



# Essex Association of Change Ringers

[www.eacr.org.uk](http://www.eacr.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 292250

**NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT**



## District Social Events

- District Ramble: Trevor Haynes is arranging a District Ramble on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023, probably taking place in the Hempstead/Radwinter area.
- Ringing Tour: Trevor is also arranging a ringing tour on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023, taking place in the North Cambridge area.

So watch out for further details.



## News from Bishop's Stortford

The refurbishment, rehangng and augmentation of the bells from 10 to 12 has been successfully completed. Work commenced after Easter with the bells being carefully lowered down from the tower and displayed in the south aisle before being taken away for retuning and refurbishment. The bells returned late October and were again displayed in the south aisle. They were blessed during morning service on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 prior to being hoisted back into the tower and hung in a new cast iron bellframe.



The dedication service was taken by the Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith, Lord Bishop of St Albans, on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Bishop is a keen bellringer and he took the opportunity to join in with the ringers for a ring on the bells after the service.

The new bellframe has been positioned lower in the tower to improve stability with the bells reoriented and the tenor positioned in the centre. The old 1713 bellframe has been raised further up the tower and a perimeter walkway installed to give maintenance access to electrically operated sound control acoustic roller shutters installed over the inside of each of the four louvres. The old 4<sup>th</sup> bell, which was cast in nearby Bells Hill by local bell founder John Waylett in 1713, was found to be too thin for returning and has been retained for posterity in the old bellframe. The addition of a sharp second bell gives a light ring of 8.

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♪ *Didn't we have a lovely time the days we went to Derbyshire  
..... to celebrate*

**IAN KERWIN'S 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
WITH A FOUR-DAY RINGING TOUR - 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2023**

On a very early, sunny Thursday morning, a few ringers met at Ian and Denise's home and piled themselves and their luggage into the people carrier and away we went.

After a good drive through, and following a most important coffee stop, our first ring was a 6-bell tower at St James, Shardlow, where we were joined by other ringers. It was jolly chilly in the tower, a theme which carried through a number of the towers visited, so unless we were ringing we were muffled up in our fleeces and coats!



L-R back row: Carol Knott, Sharon Lacey, Trevor Haynes, Ian Kerwin, Stuart Hale, Philip Waterfield

L-R front row: Mary Hale, Linda Clements, Cathy Lowe, Denise Kerwin.

Our next port of call was St Matthew's, Pentrich, again a 6-bell ring and fractionally lighter than the previous tower.



With the early start and two hours ringing under our belts, it was time to head for a welcome lunch at The Dog at Pentrich before we set off for the last tower of the day – All Saints, South Wingfield, a 9cwt ring of six.





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We finally made our way to the Premier Inn at Matlock, where some ringers had their dinner and some went off to ring at St Giles, Matlock's practice night, a quite heavy 14cwt 8 bell tower, where Ian was presented with a birthday cake, whilst others sank gratefully into their beds to prepare themselves for the next day.

An early start to ring at the first tower of the day at All Saints, Bradbourne, a 6-bell 9cwt ring. There was a rather intriguing stone column at the entrance to the church, describing Bradbourne as a "Doubly Thankful Village".



It transpired that the village was 'doubly thankful' because all those men from the village who fought in WW1 and WW2 returned safely to the village to their families, hence "Doubly Thankful".



And then on to St James, Brassington, a slightly lighter 6-bell tower.

Following a steep climb, we arrived at our next ring at St James, Bonsall, a 6 bell 7cwt ring. Due to a communications glitch in the tower being open we went for an early lunch at The Fountain Tea Rooms, where the staff made us very welcome and went out of their way to contact the tower wardens, who then arranged for the group to ring after lunch – a second steep climb for some and the comfort of a car ride for others! It was quite an occasion for Trevor Haynes, where, at Bonsall, he celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> tower grab – so well done to Trevor.





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After our ring at Bonsall, we moved to All Saints, Elton, to an extremely light 5cwt 6 bell tower, and a relief to some for the lighter bells.

The final ring of the day was at All Saints, Youlgreave, a 12 bell 24cwt ring – very challenging to put the heaviest bells up! A lovely ring, though.



Regrettably, we had to say goodbye to Stuart and Mary Hale as they had to take their leave to run the practice at their home tower. They were very experienced ringers and provided great support so a big thank you to them both.

L-R back row: Peter Tottman, Trevor Haynes, Stuart Hale, Ian Kerwin, Steve Ashley, Philip Waterfield, Carol Knott

L-R front row: Cathy Lowe, Linda Clements, Mary Hale, Sue Evans, Victoria Richards, Denise Kerwin, Sharon Lacey.



Some of the group took a walk into Matlock for a drink and then split up, some to walk back to the Inn and some to join the Wirksworth practice night, an 8 bell ring of 14cwt.

Whilst the weather on Thursday and Friday had been bright and sunny, although freezing, with splendid blue skies outlining the magnificent landscape, Saturday dawned with thick fog, which stayed with us for most of the day, only clearing briefly as we got above the fog.

It was another early start with our first ring at 9.00am at St Michael and all Angels, Hathersage, a 12cwt 6 bell tower.



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Our next tower was at St John the Baptist, Bamford in the Peak, a 6 bell tower of 4cwt. The bells were extremely light significance was tower itself could people ringing the photograph, take a few very cosy ringing!



to ring but of most the size of the tower. The only accommodate the six and as can be seen from measured 6'x6' [give or inches] so it was certainly

We returned to Hathersage to partake of very welcome refreshments at the Coffee at the Plough before moving on to St Lawrence, Eyam, a fairly light 7cwt 6 bell ring, followed by St John the Baptist, Tideswell, an 8 bell ring of 13cwt.

We lunched at the George Inn at Tideswell, a stone's throw from the church, very much appreciating the warmth of the pub and the hot food.



The last two towers of the day were St Giles, Great Longstone, a 9cwt 6 bell tower. Ringers as above, joined by Kieran Kerwin and Scott Kerwin.

and St Anne, Baslow, an 8cwt 6 bell tower.



On Saturday evening, and to finish Ian's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, and also to wish Linda a happy birthday, most of the group went into Matlock to an Indian restaurant and enjoyed a really delicious meal.



Kieran, however, literally bit off more than he could chew with some extremely hot and spicy chicken, which really made his eyes water! We did laugh [sorry, Kieran]!



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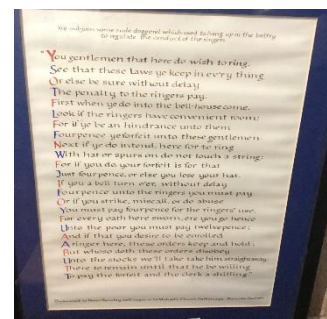
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All in all, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the four days in Derbyshire, the weather starting sunny and turning to thick fog, and always freezing cold, in and out, typified by how well we were all wrapped up!

But we met some lovely people and rung at some very interesting towers, and saw some interesting items in the churches and towers :



On a grey and foggy Sunday morning, we said farewell to Derbyshire, but did return first to Youlgreave to ring for the service; unfortunately, due to an electrical issue in the church the service was moved elsewhere, but of course, we rang anyway as a final ring!