



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

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

APRIL 2013

Wedding at St Alphege



The date was fixed, the band was ready, and finally the big day arrived for a wedding was to take place between Andy Watson and one of our own ringers, Vicky Duguid. We were keen to have some of our best ringing on all 10 bells as Vicky is one of our regulars at Greenwich.

The couple were to be married by Vicky's uncle, The Right Rev Martin Wallace, Bishop of Selby, who incidentally had never heard bells firing before; Mother of the bride could have stepped in to perform the service, as she is Rev Ali Duguid, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Marden, Kent, but getting a Bishop is a bit special and Vicky's mother already had a starring role as 'Mother of the Bride'.

Saturday dawned, a bit grey and chilly, but not enough to dampen our enthusiasm! We rang the happy couple in and after the ceremony rang them out again. Some good ringing of rounds and call changes on 10 bells was the order of the day, always sounding melodic for weddings at St Alfege.

The service was lovely, with some musical harmonising of the hymns by our own Tower Captain, Graham, who is also a talented organist!

The bride looked beautiful in a full-length lace gown with short train, no veil but a tiara and an angora shrug, a necessity for a February wedding. The groom was likewise very handsome in his suit. The bridesmaid, Lola, niece of the bride, a picture in pink and white with a little basket, completed the party.

After the service, the guests assembled for photographs while we returned to the chamber for more ringing, some lovely Grandsire Triples and firing on all 10 bells, a favourite with our ringers and obligatory for weddings at St Alfege. Then the photographer requested that we come down for a photograph. As we were all wearing our usual, casual ringing attire, (except Graham who had thoughtfully brought a change of clothing), we were initially reluctant, but eventually descended to form a huddle behind the bride and groom. The photographs were taken and we favoured the guests with an impromptu rendition of a verse of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High', one of the wedding hymns chosen by Vicky and Andy in honour of the bells. Cont ..

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.....cont

Finally, we were released and raced back upstairs for a final ring.

Afterwards the guests repaired to The Cutty Sark Tavern, which was closed to the public, and enjoyed some refreshments and wedding cake and plenty of merriment!

The happy couple will be honeymooning in Cuba!

Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman

.....

Quarter Peal Rung in Celebration of the Wedding of Vicky Duguid and Andy Watson

St Alfege, Greenwich
Friday 8th February 2013
1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 47 mins (12 cwt)

1. Shelagh Norman
2. Jeremy Gilliland
3. Graham Cuthbert
4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C)
6. Alan Munden

To celebrate the wedding of Vicky Duguid (local ringer) and Andy Watson held at this church the following day. All members of The Meridian Ringers wish to be associated with this quarter.

Members of The Meridian Ringers also rang a touch of Stedman Doubles to enable our matriarch, Freda Cannon, to be included in the celebratory ringing.



Editorial



Apart from the weather I hope you all had a good Easter. They keep telling us that it's going to get warmer but looking out of my window at the garden with the wind blowing a gale and the sun nowhere in sight I don't feel that spring is on the way at all. This fact is not helped by my son posting photos on Facebook (sad, I know....) of the seemingly 'endless summer' in Sydney!

Thank you as always to those of you who have sent me articles for this edition of the Newsletter. I also had lots of jokes and amusing stories sent in which I really appreciate. Unfortunately I couldn't use them all this time but I certainly will in the future.

Congratulations to Matthew Smith of Erith CC for winning the competition to design a Logo for the Central Councils May 2014 meeting in Kent. Hopefully there will be a picture of his winning entry in the next Newsletter. Congratulations also to Elouise Scarth, also of Erith, who came joint 3rd. Matthews winning design has an Invicta horse ringing a bell.

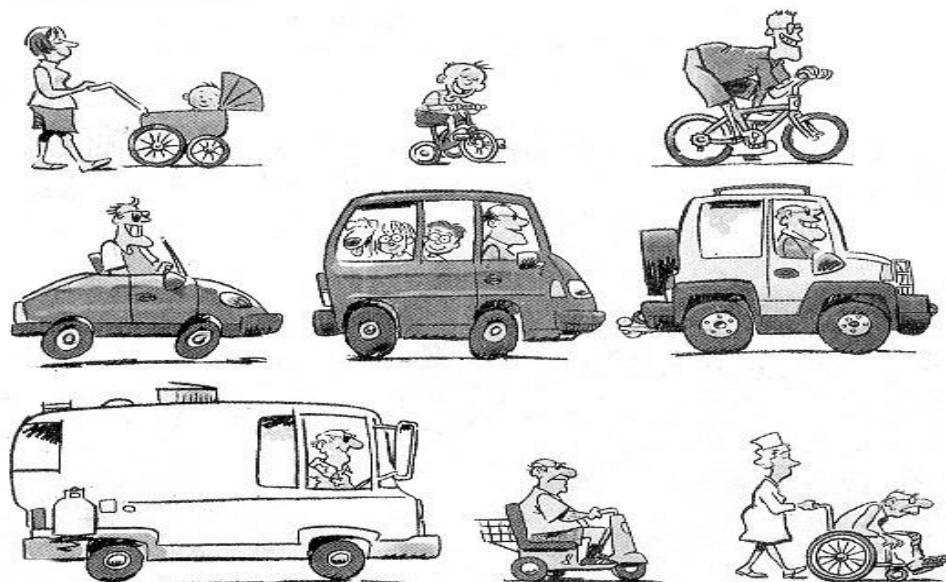
Now I'll leave you in peace to read

SueX

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The Wheels of Life



Eynsford Musicathon

We had the idea to do a Musicathon to raise money for a hospital I know in Zimbabwe. Our plan was to bring people together to make music for 24 hours non-stop.



I thought we might do some bell ringing in the morning of the second day and discussed this with David and others. A number of ideas were floated including a Zimbabwe themed peal (doesn't exist), creating a new method (don't be ridiculous), and just getting people together to have a ring (now you are talking). Eventually we settled on the last idea with Rupert Cheeseman and Nick Wilkins agreeing to arrange two bands to

come and visit.

We had started the Musicathon at 7:30 the previous evening with a concert of light opera. This ran into a nice folk session featuring works of the occasionally risqué, Jake Thackeray. The last major event of the Friday evening was a cabaret around midnight. Through the night local musical youths did 1 hour slots and I spent a pleasant hour from 2:30 to 3:30 am playing euphonium duets with a young friend.

I returned to the church at 08:30 to the "strains" of recorder



playing under the lych gate (the local running and cycling event had been cancelled because of freezing weather but the youngest section of the wind band managed playing outdoors very well).

We had planned to ring from 9 but the Eynsford ringers had largely dispersed so we put together a scratch jazz band from 9-10. It was excellent – and hopefully something we can develop for the future.

The ringers appeared at 10 and spirits were high, if not to say euphoric. Lots of fun was had and sleeplessness had removed any of my remaining brain cells. At 10:30 we tried to ring a quarter peal of St Martin's triples. It coughed and spluttered for a while before finally collapsing in a heap. Not



quite sure what I was ringing but it was rarely St Martin's. Nick and his crew of youngsters appeared at 11 and showed their usual vim and vigour. The tower was packed and there was much jollity.

After ringing we went onto a singing master class, a concert by the primary school choir, a concert of the youth band, rehearsals and a performance of Messiah, finally finishing up on the Sunday evening at 7:30.

For Hannah and I, the Musicathon was an epic event. I was waking with cold sweats of anxiety for three nights afterwards. We raised over £5,000 with some extremely generous contributions. Even more important than the money raised was the support we got from all quarters. I'd really like to thank Nick and Rupert for their enthusiasm and flexibility. Thanks also to the ringers of the district who came to help. I hope you enjoyed it – we did!

Jack Barker

Farnborough St Giles Bell Dedication Service

An hour before the Service was due to start, almost all of the St Giles ringers gathered in the ringing chamber to ring the new bells in celebration of the fact that for the first time in its history, and despite previous good intentions which for various reasons never came to fruition, St Giles at last had a peal of bells.

We were joined by other ringers, some of whom were staying for the Service and post Service celebration in the village hall, and others who were simply passing by to 'grab' the tower; one ringer had travelled from St Albans to ring at a new tower for them.

Prior to the Service there was last minute discussion on precisely what would happen when the Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge, visited the ringing chamber during the Service to dedicate the bells. Having sorted this out, we rang the bells up to the start time of the Service and then went to our various pews. The church was full and included many people involved with the bell installation; various invited guests, dignitaries and donors as well as the three previous Rectors.

At the point in the Service when the Dedication was to take place, the Bishop's party went to the base of the tower and then up to the ringing chamber and Dedicated the six new bells as well as, specifically, the number two bell which bears the inscriptions recording the names of Tess Molyneux and Ian Matheson and also the 1951 Gillet and Johnston bell was rededicated.

On descending the tower and returning into the church the Service continued and, a little later the offertory hymn which was the Bell Ringers hymn, Unchanging God, was sung with great gusto, particularly by the many bell ringers present.

After the Service there was a little more ringing as many of the congregation proceeded to the village hall for celebratory drinks and nibbles. The village hall gathering was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to mingle and meet various people involved with the bell installation project. May I here thank those who contributed in whatever way. There was physical work, financial contributions and donations and much planning and organisation and if any one element of the important sequence of events had not happened then the project would never have come to fruition. Additionally there was the training of ringers over the previous 12 months, mainly at Chelsfield. So thank you everyone.

I was humbled to be thanked by Matthew for my part in the project but it has been a team effort and, frankly, I have been doing something I enjoy so it has been a great pleasure.

As the celebrations started to wind down, six of us returned to St Giles church to ring a full peal of 5040 changes on the bells to mark the Dedication. This involved 2hrs and 28mins non-stop ringing. Those participating were those that had been involved in the bell installation project. The details are as follows:-

Kent County Association Farnborough, Kent St Giles the Abbot

Sunday 18 November 2012 in 2h 28m (3)

5040 Minor (7m)

(1 ext each Norwich, Kent TB, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge, St Clement's CB and Plain B)

- 1 Frank W Lewis
- 2 Paul M Mason
- 3 E Lesley Barclay
- 4 Dickon R Love
- 5 Adrian Dempster
- 6 Nicholas Wilkins(c)

First peal on the bells.

Rung after the Dedication Service for this new ring of bells conducted by the Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle, Bishop of Tonbridge.

May I conclude by thanking the Rector, Matthew, for his vision, support and enthusiasm for this project, without which the bell installation would never have got under way and also thank everyone else who has contributed in whatever way. If anyone would like to know more or visit the ringing chamber, please get in touch.

Nick Wilkins



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

Sunday 10am

BECKENHAM

Practice Thursday 19:50

Sunday 9am

BEXLEY

Practice Thursday 20:00

Sunday 9.30am

BICKLEY

Practice Wednesday 19:30

Sunday 10am

BIGGIN HILL

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Sunday 10am

BROMLEY

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Sunday 10am

BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

Sunday 5.30pm

C of E worship is now restricted to 8.00am and 6.00pm on Sundays. Ringing for the last 10.00am service to be held took place on Easter Day. Sunday ringing will now take place by arrangement at 5.30pm.

Chris Lawrance

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 10.45am & 5.45pm

We've just finished our Easter ringing marathon - we start at 7.30am for the 8am service, ring for the 11am service, and then ring for Evensong. It used to be more as our previous Rector held a 7am service as well on Easter morning for which we rang at 6.30am. Not so popular on the years, like this one, when British Summer Time started the same day and it felt like 5.30am! But there is something special about being around at that time in the morning on Easter Day, watching the sun rise through the East window as the service progresses. We're also fortunate that we have enough ringers to ring for all those services; I know that some towers

struggle to have any ringing at all at Christmas and Easter because people go away on holiday. At Chelsfield we also still ring the old Year out and the New Year in, a tradition which is also dying out. And how many churches in the District still have Evensong, or ring for it if they do? However this could all change for us soon as our Rector has just announced he is moving on, going to a parish in Cornwall, at the end of April. We'll keep our fingers crossed that we get a new Rector soon and he/she is as 'ringable' as the last two. In the mean time all are welcome to join us at our Sunday service ringing 10.30am and 5.45pm, and for practices on Mondays at 8pm.

Philippa Rooke

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00

Sunday 9.30am

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 8.45am

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Sunday 9.20am

CUDHAM

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

Sunday 10.30am

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 8.50am & 3rd Sunday 5.30pm

DOWNE

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 9am

ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Sunday 9.15am

Eltham ringers practice regularly on a Tuesday evening and aim to ring up to Stedman and Cambridge most weeks. We'd like to have enough people to ring Stedman Triples at some practices (mostly it's just Doubles at the moment), so if anyone would like to join us, do come along! Just turn up, or



let me know beforehand (t.h.baird@hotmail.co.uk) so we can be prepared.

On the social front we had a new year meal at the Eltham Prezzo. also back in August, ringers from Eltham and Chislehurst had a picnic get together in Avery Hill Park, which was much enjoyed, especially the games of boules. In September we went on a ringing outing around Petersfield Hampshire we rang at; Hawkley, privet, Warnford, Liss, Petersfield.

We have also rung as the Olympic torch passed, for all the Bells, Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service

Tom Baird

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 9.30am

The last two Wednesdays in January saw visits to the tower from Year 6, St Stephen's School in Welling where Liz Brett is Chair of Governors. The children have a school journey each Autumn to Rippledawn House near Deal. One of the activities is to visit the nearby church at Ringwould where they often have a talk about the bells so the Headteacher thought it would be interesting for them to visit a tower in this area. We started with a look at the tower from outside to explain what was on each level and also to tell them that the tower and bells were paid for Canon Boulden at an estimated current day cost of £1.5 million- that caught their interest! Then we had about 15 minutes in church looking at the paintings and other things that attracted their interest. Ron Armstrong, who is an expert on the wall-paintings, and the Vicar, Julie Conalty, helped out on this part of the visit. Finally the children got to come up the tower which was the main purpose of their visits. We had rigged up a camera overlooking the bells so that they could watch the bell ringing from the safety of the ringing chamber. Rachel talked about call changes and method ringing and then with the children (plus the adult helpers!) given a number between 1 and 8 we had them move around to call changes and plain hunting. Rachel had a couple of CDs so that they could listen to change ringing and handbell music. We finished with the handbells and after several turns managed to get something that was beginning to sound like 'Happy Birthday'; chosen as a tune they would know that was fairly straightforward. The children really enjoyed the visits and we received some nice 'thank-you' letters. They have also produced an excellent display for the school corridor – hopefully it will spark an interest in taking up ringing.

Rachel Backhouse & Liz Brett

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

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

Sunday 9.30am

EYNSFORD

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

Sunday 1st & 3rd 8.45am

FARNBOROUGH

Sunday 9.30am

Regular ringing continues at Farnborough on Sunday mornings from 9.30 to 10.00am, Sunday afternoon practices that sometimes lead on to ringing for the Evening Service at 6.30pm, and occasional Wednesday evening quarter peals. Bell handling lessons also take place on some Saturday mornings.

Pleasingly, ten of the new ringers at St Giles, Farnborough have now rung a quarter peal on the tenor behind to doubles and we are continuing to provide an opportunity for the others to do so when they are ready. We are also working on plain hunt at our practices such that various numbers of the new ringers have been able to achieve this in a band of all completely new ringers and so far one has plain hunted the treble to a quarter peal of bob doubles.

Our ringing chamber is now more cosy as we have had a nice new fitted carpet put down and we also now boast a heater – much needed this winter! Additionally, we have a new flat screen TV mounted on the wall which is connected to a belfry camera so new recruits and those with an interest in what's going on up in the tower can view the bells being rung full circle.

Thank you to those who have come along to help with quarter peals and bell handling lessons - we have a new wave of beginners who have just started learning and are making good progress.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors and assistance with our ringing is appreciated.

Nick Wilkins

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday

20:00

*Sunday 2nd & 4th
8.45am*

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday

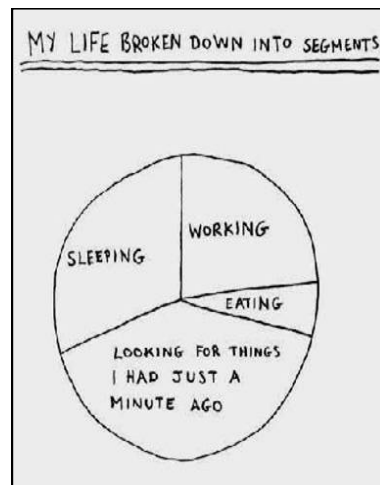
20:00

Sunday 9am (not 1st)

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Sunday 10am & 6pm



HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday 20.00

Sunday 1st 10.30am 2nd & 3rd 9am

I think our best news is that we have not one, but two new learners! As I said in the last newsletter practices have been a bit thin on the ground but with two keen new learners things are looking up. We are also really pleased to see Jim Rooke back on Thursday evenings. He has been a staunch supporter of Horton Kirby since we began back in 2000—not sure if it's us or the visits to the pub after ringing that is the biggest attraction—but who cares!

We now have our new vicar installed which is good news for St Marys but as you can see Sunday service times have changed with 4th and 5th Sundays being rota'd between the 3 churches the Rev. Nick looks after which keeps us on our toes!

Visitors are always welcome to our practice nights but please note that we now have to lock the church so if you arrive after 8pm there is a bell just to the right of the door which rings in the tower.

Sue Allport

LEWISHAM

Practice Monday 19.30

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

Practice Thursday 19:30

Sunday 9.30am

SHOREHAM

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 10am

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 9.15am

We are fortunate that we continue to ring for practices and Sunday morning services. Practices can range from Plain hunting to Cambridge and Norwich Surprise.

A quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Minor was rung in March to celebrate the life of Ken Gaved, the local curate and valued member of the local community:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 David Gebbett | 4 Phillip Sullivan (1st minor) |
| 2 Rosemary Stretton | 5 Jackie Toulmin |
| 3 Judith Fry | 6 Mike Christie (C) |

Ash Wednesday saw our annual ten pin bowling evening. Congratulations to Jackie Toulmin on winning and for organising the evening.

Our Holy week dinner was held at Prima Donnas in West Wickham, another successful evening.

Judith Fry

WILMINGTON



WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD The Meridian Ringers

Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-930pm, mostly at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich (please check beforehand).

In my last report, I forgot to mention about our Celebration Dinner on 7th July 2012 to celebrate Hazel and Bill's 60th birthdays, and also various other ringers' birthdays around this time.

We started the proceedings by ringing at St. Margaret's, Westminster – firstly attempting a Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples, Holt's Original, but unfortunately a couple of bells swopped and it was therefore called round after about 1100 changes. Nevertheless, it had been well struck; afterwards others came up for open ringing on the bells – the nearest most of us will ever get to ring at Westminster Abbey.

Once again, Dan Cocker organised for us to dine at The Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London – again, another splendid occasion which was made even more enjoyable for many who had arranged to stay the night at The Army & Navy Club. A superb breakfast was taken on the Sunday morning.

We have some more new learners, as well as Kieron who was mentioned in the October issue; Bernice (from the USA, who is also studying at Greenwich University); Giuseppina and Luigi (a couple, originally from Italy), Ken (who lives in Charlton) and some more potential recruits who hope to start soon.

BBC London came to us on 19th December to do some filming and interviews about the recently launched Bell *Ringling For Fitness* initiative. A short item about this was broadcast on BBC London News on 29th December.

We had our Christmas dinner at The Orchard Wine Bar, Brockley on Friday 1st February and had a great time.

We are having some good turnouts at practice nights, regularly ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods. We are usually doing some service ringing for the monthly Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month) at Greenwich and rang for Evensong at St. John's, Deptford on Easter Sunday..

The highlight of the year so far was Vicky Duguid's wedding – which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter with an article from Shelagh and Chris.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events – please check our website for further details:

www.meridianbells.webs.com.

GDL

Young people have theirs,
now Seniors have their own texting codes:

- * **ATD**- At the Doctor's
- * **BFF** - Best Friends Funeral
- * **BTW**- Bring the Wheelchair
- * **BYOT** - Bring Your Own Teeth
- * **CBM**- Covered by Medicare
- * **CUATSC**- See You at the Senior Citizens
- * **DWI**- Driving While Incontinent
- * **FWIW** - Forgot Where I Was
- * **GGPBL**- Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- * **GHA** - Got Heartburn Again
- * **LMDO**- Laughing My Dentures Out
- * **LOL**- Living on Lipitor
- * **TOT**- Texting on Toilet

Hope these help. GGLKI (Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!)

Thanks to Doug Fisher for this contribution.

Answers

All the answers have the word BELL in them:

- 1 A short bar with a weight at either end used for exercise dumbBELL
- 2 Part of the human body containing the stomach BELLY
- 3 The _____ of the Ball BELLe
- 4 A campanologist BELLringer
- 5 A poisonous plant, also called 'deadly nightshade' BELLadonna
- 6 To beautify or adorn something or someone emBELLish
- 7 Cry or shout with pain or emit a deep roar BELLow
- 8 Open resistance to authority reBELLion
- 9 A type of trouser with a marked flare below the knee BELLbottom
- 10 You ring this when you visit someone at their home doorBELL
- 11 A blue flower common in woods/gardens in late Spring blueBELL
- 12 An iron bar with discs at each end used in Weightlifting barBELL
- 13 A part of the brain at the back of the skull cereBELLum
- 14 Cone shaped 'camping accommodation' BELL tent
- 15 This is worn by Alpine cattle for easy location cowBELL
- 16 Aggressive or warlike behaviour BELLigerent
- 17 The fairy character from Peter Pan tinker BELL
- 18 These are rung by hand to make music handBELLs
- 19 A 'flat' dive BELLYflop
- 20 A cultivated garden plant with large blue flowers canterbury BELL
- 21 Oriental rhythmic movement performed by women BELLYdance
- 22 Cracked American bell with brotherly love liberty BELL
- 23 For when kids must stop their play school BELL
- 24 Jumping on one foot in a hotel BELLhop
- 25 For calling to a holy place church BELL
- 26 Women's magazine BELLa
- 27 German measles ruBELLa
- 28 Incorrect information - allegedly liBELLous
- 29 Greedy eater from Vietnam potBELLied pig
- 30 Type of plum miraBELLe

Rupert Cheeseman

Eltham Christmas & New Year Meal



On a typically cold Saturday evening in February the ringers of Eltham convened at Eltham Prezzo for a belated Christmas/New Year Dinner.



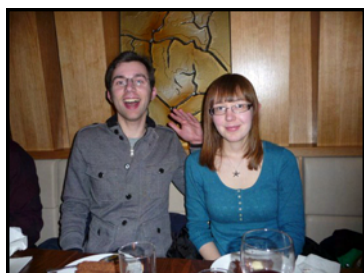
As always it was an excellent opportunity for new hands to meet those that are no longer Eltham regulars as well as letting everyone catch up with

ringers who have been unable to ring recently for health reasons.

Menus were browsed, choices debated and lovely food consumed. Then our resident Deliah Smith (aka Chris Devine) unveiled a



mouth-watering chocolate and Orange Birthday cake for Pauline, complete with an impressively dramatic candle! Needless to say we all found room for a slice of this delicious cake before heading happily on our way.



Tom Baird & Tiffany Kelly

Bellhandling Day

Running a bellhandling training day is a somewhat new initiative as I've only run one before so it was a surprise to find that the idea proved so popular. In fact I received so many replies from people interested in coming along that I had to turn away six keen learners!

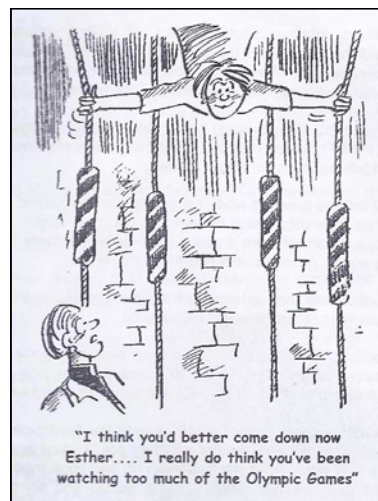
For those people who were there the day started (after a couple of technical issues) with some videoing of the learners' styles. After reviewing the videos and identifying potential areas for improvement we broke down the ringing action and starting working on areas of weakness, stopping only to sustain our energies with tea and biscuits.

After lunch the learners all had their ringing styles recorded again and it became obvious to everyone how much they had all improved. Congratulations must all go to all the learners for their hard work and open-mindedness and thanks to the other tutors who came to help on the day.

There was so much demand for this training day that I am trying to organise another one – more details to follow if I manage to find a date.

Training days will be held on 13th April (ringing up and down in peal), 9th June and 12th October (both general – tailored to what students require). If you are interested in any of these dates please e-mail me at training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk.

Dominic Meredith



Striking Competition 2013

The 2013 striking competition was held at Chelsfield. Home advantage is often important but in this case Chelsfield really didn't need any extra help as only one other tower managed to get a band together. 5 other people were not ringing for either team and along with Karen who 'won' the draw to be the twice ringing sixth ringer they made up a scratch band. Peter Harrison from Kensington had come along to judge and once he was ensconced beneath the tower the competition began.

All three teams completed a test piece with varying degrees of excitement. After a short deliberation Peter gave the following comments and result.

Band 1 (12m 40s) – Tenor was slow covering and treble turned away from the front too quickly. Recovered well from a bad start. Some parts very good in the second part.

Band 2 (8m 15s) – Rang the least opening rounds. Tenor slow at back throughout. Back bells slowing up in change.

Band 3 (8m 55s) – Rows quite good when clean. Leading was slow which caused the tenor to crunch on the row because of this. When trip free very good. Recovered quickly from crunches.

Position	Position Rang	Tower	Faults
1 st	2 nd	Chelsfield	22
2 nd	3 rd	Crayford	66
3 rd	1 st	Scratch	86



Congratulations to Chelsfield for retaining the trophy and they now go on to represent Lewisham district in the county competition in September. It may not have been his most difficult decision ever but thanks to Peter for coming out to judge it and to Chelsfield for hosting and providing the tea and cakes. Let's hope that next year more towers will be able to enter a band.

Rupert Cheeseman



LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

- * Memory was something that you lost with age
- * An application was for employment
- * A program was a TV show
- * A cursor used profanity
- * A keyboard was a piano
- * A web was a spider's home
- * A virus was the flu
- * A CD was a bank account
- * A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- * A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
- * And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppyyou just hoped nobody found out



120 Report 2012 - 2013

Income

Shares sold 105 £1050-00
Prizes not taken 2011-12 £5-00

Totals £1055-00

BRF contribution for 2012-13 £547-69

Expenditure

Prizes £470-00
Bexley Council Fee £20-00
Expenses (stamps, copying etc) £17-31

£507-31

January draw held at Crayford District Meeting January 12th 2013

1 st	74	Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby)
2 nd	19	Esther Correia (Dartford)
3 rd	120	Chris Backhouse (Pasadena)
4 th	116	120 Club



March draw held Chelsfield Striking Competition March 2nd 2013

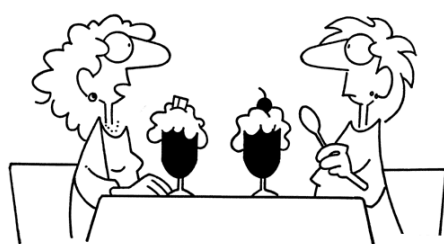
1 st	71	Jon Pettyfer (Horton Kirby)
2 nd	90	Phillipa Rooke (Chelsfield)
3 rd	52	Mark Backhouse (CC Erith)
4 th	9	Deryck Jones (Dartford)



We will start again for 2013-14 at the April meeting at Lewisham. Thank you to those of you who have already joined and for any others please consider joining and help our district contribute to the County Bell Restoration Fund. In recent years several towers in the district have received grants from the BRF. Last year we had supporters in 19 different towers in the district plus some from outside.

It costs £10 for 1 year with 10 draws a year and at least 4 prizes (£20, 2 by £10 and £5) each time (double the number of prizes in July and December). The only restriction is that you must be aged at least 16 to hold a share in your name. Forms always available from me or they can be printed off from District Website.

Rachel Backhouse



"If you put a crouton on your sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad."



"I have metal fillings in my teeth. My refrigerator magnets keep pulling me into the kitchen. That's why I can't lose weight!"



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Crayford 12th January 2013

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Nancy & Doug Fisher (Biggin Hill), Karen Robinson & Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby), Deryck Jones (Dartford), Jim & Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield), Alex Britton (unattached)

2. Minutes of last meeting

Two spelling corrections: under apologies, Jim Rooke (not Rook). Under proposal of non resident life member: Alex Britton (not Brittan).

The minutes were then adopted

Proposed: Nick Wilkins, Seconded: Cathy Cheeseman, Vote unanimous.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officer Reports

Chairman – Rupert Cheeseman

This can be found under 'Chairman's Bit' in the newsletter.

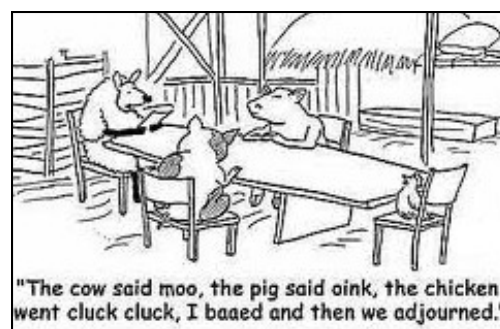
Ringing Master – Ian Mills

This year there is a full schedule of practices building upon the success of those run in 2012. This year there will be not just six and eight bell towers; there will be ten and five bell towers too. The ringing will, as always be tailored to those who attend; everyone will be made welcome and are encouraged to come along. The events calendar is on the website and a copy in each newsletter. The next practice will be on 18th January at Beckenham 19:45 start.

Training – Dominic Meredith—given by Rupert in Dom's absence

District Training Calendar 2013

There are currently four district training events organised for this year. If there is sufficient demand and a date can be found I will consider adding a fifth, probably sometime in August or September. Following last year's experiment with having training mornings before District Meetings I would like to continue this, with training events in the morning before the April and October meetings.



February's training day will be a specific bell-handling day on tied bells. We have had one day like this before and it went very well. It is intended for people who can handle a bell but have some faults they would like ironed out. For more information e-mail me at training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk.

The April training day (held before the District Meeting at Lewisham) is a new innovation and will be focused on ringing up and down in peal, initially on three bells. It is aimed at people who can already ring up and down safely and (reasonably) confidently but would like experience of ringing up and down in peal. It will be held at Beckenham unless a more suitable venue can be found (any offers?). Ringing up and down is likely to be hard work for the helpers if there aren't very many so the more people who can come along as 'rope fodder' the better.

The final two training days will be tailored to the requirements of the learners, as has been the case with previous training days. The October day is in the morning before the Annual Meeting.

Sat 9 th Feb	District Training Day – Bell-handling. Beckenham, 10:00am
Sat 13 th Apr	District Training Morning – Ringing Up and Down in Peal. Beckenham, 10:00am
Sat 9 th Jun	District Training Day – venue tbc. General training day
Sat 12 th Oct	District Training Morning – venue tbc. General training day.

One final point: I will be standing down as training officer at the October meeting. If anyone is interested in taking over the role and wants to find out more please feel free to ask.

Newsletter – Sue Allport

Sue told the meeting that she was finding the January newsletter increasingly difficult to produce due to it's proximity to Christmas. She proposed that there be only two newsletters a year, April & October. The lack of articles was another problem. Rupert advised the meeting that the newsletter is what we make it – if few articles are received then it will be very slim. David Holdridge said that he felt it was important to have four editions even if smaller in content. This opinion was echoed by many in attendance. Rachel Backhouse commented that it was important to have the four editions especially to advertise District Events and reminders such as Subs being due and 120 club draw. Sue assured the meeting that there would be an April edition.

120 Club – Rachel Backhouse

Rachel reminded us all that the new 120 club year starts in April, in fact some had been purchased already!

5. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Helen Sims	Ash-by-Wrotham	Brenda Barton	Gabrielle Stook
Julia Kilfoyle	Ash-by-Wrotham	Gabrielle Stook	Rupert Cheeseman
Bethany Kirrage	Dartford	Brenda Barton	Esther Correia
Jeremy Gilliland	Greenwich	Shelagh Norman	Christine Goldsmith

Election of non resident Life Members: Paul M Mason (Kettering) and Adrian Dempster (Nottingham).
Proposed: Nick Wilkins, Seconded: Lesley Barclay Prior to the first peal on the bells at Farnborough.
All were elected unanimously.

6. 120 Club Draw

	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	74	Mick McDonnell	Horton Kirby
2 nd	19	Esther Correia	Dartford
3 rd	120	Christopher Backhouse	Erith Christ Church
4 th	116	120 Club	Bell Restoration Fund

Thanks were given to Rachel for running the 120 Club so efficiently (*and her glamorous assistant!*)

7. KCACR committee Report

24th November Margaret Heald and Dominic Meredith attended for the district. Margaret updated the meeting.

Only Lewisham has a dedicated training officer. Other districts delegate training to their Ringing Master. Meeting concluded district activities be included in county training. Sub-committee to be established.

West Peckham to be transferred to Maidstone District at request of Tonbridge.

50 Year Membership Certificates—The county secretary needs to have the names by the end of December, especially important this year as we have a new Archbishop (who needs to sign the certificates).

Northfleet—Some aspects of the accident are still rumbling on. The suggestion has been made that a specialist be consulted. The meeting agreed to up to £1000 being spent on professional advice.

Gift Aid— Gift Aiding membership subs would be problematic and possibly not worth it. It may be possible to Gift Aid part of the subscription if the old split between General Fund and BRF subs is restored.

Website has moved service provider . The Webmaster appealed for more content (if anything is going to the Ringing World it would be good to see it on the KCACR website first)

The ITTS course which was due to run at Staplehurst was cancelled due to a lack of interest.

A new ring of bells is going in at Strood

The Child Protection Officer will be distributing laminated sheets with child protection guidelines and best practice. The CP officer has been in contact and will attend the April meeting.

Handbook returns will be sent out imminently. They should have a box to request the number of handbooks that a tower wants, rather than one per member.

Bell Restoration—Some interest in a tower maintenance day - including two from Farnborough and one from Bexley Three grants were made from the BRF, to Strood (£10,000), Monkton (£2,000) and Bobbing (£8,000).

Health and Safety—There have been issues with ringers with underlying health issues. There will be a form put on the website to assess risk.

There have been problems with finding judges for County striking competitions. Districts should find standby judges (from within the District if necessary). Enhanced guidelines for organising competitions are to be issued.

AGM will probably be held at All Saints' Birchington. Margaret Funnell standing down as Secretary.

The Ringing World Calendar 2014 will feature towers from Kent. Please send any good photos of Kent towers in for consideration. Further information on the website. The KCACR will have 1000 copies to sell.

The CCCBR meeting 2014 will be based at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, Bearsted & Headcorn church hall. County 8 Bell Comp. 29th June at Cliffe-at-Hoo. The draw will be at 2:45pm. Method will be Plain Bob Major.

County Six Bell Comp. 28th September at Lamberhurst (tbc). The draw will be at 2:45pm.

Essex Trophy—The meeting congratulated the band, who won for the first time in 27 years.
Ian Mills is to be asked if he will organise the band for next year's competition.

The enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury will be on 21st March (ticketed only). There will also be a service of celebration on 23rd March, which is open to all.

Next County Meeting 23rd February.

8. AOB

Rupert advised the meeting that the KCACR will be hosing the Central Council Meeting in 2014 and as usual a logo will be designed for this event. There is a competition for young ringers (under 25) to design a logo. Details can be found on the poster in the Newsletter or on the County website.

Ian Mills informed the meeting of a consultation taking place in relation to current ringing and recruitment being collated for the Kent Association by Peter Dale (Dover). There were two main questions being posed:-

- Should the Association adopt the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme ITTS?
- Should the Association set up funding to facilitate it?
- Would Lewisham district be willing to organise a course?

The ITTS works in conjunction with the 'Association of Ringing Teachers' and has two modules. It is aimed at teaching young people to ring and to 'Teach the Teachers'.

The following concerns were raised. Gabrielle Stook had concerns regarding Insurance cover of those not holding the ITTS certification. Will 'Grandfather Rights' be given to those already teaching?

Ian Mills and Cathy Cheeseman advised that there is quite an amount of comment, in the Ringing World.

Ian was asked, in his capacity of Ringing Master, to circulate an email to the towers for further considered comment. He would collate the responses for onward reply to Mr Dale.

Striking Competition – 2nd March 2013 - Rupert reminded the meeting that a venue is needed. Nick Wilkins volunteered Chelsfield and would check that there weren't any conflicting events at the church on that day.

Rachel Backhouse reminded all towers that the Subs for 2013 are now due.

There was a request for the Newsletter to be updated with Lewisham Tower practice night details.

Sue Cameron advised the meeting that there was a new website aimed at non-ringers www.bellringing.org. It is informative, has an easy to read layout and may be worth taking a look at for beginners and experienced ringers alike. There is a link on it for follow ups to be made to those requesting further information.

Sue thanked all the towers for the efficient returns for the 2013 Tower Handbook.

Clothing and Ringing Resources are available from Shelagh and Chris - speak to them after the meeting.

9. Vote of Thanks

David Holdridge proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev Sarah Corry for conducting the Service and to Nick Turner for playing the organ. Rupert and the Crayford Ringers were thanked for hosting the meeting, the splendid tea and organising the bells.

Next meeting is at Lewisham on 13th April 2013.