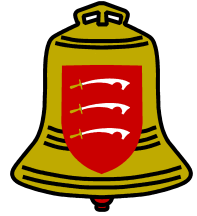


Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Special points of interest:

- Whitechapel Seminar
- What goes on at a CC AGM
- Essex Ringers who died in the Great War

Anniversary Year Annual Dinner

Tickets are available NOW for the Annual Dinner to be held at the County Hotel, Chelmsford on 2nd October. For further information, please see the flyer that was issued with this newsletter.

We did well last year with 107 ringers and friends, lets see if we can do better this year, as it is our 125th Anniversary year, it would be fantastic to get 125 people there!

Raffle prizes would be very welcome, why not club together to buy that extra special something.

The 125th AGM

General ringing preceded our annual service in Chelmsford Cathedral at which the Archdeacon of West Ham, one of our Vice-Presidents, gave the address. The service was conducted by the Precentor, Revd Dr Genny Tunbridge, the lessons were read by the Master and our Chaplain, Canon Roger Mason, who also led the prayers. The anthem was *Loving Shepherd of thy Sheep* by Philip Ledger, a former Director of Music at the Cathedral, and the responses were composed by Owain Jones.

The 125th AGM was conducted briskly, with no contentious items. The Association officers were re-elected. We also elected our representatives to the Central Council for 2005-2007, with Jon Waters replacing Janet Edwards as one of the five Council members. Two new life members were elected: Dennis Hewitt and James Towler.

Afternoon ringing was in the Southern district, with Basildon as one of the towers available. A copious tea was served at Brentwood.

I would like to thank all those involved in the day's arrangements, particularly the Cathedral authorities, Simon Harvey, Owain Jones and the Boreham choir, and the Southern district officers.

Make a note of the date for next year: Bank Holiday Monday 2 May 2005.

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Mary Bone

Bell Maintenance Seminar at Whitechapel

In my twelve years of ringing I have never visited a bell-foundry, so I was looking forward to attending the Bell Maintenance seminar at Whitechapel's in London. The seminar is intended for those interesting in keeping bells and their fittings in good working order.



The day started off with a good cup of coffee for the twenty or so students. Some people had travelled quite a distance; one lady was from Texas, USA! The course started by splitting the students into two groups. My group began with an informal lecture by Alan Hughes (Director of Whitechapel). Alan covered in detail all aspects of bells, their fittings, and how to care for them. He ensured that all our questions were answered, and his knowledge of fittings (not just Whitechapel's) is impressive.

After a well provided lunch (always a good way to keep your students happy), we spent the afternoon in the foundry with Mark Backhouse (one of the Whitechapel team). Mark started with a brief tour of the foundry, where we saw the old Writtle tenor looking very sad and alone in the courtyard.

The rest of the afternoon session was spent looking at the many different types of bell fittings that have been used over the centuries of bell-ringing. We saw headstocks made from wood, metal and cast-iron, and many different styles of gudgeons, clappers and bearings. An afternoon highlight was Mark explaining how twiddle pins are used in helping to cure odd-struck bells. This involved Mark ringing the bell by standing on the frame and holding onto the wheel – something I had not seen before!

By the end of a very well organised day I had seen a range of bell fittings (and I'm sure there are many more different types out there), and I had gained lots of useful information on bells and bell maintenance. The day has filled me with lots of new ideas and given me plenty of advice which I will put into practice in my own tower. I can feel a bell maintenance day coming on.....

Nick Holland, Steeplekeeper, Finchingfield

Training Day—27th November

The Essex Association Training Day will be held on Saturday 27th November and will be based at Terling. The idea is to have four groups:

- Plain Bob Doubles and Minor on the Treble;
- Bob Minor inside and Treble Bob on the Treble;
- Calling and Conducting;
- and Tower Maintenance.

Obviously the interest shown will dictate how many of each course will be run.

We will meet at Terling at 9.30am and split into groups and the day should finish at about 4.30pm.

If you wish to be a student or could be a helper for either morning or afternoon, or both, please contact me on 01371 859423 or 07884 028472 stating which group you wish to join by 30th October.

Adrian Malton
Education Officer

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to all the people who helped to run a very successful Helpdesk over the weekend of the Central Council visit to Colchester. We have had several comments about how efficiently the desk was run and compliments on the information we had available. Many of the helpers were local and were able to give expert advice on travel arrangements and parking facilities. Everyone was friendly and helpful. I would particularly like to mention those who took on the task of counting and sorting the Child Protection leaflets – a job we did not know we would be asked to do. A great team effort. Thank you.



Janet Edwards

Life Membership

Any nominations for life membership must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 1 December (rule 7(iii)). The proposer and seconder should include details of the candidate's Association activities.

Do consult your district officers for advice on the criteria: "... To honour a member for work undertaken throughout the district and promotion of work throughout the Association."

MB

Striking Competition News



The 6 bell striking competition finals were held on Saturday 3 July at Thorpe-le-Soken. Eleven teams competed and, in a very close finish, the results were: 1st Chelmsford Cathedral (28 faults); 2nd Prittlewell (29½); 3rd Kirby-le-Soken (31½); 4th North Ockendon; 5th Dagenham; 6th Coggeshall; 7th Bocking; 8th West Ham; 9th Sawbridgeworth; 10th Saffron Walden; 11th Harwich (did not complete).

In the evening each district entered a team for the 8 bell competition at Kirby-le-Soken, ringing a plain course of Yorkshire S Major. The South East district regained the trophy with 17 faults; 2nd Southern (22 faults); 3rd North-East (31); 4th Northern; 5th South-West; 6th North-West. Thank you to the North-East officers for the arrangements, to Linda Mackenzie and helpers for a lovely tea, and to our three judges from Kent: Alex Britton and Tim & Diana Wraight.

An Association team entered the Ridgman Trophy competition held at St Neots on 5 June, being placed third.

The Essex Trophy competition will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday 11 September. Do come along to support the team and listen to some fine Stedman Caters.

Mary Bone

Job Vacancy!

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Committee will be looking to appoint a new Honorary Technical Adviser.

The responsibilities include inspecting completed work on bell installations and making recommendations on the payment of grants; inspecting and writing reports on bell installations; advising ringers and parishes on necessary work; liaising with district maintenance officers; and, of course, reporting regularly to the Association officers and the Committee, etc. etc. A fuller job description is available from Steve Nash, Mary Bone or David Sloman.

Please contact Steve or Mary if you might be interested in all, or some, of these important tasks. Training and support will be offered!

Check out the 125 Website at
www.cvevrc.clara.net/eacr125/eacr125.htm

Central Council Visit to Colchester

When I heard that the Central Council were going to hold their 2004 AGM in Colchester, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to attend as an observer to see what went on.

There were a few rows of seats set aside for observers at the back of the Church. As people circulated before the meeting, I was surprised that I recognised a large number of faces, either from tower open days or from practice nights that I have attended when away with work.

The morning's business comprised of reports from various committees as well as a detailed explanation of the Council's accounts. A number of Honorary Council Members were also elected. After lunch prepared by Roger Carey-Smith and a band of helpers, there was The Ringing World's AGM. This lasted for about an hour before the Central Council meeting restarted.

I was expecting a lot of discussion to go over my head during the day, but I was surprised how quickly the day passed. With the exception, perhaps, of the debate provoked by the Method Committee's report, I was able to understand and appreciate what was going on.

After the meeting finished, I took the opportunity to say hello to a few people I knew, before ringing a quarter peal with some friends who were either Council Representatives or observers like myself. Whilst I'm not sure that I would drive across the country to attend the next Central Council meeting, I was glad that I had the chance to do so, so close to home.

Martin Jones



Child Protection

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has produced updated Guidelines on Child Protection. Two copies of the leaflet *Protecting Young Ringers* are being distributed to all towers: one for the PCC and one for the tower captain, each with a covering letter.

Further information is available at <http://www.cccbr.org.uk>

The Executive Committee will discuss these guidelines at the October meeting.

Commemorating Essex Ringers Who Died in The Great War

As a recent recruit to bell ringing and as a part-time military historian I was fascinated to come across the Kent Association's tribute to their ringers who served in the Great War , 'No Passing Bells'. This has spurred me on to research the Essex ringers who lost their lives in this conflict. The memorial in Chelmsford Cathedral has provided a list of names and using the publication 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' and records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission I have been able to start to piece together the stories of these men. However, I need some help!



Does anyone have access to copies of the 'Ringing World' covering 1914-18 and/or copies of the EACR Annual Reports for this period to which they might allow me access? Also, any information about these ringers would be very welcome – are there any peals boards with their names, or any photographs in their powers, or are any family members still ringing? I would hope to write an article (perhaps for Essex Magazine?) in memory of these men.

Readers may be interested in the CWGC records for Edward Harry Emery, who served as a Private with the 5th Battalion Essex Regiment and who was killed in action in Palestine in 1917, aged 21. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial; the information provided by his family for inclusion in the cemetery register was: 'Son of Harry Percy and Cecelia Emery, of Church End, Stebbing, Chelmsford. Member of the choir and ringer at the Parish Church.'

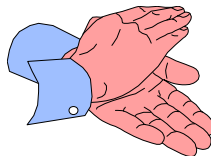
My credentials are that although a Hospital Clinical Scientist by day, I am a part-time military historian and author of 'Blindfold and Alone' on the subject of the British Military executions in the Great War.

Cathryn Corns
32 Coburg Lane
Langdon Hills
SS16 6TH

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

That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Quarter Peal recently: Barry Brown (Harwich 15/03), Daniel & Philip Smith (Pebmarsh 21/03), Tim Parry-Jones (Stebbing 21/03), Philip Alsford (Bentley Common 22/03), Wendy Upson (Clavering 22/03), Andrew Blackshaw & Anton Semonov (Wanstead 22/03), Mandy Miles (Great Bentley 24/03), Pauline Brown (Leyton 27/03), Martin Piper & Linda Furnell (Layer-de-la-Haye 28/03), Brenda Lord (Great Bentley 06/03), Charlotte Slater (Rayne 07/03), Anthea Boon, Anne Wilson & Tony Yeats (Arkesden 13/03), Rebecca Johnson (Hatfield Heath 13/03), Pam King & Oliver Walton (Tendring 30/03), Maureen Cansdale (Eastwood 11/04), Debbie Hill (Braintree 12/04), Richard Pearson (South Weald 12/04), David Pierce (Felsted 16/05), Libby Laurence & Ted Tennant (Gestingthorpe 13/06).



Congratulations!

First as Conductor: Steve Elvidge (Arkesden 13/03), Graham Tobbell (Finchingfield 13/05).

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Peal recently: Helen Carter (Dagenham 17/04), Steven Clarke (Wormingford 15/05), David Learmonth (Sible Hedingam 22/05), Graham Snow (10/07).

Association Register

Births: Belated congratulations to Richard and Helen Saddleton (Ingatestone) on the birth of Harry Thomas James on 2nd March, Paul & Lesley Neville (Gt Parndon) on the birth of their son.

Birthdays: Congratulations to Dot Doodhew (formerly Great Dunmow) 90, Ivy Everett (Boreham) 90, Ernie Andrews (Black Notley) 70, Gordon Clarke (Kirby-le-Soken) 70, John Roberts (Sawbridgeworth) 70, Liz Hull (Hornchurch) 60, Janet Edwards (Coggeshall) 60.



Wedding Anniversaries: Congratulations to Eileen & John Webb (Grays) and John & Enid Williams (Nazeing) for their Golden Weddings and Frank & Molly Warboys on their forthcoming Golden Wedding.

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Miss K Hilliar (Boreham), John Humphrey (formerly Colchester St Peter), Pat Brazier (Braintree), Ken Frazer (Sawbridgeworth), Alan Shadrack (Springfield), Trevor Stedman (formerly Chelmsford).

Dates for your Diary



August	2	District 12-bell practice – Chelmsford	South-Eastern
	7	District 10-bell practice – Coggeshall	Northern
	30	ASSOCIATION TOWER OPEN DAY	Southern
September	4	District Meeting & Harvest Supper – Bradwell-on-sea	South-Eastern
	11	ESSEX TROPHY – 10 bell competition - Hornchurch	
	11	District Meeting - Pebmarsh	Northern
	11	District Call Change Competition – Leyton	South-Western
	18	ASSOCIATION BARN DANCE – Layer-de-la-Haye	
	25	District Meeting – Hutton	Southern
October	2	ASSOCIATION DINNER – County Hotel, Chelmsford	
	9	COMMITTEE MEETING – Danbury	
	16	District Meeting – St. Osyth	North-Eastern
	16	District 10-bell practice – Prittlewell	Southern
	16	District Meeting – Romford	South-Western
	23	District Meeting – Great Parndon/Harlow Common	North-Western
November	6	District Meeting – Braintree/Stisted (tbc)	Northern
	13	Quiz Night – Tendring	North-Eastern
	20	District 12-bell practice (venue tbc)	North-Eastern
	20	District Meeting & Call Change Competition – Eastwood	Southern
	27	ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY – Terling	
December	4	District Social – (venue tbc)	South-Western
	11	ASSOCIATION CAROL SERVICE – Great Dunmow	

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



ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

125th Anniversary Dinner

2 October 2004

7 for 7.30pm

Our Annual Dinner will once again be held in the lovely Crystal Room at the County Hotel, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

Our guests include our President, the Right Revd John Gladwin, and Mrs Lydia Gladwin; the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Michael Henshaw, and his wife Julie; and our recently elected life members.

The menu will be Carrot and Coriander soup; Supreme of Chicken with a white wine, grape and tomato sauce and seasonal vegetables, followed by Summer Pudding with clotted cream, and coffee to finish. Please let me know if you would prefer the vegetarian option or require a special (eg gluten-free) diet.

After dinner and the speeches there will be music - I am arranging some jazz - a raffle in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund, and plenty of time to chat to friends.

Tickets are priced at £25 each (£10 for those who've already paid a deposit). Please include names for the seating plan, your cheque (payable to "EACR") and a SAE, and order by 23 September from Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB (01279 726159; email: mary.bone@dial.pipex.com).