

# EA CR

## NEWSLETTER

No. 13

AUGUST 1992

### TOWER:

This Newsletter contains a BIG PLUG for the dinner as well as various other bits of information including brief details about the training day. For all those aspiring Masters and Secretaries, there are two brief articles on their respective jobs. Yes, after very careful consideration, I have decided to stand down next year so there will be two new Association officers to be elected at the 1993 AGM. If anyone wants further information please contact either Paul C. or myself. AFC

## Dinner

SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 1992 is dinner day and the venue this year is the New World Hotel, Great Warley, Brentwood. There is plenty of room there with an area away from the dance floor if you want to just chat to friends. Apart from the AGM this is the only occasion when ringers and friends from throughout the Association can socialise together so come along and make the most of it.

For the third year running tickets will be priced at £18, but it is up to you to help me make sure this doesn't result in a loss - we must get more than 100 people as that is the minimum we shall be charged for. If we get more than 120 I shall let out a sigh of relief and if we get up to 140, in spite of the recession, I shall be ecstatic!! The menu will be soup, roast turkey, apple pie and cream, coffee and mints. If anyone is unable to eat any of it, with a good reason, I shall endeavour to obtain an alternative. Tickets are now available from the Secretary - early booking (with payment) is always appreciated so that I sleep easier at nights!

# DRAW

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who sold tickets for the Grand Draw. One tower, Goldhanger, donated a prize, for which many thanks, but otherwise all prizes had to be purchased. Once the cost of these and printing the draw tickets had been deducted, the profit going to the bell restoration account amounted to about £400. This was much better than last time we held the draw and I think it would be worth doing again although not on an annual basis. There could still have been a lot more tickets sold - a profit of £900+ could have been achieved for very little effort. Congratulations to the prizewinners listed below:

1st Edinburgh Crystal glasses - D. Rook, Springfield; 2nd 35mm compact camera - L.J. Carter, Gosfield; 3rd set of suitcases - Sue Howland, Braintree; 4th personal stereo - B.A. Abrey, Goldhanger; 5th clock radio - Amy Spencer, Great Wakering; 6th table lamp - J. Dobson, Stanford-le-Hope; 7th picture frames - Sue Page, Terling; 8th gift token - C. Wood, Kelvedon; 9th gift token - Mrs E.A. Harpole, Braintree; 10th game - L. Hope, Braintree; 11th Bottles of wine - P. Pask, Britvic; 12th cuddly toy panda - C.J. Stephenson, Hornchurch.

# Training Day

The Association one day training course will be held on Saturday 26th September at Brentwood and the cost will be no more than £3 per head.

Topics on offer this year include Plain Bob Minor, teaching bell handling and calling call changes but Adrian Semken would like you to say what you would like and if there are enough takers he will try and arrange it. Please phone him as soon as possible to book a place (0376 561183).

As usual helpers will be required and if you are interested please let Adrian know as soon as possible. As stated before, helpers do not need to be whizz kids - just able to accurately ring Bob Doubles / Minor / Call Changes several times during the day.

# Striking Competitions

In May the Association entered a band organised by Maurice Downs in the Ridgman Trophy 10-bell competition held at Bedford on a very wet May Saturday with 7 teams taking part. Unfortunately Essex only managed 5th place but Maurice is intending to try and keep the same core of people and arrange some practices so that perhaps next year Essex will succeed in winning a 10-bell competition!!

The Essex 6-bell finals and 8 bell were hosted by the SW District at Chigwell and Chigwell Row. Despite a last minute panic with judges the afternoon went very well indeed with Adrian Semken and Alan Barber judging the 6-bell and John Barnes and Bernard Fairhead the 8-bell. The results of the 6-bell were 1st Dagenham (25% faults), followed by St Leonard-at-the-Hythe, Colchester (27%), Hornchurch (27%), Little Waltham, Prittlewell, Kirby-le-Soken, Gosfield, Chelmsford, Downham, Witham, Sawbridgeworth, Great Parndon.

In the 8-bell competition, which was a set touch of Double Norwich, the SE District was first, followed by the NE, SW, N, S and NW. It was marvellous to have 12 teams in the 6-bell as well as all six districts in the 8-bell and I hope this enthusiasm will continue. Thanks go the SW District for making the necessary arrangements and preparing a delicious tea.

## Webb Ivory

The Webb Ivory catalogues of Christmas cards and presents are now available from district secretaries or Jane Bardwell. Profits on sales go to bell restoration. Any unwanted petrol coupons can be sent to Jane - these are exchanged for prizes to be used in raffles.

## *Report amendments*

~~Havering-atte-Bower~~ - PN Tuesday; Woodford - PN every Monday;  
Inworth - correspondent Mrs Y. Towler, Mulberry, 8 Elwin Road, Tiptree CO5 OHL (tel: 0621 817212);  
Hornchurch - tel no: 0402 250559; P. Cammiade (p2) - postcode should be SS12 OHA; F. Warboys (p80) - tel no: 0371 870220;  
Treasurer is now - A.C. Taylor, 3 Bluebell Close, Witham CMB 2YP (tel: 0376 514092).

## **A.G.M.**

This year we were pleased to welcome the Revd Jacqueline Jones, Chaplain of Chelmsford Cathedral as the preacher at the service prior to the AGM. I am sure this was the first time the Association has had a lady preacher. The meeting was held in the Age Concern hall with 120 members in attendance. The 1991 Minutes, Accounts and Report were adopted then it was on to the election of Treasurer and C.C. Representatives.

There were two nominations for Treasurer - Mark Woolley and Andrew Taylor - the latter was elected after a very close vote. The four existing C.C. Reps were re-elected for the triennium commencing 1993, Adrian Semken having stood down and Maurice Downs being unsuccessful. At the end of the meeting the Master thanked David Childs for his work as Treasurer over the last 10 years and presented him with an engraved glass tankard and a cheque.

An excellent cooked lunch was prepared and served by the Kirby ringers - there was even a glass of wine with it. Afternoon ringing was in the S. District with tea at Bentley Common. Thanks as usual to all those who helped in any way with the arrangements and preparations for the day.

## **The Master**

As you probably know, the Master of the Association Paul Cammiade will be standing down next year having completed 6 years in office. Members should now be giving some thought to his replacement.

So what does the Master have to do? According to the rules he/she is responsible for the affairs of the Association. He has to chair the two committee meetings held in February and October and the AGM in May. He is also expected to take charge at the striking competition finals and speak at Association functions such as the training course or dinner. The Association Masters have always aimed to attend at least one meeting a year in each district and it is often more than this.

## The Secretary

I stated at the AGM that I had intended to stand down as Secretary next year having completed 10 years in office. When Paul also announced his wish to retire I felt perhaps it was inappropriate for both of us to go at the same time. However, for personal reasons, I now feel I must also stand down next year. As there is one person with experience of the Association's workings willing to do the job, and there may well be others, I do not think that the Association would suffer by having 2 new key officers in the same year. I would obviously be happy to assist the new Secretary in any way possible in the early stages in order to make the transition as easy as possible.

So, what does the Secretary do? Well, according to the rules he/she records the minutes of the AGM and committee meetings and carries out decisions thereof and maintains a membership roll. That all sounds quite straightforward. There are of course one or two other things that the Secretary does - makes arrangements for the annual service and AGM, oversees the arrangements for AGM lunches, afternoon ringing and the striking competition finals; organises the annual dinner; deals with various correspondence and telephone enquiries throughout the year; attends occasional meetings and seminars; checks that the Annual Report is being done (this is the only membership roll we have). Like the Master, I have tried to attend at least one meeting in each district each year.

Two things which I do which are not part of the Secretary's job are the Newsletter and typing the Report. Adrian will be happy to know that I am prepared to continue typing the Report if required, and should the Secretary/Committee wish, I could also continue with the Newsletter.

The post of Secretary can mean quite a lot of work at certain times of the year interspersed with quieter periods when all you have to do in one month is send out a Report to someone. It has its frustrating times and its satisfying times, its ups and downs. But it is also immensely rewarding and I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 years in office and as George used to say, you get out of the job what you put in.

## **50 Years**

Some time ago Bernard Fairhead suggested a list of members with more than 50 years membership should be put in the Report. The names given to me are listed below and I should be grateful if members would let me know of any who have now died and any others who should be added.

Mrs Goodhew (née Smith) Great Dunmow; H Moore, Bocking; R Suckling, Bocking; C Barker, Braintree; H G Felton, Braintree; C Turner, Feering/Coggeshall; Miss H G Snowden, Gosfield/Halstead; G Trendall, Pebmarsh; T Bird, R Rippingale, Wickham St Paul; E P Duffield, Colchester; H J Millatt, Colchester; B Weaver, Great Holland; W Felgate, Harwich; F B Lufkin, U W Wildney, Kirby; Mrs V Hales (nee Frost), Tendring; Mrs D Andrews, A Andrews, Thorington; A E Leggett, V B Leggett, Wormingford; A Whitmore, Chrishall; W Aley, G Blake, Nazeing; H Carter, Gt Baddow; H Stebbings, Burnham; E W Roast, Danbury; C S Smith, Ford End; B Mann, Goldhanger.

## **Sub-Committee**

The sub-committee set up to discuss the findings of the C.C. Survey and how the Association can increase membership and thus the number of towers where bells are rung for service, has met on a regular basis for 2 years now. Many members probably wonder what purpose it serves, but it has taken a while to move away from just talking over the problems to actually doing something more positive. Getting new recruits involves publicity, training, having bells in a ringable condition, fostering good relationships with the clergy and so on. The Association and ringing must change with the times if it is to survive and thrive. Any proposals for change have to be carefully thought out so they are acceptable to the members and this all takes time. Further discussion with our Chaplain, Canon Abbey is planned to consider how we can improve communications with the clergy. Further leaflets are also planned as well as an information pack on the Association for new members.

The group, consisting of 6-8 people, meets informally and other people relevant to the discussions have joined it from time to time. Anyone is welcome to participate should they wish, although there is obviously a need to keep the group fairly small.

The leaflet which was supposed to be with the Newsletter last time is enclosed this time! If anyone has ideas for future leaflet topics or would like to join the group please let the Chairman (Don Cobb) know.

# LIFE MEMBERS

Don't forget that details of any nominees for life membership must be sent to the Association Secretary by 1st December so that they can be circulated to districts before the ADMs. If anyone wants to put forward a nomination for LVP, this has to be submitted to their district officers for discussion at a Committee Meeting.

## *Around the Districts*

At Great Bromley, in the North-East District, they have a 'hate' tradition. When a tower captain dies his hat is added to the collection which was started in 1741. On Sunday 2nd August a quarter peal was rung prior to the service of dedication of Felix Erith's hat and the following day the Fire Brigade's long ladder was used to put the hat in place in the archway on the East wall inside the church.

Dedham currently only chime their bells but the ropes have got into such a dreadful state they now want to replace them. If any tower has any fairly long draught second-hand ropes that the Dedham ringers could purchase, would you please let the Gen. Sec. know.

The South-East District quarter peal week resulted in 19 quarters being rung and 3 lost. Although this is less than last year, most of the quarters were rung by local bands. The barbecue in June made a profit of £169 for bell restoration.

The Treasure Hunt in the Northern District was planned by Andrew Taylor and Maurice Downs and was followed by a barbecue at Pat and Paul Clarry's home in Earls Colne. This was a very enjoyable social occasion and the profits will go to bell restoration. The attendance at district learner practices, held one Friday a month, continues to grow.

The requested transfer of Waltham Abbey from the South-West to the North-West District has been discussed by the officers of those districts and at a SW meeting. The request has been regretfully accepted so Waltham Abbey will be listed under the NW District in future.

November 15th is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Egypt victory when church bells were apparently rung throughout the United Kingdom to celebrate. Perhaps this is a good occasion for a quarter peal.

## Association Registers

Congratulations to:

John and Helen Harpole (Braintree) on the birth of Alice May on 22nd May.

Linda Andrews and Graham Ranby (Braintree) and Hilary Attack and Richard Davies (Hornchurch) on their marriages.

Mr & Mrs A. E. Leggett (Wormingford) on their Diamond Anniversary and Mr & Mrs Stan Bigmore (Burnham) on their Golden Anniversary.

Ron Suckling (Bocking), Tom Bird (Wickham St Paul) and Hilda Snowden (Gosfield) on the 60th anniversary of their first peals. Hilda organised a wonderful "party" attended by over 100 friends to celebrate this event.

We regret to record the death of Fred Coates (Burnham) on 27th April and Bishop John Trillo on 2nd August.

## CALENDAR UPDATES

16th October	Practice at Orsett	Southern
24th October	Sponsored quarter peal day, Downham	Southern
7th November	'How to teach learners' course, Leigh	Southern
21st November	Meeting, Stanford-le-Hope (tbc)	Southern
5th December	Carol Service - Rettendon	Southern

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The next NEWSLETTER is planned for December 1992. Any contributions please to Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (tel: 358040) by 16th NOVEMBER 1992.