

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer *Belfry*. In this issue you will find details of our forthcoming Outing to London to ring at some of the historic City churches, and a Quarter Peal "Firsts" Day - a new slant on a traditional idea. Sadly we also have to report the passing of two former District ringers, whose obituaries appear on page two.

Happy and sad news too from two of our District Towers. Firstly we are pleased to report that the three bells at St. Peter ad Vincula, Ditton, were rung for an outdoor service on Sunday 27th June. This is believed to be only the second time the bells have been rung full circle for a service in at least 70 years.

Meanwhile, not a million miles away at Snodland ringing has been temporarily suspended following the quinquennial report as the floors hadn't been surveyed or inspected for a good 20 years. This came about because a tower elsewhere had a floor collapse due to woodworm and there are fears others might too. The tower has therefore been closed "just in case". Although this seems at first sight like health and safety gone mad it would be well worth Steeplekeepers checking when their floors and supporting timbers were last properly surveyed if the church has a quinquennial survey due.

The Editor

District Outing to London - Saturday 14th August

Plans for the Outing are now almost finalised and details of towers are as follows:

10.00-11.15 - **St. Magnus the Martyr** - 12 (26 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt)
11.30-12.30 - **St. Olave, Hart Street** - 8 (11 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt)

12.30-14.00 - *Lunch - Own arrangements*

14.15-15.15 - **St. Katharine Cree** - 6 (9 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt)
15.15-16.15 - **St. Botolph Aldgate** - 8 (25cwt)
16.15-17.15 - Christ Church, Spitalfields - 8 (17 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt)*
17.15-18.30 - **St. Michael Cornhill** - 12 (42cwt)

* *awaiting confirmation*

Tower fees will be in the form of a "day ticket" costing £5.

All the towers are within walking distance of each other so it is suggested that people travel by train to London Bridge which is only about 10 minutes walk from the first tower.

The final itinerary, including some suggestions for lunchtime/evening pubs, will be available to download from the District website nearer the time.

Remember that ringing will range from rounds upwards, so please don't be fazed by the thought of ringing on high numbers.



St Katharine Cree - one of the rarer towers available on the District Outing



District News

District Striking Competition

This year's District Striking Contest was held at Hollingbourne on Saturday 12th June with six bands taking part, representing five different towers. Our judges were Tim Lynch and Catherine Heathcote from the Tonbridge District and we are particularly grateful to them for coming over to judge the contest for us. We are also grateful to the Hollingbourne ringers for hosting the contest and providing refreshments.

The clear winners this year were All Saints' Maidstone, and Tower Captain Graham Heath is pictured right with the winners' shield and the judges. All Saints' now go forward to represent our District at the County 6-Bell Competition at West Wickham in September.

The full results were:

1st	<i>Maidstone, All Saints'</i>	18½ faults
2nd	<i>Staplehurst A</i>	49½ faults
3rd	<i>Aylesford</i>	50 faults
4th	<i>Staplehurst B</i>	69 faults
5th	<i>Leeds</i>	90 faults
DNF	<i>Hollingbourne</i>	65 faults (est)

Unfortunately Hollingbourne failed to finish the test piece and were therefore disqualified but, for comparison purposes, the judges worked out an equivalent number of faults based on the performance before the fire out.

Useful morning at Hunton

Around 20 people turned up for the morning practice at Hunton on Saturday 8th May, enabling a wide variety of methods to be rung. The highest we achieved was

spliced London and Wells, but there was also plenty of Rounds and Call Changes and Plain Hunt. Indeed, plenty for everyone and many took the opportunity to progress themselves a little. The standard of ringing was also quite positive, given that Hunton are not the easiest of bells to ring.

Spring Quarterly at Yalding

Around 15 people attended the Spring Quarterly Meeting at Yalding on Saturday 10th April. Ringing included Plain Bob, Grandsire, and Reverse Canterbury Doubles and, of course, Plain Hunt. At the Business Meeting the proposals for winding up the F S Macey Fund were agreed. No new members were elected at the meeting.

Well done Paul!

Congratulations to Paul Bastow, bell ringer and Round Table from Aylesford who, together with his running buddy Martin, successfully completed two marathons in two weeks - Zurich on 11th April and London on 25th April - raising in excess of £4000 for the Round Table Children's Wish charity.



Obituaries

Mrs Rene Gilder

We are sorry to have to report the death of former District ringer **Mrs Rene Gilder**, formerly of Staplehurst and subsequently of Wrotham, who passed away at the end of April. A peal at Piltdown Campanile and Quarters at East and West Malling, Horsmonden and Staplehurst were rung to Rene's memory.

Mrs Cynthia Webb

Barely a month later we heard of the loss of **Mrs Cynthia Webb**, formerly a ringer at Linton. Cynthia had not rung for some years, but is well known in the area for her involvement in the community. She was a Parish Councillor in Coxheath and represented Coxheath Ward on the Maidstone Borough Council. Cynthia was also Sub-postmistress at Coxheath Post Office for many years. A quarter-peal was rung at Linton on Monday 5th July following the scattering of her ashes in the churchyard.





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

Winning numbers April - June 2010

April 2010			May 2010			June 2010		
1st Prize	(£20)	64	1st Prize	(£20)	35	1st Prize	(£40)	43
2nd Prize	(£15)	48	2nd Prize	(£15)	110	2nd Prize	(£30)	1
3rd Prize	(£10)	57	3rd Prize	(£10)	69	3rd Prize	(£20)	53
4th Prize	(£5)	44	4th Prize	(£5)	92	4th Prize	(£5)	72
<i>Drawn at Staplehurst Practice Night on 13th April</i>			<i>Drawn at District Practice at Hunton on 8th May</i>			<i>Drawn at Striking Contest at Hollingbourne on 12th June</i>		

Quarter Peal "Firsts" Day - Saturday 18th September

The District is planning a Quarter Peal "Firsts" Day on Saturday 18th September. The aim is to encourage the District's ringers and bands to take a step forward by ringing something new. Therefore we would like as many quarters as possible rung in the District, containing one or more "firsts".

This could be a first quarter, first on the treble, first inside, as conductor or whatever you want.

Feel free to organize your own band. However, please contact one of the Ringing Masters (Daniel Brady or James Sawle) if you would like help, e.g. extra ringers or towers. Conversely, if you are happy to help support another band please let the Ringing Masters know so they can allocate you.

Personal Milestones

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

1st Quarter inside:	Paul Davis;
50th Quarter:	Paul Bastow;
150th Quarter:	Daniel Brady;

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.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 14th August **District Outing to London** **All day**
See article on front page for more information.

Saturday 11th September **Rounds & Call Changes Practice at Chart Sutton (6)** **10am - 12noon**
Please note that there will be no methods rung at this Practice.

Saturday 18th September **District Quarter Peal "Firsts" Day** **All Day**
The aim is to encourage the District's ringers and bands to take a step forward by ringing something new. See article above for more information.

Saturday 9th October **Annual District Meeting at Staplehurst (10)** **3pm - 8pm**
Ringing, service and short business meeting, followed by tea and further ringing in the evening. No special methods have been designated but, as always, there will be Plain Hunt. All are welcome.

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