge

The Ringing Centre will be packing up for two weeks, on 22nd and 29th December. We'll be back in business again every Saturday morning starting 5th January 2008.

Peter Dale

District Rep's report: 24th November 2007

- 1. Dates for diaries:
 - County AGM 24th March 2008 in Lewisham District
 - 6 bell competition 27th September 2008 8 bell competition 28th June 2008, Tonbridge District. Method: Single Oxford Bob Triples
- 2. County Officers:-Now is the time to start thinking if you want to be nominated for a Kent Officer role. There is no need to wait for a vacancy. The post of Treasurer will become vacant at the AGM.
- 3. Obituaries for the County Handbook should be sent via the District Secretary.

District Officer E-mail Directory:

Website:

www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Chairman:

James Hardy chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Secretary:

Vacant sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Rachel Backhouse memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Ringing Master:

Rupert Cheeseman master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Assistant Master:

Ross Hartley ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Training Officer:

David Brown training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

District Representatives:

Vacant rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Brenda Barton rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Sales Representative:

James Rooke sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Newsletter Editor/Press Representative:

Dominic Meredith newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Around the District

Biggin Hill

Like many small towers, we struggle to have enough ringers for really useful practices, but seldom miss a Sunday morning's ringing. Partial sound-control panelling of our huge louvered openings meant that we could host one of the SRCY peals for the Royal 60th wedding anniversary--to the great delight of most hearers in the community, although the two most troublesome neighbours still make life difficult.

I'm glad to report that Fred is making a good recovery; however ringing will not be in his exercise plan for some time yet.

A little news from further abroad: Daughter Jenne is hoping to call her first quarter-peal--on the new bells in Birmingham, Alabama, with husband Jeremy and sister Hilary inside, the first with a "home" band (I'm an honorary member!)--in late December. Watch this space!

Nancy Gay

Beckenham

Having been working at it for several month, we finally scored a quarter of Horton's Four—and then we rang another two weeks later to prove it wasn't a fluke! This is a terrific achievement ringing with a band who are all regular practice night ringers. We will be going for a couple more attempts at quarters and then hopefully on to a peal.

Dominic Meredith

Bromley Parish:

In December we celebrated the golden jubilee of the rededication of the church, rebuilt after being destroyed in the 2nd world war. A peal of Bristol Surprise Major was scored on 8th December. This date also coincided with David

Brown's 60th birthday so we had a double reason for the peal. It was also David Brown's and David Kingston's first peal of Bristol.

At the dinner in the evening the vicar announced that we had scored the peal which resulted in a very generous round of applause. Non ringers are amazed that we can ring for three hours with no break. They had no idea that such events occur. There was also favourable feedback from passersby as they made their way to the Christmas shopping.

We regularly ring Sunday mornings but Tuesday practices continue to be by arrangement.

David Kingston

Erith, Christchurch

We are delighted to have two young learners - one is the daughter of one of our band (Tom) and the other attends Christchurch. They are both making excellent progress. Our adult learner, Alan, can now ring call changes confidently and will soon be progressing to Plain Hunt.

We are once again decorating a tree for the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice Christmas Tree Festival at Christchurch.

Elizabeth Brett

Foots Cray

Things are beginning to move on at Foots Cray, albeit slowly. Early in August our two newest ringers rang their first quarters with the help of Cathy & Rupert Cheeseman and Rachel & Mark Backhouse. Clare and Colin Osmond have been ringing about two years and have progressed really well, due in part to the continued support we receive from Rachel. Both quarters were rung at Foots Cray and Clare and Colin both rang the treble in two different quarters at Foots Cray and did very well.

Late in November David Brown, our District Training Officer, arranged a training day for anyone in the District whose needs ranged from Plain Hunt to Cambridge Surprise Minor and all stages between. Four people signed up including Colin and Clare from Foots Cray. In the event the other two dropped out and my ringers had the session to themselves and worked on Plain Bob Doubles. We had man-

aged plain courses at Foots Cray practices so the time spent at Bromley Parish with Dave and a group of helpers was spent getting used to heavier bells than those at Foots Cray (not hard to find), ringing on 8 bells, ringing plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles and touches unaffected.

The time was spent with ringers who enjoyed helping others and were prepared to give up their own time to help. Colin and Clare were impressed with the patience shown. So on behalf of myself, Colin and Clare I would like to thank David and his team for the time given to training and in particular to that given to the Foots Cray band.

Margaret Macey

Horton Kirby

We are still progressing with 8 bell ringing and can now (at times) ring plain hunt on 7 quite reasonably. We have been able to ring on 8 or at least 7 on most Sundays which we think is quite an achievement. By the time this newsletter goes out we should have rung our first peal on the 8. I say we loosely as it will be Lesley and 7 very willing friends from other towers. No one else in our tower has the stamina!

In November we had our annual outing. This year we decided not to venture too far so our first tower was at Cowden. The weather, as usual, was bright and sunny and the journey down to Cowden was quite beautiful with all the trees showing such lovely autumn colours. It really was quite stunning! Next we moved on to Leigh where we took in the sunshine sitting outside the church drinking coffee before ringing. Then it was on to Shipbourne where we also had lunch in the pub conveniently placed next to the church. We couldn't book so one of our ringers mum's who met us there for lunch laid over 2 tables to save them for us while we entertained the other diners with some quite reasonable ringing (for us!).

After lunch it was on to Hadlow with our only 8 of the day. The bells here were definitely favourite. They were nice to ring and sounded lovely as well. Quite different was our last tower, Mereworth. I'm sure the bells were on square wheels! It didn't help that it was getting dark by the time we got there and there was only one light in the ringing room which although bright was at such a height that it shone right into the eyes of the ringer on 3.

It was a good day and although there were only 10 of us we all enjoyed it. We would like to thank Nick Wilkins, Jim Rooke and Frank Rogers for coming and helping us to ring well. We are so lucky to have such willing helpers – Frank and Jim still come along to most of our practices for which we are very grateful.

In March we are having our dance again. If you couldn't come last year do try to come along this year. The Ian Petrie Band are once again performing with their mix of Rock & Roll and Barn Dancing along with Dire Straits, The Rolling Stones and anything in between. Tickets will be £10 and include a buffet. This year we will probably having a bar as well selling wine and beer. A night not to be missed!

Sue Allport

West Wickham

The end of September saw our annual tower outing, 8 of our ringers were joined by Alison & Simon Wilson from Cudham as we set off for Essex.

The first tower was Orsett, a 11cwt ring of 6 set in a large ringing chamber, it was a good start to the day and a course of Cambridge was attempted.

The second tower was Shenfield, a lovely set of 6, the ringing chamber is set among the beams. Once we had clambered in and mastered if to stand on the beam or behind the beam the ringing improved, but unfortunately

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The West Wickham band outside the tower at Basildon

we couldn't stay as long as we would have liked.

The next tower was Bentley Common, a lightweight ring of 6, only 4 ¼ cwt which proved a challenge, but once we mastered the pull of the rope, we rang a course of Kent.

After lunch we moved to Ingrave, another good ring of 6. The final tower was the impressive new glass tower at Basildon, with its ring of 8 evenly spaced around the tower, The bells were not a challenge but ringing on 8 was a challenge for us, a course of Bob Major was eventually rung.

Judith Fry

CAN YOU HELP?

On the 19th/20th July 2008, Dartford hosts an annual festival weekend including half marathon, static stalls and displays plus many musical acts. The Dartford bellringers, who often ring during the Festival's street parade each year, are intending to set up the Charmborough Ring - the heaviest portable ring - as a publicity, recruitment and public education tool.

We are however only a small band and would need offers of help from the ringing fraternity. The help could come in many forms:

- publicising the event in their locality/local press
- teaching of potential recruits on the mini-ring (`have a go`)
- setting up/dismantling the mini-ring
- transporting the trailer to/from Docklands
- helping with demonstrations of ringing
- providing feedback from experiences of running similar events in the past
- design of publicity leaflets

There will also be some chances to ring quarters over the two days and it should be an enjoyable occasion for ringers.

Early offers of intention to help would be greatly appreciated so that planning can move forward. Please contact me on either 01322 225984 or rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk if you can offer any help or advice.

Brenda Barton

(Continued from page 1)

Rupert Cheeseman, the District Ringing Master organises monthly District Practices that are advertised on the website. These practices usually attract a core of experienced ringers and make it possible for learners to try ringing anything from Plain Hunt through to the simple plain methods such as Plain Bob and Grandsire, as well as more advanced methods like Stedman and Surprise Methods. These practices are built round whoever attends, so whatever your current standard, don't be shy about turning up.

It has been particularly disappointing to me as Training Officer and to the District Ringing Master that hardly anyone who has attended a Training Day has followed it up by attending a District Practice. Without regular practice, which cannot always be provided by the home tower, all the benefits of the Training Day are gradually lost.

Provisional Timetable for Training Days 2007

(Subject to the availability of towers and sufficient experienced helpers.)

Saturday 23 February

Saturday 26 April

Saturday 26 July

Saturday 22 November

Methods:

Plain Hunt, Doubles (any method), Plain Minor, Treble Bob Hunt, Surprise Minor.

Trainees:

Maximum of 6 trainees for each day.

Please let the Training Officer know what you want to practise. (Telephone 020 8778 2167 or 01322 66705 E mail training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
Each Training Day will be designed to meet the needs of the trainees attending.

Closing date for applications 2 weeks before the date of the Training Day.

120 Club

Rachel Backhouse

Draw held on October 13th at Horton Kirby (District AGM)

1^{st}	24	Judith 1	Fry (West	W	ickh	am)
- nd			_	_			

2^{nd}	120	Philippa	Rooke	(Chelsfield)
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Draw held on November 10th at Crayford (District practice)

1^{st}	90	120 club
2^{nd}	95	120 club

^{3&}lt;sup>rd</sup> 39 Pauline Smith (Charlton Kings)

Draw held on December 1st at Lewisham (District practice)

1^{st}	89	120 club
1	07	IZO CIUD

1^{st} 30 I	Liz Brett (CC	Erith)
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I shall be distributing new forms for the 120 club from January . The new 'season' will start in April 2008. Please continue to support the Bell Restoration Fund through the 120 club. For the 2007-8 year I expect to donate around £500.



Significant Quarter-Peals

Kent County Association of Change Ringers Greenwich, Kent

St Alfege Friday, 30 November 2007 **1260 Grandsire Doubles in 42 minutes**

- 1. Richard Barker
- 2. Lesley Barclay
- 3. Rachel Backhouse (c)
- 4. Andrew Sinclair
- 5. Mark Backhouse
- 6. Len Morley

Rung in celebration of the life of Fiona M.E. Devlin, who died on the 12/10/2007

I would like to express my thanks to those valiant souls who ventured out in monsoon conditions to ring this quarter, including Freda Cannon who opened up for us and had very thoughtfully put the gas fire on for some very welcome warmth. This quarter meant a great deal to me, because it was rung in memory of my dear friend and colleague, Fiona M.E. Devlin who died unexpectedly on the 12th October 2007. She was 56. Fiona was senior lecturer in theology at the University of Greenwich, where she had taught for many years. She will be missed by staff and students alike; she may have been only five feet high but what she lacked in height she made up for in personality. She had a very unorthodox approach to life (refreshingly so), was a great travelling companion and a fabulous cook. I shall miss her very much and my thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to her husband Jim.

Once again, my thanks to all concerned, particularly to Rachel for calling.

Andrew Sinclair.

^{4&}lt;sup>th</sup> 10 Ian Nurdin (Ash)

^{4&}lt;sup>th</sup> 16 Esther Correia (Dartford)

^{3&}lt;sup>rd</sup> 54 Melissa Cheeseman (Crayford)

^{3&}lt;sup>rd</sup> 96 Barry Macey (Footscray)

A Pea(r)1 Occasion!

Megan Smith, Cudham (and Dawlish, Devon)

I am one of the many "middle aged learners" recruited for the Millennium. I divide my time between Kent and Devon and ring in bands at Cudham and Dawlish. This year my husband Ken and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary, the pearl one. I felt that this occasion deserved something special and so I asked Lynne in Dawlish if she thought it would be possible for me to attempt my first peal. So, on a pleasant Saturday morning in late October, five very experienced ringers and myself assembled at Ideford at 9-30am. After some rope-adjusting and box-stabilising we set off. Two hours and thirty six minutes later Tim called "that's all" and we had done it! It was Tim's first peal of doubles as conductor, although he has conducted peals of higher numbers

Guild of Devonshire Ringers Ideford, Devon St Mary Saturday, 27 October 2007 5040 Doubles (11 methods)

- 1. Timothy M Bayton (c)
- 2. Richard C Shere
- 3. Lynne P Hughes
- 4. Jill M Hansford
- 5. Michael C Hansford
- 6. Megan K Smith

1st Peal: 6. 1st of Doubles as C. Rung to celebrate the pearl wedding anniversary (29/10) of Megan and Ken Smith. Also for Megan's 60th birthday and retirement this year.

before. I had arranged for Ken to meet us at 12-ish with strict instructions that if he could still hear us ringing he was not to come into the church as it might put us off. We toasted the occasion with a bottle of pink champage which had been given to me by my ringing friends at Cudham,



The Peal band (from left): Treble, 2, 3, 4, 5, Tenor

and Ken took some photos. I would very much like to thank St Mary's at Ideford for the use of their bells, and for opening up the Church for us on a Saturday, Lynne for organising everything, Tim for conducting and making us laugh during the peal, and Richard, Jill and Mike for ringing. It would not have been possible without the support of Ken of course who puts up with all my ringing-related activities!

Minutes from the Last Meeting



The Kent County Association of Change Ringers Lewisham District

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting at Horton Kirby 13 October 2007

1 Apologies for absence

- · 23 people attended the meeting
- · Apologies for absence were received from: Dominic Meredith, Alice Baverstock, Ross Hartley, Sara Hardy (Beckenham); Jim Rooke (Chelsfield), Nancy Gay (Biggin Hill) David Brown, Christine Webb (Bromley); Graham Long (Woolwich); Rachel Backhouse (Christchurch, Erith).

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

• The minutes of the quarterly District meeting at Chelsfield were proposed by Cathy Cheeseman, seconded by Mark Backhouse and accepted by the meeting.

3 Matters arising

· There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4 KCACR Committee report – Brenda Barton

- · As Easter is so early in 2008, all reports for inclusion in the KCACR handbook must be in as soon after Christmas as possible.
- · Ashford district have issued a 10-bell challenge to Lewisham district, the suggested date being 27 October 2007.
- The eight-bell competition will be held in the Tonbridge district on 28 June 2008.
- · Photos and reports of the Essex trophy and the six-bell striking competition can be found on the KCACR website www.kcacr.org.uk.
- · Recent publicity for ringing in Kent has included that for the Tour de France and Scouting centenary. Meridian TV visited Bobbing, Smarden appeared in the Telegraph. Many local reports have been published, including those about Eltham and Dartford.
- · A new web discussion group has been set up for those wanting to discuss ringing for the Olympics/Paralymics. Sign up at cccbr-olympics@yahoogroups.com.
- · Ringing Trends survey should be returned ASAP in order to get a clear picture of the ringing demographic in the county.
- · Please check tower listing details on the KCACR website for accuracy www.kcacr.org.uk.

5 County AGM – 24 March 2008

Lewisham District is to host the 2008 County AGM on 24 March 2008 (Easter Monday). Graham Long has volunteered St George's Church, Perry Hill (Catford) as a venue, subject to confirmation with the powers that be.
 There are no bells at this church, and towers will need to be available for ringing in the district. It is expected that Horton Kirby's augmented bells will be popular. The district committee will continue to work with Graham to organise the details of this event.

6 Reports from District officers

- · Ringing Master Rupert Cheeseman
 - Attendances at district practices have again been mixed with attendance varying from 20 plus to six. Attendees, especially learners, have gained a great deal from these practices. All towers are encouraged to come along and support these practices. The Saturday morning practices have been moderately well attended, so there will be a couple of mornings next year as well.
 - Chelsfield won the (poorly attended) district six-bell striking competition and came fourth in the later county competition.
- · District Secretary Alice Baverstock
 - No report
- · Membership Secretary Mark Jones
 - £2096 has come into the district through membership fees. £723 has been donated to the Bell Restoration Fund

(this is mostly through the 120 club).

There have been 24 lapsed memberships and only nine new members over the last year. Please encourage tower members to join the KCACR and take part in district events.

District Training Officer – David Brown (not present, report by Jim Hardy)

There have been several successful training days arranged for the district which have been well attended. All requests for training are welcome, from bell handling to advanced methods, including tower and bell maintenance. Please keep looking on the district website (www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk) for details of local training and the KCACR website www.kcacr.org.uk for county events.

Next training day, 24 November 2007 – doubles to surprise minor methods.

7 Election of district officers

Post	Current holder	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Vote
Chairman	Jeremy Byers	Jim Hardy	Lesley Barclay	Cathy Cheeseman	Carried
Ringing Master	Rupert Cheeseman	Rupert Cheeseman	Jeremy Byers	Cathy Cheeseman	Carried
Asst Ringing Master	Ross Hartley	Ross Hartley	Jim Hardy	Cathy Cheeseman	Carried
District Rep	Sara Hardy	No nominee			*
District Rep	Brenda Barton	Brenda Barton	Mark Backhouse	Carole Eastaugh	Carried
Secretary	Alice Baverstock	No nominee			**
Membership Secretary	Mark Jones	Rachel Backhouse	Mark Jones	Carole Eastaugh	Carried
Training officer	David Brown	David Brown	Jim Hardy	Margaret Macey	Carried
Sales rep	Jim Rooke	No nominee			*

^{*} The meeting will consider possible candidates for the posts of District Secretary, District Rep and Sales Rep. The posts of secretary and district rep could be combined.

8 Election of new members

New Member	Tower	Proposed By	Seconded By
June Dance	Dartford	Esther Correia	Brenda Barton

9 Forthcoming events

Event	At	Date
Teaching to teach training day	Beckenham	20 October 2007
District practice	West Wickham	20 October 2007
District practice	Chislehurst, Annunciation	10 November 2007

^{**} Alice Baverstock will be asked to remain the point of contact for the county until a new secretary can be found.

*** Jim Rooke agreed to continue if no one else could be found at the meeting but he will definitely stand down at next year's ADM if no one comes forward before then.

Event	At	Date
District training day	venues tbc	24 November 2007
District practice	Lewisham, 7-9pm	1 December 2007
County eight-bell competition	tbc	28 June 2008
Dartford Festival (see AOB)	Dartford	19-20 July 2008

District meetings 2008

Event	At	Date
Quarterly General Meeting	Beckenham (tbc)	12 January 2008
Quarterly General Meeting	Dartford (tbc)	12 April 2008
Quarterly General Meeting	St John's, Erith	12 July 2008
Annual General Meeting	venue needed please	11 October 2008

10 120 Club draw

1	24	Judith Fry
2	120	Phillippa Rooke
3	82	Carole Eastaugh
4	10	Ian Nurdin

- The winning numbers for this month were:
- The meeting expressed its thanks to Rachel Backhouse for her continued hard work in administering the 120 club.

11 Any other business.

- · Brenda Barton asked for help with ringing for the Dartford Festival, 19-20 July 2008. Dartford ringers have booked a mobile ring of bells and need the following help
 - a vehicle and driver to collect the bells. Must have a 2-litre engine and towing capacity
 - folk to help assemble the ring on Friday night or Saturday morning
 - folk to camp on site overnight to augment festival security
 - ringers to help demonstrate the ring over the two days.

A form will be distributed to each tower to gauge interest.

- · Lesley Barclay reiterated the importance of returning the ringing trends questionnaire as soon as possible.
- Yvonne Wright (Sidcup) raised a question about whether towers should hold separate accounts from the church. The chairman (in his capacity as a church treasurer) advised that if the ringing society published accounts and held an AGM then the funds could be administered separately from the church. Chairman to advise Yvonne separately.

12 Votes of thanks

· Votes of thanks was made to the vicar Neil Taylor for taking the service, to Graham Long for playing the organ, and to Horton Kirby for their bells and an excellent tea.

Agenda for the Next District Meeting

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Quarterly District Meeting at Beckenham, Saturday 12th January 2008

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes of the Annual District Meeting at Horton Kirby on 13th October
- 4. Election of new members
- 5. 120 club draw
- 6. Forthcoming events
- 7. Any other business
- 8. Vote of thanks

Next District Practice

Saturday 26th Jan 2008, 7-9: Venue TBC

Everyone Welcome



As my contribution to the newsletter got lost in cyberspace somewhere. I've done a Newsletter Extra to put it in. Rupert

Ringing Master's Annual Report

It's been an up and down year as far as district ringing has been concerned. From the well attended practices, at Cudham, to the barely attended, at Lewisham. It's just a shame that more people are not taking the opportunity to practice whatever they are currently learning with a generally steady band. I'd much rather help someone through their first blows of Plain Bob Doubles than ring surprise with a band that can already do it. The practices are tailored to whoever turns up and I really don't bite. Those that have turned up this year to practice something have all I believe benefited from the extra ringing they have had.

There have been a number of training days (see the report elsewhere) organised by David. Please look out for when the next one is and take advantage of attending it.

The 6 bell striking competition was held at Downe with a very disappointing three teams taking part. Chelsfield deservedly won from Eynsford and Crayford. They went on to represent the district in the County 6 bell striking competition and came 3rd behind Tonbridge of the Tonbridge district. Chelsfield was the venue for the district call change competition. Five teams took part and Eltham retained the trophy. The County 8 bell took place in February at the recently restored ring at St Margaret's, Rochester. The Lewisham district band never quite got to grips with Oxford TB Major and came 4th out of 6 districts with Canterbury winning.

Call Change Competition

Eltham beat off 4 other teams to retain the District 6 Bell Call Change Competition at Chelsfield on Sat 1st Dec. Gareth Lawson and Steve Haynes, the Rochester District Ringing Masters, were the judges.

After some general ringing for the judges the draw was made and first of the home tower's teams got the competition going. Four more teams and some general ringing later and the judges were ready to give out the result. They said that the standard had been high and everyone had rung well. They marked 1 point for a crunch and half a point for a clip. They then gave some general

comments about each piece of ringing which included pointing out that the third team to ring had not rung enough changes (thanks Nick!).

The results were given in the time honoured reverse order and were as follows:

Position	Rung	Tower	Faults
1 st	4 th	Eltham	16
2 nd	2 nd	Chelsfield "Philippa"	20
3 rd	1 st	Chelsfield "Nick"	23
4 th	3 rd	Crayford	25.5
5 th	5 th	Horton Kirby	30.5



1. Katherine Trill, 6. Len Morley, 2. Pauline Morley, 4. Peter Skinner, 3. Maralyn Evans, 5. David Holdridge

Well done to Eltham for retaining the trophy and thanks to Chelsfield for hosting and to Gareth and Steve for judging.



Lewisham District Events 2008



12th Jan. Quarterly Meeting: Beckenham, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service

26th Jan. District Practice: Chislehurst, Annunciation, 7.00 - 9.00pm

23rd Feb. District Training Day. For more info email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

1st Mar. District 6-bell Striking Competition: West Wickham (tbc), 2.30pm draw

8th Mar Barn Dance: Horton Kirby Village Hall, 8pm. £10 including buffet. Bar available.

Tickets from Sue (01322 862782) or Lesley (01322 860388)

15th Mar. District Practice: Bexley, 10.00am - 12.00pm

24th Mar. KCACR Annual General Meeting: Perry Hill, St George, Lewisham District.

12th Apr. Quarterly Meeting: Dartford, 3.30pm bells, 4.30pm Service, tea, meeting and

evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

26th Apr. District Training Day. For more info email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

10th May District Practice: Eynsford, 7.00 – 8:30pm. Joint with Maidstone District.

7th Jun. District Practice: Hayes (tbc), 7.00 - 9.00pm

28th Jun. County 8-bell Striking Contest: Westerham (Tonbridge District). 2.45pm draw.

Method: Single Oxford Bob Triples.

12th Jul. Quarterly Meeting: Erith, St Johns, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting

and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

19/20th Jul. Recruitment: Dartford Festival, Central Park. Charmborough Mini-ring. Volunteers

needed to help ring and man the stand. Contact Brenda (01322 225984)

26th Jul. District Training Day. For more info email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

29th Jul. District Practice: Southwark Cathedral, 6.30 - 8.30pm (Note Tuesday)

16th Aug. District Practice: Shoreham (tbc), 7.00 - 9.00pm

5/6th Sept Ringing Roadshow: Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk

20th Sep District Practice: Erith, Christ Church, 10.00am - 12.00pm

27th Sept. County 6-bell Striking Competition: Aldington (Ashford District).

11th Oct. Annual District Meeting: Biggin Hill, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service, tea, meeting and

possibly evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

1st Nov. District Practice and Fireworks: Dartford, 4.00 - 6.00pm. Then there is a Bonfire

(7:15) and Fireworks display (7:45) in Dartford's Central Park.

15th Nov. District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Horton Kirby, 2.30pm draw.

22nd Nov. District Training Day. For more info email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

6th Dec. District Practice: Eltham, 7.00 - 9.00pm

Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up. Please check the district website www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Rupert or Ross master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at www.kcacr.org.uk
If you would like to join the Lewisham District email group to get reminders/updates of district events please visit http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district

 $or\ email\ lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk$