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# Newsletter

## September-October 2018



### September 2018 Events

- Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018: 10/12 Bell Practice at Saffron Walden – 10.30am-12noon.
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Young Ringers Outing.



### October 2018 Events

- Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018: NW District Meeting at Great Parndon – 9.30am, followed by the draw for the Call Change Striking Competition.
- Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018: EACR Management Meeting at Danbury – 2.00pm.
- Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018: 8 week Autumn Ringing Course commencing at Henham – 9.45pm-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018: EACR Annual Dinner at Little Channels.
- Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Young Ringers Practice.



### November 2018 Events

- Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018: Association Training Day, Southern District.
- Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018: Young Ringers Practice.



### Master's Blog

I have become a blogger!

On our website is a new feature – the Master's Blog, where I post my rambling thoughts and feelings. The link is <https://www.eacr.org.uk/wp/?p=12> and it is also linked from the home page. Take a look!

**Andrew Kelso**  
**District Master**



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## NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



### Essex Association Striking Competition – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

On a near perfect summer's day, the finals of the 6 bell Striking Competition took place at Great Totham, hosted by the South Eastern District. Ten bands took part in the competition held during the afternoon, with the NW District being represented by Saffron Walden and Willingale, on what were described by some as 'challenging' bells.



#### Left: Saffron Walden

Emily Downing, John Mumford,  
Hugh Maddams, Ann Clinton,  
Roger Collins, Stephen Wood



#### Right: Willingale

Ian Kerwin, Kieran Kerwin,  
Gemma Crouchman, Scott Kerwin,  
Charlotte Parsons, Peter Tottman

Drinks and ice-creams were thoughtfully provided by the Great Totham ringers – very much appreciated by ringers and visitors alike!

A scrumptious tea was provided at Goldhanger, also the venue for the 8 bell competition. After tea, the two judges from Kent – Philip Barnes and David Grimwood – announced the results of the 6 bell competition. Congratulations to Chelmsford on achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place, and to all the other bands for taking part, particularly to Saffron Walden achieving joint 7<sup>th</sup> place and Willingale, who, thinking that reaching the finals at Thaxted was scary enough, although they came last, were delighted to actually complete their piece, albeit rather shakily, and were commended by the judges for their grit and determination to complete! The full 6 bell competition results were:

No.	Band	Faults	Position
1	Coggeshall	83	5
2	Kirby	51	2
3	West Ham	90	7
4	Writtle	60	3
5	Hornchurch	92	9
6	Kelvedon and Felsted	78	4
7	Willingale	180	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Chelmsford</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>
9	Downham	85	6
10	Saffron Walden	90	7



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Five bands participated in the 8 bell competition, the test piece being a course of Lincolnshire Surprise Major. Again, the bells were considered by some as 'challenging'. However, the North Western band, put together by Chris McCarthy, were very pleased with their ringing given that they had only fully completed the piece on a couple of occasions prior to the competition. Of course, a visit to the pub was called for whilst awaiting the results!



Congratulations to the South Eastern District for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place, and to the North Western District achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and a creditable effort by all bands, particularly for three of the bands being separated by one fault each.

### NW District:

Roger Collins, Stephen Wood, Ann Clinton, Chris McCarthy, Mary Bone, Fred Bone, Liz Griffith Jones, Nick Hughes

Again, the local ringers provided welcome refreshments on what turned out to be a very warm evening.

A big thank you goes to the South Eastern District for organising the day, and to all those who provided the very welcome tea and refreshments throughout the day. Thanks also go to Philip Barnes and David Grimwood for judging both competitions and provided very constructive reviews of each band's ringing. The full results of the 8 bell competition were:

No.	Band	Faults	Position
1	NE	62	4
<b>2</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>
3	NW	60	2
4	S	61	3
5	N	104	5



### Harlow Common

A reminder that the long awaited new ropes for Harlow Common have now been fitted so for those bands who have put off ringing there or for those bands who have yet to consider ringing there, get yourselves along and give them a try.



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### NW District Meeting and Call Change Striking Competition

The next NW District meeting will be held at **St Mary, Great Parndon on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, commencing at 9.30am**. This will be followed by the draw for the Call Change Striking Competition. It would be good to see as many bands as possible taking part in this competition, so time enough to 'encourage' your tower captains to start thinking about entering a band. Please let me know as early as possible if you plan to enter a band, or even two!



### Autumn Ringing School

The Autumn Ringing School is now full and will be held once again at Henham. We will be covering Plain Hunt, Grandsire, Plain Bob Doubles and Minor for six students. The course is for eight weeks starting on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and finishes on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. If anyone would like to be a helper and is not on my helpers list please do let me know. The tea and coffee supplied by Henham and the cakes supplied by the students are really worth coming for and as we finish near lunch time, a pint in the pub may even be called for!



### Helpers Needed

Helpers are always required to assist on both the Spring and Autumn courses. There are a good number of extremely knowledgeable ringers in the District and if you are willing to spend some time providing advice and passing on the benefit of your experience, please contact Ian Kerwin on [iankerwin@btinternet.com](mailto:iankerwin@btinternet.com) for your name to be added to the helpers list.



### Saturday Afternoon Practices

Additional Saturday afternoon practices after the Saturday morning Ringing School, commencing for eight weeks from Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 will be held at Willingale from 1.30pm-4.30pm, using the simulator to cover bell handling, rounds, call changes and ringing up and down. There is no need to book, just come when, and for as long as, you wish, although it would be helpful to let me know in advance if you are attending. Tea, coffee and cake will be available to keep you going – donations welcome – or just come for afternoon tea if that suits.

**Ian Kerwin**

**District Master**



### 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Essex Dinner

Following all the delightful comments received last year, this year's annual dinner will again take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Little Channels, Pratts Farm Lane West, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3PR. To secure your place, please send a non-returnable deposit of £15pp and complete and return the Booking Form together with the appropriate amount. If you would rather make your payment via direct credit, then please email for details at [social@eacr.org.uk](mailto:social@eacr.org.uk). A Booking Form and menu can be downloaded from the EACR website.



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#### Ringling Remembers in 2018

“Ringling Remembers” is the campaign officially endorsed and sponsored by HM Government for recruiting new ringers and open ringing at 12.30pm on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – aligning with the published agenda for processions and marches in celebration of peace. CCCBR has been working hard with government officials to finalise and announce plans for ringing on the centenary of the Armistice, but we were under strict embargo until Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 which is when the media release was published.

“Battle’s Over” is the private initiative of Bruno Peek, MBE. Bruno has demonstrated energy, drive and passion to put together a compelling programme of events on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> November, inviting ringing at 7.05pm. Although his initiative gained early support from various military organisations and CCCBR, it is not backed by Central Government or Buckingham Palace.

Over the past year, CCCBR representatives have been trying to align the varying requests for ringing on 11<sup>th</sup> November [we have also had approaches from the British Legion and other bodies] but this has not proved possible. Nevertheless, knowing the national mood to acknowledge this centenary, CCCBR encourages all ringers to respond as they see fit, taking into account the wide variety of local circumstances. Ringling open at or around 12.30pm is the ideal and recommended option, but any time that afternoon/evening is also supported. General ringing, quarter peals, peals – let’s do it!

To quote Tennyson –

**Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wards of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.**

**Vicki Chapman and Christopher O’Mahony**  
CCCBR Ringling Remembers Project Co-Ordinator and CCCBR President



#### Ringling Remembers update – August 2018

Please see attached the latest news for the Ringling Remembers campaign. A really busy and exciting couple of months with some very exciting news to share.

Also, read the account of Carol and Andrew Knott [Broomfield] of their learning journey so far on:

<https://www.big-ideas.org/knotts>

**Vicki Chapman**  
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Representative



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#### Advance Notice

*Alan Regin, the world's most enthusiastic bell ringer, was deservedly awarded an MBE in the 2017/18 New Year Honours List for services to campanology and its heritage. With Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1, approaching, Alan will be giving a talk about his research into the 1400 bell ringers who died in World War 1, each of whom has their own fascinating story – and much more! You are warmly invited to join us at All Saints Church, Campton, for Alan's talk on the evening of Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30pm for 8.00pm.*

**John Loveless**

Further details about costs and arrangements will be circulated as they become available nearer the time but please save the date if you are interested in what promises to be an informative and thought provoking evening.

**David Sparling**

**Interim District Secretary**



#### NW District Carol Service – Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018

This is not to be missed. The NW District Carol service was revived in 2017 with a well-attended service at Willingale. In 2018 let's see this enjoyable event of ringing, singing and socialising firmly re-established as a hardy annual.

Our bells ring out to the glory of God and at Christmas to celebrate the birth of Christ so likewise let our voices. We all know that the best ringing is achieved when the method is well-known, it follows, therefore, that the best and hearty singing would be of carols well-known to the singers. You are the singers so let us know your most well-known carols by voting for the "ringers' top nine". The attached form provides the information on how to vote. Please do your bit and submit a ballot, it's easy. Then be sure to come along to sing them.

By December we'll be reflecting on the year of 2018 which should have been a very good year of bell ringing with the Ringing Remembers campaign and our central role in the Nation's commemoration of the 100 years since end of WW1 and the celebration of peace breaking out in 1918. Hopefully, through the efforts of various people some new ringers and returning ringers will have been recruited and some towers will have progressed towards or have complete bands. For all of us and especially the new and returned ringers let's make the 2018 Carol Service a time of joy and camaraderie amongst ringers.

The Carol Service will be held on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at St. Mary the Virgin, Hatfield Broad Oak, a fine ring of eight, tenor 17-1-15. There will be open ringing from 3.00pm, with the Service commencing at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments in the church.



#### New and Returned Ringers

Are you aware of any new and returned ringers in your towers who are not on my circulation list for the newsletters/information etc? If so, please ask them to contact me to ensure they are kept informed as to what is happening in the District.



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### 2019 Essex Course – 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Early notice for your diaries.....** Next year's Essex Course will take place from 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2019. As many helpers as possible are needed for all groups and whether you can commit to one day or three, all help is greatly appreciated.



### EACR and easyfundraising

Don't forget! Help raise funds for Essex Association of Change Ringers whenever you shop online! Members have raised almost £600 so far.

Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,300 big name retailers, including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and many, many more – and when you shop, you will raise a free donation every time. It's that easy!

Help support us:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/essexassociationofchangeringers/>



### Tower Support Practices

Tower support practices can be arranged on your own practice nights via your Tower Captain. With the support of more experienced ringers, these are certainly worthwhile practices so please contact Sue Evans to request dates.



### Thaxted Bells



On the 7<sup>th</sup> August we were fortunate to have a bell inspection from EACR Technical Advisor, Nigel Taylor. Nigel was accompanied by David Sloman, who is in the process of completing a book documenting every bell in Essex. Both Nigel and David commented on the bell inscriptions, saying they were the most elaborate on any bells in Essex. Nigel explained that when the bells were refurbished in 1949 by Gillet & Johnson, one of their Directors, Michael Howard, was keen to do a showcase job. It is thought that this was partly to do with his mother's family originating from Thaxted and that he personally paid for the inscriptions, which included his and his wife's initials on the bells. The 7<sup>th</sup> bell is described as being 12cwt on the church board; however, it cracked shortly after installation and required re-casting, and is, in fact, 13.3.2cwt. A book produced after

the bell restoration contains a full description of the history of Thaxted bells and is still available within the church. Nigel will be producing a full report and whilst we expect to be carrying out some work, Nigel has fortunately been able to confirm that there was nothing seriously wrong with our bells.

**Trevor Haynes**

**Thaxted**



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### A funny thing happened on the way to the Tower!

By Ken Heymer – Moreton

By way of brief explanation, in the Parish of Moreton, Willingale, Fyfield and Bovinger, bell practice is scheduled for Moreton on the first, second and third Thursday of each month with a single practice at the slightly more difficult bells of Bobbingworth on the fourth Thursday of each month. As with many churches, recruitment and maintenance of a good band of loyal ringers is almost as difficult as a Brexit settlement. But that said there are a few long standing stalwarts.

However, in recent times it has fallen to me to attempt something of an organisational revolution and with much optimism and hope for the future I regularly do my bit. But good intent as we all know does not always pave the streets with gold. One such occasion occurred just a week ago when having dutifully arrived at the scheduled practice venue, no-one other than yours truly attended. Sadly, four of the group could either not count the days or weeks of the month and unfortunately, they neglected to tell me of their intentions.

Confronted with this slightly annoying situation I suppose I could have gone in all guns blazing and given a right royal 'dressing down'. But of course the very last thing any responsible organiser wants to do is permanently scare away his troops. I therefore vented my frustrations by penning this little ditty. Sometimes the PEN really can be MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD.

I therefore dedicate this piece to the anonymous Four Just Men of Moreton and also to the tomb of the Unknown Ringer.

#### THE TOWER CAPTAINS DILEMMA.

The bells of Bobbingworth lay silent last night,  
A warning of times that may come,  
No feet on the ground, no hands on the ropes  
The bells simply could not be rung.

Fourth Thursday of the month as everyone knows  
Parish ringers should attend Bovinger Hill.  
An hour and a half, it's not much to ask,  
But these days there isn't the will.

So, as 8:30 came, I locked up the doors  
And I realised I'd wasted my time  
Then to Moreton I drove and you'll never guess what  
At St Mary's I heard three bells chime!



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Now that shouldn't be, I had to inquire  
 So quietly I slowly crept in  
 And to my surprise I there found four guys  
 Attempting a crude "ding, dong ding!"

They glared at me hard, faces painted with guilt  
 But I refused to concede  
 I demanded to know why these four did not go  
 To St Germain's as was formally decreed.

How on earth can you cope, whilst learning on rope  
 To work six good bells in a round  
 If you can't count weeks four then attend the right door  
 Of the Tower where you're meant to be found?

oooooo 0 oooooo

**Sue Evans**

**Secretary – North Western District**

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