

The
**LEWISHAM DISTRICT
NEWS LETTER**
July 1991



INVICTA

Sonia and Philip Irwin are now living at 142, Ardgowan Road, Catford, SE6 1XB. Tel: 081 697 7320. Friends always welcome.

If anyone has a photograph, old print, or illustration of their home tower, and they would like to have it incorporated into a cover design for the newsletter, please let me or the editor know.

Sonia Irwin

PLEASE COULD ALL ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER BE TO ME BY 7 OCTOBER.
THANK YOU!

STOP PRESS - THE RETURN OF THE TROPHY

The Lewisham District band won the eight bell striking contest at Cheriton (Folkeston) on Saturday 29 June. Thus, after a two year stay in the Tonbridge District, the eight-bell trophy has now returned to our District. All the plans to fly the conductor in from San Francisco, and rush him from the airport to the tower in time for the test piece (David's plane was due to land at Heathrow just before 1.00pm, and we started out test piece at about 4.00!!!) all worked out and so our band was at full strength. In fact British Airways are to be congratulated as the plane actually landed 20 minutes early!

The results were:	1st	[6]	-	Lewisham District	41 faults
	2nd	[5]	-	Tonbridge District	48 faults
	3rd	[4]	-	Canterbury District	53 faults
	4th	[2]	-	Maidstone District	78 faults
	5th	[3]	-	Rochester District	95 faults
	6th	[1]	-	Ashford District	140 faults

(The numbers in square brackets indicate the order in which the bands rang).

The Lewisham District band were (in order of ringing):

1 - Sonia A. Irwin (Lewisham)	5 - Andrew M.J. Young (Erith)
2 - Peter V.D. Swift (Greenwich)	6 - Nigel R. Parsons (Greenwich)
3 - Ann M. Saunders (Bexley)	7 - David P. Hilling [c] (Eynsford)
4 - Alexander J. Britton (Dartford)	8 - Colin J.E. Wyld (Chislehurst)

The test piece was a plain course of London Surprise Major.

Another Lewisham Engagement!

Congratulations go to Janet Costidell and Jon Fox, both of Lewisham, who quietly announced their engagement at the beginning of June. They are planning to marry around the middle of next year.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SOCIETIES ON THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Over the past year or so, much discussion has taken place on the above. Some are concerned that many ringers are 'over-represented' on the Council, i.e. belonging to a number of societies that are all Council members (e.g. belonging to a territorial Society - such as the KCACR - as well as a University guild, along with a 'trades' guild, like The Police Guild). Consequently, a consultation paper has been produced to try to tidy up the problem of over-representation, with comments being invited from individuals as well as Associations/Societies. It is a very detailed document which is too long to reproduce in full in this newsletter, however I can give a copy to anybody who asks for one. In this article I shall attempt to precis it down, as there are various points we have to consider. Phil Young, KCACR Hon.General Secretary, has asked that all Districts consider the following points at the July Quarterly meetings, and have the views conveyed back to her by the beginning of September, as she has to report on the following points to Cyril Wratten, Central Council Hon.Secretary, by the end of September.

- a) Should representatives on the Council be restricted to societies whose main reason for existence is that their members are responsible for ringing bells of churches in a defined are - diocesan or archdeaconry guilds, or county Associations?
- b) Should societies whose main reason for existence is to encourage peal ringing or "social ringing" be represented on the Council?
- c) Would inclusion of the latter lead to increased multiple representation? and if it did, would it matter?
- d) Should (i) special interest groups, (ii) "trade" societies, (iii) university societies continue to be affiliated to the Council or, if not already affiliated, be admitted to membership?
- e) Is it appropriate that the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths should be treated as special cases?
- f) Could you comment on the criteria for membership that the paper suggests (75 members, ten churches), or suggest other criteria?
- g) Could you also comment on the suggestion in section 4 of the paper that there could be a new category of "Associated Society".

-oOo-

Please try to consider the above so it can be discussed at our quarterly meeting at Eynsford on Saturday 13th July 1991. If any details above need clarification, more will be explained at the meeting. Some copies of the Central Council report on this subject will also be available. Remember, YOUR OPINION DOES MATTER, PLEASE EXPRESS IT.

Alex Britton.

WHY 1992

Readers of the Newsletter will by now be aware of the plans being made to celebrate the centenary of the Lewisham District in 1992.

But, some may ask, how is it that our District is only now approaching its centenary when that of the Kent County Association was reached in 1980.

The explanation for this is steeped in history. As in many other parts of Kent, when the KCACR was formed, there were a number of long established Ringing Societies in our area. Among others there were the Bromley Youths who rung their first eight bell peal as far back as 1773, the Eastern Scholars (Woolwich) and not least the Trinity Youths who were established in 1782 and based at Deptford. It is not surprising that after being in existence for a hundred years or more these old Societies particularly the Trinity Youths were reluctant to join the newly formed Association when invited to do so. Thus for about the first ten years of the KCACR existence that area now known as the Lewisham District did not form part of the Association even though at that time the area was officially part of the County of Kent.

Until 1889, when the London County Council (LCC) was established, the western Kentish boundary reached as far as Rotherhithe thus all that is now the Lewisham District was, prior to 1889 actually in the County of Kent. After 1889 the boroughs of Deptford, Greenwich, Lewisham and Woolwich were taken from the Administration of Kent. Further inroads were made into the Kentish boundary when the successor to the LCC, the Greater London Council (GLC) was formed in 1965. The KCACR however were not to be deterred by these boundary changes for some time - the Rules were changed and now read "... the KCACR shall operate in the county of Kent and that part of London formerly in the county of Kent.

Some ten years after its formation the KCACR in 1891 entered into correspondence with the Trinity Youths to induce them to affiliate with the KCACR but this was again rejected by the Trinity Youths who feared absorption into the County Association would lead to their extinction, a fear that was ultimately realised. However the KCACR seemed determined and apparently disregarding the Trinity Youths proposed in 1892 that a suburban district to be known as the Lewisham District be formed.

The proposed District was to take in that "part of the County west of a line drawn southwards from the Thames at Greenhithe to the London, Chatham and Dover Railway (the LCD) and north of that line of railway. The District also to include Hayes and Wickham". What was the old LCD Railway is the line that now runs on the same route from Beckenham through Bickley, St Mary Cray, Meopham etc to Chatham.

This proposal was adopted and wasting no time a meeting was held at St Mary's Lewisham on August 22 1892 at which it was resolved the new District should hold quarterly meetings, the first meeting to take place at St Mary's Lewisham on September 24 1892. The first District AGM was held at Bromley on November 7 1892. Thus was formed the Lewisham District.

The foregoing has no pretension of being a definitive history but it does answer the question "Why 1992".

A.G.H

TRIPLES PRACTICE 27th JULY AT WOOLWICH 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Triples methods are an ideal stepping stone which bridges the sometimes alarmingly wide gap between ringing on six and eight bells. If you are at the stage where you feel ready to progress from ringing six bell methods, but feel wary of ringing on eight, then this practice could be of benefit to you.

So come along and have a go! There will be plenty of people to give support.

Apart from Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedmen, other Triples methods are often underrated, somewhat over looked and rarely rung. Here is an opportunity to ring some seven bell methods which are not so familiar.

Remember that ringing a method with the tenor behind is easier to strike than ringing a method on an even number of bells. As well as coming to the practice to try out different methods come with the intention to obtain some good striking as well.

Come prepared to ring :-

Rounds and Call Changes and Plain hunting

Plain Bob

Grandsire

Stedman

Erin (Watch out for the Plain Bob starts)

St. Simon's (or is it St. Clement's?) College Bob (four dodges on the front)

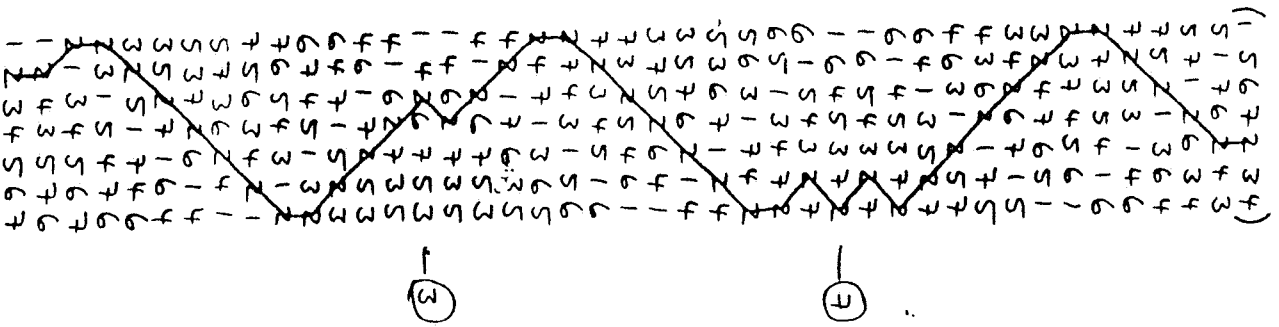
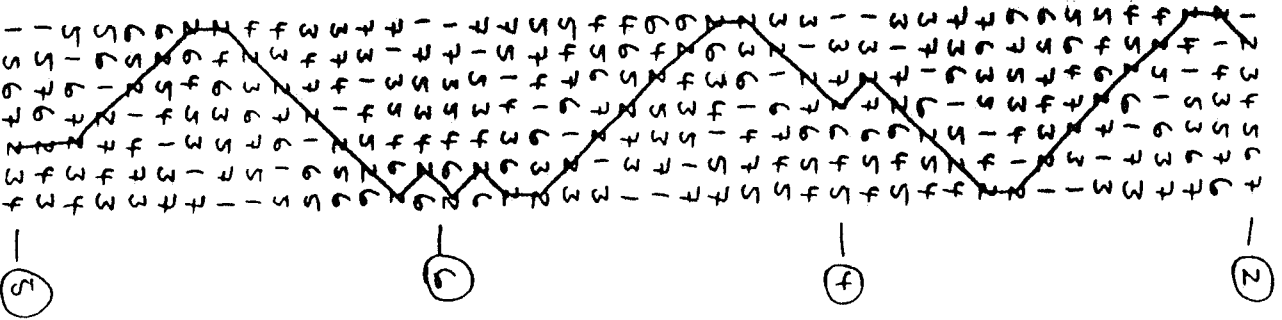
Single Oxford

and for something a bit different have the following methods under your belt as well.

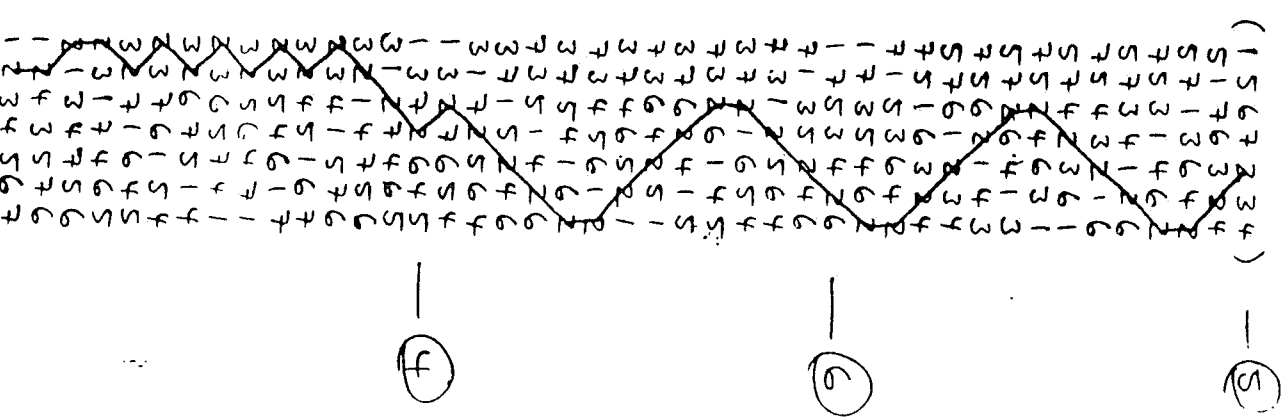
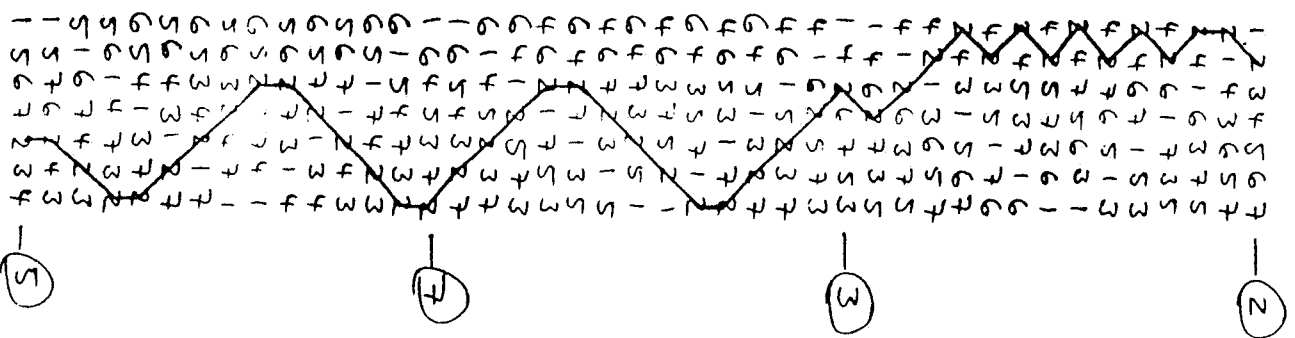
Scientific Triples

	⑦	⑤	⑥	②	③	④	①	
3	1234567	4623751	3562174	2756413	6175342	5417236	7341625	Bob
1	213546	642315	536124	254631	163524	451263	346152	1st position
7	231456	624351	563214	526413	165342	415236	341625	1 721657
1	324165	263451	652314	562143	156432	145326	431265	5 72175
5	342615	236541	625341	561234	514623	143562	413256	3 72175
1	436215	325641	265314	651243	541632	134526	142365	7 72175
7	463125	352461	263541	615234	546123	315462	124356	3 72175
1	641325	534216	236451	162534	456213	351642	214536	7 72175
7	614352	543126	324615	126354	465231	356124	215463	5 72175
5	164532	451326	342165	213645	642531	536214	251643	1 72175
1	614523	543162	324156	126345	465231	356241	215634	7 72175
7	641532	534126	231465	162435	456321	352614	216543	5 72175
1	465132	354216	213645	614253	543621	325164	126453	7 72175
7	456312	352461	216354	641523	534612	231546	162435	1 72175
1	543621	325641	126534	465123	354162	213456	614235	7 72175
7	534261	236514	162543	456132	351426	214365	641325	3 72175
1	352461	263151	615243	546312	315246	124635	463152	7 72175
7	325416	261345	651423	543621	132564	142653	436512	3 72175
1	235146	621435	564132	534261	123654	416253	345612	7 72175
5	231564	612453	546312	352416	126345	461523	354621	1 72175
1	213546	164235	453612	325461	216354	645123	534612	7 72175
5	125364	146253	435162	324516	261345	654213	536421	5 72175
1	152346	416235	341562	234561	623154	562413	563412	3rd position
7	153264	412653	314652	243516	632145	526143	654321	1 72175
1	513624	421563	136452	425316	362415	251634	645231	5 72175
7	531642	245136	163425	452136	364251	215364	642513	3 72175
1	356142	254316	613245	541263	346521	123564	462153	7 72175
7	365412	253461	612354	514623	435612	132546	426135	3 72175
1	634521	523641	621534	156423	453162	312456	241635	7 72175
5	643251	532614	265143	165432	451326	314265	214365	1 72175
7	4623751	3562174	2756413	6175342	5417236	7341625	1234567	1 72175

MIDDLESEX TRIPLES



ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE BOB TRIPLES



NB If you would like to have a go at calling a touch of any of these methods then tell me at the practice.

Sonia Irwin

LEWISHAM DISTRICT STRIKING COMPETITION

March 17th 1991 saw members of the District gathering at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hayes for the method striking competition. The weather forecast did not sound too hopeful for the afternoon but at least it was dry, if rather overcast, as nine teams made the draw and the afternoon's ringing began. As has become the the norm in recent competitions, the number of changes had to be reduced to fit everyone in in reasonable time and prevent complaints from the neighbours, this time it was to 120. The afternoon proved to be quite a family occasion with a number of children running around, both inside and outside the church. Tea and biscuits were served throughout the afternoon and with the weather remaining dry there was an opportunity for people to explore the local shops. As the last of the ringing was completed the first drops of rain began to fall and everyone was pleased to retire into the church for the judge's verdict.

The judge was Stuart Kimber from Bennington, Surrey and he complemented everyone on the standard of the ringing. He commented that this made the marking quite difficult, as reflected in the scores given with only 6 faults separating the first 6 teams and the rest not far behind. The placings were as follows:-

1. West Wickham
2. Eynsford
3. Bexley
4. Lewisham
5. Hayes
6. Chelsfield
7. Erith
8. Foots Cray
9. Bromley Parish.

West Wickham did well to follow last autumn's call change competition win with another first, let's hope that they can make it a hat trick at the county final in July.

Our thanks go to Stuart for being our judge, the ringers at Hayes for providing the refreshments and the vicar for allowing us to take over his church and bells for the afternoon. Can we also thank the powers that be for the weather, causing the absolute deluge that afternoon to occur while we were all inside the church listening to the judges deliberations so that no one got wet!

Many apologies for the late appearance of this report, this was due to the deadline for the previous newsletter being too early!!

CAR TREASURE HUNT

On May Day Bank Holiday, about 40 people met at Chelsfield Church for the start of the annual District Car Treasure Hunt. Last minute panics about the route (two roads were closed on our final run through on the Friday before!!) were all sorted out and everyone set off at two o'clock, the competitors to discover the mystery route and answer all(?) the clues, and us to collect the prizes which we had inadvertently left at home! Nobody got (very) lost this year, but one car had to 'retire hurt'. Otherwise everyone arrived safely and more-or-less on time at Shipbourne church for the finish and tea. Already numbed brains were then subjected to general ringing, while the results were calculated. For the second year running the Macks were winners, with the Morley family second and the Hill family third. We hope everyone enjoyed their day out, and that the AA rescued the breakdown successfully! Next year David and Jacquie Mack have agreed to organise the Treasure Hunt - so someone else will have a chance to win! A total of £50-00 was raised for the Centenary Fund.

Andrew & Diana Young

TRAINING

I hope to organise a training day on Plain Bob Doubles towards the end of the year. If you are interested in attending, either as a helper or as a student, please contact me as soon as possible (preferably in writing) - places will be limited.

Do you have any ideas on training in the District? What do you want out of it? What do you think you could contribute to training?

I would like to know your views (preferably in writing).

NOTES ON COUNTY TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE HELD ON 18th APRIL.

Members of the Committee : Catherine Lewis (Convenor), Nick Davies (County Chairman), Mark Gilham (County Treasurer), Phil Young (County Secretary), Diana Wraight, Frank Lewis, Stuart Palin, Andrew Young.

- 1 - As a result of the meeting on Training in the County, held on 30th April, it was decided that a County Bell Handling Day should be organised. The aims of this event are three-fold: to offer advice on how to go about teaching handling; to discuss the relative merits of different teaching methods; to improve individual handling skills. This promises to be an enjoyable and informative day, whether you are just learning to handle, wanting to start teaching others to handle or an experienced teacher. This course will be held on Saturday 30th November. If you are interested in receiving further details, please contact me as soon as possible.
- 2 - There should be a central collection of work sheets and other documents used on training events. Catherine Lewis agreed to coordinate this task.
- 3 - It was agreed to produce a set of reviews of books in the County stocks, as well as some other publications. The aim of these reviews is to assist people (both students and tutors) in choosing the book(s) most appropriate for their purposes. I have undertaken this job, and the reviews will appear in the Newsletter in due course, and will also be available from the bookstall or from the Training Subcommittee.
- 4 - It was agreed that, although the ringing simulator (which was available at Leeds on A.G.M. day) was an interesting idea, the general opinion of the feedback we received was that it was not worth the County proceeding with their use officially at present.
- 5 - The question of a residential ringing course raised its head again. What do people think? Should Kent hold such a course? If so, are you willing to help? Please let me know your opinion (preferably in writing, otherwise I tend to forget who said what!)
- 6 - A proposal was formulated for presentation to the General Committee, that some funding should be available from general funds to help in covering the costs of training events. (The proposal was subsequently accepted by the General Committee at their meeting in May.)

Andrew Young (County Training Subcommittee)

BOOK STALL

The county librarian has written to me expressing her concern at the general reduction in book sales throughout the county over the last year. We believe that the main market for the type of books we carry is the learners in the exercise but I feel that a mass of books presented at quarterly meetings may be a little overwhelming. I hope that in the future the book stall will be more structured using different headings so that people will be able to find the sort of books they are looking for more easily. Tower captains can also help their learners by recommending books for them, many of which are fun to use as well as instructive. Andrew Young has been asked to review the books for learners that we have available (see training committee report) and this will appear in a subsequent issue of this newsletter for the benefit of all concerned.

The bookstall has recently acquired a number of new books which, it is hoped, will be of interest. All of these are Central Council publications:-

1. On Conducting is a learning program for budding conductors and those wishing to progress from being 'bob callers'. It begins with the basics and progresses as far as conducting simple surprise royal by using the coursing order.

2. Major Compositions is exactly what it says it is!

3. Collection of Principles represents quite a departure from the usual C.C. publications and contains a number of unlikely sounding principles from minor upwards.

4. The Central Council Handbook is a must for anyone seriously interested in the ruling body of the exercise and includes notes on the Council decisions regarding methods and the C.C. rules.

5. Bell club pack. This is produced by Sherbourne Teaching Aids and at £5 is relatively expensive but is aimed at towers with a number of raw beginners rather than at individuals. The 'club' is initially for up to five people with a card for each outlining a number of 'goals' to be reached and four fun badges to be gained as each member progresses. Extra cards and badges can be obtained as required. This is obviously aimed at youngsters but others who are young at heart and learning to ring can also have a bit of fun taking part in the program. Notes to teachers on the use of the pack are also included.

All of these new items will be on the bookstall at the next meeting if anyone is keen to see them, so do come and have a look and see if there is anything there which 'takes your fancy'.

Diana Young

QUARTER-PEAL ANALYSIS

Sorry, but with my recent globe-trotting, I haven't had time to compile this issue's quarter-peal analysis. It is a task which I feel is worthwhile and which I have undertaken for the last 2 years, but I am now quite keen to have a rest from it. Is there anyone out there who would like to take on the job?

AROUND THE TOWERS

One thing I feel is lacking from our Newsletter is reports on 'every day' goings-on in the towers in the District. I shall therefore be approaching towers for news/activities, with the aim of writing a short piece about each tower over the next few issues.

Andrew Young (Newsletter Contributor)

RINGING OVER THE POND

During my recent trip to the States I was lucky enough to be able to spend a weekend 'at leisure' in Boston. One of the ringers put me up for the weekend, and I had plenty of time to look round the city on Saturday. On the Sunday I was welcomed at the Church of the Advent (8, 19cwt) where I joined the locals for service ringing, and then crossed the city to ring at Old North Church (8, 13cwt - [REDACTED]) after their morning service. The hospitality of the local ringers was exceptional, and if anyone is lucky enough to go to Boston, I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the towers.

Andrew Young (Foreign Correspondent!)