



Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.eacr.org.uk

Registered Charity No 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019



September 2019

- Friday, 20th September 2019: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 21st September 2019: 10-12 Bell Practice at Waltham Abbey – 10.30am-12noon. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PRACTICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**
- Friday, 27th September 2019: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 28th September 2019: Young Ringers Day Outing.



October 2019 Events

- Saturday, 5th October 2019: NW District Meeting and Call Change Competition at Sawbridgeworth – 9.30am.
- Saturday, 5th October 2019: EACR Management Meeting at Danbury – 2.30pm.
- Saturday, 12th October 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Friday, 18th October 2019: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 19th October 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 19th October 2019: EACR Annual Dinner at Benton Hall Golf and Country Club, Witham.
- Friday, 25th October 2019: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 26th October 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Sunday, 27th October 2019: Young Ringers Practice.



November 2019 Events

- Saturday, 2nd November 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 9th November 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Friday, 15th November 2019: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 16th November 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Friday, 22nd November 2019: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 23rd November 2019: Association Training Day.
- Sunday, 24th November 2019: Young Ringers Practice.
- Saturday, 30th November 2019: Autumn Ringing Course – 9.45am-12.15pm.



Media

To join EACR notices email: EACR-Notices-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



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The History of Bell Ringing – Saturday, 7th September 2019



The History of Bellringing (including at St. Michael's Bishop's Stortford)

An explanation of English Change Ringing and how it developed, including the history at St. Michael's

Saturday Sept 7th at 7.00 pm

Windhill Churches Centre
£10 including Supper

Tickets can be obtained from the Bellringers
or email alan.padgett.inbox@gmail.com

All proceeds to the Bell Restoration Fund

Do you have your tickets for The History of Bell Ringing presentation by Alan Padgett? If not, please contact Alan on:

Alan.padgett.inbox@gmail.com

It sounds a very interesting evening and it would be good to get as many people there as possible to support this good cause.



NW District Meeting and Call Change Competition

The next District meeting and Call Change Competition will take place at Sawbridgeworth at 9.30am on Saturday, 5th October 2019. Two dates have been agreed with Sawbridgeworth on which bands can practice prior to the competition:

- Saturday, 14th September 2019 - 10am-12noon;
- Saturday, 28th September 2019 - 2pm-4pm.

As many bands as possible are encouraged to attend this competition and if your tower would like to participate in a pre-practice, please let me know your preferred date.

Rather than employing the 'arm twisting' tactics which had to be used to encourage bands to enter the Method Striking Competition earlier this year to ensure that the District competition did not 'fall by the wayside' through lack of support, it would be very helpful if you could let me know well in advance if your tower will be entering a band for this competition, and if your tower captain hasn't mentioned anything, take the initiative and chase them! The more the merrier!!



Essex Young Eagles

Well done to the EYE band for achieving, out of 24 bands, a creditable 7th overall placing and an excellent 3rd out of 18 ringing call changes The Ringing World National Youth Contest at Liverpool in July.

Essex Young Ringers practices cater for all levels of ringing for those under the age of 26 with monthly practices, so if any young ringers are under the age of 19 at 31st August 2020 who could be involved in this group at next year's RWNYC, details can be found on the EACR website: <http://eacr.org.uk/eyr/> or via Facebook on: www.facebook.com/groups/youngessexringers/



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Association 6 Bell and Inter-District 8 Bell Competitions – 13th July 2019

The two competitions took place on Saturday, 13th July 2019, hosted by the Southern District. The 6 bell competition took place at St Laurence and All Saints at Eastwood, right next to the runway of Southend Airport. Each District was represented with 10 bands in total taking part and there was some good ringing even with the somewhat odd struck tenor. After the competition, and following a very welcome and impressive tea, the results were announced. Congratulations to Chelmsford Cathedral and well done to all the other bands for taking part.

Place	Band	% Score
1 st	Chelmsford Cathedral	76
2 nd	Kirby-le-Soken	73
3 rd	Coggeshall	72
4 th	Writtle	71
Joint 5 th	Prittlewell and Bishops Stortford	64
7 th	West Ham	63
8 th	Shenfield	62
9 th	Mistley	59
10 th	Willingale	53

After tea the 8 bell competition took place at St Andrew's Church at Rochford, the test piece being Alderney Surprise Major. The bells were extremely light and quite challenging to ring, but congratulations to the South East District and well done to the other bands for taking part.

Place	Band	% Score
1 st	South East	73
2 nd	Southern	72
3 rd	South West	65
4 th	North East	63
5 th	North West	59

Thank you to Tom Lawrence and Elizabeth LeMoine for judging both competitions and to Beth Johnson for organising the event.



Heritage Open Days 2019

Heritage Open Days will take place across two weekends from 13th-22nd September, providing an opportunity to get people into your tower. This year is 25 years of Heritage Open Days and it has a special theme: PEOPLE POWER. There is also a mini-project called 'Unsung Stories', looking at bringing to life stories [individual and collective] that haven't been highlighted before. Does your tower have a unique story? Would it make good publicity for you? HOD can commission artists to work with local organisers to really make that story stand out. To get involved, follow the link: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>



Autumn Ringing Course

The Autumn Ringing Course will take place at Henham over seven Saturday mornings commencing on 12th October 2019 (excluding 23rd November 2019) and will cover Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles.



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Helpers Needed

Helpers are always required to assist on both the Spring and Autumn courses. There are a good number of extremely knowledgeable ringers in the District and if you are willing to spend some time providing advice and passing on the benefit of your experience, please contact Ian Kerwin on iankerwin@btinternet.com for your name to be added to the helpers list.



Saturday Afternoon Practices

The additional Saturday afternoon practices held by Ian Kerwin at Willingale after the Saturday morning Spring Ringing Course again proved very successful and the sessions were extremely well attended. These sessions will take place after the Autumn Ringing Course.



65th Annual Essex Dinner

This year's dinner will be held at Benton Hall Golf and Country Club, Wickham Hill, Witham CM8 3LH. on Saturday, 19th October 2019. Alan Regin MBE, Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour and Revd Paul Watkin, EACR Chaplain, have been confirmed as speakers. The ticket price is £34 and further details of menu and order form can be found on the EACR website.



Association Training Day 2019

This year's training day will take place in the North Western District from 9.30am-4.30pm on Saturday, 23rd November 2019. There will be three groups on offer – Plain Hunting, Plain Bob Doubles and introduction to Stedman Doubles. To apply for a place, download an application form from www.eacr.org.uk training page or send an SAE for an application form to: Richard Wilson, EACR Education Officer, 57 Wiltshire Avenue, Springfield, Chelmsford CM2 6QW. Forms will be available from both sources shortly, with a closing date for applications of 31st October 2019. There are six places in each group - first come, first served. No email applications accepted. There will be a charge of £10 which needs to be paid in advance, cheques payable to EACR.

Courses run by the Association of Ringing Teachers may be available – Module 1 Teaching Bell Handling and Module 2 Foundation Skills and Change ringing. Details of these would be available from the Association Ringing Teachers website, a link for which is available on the EACR training web page. These courses would last slightly longer than the above times.

Helpers are also required for this day; please contact Richard Wilson on 01245 358765 or 07587 140804 or email education@eacr.org.uk if you are able to help.



Association Carol Service

Also some way off, there is no District Carol Service this year as it is the year for the Association Carol Service which takes place once every five years in one of the districts. This year the Carol Service will be held on Saturday, 7th December 2019 at Coggeshall, with ringing from 3.00pm and the service commencing at 4.30pm.



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Training Day – Saturday, 11th January 2020

An extra training day has been arranged at Henham on Saturday, 11th January 2020 for an introduction to Stedman Doubles. Lunch will be arranged at The Cock. If you would like to be part of this group of six, please let Ian Kerwin know. First come, first served.



NW District ADM – Saturday, 25th January 2020

A venue needs to be arranged for the January 2020 ADM so if there is any tower who would be willing to host this event, please let me know as soon as possible.



New and Returned Ringers

Are you aware of any new and returned ringers in your towers who are not on my circulation list for the newsletters/information etc? If so, please ask them to contact me to ensure they are kept informed as to what is happening in the District.



2020 AGM

A reminder that next year's AGM has been moved to Monday, 25th May 2020.



WALTHAM ABBEY 7th BELL - UPDATE

The project to repair the 7th bell is going on a pace! We will be recasting the 6th and 7th bells. As I said before, buy one, get one half price as we will save on labour costs by doing both together!

PCC has agreed the work to be done by Taylors and the Faculty is in progress. With a fair wind it should be granted around the beginning of October. The only condition imposed on us was a Bat Survey which has now taken place. We can boast a couple of long eared bats who are bed and breakfasting in the clock chamber but have considerably roosted away from the bell hatch so will not impede the work.

We continue to ring the front six on Sundays and for weddings. But they don't sound very good! On the Bank Holiday weekend we welcomed ringers from the Waterways Festival in Waltham Abbey and rang 8 but this is rare.

The ringers are fundraising hard and have nearly £2000 towards the project. At present, we have a quiz sheet available from me at £2 an entry (jnewalters2003@hotmail.com). Entries to be submitted by the end of September. We also have a quiz night planned in aid of the Bell Repair Fund on Saturday 9th November. All welcome and bring a table full if you wish.

As soon as we are clear about dates to go with the bell hanging we would be very grateful for any ringer who can spare time to provide labour to work with the bell hanger to get the bells in and out of the tower. Watch this space!

Jane Walters
Waltham Abbey



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District Outing – Saturday, 10th August 2019

For those who were unable to join us on the District outing to six Suffolk churches organised by Penny Browne on Saturday, 10th August 2019, you missed a thoroughly enjoyable day.



We started the day at Blessed Virgin Mary at Pakenham, an anti-clockwise ring of six, greeted with very welcome tea and coffee, and, of course, some tasty cakes. What a way to begin the day!



Onwards to St Mary the Virgin at Ixworth, a very good ring of eight, and then to Saints Peter and Paul at Bardwell, another fine ring of eight, where we broke for some much needed sustenance. Some of the ringers adjourned to the pub whilst others took the opportunity for a picnic in the local park, despite the windy conditions!



We commenced the afternoon ringing sessions at All Saints, Hopton, with a quite light ring of eight; the ringing chamber was certainly cosy! We then moved on to St Mary, Hinderclay, a lovely ring of six.

Our final destination was St Mary the Virgin at Gissingham, again, a fine ring of eight.



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All the towers were within reasonable driving distances apart, ensuring that the least time was spent travelling from one tower to another. We had a really pleasant day, and with rings of six and eight, facilitated the wide range of ringing abilities and methods of the ringers. Different ringers took the practices at each of the towers and the various approaches to running a practice proved a very good experience for everyone, and particularly for the less experienced ringers.

Thank you to the seventeen ringers who came along and particularly to Penny, for arranging such an organised and successful day, and to those who provided the refreshments and cakes – all most welcome.



From left to right and from back to front (more or less):

Nick Hughes, Oliver Lee, Denise Kerwin, Chris McCarthy, Linda Bullough, Pat Cresshull, Liz Griffith Jones, Penny Browne, Ian Cresshull, Hugh Maddams, Megan Ellis, Margaret Padgett, Alan Padgett, Sue Evans, Roger Collins, Ian Kerwin (John Hall missing).

Finally, as a salutary lesson to those ringers who consider themselves 'vertically challenged'! Remember, as well as looking at placing your feet when climbing the narrow steps up to the bell tower, to also look at the height of the doorway. Suffice to say, given that head height of doorways has never been an issue for me, it more than took me by surprise to find myself knocked backwards, nearly taking out the two ringers behind me, and ending up in a very unladylike position (thank goodness for shorts!). The speedy reactions of the two ringers behind me ensured that the three of us didn't tumble all the way to the bottom! It was quite a frightening experience – a painful one too – but a lesson well learned, proving that size does matter!



Looking forward to next year's outing!

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