



Work underway at Toppesfield



On Thursday 5th September 4 new bells were cast at Taylor, Eayre and Smiths foundry in Loughborough, witnessed by a large party from Toppesfield including 15 schoolchildren, together with 33 parishioners and local ringers including the District Master. The party also enjoyed a visit to the Museum and a trip round the works where they saw the new frame and fittings being made up.

The final act of this 7-year long saga has now begun in that the existing installation has been dis-assembled and the new metal bell frame is now being assembled in the Tower. The four existing bells to be rehung have been away to be repair welded and re-tuned to make up with the newly cast bells a good and tuneful peal of eight. Hopefully all the bells will be back in Toppesfield by the time you read this, and they could even be ringing for Christmas if all goes well, with a Dedication set for early in the new year.

District Events

➤ **Saturday 27th October:** Service and District Meeting at Finchingfield. The Service is at 4:30pm with ringing from 3:00pm; Tea & Meeting from 5:30pm. Evening ringing is at Wethersfield from 7:30 to 9pm.

November is District Quarter Peal Month

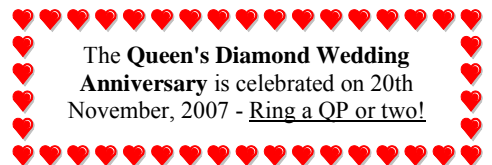
➤ **Saturday 10th November:** District Quiz Night at Gestingthorpe Village Hall. Book your team of six with the Secretary as soon as possible! Tickets £5.00, bring your own choice of drink and glasses.

➤ **Saturday 15th December:** District Carol Service at Great Easton. Service at 4:30, ringing from 3:30pm. May include a mince pie and mulled wine afterwards...

➤ **Saturday 5th January:** Service and Annual District Meeting at Rayne. The Service is at 4:30pm with ringing from 3:00pm; Tea & Meeting from 5:30pm. Evening ringing is at Braintree from 7:30 to 9pm.

➤ **Monday 11th February:** District Practice at Great Yeldham 7:30 to 9pm

➤ **Saturday 1st March:** Service and District Meeting at Witham. The Service is at 4:30pm with ringing from 3pm; Tea & Meeting from 5:30pm. Evening ringing is also at Witham from 7:30 to 9pm.



The **Queen's Diamond Wedding Anniversary** is celebrated on 20th November, 2007 - Ring a QP or two!

Association Events

Saturday 24th November: Association Training Day at Leyton from 9:30am.

Contact Vicki Chapman (01245 358040) for more info and to book a place.

The groups on offer are:

- * Plain Hunt Doubles & Minor
- * Plain Bob Doubles & Minor
- * Grandsire Doubles & Triples
- * Cambridge Surprise Minor

Closing date for students is 3rd November. Vicki also needs **helpers** - please phone!

Advance Notice:

Thursday 10th to 12th April 2008:

The Essex Training Course will be run again in 2008, hopefully based as usual at the Honywood School, Coggeshall.

Applications for Students will be accepted after Christmas, watch the Ringing World for the notices!

District Officers for 2007:

Master: Marian Wood	(01371-856382)
Deputy: Maurice Downs	(01376-330412)
Secretary: Peter Smith	(01376-322094)
Treasurer: Di Carpenter	(01279-870414)

STOP PRESS

Sadly ringing has had to cease on the bells at **Foxearth** following an incident with an errant clock hammer.

Further information will be passed on as soon as the situation clarifies.

THE COGGESHALL RINGING CENTRE

Coggeshall is a Ringing Centre recognised by the Central Council as equipped for teaching all aspects of ringing, and the Coggeshall ringers want to invite everybody to come and use it more!

If you need a training venue as a Tower, District or independent group of friends why not get in contact and see whether we can suit your needs (we do have some expenses to cover, and therefore there is a charge of £10/hr/group).

Saturday 3rd November 10am to 1pm
Change ringing on Handbells
- subtitled "Moving on from Plain Hunt".
Leader: Paul Cammiade

► For those who want to make progress in Plain Bob. (*You should already feel confident in Plain Hunting your pair*)

To apply for a place on any of these workshops please complete and return an application form. Forms are available on the Training page of the EACR web site (go to Ringing Centres) or direct from the Ringing Centre.

The fee per workshop is £5 per person, and should accompany your application. Tea/coffee will be available during each workshop.

To contact Coggeshall Ringing Centre you can write to:

Janet Edwards,
181 High Street,
Kelvedon,
Colchester, CO5 9JD

Or Phone: 01376 573412

E-mail: janet@ajsplace.fsnet.co.uk

Ridgewell:

Appeal Launched

An Appeal for funds to re-hang the bells at Ridgewell in the north of the District was launched on Friday 12th October.

These 5 bells are currently unringable, with 2 of the bells unhung and standing in the clock chamber for safety. 2 of the bells date back to the 14th C, with the other 3 dating from the 17th C: four of the bells are listed for preservation. The ropes drop in an unusual circle of 1,3,5,4,2.

The project includes re-hanging in a metal frame underneath the existing medieval frame with a new tenor to replace the 12cwt bell of 1350, ascribed to "PW". (*no relation to Peter Wood as far as I know!*)

The Appeal was launched with a well-attended service at the Church, including an address by the Archdeacon of Colchester, The Ven. Annette Cooper and a speech by our Master Marian Wood explaining what the EACR does. This was followed by a course of Bob Minor on handbells expertly led by local girl Charlotte Mackle.

Congratulations to:

First Peal in Hand

Daniel Smith (Coggeshall)

First Quarter Peal

Mary Ann Villar (Witham)
Poppy Crooks (Finchingfield)
John Pearson
Emily Mayo (Rayne)
Laura Clarke (Finchingfield)

First in Method or Inside

Plain Bob Doubles

Charlotte Slater; Lynn Ould

Grandsire Doubles

Vicky LeFevre

Cambridge Minor

John Elliott

Bradley Hill

Other Doubles

Libby Laurence, Pip Darkins,
Great Easton Band

Plain Bob Major

Bradley Hill, Ian Finlayson

Yorkshire Surprise Major

Debbie Hill,

Uxbridge Surprise Major

Marian Wood

Other Notables

Richard Dunhill First Yorkshire Major as Conductor;
Also 50th QP as Conductor.

Peter Wood Peal at Stebbing: 70th Birthday celebration.

Di Carpenter 1st QP on 10: also 6 spliced Surprise Major

Thaxted: Quarter Peal rung in memory of Lillian Learmonth, mother of David Learmonth, a Thaxted resident 49 years.



Striking Competitions

Congratulations to a combined team from Coggeshall & Rayne for winning the District Competition this year, and to Bocking for coming second.

They went on to come 5th equal and 9th in the Association competition at Orsett.

In the Eight-bell competition the Northern District team came 5th at South Weald this year, ringing a touch of Forward Major - an interesting little principle!

Kelvedon

No Good News yet

After all that good news of new rings of bells, sadly there is no good news about the new ring of 8 bells at Kelvedon.

More meetings have been held with Taylors Eayre & Smith (TESCO) and now the Central Council's Engineer, but the bells still are not ringable.

The remedy is proving elusive....

Beyond Bob Minor...

This series of training sessions is intended to help ringers progress from Bob Minor as rung at the Saturday School up to Surprise Minor methods in easy steps.

Each session will start as usual with a short discussion and theory session from 7pm with actual ringing from 7:30 to 9pm.

Everyone welcome to come along - helpers especially welcome - but please let Alistair Donaldson know if you are coming during the week before... and please study the methods beforehand!

Let Alistair know if you would like a Handout sheet of the Methods.

*Contact Alistair Donaldson 01787-463106
Or alistair@donaldsonfamily.org.uk*

Future Sessions:

3rd November at Witham

(Cambridge & Ipswich)

1st December at Felsted: (Stedman)

Sessions in 2008 will be: 26th January;
23rd February; and 29th March.



This course has now run for 3 years and I wonder if it is time to do something different for 2008 - and beyond...

Two alternative syllabus' come to mind -

- An exploration of **Doubles methods** from Grandsire to St. Simons to Huntley and similar variations, or
- An exploration of **Surprise Minor** methods such as York, Bourne, etc.

Any other methods that are rung around the District that you would like to study?

We regret to announce that the Revd. Lex Morrison, Vicar of Black Notley, died recently. He was a good friend and supporter of Ringing

Advanced Practices

These practices continue on the 3rd **Saturday** of each month at St. Michael's Braintree: they follow from the Beyond Bob minor sessions above, extending methods from 6 to 8 and 10 bells. Please come along if you want to ring Treble Bob hunt, Surprise major, or Stedman triples or better. We also intend to ring some Caters and Little Bob Royal methods during the evening whenever practicable.

Please contact Maurice Downs on 01376-330412 if you want to practice a particular method. Suggestions: Look up Rutland and Lincolnshire Surprise Major.....

Future practice dates:

17th November; 19th January 2008;
16th February, and 15th March.

Put them in your Diary **now!**