

Newisham District  
Newsletter

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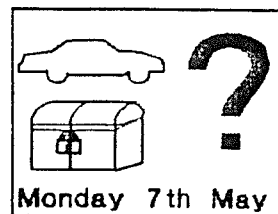
Issue 10

April 1990



DISTRICT DIARY

- Apr 16 COUNTY A.G.M. at BECKENHAM
- Apr 28 Quarterly Meeting at FOOT'S CRAY  
Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in Church Hall,  
followed by general ringing
- May 7 CAR TREASURE HUNT
- May 12 Surprise practice at CHELSFIELD (10:00 - 11:30 a.m.)  
Methods : Cambridge, Beverley, Norwich, Carlisle.
- Jun 9 Surprise Practice at BROMLEY PARISH (10:00 - 11:30 a.m.)  
Methods : Cambridge, Pudsey, 2 to 6-spliced, Bristol.
- Jun 23 District Practice at SHOREHAM.



Advanced Notice

- Jul 28 Quarterly Meeting at CHELSFIELD (6:00p.m.)  
NOT at Crayford as previously advertised.

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THIS AND THAT

Can you please note that the County subscription for juniors is 1.20, not 2.20 as stated in the County Handbook.

Any County subscriptions which have not yet been paid are now well overdue. Can you please pay them to Mary Andrews as soon as possible. Anyone awaiting a receipt for payments made to Mary, please be patient as she is still waiting for a new receipt book!

Margaret Bellinger (District Press Rep.) has moved house. Her new address is:

40, Iron Mill Lane  
Crayford  
DA1 4RR                      Tel: (0322) 58115

The July quarterly meeting is at Chelsfield, and not at Crayford as stated in the District programme. My apologies to everyone for this error, particularly to the ringers at Crayford!

For those who want to gain experience on 10-bell ringing, a District 10-bell practice is being held at Beckenham on the 4th Tuesday of each month 8.00-9.30.

I would like to express my thanks to Sonia and Alex and their helpers, who's hard work in organising the District Barn Dance was rewarded by a superb evening's entertainment which raised 140 for the BRF.

I felt that the 12-bell practice at East Grinstead in March was very successful. I would like to know what other people think. Do we want another one? Do we want to go to East Grinstead again (They have invited us back again after the summer)? If not, where do we want to go (bearing in mind that the possibilities locally are limited!)?

Please send items for the next news letter to Sammy by 1st July.

## PEAL AND QUARTER-PEAL ANALYSIS

The data for this analysis are collected from the peals and quarters rung at towers in the District and published in the Ringing World from 15th December to 26th March. Anything rung by members of the District at towers outside the District are not included in the analysis, mainly because I will not necessarily notice them in R.W.. However, I would be pleased to include peals and quarters rung outside the District, if I am sent the details of them at least 14 days before the next copy date.

Andrew Young

### QUARTER-PEALS

1989

[1]	22/10	BROMLEY PARISH	1260 MINOR (CAMBR. & PLAIN)
[2]	29/10	FOOTS CRAY	1300 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[3]	4/11	BROMLEY PARISH	1280 YORKSHIRE S. MAJOR
[4]	4/11	ST. MARY CRAY	1260 PLAIN BOB MINOR
[5]	5/11	BECKENHAM	1264 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
[6]	5/11	EYNSFORD	1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
[7]	5/11	FOOTS CRAY	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[8]	12/11	BEXLEY	1260 STEDMAN TRIPLES
[9]	12/11	ELTHAM	1260 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
[10]	12/11	FOOTS CRAY	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[11]	12/11	LEWISHAM	1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
[12]	14/11	FARNINGHAM	1260 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES
[13]	20/11	* EYNSFORD	1280 YORKSHIRE S. MAJOR
[14]	28/11	ERITH (CC)	1344 PLAIN BOB MAJOR
[15]	3/12	BEXLEY	1280 CAMBRIDGE S. MAJOR
[16]	3/12	CRAYFORD	1260 DOUBLES (4m/p)
[17]	3/12	ELTHAM	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[18]	3/12	GREENWICH	1296 PLAIN BOB CATERS
[19]	14/12	ST. MARY CRAY	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[20]	23/12	DARTFORD	1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
[21]	26/12	BROMLEY PARISH	1296 CAMBRIDGE S. MINOR
[22]	31/12	GREENWICH	1280 CAMBRIDGE S. MAJOR

1990

[23]	7/1	LEWISHAM	1280 BRISTOL S. MAJOR
[24]	14/1	BEXLEY	1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
[25]	14/1	HAYES	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[26]	16/1	FARNINGHAM	1320 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[27]	3/2	ERITH (CC)	1260 MINOR (St.Nicholas & Plain)
[28]	3/2	FOOTS CRAY	1260 DOUBLES (11m)
[29]	4/2	CHISLEHURST (St.N.)	1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES
[30]	4/2	CRAYFORD	1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES
[31]	4/2	DARTFORD	1250 CAMBRIDGE S. MAJOR
[32]	11/2	DEPTFORD	1312 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

\* Rung by a band from outside the District.

First quarter-peal congratulations to Ros Farmer [7], R.E. Poole [16], J. Ridout [25], D.H. Rivett [26] and T. Gambrill [29].

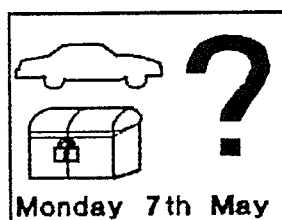
Derek Grainge [2] and M.A.S. Jones [29] rang their first quarter inside, as did Jackie Mack [24], who also trebled to her first of major [5]. Martin Luffham called his first quarter [26], whilst fellow Eynsford/Farningham ringers, Daphne and Jane Paterson rang firsts of Plain Bob Triples [20] and Grandsire Triples [6] inside and Jane also scored her first Plain Bob Minor inside [4]. Bob Paterson

rang his first on eight [6]. Gary Hill rang firsts of both Plain Bob Minor [4] and Grandsire Doubles [9] inside and these two quarters were also firsts as conductor in the respective methods for Launa Mills. S. Dawn rang his first of Plain Bob Triples [20], Helen Montague [32] and Alan Saunders [5] rang firsts of major inside, Janet Costidell [22], Richard Pearce [31] and Rupert Cheeseman [31] rang firsts of surprise major inside and J. Perrin rang his first of Yorkshire S. Major inside [3]. Alex Britton rang his most methods inside [28] and called his first of surprise major [31]. Mark Liebenrood was amongst the leading quarter-pealers for 1989 (63 Q; 24 as C). Diana Young became the first person to circle the tower at Christ Church, Erith, when she rang the 7th to Plain Bob Major [14]. Personal milestones were also reached by Alex Britton (100th Q [20]), Allison Boyes (50th on Greenwich bells [18]) and Andrew Young (500th tower bell Q [5]). The quarter of 2 Minor methods at Erith [27] was a Hill / Young family quarter to celebrate Nicholas' christening.

PEALS

*	19 Jan	BROMLEY PARISH	5184 LEATHERHEAD S. MAJOR
	26 Jan	EYNSFORD	5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
	27 Jan	CRAYFORD	5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Congratulations to Matthew Hilling, Martin Luffham (both inside at Eynsford), Rupert Cheeseman, Jane Paterson (both inside at Crayford) and Michael Gentry (cover at Crayford) on ringing their first peals. The peal at Crayford was also Richard Pearce's first of triples, and Ken Medhurst's first of Grandsire Triples.



## HOW NOT TO ARRANGE A PEAL by Richard A. Pearce

We had always intended to arrange a peal for our 18th birthdays, Rupert and I - his lay on the 9th of January, mine on the 4th of the same month - it seemed like the ideal opportunity - however, because of mock 'A'-levels, we had to postpone it to the 27th of the month. At the beginning of the year, Alex had offered to ask David Hilling to conduct it - fine, we thought, let's leave that bit to him. By the 16th, we had found five people to ring inside and someone to cover to Grandsire Triples. Also, Daphne Paterson had kindly offered to ring the treble if we couldn't find anyone else, which we couldn't. Unfortunately, Alex had problems with a peal attempt of London Royal on the 20th he was arranging, so he didn't get round to asking David Hilling until there was no more than a week to go. David couldn't make it.

Imagine the panic as I frantically phoned every peal conductor in the Lewisham District, and the depression that set in as each one told me 'I can't, but I know a man who can.' I was extremely grateful to David Kingston for being the only man who could.

At last I could breathe. But then - horror of horrors - it was on the night of the 24th that we found out Daphne was too ill to ring. My phone bill doubled for the second time in one week, and it was made worse by the storm that made each call require three diallings on average. Many thanks to Martin for standing in with such short notice, and to Andrew Young for offering to be a last resort on both occasions, but never quite getting roped in.

On the day, my nerves were a wreck. We had to get it. In fact, my nerves were the only thing that endangered the peal, as twice I tried to dodge while in the hunt. Barring such little problems the peal was of a very high standard, especially considering the inexperience of the band: four peals between six of the ringers.

The peal is also noteworthy for historical reasons; it was the first on the bells since work was carried out on the tower (1986 to 1987) and the first touch on the bells after the work was, in fact, also of Grandsire Triples, conducted by one A.J. Britton.

To finish, I would like to thank all the ringers and Mr. Bond, the tower captain at Crayford, for making this peal possible.

At St. Paulinus Church, Crayford, on Saturday 27th January

5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs 46 mins (Tenor 12 $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt.)

J.J. Parker's 12-Part

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Martin E. Luffman     | 5. Alexander J. Britton     |
| 2. Rupert J. Cheeseman * | 6. Richard A. Pearce ***    |
| 3. L. Jane Paterson *    | 7. David H. Kingston (Cond) |
| 4. Ken Medhurst **       | 8. Michael J. Gentry *      |

\* First Attempt, \*\* First inside in method, \*\*\* First Triples

Rung by a local band as an 18th birthday compliment to Richard Pearce and Rupert Cheeseman.

## SCHOOL QUARTER

On Friday 23rd March, the 414th anniversary of the foundation of Dartford Grammar School was marked by a service in commemoration of the school's Founders and Benefactors at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford. Three pupils and three old boys marked the occasion by ringing a quarter peal on the back six (tenor  $18\frac{1}{2}$  cwt) after the service. (The quarter was pretty much like the bells; a pleasure to listen to, but not very good for the health of the ringers on the back.) It is a pity that there are not more schools that can boast such an achievement.

1300 Plain Bob Doubles in 42 minutes (Tenor  $18\frac{1}{2}$  cwt)

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. A.N.Paterson (1st attempt) * | 4. R.J.Cheeseman (1st as C) * |
| 2. P.W.Hicks **                 | 5. R.A.Pearce *               |
| 3. S.J.Dann **                  | 6. A.J.Britton **             |

\* Pupils, \*\* Old Boys

Many thanks to the above ringers, and also to three other pupils (Ben Cordingley, William Gould and Tony Holmes), who joined them in the ringing before the service.

AROUND THE COUNTY - Practices and meetings in the other Districts

The information given below has been compiled from details sent to me by the respective Districts. I hope it is accurate, but it is worth phoning the relevant Secretary to check, before going to any of the meetings. Times are given where known.

ASHFORD DISTRICT (at 3 p.m. : D. Sec. John Criddle 0303 75318)

Apr 28	ROLVENDEN and PEASMARSH	Oct 20	A.D.M. TENTERDEN
Jun 16	GREAT CHART (3:45 start)	Nov 17	HOTHFIELD and LENHAM
Jul 14	RUCKINGE and WAREHORNE	Dec 15	KINGSNORTH
Aug 18	STONE and APPLIEDORE (picnic)		Carol S. at SHADOXHURST

Striking Competitions

May 19 LITTLE CHART (6-bell) : Sep 15 PLUCKLEY (Call Ch. : 4:30 p.m.)

CANTERBURY DISTRICT (D. Sec. Miss C. Andrews 0227 65773)

Jun 9	EASTRY and NORTHBOURNE.	Nov 10	DEAL and GREAT MONGEHAM
Jul 14	CHILHAM	Dec 8	Carol S. at CHARTHAM
Oct 13	A.D.M. CANTERBURY (St. Dunstan).		

Striking Competitions

May 12 CHISLET (6-bell) : Sep 8 WESTGATE-ON-SEA (Call Ch.)

MAIDSTONE DISTRICT (D. Sec. Tim Munt 0622 843071)

Apr 7	HARRIETSHAM	Sep 8	BOXLEY
May 12	BIRLING	Oct 13	A.D.M. MAIDSTONE (A.S.)
Jul 14	LINTON	Dec 8	Carol S. at WATERINGBURY

10-bell practices (Plain Caters and Royal) 7 - 9 p.m.

LEEDS - 28 Apr, 23 Jun, 22 Sep, 24 Nov  
 MAIDSTONE (A.S.) - 26 May, 28 Jul, 20 Oct, 29 Dec  
Surprise Major Practices - third Friday of the month (7:30-9:00)  
 Towers to be arranged

Striking Competitions

Jun 9 BEARSTED (6-bell) : Nov 10 ULCOMBE (Call Ch.)

ROCHESTER DISTRICT (D. Sec. Miss Sylvia Green (0474) 814908)

Jun 9	HARTLIP (3:00 p.m.)	Nov 17	MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND (6:30 p.m.)
Jul 14	CHATHAM (6:30 p.m.)	Dec 8	Carol S. HOO (3:00 p.m.)
Oct 20	A.D.M. ROCHESTER CATH.		

Surprise Practices (Tuesdays (except Jul & Sept - Monday) 7:30-9:00)

May 8 ROCHESTER CATH. (C,Y Royal; Gr,St Caters)  
 - Entry by north door which is locked at 7:45)

Jun 12	TUNSTALL (C,N,B, 8-spl)	Oct 9	RAINHAM (Y,P,L,8-Spl)
Jul 9	CUXTON (C, B, N & L Minor)	Nov 13	MEOPHAM (C,S,B,8-Spl)
Sep 10	UPCHURCH (C, S, I & W Minor)	Dec 11	MILTON G'END (Y,R,L,8-Spl)

Striking competitions

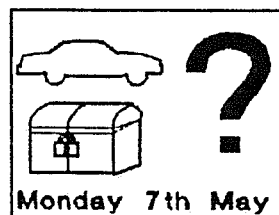
Apr 21 BOBBING (6-bell: 3:00 p.m.) : Sep 22 MINSTER (C.Ch: 3:00 p.m.)

TONBRIDGE DISTRICT

May 5	PENSHURST	Sep 1	HAWKHURST (7:30 p.m.)
Jun 2	LAMBERHURST	Oct 6	A.D.M. WESTERHAM/SUNDRIDGE
Jul 7	Meeting & S.cont. KILNDOWN	Nov 3	HADLOW
Aug 4	SUNDRIDGE	Dec 1	TUNBRIDGE WELLS

COUNTY EVENTS

Mon 16 Apr	A.G.M. BECKENHAM
Sat 30 Jun	8-bell striking competition - Venue unknown
Sat 29 Sep	6-bell s. comp. final - BRABOURNE
Sat 28 Oct	County Dinner, <u>Canterbury</u>





COUNTY A.G.M.

Margaret Bellinger is running a raffle at the County A.G.M. on Easter Monday, and would like donations of prizes. If you feel you can donate something (e.g. a bottle or some chocolates, biscuits, etc.), please contact Margaret, Mary Andrews or Andrew Young, as soon as possible.

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RINGING ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY A.G.M.

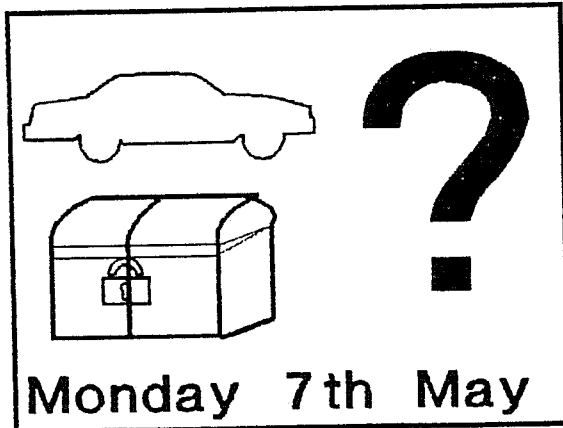
All towers open for one hour from time indicated.  
Any changes to the itinerary will be notified at the first towers, or at the meeting.

9:00	Erith (C.C.)	Bexley	Biggin Hill
9:30	Erith (SJ)	Greenwich	Downe
10:00	Woolwich	Deptford	Cudham
10:30	Eltham	Lewisham	Hayes West Wickham

12:00 SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE, BECKENHAM  
Followed by lunch and meeting.

After meeting		Beckenham	Penge
6:00	Bromley P.	Foots Cray	Sidcup
6:30	Bromley C.	Crayford	Chislehurst (Annun.)
7:00		Dartford	Farningham
7:30		Shoreham	Eynsford

\* \* \* \* \*



**CAR TREASURE HUNT**

This years car treasure hunt on Monday 7th May will start from ASH CHURCH CAR PARK at 2:00 p.m.. There will be ringing at a mystery tower somewhere in England until about 7:30 p.m.. Full details from Andrew and Diana Young. Final date for entries April 28th at quarterly meeting.

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## WILL I GET A BED FOR THE NIGHT?

This was the big question that was worrying a certain Suffolk ringer. Do you want to know why? Then read on!

On a gloriously sunny Saturday 10th March 1990, the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers held its annual method striking competition at the church of Ss. Peter & Paul Farningham (6,9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>cwt). It is not too long ago that we only used to get three or four teams entering the competition, and in one year it had to be cancelled due to only two teams entering. An astonishingly large entry of eleven teams meant that the usual test piece of a 240 of either Doubles or Minor unfortunately had to be cut down to a 120, thus not over-punishing the judges, and the ringers standing outside waiting for the competition to end, and of course not upsetting the local residents with an excessive amount of noise. Once the draw had taken place at 4pm, the real business of the afternoon got well underway, with generally a high standard of ringing. Cups of tea were served in the church by the Eynsford/Farningham ringers which were warmly welcomed by everybody once it started to get cold!

In the morning at our Surprise Major practice at St. Nicholas Chislehurst, some people had the opportunity of meeting the judges, Stephen Young and Ruth Bedford from Suffolk, Stephen being the brother of our District Ringing Master, Andrew Young. At Farningham Stephen revealed, just before he gave the results, that until just before the competition started, a band from Christ Church Erith were going to enter, this being Andrew Young's home team. He was therefore worried about where he would end up placing them, because if it was not high enough (i.e. at the top!), where would he and Ruth be staying for the night? They had been planning to stay at Andrew's house! All pressure was removed though, as at the last minute the Erith band were unable to enter, which also gave them one less team to judge!

In his summing up, Stephen said that he and Ruth were impressed by the large entry, and he congratulated all of the teams that had entered. Some had been very good and others not so good. Those which had not done so well he encouraged to carry on entering, for it is this sort of band that makes the competition worthwhile. They had not necessarily come out to win, but to enter and have a good time. There are, after all, eighteen or so other towers in the district that for different reasons could not enter a band. It is not so much where you come that matters, but taking part and entering into the spirit of the competition, and having the guts to perform in front of everybody.

Most bands had problems with the tenor, which is quick at hand and slow at back, also with setting a consistent speed, and

others had problems with settling the leading. Two bands which attempted to ring Minor unfortunately had more problems coping with the odd struckness of the bells. Stephen particularly praised one band who had terrible problems, almost 'firing out', but they remained undeterred and carried on courageously, sorted it out and it 'came round' in the appropriate place.

The results were given out in the traditional vein. Lewisham were placed first with 9 faults, and Bexley and Crayford won joint second place with  $10\frac{1}{2}$  faults. Other teams entering (in alphabetical order) were Bromley, Chelsfield, Eltham/Chislehurst, Eynsford 'D', Eynsford 'F', Foots Cray, Hayes, and West Wickham. David Hollis, Captain of the Lewisham team, collected the trophy for the second year running. Well done to Lewisham. Will they be beaten next year we wonder?

Everybody then dispersed, but for some the evening lasted a bit longer with anecdotes being exchanged over a jar or two in a local hostelry.

A.J.B.

#### K.C.A.C.R. LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Method Striking Competition, Saturday 10th March 1990.

Host Tower: Farningham

#### Results.

Judges: Stephen Young & Ruth Bedford.

Position	Tower	Faults
1	Lewisham	9
2=	Crayford	$10\frac{1}{2}$
2=	Bexley	$10\frac{1}{2}$
4	Eynsford "D"	$14\frac{1}{2}$
5	West Wickham	$17\frac{1}{2}$
6	Eltham/Chislehurst	$25\frac{1}{2}$
7	Eynsford "E"	$26\frac{1}{2}$
8	Bromley	27
9	Chelsfield	38
10	Hayes	$46\frac{1}{2}$
11	Foots Cray	93

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Erith on  
Saturday, 27 January 1990

Following afternoon ringing and a service at St. John's, Erith, the tea and business meeting were held in the hall at Christ Church, Erith.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss R. Farmer, Mr. D. Grainge, Mr. N. Grover, Mr. D. Macey of Fooks Cray, Miss A. Boyes of Greenwich, Mr. D. G. H. Hollis of Lewisham, Mr. S. Gill, Mr. G. D. A. Long, Mr. A. F. Hills and Mr. J. F. Hills of St. Mary Cray and Mr. R. D. Bing of Woolwich.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Quarter Peal - Canterbury Cathedral

The Ringing Master reported that a band from the District assisted by Mrs. Niblett of the Cathedral Company had rung a quarter of Little Bob Maximus at Canterbury on 26 November.

Barn Dance

Mr. A. J. Britton outlined the arrangements for the Barn Dance to be held on 3 February in the Church Hall at Christ Church, Erith.

4. REPORT ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LEEDS ON 25 NOVEMBER

Mr. A. J. Britton, who had circulated a report on the Committee Meeting, drew attention to a few items in his Report, among them the Report of the Training Committee - Mr. Britton suggested that the District should hold a Ringing School; the 10-bell practices; and the B.R.F. grant to Sandwich. The size of the grant had been influenced by the fact that it was going to a new ring of bells rather than the restoration of an existing one. The method for the 8-bell Striking Competition was to be Oxford Bob Triples. It had been decided to alternate triples and major annually for this event.

There was further discussion on the need for a 10-bell practice for those who were not sufficiently experienced to go to the surprise one at Maidstone. Beckenham was offered for a monthly (fourth Tuesday) practice and it was agreed to hold the first one on 27 February, from 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received:

- a. A letter from the Quex Park Society thanking the District for the donation of £35.
- b. Meeting programmes from the Ashford and Maidstone Districts.
- c. Details of the Central Council Ringing School to be held from 27 - 29 July at the Northamptonshire College of Agriculture at Moulton near Northampton.
- d. A request from Mr. F. W. Lewis, the Handbook Editor, for advertisements for the Handbook.

2.

#### 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The arrangements for the Annual General Meeting were outlined and members were reminded that help was needed to get the hall ready, to prepare and serve lunch and to look after the towers that would be open for visiting ringers. The Ringing Master had the ringing arrangements well in hand and volunteers to help with the lunch were asked to contact Miss Sara Phelps.

#### 7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. A. D. Saunders of Beckenham was elected on the proposition of Miss S. C. Phelps, seconded by Dr. A. M. J. Young.

The election of Mr. N. I. Kimber of Beddington, Surrey, prior to a peal at Eynsford on 30 December 1989 was ratified on the proposition of Mr. A. J. Britton, seconded by Mr. M. E. Luffman.

The Chairman reminded the members that elections were not valid until subscriptions had been paid.

#### 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

##### Cudham

Mr. P. G. Braund, who had been attending the induction of the new Incumbent at Cudham, where the tower had recently been struck by lightning, reported that an examination of the bells had been made that morning by a representative from the Foundry and they were safe for ringing.

##### Newsletter

Miss S. G. Lee, the Editor of the Newsletter, asked for help with distribution. The deadline for the next issue was 1 April.

##### 12-Bell Practice, and Treasure Hunt

The Ringing Master reminded members of the 12-bell practice to be held at East Grinstead on 3 March, and the Treasure Hunt, which would start at 2.00 p.m. from Ash Church Car Park on 7 May.

##### Votes of Thanks

Mrs. V. Grover proposed a vote of thanks to the Deacon at Erith, The Rev. I. Durndell for taking the service and to the Organist, Mr. J. Ducker. The Chairman thanked the Erith ringers for preparing and serving an excellent tea.

The being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting and members went to the tower for evening ringing.

## LIKE WOT IT WOS

Many times I have been asked by ringers in the 15-30 year age group what it was like in the Lewisham District when I was that age. I hope what follows will be of general interest, so let us take a walk down "Memory Lane" and see what we find. When I joined the County Association in 1921, the annual subscription was 2/- (10p in present currency). That amount was relative to the earnings of the bulk of the membership at the time. Having paid that in, each member was entitled, if attending the County Annual meeting, to free lunch plus a pint bottle of ale. Also, all members attending the District quarterly meeting in the Summer (July) were entitled to receive half travelling expenses up to a maximum of 2/-. One shudders at the thought of the result of the whole membership attending both meetings in the same year! The whole thing was based on the thinking that there was no need for the County to build up a large balance in the General Fund.

Tea was usually provided free at District Quarterly meetings and was quite often a "knife and fork" job. The July one was mostly held at Farmingham, Eynsford or Shoreham, and I have pleasant memories of "al fresco" occasions in the grounds of the Red Lion at Farmingham and in the Orchard behind the tea shop at Eynsford. There was no District Chairman as the local incumbent usually acted in that capacity. I think this was so up to about 1970. We had no Ringing Master. The District Secretary, who was then Thomas Groombridge, SEN, supervised the ringing at meetings and this obtained two representatives to the County Committee, and for many years these duties were discharged by William J Jeffries of St Johns Deptford and Isaac Emery of SS Peter & Paul Bromley. W J Jeffries was a powerfully built man with a personality to match, and he and Groombridge were great rivals for the limelight, so much so that they became antagonists a bitter situation developed between them, in a nasty incident in 1924, and a further incident about two years later which divided the District into two camps. I am glad to say it was resolved in later years and the two became firm friends in the latter part of their lives.

We had no Ringing Master until one was elected at about 1927 merely to take the responsibility for supervising the ringing at District meetings each quarter. As a result we ambled along in the old way with no idea of improving all aspects of ringing activity on a District basis and this obtained at least until 1951 when I had to give up ringing on health grounds. Communications through the area were rather poor and activity was conducted on an individual tower basis, each one trying to improve or progress with its own band. There was some loose sort of visiting between neighbouring towers. I remember my father, my two brother and I regularly attended Eltham practice nights to help, and Dad and I went the first Sunday in the month to St Mary Cray to ring for morning service, and also to Sidcup on the third Sunday and quite frequently to Sidcup practice. Others in the District were doing the same. There were some outstanding towers. St Mary Woolwich had a fine band around the turn of the century until the first World War. In the 1920's and onward there

were good bands at Beckenham, Bromley, Lewisham, Dartford, St John's Erith and Crayford. The bands at the last two visited each other in force, each practice night and made ringing history in a big way.

There was no annual programme arranged at the annual District meeting. The place and date of each meeting was decided at the meeting before each time. I remember at some meetings where there were elections of officers either local or for Country nominations had to be made beforehand, and printed ballot forms were issued at the meeting when nominations exceeded the number of places to be filled. Altogether, there is no doubt that whatever alternations have been made have been for the best - the standard of ringing of the District as a whole is much higher now, the number of ringers now enjoying taking part in the more advanced methods is far greater. Easier communication has helped and does now contribute to a more frequent togetherness, which means that the comradeship and kindness which has always been there is now available in greater measure. I'm glad I joined.

**C Brett-Smith**

Many of you who came to the meeting Twelve months ago at Deptford will remember the numerous past copies of 'The Ringing World', old district reports and many ledgers and notebooks dating back to the middle of the last century. Recently I have found many more such relics at Deptford in an untidy heap, gathering dust in the clock chamber. In bringing them home to clean them up, I found the following piece in the back of one small notebook. I have no idea as to where it originated from or how old it is, but other dates in the book suggest that it was published C 1895. I enjoyed reading this Victorian piece of prose and hope that you do too, however, I make no apologies for the illegibility of parts of it, after all it is a hundred years old.

**Sonia Cartwright**

# SOUNDS OF BELLS.

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By BART KENNEDY.

## I.

I love the sounds of old church bells pealing through a distance in the clear air. There is in them at once mystery and sympathy, and at times a sadness. These bells are the voices of prayer and meditation. And the voices of faith and hope. You are lifted as you hear them.

It may be that you have come from a far way off, and that you are tired with the march of the day. The sounds of the bells then as they come to you through the distance will lighten your weariness. Or it may be that you are one within whom hope is dead—that you are one who is as lost. Then will the sounds of the bells come to you as a welcome. You have been dispirited as you have been going along over the weary, lone road. And here are the bells ringing for you as they would ring for the mightiest king. And so your steps become firm as you go along, even though it be close to the end of the day. After all, life holds much the same for you as it holds for any other man. Do not these old, clear-sounding, soft-sounding bells tell you so? Do they not bear to you a message that thrills you?

And the pictures of the past that they bring up before you. You look through their soft, clear, voicing magic back to the old years when your life was not what it is now. And the sight of these old years does not sadden you. You do not grieve as you look upon these pictures of the long ago. For the pictures are haloed with the magic of the distant-sounding bells.

And not only do pictures of the past come to you. To you there comes a revealing of the future. Here are pictures wherein you see yourself as you will be when the clouds that have hung around you so long have broken.

Beautiful magic of the sounds of the old church bells coming through a distance in the clear air! Often have you cheered me as I went along alone and forlorn! For there are times when sadness comes upon the one who is held by the wander-spirit.

Old bells. For me there is nothing in the whole wide world that hold so rare and strange a charm.

## II.

Bells of the sea. They sound through the watches of the day and through the watches of the night, over the ships that range the great, lone waters. They sound through the watches of the night as the sailors lie watchful under the shadows of the sails. Their voices ring out through the sharp strokes of sailing winds. They pierce clearly through the roar and thunder of storms. They sound out as the sailors lie in peace on the fo'castle.

Their sounds ring about the men of the sea as they are up and working in the flapping, fighting sails.

Over all the seas and over all the oceans are ships going to the sounds of bells. The produce of the world and the wealth of the world is carried hither and thither over the vast, far, heaving waters under theegis of this sound-magic. Often have I thought of the bells of all the moving ships of the world. They speak with the one voice to the many-nationed sailors—to the turbaned lascar, to the fair-haired sailor of the North, to the swarth-faced sailor of the South; to the sailors of the strange faces who come from the mysterious East. Through the day and through the night speak the bells of the many, countless ships. Through storm and sun and shine and ice and snow and driving winds. How wonderful are these countless, moving voices that always are speaking to the men of the ships.

Bells of the sea.

## III.

The deep, sonorous sounds of the bells of death. They sound out through the great, busy, wide-stretching towns when those that are of import to the world go forth on their last, lone journey. They sound out when to death has gone a king. Through the air goes the low, deep tone, telling of the end that comes to all. These strange, slow bells of death. These solemn voices.

And the bells that tell of the laying down of arms in a great and mighty war. The bells of peace that tell of the staying of a long strife. How magical and restful are these sounds. How grateful they are to those that hear. For now the time has come to pass when men may go forth without fear upon their avocations. For them there is no dread of the morrow. Hearts are lifted in thankfulness. Men grasp the hands of men, for chained and silent is the demon of war. The head of hate is covered with forgetfulness. The reign of discord has come to an end.

Sounds of the bells of peace. Bells of fraternity and fellowship. Out, out they ring, bringing gladness into the faces of men. And from the far fields of war will come home the gaunt soldiers.

But, alas! These bells of peace are also bells of death. For the sounds reach to the mother as she sits by the stricken hearth, thinking of the boy who will never again come home. Sad, sad bells of peace. Your voices come to the lone woman whose man is dead. Your voices come to the child.

Sad, sad bells of peace. Would that your tones were never to fall to silence. Would that you might always ring.

## IV.

The joyful, ringing, pealing, gladsome wedding bells. How their sounds fill and fill the air. And in these sounds are strange foretellings, for these bells that ring out so joyously possess deep under them the secret of the future. These ringing, pealing, joyous bells are the bells of futurity. Listen, and in them you will hear the voice of the Sibyl. This voice is telling what will come to pass in the future, but it is not given to you to read the telling.

But also these bells hold within them the strange and fine joy of promise. These wedding bells are ringing forth for the morrow, and thus it is that they are joyful over all other bells, for to-morrow is of all days the day. May we not grasp to-morrow what we grasp not to-day?

These bells of the future fine and strange. How they peal forth.

Inscrutable bells of futurity. Bells of joy and mystery and prophecy. Ringing, gladsome, pealing bells, telling of the morrow. Weaving meanings in the air that may not be read.

Sounds of the bells telling of the time to come.

## V.

Bells ringing in the dawn of a year. How joyously they ring out over the town. Myriads and myriads of bells mingle their sounds in the air. And joyous human voices arise in song. Here is the new year. Here is the year laden with promise. And the bells ring out and out, and lo! the bells of the villages are ringing out even as the bells of the great town. Old church bells are ringing over stretching fields welcoming the coming of the year. And now the bells are pealing over the land. Town, village, and lonely, distant place are filled with the joyous sounds of bells. They ring on and on and on. They are ringing all together over our England. The sounds have been caught up and up and passed on and on.

England is a-joy with the sound of bells.

These magical world-voices. For me they are of all voices the voices I most love. Often have I listened to them as I passed on, under the spell of the wander-spirit. Often have they uplifted me when I felt sad.

Magical sounds of hope and joy and life and death and promise and prophecy. How they peal. How they ring. Ringing in all places. Coming forth from near and far. Ushering out and ushering in. Telling of the future and the past. Ever coming. Ever going.

Glorious are the sounds of bells.

BART KENNEDY.