



Maidstone District

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Chairman: Elizabeth Barnes

Secretary: Terry Barnard

www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

AGENDA

For the **Annual District Meeting** to be held on **Saturday 8th October 2016** at **Staplehurst** at **5.30pm**.

Apologies for absence

- 2016/ADM01 Minutes and any matters arising from previous meeting: -**
a) 2016/QMC 9th July 2015, Nettlestead
- 2016/ADM02 Election of new members: -**
Please introduce the new member at the meeting if possible and complete a Membership Nomination Form available from the County website www.kcacr.org.uk or on the day.
- 2016/ADM03 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter: -**
1.) District Practice – 12th November 2016, Hollingbourne.
2.) District Carol Service – 10th December 2016, West Peckham.
3.) District Quarterly meeting – 14th January 2017, Yalding.
- 2016/ADM04 Proposed Calendar for 2017/18**
- 2016/ADM05 District office Reports: -**
1.) Chairman's report.
2.) Secretary's report
3.) Treasurer's report.
4.) District Representatives' report.
5.) Ringing Masters' report.
6.) Publicity Officer's report
- 2016/ADM06 Election of officers: -**
1.) District Chairman.
2.) District Secretary.
3.) District Treasurer/Membership Secretary.
4.) 2 District Representatives.
5.) District Ringing Master/s.
6.) Publicity Officer.
7.) Committee Members.
- 2016/ADM07 Proposed Rule Change for KCACR Concerning its Purpose**
Daniel Brady to introduce
- 2016/ADM08 Any other business.**
- 2016/ADM09 Vote of thanks**

Terry Barnard
District Secretary
3rd October 2016

Chairman's Report to ADM 2016

Thank you to all the district officers for their efforts throughout the year and particularly to Terry for guiding me through as a newbie on the Committee and ensuring that all district events have run seemingly effortlessly. It has been good to see a continued enthusiasm for our events particularly from the newer members. In addition to our local events, the district has been hosting County Surprise Major practices organised by the County Chairman, Daniel Brady, which have also been very well supported. Please do let the district Committee know if members of your tower would like a local training event concentrating on a particular method or skill.

Elizabeth Barnes

District Secretary's report for 2016 District ADM.

It is with sadness that, once again, I have to start this report with the passing of 2 ringers who were stalwarts in the District. Martin Pring passed away on 26 March 2016. He was a member of KCACR for 50 years having been a member of the band at Aylesford for many years before moving to Maidstone and joining All Saints 26 years ago. Alan Phipps, from West Malling, passed away suddenly on 14 May 2016 whilst on a tennis holiday in Corfu. He was 67 years old. As well as ringing and tennis, he was also a keen cyclist and a Magistrate and rang peals for both the KCACR and the Magistrates Association. They will both be sorely missed and we all mourn their passing.

The District 6 bell competition for 2015 held at East Sutton in March was a success with 6 teams entering the call change competition and 3 teams for the striking competition. There was a new name on the shield for the call change competition with a combined Suttons team (East Sutton/Chart Sutton) winning for the first time and Staplehurst triumphed in the method competition and represented the District at the County 6-bell competition. Well done to both teams.

District events throughout the year have been well received and very well attended. The QDM at Stansted in April was the best attended with 50 ringers present. The average attendance for the year was 31, yet again an increase on previous years.

The district barbecue this year was once again held at Marden but this time hosted by James Davis. We had the Dewby's Bells mini-ring, two polypins of ale and plentiful food and it was a good fun evening. The District Carol Service was held at the augmented 5 bell tower at Broomfield, with ringing before a very enjoyable service. Daniel Brady again put together a small but very effective choir from District Ringers who performed at the service.

During the year we have elected 17 new members, including two associate members at Broomfield who had donated the two bells to augment the ring from 3 to 5.

For 2017/18 once again we have a full programme of events planned.

Terry Barnard
Maidstone District Secretary

3 October 2016

DISTRICT REP'S REPORT

AGM STAPLEHURST 9TH October 2016

Although limited to the number of towers I had a chance to visit over the last year, the overall impression is that most towers seem to have a weekly practice, and those that don't, it seems, happen on a fortnightly basis. Those visitors who are able to travel can make all the difference to a tower's ringing evening or whether it takes place at all.

The biggest problem, as we all know, is finding new recruits, not only to replace those we have lost, but to be our future if we are to progress in the 21st century and beyond!

The K.C.A.C.R. general committee (at last) is undertaking and looking at ways of appealing to a wider audience, in the hope of bringing new people in, while there are still experienced ringers in our midst who can teach and train them.

With the aging ringing population, and finding quite often we have an aging congregation in our home churches, which has been our traditional procurement ground in finding new members, this has now fallen on stony ground. We can only hope these new initiatives help and overcome the situation we find ourselves in to make things happen.

Not only recruitment, but training/teaching/instilling rope skill, is also a key area, and those who teach, or who feel they could with help and a refresh in guiding a new member through initial training and rope handling, so they are able to be fairly quickly giving them enough competence to be part of a practice night, should look out for courses now available especially designed for 'teachers' and how to teach and instil good ringing habits from the start. Otherwise contact the County Training Officer (see Handbook) for more information.

The Bookstall is here with books from basic instruction to more advanced methods.

CRS

Publicity Officer's Report

Nationally, ringing seems to be receiving increasing media exposure. Barely a week goes by without mention of ringing either on television or in the press. Then there are such initiatives as the recent national Heritage Open Days, in which a number of our District towers participated.

Unfortunately however, due to health issues in April (now hopefully resolved) I have been unable to give as much time to District publicity matters this year as I would have wished. Ringing in general has had to be put on a back burner and this is particularly so with *The Belfry* which has only been published once this year, in January. I am now in the process of updating the issue which had been scheduled for April and hopefully this will appear fairly soon after this ADM.

I have, nevertheless, been able to regularly update the District website which continues to be well received. Remember that if you wish something to be publicised ask me to post it on the website - this is the best way to disseminate information to ringers in the District and, indeed, beyond.

Finally, I would like to remind members that, if re-elected, this will be my last year as Publicity Officer. I will not be standing for re-election at the 2017 ADM. My recent health scare has convinced me even further that it will be time for me to step down from my role and from the District Committee.

Roy Barclay

Publicity Officer

30th September 2016