

Editorial

Since the last issue of *The Belfry* there have been two main events, both of which are reported herein. The District Outing to London in August was well supported, and greatly enjoyed by those who took part. The Quarter-peal "firsts" day in September (which actually extended to nearly a week) was not so well supported, at least not by those for whom it was targeted.

In formulating the District programme each year the Committee try to cater for the perceived needs of everyone, from the most inexperienced ringer upwards, but we cannot guarantee to always get it right. What we really need is feedback from towers, and indeed individual ringers, as to what they want from the District. The annual Tower Captains' Meeting in January will provide an ideal opportunity to provide such information.

For the most part it is the same few people who are supporting District events. Whilst those people presumably enjoy doing so - otherwise they would not come - the last thing we want is to become an exclusive group. At the bottom of every advertisement for District events are the words "Everyone welcome". That is exactly what they mean.

The Editor

District Carol Service



otbam - saturday 11th december at 4.30pm

ringing from 3.30pm

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Ringling at Snodland suspended indefinitely

In our last issue we reported that ringing at Snodland had been temporarily suspended following the quinquennial report as the floors hadn't been surveyed or inspected for a good 20 years. The survey has now been carried out and we regret to have to report that it was found that both the ringing and bell chamber floor, together with the north aisle, need substantial work carried out before they are deemed safe to use again.

The tower is therefore not likely to be available for ringing for some considerable time, at least a year, possibly longer.

County 6 Bell Striking Contest

This year's County Striking Contest took place on a cold but sunny day at West Wickham on 25th September and was judged by Michael Moreton.

Our representatives were All Saints', Maidstone, who finished in third place with 78 faults, just two behind runners-up Tonbridge (Ss Peter & Paul, Tonbridge). The winners were Lewisham District (represented by Beckenham) with 51 faults. Rochester District (Meopham) were 4th and Ashford (Brabourne) finished 5th. The band representing the Canterbury District arrived too late to ring!



District News

An enjoyable afternoon at Mereworth

Around 15 people attended the Summer Quarterly Meeting at Mereworth on Saturday 10th July, one of the hottest days of the summer so far. Ringing ranged from Plain Bob and Grandsire to Cambridge, Bourne and Alnwick Surprise Minor - truly something for everyone. A short Business Meeting in the church was followed by cream teas in the churchyard. Once again no new members were elected at the meeting.

City of London taken over by District ringers

The decision to have a joint outing with the Tonbridge District to London proved to be a master stroke. No less than 39 ringers from both Districts visited six City churches on Saturday 14th August, including the new 12 at St Magnus the Martyr in Lower Thames Street and the newly available six at St Katharine Cree.

The day started with people crammed into St Magnus' ringing chamber where ringing varied from call changes to Stedman Cinques and Little Bob Maximus. This was followed by the eight at St Olave, Hart Street, where we achieved three leads of Bristol. Most had lunch at the Liberty Bounds pub overlooking the Tower of London before making our way to St Katharine Cree - as good fortune would have it the only church of the day to have a toilet! The eight at Aldgate were next, followed by the best ringing of the day at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where a well struck touch of 8-spliced was rung. The day ended at the soon to be recast 12 at St Michael, Cornhill, and then a quick drink before closing time (7pm!) at the neighbouring Crosse Keys pub.

Not only was the day a great success ringing-wise and socially, but after taking out tower donations the £5 per head tower fee meant that the Bell Restoration Fund benefited to the tune of more than £90. Our grateful thanks to District Ringing Masters James Sawle and Daniel Brady for organising the event and to those from both Districts who ran the towers. There are some video clips of the day on the District website.

Rounds and Call Changes Morning at Chart Sutton

Well, there was also some method ringing as most of the dozen people who came to the Practice on 11th September could ring more than just rounds and call changes. We also had a try at ringing from cards "Sutton style".

Quarter-peal Firsts Day

This actually turned into a very long weekend, although the overall response was rather disappointing. Details of the attempts (which incidentally were all successful) are on page 3 this issue.



Ringling at St Michael, Cornhill, on the joint Maidstone and Tonbridge District Outing



Maidstone District 120 Club www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/120club

Winning numbers July - September 2010

| July 2010 | | | August 2010 | | | September 2010 | | |
|---|-------|-----|---|-------|-----|--|-------|-----|
| 1st Prize | (£20) | 47 | 1st Prize | (£20) | 55 | 1st Prize | (£20) | 109 |
| 2nd Prize | (£15) | 108 | 2nd Prize | (£15) | 109 | 2nd Prize | (£15) | 2 |
| 3rd Prize | (£10) | 109 | 3rd Prize | (£10) | 2 | 3rd Prize | (£10) | 64 |
| 4th Prize | (£5) | 103 | 4th Prize | (£5) | 56 | 4th Prize | (£5) | 6 |
| <i>Drawn at Quarterly Meeting at Mereworth on 10th July</i> | | | <i>Drawn at Staplehurst Practice Night on 17th August</i> | | | <i>Drawn at District Practice at Chart Sutton on 11th Sept</i> | | |

Quarter Peal "Firsts" Week

Originally planned as a "Day" the Quarter Peal "Firsts" event extended to almost a week. Also, a peal with no less than seven firsts was rung, so we thought it only right to include that also.

The objective behind this exercise was to give our less experienced ringers an opportunity to ring something that they would not normally have the chance to attempt. Although 26 ringers were involved in the six quarters and one peal, disappointingly very few were from the target group. Nevertheless nine ringers achieved 14 firsts of some kind between them, so the exercise was worth organising. Full details are below.

To those who did not take part, but would like the opportunity to ring a quarter in a method that they would not normally be able to achieve with their local band, remember that there are plenty of ringers within the District who are only too happy to help out at any time. Just contact one of the Ringing Masters who will try and organise something for you.

Leeds, St Nicholas

Friday, 17 September

1256 Spliced Plain & Little Bob Major

- 1 John H Wale
- 2 Debbie Parker
- 3 Christopher R Saunders
- 4 Alan J Phipps
- 5 Tim Munt
- 6 Monty J Gilbert
- 7 Adam A Brady (c)
- 8 Daniel W Brady

First of spliced: 2 & 4.

Marden, St. Michael & All Angels

Saturday, 18 September

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Stephen P Bassett
- 2 Debbie C Brady
- 3 Daniel W Brady
- 4 Roy A Barclay
- 5 James R S Sawle (c)
- 6 Adam A Brady

First of Surprise inside: 2

Staplehurst, All Saints'

Saturday, 18 September

1269 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Debbie C Brady
- 2 James R S Sawle
- 3 Stephen Bassett
- 4 Roy A Barclay
- 5 Daniel W Brady
- 6 Adam A Brady (c)

First of Surprise inside: 3

Staplehurst, All Saints'

Saturday, 18 September

1440 Norwich Surprise Minor

- 1 Stephen Bassett
- 2 Richard H Bourne
- 3 J Susan Bassett
- 4 Adam A Brady
- 5 Daniel W Brady (c)
- 6 James R S Sawle

First of Norwich Surprise: 2

Kent County Association

West Malling, St. Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 19 September 2010 in 3 hrs 7 mins (10-1-9)

5040 Plain Bob Triples

Composed: D. Brady No.191

- 1 Barry Evans
- 2 Timothy Munt
- 3 Alan J Phipps
- 4 Christopher R Saunders
- 5 Darren W Elphick
- 6 Stephen P Bassett
- 7 Adam A Brady (c)
- 8 Daniel W Brady

First Peal: 6

First Peal as Conductor

First of Triples: 3, 6, 7 & 8

First away from Cover: Treble

Leeds, St. Nicholas

Sunday, 19 September

1320 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Graham Huckstepp
- 2 Christopher R Saunders (c)
- 3 Malcolm Hitchcock
- 4 Trewin Laws
- 5 Peter Sims
- 6 Ken Williamson

First Quarter away from cover: Treble

Hunton, St. Mary

Wednesday, 22 September

1320 Doubles (2 methods: Grandsire & Plain Bob)

- 1 Alison M Gerrish
- 2 Graham D Heath
- 3 Paul N Davis
- 4 Kath E White
- 5 Darren W Elphick (C)
- 6 Malwyn Williams

1st in more than one method: 3

Personal Milestones

Congratulations to the following for achieving notable landmarks in their ringing career:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Peal: | Stephen Bassett |
| 1st Peal as Conductor: | Adam Brady |
| 1st Peal away from cover: | Barry Evans |
| 1st Quarter of Surprise: | Debbie Brady Stephen Bassett |
| 1st Quarter away from cover: | Graham Huckstepp |
| 150th Quarter: | Adam Brady; |

Please note that this information is taken from campanophile.co.uk and kcacr.org.uk. However the only way to be certain that your achievement is included is to e-mail details to thebelfry@kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk. Major milestones only please.

See also achievements during the "firsts" week on page 3.

Some more pictures from the outing...



Above: Waiting to ring at St Olave, Hart Street

Below: Thirsty work, this ringing!



Call Change Striking Contest

The 2010 District Call Change Striking Contest will be held at East Sutton on Saturday 13th November. The draw will be at 9.45am with the competition starting at 10am. This is a great opportunity for those towers that cannot raise a band for the method contest in June to have a try at winning a trophy.

The District Secretary will be contacting towers shortly. Meanwhile a copy of the rules can be found at www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/ccsc_rules.pdf

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 13th November **Call Change Striking Contest at East Sutton** **Draw 9.45am**
Entries to District Secretary Mike Birkbeck please

Saturday 11th December **District Carol Service at Otham** **4.30pm**
Start your Christmas celebrations in style! There will be ringing from 3.30pm and the traditional mulled wine and mince pies after the service

Saturday 8th January 2011 **Quarterly District Meeting at Bearsted (6)** **3pm - 7.30pm**
Ringling, tea and short business meeting, followed by further ringing in the evening. Special methods to be decided but, as always, there will be Plain Hunt. All are welcome. This meeting will be preceded at 2pm by the annual Tower Captains' Meeting.

More information about District Events can be found on our website at
www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk