



LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1997

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

QUARTER Peal Week

A Quarter Peal Week is proposed for the second week of September this year (Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th inclusive).

The purpose of the week is for as many people as conceivable to ring a quarter peal and if possible achieve a personal goal, perhaps first blows in a method, first quarter ringing the treble or covering on the tenor.

Clearly, in order to make such a week a success, we need to plan ahead. James and Jeremy would like to hear from you if you would like to ring during this week. Ideally we would like to have names and phone numbers of all ringers interested in ringing quarters away from their own towers so that we can operate a pool system, and where possible provide help to quarter peal bands who are short of a ringer or possibly a conductor.

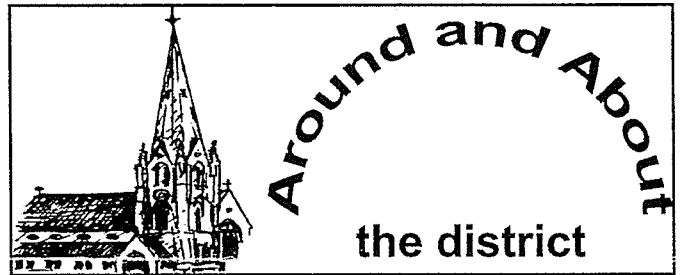
So, please, if you are interested,

- **PLEASE BOOK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW**
- **START PLANNING WHAT YOU WANT TO RING NOW!**
- **LET JAMES OR JEREMY HAVE YOUR DETAILS IF YOU WANT TO RING AT OTHER TOWERS**

We would like to see as many quarter peals rung as possible, and as such Sara Hardy has given James permission to be out

ringing every night of the quarter peal week. This opportunity comes rarely to the district so please don't miss out on the opportunity.

As usual, if you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to phone James (☎ 0181-659-2631) or Jeremy (☎ 0181-289-5675).



Greenwich

Two of the regular ringers at Greenwich have gone on a world-wide walk about. As such until their safe return in September practices at Greenwich may not be as regular as in the past.

If you are planning to visit please phone Freda Cannon on ☎ 0181-697-0395 before turning up to ensure your journey isn't wasted.

Dartford

Good news!!!!

Dartford now have light in the ringing room, however winding the clock is still a dark and dangerous business. Practices have now resumed, practice times are:

Wednesday's 8-00 - 9-30 p.m.

2nd Saturdays of the Month 10-00 - 11-00a.m.

Please ring Keith Tolputt ☎ 01322-381724 if you want any information.

St Mary Cray and Foots Cray

These bands now practice together and alternate between towers each week. If you want to ring please either phone

(Continued from page 1)

Margaret Macey ☎ 0181-302-4992 or Nigel Pointer ☎ 01689-836799 so that you aren't left standing outside the wrong church.

Chelsfield

Practices are on a Monday evening and when I popped along the other week I was made most welcome - perhaps you'd like to visit sometime. Phone Jim Rooke ☎ 01689-829800 for practice details.

Yorkshire

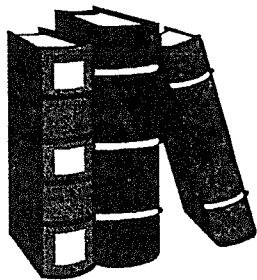
News filtering down from the Hebdon Bridge heralds the arrival of baby Philippa to Jackie and David Mack, a sister for George and Claire. For those interested in record keeping Philippa weighed in at 9lbs and arrived at 6-20 am on the 16th February 1997.

Unfortunately the mid wife did not arrive until 6-25am.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Jackie and David.

Have you anything for this slot?

If you have any information about your tower activities, pleas for assistance, changes in tower contacts, or any other information you think other local ringers would like to know, please send them to Jeremy Byers (☎0181-289-5675)



Bookshop Bargains

New KCACR Shirts

Many of you will be familiar with the sweatshirts and T-shirts bearing a printed Kent County Association of Change Ringers logo.

The Association has recently changed its suppliers, and all shirts purchased in future will carry a more durable embroidered logo - 3 ¼ inches (for those conversant with new money 8cm) in diameter.

The new shirts are available in a range of colours, a wider range of styles, with hooded sweatshirts and rugby shirts added to the existing range of T-shirts, polo shirts and sweat-shirts.

A full list with prices and a sample of the logo are available at the bookstall at District Meetings, or alternatively ring Jessica Valé on ☎0181-298-9684.

Remember for every shirt you buy a donation is made to the KCACR.

Please also don't forget that the bookstall and has an excellent range of books for sale at very reasonable prices! Jessica or a deputy normally have the bookstall at the District Meetings and sometimes at the District Practices.

Any Other Business



Notes from Mary Andrews

District Meeting

The next district meeting will be at West Wickham on 12th April.

The service is at 4-30 p.m. and will be followed by the business meeting, tea and evening ringing

Names for tea please to Mrs Alys Helm by the previous Wednesday ☎ 0181-462-3408.

Membership Database

We have now received copies of the membership database forms. These are available from Mary Andrews and if you ask him nicely the editor may be able to dig out a copy as well!

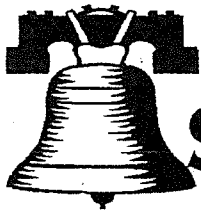
Polite Notice

Names for tea!

If you're intending to come to a district event where tea is provided, please phone and give your names for tea before hand. At the last district meeting there were 36 people of whom only 24 had phoned to give their names for tea.

It's hard enough to cater for everyone, but having 50% more people than expected makes life very difficult, and possibly embarrassing, for all those concerned.

J.R.B.



STRIKING RESULT

6 Bell Method Competition

On Saturday 15th March, a warmish spring afternoon, those teams who put themselves forward for a session self imposed stress, met at St John's Eltham for the 2-30 p.m. draw.

As with all well run competitions things didn't get under way until about 3p.m., as circumstances beyond our control (namely the traffic) meant the judges and a number of ringers were a little late to arrive.

Our judges this year were Frank and Cathy Lewis, from the Tonbridge District, well known to many of the district, as they have been over and judged a number of Lewisham's competitions in the past.

Having each rung our test piece the teams retired to the hall where, whilst being amply supplied with teas, coffees, cakes and such like we awaited the results.

Frank and Cathy commented that overall the ringing had been of a high standard, and clearly we had made their adjudication task far from straight forward.

The final scores were as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|-----|--------|
| 1. Erith | 69 | Faults |
| 2. Bexley | 86 | Faults |
| 3. Beckenham | 90 | Faults |
| 4. Crayford | 157 | Faults |
| 5. Hayes | 265 | Faults |

Erith will now go on to the County competition where we hope they will bring back the County trophy to the Lewisham District.

Hopefully all the teams will take note of the positive comments the judges made and use them to improve their ringing on practice nights. Please come back next year and show us the improvements.

Thanks are due to Frank and Cathy Lewis for giving up their afternoon to listen to the teams and also to all those at Eltham who devoted their time and energies to keeping us supplied with refreshments.

Additional thanks are also due to Bromley Casualty, who were kind enough to let James and Sara Hardy out to play. Sara, having decided she didn't really want to ring for the Beckenham team, fell down some stairs on Saturday morning just to make sure she definitely wasn't in a fit state to ring for us.

Apparently no bones were broken and we hope to see Sara back in the tower in the next couple of weeks once the bruises have healed.

J.R.B.

Stedman Triples *the mysteries revealed*

Introduction

Back in early February, James Hardy called for Stedman Triples - a rare event in Beckenham. Expecting a rush for inside ropes, I headed for the Tenor heaving a mental sigh of relief that I had "got away with it".

"Ah Jeremy - I think you're needed inside"

Oh well - so started a quick lesson in what to do at a bob and a single. I survived the bob at the back but then didn't have a clue whether to go in quick or slow..... "Go rounds" soon followed.

David Hollis very kindly wrote the following notes which I have found useful, and I hope fellow strugglers will also appreciate.

A word of advice - you may need a pencil and paper, a quiet room and damp towel to ensure your brain doesn't overheat!

The Mysteries Revealed

Ringers often have trouble in touches of Stedman Triples coping with bobs and (even more so) with singles. These comments may prove helpful

There are only three bells affected at a bob, the one dodging 4:5 out, and the pair dodging in 6:7. The one dodging 4:5 out need present no problem, since it in effect rings Stedman Doubles, by making 5ths, double dodging 4:5 down and going in the opposite way to which it came out.

3 People seem to get bewildered when in 6:7. We are all famil-

Stedman -The Mysteries Revealed

(Continued from page 3)

iar with the effect of a bob in Plain Bob when about to make 2nds place or when about to dodge 3:4 down - you simply insert an extra bit of work (a lead of plain hunting), and prepare to do at the next lead what you were going to do at the previous one. Similarly in Stedman Triples, if you are dodging either way in 6:7 the effect of a bob is to make you insert an extra bit of work, and then carry on where you left off. The extra bit occupies six changes, because this is the basic unit of Stedman, and consists of three extra dodges, the same way round as the ones you have just done.

I find a good way to count the dodges, both regular ones and the extras caused by a bob. is to watch the bell in 4:5, over which you strike three times, because counting up to three is not too taxing if you have other things to think about as well.

The next difficulty is knowing whether you are a Quick or Slow bell when you finally get down to the front work again. The basic rule of Stedman is that you go in the opposite way to which you came out. An even number of bobs when you are in 6:7 makes no difference, but an odd number reverses the rule, so that if you came out Quick you go in Quick, or if you came out Slow you go in Slow. It matters not if the bobs come all at once, or if some are while you are dodging out and some while you are dodging in, it is the total which counts. However, bobs often come one after another, and there is plenty of time to forget which way you came out, or lose count of the number, so it is a good idea to have a fall-back technique. Fortunately there are several, but they require careful observation.

If you are dodging 6:7 out the question of which way to go in is not immediate, so you can merely note who you are dodging with, because if no bobs are called when you are in 6:7 down, this bell will precede you onto the front (in effect is a "course-bell") and you will have a chance when you are dodging 4:5 down to see which way it goes in. If on your first blow in 4ths you find you are striking after this bell, then clearly it is making 3rds place and has gone in Slow, and you will be Quick. If it is not in 3rds place, it is a Quick bell and you will go in Slow.

If you miss this. you can still see where this bell is when you finish the 4:5 dodging and are about to go in. If it passes you as you go in. obviously it was a Quick bell and you must be a Slow bell. If it is still ahead of you as you enter the front work, it was Slow and you must be Quick.

If you are caught by a bob when dodging 6:7 down, you will acquire a new "course-bell" for each bob. This is the bell making the bob i.e. making 5ths, and is easy to identify. I advised counting the number of times you strike after the bell in 4:5 as a means of counting the dodges. This bell becomes your new "course-bell", after a bob when you are 6:7 down, and can be followed down as previously described. Each bob

will give you a new "course-bell", the one you have just been striking after before the bob was called.

Another observation is to notice who you are dodging with in 4:5 down. If this bell was in 4:5 a few changes previously while you were in 6:7, obviously it has not had time to be a Slow bell and must have been Quick and you must therefore go in Quick (in Stedman you always go in the same way as the bell you are dodging with came out).

If you miss all of these signposts. there is still one last chance to avoid a trip. When you get down onto the front work there are two bells in front of you, and you will first follow one and then the other. According to whether this makes you strike two blows in 3rds place. or one in 3rds and one in 2nds, you will know whether to be Slow or Quick. This fails if there is already a mix-up on the front, so it is only a last resort.

The prospect of a single induces despair, but there is no need for this. The bell in 4.5 out does the same as at a bob. The bell doing two dodges 6:7 out does exactly as at a plain six, i.e. it lies behind at the six-end and then does two dodges 6:7 down. The usual mistake is to go on dodging as though it were a bob. It is the ringer of the bell dodging 6:7 down who usually causes mayhem by not making 6ths place and then dodging the other way round with the same bell. In effect, this means that the bell which has just completed its dodging 6:7 up & down simply has to make 6ths and then do it all over again. Often at a single there is a mutiny on the back and one finds the bells acting as if it had been a bob and coming down in the wrong order, so a good conductor should be on the look-out for this and nip it in the bud.

One way for a ringer to avoid some of the traps in Stedman Triples is to conduct it, because then you know what is coming next.

DAVID HOLLIS

12 February 1997

Covenanting

At the January quarterly meeting Bill Lanyon advised those attending the meeting that it was now possible to covenant your annual subscription to the association.

This option has the advantage of increasing the value of your annual subscription to the association without any additional cost to the subscription payer.

Given the fact that the Kent County Association's various funds are at a very low level, and there is a proposal to increase the annual subscription for full members from £ 7-00

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

to £ 8-00 at the AGM so a move to covenanting may help offset the need for future increases. Last year only £ 66 of the total subscriptions of £ 5,402 were given by deeds of covenant

If you would like further information on covenanting, please contact Bill Lanyon (☎ 0181-858-3761)

Family Firsts in Chelsfield Quarter

The quarter-peal at Chelsfield on Sunday 22nd December 1996 contained ringers from just two families and included two young ringers, one from each family, making their first attempts.

James Osborn from Eltham rang the third to Plain Bob Doubles while mum, Angie, rang the second and dad, Graham, rang the fourth. Melanie Wilkins from Chelsfield rang the treble while dad, Nick, conducted from the fifth and Melanie's aunt, Angela, (Nick's sister), covered on the tenor. James Osborn is fifteen years old and was elected a member of the Kent County Association in October 1996. Melanie is ten and was elected on 11th January 1997.

The "senior" members of the band have returned to ringing after gaps of various lengths and for various reasons the most common being for "family reasons." For example, prior to ringing a quarter at Chelsfield in November 1996 the last of Angela Wilkins 20+ quarter-peals at Chelsfield was in 1974!

Similarly, Nick, although having rung the occasional peal in the last fifteen or so years was conducting his first quarter since, according to his records as he had totally forgotten about it, April 1979(Cambridge S. Major at Spitalfields)!

Memories of Pat Braund

While responding to Jeremy's request for articles for the newsletter and having produced the article above I thought it only appropriate while I am coming to grips with our new family computer "toy" to type an article on my memories of Pat Braund.

My parents and grandparents lived in St. Mary Cray for much of their lives and Pat knew them even before I knew him! My mother still has a photograph of me taken at the St.

Mary Cray garden party, probably in about 1959/60, with Pat in the background throwing something at one of the side-shows! That was when the vicarage was at the bottom of Blacksmiths Lane before the tower blocks were built on its site; it is understood that the John Hodson bell foundry previously stood on this land.

When my sister and I started ringing in 1970, albeit at Chelsfield, it wasn't long before we came into contact with Pat when the towers often helped each other out for ringers.

Although I took a break from ringing I would from time to time bump into Pat in the Orpington area and I was particularly pleased when, by pure chance, my wife and I ended sitting next to Pat at a Harvest Supper 15 months ago and he and his "Ringers on the Green" were providing the entertainment. It was an excellent opportunity to catch up on many years news and he excitedly told me about his planned trip to New Zealand.

Obviously Pat played a large part in the successful Kent County Assn. AGM at Sidcup in 1996 and I was delighted to be asked by Pat to ring in a quarter of Bob Doubles at Sidcup on 23rd March - my first quarter since 1980.

I was shocked and greatly saddened to learn of his death just before Christmas and thought it appropriate to dedicate a quarter-peal of 1260 Bob Doubles that we rang at Sundridge on 28th December 1996 to Pat's memory. The details are:-

1. Sally Davis *
2. Angela Wilkins
3. James G. Osborn
4. Graham Osborn
5. Nicolas Wilkins (C)
6. James Rooke

*first away from tenor covering

I was also pleased to be invited to ring in a quarter-peal tribute at Bexley on 5th January when 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung.

Patrick will be greatly missed by not only his family but by everyone who knew him. He was a kind, friendly and much respected man who did a lot for the art of bellringing in this area and we will remember him as an inspiration and example to us all. May he rest in peace.

N.Wilkins.

Have you been to a district practice lately?

Why don't you pop along sometime - generally we will ring anything you want to, so please don't be put off by the methods listed on the district programme.

Composition Corner

This issue's composition corner is dominated by David Macey's two Grandsire Caters quarter peal compositions.

I'm not a conductor, and don't understand all the code below, but I have had the pleasure ringing in successful attempts of both the compositions (and one unsuccessful attempt that was really good until)

Anyway I would recommend these to you as they are real crackers.

A word of warning to the tenor ringer if David is calling it from the treble - get some ear defenders!

1277 Grandsire Caters By David Macey

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | S | - | | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | | * |
| - | - | - | - | | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| - | S | S | S | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| - | - | - | S | | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | | * |
| S | - | | S | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| S | - | - | - | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| - | - | S | | | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| S | - | S | - | | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| S | - | S | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| - | - | S | | | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| - | - | S | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| - | - | - | - | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| - | - | - | - | | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | | | | # |
| | S | S | S | S | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| - | - | - | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| - | - | - | | | 3 | 4 | 2 | | | | | * |

* 4 Lead Courses

6 Lead Courses

Others are 5 Lead Courses

Both of the compositions I have produced are taken partly from Mark Liebenrood's peal composition.

The first composition begins by having 'rollercoasters' (321654987) followed by one course of 'Tittums'. There is only one course of 'Whittingtons' which leads into the section containing 'Queens'. These can be difficult courses for the conductor to cope with, therefore, counting the leads is necessary.

An unusual sequence for the back-bells to be in is the '9876' position. I have no idea why more of this position is not seen, as it produces a fair amount of music. Included in this composition is the change '23459876'. The fifth is then moved into thirds place to ensure the '65879's to finish the composition off.

1277 Grandsire Caters By David Macey (Version 2)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | S | - | | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | | * |
| - | - | - | - | | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| - | S | S | S | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| - | - | - | S | | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | | * |
| S | - | | - | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| - | - | - | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| S | - | - | S | | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| - | - | - | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | | |
| - | - | - | | | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | | |
| - | | | | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| - | - | - | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| - | - | - | | | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | | | | |
| | S | S | S | S | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| - | - | - | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| - | - | - | | | 3 | 4 | 2 | | | | | * |

6 Lead Courses

Others are 5 Lead Courses

* 4 Lead Courses

The second composition begins exactly the same way as the original for the first three courses. There is then an extra course of 'Tittums', followed by two courses of 'Whittingtons'. The actual change '1234975680' occurs. Three courses of '579680's occur to bring us back into line with the original composition which follows through to the end.



Editor's Column

This issue is my second attempt at editing anything like this, and I hope I'm getting the balance between news, articles and fun items about right.

I hope the presentation encourages readers to dip into it, rather than being like some of the more stodgy offerings that I have to read at work as an accountant.

Clearly, I am dependent on the contributions that I receive, so please drop me a line with your thoughts. I would very much appreciate your comments and suggestions - to date the two or three that I've heard have been encouraging. Please let me know your thoughts.

I'd like to thank the contributors to this issue for their pieces

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

and would urge any budding contributors to put pen to paper and send in any articles or news.

Circulation

I'd like to see the circulation grow and would encourage as many people to take out a subscription. If anyone out there would like to receive their own personal copy direct, please give me a ring.

Currently I put together about 50 copies, 40 of which are earmarked for those on the mailing list, but I managed to dispose of the extra copies without too much difficulty.

I have no objection to increasing the print run and am certainly looking to increase the size of each issue to give the best value for money possible.

At present the pricing structure is under review, I have not reached any conclusions yet, but perhaps eventually I would hope to be able to provide a copy free to each tower - the downside of this is that this cost would then have to be recouped by increasing the cost to private subscribers. At present this is definitely not practical, but perhaps you have some ideas.

Ideas for Future Issues

I am open to suggestions about features and articles for future copy, however below are a couple of issues that could form the basis for discussion :

- Is the Lewisham District organisation useful to ringers in the 1990's?
- Recruiting Ringers - do we need to market our ancient art more aggressively when there are so many other calls on peoples time? If so how would you do it.

Anyway that's enough from me.

All it leaves me to say is that I hope that you all enjoy the saturation coverage of the general election which will no doubt envelop us in the coming weeks.

Articles and letters gratefully accepted, for a **copy deadline of Friday 6th June.**

Jeremy Byers
2 Carlton Court
23 Beckenham Road
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 4PP

☎ 0181-289-5675.

outhwark Cathedral

Have you been to Southwark yet this year!

If not there are plenty of practice dates left at which you will be warmly welcomed.

Cathedral Practices are set for:

2nd April

7th May

4th June

2nd July

6th August.

Of course, if you feel shy about meeting a new band on your own, the **Lewisham District has been allocated its own practice date.**

25th June

All will be welcome!!!!!!!

All practices are on Wednesday evenings, from 6-30pm until about 8-30pm (depending upon the bands enthusiasm), entry is via the Chapter House Restaurant entrance in the North West corner when the Cathedral is closed. If the Cathedral is open and you're not sure where to go -- ask a ringer or a verger.

Southwark is conveniently close to London Bridge Station, so if you're at a loose end let the train take the strain (particularly if you're partial to the local breweries beverages).

Finally, a word of warning to those who haven't been before - the bells at Southwark are definitely "difficult", will take some getting used to, and are unlikely to be as easy as your own tower's bells.



The Bell Doctor

Professor Ground Pulley writes.....

Unfortunately, Professor Ground Pulley has been tightening too many nuts in February and in the process has managed to slip a disk in his back. A week or two's rest and light exer-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

cise has seen his full recovery, but with Mrs Ground Pulley taking a high dive off the stairs, he hasn't had time to put pen to paper.

His able assistant Mr B.R. Okenrope has however written in with a suggestion that the arrival of warmer spring weather is perfect to get up into the belfry and spring clean the fittings.

A good clean of the ringing room may be a good idea, especially to remove the marks where previously won trophies used to hang.

✉ Please send your letters to:

Professor Ground Pulley,
c/o J Hardy,
68, Birkbeck Road,
Beckenham,
Kent.BR3 4SP
☎ 0181-659-2631

Seen in a national newspaper

■ Chacha Ng'ombe, a villager from north-eastern Tanzania, cut off his wife's ears and ate them when she refused to leave their bedroom so that he could sleep with another woman, the newspaper *Mzalendo* reported yesterday. "He cooked the ears in the middle of the night and ate them," the newspaper added. The other woman fled after the incident. AFP
Dar es Salaam

Be warned your tower captain may be tempted to do the same thing if you do not listen to your striking!!!!!!

E vents

in the VERY NEAR future

If you're at a loose end over Easter there are a couple of events over the weekend you might consider going to

Rededication of Staplehurst Bells

There is a service of thanksgiving and rededication for the newly restored and augmented ring of ten. The service is at 4 p.m. followed by open ringing. There is a ringers tea available, details from Chris Bassett tower captain on ☎ 01580-

891917 or Patrick Harrison on ☎ 01580-890078.

County A.G.M.

This year the A.G.M. is at Wrotham on Easter Monday. Unfortunately the lunch list will have closed by the time this is published, but perhaps you fancy a trip out for the day, A.G.M.'s are riveting or perhaps you might fancy a drive around the countryside grabbing a few towers. Roy Barclay the Maidstone district publicity officer may be able to shed light on which towers will be open ☎ 01580-890247

Just a suggestion.....

I've got an idea. Nothing shattering, just a suggestion that I've been thinking about for a while that might make things a little easier all round. Our district currently holds its AGM in October, and all its officers stand for the "year" October to October.

Now, how about, instead of making the District's "year" run from October to October, we make it run January to December?

So, why? Well, try to picture the scene, at an AGM. The officers are all elected, and the calendar for next year is constructed. The new master then has to put together a programme of ringing to run to the next October.

I would suggest that we continue to elect the officers in October, at the AGM, but make their 'term of office' run from January to December of the following year. This will give the new master(s) a chance to plan their programme for the whole of the next year. Although elected in October, the new officers will not take over until January.

Also, if a list of events is published at the AGM in October, then the venues could be finalised at the *January* meeting. Again, I have a number of reasons. Most importantly, people and towers do not tend to have their next years diary up and running in October. By January, they will have their new *Ringing World* diary, and will know far better what they are doing during the year

The January meeting also tends to be the best attended. It is completely out of the wedding season, and it is quite possible that towers will have a good idea of their wedding schedule by January.

I thought that I would air my views in an article in the *Newsletter*, rather than bringing them up "cold" at a quarterly meeting. If anyone has any views on why all this may or may not be a good idea, then maybe we can discuss this at one of the quarterly meetings in April or July.

Maybe this idea will help to alleviate the "dead" period between October and Christmas every year, and allow the ringing masters to provide a full programme of ringing throughout the year to cater for everyone.

Have a think about it.

Nigel Pointer

Bob and Sally's Page

Hi there, all children and young at heart!

Disappointingly we did not get any of your work and no jokes. Come on, you must know some funnies! No news for our News Rounds? What are you doing? Stop watching T.V., get out there, do something and let us know about it.

Write to: Bob and Sally's Page, Maplebank, Maplescombe Lane, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JY.

Wordsearch - Easter

Can you find the listed words hidden in the grid? The words can go backwards, forwards, vertically, horizontally or diagonally. There will be a small prize for the person who can find the word, associated with Easter, not on the list. Send your details to the address above no later than 30th May 1997. The solution will be in the next edition.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Palm Sunday | Salvation |
| Alleluia | Good Friday |
| Forgive | Cross |
| Last Supper | Lent |
| Disciple | Risen |
| Bread | Tombstone |
| Wine | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | H | I | L | N | W | U | D | E | G | R |
| S | A | L | V | A | T | I | O | N | O | E |
| F | G | L | B | R | E | A | D | I | O | P |
| E | L | J | M | I | Q | T | E | W | D | P |
| J | E | S | U | S | S | O | R | C | F | U |
| D | N | K | O | E | U | S | V | X | R | S |
| C | T | M | P | N | R | N | Y | A | I | T |
| E | L | P | I | C | S | I | D | Z | D | S |
| B | A | I | U | L | E | L | L | A | A | A |
| F | O | R | G | I | V | E | C | B | Y | L |
| A | F | E | N | O | T | S | B | M | O | T |

Apologies for the error on the last issue's wordsearch. Tailend was spelt tjilend. Well spotted Alex Britton, thanks for pointing it out!
The missing word was clapper. No one won a prize because no one sent in their solution.

No send, no win!

Peppermint Cream Bells

1 lb. icing sugar
1 teasp. lemon juice
1 egg white
a few drops peppermint flavouring
colouring - green &/or red (few drops only)

Put ¾ lb. icing sugar in a bowl, make a hole in the centre & drop in egg white, lemon juice, flavouring & colouring. Mix all together until blended. Add more icing sugar until the mixture is the right consistency (dry enough not to stick to rolling pin in huge lumps but wet enough that it won't crack when rolling out). Then turn out onto a board dusted with icing sugar & roll out to required thickness. Use a small bell shaped cutter to make bell shaped creams (If you send in some jokes and you ask us for one, we'll give you a cutter for free). Leave on a baking sheet to set; transfer next day to d'oyley covered plates or pretty boxes etc. When dry you can dip into melted chocolate, put on grease-proof paper to set to make them extra special.

Jokes

Q: Why did Romans build straight roads?
A: So they couldn't drive their horses round the bend.

Q: Why did the cow slip?
A: Because she saw the bullrush!

Q: Why should you never tell secrets in a cornfield?
A: Because corn has ears. *(Bit of a corny one that!)*

Q: How can you keep cool at a football match?
A: Stand next to a fan!

Q: What do you give a sick pig?
A: Oinkment!

Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | U | L | L | E | Y | B | O | X | W | I |
| K | T | S | L | I | D | E | R | I | T | H |
| C | S | O | B | E | L | H | E | D | A | J |
| O | T | U | G | C | B | O | P | W | I | P |
| T | A | N | F | M | S | W | P | H | L | N |
| S | Y | D | K | E | R | A | A | E | E | O |
| D | S | B | M | U | F | F | L | E | N | E |
| A | R | O | D | L | N | R | C | L | D | G |
| E | O | W | S | N | X | A | L | B | Y | D |
| H | P | I | T | P | K | M | O | F | Q | U |
| V | E | L | O | H | R | E | T | R | A | G |

| <u>QUARTER PEALS</u> | <u>1996</u> | RW PAGE |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| [1] 18/09 ERITH CH. CH. | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles (7,6,8 cover) | 97/11 |
| [2] 24/10 ST MARY CRAY | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles | 96/1286 |
| [3] 03/11 BROMLEY | 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor | 97/17 |
| [4] 10/11 CRAYFORD | 1260 Plain Bob Triples | 97/13 |
| [5] 10/11 ERITH CH.CH. | 1260 Grandsire Doubles | 97/43 |
| [6] 17/11 ERITH CH.CH. | 1260 Stedman Doubles | 97/43 |
| [7] 25/11 CHISLEHURST ANN. | 1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major | 97/68 |
| [8] 01/12 DARTFORD | 1280 Plain Bob Major | 97/20 |
| [9] 02/12 CUDHAM | 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal | 97/98 |
| [10] 08/12 BEXLEY | 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major | 97/178 |
| [11] 08/12 BROMLEY | 1440 Spliced Surprise Major 9m. | 97/149 |
| [12] 08/12 CRAYFORD | 1260 Plain Bob Minor | 97/149 |
| [13] 12/12 LEWISHAM | 1260 Plain Bob Minor (7 covering) | 97/197 |
| [14] 15/12 BECKENHAM | 1277 Grandsire Caters | 97/248 |
| [15] 15/12 FOOTS CRAY | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles | 97/249 |
| [16] 22/12 BEXLEY | 1260 Doubles 3m. including Stedman | 97/199 |
| [17] 22/12 CHELSFIELD | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles | 97/126 |
| [18] 23/12 ST MARY CRAY | 1269 Doubles 4m. | 97/155 |
| [19] 26/12 BROMLEY | 1260 Stedman Triples | 97/155 |

1997

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| [20] 05/01 BEXLEY | 1260 Grandsire Triples | 97/155 |
| [21] 05/01 ERITH CH.CH. | 1260 Grandsire Triples | 97/155 |
| [22] 05/01 EYNSFORD | 1259 Doubles 4m. | 97/249 |
| [23] 07/01 SIDCUP | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles | 97/155 |
| [24] 19/02 CHELSFIELD | 1260 Doubles 2m. | - |
| [25] 03/03 ST MARY CRAY | 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor | - |

Congratulations :

1st attempt Melanie Wilkins aged 10 and James Osborn aged 15 [17]
 1st quarter Lorna Rawlings [1] and G. Wigfall [13]
 1st inside Andrew Holmes [2]
 1st in method Carol Easthaugh [6]
 1st Plain Bob Minor Nancy Robins [12]
 1st Triples Nancy Robins and Trevor Warner [4]
 1st 9-spliced David Kingston [11]
 Circled tower David Kingston and Jeremy Byers [25]

| <u>PEALS</u> | <u>1996</u> | RW PAGE |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| [1] 07/12 BROMLEY COMMON | 5120 Bristol Surprise Major | 97/114 |
| [2] 09/12 WOOLWICH | 5024 Spliced Surprise Major 6m. | 97/121 |
| [3] 28/12 BROMLEY | 5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Major | 97/147 |
| [4] 28/12 EYNSFORD | 5040 Stedman Triples | 97/124 |
| [5] 29/12 LEWISHAM | 5120 Cornwall Surprise Major | 97/147 |

From Ringing World up to and including edition No. 4480 for March 7, 1997. E. & O.E.

Jim Rooke

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Bickley on
Saturday, 11th January 1997**

The Chairman, who welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked members to stand in memory of Mr. Patrick G. Braund, who had died on 23rd December.

Mr. P. G. Braund

The Secretary said that she would be sending an in memoriam to The Ringing World regarding Mr. Braund together with the details that she had been given of quarter peals rung in his memory.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss A. Wilkins and Mr. & Mrs. R. Pruden of Chelsfield, Mr. M. Murray of St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, and Mrs. D. Young of Christ Church, Erith.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Secretary asked members to add on page 3, item 6, Election of Officers, after Representatives:

Press Representative Miss J. Vale P. Miss F. Cannon S. Mrs. C. Eastaugh

This amendment had already been made to the file copy of the minutes, which were then confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received some correspondence from Mr. W. Lanyon about covenants. Mr. Lanyon explained that he had, with the agreement of the Association's Treasurer, drawn up the necessary forms. He urged all members who were paying the standard rate of income tax to consider paying their subscription in this way, which, at no expense to the individual, would provide (at the current rate) an additional £2.21 for the Association in reclaimed tax. There were two different forms, one for four years and another which covered the duration of a member's membership and took account of increases in subscription. In response to a question from Dr. A. M. J. Young, Mr. Lanyon said that he would prefer payment by cheque.

2.

**5. REPORT ON THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LEEDS ON
23RD NOVEMBER 1996**

Mrs. M. Hill had circulated a report on the General Committee Meeting. She said that the level of subscriptions would be discussed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and urged members to covenant their subscriptions as Mr. Lanyon had suggested. If a good number of members did not do this, she felt that a substantial subscription increase would be necessary.

With regard to the final paragraph of Mrs. Hill's report, Miss F. Cannon said that there might be a problem ringing all the bells at 12 noon on 1st January 2000 to celebrate the millennium. It was pointed out that Dr. Niblett, the Association Chairman, had divided the number of bells by the number of ringers and found that it was mathematically possible.

Gift Aid

Dr. Young assured members that he was still pursuing the matter of Gift Aid with regard to the Centenary Fund and that he would continue to pursue this matter until it reached a satisfactory conclusion. Now that the accounts for 1994 and 1995 had been audited, he hoped that the new Treasurer would be able to resolve the matter.

Mrs. Hill's report was accepted.

6. PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRAL COUNCIL BELL FUND

A letter from The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers regarding the proposal for a Central Council Bell Fund had been printed in the District Newsletter. It was stressed that such a fund would not seek to compete in any way with individual association's bell restoration funds. Dr. Young said that he was in favour of such a fund being set up. A vote was taken and a majority of members were in favour.

7. MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

The Secretary said that a copy of the Database Membership Application Form was available for inspection. Mrs. Hill informed members that she had asked at the General Committee Meeting what would happen if people did not want to complete the application form and had been told that this would not upset the Database.

**8. ELECTION OF NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO REPLACE THE LATE
MR. PATRICK BRAUND**

Mr. J. Byers, who had kindly edited the current Newsletter at short notice, was willing to continue as Editor and was elected on the proposition of Mr. N. Pointer, seconded by Dr. A. M. J. Young. Mr. Byers asked that copy for the next Newsletter should be sent to him by 8th March.

3.

9. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CHELSEFIELD | Miss M. J. Wilkins (jnr.) | P. Miss P. J. Rooke | S. Mrs. A. Osborn |
| WEST WICKHAM | Miss H. Benzinski (jnr.)) | | |
| | Mr. D. Asquith (jnr.)) | P. Mr. J. Fry | S. Mrs. M. E. Macey |

Non-Resident Life Members

Miss C. Hall of Staines elected prior to a peal at Crayford on 9th September 1996, proposed by Mr. R. Cheeseman, seconded by Mr. J. J. Hardy.

Mr. D. J. Baverstock of Southampton elected prior to a peal at Christ Church, Cubitt Town on 3rd January 1997, proposed by Mr. N. Pointer, seconded by Mr. J. J. Hardy.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

District Striking Competition

Mr. Hardy proposed the following amendment to Rule 11

- a. In the event that two or three towers who regularly hold joint practices are unable to form individual bands due to insufficient membership numbers, they may form a joint competition band.
- b. In the event of such a team winning the competition, the highest ranking 'single tower' team will represent the district in the county 6-bell competition.

This was seconded by Mrs. S. MacKenzie. After some discussion, Mr. Hardy agreed to prefix his proposal with the words 'At the discretion of the District Officers'. This was seconded by Dr. Young. The proposal was put to the meeting and was accepted.

Millennium Project. Dr. Young urged members to do all they could to obtain new recruits and to encourage lapsed members to take up ringing again. The launch of the Project, for which there would be good publicity, would be in September or October.

District Practices

With regard to future District practices, Mr. Hardy said that he would be arranging practices at Southwark Cathedral and urged all aspiring 12-bell ringers to attend these. With regard to the programme at the back of the Newsletter, the practice at Downe on 8th March had been confirmed. He hoped the one on 19th April would be at the Annunciation, Chislehurst. The one on 10th May had still to be arranged

4.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Cudham and Downe

Members were urged to support the Cudham and Downe practices but before going they were asked to check arrangements with Mrs. A. Dyer.

Tea

Mr. A. J. Britton pointed out that the Bickley ringers had received 24 names for tea and that there were 36 people at the meeting. As a result of this and because he was running the bookstall for Miss J. Vale, who was away on holiday, he had been at the end of the queue for food and there was very little left. He stressed that this was not in any way the fault of the Bickley ringers, but urged all members to give their names for tea in advance for future District events so that the hosts could ensure enough food was provided.

Beckenham Practice

Mrs. Macey commented that there had been an excellent practice at Beckenham the previous Saturday. She urged members to attend these events and assured them that whatever stage of ringing they had reached, their needs would be catered for.

Vote of Thanks

Mr. N. Wilkins proposed a warm vote of thanks to Fr. Herbert, the Vicar of Bickley, for taking the service and for the use of the bells, to Mrs. J. Hall of the local band for playing the organ, and to the local ringers for preparing and serving tea.

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

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

1997 PROGRAMME

| DATE | VENUE | TIME | EVENT |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 12 th April | St John's West Wickham | Service 4-30pm | District Meeting Open Ringing after the meeting |
| Saturday 19 th April | The Annunciation Chiselhurst | 7-00 to 9-00 pm | Plain Bob Doubles to Major Grandsire as well Treble Bobbing , Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge (Minor & Major) |
| Saturday 10 th May | St Luke's Bromley Common | 7-00 to 9-00 pm | Treble Bobbing Kent Bob and Cambridge Major Cambridge and into the standard eight |
| Saturday 14 th June | St George's Beckenham | 7-00 to 9-00 pm | Rounds and Call Changes Plain Hunt Treble to Plain Method Extending 6 & 8 bell methods Learning 10 bell rhythm and striking |
| Wednesday 25 th June | Southwark Cathedral | 6-30 to 8-30 pm | 10 and 12 Bell Ringing Ranging from rounds and call changes to Surprise Maximus |
| Saturday 12 th July | To be arranged Possible picnic in the Shoreham area | | District Meeting Open Ringing after the meeting |
| Saturday 19 th July | SS Peter & Paul Ash by Wrotham | 7-00 to 9-00 pm | Moving on into Surprise Minor Kent Bob, Cambridge, Norwich and London !!!!! Stedman Doubles - for a change |
| Saturday 16 th August | St Nicholas* Chislehurst | | Plain Bob and Grandsire Revisited Doubles to Major |

* denotes To be Confirmed

If you have any queries, or would like further information on any of the district events please contact James Hardy (0181-659-2631) or Jeremy Byers (0181-289-5675) for more information.

