

EA CR NEWSLETTER

No. 11

DECEMBER 1991

Tower:

On behalf of the Association Officers, a very Happy Christmas to ringers throughout Essex and best wishes for the New Year. AFC

Exhibition

Preparations for the exhibition being organised by Simon Poyser in the Public Square, County Hall, Chelmsford are in full swing. However, helpers are still required. The exhibition runs from Saturday 14th December to Saturday 4th January and is open every day except Sundays and bank holidays. The chairman of the County Council, Mr Paul White, will be opening the exhibition on 14th December at 10.00 a.m. Prizes for Christmas card designs on a bell theme by Writtle Infants School children will be awarded on Saturday 21st December.

Districts have been allocated different Saturdays to provide helpers and handbell ringing as follows:

14th December	open to all
21st December	Northern & North-East Districts
28th December	Southern & South-East Districts
4th January	South-West & North-West Districts

If you can't make your particular Saturday you can always come on a different one and it would be even better if people could help during the week as well. You won't have to do very much - just be there to give out leaflets and answer any questions from the public. There must be plenty of retired members, school children or teachers out there who could give up a couple of hours to do that - you can always go Christmas shopping or pick up a bargain in the sales on the same day! Please volunteer - you might get a recruit for your own tower.

Essex Course

The three day non-residential training course will be held at Honeywood School, Coggeshall from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th April 1992. It will be run along similar lines to the 1991 course with practical sessions, tutorials and lectures. It is also hoped to include a bell-handling "clinic" on the first day and a session on tower management and instruction. Course application leaflets should be available from Adrian Semken (0376 561183) from January - a notice should appear in the Christmas issue of *The Ringing World*. Early application is advised to avoid disappointment. Do make sure you apply for a group which you think you will be able to cope with - if in doubt talk it over with your tower captain, Adrian or one of your district officers.

Helpers HELP!

Although our Education Officer and his hard-working assistant do a tremendous job organising the one-day and three-day courses, they could still do with more helpers to volunteer their services. Sometimes large groups cannot be sub-divided because there are simply not enough helpers to go round.

"OK", you may say, "but what does being a helper involve?" Firstly you do not have to be able to ring Spliced Surprise Maximus, conduct or stand behind people! If you can handle your bell well, strike it reasonably accurately most of the time and ring plain hunt, you could be a helper on the basic rounds and call changes and plain hunt group. If you can ring Plain Bob Doubles without mistakes (or only occasionally when you've gone to sleep after ringing it 23 times) then you could help in that group. You don't need to put people right or stand behind them if you can't or don't want to. You are there to help provide a strong band round a learner. In return (on the 3-day course) you are entitled to attend any lectures which take your fancy and join in with the social on the Friday evening - all free of charge! So go on, give it a try - it's good fun and you will also go away afterwards with a sense of having put something back into ringing in return for the teaching you yourself have received.

DINNER

The annual dinner and dance, held at the Rivenhall Resort Hotel near Witham this year, was highly successful judging by remarks made during the evening and afterwards. The setting was lovely, the food was good with plenty of it, the service attentive and although the dance floor was rather on the small side it was surprising how many people squeezed on to it for a shuffle round. The raffle during the evening raised over £160 for bell restoration.

Next year the dinner will be at the New World Hotel, Great Warley nr Brentwood on Saturday 10th October, and I hope we shall get even more support then. Book the date now!

GRANTS

Sponsorship

Don't forget the Association now gives grants for students to attend ringing courses. If you are interested ask your district secretary or general secretary for an application form in good time.

Restoration

Requests for grants towards bell restoration projects should be made on the appropriate application form in good time for consideration at the February or October Committee Meeting.

DRAW

The Association is planning to hold a Grand Draw next year which will take place on the day of the Striking Competition finals. If anyone can persuade their company to donate a prize please let me know as soon as possible - it would help increase our profits.

Notices of Motion

Notices of motion (rule changes etc) and nominations for Honorary Officers i.e. Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees and Auditors, need to be received by the general secretary by 1st February 1992.

Committee

This was one of our longer Committee Meetings mainly due to discussion on Central Council representation and the Sunday Service ringing sub-committee.

1) Central Council representation and the draft Code of Practice for the Conservation of Historic Bells and Bellframes were topics discussed at a meeting convened between the C.C. reps and three Association officers. It was agreed that we were in broad agreement with the Code of Practice. With regard to C.C. representation, it was thought that the distinction between non-territorial and territorial societies should be strengthened but there should be separate criteria for assessing non-territorial societies and furthermore they should be subject to review every 9-12 years.

2) Members will be pleased to hear there is no increase in the subscriptions which remain at £5 for ringing members and non-resident members and £2.50 for Friends. Remember - membership subs are due in January each year. You may not be covered by the new insurance if you fail to pay promptly.

3) Maurice and Kath Downs have very kindly volunteered to take over the sale of books from January 1992. They will be going round to district meetings with the books from time to time, but if you require one in the meantime, do not hesitate to give them a ring (tel: 0376 20412).

4) A change of format for the AGM was discussed but it will remain the same for the moment. An alternative venue for the meeting itself is being sought.

5) Grants agreed at the meeting were as follows:

Great Canfield rehanging 3 bells for swing chiming - cost of work £9000; grant £500.

Great Totham rehanging 6 bells - cost of work £13000; grant £1500.

Writtle frame work to prevent movement - cost of work £251; grant £75.

Basildon are building a new tower to house the bells from St. Nicholas, Colchester. Cost of project - £150-200,000. A grant has been promised but the amount has not yet been agreed.

Both *High Easter* and *Great Bromley* have rot in their ringing room floors and ringing is not allowed. Further grants or loans are to be considered at the next Committee Meeting.

St Luke's Hospital

Sponsored peals in aid of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy were attempted at 7 towers and at least four of these were successful. Several quarters were also rung and North Ockendon had an equivalent peal with four quarters during the day. Thank you all those who supported this cause.

Terry Waite

As you will know churches throughout the country were asked to ring on the evening of Terry Waite's arrival back in England on Tuesday 19th November. It was impossible to contact many of the secretaries during the day but I know that many churches did arrange ringing without any prompting. I believe there were at least 50 towers in Essex ringing that evening with at least 16 quarters attempted and many quarter peals will have been attempted since then. There were reports in newspapers and BBC Essex broadcast ringing from Witham on the Wednesday morning. Well done everyone - I understand all the details of ringing will be printed together in *The Ringing World*.

Webb Ivory

Thank you to everyone who has supported bell restoration through ordering Webb Ivory goods, and a special thank you to those who have helped by delivering them.

I shall be continuing to keep a stock of birthday cards etc throughout the year, so if anyone would like a selection to sell at a meeting, at work or to look through for themselves, please let me know. I'm still at: 95A Central Avenue, Southend-on-Sea; tel: 0702 467090. Jane Bardwell

Sub-Committee

At the Committee Meeting there was some discussion about how to attract new ringers. As people retire earlier there should be potential there for teaching recruits during the day. Another point discussed was how the clergy could be encouraged to view ringing as an important aspect of the Church. This can be difficult when there are a lot of ringers in a band who do not attend the service they ring for. Although conversely, it is not always appreciated how much time ringers do sometimes devote to perhaps ringing for services in other towers and also to undertaking bell maintenance. Communications would appear to be the key to both these problems.

It was agreed the sub-committee should continue for the time-being and at a subsequent meeting it was decided to produce something more concrete in the form of a series of "Ideas" leaflets on topics such as displays, recruitment etc; the first one should be issued shortly. Please note they are supposed to be ideas - we are not trying to dictate to anyone how to do things and any comments on the leaflets, either appreciative or critical, to any of the sub-committee members would be helpful.

The sub-committee presently consists of the following: Don Cobb, Ann Chapman, Maurice & Kath Downs, Fred & Mary Bone and Mark Woolley. Anyone wishing to join the group should contact Don Cobb.

Around the Districts

It was nice to see ringers from most districts within the Association at the ringers' Songs of Praise recording at St Martin's-in-the-Field in London. The programme is due to be broadcast on 5th January - see who you can spot!

The Essex Trophy inter-Association 10-bell striking competition was held at Braintree. It was won by Surrey and Essex came fourth.

An enjoyable Quiz Night was held at the Five Bells, Colne Engaine by the Northern District which Gosfield won. The 12-bell practice at Saffron Walden was well supported by those wanting an opportunity to ring on 12 with rounds and call changes, plain hunt, Little Bob Maximus and Stedman Cinques being rung. The November service and meeting was held at Halstead with evening ringing at Gosfield.

The newly rehung bells at Rayne were rededicated by the Bishop of Colchester on Sunday 24th November. After the service there was general ringing and a buffet lunch in the hall. One of the Rayne ringers with luxuriant facial growth had been sponsored to have it all cut off and the great shave took place after lunch.

The South-East District call-change competition was held at Boreham with six teams participating. It was won by Little Waltham.

The sunflower competition in the Southern District was won by Martin Newman of Eastwood with a 12' 4" specimen; he won a box of Roses! This raised £21 for restoration and sales of Galaxy chocolate raised a further £20 (to make up for the sponsored slim last year).

The North-East District outing went to Salisbury and was well attended. The district won the cricket match against the Suffolk Guild South-Eastern district. Regrettably just as Great Bromley were about to get back in action, further rot was found in the ringing room floor which has now got to be repaired.

A quiz evening was held by the North-West District with Fred Bone as quiz master. It was won by a combined Hatfield Heath and Matching team and raised £62 for bell restoration. Fyfield held a successful open day with over 50 visitors which resulted in two learners.

The main theme of the South-West District recently has been learners. A number of events have been held to target learners generally or at specific towers and progress has been good. The learners' day at Ilford was attended by learners from Ilford and Barking and in November learners from Loughton were invited to Chigwell to practise handling as well as starting out on rounds, call changes, plain hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. A couple of special practices have been held at Walthamstow St Saviour's, where there are some enthusiastic learners but no regular practice and only a few experienced ringers. It is hoped that a local bend will be formed in due course. Finally, Havering-atte-Bower, long silent, now practise regularly on Tuesday evenings and are making good and enthusiastic progress.

The theme of learners will be continued next year with special practices at individual towers and it is hoped that the stalwart band of experienced ringers helping at such events will be ever expanding.

Association Registers

Congratulations to the following ringers who have recently been married:

David & Marlene Fry (Old Harlow)
Sally & Peter Brisley (Writtle)

and to John and Freda Thurston (Matching) - on their 50th wedding anniversary in January next year.

We regret to record the following deaths:

George Button (Life Member) Thorington
Len Day Great Waltham
Ernie Morey (Life Member) Epping

As Epping church has been closed for structural repairs, Ernie Morey's funeral service took place at Higham crematorium. A service of thanksgiving is planned for Saturday 14th December at Epping.

Calendar of Events

December	7	Social - Great Totham	South-East
	7	Carol Service - Eastwood	Southern
	14	Carol Service - Wormingford	North-East
	14	Carol Service - Hatfield Heath	North-West
	14	Carol Service - Bocking	Northern
January	4	Tollesbury	South-East
	4	Kelvedon & Witham	Northern
	11	Chigwell Row	South-West
	11	Great Holland	North-East
	18	Grays	Southern
	25	Harlow & Sawbridgeworth	North-West

The next NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1992. Any contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (tel: 0245 358040) by 14th March 1992.