

## **A Great Congregation of Ringers at Linton**

We started with the tower captains' meeting - a good turn out with 17 towers represented (and many more people). Topics included GDPR (Data Protection), tower support and training. Minutes: <http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/tcminutes13012018.pdf>

## **An enjoyable start to Christmas**

Around 24 ringers and friends started the festive season in style at the District Carol Service at Addington on Saturday 9th December. Before the service the four bells were put to good use, with Ringing Master Phil Barnes conducting us from rounds and call changes up to reverse Canterbury. Following the service we enjoyed the traditional mince pies, tea and coffee in the Village Hall, kindly provided by the church.

A big thank you to Tom, the Vicar and all those helping out with the catering.

Splendid !

## **District Practice - 11th November 2017 - St Mary's Hunton**

Twenty four people attended the November District Practice at Hunton on Saturday 11th November. As ever there was ringing for all abilities, with the less experienced having the opportunity to ring call changes, plain hunt and touches of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, surrounded by a strong bands. For the more experienced other doubles, methods such as Stedman, and both plain and treble dodging minor methods were rung. Additionally by request Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge and London Suprise.

## **Annual District Meeting**

The Annual District Meeting took place on Saturday 14th October at Leeds. Given the number of ringers at other meetings this year, the attendance of around 20 was rather disappointing. Although we were able to ring Rounds and Call Changes on all ten bells and Plain Hunt on 9, we didn't have enough experienced ringers to ring methods on all 10.

At the Business Meeting there was a change to the format of the Committee and a number of changes of District Officers. Further details will be available here shortly.

## **Gallant effort by our District in County 6-bell Competition**

The Maidstone District band, represented once again by Staplehurst, gave of their best in the County 6-bell Competition but unfortunately it was not enough. In the contest, held at East Malling on 23rd September, they finished fifth with 103 faults. Judge Mark Esbester from Portsmouth commented that after a nervous start with a few faults in the first four leads the ringing settled down in the second half.

The winners were Hadlow, representing Tonbridge District, with just 37 faults. For a more detailed report go to the [County website](#).

## **Plenty of variety at autumn District Practice**

Although the attendance of around 20 at the District Practice at St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone, on 9th September was lower than many recent meetings we were still able to ring a good variety of methods. As well as Rounds and Call Changes the repertoire included Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Cambridge Major and London Minor. Once again the refreshments provided by the church were excellent.

The next meeting will be the Annual District Meeting at Leeds on Saturday 14th October. Please note that this is an afternoon meeting, starting at 3pm.

## Perfect Summer District BBQ at Piltdown



We were very well looked after by our hosts Liz and Phil with a great selection of snacks, pizza, salad and ice cream. Additionally the beer brewed and supplied by Chris Bassett went down very well. It was also nice to see a good selection of wines and non alcoholic beverages.

Ringling on the 12 bells ranged from rounds and call changes to methods (see picture). There was also half tone bell ringing with *Pachelbel*, *Aura Lee* and *Waltzing Matilda* - rather nice to see so many people taking part and enjoying this. Finally all 8 handbells were rung - and sounded marvellous.

The weather was perfect. The event was planned as a non profit making event, but as it turned out it did make around £100 which will go to the ringing training fund.

A very big thank you to Liz and Phil for hosting and organising a perfect summer event and also thanks to all those who helped and attended.

## Summer sizzler at Barming

The Summer Quarterly District Meeting was held at Barming on Saturday 8th July, one of the hottest mornings of the summer so far. Maybe it was the lovely weather that encouraged no less than 46 members and friends to come and enjoy the recently refurbished ring of six. And enjoy it they did, with ringing including Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, Single Oxford, St Clements and Cambridge Minor and, of course, plenty of Rounds and Call Changes.

Add to that the usual warm hospitality and superb refreshments by the Barming ringers and you can see why it was such a pleasurable morning.

At the Business Meeting six new members were elected to the Association and we look forward to seeing them at District events in the future.

## District 10-bell Practice proves popular

The 10-bell practice at All Saints' Maidstone on Saturday 10th June attracted an impressive attendance of 25 people. This enabled us to ring Grandsire and Stedman Caters and of course plenty of Rounds and Call Changes on 10 and Plain Hunt on 9. It was particularly pleasing to see a good number of our less experienced ringers present, many of whom were ringing on ten bells for the first time. We are sure they will go back to their own towers all the better for the

experience.

Our thanks go to Graham Heath for the use of these magnificent bells.

## Plenty for everyone at Wateringbury

There was plenty for everyone at the District Practice at Wateringbury on Saturday 13th May, no matter what their level of ability. The 21 people present enjoyed ringing from Rounds and Call Changes, various Doubles methods (including Stedman) and Minor. Thanks to the Wateringbury ringers for the use of the bells. It was nice to have a District event there again for the first time for a number of years.

## Sun brings out the crowds at Aylesford

The warm spring sunshine certainly attracted plenty of people to the Spring Quarterly District Meeting at Aylesford on Saturday 8th April. The 34 ringers present were able to ring Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Triples and Bob Major along with plenty of Plain Hunt, Rounds and Call Changes. At the impressively short Business Meeting seven new members were elected - a healthy sign for the future. The draft minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Our thanks go to the Aylesford band for the use of the bells and for the splendid refreshments.



## Striking Competition a close call

A very close call in fact! The District Striking and Call Change Competition took place on Saturday 11th March at East Farleigh and the Method Competition provided the closest result for many years. Five bands entered with Staplehurst winning for the sixth consecutive year - but this time by just half a fault from runners-up Aylesford. However Aylesford had their revenge in the Call Change Competition which they won by a considerable margin over a scratch band, with Staplehurst coming third. The Staplehurst call change band also won the shield for the band having the most ringers never to have previously rung in a striking competition. Full results were as follows:

### *Method Competition*

1st	Staplehurst	Rang 5th	3½ faults
2nd	Aylesford	Rang 4th	4 faults
3rd	Scratch band	Rang 3rd	11 faults
4th	Boughton Monchelsea	Rang 2nd	32½ faults
5th	Marden	Rang 1st	61 faults

### *Call Change Competition*

1st	Aylesford	Rang 4th	15½ faults
2nd	Scratch band	Rang 2nd	40½ faults
3rd	Staplehurst	Rang 3rd	54½ faults
4th	Marden	Rang 1st	70 faults

Click [here](#) for pictures of the winners.

Our judge this year was Stephen Davis from the Ashford District, to whom we offer our thanks. Thanks also to the East Farleigh ringers for the use of their bells and to Sue Clements and her helpers for providing refreshments.

## **A Snowy Day at East Malling**

The snow didn't prevent a reasonably good attendance - given the conditions - at the District Practice at East Malling on 11th February. The 28 or so ringers present rang a good variety of methods including Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles along with Bob Minor, Single Oxford and Cambridge.

The delicious refreshments included lots of cake from Sue Payne, Don Payne, Joy Barnard and Emma Tilston to whom we are most grateful.

## **New Year starts well at Yalding Quarterly Meeting**

Around 24 people attended the first Quarterly District Meeting of 2017 at Yalding on Saturday 14th January. They were rewarded with a good variety of ringing including Bob Doubles, Stedman, Kent Cambridge and London. There were of course also plenty of Rounds and Call Changes. At the Business Meeting six new members were elected to the Association and suggestions were invited for a summer District event. The draft minutes can be found [here](#).

Our thanks go to Richard Young and the Yalding Ringers for providing us with the usual splendid tea.

## **New Year Message from the President of the Central Council**

Ringers may be interested to see the attached [New Year's message](#) from Chris Mew, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.