



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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

JULY 2015

KCACR wins Tewkesbury Shield

After three consecutive victories in the Essex Trophy, we wondered what the Kent band could try next? Then, someone had the idea that they might like to have a go at the Tewkesbury Shield.

The Tewkesbury Shield is, by my reckoning, the longest running National striking competition. It started in 1973, two years before the first National 12-bell Striking Contest, and developed from a local 8-bell competition, to a National 10-bell competition. Curiously, it has never become a 12-bell competition, even though there is a fine ring of twelve at Tewkesbury Abbey, cast by John Taylor in 1962.

Nine teams managed to arrive on the day, and St Martin's Guild were drawn to ring first. The churchyard was haunted by many sombre faces, as the band from Birmingham meted out the standard for the day. Fortunately, we didn't have to wait too long before it was our turn to ring.

This was our first opportunity to ring together as a complete band, though everyone had at least practised the test piece, a touch of Stedman Caters, either at Leeds, or St Magnus, the previous weekends, thanks to Diane Reynolds, Jeremy Byers, Rona Joiner and Ben Kipling for helping out.



After a few minutes practice and a few more minutes of intense concentration, made easier by the metronomic beat being set by the tenor ringer, it was soon over and we proceeded to take up our listening positions, at the Royal Hop Pole Hotel.

From the beer garden, the sound of the bells wafted gently across from the Abbey. Some teams sounded better than others, but we had no idea how our performance compared with the rest. Our only clue came when a stranger approached us and asked if we were the Kent team. Once we'd admitted that we were, he then declared that his mate reckoned we'd won it. Was he pulling our leg?

Pos'n	Band	Marks
1st	KCACR	85%
2nd	St Martin's Guild	78%
3rd	Leicester DG	76%
4th	Hereford DG	73%
5th	Southwark Cath	71%
6th	Nottingham Uni	68%
7th	Bath & Wells DA	62%
8th	Salisbury DG	61%
9th	Oxford DG	55%

Shortly after the last team had rung, the judges were ready to announce the results. We were said to have rung with great style and great panache. We were placed first, with a score of 85%, ahead of St Martin's Guild in second place, with a score of 78%. What a result!

So the KCACR won the Tewkesbury Shield at first time of entering, with a 70% Lewisham District band.



Ian Mills

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Second Lieutenant Bryan Osmond Dewes

Second Lieutenant Bryan Osmond Dewes was a ringer at Lee and a member of the Kent County Association who died on the 30th July 1915, this is some further information about him:

Died 30/07/1915 Age 21 Middlesex Regiment 1st Bn. Commemorated at Rue-Du-Bacquerot (13th London) Graveyard, Laventie, France Grave F. 19. Son of Hugh William and Alice Jane Dewes, of The Grey House, Shiplake, Oxon. Born: Beckenham, Kent Enlisted: Unknown Resided: Harley Street, Middlesex

Further information:

He was educated at St. Andrews and at Repton and was about to enter St. Thomas's Hospital as a medical student having obtained the first place in the competition for an Arts Scholarship. He was a member of the London Rowing Club, which he represented at Henley in 1914. He enlisted in the 28th County of London Battalion (Artist's Rifles), Service Number 1440, in August 1914. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on Feb. 2nd, 1915 and was serving as machine gun officer when he was killed. He is remembered on War Memorials, at St Margaret's Church in Lee, at Shiplake, Repton School and St Thomas's Hospital

I try and contact all towers that had ringers who died during the Great War, with the 100th anniversary of his death fast approaching, I wondered if somebody might want to consider arranging some commemorative ringing? I am aware there are no longer and change ringing bells at Lee.

I am looking to try and see if we can do this for ALL ringers that died and are commemorated in the Rolls of Honour.

His name will appear in the Roll of Honour for ringers in a future edition of the Ringing World.

All the very best.

Alan Regin

Following Alan's request we are looking to organise a quarter at one of the towers near Lee on 30th July.

Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this time.

The joint district outing to London is coming up on Sat 8th August. It's normally a good day out so please come along and support it. Full details will be sent out once Tonbridge, who are organising this year, tell me them!

It was good to see the KCACR win the Tewkesbury Shield for the first time. However, after a run of 4 wins in a row the district was beaten into second place in the County 8 bell striking competition at Headcorn but we'll be looking to win it back next year.

Cheers.

Rupert

Meridian Ringers Outing

Half Term and another outing is arranged! Good, we put our names down. This time it's with the Meridian Ringers - who ring at Greenwich, Deptford and Woolwich!

The first tower of the day was to be St Giles, Wormshill, 6 bells in E, with the tenor being 3-1-5! Oh dear, very light then, but as we've rung at some towers with light bells, including Footscray, it shouldn't prove too difficult, should it? So we met everyone outside the church and rung the bells up. Well, at first it felt as if all your training was to no avail as you have to do the opposite with light bells and be sure not to pull too hard, which, with a long draft, is hard to get your head round. Still we persevered and between us we rang rounds, called changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Next we went to St Dunstan, Frinsted. Another 6 bells, slightly larger, with the tenor at 6-1-1. Much easier to ring, and it was general agreed that these felt like 'proper bells'. We managed some Plain Bob



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Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Stedman, Plain Hunt and called changes.

After this it was time for lunch at the Sun pub in Bredger. Delicious! We had not pre-booked but the staff had no trouble delivering the food so that we were all eating at the same time!

Onto the last tower on our tour, which was St John the Baptist, Bredger. Yet another 6 bell tower slightly heavier with the tenor at 9-2-6. Another lovely ring and we managed Plain Bob Minor, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Plain Hunt and called changes.

Then we said a quick goodbye to everyone and a big thank you to Jim O'Dell for organising an excellent outing and drove home!

Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith

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

Bromley Youths Handbell School

The Bromley Youths have set up the new initiative of a "Handbell School", where a few of us get together to practise the dark art of handbell ringing. This happens on an ad hoc basis after Sunday morning ringing.

Under the guidance of Tom Hinks, we have a number of objectives for the year, but I won't disclose those just at the moment. However we have managed a couple of quarter peals (one of Kent Minor and one of Grandsire Doubles), and we have also been teaching handbell ringing from scratch: Matthew Sheasby for example, who is now ringing Plain Bob Minor.

The band at Bromley may not be strong enough to hold a regular towerbell practices at the moment, but we are trying to make up for it in other ways at the moment. Watch this space.

Dickon Love



BROMLEY COMMON

Practice Thursday 19:45

Sunday 5.30pm

The last quinquennial report recommended that our metal bell frame should be cleaned and repainted. A number of quotes were obtained and the work was carried out earlier this year by Gillett and Johnston. The end result looks good and will protect the frame for a number of years. The bell frame was last repainted almost 30 years ago.

Following the repainting, we lined the floor beneath the bells with layers of donated carpet in an attempt to reduce the sound level of the bells in the ringing room below. This has made a noticeable difference.

Chris Lawrance

CHELSEFIELD

Practice Monday 20:00

Sunday 10.45am & 5.45pm

CHISLEHURST (Annunciation)

Practice Wednesday 19.30—20.00

Sunday 9.30am

CHISLEHURST (St Nicholas)

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 8.45am

CRAYFORD

Practice Tuesday 19:45

Sunday 9.20am

Practices have continued to be generally well attended and a couple of weeks with an extra visitor has meant we've rung Cambridge minor a few times as well as the staples of Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Some of the band are working their way through ringing quarters of the doubles variations named after months so we've also been practising them.

We've rung 4 quarters since the last newsletter including one to celebrate Brenda's mother turning

100 and another for Debra's parents who celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary.

The quiz team successfully defended its title at the Lions Hospice quiz night in May so we now have a pair of bears in the tower!

Rupert

Thursday, 23 April 2015
1260 April Doubles in 42mins

1. Debra Say
2. Sue Cameron
3. Helen Webb
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman
6. Deryck Jones

Rung to celebrate St George's Day before the evening service.

First in variation for all.

Tuesday, 16 June 2015
1280 June Doubles in 41mins

1. Debra Say
2. Sue Cameron
3. Helen Webb
4. Barry Roberts
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta on the 15th June 1215 and for the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo on the 18th June.

First in variation for all.

Tuesday, 23 June 2015
1300 Doubles (7m/p: 60 Stedman, 120 St Osmond, Eynesbury, 160 St Martin's, 120 St Simon's, 360 Plain Bob and Grandsire) in 43mins

1. Sue Cameron
2. Brenda Barton
3. Debra Say
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman
6. Peter Skinner

Rung to celebrate the 100th birthday of Norma Esme Benney, mother of Brenda, on Sunday 21st June.

Most methods; 2&3.

Tuesday, 9 July 2015
1260 Anniversary Doubles in 42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Sue Cameron
3. Debra Say
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Mary Hayward



Rung to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Ron and Rita Barnes, Debra's parents, who were married on 9th July 1955.

CUDHAM

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

DARTFORD

Practice Wednesday 20:00
Sunday 8.50am & 3rd Sunday 5.30pm

DOWNE

Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9am

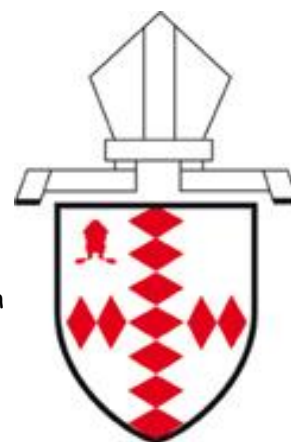
ELTHAM

Practice Tuesday 20:00
Sunday 9.15am

Wow is it really July already.

These last few months we have had a generally good turn out for practices but Sundays have been a little more sparse, fortunately we did manage to ring all eight bells for the Bishop of Southwark's visit. We also had a visit from the brownies who enjoyed their talk and ringing demonstration. David represented us at an event about local hobbies recruiting a new member in the process who happens to have a column in one of the local newspapers so we appeared in the Greenwich Visitor.

We rung a quarter to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.



Tom Baird

Sunday, 21 June 2015
1260 Grandsire Doubles in 41mins

1. Tiffany Kelly
2. Sue Cameron
3. Ian Mills (C)
4. Diane Reynolds
5. Rupert Cheeseman
6. Tom Baird

Rung for the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and as a Birthday compliment to Tom Baird. First quarter; 6.

ERITH (Christ Church)

Practice Monday 20:00
Sunday 9.30am

Since our last report in the April newsletter, we have held three 'Open days' on Sunday afternoons. Attendance has been steady rather than overwhelming but all those who have come have enjoyed the experience. A number of local residents have come and said how much they appreciate the bells and the church. We are becoming adept at putting up the monitors, tables and information banners! Natalie has been baking bell-decorated cakes for sale and the Friends of Christchurch have supplied refreshments.

All the pupils from Christchurch Primary school visited the church at the beginning of June. The younger ones remained in the porch and could watch both the bells themselves and people ringing on the monitors. The older pupils went up to the ringing chamber to see a demonstration and take part in ringing-related activities. Les gave a short presentation on bells and why we ring at a school assembly.

Girlguiding held a district event at the church with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides visiting the tower. The highlight of our Centenary celebrations took place over the first weekend in June (to coincide with the centenary of the Dedication Service on 5th June 1915). The attempt to ring a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (the method rung in the first peal in June 1915) on the Saturday sadly failed. However, a good quarter peal of the method was rung instead.

On Sunday 7th June we were joined by a number of ex-members of the band, several of whom rang for the 10 am service. The service included bell-related references and, at the end, members of the current band played a number of hymn tunes on handbells. Tunes chosen were those sung at the dedication service 100 years ago.



Following the service we had an 'Open Tower' morning for which a large number of the congregation stayed on. Mark gave presentations on the clock and on ringing to two large groups. Others watched on the monitors in the porch. Andy Smith took a group photo of past and present band members before we all went to the hall for the Community lunch. This was organised by the Erith churches and was a splendid spread - many thanks to them.

Shirley organised an Art Competition asking for postcard-sized entries on the theme of bells which attracted a number of entries. These were displayed on church window ledges during the tower church service. The overall winner, chosen by an independent judge, was a wooden 3D image of a bell; a drawing of the clock tower and bells was the runner-up. Shirley also ran a quiz relating to bells. A number of the entries only had one incorrect answer but two people got them all right and the winner was drawn from a hat. All entrants received an embroidered Tower Centenary badge.

Readers of 'The Ringing World' will have seen the front page article, by Rachel and Mark, in the June 5th issue. It gives an overview of the tower history and the development of our plans for marking the anniversary.

We have one further Sunday morning 'Open Tower'

and three more on Sunday afternoons. We also look forward to seeing many Lewisham District members at the Quarterly meeting on July 11th when you will be able to see our displays.

Liz Brett

Saturday, 6 June 2015

1264 Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 44mins

1. Anthony Scarth
2. Rachel Backhouse
3. Mark Backhouse
4. Andrew Young
5. David Holdridge
6. Colin Wyld (C)
7. David Hilling
8. Ian Mills

Rung to celebrate the centenary of the tower, clock and bells (Dedicated 5th June 1915).

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

For Tony and Jackie Fisher retirement has arrived and resulted in a move to Cumbria. Tony has been an absolute mainstay of the Eynsford and Farningham band for twelve years and whilst wishing him well, the band is very sorry to lose him. Tony has been deputy tower captain and secretary for much of that time and helped considerably with learner teaching. He has also supported the new band at Farnborough.

Tony learned to ring at Whittle-le-Woods in Lancashire as a teenager in the late sixties (21cwt. Taylor eight). He rang sporadically during his Oxford university years before a gap of some thirty years until he met Jack Barker during professional duties at King's College Hospital where Tony was a consultant paediatric anaesthetist. Although living in Orpington, Tony was happy to join the E&F band.

Tony is not a peal ringer - with grand total of nine, five of which were in his teenage years. He has achieved a modest total of 73 quarters since arriving

in Kent. He has, he says, been pleased to ring Surprise Major while in Kent, something he didn't manage to do as a youngster, being more of a six-bell ringer.

Tony has settled in Dent, Cumbria, joined the local band and participated in advanced practices in the area. Once again he is a member of the Lancashire Association.

The E&F band will miss you considerably Tony. Enjoy Cumbria.

The photo shows Tony carrying out essential duties in the Farningham ringing chamber!

David Hilling

FARNBOROUGH

Sunday 9.30am

Sunday Service ringing is 9.30 to 10.00am and practices are some Sunday afternoons by arrangement. Best to check before attending.

Nick Wilkins

FARNINGHAM

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 2nd & 4th 8.45am

FOOTS CRAY

Practice Wednesday 20:00

Sunday 9am (not 1st)

HAYES

Practice Tuesday 20:00

Sunday 10am & 6pm

HORTON KIRBY

Practice Thursday 20.00

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

(subject to variation)

LEWISHAM

Practice Monday

Sunday, 9:15 (third Sunday only)

Evensong, by arrangement (first Sunday only)



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*

After 21 years as a member of our band and our current deputy tower captain, Mike Christie has moved to Lincoln with his job. He will be greatly missed especially for ringing the tenor and for all the maintenance he has carried out over the years. We wish him all the best in Lincoln. A quarter was rung as follows:

Sunday, 14 June 2015 in 45mins
1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 44mins

1. Phillip Sullivan
2. Judith Fry
3. David Whitehead (C) (Addington tower)
4. Jon Fry
5. Jackie Toulmin (first in method)
6. Mike Christie

Farewell to Mike Christie, ringer for 21 years at West Wickham, belated 50th Birthday Judith Fry and early 30th Birthday Phil Sullivan

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 at Greenwich and also ring for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates].

We also have a monthly practice at Woolwich on a Monday 8-930pm - all welcome; [again, it is best to check our website for the dates].

Unfortunately, there was a slight error in the last newsletter in that part of the report was omitted about our visit to Eastbourne to ring a memorial quarter for Graham Long's mum, Pauline, who died last year in Eastbourne. This included details of the well struck quarter at Christ Church, Eastbourne which was witnessed by Eric Sparkes, Pauline's husband.



*The band outside Christ Church, Eastbourne
Alan Munden, Angela Jackson-Smith, Hazel Bing, Eddie Coode,
Brenda Coode, Graham Long, Eric Sparkes, Jim Odell*

Eastbourne, East Sussex
Christ Church

Wednesday, 4 March 2015 in 45mins (8 $\frac{3}{4}$ in G#)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles (6&7 covering)

1. Hazel Bing
2. Brenda Coode
3. Eddie Coode
4. Graham Long (C)
5. Jim Odell
6. Alan Munden
7. Angela Jackson-Smith

Rung in loving memory of Pauline Sparkes, mother of the conductor.

One of our ringers, Ken Deller, and his wife recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. We rang a quarter for this, followed by some general ringing including some firing, also joined by Jan Odell. Ken's last quarter was actually 10 years ago when we rang for their 40th Wedding Anniversary!!

Afterwards we adjourned to The Kings Arms for a splendid lunch provided by Ken and Barbara.

Greenwich, Greater London
St Alfege

Friday, 1 May 2015 in 49mins (12cwt in F#)
1250 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles (768 cover)

1. Shelagh Norman
2. Graham Cuthbert
3. Michael Robinson
4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C)
6. Keith Deller
7. Hazel Bing
8. Alan Munden

To celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ken & Barbara Deller married at St John, Goose Green, Dulwich

on 1st May 1965. Also, to welcome Grace, daughter of the Curate, Rev Caroline Risdon and her husband James, born on Holy Saturday, 4th April 2015.

We had a splendid outing to Kent on 29th May - you'll be able to see Shelagh and Chris's report elsewhere in the newsletter.

On Sunday 14th June we had ringing at Greenwich to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta with ringing for the 10am Eucharist and special ringing in the afternoon. We were ringing a splendid touch of Bob Doubles on the back six when the ninth clapper decided to fall out!



We have had a quote from Taylors to renovate the clappers and were due to sort this out in the autumn. However, this event set things rolling and the Vicar and Church wardens have said that we must get the work done now. So we will be taking the clappers out very shortly and transporting them to Loughborough. During this

time we will be ringing at St John's and Woolwich [dates yet to be decided].

One of our ringers, John Bonney, did a glass and gilded replica of the Magna Carta which was presented by the Queen to the USA in their Bicentenary year. It makes very interesting reading - a wonderful piece it's now on show in the White House museum.

Some links to this are:

<http://www.aoc.gov/capitol-hill/other/magna-carta-replica-and-display>

<http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2014/12/magna-carta-replica-in-the-capitol-crypt/>

There are also some pictures of John working on this that John has in a frame. These

were taken about 40 years ago.

A reminder 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



Loughborough Carillon

Having recently returned to ringing after a break of eight years and with my youngest daughter about to complete her first year at Loughborough University, I felt compelled on my latest visit to check out the Loughborough Carillon. To be fair, I had tried on two previous occasions and always found it closed, but this was Father's Day and we were in luck as we found ourselves in Queens Park at the right time.

The tower itself is a war memorial completed in 1923 to remember those who lost their lives in the 1914-1918 war. It stands 152ft high, is grade II listed and is unique in Britain, being the only purpose built carillon tower.

Like most towers, access is via a narrow stone spiral staircase with 138 steps that take you to four floors. The first three are devoted to military memorabilia from



each of the armed forces and from both of the World Wars, but although I looked around, my interest was on the fourth level and above.

What I found was something quite unexpected - a carillon that was being played when I had always thought a carillon was a purely mechanical instrument. The carillonist was wearing leather gloves and using her fists to push down heavy wooden levers called batons. Music from the treble clef was played with her hands, whilst pushing down onto pedals with the feet played the lower notes in the bass clef, much like on a church organ.

The levers and pedals are connected to the clappers in the 47 bells hanging in the chamber above by thick wire and what struck me, was the time delay between a note being played and the bell making the sound. As a pianist myself, this seemed very odd.



Being Father's Day, the recital program had been chosen with this in mind and included songs such as 'Bring Me Sunshine', the themes from Dad's Army and Steptoe and Son and 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

Leaving the carillonist behind and up a short, straight set of stairs brought us to the top of the tower where the bells are hung in a frame surrounded by louvres.

It was quite a sight to see so many bells hanging together, but a little strange for a ringer to hear that familiar sound while looking on and seeing the bells themselves remain motionless.

Unsurprisingly, the bells were all cast at John Taylor Bell Foundry and range in weight from 14lbs to 82cwt.

Finally, stepping outside of the chamber housing the bells, we were able to appreciate the spectacular views over Leicestershire from the balcony on what was a



beautiful sunny afternoon.

Since that trip and in preparation for writing this article, I have remedied my ignorance and discovered that carillon ringing is much more common outside of the UK, particularly in The Netherlands and Belgium, and specifically the Flanders region where the tradition began in 1510. North America also has many towers and carillon ringing can even be studied at such prestigious universities as Berkeley and Princeton, the latter having a ring of 67 bells.

It really was a fascinating visit so if you do find yourselves in the area at any time, then I would highly recommend going to take a look, especially if that coincides with a carillon recital.

The carillon tower is open every afternoon except Mondays, from 1pm-4.30pm, between Good Friday and the end of September. Recitals are held every Thursday and Sunday between 1pm-2pm, and on the first Thursday of every month in the closed season.

Debra Say



Rochester District Outing

"How about an outing to Ipswich on the Rochester District Outing?" asked our friend Helen. "Yes, please!" was our answer.

The outing was all arranged by Doug Davis, Rochester District Secretary. He'd also invited Lewisham District, but only 1 other ringer took him up on the offer, so we met up with Garry Barr in Ipswich as we toured around.

We parked the cars in the car park opposite Ipswich Town FC, then walked to the first tower. (All 6 towers were within walking distance, which was great as we didn't have to get the sat nav out and drive at bottle neck speed to each one), and for once we (Chris and Shelagh) were not the last to arrive at every tower, as is usually the case!)

First was St Nicholas, with 5 bells that were a bit rickety, and now in the care of Ipswich Historic Churches Trust who have left it in the same condition as it was after the last Sunday service. We tried a bit of Plain Bob on 5 but the 4 kept coming down. It obviously needed a more experienced ringer than me (Chris), but I did see others struggling with it.

Second tower of the day was St Matthew with 6 bells. Originally built in 15th century and expanded in 19th century to serve as the Garrison Church for the nearby Ipswich Barracks.

Our third tower was St Margaret which had been built by the neighbouring Augustinian Priory in about 1300. With 8 bells we were able to ring some different 8-bell methods.

Then it was time for a most welcome lunch. We'd all brought our own picnic and found a lovely sunny spot in a nearby park to eat it and chat with friends we hadn't seen for a while.



After this welcome rest it was onto tower 4, St Mary le Tower, a treat with 12 bells. We nearly had a lock-out as the key holder had mixed up the times, but Doug managed to rearrange a time with him and we got to ring some rounds and called changes. The bells were mostly not difficult, but as many of you will already know, ringing on 12 bells requires different timing and feels a bit strange at first.

Fifth was St Lawrence with 5 bells, not used as a church anymore but now a café and art gallery. We had time for a coffee before ringing in a tower overlooking the café from the tower window, so the coffee drinkers were treated to a private ringing concert!

Sixth and last tower of the day was St Clement, a very dusty 6 with no electricity. So we were shown up the tower steps by a nice lady with a torch. Daylight luckily came in through a few gaps at the windows and from the tower balcony overlooking the church. It was a little difficult to see what we were ringing, but managed without any mishaps, although a couple of our ringers were already looking forward to their evening meal!

Dinner had been booked at a pub about 20 miles south, and was very welcome and delicious! We had pre-booked and on arrival found reserved tables and good service. So many thanks to Helen for inviting us and Doug for excellent organisation and directions. Lewisham District you missed a treat!

Chris Goldsmith and Shelagh Norman

With thanks to Doug Davis for supplying all local information



Lewisham District Events 2015



- Sat 11th Jul Quarterly Meeting: Erith, Christ Church, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 25th Jul District Practice: Biggin Hill (tbc), 10.00am - 12.00
- Sat 8th Aug District Outing (with Tonbridge District) - London
- Fri 14th Aug District Practice: Beckenham, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 22nd Aug District Training Event. Times and venue tbc. Email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk for details
- Sat 19th Sept District Practice: Eltham, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- Sat 26th Sept County 6-bell Striking Competition: Godmersham (Canterbury District). 2.45pm draw
- Sat 10th Oct Annual District Meeting: Beckenham, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30pm Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 17th Oct District Practice: Downe, 10.00am - 12.00
- Sat 7th Nov District Training Event. Times and venue tbc. Email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk for details
- Sun 8th - 15th Nov Quarter Peal week. Please attempt a quarter during this week.
- Sat 21st Nov District 6-bell Call Change Competition: tbc, 2.30pm draw.
- Sat 12th Dec District Practice: Dartford, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- 2016
- Sat 9th Jan Quarterly Meeting: Greenwich, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- Sat 23rd Jan District Practice: Ash by Wrotham, 10.00am - 12.00
- Fri 19th Feb District Practice: tbc, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 27th Feb District Training Event. Times and venue tbc. Email training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk for details
- Sat 5th Mar District 6-bell Striking Competition: tbc, 2.30pm draw
- Sat 12th Mar District Practice: Bromley Common, 7.00 - 9.00pm
- Mon 28th Mar KCACR Annual General Meeting: Tunstall, (Rochester District)

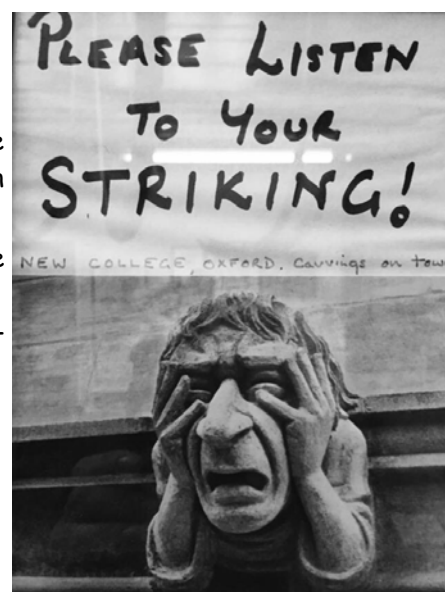
Everybody is welcome to all of these. What is actually rung will be tailored to who turns up.

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





THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St Mary, Downe 18th Apr 2015
20 people attended representing 9 towers, 1 unattached member

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Margaret Heald (Erith St John), Liz & Les Brett (Erith Christchurch), Esther Correia & Deryck Jones (Dartford) and Graham Long and the Greenwich band who have a wedding this afternoon.

2. Minutes of last meeting (10th January 2015)

Posted on website and circulated in the Newsletter. Proposed: Ian Mills; Seconded: Diane Reynolds.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

It was noted that Deryck Jones and Bethany Kirrage (Dartford) attended the ITTS training in March at Headcorn.

4. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Brian Maclaren	West Wickham	Judith Fry	Jon Fry
Maddy Baxter	Crayford	Rupert Cheeseman	Andrew Sinclair
Debra Say			

All were elected unanimously and it was good to see that two had attended the meeting. Debra was welcomed back to the Association after a period of absence. All were encouraged to come along to future district events.

5. Training Events

Ian outlined the four training events this year. The first is scheduled for 23rd May concentrating on Raising and Lowering. A venue is yet to be confirmed. If you would like to attend as a student, please contact Ian. If you are available to assist, Ian would love to hear from you. Further details will be emailed out and be posted on the website.

6. KCACR report on the meeting held on 28th February 2015

- A proposal for a new membership category, "Members in Training", was discussed but not agreed.
- It was agreed that the six bells donated to the Association by Revd David Cawley would be named the "KCA Mobile Ring" or similar.
- It was agreed that the Handbook would be published either without accounts or with unaudited accounts depending on what was received from the Treasurer by 15th March.
- The following grant application was considered and awarded to Walmer: £1,500.
- A proposal to order KCACR badges to sell through the bookstalls was not agreed.
- It was agreed that we would order more KCACR membership certificates and arrange for new 50-year

certificates to be printed based on the same design.

- It was agreed that Catherine Lewis would arrange for a reprint of a flyer about the KCACR and ringing.
- The 2015 County 8-bell Striking Competition would be held on 4th July at Headcorn, draw at 2.45pm; method will be Little Bob Major.
- The 2015 County 6-bell Striking Competition would be held on 26th September at Godmersham, 2.45pm draw.
- The 2016 AGM to be held in the Rochester District will be at Tunstall on 28th March.

KCACR AGM report on the meeting held on 6th April 2015

- The amended Association rules were voted on and adopted, albeit with a couple of minor adjustments to satisfy the odd objection.
- Key new officer elections were the posts of Chairman, where Daniel Brady takes over from Mike Little, Treasurer, where Margaret Funnell pops back out of retirement to take on the thankless task of Treasurer, and Handbook Editor, where Tim Munt steps into Graham Coker's shoes.
- Christine M Webb gained her 50 year membership this year but was unable to attend in person, her certificate was collected by Sue to pass on.
- There was a special proposal and presentation made at this year when Tom Barlow was proposed by Ashleigh Horton of Marden to become a Vice President of the Association. He had no idea he was being put forward for this post and when everyone present voted unanimously for him Tom accepted his certificate from the Chairman to a standing ovation of applause. Very well deserved!

7. Events Update, results and forthcoming events

- Striking competition took place in March with two bands taking part which was disappointing. The two horse race staged at Farnborough, was won by Chelsfield who will go on to represent the district in September's County competition.
- There was a discussion lead by Philippa Rooke from Chelsfield as to how we could generate more interest in future. Several suggestions were put forward, ranging from holding both the Striking and Call-change competitions on the same day;
- Holding the competitions in the morning as it may be that more people would be available leaving the afternoon free for other things;
- Holding a 45 min - 1 hour district practice beforehand so teams would have a better chance to ring on the bells before ringing in the competition. This suggestion would be particularly beneficial to the Call-change competition as the fear of less experienced bands ringing on strange bells may be reduced this way.
- Earlier reminder of the event
- If ringers from towers where not enough members were available to make a whole band to join up with other ringers in same position to make scratch band.
- A ringing league, with rounds held on practice nights, the same judge would have to be available to attend several mini heats.

Upcoming district practices

25/04/15	District Practice	Bromley	10 - 12 noon
15/05/15	District Practice	Farningham	8 - 9.30pm
23/05/15	Training	TBC	TBC
20/06/15	District Practice	Chelsfield	7 - 9pm
04/07/15	County 8 Bell	Headcorn	2.45pm draw
11/07/15	QDM	Erith CC	3.30pm onwards

- Centenary of Erith Christchurch bells in July 2015, monthly open days are taking place. See pamphlets in your newsletter for more info.
- A venue for the October ADM is required as unfortunately Bromley Parish can no longer host us because they were gazumped by an event by the Organists. They have made advance booking in the Church calendar for the rooms in October 2016! Graham Long made an offer to host the meeting again at Greenwich, possibly for January next year. We all agreed it was a great venue for the cold January month as it was lovely and warm and a wonderful church.
- The striking competition will be held on 7th March, no venue set yet. Nick Wilkins offered to research the possibility of holding it at Farnborough. UPDATE: this is now confirmed.
- Upcoming district practices
- 24/01/15 Erith CC 10:00 - 12:00
- 20/02/15 Horton Kirby 20:00 - 21:30
- 21/03/15 Chislehurst Annunciation 19:00 - 21:00
- County AGM at Marden on Easter Monday 06/04/15
- Quarterly District Meeting on 18/04/15 venue tbc

8. 120 club draw

Apr	Prize	No	Name	Tower
1st	£20	37	Deryck Jones	Dartford
2nd	£10	62	Unsold	BRF
3rd	£10	30	Natalie Slator	Erith CC
4th	£5	77	Ian Mills	Eltham

Thanks were given to Rachel for managing the 120 club which raised £572.06 last year.

9. AOB

Ian Mills gave notice that after 4 years as Ringing Master, he would be stepping down in October. Rupert reminded everyone that his compiling the Newsletter was a temporary measure and he welcomed a volunteer to take over.

10. Vote of Thanks

Brenda Barton thanked Rev John Musson for taking the service, John Castle the organist, and of course the Downe band for providing very tasty refreshments.

Next meeting will be Saturday 11th July 2015 at Erith CC.



Joint District Outing
Sat 8th August
To London
Full Details to follow
Everybody welcome