

K.C.A.C.R.

LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1993

Welcome to the January 1993 edition of the Lewisham District Newsletter. For the first time in a few years the Newsletter will be distributed to every tower in the District (via the tower secretary). So everyone in the District should know what is going on! You will see that there I have included more articles about what goes on in the District, what different towers are up to, etc. For this I need information! If ~~your tower~~ anything interesting has happened in your tower (e.g. an open day, an outing, work on the bells), let me know about it (see below for details of copy date, format etc.).

Program for Spring 1993

January	9	Special Practice (Eynsford)	10am
	16	Quarterly Meeting (Erith, CC)	3pm
February	6	Special Practice (Crayford)	10am
	20	10-Bell Practice (Greenwich)	10am
	27	Quiz Night (Bexley)	7:30pm
March	6	Special Practice (Lewisham)	10am
	13	6-Bell Contest (St. Mary Cray)	T.B.A.
April	3	Special Practice (Chislehurst, St. N.)	10am
	24	Quarterly Meeting (Beckenham)	T.B.A.

January Quarterly Meeting

3:00 Ringing at Christ Church, Erith
4:30 Service at Christ Church, Erith, followed by tea and meeting in the Church Hall (at South-east corner of church - where the Barn Dance has been held)
Names for tea to Mary Hill (0322) 335062 by Wednesday 13th, please.

Special Practices

At the ADM in October it was decided that we would replace the monthly Saturday morning surprise practices with "special practices". These will take the form of specially arranged bands, brought together with a specific purpose in mind. The idea is that district members who would like to attempt something in particular should approach a committee member with their request, and we shall then try to arrange it with a solid band around them. It seems likely that quite a few of these practices will take the form of quarter peals, but there is no reason why they should always do so; for example if several people all want to ring a new method, it might make moor sense to have several medium length touches rather than on single long piece of ringing.

These are your practices! Ask and we shall do our best to arrange what you want; but if you don't ask nothing will happen.

Articles for the Newsletter

I accept copy in almost any form (hand written, typed, word of mouth (but make sure I write it down!), 3.5" or 5.25" disk (preferably "Word Perfect" but ASCII will do). Please send submissions for the next Newsletter to Andrew Young by 1st April, 1993, at the latest, but the sooner you can get items to me, the easier it will be to get the next issue out on time.

Annual District Meeting

The A.D.M. at Bromley was rather poorly attended, but a number of important points were made, which I feel should be reiterated. Mary Andrews apologised profusely for any cheques given to her over the passed few months which still hadn't been paid in. This was because the paying-in books were still with the County auditor. In the ringing master's report, delivered in her absence, Sonia pointed out that many of the practices, particularly towards the end of the year, had been very poorly attended. For this reason there would be a rethink on the format of practices for the coming year. I would encourage people to support these practices. They are an excellent way of improving your ringing and are usually good fun too! The minutes of the meeting are at the back of this Newsletter.

The meeting was of course rather sombre, coming as it did the day after the tragic death of Philip Irwin. The meeting expressed its sympathy to Sonia through a card, a bunch of flowers and many messages of support. Sonia, in turn, has asked me, through the pages of the Newsletter, to thank everyone in the District for their cards, flowers, phone calls, letters and support over the past weeks.

A memorial fund for Philip has been set up in conjunction with the Centenary Fund, to go towards the purchase of the new treble at Bickley. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund should make donations to Alex Britton or myself (cheques payable to KCACR Lewisham District BRF (PI)).

The death earlier this year of Phil Corby is also to be commemorated at Bickley. The new second bell is to be cast in his memory. This memorial fund is also being administered through the District Centenary Fund, and donations are being invited from the ringing community generally through the pages of the Ringing World. Anyone wishing to contribute to Phil Corby's memorial should send donations to me (cheques payable to KCACR Lewisham District BRF (PC)). Please ensure that donations are clearly labelled as to which 'sub-fund' they are to go through (i.e. PC for Phil Corby, PI for Philip Irwin). All contributors to each fund will be recorded permanently both in tower records and in District records, anonymity being honoured at all times if requested.

Andrew Young (District Chairman)

Lewisham District Centenary Fund

Could you please pass on any money raised for the Centenary Fund to Andrew, Sonia, Mary or Alex before the quarterly meeting in January, so that we can get some idea of how we stand. There is still a long way to go to raise the full amount required, so please keep up the efforts!



Handbell's Water Music?

Do you recognise these members of the District? There is a clue later on in this issue. There will be a small prize for the person coming up with the best caption for this picture.

General Committee Meeting

The biannual Committee Meeting was held at Leeds on 28 November 1992. This was my first experience of attending this august body and I found at least part of the proceedings to be of interest and relevant to the district.

It is hoped that charitable status for the whole Association will be effective as from 1 January 1993. The main benefit is that the whole of your annual subscription can be paid under Deed of Covenant. At the current basic tax rate of 25%, this will boost the value of your subscription by 33%. At present very few subscriptions are paid under Deed of Covenant. Worth thinking about. There was a proposal to abolish life membership (current cost £60). A motion to this effect will be put to the next Annual General Meeting.

There was discussion about the Association dinners which have been held every two years. The general feeling was that the dinners are not very well supported, except by the host district. It was agreed to ask the districts for their views. Would you support a dinner out of the district?

The Association training video has been a success and copies have been sent to all four corners of the world. The initial cost, which was over £2,000, has now been covered so there will be a good profit on further sales. There are still plenty in stock!

Andrew Young announced that the new second at Bickley would be a memorial to Phil Corby and requests for donations will be made via the Ringing World. This met with universal approval.

The County 8 Bell Striking competition will be held on 26 June and the method is likely to be Pudsey. There was some discussion as to whether the 10 Bell competition should become a fixture, following the inaugural challenge issued by the Lewisham district in 1992. The general feeling was that there were already a considerable number of striking competitions in the calendar, so no arrangements were made to continue the 10 Bell competition. However, inter-district challenges for striking competitions, quiz nights, etc would be welcomed.

A sub-committee is to be set up to consider the procedure for the election of Officers and the wider matter of the composition of the General Committee.

Bill Lanyon
District Representative

County Training Sub-committee.

This year's County training day, held around Leeds in November seems to have been another great success. Unfortunately the promised report from one of the District members who attended the day has not materialised - perhaps it will have done before the next issue.

Next year's training day is aimed at teaching raising and lowering. It will be held at the end of October. If you are interested then keep your eyes open for the "big yellow notice" (which will probably not be yellow this year!) which tells you what the training sub-committee are up to.

One tower, West Wickham, have taken up the training sub-committee's offer of tuition in rope splicing. "Thursday 22nd October saw a group of fumble fingered enthusiasts gathering at St. John's, West Wickham, for an evening of splicing instruction. Gradually Frank and Catherine Lewis coaxed our unpromising efforts to the point where a long splice achieved during the evening was judged fit and has been in use ever since! An entertaining and valuable evening. Thank you Frank and Cath.

Andrew Young is going to be giving two (supposedly identical) talks on elementary conducting during Holy Week, one at each end of the County. The aim is to show how coursing orders are used in simple methods (e.g. Plain Bob), and then move on to show how the same principles can be applied to more complex methods. If you are interested, look out for further information or contact Andrew direct.

District Quiz Night

A quiz night is being held at Bexley Church Hall on Saturday 27th February. All towers are invited to enter one or more teams (no bellringing knowledge is required, so bring along your no-ringing friends!). Further details will be available at the January quarterly meeting, or direct from Mary Andrews.

District Barn Dance

The Eynsford/Farningham ringers have kindly offered to organise the 1993 Barn Dance. Unfortunately, due to unavailability of the hall and the band on the only suitable dates in March and April, it has had to be postponed until the autumn. Further details will be given when available.

Around the towers, compiled by Andrew Young from details supplied by the individual towers

"Despite major progress as a band during 1991, there were 'rumblings' from upstairs at **Beckenham**. During practice one Tuesday the 6th suddenly started going very badly and on inspection we found that the gudgeon pin had sheared, requiring a new gudgeon to be made, before rehanging the bell. (The tenor had suffered the same fate in 1987, and was rehung with a new cast iron headstock ... maybe this was a warning of things to come!).

Whilst this work was underway it became apparent that all was not well in the belfry. A thorough inspection of the whole tower revealed several loose gudgeons, rickety wheels and leaky bearing seals caused by continuous over-greasing (be warned!). The wiring was also found to be very dangerous and a recommendation was made to the Church Authorities that the tower be completely rewired.

Alan Hughes (Whitechapel Bellfoundry) was asked to inspect the bells, and he recommended that the 7th be re-hung immediately on a new headstock and that the top frame be cross braced to control its longitudinal movement, which was about 4-5mm. He stated that, while not essential, it would be best in the long term to rehang all but the treble, second and tenor. New ductile iron clappers should be fitted to the two Gillett trebles to make them sound less 'bright' compared to the Warner back eight. This would cost about £23,000.

Having rewired the tower, lights being fitted in the clock-case and additional sockets in the clock room and belfry, the Church decided that the work on the bells should go ahead, and so with the aid of a grant from the K.C.A.C.R. B.R.F., the order was placed with Whitechapel.

The day after the last quarter-peal (1259 Grandsire Caters) on 5th January, 1992, the bells were dismantled by the foundry. It became apparent that the top frame was coming out of the wall, so while the headstocks were being made, Jim Hardy refitted it. During this period we also removed the old clock-weight chutes from the corners of the belfry, cleared out all of the rubbish and did a lot of painting and mending in the belfry, on the roof and in the clock-room. We also fitted perspex louvres in the sound openings to prevent the rain getting in.

The Foundry returned in late March and rehung the bells. Over the next three months we re-fitted the traps, did some further re-wiring and lifted out the trebles and cleaned out and re-greased the bearings, before re-fitting them in the frame.

On 16th May the first quarter-peal since rehanging was rung, being 1260 Stedman Triples. There is still some clearing up to do and we shall decorate the ringing-room next year and fit the new carpet which has been waiting two years! After a short settling-in period we soon got used to the new feel of the bells, and ringing is now improving again. This year we have rung 20 quarter-peals on the bells, including quarters in six of the standard eight surprise major methods.

The work has also included the fitting of a new door-bell, so if you would like to visit us any Tuesday, it is located behind the drain-pipe just above head-height on the left hand side of the south porch. Visitors are always welcome, so please come along and try the bells out for yourselves."

It is now about a year since the new bells at **Bickley** were dedicated, and in that time many members of the District have enjoyed the opportunity to ring the bells, either on practice night, for service or at the quarterly meeting held at Bickley in July. There are now about a dozen learners at various stages and although progress was slow to begin with, but we are now getting on much quicker. Practices (Wednesday 8:00-9:15) mainly concentrate on rounds and call changes, with occasional forays into plain hunt, and at this stage the ringing is still run by the District officers. It is worth checking with Andrew, or Sonia before turning up. Sunday ringing is sporadic, hopefully it will soon be on a more regular basis, and anyone who can help (Sunday 9:50-10:30), even on an occasional basis, would be very welcome (please contact Andrew).

The ringers at Bickley would like to thank everyone who has helped them in any way, a sentiment I would like to reiterate. Particular thanks from me to Sonia Irwin, Mary Andrews, David Kingston and Alan Hall, without whom my job would have been impossible.

"At **Biggin Hill** shortage of ringers continues to be a problem, with only 8 regulars (3 adults and 5 youngsters - all learners). We were depleted last year when two of our experienced ringers moved away. We ring rounds and call-changes, and occasionally plain hunt, but our method ringing (Grandsire and Plain Bob) are restricted to occasions when our regular 'casuals' join us. We ring at 10am on Sundays and practice on Wednesday (8:00 - 9:00)."

"At **Bromley Common** depleted numbers recently has meant it has not always been viable to hold a practice, and so for the last year or so we have joined forces with Sidcup, and have tended to ring alternate weeks at St. Luke's (Thursday 7:45 - 9:15) and Sidcup (on Wednesdays). We ring most of the standard six bell

methods, and have recently started on Single Oxford, but triples and major are rather out of our reach at present. We try to ring on most Sundays, but this is not always possible. We hope to join Sidcup, Downe and Cudham on an outing planned for the Spring".

"Our new Vicar at St. Luke's is very pro-bells and determined that we maintain ringing. In the last two weeks we have had nine learners coming along (including the Vicar's daughter), who are mostly youngsters, meaning that we now have a good mix of young and old."

The bells at **Chelsfield** are currently undergoing a complete restoration. Unfortunately no report on the progress was forthcoming, so I have no further details. I believe the bells will be back in action in the spring, and hopefully details of the work performed will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

"The **Foots Cray** Guild was formed 3 years ago, and has nine members, eight of whom also belong to the Lewisham District. All are regular attenders and we have a healthy age range (18-60), and capabilities range from rounds and call-changes to surprise major (though not at Foots Cray!!). We rarely have to cancel practice night (Wednesday 7:45 - 9:15), but if we do, we usually go elsewhere instead. On our own we manage a range of Doubles methods, including Plain, Grandsire, St. Simon, St. Martin, Rev. Canterbury, but with the assistance of one or two visitors, our repertoire is extended considerably, and includes Stedman. Some of us make regular visits to other practice nights and District practices, which has advanced our ringing considerably, and also attend ringing schools as helpers or students. Sunday service ringing is from 9:30 to 10:00am and (b/a) 6:00 to 6:30pm, and other activities include an annual outing, New Year's social (including ringing in the New Year) and entering the call-change and 6-bell striking competitions, alas with little success so far."

"Our practices at **Greenwich** (Monday 8:00-9:30) have been depleted by three ringers moving, by the sad loss of Philip Irwin and by the absence of Nigel Parsons for 2 months. The joint Greenwich/Lewisham band are all adults and we have one learner. When we have enough we ring all ten bells, but we sometimes only meet with enough to ring six. Ringing ranges from basic methods up to surprise minor, major and, very occasionally, royal. Our Sunday ringing at Greenwich is on the third Sunday (9:00-9:30), numbers permitting, after which we move on the Deptford to ring from 10:00-10:30. We usually try to arrange a quarter-peal attempt for evensong on the last Sunday of the month."

There have been a few changes at **Erith**, with the arrival of a new Vicar and the departure of two stalwarts of the tower. Our new Vicar, John Draycott, is a strong supporter of ringing, and is looking forward to meeting the District in January. Alf and Kathy Patten, after some 40 years as ringers at Christ Church, have moved to Uckfield.

Although we sometimes struggle for numbers, we maintain ringing for service (Sunday 9:30) and practices (Monday 8:00-9:30), and usually manage at least surprise minor, and often major. Recruitment is a major problem, as it has been for some time, although we do now have two very promising learners, one of whom recently rung her first quarter. By way of heightening the ringers' profile in the church, we took one of the monthly family services - handbells were rung during the service; the hymns, readings, prayers and address all had a ringing theme, and were led by the ringers. It proved very popular, with the congregation finding out a bit more about what goes on 'upstairs'. Whether we will gain any recruits as a result remains to be seen.

Visitors are always welcome to join us, but it is always wise to check with Andrew Young or John Hill before turning up.

A long weekend away in Dorset in November proved a great success. We were joined by friends from Greenwich, Lewisham, Deptford(!), Dartford and Chelsfield and Suffolk, and took over a farmhouse in Bridport. Lots of good bells (and 5 awful ones!), good food, good company, plenty of alcohol, and an interesting setting made for a fun weekend. The highlights? Two courses of Little Bob Royal on the delightful little "6" at Lyme Regis; the glorious heavies at Axminster (8), Lodders (6) and Stoke Abbott (5); the end of ringing at Chideock!; the lovely modern 8 at Bradpole (and the chance to meet up again with Bernard Gildersleeve, formerly of Eynsford, who sent his best wishes to the District); the welcome from the White Lion and the Pilot Boat; handbells in the bath and in the swimming pool.

If you have anything you would like included in a future *Around the towers* please let me know before the next copy date.

Andrew Young

Dartford - The True Story!

Many of you will know that for more than two years now the tenor at Dartford has been in an unringable condition. Moves are now afoot to repair the tenor, and at the same time undertake repair work to the fittings on the other seven bells, in the hope that this will create a substantial improvement in the 'go' of the bells.

At the time of writing, the tenor headstock is with John Taylor Bellfounders (Loughborough) having new gudgeons and bearings fitted. At the same time the clappers from all the bells are being rebushed, the pulleys are being replaced (as are the sliders) and the slider carriages are being refurbished.

All the work within the tower has been undertaken by the local ringers led by Peter Romney (convenor of the K.C.A.C.R. Bell Restoration sub-committee), thus making a considerable financial saving. The K.C.A.C.R. has been generous in making a grant of £500 from the Bell Restoration Fund towards this work.

We hope to have all eight bells ringing again by Christmas. Why not come and sample them? We practice on Wednesday evening (8pm). Also we are hosting the Lewisham District A.D.M. in 1993 (October 9th), and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then.

Alex Britton.

Lewisham District (KCACR) Call Change Competition

After last year's disappointing entry, this year we were back to our usual sort of numbers, with eleven teams representing ten towers, although on the day two bands had to withdraw.

Ringling continued throughout the afternoon, despite competition from a local demonstration march, under the critical ears of Don and Ruth Niblett from Canterbury. In his summing up of the ringling, Don commented that all the teams had rung well, and that nobody should feel disgraced. Crayford (14 faults) were placed first, followed by West Wickham (15), Eynsford "D" (18), Dartford (20), Eltham (25), Chelsfield (26), Bexley (31), Eynsford "F" (36) and Foots Cray (38). Congratulations to Crayford who took the Arthur Richards trophy, and to all the bands who took part, including some very inexperienced ones, for producing another high standard competition. Thanks to Don and Ruth Niblett for their hard work in judging the competition, and for their constructive comments both on the standard of the ringling, and on the competition rules - food for thought for the District committee! Thanks also to the local ringers for allowing us to use their bells, and for supplying refreshments throughout the afternoon.

Andrew Young

Carol Service Plus!

Like everything else in the District this year, the carol service was a little different, being preceded by a raising and lowering competition on the back six at Bexley. In all six bands entered the competition, four representing towers in the District, and two representatives from other Districts in the County. The carol service, with more of an Advent theme than usual, followed the competition ringling, after which we all crossed the road to the church hall for tea and results. Our judge for the day, Ian Oram from Sussex, started by making a few general comments. He was pleased to hear that nobody had disgraced themselves, and commented that some of the bands had noticed that the quicker you got the bells up or down, the fewer rows you had which could score faults! The results were: 1st Canterbury District (105 faults), 2nd Bexley (136), 3rd Lewisham (141), 4th Eynsford (167), 5th Crayford (182), 6th Tonbridge District (192). The Canterbury District were therefore declared winners of the inter-District competition, and Bexley won the within District competition. The spirit of these competitions is that we should all learn from the experience, and to this end Crayford were presented with a copy of the Central Council publication "Raising and Lowering in Peal"!

Thanks to Mary Andrews for organising an interesting afternoon's entertainment, to Ian Oram for judging the competition, to the Bexley ringers for an excellent tea, and to the Vicar and ringers of Bexley for allowing us to ring their bells.

Andrew Young

Kent County Association Dinner comes to the District

In honour of the Lewisham District centenary, the KCACR was invited into the District for its biennial dinner, held on 31st October. The venue chosen for the event was somewhat unusual, being the hall of Holy Trinity Church of England primary school in Dartford. However any qualms about "going back to school for the day" or about "school dinners" were quickly dispelled by the excellent food which any restaurant would have been proud of, served in a pleasant and relaxed setting. The evening commenced with a sherry reception in the entrance hall, surrounded by a variety of large potted plants, where over a hundred members and guests met before going through to the main hall to a beautifully laid out meal. After grace, said by Rev. Stanley Evans, everyone sat down to mixed hors d'oeuvres, chicken stuffed with stilton and leeks, 7-fruit summer pudding, cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints.

When everyone was suitably replete it was left to Andrew Young, the District chairman, and our M.C. for the evening to start the speeches by proposing the loyal toast. The Church was proposed by Mr. Edwin (Teddy) Barnet, who was a ringer at Crayford for many years, before moving to Zeals 15 years ago, and is a vice-president of the KCACR. Teddy pointed out that ringers need the church as much as the church needs ringers, as "we wouldn't have got far in Kent with only Quex and Walter Dobbie's *Jubi-peal!*". He also paid tribute to his great friend, Phil Corby, who died earlier this year. Another KCACR vice-president and a well loved and respected member of the ringing fraternity, it was Phil who had originally been invited to propose the church at the dinner. The response on behalf of the Church was made by the Venerable Richard Mason, Archdeacon of Tonbridge, another KCACR vice-president, who caused some amusement when he told us, amongst other things, that an archdeacon is "the cross around a Bishop's neck".

At this point the M.C. saw fit to pay tribute to the two great ringing societies based in the south-east, and from one of these the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, came the next speaker, Mrs. Jane Wilkinson. Jane, who is the secretary of SRCY, couldn't help but wonder at her having been asked to speak on hallowe'en, and she hoped the broomstick would be safe in the car-park. As she spoke she commented on the prominent role that KCACR members have played in the Exercise over the years, and that they are sure of good press coverage, as even the Ringing World editor originates from Kent! The final speech was in response to the toast of the Association, and came from the chairman of the other great ringing society in the south-east (the KCACR, of course!), Mr. Nicholas Davies. Having congratulated the Lewisham District on its centenary, and commented on some of its achievements over the years, he went on to speculate on how virtual reality peal ringing in the future could make us all into thousand peelers before we knew it. The final toast was to the guests and visitors, and after Emma Hilling (the youngest ringer present) presented Jane Wilkinson with a bouquet of flowers, the official proceedings were brought to a close.

The evening continued for some time afterwards with genial conversation between old and new friends, before everyone finally decanted into the bitterly cold night to make their way home.

Everyone agreed that it had been a very enjoyable evening, with excellent food and wine. Our thanks must go to the Margaret Britton, Andrew Young, Mary Andrews, our guest speakers and of course the caterers who all contributed towards the success of the evening. However the biggest thank you must go to Alex Britton who organised the whole thing and kept everyone (more or less!) in order. His hard work, both on the day and in the preceding months, ensured a smooth running dinner. much enjoyed by everyone.

Diana Young (Lewisham District Press Rep.)

More musical peals and/or quarter peals required?

A tip from one of London's most prolific composers was recently published in the Ringing World. 'To increase the number of 56s in any peal or quarter peal - start or finish with a few more rounds!'

Ten Quarters in a Day

"How about ringing a quarter-peal on all the sixes in the District?", came a voice as we were sitting in pub earlier this year. This sounded quite reasonable at the time, but then came the shock - "all in one day!". So began one of the maddest schemes that I have ever been involved with. A short while later, Nigel casually mentioned that he had managed to find enough other people to make up a band and that all we now had to do was to find a suitable date and book the towers. With eleven sixes in the District, planning the route was a bit difficult. We chose 28th November as the day for the attempt, and luckily Ash-by-Wrotham were willing to accommodate us at 7:45am so things began to look feasible. However, Chelsfield were unlikely to be available then, due to the work being carried out on the bells. Our goal, therefore, had to be to ring a quarter on all the *ringable* sixes in the District.

A practice run went well, with five quarters scored in Surrey and Kent, but an extra one at St. Mary Cray didn't quite make it. So November 28th dawned, and 7:30am found the band and their support team of drivers and ringers up & down, at Ash ready to begin. By 7:50am we were in changes and the first quarter came round 38 minutes later: 8:30am and it was one down and nine to go - the thought was quite alarming! Revived (woken up?) by coffee kindly provided by Lynn, we set off for Farningham, and another success. The next tower presented our first problem, and it was here that the support team came into their own. We left a couple of them there to track down the key while we went on to the next tower, where we rang a most enjoyable quarter. Then it was back to the previous tower, where the key had been located, and we scored again.

Lunch was the next stop and there were several comments along the lines of "if this was a normal quarter-peal day we would be on our way home by now!" Wishful thinking, however; we still had six to go! It was a real treat to be able to ring the six at Downe without the muffles - in fact it was the first time the majority of us had heard them rung 'open' and Grandsire Doubles was brought to a successful conclusion in 40 minutes. On to Biggin Hill, where a fast quarter peal caused a few heart-stopping moments for the conductor! Were the rest of the band trying to finish me off completely? By the time we got to West Wickham tiredness was starting to set in and this was apparent in the ringing. There were more method mistakes in this quarter than in all the previous ones put together, but luckily the whole band did not fall asleep at the same time, and the errors were quickly corrected. The short break before the next quarter at Hayes was desperately needed, and a successful, but uneventful quarter was scored. The target now really began to look as though it was within our reach. Bickley was one of the highlights of the day - we had chosen to ring Plain Bob Minor there, as we knew that concentration at this stage was going to be difficult, and this thinking paid off as we rang one of the best quarters of the day. On to the final tower. Penge is certainly not the easiest six in the District and having it as the last tower of a long and tiring day was quite a challenge, but the adrenalin was flowing and we brought our final quarter to a successful finish.

On leaving the tower we were met by our support team with party poppers and everyone was elated at our success. We had rung a total of 12660 changes taking 6 hours 27 minutes and 59 seconds. Off to the pub where over a few pints of beer and several 12" pizzas we heard a voice say, "Are we going to do it again next year when Chelsfield are back in action?" Well there was really only one thing to say to that - "Shut up, Nigel!!"

The band would like to thank the ringers and incumbents of all the churches for the use of their bells and we would particularly like to thank our support team for their untiring efforts during the day. Well done, too, to Nigel for his organisation. We do not yet know the total raised by sponsorship towards the Bromley Organ Fund, but we expect that it will be at least £300. The details of the quarters are as follows:

1 - ASH-BY-WROTHAM, 1260 St. Simon & St. Martin Doubles, in 38 minutes.

1 - DPM 2 - JJH 3 - SCP 4 - DHK 5 - NP(c) 6 - ADS.

1&3 - 100th together; 3 - 400th quarter.

2 - FARNINGHAM, 1260 St. Clements Minor, in 39 minutes.

1 - NP 2 - ADS 3 - DPM 4 - JJH 5 - SCP 6 - DHK(c).

3 - ST. MARY CRAY, 1260 Single Canterbury Minor, in 40 minutes.

1 - DHK 2 - SCP 3 - ADS 4 - DPM 5 - NP 6 - JJH(c).

4 - SIDCUP, 1260 Single Oxford Minor, in 39 minutes.

1 - JJH 2 - DHK 3 - SCP 4 - NP 5 - ADS 6 - DPM(c)

5 - DOWNE, 1260 Grandsire Doubles, in 40 minutes.

1 - SCP 2 - DPM 3 - JJH 4 - ADS 5 - DHK(c) 6 - NP

6 - BIGGIN HILL, 1320 Cambridge S. Minor, in 35 minutes.

1 - JJH 2 - NP 3 - ADS 4 - DHK 5 - DPM 6 - SCP(c)

7 - WEST WICKHAM, 1260 St. Nicholas & Winchendon P. Doubles, in 42 minutes.

1 - SCP 2 - DHK 3 - ADS 4 - NP 5 - JJH(c) 6 - DPM

8 - HAYES, 1260 Eynesbury & St. Osmund Doubles, in 37 minutes.

1 - DHK 2 - NP(c) 3 - DPM 4 - SCP 5 - ADS 6 - JJH

9 - BICKLEY, 1260 Plain Bob Minor, in 42 minutes.

1 - DPM 2 - SCP 3 - DHK 4 - ADS 5 - NP 6 - JJH(c)

10 - PENGE, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles, in 37 minutes.

1 - NP 2 - DPM 2 - ADS(c) 4 - DHK 5 - JJH 6 - SCP

1&4 - 25th together

The ringers were: James J. Hardy (JJH); David H. Kingston (DHK); David P. Macey (DPM);

Sara C. Phelps (SCP); Nigel Pointer (NP); Alan D. Saunders (ADS).

QUARTER PEALS

[1]	31/05	FOOTS CRAY	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[2]	25/06	FOOTS CRAY	1260	Grandsire Doubles
[3]	07/08	BIGGIN HILL	1260	Plain Bob Minor
[4]	07/08	BIGGIN HILL	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor
[5]	07/08	CHELSEFIELD	1260	Single Canterbury Minor
[6]	07/08	FARNINGHAM	1260	5m/lp
[7]	07/08	ST MARY CRAY	1260	St Clements Minor
[8]	12/08	FOOTS CRAY	1260	Doubles 11m.
[9]	15/08	CRAYFORD	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major
[10]	19/08	EYNSFORD	1280	Spliced Surprise Major C Y N
[11]	23/08	ST MARY CRAY	1274	York Surprise Minor
[12]	24/08	ERITH CH CH	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[13]	02/09	ASH BY WROTHAM	1440	Surprise Minor Whitley and Hull
[14]	06/09	EYNSFORD	1280	Cambridge Surprise Major
[15]	13/09	CHELSEFIELD	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[16]	13/09	ST MARY CRAY	1320	Sliced Surprise Minor 5m.
[17]	14/09	BECKENHAM	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[18]	27/09	BEXLEY	1260	Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor
[19]	27/09	BROMLEY	1264	Plain Bob Major
[20]	27/09	FOOTS CRAY	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[21]	27/09	ST MARY CRAY	1260	St Mary Cray Bob Minor
[22]	29/09	FARNINGHAM	1260	Plain Bob Minor
[23]	04/10	CHELSEFIELD	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[24]	04/10	HAYES	1260	Plain Bob Minor

Congratulations to :-

Jan Cass	First attempt [1]
Carol Easthaugh	First quarter [12]
Alison Mayer	First quarter [15]
Stephanie Webb	First Minor inside [24]
Nigel Pointer	First of York [11]

Ruth Hardy, Nigel Pointer and Matthew Hilling : First of Spliced
and James Hardy : First of Spliced as Conductor [10]

Nigel Pointer, Helen Normington, David Macey and James Hardy :
Most Spliced Surprise Minor [16]

David Macey	Circled tower four times [1]
Nigel Pointer	Circled tower six times [21]

Sara Phelps and
Nigel Pointer 50th together [8]

David Macey 50th quarter in 1992 [22]

The quarter at St Mary Cray [21] was the first blows in the method
for Ruth Hardy, Helen Normington, Nigel Pointer, Sara Phelps, James
Normington and James Hardy (C), and was the first time an extent of
cc474 had been rung.

The band have requested to name the method ST MARY CRAY.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at
Bromley on Saturday, 10th October 1992

The Chairman, Dr. A. M. J. Young, opened the meeting by asking members to stand in silence in memory of Mr. P. J. Irwin of Lewisham who had died tragically the previous Friday.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Chislehurst (St. Nicholas)

Mr. R. Long

Deptford

Mrs. S. A. Irwin

Eltham

Mr. L. Dumper

Erith (Christ Church)

Mr. & Mrs. J. Hill

Eynsford

Mr. M. J. Hilling, Mr. & Mrs. H. E. J. Luffman, Mr. M. E. Luffman,
Miss L. J. Paterson and Mr. F. C. Rogers.

Foots Cray

Mr. & Mrs. R. Cass, Mr. P. Cornish, Mrs. V. Eagle, Miss R. Farmer,
Mr. D. Grainge, Mr. D. Macey and Mrs. M. Macey.

Greenwich

Mr. N. R. Parsons

Woolwich

Mr. R. D. Bing

Mr. W. Lanyon

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

After amending page five, Votes of Thanks, to read Miss J. Brown (not Mrs. J. Brown) the minutes were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Dr. P. V. D. Swift, seconded by Mr. D. E. Pointer.

2.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Centenary Project. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had written on behalf of the District to Mrs. Lucile Corby suggesting that one of the new bells which the District hoped to provide at Bickley from the Centenary Fund should be in memory of her husband, Mr. Philip Corby, and that it should be named Philip. Mrs. Catherine Lewis had spoken to Mrs. Corby about this matter and that the Chairman understood from Mrs. Lewis that Mrs. Corby was very pleased with the idea, so, in principle, the Chairman felt the 'go-ahead' had been given to launch an appeal as a memorial to Mr. Corby. The total cost for the whole project (two new bells) would probably be in the region of £10,000. Mr. Britton reported that there was approximately £1,250 in the Fund at present.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received a letter from the Association Chairman expressing his regret at not being able to attend the meeting and thanking everyone concerned with the arrangements for the Centenary Service at Lewisham.

A letter had been received from the General Secretary, Mr. A. J. Britton, in which he mentioned the need for the District to consider the re-formed proposals on the representation of Societies on the Central Council. Unfortunately details of the proposals were not available but it was generally felt that these were acceptable and it was proposed by the Chairman that the District should vote in favour. Some members did, however, feel that it was unnecessary for larger Societies to have a greater number of representatives.

5. REPORTS

The Chairman commented that on the whole events during the Centenary Year had been well supported, although recently attendance at District Practices had been disappointing. He urged members to support the 10-bell practice at Greenwich on 21st November.

Reports from the Ringing Master, the District Representatives, and the Secretary had been circulated and were accepted. There were no questions.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The meeting was informed that Mr. Britton and Mrs. Paterson were not seeking re-election as District Representatives. Mr. A. G. Hall took the chair for the election of the Chairman. Dr. Young was re-elected on the proposition of Miss M. R. Andrews, seconded by Mrs. D. B. P. Paterson. Dr. Young resumed the chair and the following officers were elected:

RINGING MASTER	Mrs. S. A. Irwin	P. Mr. C. Reeves S. Miss F. Cannon
ASSISTANT RINGING MASTER	Dr. P. V. D. Swift	P. Miss F. Cannon S. Mr. J. Rooke

3.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES	Mr. D. P. Hilling	P. Mr. A. J. Britton S. Mrs. D. B. P. Paterson
	Mr. W. Lanyon	P. Mr. A. J. Britton S. Miss M. R. Andrews
PRESS REPRESENTATIVE	Mrs. D. M. Young	P. Mr. A. G. Hall S. Mrs. J. Fox
SECRETARY	Miss M. R. Andrews	P. Miss F. Cannon S. Mr. A. J. Britton

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for her work during the year. He went on to point out to the meeting that Mrs. Irwin would probably not be seeking re-election as Ringing Master in 1993 and the District would also be looking for a new Chairman.

7. CENTENARY FUND - RULE AMENDMENT

An amendment to Rule 5 of the District Bell Restoration Fund Rules had been suggested at a District Committee Meeting held at Crayford on 7th July. The new Rule which read:

In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be merged with The Kent County Association of Change Ringers' Bell Restoration Fund.

was accepted on the proposition of Mr. A. J. Britton and seconded by Mr. D. P. Hilling.

8. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

ERITH (Christ Church)

Mrs. C. Eastaugh	P. Mr. J. Hill S. Dr. A. M. J. Young
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HAYES

Miss E. J. Harrison	P. Miss M. R. Andrews S. Mr. A. G. Hall
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RATIFICATION

The ratification of Mr. A. Higson, prior to a peal at Chelsfield on 4th October, was proposed by Mr. J. Rooke, seconded by Dr. A. M. J. Young.

9. PROGRAMME FOR 1993

Miss Andrews proposed that the District should continue to hold Quarterly Meetings on the second Saturday of the appropriate month. This was seconded by Miss S. C. Phelps and agreed.

4.

The following programme was agreed:

16th January	Quarterly Meeting at Christ Church, Erith (The tower was not available on the second Saturday).
13th March	Striking Competition at St. Mary Cray
24th April	Quarterly Meeting at Beckenham
10th July	Quarterly Meeting at Bromley Common
9th October	Annual Meeting at Dartford
13th November	Call Change Competition at Chelsfield.

In addition it was agreed to hold a Quiz Night on a Saturday evening in February or March and that the Secretary would co-ordinate the arrangements.

The Chairman planned to arrange another Training Day and it was still hoped that some volunteers would organize a Barn Dance. No arrangements were made for a Carol Service but it was agreed that further consideration could be given to this, or possibly a Songs of Praise, at the January meeting. It was pointed out that it would be District's turn to host the 8-bell Striking Competition, on 26th June, and a tower for this would be chosen by the District Committee.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter

The Chairman said that circulation of the Newsletter was still causing problems. He felt strongly that one copy should go to each tower in the District and proposed that all towers should be asked to pay £2.50 to cover the cost of one copy. Individual copies could continue to be made available if these were required. This was agreed and the Chairman undertook to approach each tower and to raise the matter again at the January Quarterly Meeting.

Flowers for Mrs. Irwin

Miss Cannon had purchased some flowers for Mrs. Irwin. Anyone who wished to contribute towards the cost was invited to do so. A card for Mrs. Irwin was also circulated during the meeting.

Centenary Service

Miss Phelps had been asked by Mrs. Macey to pass on her thanks to everyone who had sung at the Centenary Service.

5.

Sponsored Quarter Peals for Bromley Organ Fund

Miss Phelps told the meeting that an attempt was to be made on 28th November to ring quarter peals at every six-bell tower in the District. This was to be a sponsored effort in aid of Bromley Organ Fund and sponsors and assistance with transport would be welcome. The following would be taking part - Mr. J. J. Hardy, Mr. D. H. Kingston, Mr. D. Macey, Miss S. C. Phelps, Mr. N. Pointer and Mr. A. D. Saunders.

Chelsfield

Mr. Rooke reported that Chelsfield bells had been taken out that morning. They were due back on 14th December but would not be available for ringing before Christmas. The work being done included new metal retaining headstocks, new wheels and sliders.

Call Change Competition

Members were reminded that the Call Change Competition, draw 2.30 p.m., must finish by 5 p.m.

Votes of Thanks

Miss Phelps proposed votes of thanks the Curate of Bromley, The Rev. Dick Johnson for conducting the service and for the use of the bells, to Mr. Michael Bailey for playing the organ, and to the local ringers for providing and serving an excellent tea.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to Mr. Britton for all the work he had done for the District during his time as a member of the District Committee. As Mr. Britton had to leave the meeting early, the Secretary offered to pass this on by letter.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting and members went to Bromley Common for evening ringing.