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NEWSLETTER

No. 2

December, 1988

The Committee Meeting decided to continue the Newsletter in its present format for the next year and review its success or otherwise at the October 1989 Committee Meeting. Any feedback from members would be appreciated as would items for future Newsletters.

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DINNER 1988

The annual dinner and dance was once again held at the Marconi Club in Chelmsford with 124 members and friends sitting down to dinner. The guest speakers were Alan Hughes of The Whitechapel Bell Foundry and The Right Reverend Derek Bond, Bishop of Bradwell. Dancing was to the Roger Key Sound and a successful evening drew to a close at 1.00 a.m. The raffle during the evening raised over £100 for bell restoration.

YOUR VIEWS PLEASE ...

Do you have any feelings about the dinner? Is the Marconi Club the right place to hold it? What do you feel about the food? the service? the band? the organisation? anything? Would you be prepared to pay, say, another £5 per head to go to a slightly more upmarket establishment? Would you object if the dinner were to be held on the third Saturday of October next year? Your views (by the end of Jan) will help us to try and provide what you want.

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ESSEX TROPHY COMPETITION

7 teams took part in the 10 bell inter-Association striking competition for the Essex Trophy which took place at Reigate. The Essex team was very disappointed to be piped to the post once again and to be placed second; Winchester & Portsmouth beat us by only 2 faults and Hertford came third. The other results were: 4th - Surrey Association; 5th - Kent County Association; 6th - Sussex County Association; 7th - Guildford Diocesan Guild.

COMMITTEE - OCTOBER 1988

1. Public Relations

Ian Roper has decided he is unable to continue as Public Relations Officer and Simon Poyser was co-opted in his place. David Childs has now taken over responsibility for the sale of books.

2. Unringable Parishes

Last year a letter was sent to all unringable parishes by the Central Council Bell Restoration Committee to try and encourage them to start restoration projects. In August this year a follow-up letter was sent by the Association which has resulted so far in replies from Canewdon and Great Sampford to the effect that they are hoping to start projects in the next year or so. Obviously they will need assistance and the Association will do all it can to support them. Other towers, although not considering projects in the near future, thanked the Association for contacting them. If YOU have any contacts or up-to-date information on any of our unringable parishes which might be considering a restoration project, or would just like to know more about what it could involve, please get in touch with either your District Secretary, Ann Chapman or David Sloman.

3. Education

Adrian Semken advised that the Central Council is planning to hold its July residential ringing course in Essex in 1990/91. An overhead projector has now been purchased and is held by the Education Officer.

4. Annual Report

Don't forget to let your District Secretary know of any mistakes with tower details or membership lists which need correcting. If you want to make sure quarter peals are listed in the Report, please let Simon Poyser have the necessary details by the end of January. Work on the 1988 Report will start in January.

5. Members will be pleased to learn that there will be no increase in subscriptions for next year.

BBC Children In Need

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On Friday 18th November between 8.00 and 9.00 p.m. bells in 40+ towers throughout Essex rang out in support of the BBC Children In Need Appeal. This was co-ordinated by Simon Poyser and although the target of £5,000 agreed with BBC Essex seemed rather daunting at the time, your efforts have so far helped the Association to raise over £9,000 (as at 3/12/88). To all towers who raised money through sponsorship or simply made a donation because they were unable to ring - VERY MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Thanks to the District Secretaries for trying to contact as many towers as possible and apologies to those towers which did not hear about it. With only about two weeks to arrange it there was not enough time to contact everyone. Next time hopefully there will be more notice!

For information, the "League Table" is as follows (some figures are only approximate and apologies if your tower has been missed):
Downham (£663), Wanstead (£650), Galleywood (£548), Braintree (£478), Grays (£400), Maldon (£370), Nazeing + Epping Upland (£362), Rayne (£360), Writtle (£332), Halstead (£301), Leigh-on-Sea (£300), Stebbing (£300), Wethersfield (£300), Little Waltham (£295), Great Yeldham (£288), Kelvedon (£288), Eastwood (£265), Romford (£259), Great Dunmow (£245), Chigwell (£230), Brentwood (£222), Great Waltham (£210), Shenfield (£190), Felsted (£188), Hatfield Heath (£150), High Easter (£110), Leyton (£106), Great Totham (£102), Great Baddow (£100), Hutton (£75), Safron Walden (£55), Springfield (£51), St Leonard, Colchester (£20), Burnham on Crouch (£10) + miscellaneous donations from towers unable to ring - Stanford-le-Hope, Danbury, Hornchurch, Kirby-le-Soken - and The Bay Horse, Moulsham Street! (£290).

A prize will be given to the tower and the individual ringer who raises the most money for the Appeal. At the moment Downham leads the towers at £663.50 and £250 is the most raised by an individual ringer. Please send any claims in excess of these amounts to Ann Chapman.

LIBRARY

The Chelmsford Central Library, which houses the Association's books, has now moved to the new Civic Centre in Victoria Road South near the multi-storey car park. The Association books are kept in a small room off the main library; please ask at the Enquiry desk if you wish to see them.

Essex Heritage Year 1989

1989 has been designated Essex Heritage Year by the County Council. The Churches have been asked to co-operate and the Association has been asked if ringing could be arranged in as many towers as possible on SATURDAY 13th MAY between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. (not necessarily for the whole two hours) to ring in the Festival of Pentecost. Your support for this request would be very much appreciated.

COVENANTS

Have YOU covenanted your subscription yet?

Do you realise that for every subscription paid the Association can claim £1.33 from the Inland Revenue?

At present approximately 12% of members have covenanted their subscription. If everyone eligible did so the Association benefit each year by approximately £750.

How do you covenant?

Covenanting is very easy. All you have to do is obtain a covenant form from your District Secretary or the Treasurer, fill in your name and address and sign the form in front of a witness (e.g. the District Secretary). You are also required to give details of your employment and tax office (if known) on a separate form. From then on all you have to do is pay your subscription annually.

Who can covenant?

Any member of the Association who pays tax is eligible to covenant. If you are a married woman who is not working, you can still covenant by providing details of your husband's employment or tax office.

If you wish to make a regular donation to the Association this may also be covenanted thus increasing your donation by almost one third.

At your next district event, ask your secretary for a Covenant Form.

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

At the South East District call change competition held at Goldhanger, five bands entered and Great Totham were placed first for the second year running.

Tower open days were held in the South West District and Northern District over the August bank holiday weekend and between them raised over £400 for bell restoration.

In the Southern District a peal was arranged at Rayleigh on September 3rd to celebrate the Golden Wedding anniversary of Alf and Grace House. Alf organised ringing at Rayleigh for many years until his retirement.

NOMINATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This year the following members have been nominated as LIFE MEMBERS of the Association in accordance with Rule 7:

Geoffrey Iegar and Stanley Leach of Great Holland - proposed by Frank Lufkin and seconded by Bewley Weaver.

Dr Lewis Castleden of Great Dunmow - proposed by Maurice Downs and seconded by Tim Peverett.

The following member has been nominated as a LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT of the Association in accordance with Rule 7:

Bernard Fairhead of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe, Colchester - proposed by Brian Lord and seconded by Malcolm Oliver.

More details will be available at your Annual District Meetings where you will be able to indicate your support or otherwise for these nominations.

12-Bell Competition

One of the eliminators for the 1989 National 12-Bell Striking Competition will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral. So if you want to hear some good 12-bell ringing come and listen on Saturday 18th March.

INSURANCE

Are you aware that the Association pays annual insurance premiums for Public Liability and Personal Accident? These policies cover all current resident members of the Association. Further details of the policies will appear in the next Newsletter. It is worth continuing your membership in order to take advantage of this insurance cover.

SOUTH WEALD - DEDICATION

St Peter's, South Weald was packed on the evening of Wednesday 30th November, for the re-dedication of the original six bells and the hallowing of the two trebles. The Bishop of Chelmsford blessed each of the bells in turn and in his address he left us with three points to consider: Thanksgiving, Dedication and Mission. The bells will be rung for the first time during Family Communion on 18th December and in the afternoon a peal will be attempted.

FRIENDS OF CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

The Friends of Chelmsford Cathedral are a fellowship of people who pray for the Cathedral and who assist the work of preserving the fabric and beautifying the building. The Cathedral serves the Church and the people of the Diocese in three ways: by offering prayer and worship day by day, by providing special episcopal and diocesan services, synods and events and by using its resources to examine new opportunities for ministry and service. YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT ARE NEEDED if the Cathedral is to serve the Diocese as it should, and you are warmly invited to join the Friends of Chelmsford Cathedral. The subscription is £2 annually and if you would like more information please contact Ann Chapman or the Friend's Honorary Secretary: Miss I.L.C. Poplar, 110 Beeches Road, Chelmsford CM1 2RX.

PEAL FEES

A reminder - all outstanding peal fees for 1988 up to 18th December should be paid to the Association by the end of December 1988.

Snippets from The Ringing World

Peals and quarters for the Armada Celebrations were rung at High Easter (2 quarters and a peal!), Wormingford, Grays, Brentwood, Little Waltham, Great Totham, Navestock, Rayne and Thorington.

Peals and quarters for the birth of Princess Beatrice were rung at Colchester - St Leonard at the Hythe, St Peter and Shrub End, Great Totham, Ingatestone, Maldon (St Mary), North Ockendon, Shenfield, Barkingside and Bocking.

A quarter peal was rung on 9th July at Leigh-on-Sea prior to a Mollieben (thanksgiving) service commemorating the millenium of the Baptism of Russian Orthodoxy in 1888. "Russian style" ringing was not attempted in the end!

Quarters were rung at Bocking and Gosfield in memoriam Maud Ethel Moore.

To celebrate Clive and Janet Moore's silver wedding anniversary, quarters were rung at Hatfield Broad Oak and Sawbridgeworth.

A peal was rung at Great Baddow to mark the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip for the Centenary of the Borough of Chelmsford.

On 2nd July a quarter was rung at Bradwell to mark the start of the annual pilgrimage to the Chapel of St Peter on the Wall.

The reunion of the American 'Coggeshall' family was marked by a peal of Yorkshire at Coggeshall on 26th July.

Sarah Furber conducted her first quarter on 29th July from the tenor of Great Baddow - never before done by a lady ringer at Great Baddow.

The quarter at Great Bentley on 25th July was to celebrate 50 years since rehangng of the bells.

A peal board worked in tapestry was presented to St Peter's, Colchester and contained 38,502 stitches.

Southern District ringers raised £250 for the Friends of Essex Churches by visiting 27 churches during the sponsored bike ride on 10th September.

A quarter of Grandsire Caters was rung at Prittlewell on 6th November prior to the Service of Thanksgiving for the restoration of the tower when the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford gave the address. The work has cost £101,000.

CONGRATULATIONS

Engagements: Jayne Tapp and Andrew Hogg
Steven Nash and Allison Beech

Marriages: Neil Avis and Pamela Routledge
Angus Dodds and Jeni Taylor

Births: Matthew James to Philip and Karen Saunders
Ria Annette to Steven and Josien Woolmer
Ruth Elizabeth to Paul and Pat Clarry
Daniel to Paul and Caroline Andrews

Silver Weddings: Clive and Janet Moore
Alan and Maureen Cansdale
Canon Anthony and Mary Abbey

Ruby Wedding: Joyce and Ron Petchey

Golden Wedding: Alf and Grace House

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1989

January	7	ADM - Danbury	South-East
	7	ADM - Coggeshall	Northern
	14	ADM - Mistley	North-East
	14	ADM - Waltham Abbey	South-West
	21	ADM - Shenfield	Southern
	28	ADM - Helions Bumpstead	North-West
February	4	Executive Committee Meeting - Danbury	
May	1	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Chelmsford	

See The Ringing World for full details of all practices and meetings.

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for April. Contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 22nd MARCH 1989.