

# Newsletter

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

January 1995  
Lewisham District

### Quarterly Meeting

The next Quarterly Meeting will be at Biggin Hill on Saturday 14th January. Bells 3.00, service 4.30. Names for tea by the previous Tuesday, please, to Mrs Pamela Campbell (0959 571544).

### Forthcoming Events

- 28/1/95 Evening Practice- Crayford- 6-7.30  
25/2/95 Evening Practice- Lewisham- 7-8.30 T.B.C  
11/3/95 6 Bell Striking Competition- Penge  
25/3/95 Training Day (see article)  
8/4/95 Quarterly Meeting- Footscray  
16/4/94 County AGM- Canterbury District  
22/4/95 Handbell concert- Details Mary Andrews  
29/4/95 Evening Practice- Greenwich 7-9  
20/5/95 Practice Eynsford- Time to be confirmed  
8/7/95 Quarterly Meeting- Cudham  
11&12/8/95 Training Days- Docklands

A Quarter peal week (date to be decided) lets see how many 1st's we can score. Get practising !!

### Handbook - Mary Andrews

Tower Secretaries do remember to send me the list of quarter peals rung in your tower during 1994. I should like to have this information by 1st January. If there are any last-minute changes for the Handbook, please let me have them without delay.

### Subscriptions & Donations - Mary Andrews

Subscriptions for 1995 are due on 1st January. Practising members £5.00. Junior Members and Senior Citizens £2.00. Cheques should be made payable to the K.C.A.C.R. It would be helpful if donations to the Bell Restoration Fund could be made separately from subscriptions. Cheques should be made payable to the K.C.A.C.R. Bell Restoration Fund. Cheques for donations to the District's Centenary Fund should be made payable to the K.C.A.C.R. Lewisham District Bell Restoration Fund.

### From the Editor

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year. Last date for the next newsletter will be 22nd March 1994. It is essential that articles are with me before then as it may be difficult for me to produce the newsletter in time for the meeting as I am expecting our first child at the end of February.

### Call Change Competition - Results Anne Saunders

On a dreary November's afternoon five teams, from Bexley, Eynsford & Farningham, West Wickham, Crayford and Beckenham, met at St John's Sidcup for the districts annual 6 bell call change competition. Mr David Woodward from London kindly agreed to judge on this occasion. After listening to the ringing he began by saying that after he had been sitting outside for some time he started sinking into the mud. Fortunately, he managed to complete his marking and gave comments on the ringing and placed the bands as follows :-

1. Eynsford & Farningham 56 Faults
2. West Wickham 80 Faults
3. Beckenham 82 Faults
4. Bexley 100 Faults
5. Crayford - did not finish

All the ringing was of a reasonable standard and it would be nice to see more teams enter next time as it provides good experience especially for the learners.

### Centenary Fund - Andrew Young

Despite the great success of the Quiz Night (£270 raised) we are still well short of our target. We need about another £1200, so please, please, please can

### News from Lewisham

Members will be pleased to learn that David Hollis is making good progress following his triple bypass operation. He hopes to be able to start ringing again next year.

Jon Fox has taken over as the Lewisham Tower Secretary. His address is:

7 Fordel Road,  
Catford  
SE6 1XS

Telephone: 081-697 2916

## **K.C.A.C.R Bell Repair Fund - Andrew Young**

What does it do for me? - The BRF and the Bell Restoration Subcommittee do a tremendous amount towards the upkeep of bells throughout the County including in our District. Members of the subcommittee are always available for advice, and will come to your tower to inspect your bells if you want them to. They are recognised by Whitechapel Bellfoundry as "expert amateurs", and have worked closely with the Foundry on many projects. The BRF not only provides vital equipment for this work, but also gives grants to towers to assist in both major and minor repairs. Both are a huge asset to our Association and deserve all of our support - after all you never know when your tower might need help. You may not have realised that the subcommittee have been involved in work in our District at Beckenham, Bexley, Bickley, Ash, Chelsfield, Dartford, Footscray, Cudham, St Pauls' Cray, and probably others I don't know about, and many of these towers have benefited from grants from the BRF.

## **Lewisham District Training Day - Andrew Young**

**Saturday 25th March 10.00 to 4.30** *? Rebecca*

There will be two themes to the training day, Plain Bob Doubles and Treble Bob Minor, with opportunities for people to learn both trebling and ringing inside. The group sizes will be strictly limited so that everyone gets a good chance to learn and practice. What usually limits the number of groups we can run is not the number of learners, not the availability of towers, but the number of helpers. So if you can help, please let us know as soon as possible.

### **Theme 1 - Plain Bob Doubles**

- (a) Treble - Minimum requirement : Able to ring plain hunt.
- (b) Inside - Minimum requirement : Able to ring treble to touches of Doubles.

### **Theme 2 - Treble Bob Minor (Kent/Oxford)**

- (a) Treble - Minimum requirement : Able to ring Plain Bob Minor inside
- (b) Inside - Minimum requirement : Able to trble to Treble Bob/Surprise.

There will be a nominal fee of £3 (£1.50 for Juniors) to cover organisation costs and tower donations, payable on the day. Lunch and perhaps a "tutorial" session will be at a conveniently located church hall (bring a packed lunch). If you like to come but have no transport, please get in touch, and we will see if we can organise something. **To book your place on the training day, please contact Andrew Young (18 Farm Place, Crayford DA1 4LU Tel 0322 529964) as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 1st February.**

Helpers please also contact me as soon as possible.

## **Bellringing Visitors From Kenya - David Hilling**

The Eynsford and Farningham Bellringers were host on Friday September 23rd to a band of eight ringers from Kilifi in Kenya. Visiting ringing bands usually come from south east England, so a ringing tour party from overseas is clearly something special.

Kilifi is a small village on Kenya's east coast about 40km from Mombasa. The church of St Thomas is unique in Kenya in that it possesses a peal of six bells hung for English style ringing. In 1990 Paul and Deborah, ringers from Tatsfield near Biggin Hill, visited Kilifi and found the bells in a near derelict state due to the ravages of the monsoon rains, winds and ants. Together with another Brit they spent their 'holiday' in the bell tower, renovating the installation and putting the bells into good order.

A further visit by Paul and Deborah to Kilifi in 1992 found that an enthusiastic band of Kenyan bellringers had been formed and was ringing regularly for Sunday services. The idea of bringing the Kilifi band to England for an educational campanology tour was grasped and, on Paul and Deborah's return to England, the task of raising the funds necessary for the two weeks' visit was tackled.

And so, we were delighted to meet the Reverend James, and David, Anthony, Renson, Lennox, Raymond, Edah, Florence and Stephen at Farningham. A good practice session was held under the care of Paul and Deborah supported by local Eynsford and Farningham ringers.

The heaviest bell, the tenor, at Kilifi is not large in U.K terms weighing in at 2.5 cwts. The tenor at Farningham is nearly 10cwts so some adjustment in ringing style was necessary. The Kilifi band practised for a ringing 'striking contest' which they were entering the next day. We heard subsequently that they rang well and were able to beat one of the U.K teams. On the Monday the band was visiting the Loughborough Bell Foundry and Museum, and a nearby maker of bellropes.

On the tour itinerary were other churches in this area including Brasted, West Wickham, Ightham, Biggin Hill, Chelsfield, Kemsing and Stanstead. These church towers all have rings of six bells which is the same number as at Kilifi. During their first Sunday the Kilifi band had watched the ringing at St. Pauls Cathedral and at Westminster Abbey.

However, for the Eynsford and Farningham ringers the most memorable part of Friday's Kilifi visit was to come later that evening - in choral form. The E&F ringers had prepared a buffet meal at the Olive Seal Hall and about 25 ringers enjoyed a good spread. Subsequently, all adjourned to St Martins, for a shortened ringing practice. At the end of the meal, Tower Captain, David Hilling gave a speech of welcome and suggested that the musical tradition of the Kilifi ringers was becoming well known from their visit to other Kent churches. The Kilifi response was a splendid delivery of religious songs in English and in Swahili which were introduced by Reverend James. We were enthralled. This was the icing on the cake of a memorable occasion.

**Report on General Committee Meeting  
Held at Leeds on 26 November 1994  
Bill Lanyon District Representative**

**The K.C.A.C.R Dinner  
Andrew Young**

Andrew Young has taken over as convener of the Training Sub-Committee from Catherine Lewis. He commented that the restricting factor on training days was always a lack of helpers, rather than a lack of students or towers.

The County Dinner in October was enjoyed by the, approximately 50, people who attended. Such poor support resulted in a financial loss and there are no plans for any further dinners. Rochester district have issued an invitation to a grand outdoor social event to be held after the 8 Bell Striking Competition. Probable date is 24 June 1995. Maybe a more informal event will attract better support and the hope is that some money can be raised to help offset the 1994 dinner loss.

Financial matters featured large in the discussion : -

1] The Committee is not recommending an increase in subscriptions.

2] The Bell Restoration Fund is expected to have approximately £20,000 uncommitted by the end of the year.

3] The Treasurer is reasonably certain that the Association has been accepted as a charity. Therefore you can covenant your annual subscription which will increase its value to the Association by 33%.

4] Following a suggestion from the Maidstone district, the Association is considering setting up a "100 Club". The idea is that members of the Club contribute, say £10 at the start of the year, and draws for cash prizes are made throughout the year. The amount returned is rumoured to be greater than that for the National Lottery ! Districts were asked to report back on this suggestion.

5] Towers are reminded of the previously made suggestion to donate one wedding fee a year to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Pro-forma forms are available from Hazel Basford for the Belfry Survey. The idea is to record items of interest, particularly pre- 1880 peal boards.

Districts were asked to report any suggestions they have for marking the year 2000.

diary dates :

1995 Annual General Meeting : Easter Monday, Westgate/Margate

County 6 Bell Competition 30 September 1995, Tonbridge district.

After our District's overwhelming vote in favour of the idea of holding a County Dinner this year, it was a great surprise to me when I arrived at the Tudor House Hotel in Bearstead to find that I was the only representative from the Lewisham District.

Even though there were only 50 members present, a most enjoyable evening was had by all. After an excellent meal, Tom Barlow, the County chairman, proposed the loyal toast, before introducing Tim Wraight, who in the absence of Alex Britton (at home with flu) proposed The Church. He spoke of the good rapport between ringers and clergy in Kent, a theme which was taken up by the Chairman in introducing Rev. David Brookes, the vicar of Leeds, who replied on behalf of the Church. He mentioned a peal and quarter peal rung recently in Kent by clerical ringers, all resident in the Canterbury District.

David, in his reply remarked that he no had more bells in his that the Rector of St Martin's in the Bullring, although all his were ringable! In proposing the toast to the Association he thanked ringers for their work in bringing the church to the attention of the public. Replying on behalf of the Association, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming, but was sorry that so few had actually done so. Tom gave a resume of recent happenings in Kent, including the marriages of no fewer than five District officers. He went on to mention the work of the various subcommittees of the KCACR, all of which had made sterling efforts in their respective areas. After thanks to the speakers Alex and Dee Wraight for their work in organising the Dinner, and to the Association officers for all their work, Tom concluded the formal proceedings, and the assembled company regrouped to catch up with the gossip. But we still want to know more about the Great Walthamstow Vindaloo Disaster !!

Postscript :

Why were there so few members present at the Dinner? Who knows? More to the point, if people were not going to come to the Dinner, why did they vote in favour of holding the Dinner? The only two people from the District who bought tickets for the Dinner (in the event one of the was ill), did not vote on this issue..... Alex was not at the meeting, and I chaired it and therefore did not vote. My recollection is that about 20 people did vote in favour..... where were they? It was more than just an annoyance to the organisers; because they overestimated the number likely to attend (based on votes in this and the other District) when booking with the Hotel, the County has been surcharged to the tune of nearly £400. The Association now has to raise that money..... so a fund raising effort has to be directed at paying for dinners we did not eat, rather than at keeping our bells and ringers in working order. Think on it!!

## A week in Wales - Diana Young

The Dorset weekend enjoyed by a group of Erith ringers and friends has been evolving ever since. This year it became a Welsh weekend and was attended by the same number of ringers, some of whom now come from as far away as Newcastle to join the fun.

The holiday started with lunch on the Saturday in a convenient pub followed by ringing at Baseleg, the steel 6 on the outskirts of Newport. There was disappointment as the tonal quality of the bells did not reach the 'horror movie' sound that one expects from such bells, indeed we had all heard far worse 'real' bells! Next a ring at Llangattock near Abergavenney, shortened by the breaking of a stay. Then onwards to our base for the week, converted barns which were very comfortable. After an evening of plenty to drink, apart from the broken stay, the week was off to swinging start.

Wales in October, it could be a very wet holiday especially after the rain on our arrival, however Sunday dawned clear and bright. With the prospect of this possibly being the only sun for the week, up the hill behind the farm we went returning with raging appetites for breakfast.

With no ringing arranged until the evening at Abergavenney we split into groups and went our separate ways for the day. Andrew had spent the weeks before the holiday seeking local ringers to augment our own '10 bell ringers' for a quarter peal on the splendid 10 at Abergavenney. Many were willing to join us but there own towers had to take priority. At the 11th hour Bill Thompsett from Newport was drafted in and with one or two very reluctant members of our party a very creditable quarter of Grandsire Caters was saved.

Monday saw the main ringing of the week with an all day outing around Monmouth. 7 rings of bells were enjoyed throughout the day which was not without its hitches. It started at Dingestow, a long detour in to Monmouth was experienced by a few as they missed the turn off the dual carriageway. With parking a problem in Monmouth a long walk up to the church preceded the ringing. The bells were potentially very good but a combination of a long draught (ground floor ring) and long ropes put the less confident ringers off. The main navigational problem of the day was getting to the next tower, after most people set off in the wrong direction out of Monmouth the church at Llangattoch Viben Avel did not want to be found being across 2 fields and a dip surrounded by trees. The church was quite richly decorated with marble being once part of the Rolls estate (as in Rolls Royce) with Charles Rolls buried in the church yard. The ringing chamber was not so ornate lacking even glass in the large South facing window. A few ringers did eventually turn up so we were able to put a legitimate tick in the book. After this we went on to lunch at a local hostelry.

The afternoon ringing went without a hitch until a lock out at the last tower, Usk, someone eventually turned up to let us in. We had been told that these were some of the best bells in the district and they were certainly well worth the wait. The days ringing had been very successful with almost all the bells easy to handle, if sounding a little rustic.

After dinner that evening members of the party either played pool or socialised in the large lounge of one of the cottages. Handbells were also available as well as a computer program to test your handbell ringing skills. This became a regular pattern for the rest of the week. Tuesday was another free day until the evening when a quarter peal for Hannah was rung at Llanfeugan. The bells were again a delight to ring and we rang Plain Bob triples with Hannah on the treble. No wonder these are popular for peals.

Wednesday saw the departure of 5 of our number unable to stay the whole week. The afternoon was spent around Brecon ringing at some more very nice bells including Brecon which being hung on different head stocks made them rather reminiscent of Erith (striking wise!)

Llandefaelog Fach added another dimension to the ringing since the 3rd had no stay. The rural tower of the day at Tredegar gave us some more hitches with another lock out and, when we eventually got in, a slipped wheel which was however, soon remedied.

Thursday was another free day and some of us visited the show caves at Dan-yr-Ogof. These were very impressive and interesting with the children showing special interest in the Dinosaur park.

Friday was our last full day and still there was plenty of 'fun' in store. Some of the group went pony trekking in the morning disappointing the rest of the party by still being able to sit down!. The final ringing was in the Monnow Valley and again all the bells were enjoyable. A final evening was enjoyed by all.

It proved to be a very enjoyable week, enhanced, no doubt, by the glorious sunshine we had (and a few showers) despite our misgivings, memories of the cottages must include having to ferry our food from individual kitchens to the dining room, washing up back to the kitchens and the frantic call of 'whose frying pan is this'. The bells in the area were also memorable, we rang at 21 towers and none stood out as being particularly bad. Finally we must thank everyone who made it all so successful, those catering especially Mary, shopping before and during the week. However our biggest thanks must go to Andrew Young. Nobody knows better than me (his wife) the hassle he had with the organisation but everything came together in the end and everyone had a wonderful time, so much so that we'll all be going to the same place next year - it's already booked.

Sunday 23rd October 1994  
1259 Grandsire Caters

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sonia A Irwin   | 6. A John Hill         |
| 2. Anne M Saunders | 7. Peter V D Swift (C) |
| 3. Diana M Young   | 8. Roland              |
| 4. Mary J Hill     | 9. Andrew M J Young    |
| 5. Bill Thompsett  | 10. Mike Powell        |

in 52 minutes

4,6- 1st on 10 bells

Rung for evensong at St Marys', Abergavenney. Also as an 82nd birthday complement to the tower captain.

Tuesday 25th October 1994  
At Llanfeugan (St Meugan)  
1260 Plain Bob Triples

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Hannah M Saunders | 5. Sonia A Irwin        |
| 2. Peter V D Swift   | 6. Anne M Saunders      |
| 3. F Mabel Bowsher   | 7. Andrew M J Young (C) |
| 4. Diana M Young     | 8. John R Bowsher       |

in 44 minutes

1- 1st on 8 bells.

PEALS1994

[1] 04/08 BECKENHAM 5056 Plain Bob Major  
[2] 15/10 EYNSFORD 5088 Spliced Surprise Major 4m.

Congratulations to:

Jeremy Byers 1st attempt [1]  
Ruth Hardy 1st attempt as Conductor [1]  
Sarah Farnham and Ruth Hardy 1st peal on 8 [1]

QUARTER PEALS1994

[1] 01/05 EYNSFORD 1260 Grandsire Triples  
[2] 08/05 FARNINGHAM 1260 Grandsire Doubles  
[3] 08/08 EYNSFORD (Branksome) 1260 Plain Bob Minor  
[4] 20/08 BROMLEY COMMON 1344 Stedman Triples  
[5] 04/09 BEXLEY 1260 Plain Bob Minor  
[6] 04/09 WEST WICKHAM 1320 Plain Bob Doubles  
[7] 14/09 ST MARY CRAY 1260 Plain Bob Doubles  
[8] 16/09 ST MARY CRAY 1260 Plain Bob Doubles  
[9] 18/09 HAYES 1260 April Day Doubles  
[10] 28/09 ST MARY CRAY 1260 Grandsire Doubles  
[11] 09/10 CHELSFIELD 1320 Plain Bob Minor  
[12] 09/10 FARNINGHAM 1260 Plain Bob Doubles  
[13] 17/10 WEST WICKHAM 1440 Plain Bob Minor

Congratulations to:-

Jean and Maurice Thody 1st attempt [9]  
M Christie and Liz Ford 1st quarter [6]  
Liz Ford and R Asquith 1st in method [13]  
Steve Gill 1st away from cover [7]  
Don Pointer and John Hills 1st Grandsire [10]  
David Macey and Nigel Pointer 100th quarter together [8]

From Ringing World up to and including edition No. 4365/4366  
for December 23/30, 1994.

Jim Rooke