

# **K.C.A.C.R.**

## **LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

### **OCTOBER 1993**

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Welcome to the October 1993 edition of the *Lewisham District Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* will once again be distributed to every tower in the District (via the tower secretary), so everyone in the District should know what is going on!

This issue of the *Newsletter* is the last one of the present round, and the last one that I will be editing. I think it is a great pity that people in the District don't seem to be bothered with the *Newsletter*. Since taking over as editor, I have received only three articles/items of tower news spontaneously, and I'm afraid that I just do not have the time to keep badgering people to send in articles (even that hasn't worked in several cases!). How successful the *Newsletter* has been over the last few years I do not know, as I have had next to no feedback from the readers. I hope that someone else in the District will decide to take on the job of *Newsletter* editor, as I think it is extremely worthwhile in keeping everyone informed of what is going on in the District and the County. What is more, I hope that whoever does take on the job gets considerably more support than I have!

#### **Program for the remainder of the year**

October	9	Annual District Meeting, Dartford
	30	<b>County Training Day on Raising and Lowering (see below)</b>
November:	6	Special practice (Erith St J) 10am
	13	District call change contest (venue to be confirmed)
December:	4	Special practice (Bexley) 10am
	11	Carol service (Foots Cray)

#### **Annual District Meeting**

3:00 General ringing at Dartford

4:30 Service at Dartford

5:00 (approx) Tea (hot meal) followed by Annual District Meeting in Dartford Church Hall (behind church).

Followed by general ringing at Dartford until about 8:00 (all levels catered for, so please come along).

Names for tea to Alex Britton (0322 225822) by Wednesday 6th, please.

This year's ADM will see a number of changes in the District committee. Sonia Irwin is not seeking re-election as Ringing Master, Peter Swift is not seeking re-election as Deputy Ringing Master, and Andrew Young is standing down from the committee altogether. Please put some thought into who you would like to be "running" the District in 1993/4. Please try to come along and express your views!

#### **District Carol Service**

Book the date now (11th December at Foots Cray), and try to take a couple of hours off those pre-Christmas chores, and prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas (or just have a jolly good sing!). Join your fellow ringers in the District for our ringers' Christmas service. Everyone is welcome, so bring the family if you want!

### **Lewisham District Centenary Project**

The good news is that the two new trebles for St. George's, Bickley were cast on 2nd September, witnessed by several members of the District and parishioners from Bickley. The new bells are due to be delivered at the beginning of October, and will be installed in the tower about a week later. It is our intention that there should be a dedication service sometime towards the end of October or beginning of November, to which all members of the District will be invited, and there should be an opportunity for everyone to ring on the eight. I shall let towers know the details as soon as possible.

The bad news is that we are still well short of our target of £10,000 for completion of the project. I have had money raised by several individuals and towers already, but I have heard nothing from the vast majority of members and towers. May I remind you that this is a District appeal, and it would be appropriate if every member of the District were to make some contribution to the fund. We still have about £3,500 to raise, so let's see what we can do.

### **County Training Sub-committee.**

This year's training day is aimed at teaching raising and lowering. It will be held on 30th October. Peter Hurcombe (Sussex C.A.) has agreed to come and be our "guest tutor" for the day. There may still be some places available if you want to go. Details can be found on the red notices in your tower, or from Andrew Young or Catherine Lewis.

The 1994 training day will be another bell maintenance day, at the end of October 1994. Further details will be available in spring, 1994.

Following the success of the talks on conducting and coursing orders, which I gave during Holy Week, I have been asked to talk about bob-calling for beginners during Holy Week 1994 (probably Tuesday and Wednesday again). If you are interested then book the date now, and look out for more details nearer the time.

The Surprise Royal practices are held at Maidstone (All Saints) every other month (May, July, September, November). They are usually on the second Wednesday from about 7:30, but check the Ringing World or contact Andrew Young for any alterations to this schedule.

### **Insurance for Ringers**

In response to a question on insurance posed at the last County committee meeting, the Districts were asked to find out about the insurance cover held by each individual church. Every tower should have received a questionnaire on the subject (if your tower has not received one, then please let me know). This is actually quite an important issue, which could affect us all, so please could you fill in the questionnaire (your PCC treasurer should be able to provide the necessary information) and return them to me as soon as possible. Thanks for your help in this.

Andrew Young

### **Payment for Wedding Ringing**

As a follow up to the survey made about two years ago, I have also sent out a questionnaire on payment for wedding ringing. This form also has a space to enter names and phone numbers of people who would be willing to help out with wedding ringing at towers other than their home tower. It would be very helpful if you could fill in this form and return it to me as soon as possible. Thanks again.

Andrew Young

### **Melons For Ectacy - what a night!!**

Well that's got your attention anyway! No this isn't the editor's final fling turning the District *Newsletter* into an X-rated publication. Rather it is a report on another great Barn Dance. "Melons For Ectacy" does not refer to some weird sexual deviation performed during the evening in question, but rather was the unlikely name of the band who led us in an energetic evening of dancing at Erith church hall on Saturday 18th September.

About 110 ringers and friends descended on Christ Church hall and enjoyed an evening of energetic dancing, accompanied by plenty drink and a vast spread of food ably organised and served by the Eynsford and the Foots Cray ringers. It was another thoroughly enjoyable social event, and everyone's thanks go to David & Margaret Hilling for organising the whole thing, and to all the ringers from Eynsford and Foots Cray who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make sure that everything went smoothly on the day, and that everyone was well fed and watered.

## **Ken Medhurst**

The death of Ken Medhurst of St. Mary's Bexley, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, on 24th May, came as a considerable shock to the Bexley ringers and his many friends. Ken sang in the choir at St. Mary's as a boy chorister and subsequently, in 1938, when the bells were restored and augmented, he volunteered to learn to ring. He was taught to handle a bell by the then Verger, the late Mr. Bert Holden. Apart from a few years when his children were young, he rang regularly up to 2nd May this year. Ken joined the Crayford ringers most weeks at their practice and often took the opportunity to ring at other churches when away from home. He rang a few peals, three in recent years at Bexley, and numerous quarter-peals. He had been a member of the K.C.A.C.R. since 1938.

On Monday, 7th June, Bexley bells were rung half-muffled before and after the funeral service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. David Knight, assisted by the Honorary Parish Deacon, the Rev. Gladys Atfield, and attended by a large congregation of family, ringers and friends. Half-muffled quarter-peals were rung at Crayford on 27th May and at Bexley on the day of the funeral.

Mary Andrews

## **Erith Flower Festival**

There is to be a flower festival at Christ Church, Erith, on Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October. Attractions include a Craft Fair (Saturday only), a choral concert in the church (Saturday evening), the Jubi-peal (for details of ringing times contact AY) and a church full of flowers. Refreshments will be available. Details can be obtained from Andrew Young.

## **Chairman's Report**

I am not sure really whether the District Chairman should present a report. However, since I am also the *Newsletter* editor, nobody can stop me!!

I have now completed my three years stint as District Chairman and, as you will see from the note on page 1, I have decided to stand down from the District committee. I would like to take up a bit of page space to reflect on my perception of the District over the seven years since I was first elected District Ringing Master. There have been some remarkable achievements over that period. It has given me great pleasure to see quarters of complicated surprise major being rung by several "more mature" members of the District, who were struggling with plain hunt when I took over as Master. It just shows that if you put the effort in, you can achieve, whatever age you are! Several youngsters have also progressed through the ranks to become very competent ringers. In this respect it is important to acknowledge the assistance given by the London County Association, the ASCY and the SRCY, all of whom have provided the forum to help bring people along.

On the minus side it has been frustrating to see many ringers (young and not so young) who have not fulfilled their full potential. Several District events (notably the quarter-peal week for the retirement of the Bishop of Rochester and the Plain Bob Doubles training day) were very well supported, and I had many reports of people from the "outlying" towers enjoying the challenge and companionship offered by these events. It was disappointing therefore to see that the vast majority of them did not then turn up to District practices, where they could have built on the both the campanological and sociable ground work achieved at the more organised events. Many youngsters tend to lose interest in ringing because it no longer becomes a challenge. It is difficult for youngsters to get to practices, so perhaps it is up to us "oldies", who have cars, to put ourselves out a bit, and encourage youngsters to get out and about. One tower in the District is now enjoying the benefits of just that attitude shown several years ago by Tony Baker - a group of young, inexperienced ringers at Beckenham were taken to practices all over the place, and now look at them! I know that there are a lot of calls on everyone's time - that is one reason why I am stepping down from the committee - but surely we could all find some time to help on our learners.

Obviously, it gave me great satisfaction to see (and be part of) the Lewisham District's domination of the County 8-bell striking competition. We now have an established band (plus several reserves), and hopefully we can maintain that standard in the years to come. Our District competitions have also been a source of great satisfaction, although not without their problems! It is great to see so many teams turning out to do battle in both the call-change and the method competitions, and the standard achieved by all the bands is usually extremely high. The disappointment is that we consistently fail to do well at the County 6-bell final. Surely it is not that our bands are not as good as those from the other Districts, and yet we

never quite seem to get it right on the day. Perhaps it is just nerves! I would love to see the County 6-bell trophy in this District soon .... who knows, by the time you read this, it might be here! I wish the Lewisham band the best of luck in their efforts.

The new ring of bells at Bickley has taken up a lot of my time (and that of other District officers) over the last two years. The installation of the new bells, the teaching of the new band, raising money for the two new trebles (Centenary Project) and organising for their installation have all taken a great deal of my time, which has perhaps meant that I have not been able to devote as much time as I should have done to other District events. However, the time spent is now bearing fruit, and we have a lovely ring of six, soon to become an even better eight (we hope) and a competent local band to ring them. It is when you see the achievements of these new ringers that the time devoted to them seems so worthwhile.

So it is with mixed feelings of relief and sadness that I step off the committee. Relief that the committee duties will be being undertaken by someone else, and I can just become an ordinary ringer again, and sadness that I will no longer be in the thick of things. Having said that, I am remaining on the County committee and on the County training sub-committee, and will always be available and keen to support our new "leaders" in any way I can. I hope that everyone in the District will also give their support rather more whole-heartedly than of late!

Finally I would like to thank everyone in the District, tower captains, secretaries, incumbents, and ringers alike, for their support over the years I have held office. They have been for the most part very enjoyable and rewarding. In particular I must thank Mary Andrews for all her help (I don't think many people realise what a lot she does for the District in her role as secretary!). Also Anne Martin, Tony Baker, Sonia Irwin, Alex Britton and Peter Swift who have given me a great deal of help in many ways over the years. Family-folk amongst the readers will appreciate that I must also thank Diana who has not complained when I have had to abandon her on numerous occasions to fulfil District duties.

Andrew Young

## PEAL AND QUARTER-PEAL ANALYSIS

### Peals

[1]	05/06	ELTHAM	5120	Spliced Surprise Major 6m.
[2]	27/06	FARNINGHAM	5040	Minor 7m.

and a peal rung outside the District of note:

[3]	15/07	ST OLAVE, HART ST.	5088	Lincolnshire Surprise Major
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Congratulations to:-

1st peal on 6: Martin Luffman, David Macey and Matthew Hilling [2]

1st in method: David Kingston, Nigel Pointer, Sara Phelps, James Hardy and David Macey (C) [3]

### Quarter peals

[1]	21/02	ST MARY CRAY	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[2]	14/03	ST MARY CRAY	1272	Chester Surprise Minor
[3]	02/05	BECKENHAM	1250	Pudsey Surprise Major
[4]	08/05	BROMLEY	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major
[5]	18/05	FARNINGHAM	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[6]	20/05	BEXLEY	1260	Grandsire Triples

[7]	23/05	BECKENHAM	1282	Cambridge Surprise Royal
[8]	23/05	EYNSFORD	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major
[9]	25/05	LEWISHAM	1280	Lewisham Surprise Major
[10]	26/05	ASH-BY-WROTHAM	1260	Reverse Canterbury Minor
[11]	27/05	CRAYFORD	1320	Plain Bob Doubles
[12]	30/05	FOOTS CRAY	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
[13]	02/06	ELTHAM	1260	Doubles 2m.
[14]	06/06	CHELSEFIELD	1308	Plain Bob Minor
[15]	06/06	LEWISHAM	1264	Plain Bob Major
[16]	07/06	BEXLEY	1260	Plain Bob Triples
[17]	11/06	EYNSFORD	1260	Oxford Bob Triples
[18]	13/06	BECKENHAM	1260	Grandsire Doubles
[19]	27/06	BECKENHAM	1282	Yorkshire Surprise Royal
[20]	27/06	CHISLEHURST ST. N.	1260	Doubles 2m.
[21]	06/07	GREENWICH	1360	London Surprise Royal
[22]	11/07	BECKENHAM	1277	Grandsire Caters

and a quarter rung outside the District of note:

[23]	18/07	SOUTHWARK CATH.	1346	Cambridge Surprise Maximus
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Congratulations :-

1st quarter:	Trevor Warner [11] Rachel Morley [13] Maralyn Evans [20]
1st inside:	Ros Farmer [12]
1st on 6:	Ros Farmer, Derek Grainge [1]
1st blows in method for all:	[2] and [9]
1st in method:	David Kingston [3] Martin Luffman [4] P R Jarvis [8] Sylvia MacKenzie, Margaret Macey, David Macey & Daphne Paterson [17]
1st Caters:	Sarah Farnham [22]
1st Surprise Royal:	Ruth Hardy, Nigel Pointer [7]
1st Yorkshire Royal:	Nigel Pointer, Sonia Irwin, Sara Phelps, Margaret Macey, Peter Swift, & James Hardy (C) [19]
1st Maximus:	Nigel Pointer [23]
1st Surprise Maximus:	James Hardy [23]
1st in method as conductor:	Matthew Hilling [17]
1st Surprise Major as Conductor:	Nigel Pointer [3]
1st Surprise Royal as Conductor:	James Hardy [7]

Landmarks

Circled tower:	Michael Gentry [11]
200th quarter and circled tower:	David Macey [2]
50th together:	Alan Saunders and Nigel Pointer [3]
Completes a quarter at every ringable tower in the Lewisham District:	Sara Phelps [6]

Information taken from The Ringing World up to and including no.4299 for September 17,1993.  
Jim Rooke.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Bromley Common  
on Saturday, 10th July 1993

Before dealing with the first item on the agenda the Chairman, Dr. A. M. J. Young, asked members to stand in memory of Mr. K. Medhurst of Bexley who died on 24th May.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Beckenham band and from Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. M. Jones and Mr. M. Murray of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, Mr. & Mrs. M. Gentry of Crayford, Mr. A. J. Britton and Miss D. Pratt of Dartford, Mr. L. G. A. Morley of Eltham, Mr. & Mrs. J. Hill and Mrs. D. M. Young of Christ Church, Erith, Mr. M. E. Luffman of Eynsford, Mr. P. Cornish, Mr. R. Cass, Miss R. Farmer, Mr. D. Grainge and Mr. D. Macey from Foots Cray, Miss F. Cannon and Mr. C. Reeves of Greenwich, Mr. & Mrs. J. Fox from Lewisham, Mr. N. Pointer 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 after the following had been noted:

Page 1, item 1, Apologies for Absence

Add Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Jeal of Bexley.

Page 1, item 4, County A.G.M.

The final sentence to read "In reply to a question from Dr. Peter Swift, the Chairman said that it had been decided not to abolish Life Membership, but to raise the fee to £80."

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Barn Dance

Mr. D. P. Hilling announced that tickets for the Barn Dance at £6 each were available. The refreshments were being arranged by the Eynsford and Foots Cray bands. Members were urged to support this venture and to bring non-ringing friends. Raffle prizes were required. All proceeds would go to the Centenary Fund.

4. REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LEEDS ON 3RD MAY

A report on the General Committee Meeting had been printed in the District Newsletter. Mr. W. Lanyon drew attention to the fact that each tower was asked to report at the A.D.M. on the insurance provided for them by their church, and that details of this should be given to the Chairman. The Secretary suggested that it would be helpful if the Chairman could draw up a list of questions and circulate this to all towers in the District. It was agreed that this should be done.

County Eight-bell Striking Competition

Mr. Hilling warmly congratulated the District Band on winning the County Eight-bell Competition for the third year running.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

### County Dinner 1994

The Chairman read to the meeting a letter which the Secretary had received from the General Secretary giving details of the County Dinner to be held at the Tudor Park Country Club Hotel at Bearsted on 29th October 1994.

### Psittacosis

The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that Mr. Medhurst, whose death had been reported at the beginning of the meeting, had died of psittacosis. On behalf of her church, she had had correspondence with the Chief Environmental Services Officer of Bexley London Borough. She had raised a number of questions, to which she had not received answers. The only piece of advice she had been given which she felt might be of interest to other ringers was:

"It is advisable not to sweep up the existing dust and droppings etc. but to damp the area down before clearing them as the floating dust from sweeping could be an added risk to your staff."

There was discussion on both the medical and the insurance side of this question, and the Chairman said that he would raise the matter at the next meeting of the Guild of Medical Ringers.

## 6. CENTENARY FUND

The Chairman reported that the fund stood at around £4,200 including a grant of £1600 from the county Bell Restoration Fund. So far, very little had been raised by towers in the District: the amount probably did not run into three figures.

Mr. Lanyon drew members' attention to the advantages of making large donations (over £250) under Gift Aid. Under this scheme a gift of, for example, £300 would become £400 to the receiving charity. Forms were available from Mr. Lanyon.

The Chairman said that the ringers at Bickley were making good progress, one had rung a quarter peal and most were ringing Bob Doubles, either on the treble or inside to a plain course. Dr. Young expressed appreciation to Mr. D. Kingston of Bromley for the time he had given to training the Bickely ringers and for welcoming them to the Bromley practice.

## 7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

### BECKENHAM

Mr. Jeremy Byers

P. Miss S. Phelps

S. Mr. J. Hardy

### BROMLEY COMMON

Mr. Andrew Scott )

Mrs. Sara Scott )

P. Mr. C. D. Lawrance

S. Mr. D. A. Scott

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Carol Service

Mrs. M. Macey reminded members that she needed volunteers to form the choir for the Christmas Carol Service on 11th December.

### Bromley Common

Mr. Lawrance told the meeting that Bromley Common had changed their practice night to Thursday, 7.45 - 9.15. The practice had been shown incorrectly in the Handbook but, with the change, the information was right. It was advisable to telephone to confirm that the practice was being held.

### Call Change Competition

Since it was not possible to hold the Call Change Competition on 13th November at Chelsfield, an alternative tower was required. Mr. Hilling offered Farningham for this event, subject to the Rector's consent being given.

### Annual District Meeting

Mr. Britton had asked the Chairman to remind everyone that the Annual District Meeting would be held at Dartford on 9th October. He hoped there would be a good attendance.

### Newsletter

The Chairman said that the next issue of the Newsletter would be his last as Editor. He hoped that someone would volunteer to take on this work, which he felt was important as a major means of communication in the District. Duplication was not a problem.

### Vote of Thanks

Dr. Peter Swift proposed a warm vote of thanks to the Rev. David Graham for conducting the service and the use of the bells, to Mr. Jones of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, for playing the organ, and to the Bromley Common ringers for providing tea and making the local arrangements.

There being no further business members went to the tower for evening ringing.