



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Lewisham District On Line at [www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://www.kcacr.org.uk)

JANUARY 2017

## Make friends and find a lifelong passion through the historic art of bell ringing

When I was applying for my first real job, my father gave me some CV-writing advice: "Don't put that you're a bellringer on it; they'll think you're weird." He was right, but not for the reason he thought.

The problem when you have an unusual hobby is that people keep asking questions, so you spend 20 minutes explaining why, no, bellringing is not like the Mars Bar advert with monks leaping up and down to dance music but, yes, there really are people in church towers who choose to ring bells for fun.

I am a first-generation "ringer" and got in to it through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. I had lessons with the local band; after six months, I was hooked.



Even at that point, in the late 1990s, there was a debate about recruitment and retention of new ringers. Now a BBC survey finds delegates to the annual conference of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers lamenting the difficulties of attracting new members – particularly young new members. It's true. We need new recruits from a range of ages and backgrounds to keep the pastime alive and it's difficult to know how to achieve this. The lure of the internet and the full array of home entertainment options is overwhelming. Why go out to a cold and draughty church on a dark winter's night when you can curl up on the sofa and work your way through a box set?

The answer is for the divine magic of a unique human interaction. You cannot ring church bells alone. There's a sense of camaraderie, of course,

like singing in a choir, playing in an orchestra or being on a sports team – you have fun with each other and rely on each other. I've made brilliant friends through ringing.

But there's also a mental and physical challenge involved that is specific to bellringing. You can ring up to 12 bells, as at Southwark Cathedral, and the mathematical permutations of the sequences and the feat of memory and co-ordination needed to produce them can test the most experienced ringer. Though there's a general aim to ring as accurately as possible, there are also some ringers out there determinedly pushing the boundaries of complexity.

It's not for everyone. What I think of as music, others consider noise. One occasionally hears about Londoners moving to beautiful rural villages, only to complain about bells and church clocks chiming. And naturally, we ringers need to realise that our passion is not everyone's cup of tea. But while sound control technologies can be put in towers to muffle the chimes a little, the truth is that the style of bells we have in this country is a peculiarly English joy. Most people become accustomed to it; and in any case, it can be just as big an issue in cities, where high-rise living means that flats might be on a level with the tower louvres.

I now ring bells at two towers every week and teach new ringers of all ages. Most towers with bells in both countryside and cities are looking for recruits. Instruction is usually provided very cheaply or for free, and all that is asked for is a commitment to the time required to learn the motor skills necessary to ring safely. After that you can put in as much or as little as you wish, stick to the basics or make it a lifetime of learning, all the while preserving one of the nation's greatest wonders.

Rhiannon Meredith

From Daily Telegraph on line

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/06/make-friends-and-find-a-lifelong-passion-through-the-historic-art/>



The bells of Southwark Cathedral being measured CREDIT: [www.taylorbells.co.uk](http://www.taylorbells.co.uk)

# District officer e-mail directory

**Website:**

[www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Chairman:**

Philippa Rooke

[chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Secretary:**

Sue Cameron

[sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Rupert Cheeseman

[memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Ringling Master:**

Nick Wilkins

[master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Assistant Master:**

Diane Reynolds

[ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:ringing@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Training Officer:**

Alex Fishburn

[training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**District Representatives:**

Chris Davine

[rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep1@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

Natalie Slator

[rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:rep2@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Sales Representative:**

Shelagh Norman & Chris Goldsmith

[sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:sales@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Rupert Cheeseman

[newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

# Call Change Competition

Saturday 19th Nov saw ringers from all parts of the district gather at St Mary Cray for the annual district call-change competition.

There was an even better entry than last year which was good to see. Once the judge, Tom Lawrence from St Vedast, Foster Lane, was in position, the Rev Jane Winter welcomed everyone and conducted the draw.

All teams completed a test piece and Tom announced the results were as follows:

Place	Tower	Score
1st	St Mary Cray	64%
2nd	Crayford	62%
3rd	Eltham	61%
4th	Erith, Christ Church	60%
5th	Chelsfield	58%
6th	Sidcup	57%
7th	Horton Kirby	52%
8th	Farnborough	49%

So congratulations on the home band on both winning and host a good event. Hopefully some of those bands that entered will also enter the striking competition at Farningham in March.

Rupert



# Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time.

It was good to see such a good turn out at the Call Change Competition at SMC. Hopefully, some will enter the striking competition in March. Plain courses are allowed! It's that time of year when KCACR subs are due. Please can I have them as soon as possible.

District practices have been organised up to April so please come along and support them. They are what you make them.

Happy New Year,

*Rupert*

## Money Matters

It's that time of year again! Subs are due now but remain unchanged as follows:

Adult £10      Over 65s £5

Under 18s £5      Full time education £5

All monies to me please, cash or cheques payable to Kent Association of Change Ringers.

Rupert

It's also time to start thinking about the 120 club which will start for 2017-18 at the April district meeting. All are welcome to join, ringers or not, the only restriction being that you must be aged 16 or over. As usual forms will be sent out with this newsletter or can be copied from the district website. £10 gets you one share for the year with ten draws each year with prizes of £20, £10 x2 and £5 each time (two sets of winners in July and December). All profits go the Bell Restoration Fund and this is the main fundraiser from the Lewisham District- last year we donated £617.23.

Draw held October 8th at Bromley Parish

1st	7	Jim Rooke (Chelsfield)
2nd	79	Brenda Barton (Dartford)
3rd	73	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
4th	96	Nick Wilkins (Chelsfield)

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Draw held November 19th at St Mary Cray

1st	113	120 club
2nd	76	Esther Correia (Dartford)
3rd	89	Sue Cameron (Longfield)
4th	68	Frances Wallis (Milton Regis)

Draw held December 9th at Deptford

1st	42	Melissa Cheeseman (Crayford)
1st`	15	Margaret Heald (Erith St John)
2nd	54	Deryck Jones (Dartford)
2nd	46	Jo Marriott (Sidcup)
3rd	7	Jim Rooke (Chelsfield)
3rd	25	Daphne Paterson (Eynsford & Farningham)
4th	120	Chris Backhouse (Pasadena)
4th	91	Deryck Jones (Dartford)

Thank you all for your continuing support

Rachel Backhouse

# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## BROMLEY

*Practice Tuesday 19:30*

Tom Hinks and all the Bromley Parish ringers welcome you to the newly reinstated practice nights at Bromley Parish. Everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm.

Helena Mattingley

## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 19:45*

*Sunday 9.20am*

We have been fortunate at Crayford over the past six months or so to have had the regular attendance of a few visitors, which has allowed us to ring some of the less often rung doubles methods, along with some variations. Minor and triples are rung whenever possible, although maybe not as often as we would ideally like, although we usually have enough to ring Stedman doubles.

At the time of the last newsletter, we were practicing to ring a quarter of Julie McDonnell Doubles for the Bellringers Against Cancer fund raising effort, and we were successful at our first attempt on 9th October.

There are always lots of occasions during the last three months of the year for which quarters are rung at Crayford and last year was no exception, with nine being rung between October and December. This included our eighth annual date touch made up of 8 methods and we are already working on our 2017 date touch for which we plan to ring 17 methods/variations.

A quarter peal was even rung on Christmas day by those obsessed enough to do so and not responsible for producing a Christmas dinner!

Debra Say

Saturday, 9 October 2016

1260 Julie McDonnell Doubles in 42mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Debra Say
3. Thomas Wilding
4. Peter Skinner
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Andrew Sinclair

Rung on the Patronal Festival and as a 77th birthday compliment to David Sinclair.

1st in variation for all.

Thursday, 10 November 2016

1260 Grandsire Doubles in 44mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Debra Say
3. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
4. Thomas Wilding
5. Andrew Sinclair
6. Peter Skinner

Rung half muffled in celebration of the life of Ronald 'Ron' Barnes, father of Debra, whose funeral takes place tomorrow

Sunday, 13 November 2016

1260 Grandsire Triples in 46mins

1. Brenda Barton
2. Rachel Backhouse
3. Debra Say
4. Peter Skinner
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Thomas Wilding
7. Mark Backhouse
8. Andrew Sinclair

Rung half muffled before High Mass on Remembrance Sunday.

1st Triples; 6.

Sunday, 11 December 2016

2016 Doubles (8m/p) in 1 hr 6mins

1. Sue Cameron
2. Debra Say
3. Thomas Wilding
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Brian Ashmore

The 8th annual date touch rung before High Mass. Most methods; 3. Longest length; 2,3 and 6.

Saturday, 24 December 2016

1260 Christmastide Doubles in 42mins

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

Rung between the Nativity and Candlelight Carol services and with birthday wishes for tomorrow to Rita Barnes, mother of Debra.

1st in variation; 3.



Sunday, 25 December 2016  
1260 Julie McDonnell Doubles in 42mins

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

For Christmas.

1st blows in variation; 2 and 4.

## ERITH (Christ Church)

*Practice Monday 20:00*

*Sunday 9.30am*

Christchurch, Erith has held a Christmas Tree Festival for the last 10 years and we now have around 80 trees in church from mid December. We claim the spot by the tower door for the bellringers tree. This year our tree was named 'The Clangers' (interpret that as you wish!!) and two of the band knitted figures.



Numbers continue to be steady but low so it is a real pleasure when we can ring all eight on Sunday morning as we were able to do over the Christmas period. We are grateful to our regular visitors on practice night for their continued support.

Rachel Backhouse

## FARNBOROUGH

*Sunday 9.30am, other times by arrangement*

Service ringing continues every Sunday morning from 9.30 to 10.00am and other church Festival days, too. Additionally we ring for weddings and quite a lot of funerals.

32 quarter peals were rung in 2016 including a couple of Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles. Julie McDonnell herself rang in the second of these on 29th December and we were absolutely delighted to meet and ring with Julie. Her efforts to raise money (over £6m) via Bellringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer are legendary and particularly inspiring as she, herself, is very ill.

During 2016 three peals were rung at Farnborough, perhaps the most notable being one of Bob Minor on November 6th which was a first for Alexander Runting.

We have a new ringer in training who is showing great promise and we hope to have her up to sufficient standard to ring on Sundays soon.

Currently there are no regular practices but we hold them on an ad hoc basis so intending visitors should check before visiting.

Nick Wilkins

Sunday, 6 December 2016  
5040 Plain Bob Minor in 2hr 18mins

1. Caroline Stockmann
2. James Austin
3. Alexander Runting
4. Catherine Lewis
5. Lesley Barclay
6. Nicholas Wilkins (C)

First peal - 3. Second peal, first of Minor and first "outside" - 1. Third peal and first inside - 2.

Thursday, 29 December 2016  
1260 Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles in 39mins

1. Alex Britton
2. Julie McDonnell
3. Lesley Barclay
4. Caroline Stockmann
5. Nicholas Wilkins (C)
6. Michael Stuttard

150th QP this year; 2.

"Well have we done, thrice valiant countrymen"



## HAYES

*Practice None*

Please be aware that St Mary's, Hayes does not have ringers anymore. If there are weddings, Hannah Clark from St Lukes, Bromley Common organises a band for it and occasionally St Lukes practise at Hayes.

Val Bracey

## HORTON KIRBY

*Practice Suspended then Thursday 20:00*

Horton Kirby will be closed for works from 9th January to 17th March. The work includes rewiring and an asbestos search. There will be no access to the tower so sadly there will be no ringing during this time.

Lesley Barclay

## SIDCUP

*Practice Wednesday 20:00*

*Sunday 9.15am*

Exciting News from Sidcup

Sidcup? Yes that's right! We haven't appeared in the newsletter for a long time but finally we're back! For those who have never been here; Sidcup is home to a ring of six, cast in 1843, most recently overhauled with new fittings by Taylors in the 1970s.

Over the past decade, numbers gradually declined here to the point where a practice was almost unsustainable. However the past 12 or so months have seen a huge transformation.

A lot of work had to be done, including a thorough clean of the belfry and ringing room. The belfry hadn't been cleaned in many years, and we filled around seven or eight large bin liners with dust and other muck that had accumulated over time. The belfry also had a huge flying insect problem that had to be rectified before anyone could spend more than a few minutes in the belfry. New ropes were purchased for the back three bells, with PSP tops for ling-life and minimal wear, and a fourth donated by Secretary Yvonne Wright in memory of her late husband, John.

Sidcup now has a weekly practice, semi-regular service ringing and we managed to ring six quarter-peals in 2016. We have regular help from other local ringers, and are teaching a new "home-grown" band from scratch.

This month the tower received its most recent addition. Thanks to incredible generosity from family friends, we were donated an old computer for use with the Abel software, and upon installation of the sensor (not as easy a task as one might think!) we now have a functioning simulator in the tower, which has already proved useful in teaching. As many will know, one of the hardest things about helping someone get some solid practice at learning a method is finding other ringers for them to ring with, but the simulator allows us to teach whenever a learner desires.

We are always happy to see visitors, and we will always do our best to make sure you enjoy your visit, should you decide to come along! We practice on Wednesday evenings (except 2nd Wednesdays) from 8pm (7:30 for learners) and currently ring from 0925 to 1000 on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Alex Fishburn

## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

### The Meridian Ringers

We had pleasant mini outing on 24th October with ringing at Cudham, Chelsfield, and Eynsford and a nice lunch at the King's Arms, Shoreham.



Pictured outside St. Alfege, Greenwich after The Welcome to The New Year Ringing. Left to right: David Connearn, Hazel Bing, Edward Gormley, Natalie Slator, Jim Odell, Jan Odell, Graham Long, Brenda Coode, Eddie Coode, Chris Goldsmith

The University of London Society celebrated their 70th Anniversary and rang quarters at the 70 nearest towers to St Olave's, Hart Street. They completed this in November - Greenwich being one of the last towers with a quarter of 1259 Grandsire Caters.

Greenwich, St Alfege

Sunday, 6 November 2016

1259 Grandsire Caters in 50mins (Tenor 23½ cwt in D)

1. Gillian Harris
2. Rhiannon Meredith
3. Helena Mattingley
4. Alastair Smith
5. Tom Hinks
6. James Croft
7. Andrew Hills (C)
8. Ryan Noble
9. James Watkins
10. Anthony Matthews

On of the University of London 70th anniversary quarter peals.



We hosted the Lewisham District Practice at St. John's, Deptford in December which included some attempts at St John the Evangelist Bob Triples. The blue line is available via this link: [https://rsw.me.uk/blueline/methods/view/St\\_John\\_the\\_Evangelist\\_Bob\\_Triples](https://rsw.me.uk/blueline/methods/view/St_John_the_Evangelist_Bob_Triples).

We had our usual Welcoming The New Year ringing although this year this was on the Bank Holiday Monday at noon on 2nd January.

Our normal practice night is Wednesday, 8pm-9.30pm, 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 usually ring for the monthly Choral Evensong at Greenwich and also for Evening Worship at St. John's, Deptford once a month [check the website for dates]. We occasionally ring at Woolwich.

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

[www.meridianbells.webs.com](http://www.meridianbells.webs.com)

Graham Long



## Crayford Tower Outing - Isle of Dogs

On the evening of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December a group from St Paulinus, Crayford had a tower outing to Christchurch, Poplar. Half of us travelled from various stations via Lewisham for the DLR and found the tower a short five minutes walk from Island Gardens station, whilst the other half of our group met at Greenwich and walked through the foot tunnel.

It was on these bells that the first ever peal was rung by band comprising of women only in July 1912. However, the bells were unringable from 1986 when it was discovered the spire was in a dangerous state and the hurricane of October 1987 actually brought part of the spire crashing down. A fund for the restoration of the tower and for other church projects was established, and in 1991 the bells were removed, retuned and rehung.

Forming part of the Docklands Ringing Centre, the teaching which happens here is somewhat different from that which occurs at most towers and is aided by the use of the Abel simulator. There are sensors on all eight bells so any piece of ringing can be recorded and played back afterwards with a graphic display projected onto a screen at the same time. The file can also be imported into the ringing software used by the National 12 Bell Striking Competition and the faults marked.

As this tower lies at the boundary of four ringing districts, a new striking challenge competition was initiated in 2015, open to any regular band within any of these districts, to encourage more ringers to come and try out the software. Crayford had intended to go along in 2015, but we were unable enough people together at such short notice, but a band from Christchurch, Erith did visit that first year.

We didn't go specifically because of the competition, but more for our own curiosity, and it did prove to be a very interesting evening. It won't improve our striking with just that one visit, but being able to see a graphic representation of our ringing and to analyse it objectively afterwards was a real eye-opener. If one ringer is consistently slow at either or both strokes, or maybe someone always leads too quickly, or whether the tenor ringer was often wide, will all be shown on the screen and gives the opportunity to try and correct these faults.

At the time of writing this piece for the newsletter, the results of the 2016 competition have not been announced, although we know we could not have won with either of the two test pieces we produced, although we did manage some respectable scores in the mid 80%'s. We did take part though and had a very enjoyable and worthwhile evening in the process and we intend to do so again this year. So if your tower is looking for something different to try out this year, why not give it a go?

Debra Say

# The Cinque Ports Ringing Centre at Dover

## Report of activities during 2016

Forty-eight Saturday morning practices were held during the year. The four closures were on 18th June for the Dover ringers' outing, 1st October for the Confederation of Cinque Ports Speaker's Day service, Christmas and New Year's Eve. Attendances ranged from nine on 23rd and 30th July to twenty-six on 12th November with an average of about fifteen, one more than last year. The overall total was 711, twelve more than last year's all time high of 699, but only twenty-one towers were represented which was seven down on last year.

The local mid-week Treble Bob Minor group continued to use the Centre's facilities on occasions. We opened to the public on one of the Heritage Open Days as usual but visitor numbers were down again for the third year running. We welcomed 34 non-ringing visitors to our Saturday practices, 17 from overseas. Facebook group membership has grown by 6 to 33, and a regular following of the old page has been building up steadily.

Practices always begin with exercises to improve bell control, raising and lowering, and addressing handling faults. There was also a demand for teaching new recruits from local towers where no tuition is available. This stretched our resources and we would have preferred to be training new teachers. Two young recruits for Dover were taught to handle the newly-acquired Saxilby dumb bell; one has now transferred on to a tower bell and his younger brother is in the process of doing so.

Methods we use regularly include Bastow, Cloister, Penultimate, and Ashford Little Bob. There is invariably a demand for Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire, but more recently for Bob Minor.



## The Future

The same management team has been operating the Centre since it began in 2003. It's only a small team yet for the last twelve years it has run weekly practices on Saturday mornings, open to everyone but intended primarily to offer help at the entry level. Each year it has appointed Peter Dale as Ringing Master, Barbara Dale as Secretary, and David Courtney as Treasurer. On a normal Saturday morning Peter has run the ringing and Barbara has carried out the administration but this is about to change.

From the beginning Barbara has recorded attendances, emptied the collecting box, and organised the refreshment breaks. She would now like someone else to take charge of these tasks and maybe spread them among others. Peter is prepared to continue in post for the

coming year but would like to share the responsibility for running practices. He sees the need to spend more time in helping individuals, particularly those following the Association of Ringing Teachers scheme Learning the Ropes".

Other committee members are Jean Easley, Bob Powell-Williams, and Lindsay Powell-Williams. Steve Popple, and latterly Wendy Rogers, give unstinting support. Apart from Lindsay, who oversees book sales, all of them are willing and able to run the occasional practice by default when necessary. Jean and Peter are the only two teachers qualified to register new learners on the "Learning the Ropes" scheme.

2017 needs to be a year of preparation for a hand-over next January 2018; those of us with an interest in the Centre are looking at options to create a different management structure. Involvement of the Association, or at least the Districts nearest to Dover, would go a long way to saving the Centre from extinction in 2018. The AGM was held on Saturday, 7th January, at St Mary's, Dover, and the outcome will be announced in due course.

Peter Dale

## ART - Module 2F, 25th March 2017

This is the Association of Ringing Teachers module 2F course, which provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to build really good foundation ringing skills in your ringers. The course is designed for anyone involved in teaching a new band where the teacher can personally ring at least plain hunt. Theory sessions will cover:

- the importance of approaching teaching in easy, understandable stages,
- the critical importance of using effective feedback,
- the theory of coaching, and
- how to form a strong band.

This theory is supported by practical sessions that show how to develop these skills, including how to teach call changes, an exploration of kaleidoscope ringing, and different ways to introduce ringers to covering and plain hunt.

The course is yet to have a venue, but is going to be held in the Canterbury District somewhere. Booking is now available on the ART website, but please let me know too by emailing [training@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:training@kcacr.org.uk) so that I can keep track of numbers.

I am new to the training officer role and really need to know what other training courses the county think they would benefit from. If there's anything that you think would help you and your band, please let me know by emailing [training@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:training@kcacr.org.uk) and I can sort something out.

Thank You  
Tom Winter  
County Training Officer



# Bells for St George's Memorial Church, Ypres

St George's church in Ypres was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, designer of the Menin Gate. It was built to serve the British community that settled in Ypres after the First World War and is a focal point for any pilgrimage to Ypres. Chairs, windows, wall plaques and kneelers all commemorate individual soldiers, regiments, battalions, school old boys, and others. It's a place of poignancy, of countless stories.

The impressive church tower of solid construction may have been intended to house a ring of bells but that didn't happen at the time. Now, during these WW1 centenary years, a group of bell-ringers is aiming to have a peal of eight bells installed there. They will be the first bells hung for English change-ringing in Belgium and will honour the men who lie in the surrounding fields, in marked or unmarked graves. The aim is to raise £195,000 to cast and install the bells, improve the acoustics within and outside the tower, and fit a cctv system so that the bells and ringers may be seen in the church.

Anglican services are held at St George's every Sunday and the bells will be a sound of home for pilgrims and visitors to the cemeteries. The fund-raising group is a Registered Charity, spearheaded by London ringer Alan Regin. His interest was triggered by the bell ringers' Roll of Honour kept in a display cabinet in the north tower of St Paul's Cathedral. It contained 1,076 names and when Alan asked what was known about the men the answer was "It's just a list of names, isn't it?"

Not any more. Over the past 25 years, Alan has spent thousands of hours visiting war cemeteries in search of the graves of young soldiers who were bell ringers and his research has uncovered over 200 more names. He has recorded well over a thousand stories, their occupations, their parents, home towns and villages, and the day each died. He is always reminding bell-ringers in Britain to honour individuals on the centenary of their deaths by ringing bells at churches where the men themselves rang.

For instance St Mary's Parish Church in Dover lost four ringers in the conflict and to date the Dover



ringers have rung quarter peals for three of them. In August 2014 they remembered Percy Gibbs and this year they rang two quarters, in April for George Saunders and in May for Arthur Roberts. Walter Corteen was the fourth member of the Dover band so no doubt they'll be hearing again from Alan as his centenary approaches in 2018. Various quarters have already been rung in the Lewisham District. The next one at Crayford will be on 9th February and will remember Gunner William Thomas Audsley, the brother of Herbert (Bert) Audsley who appears on many peal boards around the district.

Alan Regin talks movingly on this subject and the project "Bells4StGeorge" is his most significant act of commemoration yet in that it embraces all soldiers who perished irrespective of whether they were bell ringers or not. The project's own website [www.bells4stgeorge.org](http://www.bells4stgeorge.org) has the history of the Memorial Church with some details of the project but there's a more detailed account at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/bells4stgeorgeypres>. Donations can be made through either of these sites, or by applying an email to Alan Regin [info@bells4stgeorge.org](mailto:info@bells4stgeorge.org) for the project's account details.

Update January 2017:

I am writing on behalf of myself and the other Trustees of the

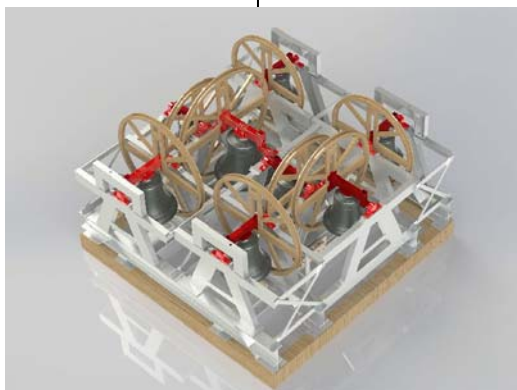
Bells4StGeorgeYpres appeal to let you know that with monies donated and those promised we have now achieved our initial target of £195,000.00. The support we have received has been wonderful and plans are now moving ahead to have the new bells cast in April and May 2017 and for them to arrive at the Church in Ypres in September 2017.

Thank you very much indeed for your support, we shall write again in March 2017 with a further update on the project.

Wishing you all the best for 2017.

Alan Regin, David R Smith and Ian G Campbell

Trustees, Bell4StGeorgeYpres



# Whitechapel Bell Foundry to close

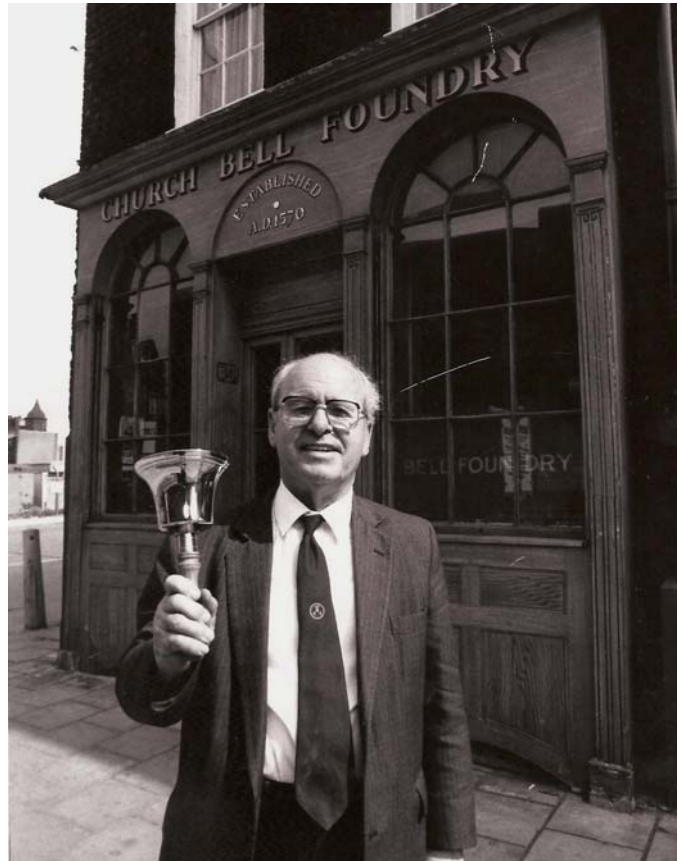
The Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the world's most famous bell foundry and Britain's oldest manufacturing company (founded 1570), is due to close in May 2017. The building has been sold but negotiations for the future ownership of the business are underway.

"We have made this decision with a heavy heart, but in response to the changing realities of running a business of this kind. The Bell Foundry in Whitechapel has changed hands many times, but it has always been a family business. My own family has owned the foundry since 1904, but other families have run the firm through its history, which stretches back to 1570. The business has been at its present site over two hundred and fifty years. So it is probably about time it moved once again. We hope that this move will provide an opportunity for the business to move forward in a new direction."

Alan & Kathryn Hughes

An interesting article about Alan Hughes and the foundry can be found here

<http://spitalfieldslife.com/2016/12/02/so-long-whitechapel-bell-foundry/>







THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS  
LEWISHAM DISTRICT



Minutes of the Annual District Meeting, Bromley Parish Church, 8th October 2016

21 people attended representing 9 towers, 2 unattached members. Dr Philip Barnes from the County Committee was welcomed to the meeting. He would be talking about a proposed rule change later in the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Graham Long, Chris Goldsmith & Shelagh Norman (Greenwich), Brenda Barton (Dartford), Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common), Alex Britton (unattached), Chris Davine (Eltham), Tom Hinks and Helena Mattingley (Bromley Parish).

**2. Minutes of last meeting** (9<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Eltham)

Posted to website and circulated in the Newsletter. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.  
Proposed: David Holdridge Seconded: Mark Backhouse. Voted unanimously.

**3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**

Nil

**4. Election of New Members**

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Johnny AISHER	Shoreham	Frank Rogers	Philippa Rooke
Geoff ROBERTS	Chislehurst St Nicholas	Peter Skinner	Thomas Wilding
		Witness to lowering	Rupert Cheeseman

Geoff was given a warm welcome and it was good to see him there.

**5. Officer Reports**

**Ringing Master, Nick Wilkins.** Firstly, thank you for electing me as Ringing Master and I hope that you are getting what you require from the District Practices. If not, let me know how we can ensure that you do.

Practices (excluding QMs) this year have so far been held at Ash. Horton Kirby, Bromley Common. Bickley, Eynsford, West Wickham, Chelsfield, Cudham and the Annunciation, Chislehurst. Forthcoming practices in 2016 will be at Erith CC, Sidcup and Deptford.

QMs have been held at Greenwich, Bexley, Eltham and now Bromley Parish, so over half the towers in the District will have been visited and perhaps, next year we can visit the remainder.

Additionally, Farnborough hosted the District Method Striking Competition in March and the County final in September, pleasingly won by this District. St Mary Cray host the District Call Change competition on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> November. Please try and enter a band from your tower.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July a band representing the Lewisham District came a creditable second in the County Eight Bell Competition at Herne ringing Grandsire Triples.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August there was a joint outing to London with the Tonbridge District. The date was set before I was in post and I was unable to attend but credit to Diane for organising an excellent outing which proved to be very popular.

Generally at District Practices the ringing ranges from rounds and call-changes up to surprise major and we managed Grandsire Caters at Cudham in August.

The practices are usually Friday evenings or Saturday mornings with only the occasional Saturday evening (Chelsfield) but please let me know if you have other suggestions for these practices.

May I thank everyone for their support and particularly Diane, and float the idea of reviving a QP week which we've held in the past but not very recently to my recollection.

For your diaries, first quarter 2017 practices are to be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, (QM on 14<sup>th</sup> January and Method Striking Competition 4<sup>th</sup> March).



**Training Officer, Ian Mills.** There was a training day concentrating on Leading up and Down in Peal held at Sidcup.  
**Newsletter Editor, Rupert Cheeseman.** Thank you for all who contribute to the content of the newsletter, it is appreciated.

**120 Club, Rachel Backhouse.** Last year we raised £617.23 for the Bell Restoration Fund. Most, but not all the balls were sold and there are still some left for this current year. Rachel explained the 120 club to those present. Philippa Rooke, thanked each of these officers for their excellent work throughout the year, it is appreciated.

## 6. Election of Officers

Dr Philip Barnes took the chair for the appointment of the Chair.

Role	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Philippa Rooke	Lesley Barclay	Alex Fishburn
Secretary	Sue Cameron	Nick Wilkins	Natalie Slator
Membership Secretary	Rupert Cheeseman	Dickon Love	Rachel Backhouse
Ringling Master	Nick Wilkins	Nancy Fisher	Liz Brett
Asst Ringling Master	Diane Reynolds	Nick Wilkins	Sue Cameron
Training Officer	Alex Fishburn	Diane Reynolds	Ian Mills
District Rep 1	Chris Davine	Rupert Cheeseman	Lesley Barclay
District Rep 2	Natalie Slator		
120 Club	Rachel Backhouse	Mark Backhouse	Natalie Slator
Newsletter	Rupert Cheeseman	Dickon Love	Nick Wilkins
Sales	Shelagh Norman	Lesley Barclay	Jim Rooke
	Chris Goldsmith		

Philippa Rooke thanked Rachel for her sterling work as Membership Secretary over the last 10 years and to Ian Mills for looking after the training role for the last few years. It was greatly appreciated by all.

## 7. 120 club draw

	Prize	Name	Tower
1st	£20	Jim Rooke	Chelsfield
2nd	£10	Brenda Barton	Dartford
3rd	£10	Deryck Jones	Dartford
4th	£5	Nick Wilkins	Farnborough

## 8. KCACR report on the meeting held on 27th August 2016

- The accounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015 have now been audited and a compliance certificate issued.
- On recommendation from the auditor, it was agreed that we will try once more to find the missing Sage Accounts software, and then re-purchase if required.
- The grant award for Eastling has been cancelled following a note from the incumbent there.
- The new KCACR website went live recently, and soon content owners will be able to edit/add their own content to the site.
- A schedule for the creation of the 2017 handbook has been created by the Handbook Editor.
- Catherine Lewis has agreed to look into arranging a Module 2F ART course in the county if sufficient interest exists.
- The Secretary is going to write to the incumbent at Strood to ask if their project to install a ring of bells is still going ahead.

- 
- A proposed rule change to be considered at the 2017 AGM will be circulated to Districts ready for their ADMs in October.
  - A final request for volunteers to help with the KCA Mobile Ring will be made by the Secretary, along with a member survey to ascertain if there really is a need/want for this as is already thought – deadline 31st December 2016 to make a decision.
  - The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 24th September, 9.45am draw, in the Lewisham District at Farnborough.
  - It was agreed that the Kent Young Ringers band could enter the County 6-bell competition effectively as a 'scratch' band, for competition practice.
  - The County Youth Striking Competition 2016 will be held on Saturday 22nd October at Otford.
  - The Association are entering a band in the Essex Trophy being held at Writtle, Essex on Saturday 10th September.
  - The final General Committee meeting in 2016 is on 26th November.

Dr Phil Barnes spoke about a proposed rule change which related to the aims of the Association, to focus more on Ringing and Ringers.

The current aims have remained unchanged since 1880 and list five aims:-

- I. The establishment, maintenance and encouragement of service ringing in the churches in its area.
- II. The recognition of ringers as church workers
- III. The proper care and use of bells and belfries
- IV. The cultivation of the art of change ringing
- V. The safety and wellbeing of its Members

It is proposed to amend the aims of the KCACR to one overarching aim which reads:-

***'The aim of the Association is to foster ringing in the historic county of Kent by promoting and protecting the interests of ringing and ringers'.***

A discussion ensued around whether the church aspect of ringing puts some people off, some felt that their main reason for ringing was to glorify God. Others were concerned that the word 'bell' had been removed so the type of ringing could be ambiguous.

A full transcript regarding the proposed rule change to be circulated around the district and be an agenda item for the January meeting to give people more time to think about it before it is voted on at the AGM on Easter Monday at Cranbrook. ACTION – Secretary to circulate.

## 9. Past Events and Upcoming Events

- Lewisham District won the County six bell competition at Farnborough on 24<sup>th</sup> September.
- The joint outing with Tonbridge District to London on 6<sup>th</sup> August was very successful and very well attended. The date for next year has already been set, 12<sup>th</sup> August and will be organised by Tonbridge.
- 21/10/16 District Practice Erith CC 7.30 – 9pm
- 29/10/16 County Surprise Practice TBC 10 – 12 noon
- 12/11/16 District Practice Sidcup 10 – 12 noon
- 19/11/16 Call Change Comp St Mary Cray 2.30pm draw
- 30/11/16 London Ringers Carol Service Aldgate 7pm
- Greenwich have offered to host the January QDM on 14th and we will take them up on this offer. It was recognised that will be the third year in a row that the January meeting would be held at Greenwich, and concern was expressed that this does not become a fixture as other towers should take their turn. Having meetings at as many towers as possible across the District helps get the message that we're serious about the church-related side of ringing across to different parish priests and encourages ringers from the host tower to come to at least one meeting a year.
- St Mary Cray have offered to host the April QDM on 8th. We will take them up on this kind offer.
- Venues for the July and October meetings are required. Rupert Cheeseman offered Crayford for one of these and he would check availability with the vicar. **SECRETARY'S NOTE:** Since the meeting Bickley have offered to host the July meeting and Crayford are unable to host October.
- The District Striking competition will be held on 4th March, a venue is required to host.
- We will be hosting the County eight bell competition next July. Consideration to a venue is required, suggestions so far are Deptford or Erith CC.

## 10. AOB

- Philippa Rooke talked about the Isle of Dogs Striking Competition. It is for Sunday Service Bands and is scored on a simulator and entered on a leader board. Erith CC took part last year and found it very worthwhile. Details have already been circulated around the district, please do consider giving it a go.
- Rupert thanked all contributors to the latest newsletter. It was particularly good to see that quite a few towers had gone out and rung at other towers during their Tower Outings. It looks like a good time was had by all.
- Dickon Love, Tower Captain of Bromley Parish reported that practice nights were to be re-introduced at Bromley Parish, once a month to start with lead by Tom Hinks, all welcome. It is hoped that in time, they will become more frequent – watch this space.

## 11. Vote of Thanks

Mark Backhouse gave a vote of thanks to the vicar, Anne Jablonski and her assistant, husband Andrew. He also thanked Alex Fishburn for playing the organ and for Dickon as trusty page turner for the rousing piece at the end. An especially big thank you went to Przemysław Benonski for laying on such a wonderful tea which he had spent all afternoon preparing.

Next meeting will be Saturday 14th January 2017 at Greenwich.



# Lewisham District Events 2017



- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Fri 27<sup>rd</sup> Jan District Practice: Dartford, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Feb District Practice: Crayford, 11.00 - 1.00pm
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Mar District 6-bell Striking Competition: Farningham, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Mar District Practice: Erith, St John, 8.00 - 9.30pm
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Apr Quarterly Meeting: St Mary Cray, 3.30pm Bells, 4.30p.m. Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing. Send names for tea to [names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:names4tea@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Mar KCACR Annual General Meeting: Cranbrook, (Tonbridge District)

More events in 2017 to follow....

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](http://www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk) nearer the event in case of any last minute changes or phone or email Ian on [master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk](mailto:master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk)

For the latest county and news from other Districts see the KCACR web site at [www.kcacr.org.uk](http://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](http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/lewisham_district) or email [lewisham\\_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lewisham_district-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk)

Now is the time for New Year resolutions and how about starting with a resolve to do some ringing training...!?

As you probably know, Alexander Fishburn was elected District Training Officer in October and has put together a brief survey that can be accessed online (see below) so that ringers can advise of their training wishes and the most convenient time for this.

Please access the link below and complete the brief

survey so Alex can put in place the most beneficial training for you.

Many thanks and I hope to see many of you at the Quarterly Meeting at Greenwich.

Nick

Here's the form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/DIRSWd9lffA0jfOx1>