



Maidstone District

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers

Maidstone District

Master: David Grimwood
Secretary: Betsy Piercey
<https://kcacr.org.uk>

AGENDA

Annual District Meeting

Saturday 9 October 2021 at 3.00 pm
at St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Boxley

2021/ADM01 Apologies for absence

2021/ADM02 Minutes and Matters arising from previous meeting:
2021/QMC 3 July 2021 via Zoom
(attached to covering email)

2021/ADM03 Election of new members
New members should comply with the requirements set out on the KCACR website (see KCACR homepage 'Membership/Become a member') before applying for election at a District Meeting

2021/ADM04 District Officer Reports (attached)

- 1) Master's Report
- 2) Ringing Master's Report
- 3) Secretary's Report
- 4) Treasurer/Membership Secretary's Report
- 5) Youth Officer's Report (to follow)
- 6) Communications Officer's Report
- 7) District Representative's Report (a verbal Report will be given)
- 8) 120 Club Co-ordinator's Report

2021/ADM05 Election of District Officers

- 1) Master
- 2) Secretary
- 3) Ringing Master
- 4) Deputy Ringing Master
- 5) Treasurer/Membership Secretary
- 6) District Representative
- 7) Youth Co-ordinator
- 8) Communications Officer
- 9) 120 Club Co-ordinator

Note: The following Officers have indicated that they do not intend to stand for re-election: Master, Secretary, Ringing Master, District Representative, Communications Officer.

- 2021/ADM06 KCACR Notice of Rule Changes 2022**
Items for Information, Note attached
- 2021/ADM07 Forthcoming Events in the next Quarter**
District Practice at Yalding on 13 November 2021
District Carol Service on 11 December 2021 (venue to be confirmed)
- 2021/ADM08 Calendar for 2022**
For discussion at Meeting
- 2021/ADM09 Any other business**
to be notified to the Secretary by email by 6 October
- 2021/ADM10 Vote of thanks**

Betsy Piercey
District Secretary
3 October 2021

Annual Report – District Master

The Covid pandemic and associated restrictions have resulted in literally a quiet year. It has been encouraging that some towers have been able to ring in a limited way on Sundays for some months, and more recently it has been pleasing to see quarters and peals and other performances re-appearing.

My plans for a comprehensive training programme to strengthen the resources for teaching new ringers and developing the skills of existing ringers fell away completely because of the pandemic, which was very disappointing. I had hoped to build on the skills arising from existing links between groups of towers, and some help from ART. Use of facilities such as Ringing Room don't appear to have been widely used, and interest in handbell ringing has been limited. Hopefully, the availability of 'e bells' may encourage us to have a go.

District members will note that several of the Officers are standing down this time. So please think about stepping forward and picking up one of the roles. None are hugely onerous, but if left vacant will affect the support and encouragement we can offer and receive from each other across the District.

I would like to thank the Officers who are retiring for their commitment and support, particularly Betsy and Terry, who have kept the wheels turning efficiently and willingly.

David Grimwood

Ringing Masters Report 2021

The COVID 19 pandemic has once again severely affected ringing in the District, and indeed throughout the country, in 2021.

Many churches were closed for the duration and of those that were open many took to using Zoom to broadcast services rather than be open to congregations. As such there was little Sunday service ringing prior to restrictions being eased. And though ringing for weddings and occasional funerals was allowed there was virtually no ringing practice. This lack of ringing is amply demonstrated by the fact that only 14 quarter peals were rung at churches in the District in 2021 prior to lockdown easing on 19 July. Things are now beginning to pick up.

There has been only one District event that has been able to take place this year (rather than through Zoom). The District Practice at Hunton on 11 September rightly concentrated on rounds and call changes to help ease those ringers, who felt a little rusty, to get back in the swing of things. It was just a little unfortunate that the date coincided with the Churches Ride and Stride and Heritage Open Day events.

Let us hope that the remainder of 2021 and into next year we are able to enjoy a less fraught and interrupted period of ringing.

I am standing down from the role of Ringing Master so I hope you will support my successor as you have supported me these last few years.

Terry Barnard

District Ringing Master

District Secretary's Report 2021

Since my 2020 Report there has sadly been the passing of Maidstone District Members Tom Barlow, Bernard Mee, Joan Gordon (see Obituaries in the 2021 Handbook), Michael Cowles and David Levick (Obituaries to be published in the 2022 Handbook). They will all be greatly missed.

2021/22 Calendar: The ongoing Covid-19 crisis has meant that there were no in-person District meetings or practices since the first Lockdown in early 2020 until the practice at Hunton this September. Three Quarterly Meetings have taken place via Zoom. Also on Zoom were Ringing Room practices organised by Liz Barnes, for which we are very grateful.

There were only six attendees at Hunton, but this was a similar attendance to the September 2019 practice and may in part be caused by Church events on the same day, such as Ride & Stride. The ADM on 9 October will be held at Boxley after the Special Ringing Event which has been organised by Doug Davis. A further practice has been fixed for 13 November at Yalding. A District Carol Service date has been fixed for 11 December, but a venue has yet to be found. Thank you to all those involved in holding/agreeing to hold meetings and practices, which does involve a lot of organisation and work, which is very much appreciated. The Calendar for 2022 is on the ADM Agenda for discussion at the meeting.

I thank Phil Barnes for sharing his medical knowledge and expertise with us relating to the Pandemic, which has been vital in enabling us to keep ourselves and others safe. We have been privileged to have had the benefit of his in-depth advice.

I am standing down from the Committee this year and I thank David, Liz and all the Committee for their help and support during my tenure.

Betsy Piercey

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

Congratulations and thank you to all those who managed to successfully negotiate the new membership renewal process that was introduced this year! There were, as expected, a number of teething issues and I am grateful for the understanding of those who experienced problems. I do hope that the update system will go smoothly into next year and that members appreciate the opportunity to be in control of their individual membership.

Membership

The database shows that, probably as expected during these difficult times, our membership has dropped slightly further this year. In addition we have only had two new members elected so far during 2021.

Our current District membership stands at 216 members made up of:

165 adults
16 over 80s
10 juniors
19 life members
6 associate members

This should have produced a total subscription income for the Association of **£2562** from our paying members (since all subs are paid centrally I can't confirm this myself).

This compares with a total membership for 2020 of 235, of whom 206 were paying members producing a subscription income of £2902.50.

120 Club

113 shares in the District's 120 Club were sold this year and the proceeds, once the remaining prizes have been paid out will contribute at least **£1210** to the Association's Bell Restoration Fund.

Training Fund

With no in person district events for the majority of this year no donations to the training fund have been collected to date.

Thank you to all those who have continued to support the work of the Association.

Liz Barnes
Maidstone District Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Communications Officer's Report 2021

As in previous years the communications officer role entails updating the Maidstone District section of the KCACR website such as posting details of forthcoming events such as district practices. Bell ringing was on hold for much of the year but many towers are beginning to ring again. I have been Communications Officer for three years and I will not be standing again.

Mark Elvers

120 Club Report 2021

'The 2021 Club year will certainly be a challenge if the club is to continue' was the last line in last year's report.

The 2021 year has carried 7 unsold shares from the reduced shares out of the 120 that were available. A big thank you to our multi shareholders for helping this year.

Towers and members of the K.C.A.C.R are invited to assist in selling and continuing to be members of the club, so that the work of the Association can continue, not only on bell restoration, but having funds available to restore ringing in general and for training.

The Club draws have been undertaken by a computer random number generator since the start of the Club's year. The monthly draw can be seen on the District Facebook page along with the first live draw at the first meeting of the year, at Hunton in September.

Winners are posted on the District website and payments whenever possible paid into winners' bank accounts.

In a full year when all shares are sold the 120 Club can generate and help funds up to £1200.

I end this year's report with the same statement as last year. The next years Club will be an even bigger challenge as we invite members to continue supporting the Club, even those members that have not yet returned to ringing.

Malwyn A. Williams

KCACR Notice of Rule Changes 2022

Circulated to all District Secretaries for reading out and noting at their own Annual District Meeting:-

In accordance with KCACR Rule 15(ii) I give you Notice of two proposed alterations to the rules which will be voted upon at the KCACR Annual General Meeting 2022. These have been put forward by officers of and agreed by the General Committee. They should be read out and noted at your Annual District Meeting.

Peal Fee Abolition Rule Change Proposal – Rule 10(i) wording to exclude “appropriate peal fees together with” and to delete (ii) entirely. The new Rule 10 to read “Peals rung by bands made up entirely of Members of the Association shall be credited to the Association and printed in the Handbook only if details of the compositions on seven bells and above are received by the Peal Secretary within two months of the performance or by 15 January of the following year, whichever is the sooner.”

Proposal to amend Rule 4(i) – There was considered a need for the following change, to include Handbell ringing. Change Ringing was considered legitimate on both Handbells and Tower bells. Without the change, unless a Handbell Ringer was also a tower bell ringer, they wouldn't be able to join the association. The General Committee endorsed the proposal to include the wording underlined in red below:-
“4. The Association shall consist of Practising, Associate, Honorary Life and Non-Resident Life Members. Practising and Honorary Life Members shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Association. (i) Practising Members A Practising Member shall be deemed to be a person who can, without assistance, ring rounds and lower a bell or can ring a plain course on 6 or more handbells in a method. Such competency shall be confirmed by an elected Association or District Officer.”

Kind regards
Sue Bassett
KCACR General Secretary