

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWS

Issue 4

October 1988



ST. ALPHGE
GREENWICH

Hello, and welcome to issue four. I hope you all like our cover design this issue. It was drawn by the District Master - Andrew Young, if anyone else would like to try their hand at designing a cover please let me have your ideas.

I would also like to know whether you think we should have a proper title for the newsletter - or are you happy with the present one? Please send me any suggestions and the best one will be used.

I've had several requests to print the telephone phone number list again so here it is.

Chairman.....	Alan Hall.....	01-850-4642.....	Bexley
Master.....	Andrew Young.....	0322-529964.....	Erith
Deputy Master.....	Anne Martin.....	0689-30661.....	Chelsfield
Secretary.....	Mary Andrews.....	0322-523071.....	Bexley
Librarian.....	Margaret Bellinger.....	0322-54804.....	Bexley
Committee.....	Nigel Parsons.....	03224-63375.....	Greenwich
Committee.....	Paul Winter.....	05806-5115.....	Tenterden
Newsletter Editor.....	Allison Boyes.....	01-318-6063.....	Beckenham

I hope you all find these numbers useful.

As you can see from the list above Paul and Valerie Winter have moved out of the district. I'm sure everyone wishes them well, and also congratulates them on the birth of a son Thomas Alexander on July 7th.

Congratulations are also due to Julie and Martin Mason on the birth of a son Stephen on September 9th.

Vanessa Watts from Fooks Cray has also left the area, and is living near Tenby in Wales. If anyone would like to write to her I have her address.

This also seems the appropriate place to welcome the new members elected at the district meeting at Ash on July 23rd - They are

Ann Barram.....	Chelsfield
Catherine Fole.....	Chelsfield
Ruth Hardy.....	Beckenham
Samantha Lee.....	Beckenham
Michael Murray.....	St Nicholas Chiselhurst
Mark Jones.....	St Nicholas Chiselhurst
Audrey Marshall.....	St Mary Cray
Phillip Irwin.....	Lewisham
Jacki Holt.....	Bexley
Rupert Cheeseman.....	Crayford
Robert Poole.....	Crayford
Richard Pearce.....	Crayford

I hope you all make the full use of the practices and meetings that the Association organises.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter. It can only ever be as good as the work that goes into it so please keep articles, space fillers, and news items coming in.

QUARTER PEALS FOR THE BISHOP'S RETIREMENT.

As mentioned in the last issue quarter peals were attempted in every tower in the district. Mary Andrews has since received a copy of a letter from the Bishop of Rochester which was sent to Phillip Corby.

"My Dear Phil,

I have today received the current edition of the Ringing World and am quite overwhelmed by the front page article and the fascinating report of the peals rung to mark my retirement. I had no idea that 63 quarter peals had been rung as well as the peals at Edenbridge and the Cathedral.

Thank you for your very kind and generous remarks and for all that you have done for me over the years. Will you please be sure and convey my most grateful thanks to the Kent County Association and give my greetings and thanks to as many ringers as possible, especially those who rang the quarter peals - not forgetting those who tried and failed, including Bromley Parish Church!

Yours ever,

David "

Mary has also asked me to print a copy of a letter which she has sent to the County Treasurer - Nicholas Chesson.

"Dear Nicholas,

Would you please let Margaret Bellinger, our Press Rep., have a cheque for £8.50 made payable to Launa Mills. Launa ordered a sweat shirt last April and despite best efforts on Margaret's part has not yet received it. Understandably Launa is not prepared to wait any longer.

Margaret is very embarrassed about this matter - she does an excellent job on the sales side for us and makes every effort to obtain books etc. as soon as is possible after they are ordered. I hope something can be done to resolve this situation. In the meantime members of this District will be asked to contact Phil Young direct with their orders.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Andrews. "

I am sure everyone agrees that Margaret does a great job selling books for us. If anyone would like a sweat shirt or tee shirt Phil Young's telephone number is - 0304 - 612913.

It has been brought to my attention that the ringers at Foots Cray will be looking after the bottle stall at their Christmas Bonanza on Saturday 19th November. The tower captain assures me that the bottles will not contain alcohol.

THE 1988 CENTRAL COUNCIL RINGING COURSE AT PERSHORE

The Kent County Association was well represented at the ringing school in Pershore this year, with 22 members present as either students or helpers, 16 of them from the Lewisham district.

The following ringers from the district were present:-

STUDENTS	HELPERS
Allison Boyes	Freda Cannon
Sara Hall	Veronica Grover
Ruth Hardy	Margaret Macey
Philippa Rooke	Anne Martin
Vanessa Watts	Tony Baker
James Hardy	Alex Britton
Andrew Hills	
Mark Liebenrood	
David Macey	
David Miller	

Mark, Vanessa and Andrew were all sponsored by the Lewisham district.

After arriving at Pershore we rang at the Parish Centre which was formerly St Andrew's church. Everyone found this light eight easy to ring and not too taxing.

When everyone had booked in, we all assembled in the main hall for the welcoming address by the President of the Central Council the Rev. Canon Dr. John Baldwin, who warned us that if we did not feel mentally and physically exhausted by the end of the weekend - then we had not worked hard enough.

Lunch time provided us with the chance to chat to old friends and to meet new ones. Then, the relaxing over, it was time to get down to work and the busy routine of lectures and practical sessions began. When we all met again at tea time everyone's minds were well and truly bogged.

On Friday evening two towers were open for general ringing, Croome D'abitot and Pershore Abbey with its famous (or is it infamous) cage). The access is not too daunting until you arrive at the open work metal spiral staircase which finally gets you onto the catwalk and into the cage. Having got this far your editor very nearly chickened out, but once in the cage it was not that bad. Looking up from below however was quite nerve-wracking.

After all this ringing the natural place to adjourn to was the bar, and one member of the district was seen to actually buy a pint (Photographic evidence is available).

On Saturday everyone woke bright and early - well, almost everyone - ready to start the round of lectures and practicals all over again. During the day Nigel Goodship from Surrey was touring the towers making a video of us all ringing. This proved to be the evening's entertainment including slow motion play back. Nigel also had videos of a bell slipping wheel, a stay breaking and a rope breaking - all of these are quite horrifying, especially in slow motion.

The members of the twelve bell course were invited to ring at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday morning, and four members of the district enjoyed ringing this glorious sounding 12, even though they are quite difficult to ring.

After the course had finished on Sunday afternoon, five members of the district took part in a quarter peal at Pershore Abbey for evensong.

All the members of the district who attended the course enjoyed themselves and learnt a great deal, and several of them have already written the date in next year's diary.

Whilst on the subject of ringing courses, the Hereford course held at Easter every year will be split into two parts next year - one at Hereford and one at Winchester.

If any of you have the chance to go on any of these courses I am sure you will enjoy yourselves and learn a lot.

NOTES ON COMPETITION RINGING

The District Chairman, Alan Hall has kindly written this article to help and encourage ringers to enter the striking competitions the district holds.

Although perfect striking by a band of ringers can at the same time be both elusive and difficult to maintain constantly over a period of time, it should nevertheless be the ultimate aim of every ringer to strive towards continuous excellence in striking, whether ringing rounds, call changes or methods.

Competition ringing is intended to provide ringers with an incentive to achieve this aim by requiring them to improve their performance in order to be competitive with others. Everyone taking part in a ringing competition should therefore benefit from the experience and hopefully become better ringers.

Good striking does not just happen, it has to be worked for whatever the abilities of the band, and although ringing is a team effort the end result is very much down to each member of the band's own contribution. It requires each ringer to listen carefully to his or her bell at all times, and to concentrate on each and every blow made, including correct and even leading. It also requires each ringer and the band as a whole to ensure even spacing of the bells, and that the speed of ringing is suitable for weight and "go" of the bells being rung.

It is obviously much easier to say these things than to achieve them, so why not make an early decision to enter one or both of the District Six Bell competitions, so as to give plenty of time for practice.

The two District competitions are the Call-Change Striking Competition and the Six-Bell Competition which is method ringing. They are designed to cover a range of abilities which should enable most bands to take part in at least one of them. There are simple rules for each competition and it is advisable to study these carefully before choosing your band.

Remember the judges are there to record your faults and offer constructive criticism, and that listening and concentration are the keys to faultless ringing.

Good Luck in all your endeavours.

I hope you all find these tips useful.

AROUND THE TOWERS

I hope to make this a regular feature in the newsletter, so if you have any news you think might interest anyone else in the district, please send me the details for the next issue.

ST MARY CRAY.

July the 31st was a special day for the bells at St Mary Cray, on this date 75 years ago in 1913 the ring of six bells was rededicated.

The six bells were recast by Gillett and Johnston from the five that hung in the tower since the mid - 17th Century. They are a fine example of the casting and tuning of the Croydon foundry. As well as the date and the name of the founders, five of the bells preserve the inscriptions of the original founders, Robert Mot - the first Whitechapel founder, and John Hodson - whose foundry was in St Mary Cray, possibly on the site of the old vicarage.

The inscriptions are listed below:-

BELL	NOTE	INSCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Treble	E	"Come when I call. To serve God all. L Ball Vicar"	3-3-6
2nd	D	"Robert Mot made me 1583"	4-1-14
3rd	C	"Robert Mot made me 1583"	5-3-17
4th	E	"John Hodson made me 1655 E.M. E.S.P. Churchwardens"	7-0-24
5th	A	"John Hodson made me 1655 E.M. E.S.P. Churchwardens"	8-2-19
Tenor	G	"John Hodson made me 1655 Edward Manning, Edward Speling Churchwardens W.L."	11-3-21

Gillett and Johnston also made the Church clock, dated 1885 and although they are no longer in the bell founding business they still make clocks.

DOWNNE.

The weather could not have been better, when Downne opened their tower one Sunday afternoon at the beginning of August. The ringers of Downne and Cudham were busy in the village hall, serving teas to thirsty customers who come regularly to Downne during the summer months, and quite a number were lured over to the church by the sound of the bells (without muffles for a change). There they were given demonstrations, or just watched general ringing, by ringers from other towers in the district.

The local ringers are most grateful for the help given by those ringers, which they themselves could not do being otherwise occupied. Needless to say the visiting ringers all enjoyed themselves, and we gather consumed a considerable quantity of tea and cakes.

The general opinion was that this experiment was a success and may well be repeated next year.

The open day at Downe raised £60-00 which was divided equally between Downe, Cudham and Sidcup, and the £20-00 given to Sidcup has been divided equally between the tower and the Association Bell Restoration Fund.

DEPTFORD.

St John's church is now back in union with the Association - Sunday evening ringing is by arrangement only - telephone Sonia Cartwright on 01-690-4559.

BEXLEY.

On Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th of September, a Festival of Flowers and Bells was held at St Mary's church Bexley to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ring of eight bells, which the tower houses.

Visitors came both to help with and to see the demonstrations of ringing, and to see the impressive display of flowers in the church. The Old Bexley Society of Flower Arrangers had created floral displays to represent special occasions in the Church Year.

The visitors were able to see demonstrations of tower bell ringing, and to actually see a bell whilst it was ringing both in the tower and also with the aid of Walter Dobbie's Jubi-Peal, six handbells hung for full circle ringing. Many people tried their hand at ringing on the Jubi-Peal and most agreed it is more difficult than it looks.

In the church hall along with the Jubi-Peal were several stalls selling articles as varied as books and records on change ringing, engraved glass, dried flowers and beautiful wooden carvings. The ringers manning the Jubi-Peal also managed to keep the ladies serving refreshments busy.

In the churchyard Walter and Sheila Dobbie were busy casting and engraving miniature handbells from aluminium. These proved very popular with ringers and non-ringers alike.

On Saturday evening there was a change of atmosphere as everyone relaxed and enjoyed the cheese and wine party arranged once again by the Bexley ringers and friends. We were treated to an impressive display of tune ringing on handbells by the Sevenoaks Handbell Ringers. The competition to name as many towers in the area as possible from the photographs and cryptic clues provided was won jointly by three members of the Eckenham band, and the trophy is now residing in the ringing room at Beckenham.

Sunday saw more of the same with ringers coming and going as their own church services demanded. The highlight of the day for many of us was the Communion service held in the evening, before which a quarter peal of Stedman Triples was scored. During the service a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells.

A great deal of work, time, and effort was put into the weekend by the members of St Mary's Bexley and we would like to thank them for making it such an enjoyable weekend for everyone.

The above report was provided by two of the younger members of the district. I would like to add that a quarter peal was rung on the Jubi-Peal on Saturday afternoon, and Christine Hosking from Foots Cray scored her first quarter peal ringing a tenor which weighs only 7lbs. Walter Dobbie later told us that this is the first time anyone has rung their first quarter on the bells.

Mary Andrews and Margaret Bellinger have asked me to thank everyone who supported the flower festival at Bexley - particularly those who helped with the ringing arrangements.

CHISLEHURST - ST NICHOLAS.

Due to maintenance work on the bells please check before visiting to avoid a wasted journey - telephone Angela Brooks on 0689-34189.

DARTFORD.

An inspection of the bells was carried out by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and the P.C.C. are studying the options.

CRAYFORD.

Congratulations to Alison Rayner (a local ringer) and Trevor Warner on their marriage at St Paulinus Crayford on Saturday 17th September. Unfortunately the quarter peal attempted at Crayford the following Tuesday was unsuccessful.

PRACTICE NIGHT WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

On Wednesday 21st September the District Master and a band of helpers visited St Mary Cray to help the local band ring Plain Bob Minor. Four of the local band were bullied, cajoled, and coaxed through plain courses and touches. Everyone progressed well, and with the two helpers from the local band a plain course of a very good standard was rung by all locals at the end of the night.

This is proof that a workshop can be of use. If you would like to try something similar why not contact Andrew after the next district meeting, or arrange your own workshop.

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS

I have to apologise for missing out a very important achievement last issue. The district were invited to ring a quarter peal for service at Canterbury Cathedral on Sunday 22nd May. A quarter peal of Little Bob Maximus was scored and several people achieved firsts.

FIRST ON 12.

Philippa Rooke
Alex Britton

FIRST LITTLE BOB MAXIMUS.

Sonia Cartwright
Mary Andrews
Ann Saunders
Alan Hall

FIRST QUARTER PEAL.

Christine Hosking	cover to Plain Eob Doubles	10-9-88 Jubi-Peal.
Samantha Lee	cover to Plain Eob Doubles	31-8-88 Cuxton.

FIRST AS CONDUCTOR.

Ruth Hardy	Grandsire Doubles	25-9-88 Beckenham.
Margaret Macey	Plain Eob Doubles	31-9-88 Cuxton.
James Hardy	Plain Eob Doubles	13-8-88 Canterbury.

FIRST MINOR.

Sally Brazier	Plain Eob Minor	21-8-88 Beckenham.
Janet Costidell	Plain Eob Minor	28-8-88 Beckenham.
Ruth Hardy	Plain Eob Minor	13-8-88 Littlebourne.

FIRST ON 3.

Sally Brazier	Plain Eob Triples	18-9-88 Beckenham.
Samantha Lee	Plain Eob Triples	18-9-88 Beckenham.

FIRST MAJOR INSIDE.

Veronica Grover	Plain Eob Major	26-7-88 Erith (C.C.).
Ruth Hardy	Plain Eob Major	26-7-88 Erith (C.C.).
Margaret Macey	Plain Eob Major	26-7-88 Erith (C.C.).

FIRST ON 10.

Janet Costidell	Grandsire Caters	04-8-88 Beckenham.
Ruth Hardy	Grandsire Caters	14-8-88 St Clement Danes.

FIRST ON 10 INSIDE.

James Hardy	Grandsire Caters	14-8-88 St Clement Danes.
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FIRST IN METHOD.

Allison Eoyes	St Clement's Minor	06-8-88 Aldington.
	St Martin's Doubles	31-8-88 Newington.
Ruth Hardy	Grandsire Doubles	13-8-88 Wickhambreaux.
	Southrepps Doubles	13-8-88 Preston.
	Kennington Eob Doubles	11-9-88 Beckenham.
	Reverse Canterbury Doubles	29-9-88 Beckenham.
Mary Hill	Lincolnshire S. Major	23-8-88 Erith (C.C.).
Margaret Macey	St Martin's Doubles	31-8-88 Newington.
Sara Phelps	Southrepps Doubles	13-8-88 Preston.
	Kennington Eob Doubles	11-9-88 Beckenham.
Philippa Rooke	Lincolnshire S. Major	23-8-88 Erith (C.C.).
Tony Baker	Kennington Eob Doubles	11-9-88 Beckenham.
Cyril Brett-Smith	Lincolnshire S. Major	23-8-88 Erith (C.C.).
Alex Britton	Grandsire Caters	04-8-88 Beckenham.
James Hardy	Southrepps Doubles	13-8-88 Preston.
	Kennington Eob Doubles	11-9-88 Beckenham.
	Reverse Canterbury Doubles	29-9-88 Beckenham.
Mark Liebenrood	St Clement's Minor	06-8-88 Aldington.
	Southrepps Doubles	13-8-88 Preston.
	St Martin's Doubles	31-8-88 Newington.

Sonia Cartwright Cambridge S.Royal 30-9-88 Greenwich

FIRST SURPRISE ROYAL.

Philippa Rooke Cambridge S.Royal 30-9-88 Greenwich

FIRST IN METHOD AS CONDUCTOR.

Allison Boyes	Grandsire Doubles	31-8-88	Halling.
Tony Baker	Kennington Bob Doubles	11-9-88	Beckenham.
James Hardy	Plain Bob Minor	13-8-88	Littlebourne.
Mark Liebenrood	St Clement's Minor	06-8-88	Aldington.
	Grandsire Doubles	13-8-88	Wickhambreaux.
	St Martin's Doubles	31-8-88	Newington.
	Grandsire Caters	04-9-88	Beckenham.
	Plain Bob Triples	18-9-88	Beckenham.

Well done everyone - if anyone in your tower rings a first please let me know and I will publish it in the next issue.

I have received the following news from Freda Cannon.

I was fortunate enough to be able to join the 'A' Bicentennial Tour of Australia and New Zealand earlier this year. We travelled across the south of Australia from Perth to Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, before crossing to New Zealand and visiting Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland where the tour ended.

Besides ringing and seeing bells waiting to be hung we were shown the site for the University of Western Australia's bell tower. We had a wonderful welcome from the ringers, some taking time off work to show us round. Drinks, cakes and biscuits were provided at the churches where we rang, with meals in ringers homes, pubs and restaurants.

In Melbourne I met Gwen and Peter Rose formerly of Foots Cray. They send greetings to old friends and had a chance to catch up on all the District news. They hope to come over for a visit in a few years time.

Memories are of handbell ringers at Perth airport at 3am, the party at David Bleby's home for about 60 ringers, The wine tasting in the Barossa Valley and the animals in the Wildlife Park, the Gold Mine and Gold Town. Melbourne celebrating with the Dean in sideboards and top hat, Canberra's Embassies and Campanile, Sydney, the A.N.Z.A.B. meeting, the rain and the flight to Brisbane Cathedral tower and the Expo Fireworks.

New Zealand was memorable for the town of Dunedin, the wooden churches of Papanui and old St Pauls Wellington, the sulphur smell at Rotarua, the missed sightseeing trip and finally the tour of Auckland.

With another member of the party I spent four nights in Singapore on the way home and climbed the tower of St Georges Cathedral, in steaming heat, to see the bells.

I returned home after 6 weeks having made 18 flights, rung in 35 towers and made many new friends.

It certainly sounds as if Freda had a great time.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

As from October 4th 1988 Mark Liebenrood will be living at:

61 Beaconsfield Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 7LG

telephone 01-858-0094.

BECKENHAM.

If anyone visits Beckenham and finds the door locked, there is a bell push on the left hand side of the porch behind the drainpipe. Please wait until the ringing stops before ringing the bell.

Here are the important dates for your diaries.

Saturday 22nd October.....ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING AT BROMLEY PARISH.

Ringling 3pm.....Service 4-30pm.....Tea and meeting in Church Hall
Members are reminded that the Election of officers will be on the agenda at this meeting. With the exception of Paul Winter, who has moved out of the district, all the existing officers are willing to stand again.

Evening ringling until 8-30p.m.

Names for tea to Frank Gates on 01-650-9482 by Wednesday 19th October
Special methods ST CLEMENT'S TRIPLES and LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

The programme for next year will be discussed at this meeting. Please consider whether you wish to offer your tower for a meeting or practice and also give some thought to the fact that the association's Annual General Meeting is due to be held in this district in 1990.

Saturday 29th October.....KENT DINNER at LEEDS CASTLE.

Tickets £19-50 including wine and sherry, available from Anne Martin
31 Repton Rd. Orpington, Kent please send a sae and names of those attending.

Saturday 26th November.....DISTRICT PRACTICE at CUDHAM.

Plain Hunt on 9 & 10 workshop.....6-30pm to 7-30pm.

General Ringling.....7-30pm to 8-30pm - Look up Little
Bob Royal.

Saturday 3rd December.....TOWER CAPTAIN TRAINING COURSE at LEEDS.

2-30pm It is hoped that the course will be divided into practical sessions and discussion groups. With the emphasis on teaching learners and the organisation and running of a practice. Numbers are limited to 20 with a maximum of four from any one district. For further details contact - Malcolm Lodwick on 0227-794235 (home) or 0304-363933 (work).

Saturday 10th December.....DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE at HAYES

Service at 5-30pm.

Items for the next newsletter to me by Christmas Eve

Editor: Allison Boyes 7 Bennett Park, Blackheath, LONDON, SE3 9RA

Telephone 01-318-6063
