

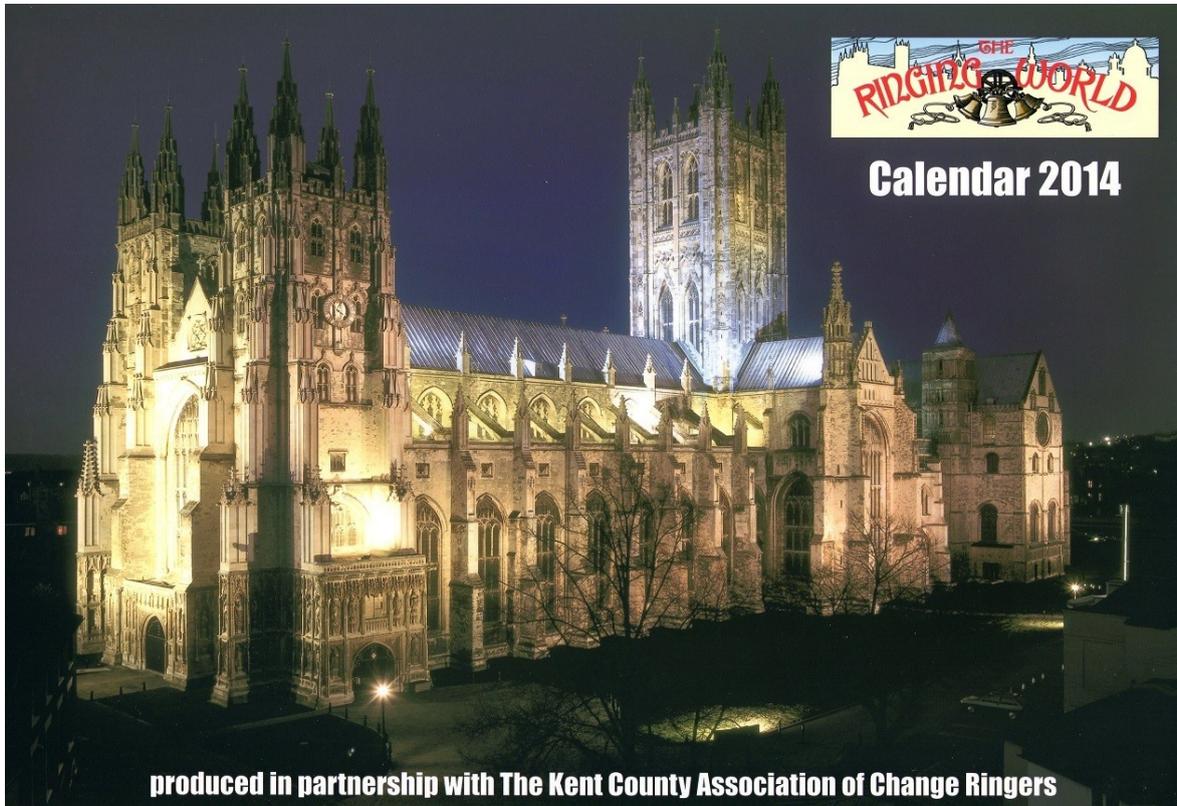


LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

OCTOBER 2013



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For further info see www.kcacr.org.uk

District officer e-mail directory

Website:

www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Chairman:

Rupert Cheeseman
chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Secretary:

Sue Cameron
sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Rachel Backhouse
memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Ringing Master:

Ian Mills
master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Assistant Master:

David Macey
ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Training Officer:

Dominic Meredith
training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

District Representatives:

Brenda Barton
rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Dominic Meredith
rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Sales Representative:

Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith
sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Sue Allport
newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Chairman's bit

And so another year in the district goes by.

The District meetings were well attended and thanks to Crayford, Lewisham and Eynsford for hosting them. It was especially good for the new band at Lewisham to host and even more so that they will also be hosting the County AGM next Easter Monday. We'll be looking for offers of help with this in the new year as well as asking for towers to be open on the day.

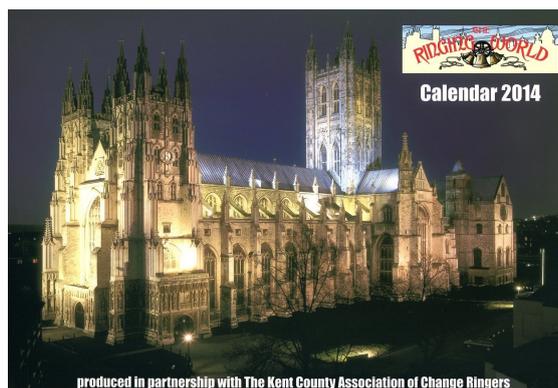
Ian has organised District practices roughly once a month. Unfortunately, a couple had to be cancelled for a variety of reasons but they have been generally well attended but it would always be nice to see new people at them. They are tailored to whoever turns up so come along and make the most of them.

The District won the County Striking Competition for the third year in a row with a comfortable win at Cliffe in June. It also provided a large part of the band that won the 10 bell Essex Trophy for the KCACR at Beddington in September.

As it's ADM time, all the District Officers posts are up for election and towers will be needed to host the District meetings next year. Please think about whether your tower can host one especially if they have not done so for a while.

The Ringing World calendar this year features Kentish towers including Bickley and Biggin Hill from our District. They cost £7 and all profits, when bought from us rather than direct from the Ringing World, go to the KCACR BRF so please see Chris or Shelagh to get one.

Rupert



Editorial



Well the summer has gone and autumn is truly with us. The days are getting shorter and cooler but there have been some beautiful sunrises and sunsets at least over Horton Kirby!

This newsletter is disappointingly short considering it is 6 months since the last one. I can only assume that there have been few outings and not many notable events in your tower worth writing about.

The newsletter is about YOU and YOUR TOWER.

I have gleaned what I can from various emails that have fortunately come my way and articles sent by my regular contributors—you know who you are and without your news there would be little else to include so a BIG thank you to you.

I know the request went to all Tower Contacts so if you weren't told about it then I suggest you change your contact because they clearly aren't doing their job!

If I am still editor of the newsletter after the ADM then the next issue will be in April, but without more support I won't be doing another! It is very time consuming when there are few articles as I have to try and fill the space as best I can and it is not just a case of 'cut and paste' as you may think.

When I have lots of news it's easy!!

Think on this— maybe you would like to give it a try?

Suex

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Chatham, St Mary's Bells

Dear Secretaries,

Please inform your district's ringers at your ADMs that, all being well, the ring of 8 bells in the above tower will be removed, commencing Sat 16th Nov.

They are being transferred to Gorran, St Goranus, in Cornwall (via Taylor's of Loughborough).

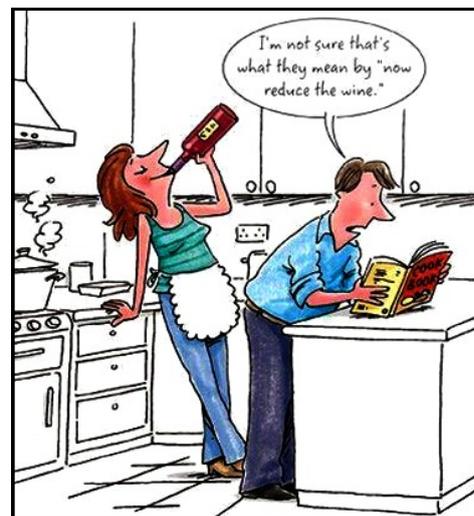
Consequently, there will be an Open Tower for all those wishing to "grab" the bells before their transfer.

The Open Tower Day is Sat 2nd Nov, ringing from 10:00-14:00. Please bring a torch as there's no power in the church.

A donation of £1/ringer is requested.

Regards,

Tim Wraight.



120 Club

A Poem

April 13th at Lewisham

1 st	118	David Roddy (Sidcup)
2 nd	77	Alastair Scott (Bromley Common)
3 rd	108	120 Club
4 th	20	Ian Nurdin (Ash)

May 18th at Beckenham

1 st	2	Pauline Morley (Eltham)
2 nd	103	Alex Britton
3 rd	10	David Hilling (Eynsford)
4 th	55	Deryck Jones (Dartford)

June 15th at Bickley

1 st	84	Hannah Clark (Hayes)
2 nd	27	Antony Fisher (Eynsford)
3 rd	54	Rob and Jackie Duke (Bromley Common)
4 th	107	Brenda Barton (Dartford)

July 13th at Eynsford

1 st	97	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
1 st	81	Sue Cameron
2 nd	59	Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby)
2 nd	36	Alan Smith (Charlton Kings)
3 rd	48	Esther Correia (Dartford)
3 rd	118	David Roddy (Sidcup)
4 th	39	Liz Brett (CC Erith)
4 th	102	Fiona Byers (Beckenham)

Rachel Backhouse

*Oh! to be a ringer, and to ring most every day
To join in with all those friends who say
they'll help me on my way.
They'll teach me how to dodge with them,
and then come back to lead
And maybe ring a peal some day - but rope
sight is my need.*

*Oh! to learn some rope sight and to see
where I should ring
What pleasure it would be to know I'm
doing the right thing.
Some reward for all their patience when,
time and time again
I make mistakes and fail once more the
rhythm to maintain.*

*The music of the bells is sweet, there's
nothing to compare,
And when they're rung correctly they're a
joy for all to hear,
O'er hill and dale for miles around, the
sound of bells is spread
A call to prayer, thanksgiving, or to bless
the newly wed.*

*Oh! to be a ringer and to strike my bells on
time,
Make places, lead correctly, and remember
the blue line.
Ring Bobs and Singles with them, maybe
Triples too, some day
What thanks I owe to all those friends who
help me on my way.*

Anonymous from a church wall somewhere in Sussex.

Contributed by Chris Goldsmith



Eltham & Chislehurst Outing



The 31st August proved to be a surprisingly sunny day as Ringers from Eltham and Chislehurst converged on Egerton near Ashford for the start of their outing. Once we had all struggled up the steep and tightly winding spiral staircase we all managed to have a reasonable ring despite the added difficulty of the bells being hung anti-clockwise.

From Egerton we went on to Little Chart which only dates from the 1950's, the original church having been hit by a stray bomb during the Second World War. The ring of six bells is relatively light, which proved a challenge for one of the less experience ringers who unfortunately broke a stay, during the first lot of rounds and call changes. Fortunately Ian and then David were on hand to ring the bell without the stay allowing everyone to get a ring.

Pluckley was the next tower - it had lovely bells. The tower was reached via a short stair case from a kitchenette, and the ringing chamber felt quite cramped once most of the ringers had entered.

Lunch at a local pub was a reasonable success - the service wasn't too slow and despite the large group there was only the one order missing, which they quickly rectified. We enjoyed the food so much that we found ourselves running late for the next venue.

High Halden was the only ground floor ring of the day. They were actually rung from around the entrance beneath an extremely beautiful tower. Unfortunately our ability to explore this interesting church was limited as part of it was unsafe.

The final church of the day was Appledore, which had fruit and vegetables for sale in the porch and a wonderful tapestry depicting the village's history. It was originally a ground floor ring



but some years ago had a first floor ringing chamber inserted.



To finish the day we descended on Miss Mollett's High Class Tea Room. Unfortunately Neville's best efforts to encourage us to go there in smaller groups at different times didn't really workout and we completely took over the small tea room. Fortunately it was a delicious afternoon tea so all who stayed for it left very happy.

Tom Baird

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

Practice Saturday 9:30am

Sunday 10am

January saw us ringing in the New Year with our usual party. We also played host to a walking tour, giving them a tour and 'first pull'.

We celebrated St Agatha's day in February with a display and our own service. Bishop James visit was celebrated with extra ringing. After practice on Shrove Tuesday we had our traditional pancakes.

In March some of us had a train outing to Cumbria, blessed with sunshine for the run along the coast. A band outing to London included St Mary le Bow for lunch, hearing both their bells and some Buxtehude in the main church. St Paul's were also ringing and we managed to chime the biodiversity bell. A walk along the south bank identifying churches concluded with a visit to the Ideal Home Exhibition.

April saw the band taking advantage of KCACR AGM to have a mini tower tour. Rev Canon Ruth Oates was installed on 16th to the sound of bells. The band celebrated St Georges day with its first home grown Q for 25 yrs. Our grateful thanks to all who helped us get thus far.

May saw a second Q. We were also able to join Holy Trinity's mini tower tour, blessed with sunshine, blossom and conviviality.

The church fête in June saw the band heavily involved on the field with not enough fit ringers to open the tower as well.

York was an outing in July, visiting the A5 Pacific gathering and listening to the National Youth Ringing Competition.

The district outing to London in August was well supported and we enjoyed the challenge of new bells and listening to the glorious sound of others ringing. The summer has been rounded out by weddings.

September has seen the installation of a second vicar Rev Elizabeth..... and this week will see us ringing for harvest festival.

Gabrielle

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

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 10.45am & 5.45pm

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

Practices continue to be well attended and as well as the standards of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, we've progressed onto Kent and occasionally Cambridge minor.

We also continue to ring regular quarters and, among other things, have rung them for the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation, the 25th anniversary of our Vicars ordination, our curate leaving and, on a sad note, before the funeral of our former tower captain Nancy Robins.

Chris has rung her first Plain Bob inside, Shelagh her first Grandsire and Cathy her first Bristol.

Rupert

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 are arguably one of the best light eights in the District - if not in the whole of London (or so I am told!)

We 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)

These last couple of months have been quite busy here at Eltham. In late August we repeated our Picnic in Avery Hill Park with all enjoying some good food, excellent company and a game of Boules.

The Chislehurst and Eltham outing was on the last day of August around the Ashford area, a write up of which is included else where in the newsletter.

The saddest story however as been that Len and Pauline Morley moved to Warwickshire this September. Their absence will be felt at Eltham, as they were both dedicated ringers, in the case of Len we believe for about 25 years.

Tom Baird

ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am*

We have had three adult learners with us now for some time – one, Natalie, did ring a number of years ago and has now taken it up again. She and Ken, another learner, are now

ringing on Sundays. We also have been visited by Adrian, a young ringer here several years ago. Now recently married and living in the area, he has attended several practice nights.

Practices continue to be well attended by both the Erith ringers and by our regular visitors.

In July, we had our annual Belfry Lunch at the 'Bank' restaurant in Bexleyheath. The food was fine but, to the dismay of a number of us, the restaurant does not stock any cask ales and the bottled beers available were foreign!

Most of the band took part in the annual Lewisham/Tonbridge outing to London in August. This was a good experience for all, particularly our learners.

Liz

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

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*

We welcome ringers from other towers to join us at our Thursday practice: we have several regulars and some who visit a few times a year. Recently we were delighted to see someone who hasn't rung for 5 years who used to be a regular on Tuesdays. All are welcome.

Our two most recent learners have made excellent progress and now join the main practice at 8.00pm but there is still an early session most weeks at 7.30pm. (call or email Lesley to check).

Out tower outing in October is to be a joint venture with Farnborough starting at Horton Kirby, visiting some local towers and finishing at Farnborough. I am sure there will then be the obligatory visit to a local hostelry.

Lesley

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringling 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

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).

Not a lot to report at the moment as we have just started practices again after the summer recess. We have some reasonable turnouts at practice nights, sometimes 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 occasionally for Evensong at St. John's, Deptford. At present, there is scaffolding around the tower at Woolwich so we are not ringing there at the moment.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Restoration of St. Alfege, Greenwich which was destroyed by enemy action in World War II – the bells were not restored until the following year in 1954.

As we only had six ringers at our latest practice we decided to mark this by ringing the following touch:

Wednesday 25th September 2013

A Touch of 620 Doubles (Grandsire/Plain Bob) in 20 minutes

Treble Hazel Bing	2 Shelagh Norman
3 Bill Lanyon (joint cond)	4 Jim Odell
5 Graham Long (joint cond)	Tenor Alan Munden

We aim to ring some quarters later this year to mark the anniversary and will also be celebrating the restoration of the bells next year.

On the social side, we will be having a dinner at the Ashburnham Arms in November and will also have our annual Christmas meal in January next year.

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events – please check our website for further details:
www.meridianbells.webs.com.

GDL





Training

And Lewisham District needs YOU too!

We all know we need to recruit and encourage new ringers, but who should actually be doing the recruiting and the resulting training?

Daniel Brady, Training Officer for KCACR, says it should be done at all levels – “County, District or tower, it is up to all of us to promote this ancient art”. But he finds it difficult to provide many training events as a county due to the distance ringers would have to travel. So Daniel suggests we “ensure we have a base of strong teachers ...” by Teacher Training events to ensure everyone teaches the skills in the same way.

In Lewisham we already have plenty of very experienced ringers who pass their skills on to others in their towers every week. We are also lucky to have a willing Training Officer, Dominic Meredith, in our district, something not all districts possess. So how many of Dom’s training sessions have actually taken place this year? The answer is just one. The only one that did take place was so oversubscribed that it left many ringers without a place disappointed. Two of Dom’s other training sessions didn’t happen at the last minute due to the lack of helpers on the day. This is very disheartening, especially when you’ve been waiting nearly 2 years for the same training.

So where are the experienced ringers in Lewisham District?

Some of them are already volunteering once a week to train new bands. But you don’t have to volunteer to help an extra day a week. If each experienced ringer were available once a year, there would be plenty of helpers for Dom’s training sessions.

You may think that you are not an ‘experienced ringer’ and so would not be ‘good enough’ to help with training, but there are lots of ways ringers of all abilities could be useful; it would be worth contacting Dom to offer help so that he could work out the best ways different people could be utilised effectively. In that way he would have a ‘pool’ of helpers to choose from and it would not always be left to the same small group of people.

Some beginners say they are put off by not having enough time to practice at their level in their own towers. If we have been lucky enough to recruit new ringers, do we want to lose them? Or could we try harder to give them the training they need by signing up to help out once a year?

Remember we have all been beginners and have all benefitted from other ringers’ help and advice – (some of us still are!)

Please volunteer to help Dom and the future of Bell ringing!

Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman

County 8 Bell Competition



A lovely sunny day welcomed all 6 Districts for a change to take part in this years County 8 bell competition on 29th June at Cliffe in the Rochester District. As well as the weather the Cliffe ringers provided a lovely spread of tea. Richard Carter and Jon Spreadbury from Norwich had come to judge and once they had found a comfortable spot in the churchyard, Ashford kicked off the competition. A couple of hours later Maidstone were the final team to successfully complete the 240 Plain Bob Major test piece.

After a brief deliberation the judges were ready. A guided tour had taken over the church so everyone sat back out in the sun for the results. The County Chairman, Mike Little, introduced Richard and Jon. Jon started with the comments:

All the teams rang very well so it was hard to separate some of the teams. Some of the following comments are possibly a bit on the hard side.

Band 1 - Peal speed 3h 01. Slightly choppy start but settled down well. Front bells especially good. Generally the compass of the ringing was good. Even when faults, the change stayed the right length. Most faults were in the middle of the change.

Band 2 - 2h 58. The word that came to mind was purposeful. Rang well. The changes flowed nicely from one change to the next. No particular pattern to any errors.

Band 3 - 3h 19. Slightly hesitant start. The tenor tried to set a speed but the others didn't want to play. Faults were primarily around the lead end. Treble leading good. Took a long time to settle, second half much better.

Band 4 - 3h 02. Slightly inconsistent and again took a long time to agreed a speed and second half much better once the speed had been agreed. No great pattern to the faults.

Band 6 - 3h 04. Started well but bells leaving lead incurred faults. Back bells kept good pace but didn't have support from the little bells.

Richard then announced the result.

Position	Rang	District	Peal Speed	Faults
1st	2nd	Lewisham	2h 58	22
2nd	4th	Canterbury	3h 02	42
3rd	1st	Ashford	3h 01	44
4th	5th	Tonbridge	3h 03	70
5th	6th	Maidstone	3h 04	71
6th	3rd	Rochester	3h 19	74



L to R Peter Swift, Nick Wilkins, Rachel Backhouse, Ian Mills (C)

Rupert Cheeseman, David Hilling, Dom Meredith, David Macey

So we increased our winning streak to 3 after successfully defending the trophy for a second time.

Rupert

Team Kent retain the Essex Trophy

For the second year running Kent have won the Essex Trophy and once again half of the winning team came from the Lewisham District.

The competition took place at St Mary's, Beddington in Surrey with the test piece a half course of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal conducted by David Hilling.

The results were as follows:

1st place	Kent	69%
2nd place	Surrey	64%
3rd place	Sussex	62%
4th place	Essex	59%
5th place	Guildford Guild	58%



The winning Kent team

Clockwise from top left: Mark Chittenden-Pile, Damien Smith, Mike Birkbeck, Colin Wyld, David Macey, Peter Swift, Alex Britton, Liz Barnes, David Hilling (C), Graham Heath.

The band wish to associate Ian Mills with this success as he was unfortunately unable to ring at the last minute due to an illness in his family. Ian pulled the whole thing together and we wish to thank him for all his arrangements.

The 2014 competition will be hosted by the KACR, venue and method TBA!

Graham Heath

My 1st Quarter

After receiving the e-mail in early February from Libby Alexander about 'Ringing for England' on St George's Day, our Tower Captain, Mary Andrews, thought it would be the perfect opportunity for me to ring my first Quarter Peal. So, at 7pm on the evening of 23rd April, one of the warmest days so far, the six of us met at St Mary's Tower. I was very apprehensive, to say the least, but grateful that it was the Treble I was ringing and not one inside.

After ringing up we settled in to ringing a few comfortable rounds and then our Conductor, Margaret Bellinger, called it off and we were away. At first I was just concentrating on my places (I had the easy bit!) and after a few Bobs were called I started to settle in and feel a lot more comfortable. It must have been about halfway through when I started thinking about how warm and stuffy it was and how we hadn't switched the fans on! Fortunately my day dream only lasted a while and we continued to successfully complete our quarter peal in 41 minutes. Apparently, it's quite common for your mind to wander, so I was not alone.

My thanks go out to the rest of the band for supporting me in my first Quarter, and to the other ringers in my tower, particularly Margaret, who have patiently stood by me for the last 8 years why I have learnt the art of bell ringing and taking my first few steps towards learning methods and ringing 'inside'. My final thanks to Mary Andrews for teaching me to ring - an amazing ringer and teacher.

Now I have to summon up the courage for my first quarter ringing inside!

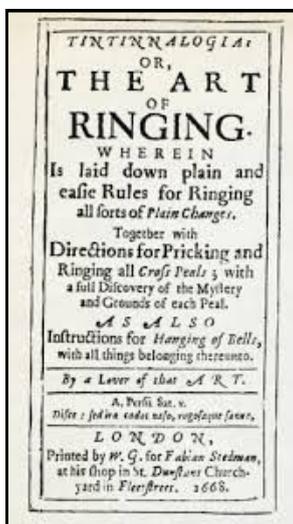
Quarter Peal Rung in Celebration of St George's Day 23rd April 2013 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 41mins.

1. Angela Jackson-Smith (1st Quarter Peal)
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Karen Robinson
4. Jeremy Gilliland
5. Margaret Bellinger (cond)
6. Alan Munden

Angela Jackson-Smith

Ringling for the 300th anniversary of Stedman's death

Fabian Stedman is often dubbed 'the father of change ringing'. He is best known to most modern ringers as the author of the method that bears his name. It stands out among methods not only because it is the most commonly rung principle but because its structure makes possible



enormous diversity of composition and music without excessive length. But Stedman's most significant contribution to the Exercise was undoubtedly as the publisher of the first two books on change ringing: *Tintinnologia* in 1668 (a joint effort with Richard Duckworth who supplied much of the content) and *Campanalogia* in 1677 (which Stedman wrote as well as published). *Tintinnologia* was clearly popular because it was reprinted the year after it was published.

We take books on ringing for granted (and other sources like the *Ringling World Diary* or ringing websites) and it is hard for us to imagine a world where the only way to learn about methods was by personal explanation or private hand written notes. Change ringing was still in an early stage of development in the late 17th century. The dominant form was 'plain changes', where only one pair of bells swap in each change, and it was gradually being supplanted by 'cross peals', where several pairs may cross at each change – which we consider normal today.

Fabian Stedman was baptised at Yarkhill Church on 7th December 1640. He was the second son of the Reverend Francis Stedman, so unlike his older brother who entered the priesthood, Fabian was apprenticed to Daniel Pakeman, a master printer in London, where Stedman became a prominent ringer. In later life he appears to have dropped out of ringing, and also changed jobs to become auditor to Customs and Excise for the Crown.



On 17th October 1713 he wrote his will, and a few weeks later, on 16th November, he was buried at the parish church of St Andrew Undershaft in the City of London, so the 300th anniversary of his burial is on Saturday 16 November 2013. This is not just an event for ringers to celebrate by ringing, but it is also a major opportunity for us to bringing ringing more into the public eye with coverage in national and local

press, radio and TV. The Central Council will be generating national publicity, and we hope that local bands and ringing societies will contact their local press and broadcasting stations to promote their own ringing for this anniversary. It is a good opportunity to increase your local community's awareness of what you do (and maybe even gain some recruits).

As many towers as possible should try to ring at some time during the day on 16th November, or if not on the day, then shortly before or after. Having the anniversary on a Saturday should make it easier for those bands who want to ring peals and quarter peals.

Bands that are capable of doing so should try to ring quarters or peals of Stedman, but bands that do not feel able or confident to ring Stedman are encouraged to ring something else. A quarter peal in any method, is a fitting tribute to 'the father of change ringing'.

Bands not wishing to ring peals or quarters are encouraged to ring short touches of Stedman, especially touches of 300. For Doubles ringers, 300 can be achieved by ringing five plain courses or two 120s and a plain course. More ambitious touches of Doubles, and touches of Triples or above, are available on the Central Council website. There will also be touches of 1713 Stedman on the Council website for those who want to ring a back-dated date touch.

As well as ringing, it is important for us all to ensure that the non-ringers in our communities know why we are ringing. This is one of the few opportunities when we can make ringing the main news story, and not just use bells as cheer leaders for a story about something else.

To help you with your local publicity you are welcome to use any of the material about Stedman and change ringing on the Council's website. The Council also provides advice about local ringing publicity, which you should find useful. If there is any other way that the Council can help you, please contact us.

John Harrison (on behalf
of Central Council PR Committee)

Information for Stedman publicity and touches of 300
Stedman : cccb.org.uk/stedman/
Advice on working with the media: cccb.org.uk/pr/advice/media/
General advice on ringing PR: cccb.org.uk/pr/advice/
Contact: stedman@cccb.org.uk



Centenary of World War 1

The centenary of the 1914-18 war is approaching, and it will generate a lot of public attention. The government has committed £50 million to make this a major event. The Culture Secretary is chairing an expert advisory panel to oversee a 4 year programme, building a commemoration 'fitting of this significant milestone in world history'.

Other key organisations have begun to plan their response. The Royal British Legion is 'determined that the tone will be one of commemoration, not celebration; and that Centenary activities will be kept free of partisan or sectarian bias'. Churches Together in England recognises that there will be much debate about the nature of the commemoration and intends to help churches and local communities to work together. Other include the Imperial War Museum, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the National Archives.

A 4 year centenary will last a long time. The Government has already listed six key dates: declaration of war in 1914, start of the battle of Gallipoli in 1915, first day of the battle of the Somme and the battle of Jutland both in 1916, battle of Passchendaele in 1917 and the 100 days from the start of the Battle of Amiens to the Armistice in 1918.

While the nation will wish to remember the heroism and sacrifice of so many during the war, there will be many who are uncomfortable with the focus on so many horrific events. Some will undoubtedly think that the only event worth marking is the Armistice in 1918 (though cynics call that the start of a 20 year cease-fire until the next war). What will almost certainly generate significant interest, though not on the Government's agenda, is when the carnage briefly paused at Christmas 1914 and the opposing troops played football together.

As ringers we will all hold personal views about the war and what should and should not be commemorated, but as the custodians of the nation's bells we have collective responsibility to use them in ways that enhance public sentiment at such times, whether to enhance rejoicing, to dignify mourning or to support sober reflection.

The Central Council is working with the other bodies involved in planning WW1 centenary events, to ensure that bell ringing can make a full and appropriate contribution, and we will keep ringers informed of progress, especially where there are requests for widespread national ringing. In representing the ringing community it would help us to know the thoughts of ringers at large about the emphasis and type of ringing that you would like to contribute to this centenary.

John Harrison

(on behalf of the CCPR committee)

on a lighter note...

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the [Web](#).

I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

I was driving this morning when I saw a parked RAC van. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself, that guy's heading for a breakdown.

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that, 2:30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

The wife was counting all the 2p and 5p coins out on the kitchen table when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, "She's going through the change."



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION



OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Eynsford 13th July 2013

One minute of silence was observed for Nancy Robins, former Tower Captain at St Paulinus, Crayford and Jessica Vale from St Mary's, Bexley who sadly had passed away recently.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence were received from David Macey (Beckenham), Anne Townsend (Chislehurst), Ian Mills (Eltham), Sue Allport (Horton Kirby), Deryck Jones & Esther Coreia (Dartford), Doug & Nancy Fisher (Biggin Hill), Elizabeth Brett (Erith CC)

2. Minutes of last meeting (13th April 2013)

Agreed as a correct and accurate record of meeting
Proposed: Nick Wilkins Seconded: Mark Backhouse

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

- i Shelagh Norman highlighted that after Dominic's apologies at the last meeting for the cancellation of the 'Raising & Lowering' training due to lack of helpers, the latest training day was also cancelled for the same reason. She asked for suggestions as to how further cancellations can be avoided. A request from all was to receive earlier request for helpers. Other issues were raised with regard to training days, helpers being turned down as not required, reluctant to offer their help again. Students cancelling at last minute, with too short a notice for students on the reserve list to attend as they had made other plans. Would a refundable deposit for the training days assist? Rupert mentioned that Dom had advised that it was his intention to stand down from the training role at the end of the summer and requested that people think about the role of Training Officer and Ringing Master – should they perhaps be combined? He will speak with Ian Mills to seek his views if he stands again for Ringing Master. District Practices could be used better by local bands, supporting them in an area they may be working on.
- ii Mark Backhouse highlighted the result of the 8 bell striking competition held on 29th June at Cliffe – WE WON!! Congratulations were given to the four members of the winning band who were present (Rachel Backhouse, Rupert Cheeseman, David Hilling and Nick Wilkins). Thanks were made to Ian Mills for organising the band, arranging practices. The remaining three band members were David Macey, Peter Swift and Dominic Meredith.
- iii Chelsfield will be representing the district in the 6 bell County Competition on 28th September.

4. Election of new members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Douglas James	Shoreham	Philippa Rooke	Jim Rooke

Douglas was elected unanimously; subs had already been received by Rachel.

5. 120 club draw

	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1st	£20	97	Deryck Jones	Dartford
1st	£20	81	Sue Cameron	Unattached
2nd	£10	59	Mick McDonald	Horton Kirby
2nd	£10	36	Alan Smith (Rachel's Dad)	c/o Erith CC
3rd	£10	48	Esther Correia	Dartford
3rd	£10	118	David R	Sidcup
4th	£5	39	Elizabeth Brett	Erith CC
4th	£5	102	Fiona Byers	Beckenham

Thanks were given to Rachel for managing the 120 club

6. KCACR report on the meeting held on 23rd February 2013

The following is an abbreviated summary of the salient points of the meeting held on 27 April 2013 attended by Ian Mills (presented at the meeting by Brenda Barton)

The secretary confirmed that member to member insurance is now in place

It was agreed that next year 20 Handbooks per District will be given to the District secretaries for new members elected during the year. For this year District secretaries to ask towers to return to them any unwanted handbooks.

Grant application for East Farleigh: £300 agreed for current application
Grant of £3000 authorised for Hollingbourne
Request for further grant for Bobbing deferred until next meeting

It was agreed that the BRF team can purchase a new one tonne chain block

Draft rules still being assessed and hopefully will be available by next meeting

The Canterbury District was congratulated on their running of the AGM

It was agreed that for the AGM next year details of lunch arrangements and cost should be made available by the October ADMs

A copy of the logo for the CC visit in 2014 is available on the website

The committee agreed that the purchase of badges should go ahead but a further quote be obtained first

The 8-bell competition to be on 29 June 2013 at Cliffe (Rochester District), draw 2.45pm, ringing 3.00pm (*this has now been won by Lewisham District!*)

The Essex Trophy competition is being held at Beddington in Surrey on 14 September and the method is Lincolnshire Surprise Royal

The 6-bell competition to be on 28 September 2013 at Lamberhurst (Tonbridge District), draw 2.45pm, ringing 3.00pm

It was suggested that a central list of those persons who would be willing to judge striking competitions should be compiled; names to be sent to the chairman

It was suggested that the general secretary's job could be split into general admin and minutes. Any volunteers?

7. AOB

Upcoming events

District Practices: 19th Jul – Penge (evening), 17th Aug - Woolwich (evening), 21st Sep – Foots Cray (morning)

Joint outing with Tonbridge District – 10th Aug in Central London (details will be circulated)

8. Vote of Thanks

Chris Devine (St John's, Eltham) proposed a vote of thanks to Lay Reader Peter Hill for conducting the Service and to Dale Wills for playing the organ. Thanks were also given to the Eynsford & Farningham Band for hosting us, especially Daphne Patterson and Sylvia Mackenzie for providing a delicious tea and David Hilling for organising the bells.

Next meeting is at Erith, St John on 12th October 2013 (Annual District Meeting)

The Darwin Awards

Another batch of the annual awards for gross and incomprehensible stupidity:

Here is the glorious winner

1. When his 38 calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach , California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

And now, the honourable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger... The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train.. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

***** Remember.... They walk among us, they can reproduce, and they vote..**
