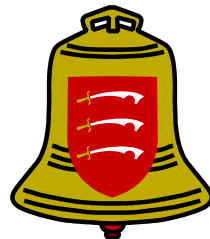


Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Special points of interest:

- Something for the young
- Something for the over 50's
- What's in store for 2004

Fifty Years of Service

At its last meeting the executive committee of the Essex Association of Change Ringers took a break from its normal business to pay tribute to one of its longstanding members, Peter Eves. Peter first joined the committee in 1953 and has been a faithful and active member ever since. Peter served as treasurer to the Association between 1965 and 1977 and is one of the Association's Life Vice Presidents.

Association Master, Steve Nash, congratulated Peter on achieving his golden anniversary and thanked him for his fifty years of service. To mark the occasion committee members provided an iced cake in the shape of a bell and decorated with the EACR logo.

Here are Peter's vital statistics!

Trustee	1953—1963
CC Rep	1960—1964
Treasurer	1964—1977
LVP	1977—present

Congratulations Peter and thank you for your hard work and support over the last 50 years.



Inside this issue:

Committee Mtg	2
Essex Ringing Course	3
Name that Beer	3
Annual Dinner	4
Bits 'n' Bobs	5
2004	6 & 7
Young Ringers	8
For the over 50's	9
Basildon News	9
Writtle Bell Appeal	10
Registers	11
Diary Dates	12



Committee Round Up

The October Committee Meeting was held on 11 October - a beautiful autumn day. Fortunately we had all the windows open and were able to go outside at teatime to enjoy the sunshine.

This meeting is one of the two occasions in the year when all the Association and District officers get together to update each other on recent activities and exchange views. So although many of the Agenda items appear routine the meeting still took 3 hours, including a break for tea. Some of the items (the Dinner and the Essex Trophy competition) are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Restoration work has been completed at Great Parndon, Harwich and Inworth. A grant of £4,000 to Leigh-on-Sea - the Association's 125th Anniversary project - was confirmed. The augmentation will take place early next year. Writtle have now received their faculty for the new ring of 10 bells; St Osyth have applied for a faculty to rehang the bells. The Master reported on a reception held on 30 September to mark the completion of the bell tower at Basildon. The Rector wrote an article for *The Ringing World* and the press release was printed in the October issue of *East Window*.

The longest reports related to our 125th anniversary in 2004 and the plans for celebratory events during the year and the visit of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers at the end of May. The Property Trustees' report led to discussion on the Demo Bell and a small group has been set up to reconsider the questions of storage, repairs etc. The current appointed officers were re-appointed for 2004; Adrian Malton was appointed Education Officer for 2004.

Please contact your district officers for further information on the meeting.

Mary Bone

*The current
appointed officers
were re-appointed
for 2004*

Essex Ringing Course

15th – 17th April 2004

A 3 day non residential course based at Honywood School, Coggeshall.

Tutor Groups range from Call Changes to advanced methods.

Other ringing related lectures covering change ringing on handbells, rope splicing, calling simple touches, and achieving good striking also available to students and helpers.

Helpers are also required for each group.

For a brochure and application form please send a stamped self-addressed envelope (C5 size) to:

Mrs Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF
or visit the EACR website on www.eacr.org.uk

(Closing date for applications is 15th February 2004)



Quarter Peal Report

With this newsletter you should find a new Quarter Peal form for 2004. Please make sure your 2003 form is with the Peal Secretary, Colin Chapman by 15th January 2004.

Belfry Bitter

Congratulations to Margaret and Perry French of Loughton who won the Name that Beer Competition. Belfry Bitter is a light toffee coloured beer with some initial sweetness balanced by a citrus hop character which carries through to a long dry finish (ABV 3.8%).

Available from Mighty Oak in time for Christmas and all throughout 2004. Get some in for ALL your ringing functions!



The Annual Dinner

The Place: The County Hotel, Chelmsford.

The Date: Saturday 4th October 2003

To Start: Grace led by Revd Malcolm Millard of North Ockendon.

Main Course: Songs by the 'de Merc Chamber Choir' from Harlow. The Master comments on the 'real' opening of Basildon Bell Tower the previous Tuesday with a reception for all those involved in the project. This, and a building project at North Ockendon are cited as excellent examples of how everyone pulls together for a common goal. A toast to The Church.

Revd Millard tells of his sudden interest in campanili following the invitation to speak at this dinner. Whilst in Tuscany he discovered that the church at St Martin was rebuilt to make way for the bell tower. He visited the tower at Pisa, built in 1350 to house 7 bells. On a local level, the bells of Downham were a great delight to his mother.

Laurence Turner, former Essex Boy, now of Wimborne Minster, warns that "if you organise a quarter with the Master, be sure to get it, otherwise you could be doing this speech next year"! He notes some great Essex ringers of the past including Hilda Snowden. His Father had rung with Hilda at Inworth but couldn't get through a 120 of Stedman together (did she ever get that peal?). He notes that the ringers of Essex had always helped each other, travelling to neighbouring towers to help out. He shows a photograph from Wimborne of the local band, which includes our Master in his tender youth! A toast to the Association and our Master.

Dessert: Certificates presented to Sue Page, (LM), John Armstrong and Colin Chapman, (LVPs), followed by Kent Treble Bob Royal on handbells and more from the 'de Merc Chamber Choir'. £177 raised by the raffle for Bell Restoration.

Congratulations to Mary Bone on organising a superb evening, and to the 107 people who made it worthwhile.



Laurence Turner

*Book early for
2004!*



J Armstrong, S Page, C Chapman

Sponsorship

The Association's Education Fund was set up to give grants towards the cost of attending ringing courses and other training activities. It is a capital fund and only the interest is used for grants - however this amounts to over £500 at present. In the past grants have been made to students attending Central Council courses as well as the Essex Ringing Course.



Sponsorship grants

Application forms are available from the Association or district secretaries. Completed forms should be returned to the Association Secretary (Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB).

Elections 2004

The Association officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 3 May, Bank Holiday Monday, at Chelmsford. Nominations for these posts - Master, General Secretary, Treasurer, Property Trustees (3) and Independent Examiners (2) - should be made by 1 February. Nominations are also required for our Central Council representatives (5) to serve for the 2005—2007 triennium.

All nominations, with the name of the candidate(s), proposer and seconder, must be sent to the Secretary by 1 February (Rule 8). Notices of motion - for instance, to change the rules - must also be submitted by this date and must be sponsored by at least two members.

2004 Annual Dinner

The Anniversary Dinner will be held on Saturday 2 October 2004 at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Our guests will be the Bishop of Chelmsford and Mrs Gladwyn and the President of the Central Council and Mrs Henshaw.

Book this date in your diary now! And reserve your places by sending a deposit of £15 per person (cheques payable to EACR) to the Secretary by 31 May 2004.



125th Anniversary 2004

January—December: Peals throughout the Year:
The aim is to ring as many peals as possible for the Anniversary year, ringing at least one peal in each tower if possible. Contact your District Peal Coordinator for help.

March: Quarter Peal Month

Again the idea is to ring as many Quarter Peals in as many towers as possible. Contact your District Quarter Peal Coordinator for help.

15th—17th April: Essex Ringing Course.

3rd May: Annual General Meeting at Chelmsford Cathedral.

8th—15th May Chelmsford Cathedral Festival
(Details and tickets available from the Festival Office)

8th May: Handbells in town centre

13th May: History of Change Ringing in Essex by Steve Nash
5.30pm, Essex Record Office.

6th June: Anniversary Lunch and Service at Writtle. Lunch at 1pm (ticket only), service at 3.30pm open to all.

3rd July: Striking Competition Finals.

30th August: Open Day in the Southern District.

11th September: Essex Trophy 10 Bell Striking Competition at Hornchurch. Supporters welcome.

18th September: Barn Dance at Layer Village Hall, 7.30pm.

2nd October: Annual Dinner at The County Hotel, Chelmsford.
Tickets from Mary Bone.

14th December: Carol Service at Great Dunmow, 4.30pm,
followed by seasonal refreshments.

For Sale

Belfry Bitter is a light toffee coloured beer with some initial sweetness balanced by a citrus hop character which carries through to a long dry finish (ABV 3.8%).

Available from Mighty Oak in time for Christmas and all throughout 2004. Get some in for ALL your ringing functions!

Mighty Oak Brewing Company Ltd, 14b West Station Yard, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6TW phone - 01621 843713.



Calendars
£3.25
From District
Officers



Anniversary Badges
£2.00
From Vicki Chapman

Anniversary Mugs
£3.50
From Vicki Chapman

Calendar Artwork will be auctioned off at the Annual District Meetings, with the exception of Finchingfield. Each picture is approx 250 x 350 mm and rendered in pen and ink.

As well as those featured on the calendar, a number of others were drawn. Here's a complete list of those for sale:

Basildon, Bocking, Brentwood, Chigwell Row, Dagenham, Great Tey, Hornchurch, Layer-de-la-Haye, Maldon (St Mary's) Margaretting, Southminster, Steeple Bumpstead, Thaxted, Wanstead and Writtle.

If you would like to bid for the artwork (minimum £30) make sure you're at your District's ADM. If you can't get there, or you would like to bid for artwork from another district, send your bid to Vicki Chapman (address at the back of this newsletter) with payment (cheque payable to EACR) to be received no later than 30th December. If your bid is successful the picture will be sent to you, otherwise your cheque will be returned after the District ADM.

Young Ringers Sessions

It is every towers dream to have enthusiastic new learners, but how do you keep them interested enough in bell ringing so that they give up evenings with their friends and families to brave the dark winter nights and sit in often chilly churches? Trying to uphold ringing standards whilst having fun and helping the individual to progress, can be a very difficult balancing act, especially when the learners are children or young adults.



How to keep youngsters interested

Everyone has demands on their time, but young ringers are tempted with so many other hobbies, rafts of after school clubs, not to mention the pull of hanging-out with friends and the demands of homework. There is also peer pressure which can halt the progress of the most gifted new learner just because his/her friends have “found out” they ring bells. and it just isn't cool.

In the Northern district we are lucky enough to have a number of young ringers who have overcome all of these pressures to start bell ringing. It is our aim to foster their enthusiasm for ringing so that we keep as many of them as possible. To encourage ringing as a fun and social hobby we have set up the Young Ringers Bell ringing Sessions which are just for the under twenty's.

These sessions are still developing, but so far we have meet three times, once every month, at different local towers. The idea is that the young ringers come with their parent or bell ringing tutor (the only adults that attend the session) and they develop their bell ringing whilst meeting ringers of a similar age. In the future, we aim to combine some of these ringing practices with social events, for example bowling excursions, cinema trips or meals out.

We hope that by creating ringing sessions that cater for the interests of children, it will show them that it is not odd or unusual for someone of their age to like bell ringing and that ringing is a fun hobby where you can develop lasting friendships.

These sessions are not intended to replace attendance to their home tower, in fact we hope to compliment this teaching by giving them extra practice and useful experience of different bells. Getting young ringers together is not a new idea, and so we welcome comments from anyone who has any experience of similar groups. If you or a young ringer you know would be interested in attending any of the Young Ringers Sessions then please get in touch with either Sarah Holland (01371 810209), Roy Threadgold (01371 850481), or Alistair Donaldson (01787 463106).

The Discovery Award

An achievement award for the over 50's.

The award is open to all over 50's who would like to accept an exciting and rewarding challenge to discover:

- New strengths and hidden talents
- New interests, or new life in old ones
- New and interesting people
- The satisfaction of helping others
- The joy of unexpected achievement



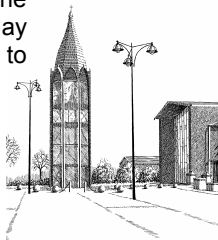
It's non-competitive, flexible and achievable. There are three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold divided into four sections. Each level is rewarded with its own Award Certificate and Badge.

For more information contact:

The Director
The Discovery Award Association
Ancrum Outdoor Education Centre
10 Ancrum Road
Dundee, DD2 2HZ
Tel: 01382 641800

Basildon

Ringers are very welcome to ring at Basildon on Sundays (9.30a.m. meet). We are trying to ring each Sunday to ensure that the local band gets as much practice as possible. They are only ringing rounds at the moment. If visiting ringers would like to ring a method as well as rounds we need eight visiting method ringers each week. So far this has been accomplished, please make the effort to come if you can, but please let me know if you are coming. The local ringers hold a tied and open practice on Saturday mornings; please contact Gordon Lucas if you are able to go along and help.





Writtle

Writtle All Saints Bell Appeal

At last, we have our Faculty! It has been a long hard battle, but we are there. The delay was caused by English Heritage wanting us to keep the old bell-frame intact and in situ. This would have made it impossible to install our new bells in the preferred position. Fortunately, to some extent common sense has prevailed, the old frame is to be raised and kept in a position close to the tower roof. This arrangement will enable us to install our new frame and bells as planned and it will ensure that the old frame is preserved for interested parties to study.

Having got the faculty we now have to get the job done! The basic plan, subject to some minor changes in dates, is as follows:

- The existing bells will be removed from the tower during the first week of January 2004;
- The old bell-frame will be lifted up to the roof during the second week of January 2004;
- The old belfry floor will be removed by the end of January 2004;
- Casting of the new bells at Taylor's will start second or third week in January and will be completed by the end of February 2004;
- The new frame will be installed end of Feb/beginning of March 2004;
- The new bells will be installed during March 2004;
- Dedication service early April 2004;
- Ringing for Easter!

The main contractor for the raising of the old frame and installing the new bells will be Eayre & Smith. We are aiming to keep the cost down by the use of voluntary labour so if you are fit and able and would like to help we would like to hear from you. Andrew Brewster is co-ordinating the volunteer team so please let him know (Tel: 01245 420648, Email: andrewbrewster@freeola.com). Andrew will contact you nearer the time once we have a firm schedule of work.

Via the Keltex Trust the old front six have been found a new home in North America. Following tuning at Whitechapel, they will be shipped across the pond and installed in a church in Seattle. This will provide a nice link with our ringing friends in North America and it will be good to ring on the old Writtle bells when visiting that part of the world.

Finally, I should like to thank all the member of Association who have supported us on this project so far. I'm sure there will be lots more support during the installation of the bells and then, of course, some of you might want to have a go at ringing them! We have set out to make this a truly great ring of bells that will be a pleasure to ring and a joy to listen to. We look forward to ringing them and we hope they will be enjoyed by all Essex ringers; whether it be for teaching on six, eight or ten bells, or just for the sheer enjoyment of ringing quarters or peals on a first class ring of bells.

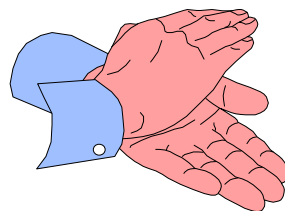
*Dedication
service early
April 2004*

That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Quarter Peal recently: Kat Cumber (06/06), W John Scott (10/06), A W Smith (28/06), Gavin Cartright (01/08), David Dempsey (16/08), Joe Britain (24/08), Philip Denton (16/09), John Slater (02/11).

First as Conductor: Nick Holland (19/06), Janice Spalding (13/07), Martin Jones (26/09), Stuart Ricketts (05/10), Margaret Burbery (06/10), Sandra Lee (14/11).

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Peal recently: Jillian Laken (18/10), Jonathan Thompson (23/11).



Congratulations!

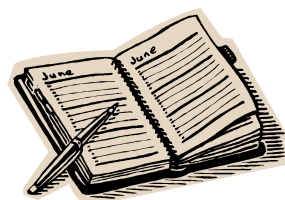
Association Register

Births: Thomas James to Lois & Graham Blissett in July; Lewis David to Helena & Mike Parry in August; Toby James to Hazel (née Rothera) and Philip Armstrong in June.

Birthdays: Bill Aley celebrated his 84th, Diana Belcham celebrated her 70th and Anne Edwards celebrated her 60th.

Wedding Anniversaries: Alf & Grace House celebrated their 65th anniversary; Colin & Dulcie Wright and Len & Sheila Bullock celebrated their Golden anniversaries; Renée & Robin Page Jones and Allen & Maureen Cansdale celebrated their Ruby anniversaries; Margaret & Peter Laws celebrated their 37th anniversary; Mary & Barry Fisher celebrated their Pearl anniversary.

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Frank Nice (Gestingthorpe), Harry Millatt (Colchester), Alan Shadrack (Springfield) and Julie Hurrell.



Don't forget the EACR Website at www.eacr.org.uk

Dates for your Diary



January	3	ADM – Witham / Terling	Northern
	3	ADM - Galleywood	South-Eastern
	10	ADM – Ardleigh	North-Eastern
	10	ADM – Leyton / West Ham	South-Western
	17	ADM – Thorpe Bay	Southern
	24	ADM – Sawbridgeworth	North-Western
February	7	Committee Meeting	
March		125 Quarter Peal Month	
	6	District Meeting—Gestingthorpe	Northern
	27	District Meeting—Ashdon	North Western
April	15-17	Essex Ringing Course—Coggeshall	



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2004. Please send contributions to Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF, Tel: 01245 358040 or email: vicki@cvevrc.co.uk by 1st March 2004