



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 2014

Chelsfield victorious at County 6 Bell

Five Districts took part in the competition on 27 September at Kennington, for which the draw took place at 2.00pm. The judges, Paul and Kate Flavell, had elected to sit in their car just outside the churchyard as this was the best place to hear the bells.

The day was fine so the bands could listen to the other competitors in the churchyard. A delicious tea was provided as a running buffet in the church hall by the local ringers.

The ringing was completed by 4.00pm after which we waited for the judges to come to their decision as to the winner.

Margaret Funnell welcomed the judges and then handed over to them for the results. Paul said that he was glad to see that the trophy was available to award to the winner as the last time he had judged one of our striking competitions he had to hand over a teacup to the winning band as the previous winner had forgotten to return it. He said that when entering a striking competition you should not rush leads, try to exude confidence and ring what you are comfortable with. He also said the bells



were easy to hear and that the treble and second were odd struck and it was difficult to establish the right speed. The bells were rung slowly for a light weight six. He advised that the marks were given out of 484 and that they had marked hard as it was felt that these were bands that were the best in each District. [The 484 is based on two marks per row of 240 changes, plus two more for a whole pull of rounds at the end - Ed]

Kate then gave out comments on each band. Most bands did not have method mistakes but as the ringing was slow errors were more

easily detected. She gave out the marks for the bands save for the first two which had to wait to see which of them was successful. The band from St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield, of the Lewisham District were declared the winners and the trophy was presented to them.

Margaret then thanked the judges for coming and presented them with a small gift of two bottles of wine and thanked the Kennington band and the Ashford District for their hospitality.

Margaret Funnell

Position	Rang	District	Tower	Marks
1st	2nd	Lewisham	Chelsfield	415 (86%)
2nd	1st	Rochester	Meopham	405 (84%)
3rd	3rd	Canterbury	Sturry	396 (82%)
4th	4th	Ashford	Willesborough	390 (81%)
5th	5th	Tonbridge	Sevenoaks	375 (77%)
6th		Maidstone		DNS

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Chairman's bit...

Another year in the district is nearly over.

The District Meetings were held by Eltham, Bromley Common and Dartford and were generally well attended but it's always nice to see new people at them. The teas are normally worth coming out for!

District practices continue to be held roughly once a month. Please come along and support them Everyone is welcome and they are what you make them.

Crayford & Dartford won the Call Change Competition, Chelsfield the Striking Competition and Crayford the Farningham Trophy.

The district retained the County 8 bell trophy at Tonbridge. The change to a morning competition didn't put us off and we are now up to 4 in a row. In September, Chelsfield won back the County 6 bell trophy at Kennington. And the district was well represented in the Essex 10 bell Trophy band which was won by KCACR for a third year in a row.

As it is ADM time, all of the District Officers are up for re-election and towers will be required for next years District Meetings.

And finally, the call change competition is coming up at West Wickham on Sat 15th Nov. This is aimed at less experienced bands because you are only allowed a maximum of 3 peal ringers in the band. Combined bands are allowed. It would be nice to see an increase on the 4 bands who entered last year. I'm sure that there must be more bands in the district that can ring call changes than that.

Rupert

Call Change Competition
Sat 15th November, West Wickham
2.30pm draw.
Full details on the website

Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has contributed this time. After a slow start it turned into quite a bit. I hope that I have not missed anything sent to me.

I'm still hoping to give up the Editorship at the ADM as I only took it on as a stop gap so I'm hoping that there is someone keen out there to take it on.

Cheers

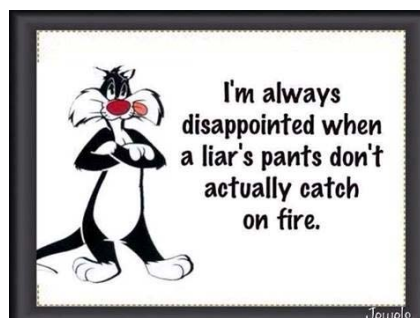
Rupert

ps Thanks again to Frank for his excellent website which I pilfered a couple of these stories from.



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Essex Trophy 2014 - It's the hat trick

On a bright and sunny Saturday 6 September, five teams from across the Home Counties assembled at All Saints', Maidstone, for the 35th annual Essex Trophy 10-bell striking competition. The church was the hub of activity for the afternoon, with food and drink a-plenty accompanying the sound of the bells



and the live video feed that had been set up by the All Saints ringers.

The draw was held promptly at

12.30pm and after a short delay whilst waiting for the 10th member of the first band to arrive the competition got under way. Overall it took about two hours for all teams to practise and then ring their



test piece during which time many ploughman's lunches, cakes and pints of Goacher's



Fine Light ale were consumed. A further half an hour or so went by at the end of the ringing whilst the judges, Phil Barnes and Ian Roulstone, gathered their thoughts.

The results meant that Kent had achieved a 3rd straight win with quite a clear lead from the other bands. However there was not much between the other four bands in terms of numbers of faults. The judges were then thanked for their time and effort and presented with a bottle of wine each. Next year's competition will be held on Saturday 12 September 2015, and will be hosted either by Guildford or Essex.

Doug Davis

Posn	Team	Rang	Faults	Judges' comments
1st	Kent County Association	1st	80	Peal speed 3h 15m. Slightly driven start but settled nicely. Faults picked up in seventh six of the first course along with a number of the
2nd	Essex Association	5th	135	Peal speed 3h 8m. Businesslike rounds, clips in the first few sixes with faults picked up in sixes 8/9/10 like others. Leading took time to settle but overall got better.
3rd	Sussex County Association	2nd	140	Peal speed 3h 20m. Good opening rounds. Faults picked up in the same place as the first band. Generally erratic ringing which didn't
4th	Surrey Association	3rd	146	Peal speed 3h 25m. Good effort but slightly too measured so never really flowed. Faults picked up when the bells were spreading out, but
5th	Hertfordshire County Assoc.	4th	154	Peal speed 3h 19m. Good pace, but errors throughout with faults picked up through clips and inaccuracies.

Farnborough Summer Outing to the Coast

On an extremely soggy Bank Holiday at the end of August, just over a dozen ringers from Farnborough, Horton Kirby and Chelsfield, ventured down to the Kent Coast to enjoy some ringing and sight-seeing! The plan had been to ring at three towers in the morning, have a tasty pub lunch in an appropriate hostelry, and perhaps venture to the beach, have a cycle through the dunes, or have a trip on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Steam Railway in the afternoon sunshine. However, for anybody who doesn't recall the constant torrents of the late Summer Bank Holiday, some had little option but to spend a while longer than others indulging in The Bell Inn at Ivychurch!

Tower list

Kennington, St Mary,	6 bells 11 cwt
Lympne, St Stephen,	6 bells 12 cwt
New Romney, St Nicholas	8 bells 15 cwt

Jacqui Moore



Ladies Guild Outing

Our first stop of the afternoon was a welcome 'tea and nibbles' with one of the ladies, Caroline, who rings at Sevenoaks with her husband and daughter. They welcomed us into their lovely home and we sat in the garden in the afternoon sunshine, drinking copious amounts of tea and eating delicious treats! Thank you, Caroline and family!

We had been ready for our tea as our ringing talents had been needed at St John's, Deptford, that morning for the Brockley Farmer's Market! Here we rang a few touches of Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Hunt on 7 and some good rounds and called changes. We were rather pleased to be asked to ring for a local event! And we also had a chance to visit the market and pick up a few edible 'goodies'.

Back to the main event, the Ladies Guild day. We were ringing at 2 churches, the first of which was Sevenoaks. A lovely ring of 8, which some say are the best in the district! Here we rang a selection of methods as well as some very good called changes called by Rebecca, the youngest member of the group.

After a short drive, we arrived at our next church, Brasted, another ring of 8, this time anticlockwise. Here we managed some Stedman with 6,7,8 covering, as well as the less ambitious Plain Bob.

We took some time between ringing to read the jokes put up by the Brasted ringers such as - due to operational difficulties the light at end of the tunnel has been temporarily turned off.

There were a few 'laddies' amongst the ringers today. Along with Caroline's husband Mike, was David who rings at Sevenoaks, and another chap who'd read our ad in the comic and come along to join in the fun. He also joined us at the pub, where we enjoyed a delicious post ringing meal!

We'd like to recommend a visit to Brasted even if it's only to read the rest of the jokes!

Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith

Wickham Wotsits open day

An unexpected family outing occurred to Hurstpierpoint. We had received a last minute invitation to join the Wickham Wotsits for one of their open days, particularly targeted at young ringers. Theo (aged 12) and Serafina (aged 11) and I (age not important!) were most excited to be having our very first go at a "mini ring"

The setup itself is rather unusual being as the "bells" are in the roof space of a garage, normally housing a rather fetching vintage car. The car had been rolled forward and a ringing circle of 8 revealed. There were about 8 children and a similar number of adults, all of us with varying experience of ringing. All the children went up the ladder to inspect the bells, which are really wooden wheels with a weight and reflective sensor on them. The sensor is connected to a computer which supplies the "ding." For authenticity there are paper maché bells in place too which really makes them look the part! There is no stay to worry about and the wheels go all the way over one way and then back again.

The mini ring itself took a bit of practice to control. Putting our hand in the loop at the end of the rope felt very strange, but after a few duff goes all three of us were able to master one hand raising for the backstroke and the other hand catching the very teeny sally for our handstroke. Theo said it was really fun and much easier than he would have expected. He was able to practice his hunting and Serafina who is only just putting both strokes together on church bells was a wizz with her rounds



and had her very first go at call changes. In fact she was so taken with them, that she now wants her own mini ring in our shed! (Daddy says no!)

A picnic lunch between showers was held in the back garden and everyone was given a tricky wordsearch with 20 ringing related words to be found - but no list provided. This was surprisingly competitive with adults and children alike inventing some brand new ringing words, and including some extra words which might have had a tenuous link to the ringing world.

After lunch the rope making equipment was set up, and some lucky children were able to make their very own mini bellrope, complete with a three colour sally. Sadly there wasn't enough time for Theo or Serafina to make one, however this just gives us an excuse to go back and do it all over again!!!

Our hosts John and Mary were amazing and there was a non stop flow of tea, juice and cake as needed throughout the day. We all felt elated on our journey home - we had all enjoyed the most wonderful day.

Alison Wilson



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

ASH-BY-WROTHAM

*Practice Saturday 9:30am
Sunday 10am*

BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 19:50
Sunday 9am*

BEXLEY

*Practice Thursday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am*

BICKLEY

*Practice Wednesday 19:30
Sunday 10am*

BIGGIN HILL

*Practice Tuesday 20:00
Sunday 10am*

BROMLEY

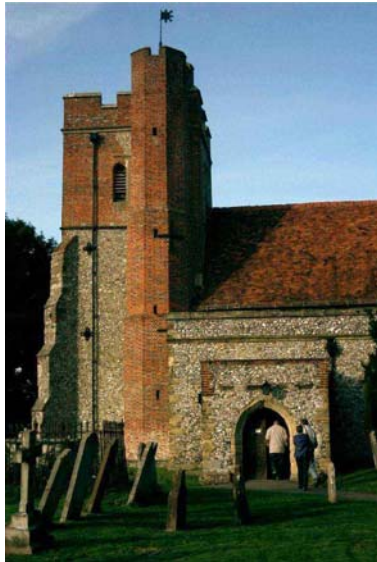
*No Practice
Sunday 10am*

Can you note that there is no practice at Bromley Parish, and hasn't been one for a couple of years now. I noticed that we were down as having a Tues practice in the last newsletter.

Dickon Love

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*

On a recent visit to Chislehurst it was a bit of a surprise to see that the ringing room walls had gone and the ringers are now open to the church. The vicar is keen on making better use of the space at the back of the church and has plans for a kitchen and meeting room. This will mean the ringers moving upstairs above it.

Rupert



CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45
Sunday 9.20am*

Sunday's continue to be a struggle but practices are generally well attended except for a couple of times over the summer when we were down to minimus! But even that was still good practice. We have regularly been trying Plain Bob Triples recently.

We have continued to ring regularly quarter peals. In August, we rang to commemorate the start of the

First World War. Our vicar did chicken out of us ringing before the 10.30pm service though! In September, Mary rang her first inside and it was also Rob's first quarter which he then followed up a couple of weeks later with his first on the treble. We rang a date touch to celebrate Andrew's parents Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Rupert



Monday, 4 August 2014
1260 Doubles (6m/v/p) in 0:43mins
(1p/2v/3m: 60 Stedman and 240 each Southrepps, Reverse Canterbury, Kennington, Plain Bob and Grandsire)

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

Rung half muffled in tribute to all those who lost their lives in the Great War whose declaration occurred 100 years ago today, especially William Audsley and William Eames of this tower.

Tuesday, 23 September 2014
1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 0:42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Mary Hayward
3. Karen Robinson
4. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
5. Sue Cameron
6. Rob Savill

Rung to celebrate the Christening of Ruby Larkin on Sunday 21st Sept, godchild of Mary.
1st attempt; 6. 1st inside; 2. Circled tower; 5.

Sunday, 28 September 2014
1964 Doubles (8m/p) in 1hr 3mins
(7m/1p: 144 Stedman, 240 each Reverse Canterbury, St Osmund, Eynesbury, St Martin's, St Simon's, Plain Bob and 380 Grandsire.)

1. Karen Robinson
2. Lesley Barclay
3. Cathy Cheeseman
4. Darren Elphick
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Lynnden and David Sinclair, parents of the tenor, who were married on the 26th September 1964.

Tuesday, 7 October 2014
1260 Southrepps Doubles in 0:42mins

1. Rob Savill
2. Brenda Barton
3. Karen Robinson
4. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Shelagh Norman

Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Pauline and Geoff Rush who were married on 10th Oct 1964.

1st on treble; 1. 1st in variation; 3. 100th together; 2&5.

CUDHAM

Practice Monday 20:00 (except 1st) 19:45 Joint Practice with Downe
Sunday 10.30am

We finally had the damaged shingles on the roof

repaired. The holes which were letting in vast amounts of water into the belfry and the ringing chamber below are now watertight. The steeplejacks have reported that the main king post is very rotten at the apex so further works are going to be necessary.



The ropes are now rather tatty, and spliced repairs made to four of them, so we are going to be digging into the bell fund for some new ones at some point. As the woodpecker is bound to wreak more havoc on the shingles, we think the way forward will be to have pre stretched poly prop ropes on the top part of the ropes so that they can withstand whatever the weather can throw at them!



We would also like to address the soundproofing too. As the bells are just above the ringing chamber, with only a timber floor between the bells and the ringers, we are all losing our hearing. There is no space to insert a false ceiling because of the clock workings. There is no room to add a false floor to the

belfry as we only have about two feet between the floor and the bottom of the bell frames. Any ideas would be gratefully received. We cannot put carpet up there due to the water ingress. It would soon turn into a mouldy old mess and retain the moisture so answers on a postcard please!!!!

Alison Wilson

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 8.50am & 3rd Sunday 5.30pm

Investigation reveals that there has been no news from us since January so.... here goes.

February saw our light in the clock room fixed so now we can see to wind the clock. The pew ends have gone finally but the pigeons have put a halt to further work, they have cracked how to get in through the louvres (broken wire netting) and started to nest until interrupted by Deryck. That is the next job, work is never ending.

We organised an outing in March in the Sandwich area (very old news as this was reported earlier) and at the moment are looking forward to an outing being organized by Crayford, destination unknown as yet.

April and May produced the usual Easter ringing and the District Practice. In April we said good-bye to the Stooks who have been invaluable in their help and presence over the years. We miss them sorely and this has had an adverse effect on our numbers, making good ringing almost impossible on occasion when reduced to 3 or 4 ringers. Visitors are always welcome, either on Wednesdays for practice or Sundays for service ringing. We have continued to support Crayford and Erith (both churches) and Mark and Rachel continue to support us when numbers warrant it.

Some of you may have heard the broadcast Sunday Service in August for the Commemoration of the outbreak of WW2 [blink and you missed it! - Ed]. The ringing for that was augmented by Rupert and Andrew from Crayford and Mark and Rachel from Erith. Afterwards 4 of us enjoyed the breakfast laid on in the café and caught up on news.

Numbers have been low again due to holidays but we hope to pick up once these are over. This morning we had 7 ringers and a good ring.

Esther Correia

DOWNE

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 9am

Downe and Cudham Villages have continued to work together ringing at Peter & St Paul, Cudham on the first and third Mondays in the month and at St Mary's, Downe on the second and fourth and when a fifth Monday does occur we summon all troupes and ring in our own Churches! We both have a few

'youngsters' who are making good progress so we are not too despondent about the future!



For the special school Harvest Festival Service, we at Downe were only able to find 5 ringers who could ring

during a working day, so a ringer from Cudham joined us to make 6, and what a lovely reception we had from the School Children in receiving a round of applause for our Ringing!

It is lovely to be appreciated!

Bridget Robbie

ELTHAM

*Practice Tuesday 20:00
Sunday 9.15am*

Eltham Outing

David Holdridge, Ian Mills and I wanted to visit the glass tower at Basildon and having never organised an outing but having been on 3, it seemed easy enough at the start when Roger Hobson said he would book 4pm for us.

Then Ian suggested Canewdon, as there is a history of witches there and of course a tower with ten bells. During the phone conversations with both tower captains Rayleigh and Thorpe Bay were mentioned as they are considered nice rings. Then Ian and David noticed that the ringing centre of Prittlewell is in the area, so, eventually and with much patience on behalf of the tower captains in South Essex, I was able to book all five towers.

Luckily I had started the project in March, so despite having to change the time of our visit to Canewdon once and Basildon twice [we ended up ringing there at 12.00 but as the sun wasn't too strong on that day we didn't suffer the extremes of temperature that can be a problem in the glass tower] the logistics of working out times for the towers with both Basildon and Prittlewell being unavailable in the morning.

We managed a tiring but enjoyable day. David and Ian invited 3 elite ringers who are used to ringing on 10 bells [unlike the rest of us] and interestingly, Ben Kipling was one of them [he had tuned the bells

at Canewdon]. We ended the day at a tea shop in Southend High street where the owner had agreed to stay open for us, having had a carvery lunch in Thorpe Bay it was quite a full day.

Chris Davine.

ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am*

ERITH (St John the Baptist)

*Practice 1st Wednesday 20:00, then Thursdays 20:00
Sunday 9.30am*

EYNSFORD

*Practice 1st (Surprise Major) & 3rd Friday 20:00
Sunday 1st & 3rd 8.45am*

FARNBOROUGH

Sunday 9.30am



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
(subject to variation)*

LEWISHAM

Practice 5th Wednesday

PENGE

Ringing by arrangement

ST MARY CRAY

*Practice Thursday 19:30
Sunday 9.30am*

SHOREHAM

*Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 10am*

SIDCUP

Practice Wednesday 20:00

WEST WICKHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 9.15am

We continue to ring regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday practices. The second Wednesday of the month we hold a surprise practice with extra help from Addington and local ringers, which has proved very successful.

We have 2 new recruits Tony and Kathy who have picked up the art of ringing very quickly and will soon be learning plain-hunting.

In the summer we held our annual BBQ, another glorious Sunday spent in Alys' garden and this month will see our annual outing, this year to Surrey.

Judith Fry

WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

The Meridian Ringers

Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-930pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. We usually have good attendances at practice nights, sometimes ringing all 10 bells, some triples, minor and some additional doubles methods and some 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. We are now ringing at Woolwich again about once a month on a Monday 8-930pm - all welcome; it is best to check our website to see when we'll be ringing there in the future.

We rang recently for the Induction of the New Team Rector, Rev Peter Farley-Moore, at St. John's, Deptford. This included a last minute rigging up of a rope so Rev Peter could ring a bell to alert the parish to him becoming the new incumbent. The Rector has



asked us to install a more permanent service bell rope in due course.

On Thursday 26th June we had a Mini Weekday Outing along with some Bexley ringers and Graham Cuthbert, Jan Odell's brother from Harrietsham, to ring at three towers - Faversham, Newnham and Teynham with a splendid lunch at The George Inn, Newnham.

As several of us are now retired we intend to have more regular weekday trips with some weekend ringing also to be arranged sometimes.

Here is the band gathered outside Faversham church.

One of our ringers Alan Munden and his wife Liz were married at St. Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate, in the City of London on 27th October 1973. For some time we have been trying to arrange to mark their 40th Wedding Anniversary and finally managed to do this on 25th September 2014:

A Quarter Peal of 1320 Plain Bob Doubles
In 50 minutes (Tenor 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt in F#)

Treble	Hazel Bing
2	Jim Odell
3	Eddie Coode
4	Graham Long
5	Bill Lanyon (conductor)
Tenor	Alan Munden



After the quarter we continued with service ringing for the Thursday lunchtime Said Eucharist with Luigi Vincenti, Brenda Coode and Dan Cocker joining in the ringing. The church had arranged for the service to also include Alan and Liz renewing their wedding vows. This was also the first service at St Botolph's for Fr Andrew Williams, Priest Missioner.

Mary Moore, daughter of the late Fr Moore who officiated at the wedding in 1973, joined us for the service. We were then shown round the magnificent Parish Room where Alan and Liz had their wedding reception. Graham Long noticed a splendid Yamaha grand piano and duly celebrated the occasion with a rendition of a few bars of Mendelssohn's Wedding March!

Many thanks to John Adams, the Tower Captain and Mhairi Ellis, the Church Administrator for helping to organise this. We then proceeded for some splendid refreshments at The George, Great Eastern Hotel.

Just to remind people that Freda Cannon, our Tower Captain Emeritus, is now resident at Fairmount Residential Care Home, Mottingham Lane, Mottingham, SE9 4RT, Tel: 020 8857 1064.

She would welcome visitors at any reasonable time. Alan picks Freda up to bring her to Greenwich so she can go to Evensong and hear us ringing once a month.

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

www.meridianbells.webs.com

Graham Long

120 club 2014-15

July draw

Held at Dartford District Meeting on July 12th

1st	41	Tom Baird (Eltham)
1st	35	Margaret Heald (St John's Erith)
2nd	62	Judith Cheeseman (Crayford)
2nd	26	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
3rd	114	120 club
3rd	27	Ian Nurdin (Ash)
4th	43	John Bonney (Bexley)
4th	81	Sue Cameron

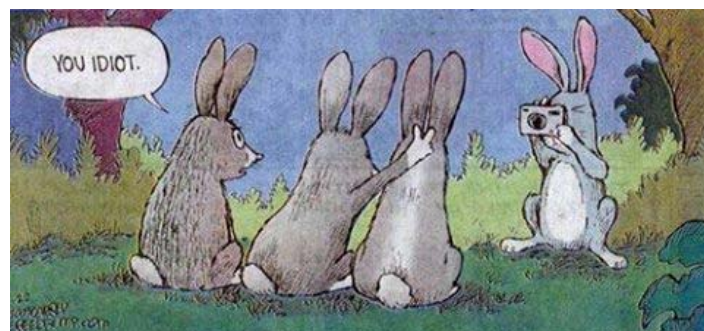
September draw

Held Farnborough District Practice on 20th Sept

1st	31	Jim Rooke (Chelsfield)
2nd	42	Melissa Cheeseman (Crayford)
3rd	65	Margaret Heald (St John's Erith)
4th	75	Pauline Smith (Charlton Kings)

I reported at the Dartford meeting that my local branch of Barclays (where the 120 club account is held) is closing in October and that I would be looking into transferring the account to Lloyds. All the dealings we have had over the last 10 years with regard to setting up accounts for the 120 club seem to have run into problems and this time was no different. In the end I got so fed up with Lloyds that I made a complaint and withdrew the application to transfer the account. The good news for the BRF (where all the profits ultimately go) is that I have been offered £50 compensation and so when the cheque arrives I will pass the money on.

Rachel Backhouse



Lewisham / Tonbridge District Outing

On Saturday 6th August three Chelsfield ringers joined other local ringers for a day's ringing based on the Croydon Tramlink system. Most of us used public transport for the day, but some ringers used their cars to reach the first tower, Addington. The 353 bus dropped me a few minutes' walk from the church. Nine o'clock was an early start and only about twelve ringers were there to enjoy the easy-going light ring of six bells. Until 1954 Addington tower contained a derelict ring of four bells. That year the treble bell was re-cast by Messrs Gillett & Johnston into two new bells and, with two further new bells, a pleasant, easy-going ring of six resulted. The tenor bell weighs just under seven cwt. The bells were actually cast at Loughborough to Gillett & Johnston profiles and were hung by Ralph Bird, with whom I rang locally in the 1960s. This ring has some historical significance because it was the last job carried out by Gillett & Johnston. I have been told that the frame includes some oddments of steel that remained in the foundry. The foundry was in the northern part of Croydon, having expanded from a clock making firm first established there

in the 1840s. About 1880, Arthur Johnston started casting bells for his clocks. In 1905 his son Cyril joined the firm and took considerable interest in Canon Simpson's theories about bell tuning. The result of Cyril's investigations was that Gillett & Johnston's bells became well known for their musical

qualities, so much so that today people who aware of that request both Whitechapel and Loughborough bell foundries to cast new bells to a Gillett & Johnston profile. Eventually, Cyril Johnston became Director of the bell foundry. I understand that he introduced cast iron headstocks as standard fittings, in preference to the elm variety. The firm still exists as clockmakers and is centred at Bletchingly, Surrey; from time to time I see one of its vans around Farnborough and Orpington.

A few years ago an excellent DVD was made about bell ringing entitled "The Craft of Bellringing" (please ask me if you wish to borrow a copy) and a note in the tower reminded us that some of it was filmed at Addington.

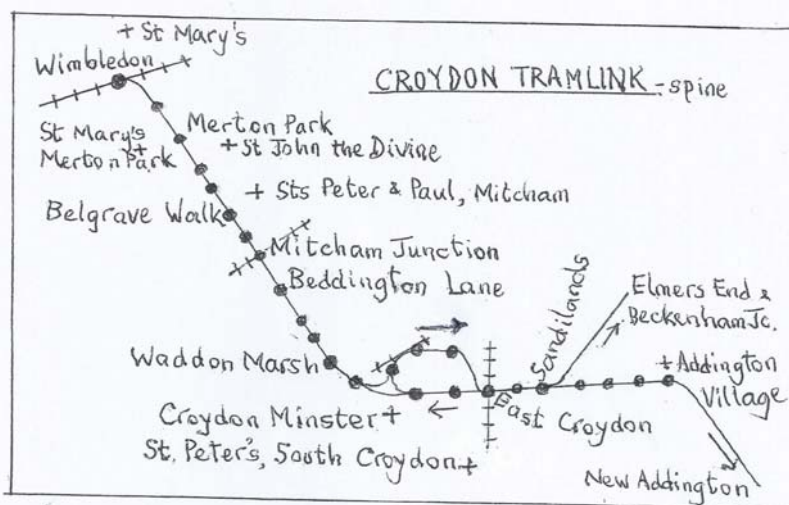
Also, bearing in mind the significance of August 2014, the village community had set up in the church an informative display about the First World War and the involvement of local people.

Many of us caught a 64 bus from Addington to our second tower, St Peter's, South Croydon, not least because the tram service was suspended and replaced by buses between Sandilands and East Croydon Station. St Peter's has a fine ring of ten bells cast in 1912 by Gillett & Johnston. The ring was augmented to twelve bells in 2002 by the addition of two treble bells cast at Whitechapel and installed by Whites of Appleton. I noted that Cyril Johnston had rung peals here. The tenor weighs 30 cwt and by the time I reached the tower there were 25 ringers in the party. We rang Grandsire Cinques, the only change-ringing that we achieved using all twelve bells. They are easy to ring, but the heavier bells do need experienced ringers to ring them. Some of us then walked the mile to St John the Baptist, Croydon, now called Croydon Minster. My group found

time for coffee and a snack at The Skylark en-route. The fine ring of twelve at the Minster are challenging, even for experienced ringers, but the ring includes two additional semitone bells (an extra treble and a flat sixth), that enable a lighter ring of ten to be rung. The original twelve bells were cast in 1936-7 by Gillett & Johnston. The most advanced ringing we

achieved during the day was rung here, a touch of Stedman Caters.

Our short walk to the tram stop took us past Reeves Corner, the site of the Reeves family's shop, destroyed during the 2011 riots. The recommended pub for lunch, the Surrey Arms, was beyond Mitcham Junction and so we took the tram to Belgrave Walk, only to discover that the pub did not serve food. A good one mile walk towards Wimbledon, passing the National Trust's Morden Hall Park, took us to The Royal Surrey pub close to Morden Underground Station. Here we enjoyed generous helpings of (in several cases)



sausages and mash. We then had to return two stops from Morden Road stop to Belgrave Walk to reach Saints Peter & Paul, Mitcham. For some years I recall that this ring of eight, tenor 14 cwt., was in the care of what ringers called an 'unringable vicar' who, thinking perhaps that the tower was unsafe, refused to allow the bells to be rung. When he moved on, considerable work was needed on the bells installation so that ringing might resume, there having been no maintenance for some years. Unusually, the tower of this 1822 church is placed to the southeast of the church, the internal door from the tower to the church entering well to the east of the altar. Whilst I was on door duty a former ringer came up and chatted to me and we observed an elderly couple who stopped nearby and listened intently to the ringing. The church is a tall, well lit building with off-white walls. Its splendid fan vaulted ceiling is well worth a visit.

Then it was back to the tram and a ride two stops northwards towards Wimbledon to Morden Road. From here a long walk took us

to St John the Divine, Merton, a brand new ring of six bells on which we were the first band of visitors to ring. Three of the bells, numbers three, four and six, were cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1939 for a chime. Having become redundant, they were bought by Merton. The remaining three bells, numbers one, three and five were cast this year by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry to Taylor profiles and the result is a lovely ring of six. The new bells were tuned by Ben Kipling, who was ringing with us. All six bells were hung by Andrew Nicholson of Bridport. There is a noticeable gap between the treble and tenor ropes – it is hoped to add two treble bells when funds allow. A non-ringing visitor came up to the ringing room with us and showed an interest in what we were doing. I explained how we achieved full-circle ringing and Nick Wilkins introduced him to the local ringer who had met us and we hope he will learn to ring. The church was built in 1913 – 14 of Darley Dale gritstone and was dedicated to serve the needs of the increasing population. It was built on land donated by Mr John Mackrell "to mark the centenary of the death of Lord Horatio Nelson", who had lived in Merton Hall from 1801 to 1805. The church possesses a beam from HMS Victory. The installation of the bells and the service of dedication marked "one hundred years of sharing God's love."

There followed a long walk to St Mary, Merton Park. It provided me with my first blackberries of the season as

well as my first tasty damsons that I picked up from the grass verge. Some of us walked on past the church, not believing that the "tower" could contain a ring of six bells, but it did! Its walls date from 1115 and the bells, augmented to six in the 1970s, tenor 7 cwt., are rung from the church porch. The fifth bell is old, dating from about 1450. The ropes of the treble, second and third are almost in a line on the north side of the porch and the remaining three ropes are almost in a line on the south side, thus allowing the congregation to reach the church by walking through the ringers. An unusual situation, indeed! The squat "tower" is surmounted by a spirelet. Access to the bells is by an external ladder as far as the 45 degrees sloping tiled roof; an iron ladder

without hand holds is fixed to it so that one may reach the bell chamber at the top. Getting to the bell chamber is not for everyone! It looked quite scary! This church, too, is noted for its connections to Lord Nelson. Interestingly, it stands in the centre of a John Innes Conservation Area.

We walked back to Morden Road to catch a tram to Wimbledon and from the

station a 493 bus took us to St Mary's, Wimbledon Village. The ring of eight bells here was new in 1984 from Whitechapel. Two bells from the older ring remain because they are listed for preservation, a bell of 1520 by William Culverdon and one of 1532 by Robert Mot. Both men had their foundries in London. (Some readers may recall that Route 493 used to run between Orpington Station and the Ramsden Estate; its re-numbering to R9 freed up the number 493 and it has been re-used in Wimbledon.)

The day ended for some of us with a drink in a Wetherspoons' Wibbas Down Inn in Wimbledon, after which a train to Waterloo and thence another to Orpington saw me home at 9.20 p.m. Whilst I had used the Croydon tram once before for a short distance, this was my first real experience of it. The line from Addington and through central Croydon was new in 2000 and the section onwards to Wimbledon runs mainly over former railway tracks, the few stations having been replaced by several useful tram stops. All our journeys showed the trams to be very well used; indeed, for some journeys we had to stand. So ended a good day's ringing as well as the discovery of some interesting local history. As I have sometimes remarked to children in a classroom, almost every town or village has been the scene of someone or something interesting in years gone by. This day was no exception.

John Barnes



Ringing Roadshow

On 6th September, ringers from all over the country descended on Newbury Racecourse for the Ringing Roadshow. Towers were open on the way to and from Newbury and there were plenty of mini ring's, including the KCACR's Jubi peal, to have a go on at the racecourse. Other than this, there were 3 floors of stalls by Associations and companies selling or demonstrating a variety of ringing related goods. There were talks every hour and tune handbell ringing demonstrations.

It was a good day out and nice meeting up with people that I hadn't seen for a while and also good to see a fair number from our district.

Rupert



County Training Cudham Outing

The general feedback I have been getting from emails is that our priority should be to raise the standard of teaching. Some feel that recruitment is just as important, if not more so, but I subscribe to the majority view. Of course some ringing teachers will have nobody to teach at times, but a recruit without someone to teach them properly is a potential loss to the Exercise.

As far as I am aware my post has no terms of reference, so it is up to me to define what actually constitutes an Association training event. I would like us to adopt the ITTS programme throughout the County. A Module 2 course was held at Dover in August and another is booked for 19th September 2015. Ideally there ought to be one or two Module 1 feeder courses in the mean time and I'd be happy to have offers of venues for these.

I'm currently seeking help in compiling a directory of towers and teaching facilities suitable for holding training courses. A Training and Recruitment Fund (TRF) could, for example, award grants for installing simulators and CCTV equipment where none exists at present.

There still isn't an Association training committee as such, but I consult with the twenty-four District and Association Officers on my training e-mail list. This is somewhat unwieldy, and is likely to need updating after ADM's anyway. One District has already reduced its representation to just the two officers who are directly concerned with training matters. If other Districts were to follow suit then occasional telephone conferences might be practicable.

Finally, my predecessor set up a KCACR Training group on Facebook. I admit to some reluctance in joining it initially, but I now recognise that it can be a useful forum. Please look at it if you haven't, already done so, and contribute to it.

Peter Dale
KCA Training Officer



This year we started at Maresfield, where the ringing was interesting. We should have known when we found a wheelchair dangling from the number 4, that things would be lively. A long draft combined with new ropes (seemingly made from elastic) kept us all on our toes - perhaps not our finest hour!

We moved onto Fletching, the prettiest village we have ever visited. The ropes and bells there were lovely, the village shop sold sweets from the jar and a great take away coffee, we managed to ring well, so success all round. The last tower before lunch was at Danehill, where the church was built and paid for by a local resident in memory of her husband! Again lovely bells. A hidden trip hazard in the middle of the ringing chamber and the chimes not soundproofed so you were in a world of your own when ringing the 4 bell (What was it about the number 4?). Made for great comedy if not fantastic ringing - although we were quite magnificent under the circumstances.



A hearty lunch was enjoyed at the Crown in Horsted Keynes. This was followed by a trip on the Bluebell steam railway to East Grinstead. The railway offer discounted bus travel from East Grinstead station into the town, and we duly caught the bus to ring at St Swithuns. They have a ring of 12, but with an extra number 2 to be used depending on how many bells you ring on. One number 2 for the front 6 or 8, another if you are ringing on 10 or 12. The Tenor weighs 28cwt - not for the faint hearted! We had ringers from Downe, Sundridge, Hever as well as ourselves, and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had.

Alison Wilson



Lewisham District Events 2014/5



- Sat 11th Oct Annual District Meeting: Horton Kirby, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 18th Oct District Practice: Shoreham, 10.00am - 12.00
- Fri 14th Oct District Practice: St Mary Cray, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 15th Nov District 6-bell Call Change Competition: West Wickham, 2.30pm draw.
- Sat 13th Dec District Practice: Biggin Hill, 7.00 - 9.00pm

2015

- Sat 10th Jan Quarterly Meeting: venue tbc, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 24th Jan District Practice: Erith, Christ Church, 10.00am - 12.00
- Fri 20th Feb District Practice: Horton Kirby, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 21st Mar District Practice: Chislehurst, Annunciation, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- Mon 6th Apr KCACR Annual General Meeting: Marden, (Maidstone District)

Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up.

Please check the district website www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at www.kcacr.org.uk

If you would like to join the Lewisham District email group to get reminders/updates of district events please visit http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district or email lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk





THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held at Dartford, Holy Trinity, 12th July 2014

1. Minute of Silence

Was held for Simon Sleath, Tower Captain of Downe, who died on 22nd April.

2. Apologies for absence

Received from Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman (Greenwich), Mark Backhouse (Erith CC), Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby)

3. Minutes of last meeting (12th April 2014)

Posted to the website after last meeting and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed: David Holdridge Seconded: Andrew Sinclair

4. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Nil.

5. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Jacqueline Wickham	Erith, St John's	Margaret Heald	Luke Potgieter
Helen Smith (Junior member)			Mark Backhouse

6. County Training Events

Peter Dale from Dover Ringing Centre took over the role of County Training Officer in April and has been busy organising two ITTS training events. The first is a 2hr seminar on Thurs 14th Aug dedicated to the ITTS Mentor scheme. This is taking place at Kennington Community Centre. The mentor scheme is directed at those who can ring Plain Bob Minor inside confidently. The second is day course on Sat 23rd Aug ITTS Module II taking place at Dover. More info on both events can be found on the County Website or by contacting Peter direct (contact details on the website). The question was asked, if we went to an event would it mean that the district were committed to paying the proposed extra money in County Subs in the future. It was explained that the donation via subs was a separate issue. The commitment required is to the ITTS scheme as an individual rather than district or county level.

7. County AGM—April 2014

We, as a district, hosted this successful event on Easter Monday at Lewisham. The feedback received was all positive (especially enjoyed was the Chicken Rice & Peas!) apart from one of the towers shutting before the hour had passed. Rupert wished to thank all those who took part by either opening their towers, stewarding or in the running of the event. Special thanks go to Julia Pring and her team at Lewisham who provided the venue and the food and the clearing up. Letters of thanks were sent to the Vicar, organist and Julia after the

event. We were able to make a donation to the church, BRF and to the Lewisham tower fund (to go towards a set of new ropes) with the monies left over.

8. Update from County Meeting held on 26th April 2014

KCACR report on the meeting; presented by Natalie Slator and Chris Davine.

Rupert explained the structure of the County meetings for the benefit of the new members. There are six Districts in the Kent County Association each with two district reps. Each district holds meetings four times a year. The reps then attend the four County meetings and are a conduit between the two.

- The main topic was centred on the Ringing Foundation (RF) requesting more money to run the ITTS training schemes. This was covered in depth at the last district meeting and info on it can be found in the previous minutes. Should we pay the extra money they are requesting? Can we do the same training, but in house? Shall we set up our own training fund? There is already the £1000+ profit from the calendar sales to start it off.
- MRFS proposed that the income of the county be split three ways with the General Fund receiving 50%, the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) 25% and the new Education Fund 25%.
- There is still a will to promote and publicise a Young Ringers Section within the County. Philip Larter will be the central point of contact with involvement from Ben Legg. There is already a section on the County website and a Facebook page in existence. It is hoped that a County Youth Competition will take place, Rev Cawley has offered to provide a trophy.
- There has been an offer to take the Jubilee Peel to the Ringing Roadshow, however it needs a bit of maintenance and modification to make it easier to assemble. This may not be possible in time for September but any volunteers of help would be gratefully received by Charles Tassell.
- Catherine Lewis is seeking new quotes for enamel KCACR badges.
- Thanks were given to the Lewisham District (us) for hosting the successful County AGM in April.
- The 10 bell Essex Trophy will take place in Kent this year on 13th September.
- The County 6 bell striking comp will be held at Kennington this year, Canterbury District next year.
- The County 8 bell striking comp will be held in the Ashford District next year.
- Next County meeting is at Leeds on 30th August.

8. Events Update - Results and forthcoming

Date	Event	Time	Tower
25 th July	District Practice	8 - 9.30pm	Chislehurst
9 th August	Joint District Outing	Day	Multiple in London tbc
16 th August	District Practice	10am - noon	Cudham tbc
20 th Sept	District Practice	7-9pm	Farnborough
11 th October	ADM	3.30pm onwards	Horton Kirby

In addition to the above, the Ringing Roadshow takes place on Saturday 6th September at Newbury Racecourse. It is a great day out with lots of 'mini-rings' and other ringing related events and stalls.

- The Farningham Trophy took place on Sunday 22nd June with four teams competing for the trophy made from the old headstock removed during the renovation in 2008. The trophy encourages bands of all levels to enter and requires at least two members in each band to be ringing close to their level of competency. There was also a hand-bell tune ringing competition with the four tower teams supplemented by a team from Farningham Church. Crayford took the prize in the tower, but Erith CC took the top prize with the hand-bells. A full report is on the website and in the newsletter.

- Last Saturday, 5th July saw five of the six Districts gathering together at Tonbridge tower to compete for the 8 bell trophy. **We were victorious for the 4th year in a row!!** Well done Lewisham. The three members of the team present at the meeting were congratulated. Again a full report in the newsletter and on the website with photos of our CHAMPIONS.

9. 120 Club Draw

	Prize	Number	Name	Tower
1 st	£20	41	Tom Baird	Eltham
2 nd	£20	35	Margaret Heald	Erith, St John
3 rd	£10	62	Judith Cheeseman	c/o Crayford
4 th	£10	26	Deryck Jones	Dartford
5 th	£10	114	120 club	BRF
6 th	£10	27	Ian Nurdin	Ash by Wrotham
7 th	£5	43	John Bonny	Bexley
8 th	£5	81	Sue Cameron	Unattached

9. AOB

- Brenda Barton requested that it be recorded that she had been a rep for seven years. Brenda thanked the meeting for recording this and hoped the new reps were enjoying their role. They confirmed they were.
- Nick Wilkins had been asked by the Farnborough ringers to explore if there was any possibility of changing the timings of the meeting. They felt that as it starts at 3.30 with ringing and the meeting not finishing until about 6pm it was quite protracted before the second ringing session. Rupert explained that to incorporate all the elements, ringing, service, tea and meeting did take a while but all were considered vital components. There are only four services a year and people could come to all or part of the afternoon. Rupert said that all ringers were welcome to come to the District practices which are 100% ringing and tailored to all levels for the attendees.
- Rupert was thanked for the newsletter which was especially good this time with lots of colour photos.

10. Vote of Thanks

Andrew Sinclair proposed a vote of thanks to Rev Martin Henwood for taking the service, Dartford for hosting us and to Esther and her band for supplying a very enjoyable ringers' tea which included fresh cherries and kiwi fruit.

11. Date of next meeting

Annual District Meeting: St Mary's, Horton Kirby, Saturday 11th October 2014.
(3.30pm ringing, 4.30pm Service, 5pm tea then meeting and evening ringing)

THE END!