

Editorial

Recently I was honoured to stand outside St Saviour's Church in Pimlico, London, listening to young people ringing in the first ever Youth Striking Competition. Every ringer in the contest was under the age of 19 and the judges too included young people, albeit with considerable experience behind them. At the prize giving later in the day there were comments that the enthusiasm and skill levels of those involved suggests that the future of bellringing is assured, for the next generation at least.

But how about the present generation? In recent years many ringers who would once regularly attend District Meetings no longer do so or only come rarely. Most still ring at their own churches - which after all is the most important thing - but others have drifted away altogether. In some cases age and health issues have understandably limited or put an end to ringing activities. Maybe for some, different interests have taken over. Others may have curtailed or stopped ringing to raise a family and never come back. Then there are those who have "got out of the habit" with the intention of "going back at some time". Alas that time never comes and the longer they wait the more difficult it becomes.

This is particularly true of attendance at District Events where the same faces appear every time (not that they are not welcome of course) and the Committee have therefore organised an event designed to encourage people to support the District. There will be ringing on the ten bells at Staplehurst from 4pm to 6pm, followed by a barbeque in the garden of one of the local ringers with the Trafford Mini-ring available until 9pm. The emphasis of the event will be on having a fun time, and it will therefore be an excellent opportunity for those we have not seen for a long time to Come Back to the District.

Details of the Event are in the advertisement below, and there is more about it on page 4. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Editor

The **Come Back to the District** *Event*

Saturday 21st May 2011

***Ringling at Staplehurst (10) from 4pm - 6pm
followed by a BBQ at Roy & Sallyann's from 6pm
(Please bring your own drink)***

Trafford mini-ring available for general ringing from 6pm - 9pm

**Tickets for BBQ priced £5.00 available now from Daniel Brady at
Maidstonechairman@kcacr.org.uk or 07966 378591.**

Capacity limited to 50 tickets, so book now to avoid disappointment



District News

1st	Staplehurst	17 faults
2nd	Aylesford	21 faults
3rd	Leeds	29 faults
4th	Chart Sutton & East Sutton	31 faults
5th	Marden	45½ faults

Annual District Meeting

The attendance of less than 20 members at the Annual District Meeting, held at Staplehurst on Saturday 9th October, was extremely disappointing, particularly since the local ringers had gone to some lengths to provide a delicious tea. There was only one change to the District Committee with Graham Heath being elected as an additional Committee member - the rest of the Committee was re-elected unopposed. Details of the Committee can be found on the District website.

Four new members were elected to the Association, all from Hunton. We are pleased to welcome **Jean Beeken**, **Philip Wares**, **Angela Baptie** and **David Jones**.

2010 Call Change Competition Results

This year's Call Change Striking Contest was held at East Sutton on 13th November with five bands taking part, slightly down on last year. Following the competition ringing everyone adjourned to the nearby Filmer Hall where awaiting us was a ploughman's lunch (with a large selection of cheeses and home-made chutney) preceded by hot soup and followed by apple pie and cream. We are very grateful to the local ringers for providing such a spread. We are also grateful to our judges, Richard and Helen Saddleton.



The winners this year were Staplehurst, with Steve Bassett seen here collecting the shield from Helen. The trophy for the band with most ringers who had not taken part in a striking competition before went, for the second successive year, to Marden. The full results were:

District Carol Service

Around 20 people started the festive season by attending the District Carol Service at Otham on Saturday 11th December. The service had the traditional readings and carols with each reading having a short introduction by Clive Hooker. Below are some of those present enjoying the traditional mince pies and mulled wine after the service.

Our thanks to Clive for taking the service, to Daniel Brady for playing the organ and to Mal Williams, Dot Hooker and their helpers for organising the event.



Winter Quarterly Meeting

There is always a good attendance at the January Quarterly Meeting and this year was no exception with 29 people turning up at Bearsted on Saturday 8th January, almost 50% more than came to the ADM. Maybe it has something to do with the anti-climax following the Christmas celebrations! Ringing ranged from Call Changes to London Minor, and the local ringers once again provided a splendid tea.

At the short business no less than ten new members were elected (or in some cases re-elected) to the Association. We are pleased to welcome **James Davis**, **Jane Higgs**, **Jane Karim** (all from Marden), **Claire Pedder**, **Louie Pedder**, **Elizabeth Watts**, **Laura Willment**, **Rhian Willment** (all from Bearsted), **Michael Webb** (Linton) and **Sebastian Cahill** (Staplehurst).

District Practices

Twenty-one people took advantage of the District 8-bell practice at Linton on Saturday 12th February. Ringing ranged from Rounds and Call Changes to Superlative, and two unsuccessful attempts at Double Norwich! In between there was plenty of Plain Hunt, and it was pleasing to see some of our less experienced (but nonetheless keen) ringers making the most of the opportunity. A month later around 14 people turned up at the District 6-bell practice at Stansted, which was not too bad considering the relatively remote location. There was certainly plenty for everyone, with ringing ranging from basic stuff up to the dizzy heights of Spliced Surprise Minor.

The first 120 Club draw of 2011 took place at the Stansted practice and the results were:

1st prize (£20) 22

2nd prize (£15) 38

3rd prize (£10) 64

4th prize (£5) 96

Achievements at Barming

The Barming band successfully rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 45 minutes to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Freda and Roger Groves. Darren Elphick was the Conductor and Colin Finnis and Rob Leach rang their first quarters (see below). The other members of the band were Alison and Bethany Gerrish and David Earl.

Miss Freda Tomlin

We are sorry to have to report the death on Sunday 13th February 2011 of Freda Tomlin of Staplehurst. Freda had been an active ringer at Staplehurst for many years until prevented from doing so by her health a few years ago. She had been a member of the KCACR since 1948. A service of thanksgiving for Freda's life was held at All Saints' Church Staplehurst on Saturday 5th March.

Personal Milestones

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

1st Quarter:	Mick Woodhams
	Colin Finnis
	Rob Leach
	Nick Palmer-Hall
1st Quarter of Surprise:	Paul Davis
1st Quarter as Conductor:	Bethany Gerrish
1250th Quarter:	Tim Wraight
1700th Quarter:	Darren Elphick
1800th Quarter:	Mike Birkbeck

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.

Keep up to date with what's happening in the Maidstone District at

www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

**News * Upcoming Events * Noticeboard *
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and more**



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

Winning numbers October - December 2010

October 2010			November 2010			December 2010		
1st Prize	(£20)	42	1st Prize	(£20)	7	1st Prize	(£40)	53
2nd Prize	(£15)	123	2nd Prize	(£15)	35	2nd Prize	(£30)	73
3rd Prize	(£10)	72	3rd Prize	(£10)	82	3rd Prize	(£20)	16
4th Prize	(£5)	17	4th Prize	(£5)	105	4th Prize	(£5)	111
<i>Drawn at ADM at Staplehurst on 9th October</i>			<i>Drawn at Call Change Contest at East Sutton, 13th November</i>			<i>Drawn at District Carol Service at Otham on 11th December</i>		

Looking forward.....

Whilst our main objective as ringers is to ensure that the bells of our churches are rung for services each Sunday, we should never forget that our hobby should be fun too and over the years we have enjoyed many and varied social events. This year we have no less than three totally different social events for you to enjoy during what we hope will be a long hot summer.

The first of these is the **Come Back to the District** event on Saturday 21st May. As mentioned in the Editorial this event is designed to encourage people to support the District, particularly those who have not been involved for a while. There will be ringing on the ten bells at Staplehurst from 4pm to 6pm, followed by a barbeque in the garden of one of the local ringers with the Trafford Mini-ring available until 9pm.

Tickets for the barbeque are available now by contacting Daniel Brady or calling 07966 378591. Tickets are £5.00 each to cover the cost of the barbeque and are limited to 50 on a first come first served basis. Please bring your own alcoholic and/or soft drinks.



Fast forward to Saturday 13th August and we have the **District outing to London**. Those of you who came last year will remember what a great day it was, with the opportunity to ring at some of the famous City churches. This year we are combining with the Ashford District and will be visiting different towers to last year, but the day promises to be as good as, if not better than, last year. Details are yet to be finalised, so put the date in your diary now.



Finally on the evening of Saturday 24th September we are holding a **District Dinner**. Your Committee thought it would be nice to make this something of a special occasion, so we have invited a guest speaker and there will be a smart or formal dress code. The venue is The King and Queen at East Malling, 7.30pm for 8.15pm to allow for a few pints before the meal to sharpen the appetite. The menu is available on the District website at www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/dinnermenu.pdf and copies have also been sent to tower contacts.

There are a maximum of 32 tickets available on a first come first served basis and the price is £23.95 per head, available from District Secretary Mike Birkbeck at 2 Hartnup Street, Maidstone ME16 8LR. Remittance and menu choices with your ticket request please.

There's certainly more to life in the Maidstone District than just standing at the end of a rope!

Forthcoming Events

Easter Monday 25th April	County AGM at Speldhurst (Tonbridge District)	2.30pm
<i>Preceded by Service at 12noon and lunch (prebooking essential). Many towers open during the day</i>		
Saturday 21st May	District Social Event at Staplehurst	4pm - 9pm
<i>Tower bells, mini-ring and BBQ. See elsewhere in this issue for more information.</i>		
Saturday 11th June	District Striking Contest at Yalding	Draw 3.45pm
Saturday 9th July	Quarterly District Meeting at Ulcombe (6)	3pm - 7.30pm
<i>Ringling on the 14cwt six, followed by short business meeting, tea and further ringling. All levels catered for.</i>		

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