



Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.eacr.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



November-December-January 2024/25 Newsletter



District Events

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
NOVEMBER				
10/12 Bell Practice	Thursday	7 th November	7.30am-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	8 th November	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	13 th November	7.30pm-9.00	Waltham Abbey
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	19 th November	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	22 nd November	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC
EACR Training Day	Saturday	23 rd November	All day	TBC
DECEMBER				
8/10 Bell Practice	Thursday	5 th December	7.30am-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
Association Carol Service	Saturday	7 th December	TBC	North Eastern District
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	11 th December	7.30pm-9.00	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	13 th December	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	17 th December	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	27 th December	7.30pm-9.00pm	TBC
JANUARY 2025				
10/12 Bell Methods Practice	Thursday	9 th January	7.30pm-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
8 Bell Practice	Saturday	4 th January	10.00am-12noon	TBC
10/12 Bell Practice	Thursday	9 th January	7.30pm-9.00pm	Waltham Abbey



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Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	10 th January	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	21 st January	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching/ Henham TBC
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	24 th January	7.30pm-9.00pm	Hatfield Heath/ Henham TBC
Annual District Meeting	Saturday	25 th January	PM	Saffron Walden
FEBRUARY				
8 Bell Practice	Saturday	1 st February	10.00am-12noon	TBC
EACR Management Committee Meeting	Saturday	1 st February	2.30pm	Danbury
10/12 Bell Methods Practice	Thursday	6 th February	7.30pm-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	12 th February	7.30pm-9.00pm	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	14 th February	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted
George W Pipe Trophy East of England 12 Bell Striking Competition	Saturday	15 th February	9.00am	Bishop's Stortford
Advanced 6 Bell Practice	Tuesday	18 th February	7.30pm-9.00pm	Matching/Henham TBC
EACR Trustees Meeting	Saturday	22 nd February	2.30pm	Danbury
Surprise Minor Practice	Friday	28 th February	7.30pm-9.00pm	Hatfield Heath/ Henham TBC
MARCH				
8 Bell Practice	Saturday	1 st March	10.00am-12noon	TBC
10/12 Bell Methods Practice	Thursday	6 th March	7.30pm-9.00pm	Bishop's Stortford
8 Bell Competition	Saturday	8 th March	10.00am	TBC
10/12 Bell Practice	Wednesday	12 th March	7.30pm-9.00pm	Waltham Abbey
Joint N/NW Districts Surprise Major Practice	Friday	14 th March	2.00pm-4.00pm	Felsted

Please note that the final version of the 2025/26 Events Programme will be agreed at the NW District Annual Meeting on Saturday, 25th January 2025. In the meantime, please let me know if there are any changes.



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NW District Meeting and Stan Clark Memorial Call Change Striking Competition

The District Meeting attended by 40 ringers and visitors took place at Ashdon on Saturday, 28th September 2024 followed by the competition. Again this year, we had a good number of bands [14] taking part and to accommodate the morning's arrangements, the competition commenced at 9.30am followed by the meeting, which took place whilst the judge, Brian Meads, was deliberating. A very big thank you to Ashdon for organising the event and the thoroughly enjoyable refreshments, everyone was made extremely welcome. Thank you also to Brian Meads, who so ably judged the competition. Well done to everyone who took part in the competition and the results were as follows:

Place	Band	Faults
1 st	Willingale	17
2 nd	Waltham Abbey Easy Pealers	29
3 rd	Waltham Abbey Tight Ropes	32
4 th	Old Harlow	39.5
5 th	Steeple Bumpstead	44
6 th	Nazeing	49
7 th	Churchgate Street	49.5
8 th	Bobbingworth and Moreton [Bambis]	50
9 th	Bishop's Stortford	53.5
10 th	Great Hallingbury	54.5
11 th	Great Parndon	75
12 th	Thaxted	77
13 th	Ashdon	77.5
14 th	Willingale Ringing Centre	78.5



1st - Willingale [L-R]:

Gemma Crouchman, Ian Kerwin, Denise Kerwin, Nigel Lyons, Sue Evans, Kieran Kerwin



Ian Kerwin and Brian Meads



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NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



2nd – Waltham Abbey Easy Pealers [L-R]:
Hilary Walls, Jane Walters, Dave Knott,
Mark Brooking, Vicky Richards, Gemma Burch



3rd – Waltham Abbey Tight Ropes [L-R]:
Susan John, Gemma Burch, Jane Walters,
Jessica Burch, Ben Gaigher,
Caroline Andrews



NW District Bartram 8 Bell Trophy Call Change Striking Competition

It was suggested by Bryany Bartram some time ago [in the pub after ringing, I'm led to believe!] that it would be a good idea to hold a District 8 bell striking competition and with much enthusiasm from fellow companions, the idea took hold. It was decided that the main objectives of the competition would be to inspire less experienced ringers to ring on a higher number of bells, to encourage improved striking and to develop a greater number of 8 bell ringers within the District. The rules were agreed, a venue established, and a judge appointed, and we were delighted when 10 bands confirmed their participation.

The draw for this new competition took place at 9.30am on Saturday, 26th October 2024 at Harlow Common, and was judged by Andrew Kelso, Association Master. The ringing got underway soon after and ringers and visitors tucked into the refreshments whilst waiting their turn. Eventually all the bands had completed their ringing and Andrew very soon appeared with his conclusions. Andrew was very supportive of this competition and explained how he had decided to assess the bands. The feedback was extremely helpful and encouraging; the results were as follows:

Place	Band	Score
1 st	Old Harlow	A
Joint 2 nd	Bishop's Stortford Stays	A-
	Waltham Abbey	A-
3 rd	Willingale	B+
These were the only placed bands; the remaining bands taking part were:		
	Ashdon	
	Bishop's Stortford Sliders	
	Nazeing	
	Thaxted	
	Great Parndon	
	Bobbingworth & Moreton [BAMBIS]	



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Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



1st Place: Old Harlow:

Andrew Kelso
Carina Bowman
Pete Bowman



Joint 2nd: Bishop's Stortford Stays:

[L-R]:
Veronica Brand, Anne Sloan, Anne
Brolly, Shelley Lambert, Phil
Schinkel, Steve Lee, Tim Needham,
Oliver Lee



Joint 2nd: Waltham Abbey:

[L-R]:
Susan John, Jane
Walters, Hilary Walls,
Vicky Richards, Gemma
Burch, Mark Brooking,
Oliver Lee, Ben Gaigher





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Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



3rd: Willingale

[L-R]:

Pauline Booty, Denise Kerwin,
Martin Sweeting, Gemma
Crouchman, Nigel Lyons,
Kieran Kerwin, Sue Evans, Ian
Kerwin



“The Bartram 8 Bell Trophy” and medals were made by Kevin Nicholas.

To celebrate the inception of this competition and for this year only, medals were presented to every ringer.



The entire morning was very well organised and thanks go to:

- Harlow Common for hosting the competition;
- Steve Ashley for officiating in the tower;
- Andrew Kelso for judging the competition and providing such positive feedback; his comments have been circulated individually to the bands;
- Kevin Nicholas, who made the trophy and the medals given to every ringer;
- Everyone who provided the cakes and savouries and for helping to make the tea and coffee and for washing up.

The most important thanks go to all the ringers who took part. The enthusiasm shown by the bands for this competition was very evident, with several comments about “next time”. Altogether a very enjoyable day!



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Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



Ring and Ramble – 31st August 2024

The Ring and Ramble organised by Charlotte Parsons took place on Saturday, 31st August. Nineteen ringers, including some partners and six dogs participated in the District Ramble, starting and finishing at Hatfield Heath. Charlotte had planned the day meticulously and Diana Graves' knowledge of the paths around Hatfield Heath meant we found our way between towers without getting lost.



Our first leg of the ramble was to walk to Sheering. Here a number of us experienced the novelty of Ellacombe chimes and we had fun ringing plain bob



minimus on the four fixed bells. From Sheering we walked to Matching for a more conventional ringing experience.



Finally, a pleasant walk back to Hatfield Heath where we had a splendid picnic lunch in the church before further ringing and heading home, where some probably put their feet up after all

the walking and ringing.



Trevor Haynes [Thaxted]



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Registered Charity No. 292250

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District Outing to Bedfordshire – Saturday, 19th October 2024

The outing to the Bedfordshire area organised by Philip Waterfield took place on Saturday, 19th October. It was quite an early start, and a very wet drive, to arrive at Stotfold for 9.30am, a lovely ring of 8 bells.



We then moved on to Steppingley, again a good ring of 6 bells, and where we were provided with some very welcome refreshments.



Our last tower before lunch was at Ampthill, a slightly heavier ring of 8 bells. Some of us made a very welcome visit to the pub for lunch, ready for the next tower at Elstow, a lighter ring of 6 bells.



The penultimate tower was at Cardington, a very heavy ring of 8, with a 19cwt tenor, so lots of muscle required, even for the treble - certainly a very good test!





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Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



The last tower we rang at was at Cople, a lighter 6 bell ring, followed by a visit to the local pub, The Five Bells, to enjoy a well-earned drink before the journey home.



The entire day was thoroughly enjoyable, despite some torrential rain during the morning, but finishing in the sunshine. Thank you to Philip for organising this tour, it takes a lot of work to pull things together, but it was much appreciated by everyone who came along, including the 'goody bags' with chocolate and sweets!!

Sue Evans



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Registered Charity No. 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



Events Programme 2025/26

Sue and I have been working on next year's events programme. I would like to have everything firmed up by our ADM in January, so to save me coming and banging on your door I would like towers to volunteer for the following events:

- 8 bell call change striking competition on Saturday, 8th March;
- District meeting and method striking competition on Saturday, 17th May;
- District meeting and The Stan Clark Memorial call change striking competition on Saturday, 27th September;
- District Carol Service on Saturday, 6th December.

Ian Kerwin, District Master



Ringling Practices

The monthly 6 bell practices continue to take place at Matching. It would be good to see more ringers at these advanced practices on Tuesday evenings where a variety of methods are rung. There is also the opportunity for ringers to practice their calling. Helpers are always required.

The monthly 8 bell practices commenced in April at various towers and with all levels of ringing, from rounds and call changes to more complicated methods. Practices take place on the first Saturday of the month and ringers are encouraged to come along and join in these well attended practices.

The monthly Surprise Minor Practices are taking place at Hatfield Heath and have been well attended. The joint N/NW Surprise practices take place at Felsted, again well attended.

A District quarter peal day has been suggested to take place early next year, further details to come.



Essex Ringing Course 2025

The Essex Ringing Course will take place from Thursday, 10th April 2025 to Saturday, 12th April 2025 at New Rickstones Academy, Witham. The link for applications will be available on the EACR website from **2nd January 2025** and the closing date for applications is **23rd January 2025**. Course places are not dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis and will be allocated after the closing date. General course information and details of all the courses can be seen on the Association website.



Recruitment

A couple of years ago, the Association produced a customisable recruitment leaflet and many towers took it up and used it to advertise their tower. We've now updated the design. An example is separately attached. If you would like to use this, adding your tower name, photo and contact details, just tell me or Sarah Chin-a-Loy (webmaster@eacr.org.uk) and we will send a link to the design where you will find instructions on how to do the edit and produce a PDF. If you'd prefer to have help doing this, send over your details and photo and we will produce it for you. When you get into the programme, please read page 1 carefully - it tells you how to customise the leaflet. Please also note that you must check that you have the rights to use your image. Make sure you know who the photographer is and that you have their permission. **Do not just grab a picture from the internet without checking.** Once you get the PDF you can print the number and size you need. We hope this will be helpful to towers planning to invite new ringers to join them.

Beth Johnson, Education Officer

education@eacr.org.uk / 07796 691520



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NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



EACR Membership

The membership system allows members to manage their membership online, pay subscriptions and provide/update contact details and all members are encouraged to use the online system if possible. Detailed guidance can be found on the Association website so take a look if you haven't done so already.



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.



EACR Display Equipment for Hire

The Association has various display equipment for hire – table top and freestanding display boards and a roll up banner stand. Take a look at the website for further hiring information and booking instructions.



St Martins, White Roding

The project to restore the bells at St Martins, White Roding has been running for over two years. An initial report by Nicholson's in July 2022 following a visit in June 2022 set the scene for what would be required to restore the tower to ring again. The report found that the existing 5 bells are:

Bell	Diameter [inches]	Weight [cwt]	Note	Date	Founder
Tenor	39.5	11	G	1614	Robert Oldfield, Hertford
Fourth	36	8	A	1614	Robert Oldfield, Hertford
Third	32	6.6	B	1664	John Hodson, London
Second	30	5	C	1664	John Hodson, London
Treble	29.5	5.25	D	1665	John Hodson, London

The bells have never been tuned as a peal and the second is badly damaged with three of its canons broken off. The bell frame is of considerable interest, being of unusual design and of considerable age. Although it has been heavily altered and reconstructed in places, most recently in 1722 as noted by a dated inscription on one of its frame heads, at its core is a medieval structure. Dating old timber bell frames is very difficult; the estimate is c£1430.

The plan is to augment with a 6th bell (treble) and have them refurbished and tuned as a peal, which will then be rehung below the existing chamber in a new steel frame.

The project has had the faculty approved for the bell tower, however, we are now applying for an amendment faculty to remove some pews and move them to the new ringing level and move the font to improve the community space which will also make it easier to get the bells in and out, once approved we will then proceed onto fund raising. The target date for physical work to start is December 2025/January 2026 and to be able to ring in Easter of that year.

Mark Maskell



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NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



Association Carol Service

The Association Carol Service is taking place on Saturday, 7th December 2024 at St Osyth. CO16 8QW - ringing, Service and seasonal refreshments from 3.00pm-5.30pm. As this service is only held once every five years It would be good to see as many ringers there as possible.

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
Tower maintenance	Mike Slowe	mike.slowe@virgin media.com	07505 145314