



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JULY 1999

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Rupert & Cathy tie the knot



Saturday 29th May 1999 dawned light and bright as we made our way to St. Peter's Church Hall in Staines to join the Hardy/Pointer clan whom we found busily laying tables and preparing food ready for the evening reception.

We made ourselves busy blowing up 200 balloons using a violent electric pump which we abandoned after a while for an old fashioned hand pump, and decorated the hall with them, and an assortment of ivy and paper bells.

Having completed preparations at the hall we moved to St Mary's Church where Cathy arrived a little after 4.30pm, looking very elegant in her white, sleeveless wedding gown, attended by her two bridesmaids wearing burgundy dresses. They went up the aisle to the Trumpet Tune by Purcell played by Mark Jones to join a very dapper Rupert who was dressed in a morning suit with a cravat to match the bridesmaids and an ivory waistcoat.

The vicar who used to officiate at St. Mary's returned specially to take Rupert and Cathy's wedding. After a short service he was able to pronounce them man and wife.

More ringing followed as Mr and Mrs Cheeseman left the

church for a few photographs before the clouds decided to deposit rain, hail, thunder and lightning.

This didn't dampen anyone's spirit - everyone took shelter in the belfry and was able to watch the wedding party ring in their finery. Half an hour rain was still pelting down so we all had to go to the reception venue by car instead of along the towpath as intended.

Never mind, the reception was excellent. Catering superbly organised by Ruth Pointer, cake decorated beautifully by Wendy Hardy and speeches made by Rupert and Richard Pearce, the best man, made this part of the day memorable.

After the formal ceremonies we let down our hair down and took part in a wonderful barn dance, music and calling by the band "Fiddle and Squeeze". During the last dance the entire wedding party and guests formed a tunnel of arches leading from the hall to the taxi. The happy couple danced their way through it, saying goodbye to us then dived into the car under a shower of confetti.

It whisked them away to the hotel ready to go to their honeymoon in Southern Ireland.

Good luck and best wishes for the future.

Fiona Byers.

Next District Meeting

Saturday 10th July

Greenwich

Bells 4-30

Service 5-00

Followed by meeting, tea and evening ringing

Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Freda Cannon

☎ 0181-697-0395.

1 Parking is difficult so the advice is to share a car if possible.

West Wickham Tower Outing

(or What's that gold thing on the top of the hill
- oooooh the next church, but where's the car park!!)

We have four main events on our social calendar, starting with the Holy Week Dinner, a Spring tower outing, a summer barbeque and a Christmas Dinner.

24th April was the date set for the outing and it saw us heading towards Buckinghamshire with the aim to ring at our namesake tower West Wycombe. (There is a West Wickham in Cambridgeshire, but it's a derelict ring of five). We began at White Waltham, just off the M4, a lovely ring of six, where we rang Cambridge & Kent, amongst others.

We then headed north through picturesque Marlow to Hambleton, a more challenging six, but we managed some good touches of our standard repertoire of Kent, Cambridge & Stedman. The village itself was idyllic and there were film crews filming the latest episode of a BBC series - but we didn't find out the name! It was then up to West Wycombe, with its impressive tower complete with golden globe set high on the hillside above the town. Unfortunately we had a lock-out, but the vicar provided access to the ringing chamber as he was inside the church. Instead we were able to climb the stairs to the top of the tower and saw some breathtaking views over Buckinghamshire.

Not to be thwarted in our efforts to score the tower, and with the aid of a mobile phone, we left a message with the tower captain's wife and headed to the George and Dragon for a lunch that all agreed was very good. After that we headed to Lane End, another picturesque village and (surprise, surprise) another lock-out! Thanks to the mobile phone, the tower captain was raised from his bath and we had a good ring on the very light 5 1/2 cwt ring of six. This allowed us to ring with confidence and some good touches were scored - aided no doubt by the excellent lunch.

Hughenden was our next tower, with the church set in the beautiful parkland of Hughenden Manor. Despite being a heavy 15cwt ring of eight, they rang wonderfully and proved to be everyone's favourite, even for those of us from a six bell tower, and it provoked discussion on how the bells could be taken home! We had a go at Grandsire Triples & Bob Major - a real effort for those used to ropesight on only six. It was interesting to see that there was a peal board commemorating their 500th peal - exactly 100 years after the first. The same method was scored - Holts 10 part Grandsire Triples - in

exactly the same time (no - not by the same band!).

Penn followed, our only ground-floor ring, and another six, but again the bells were handled well and some good touches achieved by all. By this time, we had learned that we could return to West Wycombe, this time with access and we achieved our goal. The bells were a beautiful ring of eight, and some good touches were rung, again of Grandsire & Stedman Triples, with Bob Major.

A successful day was achieved by all, good ringing, six excellent towers and it was lovely to see all the towers we visited were well looked after and that a warm welcome was received at them all, even if a little late sometimes. Mobile phones may be the bane of some people's lives, but they can rescue ringing outings in such circumstances.

Our thanks go out to Jeremy and Fiona Byers who joined the nine ringers from West Wickham at short notice to boost our ability to ring adequately at the eight's, and to James and Sarah Hardy who also joined us for a couple of towers. They all helped us to thoroughly enjoy the day

Judith & Jon Fry.

(Thank you for the invitation we had a good day too - when's the next one? The Beckenham Clan)

Editor's Column

Hello everyone - grovelling apologies for the tardiness in getting this latest issue to press - I have been rather busy of late and suddenly found that time had caught up with me.

As a result this edition is rather smaller than I would have liked, however I hope you enjoy it.

I am as always seeking articles and would like as much copy as possible for the next issue - get writing!!!!

COPY DEADLINE - 31st August 1999

send all articles to

Jeremy Byers
2 Carlton Court
23 Beckenham Road
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 4PP

☎ 0181-289-5675

✉ jeremy.byers@virgin.net

Future events, Millennium Ringing, Training Days, Competitions and KCACR Annual Meeting

Plan Ahead

Yes I know that it's not something that you associate with the Lewisham District of the KCACR but the officers do occasionally consult their diaries and try and plan ahead.

There are a few things in the melting pot for the next few months;

District Practices

24th July	Lewisham
August	No Practice
18th September	Beckenham (to be confirmed)

Practice times are 7-00 to 9-00pm

Training

The next training event is planned for the 9th October.

The aim is to provide a day's training that is useful for all the new learners that we have recruited over last 9 -12 months.

We want to hear from tower captains about what your learners need - be it rounds, call changes, plain hunt or perhaps simple method.

We want to have a morning practical session and then take all our new recruits to the Annual District meeting to introduce them all the the association. This will be the last opportunity to propose them for membership before the millennium ringing.

Please get this date booked in people's diaries NOW

Millennium Ringing

1st January is rapidly approaching and now is the time for tower captains to get their bands to commit themselves to where they intend to ring.

Sara Hardy is trying to co-ordinate the personnel for this so that we can get as many towers ringing as possible. Please

- commit yourself now (it makes everything easier and stops your tower captain nagging)
- bear in mind that this event is only for 15 to 20 minutes before midday - it is less time than you would normally normally spend ringing on a Sunday
- offer to ring away from your home tower if you are a more experienced ringer - you newcomers will feel happier at home.
- note not having transport is not an excuse - there are enough people with cars that I am sure that we can get you there - that's why the telephone was invented.

If you need more information either contact your Millennium Committee member, a district officer, or Sara Hardy (0181-659-2631).

Jeremy Byers

PS If you have any brilliant idea's for events, training idea's or would like to ring a quarter peal of a certain method and are having trouble getting a band, please contact either

Jeremy Byers	0181-289-5675 ✉jeremy.byers@virgin.net
James hardy	0181-659-2631 ✉jameshardy@callnetuk.com



Saturday 17th July 1999

Quex Barbecue
at
Quex Park

Ticket £ 4 -£5
Ringing starts 7-30

Details from Hazel Basford
- address in the KCACR handbook

A Big Thank You

We would like to thank the following people for making our wedding day such a happy one:

The 'Beckenham Catering Crew', in particular,

- Ruth, Sara, and Wendy for the excellent job they made of providing all the guests with such a gorgeous spread and also for decorating the hall.
- Ruth for all her support over the last couple of months, for making our cake and for doing Cathy's makeup and hair!
- Mark for playing the organ for us (extremely well we

might add!).

- Jeremy and Fiona for their support, encouragement and sixpence!

If we have left out anybody who deserves to be thanked, please forgive us as it became quite hard to tell who had done what for us.

We are aware that we have a truly decent bunch of ringing friends around us without whom our day would not have been the same.

We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the day!

Rupert & Cathy

Quarters and Peals

PEALS

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
31 May 1998	Farningham	5040	Surprise Minor 7m:	99/316
03 January 1999	Chelsfield	5040	Minor 6m.	99/167
21 February 1999	St Mary Cray	5040	Surprise Minor 41m:	99/434
06 March 1999	Bromley	5056	Erophobia Surprise Major	99/290
06 March 1999	St Mary Cray	5040	Spliced Variable Cover Doubles and S. Minor 7m	99/290
20 March 1999	Ash by Wrotham	5040	Surprise Minor 10m:	99/386
04 April 1999	Eynsford	5120	Bristol Surprise Major	99/386
17 April 1999	Chelsfield	5040	Plain Bob Minor (seven different extents)	99/530
17 April 1999	Bickley	5024	Spliced Surprise Major 4m:	99/530

QUARTERS

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
13 December 1998	Crayford	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	99/223
03 January 1999	West Wickham	1440	Minor (2m)	99/222
10 January 1999	Crayford	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	99/223
15 January 1999	Chislehurst Ann.	1262	Plain Bob Major	99/228
17 January 1999	Bromley	1250	Cambridge Surprise Major	99/248
30 January 1999	Eltham	1264	Plain Bob Major	99/298
30 January 1999	Woolwich	1260	Grandsire Triples	99/299
31 January 1999	West Wickham	1440	Minor (2m)	99/226
01 February 1999	Ash by Wrotham	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	99/224
06 February 1999	Bromley	1260	Grandsire Triples	99/488
21 February 1999	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	99/294
07 March 1999	Chislehurst St N	1344	Plain Bob Triples	99/390
14 March 1999	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles (2m)	99/389
20 March 1999	Bromley	1264	Plain Bob Major	99/366
21 March 1999	Bromley	1280	Double Norwich Court Bob Major	99/464
21 March 1999	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Plain Bob Minor	99/464
23 May 1999	Chelsfield	1260	Minor (2m)	

Quarters and Peals (Continued)

Congratulations to :

Melanie Wilkins (aged 12), Caroline Poll (aged 13), and Sally Davis for ringing their first peal. (8).

Jeremy Ducker for ringing his first quarter inside. (10).

Cathy Hall for ringing her first quarter of Yorkshire, Carole Stevens her first of Yorkshire Major thus completing the Standard 8, and Rupert Cheeseman for circling Crayford tower as Conductor. (12).

Jeremy Clitheroe for ringing his 50th quarter and Alex Britton for circling the tower at Bromley. (19).

Mike Hutton for ringing his first quarter. (20).

Christopher Backhouse for ringing his first quarter of Plain Bob Minor. (25).

From The Ringing World up to edition No. 4597, June 4, 1999.

Jim Rooke

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Biggin Hill on Saturday, 17th April 1999

The Chairman, Miss P. J. Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Biggin Hill.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mrs. R. A. Backhouse (Christ Church, Erith)	Mr. J. R. Byers (Beckenham)	Mr. P. J. Cheeseman (Crayford)
Mrs. E. Correia (Dartford)	Miss C. Hall (Crayford)	Mr. J. J. Hardy (Beckenham)
Mrs. M. E. Heald (St. John's, Erith)	Mr. D. P. Hilling (Eynsford)	Mr. W. D. Lanyon (Woolwich)
Mr. M. E. Luffman (Eynsford)	Mr. P. Long (St. Nicholas, Chislehurst)	Mrs. M. Macey (Footing Cray)
Mr. & Mrs. L. G. A. Morley (Eltham)	Mrs. E. M. Stewart (Biggin Hill)	Mr. N. Wilkins (Chelsfield)

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. J. J. Rooke, seconded by Mrs. N. Robins.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

British Heart Foundation

The Secretary had received a letter from the British Heart Foundation acknowledging a donation which she had sent to them on behalf of the Association in memory of the late Mr. Tony Lewis.

(Continued from page 5)

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

BECKENHAM	Mr. D. Meredith (jnr.)	P. Mrs. S. C. Hardy	S. Mr. D. E. Pointer
CUDHAM	Mr. P. Alexander Mrs. A. K Wilson	P. Mr. J. Fry S. Mrs A. Dyer	
ERITH CHRIST CHURCH.	Miss N. David Mr. A. Lucia (Jnr.)	P. Mrs. C. Eastaugh P. Mrs. C. Eastaugh	S. Mr. M.D. Backhouse S. Mrs R. A. Backhouse
EYNSFORD	Mrs. S. Fitzgerald Mrs. J. Jacobs	P. Mrs. S. C. MacKenzie S. Mrs. C. Eastaugh	
	Mr. G. S. Mills Mrs. M. Mills	P. Mrs. S. C. MacKenzie S. Miss M. P, Andrews	

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Millennium Committee

The Chairman reported that the Open Day at Christ Church, Erith, arranged by the Millennium Committee, had been successful and that an article, together with a photograph of her, had appeared in the News Shopper. There would be no further Open Days until after 1st January in order to leave time for the teaching of newly-recruited ringers. Mr. David Kingston had been approached about the possibility of having an Open Day at Bromley Parish Church on 8th January. It was hoped that this event would benefit from the 'Ring in 2000' publicity and might interest January sales shoppers.

It was proposed to hold a Training Day in conjunction with the Annual District Meeting on Saturday, 9th October.

A 2.00 p.m. slot on 1st January had been booked at Greenwich for the 2000 date length, which was to be composed and conducted by Dr. Peter Swift, who would also invite the other members of the band from the District. It had been decided against turning this event into a fundraiser, since it was felt that it would be too complicated. Publicity was being looked into.

County Annual General Meeting

The Chairman reported on the following points from the Association's Annual Meeting which had been held on Easter Monday:

- The Role of Honour would be handed over to Canterbury Cathedral on 20th June. Any towers with ringers war certificates were asked to inform Mrs. Hazel Basford.
- The Peal Secretary had expressed the wish to see ten first peelers from each District this year (there had been three from Chelsfield that morning).
- To mark the millennium an Association Peal Day had been suggested. Another suggestion was that towers should photograph their millennium band, identify the ringers concerned and send a copy to the Librarian. Millennium certificates had been produced. Unfortunately, a number of these contained errors and had been returned by the Chairman.
- In the General Secretary's Report, it had been agreed that in the paragraph beginning *The 8-Bell Striking Competition ...* the words from *Directly following the competition*, to the end of the paragraph should be deleted.
- Subscriptions - after discussion it was agreed that the subscription for practising members to should be raised to £9 per annum There were no other changes.

(Continued from page 6)

• Forthcoming events:

Canterbury District Open Day - 15th May.

Lewisham District County 8-bell Striking Competition - 26th June at Beckenham

Maidstone District County 6-bell Striking Competition - 25th September at Yalding.

Bickley

The Secretary said that she was experiencing difficulty in finding someone to sign write the board which was to be placed in the ringing room at Bickley to mark the addition of the two trebles by the District as a Centenary Year Project. Mr. Simon Davies suggested that Mr. George Pipe might be able to undertake this work.

Welcome Pack

Mrs Hardy said that on a previous occasion she had recommended that the Association should give consideration to providing new recruits with a Welcome Pack. The Chairman said that this idea had been discussed at the forum on Easter Saturday.

Beckenham

Details were given of a Craft Fair at Beckenham on 8th May. This would be combined with a Tower Open Day from 10.30 to 5.30. Visitors would be most welcome.

St. John's, Erith

On behalf of the St. John's, Erith band, Mr. Mark Backhouse said that on the Saturday before Easter there had been an ill-advised peal attempt at St. Johns. The local band had not known that the Vicar had given permission for the attempt to be made. In view of the condition of the bells, a peal attempt should not have taken place and the organiser was aware of this situation. The Chairman said that she had been shown a copy of a letter which had been sent to The Ringing World about this matter.

Handbook

Miss Freda Cannon said that Mr. Dickon Love had asked her to urge members to consider ways of obtaining more advertising for the Handbook.

Competition Certificates

Certificates for the Call Change and Six-bell Striking Competitions, kindly drawn up by Mr. M. Jones and Mr. J. J. Rooke were presented to the first, second and third placed bands.

Horton Kirby

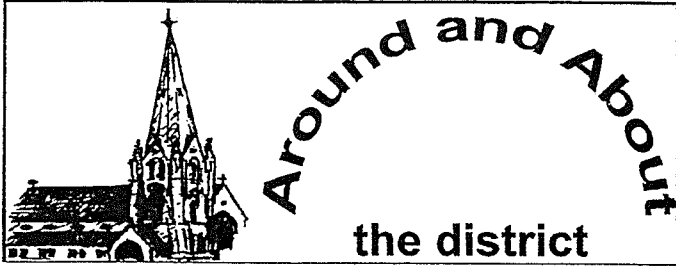
The Chairman said that some of the new Horton Kirby ringers were being trained by Mr. & Mrs. F. Lewis and training for other recruits would begin shortly.

District Practice

There would be a District Practice at Foots Cray on 25th April and at Woolwich on 22nd May.

Votes of Thanks

Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. Deryck Jones to the Vicar of Biggin Hill for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mrs. Peggy Mills for playing the piano for the hymn, and to the local ringers for providing an excellent tea.



County 8 Bell Striking Competition - This was held in the Lewisham District, on the back 8 at St George's, Beckenham, on 26 June and all Districts entered teams to try their skills at Double Norwich.

It was almost a case of "the first shall come last and the last shall come first", although those who like to debate these things might have problems with the final positions and the order of ringing. Can't help thinking that it doesn't really matter a lot where you ring - though if you ring late after one or two teams have obviously not done too well, then it does tend to take the pressure off a little. Dunno. Anyway, the results were as follows:

Position	District	Rang	Faults
1st	Tonbridge	5th	27.5
2nd	Rochester	2nd	34.5
3rd	Canterbury	6th	37.5
4th	Ashford	4th	38
5th	Lewisham	3rd	59.5
6th	Maidstone	1st	79

The judges were Stephen Nash and Bernard Fairhead from the Essex Association, respectively Master and a past Master of the Association. They mentioned that they'd not heard the treble's warning whole pull for one of the teams due to the fact that an aircraft had flown over at that precise moment. They reckoned it was a jet, but in reality we think it was a Lancaster bomber - it was Biggin Hill Air Fair that day, a mere three or four miles away! Our thanks go to them for venturing over the Thames to Kent, and to the Lewisham District and the local ringers in particular - they not only organised a splendid tea, but seemed to have had some influence on the weather, which was also really good.

(From the KCACR Website)

St George's Beckenham - work is continuing a pace at St George's on the new sound control. Unfortunately we have been the victim of a persistent complainant who managed to catch the ear of the local Environmental Health officers.

As a result the Beckenham band (with other assistants we managed to persuade into a day's hard labour) had a happy Saturday carrying best part of 50 scaffolding poles and 30 scaffolding boards up a variety of spiral and vertical staircases. Then having installed a temporary floor up came a trailer load of timber and MDF (Handy Andy if you can't get any in the locality we've got plenty!!).

Of course the timing was perfect, an evening district practice at Beckenham was all we needed to finish the day off.

Anyway we now have doors which open and close, all we need is the mechanism's to make the doors open and close without having to scramble across the frame.

Watch this space for more news.

JRB (*whilst carting all the stuff up the stairs I thought it would have been easier to hire a bus and accidentally knock our complainant over - I now know where to get the bus from !!!!*)

Surfing the Net - if you have internet access why not surf a few ringing sites:

Sherborne Teaching Aids - Pam Copson, the "one per learner lady" now has her own web site - interesting information and even an electronic help line - give it a try.

<http://www.btinternet.com/~copson/index.html>

Church Bells of Kent - Dickon Love (the new handbook editor) has published a site covering the Bells of Kent - why not check to see if your tower is up there

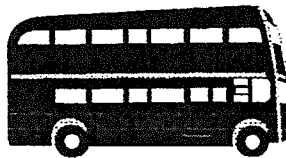
<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/dickon.love/kentbells/index.htm>

KCACR - the KCACR has its own site managed by Frank and Catherine Lewis - pop in and see what's on in the other districts

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/fwcml/homepage.htm>

Of course the nice thing is that one site leads to another so once you've found one ringing site you'll find many many more - happy surfing.

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