



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1998

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



CHELSEFIELD MAKE IT TWO WINS IN A YEAR FOR LEWISHAM

(Peal Speed 2hr 51 min).

Tonbridge, represented by Brasted started with a better rhythm, however the test piece became too careful and too measured, resulting in the middle 120 changes being irregular. Unfortunately a couple of clips in the rounds at the end added to the fault count rather unnecessarily (Peal Speed 2hr 54 min).

Ashtead District rang next, and the judges commented that they appeared to

be in a hurry. The rounds didn't really settle, with some clipping of rows - when the band went into the pace slowed temporarily, however the clipping continued (Peal Speed 2hr 39 min).

The final band from Rochester (Maidstone being unable to raise a band for the competition) started well - the rounds settling quickly and then becoming slightly erratic before moving into changes. As a result it took 20 or 30 changes to

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The hardest part about writing anything is starting, the hardest part about editing a newsletter is the front page story. Time after time I scrabble around for news worthy of the front page - this time Chelsfield made it an easy choice.

The annual County 6 Bell Striking competition hosted by Lewisham District at St John's Sidcup this year saw Chelsfield stride away from the field to convincingly win the trophy for the district.

The judges for the afternoon, Andrew and Diane Young (yes I know we've only just got rid of them) were invited back to judge the competition on the afternoon of Saturday 26th September.

Andrew admitted that the bells were demanding - a combination of being loud in the ringing room and difficult to strike made them a challenge for the competitors. As is so often the case it was the tenor that was singled out as being a handful and a major contributor to the faults scores.

Chelsfield were drawn first and used their practice time to good effect - steady rounds at the start of their test piece set a solid foundation for a good well struck piece of ringing. Having taken a couple of leads to remove any edginess the band produced a piece of ringing that set the standard for the afternoon (Peal Speed 2hr 44 min).

Canterbury district followed by ringing surprise minor, which suffered from slow and irregular rounds at the start - subsequent rhythm was difficult to find, yet the performance improved in the last 60 changes after a method mistake

Don't forget

Annual District Meeting

Saturday 10th October
St George's Beckenham

Bells from 3-40 ish (depending on Wedding)

Service 4-30 p.m.

followed by Tea and Annual District Meeting

Names for tea to Sara Hardy by Wednesday 7th October
(☎ 0181-659-2631)

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settle down into a good rhythm, the second 120 changes being very good (Peal Speed 2hr 50 Min).

The final standings were as follows:

1. Lewisham 18 faults
2. Rochester 29 ½ faults
3. Ashford 39 faults
4. Tonbridge 40 ½ faults
5. Canterbury 48 ½ faults

Congratulations to Philippa and her merry band (Philippa Rooke, Angela Wilkins, John Barnes, Bob Pruden, Nick Wilkins (C) and Jim Rooke), and thanks to the ringers at St John's Sidcup for the catering and use of the facilities.

As to our judges for the day, Andrew and Diane Young, you are most welcome visitors, especially if the results are always going to be in our favour.

JRB



HAYES & BEXLEY RINGERS

TIE THE KNOT

Sunday 16 August 1998 was a great day for the towers of Hayes and Bexley - the occasion of the marriage of Emma Harrison to Phil Jarvis.

It all started about five years ago, when I asked Emma if she would like to come to Mary Andrews' house with me to ring methods on hand bells. She agreed and has become a highly valued member of our Friday evening band.

She is also a highly prized member of the Hayes band, being one of its more experienced ringers, ie she can ring a bit more than Bob Doubles! In fact, we don't know where we'd be without her!

Now our Emma has always been a bit on the quiet side, so I was pleased and a little surprised when she decided to start going to Bexley's tower bell practice nights on her own. However, it wasn't all that long before tales of Stedman cock-ups became interspersed with numerous references to a certain member of the Bexley band, who wasn't Mary Andrews. Then when Phil started turning up at Hayes practice

nights, I thought 'ello, ello'. Could it be the Call Changes and Whole-Pull Plain Hunt that was attracting him? No chance! It was our Em!

Well, romance flourished and so did our Grandsire Doubles and we were all highly delighted when Emma and Phil announced that they were getting married. It was a perfect summer day, plenty of sunshine and a cool breeze. Hayes and Bexley ringers united to ring the bride in and all agreed on how lovely she looked. The service was filled with beautiful music and Emma and Phil both looked very happy. We even managed to scrape together a Hayes band to form a guard of honour of crossed-ropes and to ring the couple out. Emma and Phil then returned to the tower for a quick plain course of Grandsire, which was about all they could manage in Royal Artillery uniform and a tight dress!

Mary and I were then privileged to attend the excellent reception at Chateau Napoleon in Shirley, before waving Emma and Phil off for their honeymoon in France.

Unfortunately, the new Mr and Mrs Jarvis are going to be living in Sidcup for the time being, which is a little nearer to Bexley than it is to Hayes. So, fond as we are of the nice Miss Andrews, we are going to have to watch the situation very carefully!

Seriously, though, we are very pleased for Emma and Phil and I am sure I can speak for both bands in wishing them a long and happy life together. We just want to be a part of it!

Sue Fisher, Hayes Tower Captain.

Editor's Column

Hi there

Thanks to all the contributors this quarter, particularly Ruth and Nigel Pointer - double page centre folds make life very easy.

This is the second quarter that I've been able to fill 12 pages - please keep the articles coming - it would be good to have a bumper 16 page issue for January.

Please support the "Ring in 2000" committee with their publicity drive - it doesn't take long to distribute some leaflets, flyers or posters to churches in your area - you never know you might benefit from recruiting some new faces for your tower.

Finally, it's subs time again. I hope that you enjoy this

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newsletter and will renew your subscription again this year.

The cost is unchanged from last year

£ 4 for the first copy to an address

£ 3 per additional copy to the same address

I am keen to expand the readership as much as possible - if you copy the tower copy for all your ringers why not give me a call and perhaps I can save the bother - I'm sure a volume discount can be agreed.

If you want to subscribe for your own copy, give me a call, drop me a line or come to a meeting - I'm normally around.

All the best

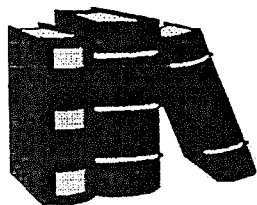
Jeremy Byers

Copy deadline - 1st December 1998 - send all articles to

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Bookshop Bargains

New on the book stall this quarter are

SIMULATORS AND TEACHING by Philip Gay, 1994,
published by Central Council, price £2.50,

This slim booklet explains the usefulness of two types of computer system which help with the teaching of good striking, plain hunting and dodging in the bell tower, without a sound being heard out-of-doors.

THE TOWER HANDBOOK by J. Harrison, 1997, published by Central Council, price £ 16.99.

Subtitled "Answers to 1001 questions about ringing", (but I didn't actually try to count them) this volume contains no fewer than fifteen chapters of useful advice on tower protocol, public relations, bell maintenance and so on, in fact just about everything except bellringing methods. There is even

a form provided for you to return comments to the author.

Because of the sale arrangements for this book, I just have a single display copy on the bookstall; if you would like to order one for your tower, see the advertisement in the Ringing World for details.

Any Other Business



It's Annual District Meeting time of year again - where does the year go?

Please remember that this is probably the most important meeting of the year as officers are elected and dates set for the forthcoming year.

If you are coming to the meeting, and likely to be the only representative from your tower, please check before hand to see whether your tower might be able to host a district event. Usually there are locations for the four district meetings and the venues for the two annual striking competitions to be fixed. Please come and volunteer your tower - it will make the meeting quicker and definitely ensure that ringers will visit your neck of the woods once in the next twelve months.

Mary Andrews has asked me to remind you that the matter about "Fundraising" suggested at the last district meeting needs to be discussed as we need to report to the County. Please, if you get a chance to look at the minutes, do discuss it and bring your views to the meeting.

Finally don't forget to let Sara Hardy have names for tea.



Farningham Summer Fete

A great big thank you those who helped us with the jubi-peal tower at Farningham's Church Fete on 11th July. For those who kindly offered to help it must have been very tempting not to come after all due to the weather! Like having a barbecue in this country, one goes to the trouble of organising everything to the moment of lift off, then it rains! Jeremy, Martin, my father, Sylvia and I had erected the frame in the sun but about an hour later the rain started and didn't stop until it was safely in the back of David Hilling's car.

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(Continued from page 3)

However everyone remained jolly and we taught a few children to ring and some adults had a good attempt. Charging 25p a go, we raised £25. Many people were attracted to it and lots of questions were asked. Godfrey of tower grabbing fame turned up to help and guess what - this meant he had another peal to cross off his list! Whilst there some helpers tried out the other stalls - Ruth Pointer won the darts contest, winning a £5 voucher from Unwins!

All in all it was a good turn out of helpers despite other fetes, weddings, holidays etc so thank you all who came, especially those from other towers. May I also thank those of you who let me know you were unable to come. It saved me some chasing. I apologise for clashing with the District Meeting at Cudham. Thank you to David for helping transport all the equipment, to Walter Dobbie for lending it and to Harold Rogers for loaning out the Central Council display boards.

The organisers of the fete wrote to thank us and let us know that they raised just over £2,000 which for a rainy day was an excellent amount. Whilst doing my turn on the church cleaning rota, the organiser asked me if we would do it again. "Yes," I said, "But not for another 5 years!"

Fiona Byers



Tuesday 4th August saw the start of what was to become a month's hard work, socialising and fun; five students and seven helpers met at St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield. From a small beginning, over the period of four weeks a total of twenty-six people became involved in our little venture in one capacity or another.

The students ranged from absolute beginners to those trying Plain Hunt, the confident and not so confident; the helpers were willing to work hard to provide steady bands to ring round the students and to them we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Each session took a similar form - approximately one and a half-hours ringing, refreshment break followed by about one and a quarter hours ringing. As the group gelled together students and helpers began to relax - tips started to be exchanged and more than a few jokes.

What did we achieve? Well, greater confidence, more relaxed ringing and the opportunity to practice those very important early stages. From what we have gathered everybody thought the whole exercise was worthwhile and gained some-

thing from it.

We would like to thank Chelsfield and St. Mary Cray for the use of their bells and all the helpers who came so willingly whenever they could and rang rounds, call changes and plain hunt endlessly. Of course there would have been no course without the students and they must be congratulated on their perseverance and willingness to give time to improving -

WELL DONE ALL OF YOU.

It is hoped to put on something else later this year or early next so keep your ears tuned to the grapevine.

Philippa Rooke and Margaret Macey

The Philippa and Margaret Special

A Students View

The summer school organised by Philippa Rooke and Margaret Macey soon got nicknamed the "The Philippa and Margaret Special". On Tuesdays and Thursday's, alternating between Chelsfield and St Mary Cray, our little band met in August to practice our bell handling skills.

All the learners are very grateful for the time and effort put in by all the helpers - - we've learnt a lot -- rounds, call changes and plain hunt for the more experienced.

Thank you to Margaret and Philippa for organising it all, and thank you to all the helpers for their time.

Richard Fox (Beckenham)

Important Information for Ringers marooned in the Artic

If you are starving and living off the available wildlife, please be aware that while you can eat polar bear steaks with impunity, the liver is deadly poison.

(More handy tips for survival in the next issue)

For who tolls

the bells of Britain

Part Two - by Byron Rogers

Taken from the Saturday Telegraph Magazine of 2nd May 1998 - if you missed it hope you find it interesting.

We are now in Wicken Church, near Buckingham, on a Friday night: practice night, when the crème de la crème of the ringing county assembles. The eight bells of Wicken are another legend, ever since they were retuned and rehung at the turn of this century, as near perfect as you can get. The boards which record peals are not small dusty things in a belfry, for this a bellringers' church. On these boards one name recurs. The Green family has been ringing here ever since the bells came back, and a Green rang the first peal in 1905.

In 1989 a full peal was rung in honour of his boy Jack's golden wedding, as was another, four years later on, half-muffled bells, at Jack's death. "And Jack's brother will be here tonight." One by one, they come: George Green of Northampton, retired bank employee; Lynn Fuller of Stoke Bruerne, formerly a loss-adjuster, now a student of social work; Paul Bailey of Rushden, installer of double-glazing. Andrew Spencer of Buckingham, scientist; George Care of Brayfield, farmer; Pam Bailey, Paul Bailey's wife; Richard and Helen Stanworth, computer experts; Nigel Williams, software salesman. All ring in their home belfries, but this is the night when they get to ring the golden bells of Wicken.

When George Green's father first rang these bells, most of those alongside him would have made a living from the land. All would have come from the village itself. But as numbers have fallen off, so enthusiasm has hardened in those who are left. It is possible for a ringer to join a practice every night somewhere in the county. Bell-ringing widows are now a feature of village life.

In its beginnings bell-ringing was an up market pastime - "the gentlemen ringers" - but the gentlemen got bored, their servants took over, and the indissoluble link was formed between belfry and the pub. (Every time I met a bell-ringer we ended up in the pub.) Ringers in the early 19th Century were notorious for never being seen in a church, apart from the tower, and it only became a respectable activity towards the end of the century, when clergymen like my wife's great-grandfather, the Revd Francis Robinson, vicar of Drayton

(then in Berkshire) got involved. A full blown eccentric he lived to ring bells, and in one year alone, 1886, spent 4,637 hours ringing them.

Men who spend their lives ringing bells are proud of having participated in one peal. Mr Robinson rang 1,261, the first man in English history to go over a thousand. "His name's on just about every peal board in Berkshire," says Richard Yates. "He had a team of ringers, and they used to drive around the country in a horse and trap together. If they got through a peal, he'd buy them supper. If they didn't, they'd drive home in this huge silence."

"From time to time complaints are made about ringing of church bells," wrote Dorothy L Sayers in the foreword to *The Nine Tailors*. "It seems strange that a generation which tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine and the wailing of the jazz band should be so sensitive to the one loud noise that is made to the glory of God."

Last year Midge Mather, a 65-year-old woman living 100 yards from her parish church at Compton Bassett, in Wiltshire, broke down its 15th Century oak door with a crowbar and an axe, the cut all six bell-ropes, having complained about the sound for eight years. Found guilty of criminal

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THE RINGING WORLD ROADSHOW A GRAND RINGERS FAIR AND SHOW SATURDAY APRIL 17 1999 from 10-00 to 4-30

Enjoy yourself at Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch

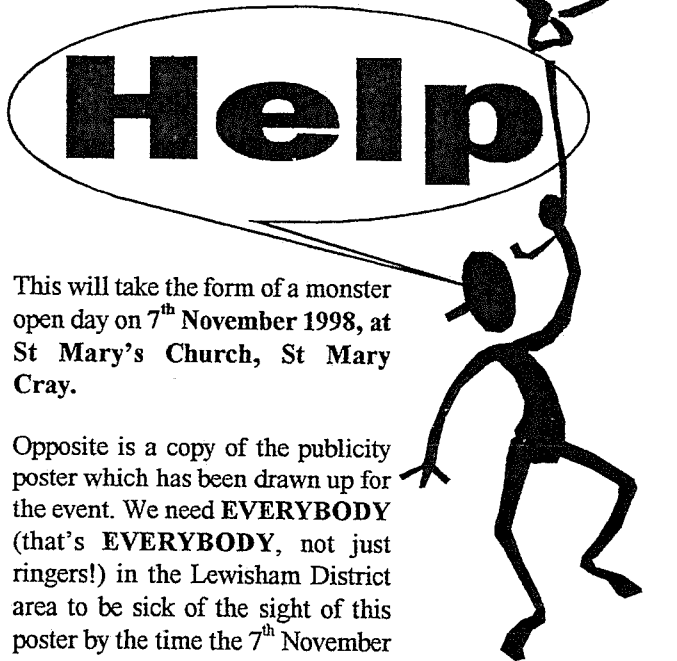
Road, Tewkesbury with friends

ADMISSION FREE

Something for all the family
Listen to tune ringing on handbells
Talks and Classes on various subjects
A chance to meet and greet the Staff of
The Ringing World and Board of Directors
Come and meet the Central Council Officers
Miniature Rings of Bells, Handbells, Computers
There will be ringing at a number of local towers
Demonstration of call change ringing by a Cornish band
Find out at first hand who does what in the Central Council
Easy access by rail Ashchurch station 5 minutes, bus service
Very easy access from the M5 motorway, 2 minutes from exit 9
Demonstration of Italian style ringing with a chance to have a go if you dare
Trade stalls, Bellfounders, Bellhangers, Booksellers, Computer software, many more

FOOD AND
REFRESHMENT
ALL DAY
Best of all
Good company!

We need your help for the "Ring in 2000" initiative. As the major part of the district's activities, we are holding a full-blown recruitment drive.



This will take the form of a monster open day on 7th November 1998, at St Mary's Church, St Mary Cray.

Opposite is a copy of the publicity poster which has been drawn up for the event. We need **EVERYBODY** (that's **EVERYBODY**, not just ringers!) in the Lewisham District area to be sick of the sight of this poster by the time the 7th November arrives.

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN!

Attached to the back of this Newsletter is an A4 copy of this poster. Please, please, please take this poster and make sure it is put up in YOUR church as soon as possible. As an extra bonus, this poster is available as an A5 flyer - allowing you to thrust a copy at anyone you see. For copies, please ring any of the committee.

We also need you to give a copy of the poster to your church magazine editor - they are always looking for material!

Something we did - ring round all the local churches without bells, both Anglican and other denominations, and ask them if they would be willing to take some flyers and/or posters. We managed to secure fourteen churches that took flyers and gave us a page in their church magazine in and around St Mary Cray in less than an hour. Could you increase BT's profits even more and do the same thing in your parish for us? Supply of posters and flyers is not a problem - just ask and we'll get them to you.

But as you know, there is no better advertising than word of mouth. Shout it in the streets, sing it in the bath, tell them in the pub - you never know who's listening! We need as many people as possible to be aware of "Ring in 2000" and we want them all to come along on the big day.

Some more ideas - why not phone the leader of the local Scouts/ Guides/ youth group and ask if you can give a talk on ringing? Put the poster in shop windows, local libraries, even on lamp posts (no, only joking!) but you get the idea. This day will only be a success if people are there to see it. Please give us your support.

Encourage your local ringers, friends and family to come along - either to learn or help us answer questions - the more people we have there, the more visitors we will be able to accommodate.

This year, forget Guy Fawkes, we fancied a change. So please,

Remember, Remember, the 7th of November!

For any help or information etc., please contact any of the committee. By the way, your area reps are:

Ash, Chelsfield, Cudham, Downe:

Caroline Poll

Dartford, Eynsford, Farningham, Shoreham:

Keith Tolputt (01474-361888)

Sidcup, St Mary Cray, Foots Cray

Margaret Macey (0181 302 4992)

Bromley, Bromley Common, Bickley, Hayes

Ruth or Nigel Pointer (0181 460 2829)

Chislehurst's, Eltham, Biggin Hill

Mark Jones (0181 467 2994)

Crayford, Erith's, Bexley

Rupert Cheesman and Cathy Hall (01322-226932)

Beckenham, Penge, West Wickham

Jeremy Byers (0181 289 5675)

Deptford, Woolwich, Lewisham, Greenwich

Len Morley (0181-319-0051)

The rest of the committee are:

Philippa Rooke (01689-812236)

Jessica Vale (0181-298-9684)

Sara Hardy (0181 659 2631)

Thanks for your time - now let's make it happen!

Ruth and Nigel Pointer

BELL-RINGING

HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION

DO YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES BOTH MENTAL AND (GENTLE) PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ALSO A LOAD OF **FUN** AT THE SAME TIME? THEN COME AND HAVE A GO AT BELL-RINGING (CAMPANOLOGY) ON

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

in

ST MARY'S CHURCH
HIGH STREET
ST MARY CRAY

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD EVERY HOUR
BETWEEN 11 AM & 3 PM BUT **TURN UP
WHENEVER YOU CAN**

AN INVALUABLE CHANCE TO GET HOOKED ON
ONE OF ENGLAND'S GREATEST ARTS. IT'S **FREE**
AND, UNDER PROPER SUPERVISION, COMPLETELY
SAFE

EVERYONE AGED 12 YEARS OR ABOVE
IS WELCOME TO JOIN US

WARNING - RINGING IS EXTREMELY ADDICTIVE

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damage, she said she would appeal to the European Court.

"I went to Chepstow once to ring a peal," says Yates. "We'd been going for about an hour, when I heard footsteps on the clock floor above us. Then suddenly one of the bell-ropes stuck, then another. Somebody was grabbing them above our heads.

"It was the local bookseller. He had a shop nearby and couldn't stand the sound. We rushed up and the next minute there was all this scuffling and swearing as we tried to effect a citizens arrest. He broke free, ran in and out of his shop pursued by us, and there was a running fight through the streets. So ended our peal in Chepstow.

Do not cross your legs," I am told sharply in the belfry at Wicken. It is the oldest rule in bell-ringing that in the chamber both feet must be kept on the ground. A rope can coil around a trailing foot and take its owner with it into the roof as it streaks upward.

A chime is when the rope is pulled a short distance, then held so the bell swings against the clapper. The danger comes when you go beyond this, increasing the angle of the swing until the bell goes through 180 degrees and is balanced mouth upwards. This the nature of the English art of bell-ringing, the huge sound coming as the bell is ring in a full circle, first one way then the other.

It does not require physical strength. Some of the ringers at Wicken are not young - one, a lady so slight she looks as though a wind might blow her away, but her bell swings as sturdily as the others. There is total silence broken only by the captain with cries of "Go London", then "Bristol", or "Superlative" as some new permutation is started.

Not all bells are rung like this. The really big ones, the 13-and-a-half-ton Great Tom at Oxford, are either not moved at all or so slightly as to allow the clapper to touch the side. The heaviest ringable bell in England is the 84 cwt tenor at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. "I've rung that," says Chris Bulleid, tower captain at Pattishall. "It was frightening. You

have to use so much rope you stand on a box three feet off the ground, and all the time you are conscious of this monstrous thing above you."

"He had a team of ringers, and they used to drive around the country in a horse and trap together. If they got through a peal, he'd buy them supper. If they didn't, they'd drive home in this huge silence."

"In that tower you can't even hear the bells. There is so much resonance, the sound becomes an enormous hum. It is said that you can only hear Liv-

erpool bells properly across the Mersey in Birkenhead." Bulleid an electronics engineer, is facing the Millennium with equanimity. In addition to a full team of six adults, he has six youngsters in training, two of the his own." You might say a certain amount of press-ganging was involved."

But even here, in this enclosed world, the late 20th century makes an ugly little introduction, The Diocese of Peterborough has just issued a set of guidelines on the training of young ringers, and the Revd Francis Robinson would have stared in bewilderment. "It is easy to see how well-meaning attempts at adjusting people's stance and grip could be misunderstood... The obvious situation to void is an adult and a young person alone in a tower..." The phrases fall like lead shot.

At Blakesley such guidelines do not over much concern Mr Ridley, who is obliged many Sundays to pull just one of his bells alone. His hope for a Millennium Peal were dashed more than once, but now the answer to his prayers has come. Christopher James, a bell-ringer, grandson of a bell-ringer, has just moved to Blakesley. The vicar has found his tower captain.

"Then I shall put an appeal on the village noticeboard."
"How will you phrase that?"
"I shall put, " Ringers wanted",

James a man with the strangest job title I have ever encountered (he is the director of education at the British Institute of Cleaning Science), is already recruiting, and like Arthur's knights they are assembling: an electrician, a sixth-former, James's 16 year old son, and a trainee doctor. "Soon we shall appoint a steeple keeper to look after the bells, and after that a ringing master, the most experienced and best of us," says James. "Then I shall put an appeal on the village noticeboard."

"How will you phrase that?" I ask. For it will be a moment of history when the village bells are heard again. "I shall put, " Ringers wanted", says Christopher James firmly.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Cudham on Saturday, 12th July 1998

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly Mr. Rhian Bagshaw and Mr. David Kettle from Meopham.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss J. Vale from Bexley, Miss P. Rooke and Mr. N. Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mr. L. Dumper from Eltham, Mrs. C. Eastaugh from Christ Church Erith, Mr. N. Parsons from Greenwich and Mr. W. Lanyon from Woolwich.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The following amendments were made:

The second line of the final paragraph on page 1 to read "Easter Monday" .

In the fourth line of paragraph 1 on page 2 the word "it" was deleted and the following words were added "the administration of the fund".

The minutes were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Millennium Sub-Committee

On behalf of the Millennium Sub-Committee, Mr. Morley said that, taking membership figures into account, the District had insufficient ringers to ring all the bells. Tower Secretaries were asked to provide information to their Sub-Committee Representatives on the number of non- K.C.A. ringers at their towers. Mr. Morley enquired whether towers would like the need for more ringers to be advertised centrally. Information on both these matters was needed by 2nd August. Ideas were also required for fund raising for the Bursary Scheme. Mrs. Robins asked where donations should be sent and was told that they should go to Mr. Morley.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Recent correspondence had been sent to the Newsletter Editor. There were no additional items.

5. FUNDRAISING - ASHFORD DISTRICT SUGGESTION (NEWSLETTER, PAGE 3)

The Secretary suggested that this matter should be discussed by individual towers and that they should report back at the Annual District Meeting. She agreed to put a reminder in the Newsletter.

6. AN INSTITUTE OF BELLRINGING INSTRUCTORS? (NEWSLETTER, PAGE 4)

This matter was discussed and members did not seem in favour. With reference to the Royal School of Church Music comparison made by the Central Council, Mr. Mark Jones said that he felt that body had no effect on church music, although its

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publications were useful. Both Mr. R. Long and Miss M. R. Andrews agreed with the sentiments expressed in the Newsletter by the Editor. A vote was taken and it was agreed, nem con, that the District was not in favour of the suggestion.

7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new member was elected:

Mrs. Janet Gill of Cudham, proposed by Mr. J. Fry, seconded by Mrs. A. Dyer.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

District Practice

Mr. Hardy said that the next District practice would be at Chelsfield on 25th July.

Newsletter

Mr. Byers thanked members for their contributions to the Newsletter and asked members to continue sending information to him.

Training

Plans were in hand for a Training Day on 29th August and for a Summer School, aimed at ringers who were on holiday during August - 2 hours during the day on 2 days a week - handling, call changes etc. There was also the possibility of an 'early method' outing. Anyone interested was asked to contact Mrs. Macey.

Wedding

On behalf of the District, the Chairman congratulated Jeremy Byers and Fiona Price on their recent wedding.

County Eight-Bell Striking Competition

The Chairman congratulated the band from the District on winning the County Eight-Bell Striking Competition.

Bob and Clare Pruden - Chelsfield

The Chairman mentioned that Bob and Clare Pruden's baby (Michael Adam) had been born 3 months early. He was on a respirator in St. Thomas's Hospital.

Bickley/Bromley Common

Miss Cannon said that she understood that Bickley/Bromley Common were practising at each other's tower on alternate weeks. She wondered which tower had the practice on which week. The Secretary suggested that she telephoned the relevant Tower Secretary.

Deptford

Miss Cannon said that the District had been asked to ring for a wedding anniversary service at Deptford on Saturday, 8th August, at 3 p.m. Anyone who could help was asked to contact her.

Vote of Thanks

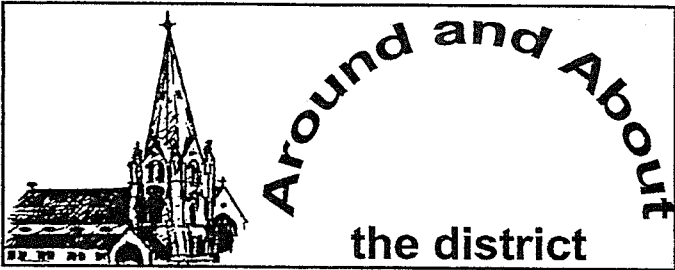
Miss Cannon proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Tim Hatwell, Vicar of Cudham and Downe for the use of the bells and for being prepared to conduct a service which, unfortunately, had not taken place owing to the small number of ringers at the church by 4.30 p.m.

(Continued from page 10)

There being no further business, members went to the tower for further ringing and then on to ring at Downe.

CALL CHANGE COMPETITION RULES

1. The Competition may be held annually for Sunday Service Bands within the Lewisham District.
2. Each tower shall normally be 'in union' with the Association. However, at the discretion of the District Officers, new bands may be allowed to enter for the first time only without being in union.
3. No band shall have more than three people in it who have previously rung a peal.
4. A tower shall be allowed to enter any number of bands but no ringer may ring for more than one band. If a ringer rings for Sunday Service at more than one tower then the home tower takes precedence.
5. Any tower wishing to enter, finding itself short of one ringer, can notify the District Ringing Master or Deputy Ringing Master, who can supply the extra member. The extra member must not have already entered the Competition.
6. The conductor shall call the changes from memory. No visual aids will be allowed.
7. Each team must ring call changes. No method will be permitted.
8. Call changes are to be made, on average, every fifth handstroke with the change made at the following handstroke.
9. Each team will be allowed two minutes practice rounds and call changes, (this will not be judged) standing the bells at the end of the rounds.
10. Each team will be judged on 120 rows, a handstroke and backstroke counting as two rows. A maximum of 12 whole pulls of rounds will be allowed for "settling down" before the start of the call changes. A steward in the tower will count the rows and inform the conductor when the required number has been reached. The conductor should then call 'stand' as soon as possible, having first - if necessary - brought the bells back into rounds. The opening rounds, up to 12 whole pulls, and the changes after 120 rows will not be judged. Failure to stand will not be faulted, but will be noted and taken into account in the event of a tie.
11. All ringing must be carried out with open handstroke leads. Faults will be awarded for closed handstroke leading.
12. **The entry forms for the Competition must be received by the District Secretary at least seven clear days before the date of the Competition. Neither late nor telephone entries will be accepted.**
13. The ringing will be judged by a competent judge from outside the District.
14. Any dispute or difficulty should be referred to the District Officers before the end of the Competition.
15. If a tower enters and subsequently has to withdraw, their entry fee will not be refunded.
16. The names of those taking part (up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.
17. A representative of each tower shall be available for the draw and the order adhered to, unless the band has a prior commitment for service ringing at their own church.



Downe

Unfortunately the bells of Downe are currently unringable due to a problem with the gudgeon on the third. The problem was discovered when the foundry inspected the fittings to prepare a quote for rehangng on ball bearings.

Dartford

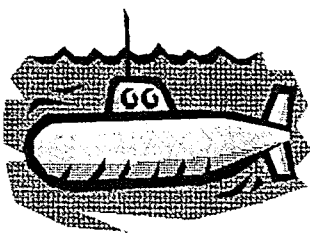
The tower captain has completed a successful move, with only the loss of a Shepherd's pie which was subsequently traced by it's fruity aroma a couple of days later. Keith's new address is 5 Cumberland Villas, Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 2PQ.

Ambridge

Serious news from the Archers - a shortage of bellringers. It's alright though because the scriptwriters have managed to conjure keen recruits out of thin air by word of mouth and a notice on the church noticeboard. Watch this space, in a couple of weeks they'll be ringing Bob Royal after a couple of handling lessons!

Bob, Clare and Michael Pruden

We are pleased to announce that Michael Adam Pruden, who's early arrival back on 23rd June took Clare and Bob completely by surprise (2lb 2oz) has now been discharged from hospital. Congratulations to you all - it was great to see you all at St John's for the County 6 bell.



It's SUBS Time Again

Sorry to say it - but it's suscription time again.

The good news is that the prices are the same as last year - £ 4 pa for the first copy and £ 3 pa for every additional copy to the same address.

If you want to see this publication continue please let me have you renewals as soon as possible.

Jeremy Byers



Here's a list events for your diary

- 10th October **ADM**
- 17th October **District Practice**
General Practice
Come with your requests
Venue to be confirmed
Contact James Hardy 0181-659-2631
- 7th November **Recruitment Drive for Bellringers**
Time - 11am to 3pm
Venue - St Mary Cray
Contact Ring in 2000 Committee
- 21st November **Call Change Competition**
Venue - St John's Eltham
Contact Mary Andrews for entry forms
- 28th November **District Practice**
An evening of triples
Venue to be confirmed
Contact James Hardy 0181-659-2631
- 12th December **Carol Service**
Venue - St John's Erith

A Date for 1999

Advanced notice of another training day. After the success of the last event, the plan is to run another day on Saturday 30th January 1999.

The groups proposed are

Into Bob Minor (a follow on from the Bob Doubles Course)
Bob Doubles and other Simple Doubles Methods (a recap on Bob Doubles and moving into other plain doubles methods)

Places for students will be limited, towers and helpers will also be required. The last day was a lot of fun so please book the date in your diary now.