



# LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 1996**

## The Editor:



I'd like to start by wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year, and lots of enjoyment in indulging in your favourite pastime of bellringing.

You will see that there is a lot of interesting reading in this issue, and I hope that you will keep the material flowing in my direction. Of particular interest are the extracts from the diary and records of George Lansdell, of Rolvenden, written in 1826. Also please see the "plug" for Stephen Coleman's recently published books, which by all accounts are "essential reading". Mary Andrews is prepared to send in a bulk order which could save 20% on the published price! Please let her know if, and how many copies you require (cash with order please).

At the time of writing this, I have only received requests and payment from 6 of the 25 towers in Union (for a total of 13 copies - is this really an indication of the interest in the Newsletter?). As the District has decided that all towers should receive a copy of the Newsletter the shortfall in income will obviously have to be taken from funds which would otherwise have been sent to the County Treasurer, thus reducing the financial support for the County's other activities. I would ask you to chase your tower treasurer up and make sure that he sends in his contribution to the cost of production of the Newsletter without delay.

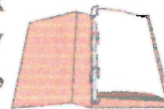
## January Quarterly Meeting

This will be held at Christ Church, Erith on Saturday 13th January. Bells from 3 p.m. and after the business meeting. Service at 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. Mary Hill, telephone 01322 335062.

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## K.C.A.C.R. HANDBOOK 1996

Extract from a letter from Frank Lewis (Handbook Editor) to Mary Andrews dated 25th November, 1995.



"As in 1995 the Handbook will be given to all resident members of K.C.A.C.R. (non-members have to pay £ 2.00). In order to help offset the cost of this operation we shall again be making use of advertising revenue, and I would be grateful if you would do anything you can to encourage likely customers in the Lewisham District to see if they would be prepared to take space. A brief note explaining a few technical details is attached. I shall be writing to all previous advertisers early in the New Year, but any local persuasion would be appreciated"

## Technical Info:

The Handbook is A5, and we shall be printing 1500 copies to be distributed free to all resident members of the K.C.A.C.R. In addition quite a few copies are purchased by people outside the county for organising outings, grabs, peal tours etc. Advertising rates are as follow:

**Full Page (120mm x 180mm) £ 25**  
**Half Page (120mm x 90mm) £ 15**

Copy should be "camera ready" (i.e. ready to print), although it may be possible to organise typesetting if  
....Contd. overleaf

## Dates for your diary

January:	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Christ Church, Erith
March:	16th	Six-bell Striking Competition at Cudham (back six)
April	8th	County Annual Meeting at Sidcup
April:	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Crayford
May:	12th	Car Treasure Hunt (Sunday, 1 p.m. start)
July:	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Chelsfield
October:	12th	Annual District Meeting at Beckenham
November:	9th	Call change Competition at St. Mary Cray
December:	14th	Carol Service at Dartford*

\* to be confirmed at the January Quarterly Meeting.

*Contd. from previous page...*

required. Try to get copy as good as possible (photocopies of ads in newspapers/parish magazines are NOT "good" in this context). Remember that the final ad can only be as good as the artwork supplied.

Payment should be by cheque payable to K.C.A.C.R. and sent to me. If possible, get the money up front. Each page costs around £ 10 to print, and if I have to keep chasing for payment this soon gets eaten up.

Last date for copy is Friday 16th February, 1996.

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### Suggested Additions/Amendments to Rules

**The District Officers have been discussing the Call Change Competition and Striking Competition Rules. Set out below are some recommended additions/amendments. The existing Rules for the Call Change Competition can be found in the October 1995 Newsletter, and those for the Striking Competition will be available at the Meeting at Christ Church, Erith. This matter will be on the Agenda at the next Quarterly Meeting.**

#### Call Change Competition

##### Rule 4. Add

but no ringer may ring for more than one band. If a ringer rings for Sunday Service at more than one tower then the home tower takes

precedence.

##### Rule 12. Add

Neither late nor telephone entries will be accepted.

##### New Rule 15

If a tower enters and subsequently has to withdraw their entry fee will not be refunded.

##### New Rule 16

The names of those taking part (up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.

#### Striking Competition

##### Rule 1. Add

the words "paid up" before members on line one. The revised rule would then read:

All competitors must be regular members of the Sunday Service Band for which they are ringing and be paid up members of the K.C.A.C.R. Members who wish to ring for a tower other than the one shown on the receipt for their current annual subscription must obtain the approval of the District Officers at least one week before the competition.

##### New Rule 8

The names of those taking part ( up to nine in all) must be given on the entry form.

[1]	19/08	BICKLEY	1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
[2]	20/08	BROMLEY	1280 Rutland Surprise Major
[3]	20/08	WEST WICKHAM	1260 Doubles 2m.
[4]	23/08	GREENWICH	1280 Spliced Surprise Major 10m
[5]	27/08	CHELSEFIELD	1260 Plain Bob Minor
[6]	30/08	Sidcup 131 Wren Road	1260 Plain Bob Minor
[7]	02/09	ASH BY WROTHAM	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[8]	03/09	BECKENHAM	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal
[9]	03/09	GREENWICH	1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
[10]	05/09	CRAYFORD	1280 Plain Bob Doubles
[11]	10/09	WEST WICKHAM	1320 Plain Bob Doubles
[12]	13/09	WOOLWICH	1260 Doubles 3m.
[13]	17/09	ERITH CH CH	1320 Carlisle Surprise Minor
[14]	17/09	EYNSFORD	1260 Plain Bob Triples
[15]	21/09	BECKENHAM	1320 Wells Surprise Minor
[16]	24/09	BROMLEY	1260 Stedman Triples
[17]	27/09	SIDCUP	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[18]	01/10	EYNSFORD	1259 Plain Bob Triples
[19]	01/10	FARNINGHAM	1260 Plain Bob Minor
[20]	02/10	ERITH Ch Ch	1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor
[21]	08/10	CHELSEFIELD	1260 Doubles 2m.
[22]	08/10	FARNINGHAM	1260 Grandsire Doubles
[23]	10/10	CRAYFORD	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
[24]	15/10	BEXLEY	1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major
[25]	24/09	CANTERBURY (Cath)	1311 Stedman Cinques

[1] was the first of major on Bickley bells

[1],[2] and [3] were rung for the 50th Anniversary of VJ day

[25] was rung at the Cathedral by a Lewisham District band

Congratulations for:

1st quarter - Audrey Arthur [14] and Brian Kemp [20]

1st inside on 8 - Julian Hemper [14]

1st Treble Bob - Carol Easthaugh [19]

1st Treble Bob inside - Hannah Saunders [19]

1st in hand - Thomas Griffiths [6]

1st as Conductor - Liz Ford [11]

1st in method - Mary Hill, Ann Saunders and Mark Backhouse [13]

- Hannah Saunders [21]

- Nigel Pointer [23]

1st in method for all - [15]

1st Surprise Royal - Rupert Cheeseman [9]

1st Yorkshire Royal - Nick Johnson [9]

1st Surprise Royal as Conductor - David Macey [9]

1st on 12 - Rupert Cheeseman and Jeremy Byers [24]

1st Stedman Cinques - Nigel Parsons [24]

Circled tower - David Macey [8]

- [1] 30/09 BECKENHAM      5000 London S. Royal (No.3)  
 [2] 30/09 ELTHAM      5040 Stedman Triples

The peal at Beckenham was rung by the Master and four members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (bells 1-5) and the Master and four members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (bells 6-10). Both Masters, Simon J Davies and David P Hilling are resident in the Lewisham District of the KCACR.

Congratulations for:

- 1st in method - Ann Saunders [1]  
 1st London Surprise Royal - Andrew Young [1]

From Ringing World up to and including edition No. 4415 for December 8, 1995.

Jim Rooke

John Cannell of West Wickham has in his possession a peal book/notebook of George Lansdell of Rolvenden dated about 1826 and the following are extracts from it, which he feels may be of interest to others. More extracts will be published in later editions



### **Camberwell Bells**

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 country 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

### **Recipe to prevent infection from the Typhus Fever**

Six drachms of powdered salt petre, six drachms of oil of vitriol; mix them in a tea cup, by adding one drachm of the oil at a time; the cup to be placed during the preparation on a hot hearth or plate of iron, and the mixture to be stirred with a tobacco pipe. The cup to be placed in different parts of the room.

# The Bellringer's Bedside Companion

and

# The Method Ringer's Companion

For the benefit of any ringers who have not had the opportunity of seeing the extracts in "The Ringing World" from either of these excellent recently published books by Steve Coleman, I have asked Patrick to include the advertising copy in the Newsletter. The books cost £ 14.95 each and there is a discount of 20% for 5 or more copies. I shall be sending off an order after the January Quarterly Meeting. Anyone who would like to take advantage of this should let me have £ 11.96, for each copy required, at the Erith meeting. If any ringers wish to send in their own order, it should be addressed to Mrs. Sue Coleman, 46 Byfords Road, Huntley, Glocs. GL19 3EL. Cheques should be made payable to Sue Coleman.

*Mary Andrews.*

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## The Bellringer's Bedside Companion

by

Steve Coleman

This beautifully bound and printed, 430 page, hard-back book, contains 52 chapters of advice, information and help.

It covers

- \* Ropesight
- \* Ringing Safety
- \* Ringing Teas
- \* Slipping Wheel
- \* Firing
- \* Standing Behind
- \* Method Learning
- \* Call Changes
- \* Ringing half-muffled
- \* Ringing Panic
- \* Arranging Outings
- \* Ringing Up & Down
- \* Leading Up & Down
- \* Ringing Etiquette
- \* Tower Captaincy
- \* Ringing left-handed
- \* and much else besides.

**Price £14.95**

(Order form inside)

### What Others Have Said

"Inspired."

"For my money it's the best ringing book ever written."

"Absolutely fascinating. A whole world of information that no-one ever told me about before."

"If only I had had this book 20 years ago."

"... so well written and so funny. My children keep asking what I'm laughing about."

"I found something stimulating on every page (and that, after being a keen ringer for 30 years)!"

*Now Available*

## The Method Ringer's Companion

by

Steve Coleman

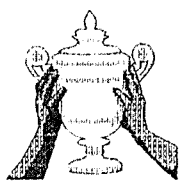
This beautifully bound and printed, 440 page, hard-back book, contains 47 chapters of advice, information and help, all written in Steve's easy-to-read, enjoyable and exceptionally clear style. It is the ordinary ringer's guide of how to ring all the widely rung methods on all numbers, from bob doubles upwards.

It covers

- \* Plain Bob
- \* The Other Doubles
- \* Kent and Oxford
- \* Surprise Minor
- \* Striking
- \* On the Wild Side
- \* Grandsire
- \* The Plain Minor
- \* The Classic Triples
- \* Surprise Major
- \* Method Naming
- \* and much else besides.
- \* Siedman
- \* Doubles Variations
- \* The Basic Major
- \* Listening
- \* The Fun Methods

It is packed with clear and simple explanations, learning tips, ringing hints, diagrams, stepping-stone methods, and fascinating historical background.

## Lewisham District Call Change Competition 1995



This years competition was held for the first time at Bickley, the back six of the eight bells (regarded by Andrew Young as "quite demanding"), and was therefore a welcome opportunity for many to sample the Districts newest complete ring of bells for perhaps the first time. On a rather grey, but otherwise fine afternoon on 11th November, nine teams assembled at St. George's to do battle to find the Districts finest strikers.

With 'kick off' delayed slightly, ringing commenced at a little before three o'clock, and progressed steadily until about four thirty. The standard of ringing was consistently high, and it was good to see a fair number of teams entering, nine in total. The judging fell to Andy Young, as previous arrangements for outside, independent judges (as per rules) could not attend on the day. Nonetheless, I am sure that all who took part would agree that an impartial result was delivered (and in any event Erith did not field a team!).

In fact the final verdict showed how close the result was, and just to demonstrate how closely Andy was listening, he even gave out how long each band took to ring their allotted 120 changes. In time honoured fashion, the results were given in reverse order, and these are as transcribed from my team captains notebook:-

9th Bickley	55.5 faults
8th Chislehurst	52.5 faults
7th Crayford	45 faults
6th Chelsfield	34.5 faults
5th Dartford	29 faults
4th Bexley	24 faults
3rd Beckenham	23.5 faults
2nd West Wickham	22.5 faults
1st Eynsford	21.5 faults

Congratulations, therefore, to the Eynsford team who retain the trophy they won last year.

For the record, Andy revealed that his marking system was based on half a fault for a trip or

clip, one for a 'crunch', two for a clash of two bells, and three faults for a complete disaster! On that basis, 120 changes could theoretically produce up to 360 faults, which goes to show how good all the teams who took part were.

Thanks, again, to our hosts for the afternoon, the ringers of St. George's, Bickley, and to Andy Young for stepping into the breach and judging for us in a most admirable fashion - even if the ringing had lacked precision or rhythm, he let it be known in such a nice way.

(Point for debate that arose subsequently during general discussion - perhaps the competition would be more objective if each band were asked to perform a specific set of changes, to include each bell (less the tenor) going to lead for a time. By that means, like would be judged against like, and no band would be able to 'hide' a weaker member from leading, which is where proportionately more criticism comes from judges. The down side is that who decides what changes are rung - and in any event it would make the whole competition rather boring for judges, ringers and the local populace who have to listen (?endure) the whole thing from beginning to end. Would it mean the set changes only being released to teams say a month or so beforehand, so that practise would be limited? Who knows?!

Jon Fry, West Wickham. (with additions from another report (anonymous!) received.

### Next Edition

Please note that the Editor will be out of the country between 15th January and 26th February (visiting New Zealand relations - and ringing of course!; also including stops at Sydney and Boston - to ring!), so although you are welcome to send things to await my return, you will not get any response until after the latter date. Cheques for the cost of production of the Newsletter, will naturally not be cleared through your bank either.

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## St. John Ambulance

We have received the following letter from the "St. John Ambulance" Service, addressed to 'Bromley Ringers', and it is included for the attention of those concerned.

"Next year is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Bromley Division of St. John Ambulance.

It will, of course, be a very special year for us and our aim is to raise money for a Bromley H.Q. with First Aid and Training facilities and, hopefully, an ambulance station.

We are planning numerous activities throughout the Borough during the year. The main event, however, will be a Review which is to be held in Norman Park on Sunday 14th July, when the Division will be on parade and inspected at 3 p.m., and we are wondering if you, the ringers of Bromley, would be willing to join us in our celebrations by ringing for us on that occasion.

The bells, we hope, will ring out an invitation to the people of Bromley to support us in this our centenary year.

I would be grateful if Tower Captains, and any interested individual ringers, would contact me, Audrey Lodder, on 0181 857 7493, or via Bexley or St. Nicholas, Chislehurst towers. I will then furnish them with more information as it comes to hand.

With thanks on behalf of St. John's Bromley and in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Lodder.

*I am sure that St. John Ambulance would be very grateful if any tower could arrange a sponsored peal/quarter peal to assist them in their attempt to raise funds for their project. Please let Audrey Lodder know if you do contemplate this. (Ed.)*

## Stop Press (Literally!)

### Quarterly Meeting at Erith

The meeting noted on the front page is scheduled as follows:

- 3.00 Ringing Grandsire Triples workshop & general ringing)
- 4.15 Service touch
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea(filled jacket potatoes) followed by meeting in Church Hall  
General ringing until 8.00

Names for tea to Mary Hill (01322 335062) by Wednesday 10th January.

### Ringling Programme for 1996

I am organising a full ringling programme for 1996, which will include monthly Saturday practices/meetings and also monthly advanced practices to be held on weekday evenings. This will hopefully include 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells. In addition I am hoping to arrange an outing to London in March, a beginners outing in October.... hopefully something for everyone. Full details should be available at the January quarterly meeting, and will also be circulated to towers.

Andrew Young

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### Another potential ringer?

While we were enjoying the District Carol Service at Farningham, there was a new arrival in the Swift household. Peter and Maureen have adopted a little boy ( 1 year old), who arrived with them on 9th December. I am sure we all wish the three of them best wishes and hope they have a happy Christmas together. We look forward to meeting Philip in the new year.

On Wednesday 13th December, a quarter peal of Plain and Little Bob Minor was rung at St. Mary Cray (by Mary Hill, Carol Eastaugh, Hannah Saunders, Margaret Macey, Diana Young and Andrew Young) to welcome Philip.

## Brecon Bells

Andrew's fourth autumn ringing holiday returned to the same venue as last year, a converted set of farm buildings in the Brecon Beacons. Twenty one of us all met up in the Castle at Caldicot, just over the border into Wales, for lunch on Saturday, (two others arrived later in the day) then with ringing at Caldicot and Chepstow on the way, we headed for the cottage near Brecon. Sunday was free until meeting up for a quarter attempt for evensong on the sonorous and awkward octave of St. Mary's Brecon. Unfortunately, due to mechanical problems, the quarter was a non-starter, but repairs were effected in time to allow a long touch of Stedman.

Although based on a ringing holiday, there was plenty of time to enjoy the other attractions of the area: the wonderful walking, several castles, Brecon Mountain Railway, Big Pit ( mining museum, including a tour through the mine workings 90 metres underground), the town of Brecon (including its distillery!!) and even a ten-pin bowling tournament. In all we rang at twenty towers with successful quarters at four. The best were the majestic ten at Abergavenny and the glorious eight at Usk, surely both amongst the best rings in the country, the sixes at Llantarnam, Clodock, Bronllys, Grosmont and Llantillio Pertholey (only recently completed). Others worth a visit are the modern Taylor eights at Kingstone and Bedwelty; the pleasant eights at Blaenavon (where we decided not to ring the treble, as it felt as if it was loose on the headstock!), Llangybi, the six at Cefn Coed and the five at Llanbedr. Less impressive were the disappointing Gillett eight at Trevethin and the six at Allensmore. And the five at Michaelchurch Escley, and the light eight at Llanfrechfa - well the less said about them the better!

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable week in the magnificent Brecon Beacons -good bells, good ringing, good food and drink (and plenty

of it!) and excellent company. Next Year Yorkshire (we hope!).

Quarter peals during the week:

- 21st October St. Nicholas Grosmont-  
1272 Cambridge and Norwich  
Surprise Minor
- 21st October Cilwych Farm Bwlch -  
1260 Plain Bob Minor (in  
hand)
- 23rd October St. Mary Usk -  
1320 Plain and Little Bob  
Major (C of M).
- 24th October St. Mary Llanbedr -  
1260 St. Simon Doubles
- 24th October St. Mary Bronllys -  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

Hannah Saunders scored firsts of Plain and Little Bob Major and St. Simon Doubles.

**Postscript:** Sonia Irwin was with us with her fiance, Peter (they are to be married in August), and she (they) send their best wishes to all their friends in the District.



# **KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS**

## **LEWISHAM DISTRICT**

**Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at St. Mary's, Bexley,  
on Saturday, 14th October 1995**

The Chairman, Mr. Alex Britton, opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Tim Wraight, the Association's General Secretary, and his wife Mrs. Diana Wraight.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Colin Jeal and Mrs. Mary Jeal from Bexley, Mrs. Monica Sanderson and Mrs. Valerie Cruickshank from Bickley, Mrs. Maralyn Evans from Chislehurst, Mr. Len Morley from Eltham, Mr. David Hilling from Eynsford/Farningham, Mr. Roger Cass and Mrs. Jan Cass, Mrs. Margaret Macey and Miss Ros Farmer from Foots Cray, Miss Freda Cannon from Greenwich, Mr. Patrick Braund from Sidcup and Mr. Richard Bing from Woolwich.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed on the proposition of Mr. Percy Hicks, seconded by Mr. Alan Hall.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **Karaoke Evening (Page 1)**

Dr. Andrew Young objected to the minute concerning the Karaoke Evening, which he thought was misleading. It was, however, pointed out that the minutes could only contain details of what had happened at the business meeting.

#### **Newsletter (Page 2)**

The Chairman pointed out that Mr. Patrick Braund was now editing the Newsletter.

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

**From Mr. David Hilling ...** Reading from Mr. Hilling's letter to the Secretary, the Chairman informed the meeting of the arrangements for the Carol Service, which was to be held at Farningham at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 9th December. This information had also been mentioned in the Secretary's Report. The Chairman also informed the meeting that a quarter peal had been rung at Eynsford in support of the Quarter Peal Week.

2.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)**

**From St. John Ambulance ...** A letter, originally sent to the Bromley Ringers, had been given to the Secretary regarding the 100th anniversary, in 1996, of the formation of the Bromley Division of St. John Ambulance and asking for ringing to mark this occasion, which was to be celebrated with a carnival/fete in Norman Park toward the end of July. More information would be available in due course from Mrs. Audrey Lodder on 0181-857 7493. The Secretary undertook to ask Mrs. Lodder to give details to Mr. Braund for the Newsletter.

**From Mr. Tim Wraight ...** Mr. Wraight had written to say that County Sweatshirt/"T" Shirt Sales Representative wished to give up this position. A volunteer to take over this job was urgently required.

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **a. Ringing Master**

The Ringing Master's report had been circulated. In addition to the matters covered in this, it was pointed out that the District had rung a quarter of Stedman Cinques at Canterbury Cathedral. This was the first at Canterbury in that method for the District. In addition to the one at Eynsford, quarter peals to mark the District's Quarter Peal Week had been rung at Erith and West Wickham. The Beckenham band had won the County 6-bell Striking Competition, which had been held at Kemsing. This was the first time in 21 years that a band from the District had won this Competition. The Ringing Master's report was accepted on the proposition of Dr. Young, seconded by Mr. Jim Rooke.

##### **b. Secretary**

The Secretary, whose report had been circulated, asked members to delete Penge from the list of towers where there were no paid-up members. She also pointed out that since she had still not had back from the County Treasurer the receipt book and paying-in books which she had sent him for the preparation of the accounts for the Association's Annual General Meeting on Easter Monday, she had not been able to double-check the membership details as she would have liked. Her report was accepted on the proposition of Mrs. Mary Hill, seconded by Mr. Don Pointer.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

##### **Chairman:**

Mr. Jim Rooke was proposed by Miss Mary Andrews, seconded by Dr. Andrew Young and elected.

##### **Ringing Master:**

Dr. Andrew Young was proposed by Mrs. Mary Hill, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh, and elected.

3.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (CONTINUED)**

Dr. Young, who felt that attendance at District events during the last year had been disappointing, said that he wanted support and that if he did not get it he would resign and would not be prepared to accept nomination for any other position in the District.

### **Assistant Ringing Master:**

Mr. James Hardy was proposed by Dr. Andrew Young, seconded by Miss Mary Andrews, and elected.

### **District Representatives:**

The District Representatives, Mrs. Mary Hill and Mr. Bill Lanyon, were re-elected on the proposition of Dr. Andrew Young, seconded by Mrs. Carol Eastaugh.

### **Press Representative:**

Miss Jessica Vale was proposed by Miss Margaret Bellinger, seconded by Miss Cathleen Knowles, and elected.

### **Secretary**

Miss Mary Andrews was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Niger Pointer, seconded by Mr. James Hardy.

## **7. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

No new members were elected.

## **8. COUNTY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996**

The Chairman said that volunteers were required to help with both the ringing arrangements (looking after towers) and the catering for the Annual General Meeting on Easter Monday 1996. Anyone willing to assist was asked to give their name to the Secretary. With regard to the ringing arrangements, Dr. Andrew Young said that he did not intend to have all the towers open. He hoped that the towers that he did contact would reply promptly to his letter.

## **9. PROGRAMME FOR 1996**

Dr. Andrew Young said that more care should be taken about the choice of a tower for the Call Change Competition. He did not feel that Bickley was suitable.

4.

## 9. PROGRAMME FOR 1996 (CONTINUED)

The following provisional programme for 1996 was agreed:

January	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Christ Church, Erith
March	16th	Six-bell Striking Competition at Cudham (back six)
April	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Crayford or Chelsfield
May	12th	Car Treasure Hunt (Sunday, 1 p.m. start)
July	13th	Quarterly Meeting at Crayford or Chelsfield
October	12th	Annual Meeting at Beckenham
November	9th	Call Change Competition at St. Mary Cray
December	14th	Carol Service at Dartford

Miss Jessica Vale suggested that a poster should be issued giving details of the Car Treasure Hunt, and there was a suggestion that there might be a discount offered to those who paid in advance.

Tower Secretaries were asked to inform the Secretary once they had confirmed the arrangements for meetings/competitions at their churches. If any towers were not available, the Secretary was asked to find alternatives. With regard to the Carol Service, it was agreed to make a final decision at the January Quarterly Meeting on whether or not to hold the Carol Service, depending on the support for the one at Farningham.

### Quiz

Dr. Andrew Young said that he and Mrs. Young would be organizing a Quiz to which everyone would be invited but this would not be a District event.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Call Change Competition

Mrs. Ann Saunders drew attention to the fact that Mr. David Hilling had mentioned in his letter that the Eynsford/Farningham band would not be able to participate if the start time was earlier than 3.30 p.m. It was agreed that there would be no problem about Eynsford/Farningham ringing last.

### Bookstall

Dr. Andrew Young said that a new list of books was available, as was the bookstall.

### Ringling Programme

With regard to the ringing programme for 1996, Dr. Young asked the meeting why people had not turned up to District events during the past year. He also wanted to know what towers

5.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

wanted from the District. With regard to practices, he emphasised that these were arranged for the people who were there, everyone was welcome and everyone was catered for. When special methods were arranged, they would be rung in addition to methods required by others ringers attending the practices.

### **Karaoki Evening**

In connection with the Karaoki Evening, there had been support for this at the St. Mary Cray meeting. In the event there had been very good support from the Beckenham band, who had put on a splendid spread of food, and from Sidcup; also from church members at Christ Church, Erith. Publicity had been good. The complete lack of interest from the remainder of the District had resulted in the event making a loss of £28. If the event had been cancelled, the organizers would have incurred an even greater loss. There was some discussion about how this loss could be covered. Among the suggestions were that a retiring collection should be taken at a Quarterly Meeting, and that each tower should be asked to contribute. In the end it was left that Dr. Young would write to each tower inviting contributions. It was also suggested that with regard to future social events, serious consideration should be given to taking a non-returnable deposit.

### **Mr. Frank Gates**

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that Mr. Frank Gates of Bromley had recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. The Secretary had sent a card from this District.

### **Mrs. Diana Young**

Dr. Young was asked to pass on to Mrs. Young the District's appreciation for her work as Press Representative.

### **Votes of Thanks**

Mr. Roger Long expressed the District's thanks to all the retiring Officers. Dr. Young proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of Bexley, the Rev. David Knight, for conducting the service and for the use of the church and the bells, to Mr. Percy Hicks, one of the Bexley ringers, for his address, to the Organist, and to the Bexley ringers for preparing and serving tea.

