

The Belfry

Quarterly
Newsletter of the
KCACR
Maidstone District

April 2010

Issue 88

Editorial

I suppose this latest issue of *The Belfry* could be likened to London buses - none appear for ages then two come along in quick succession. Well hopefully from now on *The Belfry* will appear regularly at Quarterly Meetings. And whilst on the subject of London, please note the article below. Be assured that everyone will be welcome on this outing, whether you can ring rounds or Surprise Maximus.

At its last meeting, your District Committee spent a good deal of time discussing the perceived need for more training at the basic end of the ringing spectrum. Following on from the successful Practice Meeting at Boxley (see report overleaf) it was decided that at future District Meetings there would be a greater emphasis on Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire. It is hoped that this will encourage those who (wrongly) see Meetings as an "excuse for experienced ringers to do their thing" to come along, improve their method ringing skills and take those skills back to their own tower.

This does not mean, of course, that the more experienced ringers will miss out. Most experienced ringers are only too happy to come along and help their less experienced counterparts, and they know that they will also have the opportunity to ring something suited to their own skill level.

The Editor

District Outing to London - Saturday 14th August

Have you ever wished you had the opportunity to ring at some of the City of London's famous and historic churches? Well here's your chance. The first tower, already confirmed, is the new ring of 12 at St Magnus the Martyr (pictured right). Others on the provisional itinerary include St Olave Hart Street (8), the newly available six at St Katherine Cree, Aldgate (8), Bishopsgate (8), and finishing with St Michael Cornhill (12).

Don't worry if you can't ring methods on 12 - most of us can't so don't be fazed by the thought of ringing on high numbers as ringing will range from rounds upwards.

All the towers are close together so it is suggested that people travel by train to London Bridge which is only about 10 minutes walk from the first tower. There will be more about the outing in the July issue, so put the date in your diary now - Saturday 14th August.



Personal Milestones

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

- 750th Quarter as Conductor:** Mike Birkbeck;
150th Quarter: Alan Phipps;
Richard Barclay
1300th Quarter: Diana Wraight

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.



120 CLUB RESULTS for MARCH 2010

1st prize	(£20)	No 26
2nd prize	(£15)	No 16
3rd prize	(£10)	No 81
4th Prize	(£5)	No 55

*Drawn at Boxley District Practice
on Saturday 13th March 2010*



District News

Plain Bob at Boxley

At the recent district practice at Boxley, four ringers rang their first Plain Bob Doubles inside.

Following an earlier request at the Tower Captain's meeting in January, the special methods for the Boxley practice were changed to Plain Bob and Grandsire. On the day each learner was assigned a helper. Following a short theory session, the learners "stood behind" for a demonstration by more experienced ringers; then it was their turn. Each learner rang several couples of courses with a strong band around them supported by their helper.

At our upcoming quarterly meeting at Yalding on 10th April and practice at Hunton on 8th May, the focus again will be Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Hopefully, the learners from Boxley will come for a refresher practice and some new learners can get their first taste of method ringing!

A report on the Yalding Quarterly Meeting will appear in the next issue of *The Belfry*.

Also coming up....

The District Striking Competition will be at Hollingbourne on Saturday 12th June, with the draw for ringing at 3.45pm. Contrary to popular belief this is not an event just for "good" ringers. Provided you have a band that can ring a 120 of Doubles you are welcome. The

atmosphere is very laid back and who knows, you might just win! The very least you get will be a certificate showing that you took part and, of course, the legendary ringers' tea.

Interested in ringing a quarter?

We are arranging a quarter peal day for people to ring *firsts*, for example: first quarter, first of a method inside or first as conductor.

Please contact one of the Ringing Masters if you would like to take part, or know of someone who ought to.

Support your local shop...

...your Ringers' Bookshop that is! There is a wide range of ringing books available, to suit every level from beginner to the most advanced. We have more than 50 titles currently in stock and a selection is shown on the District website (although some of the prices have subsequently risen). For a full list of what's available and current prices please contact Chris Saunders on 01233 663365.

And finally...

Where and how did you obtain the copy of *The Belfry* which you are currently looking at? From your tower secretary? Through the post? Via the District Website? Or are you one of the smart ones who have signed up to have your own personal copy sent by e-mail. It's easy to do - just send an e-mail to thebelfry@kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk asking to be added to the e-list and you will receive your copy as an e-mail attachment the moment it is published. You may unsubscribe at any time.

For the avoidance of spam, individuals' names do not appear in the address line of bulk e-mailings from the District.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 8th May

District Practice at Hunton (6)

10am - 12noon

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

Saturday 12th June

Striking Contest at Hollingbourne

Draw 3.45pm

Entries to the District Secretary please. Competition Rules can be found on the District website. Tea will be available during the Competition.

Saturday 10th July

Quarterly Meeting at Mereworth (6)

3pm - 8pm

Ringing, short business meeting, followed by tea and further ringing in the evening. The special methods will be Plain Bob, Grandsire Doubles and Cambridge and Bourne Minor. As always, there will also be Plain Hunt. All are welcome.

Saturday 14th August

District Outing to London

All day

See article overleaf for more information. Please note that at this stage most towers are still subject to confirmation.

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