

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held via Zoom, Saturday 24th April 2021

17 people attended in total representing 8 towers & 1 unattached

The meeting opened with Debra Say asking if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded to help with taking the minutes. No objections were raised.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Jim Rooke (Chelsfield), Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield), Margaret Heald (Erith, St John's), Ian Nurdin (Ash), Dave Gyles (Ash), Ian Mills (Eltham), Graham Long (Greenwich).

2. In Memoriam

Marian Wansbury, a former ringer at Dartford has sadly passed away aged 97. Alan Munden of Greenwich also passed away on 22nd January.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting (16th January 2021 via Zoom)

Posted to the County website and circulated via email to the District e-group. Agreed as a correct and accurate record.

Proposed: Lesley Barclay, Seconded: Natalie Slator. Voted unanimously.

4. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

Nil.

5. Election of New Members

New Member	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by	Membership Type
Rev Caroline Risdon	Greenwich	Graham Long	Jim Odell	Associate Member
Christine Skaife	Greenwich	Graham Long	Jim Odell	Associate Member

Both the above are being elected as Associate Members only. Rev Caroline Risdon is currently the curate at St Alphege but is moving to be the vicar at Eltham, St John the Baptist, in June. Christine Skaife tried learning to ring and although she decided not to continue, she remains a loyal supporter of ringing at Greenwich. Both were elected unanimously.

6. KCACR General Committee

Natalie Slator outlined the main points from the last General Committee meeting:

- A 'Festival of Ringing' is being planned once ringing returns, incorporating both the 6-bell and 8-bell County competitions. It is hoped to make this a big occasion with the Maypole mobile ring, food and drink etc. Date planned is Saturday 25th September 2021.
- A memorial service will be arranged to remember all those who have died. The proposed date and venue is the last Saturday in November at Rochester Cathedral.
- The General Committee are going to look into what members want from an association and will be looking for responses from wide range of ages.
- Ten pairs of e-bells have been purchased for loan.
- A set of handbells have been donated in memory of Tom Barlow by his widow Jacqui. They need refurbishing but she will be covering the cost of this.
- The database is to be enhanced by asking members to set up a user name.
- The AGM presentations on fitness and safety delivered by Phil Barnes at the AGM are now available online.
- Ringing in person should be allowed again from 17th May although still with some restrictions
- The 10-bell Essex Trophy due to take place on 11/9/21 at St Mary the Virgin, Ashford, may need a new venue due to ventilation issues.

- Certificates will be produced for every tower that tolled in remembrance of the Duke of Edinburgh and noted this on Bellboard. Further details will follow.

Festival of Ringing Celebration – Saturday 25th September 2021

This is still very much in the planning stage but a decision has already been taken not to hold this in the Lewisham District. A potential venue of Benenden is being discussed, it being a large 12-bell tower in a nice setting with a large green outside. It is hoped this will incorporate the County 6-bell and 8-bell competitions along with the Maypole mini-ring. Decisions on the provision of food and drink are yet to be made.

Ringling Recovery

Philippa Rooke and Jen Thomas have volunteered as Ringling Recovery Champions. Nick Wilkins asked that if anyone else in the District is interested, they should let him know as Philippa now has a shoulder problem and will not be able to provide hands-on training.

Bernadette (Chislehurst, St Nicholas) asked for details of what the role of a Recovery Champion involves. Lesley Barclay answered that on a practical level it means supporting those towers and ringers who have not rung for so long to regain confidence. Lesley has offered her support to Philippa to help those who need some practical handling sessions. In addition, it might be necessary to support towers in recruiting and training new ringers but we will need to wait and see exactly what is needed within the District once we can return fully.

A question was raised about bell maintenance before ringing returns and it was noted that Brian Butcher has already published a set of guidelines. Each tower should have their own steeple keeper but if there are any towers with concerns, please let the committee know.

7. Event Updates & Results

A virtual District Striking Competition was held on 6/3/21 via Ringling Room/Zoom with four bands entering – Chelsfield, Crayford, Eltham and Eynsford – judged by Tom Lawrence. Crayford were the winners with Eynsford second, Eltham third and Chelsfield fourth. Eynsford in particular were congratulated on entering a District competition for the first time in a while. A full report will be found in the Newsletter when published.

Virtual District Practices have continued to be held on the second Saturday in the month from 10am-12pm and it is expected these will continue as long as required.

The KCACR are hoping the 6-bell & 8-bell County competitions can go ahead this year, incorporated within the Festival of Ringling in September.

Training – Tom Hinks is continuing with his occasional handbell sessions for beginners and all the training sessions he gave via Zoom during 2020 are available to watch via YouTube. In addition, he is currently recording a series of 'bite size' five-minute sessions designed for ringers to dip in and out of as our lives becomes busier, and these can also be found on YouTube.

8. 120 Club Draw

Only 55 shares have been sold this year and Liz encouraged everyone to join or buy another number.

Liz & Les Brett then made the April draw on screen as follows:

	PRIZE	NUMBER	NAME	TOWER
1st	£20	26	Caroline Stockmann	Sevenoaks
2nd	£10	47	Unsold	BRF
3rd	£10	89	Sue Cameron	Unattached
4th	£5	119	Unsold	BRF

A question was raised asking if the number of shares sold is currently covering the cost of prizes, which Liz confirmed it just about does. Once we return to ring in person it is hoped more shares will be sold.

9. Any Other Business

Timing/format of quarterly meetings – the timing and format of in-person Quarterly Meetings (Saturday afternoon ringing/service/tea/meeting/ringing) has been set for many years, but given virtual meetings have taken place during the morning, maybe now is a good opportunity to consider any changes members might want in future. Debra Say has written an article for the Newsletter about this, having asked the other Districts what their arrangements have been. A general discussion followed with the overall feeling that a service and some time for a social chat are both important. Those who spoke were in favour of moving the timing to earlier in the day but more research needs to be done and this should be discussed again in July.

With lockdown restrictions due to be lifted on 21st June it is hoped the next quarterly meeting on 10th July might be able to be held in person. A potential venue of St Nicholas Chislehurst was proposed with its ground floor ring with plenty of space to distance, but to keep this meeting in the afternoon this time.

St Nicholas, Chislehurst asked for help with training now they have no tower captain which is something the Committee can probably help with.

Handbooks – the 2021 handbooks have been collected by Nick Wilkins and will be distributed to those who ordered them as soon as possible through various channels. A copy can be downloaded if anyone forgot to pre-order.

Membership renewals – 174 people have renewed and 37 have not yet renewed, which is in line with the other Districts.

The April newsletter has been delayed but should be finished shortly.

The meeting was then called to a close with everyone invited to join the District Tower in Ringing Room for some virtual ringing practice.

Date of next proposed meeting – Saturday 10th July either at St Nicholas, Chislehurst or via Zoom

SIGNED as a true record

By.....

DATE.....