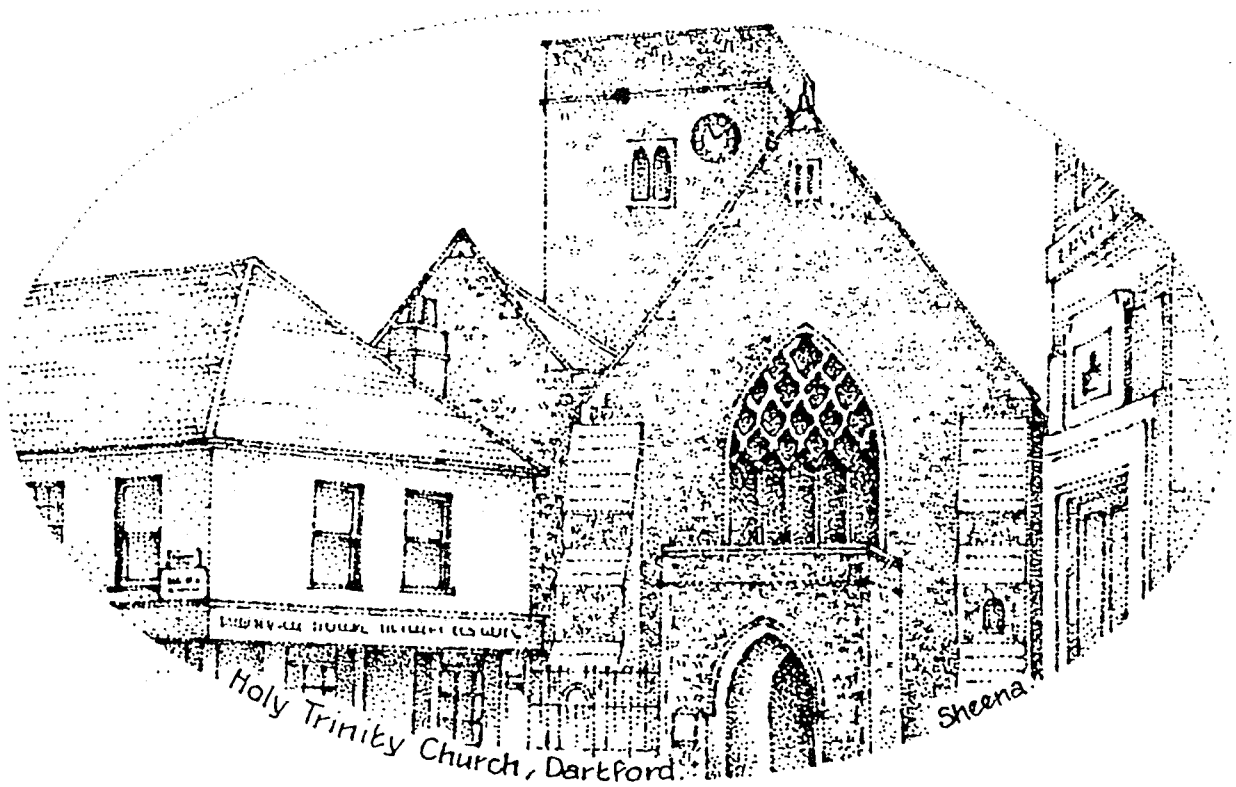


THE
LEWISHAM
DISTRICT
NEWS LETTER



APRIL 1991

WHATS ON IN YOUR DISTRICT!

(Meetings, Practices and Events for May-July 1991 in the Lewisham District)

- 6 May District car treasure hunt in aid of the BRF
(Details from Andrew Young Tel 0322 529964)
- Start 2.00pm Chelsfield. Church car park.
- 11 May Surprise practice at Hayes 10.00 - 11.30am
(Special methods - Cambridge, Primrose, London)
- 25 May District Practice at Downe 7.00 - 8.30pm
- 8 June Surprise practice at Crayford 10.00 - 11.30am
(Standard eight)
- 22 June District practice at West Wickham 7.00 - 8.30pm
- 29 June County 8 bell striking competition
(Hosted by the Ashford District)
- 13 July Quarterly Meeting at Eynsford, afternoon ringing 3.00pm
(Service 4.30pm. Names for tea to Mr Frank Rogers -
0322 862 519. Meeting and general ringing afterwards).
- 27 July District Practice at Woolwich 7.00 - 8.30pm
Triples Practice (Plenty of Plain Hunting and Standard
methods, as well as something a little bit different.
Watch the Newsletter for diagrams!).

ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be no Saturday morning Surprise Practice in August

24 August District Practice at SS Peter and Paul, Bromley.

There will be no practices at Erith in May.

The picture of Holy Trinity, Dartford, which appears on the front issue of this edition of the newsletter was drawn by Sheena of Priory Designs. If you would like to commission a picture of somewhere, e.g. your local church, or perhaps a ringing room, Sheena would be most interested to hear from you at the address below:-

Sheena,
Priory Designs,
25 Priory Close, Dartford, Kent DA1 2JF.
Telephone: 0322 220465.

CAR TREASURE HUNT

This year's car treasure hunt will be held on Monday 6th May (May Day bank holiday), starting at Chelsfield church car park at 2:00 p.m., and finishing with general ringing at well that's for you to work out. Total distance will not exceed 70 miles (provided you don't get lost), and the finishing point will be within 15 miles of the District. The entry fee of £5 per car will go to the District centenary project fund (see above). So why not join us on bank holiday Monday to see a few backwaters of the Kent countryside and pit your wits against ours. Entries please to Diana and Andrew Young (0322) 529964) before Wednesday 1st May.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say that Diana and I will not be organising the Treasure Hunt in 1992. Please think about whether you would like to organise it next year.

Andrew Young

DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK (Sunday 19th May to Sunday 26th May)

The Dystonia Society was established in 1983 to support sufferers of the neurological disorder known as Dystonia - an illness dominated by involuntary muscle spasm, and culminating in severe physical disability. To increase awareness of the problems of dystonia, the Society is asking ringers to "ring a special peal or normal peal of a bell before or after the main service on either Sunday 19th or Sunday 26th May" (their wording not mine!). Any tower wishing to ring (a quarter?) to aid this publicity campaign are invited to contact the Society. Details appeared in the Ringing World, p338 (5th April), or can be obtained from me.

Andrew Young

THE QUEX BARBEQUE, 1991

The annual Quex ringers' barbeque will be held on Saturday July 20th, with ringing starting at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets and further details can be obtained from Hazel Basford on Thanet 63409.

We would like to thank all ringers, families and friends for their support at this year's District Barn Dance. Particular thanks go to Philip Irwin and Jon Fox for brewing the 'Home Brew'; Julie and Martin Mason for organizing the (Non-Passion fruit) Passion fruit punch; Janet Costidell, Helen Montigue, James Normington, Margaret Macey and Veronica Eagle for helping with the food; and all those who generously donated prizes for the raffle.

All being well, there will be another one next year!

Sonia Irwin
Alex Britton

Copy date for the next Newsletter will be on Monday 24 June. Please could all articles be sent to me at the address below by the above date. Thank you.

Samantha Lee
1 Glanfield Road
Beckenham
Kent BR3 3JS

081 658 4495

Andrew Young	Chairman
Sonia Irwin	Ringing Master
Mary Andrews	Secretary
Alex Britton	Deputy Ringing Master
Alex Britton	District Rep
Daphne Paterson	District Rep - 0322 863171
Diana Young	Press Rep

WEDDING OF AN OLD TIMER

It can't be very often that the groom's great grandson is present at his wedding. So it was when Cyril Brett-Smith and Kathy Harvey were married at Thornton Heath Methodist Church. Cyril, who has been a ringer at various towers in the Lewisham District over the last 70 years, and most recently at Christ Church, Erith, met Kathy on a coach trip to Blackpool 18 months ago. Ringers from Bexley, Crayford and Erith witnessed a simple, but beautiful service, after which the happy couple left the church to the sound of handbells (rung by members of the Erith band). The sun was shining brightly as everyone made their way round the corner to the reception in the day-room of Bennett Court, where Cyril and Kathy are now living. A brief stop for photos was followed by a lovely meal after which Cyril's son told the assembled company a little bit about Cyril, whom, he admitted, he had known for some time! Kathy's next door neighbour, who gave her away at the wedding service, then filled in the background on Kathy, and Andrew Young said a few words on behalf of the bellringing fraternity, assuring Cyril and Kathy (a non-ringer) a warm welcome whenever they decide to visit the Lewisham District, and concluded by calling on the ringers present to toast Cyril and Kathy on behalf of the Lewisham District. Cyril then thanked everyone for joining them on their special day and for their kind wishes. At the request of family and friends (non-ringers!) the handbells came out and Cyril joined us to ring some very respectable (if a little rusty) Grandsire Triples. It then remained for the guests to say goodbye, and for Cyril and Kathy to cross the courtyard to their new flat and their life together. We wish them all the very best for the future.

DISTRICT BARN DANCE

The District held its second (annual?) barn dance at Christ Church Hall, Erith, on Saturday 2nd March. After a slow start, ticket sales picked up and around 120 people arrived for an evening of good clean fun! The music was provided by the Wizzard Wheeze band, who seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as the rest of us. This year they had the added attraction of Dave on "Bessie" (his Kentish pipes - a very strange looking instrument which seemed to require an awful lot of puff!). The first half of the evening went with quite a swing, with everyone entering into the spirit of the event, possibly due to the large amounts of home-brewed beer on offer! At half time an excellent buffet was served with everyone tucking into mountains of food (especially coleslaw) and partaking of more home brew. After supper the raffle was drawn with eleven prizes to be won, Dave (from the band) must have been glad he came along this time, as he won a bottle of something alcoholic.

The second half of the evening carried on at the same pace as the first despite the fact that everyone was 'well podged'. The last dance saw just about everyone up on the floor trying not to step on each other's toes and the evening finished to cries of "More!" from the assembled company.

Our thanks must go to the many people involved in making the event such a success but mainly to Sonia for co-ordinating the catering Alex for organising everything else and the Wizzard Wheeze for entertaining us. Altogether £175 was raised for the County B.R.F., this figure being supplemented by Sonia's 50p doggy bags, which also ensured that no food was left at the end of the evening. We hope that the barn dance will take place again next year and that, being our centenary year, it will be even better supported.

Diana Young (District Press Rep)

KCACR BOOKSTALL

The District holds stocks of about forty different books on various aspects of ringing. These are usually on display and can be purchased at quarterly meetings. Below is a list of the titles we hold :

Elementary Ringing Books - One-per-learner (50p), The Follow-on Book (50p), Beginners Handbook (80p), Doubles & Minor for Beginners (£1.50), Triples & Major for Beginners (£1.50), Raising & Lowering in Peal (£1.00), Towards Better Striking (50p), Elementary Method Construction (40p), The Ringers Exercise Book (50p), Ropesight (£3.00).

Advanced Ringing Books - Method 300 (£2.00), Standard 70 (£2.10), Standard Methods (£7.00), Diagrams (£4.00), GRandsire (£3.50), Ringers Handbook (£2.00), Doubles Collection part 1 (£2.00), part 2 (£2.00), Collection of Minor Methods (£2.00), Collection of Plain Methods (£4.00), Treble Dodging Minor Methods (£3.00), Standard 8 Surprise Sheets (£1.00).

Conducting - Conducting & Coursing Order (£1.50), Conducting for Beginners (£1.00), Quarter 500 (£1.90), Composition 500, 501 and 502 (£2.20 each), Touches of Triples for Easy Reference (50p), Conducting Grandsire Triples (40p), Conducting Stedman Triples (40p), Service Touches (50p), Conducting Stedman (£1.50), Elementary Method Splicing (50p).

Others - Dove's Guide (£10.00), Where's that Tower (£4.50), Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles (80p), A Tutor's Handbook (£2.00), Tower Captain's Handbook (£1.00), Maintenance Handbook (80p), Beginners Guide to Ringing on Handbells (£1.00), Understanding Place Notation (40p).

In addition we are able to obtain most other ringing publications. We also stock or can obtain the following items :

KCACR Sweatshirts (£8.50), KCACR Tee-shirt (£4.00), KCACR Ties (£3.50), Bells of Kent Record (£3.00), Christmas Cards (£1.00), Pens (£20p), KCACR Badges (£3.00), "I Love Bellringing" Car Stickers (35p), KCACR Car Stickers (15p), Handbell Dusters and note pads.

If you want any of these items, but cannot get to the meeting, you can order them from me directly.

Diana Young (District Press Rep)

CENTENARY PROJECT

At the January quarterly meeting it was decided that the District would pursue the centenary project recommended by the committee, namely to undertake the rehangng and possible augmentation of a ring of 3 or 4 within the District (see the minutes of the meeting in this issue). This is an ambitious project, which will require a joint effort from all members of the District ... but one in which I think we can succeed. In addition to major fund raising events (any ideas welcome!), it would be nice to think that every member of the District could do their bit. There are around 200 full (adult) members of the District. If each one of us could personally undertake to raise £10 over the year (20p per week), that would raise £2000 - a good base for further money raising. For example, I shall donate 10p to the fund for every pint of beer I drink between now and next July. Others might like to join me in this, or perhaps other activities may be more suitable - 5p per bar of chocolate, 10p for every service you ring for but do not attend, 1p per hour you spend watching T.V., the possibilities are endless! I hope that we will have the support of the whole District in carrying through this project. If you think you can help in any way (e.g. organising a fund-raising event, assisting in the work at the tower, helping to teach a new band, etc.), please contact a member of the committee. I hope that we can soon report more details of the proposed project, including the cost!

Andrew Young (District Chairman)

PEALS

[1]	16/9	ASH-BY WROTHAM	5040 Minor (7m) *
[2]	25/9	LEWISHAM	5056 Cambridge S. Major
[3]	20/10	BROMLEY COMMON	5040 Stedman Triples
[4]	17/11	ST. MARY CRAY	5040 Minor (2m)
[5]	27/12	SIDCUP	5040 Minor (8m) *
[6]	27/12	ST. MARY CRAY	5040 Minor (10m) *
[7]	29/12	CHISLEHURST (Annun)	5056 Lincolnshire S. Major *

Congratulations to Nigel Pointer for scoring a peal at first attempt, ringing inside to 2 minor methods [4]. Richard Pearce and Rupert Cheeseman rang their first peal of Cambridge Major [2], and Matthew Hilling rang his first of Yorkshire S. Major (at Meopham on 28/12).

QUARTER PEALS

	1990		
[1]	18/6	DEPTFORD	1329 Plain Bob Triples
[2]	29/7	GREENWICH	1272 London S. Minor
[3]	?	GREENWICH	1277 Grandsire Caters
[4]	31/7	FARNINGHAM	1260 Plain Bob Minor
[5]	15/8	WOOLWICH	1260 Grandsire Triples
[6]	16/8	FOOTS CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[7]	18/8	DARTFORD	1296 Stedman Triples
[8]	19/8	FOOTS CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[9]	28/8	FARNINGHAM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[10]	2/9	HAYES	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[11]	4/9	FARNINGHAM	1272 Kent T.B. Minor
[12]	9/9	BROMLEY	1280 Plain Bob Major
[13]	9/9	DEPTFORD	1260 Grandsire Triples
[14]	11/9	FARNINGHAM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[15]	16/9	CHISLEHURST (St.N)	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[16]	26/9	CRAYFORD	1344 Rutland S. Major
[17]	27/9	ELTHAM	1280 Plain Bob Major
[18]	30/9	CHISLEHURST (St. N)	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[19]	22/10	ERITH (CC)	1296 Cambridge S. Minor
[20]	28/10	EYNSFORD	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[21]	11/11	BEXLEY	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[22]	11/11	EYNSFORD	1260 Grandsire Triples
[23]	11/11	FOOTS CRAY	1260 Grandsire Doubles
[24]	18/11	DEPTFORD	1250 Gainsborough S. Major
[25]	18/11	HAYES	1260 Grandsire Doubles
[26]	25/11	HAYES	1296 Cambridge S. Minor
[27]	1/12	SHOREHAM	1280 Yorkshire S. Major *
[28]	2/12	EYNSFORD	1260 Grandsire Doubles
[29]	2/12	LEWISHAM	1280 Superlative S. Major
[30]	9/12	ERITH (CC)	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[31]	24/12	DARTFORD	1260 Grandsire Triples
[32]	29/12	BEXLEY	1320 Minor (2m)
[33]	31/12	BROMLEY	1250 Cambridge S, Major
[34]	31/12	CHISLEHURST (St.N)	1260 Grandsire Triples
[35]	31/12	EYNSFORD	1280 Plain Bob Major
[36]	31/12	FOOTS CRAY	1260 Doubles (6m)
[37]	31/12	FOOTS CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
	1991		
[38]	1/1	FARNINGHAM	1260 Doubles (2m)
[39]	13/1	BEXLEY	1280 Plain Bob Major
[40]	15/1	FARNINGHAM	1272 Kent T.B. Minor
[41]	20/1	BROMLEY	1296 Cambridge S. Minor
[42]	27/1	EYNSFORD	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[43]	27/1	GREENWICH	1250 Yorkshire S. Major
[44]	29/1	FARNINGHAM	1296 Cambridge S. Minor

Congratulations to Jean Luffman [14] and Caroline Withers [42], who scored their first quarters, to S. Britain [10] who rang his first quarter inside, to David Macey [6] and Jane Paterson [9] who conducted their first quarters, and to everyone else who scored firsts or reached personal milestones.

CRAYFORD TOWER CAPTAIN RETIRES.

At the end of 1990, Mr Bill Bond retired as Tower Captain of the ringers at St.Paulinus Crayford, having held that post for 13 years between 1977 and 1990. For very many years Crayford had the benefit of the organisational skills of the Barnett family, but when Olive and Teddy (Edwin A.) retired to live at Zeals in Wiltshire Mr Bond took on the tower arrangements - no mean feat considering the amount of weddings that they have to ring for!

Mr Bond learned to ring at Crayford at about the same time as Teddy Barnett (for 14 years Secretary to the Central Council and later Vice-President and President and a Vice President of the K.C.A.C.R.) in the late 1920's. They joined the Association in 1928, and soon after became members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths - one of the prestigious and ancient ringing societies still flourishing today and based in London.

Since that time, Mr Bond has been a of the Crayford band, helping to start off many people in their ringing careers and coaxing and giving advice to others. Whether they be Crayford ringers or visitors, they would all be treated equally warmly. For that very reason many people hold Mr Bond in very high regard, and the Crayford ringers wanted to mark his retirement as Captain in a very special way. A peal of Bob Major was arranged and an appropriate band assembled for Saturday 5th January 1991. The first that Mr Bond was to know about it was to be when he heard the bells ringing from his nearby home. To quote Philip Corby (the conductor of the peal) from "The Ringing World" of 8/2/91:- "Then the Rector upset the apple-cart. He asked Billy to meet him at the church at 10 o'clock - the time for the peal. A dilemma for Mrs Bond..... so she had better tell him. As he arrived at the churchyard gate Phil Corbywas just getting out of his car Not letting on that he now knew the reason, Billy said:- 'What are you doing here?'" The peal was duly scored in 2 hours 47 minutes, and afterwards the band were entertained by Mr and Mrs Bond at their home along with their daughter and her husband.

Not wishing to rest there, the Crayford ringers wanted to hold a celebratory dinner for Mr Bond. This was duly organised by one of the local band, Peter Dear, and his wife Lucy, on Saturday 19th January 1991 at Dartford Golf Club, and was attended by about twenty five Crayford ringers and friends. A delightful four course meal was enjoyed, and although there was a karaoke night in full swing next door, they willingly stopped for the speeches.

Michael Gentry, the new Tower Captain at Crayford, paid tribute to the many years of dedicated service Mr Bond had given to ringing at St Paulinus, and on behalf of the band gave him a suitably inscribed presentation bell cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Mr Bond in turn thanked the many ringers who had

supported him over his period as Captain.

After the speeches, we were able to use the full facilities of the Club, and one of the young learners of the band, Amy, won a prize for the most impressive performance in the karaoke! We all then gradually departed, safe in the knowledge that the tribute to Mr Bond had been suitably made, and that Mr and Mrs Bond had had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

And so an era has come to an end as a new chapter in Crayford's history book begins. Who is to know what will be written on the next page? Only time can tell. There are solid foundations which Mr Bond has played no mean part in building, and which Michael, in his new role, can build on. Mr Bond will, of course, still regularly ring at Crayford as he has always done, but to quote again the words of Phil Corby, I am in no doubt that Mr Bond feels "gratified that the torch will continue to be carried".

Alex Britton.

Saturday 5th January 1991

at the church of **St.Paulinus, CRAYFORD, Kent,**
a peal of **5056 Plain Bob Major** in 2 hours 47 minutes
to a composition by J.R.Pritchard.

Tenor 12 cwt 1 qtr 10 lbs in F sharp.

Treble	Richard A Pearce
2	L Jane Paterson
3	Martin E Luffman
4	Michael J Gentry
5	Rupert J Cheeseman
6	David S Osenton
7	Alexander J Britton
Tenor	Philip A Corby (Conductor)

Rung in honour of Mr William E Bond, on his retirement as Captain of the bellringers at this church.