

## Editorial

I am sure none of us can fail to be appalled by the recent revelations of child abuse amongst the clergy at a number of churches in neighbouring Sussex, a situation which does not put the church in general, and the Church of England in particular, in a very good light. This is sad because, as we all know, the vast majority of the population are decent honest law abiding people and it is only the miscreants who get the publicity.

In ringing circles the protection of children and vulnerable adults is taken very seriously. Both the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Church of England have published guidelines and advice on this issue, in particular on the confusing situation as regards the need for CRB checks. On the District website can be found the latest advice from the KCACR on CRB checks, and anyone wishing to know more is welcome to contact our Child Protection lead, Nigel Spencer, on the e-mail address or telephone number listed in that advice. Furthermore most, if not all, PCCs have a child protection policy and designated liaison person.

Unfortunately, important though such checks are, CRB clearance is no guarantee that those working with our children and vulnerable adults have nothing to hide – it may mean that they just haven't been caught yet. It therefore behoves each and every one of us to be vigilant at all times, particularly with visitors who we do not know, and to act swiftly on any suspicion of inappropriate behaviour.

*The Editor*

## **District Dinner**

at

**The King and Queen, East Malling**

**Saturday 24th September 2011  
7.30 for 8.15pm**

**Tickets priced £23.95 available now from  
Mike Birkbeck, 2 Hartnup Street Maidstone ME16 8LR**

**Remittance and menu choices with your ticket request please  
(Menu available at [www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/dinnermenu.pdf](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/dinnermenu.pdf))**

**Capacity limited to 32 tickets, so book now to avoid disappointment**

**Smart or formal dress**

**Bar closes at 11pm**



## District News

### Spring Quarterly District Meeting

Nineteen people attended the Quarterly District Meeting at Aylesford on Saturday 9th April, where ringing ranged from Call Changes to Cambridge Major, and the local ringers once again provided a splendid tea.

At the business five new members were elected to the Association. We are pleased to welcome **Camilla Harriott, Jocelin Capper** and **Michael Rutland** (all from West Malling), and **Kevin Fox** and **Jeremy Tennison-Smith** (both from Yalding). The minutes of the business meeting are available on the District website.

### May Practice Meeting

The latest in our series of Saturday morning practice meetings was held at Nettlestead on Saturday 14th May and attracted an encouraging 24 people with a good mix of ability levels. Ringing ranged from Plain Hunt to Cambridge, and finished with a well-struck touch of Stedman. Our thanks to the local ringers for the use of the bells and for providing most welcome refreshments. Below is a picture of Ringing Master James Sawle keeping a watchful eye on the morning's activities (thanks to Graham Heath for the photo).



### 2011 Striking Competition Results

All Saints' Maidstone retained the District Striking Competition shield at Yalding on Saturday 11th June, but it could hardly be described as a "contest" since they were the only band that took part so they won by default. However, they still rung their test piece of Plain Bob Minor, earning 13½ faults. The judges, Mark Chittenden-Pile and Martin Marshall, described it as a good steady piece of ringing with no major faults at all, so they were worthy "winners" despite the lack of opposition! All Saints'

Maidstone now go forward to represent our District at the County 6-Bell Competition at Hunton in September.

A quarter peal of Cambridge Minor was then rung with the judges taking part while the others went to the pub.

### Kevin Fulcher

We are very sorry to have to report that Kevin Fulcher of Staplehurst passed away suddenly on Monday 9th May. He had rung at Staplehurst for many years and was also a licensed lay reader at the church. Kevin's funeral was held at a packed All Saints' Church, Staplehurst, on Wednesday 1st June. There was open ringing before the service where the local ringers were joined by others attending the service and a quarter peal was also rung to Kevin's memory.

### Congratulations to David Earl

On a much brighter note, David Earl, Tower Captain of Barming, reached a major milestone recently when he achieved 50 years' membership of the Association. Our congratulations to David, pictured right receiving his certificate from County Chairman Peter Sims at the AGM at Speldhurst in April.



### Silver Weddings

Congratulations of a different kind to three District ringing couples who all celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversaries recently. Roy and Sallyann Barclay celebrated their Silver Wedding on 7th June, whilst two weeks later on 21st June it was the turn of Andrew and Debbie Brady to celebrate 25 happy years together. Then on 5th July Phil and Liz Barnes celebrated their Silver Wedding.

There was obviously romance in the air in the Summer of '86! Needless to say there was ringing to celebrate all three events.

### Ken Williamson

As we go to press we hear that Ken Williamson collapsed and died at Leeds' practice on Friday 15th July. His funeral is at 11.00am on the 10th August at Stockbury church.

**Come Back to the District....**

....and come they did, in their droves! The *Come Back to the District* Social event and BBQ was a resounding success, with every ticket sold and, according to the feedback we have had, a great time being had by all.

The afternoon began with two hours of ringing on the ten bells at Staplehurst Church. Those packed into the ringing room enjoyed a variety of ringing from rounds and call changes up to Surprise Major and Little Bob Royal. Then it was back to the garden of two of the Staplehurst ringers where a BBQ was already sizzling nicely away. Much use was made of Chris Trafford's mini-ring during the following three hours, culminating in a light-hearted striking competition with chocolate bars as prizes. Even the weather was kind to us, even if it did get a little cool by the time festivities drew to a close at around 9pm.

A huge vote of thanks goes to District Chairman Daniel Brady who did the lion's share of organising the event, and to everyone else who helped out on the day. Below is a photo of those at the front of the food queue! More pictures of the event are available on the District website at [www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/comebackpics.pdf](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/comebackpics.pdf)



**Personal Milestones**

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

- 1st Quarter on handbells:** Daniel Brady
- 1st Quarter of Major:** Paul Davis
- 1st Quarter on ten:** Paul Davis
- 200th Quarter:** Daniel Brady  
Adam Brady
- 350th Quarter:** Elizabeth Barnes

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](mailto:thebelfry@kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk). Major milestones only please.

**Keep up to date with what's happening in the Maidstone District at**

**[www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk)**

**Our very own website has been totally revamped with a more modern interface and simplified navigation**

**Check it out now**



**Maidstone District 120 Club**  
[www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/120club](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/120club)

**Winning numbers April - June 2011**

<b>April 2011</b>			<b>May 2011</b>			<b>June 2011</b>		
1st Prize	(£20)	118	1st Prize	(£20)	33	1st Prize	(£40)	107
2nd Prize	(£15)	75	2nd Prize	(£15)	99	2nd Prize	(£30)	7
3rd Prize	(£10)	50	3rd Prize	(£10)	35	3rd Prize	(£20)	45
4th Prize	(£5)	100	4th Prize	(£5)	91	4th Prize	(£5)	5
<i>Drawn at Quarterly Meeting at Aylesford on 10th April</i>			<i>Drawn at District BBQ at Staplehurst on 21st May</i>			<i>Drawn at Staplehurst Practice on 14th June</i>		

## Looking forward.....

Alongside the usual District meetings we still have two major social events this summer. The first of these is the **District outing to London** on Saturday 13th August with the opportunity to ring at some more of the famous City churches. This year we are combining with the Ashford District and the itinerary is:

10.00 - 11.15am	St Martin in the Fields (12)
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Giles in the Fields (8)
<i>Lunch</i>	
2.00 - 3.00pm	St Clement Danes (10)
3.15 - 4.30pm	St Sepulchre Holborn Viaduct (12) (tbc)
4.45 - 5.45pm	St John Waterloo Road (8)
6.00 - 7.00pm	St Margaret Westminster (10)

Please note that St Sepulchre Holborn Viaduct is still to be confirmed.

Further details are available from from Ringing Master James Sawle.



Then on the evening of Saturday 24th September we are holding a **District Dinner**. Your Committee thought it would be nice to make this something of a special occasion, so we have invited a guest speaker and there will be a smart or formal dress code. The venue is The King and Queen at East Malling, 7.30pm for 8.15pm to allow for a few pints before the meal to sharpen the appetite. The menu is available on the District website at [www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/dinnermenu.pdf](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk/pdf/dinnermenu.pdf) and copies have also been sent to tower contacts.

There are a maximum of 32 tickets available on a first come first served basis and the price is £23.95 per head, available from District Secretary Mike Birkbeck at 2 Hartnup Street, Maidstone ME16 8LR. Remittance and menu choices with your ticket request please.

Moving back to Meetings, the **District Practice** on Saturday 10th September, which it was hoped would be held on the augmented six at Otham, will not now be held there as the bells will not be ready by then. Instead it will be held on the light six at **Wateringbury**. Hopefully we will be able to have a District Practice on the new Otham bells at a later stage.

Finally, don't forget the Annual District Meeting which this year will be held at Leeds. This is your opportunity to have a say about the running of the District and to elect your new District Committee for 2011/12. New people with new ideas are always welcome, so why not put yourself forward for election this year?

### Forthcoming Events

<b>Saturday 13th August</b> <i>See article above for more information</i>	<b>District Outing to London</b>	<b>All day</b>
<b>Saturday 10th September</b> <i>All levels catered for, including Plain Hunt. Everyone welcome.</i>	<b>District Practice at Wateringbury</b>	<b>10am - 12noon</b>
<b>Saturday 24th September</b> <i>See article above for more information</i>	<b>District Dinner</b>	<b>7.30 for 8.15pm</b>
<b>Saturday 8th October</b> <i>Ringing on the 17½ cwt ten, followed by service, business meeting, tea and further ringing. All levels catered for.</i>	<b>Annual District Meeting at Leeds (10)</b>	<b>3pm - 8pm</b>

**More information about District Events can be found on our website at [www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk](http://www.kcacr-maidstone-district.org.uk)**