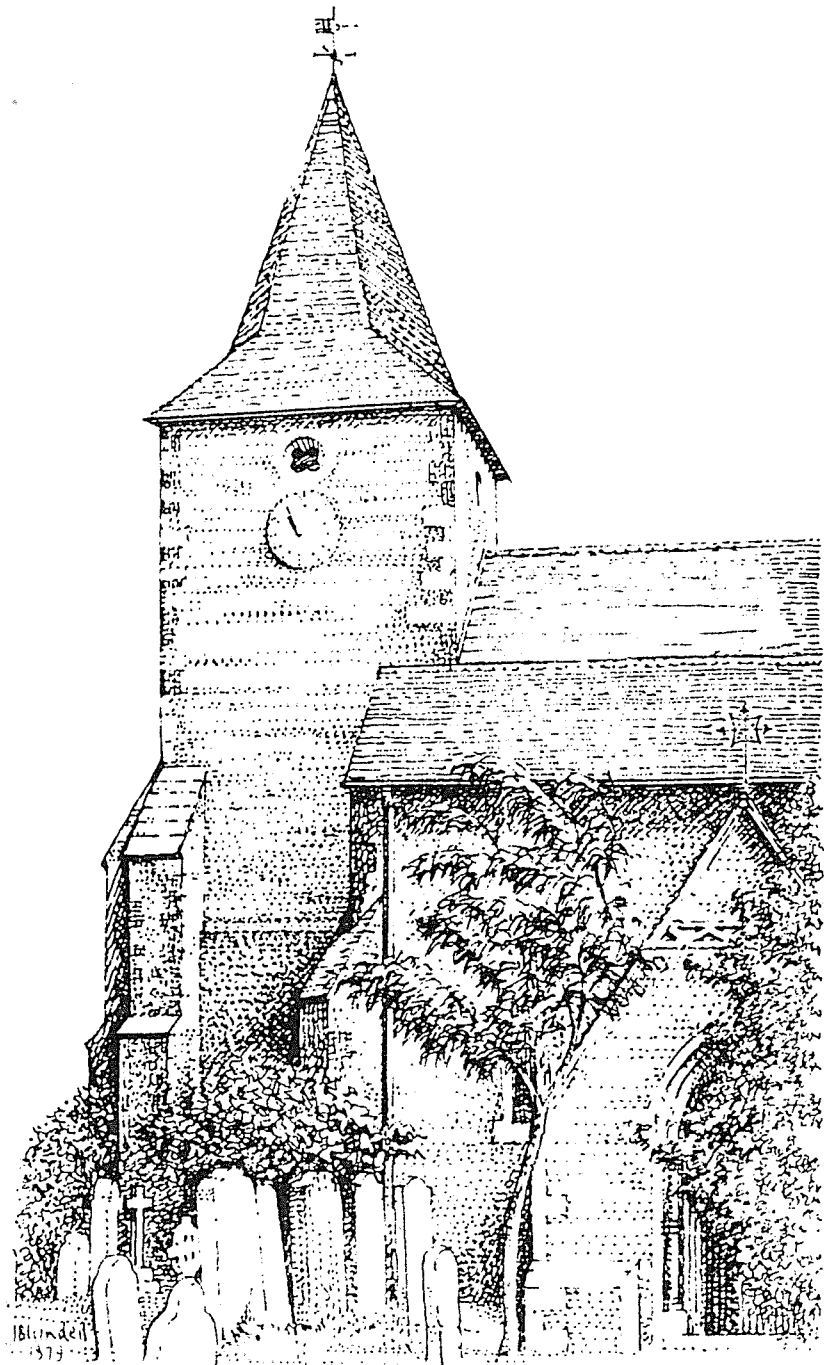


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+ The Kent County Association of Change Ringers +
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+ Lewisham District News +
+ Issue 8 October 1989 +
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MASTER'S REPORT - 1989

Ringling in the District during this year has had its ups and downs, with many of the events only supported by the same few people. Having said that, it has been very encouraging to see that those who have put in the effort to come along, have made rapid progress. Quarterly meetings were held at Deptford, Foots Cray and Woolwich, and the Carol Service took place at Hayes. Monthly practices were held at Cudham, Chislehurst (St. Nicholas), Farningham, Greenwich, Hayes and Sidcup. The 6-bell method striking competition was held at Ash and the call-change competition was at St. Mary Cray. A 12-bell practice was held at East Grinstead.

After the total lack of support for monthly District workshops in 1988, the monthly practices returned to their old format, with two hours of general ringing aimed at whoever was there. The inclusion of one or two special methods at each practice gave people something to learn, and generally worked well. It is my impression that those who have continued the impetus set up by the workshops on simple methods are now making inroads into more advanced methods. It seems that there is now a need for some form of advanced practice.

The method competition produced one of the largest entries in recent years, with a band representing Lewisham being placed first, and they go forward to the County final at Brasted. All the bands who entered are to be congratulated on the standard of the ringing they achieved.

This year's 8-bell competition was not as successful as in the past, with the Lewisham District band being placed third (half a fault behind Maidstone!!). Whilst it was obviously a disappointment not to win for the fourth consecutive year, the band produced a good test piece which was very enjoyable to ring in.

A twelve-bell practice was held at East Grinstead in August. Those who made the journey down to Sussex had an worthwhile practice, and there were some notable 'firsts' on twelve bells.

At the request of a number of people, I gave a talk on "Bob-calling and conducting" at St. Mary Cray church hall. This was well attended and, I think, proved useful. I have arranged two follow-up talks to take place before the A.G.M..

This year we have seen the departure from the area of two of the most experienced and hard working ringers in the District (Anne Martin and Tony Baker). There can be very few ringers in the District who have not benefitted personally from their dedicated work in improving ringing at the local band level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them for the help and support they have given me in all District activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ringers and clergy of the towers we have visited during the year for their hospitality, the ringers from various towers who have helped me to organise the ringing. Thanks also to all those who have supported these events, and made it all worthwhile!

Conspicuous by their absence from this report are comments about the County 6-bell competition final, and the District call-change competition. This is not an oversight, it is simply that at the time of submitting this report to the editor, neither competition had taken place!

This is probably as good a place as any to say that I am keen to stand for re-election as Ringing Master for the coming year, but that I will not be standing in 1990/91. If re-elected this year, there are several changes which I feel would be advantageous to ringing in the District. I would, however, like to know the views of the ringers to whom these changes are directed. So, if you could give it some thought now, these points can be discussed at the A.G.M..

[1] District Practices - The support for the monthly practices seems to be dwindling to such an extent that I wonder if they are worth continuing in their present form.

[2] Advanced Method Practices - It seems to me that there are an increasing number of people who would benefit from an advanced/surprise practice (6 and/or 8 bell).

[3] Twelve bell practice - See below.

[4] Quarter-peal week - Although this year, when it came to the crunch, nobody showed much interest in a repeat of the 1988 success, several people have since approached me and said they thought we should do it again.

[5] Conducting Course - As long as people want to learn about conducting, I shall happily organise more talks. Are there any other topics people want covered?

[6] Ringing workshops - There doesn't appear to be a great deal of interest in workshops on basic method ringing (e.g. Plain Bob Doubles). Is this a correct assessment?

Finally Diana and I would like to thank everyone in the District for their best wishes on the birth of Nicholas. We hope you will all have the opportunity of meeting him in the not to distant future.

DISTRICT 12-BELL PRACTICE AT EAST GRINSTEAD

The second Lewisham District 12-bell practice was held at St. Swithun's, East Grinstead, on Saturday 12th August. Although the turnout was disappointing (around 20 people), no doubt this was due in part to summer holidays. The ringing included some rounds, plain hunting on 11 and 12, bob-courses of Grandsire Cinques, plain courses of Little Bob Maximus and an abortive attempt at Stedman Cinques. There was a steady improvement in the ringing during the evening, and it was good to see two members getting to grips with plain hunting on 12 for the first time.

I have asked for the bells at East Grinstead for another 12-bell practice in spring, but have not yet had confirmation of a date. At the last 12-bell practice, I was rather embarrassed to find that some people begrudged a voluntary donation of 25 pence towards the funds of our host tower. In order to leave a reasonable donation for the tower next time, I shall be asking all who attend to pay a steepage fee of 25 pence (except juniors). I do not think this is an unreasonable amount to ask for, but it is a sad reflection on some of our ringers that we cannot rely on them to leave a voluntary donation!

There have been several reasons for special quarter peals and peals to be rung by members of the district lately, and below are six I feel merit inclusion in the newsletter.

Christ Church, ERITH
1st August 1989
1298 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 - Cyril Brett-Smith
2 - Rachel Backhouse
3 - Mary Hill
4 - Mark Backhouse
5 - John Hill
6 - Andrew Young (C)
Rung for the birth of Nicholas Young

Christ Church, ERITH
29th August 1989
1320 Kent T.B. Minor
1 - Kathy Patten
2 - Cyril Brett-Smith
3 - Mary Hill
4 - Diana Young
5 - Alf Patten
6 - Andrew Young (C)
Rung for the birth of Sarah Patten

Christ Church, ERITH
5th September 1989
1296 Erith Little Bob Major
1 - Samantha Lee
2 - Ruth Hardy
3 - Mary Hill
4 - Diana Young
5 - Sara Phelps
6 - Mark Backhouse
7 - James Hardy
8 - Andrew Young (C)
Rung as a farewell compliment to Tony Baker

Penkrige, STAFFS
13th September 1989
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 - Janet Costidell
2 - Allison Boyes
3 - Sonia Cartwright
4 - Phillip Irwin
5 - James Normington
6 - Mark Liebenrood
7 - Alex Britton (C)
8 - Jon Fox
Compliment to Sonia Cartwright and Phillip Irwin on their engagement

DISTRICT CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

This year's district call change competition was held at St. Mary Cray where twelve teams competed for the Arthur Richards Trophy. There were no major mishaps and all bands produced a competent test piece, which gave the judges, Rian Bagshaw and Frank Matthews from Meopham, a tough job to separate the teams! Before announcing the results Rian made a few comments about the ringing. He first congratulated all the bands on the generally high standard of ringing and commented that nobody should take offence if their bell was specifically picked out for criticism! In particular, he said that trebles and tenors often come in for comment primarily because any inconsistencies by them stand out very clearly. He commented that the leading had tended to be uneven, but that the tenor ringers had been generally good in setting a steady pace.

After one false start, Frank then announced the results which showed just how close it was, with only $10\frac{1}{2}$ faults separating the 2nd and 10th teams!

1	Eynsford and Farningham	(1)	$16\frac{1}{2}$ faults
2	St. Mary Cray.	(7)	$18\frac{1}{2}$ faults
3	Foots Cray	(12)	19 faults
4	Crayford	(11)	$20\frac{1}{2}$ faults
5	{Bromley Parish	(9)	$21\frac{1}{2}$ faults
	{West Wickham	(10)	$21\frac{1}{2}$ faults
7	Beckenham	(4)	25 faults
8	Hayes	(3)	$25\frac{1}{2}$ faults
9	Eltham	(2)	$28\frac{1}{2}$ faults
10	Chelsfield	(8)	29 faults
11	Cudham	(6)	$32\frac{1}{2}$ faults
12	Bromley Common	(5)	$48\frac{1}{2}$ faults

On behalf of the district, I would like to thank Rian and Frank for their mammoth effort in judging this competition, and for their well considered remarks. I would also like to express our gratitude to the vicar and ringers at St. Mary Cray for allowing us to use their bells and their church for the afternoon. Congratulations to all the bands who entered on the very high standard of ringing and, in particular, to Eynsford and Farningham. I hope those down at the bottom end of the list will not be discouraged...it was very close and there's always next year! After all, do you know where the teams from St. Mary Cray and from Foots Cray finished last year.

FOR LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWS

The arrangements for the Annual District Meeting at Cudham and Downe on 28 October are as follows:

- 3.00 --4.15 Ringing at Cudham
- 4.30 Service at Downe, followed by tea in the Village Hall, and the business meeting.

Names for tea should be given to Mr. Donald King, Orpington (0689) 55951, by the previous Wednesday.

BEXLEY

Starting at 7.30 on Saturday, 2 December, the Friends of St. Mary's Bexley will be holding a Christmas Supper with entertainment by the West Peckham Handbell Ringers. All ringers and friends will be most welcome. Tickets, £3, available at A.D.M. from Mary Andrews and Margaret Bellinger.

BELL RESTORATION FUND

In recent years it has been the policy of the K.C.A. to transfer at least 50% of the money raised by subscriptions to the B.R.F. This action has resulted in a much stronger financial base from which grants can be made. Nevertheless it is still essential that other sources of income are found for this Fund, i.e. District events, (our Car Treasure Hunt produced £48) donations from towers and from individuals. In this respect this District does not show up well as will be seen by a comparison of figures in the current Handbook (page 9).

So far this year (end September) and in addition to the £48 mentioned above, I have received B.R.F. donations from 3 towers (Bexley, St. Mary Cray and West Wickham) and from one individual. Please give serious consideration to this matter. We all know that our churches have many calls on their resources and work on bells is often necessarily low in the list of priorities. If the Association is to make meaningful grants for bell restoration, it is essential that annual and realistic donations to the Fund should be the rule for the majority of towers.

30 September 1989

ST. NICHOLAS' CHISLEHURST BELLRINGERS

present

WARNHAM HANDBELL CONSORT

IN CONCERT

Items included range from Bach to Buddy Holly

CHISLEHURST CHURCH HALL
Saturday 2nd December at 8 pm

Tickets £2.50

Refreshments available

Contact : Angela Brookes - 0689 34189 for further details