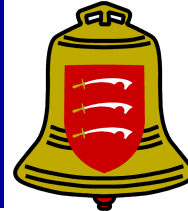


# Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



## Essex Ringing Course



The 20<sup>th</sup> Essex Ringing Course will be held on **8 - 10 April 2010**, based at the Honywood School, Coggeshall.

Tutor groups on offer are:

- Call changes
- Plain Hunt
- Treble Hunt
- Plain Bob Doubles inside
- Plain Bob Minor inside
- Grandsire Doubles / Triples
- Treble Bob Minor
- Cambridge Surprise Minor
- Stedman Doubles / Triples
- Double Norwich CB Major
- Teaching Bell Handling & Ringing

There will be an additional programme of seminars and practical sessions on a wide variety of ringing topics.

Helpers are also required for each group.

For a brochure and application form please send a stamped self-addressed C5 envelope to

Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB

or visit the EACR website at [www.eacr.org.uk/course](http://www.eacr.org.uk/course).

Closing date for applications Friday **12 February 2010**

### Successful Peal Attempt at Brentwood

On 31<sup>st</sup> October a successful attempt was made to ring the first peal on the recently refurbished bells. It was rung as a compliment to Fr. Bob White, (who retired in October 2008), in recognition of his 19 years ministry in the parish coupled with a welcome to Fr. Colin Hewitt following his Induction. (An added bonus - Fr. Colin is also a bell ringer).

We did not have any bells in the tower when Fr. Bob retired and it has taken many months to get eight peoples diaries to line up for this peal attempt. The members of the band were especially invited to take part in recognition of their support during the fund raising period and commissioning process. They rang 5152 changes of Yorkshire Surprise Major in 3 hours and 3 minutes. By the end of the peal the Ringing Room was like a sauna as they only realising that they had not opened the Ringing Room windows until well into the piece!). We are very grateful to all the band but especially to Brian Meads for conducting the peal.



The picture show the band just after successfully achieving the Peal, (Front row from L to R - Adrian Semken (Coggeshall) - Technical Adviser (1), Mary Bone (Sawbridgeworth) - immediate past Secretary (2), John Harpole (Basildon) - Southern District Master (3), Paul Cammiade (Downham) - former District Master (4).

## Rounds & About

*Back Row from L to R - John Cousins (Bentley Common) (5), Steve Nash (Langdon Hills) - immediate past Master(6), Colin Chapman (Chelmsford Cathedral) - Peals Secretary, Brian Meads (Coggeshall) - Association Master.*

It was also something of a red letter day for John Harpole who has now rung 8 peals at Brentwood, one on each of the 8 bells! His last peal at Brentwood was 25 years ago, almost to the day!

**Chris Bailey**

(Tower Captain, Brentwood)

### Association Annual Dinner 2009

The dinner took place at the County Hotel, Chelmsford on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Our speakers were Rev Bob White, formerly of Brentwood, and Simon Linford, former Essex boy, now on the Education Committee of the Central Council and author of many articles in the Ringing World.

Despite the staff at the County being somewhat depleted due to illness (nothing to do with the food we were assured), the service was impeccable again. The food was excellent and the atmosphere very congenial.

Hillary Donoghue (Downham) provided musical accompaniment on her keyboard and played a medley of well known tunes, and by the end of the evening was almost playing requests and karaoke!

We were able to formally congratulate G Noel Orman on his election as a Life Member at the AGM by presenting him with his certificate. His daughter came along too to support him.

The beautiful table arrangements were made by Jessie Sadler, as was the bouquet that was presented to Rev White's wife Rosemary.

My thanks to those who were able to make it. I must say however, that turn out was very disappointing, and you will see elsewhere in this newsletter my request for feedback on the future of the dinner.

Vicki Chapman

## 2010 Subscriptions - Important Notice

Subscriptions for 2010 become due on the 1st January.

They remain at £8 for ringing members and £4 for Friends of the Association. Those aged under 18 on 1st January are entitled to a 50% discount on subscriptions for that year. Members aged 65 or over on 5 May 2008 and elected prior to that date are free from subscription, although many do give a donation to the Association, which is very gratefully received. Such donations in lieu of subscriptions go direct to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Prompt payment of subscriptions is encouraged, as these are required for the administration of the Association including but not limited to supporting timely Gift Aid reclaims and establishing accurate membership numbers for insurance renewal purposes.

Towers may wish to consider collecting their members' subscriptions and handing it over to their District Treasurer as a single transaction - this makes administration much more straightforward for District Treasurers. The forthcoming Annual District Meetings are an excellent opportunity to make this payment.

Subscriptions and donations can be subject to Gift Aid, which allows the Association to re-claim Income Tax - please ask the District or Hon Treasurer for further details if you are a taxpayer.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION PROMPTLY - THANK YOU**

**Andrew Brewster**

*'Use Gift Aid and you can make your subscription or donation worth more. For every pound you give to the Association, we can claim back 25p from HMRC and receive an extra 3.2p in Transitional Relief. Imagine what a difference that could make and it doesn't cost you a thing. So if you want your donation to go further, Gift Aid it. Just download a form from the EACR website or ask your District Treasurer. It's that simple.'*

**STOP PRESS:** The Association's public liability insurance business description has been amended to take in publicity events as well as fundraising events and this may include the use of mini-rings. However, our insurers have drawn attention to the fact that the policy is only protecting the interests of The Essex Association of Change Ringers and any other third party, including owners of mini-rings, should have their own insurances in place.

### **Time for a change?**

As you may have read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Annual Dinner this year was not very well supported. There are a number of reasons for this such as not liking the venue, not liking a formal dinner, not liking speeches, etc etc.

So, before I head on into organising next years event, I would like to ask you **"what would you like?"** We won't be able to cater for every taste, however it is important that the membership of the Association can get together, where ring-ing ability is not relevant, socialise with each other and have a good time.

I would like any suggestions you have for the type of event (barn dance, dinner, simple gathering etc), what style of catering (formal, buffet etc), what sort of entertainment if any and so on. You get the idea.

Whatever the case, I will need to book something very soon, so do get in touch quickly if you have something useful to put in the mix.

Vicki Chapman

### **AGM 2010**

Nominations for Association officers (Master, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 Property Trustees and 2 Independent Examiners) must be received by the Secretary by 1 February 2010. Nominations may be made at a district meeting or can be sent directly to reach the Secretary before the deadline; please remember to include the name of the proposer and seconder. A form can be downloaded from the Association website.

In 2010 we are also required to elect 5 representatives to serve on the Central Council for a three year term starting in 2011. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Association website.

Information about any nominations for Life membership of the EACR will be available at the Annual District Meetings.

Elections will take place at the 2010 Annual General Meeting on 3rd May, Bank Holiday Monday, at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Notices of motion for the AGM (items for debate or proposed rule changes), sponsored by at least 2 members, must also be received by 1 February.

Vicki Chapman

## North East Bell-ringers Tour of the North

Barry, Pam, Margaret, Lynda and David and Don and Jenny, joined a party of twenty seven for a tour of northern churches and for sightseeing. The hotel we were due to stay at was flooded in July so we stayed in a hotel just outside Darlington in Croft-on-Tees.

Some of the hotel rooms had four poster beds and some had spacious bathrooms and complete kitchens. We all had to do a tour of the hotel which resulted in much laughter. One senior lady in our party said we could not see her room as she had her knickers laid out ready for the next day! She has a broad Suffolk accent and our coach driver dearly fell down the stairs laughing. In the morning the Manager wanted to know what had been going on in the rooms. So, after disrupting the hotel, we departed to Durham.

After ringing at St Oswald's we had a few hours for sightseeing. Some visited museums and some had a conducted tour of the castle which also houses the university which was established by Oliver Cromwell. The guide told us about a big sounding board which was taken out of the cathedral so they had a sound system a long time ago. We had to be at the cathedral by 3.0 pm ready to ring at 4.00 pm. Some listened to the choir practising for Evensong. It was 325 steps up to the ringing chamber. The ringing was good so we did not let ourselves down. The tenor weighed 28 cwt.

On Wednesday we headed for Newcastle, stopping to take photos at the Angel of the North and the Brick Engine, the Mallard. We rung at two towers and then at two others in the outer district of the town. One of the towers was near the St. James' Park football ground. On Thursday we visited three more towers and went along the seafront for lunch. At Chester-le-Street we saw a very interesting redundant church which houses a large museum. Friday saw us visiting three more churches west of Newcastle and our coach driver took us sightseeing. I took the opportunity to look at the racecourse! Saturday, our last day, took in two towers in Darlington and then our journey home with the sad bit of saying goodbye to friends, with hugs and kisses.

My lasting memory will be at one of the towers which had a long climb out and across the roof and then up a narrow ladder. A group of bell-ringing cyclists were ringing after us and they had with them a young man in a wheel chair. As we were walking away we saw a lad carrying this young man on his back and another with his chair and another with his wheels. They were making sure he did

not miss his ring. There are some good young people in this country. It is not all bad. Well done those lads!

### Tim Baskett

As well as being Tower Captain of St. Nicholas Great Woking, Tim is a self-employed qualified craftsman specialising in furniture restoration. He has recently designed and made a new portable font for St. Nicholas. Here's a photo of him with the font - we're all very proud of him!



His e-mail address is [greenables262@btinternet.com](mailto:greenables262@btinternet.com) (new business always welcome!).

We also wish Tim a happy 40th birthday for 6th October (better late than never!).

Mo Venus

### Quarter Peal Report

With this newsletter you should find a new Quarter Peal form for 2010. Please make sure your 2009 form is with the Peals Secretary, by 15th January 2010 by hand, post or email. If you cannot find or did not receive a form for 2009, or want an editable version for 2010 send an email request to [pealsec@eacr.org.uk](mailto:pealsec@eacr.org.uk).

## Executive Committee Meeting News - October 2009

The Association's Executive Committee, met at Danbury on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Our autumn meetings traditionally have a long agenda and this was no exception. The main business discussed included:

- Making a donation to Chelmsford Cathedral for their services during our AGM in May.
- Discussion about the Annual Dinner and whether to hold another one next year or try something different - see elsewhere in this newsletter for details!
- We did try something new this time. The District Officers provided written reports on local activity prior to the meeting so that they could be circulated and taken as read. This helped keep things moving along nicely.
- Then followed reports from, and questions to, the appointed officers. Only after these reports are the officers appointed for 2009. Unfortunately, we were unable to make appointments for the posts of Chaplain and Public Relations Officer, however we are actively seeking out potential candidates. If you think you might be able to help, please do get in touch with me.
- The Committee agreed that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 peal fees will increase to 50p per rope.
- Stephen Nash, Child Protection Officer, gave an update on the implications of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which came into effect on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- Andrew Brewster was thanked for presenting the interim accounts for January-August.
- The Committee looked at, and is requesting more information about, projects at South Ockendon and Walthamstow St Mary's.
- The grant application procedure is being looked at by a task group who will put recommendations forward to the February Committee meeting.
- The Master provided an update on the Looking to the Future project and thanked everyone for their responses to the questionnaires.
- The Association's rules will be reviewed by a task group and any proposed revisions put to the Committee in February prior to going forward to the AGM.

## Rounds & About

- There was also a great deal of discussion regarding the events involving the membership of Adrian Malton. A Committee approved a resolution which was issued to members on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Please ask you District Officers if you have not seen this.

Do ask your district officers for further information on the meeting.

Vicki Chapman

### North-West District Quarter-Peal Month

The main aims of our quarter peal month were to involve as many ringers as possible, to ring at most of the towers in the district and to attempt some 'firsts'. At the same time, we hoped to raise a significant sum by donating tower fees to the Essex Bell Restoration Fund.

The results were very pleasing. 76 ringers took part in attempts at 34 of the 40 towers in the district with five or more bells. A total of 61 quarters were attempted and 45 scored. These included 4 first quarters, 34 firsts in method/most methods, and 6 firsts in method as conductor. A splendid £506 was raised for the BRF.

Apart from these achievements, a great deal of enthusiasm, co-operation and encouragement from tower correspondents, district officers and ringers of all abilities helped to make the month full of fun and promise for the future.

Many thanks to Penny Browne and Carol Wilkinson for all their hard work organising the month.

Liz Griffith-Jones

### Editor Change

I have produced the newsletter since 2006 and have thoroughly enjoyed doing so. However, with a change of career this year in becoming a Church Pastor, I am no longer able to dedicate the required effort to produce this important newsletter.

Thank you to all who have supported me in this role these last 4 years by sending in your articles.

I am delighted to announce that Anne Bray (another NE member) will produce the newsletter from the April 2010 edition. As you have for me, please keep her job easy by continuing to supplying news, events and other information.

Her contact details are on the back cover of this edition.

Bryan Morrissey

## Looking To The Future

A really big thank-you to everybody for your participation in the 'Looking to the Future' project. The 'Looking to the Future' working group are tremendously grateful for the enthusiasm you showed in responding to our visits and questions. The fact that 84% of Essex towers took part made the whole exercise so worthwhile. The main conclusions that the working party came to are -

1. Bellringers in Essex are getting older - by this we mean ringers as a group, not just individuals! If we are going to maintain our bands we need to attract more young people. We are not alone in this - the trend is nationwide.
2. What bands need from the Association is more help at tower level with attracting more ringers, and teaching new recruits.

The working party presented their report to the Executive Committee meeting on October 10th. The report was in four sections -

1. Overall summary and recommendations.
2. Statistics report.
3. Education within the Association.
4. New job description for PR Officer.

- all of which can be seen on the 'Looking to the Future' page of our website. The Executive Committee accepted the report, and the Association will be moving to implement its recommendations. These are that we should increase our role in helping bands to recruit and train ringers, particularly at individual tower level. This will best be done by strengthening what the Association does through Public Relations and Education.

This is what the survey showed we all want, and is the responsibility of all of us to help to make it happen - we cannot just leave it to our Public Relations and Education Officers - we must all help them to move things forward. The important first step is making sure that there is a designated contact person in each district for Public Relations and Education. By working with this person our PR and Education officers will be able to start getting a bit of momentum.

Please do your very best to ensure that at your ADM's in January 2010, PR and Education contacts are created in each district.

## Association Register

**Deaths:** We regret to report the death of Betty aged 87 years, widow of the late H.H. (Dickie) Furminger, former Life Vice President of the Association.

## That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers

**First Quarter :** Clive Summers (13/09/09 West Ham)

Phillip Kelly (23/08/09 Braintree)

Helen McBride (05/09/09 Eastwood)

Gareth Bayard (25/07/09 Downham)

Christine Kavanagh (26/07/09 Leytonstone)

Beth Croack (26/07/09 Leytonstone)

Lewis Williams, Aged 11. (06/09/09 Rayne)

Georgina Benton. (23/08/09 Wethersfield)

**First Peal :** Neil M Pasmore, Aged 13 (11/09/09 Downham)

## Wedding Anniversaries!

Congratulations to:

Richard and Wendy Godden on their recent Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Brian and Iris Patmore on their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary

## Annual Report

The 2009 Annual Report will be prepared through January and February 2010. Please ensure that you notify your District Secretary at or before your ADMs of any information changes (such as Sunday Service and Practice times and changes of Tower Correspondent) that you would like to appear in the new report. Membership details included in the report will be for those who were recorded as current members during 2009 (not those elected at 2010 ADMs). District Secretaries will be sent copies of the current 2008 report including any changes notified during 2009 for update and return to the Report Editor. Please coordinate your tower's changes through your District Secretaries/Treasurers so that they have the updates for each District ready to provide to the Report Editor by the end of January. Late changes to the report (e.g. tower correspondent and ringing times) should be notified to [reped@eacr.org.uk](mailto:reped@eacr.org.uk) before the end of February 2010.

## Dates for your Diary (From the website)



### January

3	Annual District Meeting, Bocking	N
3	Annual District Meeting, Writtle	SE
10	Annual District Meeting, Tendring	NE
10	Annual District Meeting, Barkingside	SW
17	Annual District Meeting, Prittlewell	S
24	Annual District Meeting, Waltham Abbey	NW

### February

7	Association Committee Meeting, Danbury	
13	District Minor Practice, Gt Bromley	NE
13	District Practice, Stansted	NW
14	Joint Surprise Practice, Halstead	N/NW
14	District 10-bell Practice, Coggeshall	NE
19	District Practice, Purleigh	SE
26	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE
27	Learners' Practice, Fyfield	NW
28	Treble Bob Training Morning, Mistley	NE

### March

7	District Meeting, Maldon, St Mary	SE
13	District Practice, Great Baddow	SE
13	District Practice, Stansted	NW
14	Joint Surprise Practice, Radwinter	N/NW
21	District Major Practice, Gt Tey	NE
26	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE
27	Learners' Practice, Wendens Ambo	NW
28	District Training Day	SE
31	5th Tuesday Practice, Saffron Walden	NW

### April

4	Coach outing, London	NE
16 to 18	Essex Ringing Course, Coggeshall	ALL

The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for April 2010. Please send contributions to **Mrs Anne Bray, 7 Darcy Close, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 0RR** or by email to [arbray@ymail.com](mailto:arbray@ymail.com) or call 01255 679312 by 1st March 2010.