



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

NOTICEBOARD

www.rochesterdistrict.org.uk

groups.yahoo.com/group/rochester_district

APRIL 2006

DISTRICT OUTING – A coach trip has been organised to Brighton for “a day at the sea side” on **Saturday 20th May 2006**. There will be pick up points at Sittingbourne Railway Station and Tollgate Services (also Hempstead Valley if requested) with ringing at the following towers: - [Shoreham-by-Sea \(8\)](#), [Aldrington \(6\)](#), [Brighton St Nicholas \(10\)](#), [Brighton St Peter \(10\)](#) & [Preston, Good Shepherd \(8\)](#). The day will include a 2-hour lunch break in the city centre (4 hours for non-ringers), which has been planned for you to spend however you wish: Shopping in The Lanes, a stroll along the beach, some fun on the famous Brighton Pier or a few pints in the pub! Tickets are now on sale to all members/ringers of Rochester District towers. Non-ringers, family and members of your church congregation will be allowed to accompany us on this trip (subject to availability). However, priority must be given to district bell ringers. Tickets are priced at £15 and £10 for non ringers & under 18s. Prices include coach and tower fees - any proceeds will be donated to the BRF. Payment for tickets is by cash only (not refundable). Should you wish to provide your own transport there will be a charge of £1 per person per tower. Steve Haynes and I will try to get to your tower with tickets and we will advise your tower secretary in advance. You can reserve your ticket(s) by phoning me on 07798 621834 or by visiting the district website where you can get latest details. [Gareth Lawson]

DISTRICT STRIKING COMPETITION – This will take place at the next quarterly meeting on **Saturday 22nd April at Chalk**. Now is the time to start practising your party piece, which must be 240 changes of Doubles or Minor in any method. Please contact Sonya Gowdy (01795 880344) no later than 7 days before the event to advise that your tower is entering a band for the competition. Rules can be found in the back of the Handbook (as County 6-Bell Competition).

COUNTY 8-BELL COMPETITION – Well done to the Rochester District band who came 3rd (of 6 teams) with 30 faults at East Farleigh on Saturday 25th February. [Steve Haynes]

THE GRAND DRAW held at Eastchurch in January has raised **£430** for the BRF. First prize of £100 went to Richard Bushell, who, coincidentally, has been involved in the new building work at Eastchurch creating the arched doorway in the new ringing gallery. 2nd prize of £30 to Lesley Brocklehurst & 3rd prize of a bottle of sherry to the Meopham ringers. There were 10 prizes in all and all winners were notified on the day. A big THANK YOU to all those who took part. The draw will be repeated in November so you have another chance to win £100! [Sonya Gowdy]

ST MARGARET'S BELLS ARE DEDICATED - After a long wait and a lot of hard work by many the octave at St Margaret Rochester were at last back in action on the morning of Sunday 26 March 2006. This was the time when a capacity congregation saw the Archdeacon of Rochester, the Venerable Peter Lock, dedicate the newly rehung bells, which are now rung from the ground floor.

The processional hymn prior to the dedication was "Ding dong! Merrily on high". Despite this hymn's association with other events in the church calendar, there is in fact no reference in it to anything remotely related to Christmas - it's all about bells and their ringers, and seems entirely appropriate to the occasion. Maybe it was the tune which somehow called up memories of wassailing. However this gave Archdeacon Peter a wonderful lead-in for his introductory remarks, something along the lines of "May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas"! After the blessing and the handing over of the bells, a band of mainly local ringers rang for a few minutes and were duly applauded by the congregation.

After the end of the service a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by a group of people who'd been involved in some way with the restoration work or training the new band: Frank Lewis 1, Malcolm Smith 2, Anita Perryman 3, Arthur Vidgeon 4, Alan Driver 5, Brian Butcher 6, Neil Jones 7, Phil Stott 8. [Frank Lewis - KCACR Webmaster]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (all welcome)

Mon 17th Apr – KCACR County AGM, Benenden

- 12.00pm Service
- 1.00pm Lunch (Village Hall)
- 2.30pm Meeting

Sat 22nd Apr – Quarterly Meeting & District Striking Competition, Chalk

- 3.30pm Draw, Competition & Tea
- 5.30pm Meeting & Results
- 6.30pm Open Ringing

Sat 20th May – District Outing – Brighton

Sat 17th June – District Practice, Gravesend

- 10.00am – 12.00pm

Sat 15th July – Quarterly Meeting (venue tba)

Sat 19th August – District Practice, Shorne