



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

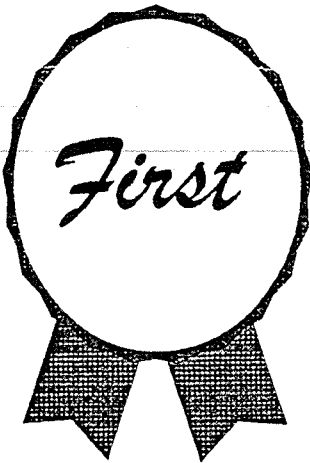
OCTOBER 1999

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Chelsfield - do it again!!

The competition was at Yalding today, and the weather was good in that it didn't chuck it down with rain! That meant that the judges, Alan and Marion Ainsworth from Amer-sham, could sit outside and listen to the bells, rather than be squashed in a steamed up car on a busy road. Also, as bells are rung from the ground floor in a large open space at the

back of the church, it meant the participating bands didn't have to stay very quietly inside, potentially unnerving the ringing team. We could wander about the churchyard, have tea and visit a local garage that had been turned into a bric-a-brac stall which was fundraising for the restoration of the stair turret on the side of Yalding tower, which is slowly coming away from the wall!



Alan Ainsworth started his summing-up by explaining that

they'd taken a long time to separate two bands at the top, using the tape recordings they had made throughout. He didn't say very much about each team's performance, except to comment on their speed. The results were as follows:

Placed	Tower	District	Rang	Faults
1	Chelsfield	Lewisham	2	22
2	Tonbridge	Tonbridge	3	23
3	Tunstall	Rochester	6	33 1/2
4	Willesborough	Ashford	1	34
5	Canterbury	Canterbury	4	39
6	Staplehurst	Maidstone	5	42

This means that Chelsfield won for the second year running, but only by one fault! It was also the 25th Anniversary of the first time Chelsfield won the competition, and three of the band rang both in 1974 and 1999. Several bands have won the trophy more than twice, but no one has won it three time in succession, so we have something to aim for next year. However, we have to win the District Competition first!

Philippa Rooke

Congratulations on a famous win on a heavy six with long draft - just like the ones at Chelsfield (not). Best way to silence any remaining critics!!!!

Don't forget the ADM

Saturday 9th October

Bromley Common

Bells from 3-30

Service at 4-30

Names for tea to Alistair Scott (0181-460-6230)
By Previous Wednesday

Don't forget to book your tea

Quarters and Peals

QUARTER PEALS

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page no.
11 April 1999	Bexley	1264	Plain Bob Major	99/560
18 April 1999	Bromley	1280	St Clements College Bob Major	99/613
24 April 1999	Eltham	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	99/585
03 May 1999	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Grandsire Doubles	99/581
20 June 1999	Erith Ch Ch	1260	Stedman Doubles	99/713
21 June 1999	Eynsford	1280	Islay Surprise Major	99/785
26 June 1999	Chelsfield	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	
26 June 1999	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles (2m) St Simons & St Martins	
27 June 1999	Chelsfield	1260	Doubles (2m) St Simons & Plain Bob	
19 July 1999	Eltham	1280	Medway Surprise Major	99/833

Congratulations to Adrian Lucia for ringing his first quarter, trebling to Grandsire Doubles and to Christopher Backhouse for ringing his first of Stedman.

PEALS

Date	Place	Changes	Method	RW page-no.
11 April 1999	Lewisham	5184	Chelmsford Surprise Major	99/579
15 May 1999	Greenwich	5040	Spliced Surprise Royal 4m:	99/629
22 May 1999	Deptford	5056	Chomolungma Surprise Major	99/555
30 May 1999	Chislehurst Ann	5184	Spliced Surprise Major 8m:	99/629
19 June 1999	Bromley	5184	Beady Eye Surprise Major	99/632

Includes quarters published in the Ringing World up to No. 4610 September 3, 1999.

Jim Rooke

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Greenwich on Saturday 10th July 1999

The Chairman, Miss P. J. Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Greenwich, and by thanking Mr Jeremy Byers for taking the minutes in the absence of the District Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Miss M Andrews (Bexley)
Mrs R Backhouse (Christ Church, Erith)
Mr R Bing (Woolwich)
Mrs F Byers (Beckenham)
Mr R Cheeseman (Crayford)
Mr L Dumper (Eltham)
Mrs C Eastaugh (Christ Church, Erith)
Mrs M Evans (Chislehurst)
Mrs S Hardy (Beckenham)
Mr D Jones (Dartford)



Having rung bells for approximately a year, and having developed an affinity, not only for the sound but the gentle yet swift motion used to ring the instruments, the members of our band at St Mark's Biggin Hill, decided to try a more challenging approach to the sport – ringing methods.



With two experienced ringers and six novices this proved to be a greater task than anticipated, and even ringing Plain Hunt seemed a continual conflict between what you wanted to ring and what the bell wanted to ring. Finally Plain Hunt sounded recognisable, but only as we had each learnt the method “by numbers”, so week after week everyone rang the same bells and neither improved nor decreased in our ability.

Several vain attempts at trying to ring by “places” lead to discouragement, so Nancy (our tower captain) decided to arrange a “Plain Hunt Day (later shortened to a Plain Hunt Evening) and after consulting Philippa – a very learned yet helpful ringing guru – it actually happened.

An hour and a half later, everyone was very tired and aching, not to mention glowing with perspiration, but we had (kind of) learnt to ring by places.

Philippa helped by yelling out where to go and what place we were in as we rang Plain Hunt on five, even throwing in “funny rounds” to stop us just thinking of numbers. Although a little intimidating, it worked (for me) and I now understand the principle as well.

However, the six bells in our tower are plenty enough – I am yet to experience trying to ring by places on 10 or 12 bells.

Kate Simmons (15 at last!)

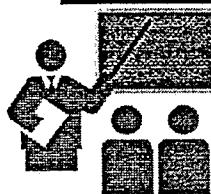
St Mark's ringers are very grateful to Philippa, and assistants Jim and Sally, who made the evening so much fun. We look forward to “Plain Hunt, the Sequel”!
Nancy Gay



IT'S SUBS TIME AGAIN

I'm sorry to say that the editorial coffers are once again running short and I'm enclosing a request for funds. Once again no increase in fees £ 4 for the first copy and £ 3 for all further copies to the same address.

Please continue to support the Newsletter - if you feel the content is a little thin for the money then write some articles for me - after all it is the district's newsletter and I can only print articles I receive.
Jeremy Byers



Learning French

About a year ago, I decided to have a go at improving my knowledge of French. I looked at what was on offer at adult education centres, chose a course, paid the fee and went along to the class. My journey to the class was only a short one but many class members travelled several miles week by week to attend.

What you may ask, has this to do with ringing? Well, for French read Method; for class read Practice Night; for fee read Zero.

For us ringers there are classes in almost any method we might choose, with free instruction, Monday to Friday evenings at various towers around the district. All we have to do is get in the car and make the effort to join in. Some of us do just that. Often, however, we expect a travelling tutor to come to us.

Some ringers give a lot of their time visiting struggling towers to help out, but is it right to expect them to do so? Many of us travel long distances and pay fees to learn about topics of interest to us. Somehow, however, when it comes to our interest in ringing we are not willing to do the same thing even though the teaching is free.

Perhaps that last word is the key to it. Perhaps if those who do the tutoring charged £15 per hour the rest of us would rush to be taught because it sounds as though we are getting something of 'real' value. My advice is - get along to a practice night before they start charging!

DEREK SMITH
Wilmslow

From the Ringing World

Training Day Arrangements

Here at last are the details for the training day on 9th October - the same day as the Annual District Meeting. A coincidence or a cunning plan - I leave you to decide.

First apologies to those who thought that they would try and get some method ringing in - due to the demand for places we have had to restrict the day to two main target groups - Rounds and Call Changes and Plain Hunt. The itinerary looks something like this.

Rounds and Call Changes Group Suggested Timetable

Time	Location	Activity
9-00 to 9-15	Church Hall Beckenham	Arrival and general admin for day
9-15 to 10-15ish	Church Hall Beckenham	Talk on they aspects of rounds and call changes
10-20 to 11-50	St George's Beckenham	First Practical Session Group A
10-45 to 12-15ish	St John's Eltham	First Practical Session Group B LUNCH
1-15 to 2-45	St George's Beckenham	Second Practical Session Group B
1-00 to 2-30	Bromley Parish	Second Practical Session Group B
3-30	Bromley Common	Open Ringing before Annual District Meeting

Plain Hunt Group Suggested Timetable

Time	Location	Activity
9-00 to 9-15	Church Hall St Mary Cray	Arrival and general admin for day
9-15 to 10-15ish	Church Hall St Mary Cray	Talk on they aspects of rounds and call changes
10-30 to 12-00	St Mary Cray	First Practical Session LUNCH
1-15 to 2-45	Chelsfield	Second Practical Session
3-30	Bromley Common	Open Ringing before Annual District Meeting

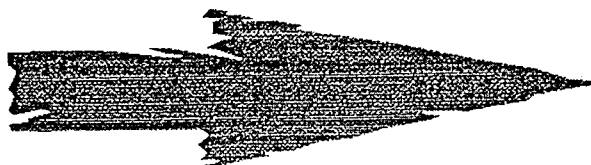
Helpful Points

Practical groups for the Rounds and Call Change groups will be decided on the morning - hopefully we will be able to sort transport and car sharing on the morning as well.

Lunch - we suggest bringing a packed lunch of some kind there is unlikely to be time to get pub food for a large group of people in the time allocated.

Any queries please phone Jeremy Byers (0181-289-5675) who will be delighted to deal with your queries

*Can't remember if you signed up!
Well this is the list I've got*



Students for the training day

Rounds

Eltham	Greenwich/Woolwich
Barbara Gerrard	Sue Wage
John Gerrard	Judy Debenham
Beckenham	Tricia Dale
Steve Kennett	Vic Edwards
Marion Cross	Crayford
St Mary Cray	Marion Andrews
Gill Becker	Edward Andrews
Barbara Zissell	Iona
Foots Cray	Bromley Common/Bickley
Marilyn Haywood	Barbara Gregory
Jayne Edinboro	Rob Duke
Jan O'dell	Jackie Duke
Jenny O'dell	Maria
Mary Hanley	Megan Smith
Sidcup	Christ Church Erith
Pauline Vagg	Babara Carpenter
Matthew Vagg	Nicola David
Mary Hanley	Les Brett
Doug Gill	Elizabeth Brett
Hayes	Dartford
Mary Rowedder	B Barton
Dawn Hughes	A Lane
Horton Kirby	
John Pettifer	Julie Costley

Plain Hunt

Dartford	Eltham
D Jones	Hilary Smith
M Hutton	Pauline Behan
E Correia	Lucy Behan
Greenwich/Woolwich	Hayes
Susan Collins	Hilary Burtonshaw
Crayford	Jean Thody
Mick Slater	Val Bracey
Christ Church Erith	
Robert Backhouse	

Helpers Urgently Required

The success of the day is dependent on the helpers available to ring around the students - I have had offers of help from the following people, who I assume are available to help all day.

If you are not available to help please contact Jeremy Byers immediately. If you are available to help but your name is on the list I would be grateful if you could spare some time and help out it would be greatly appreciated. I need 25 helpers four or five more volunteers would make this day happen!!

The names of people who have made definite offers to help are as follows:

Beckenham	Hayes
Rhiannon Meredith	Sue Fisher
James Hardy	Stephanie Webb
Sara Hardy/Ruth Pointer/ Nigel Pointer(babysitting per- mitting)	
Jeremy Byers	Greenwich/Woolwich
Fiona Byers	Bill Lanyon
Foots Cray	Crayford
Margaret Macey	Nancy Robins
Simon Morris	Cathy Cheeseman
Jim Odell	Rupert Cheeseman
Ros Former	Bickley
Biggin Hill	Jeremy Clitheroe
Nancy Gay (am)	Chelsfield
Eltham	Philippa Rooke
Len Morley (plus 2 un-named victims) (am only)	
Christ Church Erith	Eynsford & Farningham
Christopher Backhouse	Martin Luffman
Rachel Backhouse	
Mark Backhouse	

Call Jeremy Byers (0181-289-5675)
with your offer to assist

(Continued from page 2)

Mr & Mrs N Parsons (Greenwich)
Mr & Mrs D Pointer (St Mary Cray)
Mr & Mrs N Pointer (Beckenham/St Mary Cray)
Miss N Robins (Crayford)
Miss J Vale (Bexley)
Miss A Wilkins (Chelsfield)
The St John's Erith Band

Attending were 23 members of the district

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Mr Mark Backhouse requested that there be appended to the section of Any Other Business relating to St John's Erith, that the peal attempt the clapper of the seventh had fallen out, and also that the bells at St John's are not available for peals in the future.

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr Mark Backhouse, seconded by Mrs Cathy Cheeseman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no further news on the progress of the Welcome Pack.

The Beckenham open day had been very successful.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

County Inter District 8 bell Striking Competition.

Following the competition on the 26th June at Beckenham Mrs Sara Hardy had written to Mr T Wraight, the Secretary of the KCACR, on the subject of teas provided to the teams.

The instructions to each of the Districts for the competition had clearly stated that tea would be provided for the six teams participating, unless the districts specifically requested that they did not require tea for their team. None of the teams took steps to cancel their teas. During the course of tea, individuals were asked to provide a donation to cover the costs of providing tea; in this case £1.50 per head. At the end of the afternoon £45 had been received, considerably less than the £72 that would have been expected from the 48 teas provided. Clearly this either indicated that several teams had not had the courtesy to phone to cancel their teas, or alternatively several individuals had not made a contribution to the cost of tea. It was this point that Mrs Hardy raised with Mr Wraight in her letter.

Mr Wraight had replied that he would be bringing it to the attention of the County Chairman and Treasurer. He would also be writing to all the District Secretaries about this, asking them to initiate discussion of the three solutions proposed in Mrs Hardy's letter at their next District Meeting.

The three proposals were

- A 'no name no tea' approach should be taken
- Tea should not be the usual "ringers tea" but merely consist of tea and biscuits
- Teams should be requested to pay an entry fee of £ 15 per band to cover the costs of tea.

A brief discussion then ensued, which ranged across a variety of tea matters. It was the general feeling of the meeting that the option of charging an entry fee should be adopted for County Competitions. The Chairman then asked if the meeting felt there was a similar problem at District level. After discussion it was concluded that there was not, but if such an occasion arose, the matter could be dealt with at a later date.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

		<i>Proposed by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
WOOLWICH	Susan Mimmack		
	Susan Collins	Graham Long	Bill Lanyon
GREENWICH	Alison Smedley		
	Rupert Smedley	James Hardy	Jeremy Byers
ERITH CHRIST CHURCH	Robert Backhouse (Jnr)	Carol Eastaugh	Rachel Backhouse

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

District Representative

Mr Bill Lanyon conveyed to the meeting that he did not propose to seek re-election as District Representative at the Annual District Meeting on 9th October. The Chairman asked the members to consider who they would like to fill this post for the following year, in preparation for the October meeting.

Wedding Congratulations

The Chairman conveyed the District's congratulations to Mr Rupert Cheeseman and Miss Cathy Hall on the occasion of their wedding.

Millennium Committee Meeting

Mr Len Morley outlined the work that the Millennium Committee had been undertaking recently.

Currently the committee are trying to find out:

- who is available to ring in the District for the Millennium service
- names of the people who will be ringing at their home tower
- names of those ringers prepared to ring elsewhere in the District
- names of any potential visitors to the area.

There is a poster being circulated to all towers which should be returned by 31st August to each tower's Millennium Committee representative, or alternatively directly to Mrs Sara Hardy.

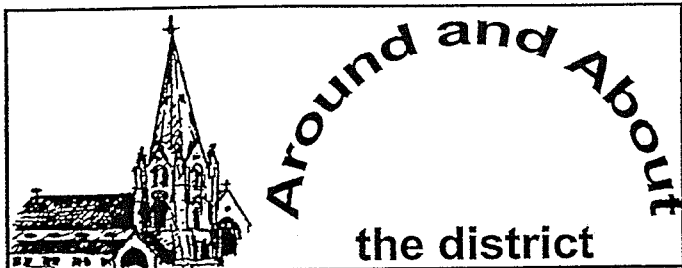
Mr Peter Swift has been asked to compose a 2000 to be rung at Greenwich. Peter has also been asked to recruit the band from around the District. The time of the ringing, presently arranged for 2pm, may be changed to 3pm if the authorities at Greenwich are amenable.

There is an Open Day planned for 8th January 2000 at Bromley Parish Church to encourage new recruits to the exercise. Hopefully the church's position will catch the crowds as they flock to the January Sales. It was noted that it may be necessary to move the January meeting from its traditional position on the second Saturday. This would be discussed further at the ADM.

Votes of Thanks

Votes of thanks were proposed by Miss Melanie Wilkins to Canon Giles Harcourt, the Vicar of Greenwich, for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr Philip Simmons for playing the organ, and to Miss Freda Cannon and the local ringers for providing an excellent tea.

The Annual District Meeting is set for Saturday 9th October at Bickley.



September's District Practice - apologies to those who were planning to and those who did attend the last district practice. Unfortunately a mix up on the booking front and also a major memory lapse by the Master and his Deputy meant we cancelled at the last minute.

Resounding Control at Beckenham - the sound control is now finished at Beckenham. This means that we can now ring to our hearts content with the doors shut and we are endeavouring to do so - when the organisational spirit is willing. Thanks must go to James Hardy for all the hours of hard work and to all the band for lugging the timber and scaffolding up (and down) the tower.

Carol Service - the date I have in my diary is 11th December at Eltham - more details from Len Morley

Major Practice at Eynsford - having returned from an enjoyable evening's ringing at Eynsford, I thought I'd remind everyone of the Major practice at Eynsford on the first Friday in the month.

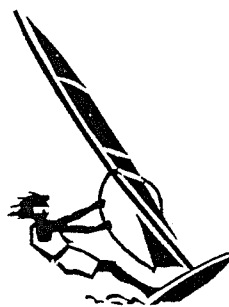
Millennium Committee - there is a proposal that the millennium committee be changed to form a body that acts as liaison between groups of towers and the district officers. The proposal is at an early stage - perhaps towers would like to consider this further and make some suggestions of their own

For the current committee members next meetings are 9th October (after district meeting) 7th November and 5th December (chez Ruth & Nigel Pointer). Minutes to follow in due course.

Articles for Next issue - proposed publishing date is the 11th December to coincide with the carol service.

The closing date for articles is 30th November at the very very latest.

send all articles to
 Jeremy Byers
 2 Carlton Court
 23 Beckenham Road
 Beckenham
 Kent
 BR3 4PP
 ☎ 0181-289-5675
 ✉ jeremy.byers@virgin.net



Competition Time

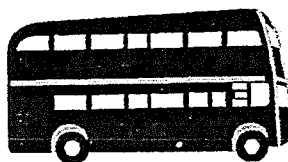
November's ringing event is the district call change competition. The competition is designed to encourage bands to enter teams of ringers who are not necessarily accomplished method ringers (a maximum of three peal ringers per band). With this in mind why not give it a go

If you can't raise a band from your own tower - why not put together a joint band with another local tower.

Don't sit back -
 get a band together now!!!
 Saturday 13th November - Bexley

Entry forms will be coming out soon, but if you are desperate to enter contact Mary Andrews for details.

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