

EACR



NEWSLETTER

No. 14

DECEMBER 1992

TOWER:

The new look is here! NEWSLETTERS will be different colours so you can tell when the new one has arrived. It has also been decided to increase the number of copies printed to enable more members to have one. So please make sure everyone gets the opportunity to read the Newsletter and if everyone wants their personal copy, it can always be photocopied. Perhaps it's about time it had a name instead of "EACR NEWSLETTER" - any bright ideas please let me know.

All the Association Officers wish Essex ringers and clergy a very Happy Christmas and, hopefully, a prosperous New Year. AFC

Dinner

The dinner was a very enjoyable evening in the pleasant surroundings of the New World Hotel, near Brentwood. Some preferred this venue and others the Rivenhall - next year's booking is not confirmed yet and other venues are being looked at; more details in the next Newsletter. A report has appeared in the RW so I won't bore you again! However, I do think we should all consider the future of the dinner. Having kept the ticket price at £18 for the last three years, it will have to be increased to at least £20 next year wherever we go. It's a lot of money at the best of times, but even harder to find in the current economic climate. Perhaps we could consider holding a formal dinner every other year and either a barn dance, disco or other cheaper event in the intervening years. The deposit will have to be paid soon for next year's dinner but I think serious thought should be given to what we might do in 1994 and I would welcome people's thoughts and ideas.

Nominations

Don't forget that nominations for Association Officers i.e. Master, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Trustees, and any notices of motion (i.e. rule changes) must be received by the Association Secretary by 1st February 1993. The Treasurer (Andrew Taylor) and 3 Trustees (Bernard Fairhead, Bernard Sadler and Colin Chapman) are prepared to stand again next year. As you know, the Master (Paul Cammiade) and Secretary (Ann Chapman) will be standing down.

Education

The Association training day was held on Saturday 26th September at Brentwood and was quite successful. Unfortunately information did not get out to towers as early as it should have done, but don't forget that the date was advertised ages ago. So make a note of next year's date on your 1993 tower calendar - 25th September.

While you're at it, note down 15-17 April for the 3 day training course based at Coggeshall. An intensive, exhausting but enjoyable and worthwhile 3 days of theory, practical, lectures and socialising. More details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Any "experienced" ringers wanting to ring plain hunt or similar as many times as they can during a day should contact Adrian and volunteer to help for either 1, 2 or all 3 days. Even the helpers quite often learn something!

Webb Ivory

A big thank you to everyone who has sent in a Webb Ivory order. Every order contributes towards profit for the Bell Restoration Fund - and thanks to everyone who helped to deliver orders.

Lost in transit - one item already paid for but not claimed. Please 'phone me if you think this may be yours:- Inflatable Baby Roll 'n See, Cat. No: 16-67-82.

Jane Bardwell,
95A Central Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea
Tel: 0702 467090

Letters

David Childs writes:

"I would like to pass on to the committee and all Association members my sincere thanks for the tankard and money received on my retirement as Treasurer. The money has been used to purchase a garden bench and the tankard for purposes well known to ringers.

"I was very touched by the gift and compliments personally received and it made the last ten years seem more worthwhile. I thank everyone for their generosity and help."

John Green, tower captain of Stanford-le-Hope writes:

"The small band of ringers at St Margaret's are kept fairly busy with regular Saturday weddings and Sunday evening services. We rarely manage all 8 and of course it is all call change ringing. We send out our greetings and welcome to all those in the area, should they at any time be passing through Stanford-le-Hope - our ringing time on Sundays is 6-8.30. It has been most refreshing meeting the different bands that come to ring during the year and their donations have helped us to keep the bells and ringing chamber in good order."

David Sparling, Kirby-le-Soken sent a report of a joint Coggeshall and Kirby sailing weekend with ringing thrown in when the tides permitted. They started with a quarter at Kirby first thing in the morning of Saturday 17th October and then boarded the yacht and sailed to Wivenhoe for ringing in the afternoon and finished for the day at Hythe where they joined the district meeting. A very early start to Sunday was required (3.00) to catch the tide so they could ring for Morning Service at Harwich (fancy having to get up at 3.00 in the morning to go ringing!). They then finished back at Kirby where they were in time to ring for Evening Service. The general consensus seems to have been that it was a very enjoyable albeit rather tiring weekend.

For Sale

Anyone interested in acquiring a copy of the Bells of London (Saydisc) record can contact Miss Ivy Popler (0245 258050).

Sub-Committee

There is a fair bit of activity on the sub-committee at the moment, some of which should come to fruition in 1993. Our chairman, Don Cobb, is currently working away from Essex so we shall have to manage without him for a few months.

1) **DISTRICT OFFICERS:** It has long been considered that constraints of time and distance make it very difficult for people such as the Education Officer, Honorary Technical Adviser and Public Relations Officer to do their jobs as efficiently as they would like to. A suggestion has been put forward from the sub-committee that each district should try to find someone to cover each of these jobs at district level. These people would not attend Committee Meetings unless they are also a District Officer, but would provide a local contact for towers within their district and a link between those towers and the respective Association Officers. It doesn't necessarily mean that the local maintenance officer for example, would be expected to go around maintaining all the bells in the district but he/she could either organise a group of people to do something, or put the tower in touch with someone else who can help, or contact the Association Officer to discuss. I am sure there must be lots of members prepared to have a go at one of these "jobs" on a district level - so don't be shy, volunteer at your ADM.

2. **LINKS WITH THE CLERGY:** Our chaplain, Canon Anthony Abbey, attended our last meeting when one of the items discussed was how links with the clergy could be improved. Canon Abbey has various ideas to follow up and we shall be reporting back in due course.

3. **TALKS:** We would like to build up a pool of people from around the Association prepared to give talks to clergy or laity on bell ringing. To this end Maurice Downs would like to get together with 3/4 people to discuss the content of brief talk modules which can be modified for different groups. Anyone interested in helping with this public relations side of bell ringing on an occasional basis should contact Maurice (0376 330412).

4. **NEW MEMBERS PACK:** It is proposed to produce an information pack for new members. This will include a welcome letter by the Master, names of Association officers and brief details of what they do, a list of more common publications, a brief history of the Association and a list of towers and practice nights in day order. This information is currently being reviewed and edited and it is hoped to make it available at the February Committee Meeting with expected costings. If you can think of anything else which could be included and not mentioned above, please contact either Phil Stephens (0245 421022) or Mark Woolley (0245 324461).

5. **RECRUITMENT:** A leaflet on recruitment is in its final stages and should appear with the next NEWSLETTER. Any ideas for future topics should be passed on to sub-committee members.

Training Course

The three day non-residential training course will be held at the Honywood School, Coggeshall from Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th April 1993. It will be run along similar lines to previous years, with practical sessions, tutorials and lectures. Further details and application forms can be obtained from Adrian Semken (0376 561183).

Plans are in hand for groups on the following subjects: call changes; learning to plain hunt; plain hunt to doubles and minor; plain bob doubles; plain bob minor; treble bob on the treble; inside to Kent and Oxford; Stedman; change ringing on handbells (starting from basics); tower management and teaching recruits.

A poster advertising the course is being sent to every tower with this NEWSLETTER. Make sure it is on your tower noticeboard. Early application is advised to avoid disappointment. Do make sure you apply for a group which you think you will cope with - if in doubt talk to your tower captain, Adrian or one of your district officers. Please note, however, that a group which is under-subscribed may have to be cancelled if the resources can be used more efficiently for another group.

Charities Act

The 1992 Charities Act is gradually coming into force and this may have some effect on the way the Association is administered and some minor rule changes may be necessary. The Association's Officers will be discussing this in early December so that any actions necessary can be set in motion early in 1993. Of immediate importance is the fact that all members of the Executive Committee are legally charity trustees and therefore cannot be under 18 years of age. From 1st January 1993 certain people are forbidden to continue as or become trustees (officers) because of bankruptcy or conviction for an offence of dishonesty or deception. District Secretaries will be sent copies of a leaflet summarising the responsibilities of charity trustees before the ADMs in January. If anyone does not want to, or cannot be a charity trustee then they should not stand for any office which serves on the Executive Committee.

Around the Districts

In the Southern District the *Guess the Pints Roger Consumed* between 21st March and 19th September competition, was won by Charlotte Gould and Matthew Brown with an accurate guess of 280 pints. £156 was raised for bell restoration and Roger would like to thank everyone throughout the county who contributed to this fund-raising event. It's one of the first competitions with which he has ever been involved!!!

The quarter peal day held at Downham on 24th October was very successful with 8 out of 10 quarters being scored and £745 being raised for bell restoration. Well done the Southern District again.

A very successful "How to teach Learners" course was held at Leigh although Adrian Semken told me he was rather taken aback to see George Lucas, Ron Brown and Paul Cammide waiting to hear his golden words!

The Northern District would like to point out an error in the August Newsletter: Ron Suckling rang his first peal 57 years ago (not 60 as reported) - he took up ringing 60 years ago.

The call-change competition in the South-East District at Little Baddow, attracted 6 teams and Danbury came first.

The first quarter on the recently rehung bells at Great Totham was Plain Bob Doubles rung on 1st November. Since then a peal has been rung.

A successful social evening was held in the North-West District in conjunction with the Bishops Stortford District of the Hartford Association. Half the proceeds went to Essex bell restoration.

In Thaxted a lamp is always burning at the High Altar and there is a procedure of 'Lamp Sponsorship'. Members of the congregation are able - for a small payment - to sponsor the lamp to burn for a week for a cause of their choice and the cause is published every Sunday in the Parish newsheet. The lamp burned for a week for the Essex Association and thus the work of the Association, bellringing generally and the need for new ringers was brought to the attention of the Vicar and churchgoers. A small but perhaps significant way of putting ringing positively into the general process of church worship.

The North-East District was successful in winning the cricket match against South-East Suffolk.

In the South-West District, quarters were rung at Barkingside and Chigwell to celebrate the wedding of Jean Mead and Fred Goodwin who finally tied the knot at Chigwell on Saturday 21st November. Congratulations and best wishes to them both.

Committee Meeting

The main points from the October Committee Meeting are as follows:

1. Members will be pleased to hear there will be no increase in subscription next year. Don't forget that subs are due on 1st January.
2. The bell metal which was being stored at Whitechapel has been sold to Buttington Church, in Wales for £900.
3. There are still two districts with no members at all covenanting their subs - surely all the ringers in those districts can't be over 65 or married women or unemployed? So, come on all those who could covenant and haven't done yet - it doesn't cost you anything at all but it could increase our income to the bell restoration by £200 or more per annum. Explanatory leaflets are available from your district secretary or the Treasurer. At your ADM or when you want to send in your subscription, ask your district secretary for the necessary form to fill in first.
4. Essex County Council had approached David Sloman to enquire about the possibility of a grant towards the cost of undertaking a county-wide survey of bellframe design. Under the rules it would not be possible for the Association to do this, however it was suggested that members could carry out the survey with volunteers.
5. Southend District Council Health & Safety Executive had asked all towers in the Southend area to install handrails around the outside spiral of the staircase. If any other towers are asked to do this, please contact David Sloman.
6. A grant of £400 was agreed for Wannington Church to carry out repair work on their two bells hung for swing chiming.

Since the Committee Meeting English Heritage have now made a grant to Essex County Council and they have employed someone to undertake the bellframe survey.

ESSEX TROPHY

In the Essex Association centenary year in 1979, Frank Lufkin donated a trophy which was to be presented to the winner of an inter-Association striking competition to take place annually in Essex, Kent, Surrey or Sussex. Other neighbouring Associations have also been invited to attend so there are usually about eight teams in total. For many years Essex has tried to win this trophy, coming second on a number of occasions but never quite managing to win the prize. But 1992 was to be the year when at Lewes on Saturday 19th September the Essex team, with ringers from five of the six districts, was successful in winning the trophy. My biggest regret is that George was not there to see us win it nor to take the official photograph!

Annual Report

We are fast approaching Annual Report updating time, so if there are any mistakes, changes to your tower membership lists or any other details which need changing, please ensure your district secretary or the Report Editor (Adrian Malton) is advised by your ADMs. Thank you.

Association Registers

Congratulations to:

Janice and Nigel Taylor (Downham) on the birth of their third child, Samuel George, on 6th September.

Simon Tolliday (SE) and Katrine Baker

Jenny Powell (Langdon Hills) and John Taylor on their marriages.

The next NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1993. Any contributions please to Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 358040).