

The Belfry

Quarterly
Newsletter of the
KCACR
Maidstone District

February 2010

Issue 87

Editorial

May I start this long-awaited issue of *The Belfry* with an apology. It is now some two years since the last issue was published, and rather than trot out the same old excuses it is better to take stock of how things stand now within the District and look forward rather than back.

As many of you will know, the District nearly went into oblivion following the Annual District Meeting in October when a new District Secretary could not be found to replace Sue Bassett, who had done such sterling work over the last few years. The cavalry arrived at the January Quarterly Meeting in the form of Mike Birkbeck of All Saints' Maidstone, and we are extremely grateful to him for taking the job on. At his first Committee Meeting there was lengthy discussion on the future of *The Belfry*. Whilst it was recognised that most people today look for information primarily on the web, there is still a need for a single place where items of interest can be brought together for dissemination. On the other hand it was felt that the increased use of the website had made *The Belfry* as a full scale journal somewhat superfluous. It was therefore agreed by the Committee that in future it would take the form of a single A4 sheet, to be published to coincide with the Quarterly Meetings.

On the back of this sheet is a list of forthcoming events for the next few months. They are put on for you, the members of the District - please try to support as many of them as you can. The programme is not set in stone and the Committee is always keen to hear from anyone, even the rawest learner, of what they would like to be included in the programme.

The Editor

District Committee for 2010

Following the election of Mike Birkbeck as District Secretary at the January Quarterly Meeting we now have a full Committee once again. If you have any ringing related issues about which you would like help or advice, or indeed any kind of feedback, please feel free to contact any Committee Member. They are:

Chairman:	Daniel Brady	01580 891840	danielw.brady@gmail.com
Hon Secretary:	Mike Birkbeck	01622 721288	m.birkbeck@blueyonder.co.uk
Hon Treasurer:	Pat Phipps	01622 751714	P.Phipps@tesco.net
Ringling Masters:	Daniel Brady	01580 891840	danielw.brady@gmail.com
	James Sawle	07866 734200	sawle.james@googlemail.com
District Reps:	Malcolm Hitchcock	01622 851670	mandjhitchcock@btinternet.com
	Chris Saunders	01233 663365	
Publicity Officer:	Roy Barclay	01580 890247	roybarclay@kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk

Personal Milestones

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

1st Quarter-peal:	Alison Alderson; Paul Davis; Steve Hambelton;
1st Quarter away from cover:	Paul Bastow;
1st Quarter as Conductor:	Steve Bassett;
50th Quarter as Conductor:	Daniel Brady;
100th Quarter:	Richard Barclay; Adam Brady;
150th Quarter:	Tina Bastow; Alan Phipps;
1600th Quarter:	Darren Elphick.

Advance Notice

**We are planning a Quarter-peal Day
later in the year, possibly
followed by an evening Social Event**

More details later

**Meanwhile, please let one of the
Ringing Masters know (without
obligation) if you are interested**



District News

Call Change Competition

The District Call Change Striking Contest was held at Ightham on 15th November with seven bands taking part, the best entry for many years. Local tower Captain Richard Abnett was the perfect host, having arranged for the lovely warm hall to be available for us with hot tea and a selection of cakes made by his wife. We are very grateful to them both. We are also grateful to our judges, David and Pam Manger from Ashford District.

The winners this year were All Saints', Maidstone, and the trophy for the band with most ringers who had not taken part in a striking competition before went to Marden. The full results were:

1st	<i>Maidstone, All Saints'</i>	32 faults
2nd	<i>Aylesford (scratch)</i>	38 faults
3rd	<i>Leeds</i>	40 faults
4th	<i>Staplehurst</i>	41 faults
5th	<i>Aylesford & Stansted</i>	53 faults
6th	<i>Chart & East Sutton</i>	71 faults
7th	<i>Marden</i>	74 faults

District Carol Service

The District Carol Service is traditionally held at one of the District's three or four bell towers where there is little scope for an ordinary District meeting. This year it was the turn of Broomfield on Saturday 12th December with the service returning to a more traditional format. We are

grateful to the Vicar of Broomfield for taking the service and to Sue King for playing the organ.

There was ringing on Broomfield's three bells prior to the service and the twenty ringers and friends present enjoyed the traditional mince pies and mulled wines afterwards.

Quarterly at Marden...and a new District Secretary

The winter Quarterly District Meeting was held at Marden on Saturday 30th January, having been postponed from its original date as a result of heavy snow. Possibly for this reason the attendance of only 16 was rather less than usual for what is normally the best-attended meeting of the year. Nevertheless ringing ranged through Call Changes, Plain Doubles and Major, Grandsire Triples, Yorkshire, Superlative, and 5-spliced Surprise Major and three leads of Bristol. Indeed something for everyone.

The first part of the Business Meeting was in fact the adjourned ADM, at which Mike Birkbeck was elected Hon District Secretary. At the subsequent Quarterly Meeting proper routine business was speedily dealt with, including the election of **David Kite** of Marden as a new member of the Association. The unadopted Minutes of the Meeting can be found on the District website. Following the Meeting we enjoyed delicious chilli jacket potatoes, followed by tea and cakes, in the welcome warmth of Marden Vestry Hall. All in all a very enjoyable day, and our grateful thanks to Andy and Di Copas for organising everything, particularly the tea.

District Practice at Harrietsham

Eighteen people attended the Practice Meeting at Harrietsham on Saturday 13th February, which was quite impressive given that it was only two weeks since the previous meeting. Although we were unable to muster enough to ring special method Bristol, we managed the other special method, Stedman Triples, along with Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and plenty of Plain Hunt and Call Changes. As a bonus there was also a course of Plain Hunt Major on Harrietsham's newly refurbished handbells. All in all a very useful practice.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 13th March

District Practice at Boxley (6)

10am - 12noon

The special methods will be Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. This is at the special request of the local band, so all support will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Monday 5th April

County AGM at Rainham

2.30pm (Service 12noon)

All members of the Association are urged to attend. Lunch will be available between the Service & Meeting.

Saturday 10th April

Quarterly Meeting at Yalding (6)

10am -12noon

Ringling will be followed by a short business meeting. The special methods will be Grandsire Doubles and Cambridge Minor and there will also be Plain Hunt. All are welcome.

Saturday 8th May

District Practice at Hunton (6)

10am - 12noon

The special methods will be Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles and Cambridge Minor and there will also be Plain Hunt. All are welcome.

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