

# EA CR

## NEWSLETTER

No. 6

April, 1990

I am sure you will be fed up reading about the dinner yet again, but the findings of the questionnaire are included in this NEWSLETTER together with reasons why we are going to the Marconi Club! I'm afraid the NEWSLETTER has been rather 'thrown together' this month in order to get it out at the same time as the Reports, so apologies for bad grammar or wrong spellings! There are no Snippets or Congratulations from *The Ringing World* this time as I have simply not had time to do them. Many thanks to those who have sent items for inclusion in the NEWSLETTER. AFC

## A.G.M. Agenda

Unfortunately, there is an item missing from the AGM Agenda as printed in the Annual Report. Item B. now becomes 8A, and item 8B. reads as follows:

**Silver Salver:** It is proposed that the unscribed Silver Salver, originally given to Bob Heazel and now property of the Association, be sold and the money so realised be used for a capital fund to provide sponsorship of ringers attending ringing courses.

Proposed: F.B. Lufkin

Seconded: H.H. Furminger

The Silver Salver was presented to Bob Heazel who was Master of the Association from 1953 to 1967 and on his death it was given back to the Association. It is hallmarked, unscribed, 10" in diameter, weighs 17½ ozs and is insured for £825.

Apologies for this oversight - that's what happens when minutes are not written up immediately following a meeting!

## AGM

The Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May in Chelmsford Cathedral. The bells will be available from about 9.15 a.m., the service will be at 10.00 with the Provost giving the address and the meeting will commence at approx. 11.00 a.m. The old Cathedral Hall has now been demolished so morning coffee and lunch will be in St Cedd's Hall on the ground floor of the new Chapter House adjacent to the old hall; the Southern District have the pleasure (?) of being the first district to test the new premises. Ringing in the afternoon will be in the South-West district - details below:

14.30 - 15.30	Hornchurch (St Andrew)	(8)	544869
15.00 - 16.00	Romford (St Edward)	(8)	512889
15.30 - 16.15	Barkingside (St George)	(8)	431887
16.00 - 17.00	Chigwell Row (All Saints)	(8)	465933
16.30 - 18.00	TEA AT CHIGWELL		
17.15 - 18.00	Chigwell (St Mary Less)	(6)	441937
17.30 - 18.30	Leyton (St Mary Virgin)	(8)	377868
18.15 - 19.15	Walthamstow (St Mary)	(10)	377892

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you require lunch (£3) or tea (£1.50) tickets please contact Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (Tel: 0245 358040).

## 1990 Calendar

The Association Calendar has again been a success and raised more than £250 for the bell fund. If any of the illustrations caught your eye, there will be an opportunity to view the original drawings on May 7th at the A.G.M. lunch in Chelmsford. The illustrations, most of which are twice the size as those in the calendar, will then be sold to the highest bidder. Please let Helen Harpole know if you are interested in any of the pictures, and whether you will be at the A.G.M., otherwise you may miss out! All proceeds will go to the Essex Association.

Helen is also willing to undertake commissions. If you would be interested in having an original drawing of your favourite church or building (within a drivable distance), then drop her a line or ring (0702) 715772.

## A.D.M. CHANGES

The following new District Officers were elected at the January A. D. M. 's:

Southern:	Deputy Master Committee Rep	Roger Dorking David Hill
South-East:	Deputy Master Committee Rep	Ken Davis Mick Edwards
South-West:	Master Deputy Master Committee Rep	Ian Blows Colin Newman Annette Seccombe
Northern:	Committee Rep	Mike Bishop
North-East:	Deputy Master:	Malcolm Oliver
North-West:	Deputy Master: Secretary Committee Rep	Jeni Dodds Frank Warboys Mary Bone

## *Sponsorship*

At the October Committee Meeting it was decided to implement a pilot scheme for the sponsorship of youngsters in full-time education on ringing courses. This was discussed further in February when Frank Lufkin suggested that instead of taking money for sponsorship from the General Fund, a separate capital fund should be set up, the interest from which could be used to sponsor ringing students. This was agreed and the fund has now been started. Any members wishing to contribute to this fund and thus help ringers in a very positive way to improve their ringing ability, should contact David Childs.

Only one ringer had applied for a grant to go on the Hereford Course and this was agreed. Have fun, Katherine and let us know all about it!

If any ringers wish to attend future courses, they should apply in writing to their district master, detailing the type of course and the approximate cost. This should be endorsed by their tower captain.

# Committee - February

1. The nomination for Bert Goddard (Chelmsford) to become a Life Member of the Association was approved and will go forward to the AGM.
2. There are two motions, approved by the Committee, on the AGM Agenda. One formalises the 8-bell striking competition rules and the second is a proposal that all nominations for Life Vice-Presidents should come from the Committee. Members would, of course, be able to 'lobby' their District Officers if they felt there was a deserving case. The nominations will still have to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.
3. David Sloman has been having a hard time trying to keep up with requests for inspections, not only from ringing towers but also through the Diocese from churches requesting faculties to have work done on their towers. He would welcome offers of assistance with inspections.
4. It was agreed to offer Fobbing a grant of £250 towards repair-work to the mullions of the tower. Consideration of the grant request from Witham was deferred pending further research into the work required.
5. A sub-committee is being formed under the chairmanship of Don Cobb to consider some of the findings of the Central Council Survey, how they apply to Essex and what we might do about them.
6. A cheque for £100 was received from the West Anglian Guild of Ringers.

## CAR BOOT SALE

Don't forget the Car Boot Sale at Woods Farm, Galleywood Common on Sunday 10th June. The cost of a pitch for ringers is £5, which will go to the bell fund together with a percentage of the takings and entrance fee. Now is the chance for you to turn out your cupboards, garage, loft etc. and help raise money for the bell restoration.

# W.I.

On Tuesday 11th September the Women's Institute celebrates its 75th anniversary. They would be delighted if church bells throughout Essex could ring out in celebration of this anniversary and if any quarter peals/peals are rung, please submit details to Ann Chapman by the the end of September.

## Webb Ivory

As some will know, Liz Hull has had to give up handling Webb Ivory goods for the Association. She, as well as her predecessor Chris Halliwell, have put a lot of work into raising funds for bell restoration through Webb Ivory - last year a cheque for £200 was presented to the Association.

Liz finds that a lot of the income comes from purchasing packs of birthday cards, pricing them individually and selling them through the districts, at work, amongst friends and so on. The remaining income comes from sale of Christmas goods. This involves obtaining the catalogues, circulating them to the districts (usually by the striking competition finals), collating orders before sending to Webb Ivory, receiving and sorting out orders (not all items on an order arrive together) and then distributing to customers (usually via the 'bush telegraph'). Some storage space is needed while orders are coming in and about one evening per week of your time between September and December sorting everything out.

This is a valuable source of income and I'm sure there is somebody out there, perhaps a young retired person or non-working (ha,ha) mother with time on their hands, who would be prepared to take on the Webb Ivory account and continue raising money for the bell fund in this way. Please contact either Liz Hull (0375 381982) or myself for further information.

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### On Trial?

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During a recent gale our non-ringer home help took a 'phone call cancelling a quarter. She considered it urgent and passed it on verbally when we arrived home, but appeared confused by remarks about church towers and high winds. Later we found her note - "Court appeal cancelled tonight". Any suggestions on how to restore our credibility?  
Anon.

# DINNER

With only 44 questionnaires returned, representing about half of the members normally attending the dinner (bearing in mind some couples have completed one questionnaire between them), the following findings may not be very meaningful. Presumably the other 50% can't be bothered, can't afford 15p or don't care where they go.

Looking at opinions on the Marconi Club, generally 2% thought the Club was very good/excellent, 27% classed it as fair/poor and the remainder were in between. However, 66% stated they would be happy to continue going to the Club although some expressed a wish to try somewhere else. Only 20% preferred to have no dancing, the others generally preferred a band. 82% stated they would be prepared to pay £16-18 for a dinner ticket.

We were hoping to either go to the Rivenhall (although the premises are a bit small) or the Essex Restaurant at the top of County Hall. However, increased prices have again proved prohibitive and as at the February Committee Meeting all except one or two who normally attend the dinner voted to go back to the Marconi Club (the remainder abstained) we have decided to return there again this year.

Alternative venues are still being investigated - sometimes it is very difficult to get the date we want as some groups book up the same date year after year. There is also the possibility of going further afield, for example Rochford, where there are two or three venues with reasonably priced food, but they are rather a long way off the 'beaten track'.

If anyone has any bright ideas, especially if they have first-hand experience of possible dinner venues, please give me a ring.

# Around the Districts

There was not as much support for ringing for the BBC Children In Need Appeal last November as in 1988. Even so cheques totalling £5200 have been presented to BBC Essex. A good effort by all concerned particularly Writtle who raised £620 and Leytonstone who raised approximately £800 (not included in the above total).

Ringing for the Church Urban Fund during the weekend of 3rd/4th March was practically non-existent! Perhaps everyone has already done their fair share in support of this fund at their local church. Many thanks to David Belchem for arranging a quarter peal day in support of the fund. The Northern District had a meeting on 3rd March so the collection and raffle went to the fund.

In the North-West District a sponsored peal at Matching to raise money for the restoration of the bells was unsuccessful. A second attempt, however, did come round and £500 has been raised. Matching bells have now been taken out and it is hoped to have them ringing again by the Autumn.

A 'cats' sculpture-sundial was dedicated in memory and in honour of Noel Ta'Bois (South-West District). It is located in the grounds of the Whipps Cross Hospital where Noel received treatment prior to his death, and depicts two cats which used to visit the hospital, the tail of one being the gnomon.

George Button (North-East District) rang a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Great Holland in January on his 80th birthday.

There was simultaneous ringing of the bells of St Leonard at the Hythe, St Peter's and Shrub End in December during the 800th anniversary celebrations of the granting of Colchester's Royal Charter.

A 'Chelmsford' band (South-Eastern & Southern Districts) rang well and came third in the National 12-Bell Striking Competition eliminator held at St Martin-in-the-Field, London. It is claimed that the subsequent rioting had nothing to do with it!

In the South-Eastern District Striking Competition Chelmsford fielded two teams - one ladies and one 'others' - and came first and second.

The Downham ringers (Southern District) are busy painting their bellframe so the newly restored bells and fittings can be installed.

# Calendar of Events

May	7	A. G. M. - CHELMSFORD & SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT	
	12	Eastwood - Striking Competition	Southern
	12	Ridgman Trophy Ten-Bell Competition - Bury St Edmunds	
	12	District Outing	South-West
	18	Bradwell-juxta-Mare - Practice	South-East
	19	District Dinner	Northern
	26	Heydon - Practice	North-West
	28	DISTRICT OPEN DAY	South-East
June	2	Terling - Meeting	South-East
	2	Navestock - Striking Competition	South-West
	9	Great Easton - Striking Competition	Northern
	9	Barbecue	Southern
	10	CAR BOOT SALE - WOOD FARM, GALLEYWOOD	
	16	Stanford-le-Hope - Practice	Southern
	16	Car Rally	South-West
	17	Quarter Peal Week	South-East
	23	Great Ringing Day - Saffron Walden	North-West
	29	Rayne - Learners' Practice	Northern
July	7	STRIKING COMPETITION FINALS -	North-East
	12	Purleigh - Practice	South-East
	14	Prittlewell - Practice	Southern
	14	West Ham - Meeting (to be confirmed)	South-West
	28	Clavering & Arkesden - Practice	North-West
	28	Treasure Hunt/Barbecue	Northern
Aug	18	Greenstead Green - Practice	Northern
Sept	1	Wickham St Paul/Gestingthorpe - Meeting	Northern
	1	Chelmsford - Meeting	South-East
	1	Car Treasure Hunt	Southern
	15	Essex Trophy Ten-Bell Competition - Guildford	
	15	Meeting	Southern
	26	Ingatestone - Practice	South-East
	29	Pub Games Evening	Northern

North-West District: 2nd Friday - Special Practice at Stansted  
 4th Friday - Learners' Practice  
 5th Saturday - Sawbridgeworth Practice  
 5th Tuesday - Saffron Walden Practice

Check *The Ringing World* for full details of meetings and practices.

The next issue of the NEWLETTER is planned for AUGUST. Contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9PF (Tel: 0245 358040) by 20th July 1990



