



May-June-July 2024 Newsletter



May/June/July/August 2024 Events Calendar

MAY				
10/12 Bell Practice	Thursday	2nd May	7.30am-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
EACR AGM	Monday	6th May	10.30am	Chelmsford Cathedral Afternoon tea at Willingale
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	8th May	7.30pm-9.00pm	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	10 th May	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
Bell Sunday	Sunday	12 th May	District	District
District Meeting and Method Striking Competition	Saturday	18th May	Meeting 9.30am followed by competition	Moreton
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	21st May	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	24 th May	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC
JUNE				
8/10 Bell Practice	Thursday	6 th June	7.30pm-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	12 th June	7.30pm-9.00	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	14th June	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	18th June	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	28th June	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC



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EACR 6 and 8 Bell Striking Competition Finals	Saturday	29th June	TBC	Northern District
JULY				
10/12 Bell Practice	Thursday	4 th July	7.30am-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
Blessing of the 150 years bells	Weekend	6 th /7 th July	TBC	Great Hallingbury
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	10 th July	7.30pm-9.00	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	12 th July	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	16 th July	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	26 th July	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC
AUGUST				
8/10 Bell Methods Practice	Thursday	1 st August	7.30am-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	9 th August	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	14 th August	7.30pm-9.00	Waltham Abbey
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	20 th August	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	23 rd August	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC



NW District Meeting and Method Striking Competition – Saturday, 18th May 2024

The next District meeting will take place at 9.30am at Moreton on Saturday, 18th May 2024, followed by the Method Striking Competition and hopefully a good number of bands will be taking part. The bands taking first and second places will go forward to the Association 6 bell finals at Great Easton at 12.30pm on Saturday, 29th June 2024, so please ensure both dates are in your diaries.



Association 8 Bell Striking Competition

The 8 bell competition will take place at Great Bardfield at 10.00am also on Saturday, 29th June 2024.



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EACR Annual General Meeting – Monday, 6th May 2024

The Association AGM will take place at Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday, 6th May 2024, details as follows:

9.15am-10.15am General ringing
10.15am-10.30am Service Touch by the Master's invited band
10.30am Service
11.45am Annual General Meeting to conclude by 13:00h

The general ringing at the Cathedral is open to everyone and will cater for all levels of experience. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before and after the service.

There is a very full and interesting Agenda including items on the Association website and the EACR Memorial in the Cathedral. Other agenda items include the election of Honorary Officers and naming of Appointed Officers and District Officers. The full Agenda and the Minutes of the 2023 Meeting is included in the Annual Report. Please do come along and have your say on all these matters.

The AGM will be followed by afternoon ringing in the North Western District with opportunities to ring at:

2.00pm-3.00pm Bobbingworth CM5 0DQ
2.30pm-3.30pm Harlow Common CM17 9HD
3.00pm-4.00 Old Harlow CM17 0LR
3.30pm-4.30pm Moreton CM5 OJB
4.00pm-5.00pm Fyfield CM5 OSB
4.30pm-5.30pm Willingale CM5 OSJ

Tea will be available at Willingale from 3.00pm-6.00pm. There will be real ale and English wine available to purchase, and weather dependent, the maypole will be up so bring your skipping shoes with you!

We look forward to seeing you there.



Bell Sunday - 12th May 2024

2023 was the inaugural year of Bell Sunday – a day where the contribution of bells and Bellringers to the life of the Church is recognised. The month of May has been chosen for this annual event as this includes St Dunstan's Day; St Dunstan being the Patron Saint of Bellringers. This year Bell Sunday will take place on 12th May.

Please do consider how your local band might be able to mark day this with your church community. Last year some bands were involved in a service on the day with contributions ranging from reading lessons or other texts, singing bell-related hymns, and playing handbells. After the service, some Towers welcomed visitors to the Belfry and others provided refreshments including bell-shaped biscuits. To support preparations for the day, please do visit www.bellsunday.org for more information and to access a whole range of resources including hymns, songs and music, Bible and other readings and poetry. We'd love to hear of plans for the day – please do share these with me at comms@eacr.org.uk

Caroline Watts

Communications Officer



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2024 Westley awards

Are you relatively new to finding your way around bell installations? Perhaps you are gaining experience in what to check upstairs in a tower, what may be unusual and interesting, or in poor condition and likely to cause ringers difficulties while ringing? Hopefully, you are starting to make some improvements and share your experiences with others.

The 2024 Westley Award for Belfry Maintenance and Improvement is now open for nominations. This award is for people who have recently become involved in belfry maintenance and improvement, developing their own skills and helping others to do so. The award will be made at the CCCBR AGM in Exeter in September 2024. The winner will receive £100, kindly donated by Westley Group, and a certificate. [View full details and an application form.](#)

Towers and bells in good condition will make the environment for ringing more pleasant, easier for ringers to develop their skills and, in particular help new recruits. The Stewardship & Management Workgroup is delighted to work with the Westley Group to offer this award.

The closing date for applications will be 12 noon on Friday 31st May 2024.



Ringling out for Peace



The 6th of June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944, Operation Overlord saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 130,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe.

As part of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, we are once again encouraging ringers to Ring Out for Peace on 6th June at 6.30pm (or at a suitable time that day). You can find out more [here](#), and register your participation by emailing your tower and contact details to brunopeek@mac.com with the title "Ringing for Peace". You can also submit your performances to BellBoard [here](#).

Vicki Chapman

Deputy President

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



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Essex International Jamboree

From 27th July to 3rd August this year, around 10,000 Guides and Scouts and their leaders from across the UK and beyond will assemble at Boynton Cross, just outside Writtle for a Jamboree. There's a week of activities, one of which will be finding out about bell ringing and ringing on a mini-ring – either the Charnborough Ring or the new 'Touring Tower'.

To run the event successfully we need a group of volunteers – some will manage the mini-ring, demonstrating and tutoring the Scouts and Guides on the bells, and others will be organising some 'queue management' activities. An important role will be to ensure that we capture and can follow up interest in ringing either from Scout/Guide leaders who might want to visit a tower for one of their meetings, or from the youngsters themselves - what a fantastic opportunity to spread the word about what a great activity ringing is. We are currently planning the best method to link interest with towers near units' home location.

Would you like to help? We'd particularly like to have help from younger ringers so the Scouts and Guides can see this is an activity for them, not just for adults. Perhaps, if you know some local junior ringers you might like to come along as a group? All adult volunteers will be subject to a DBS check – if you don't already have one in place, we can organise it. If you need more information contact me, Beth Johnson, on education@eacr.org.uk. It may seem a long way off, but we need to know we have enough helpers to make the event a success.

Beth Johnson

Education Officer, EACR

education@eacr.org.uk

0779 669 1520



Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath is pleased to be working with Hatfield Heath Primary to teach a second group of year 6 pupils how to ring our church Bells as part of a Tuesday after school "Campanology club".



We are especially grateful to local Bell Ringers who generously responded to our plea for help when our Tower Captain, Gerald, had to withdraw last minute - Trevor Haynes, Fred & Mary Bone, Steve Poulter and Peter Tottman.

It might have been more appropriate to take a picture of the children running around learning parts of the bell, which is their favourite "rest" activity or maybe eating biscuits which is their second favourite "rest" activity...they are however, very pleased and proud to share their club note board with you [parental consent given]!

We have rung for 5 weeks before Easter and intend to ring for another 5 weeks afterwards. Our first club last year, was run at lunchtime but switching to after school has given each child more rope time. We are quietly confident that we will have most of our pupils ringing independently by May.

Jo Hargrave, Hatfield Heath



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Advanced 6 Bell and Surprise Minor Practices

With the ongoing building work at Henham, the Advanced 6 Bell practices have been taking place at Matching, probably until close to the end of the year. If you would like to be moving on from Bob Doubles and Grandsire, then this could be the practice for you. The last practice on 16th April was well attended, ringing April Day, Plain Bob Minor and St Simon's. There were also a few new callers who took the opportunity to practice their new found skills.

The next practice will take place on Tuesday, 21st May at Matching. Methods will be May Day and treble bob hunting. We're also hoping to move on to touches of St. Simon's, plus there will be opportunities to ring Plain Bob Minor and/or Stedman. A reminder will be circulated nearer the date but please do come along and let either Vicky Richards vjr123@hotmail.com or Sue Evans sue.evans.nwsecretary@gmail.com know if there anything else you would like to ring.

For anyone not familiar with May Day - <https://www.varlib.org/display.php?id=80>

The venues for the Surprise Minor Practices will be notified nearer to the practice night.



Give the Gift of Experience

Give the gift of ringing as an unforgettable experience with a voucher entitling up to 5 bell handling sessions. Who knows, it could be the start of someone discovering their bellringing adventure.

Download the voucher from the Publicity Materials Resources page at

<https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/>



EasyFundRaising

If your friends and family are doing their shopping online, encourage them to do it all via #easyfundraising so the Essex Association doesn't miss out on any donations. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 4,300 retailers including John Lewis and Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S and more by signing up FREE on

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/essexassociationofchangeringers/?referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox



Events taking place in the District

I am sure there will be events taking place in the District, for example, recruitment or open days, about which the rest of the District knows nothing! Do let me have your photos and narrative if you are putting on any events, not only for prior District and Association-wide notification but to let the District know how events go!



Facebook and WhatsApp

The District has Facebook and WhatsApp groups which can be used to find service ringers, advertise events etc, so contact Ian Kerwin to join the Facebook page or Ian or myself to join the WhatsApp group.



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District Calling Course

A calling course took place at Manuden on Saturday, 27th April 2024, with four students being tutored by Ian Cresshull. Following a Zoom meeting a couple of days beforehand to discuss the technical side of calling, this allowed the students on Saturday to go straight into the practical side of things, calling and ringing at the same time – brain taxing!!



It was a thoroughly enjoyable day so thank you to Vicky Richards for organising the course, Manuden for hosting, Ian for tutoring and all the helpers who came along to ring and support.

District Master	Ian Kerwin	iankerwin@btinternet.com	07837 170816
Deputy District Master	Philip Waterfield	nw-district-deputymaster@eacr.org.uk	07803 850226
District Secretary	Sue Evans	sue.evans.nwsecretary@gmail.com	01277 896601
District Treasurer	Fred Bone	nw-district-treasurer@eacr.org.uk	01279 726159