



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS January 2014

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

Crayford & Dartford retain Call Change Trophy

The district held the first competition on its newest bells on 16th November with the Call Change Competition being contested at Farnborough.

A disappointingly low 4 teams managed to get bands together for the competition on what are very easy going bells. Having been let down at the last minute, and with Eltham not entering a band, Ian and Diane stepped into the breach and judged the competition. Once they had placed themselves in the churchyard, the draw was made and the competition commenced. All the bands preformed well and successfully rang 120 rows with at least 10 call changes.

After a brief interlude, Ian and Diane, came back with some comments and results:



The winning Crayford & Dartford band

All teams did very well, rang the right number of changes (well done Lesley!) and made full use of their practice time.



The judges working hard

Team 1- Generally good rhyme. Faults mainly where little bells didn't leave big enough gaps over the larger ones.

Team 2- Had good start slightly faster than team 1 which unfortunately did not maintain maybe due to nerves but did pick up again towards the end.

Team 3- Generally good. Tendency to squeeze in the gaps. Overall very nice to listen to.

Team 4- Consistence ringing that improved towards the middle. Treble lead well throughout.

Position	Team	Band	Faults
1st	3	Crayford & Dartford	18
2nd	2	Erith, CC	27
3rd	1	Chelsfield	30
4th	4	Farnborough	42



The Erith Christ Church band

So the Crayford & Dartford band retained The Arthur Richards Trophy. Thanks to Farnborough for hosting and supplying tea. Hopefully a few more teams can be persuaded to enter next year.

Rupert



The Chelsfield band



The Farnborough band

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Upcoming District Meetings / Competitions

1st Mar Striking Competition - Eynsford (tbc)

12th Apr District Meeting- Bromley Common

12th Jul District Meeting - Dartford

11th Oct District Meeting - Horton Kirby

15th Nov Call Change Competition - tbc

At the time of printing there were no dates confirmed for District Practices but there will be about one a month so see the district website for details when they've been arranged.

A word from the Editor

It seems an appropriate time for my second spell as Newsletter Editor as this is the 50th edition since I did my first one in January 2001. It's good to see that the 'news from the towers' section that I introduced in that newsletter is still going strong and that the newsletter is a full 20 pages again. It's less good to see that there were 10 teams entered in the call change competition that year but only 4 this time.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. Half the towers in the district have done something which is a really good effort. Sue is back editing next time so please make sure that it continues and we also hear from some of those that we have not done so this time.

Rupert

Chairman's Bit

Yes me again! Which is probably a good place to start as we have a couple of vacancies currently for District Officers that could really do with being filled because they are important ones as we are after all a ringing society. So please give some thought to becoming Ian's deputy or becoming the next Training Officer.

On the subject of training, the 'Margaret Macey fund' is currently taking new applications for financial support to go on a ringing course. Full details can be found on the district website.

And finally, a reminder that Lewisham are hosting this years county AGM on Easter Monday so we will be looking for offers of help for that shortly.

Happy New Year.

Rupert

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Around the District

Ash by Wrotham

It has been a pleasure to involve our new assistant priest in ringing and she is making good progress. Our other new learner is similarly diligent. Well done Elizabeth and Pauline. It has been a very predictable quarter of the year with the usual services and difficulties of illness and domestic problems hampering ringing. Christmas had its usual involvements for the ringers of erecting and dressing the church Christmas tree, which took two evenings this year. We also have an entry into the tree festival and our own ringing end display to sort.

On 22nd December we were able to present to Ruth, Elizabeth and the congregation, our first peal board, donated by Alex Britton and recording a peal to their joint ministry. Then the weather began to take a turn for the worse, with the carol service attendance affected, and I suspect the bells were inaudible to even nearby houses.



The 23rd, despite advice not to travel, saw 4 of the band swim off for a day out to Salisbury with a steam train. Good company, poor visibility and an uphill struggle against the wind to the Cathedral to see the oldest working clock in England, a magnificent modern font and full size nativity. We were blown back through increasing wet to the train. Now there are floods, trees on the line, rerouting as we progress, giving some very startled people steam trains in their locality, Brixton seemed particularly startled. The train back to Kent also had tree on the line.

24th and we had trees down in Ash and New Ash Green, with areas cut off, places without power for 30 hours including the Church and floods blocking main access routes. An emergency team including ringers went to check the Church, and install a generator in time for Christingles. Despite many having problems and a car park that was mostly a lake, there were many excited children to help chime for Christmas.

Midnight Mass and the first generator failed, the band was depleted to get another generator and solve the problem, the rest rang by Christingle light, and candlelight, a first for most. Similar problems affected morning service, with the ringers being iced with hail as they left

All credit to the ringers for turning out, many having trees down including one resting on power cables, floods and power cuts of their own.

Gabrielle Stook



Bromley

The band has gone through a difficult time in the past few years. We suddenly lost our Tower Captain, David Kingston two years ago, and now his successor, Chris Webb has had to resign owing to ill health. During the year the band dwindled such that practice nights were suspended.

Just under a year ago we also lost one of the longest serving members of the Society of Bromley Youths,

Frank Gates, who had been a member and steeplekeeper for decades. On the positive side, the tower has continued to be maintained during this period, and work has taken place to ensure that all the surviving records are being looked after (remembering that the SBY was established in 1773). Sunday service ringing still takes place each week at 10am, although rarely with all 8 bells ringing.

In November, Dickon Love was elected to succeed Chris Webb as Tower Captain with Chris Sheasby as Deputy, and it is hoped that a programme of teaching can be launched during 2014 to reverse the fortunes of the band here. Also of note is the renewed support offered by the Rector (The Revd Anne Jablonski) and those members of the local band who do still enthusiastically ring for Sunday Service. All visitors are made welcome at Bromley Parish Church.

Dickon Love

Bromley Common

The St Luke, Bromley Common band were saddened to learn that Ken Gristwood had passed away after a long illness. Up until last summer Ken had been an active and committed member of our band, attending weekly practices, ringing for Sunday worship and weddings. He supported also other local churches, notably St Georges Bickley, ringing for weddings. He had also rung quarter peals.

Ken joined our band in 1999 as a 'millenium ringer'. Unlike the other recruits that joined us then, Ken was returning to bellringing having previously rung bells 49 years before. I vividly recall standing alongside him when he 'got back in the saddle' and took those first pulls after such a long break. He took to it like a duck to water and it was soon apparent that he could handle a bell well.

Ken told us that he had learnt to ring in Heston, west of London. I understand that after the war he assisted in the efforts to return other local towers back to working order after years of neglect. We never found out what level of expertise the young Ken reached but guess he was with an experienced

band that rang the usual methods. He was not one to sit out when a new method was rung and always had a selection of methods in his shirt pocket at the ready.

Ken was a highly respected ringer, an asset to the Bromley Common band in particular and to bellringing in general. We miss him a lot.

Chris Lawrance

Chelsfield

Sunday 8 December 2013 in 41m (11)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Edward George
2. Nicholas Wilkins(c)
3. Lesley Barclay
4. Philippa Rooke
5. James Rooke
6. Richard George

1 - First QP at first attempt, aged 13 and son of the tenor ringer



Crayford

It's been another busy few months with plenty of services to ring for in the run up to Christmas. 8 quarters were scored including, for the first time,

ringing one on Christmas Day when an excellent quarter of Christmas Day Doubles was scored.

31 quarters were rung during the year, the most by a tower in this district and 4th most in Kent. A large variety of methods were rung from Plain Bob Doubles to Bristol S Major with a number of 'firsts' and the fifth annual date touch was scored in December.

An enjoyable outing to Kent took place in November and we have continued to go to the pub after the first Tuesday practice.

Wednesday, 25 December 2013
1280 Christmas Day Doubles in 42mins

1. Sue Cameron
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Richard Pearce
4. Cathy Cheeseman
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Shelagh Norman

For Christmas. First blows in variation for all.

Rupert Cheeseman

Dartford

Our numbers have improved and on several occasions we have been able to ring on all 8 bells. We were distinctly rusty at this, due to previous lack of practice but we are gradually improving. It is like everything else, if you don't do it regularly, then you forget how to.

We have kept our practices going and rung on Sundays for Matins and for the third Sunday evening Choral Evensong. Brenda and I have continued to go to Crayford Tuesdays (practice night) and Sunday mornings while Deryck and Bethany go to Erith, Christ Church on Mondays. We had a visiting band on October 5th, some 20 people from a mixture of towers but who enjoyed the bells as a finale to an outing in North Kent. Brenda & I went to a quiz at Chelsfield in a team which came 4th and the following week we went to a Ringers' quiz at Meopham which we won by a considerable margin. This was a quite

difficult quiz but enjoyable nevertheless, we enjoyed especially the ploughman's meal served midway.

As usual, November was been busy. This month usually sees an outing, Remembrance Day and the annual Call Change Competition and this year was no exception. Add to this a Peal at Dartford and Quarter Peals in the run up to Christmas at Crayford and there has been a lot of activity.

The full peal on October 2nd was for a gentleman who had already rung some 6,000 peals but who had never rung one at Dartford or Stone so, that day the ringers rang for 3 hours 3 minutes at Dartford and several then went on to Stone to ring for 2 hours 30 minutes after lunch. The same day we went on an outing. Usually we organise the Autumn outing but this year Crayford did it as we had organised a mini outing in May. We went first to the Victoria Tower at Chatham, This date was the last for general ringing to take place as the tower has to be opened specially and torches are required as there is no longer any electricity, and the following Saturday a Peal the final ring before the bells were removed the following week.



We were the first there so were guided up the tower and rang Plain Hunt Triples for 5mins before the next band had their turn. Everything was very well organised including signing in and out for "elf & safety" reasons. The church is stripped of all furnishings/paintings etc. and the windows are boarded with metal sheets against the local yobs. We speculated on what might happen to it in future, flats would seem to be the answer. Interestingly, the local

ringers did not know but a couple of men eating their brunch on a tomb informed us that it would be flats!!!!



After Chatham we made our way to Wouldham, a very heavy-going ring, not very popular with most of us, although we

appreciated the experience. Then it was Otham, a good ring before an excellent lunch in the Orchard Spot. Off to Tunstall for a ring on 8 and finally to Rodmersham and then welcome refreshments at the local pub before the return home. A very enjoyable day out thanks to Rupert. Our turn next, in the Spring.

The following week end was Remembrance time. Remembrance Sunday was fine and we rang first at HT, then Brenda and I went Crayford, as usual, to ring there, and then back to HT to ring for the Civic service. In the evening Brenda and I returned to Crayford for a quarter peal on the half-muffled bells.

The following week end, 18th, was the Call Change Competition at Farnborough. They have a camera in the belfry and a screen in the ringing room so you can see what is going on up above, preferably when sitting out rather than when ringing. There were 4 bands taking part and we were placed first with 18 faults

December has seen us ringing for the usual festive services after an interruption by a broken stay, which served as a salutary lesson to some of the newer ringers. Attendance has remained fairly constant, having 8 members or more most ringing times. Long may it continue. Our newer members are young, for once. Happy New Year to all.

Esther Correia

Eltham

Eltham are arguably one of the best light eight in the District - if not in the whole of London (or at least 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)

As always the final few months of the year have been a little quieter other than the excitement of Christmas. We have struggled recently for numbers on Sundays especially since Len and Pauline left. We were also unable to organise a band for the call change competition this year.

By the time you read this we would have hosted the January meeting. I hope you enjoyed it.

Tom Baird

Erith, Christ Church

During the Autumn we had regular visits to the tower on practice nights by a very pleasant young man called Charlie. Charlie is making a film as part of his Masters project about what he perceived to be disappearing facets of life in Erith. He has admitted that the Erith band didn't quite fit into his preconceived ideas, the younger members in particular were a surprise to him. He now has many hours of film and sound recordings and we look forward with interest, and maybe slight trepidation, to seeing some of the finished project and how we come across to outsiders!



Eloise Scarth, who helps lead a Brownie Pack, last year read about Alison Regan, a keen ringer and a



guide leader who died of cancer. A new bellringing badge, the 'Bluebells Challenge', was developed in her memory. Eloise helped her Brownie pack with the challenge which included a range of activities,

including dressing as a Town Crier! All the girls were presented with their badge and they also raised money for a cancer charity.

Natalie Slator took up ringing again this year after a break of more than 50 years. On Sunday 22nd December she rang her first Quarter peal after her return.

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 45 min.

1. Natalie Slator
2. Rachel Backhouse (C)
3. Anthony Scarth
4. Christopher Backhouse
5. Robert Backhouse
6. Mark Backhouse.

Rachel Backhouse/Liz Brett

Erith, St John the Baptist

We have tried to hold practices as often as possible but with only two ringers usually able to attend we are reliant on other ringers to help us. We are really grateful for the help given by the ringers from Ash, Dartford and Christchurch Erith who come to practices when they can, and especially to Gabrielle and John Stook for organising helpers via email.

At the end of November we started holding taster sessions on a Saturday morning from 9.00 - 10.30 and have five learners. They are very keen to learn and as some of them cannot make a Thursday evening we hope to continue to practise on Saturday mornings. Margaret would appreciate help from anybody who could help her to teach these learners to handle the bells as it is a struggle on her own. Please feel free to come along on a Saturday morning if you would be able to assist.

Margaret Heald

Eynsford

On Friday evening 6th December, within 24 hours of the announcement of the passing of President Nelson Mandela, the bells at St Martin's Eynsford rang out for the great twentieth century statesman.

With the Rector's support two sessions of ringing took place. To mourn President Mandela's passing a half-muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung. Then, with muffles removed and to celebrate his life, achievements and legacy, a quarter peal of Yorkshire S Major was rung. Appreciative comment has been received from villagers, particularly concerning the half-muffled session.

The local ringers are grateful for support from other ringers in the area.

David Hilling

Friday, 6 December 2013

1260 Plain Bob Triples in 47m (10)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Caroline Stockmann | 5. Rupert Cheeseman |
| 2. Rebecca Stuttard | 6. Jack Barker |
| 3. Sue Cameron | 7. David Hilling |
| 4. Lesley Barclay | 8. Jack Gunning |

Rung half-muffled as a mark of respect following the passing of President Nelson Mandela. Ringing commenced at 7.38pm.

Friday, 6 December 2013

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 43m (10)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mark Backhouse | 5. Jack Barker |
| 2. David Hilling (C) | 6. Rupert Cheeseman |
| 3. Rachel Backhouse | 7. Nick Wilkins |
| 4. Jack Gunning | 8. David Macey |

Rung with the bells open to celebrate the life, achievements and legacy of President Nelson Mandela. Ringing commenced at 8.42pm.



Lewisham

Practice: Monday, 7:30-9:00

Sunday ringing: 9:15-9:50 (third Sunday only currently)

Lewisham has, for the first time in a very long time, started ringing for Sunday services again. It's only once a month at the moment (on the third Sunday) but with a couple of learners coming back from injuries and a new ringer moving into the area we hope to ring on Sunday mornings more regularly.

Anyone who'd like to come along on Monday evening or for service ringing we would be very happy to see. It's probably best to check with me by emailing dominicmeredith@gmail.com before though.

Dominic Meredith

The Meridan Ringers- Woolwich, Greenwich and Deptford

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

We have some reasonable turnouts at practice nights, sometimes ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods. Recently, we have been doing some preparatory work on Treble Hunting Minor. We are usually doing some service ringing for the monthly Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month) at Greenwich and very occasionally for Evensong at St. John's, Deptford.

Recently there was building work on the tower and church roof at Woolwich and there is also a problem of there being no electricity in the ringing chamber currently so we are not ringing there at the moment but will be investigating when it will be feasible to restart there.

With the help of ringers from Bexley we have also managed to ring for two midweek daytime services at Greenwich this autumn. These were for St. Alfege's Church of England Primary School's Harvest Festival Service in September and for their Christmas

Service in December.

Some of us also managed to ring, with some of the local ringers, for Trinity Church of England Secondary School's Carol Service at Christ Church, Erith.



Alan and Liz Munden celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary in September but we still need to mark this with a quarter peal early in the New Year. There are also some 60th birthdays to ring for in the near future.

On the social side, we had our Autumn Dinner at the Ashburnham Arms in November and will also be having our annual Christmas meal in January 2014.

On a sadder note, Freda Cannon, our Tower Captain Emeritus, who is now 85, has been in poor health recently and has been in and out of hospital. Over the Christmas period she was able to get into a care home for two weeks respite. The plan is for Freda to move into a permanent nursing/care home in the near future as it is too difficult for her to cope on her own at home now.

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

Graham Long

West Wickham

Practices can vary from plain hunt to Cambridge surprise. We now have a regular surprise practice on the second Wednesday of the month with the help of local ringers, which is proving successful. Visitors are always welcome but please check first to ensure practice has not been cancelled.

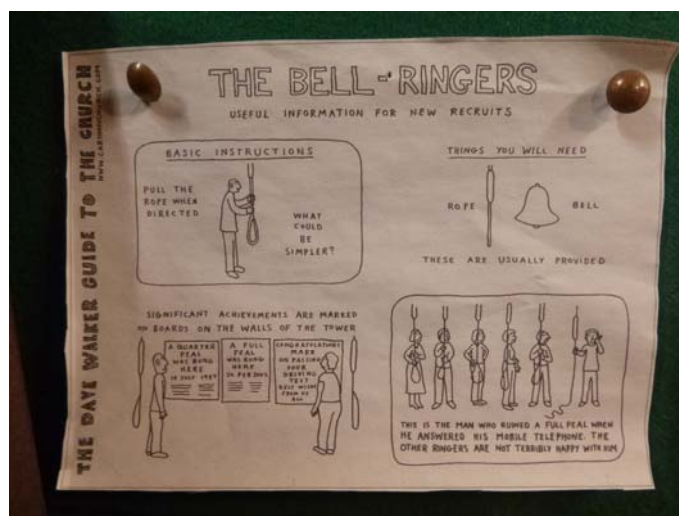
Saturday 5th October saw our annual outing, this year we went to the Isle of Sheppey. We rang all 3 towers, Queenborough, a lovely light ring of 6, the more challenging 6 at Minster and then Eastchurch, where we rang the only surprise methods of the day. After lunch we rang at St Margaret's, Rainham, a lovely ring of 8, easy to handle and a good tone.

Judith Fry



We are now selling KCACR/Ringing World Calendars at half price, only £3.50. Pick one up while stocks last.

Email Shelagh or Chris at sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk for more information or pick one up at the next district meeting.



Ringing Books and Clothing

Need help to improve your ringing? We have a large stock of books available giving advice ranging from the beginner to the more experienced ringer. If you would like further details of books on sale in Lewisham District please email Shelagh or Chris at sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

We also take orders for clothing - including t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces at various prices + p&p all with the Kent logo. Contact us for more information or see us at the next quarterly meeting.

Don't forget to order your Kent/Ringing World Calendar at £7 £3.50 each!



All Saints, Orpington

Courtesy of Richard George for kindly making arrangements, I got up to the All Saints belfry at the end of July for the first time after 58 years of living in Orpington and I'm possibly the first bell ringer to do so!

Access was granted to me while a 3 day job was in hand to renew rotten louvres on the east and west elevations. Access was gained via a temporary scaffold and ladders going in through the east louvre window which normally isn't possible but was devoid of louvres while work was in hand. 'Normal' access is via a mobile set of vertical ladders up the north elevation to the louvres and in through a rather inconvenient outward hinging louvered door within the louvre window/aperture. No wonder the belfry is rarely visited!

Last year was rather relevant to All Saints, Orpington as the Stahlschmidt (1887) record seems to be correct in that there's a single bell dating from 1813 so the bell is 200 years old! I measured the bell and it is 29 ins diameter as stated in Stahlschmidt. It wasn't easy to read in the poor belfry light but I think the inscriptions are also correct.

The belfry is in fairly good order although extensive bird muck and general detritus has had to be cleared out. It measures 180 ins (15ft) north/south and 210 ins (17ft 6ins) east/west. The single bell with wheel, stay and slider is located towards the south east side of the belfry but despite the carpenters telling me they had swung the bell and were told by a verger that it had fairly recently been 'rung' the amount of guano sitting in the top of the wheel, tells me otherwise! The wheel wobbles somewhat, too.

Other interesting features were:-

- In the west facing louvre aperture was a speaker which, I believe, is from a loudspeaker system that used to play the sound of pealing bells for

weddings.

- An odd shaped conical topped speaker standing on the belfry floor that I was told had been used for an air raid siren.
- Undercroft of about 40 ins difficult to view and my camera held at arm's length, down below the raised section of floor boards, saw more than I did, but steels going north/south evident below the belfry floor.
- It's possible that the bell frame is not fixed to anything below the floor on which it sits and there are unusual braces at each end of the frame going up to the belfry roof joists which might indicate they are the only form of bracing for the frame.

On this visit I was unable to get into the church but have been in there before and looking up under the tower from the ground floor level there is a rather nice stone vaulted ceiling. The tower is, unusually, not as high as the nave roof, as it was shortened following lightning/fire a couple of hundred years ago. For those familiar with Chelsfield, the All Saints tower is similarly positioned on the north side of the nave where it meets the chancel.

Nick Wilkins

The History of the tower (from Love's Guide)



1552 - Record of 4 bells in the tower.

1761 - The vestry minutes give a resolution to repair and beautify the church.

1771-2 - Church tower rebuilt.

1797 - Hasted records 2 bells in the tower:

"The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is small but neat, and kept in good repair; it consists of one isle, and a chancel at the east end; the screen between them is a curious piece of Gothic work, carved on oak, in good preservation; the spire and part of the tower are shingled; it contains two bells."

1812 - The tower was struck by lightning when, according to Stahlschmidt, the bells were carried away to St Mary Cray. He suggests they were then taken to London to raise money.

1813 - Bell cast by John Briant.

1840 - The parish vestry recorded regulations for bell ringing.

St Mary Cray Centenary

2013 has been a special year for St Mary Cray - it marked the centenary of the installation of the current ring of six bells.

There have been bells at St Mary's since 1583 when the 2nd and 3rd of the present six were cast by Robert Mot in London. The bells were augmented to five in 1655 with the addition of three tenors, cast locally by John Hodson at his foundry just a couple of hundred yards from the church.

An appeal was launched in the local parish magazine "Millstream" in January 1913 for "donations towards the refurbishment of our bells and the purchase of a new treble bell." By April of that year sufficient funds had been raised and an order was placed with Gillett and Johnston of Croydon for the recasting of the five existing bells, the addition of a new treble bell and the installation of the whole in a new cast iron frame a few feet lower down the tower. According to the parish magazine, the cost was a

'staggering' £260, including transport and labour! The bells were dedicated and first rung on the 31st July 1913, with the first peal on the new bells being rung on 5th January 1914. There are no records of any peals on the bells prior to 1913.

To commemorate the centenary, the local ringers arranged a series of events throughout 2013, including a re-dedication of the bells at a "Ringers' Service" on the 28th July, the recruitment of a number of new learners and a series of quarter peals nicknamed "Challenge 13" in which local ringers attempted one quarter peal per month including as many "firsts" as possible, culminating in a peal attempt on the exact 100th anniversary of the first peal on the bells.

Of the 13 quarter peal attempts, 11 were scored, one cancelled at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances and one lost to a mis-call:

1. 9th December 1260 Grandsire Doubles
2. 10th February 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
3. 3rd March 1260 Plain Bob Minor
4. 14th April 1260 Grandsire Doubles
5. 12th May 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor
6. 9th June 1260 Doubles (4 methods)
7. 21st July 1260 Spliced Minor (3 methods)
8. 28th July 1260 Doubles (4 methods)
9. 7th September 1260 Stedman Doubles
10. 13th October 1260 Grandsire Doubles
11. 10th November 1269 Doubles (3 methods)

Notable firsts included:

Peter Moyle - First away from cover (2)
James Lessey and Bethany Pointer - First Minor (3)
Peter Norwood and Bethany Pointer - First Grandsire (4) and (10)
Bethany Pointer - First in a treble dodging method (5)
Becca Hardy and Bethany Pointer - most methods (6)
Louise Price and Bethany Pointer - first Stedman (9)
Don Pointer - first including Stedman (11)



The peal attempt on 5th January 2014 was designed to repeat the performance of 1913:

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

ST MARY CRAY, KENT. St Mary

Monday 5 January 1914 2h50 (12cwt)

5040 Minor

(3 methods - 2 extents each Kent Treble Bob & Oxford Treble Bob; 3 extents Plain Bob)

1 Albert E Newton

2 George Dorling

3 Reginald Brough

4 Hubert J Blackwell

5 Isaac Emery

6 Edwin Barnett Snr (C)

First peal on the bells after being augmented to six by Gillett and Johnston

The 2014 peal was successful and included local ringer Bethany Pointer ringing her first peal:

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

ST MARY CRAY, KENT. St Mary

Sunday 5 January 2014 2h41 (12cwt)

5040 Minor

(3 methods - 2 extents each Kent Treble Bob & Oxford Treble Bob; 3 extents Plain Bob)

1 Michael J Trimm (C)

2 Bethany G Pointer

3 Ian G Mills

4 Louise S Price

5 Nigel Pointer

6 James J Hardy

First peal at first attempt: 2

A repeat performance of the first peal on the bells, after 100 years to the day.

Thanks to all the ringers who have taken part - here's to the next 100 years!

Nigel Pointer



What happened 100 Years Ago?

1914, 100 years ago, was famous for the outbreak of WW1 but what else happened?

February

2nd - Charlie Chaplin made his film début in the comedy short *Making a Living*.

7th - Charlie Chaplin's second film was released, the Keystone comedy *Kid Auto Races at Venice*, in which his character of The Tramp is introduced to audiences (although first filmed in *Mabel's Strange Predicament*, released two days later).

8th - the Luxembourg national football team has its first victory, beating France 5-4 in a friendly match, for the first and only time in football history.

26th - the ocean liner that will become HMHS *Britannic*, sister to the RMS *Titanic*, was launched at the Harland and Wolff shipyards in Belfast.

March

10th - Suffragette Mary Richardson damages Velázquez' painting *Rokeby Venus* in London's National Gallery with a meat chopper.

27th - Belgian surgeon Albert Hustin makes the first successful non-direct blood transfusion, using anticoagulants.

April

11th - Canadian Margaret C. MacDonald is appointed Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Nursing service band and becomes the first woman in the British Empire to reach the rank of major.

May

9th - J.T. Hearne becomes the first bowler to take 3,000 first-class wickets.

14th - Woodrow Wilson signs a Mother's Day proclamation.

30th - The ocean liner RMS *Aquitania* makes her maiden voyage.

June

1st - Woodrow Wilson's envoy Edward Mandell House meets with Kaiser Wilhelm II.

23rd - After it had been closed so that it could be deepened, the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Kanal is reopened by the Kaiser; the British Fleet under Sir George Warrender visits; the Kaiser inspects the Dreadnought HMS *King George V* (1911).

28th - Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria: Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Duchess Sophie, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

29th - Austria-Hungary: The Secretary of the Legation at Belgrade sends a dispatch to Vienna suggesting Serbian complicity in the crime of Sarajevo. Anti-Serb riots erupt in Sarajevo and throughout Bosnia generally.

July

2nd - The German Kaiser announces that he will not attend the Archduke's funeral.

4th - The Archduke's funeral takes place at Artstetten (50 miles west of Vienna), Austria-Hungary.

5th - A council is held at Potsdam, powerful leaders within Austria-Hungary and Germany meet to discuss possibilities of war with Serbia, Russia, and France.

11th - Baseball legend Babe Ruth makes his major league debut with the Red Sox.

18th - The Signal Corps of the United States Army is formed, giving definite status to its air service for the first time.

The British Fleet at Spithead is reviewed by the King.

19th - King George V summons a conference to discuss the Irish Home Rule problem. This meets from July 21 to 24 without reaching consensus.

28th - World War I: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and its army bombards Belgrade.

Tsar Nicholas II of Russia orders a partial mobilization against Austria-Hungary.

29th - In Massachusetts, the new Cape Cod Canal opens; it shortens the trip between New York and Boston by 66 miles, but also turns Cape Cod into an island.

August

1st - The German Empire declares war on the Russian Empire, following Russia's military mobilization in support of Serbia; Germany also begins mobilization. France orders general mobilization.

New York Stock Exchange closed due to war in Europe, where nearly all stock exchanges are already closed.

3rd - Germany declares war on Russia's ally, France.

4th - German troops invade Belgium at 8:02 am (local time). Declaration of war by the United Kingdom on

Germany for this violation of Belgian neutrality. This effectively means a declaration of war by the whole British Empire against the German Empire. The United States declares neutrality.

5th - Germany declares war on Belgium.

German zeppelins drop bombs on Liège in Belgium, killing 9 civilians.

8th - Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition sets sail on the Endurance from England in an attempt to cross Antarctica.

23rd - World War I: Battle of Mons: In its first major action, the British Expeditionary Force defeats the German forces.

Japan declares war on Germany.

28th - Battle of Heligoland Bight: British cruisers under Admiral Beatty sink 3 German cruisers.

September

1st - Saint Petersburg in Russia changes its name to Petrograd.

30th - The Flying Squadron is established to promote the temperance movement.

October

27th - World War I: The British super-dreadnought battleship HMS Audacious (23,400 tons), is sunk off Tory Island, north-west of Ireland, by a minefield laid by the armed German merchant-cruiser Berlin.

28th - Sentencing of participants in the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria at Sarajevo. Gavrilo Princip, being under 20 at the date of the assassination, cannot be given a death sentence and is given twenty years imprisonment.

November

1st - World War I: Battle of Coronel: A Royal Navy squadron commanded by Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock is met and defeated by superior German forces led by Vice-Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee, in the first British naval defeat of the war, resulting in the loss of HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth.

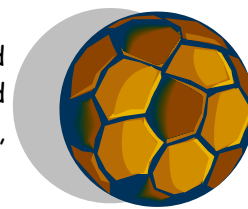
5th - Britain and France declare war on Turkey.

December

24th - World War I: British and German soldiers interrupt World War I to celebrate Christmas, beginning the Christmas truce.

German air raid on Dover, England.

Facts from Wikipedia compiled by Chris Goldsmith



Chelsfield's Coronation Peal

Peal to Commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of Chelsfield's Coronation Peal

On the Saturday after Coronation Day in June 1953, six members of the newly formed Chelsfield band of ringers rang a peal in commemoration of that event. The peal was a huge achievement for those local ringers, for all of whom it was their first peal. The performance is commemorated in the ringing room by a peal board that probably was given by The Rev John Ellingham. He was a master at the City of London School and acted also as our Honorary Curate. He gave much encouragement to the ringers. The details are as follows:-

On the occasion of the Coronation of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
A Peal of 5040 Grandsire Doubles
Was rung in 3 hours 12 minutes by

1. Ann Pannell
2. Bridget Cox
3. John Pannell
4. John Parker
5. John Carpenter (C)
6. Victor Webster

We thought that it would be an interesting idea for our present day ringers to ring a peal in celebration of that of 1953 and to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen. The first attempt, in June 2013, was unsuccessful, although we did achieve a quarter peal. Undeterred, we met again on Saturday 14 September and succeeded:-

On Saturday 14 September 2013 in 2 hrs & 48 mins
A Peal of 5,040 Changes of Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. John C Parker | 5. John S Barnes |
| 2. Jane C Spencer | 6. Nicholas Wilkins (C) |
| 3. E Lesley Barclay | 7. Anne L Rueff |
| 4. Robert M Pruden | 8. Richard A V George |
- Composed by E Taylor

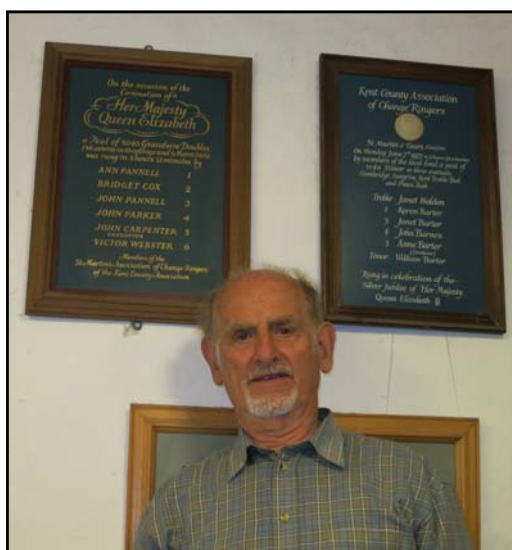
In days gone by, Anne Rueff was Anne Barter and Jane Spencer was Jane Seaman. Both served as



tower captains, as have Bob Pruden and Nick Wilkins.

In the 1953 peal, a young teenager, John Parker rang the fourth; still young at heart, John returned from Shaftesbury, Dorset, to his native village to ring the treble for the anniversary peal. What is more, it was only his second peal. Very likely he has created a record in the world of bell ringing by ringing just two peals that were separated by sixty years!

We dedicated the peal to our late Rector, Canon Leslie Virgo, who loved bells and did so much to encourage us, to encourage the augmentation to eight bells and to encourage bell ringing.



John Barnes

John Parker with the original peal board

Chelsfield Outing 2013

Nicholas Wilkins always manages to organise an interesting day out for us, and our outing on Saturday 21 September was no exception to that rule. We spent the day in southern Hampshire, starting at a ring of ten bells in a private house at Awbridge. John Dodd had planned to install the ten bells in a room that boasted a clock on a gable. However, he changed the specification to a heavier ring and the original structure would have been too weak. Thus, the ringing room is rather like a sitting room! The bells are from Taylors of Loughborough and were cast in 2001 - 2002. John felt that the tenor bell was not adequately resonant and so that bell was recast slightly heavier in 2012 and now weighs 3 cwt. The bells are absolutely delightful and they handle extremely well. We enjoyed them greatly.

Then on to Romsey Abbey, with a climb of 116 steps, four of them downwards, leading to a large ringing room and a heavy ring of eight bells, the tenor weighing 22 cwt. The

Norman tower is one of the oldest in which one can ring. The bells, in a carefully restored historic wooden frame, are demanding to handle and I am not sure that the recent re-hang has much improved their "go".

We then travelled to The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park, Southampton, where the church stands more or less north - south. Services take place at the north end of the building and the tower is at the south end. A very usable empty space separates the two. The heaviest six bells, tenor 8 cwt, originally hung in St Maurice's, Winchester. The

former third bell dates from 1380 and the former fifth from 1422.

When the bells were transferred to Bitterne Park about 1957, two new trebles were cast by Mears and Stainbank at Whitechapel and the eight bells were hung so that the ropes fell, uniquely, almost in two rows of four. Ropes for 1, 2, 7 and 8 hung in one row and those for 3, 4, 5 and 6 hung in a second row. This was unsatisfactory because the ringers could not easily see each other! However, it allowed the south window to be seen clearly. So, in 2008, Messrs Hayward Mills had the Netherlands firm Eijsbouts

cast four new trebles to make a ring of twelve, hung in a new frame with the ropes dropping in a perfect circle. The tenor is only 8 cwt and the bells 'go like tops'. They are very enjoyable; ringing them is a good result for little effort!

Lunch was at The Jolly Sailor, Bursledon, a pub that has featured in the television programme, "Howards' Way". It overlooks the River

Hamble and has views of boats and masts with The Elephant Boatyard close by. Both food and beer were good value.

Then to St Edmund the Confessor, Netley, whose tallish tower houses a ring of eight bells with the tenor weighing nine cwt. The bells are rung from the ground floor and the bells are up at louvres level. Thus, the rope length is considerable and the bells are somewhat challenging. A good pull at handstroke was necessary to get the bells up far enough at backstroke so as to be able to wait.



Inside St Agatha's

The next call was at St Agatha's, Portsmouth, a very large former Church of England church that was bombed on 23 December 1940. It was closed officially in 1954 and for forty years was a storehouse for the Royal Navy and had lorries droving in and out of the west door. Various schemes were promoted that would have meant demolishing the building, but for much of the time there was a group campaigning to save it.

Rescue came in the mid 1990s when a Traditional Anglican group took it over. The group was received into the Catholic Church in 2012. The Lady Chapel, however, was lost to road-widening. The bells are the result of much fund-raising by Malcolm Powell. The front (lightest) three bells were cast by Richard Bowditch and Matthew Higby in 2012, the back five being a variety of secondhand bells that were sourced from the Keltek Trust. They were installed early in 2013. The tenor weighs three cwt and they, too, are easy to handle - a very pleasant ring of eight. Unusually, the wheels are of metal; perhaps that provides a heavier wheel that aids the handling of the bells.

The chancel contains two pews bought from an antique dealer and which were once in St Martin-in-the-Fields disposed of, perhaps, in the recent £34 million refurbishment. Nearby in the chancel were large panels that at first sight appeared to be painted woodwork; not so - they were layers of different coloured plaster (cream, purple, green and yellow ochre) beautifully carved to make a pattern. Malcolm also showed us a censer that he had purchased in Italy for 40 Euros. He had it cleaned and, glistening brightly, it is back in use in a church once more. We were told that the congregation is comprised partly of Catholics and partly of Church of England people. One must admire what they have achieved for this once-threatened church. It was dead and is alive again. Over thirty peals have been rung on the bells so far this year. They are very much alive!

Our last tower was St John the Baptist, Purbrook, a ring of six bells with a tenor weighing 5 cwt that was installed to mark the Millennium. As I was on the Committee that, in effect, gave away Millennium Fund money - £3 million - and recommended a grant

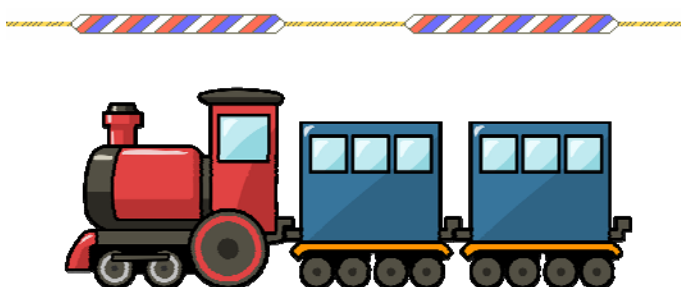


St John the Baptist, Purbrook

for these bells, I was very interested to ring them. I was sorry that the Millennium Plaque was no longer in evidence - a shame, because it commemorates an historical event. The tower is quite small and some of those who were not ringing had to wait downstairs. The bells were cast by Whitechapel in 1998 and were installed by Nicholsons of Bridport.

So to The Royal Oak at Langstone, south of Havant, for refreshment after a long day. The pub stands on a pavement that is just below high water mark. We looked out across the Langstone Channel towards Hayling Island, a place that I have yet to visit and which once had a train service from Havant that I never "grabbed". The railway bridge has long gone, but surprisingly the Ordnance Survey map shows a footpath across the mud not far from the pub; it is usable only at low tide. And so back to Chelsfield; even the return journey was of interest because it took us through one of the new twin A3 Hindhead tunnels, one and a quarter miles long and the longest road tunnels in the British Isles. Our thanks to Nicholas for a very interesting and enjoyable day!

John Barnes



Minutes from the Last District Meeting



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting, Erith St John, 12th October 2013

Apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence were received from David Macey (Beckenham), Sue Allport & Mick McDonnell (Horton Kirby), Mark Backhouse (Erith CC), Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield)

Minutes of last meeting (13th July 2013)

Agreed as a correct and accurate record of meeting

Proposed: Lesley Barclay, Seconded: Chris Goldsmith. Voted unanimous.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Nil

Officer Reports

Ringling Master, Ian Mills: There were 12 practices scheduled for the last year, all bar two went ahead. The Penge practice was cancelled due to a new hoop structure being installed to protect users of the ladder to comply with H&S. This means it is safe to climb the ladder to service the bells, however, unsafe to ring the bells! All the practices were attended well enough to make the practices viable. We also won the County striking competition.

Training Officer, Dominic Meredith: I will be standing down at this meeting due to lack of time to devote to this role. Sadly two of the training days did not go ahead, sometimes due to lack of helpers the other due to lack of time to organise it. I apologise that this year has not been so productive on the training front.

Newsletter Editor, Sue Allport: Lesley spoke on behalf of Sue, who was unable to attend. It has been an onerous task to produce the newsletter mainly due to lack of material being put forward for inclusion. Thanks though to those who have sent articles in. If there is no one else to take on this role, Sue is only prepared to produce two newsletters next year, October and July.

120 Club, Rachel Backhouse: There are only 5 unsold balls for this current club year. A breakdown of monies raised will be reported at the end of the club year.

Membership Secretary, Rachel Backhouse: There are currently 227 members which is down from 231 last year. There were 14 new members in the last year.

Election of Officers

David Macey stood down as the Assistant Ringing Master due to family commitments consuming most of his time now.

Dominic Meredith stood down as the Training Officer & District Rep due change in circumstances resulting in lack of time to commit to the role. Dominic was thanked for his time and commitment over previous years.

Brenda Barton stood down as District Rep, having been in the role for several years she felt it time for someone new.

David, Dominic and Brenda were all thanked for their time and commitment over previous years.

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Rupert Cheeseman	Shelagh Norman	Esther Correia
Secretary	Sue Cameron	Chris Goldsmith	Lesley Barclay
Membership Secretary	Rachel Backhouse	Rupert Cheeseman	Brenda Barton
Ringing Master	Ian Mills	Nick Wilkins	Shelagh Norman
Asst Ringing Master	Unfilled		
Training Officer	Unfilled		
District Rep 1	Chris Devine	Sue Cameron	Lesley Barclay
District Rep 2	Natalie Slator		
120 Club	Rachel Backhouse	Jim Rooke	Dominic Meredith
Newsletter (Oct & Apr) (Jan & Jul)	Sue Allport	Chris Goldsmith	Lesley Barclay
	Rupert Cheeseman		
Sales	Shelagh Norman	Brenda Barton	Les Brett
	Chris Goldsmith		

All Officers were elected unanimously. Natalie was confirmed as District Rep after she had been voted in as a new member.

Ian agreed to act as Training Officer as part of his Ringing Master role until the post can be filled.

Election of new member

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Natalie Slator	Erith CC	Rachel Backhouse	Shirley Scarth

Natalie was elected unanimously.

120 club draw

Sept	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1st	£20	103	Alex Britton	Unattached
2nd	£10	69	Esther Correia	Dartford
3rd	£10	72	Robert Backhouse	Erith CC
4th	£5	18	Helen Sims	Ash by Wrotham

Oct	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1st	£20	86	John Fry	Cudham
2nd	£10	8	Pauline Symons	Lewisham
3rd	£10	87	Judith Fry	West Wickham
4th	£5	119	Bell Restoration Fund	

Thanks were given to Rachel for managing the 120 club

KCACR report on the meeting held on 24th August 2013

The following is an abbreviated summary of the salient points of the meeting attended by Ian Mills (presented at this meeting by Brenda Barton)

- Ringing World Calendars are now being distributed to the Districts for sale at £7.00. A profit of approx £4.50 per calendar will be made if we sell all 1040

- Handbook Editor will be contacting District Treasurers with regard to Membership details
- Our Child Protection Policy will be published on the Website. There is going to be a change in respect of portability details will follow shortly
- Wouldham grant application deferred to next meeting awaiting completed form
- Grant of £1000 agreed for Seal for rope and pulley installation
- Revised Rules will be forwarded to Districts to be discussed at their ADMs
- Bishop of Dover has agreed to attend the reception dinner for the Central Council visit in 2014
- Chatham bells are being sold to St Goran, Cornwall. They will be made available for members to ring on 2nd Nov before they are removed from the tower
- The following have agreed to be available for judging Striking Competitions: Rupert Cheeseman, Rachel Backhouse, Dominic Meredith, Catherine Lewis, Frank Lewis, Pamela Manger and David Manger
- It is being suggested that Quex Park be used for the 12 Bell competition in 2018/19 - it is the 200 year anniversary of Quex
- Forthcoming events: 22nd September 2013 at 10.30 a.m. at Chiddingstone Dedication of the Chiming Bell in memory of Phil Corby
- 20th October 2013 at 7.00 p.m. Quiz and Ploughman's Supper at Meopham

County Rule Changes

Inclusion of "The safety and wellbeing of its members" added

(4) (i) (c) The amount to be allocated to the Associations BRF for the current year of operation shall be resolved at the AGM.

(4) (i) (e) Members aged 65 years or over (changed from 'or more')

(6) (iv) No business shall be transacted at an AGM or EGM unless a quorum of 25 practising members is present

There was little detail from the County Committee as to what the changes had been and why, members were asked to go away and look on the website if they wished to find out more.

Upcoming Events

Fri 18th Oct 7.45pm - Practice at Bromley Common

Sat 16th Nov 2.45pm - Call Change Competition at Farnborough

Sat 23rd Nov 7pm - Practice at Ash by Wrotham

Sat 14th Dec 10am - Practice at Chislehurst, St Nicks

2014 meetings

11th Jan at Eltham, 12th April Venue TBC, 12th July at Dartford and 11th Oct at Horton Kirby (all subject to agreement from the various churches)

21st April (Easter Monday) KCACR AGM at Lewisham

1st Mar Striking competition venue TBC

15th Nov Call Change Competition venue TBC

AOB

Dominic asked if there was anyone who could assist the Lewisham Band ring for their first Sunday Service next Sunday (20th October) 9.15am meet as they are one short.

2014 Ringing World Calendars which feature on the front page of the Newsletter are available from Shelagh and Chris at a price of £7. Profits, if bought from them will go to the Kent BRF.

Cudham & Downe will be sharing practices on Monday evenings. (1st & 3rd at Cudham, 2nd & 4th at Downe)

Vote of Thanks

Natalie Slator proposed a vote of thanks to Rev Rob Radcliffe for conducting the Service and to Graham Sadler for playing the organ. Thanks were also given to Margaret Heald and Erith St John Band for hosting us, and for providing a delicious tea which was enjoyed by all.

Next meeting will be at Eltham, St John on Saturday 11th January 2014.