



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Useful web links

Kent County Association of Change Ringers | Lewisham District
www.kcacr.org.uk | www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2023

Editorial

Following the meeting in October 2022 held at Eltham, Rupert Cheeseman (Crayford) stepped down as Newsletter Editor after several years. Debbie and Alexander Runting (Sidcup) agreed to take over as information gatherers and editors about events, performances and news from those in charge. We would like to also focus on what is being carried out to continue and encourage as much ringing as possible at towers and recruit new ringers, which looks like it is going to be a very prominent aspect this year. A special massive thank you to Rupert for delivering the high standards that everyone has received for several years - we hope to continue this.

Any information and updates on district events, performances, training and recruitment from ringing masters, captains and officers, competitions, ringing congratulations, tower news, any changes to tower contacts and memoriams would be greatly received. Thank you to those who have contributed by providing us with content - we hope this provides a good read.

Whilst home / other ringing commitments have somewhat prevented us from attending district practices recently, I am told they are well attended, very useful for those who attend and a good standard is ringing is achieved for all. The more the merrier!

For future editions, please share any articles you wish to be features in the newsletter to runtingda@live.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Ring for the King & promoting ringing

Many of you may be aware that **Saturday 6th May** is the King's Coronation. There is a nation wide drive to recruit several thousand new ringers, branded as **Ring for the King**. The aim and objective for all new ringers is to ring for the Coronation, encourage them to continue and for us to support their ringing journeys - ensuring ringing is sustainable. It appears to be driven by the Central Council and includes

several ideas, suggestions and actions to aid recruitment, especially through young ringers. Please publicise any ringing (whether general, quarters or peals as much as possible to those who can spread the word) to the wider audience and community.



Photos and videos (with appropriate permissions and consent) are always a positive publicity driving force. Having a supportive congregation, a willing band, vicar, surrounding area awareness and tower tours is also useful. At Sidcup, we are blessed with many of the above.

During an outing to London just before Christmas, a group of us had photos taken and an article written by the Telegraph emphasising that young people will likely turn to friends, social media (Instagram, TikTok, YouTube), draw towards a trend and follow someone very enthusiastic when taking up new hobbies, especially a practical one.

Information on this is advertised on the Central Council website via the following links:

<https://ringforthe king.org/>,

<https://ccabr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/>



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120 CLUB

I would like to remind people that we are coming towards that time of year again when I will be asking for membership of the 120 club. This is my first time adding an article to the newsletter so will allow the current editors to add any artistic license!

We are now in a position to pay prizes directly into bank accounts and a new membership form is on the website which asks for your bank details. You can of course still opt for any prizes you may win to be sent via a cheque if this is your preferred method please leave bank details blank.



I am happy to visit towers to collect completed forms if you would like this please let me know via email, 120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk or telephone/message me on 0775 1707159.



Wishing you all a Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you all again.

Liz Morris 120 Club Administrator/Promoter

District email directory

Websites:

www.lewishamdistrict.org.uk
www.kcacr.org.uk

Chairman:

David Holdridge
chairman@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Secretary:

Robert Hodgetts
Email: sec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Rupert Cheeseman
Email: memsec@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Ringling Masters:

Nigel and Ruth Pointer
Email: master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Training Officer:

Tom Hinks
Email: training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Youth Officer

Becca Hardy
Email: youth@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

District Representative:

Debra Say or Svetlana Sokolova
Email: rep@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

Newsletter Editors:

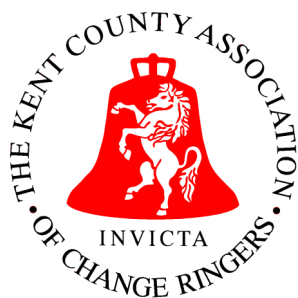
Alexander and Debbie Runting
Email: newsletter@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

120 Club:

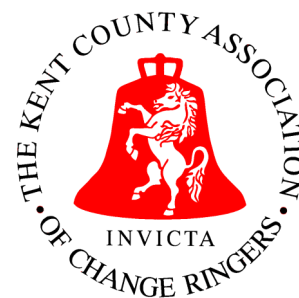
Liz Morris
Email: 120club@lewishamdistrict.org.uk

District events 2023

Saturday 7 th January	Afternoon	Practice plus Business Meeting	Hayes
Saturday 11 th February	Morning	Practice	Horton Kirby
Friday 10 th March	Evening	Practice plus Curry Night social	Bromley Parish
Saturday 1 st April	Morning	Practice plus Business Meeting	Chislehurst St N
Saturday 20 th May	Afternoon	District Striking & Call Change Competitions	TBC
Friday 9 th June	Evening	Practice	West Wickham
Saturday 1 st July	Daytime	Practice Plus District Country Meeting (2 towers, picnic / pub lunch and Business Meeting)	Maidstone
Saturday 9 th September	Morning	Practice	Ash-by-Wrotham
Saturday 7 th October**	Across lunchtime	Annual General Meeting (including ringing, lunch, service and meeting with reports & officer elections)	Chelsfield
Saturday 11 th November	Afternoon	Practice	Farningham
Saturday 16 th December	Afternoon / evening	Practice plus Christmas social	Beckenham



KCACR Chairman's notes



We find ourselves well into 2023 and I have been invited to write a few words for the Lewisham District newsletter. Ringing, both within the KCACR and nationwide, has moved into a different era both historically with the passing last year of Queen Elizabeth II and also in the way our lives

have changed in this post-Covid age. We have seen ringing return to a new normal, some towers still exercising caution as a result of the pandemic, some towers having to change the frequency of their ringing because more and more churches are joining together to form benefices resulting in service times altering from week to week and some towers now struggling to ring as some members decided not to return to ringing. However, the decrease in the number of ringers cannot be attributed solely to Covid. It has been something that has been happening slowly for a number of years as the demographic of ringers gradually gets older and it is something which we do need to try to address.



After the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II last year, ringing gained a great deal of publicity in the media as many towers marked the late Queen's passing in a variety of ways. This year I am hoping that we will gain similar publicity for the coronation of HM King Charles III. This is certainly an occasion which I hope that every tower will be able to take part in in some form. Not only does it provide us with a major national event to ring for but also an opportunity to make sure that members of the church congregation are aware of this participation.

The Coronation has provided us with a great chance to recruit ringers with the 'Ring for the King' initiative but we need to be mindful that, with the current state of ringing nationwide, we need to find at least another 10000 or so ringers, that other avenues need to be explored. New recruits can come from many sources. For example, last year in the Tonbridge District a very successful link was established with a school and its neighbouring church which resulted in a band of young ringers becoming established. There are also a group of young ringers from a church youth group learning at a tower in the Canterbury District and in the Ashford District there is a project offering to teach ringing to students who are embarking on their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Perhaps there are initiatives like these that can be explored for your tower?

Later this year, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers will unveil its plans for Ringing 2030, a major project to ensure the sustainability of ringing for the future. Hopefully, here in the KCACR, we can do our best to spearhead some projects that will help to contribute towards this and ensure that ringing within the Association remains healthy for many years to come.



News from the Towers

MERIDIAN RINGERS

ST. JOHN'S DEPTFORD, GREENWICH, & WOOLWICH,



8: 12-3-6 in F#



10: 23-2-14 in D



8: 14-0-8 in F

Our normal ringing pattern is:

- Wednesdays 745pm-915pm – Practice (usually at Greenwich)
- Beginners' session 715pm to 8pm – Wednesdays at Greenwich
- Sunday morning Choral Eucharist Service at Greenwich [depends on availability] – 915am to 10am
- Choral Evensong at Greenwich – last Sunday of the month, 540pm to 630pm
- St. John's, Deptford - all ringing is by arrangement.

We also ring at Hayes occasionally for some services and other events. See separate item for Hayes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Woolwich – all ringing is suspended until further notice due to a serious pigeon infestation and due to the serious health implications, there needs to be some major professional cleaning until it is safe to ring there again. We are still awaiting a response from the church authorities following a report we have sent them.

We have some 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.

Recent Special Ringing at Greenwich, St Alfege - Sadly, some of the recent special ringing was in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Friday 9 September Rounds, Call Changes and Queens

Wednesday 14 September Rounds, Call Changes, Kings & Queens, Touches of Plain Bob Doubles, Ending With Diminishing Rounds on Ten & Tolling on The Tenor

Sunday 18 September Rounds, Call Changes, 100 Plain Bob Doubles

Monday 19 September

*Rounds, Call Changes, 120 Plain Bob Doubles,
96 Plain Hunt Minimus (rung on The Front 4 Bells With 8,6, 10 Cover),
Ending With Diminishing Rounds and Tolling on The Tenor*

Wednesday 28 September

Rounds, Call Changes, Touches Of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, Ending With Diminishing Rounds and Tolling on The Tenor. [This was to give Jim & Jan Odell the chance to pay their tributes – they had been on holiday].

Wednesday 14 September

We rang a special touch to wish Jasmine Hutton (of Bromley Parish Church) all the best as she starts her studies at Leicester University.

300 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble Andrew J Smith

2 Edward Gormley

3 Bill Lanyon

4 Jasmine Hutton

5 Graham Long (C)

Tenor Jonathan Hutton



Wednesday 21st December

We had our pre-Christmas Fun ringing evening, which included ringing call changes not to bell numbers – instead, each bell was given a name such as *Santa, Rudolph, Turkey, Stuffing etc*, which was much enjoyed. We also tried some tune ringing on Handbells and made a good attempt at *Jingle Bells* and *Good King Wenceslas*. We decided to take the bells to the pub afterwards and entertained the locals with one lady, Julia, saying she'd like to come and ring the bells at St Alfege – she came for her first lesson on 4th January and made a good start!

Sunday, 1st January 2023

We met at 12 noon for our Annual New Year's Day Ringing. There were 18 ringers in all with friends from round about and one visitor from The Surrey Association and one from The Middlesex Association. It was particularly pleasing to welcome back Eddie and Brenda Coode

The ringing commenced at 12 noon with David tolling 12 on the tenor and then leading straight into rounds. We rang Rounds, Call Changes (*with Christmas names!*), Plain Hunt on 9, 60 Grandsire Doubles. The ringing ended with ringing down all 10 bells in peal – which was absolutely brilliant and something we don't do very often.

During the session there was a pause to remember past members who used to take part in New Year's Day Ringing in previous years, especially Freda Cannon, Ken Deller, Revd Canon John Ardley, Richard Bing and Alan Munden.

Sunday, 18 September

Rounds and Call Changes on 5

Everyone is most welcome to any of our ringing events and for socialising afterwards at The Ashburnham Arms.

Our website address is:

www.meridianbells.webs.com

**Graham Long - gandjlong@gmail.com
07757 708735**



HAYES



HAYES – St. Mary the Virgin
(6 bells: 8-1-26 in A)

There is longer a local band of ringers at Hayes but some of The Meridian Ringers and ringers from St. Luke's, Bromley Common do some occasional ringing for services, weddings and other special events.

We had a very successful Doubles Workshop, held at Hayes on **Saturday 20 August** – with some of the Meridian Ringers and some from Bromley Parish Church attending. We hope to run some more of these sessions in due course.

Graham Long tolled the tenor 96 times after the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II on **Monday 19th September**.

We were able to ring on the following occasions, which has been much appreciated by the church authorities and congregation:

30th October

Special Evensong for All Souls.

9th November

Institution of The Revd Amanda Jane Spence as the Priest-in-Charge (Rector-designate).

Amanda was curate at St Paulinus, Crayford and previously an Ordinand at Bromley Parish Church – we were joined for the ringing with members from those churches, and before the service a Quarter Peal was rung – see below.

18th December - Carol Service

24th December - First Mass of Christmas (at 8pm)

28th December - Wedding

7th January 2023

Lewisham District Practice and Business Meeting. There was a good attendance of 25 ringers with some good ringing catering for all levels, with a short business meeting in the middle of the afternoon.

When things return to some sort of normality, the aim is to try and continue to ring for a service about once a month, some quarter peals and some occasional general ringing practices. At the moment there are no Sunday Evening services, which we have often rung for. There is a possibility of organising a Tower Open Day sometime to demonstrate the bells and hopefully to get some of the local community to take up ringing and get a regular band ringing at Hayes again. Also, it is hoped to get a Handbell Team restarted soon – the church has a fairly new set of handbells and an older set, which is also in reasonable condition.



Kent County Association – St Mary the Virgin, Hayes, Kent

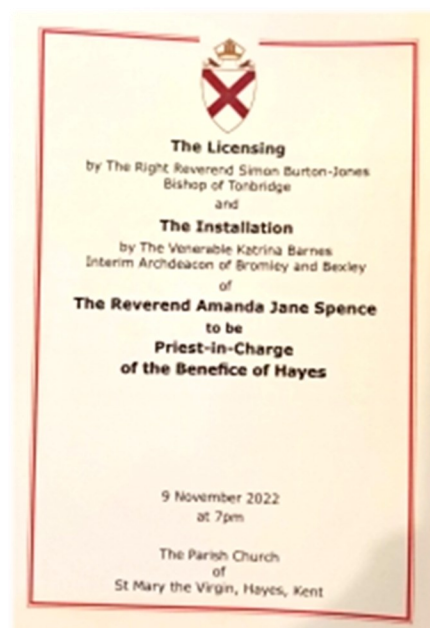
Wednesday, 9 November 2022 in 40m (8–1–26 in A)

1260 Doubles (6m/p)

60 Stedman, 240 each Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury,
St Martin's, St Simon's and Plain Bob

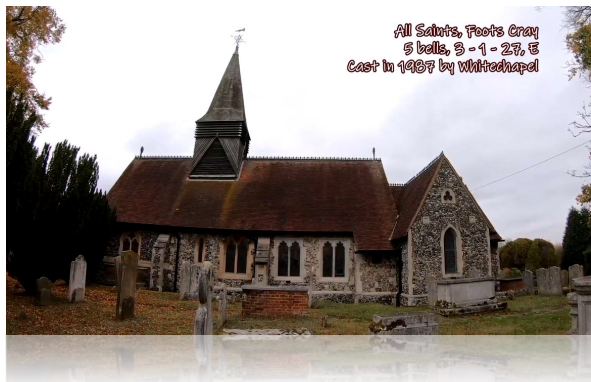
Treble: Judith Bagshaw	2: Graham Long
3: David Gyles	4: Rupert Cheeseman (C)
5: Nick Wilkins	Tenor: Andrew Sinclair

*Rung prior to the Institution and Installation of the
new Rector Designate Revd Amanda Spence.*



FOOTS CRAY

5 bells: 3-1-27, E



In Memoriam - Ros Farmer

I would like to mention that I am sad that Ros Farmer died just before Christmas. Her funeral will be on 31st January at 11am at All Saints Footscray. Unfortunately Jim and I are away on a cruise so won't be there to ring. We so far have three to ring from 10.30am and would love to have some more offers of help, with perhaps some ringing afterwards. Ros had been a bell ringer for many years.

We do try to keep the bells ringing on a Sunday morning but sadly don't have a practice night any more. With the help of Graham Long and the Greenwich ringers we have rung for the Queen and the new King as required but not much ringing is happening anymore at Footscray. Jan Odell

Kent County Association

Foots Cray, Greater London

All Saints

Friday, 3 June 2022 (3-1-27 in E)

Rounds and Call Changes

- 1 Jan Odell
- 2 Jim Odell
- 3 John Bonney
- 4 Bill Lanyon
- 5 Edward Gormley
- 6 Graham Long (C)
- 7 David Connearn
- 8 Naoko Nakatani

Ringling to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Kent County Association

Foots Cray, Greater London

All Saints

Sunday, 6 February 2022 (3-1-27 in E)

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 5 and Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Jan Odell
- 2 Jim Odell (C)
- 3 Shelagh Norman
- 4 Graham Long (C)
- 5 Gary Blinch
- 6 John Bonney
- 7 Jasmine Hutton
- 8 Jonathan Hutton
- 9 Andrew J Smith
- 10 Daniel Oates
- 11 Peter Oates

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of The Accession to the throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Rounds and call changes on 5.

Various courses of Plain Hunt on 5 and Courses of Plain Bob Doubles.

Farnborough, Kent

St Giles

Tuesday, 7 February 2023 in 42m (3-1-18 in D)

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Nicholas Wilkins
- 2 E Lesley Barclay
- 3 J Richard Anthony
- 4 Thomas F Lawrance (C)
- 5 Anne M Anthony
- 6 Kath White
- 7 Terence V Barnard
- 8 Graham Long

Remembering Ros Farmer, resident of this Parish and ringer at Foots Cray whose funeral was held at Foots Cray on 31st January. Ros kindly contributed towards the 2021 augmentation of these bells.

SIDCUP

6 bells: 8-3-24, A



The ringing at St Johns for both practices and Sunday services has taken a downturn in the last couple of months. Three potential trainees either dropped out, found ring-



ing wasn't for them or couldn't commit. Recent recruitment efforts including leaflets, facebook posts and tower tours have had little effect on encouraging outsiders though we are working with the vicar and congregation to try and resurrect some promoting. However, this has proved difficult when the ringing has dropped to a very low point.



Two of our long standing locals have since moved on to another tower too. Currently, we have a core of three Runtings, our committed 'on tour' local, plus two rounds and call change ringers (one who is mastering rounds). Our focus during practices has turned to our trainees as a result, supporting them with rounds and call changes and consolidating the basics. Generally, 6 of us at best attend practices and 3 on occasions for Sunday morning. Due to PCC meetings on occasional Wednesdays our practice has been held at St Mary Cray with many thanks and kind permission from Nigel.

Tower Tours haven't brought the numbers they did a while back, though we were fortunate to be visited by the Mayor and MP of Bexley, who each had a go at chiming. Recently, Alexander has helped organise quarters and peals and anticipates arranging more throughout 2023, potentially turning Sidcup into a ringing hub; Alison rang her first quarter on 7th January and an excellent peal was rung on 31st December. These were appreciated by locals, the surrounding neighbourhood and vicar. Other occasions have been HM Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and Remembrance Sunday – we had up to 6 ringers for these, with occasional support. We have a well posted Facebook page, a recently resurrected Instagram page and a few videos of the bells on YouTube. The clappers were refurbished in March 2020 and we have a maintenance contract with TLB Services. The bells are being serviced on 14th February.



Please visit bellboard for recent performances:
<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/search.php?place=sidcup>



ELTHAM

8 bells: 10-2-24, G



Practice Tuesday 7:30-9:00pm (learners from 7:00pm)

The Tuesday practices at Eltham have recently been fairly well-attended, very much helped by regular visitors from both near (Sidcup) and far (Rochester). We have recently been ringing both Cambridge and Norwich Surprise Minor, plus Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Between Christmas and New Year, with the help of a couple of extra visitors, we even managed a half-course of Yorkshire Major. But we're also active at the other end of the scale, with some learners who are just progressing successfully to rounds and call changes.



Especially pleasing was the quarter-peal we rang last November, being the first quarter for one of our ringers. Not only did he ring inside to Plain Bob Doubles, he did it with the bells half-muffled. Details from Bellboard can be found below.

Eltham, Kent
St John the Baptist (10-2-24 in G)
Sunday, 13 November 2022 in 41m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Sue Cameron |
| 2 | Daniel Oates |
| 3 | Svetlana Sokolova |
| 4 | Rupert Cheeseman (C) |
| 5 | Peter Oates |
| 6 | David Holdridge |

Rung half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.
First attempt; 2.



We also host a monthly special practice, usually on the first Monday of the month, currently focussed on Stedman Triples. The intention is to give ringers in some of the local towers an opportunity to come together to ring it. We aim to cater both for ringers who are already familiar with plain courses, but need practice with bobs and singles, as well as those who have tried Stedman Doubles and would like to try plain courses of Triples. Anyone who is interested in attending one of these should contact me for details.

BEXLEY

6 bells: 7-0-18, A

There isn't currently a band there so I'm organising occasional quarters there and we move our practice every couple of months.

Unfortunately, there are not enough local ringers left to hold practices or ring for Sunday services. Crayford move their practice to Bexley on the second Tuesday of odd months (January, March etc.) from 7:30-9pm and quarters are attempted for the occasional Sunday evening services. We have just had someone ask about learning to ring as they live near the church and they came to the last practice there and hopefully we'll teach them at Crayford, Cheers, Rupert

CRAYFORD

8 bells: 11-2-15, F#



Practice nights have continued to generally be well attended and we've managed to ring on most Sundays. On the second Tuesday in odd months the practice is moved to Bexley in order to keep them ringing at least occasionally. We've been lucky to gain a couple of new ringers. Max started learning earlier in the year at Sherbourne and has now moved to the area. He rang his first quarter for the carol service. Nink started in October and is now ringing rounds and call changes.

Sunday, 18 December 2022 in 42m

1260 Doubles (5m:240 each Eynesbury, St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain Bob and 300 Grandsire)

1. Liz Morris
2. Sue Cameron
3. David Gyles
4. Andrew Sinclair
5. Rupert Cheeseman (C)
6. Max Ganesh

Rung before Nine Lessons & carols.



TRAINING

Provided by Tom Hinks

Training: finding resources to help!

Over the 400 or so years that change ringing has been taking place in Britain, bellringers have devoted thousands of words and hours to training and education. From the 1668 publication of Fabien Stedman's *Tintinnalogia* to the recent work of the Association of Ringing Teachers, the energy and effort which has gone into producing training materials is remarkable. Harnessing those materials and training opportunities for your own ringing can make a huge difference - and yet at times it can feel hard to know where to go to find information about ringing education. Help is at hand! This article gives a quick run through of the main sources for ringing education materials, so - whether you are looking for information about recruitment and retention, call changes, Plain Bob, raising and lowering, conducting or even composing, look no further!

(Continued on next page)

TRAINING (cont.)

Ringling courses

Attending a residential ringing course is great fun and hugely beneficial. Four days of intense focus on your chosen area of ringing - while no silver bullet - can make a great difference. The main residential ringing courses are:

Hereford

Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th April - closing date for applications is 31st January.

North-West

Provisional dates: Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th August

Bradfield

Provisional dates: Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th August - student applications usually open in the spring.



Online resources

The late Roger Bailey's comprehensive *Change Ringing Resources* at: ringing.info is the best first stop for finding ringing resources on the internet. Particularly useful websites (all of which can be found via ringing.info or a search engine) include the Central Council website, the Whiting Society and the Association of Ringing Teachers. Looking for an extra practice night? Try the Kent County Association website at: kcacr.org.uk, or Dove's Guide for Church Bellringers at: dove.cccbr.org.uk. Or, if looking for information about local towers, look no further than Love's Guide at: kent.lovesguide.com / london.lovesguide.com.

Training recordings

Loads of training took place online during the pandemic and recordings were often uploaded to YouTube. Simply search for: Lewisham District training, Cambridge district bellringers, or Association of Ringing Teachers to find videos on almost anything you could possibly want to know about bellringing!



Lewisham District training

@lewishamdistricttraining8064

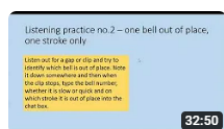
85 subscribers

Books

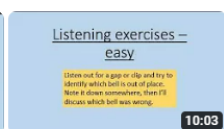
There are lots of books available to help you with learning new things. Steve Coleman's excellent series of books with their friendly and supportive tone are well worth getting hold of (ringingbooks.co.uk). The Central Council has a wide-ranging collection of publications available from their website, including the classic Sherborne Teaching Aids, tower handbooks, composition collections and much more. The Ringing World has also recently got into publishing, simply head to ringingworld.co.uk to find out more. Ringing books can also often be purchased at residential ringing courses!

Whatever it is you are hoping to achieve in ringing in 2023, there are resources out there to help! If you want any further suggestions or support with your ringing goals this year, do please get in contact with me at: training@lewishamdistrict.org.uk, or Ruth and Nigel our District Ringing Masters, via the contact details in their monthly district update email.

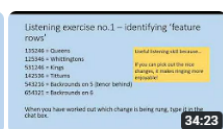
Listening and striking ► Play all



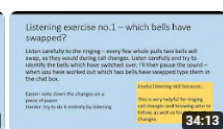
Listening skills part 1
Lewisham District training
393 views • 2 years ago



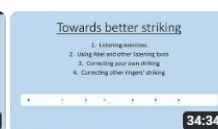
Listening exercises - easy
Lewisham District training
225 views • 2 years ago



Listening skills part 2
Lewisham District training
227 views • 2 years ago



Listening skills part 3
Lewisham District training
130 views • 2 years ago



Towards better striking
Lewisham District training
80 views • 2 years ago



Minutes of Annual District Meetings



Past editions can be found on the KCACR website at <https://kcacr.org.uk/lewisham-district/minutes/> for your info.

We really hope you enjoy reading them, cover to cover, word for word, letter by letter, as they will make a lovely bedtime read at half 11 when you may happen to be at a random loose end, after a drink or two in the pub, following ringing practice ENJOY!!

December update snippet (Nigel Pointer)

Tower Survey

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to give us such detailed responses to the tower survey – in fact there are only two towers in the District who we *have-n't* heard from, which is really encouraging so once again many thanks.

Excluding the non-respondents, there are 16 District towers – exactly half – who are ringing “regularly”, with a practice and / or Sunday Service ringing more or less every week. They’re at varying levels of numbers and expertise, and sometimes they have to cancel due to low numbers, but they have a band and their bells are heard. Even more encouragingly, there are only 3 towers who are not ringing at all, mostly due to the condition of the bells or tower.

But that leaves at least a third of our towers who are in a more precarious position. Their bells are ringable, there is a local “person-in-charge” who keeps the bells available and has a good working relationship with the local incumbent and the Parish Office. They are delighted to welcome visiting bands for outings, quarters or peals, and they arrange ringing for special local or national events which is much appreciated by the clergy and congregation. But they don’t have a local band and their bells are rung only occasionally. Their congregation is probably ageing and shrinking, and they may well be about to share an incumbent with other local churches, if they aren’t already. Their chances of recruiting, training and retaining a new sustainable band of ringers are slim.

In order to keep these churches ringing, and the others who will inevitably join them the whole ringing community is going to have a huge job on its hands. It will not be possible in the future for more than a handful of towers to survive alone. Tower Clusters and combined bands will become the norm. That means that you are going to have to be prepared to travel to help others out in return for people coming to you. At local level, if you do still have a band, please don't ignore this. Even if you are ringing today, it probably won't take much for you to move from the "ringing regularly" column to the "ringing occasionally" one.



Recruitment and retention need to be Item One on the agenda at your tower AGM in January – and every other meeting after that. Please do let us know of any recruitment initiatives you're undertaking, it would be great to share them with the other towers.

Finally, remember this is your District, not ours – so please do keep the communication coming. You can contact us any time by:

- Email master@lewishamdistrict.org.uk
- WhatsApp on 07850 801764 for Nigel
- 07843 538952 for Ruth.

Note from the editors: The Central Council is publicising a recruitment drive, Ring for the King; to recruit several thousand ringers across the country. Working with churches and the congregation is a great way to advertise - through relatives, family and friends and their own groups. Positive and 'trending' publicity to groups such as Brownies, Scouts and schools, aided by online tower accounts on as Instagram, Facebook, YouTube - most of which young people follow if it involves being part of a club or common meet up group. Tower tours, information stands and church events are also great way to advertise and publicise any ringing and showcase the art of bell-ringing. During the KCACR Chairman's Christmas facebook post, there was a perception that ringing was just a Christmas / wedding event, which makes it more important than ever to emphasise that it is an all year round and mostly weekly event which is fun and needs people to continue the tradition of making it **FUN, COMMITABLE** and **INTERESTING!!**

Please see below for link which may be of interest:

- <https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Press-Info.pdf>
- <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/>



January Update snippet (Nigel Pointer)

District Practices

Eynsford welcomed about 20 members on a very chilly December morning for the last District Practice of 2022. A really good session included touches ranging from call changes to Bristol Major, with some Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Cambridge and Yorkshire along the way. Well done to those who achieved anything for the first time! A big thank you must go to the experienced ringers who turned out to help, and to the local band at Eynsford for hosting us so well. The warm ringing room, and the coffee and biscuits were much appreciated!

Next event is at **Hayes on Saturday 7th January** – this is the first of our new format *Practice Plus Meetings* – a normal District Practice starting at 1.45pm will include a break in the middle for a short business meeting led by the Chairman. Do let us know if there's anything special you'd like to ring on the day. As usual we'll cater for all abilities from rounds upwards. The calendar for the rest of the year is at <https://kcacr.org.uk/lewisham-district/events/> or attached for reference.

2022 roundup

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the District activities in 2022 – in particular we must mention the retiring committee, and all those tower captains who have done so much work at their local towers to resume ringing after the pandemic. Well done and thank you all.

There were a total of 123 quarter peals rung in the District in 2022 – for obvious reasons that's the most for a couple of years, but still well below the pre-pandemic "running rate" of about 170. Congratulations to Farnborough on once again holding the "most quarter pealed tower" position. The leading conductor overall, and on handbells, was Tom Hinks, with Rupert Cheeseman conducting the most on tower bells. I would recommend Anthony Leeves' excellent "KCACR quarter peals" site, linked from the KCACR homepage for anyone who likes stats!

