



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk)

JANUARY 2011

## District Circled



L to R: Cathy Cheeseman, Andrew Sinclair, Brian Ashmore, Rupert Cheeseman, Gabrielle Stook, John Stook

The quarter peal rung at Ash on 3rd October was noteworthy for a number of reasons. Firstly, it was Gabrielle Stook's first quarter at her first attempt. Secondly, it was the first quarter on the bells since they had been retuned and rehung at the beginning of the year which has made them much easier to ring. And finally, it means that all of the pealable towers in the district have now been rung to a quarter this year which certainly has not been done for a while, if at all.

Ash-by-Wrotham, Kent  
SS Peter & Paul  
Sunday 3rd October 2010 in 43m  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Gabrielle Stook
- 2 Brian Ashmore
- 3 Cathy Cheeseman
- 4 Andrew Sinclair
- 5 Rupert Cheeseman (C)
- 6 John Stook

For Harvest Festival.

# District officer e-mail directory

**Website:**

[www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Chairman:**

Nick Wilkins

[chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Secretary:**

Dominic Meredith

[sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Rachel Backhouse

[memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Ringling Master:**

Rupert Cheeseman

[master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Assistant Master:**

Ross Hartley

[ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Training Officer:**

Dominic Meredith

[training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**District Representatives:**

Brenda Barton

[rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

Sue Cameron

[rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Sales Representative:**

James Rooke

[sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Sue Allport

[newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# Training Update

The next two training events will be on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 19<sup>th</sup> March. The 19<sup>th</sup> February will be a conventional training day similar to the one we've been having for the last four or five years. It will be at Beckenham from 10:00 until approximately 4:30.

The March date is slightly different. I intend to run a bell handling morning, where students can have their handling faults looked at and (hopefully) rectified. This session is really aimed at relatively recent learners (probably of about six months to two years experience, although this is very approximate) who are capable of ringing by themselves for prolonged periods but who have some handling errors they would like looked at. This is a bit of an experiment and if it goes well I'll look into organising more in the future. The session will again be at Beckenham, from 10:00 to about 1:00.

If you are interested in attending either of these, or you have a learner who you think would benefit from it, please contact me at [training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk).

Dominic Meredith  
Training Officer

## District Calendar

19 <sup>th</sup> February	Training Day
5 <sup>th</sup> March	District Striking Competition
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Training Day - Bell handling
9 <sup>th</sup> April	QDM: tbc
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	County Eight Bell Striking Competition Lewisham District
9 <sup>th</sup> July	QDM: Shoreham
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Training Day (tbc)
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	County Six Bell Striking Competition Maidstone District
8 <sup>th</sup> October	ADM: Bexley

# Editorial

*In the newsletter this time...*



Welcome to the January 2011 Newsletter! I trust you all had good Christmas's and hopefully weren't plagued too much by this dreadful flu! Unfortunately I was so the newsletter is a bit thinner than usual – quality

rather than quantity maybe? It's a busy time for everyone I know so I expect you are all saving up your articles for the April edition!

Congratulations to the combined Crayford and Dartford team for winning the Call Change Competition at Downe. It was a good turnout of 8 individual teams and a pleasant afternoon was spent visiting the local Christmas Bazaar that was being held just across the road while waiting our 'turn'.

Happy New Year to you all and I look forward to hearing all your news for the next one!

*Suex*

.....

Q. Why do they put bells on cows?

A. Because their horns don't work!



Knock knock!  
Who's there?  
Nobel.  
Nobel who?

No bell, so I knocked!

Patient. "Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking that I'm a church bell!"

Doctor. "Take these tablets, and if you're no better in a week, give me a ring!"



*Stolen from the Horfield Ringers website*

District Circled	1
District Officers E mail Directory	2
Training Update	2
District Calender	2
Editorial	3
Statto Alert	4
News from the Towers	
Chelsfield	7
Downe	7
Eltham	8
Erith St John's	8
Farnborough	8
Horton Kirby	8
Sidcup	9
The Meridian Ringers	9
100 Years of St Luke's	10
120 Club	11
Chairman's bit	11
David Camm's 70th Birthday	12
Call Change Competition	13
Minutes of the October ADM	14

-----



# Statto Alert!!!

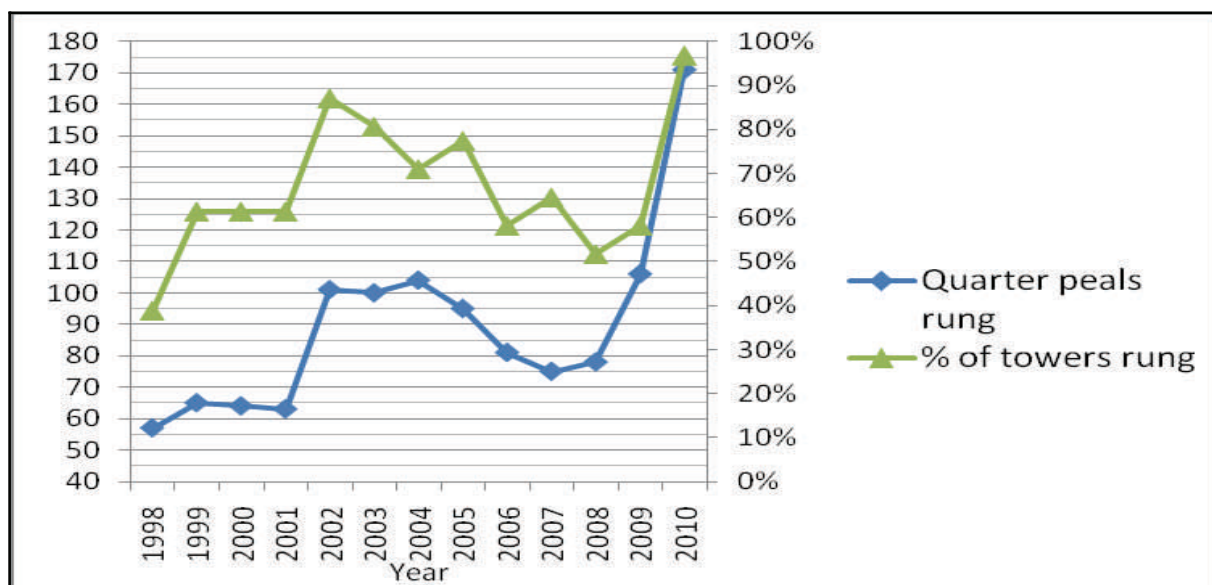
The success of the quarter peal week back in February 2010 was observed far and wide beyond the boundaries of the Lewisham District. The organisation, variety of methods rung and number of participants (over 90 ringers taking part and 81 successfully scoring) was favourably acknowledged throughout the county.

In the middle of the year, I happened to look at the quarter peal database on the KCACR website <http://kcacr.leeves.info/kcacr/quarters.php> to see how Lewisham was comparing with other districts in the county and this started my interest in how we were performing as a district compared to others. This database is a useful resource and provides an array of statistics going back to 1998.

As per the database on Sunday 2 January, recorded quarter peals in the Lewisham district for 2010 totalled 170 tower bell and 1 mini-ring successes. To put this into context, the previous highest total for the district was 106 quarter peals which occurred the previous year, 2009 – an advance of 64.

The aim for the quarter peal week was for a quarter to be rung in every tower in the district. This couldn't quite be achieved because Ash were out of action at this time, but fortunately towards the end of the year it was possible for a couple to be rung there. In fact as well as myself, both Rupert Cheeseman and Helen Valuks managed to ring a quarter peal at every 'pealable' tower in the district. The only tower left out was the 3 at Wilmington which were clearly not in a 'change-ringing' state. The district therefore finished with a quarter peal rung in 97% of its towers although in many minds it is effectively 100%.

The table below shows the relationship between the number of towers rung and the number of quarters rung per year.



The distribution of the quarter peals throughout the year was as follows:

No of quarters per month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2010	8	39	12	11	9	12	13	11	8	14	22	12	171

## Towers

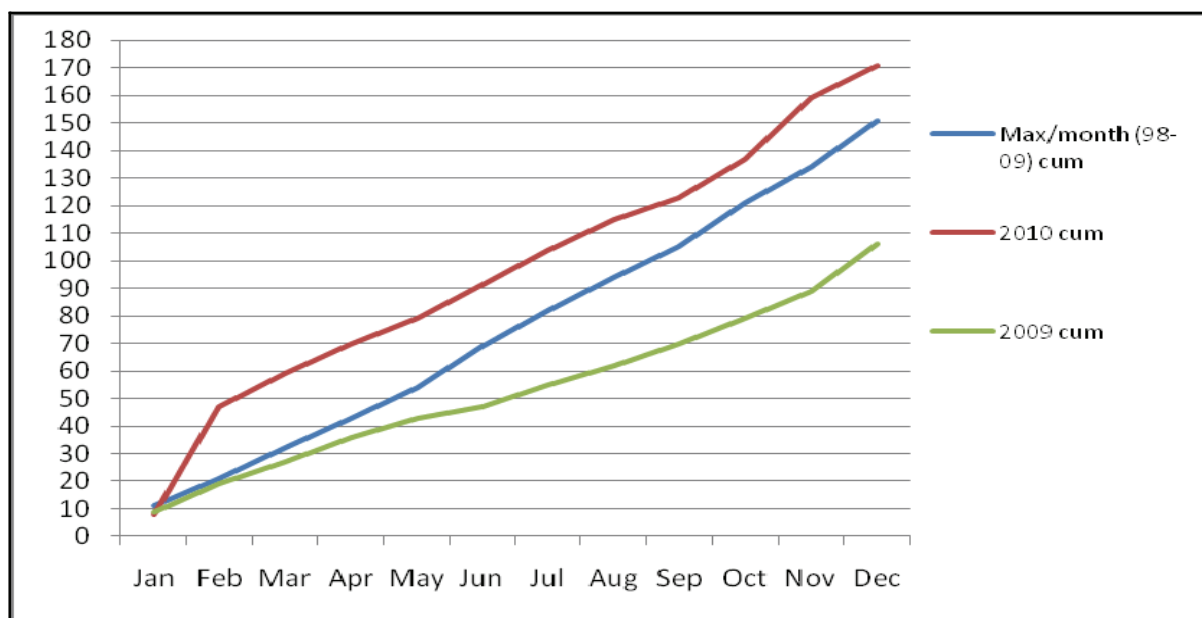
Beckenham led the way with the most number of quarter peals with Crayford and Chelsfield both pushing hard on their heels. All but five towers had more than one quarter peal rung on them this year.

Ranking	Tower	No of Quarters
1	Beckenham (St George)	31
2	Crayford (St Paulinus)	20
3	Chelsfield (St Martin of Tours)	19
4	Bromley (Ss Peter & Paul)	11
5	Eynsford (St Martin)	9
6	Eltham (St John the Baptist)	8
7	Horton Kirby (St Mary)	7
8	Lewisham (St Mary the Virgin)	7
9	St Mary Cray (St Mary)	6
10	Greenwich (St Alfege)	5
11	Biggin Hill (St Mark)	4
12	Foots Cray (All Saints)	4
13	Bexley (St Mary the Virgin)	3
14	Bromley Common (St Luke)	3
15	Dartford (Holy Trinity)	3
16	Erith (Christ Church)	3
17	Farningham (Ss Peter & Paul)	3
18	West Wickham (St John the Baptist)	3
19	Ash by Wrotham (Ss Peter & Paul)	2
20	Chislehurst (Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)	2
21	Chislehurst (St Nicholas)	2
22	Cudham (Ss Peter & Paul)	2
23	Downe (St Mary the Virgin)	2
24	Erith (St John the Baptist)	2
25	Penge (St John)	2
26	Shoreham (Ss Peter & Paul)	2
27	Bickley (St George)	1
28	Deptford (St John)	1
29	Hayes (St Mary the Virgin)	1
30	Sidcup (St John the Evangelist)	1
31	Woolwich (St Mary Magdalene)	1
32	Charlton (The Charmborough Ring)	1
32	Total	171



The final graph below shows the cumulative totals for 2010 compared with the previous year, 2009 and the cumulative total of the highest number of quarters per month since the database began (from 1998-2009).

For example, the highest number of quarter peals for March was achieved in 2003; the highest for August was 2007, etc. This shows what a truly record breaking year it was in 2010 for the Lewisham district.



(For clarification—Top line shows 2010  
Middle line shows Max/month (98-09)  
Bottom line shows 2009 )

David Macey

HISTORY

SOMETIMES IN THE WAR THEY TAKE PRISONERS  
AND KEEP THEM AS OSTRIGES UNTIL THE WAR  
IS OVER. SOME PRISONERS END UP IN  
CONSERVATION CAMPS.

SCIENCE

Helicopters are cleverer than  
planes. Not only can they fly  
through the air they can also  
hover.

MATHS

If it is less than 90 degrees it is  
a cute angel.

HISTORY

Then Joan of Ark met her end.  
She was burned as a steak.

---

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## **ASH-BY-WROTHAM**

*Practice Saturday 9:30am*

## **BECKENHAM**

*Practice Thursday 19:50*

## **BEXLEY**

*Practice Thursday 20:00*

## **BICKLEY**

*Practice Wednesday 19:30*

## **BIGGIN HILL**

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## **BROMLEY**

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## **BROMLEY COMMON**

*Practice Thursday 19:45*

## **CHELSEFIELD**

*Practice Monday 20:00*

Monday night practices continue to be well attended with ringing ranging from rounds and call changes to Grandsire and Stedman Triples and some Surprise Major. Most weeks we also ring spliced Minor. Visitors always welcome. During the last quarter we have also been made aware that our Rector of 37 years, Canon Leslie Virgo, has announced his retirement. He celebrated his 85th birthday on Remembrance Sunday and is believed to be the longest standing incumbent in the Rochester Diocese-probably by a good margin! Leslie has always been very supportive of the ringers and in recognition of this some years ago was elected an Associate Member of the KCACR. Leslie was an enthusiastic supporter of the recent Chelsfield augmentation and we have a lot to thank him for. Everyone at Chelsfield wishes him a long, happy, healthy and well deserved retirement!

Nick Wilkins

The following quarter was rung as a compliment to Canon Leslie Virgo, Associate Member of the KCACR, on his retirement after 37 years as Rector of Chelsfield.

Chelsfield Kent

Wednesday 29th December 2010

1344 Virgo S Major in 44m

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Bobbie Fairclough    |
| 2 | Ron Diserons         |
| 3 | Tim Lynch            |
| 4 | Lesley Barclay       |
| 5 | Nicholas Wilkins (C) |
| 6 | Robert Pruden        |
| 7 | John Barnes          |
| 8 | Rupert Cheeseman     |

## **CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)**

*Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00*

## **CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **CRAYFORD**

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

## **CUDHAM**

*Practice Monday 20:00 (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe*

## **DARTFORD**

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## **DOWNE**

*Practice 1st Monday 20:00*

Only one of our team of 6 had ever rung in a Call Change Competition before, so we didn't really know quite what we were letting ourselves in for but I think it proved to be a really enjoyable and worthwhile event. We as a team, had worked hard, to the extent of making ourselves do extra practices, and through all these sessions we have really learned to listen to our Bell and become quite self critical! It has been a good learning curve and we hope that we have improved ourselves as Bell ringers. The team on this occasion was John Bowers, Lottie Davis Steve Hunt, Donald King, , Bridget Robbie and Gary Weeks. It was Donald who Called the Changes and Simon Sleath, Tower Captain, who was a tower of strength in supporting us all afternoon as well as in the weeks before. As you will know, the judging is done on the number of good clear Rounds and if you look at the results there were not too many points lost between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place but as the judge put it "at least we were the 8 Teams in the District to enter" and that "everyone should be

proud of how they rang"! So we now look to the future and what else we can achieve!

We are looking forward to Ringing in the New Year.

Bridget Robbie

## ELTHAM

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

So the new carpet is in at last, as is the mat at the bottom of the stairs!

We managed to get a team together for the call change competition last month and next year we hope to be able to field two teams. We've also managed two quarters at the Tower including a "first away from treble" for Chris Goldsmith.

Katherine Trill

## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

## ERITH (St John the Baptist)

*Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00, then Thursdays 20:00*

We were very grateful to Esther and Deryk from Dartford and Gabrielle and John from Ash and Eloise and Shirley from Christchurch who have joined us for some of our practices this autumn. It has meant that we were able to actually learn some new things. It is sometimes difficult to hold a practise as two of our ringers are at college and sometimes can't make it so we are very thin on the ground and have had to cancel several times, with just four of us able to make practices anyway

We have also had the clappers refurbished at Whitechapel Bell Foundry and despite the snow managed to get them re-fitted in time to ring for our carol service.

If anyone would like to join us for practices you are more than welcome at any time.

Margaret Heald

## EYNSFORD

*Practice 1st (Surprise Major) & 3rd Friday 20:00*

## FARNBOROUGH



### St Giles the Abbot

1 bell + clock bell

Tenor 9-2-19 in A

Upstairs ringing room

There is interest in having a ring of bells installed and an approach has been made to The Keltek Trust. A structural engineer has been appointed to advise on the load capabilities of the tower and the size of bells that might be accommodated. One option is to use the current 1951 G & J bell as the tenor of a new ring (it's hung for full circle ringing) or alternatively a complete ring of bells might be acquired through The Keltek Trust. Watch this space...!

Nick Wilkins

## FARNINGHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## FOOTS CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## HAYES

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Thursday*

A year of Lesley yelling 'listen to your bell' paid off as the (*In Your Dreams*) team came 4th in the Call Change competition – an improvement from last year of one place. So, thank you, Lesley, if you keep this up we may do even better next year! We were especially pleased with this attempt as we discovered on the day that a number of us had not rung the Downe bells before. Sadly Horton Kirby could muster only one team this year, though all who rang were regular Sunday service ringers.

Sunday ringing continues to be almost as well attended as practice nights although 'disruptive' snow has been a problem for the band members who live outside the village. Our thanks go to Frank and Jim for continuing to support the tower, edging us ever closer towards touches of Bob Doubles and Grandsire. Lesley keeps mentioning that we should soon be able to ring Grandsire Triples (a plain course?). We shall see what 2011 brings!

Karen Robinson

## LEWISHAM

*Practice 5th Wednesday*

## PENGE

*Ringing by arrangement*

## ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Wednesday 19:45*

## SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00*



## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

We ring most Wednesdays and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month Mark Backhouse visits to help our learners and the rest of us progress. Footh Cray also come on various nights of the month. We would appreciate if anyone else would be able to come along and help out on any other nights or just to visit. Please contact Sam Pavey at [sampavey@hotmail.com](mailto:sampavey@hotmail.com) We also have a tower mobile 07906475454 which is only switched on for practice nights.

Sam Pavey

## WEST WICKHAM

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD The Meridian Ringers

*Practice normally Wednesday 20:00 at Greenwich but check beforehand.*

We have been very lucky to welcome two ringers, who have recently moved to the area, to our team – Louise Price and Peter Norwood. Also, Jeremy Gilliland has been ringing with us on Wednesdays – he lives in Buckinghamshire but is in Surrey Quays during the week. This has enabled us to extend our repertoire and we are regularly ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods including Antelope which we rang in the run up to Christmas.

It has been some time since we have had new members joining the KCACR – Peter and Louise have joined; Hazel Bing and Alan Munden have rejoined after a few years gap; Dan Cocker and Vicky Duguid have also become members.

Greenwich tower has been having some major restoration carried out – the plastic sheeting is almost removed now and most of the work is done – it is looking quite splendid. The clock has also been restored with a major overhaul and renovated clock faces. We are now hoping to have some internal decoration and a new carpet in the near future.

Several of us live some way from Greenwich and have other responsibilities at other churches which makes it difficult for us to ring for Sunday morning services but in recent months we have been managing to ring for the monthly Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month) at Greenwich. We also rang recently for Carol Services at St. John's, Deptford and Greenwich and rang to celebrate the New Year at 12noon on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

As well as our quarter peal at St. Clement Danes, Westminster, article elsewhere in the newsletter, we have rung three more quarters recently at Greenwich – sadly, one of these was in memory of Freda's brother Ron who died at

the end of October.

### The Parish Church of St. Alfege, Greenwich On Wednesday 6th October 2010

#### A Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble	Vicky Duguid
2	Louise S. Price
3	Graham Long
4	Jim Odell
5	Bill Lanyon (conductor)
6(cover)	Peter Norwood
Tenor	Alan Munden

75th birthday compliment to Ken Deller, local ringer.

After the quarter a touch of 75 PB Minimus/Grandsire Doubles was also rung, with 3 covers. Ken rang one of the cover bells and was also joined by Hazel Bing and Freda Cannon.

### The Parish Church of St. Alfrege, Greenwich On Wednesday 8th December 2010 Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire & Plain Doubles (7,6,8 cover)

Treble	Vicky Duguid
2	Louise S. Price
3	Bill Lanyon (joint conductor)
4	Jeremy Gilliland
5	Graham Long (joint conductor)
6	Jim Odell
7	Daniel R. Cocker
Tenor	Peter Norwood

Rung in memory of Ron Cannon (5.6.1924 to 28.10.2010), brother of Freda Cannon.

### The Parish Church of St. Alfrege, Greenwich On Wednesday 22nd December 2010 A Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble	Daniel R. Crocker
2	Hazel Bing
3	Bill Lanyon
4	Jim Odell
Tenor	Graham Long (conductor)

80th birthday compliment to Norma Oliver, mother-in-law of the conductor.

All in all, things are progressing well for the future – we have a dinner planned for January and an outing to Buckinghamshire in March. Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events – please check our website for further details: [www.meridianbells.webs.com](http://www.meridianbells.webs.com).

Graham Long

# 100 years of St Luke's



Monday the 18th October 2010 marked the occasion one hundred years ago of the consecration of the spire and bells at St Luke, Bromley Common. A commemorative board hangs in the ringing room recording the event and the names of the ringers that rang the bells for the first time at St Luke's. Other boards adorn the walls commemorating peals that have taken place and for what reason. The names of some ringers appear again and again over the years giving us an insight of who rang here before us. Apart from these boards and some old association reports, the history of bell ringing at St Luke's since 1910 to the 1950's is shrouded in mystery. We do know that 134 peals were rung between 1911 and 2003 but were silent during the Second World War. I have happy memories of learning to ring here in the 1960s when ringers from Bromley Parish would join us. From 1981 the bells have been rung on a regular basis by the local band and this period is well documented.

We held a tower open day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October that attracted a number of eager people willing to scale the stairs and view an area of the church normally inaccessible. The occasion gave Alastair Scott and I the opportunity to demonstrate our bells and explain the very English art of bell ringing.

On the Sunday we rang a quarter peal kindly conducted by David Macey for evensong. This was our bands way of commemorating the centenary of bells at St Luke's. Members of the District Association rang a peal of Bristol Surprise Major on 21<sup>st</sup> November for the same reason.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January we are hosting the first Quarterly District Meeting of the new year and look forward to meeting you then.

Chris Lawrance

## HISTORY

*In wartime children who lived in big cities had to be evacuated because it was safer in the country.*

## MATHS

*The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls santa on his sleigh.*

# 120 Club

'September' draw held at Beckenham on 9<sup>th</sup> October

1 <sup>st</sup>	54	Terry Elcock (Horton Kirby)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15	Felicity Stook (Ash)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	96	120 club
4 <sup>th</sup>	17	Ian Nurdin (Ash)

October draw held at Beckenham on 9<sup>th</sup> October

1 <sup>st</sup>	27	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	69	Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	48	Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby)
4 <sup>th</sup>	56	Terry Elcock (Horton Kirby)

November draw held at Downe on November 20<sup>th</sup>

1 <sup>st</sup>	15	Felicity Stook (Ash)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	69	Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	21	David Brown (Bromley)
4 <sup>th</sup>	111	Chris Backhouse (Oxford)

December draw held at Christchurch, Erith on December 13<sup>th</sup>

1 <sup>st</sup>	8	Tony Fisher (for Andrew) (Eynsford)
1 <sup>st</sup>	77	Mary Andrews (Bexley)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	71	Roger Long (St Nicholas, Chislehurst)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	105	Karen Robinson (Horton Kirby)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	48	Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	David Hilling (Eynsford)
4 <sup>th</sup>	31	Jeremy Byers (Beckenham)
4 <sup>th</sup>	14	Gabrielle Stook (Ash)

It's that time of year again with only 2 draws left for the 120 club 2010-11 season. I expect to be able to give in excess of £450 to the county BRF. Please do continue with your support, membership this year was spread round 20 towers in the district, forms will be coming round with the newsletter. There are still some uncashed cheques out there, if nothing else I have discovered that this causes problems with the ordering of a new cheque book as this is triggered by the presentation of a randomly numbered cheque- I had to have 3 goes at getting a new cheque book! Please do check that you have received any monies you think you are owed ( these will come delivered by hand if someone from your tower is at the draw or in the post).

Rachel Backhouse

## Chairman's bit

I hope you and all those near and dear to you had a Happy Christmas and by the time you read this we will be into 2011 and I wonder how many New Year's Resolutions will already have been broken?

I have profound apologies to make but I will be absent from the January meeting. I'm visiting one of my nearest and dearest - son James who is a ski instructor, wintering in Austria. He's not very geographically near and I haven't seen him since he went away in early November. It's his fourth Christmas away and I booked flights to see him when the Quarterly Meeting was fixed at the ADM for 15th January! Now the meeting's been moved to 8th I regret I'm away. Sorry!

Under tower news you will see that Canon Leslie Virgo of Chelsfield is retiring after 37 years at St Martins. This is a notable event as he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the bells and bell ringing at Chelsfield for a very long time and we wish him all the best for his retirement in Gloucestershire.

Also, there's a new appearance under tower news! There's an exciting prospect of installing bells at St Giles Farnborough so fingers crossed that this comes to fruition.

Some of you will be aware that 2010 has been Centenary Year for The Girl Guide Movement. A Service to celebrate this was held at Sidcup on Sunday, 7th November and the bells were rung for the Service by Margaret Heald and daughter Megan from Erith, David Holdridge and daughter Bryony from Eltham and my daughters Melanie and Annabelle - oh, and I had a ring too! It was a most enjoyable occasion.

Finally, those that attended the ADM at Beckenham will be aware that we still need a Secretary as Dominic had kindly agreed to do this for one more quarter only. Please consider if you are able to undertake this task and make any interest known to an officer as without a Secretary the District is unconstitutional!

May I conclude by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Nick

---

# David Camm's 70th Birthday

Seventy years of age, 58 years as a ringer and 52 of those as a tower captain merits some special ringing and a special dinner.

So that is exactly what happened when David Camm, the tower captain of Youlgreave, and previously Heanor – both in Derbyshire – and Eastwood in Nottinghamshire, visited London on 20th November 2010 soon after his 70th birthday.

Two of the many ringers whom David has taught to ring, Robert Marchbank and Dan Cocker, joined the Meridian Ringers of Greenwich (with whom Dan rings) to ring a celebratory quarter peal with David.

A grand occasion required a grand ring of bells in a grand tower. Thanks to Dr Michael Sprackling, the famous bells of St Clement Danes were made available. The band rang a well-struck quarter of Grandsire and Plain Bob conducted by Bill Lanyon followed by some general ringing, including "rollercoaster" call changes, conducted by Graham Long on all ten bells.

And then for the après-ringing, which the Meridian Ringers take almost as seriously as the Exercise itself.

Just like in a game of Monopoly, the band travelled along the Strand, across Trafalgar Square and into Pall Mall and arrived at the Army & Navy Club for dinner. There the band and other halves, including David's wife Christine, enjoyed claret and canapés in an elegant British Army-themed room as an oil-on-canvas Duke of Wellington looked on with aloof curiosity. The evening continued in the adjoining Royal Navy themed room with dinner observed from the wall by Lord Nelson, portrayed to show equally aloof amusement at the proceedings beneath him.

As the ringing started with the treble and ended with the tenor, so with dinner. Treble ringer Vicky Duguid started off the dinner with an impressive grace – bespoke for the occasion – and tenor ringer and servant of the Crown Alan Munden ended dinner by proposing with great distinction the toast to the Queen, who is the patron of the club.

The drink for the Loyal Toast was port and the tradition of passing the port was observed. Some ringers soon drained their glasses, but knew that asking the direct question "Could

you pass the port, please?" is an etiquette faux pas and instead followed the conventional roundabout dialogue:

– "Do you know the Bishop of Norwich?"

– "No"

– "He's a very fine chap, but he never passes the port."

At this point the port-hogger usually takes the hint. As the decanters slowed on their rounds, the band travelled in their imagination around a number of diocesan and suffragan sees until there came the question "Do you know the Bishop of Selby?" and the answer "Yes, he's my uncle." The dumb-founded questioner was left with an empty glass for some time.

Whilst the band can do centuries-old century traditions, it is at heart a progressive band. This became clear when the ladies allowed the gentlemen to join them in the sumptuous comfort of the ladies' drawing room to finish off the port – with no military historical heroes around on the walls to disapprove.

Dan Cocker

Westminster, London  
St Clement Danes  
Saturday, 20 November 2010 in 47m (21-1-23)  
**1260 Doubles**  
(Grandsire and Plain Bob, with 7, 6, 8 cover)

- 1 Vicky Duguid
- 2 David W Camm
- 3 Robert J Marchbank
- 4 Jeremy Gilliland
- 5 Bill Lanyon (C)
- 6 Daniel R Cocker
- 7 Graham Long
- 8 Alan Munden

Rung by the Meridian Ringers and guests as a birthday compliment to David W Camm (who taught the ringers of the 3 and the 6 to ring).





### **The Meridian Ringers and Guests**

L to R: Bill Lanyon, Graham Long, Joy Long, Liz Munden, Hazel Bing, David Camm, Christine Camm, Alan Munden, Ken Deller, Barbara Deller, Jeremy Gilliland, Robert Marchbank, Vicky Duguid, Dan Cocker, Paula Marchbank.

# Call Change Competition

Thank you for everyone who took part in the call change competition.

Eight teams took part which is certainly a good effort. Each team paid a £10 entry fee which has raised a good sum towards the refurbishment of the trophy.

Full report to follow on the website but the results were:

1st	Crayford/Dartford	57%
2nd	Beckenham	50%
3rd	Chelsfield	48%
4th	Horton Kirby	46%

5th	Downe	45%
6th	Erith CC	35%
7th	Bromley	30%
8th	Eltham	23%

The standard was a lot higher on these deceptively difficult bells than the scores suggest as the judges marked each row as either clean or not. Everyone should be proud of how they rang but special congratulations must go to the combined Crayford & Dartford team on their success.

Thanks go to the judges, Tim Lynch and Catherine Heathcote, for coming out (and sitting in the cold) and to the Downe ringers for being such excellent hosts.





# The Kent County Association of Change Ringers



## Lewisham District

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Beckenham on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### Two Minute Silence

Before the meeting a two minute silence was held for Mary Jeal of Bexley.

### Apologies for Absence

38 people attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Doug Fisher (Biggin Hill), June Dance, Graeme Jefferson and Deryck Jones (Dartford), Ian Mills (Eltham), Lesley Barclay and Karen Robinson (Horton Kirby), and Dickon Love (Unattached).



### Matters of the District Meeting at Ash-by-Wrotham

There were no matters arising from the minutes and they were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: Sue Cameron; Seconded: Margaret Heald

### Election of District Officers

The following members were unanimously elected as district officers:

Position	Nominee	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairman	Nick Wilkins	Brenda Barton	Esther Correia
Secretary (until January 2011)	Dominic Meredith	Rhiannon Meredith	Lizzie Duffey
Membership Secretary	Rachel Backhouse	Carol Eastaugh	Cathy Cheeseman
Ringling Master	Rupert Cheeseman	Sue Cameron	Brenda Barton
Deputy Ringling Master	Ian Mills	David Macey	Helen Valuks
Training Officer	Dominic Meredith	Jeremy Byers	James Hardy
District Rep	Brenda Barton	Rupert Cheeseman	Carol Eastaugh
District Rep	Sue Cameron	Rupert Cheeseman	Carol Eastaugh
Newsletter Editor	Sue Allport	Philippa Rooke	Mick McDonnell
Sales Rep	James Rooke	Sue Allport	Nancy Fisher

---

Rupert said that this would be the last year that he intends to stand for Ringing Master and Dom having said he would stand down as secretary last year, agreed to stay on until the January meeting.

## **Election of new members**

The following new members were elected:

<b>New Member</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Seconded By</b>
Rebecca Hardy	Beckenham	Rhiannon Meredith	James Hardy
Mary Hayward	Crayford	Rupert Cheeseman	Cathy Cheeseman
Dan Crocker	Greenwich	Graham Long	Freda Cannon
Vicky Duchid	Greenwich	Graham Long	Freda Cannon
Alan Munden	Greenwich	Freda Cannon	Bill Lanyon
Peter Alfred Norwood	Greenwich	Freda Cannon	Bill Lanyon
Louise Susan Price	Greenwich	Freda Cannon	Bill Lanyon
Alison Collins	Shoreham	Philippa Rooke	Sue Allport
Amanda Hopkins	Shoreham	Philippa Rooke	Sue Allport
John Smith	Shoreham	Philippa Rooke	Sue Allport
Hazel Bing	Woolwich	Bill Lanyon	Jan Odell

## **KCACR Committee Meeting Report**

Brenda Barton outlined the rule changes proposed at the KCACR Committee meeting. They can be found on the KCACR website (under 'County Page'). There was some debate on the rules, with no clear conclusion reached. If any members feel strongly about them they were urged to get in touch with the District Representatives, or turn up to the County AGM itself and vote.

Brenda also reported that the proposal to move the County Eight Bell Striking Competition 2011 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> July was passed. The meeting expressed their thanks to Brenda and Sue Cameron for helping get the date changed. There was a motion put forward that the Lewisham District would like the date moved permanently to the first weekend in July, as this would prevent it clashing with the National Twelve Bell Competition. Proposed: Jeremy Byers; Seconded: Rhiannon Meredith.

---

## 120 Club Results

	Number	Name	Tower
1 <sup>st</sup>	54	Terry Elcock	Horton Kirby
1 <sup>st</sup>	27	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15	Felicity Stook	Ash-by-Wrotham
2 <sup>nd</sup>	69	Chris Lawrence	Bromley Common
3 <sup>rd</sup>	96	120 Club	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	48	Lesley Barclay	Horton Kirby
4 <sup>th</sup>	17	Ian Nurdin	Ash-by-Wrotham
4 <sup>th</sup>	56	Terry Elcock	Horton Kirby

## Forthcoming Events

Forthcoming Events for the year include:

20 <sup>th</sup> November	Call Change Competition: Downe
8 <sup>th</sup> January	QDM: Bromley Common
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Training Day (tbc)
5 <sup>th</sup> March	District Striking Competition
9 <sup>th</sup> April	QDM: tbc
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Training Day (tbc)
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	County Eight Bell Striking Competition – Lewisham District
9 <sup>th</sup> July	QDM: Shoreham
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Training Day (tbc)
24 <sup>th</sup> September	County Six Bell Striking Competition – Maidstone District
8 <sup>th</sup> October	ADM: Bexley

## A G Hill Memorial Fund

The District Committee has finalised a list of books to purchase with the money from the A G Hill Memorial Fund. Once the books have been purchased a decision will be made on how to distribute them.

## Any Other Business

As part of the Ringing World centenary celebrations next year there will be a Young Person's Striking Contest on 26<sup>th</sup> March, at St. Saviour's church, Pimlico. Any eligible young ringers (aged under 19 on the day of the competition) should get in touch with a District Officer if they wish to participate.

Rhiannon Meredith updated the meeting on the Margaret Macey Memorial Fund. The fund is available for those wishing to attend training courses to further their ringing. Application forms can be found on the District Website. They are due in now and Rhiannon encouraged people to apply for it.

## Vote of Thanks

Chris Webb proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Malcolm Hancock for conducting the service, to Mark Jones for playing the organ and to the Beckenham band for organising the tea.