



# 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) OCTOBER 2017

## Farewell Mark and Rachel

We were greatly surprised to be presented with a card and a very unexpected gift of garden vouchers at the last district meeting. Thank you all so much for your kind wishes and generosity.

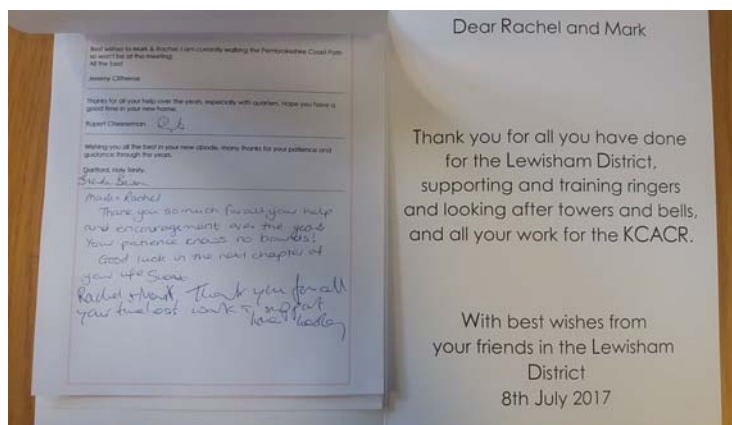
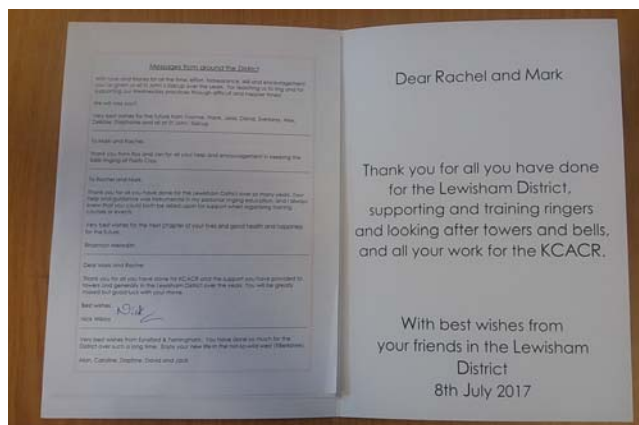
As I'm sure you know, Mark was made redundant in June following the closure of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry premises. Funnily enough we had discussed last summer where we might like to go when we retired (a few years to go yet) and so had already done some preliminary research. Over the years our extended family have gradually moved away from Kent and Surrey and can now be found much further west in Oxford, Malvern, Cheltenham, Bristol and Bridport. We decided on the Newbury area because of the good road links to all of the above while still giving us fairly easy access into London. The house we hope to move to is in Thatcham about three miles east of Newbury and with the added bonus of a tower with an active band!



It may have seemed (to us as well as you) that this move really wasn't going to happen but at last progress does seem to be being made on both the buying and selling fronts and we hope to be able to pack up and go in late October or soon after. Rachel has a new job in Reading starting in mid October so there's going to be a period of commuting. Once everything is confirmed we will give you our new address and contact details.

Mark has been associated with Christchurch Erith since 1979 when he started his sandwich degree placements with BICC and in 1982 Rachel moved to Bromley for a year. We were married in July 1983 and moved to Belvedere and have been here ever since. John Hill, long standing tower captain at Christchurch, moved away to Leicestershire in 1998 and Rachel took over, a post she held for 19 years until the tower AGM earlier this year.

Mark and Rachel Backhouse



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## Chelsfield Ringers Sunday 15th October

Every year at St Martin's we have a 'Ringers' Sunday' to commemorate the work of the bellringers, and this year we are privileged to have Alan Regin coming to address us at the 6.30pm Evensong Service. Alan is an eminent bell ringer and former Master (on several occasions) of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, a national ringing organisation which was founded in 1747. He is also the Central Council Steward of the Rolls of Honour, which records the names of bellringers lost in conflict.

Alan will be talking to us about the Rolls of Honour which is particularly topical at the moment as we remember the 100th anniversary of some of the battles of WW1 and move, next year, towards the centenary of the end of WW1. Alan has been instrumental in producing a new volume of the Church Bell Ringers' Memorial Book which records the extraordinary sacrifice made by so many ringers during the Great War. Additionally, Alan is a trustee of the Bells4StGeorges project. This exciting project has involved installing a peal of eight English style change ringing bells in St George's church, Ypres.

Three huge battles were fought around Ypres in World War One in 1914, 1915 and 1917 but it was never captured by the Germans and was one of the few parts of Belgium to be held by the allies. The third battle, known as Passchendaele, alone cost the allies roughly 250,000 casualties, with nearly 80,000 dead. The town's St George's Memorial Church was built to honour the dead but funds ran out before bells were installed. St George's was built in 1927 but the bell tower has stood empty since.

Following successful fund raising, eight new bells were cast at Taylor's bell foundry, Loughborough earlier this year, each bell being uniquely marked with a poppy and bearing names of those involved in the conflict. After going on display at the Dorset Steam Fair over the August Bank Holiday the bells were transported to Ypres, Belgium on two WW1 era lorries in order to be present at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate on 30 August. The installation process to hang the bells in the tower at St Georges is underway and, once complete, the bells will ring out for the first time at a special service to mark the completion of the project on 22nd October.

Alan will be talking to us about this exciting initiative and which will continue for some time even after the bells are installed as ringers from the local church and community will have to be trained to ring these new bells. If you'd like to hear more about this project please join us at St Martin's on Sunday 15 October at 6.30pm (Alan will probably not be talking before 6.50/7.00 if you have to ring at your own tower first), and pass the message on to anyone you think might be interested.

Nick Wilkins

# Editorial



Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to contribute to the newsletter this time. There have been a number of interesting things going on.

At the upcoming ADM, some officers will be stepping down so please consider if organising the 120 club or being training officer is a job for you.

Volunteers will also be required to host the district meetings next year. So again please consider this especially if you have not hosted one for a while.

*Rupert*

## 120 club

This is my final report after twelve and a half years. My thanks to all who have supported the club over the years- there has been at one time or another shares sold to most towers in the district. It's an easy way to support the county Bell Restoration Fund with a little bit of fun involved and quite a few of our towers have benefited over the years. The BRF isn't all about the big jobs, they also provide grants for smaller things- at Christchurch Erith we had contributions toward replacement pulleys and bearings. Please continue with your support. This year the running total will pass the £7000 mark.

### July 8th District meeting at Bickley

1st	24	Chris Davine (Eltham)
1st	119	Debra Say (Crayford)
2nd	99	Diane Reynolds (Eltham)
2nd	37	Daphne Paterson (E&F)
3rd	51	Ian Nurdin (Ash)
3rd	40	Lesley Barclay (Horton Kirby)
4th	11	Frances Wallis (Milton Regis)
4th	56	Chris Lawrance (Bromley Common)

### September 15th District practice at Horton Kirby

1st	86	Margaret Heald (Erith St John)
2nd	88	Terry Elcock (Horton Kirby)
3rd	96	Nick Wilkins (Farnborough)
4th	37	Daphne Paterson (E&F)

Rachel Backhouse

## In the newsletter this time...

Farewell Mark and Rachel	1
Chelsfield Ringers Sunday	2
Editorial	3
120 club	3
News from the Towers	
Ash	4
Beckenham	4
Crayford	5
West Wickham	6
The Meridian Ringers	7
Wither Whitechapel?	8
New bells at Ypres	9
Minutes of October District Meeting	10
Upcoming District Events	14

## Ringers Carol Service

The service this year will be on Thursday 7th December and will be held at 7.30pm at the church of St Clement Danes in The Strand. The ten beautiful bells of the church will be open for general ringing before the service – a good opportunity for any who have not yet rung there. The music will be led by Gregory Rose who welcomes members to join the Ringers' Choir. Please contact [gr@gregoryrose.org](mailto:gr@gregoryrose.org) for information about the music and rehearsal dates. After the service, there will be the chance to socialise and meet other ringers at a venue in the area – drinks and food will be available.

I am hoping that each of the lessons can be read by a member of a different ringing association, so I'd be grateful if you could publicise this request among your members. I will then send out the relevant text and instruction to the volunteer. I have sent the details to you as Secretary of Lewisham District, with your close contacts with Central London, but of course members from all Districts will be very welcome. Please circulate the information as widely as you can.

Many thanks for your help, and I look forward to meeting some of your members in December.

Best wishes  
Margaret Peirce



# NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

## ASH

*Practice Tuesday 11.00am & Saturday 9.00am  
Sunday 10am*

As relatively new ringers, the two Sues from Ash undertook a long journey north to the Tulloch Ringing Centre near Fort William for an 'improvers course'. It turned out that, together with the beginners course the previous week, this was the first course they had run.

The centre, set in the beautiful countryside of the highlands, has a tower of 12 bells, plus a smaller peal of eight lighter bells. There is also a simulator that allows you to ring with six 'perfect' ringers and see how inaccurate (or not) you are. The whole set up is owned and run by Helen McGregor who is not only passionate about ringing but an excellent teacher too.



The first couple of days were full on with lots of rope time and raising and lowering practice. The students were then split into two groups for call changes; those that call up and those that call down. Plain Hunt was taught and rung and those who had a bit more experience were ringing Bob Doubles. Sessions were also held for using hand bells but this together with lots of observations meant that we had less rope time in the latter part of the course.

Although there were some frustrations we had a lovely week and I'm sure have learned more than we realise. We stayed on site and had the added advantage of collecting fresh eggs each morning for breakfast. The facilities are amazing so keep your eyes out for future courses.

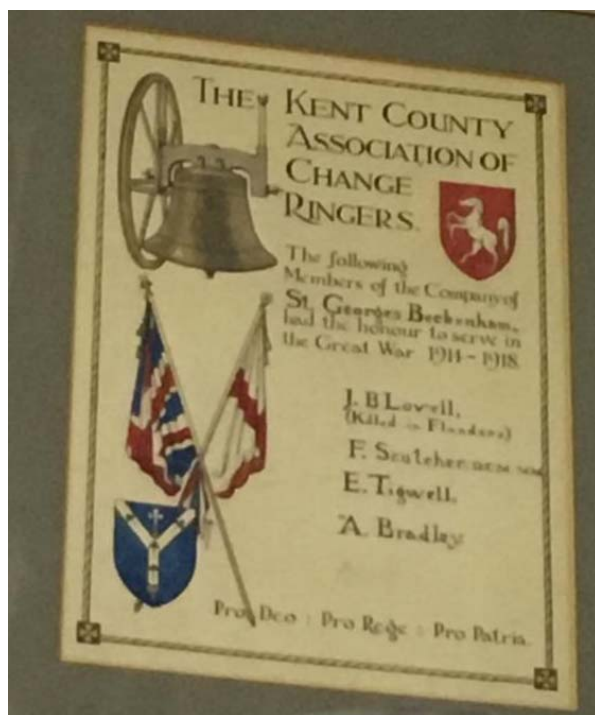
Susanne Fever

## BECKENHAM

*Practice Thursday 20:00  
Sunday 9.00am*

In the corner of the ringing room, just above the box of plugs and wires we use to control the amplification of the sound of the bells for the ringers, is the Kent County Association of Change Ringers Roll of Honour. It names those ringers from the band who fought in the Great War. Of the four ringers named on our Roll of Honour, one of many such documents across Kent, only one didn't come back.

JB Lovell (Killed in Flanders) is all the information we had.



Back in 2014, when the centenary of the outbreak of war was being marked around the country, I began looking into John Lovell's story. 21 August 2017 seemed such a long way into the future, so I added a note to the tower whiteboard so as not to forget.



As the date grew closer, I began to research more about John Bawden Lovell. As a band of ringers, we knew that we wanted to ring the bells to commemorate the centenary of his death. But we also wanted to know more about the man we were honouring.

Gunner John Bawden Lovell, Beckenham, Kent. Died 21/08/1917 aged 41. 119th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Service No.109458. Commemorated at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium, Grave VI F 7.

He was born in Beckenham in 1876 and baptised here aged 10. Son of Charlotte Lovell of 4 Forest View, Southampton and the late John Lovell (died 1909).

John enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in February 1900, so had seen previous military service, and later worked as an ironmonger with both his mother and younger brother in Beckenham. According to the 1911 census, he lived at 111 High Street Beckenham, Kent. Our tower record also lists his address as Gowland Cottages, just off Croydon Road.

We know from tower records that he joined the bell ringers as a probationer in 1905 and was elected a full member in 1907. He rang in at least four peals, according to the boards in the tower, always ringing the sixth bell.



While his name appears on Beckenham's war memorial, JB Lovell isn't mentioned anywhere in St George's, other than up the tower. We assume it is because he was not resident in the Parish at the time.

One of the most moving elements for me is that, while we rang the same bells that he would have rung, and the same method that we know he rang a peal of in 1908, so much outside the tower would have been so different. The Railway Hotel would still have stood on what is now Beckenham Green – it's where the ringers went for post-practice refreshments until it was destroyed in the Second World War. The station was probably more or less the same – the trains would be completely alien, and so on.

As the date of the centenary approached, I shared details of our plans to ring to commemorate with the church congregation and the wider town community – the marvels of 21st century technology! There have been many expressions of support for the ringing, including cheering and clapping from Joan, Jack, David and Jane, who came to listen. If we've made just a few

people turn their ears to the church and think about the man we were honouring, 100 years on, then we've done our job.

Lizzie Hardy



#### Beckenham Guild

On Monday, 21 August 2017 in 45 minutes

Beckenham, Kent

St George

Tenor: 14-0-2

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Mark N Harris
- 2 Jeremy R Byers
- 3 Becca C Hardy
- 4 Nigel Pointer
- 5 David S Brown
- 6 Ross E Hartley
- 7 James J Hardy (C)
- 8 Elizabeth Hardy

Rung to mark the centenary of the death of Gunner John Bawden Lovell, 119th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, a ringer at this church, who died in Flanders on 21 August 1917.

Also, to commemorate the centenary of the death in Flanders on 27 August 1917 of Jesse Birkbeck Roberson, great grandfather of the tenor ringer.

## CRAYFORD

*Practice Tuesday 20:00*

*Sunday 9.30am*

It's been another busy few months at Crayford and we continue to be grateful to our regular visitors for continuing to support us. It's nice to see Peter back ringing again but sad to see Thomas head off to Shoreham (by the sea!) for a year's internship.

We had another go at ringing Julie McDonnell New Bob Triples and this time successfully scored it.

Having rung various variations over the last few years, we decided it was about time we tried to ring and name a new one. A straight forward one was found that is based on St Simon's. After a few weeks practice a good quarter of what is now St Paulinus was scored. We then rang the St Martin's version of it and called it Crayford.

Rupert Cheeseman

Sunday, 9 July 2017

1260 Julie McDonnell New Bob Triples in 44mins

1. Thomas Wilding
2. Andrew Sinclair
3. Sue Cameron
4. Debra Say
5. Helen Webb
6. John Gander
7. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
8. Neville Wilding

With belated 50th birthday wishes to Julie McDonnell (13/6/17).

1st in method; 2&4.

Monday, 14 August 2017

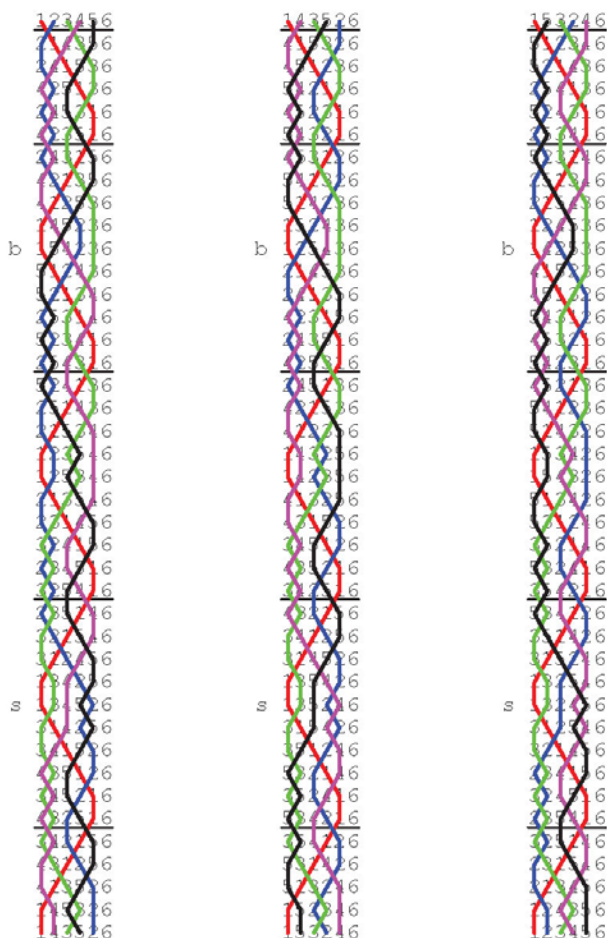
1260 St Paulinus Doubles in 43mins

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

Rung to congratulate Lynn Warlington who was installed as Deacon of this church yesterday.

Believed to be the first quarter rung in this variation of St Paulinus (7 b/dc).

120 St Paulinus Doubles



Tuesday, 22 August 2017

1260 Crayford Doubles in 43mins

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

Rung to congratulate Thomas Wilding on his excellent results in his A levels. He'd have been ringing if he hadn't been out partying!

Believed to be the first quarter rung in this variation of Crayford (4 b/dc).

Monday, 14 August 2017

1260 St Paulinus and Crayford Doubles in 42mins

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

Rung to wish the Rev James Crockford well in his new parish at St Mary's, Oxford following his last service here.

## WEST WICKHAM (St John the Baptist)

*Practice: Wednesday 8pm*

*Sunday 9.15am*

We now have a regular band of 10 and ring regularly, with an occasional surprise practice with support from local towers.

In June we swapped the bells for croquet mallets and had an evening of croquet, 3 of our ringers play regularly. This was followed by our annual summer barbeque in August.

Our visiting bands have increased this year as people are choosing routes using public transport and in particular the Croydon tramway, a short bus ride away.

In September we had a group of Girl Guides visit us and we gave a presentation of the history and the theory of church bell ringing, followed by the Guides ringing our hand bells. Their visit was a result of our attendance at the local event in West Wickham which promotes local clubs and societies in the community and from where we gained a new ringer and a lot of interest in bell ringing.

Judith Fry



## WOOLWICH, GREENWICH & DEPTFORD

### The Meridian Ringers

We have continued with our normal ringing pattern, with our normal practice night on Wednesdays, 8pm–9.30pm, at Greenwich, but occasionally at St. John's, Deptford or Woolwich if Greenwich is not available. 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.

There are usually 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. Lately, with some visitors, we have had about 18 people at practices, and this includes when some of our members have been away!

We have four new learners who are making good progress – many thanks to Roger Booth, Andrew Sinclair and Matt Amos for helping out with this, including some additional learner sessions at Christ Church, The Isle of Dogs.

There have been a few weddings recently at Greenwich and for the first time we had two weddings both at the same time on a Saturday – one at St John's and one at Woolwich and we were able to put out two bands for these.

There was a visitor to St John's in August who was ringing at his 3,333 tower; this being one of two outstanding towers in London which he has not rung at; the other is St Andrew's, Kingsbury where ringing is currently suspended; (Graham Long actually rang there in the late 1970s).



Jim Lilley rang at his 3,333rd tower at St John's, Deptford.  
Left to right: Graham Long, Jim Odell, Naoko Nakatani, Ed Gormley, Jim Lilley, John Bonney, Giuseppina Radaelli, Luigi Vincenti, Jan Odell, JJ Aiston, Emma Roberts. Not in the photo, Stuart Corson, who took the picture.

Sunday, 13 August 2017 in 4 mins (8–10–6)  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Emma Roberts
2. James H Lilley
3. Giuseppina Radaelli
4. Jim Odell
5. Graham Long (C)
6. Stuart Corson

Two touches of 60 rung for Evening Worship. This was also to mark the visit of Jim Lilley, of New Shoreham, Sussex, to ring at his 3,333rd tower. Afterwards Jim was also able to ring at his 3,334th tower when some of the ringers arranged for him to travel on and ring at Foots Cray. (Graham Long rang two peals with Jim in Eastbourne back in 1972).

One of our team, David Connearn recently rang his first quarter, at the first attempt and the striking was of a very high standard.

Greenwich, St Alfege  
Friday, 25 August 2017 (8–2–14 in A)  
1260 Doubles (2 Methods) 720 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob)

1. Jim Odell
2. Graham Long
3. Andrew Sinclair
4. Andrew Booth
5. Roger Booth (C)
6. David Connearn

First quarter at first attempt; 6. To celebrate Jim Odell's 65th birthday.



The band (l to r) Jim, Graham, Andrew S, Andrew B, Roger, David

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



# Whither Whitechapel?

As you should all know by now, Whitechapel Bell Foundry's factory closed three months ago, after about **600 years** manufacturing in East London, a very sad time for everyone in the industry. The company had six months notice of the sale of the buildings, which gave time for all existing orders to be completed, all suppliers paid, the future manufacturing options agreed, the factory and house cleared, and the staff to decide on their futures (some retired early, some moved to other jobs straight away, but many stayed on to help the company complete its business honourably).

Until very recently there had been very little information available since a Ringing World article in December with the above heading, so I have been providing some, but as I am now moving away from the area I have been asked by a few people for information on future maintenance options:

**New Whitechapel tower bells** are still available. All the moulding gauges, loam moulding materials, loam making machinery, and moulding cases were sold to the **Westley Group** and transferred to one of their foundries in Stoke on Trent. **Nigel Taylor**, Whitechapel's tower bell design / moulding / casting / tuning expert is working with Westley as a consultant to oversee the future production of castings. As you may have seen in the Ringing World recently they are now producing their first bells.

**Tuning of tower bells** has been taken on by the bell hanging companies. **Whites of Appleton** have purchased a big vertical boring machine and had it installed in their works, and Nigel Taylor is working with them as a consultant to train their staff to tune bells to Whitechapel standards. **Nicholson Engineering** purchased both the tuning machines from Whitechapel, and is installing them in their works. Nigel will work with Nicholson to advise on the re-assembly of the machines and to train their staff in their use. **Matthew Higby** already had a decent sized vertical boring machine and had tuned a few small bells, but **Ben Kipling**, Whitechapel's other bell tuner has joined Matthew's company and has already tuned a number of bells, as reported in the Ringing World.

All the bell hanging companies are able to order new bells from Westley, as well as tune second hand or existing bells, and Nigel and Ben will make sure they are finished to Whitechapel standards.

**Whitechapel design tower bell fittings** have also been taken on by the bell hanging companies. **Whites of Appleton** purchased all the cast iron frameside patterns, headstock patterns and clapper patterns, so can match existing equipment for augmentations / repairs to existing Whitechapel installations. **Nicholson Engineering** purchased Whitechapel's stock pulley boxes and pulley wheels, so are able to supply those.

**Stays and sliders** can be supplied by the bell hanging companies, but the sliders used by Whitechapel were supplied to them by **Whites of Appleton**, so for sliders that is the same product.

**Wrought iron clapper repairs** and other clapper fittings are available direct from **Peter Trick**, Whitechapel's hugely experienced blacksmith, who bought Whitechapel's stock and has set up his own company offering this and much more general

blacksmith's work. As Peter started with Whitechapel as a **bell hanger** he is able to advise and assist on all aspects of bell maintenance. He has recently repaired and helped reinstall the clapper from Dartford's third bell following a breakage a few weeks ago.

Whitechapel's **bell hangers** are all still able to help with belfry maintenance. **Neil Thomas**, Whitechapel's full time bell hanger, transferred to **John Taylor and Co.** so is still working full time, but has a stock of Whitechapel parts for occasional private jobs. **Peter Scott**, the longest serving part time bell hanger has effectively retired, but again has a small stock of parts and can give good advice. **Ian Hasman**, the newest part time bell hanger, has set up in business as freelance bell hanger, so can assist with the whole range of maintenance and installation work.

**Whitechapel musical handbells** are still available, with a new company **Bells of Whitechapel Ltd** having been set up in **Bromley** with Whitechapel's **Sandra Winter** and **Kathryn Hughes** providing a full service to handbell ringers throughout the world supplying new bells, spare parts, refurbishment, cases, music and accessories, all as they did in the past. **Other small**





## News bells at Ypres

**bells** (wooden handled bells, bracket bells, gift bells, clock bells etc.) are also available from the same source.

The **handbell and small bell casting** is carried out by **Maybrey Reliance** foundry in **Belvedere**, who purchased all the patterns, metal, and the small furnace from Whitechapel and who now employ Whitechapel's young foundryman **Simon Parsons** (son of Nigel and Penny who some of you will know). They are already supplying castings to a high standard.

The **handbell and small bell tuning, polishing, fitting, and repair** is carried out by Whitechapel's handbell foreman **Steve McEwan**, who bought all the machines and tools and has set himself up in business in **Crayford**, called **Whitechapel Handbells**, working on jobs for Bells of Whitechapel as well as direct orders from local customers.

So, as you see, tower bells have been spread all over the country, but handbells are produced even more locally than before! Importantly, **everything is still possible and all the skills are still available**.

Mark Backhouse

### Contacts

#### **Tower bells, tuning, framework and fittings:**

Whites of Appleton - 01865 862549,

[bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk](mailto:bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk)

[www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk](http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk)

Nicholson Engineering - 01308 422264,

[bells@nicholsonbellhangers.com](mailto:bells@nicholsonbellhangers.com)

[www.nicholsonbellhangers.com](http://www.nicholsonbellhangers.com)

Matthew Higby & Co - 01761 233757,

[matthewhigby@gmail.com](mailto:matthewhigby@gmail.com)

[www.bellhangers.com](http://www.bellhangers.com)

#### **Tower bell clapper work and bell hanging assistance:**

Peter Trick - 01277 356258,

[petertrick@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:petertrick@tiscali.co.uk)

Neil Thomas - 07767 253999

Peter Scott - 07930 407979

Ian Hasman - 07940320697

#### **Handbells and small bells:**

Bells of Whitechapel Ltd. - 020 8462 9419,

[swinter@bellssofwhitechapel.london](mailto:swinter@bellssofwhitechapel.london)

[khughes@bellssofwhitechapel.london](mailto:khughes@bellssofwhitechapel.london)

Steve McEwan - 07506 740202

There have been three significant events over the past couple of weeks. Many of you came to at least one of them but for those that were not able to get to them all I am writing to let you know that the new bells were collected from John Taylors at Loughborough on Tuesday 22nd August by two 1915 vehicles, a J Class Thornycroft lorry and a Dennis "Subsidy" lorry. After a civic send off in Queens Park, Loughborough attended by over 300 people. They then travelled to the Great Dorset Steam Fair and were present in the special WWI section over the August Bank Holiday weekend - they were visited and photographed by many people! To celebrate the bells being in Dorset some Salisbury Diocesan Guild towers arranged special ringing.

The bells arrived in Belgium on Tuesday 29th August crossing the English Channel via the DFDS ferry service from Dover to Dunkirk.

On the 30th August the vehicles travelled, under their own power, from Tyne Cot Cemetery to the Menin Gate via Hooze Crater Cemetery, Perth Cemetery (China Wall) and Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm). Graves were visited, handbells rung and songs sung at each place. The bells and lorries were present at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate that evening and five wreaths were laid by various groups connected with the bell delivery.

The bells were delivered to St George's Memorial Church, Ypres on Thursday 31st August 2017 and were dedicated by the Chaplain, Revd. Gillian Trinder, at a special service at 5.00pm that day.

Some photographs of the various events are attached.

Over the next few weeks work will continue in the tower, the bells will be hung, electrical and sound control work will be completed, walls will be decorated and panelling installed and, finally, a carpet will be laid.

The blessing service for the completed installation will take place on Sunday 22nd October 2017 at 11.00am. This is proving to be very popular and I have attached a list of those who I am aware are attending - if you are attending and your names does not appear on the attached spreadsheet please let me know as soon as you can. The bells will be rung after the service.

Ypres seems to be very busy that weekend so if you have not booked accommodation and / or travel I would not leave it much longer.

Alan Regin

Trustee, Bells4StGeorgeYpres





**THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS**  
**LEWISHAM DISTRICT**



Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, St George's, Bickley, 8th July 2017  
16 people attended representing 9 towers, 1 unattached member.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received from Alex Britton, Shelagh Norman and Chis Goldsmith (Greenwich), Ian Mills (Eltham)

**2. Minutes of last meeting** (8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, St Mary Cray)

Posted on website and circulated in the Newsletter.

Proposed: David Holdridge; Seconded: Liz Brett. Accepted by the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**

For ratification of membership, the witnessing of lowering a bell safely by Mark Harris was undertaken by Sue Cameron.

**4. Election of New Members**

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
Davina Pike	Bromley	Tom Hinks	Helena Mattingley
Tim Pike			
		Witness to lowering	Sue Cameron

Tim and Davina had every intention of attending this meeting however the arrival of a first grandchild 10 days ago meant that they were with family, but sent their apologies.

**5. KCACR report on the meeting held on 22nd April 2017**

- A couple of figures were incorrect on the 2016 accounts in the handbook, but these don't affect the totals which are correct. The accounts are now with the auditor, Aaron Jacobs. The Treasurer is also going to consider whether it is worth moving to CAF Bank instead of Natwest.
- A plan around a recruitment campaign to train new ringers in time for Armistice Day 2018 will start being worked on by PR & Training with additional help.
- The 2017 Handbook can now be purchased via the website, and existing members with their own hard copy can access an online version using the code printed inside the front cover.
- Kent Young Ringers continue to be active, and all information about the RWNKYC has now been received.
- As we currently don't have a Handbook Editor, it was decided that we will look to move away from automatically printing a copy for every member and make most of the information available online for members. A printed copy will be provided for every tower, and anyone wanting a printed copy will be able to place an order to be collected at the AGM as normal. The Secretary is investigating what the minimum print run would be and how much this would cost.
- The County 8-bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 24th June, 9.45am draw, at Shoreham in the Lewisham District. Touch is a plain course of Yorkshire S Major.
- The County 6-bell Striking Competition 2017 will be held on Saturday 23rd September, 9.45am draw, in the Maidstone District
- The General Committee meetings for 2017 will be held on 26th August and 25th November

**6. Events Update and results**

- The annual 8-bell striking competition took place on 24th June at Shoreham. Five teams entered on the bells that are not easy bells to strike. A good day was had by all, particularly Lewisham as we won! Thanks to Nick Wilkins for battling on to find a judge which was hampered by the clash with the National 12-bell being held at

Southwark Cathedral. Thanks also go to Philippa Rooke for organising the pub across the road for hosting the competitors and audience, providing coffee, bacon butties and biscuits. Nick Wilkins had undertaken some research; out of 33 events, Maidstone have never won, Host Districts have won on 11 occasions.

- At the County AGM on Easter Monday Philippa Rooke had agreed to represent views from district members with regard to the proposed Rule Change. At the last minute she was unable to attend due to family reasons so Sue Cameron kindly acted on her behalf. The new rule was not supported; 27 for, 11 abstentions, 43 against.

## 7. Upcoming district events

29/07/17	Strike Back Express	Train trip to Bath in aid of SBABC	
29/07/17	District Practice	Chislehurst St Nicks	10 – 12 noon
12/08/17	Joint Outing with Tonbridge	London	
15/09/17	District Practice	Horton Kirby (tbc)	8 – 9.30pm
06/10/17	District Practice	TBC	8 – 9.30pm
14/10/17	Annual District Meeting	TBC	
10/11/17	District Practice	TBC	8 – 9.30pm
18/11/17	Call Change Competition	Downe	2.30pm draw
01/12/17	District Practice	TBC	8 – 9.30pm

## 8. 120 club draw

	Prize	No.	Name	Tower
1st	£20	24	Chris Davine	Eltham
1st	£20	119	Debra Say	Crayford
2nd	£10	99	Diane Reynolds	Eltham
2nd	£10	37	Daphne Patterson	Eynsford & Farningham
3rd	£10	51	Ian Nurdin	Ash-by-Wrotham
3rd	£10	40	Lesley Barclay	Horton Kirby
4th	£5	11	Frances Wallis	C/o Erith CC
4th	£5	56	Chris Lawrance	Bromley Common

This was likely to be Rachel's last meeting and in charge of the 120 club due to her and Mark moving out of the area. All 120 balls have been sold for this year's lottery. The Chair asked if there were any volunteers to take over the running of the club; in particular anyone from Dartford or Horton Kirby as their bands are keen supporters and have a quite a few shares. Lesley Barclay asked if payments could be managed by electronic banking. It is a Barclays account but not known if electronic banking is available. Enquiries to be made.

## 9. AOB

- Rupert Cheeseman thanked everyone who submitted articles for the newsletter. Nick Wilkins thanked Rupert for compiling it once again.
- Philippa Rooke then gave a short address, thanking Rachel and Mark Backhouse for their outstanding support of the district for more than 30 years. They have attended meetings, practices, and assisted towers regularly during this time. Rachel has also been the Membership Secretary for many of those years. As a token of the District's thanks they were presented with a card with the County logo and some Garden Centre vouchers which can be used to get their new garden looking as they would like it. Rachel thanked everyone for this unexpected and generous gift.

## 10. Vote of Thanks

Lesley Barclay thanked Fr Richard Noman for taking the service, at which many of the congregation took Communion. Liz and Jeremy Clitheroe were thanked for hosting the meeting and providing a generous tea and Sue Cameron for providing homemade cupcakes.

Next meeting will be Saturday 14th October 2017 at venue tbc. Secretary to contact Margaret Heald at Erith, St John to enquire if they could host it.



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## **AGM 2018 – Proposals Providing a future for the KCACR**

### **Proposal 1: Replace the 'Chairman' at District and Association levels with a 'Master'**

#### **Proposed by Daniel Brady**

Over the last year, much thought has been given to the question of whether the Association is meeting its aims. What we (as an association) appear to be lacking is a real focus on ringing.

At present, there is no position required by the rules that really seeks to look after ringing either at Association or District level. Currently each District is required to have a Secretary and two representatives, the role of Secretary is obvious in its necessity and a link with the general committee is important also, however neither of these positions are about ringing. While most Districts do appoint a Chairman and a Ringing Master, sadly this is not always the case.

The most important of these two positions is really Ringing Master, with Chairman not really fitting the bill in terms of meeting the Association's aims. A good Ringing Master, as with a good tower captain, can make or break ringing they manage, and it is here that we need to focus and build on.

Making this change would ensure that each District appoints a Master whose role is that of Chairman and Ringing Master, to oversee and to run the ringing within their district. It is also an opportunity to bring better cohesion between the Districts by direct communication between all the District Masters and the Association Master regarding ringing.

Role descriptions for both District and Association Master can be found at the end of this proposal document.

### **Proposal 2: Reduce the size of the General Committee**

#### **Proposed by Doug Davis**

The General Committee has changed and grown over the years, to the point where it has now become far too large to effectively manage the business of running the Association. If all current members (as per the rules) were to attend a Committee meeting, there would be 34 people in the room. This is far too large and can make it difficult to reach agreement on important matters, as well as resulting in longer meetings than are necessary. Should the proposed rule changes be accepted, the General Committee would be reduced to a more effective number of 16.

Also, the addition of the role of Youth Officer that has been in place for the past 2 years has not been reflected in the rules – these proposed rule changes seek to correct this omission and make the Youth Officer an official member of the General Committee.

These proposed rule changes also consider the proposed replacement of the Chairman of the Association with a Master, details of which are outlined above.

#### **Timeline**

If the above proposals and following rule changes are passed, the new General Committee structure will take effect as of the AGM on **2nd April 2018**, and would be elected as such.

One exception to the above will be that current District Representatives, elected at Annual District Meetings in **October 2017**, will remain on the General Committee until **October 2018**, when new District Committees are elected. The final, new General Committee would therefore meet for the first time in **November 2018**.

### **Proposed rule changes to support Proposal 1 (amended wording *highlighted*)**

#### **Rule 6(i)**

##### **As it stands today:**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall take place between Easter and 31 July. At this meeting the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Peal Secretary, Librarian and any other necessary officers shall be elected. A Registered Auditor or Independent Examiner shall also be elected.

##### **Proposed replacement for Rule 6(i):**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall take place between Easter and 31 July. At this meeting *all necessary Officers of the Association shall be elected as well as any other Officers as required*. A Registered Auditor or Independent Examiner shall also be elected.

#### **Rule 7(iii)**

##### **As it stands today:**

The quarterly meeting of each District immediately before the General Committee meeting in November or December shall be the Annual District Meeting, at which a District Secretary shall be elected. Two District Representatives to serve on the General Committee for the ensuing year shall also be elected. Other District officers may be elected at the discretion of District members. If a District committee is convened the District Secretary and District representatives shall be ex officio members of any such committee.

##### **Proposed replacement for Rule 7(iii)**

The quarterly meeting of each District immediately before the General Committee meeting in November or December shall be the Annual District Meeting, at which a *District Master and* District Secretary shall be elected. *The District Master will serve on the General Committee for the ensuing year*. Other District officers may be elected at the discretion of District members. If a District committee is convened the *District Master and* District Secretary shall be ex officio members of any such committee.

#### **Rule 8(ii)**

##### **As it stands today:**

The District Representatives shall:

- Inform District meetings of matters discussed and approved by the General Committee.
- Bring appropriate District matters to the General Committee for discussion.

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### **Proposed replacement for Rule 8(ii)**

The District *Master* shall:

- *run business meetings, oversee/run ringing within their district and liaise with the Association Master regarding ringing within their district.*
- Inform District meetings of matters discussed and approved by the General Committee.
- Bring appropriate District matters to the General Committee for discussion.

### **Rule 12**

Replace the word **Chairman** in line 1 with the word **Master**.

### **Rule 15(iii)**

Replace the word **Chairman** in line 1 with the word **Master**.

### **Proposed rule changes to support Proposal 2 (amended wording highlighted)**

#### **Rule 5**

##### **As it stands today:**

Government of the Association shall be vested in a General Committee who, beside any other meetings, shall always meet in November or December, when the day and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed. The General Committee shall consist of the Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Elected Vice Presidents, Bell Restoration Officer, Training Officer, Publicity Officer, Handbook Editor, Webmaster, the Central Council Representatives, and representatives from the districts. Other members, not exceeding three in number, may be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The General Committee shall have power to co-opt further members. Eight members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.

##### **Proposed replacement for Rule 5:**

Government of the Association shall be vested in a General Committee who, beside any other meetings, shall always meet in November or December, when the day and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be fixed. The General Committee shall consist of the *following*:

- *Master*
- *Honorary General Secretary*
- *Honorary Treasurer*
- *Training Officer*
- *Youth Officer*
- *Central Council Representatives (5)*
- *District Masters (one from each District) (6)*

*In addition to the above the Publicity Officer shall be invited to attend General Committee meetings as an observer, to support the work of the General Committee.*

*The Master, Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be deemed as necessary Officers.* The General Committee shall have power to co-opt further members *if required to fulfil a specific task or provide a skill.* Eight members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.

#### **Draft Role Descriptions for 'Master'**

##### **Association Master**

###### **Role:**

Promote and strengthen ringing at all levels across Kent:

- adopting and sustaining a strategic approach to recruitment, training and continuing support for ringers and ringing
- acting as advocate for ringing and ringers in the public and church arenas

Lead and support District Masters and Association office-holders in their roles Lead ringing at Association events Chair the Association AGM and other Association meetings Ensure that the Association complies with its legal requirements

###### **Personal skills:**

A respected and competent ringer, committed to change ringing and Sunday service ringing Able to collaborate with others, particularly Association and District officer-holders Experienced in strategic thinking and delivery

###### **Term:**

Elected for a single three-year period by the Association AGM

##### **District Master**

###### **Role:**

Encourage and inspire ringers at all levels Aim to establish and maintain a good standard of ringing at all District towers Collaborate with the Association Master and the Master's strategy, and participate in Association meetings Lead ringing at District events, and chair District business meetings

###### **Personal skills:**

A respected and competent ringer, committed to change ringing and Sunday service ringing Able to collaborate with others, particularly Association and District officer-holders

###### **Term:**

Elected by the District ADM annually

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# Lewisham District Events 2017/18

- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Oct      Quarterly Meeting: Chelsfield, 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 10<sup>th</sup> Nov      District Practice: Erith, St John, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov      District 6-bell Call Change Competition: Downe, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec      District Practice: Eltham, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- 2018**
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan      Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 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 26<sup>th</sup> Jan      District Practice: Chislehurst, Annuciation (TBC), 7.30 – 9.00pm
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb      District Practice: TBC, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar      District 6-bell Striking Competition: TBC, 2.30pm draw
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Mar      District Practice: TBC, 8.00 – 9.30pm
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr      KCACR Annual General Meeting: TBC, (Ashford District)
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Apr      Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 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)
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jul      Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 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)
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Oct      Quarterly Meeting: TBC, 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)
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Nov      District 6-bell Call Change Competition: TBC, 2.30pm draw

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)

