

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

JANUARY 23RD NORTH OCKENDON

THE AFTERNOON STARTS WITH RINGING AT 3PM FOLLOWED BY SERVICE AT 4.30PM THEN THE TEA AND THE MEETING.

NAMES FOR TEA TO ANN BEECH ON 01708 453169 OR BY TEXT TO ALISON NASH ON 07526 417787.

PLEASE SEE MINUTES ATTACHED FROM LAST DISTRICT MEETING



THE 2015 SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALL CHANGE COMPETITION WAS HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER AT DOWNHAM

The Judge was Clive Stephenson of Hornchurch of the South West District. He stayed in the car to judge the competition whilst we, the ringers, stayed in a cosy church.

The results were:

- 1st - Downham Dingers – 3½ faults
- 2nd - Prittlewell Plus One – 5 faults
- 3rd - Prittlewell aka Peter's Saturday Specials – 7 faults (these ringers were all taught by Peter Sloman at the Prittlewell Ringing School).
- 4th - Shenfield – 11½ faults
- 5th - Downham Dongers – 15½ faults
- 6th - North Ockendon – 19 faults

Thank you to all those who rang in this competition especially if you were in the competition for the first time. Also thank you to the Downham ringers who provided the wonderful tea.

Alison Nash, Southern District Secretary



Roger Dorking accepted the trophy on behalf of the Downham Dingers. Team photos overleaf.

CONTACTS

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Downham Dingers

Ann Dorking, Julia Jones, Hilary Donoghue, Roger Dorking, Paul Cammiade (c), Nigel Taylor.

Prittlewell - Peter's Saturday Specials

Peter Sloman (c), Sarah Chin-A-Loy, Elizabeth Coates, Anne Porter, James Laden, John Woollard.



Downham Dingers

Barbara Leigh, Linda Stewart, Jean Pavely, William Wennell, Gareth Bayard (c), Chris Tucker.

Shenfield

William Swire, Amy Brindle, Joel Wiggins, Paul Wiggins (c), Beth Johnson, Ray Jones.



Prittlewell "B" +1

Ros Skipper, Ron Brown, Alyson Browning, Emma Pinnock, Stephen Halliwell (c), David Sloman.



North Ockendon

Alison Nash, Samuel Beech, Michael Warren, Brian Beech, Andrew Beech (c), Stephen Nash.

MASTER'S SUMMARY FOR 2015-16

My first year as master of the southern district of the Essex Association of Change Ringers is almost concluded.

During the year, we have enjoyed our annual striking and call-change competitions, and I would like to thank the following for hosting the various events: Prittlewell, Hutton, and Fobbing, who have kindly hosted meetings and provided tea; Navestock and Downham who hosted the striking competitions and also provided tea, and Ingrave for hosting our annual carol service and providing mince pies and cups of tea.

The district outing in June was, I suppose, successful in its own way; it rained for much of the day; we lacked experienced ringers, and some of the towers were a challenge, in particular, Stonham Aspal. Nonetheless, we enjoyed the day and lunch, held at The Brundish Crown, was particularly good.

The surprise practices at South Weald have been well attended, and we continue to try new methods as well as ringing the standard eight. Uxbridge is the present 'special method'.

The practices at South Ockendon have continued, with some degree of success, but varying attendances, and we hope that these (now bi-monthly) practices will be supported in 2016 by as many district members as possible.

In July, a Southern District band rang a very respectable quarter peal of Stedman Cinques at Chelmsford Cathedral. For the coming year, I am planning to attempt a quarter of surprise maximus.

We have held district practices at Canewdon and Rettendon. The Canewdon practice was very well attended, but not so at Rettendon although we had a very pleasant afternoon. I would urge district members to support both the district practices and meetings as attendances fluctuate considerably, and apart from anything else, it is good for morale if these events are well attended!

I have visited all but two of the district towers, although I still have three weeks in hand to visit these last two!

I have enjoyed my first year as Master, and look forward to the year ahead. I would like to thank all of you who have supported the district in some way, and my fellow officers for their assistance, especially our long suffering and patient secretary, Alison Nash.

I look forward to seeing you all at the various events planned for the coming year.

Nigel Taylor

BARBARA INCE-JONES

On Saturday 12th December at All Saints, Hutton at 11.00am, a half-muffled quarter peal was rung in memory of Barbara Ince-Jones, a regular Hutton ringer, who died on 15th November aged 89.

The quarter was rung at 11.00am, which was the time of the cremation at Bentley Crematorium. The memorial service was held at 2.00pm that afternoon at All Saints Hutton.

1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

Treble	Robin Page-Jones
2nd	Amanda Hazell-Raynor
3rd	Phil Harrison
4th	Chris Bailey
5th	Raymond Jones (conductor)

Barbara and her husband Derick rang at All Saints Hutton and were members of the Essex Association. Derick died in 2001 but Barbara continued to ring until about 2006. When she could no longer ring Barbara continued to be a friend and supporter of the Hutton Guild. Over the years Barbara and Derick were active in the social side of ringing including organising a number of very successful outings.

Robin Page-Jones

RINGING WORLD SURVEY

Don't forget to register your opinions about the future of The Ringing World at [surveymonkey.com/r/therwsurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/therwsurvey)



Join the Southern District - EACR group on facebook. If you are a facebook user do 'like' the page. If not follow this link : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eacr.southern/>

It is proving invaluable for sharing information, especially for appealing for additional ringers for weddings, funerals and so forth. To become a Facebook member go to Facebook.com. Protect your privacy via the padlock icon and 'settings'.

Are you on the Southern District's Email List?

If you are but have changed your email address, or you want to be added to the list, please contact your District Secretary

Please contact **Alison Nash** on:

alison1nash@yahoo.co.uk

or

s-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk

or

Give her a ring on
01268 490061!

CHANGE TO PRACTICE TIME

For some time now Brentwood and Shenfield have combined practices but we have now agreed to a new arrangement as from the 1st January.

The practices will now be

SHENFIELD - 1st Thursday in the month - 7.45 to 9.15pm

and every Friday - 5.00 to 6.30pm

BRENTWOOD - Thursdays (EXCEPT the first Thursday) 7.45 to 9.00pm.

The next **Young Ringers' Practice** will be on Sunday 31st January from 4.30pm to 6pm – tower to be notified. As usual, please could I also ask every young ringer to bring 50p each as a donation to the tower.

There will be an outing on Saturday 19 March.

Please see the attached Young Ringers Notice from Christina Brewster.

SURPRISE PRACTICE

South Weald 7.30pm
Thursday 28th January
Special method is Uxbridge
All able and aspiring Surprise
ringers welcome.

PEAL AT WALTHAM ABBEY

Saturday, 19 December 2015 in 3h37 (37-1-7)

5088 Yorkshire Surprse Maximus

Composed by Alex W Tatlow

- 1 Paul A Cammiade
- 2 David L Sparling
- 3 Stephen J Nash
- 4 Ian J Culham
- 5 David E Rothera
- 6 John G Harpole
- 7 Fred Bone
- 8 Stephen C Wood
- 9 Nigel S D Taylor
- 10 Matthew E Rayner (C)
- 11 Brian G Meads
- 12 Stephen RT Pocock

Rung in memory of Don Cobb, John Armstrong and Adrian Semken, life vice presidents of the Essex Association, all of whom passed away during 2015. The band included the current master and the 4 surviving past masters, and 3 other members of the Association's Management Committee.

QUARTER PEAL LOGS TO BE IN BY 15TH JAN – SEE EACR WEBSITE

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Ros Skipper for her first blows in Royal at Hornchurch on Sunday, 29 November – 1260 Plain Bob Royal

1 Paul J Bloomfield 2 Ros C Skipper 3 John W Stephenson 4 Louise Booth
5 James Laken 6 Colin Friend 7 Neil P Booth 8 Christopher C M Pain
9 Roderic K Bickerton 10 Clive J Stephenson (C)

Penny Sloman and Steve Halliwell, ringing their first 8-spliced at Prittlewell, on Saturday, 5 December - 1280 Spliced Surprise Major: 160 each of Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative, Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Rutland, London and Bristol

1 Peter Sloman 2 Nigel S D Taylor 3 Penny Sloman 4 John G Harpole
5 S G Halliwell 6 David Sloman 7 Paul A Cammiade 8 Stephen J Nash (C)

Jordan Beamish for his first quarter away from the tenor at Basildon on Sunday, 20 December – 1260 Doubles 300 Grandsire, 960 Plain Bob
1 Jordan Beamish
2 Helen Harpole 3 Steve Nash
4 Andrew Beech 5 John Harpole (C)
6 Alan Gisby

Joel Wiggins (aged 11) for his first quarter at Shenfield on Sunday, 13 December 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 J P Wiggins 2 Beth Johnson 3 Paul Wiggins 4 David Reed
5 Ray G Jones (C) 6 John M Church (photo above)



NEWSLETTERS

Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

Newsletters are distributed at the end of Feb, April, August, October, and December – copy date for each on the 15th of the month.

Copies are sent to Tower Correspondents, preferably by email. Any member may request a copy via email by contacting Beth or the District Secretary.

SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

The next Learners' Practices at South Ockendon will be on the 6th February and 2nd April 10am to 12 noon.

If you have not been before then now is the time to try something new and don't forget we always need helpers.

ESSEX COURSE 2016 THURS 7-SAT 9 APRIL

Details now available on the Essex website at <http://eacr.org.uk/education/course.html>

Closing date for applications is 12th February. As usual helpers will be needed so even if you don't plan to attend as a student please make a note of the dates in case you can help.

THE OLDER LEARNER BY ALWYN BROCK

I started ringing just before I retired. New hobby, new skill, new friends and a new challenge without the stresses of my job. No-one warned me that ringing is addictive but it is. However, I'm not the only one to discover that. I have met many similar addicts, some of whom are also 'older learners' like me and we are all afflicted.

At the Ringing Roadshow last year one session was especially for us 'oldies'. 'That's the one for me' I thought and it certainly was. Lots of kindred souls in the audience and my friend and I kept nodding knowingly along with many others as we recognised and sympathised with the plights of other struggling learners. It seems that the throw-away comment of 'it's just' is bandied around in other towers as well as ours. Do you recognise it? A good example is the one that goes, 'you can do the treble, it's just plain hunt' they cry. OK, fine, off we go and all goes well until the call 'Go St Simons' comes clang! and then of course it isn't just plain hunt is it? It's plain hunt with a difference if you are learner, but somehow the 'experts' haven't been on the same wavelength as us. So beware the word 'just'.

But why is the older learner's wavelength different to the youngster's wavelength? Probably because the youngsters have brains like sponges which soak up information and instruction with ease. We're not like that. We need patience, encouragement and understanding whilst we await our 'light bulb moments'. Do you recognise those? Oh, they are so brilliant and welcome when they hit. One of my first such moments hit me learning to 'tenor at the back'. I really couldn't see the sequence until our teenage ringer rather exasperatedly said 'oh for goodness sake, it's just (note the 'just' word!) one, two, three, four, five, my go.' Wow, light dawned and suddenly I could tenor at the back to lots of things. There have been many precious light bulb moments since then.... please may they continue to arrive.

So why do so many 'experts' fail to hit the right wavelength with us oldies and then get so frustrated that we're not getting the hang of things as they expect? Can't they remember the difficulties from when they learnt? Well possibly not if they learnt when they were young with their sponge brains, assimilating skills so easily and progressing quickly. They've never experienced the same difficulties and our struggles may be alien to them. Maybe we should forgive them their exasperation.

As for things that are alien, well 'ringing speak' is high on the list there. Yes, I could see that being in first place is being at the front but to the rest of the world being in first place is UP at the front, not DOWN. Then came another light bulb moment when I realised that if I thought of it as if I am in an auditorium of a concert hall then 'down to the front' and 'up to the back' made a lot more sense. Hurray, got it! Lightbulb moment!

Most of our experts are trying desperately to help but sometimes their instructions can be so hard for us to understand and to comply with. 'Hold up, hold up' results in an effort to push the bell back up and as Steve Coleman so succinctly puts it, we've all tried it and it doesn't work! 'Tuck it in' is another one that gets me. Tuck what in for goodness sake? My blouse? My bum/tummy?

But we oldies get there eventually and often make a reliable contribution to the band. I've found it fun as well as addictive – a bit like playing a one-armed bandit. As one skill is mastered there's another one ahead waiting to be dealt with. A new method, more bells. The joy of finally achieving a personal goal, the honour of being competent enough to ring for Sunday services, to ring for the first wedding, the first quarter peal etc. Oh yes, there have been the frustrating times too – going home feeling like the idiot of the year because nothing has gone right and the tower captain has continually found fault or forgotten to praise your success, however minor. All in all though the highs make up for it and I can cite so many positives.... and after all, what other activity can you learn for free?

Essex Association of Change Ringers
Southern District

MINUTES
Meeting at Downham
Saturday 21st November 2015

1. Welcome

The Master, Nigel Taylor, welcomed all present and invited everyone to print their name in the attendance book. There were 37 members present, including one visitor – Peter Eves of Chelmsford Cathedral and Life Vice President (LVP).

2. Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Stephen Robinson, for taking the service and Robert Andrews for playing the organ. He also thanked the Downham ringers for the wonderful tea.

The service touch was Stedman Doubles rung by Nigel Taylor, Hilary Donoghue, Steve Halliwell, David Sloman, Ray Jones and Peter Sloman.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Fobbing on 19th September 2015 were printed in the October 2015 Newsletter (No. 140), and copies available at this meeting. There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.

6. Election of New Members - No new members were elected.

7. Training – Association Training Day, 28th November

The Association Training day is in the Southern District this year on Saturday 28th November – next Saturday.

The course will consist of Stedman Doubles and Triples, Trebling to Treble Bob, and Conducting. Helpers are still required and if you can help for a half day or perhaps a full day this would be gratefully accepted. Helpers of Plain Bob Doubles and above are also needed for the conducting course.

8. Future Events

5th December is the next Learners Practice at South Ockendon. 10am to 12 noon.

12th December is the Carol Service at Ingrave. Alan Ball from South Weald has agreed to play the organ for us. Ringing starts at 3.30pm followed by the Carol Service and seasonal refreshments.

Saturday 23rd January 2016 is the Annual District Meeting at North Ockendon. Ringing starts at 3pm, followed by a service, tea and then meeting. This is the meeting where your District Officers are elected so please attend if you can.

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 6 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

10. Any Other business

Robin Page-Jones advised the meeting that Barbara Ince-Jones of Hutton died earlier in the week. She started ringing, with her husband, Derik, in the 1990's. Although she had not been ringing for a while she remained a Friend of the District/Association.

Stephen Nash advised the meeting that at Association Management Meetings our District Officers find out how much money is raised by this District in contrast with the other districts. Our district raises the most and you are all to be congratulated for your support.

The District Diary for 2016 was discussed. The Secretary, Alison Nash, confirmed the following:

Quiz Night at Downham – Date now confirmed as 24th September.

Carol Service at Thorpe Bay on 10th December.

Learners Practices at South Ockendon will now be every other month, starting in February, as it has been difficult to obtain helpers for most of 2015. The District Officers are hoping that more helpers will come forward if it is not on a regular monthly basis.

The District Outing will be on 18th June to the Tenterden area of Kent.

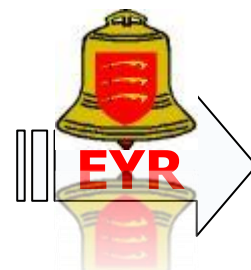
Most of the Surprise Practices at South Weald have been confirmed.

The February District Practice, March District Meeting, May Striking Competition, September District Meeting, the October District Practice and the November District Meeting and Call Change Competition have not yet been confirmed.

Service Collection	- £81.57
Raffle	- £79.00
Tea was donated	- £67.00

Further ringing was available after the meeting.

Forthcoming Essex Young Ringers Events - *Please note the dates in your diaries*



Going places



Message for All Young Ringers in the Association

Twenty eight young ringers from all over Essex and from five of the six Association Districts have taken part in at least one practice or outing during 2015. I would like to try and build on that in the coming year. However, I really would like young ringers to give some feedback - was the balance of practices and outings right this year, do you like a young ringer running the monthly practice, would you like cake and drinks at practices? As you will see a new competition has been organised bringing together youngsters from the South East of England in a competition to be held in Surrey and if successful the competition will be hosted by each Guild/Association in turn. We also have a website and a Facebook page. Please join the Facebook group if you haven't already done so.

Look out for further details of the following events throughout the year via email, Facebook or the webpage.



Essex Young Ringers Practices for any ringers under 25 years of age will take place on the following Sundays during 2016, from 4.30pm to 6pm, towers yet to be agreed:

31 January	26 June
28 February	25 September
24 April	30 October
22 May (1/2 term)	27 November



Saturday 19 March - The South Eastern District Young Ringers Outing. Everyone invited.



Saturday 2 April - The South East England Youth Striking Competition, a new competition, will take place in Surrey. This will be an eight-bell competition with one band from Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Herts, Winchester & Portsmouth and Essex. It is intended each Guild/Association will host the event in turn.



Thursday 7 April – Saturday 9 April - EACR Ringing Course. The cost for 18 year olds and under will be £25. More details with information about the groups available will be published during December 2015.



The now annual Ringing World National Youth Competition will take place on Saturday 2 July in London. It is an 8-bell competition with the test piece being either Rounds and Call Changes or a simple method. The age restriction is that ringers have to be under the age of 19 as at 31 August 2016. More details to be announced in the Spring but please think about whether you would like to be involved – 215 days to go! Taking part in a national competition is a good thing to put on a C.V.



The Essex Young Ringers Outing will take place on Saturday 15 October.



There is now a Facebook group dedicated to Essex Young Ringers. This is a closed group as people are invited to join. The group is open to all Young Ringers in Essex up to the age of 25. The group can be used to discuss ideas for events to hold, to advertise stuff you're doing at your tower or to share achievements in ringing. To join the group please send an email to essexyoungringers@eacr.org.uk and you will receive an invitation to join in return.



There is now a dedicated webpage for Essex Young Ringers at <http://eacr.org.uk/eyr/>

Christina Brewster
Youth Co-ordinator

Email: essexyoungringers@eacr.org.uk

Website: <http://eacr.org.uk/eyr/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/youngessexringers/