

Newsletter

KGACR

October 1994

Lewisham District

Whats on.

Annual District Meeting

The Annual District meeting will be held at West Wickham on Saturday, 8th October. Bells 3.00. Service 4.30, followed by tea, business meeting and evening ringing. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Alys Helm (081-462-3408)

Call Change Competition

This Competition will be held at Sidcup on 12th November. Full details will be available at the A.D.M. The rules are set out further on in this newsletter.

District Quiz Night- Andrew Young in aid of the Centenary Project

When - Saturday 19th November, 7.30

Where - Bickley Church Hall

Who - Anyone (no specialist knowledge of ringing will be required, so bring along non-ringing friends and family.

How many - teams of six to eight people, but if you cannot raise a full-team, get in touch anyway, and we may be able to fit you in somewhere)

How much - £3 per head, including buffet supper and coffee (please bring your own drinks)

When you have organised your team, please contact Andrew and Diana (0322 529964) as soon as possible please, but no later than 13th November.

Has Anyone seen our district practices ? - Anonymous

Am I the only who has noticed the near total absence of District practices during this year ? Have they become extinct or have they just gone into hiding in some shady corner of the District, known only to a few priveleged people ? We like our District practices as a chance to ring something different, and to meet up with people.

Ed: No you're not the only one, several people have made similar comments.

From the Editor

Well as my first year as editor comes to a close, thank you to all those people who have contributed to the newsletter this past year. The future of the Newsletter will be discussed at the A.D.M. Thank you to Andrew for your article about the Newsletter, it was the only response I had to my Editorial last time. There is an article that came in anonymously, I hesitated to include it but I felt it did say quite a lot about the way our District is at present. Lets hope that next year the District sees more practices and general activities. The committee are always looking for people to organise events.

On a sadder note, I know at Erith, Crayford and Bexley Cyril Brett-Smith will be missed, but please read the fitting tribute to him by Andrew Young.

Why do we have a District Newsletter - Andrew Young

This question was posed by the editor in the last issue, and the answer is, quite simple, and in order of importance,

1 - to inform everyone in the District of the dates and times of District practices, meetings and events.

2 - to circulate details of the times and venues of each quarterly meeting, together with the minutes of the previous meeting, and any relevant reports BEFORE the meeting.

3 - to keep people up to date with what has happened in the district.

The last issue failed miserably on points 1 & 2 (through no fault of the editor), although to Sally's credit, I felt that point 3 was extremely well covered.

So why was the Newsletter sent out so late? Because, despite promises to send it, no District calendar was sent to the editor. Thus even when it did come out there were no details of District Practices in it. How can people turn up to practices when they do not know that they are happening ? The Newsletter is an excellent way of spreading information to every tower in the District, but the editor needs cooperation from those "at the top", otherwise she may as well not bother!

A Tribute - Cyril Brett-Smith Andrew Young

Camberwell Bells

It was with great sadness that we learned recently of the death of Cyril Brett-Smith, at the age of 87.

Born in Chislehurst in 1906, Cyril was one of 13 children. His father Robert Brett-Smith, introduced Cyril and some of his brothers to ringing on handbells, and they soon progressed to tower bells and became members of the band at Chislehurst in 1920. He married his first wife, Margaret in 1930, and four years later moved to Beckenham, where he was a member of the band when the two trebles were added. After a period of considerable hardship during the depression, they settled in Erith in 1965, and Cyril became a member of the band at Christ Church, although he was also a regular ringer at Crayford and Bexley.

As Margarets' health began to fail, Cyril gave up ringing to spend more time with her, but after her death several years later he returned to ringing with renewed vigour. This was when I first met Cyril, and his commitment and loyalty both to our band others will be a lasting memory. It took a lot to stop him getting to service ringing or a practice, and he regularly used to walk from Erith to Crayford or Bexley for their practice during the summer.

As far as ringing goes, he never considered himself a "high-flyer", although it is no mean achievement to ring Bristol and London Major for the first time at the age of 80+!! Whilst these achievements gave him great pleasure, his real love was the sound of good ringing, be it rounds or spliced (although Double Norwich was always a particular favourite). He was as happy to sit and listen to some good striking from those he would call "you experts", as to take part in the ringing himself.

His warmth, friendship and his love of a good story will be remembered fondly by many in the District, both young and old. He was never afraid to speak his mind, and I well remember feelings of trepidation whenever he stood up at a District Meeting. Having said that, even in criticism, he usually had something positive to say, and he was always quick to offer praise when it was due, and particularly to give words of encouragement to learners.

A few years ago he married his second wife Kathy and moved to her home in Thornton Heath. Although he stopped ringing then, he kept in touch with us all, and was always keen to hear the news from the District. The thoughts of all of us are with Kathy and the rest of Cyrils' family at this time.

Mr Barnet (RWp960) was correct, we were proud to have had Cyril as a member of our band, and our District, but more than that, as a friend.

These harmonious bells strike Dobson's praise
From Downham in Norfolk brought
Their melodious tones so sweetly raise
To cheer the ringers' thoughts

In triples first their fame did spread
And through the county ran
Two peals were rung by College Youths
It was the junior band

May they their skill on different peals
Upon these cheerful bells
Where sounds so sweet and peals complete
Their noble science tells

Through meadows as their sound it runs
Where lovers often ranges
For them, in marriage, life may ring
Some sweet delightful changes

You ringers brave that strike the change
And raise the cheerful sound
The feathered tribe the day proclaim
While warbling all around

Whilst they their changes do complete
All in the sacred towers
For love of bells it makes them meet
To pass away dull hours

W L Whiskin

Peal Report - Jim Rooke

No peals published in the Ringing World for the District since the last news letter, and only the following 15 quarter peals, an average of just over one per week.

[1]	20/02 FOOTS CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[2]	11/05 CRAYFORD	1260 Grandsire Triples
[3]	15/05 CRAYFORD	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[4]	15/05 WEST WICKHAM	1440 Plain Bob Minor
[5]	18/05 FOOTS CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[6]	23/05 EYNSFORD	1280 Bristol Surprise Major
[7]	29/05 BEXLEY	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[8]	29/05 HAYES	1260 Grandsire Doubles
[9]	31/05 ERITH CH CH	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[10]	06/06 CHISLEHURST ST N	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[11]	06/06 ST MARY CRAY	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[12]	02/07 ERITH CH CH	1260 Grandsire Triples
[13]	07/07 ST MARY CRAY	1269 Doubles (5m)
[14]	15/07 BROMLEY	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
[15]	21/07 ST MARY CRAY	1440 Erin Doubles

Congratulations to :-

1st inside Jan Cass [1], Trevor Warner [3], Jackie Toulmin [4], Carol Easthaugh [9], Susan Hobday [11].

1st on 8 Carol Easthaugh [12]

1st Triples Jessica Vale, Derek Lamb [7]

1st Erin Doubles for all the band [15]

Circled tower Sheila Hewer [4]

From Ringing World up to and including edition No. 4350 for September 9, 1994.

Kent County Association of Change Ringers Lewisham District

Call Change Competition Rules

1. The Competition may be held annually for Sunday Service Bands within the Lewisham District.
2. Each tower shall normally be 'in union' with the Association. However, at the discretion of the District Officers, new bands may be allowed to enter for the first time only without being in union.
3. No band shall have more than three people in it who have previously rung a peal.
4. A tower shall be allowed to enter any number of bands.
5. Any tower wishing to enter, finding itself short of one ringer, can notify the District Ringing Master or Deputy Ringing Master, who can supply the extra member. The extra member must not have already entered the competition.
6. The conductor shall call the changes from memory. No visual aids will be allowed.
7. Each team must ring call changes. No method will be permitted.
8. Call changes are to be made, on average, every fifth handstroke with the change made at the following handstroke.
9. Each team will be allowed two minutes practice rounds and call changes, (this will not be judged) standing the bells at the end of the rounds.
10. Each team will be judged on 120 rows, a handstroke and backstroke counting as two rows. A maximum of 12 whole pulls of rounds will be allowed for "settling down" before the start of the call changes. A steward in the tower will count the rows and inform the conductor when the required number has been reached. The conductor should then call 'stand' as soon as possible, having first - if necessary - brought the bells back into rounds. The opening rounds, up to 12 whole pulls, and the changes after 120 rows will not be judged. Failure to stand will not be faulted, but will be noted and taken into account in the event of a tie.
11. All ringing must be carried out with open handstroke leads. Faults will be awarded for closed handstroke leading.
12. *The entry forms for the Competition must be received by the District Secretary at least seven clear days before the date of the Competition.*
13. The ringing will be judged by a competent judge from outside the District.
14. Any dispute or difficulty should be referred to the District Officers before the end of the Competition.

KENT COUNTRY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Hayes on Saturday, 9th July 1994

Since the District Chairman had moved away from the area, Dr. A. M. J. Young kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr. R. A. Long from Chislehurst
Mr. & Mrs. M. Gentry from Crayford
Mr. A. J. Britton from Dartford
Mr. L. A. Dumper, Mrs. P. O'Meara and Mr. L. G. A. Morley from Eltham
Mr. D. P. Hilling from Eynsford
Dr. P. V. D. Swift from Greenwich
Mr. P. G. Braund from Sidcup
Mr. W. Lanyon from Woolwich

In addition Miss S. C. Phelps apologised for the absence of the remainder of the Beckenham band, and Mrs. M. Macey for the absence of the remainder of the Foots Cray band.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman explained that it had not been possible to print the Newsletter in time for the meeting because a list of dates for forthcoming events was still awaited. In view of this the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. These were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. C. F. Jeal, seconded by Mr. J. Hill.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Psittacosis

The Chairman confirmed that the article of psittacosis would be sent to The Ringing World and to other District Secretaries. Personal copies were also available if needed.

Barn Dance

Because the hall at Christ Church, Erith, was not available, the Chairman said that the Barn Dance would not be held on 19th November. It was hoped to arrange this event in the New Year.

2.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The only item of correspondence had been from Mr. Roger Booth about the Summer 3-Day Ringing Course arranged by the Middlesex and Surrey Education Committees and Pimlico and Docklands Ringing Centres. All towers should have received particulars of this event and members were reminded that both students and helpers were required.

5. REPORT ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LEEDS ON 7TH MAY

As neither of the District Representatives was at the meeting, the Chairman suggested that this item should be deferred to the October meeting. The Chairman, who had attended the General Committee Meeting, said that he had mentioned that this District was willing to undertake the printing of competition certificates for the other Districts, but it was understood that they had all made their own arrangements.

6. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

No new members were elected.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996

The Chairman mentioned that the Association's Annual General Meeting was due to be held in the District in 1996 and that Mr. Alex Britton had offered to make the necessary arrangements at Dartford. This was still possible but he had asked the Secretary to point out to members that it was likely that work might be going on in the church and part of it might not be available for seating at the service, although there would still be seating for 150 people. It was suggested that members should go away and consider this matter as a decision on the venue would have to be taken at the District's Annual Meeting. The Secretary would be writing to all towers in union about events for 1995 and was asked by the Chairman to mention the 1996 A.G.M.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. D. G. H. Hollis

Miss Freda Cannon mentioned that Mr. Hollis of Lewisham had had to give up ringing and that the Lewisham tower was now silent. The Secretary was asked to write to Mr. Hollis to thank him for his considerable contribution to ringing in Lewisham and the surrounding towers over many years.

Names for Tea

Miss Sue Fisher pointed out that names for tea for the meeting should have been in by the previous Wednesday and by that evening she had received six names for tea. She said that this made it difficult to make suitable catering arrangements, and was not good manners. The Secretary suggested, and it was agreed, that Miss Fisher should submit a note on this matter for publication in the Newsletter which was due to be issued prior to the District's Annual Meeting.

3.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Eight-Bell Competition

The Chairman mentioned that unfortunately one member of the band had been unable to ring at the last moment and that the District had been placed fourth out of the five teams that entered the Eight-Bell Competition.

Newsletter

The calendar of forthcoming events was not available. As soon as details were finalized the information would be sent to the Editor and copies should be sent to all tower within two weeks.

Centenary Fund

The Chairman said that all towers should have received a letter from him regarding the Centenary Fund which £1787 short of its target. All accounts had been paid. The outstanding balance was covered by an interest-free loan. Everyone was urged to raise funds to clear this debt.

Bickley

The Chairman mentioned that the Bickley band were running their own practices. Help was always welcome but members should check with the Tower Secretary before visiting.

Training Events

A new training poster was available and copies would be sent to all tower shortly. All towers were urged to send a representative to the Bell Maintenance Day to be held in the autumn - names had to be in by 15th August. This would run by the Association's bell restoration team, which was recognised as being among the best in the country. In 1995 there would be training in Holy Week on bell handling, and, later in the year, "Bridging the Gap" to help ringers progress from simple to more difficult methods.

Forthcoming Events

The Chairman mentioned that the Ringing Master would be writing to all towers about the arrangements she had made for practices etc. for the remainder of the year.

Officers for 1995

The Chairman reminded members that they should be giving consideration to possible nominees for the post of District Chairman; also a District Representative, because Mr. David Hilling would prefer not to continue at District Representative in view of his many other commitments.

In closing the meeting the Chairman asked members to encourage people to attend District events. Attendance recently had been disappointing.