

EACR THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION EACR
EACR OF CHANGE RINGERS EACR
EACR
NEWSLETTER

No 18

April, 1994

TOWER :

THE A.G.M.

The One Hundred and Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 2nd May 1994, at Chelmsford Cathedral. The Cathedral bells will be available for general ringing from 9.15am until 9.45am at which time an invited band will ring the service touch. Members and visitors are requested to be seated by 9.55am in order that the service can start promptly at 10.00am. This year the address is to be given by the Rev'd. Sylvia Wood, ringing member from Hutton, and we will be supported by the Boreham Choir. The meeting, which follows the service, will also be held in the Cathedral, starting at 11.00am. Morning coffee will be available at the Age Concern Hall from 9.15am, lunch will also be served there at 1.00pm by members of the South-Western district. The afternoon ringing and tea, at Wormingford, will be in the North-Eastern district. Tickets for Lunch (£4.25) and Tea (£1.50) are available from M.A. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex. CM7 6LH ☎ 0376-325281. Please send your cheque, made payable to the EACR, together with your order and SAE, by Thursday 28th April.

The February Committee Meeting

The Committee met as usual, at Danbury, on the first Saturday in February where the following points were amongst the items on a very full agenda.

Nominations for Association Officers. The present Officers had indicated their willingness to stand for a further year and had been nominated en bloc by all the Districts. These nominations would go forward to the AGM.

Nominations for Life Members. One nomination had been received, that of Mary Roast (South-Eastern District.) Proposed: P.W. Saltmarsh. Seconded: P.J. Eves. This nomination was accepted by the Committee and would go forward to the AGM.

A Rule Change. In order to comply with the 1992 Charity Act and how we audit the Association's accounts, a rule change is required. The exact details can be found on the agenda for the AGM, printed in the 1993 Annual Report, published this month.

Ringing Simulator. Following the 'try out' at Coggeshall and a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to defer a decision for 1 year pending further investigation into possible alternatives.

Association Carol Service. There not being very much support for this from the districts we would not pursue this matter further. However, it was agreed that we look for a special occasion when we could come together as an Association to hold an act of worship.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL **- Ordination of Women -**

On Saturday, 30th April, the Bishop will be ordaining nearly 60 lady deacons as priests in three separate services at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 6.30pm respectively. It is hoped to ring the bells before and after each of the services, and it may be that ringers from various parishes around the diocese would like to support their candidates by joining in such ringing. All will be welcome, but perhaps anyone who is intending to come could contact David Rothera as soon as possible. (Tel : 0245 475363)

Bell Restoration Projects

Are you thinking about restoring your bells or starting major maintenance work?

The Association can provide assistance to your bell restoration and maintenance projects in a number of ways, including advice at all stages from planning to inception, grants and volunteer labour.

Involve your District Officers and the Association's Technical Adviser in your planning. With the number of projects that have been undertaken in the past we can draw on our experiences to offer advice on new projects. The Association can provide speakers to talk to PCCs and clergy, to help in the launch of your project and can advise on both technical and fund-raising aspects in order to get the best value for money. We also have a Central Council of Church Bell Ringers video - 'Church Bell Restoration', which can be borrowed, as part of a PCC presentation.

The Association's Executive Committee is able to authorize financial assistance to bell restoration projects. The Association is able to offer volunteer expertise to assist in the execution of your project, perhaps saving several thousand pounds on larger projects. Simpler projects can often be undertaken with little or no bell-foundry support, minimizing cost. Grants are usually given for work such as re-hanging bells in new or existing frames, recasting bells, augmentations, tower work to make bells ringable and major maintenance (e.g. clapper refurbishment, significant frame/fittings repairs). Minor maintenance such as new ropes, stays, sliders and individual clappers are not normally eligible for grants.

Do not wait until work is under-way or completed before applying for a grant - you may well find that you are not getting the best value for the work you are committed to, and you may find that grants take this into account. Volunteer labour can save money on most projects and this can amount to several thousand pounds on major work such as installing new frames and re-hanging bells. There are a number of people in the Association who have experience of restoration projects who are only too willing to help. However on new installations you may find it more tax-efficient to use the bell-foundry for all the work - hence the need to obtain advice in the planning stages, before you commit to any work.

The P.R.O.'s. Piece

April 30th 1994

This is the date when the first priesting of women will take place at Chelmsford Cathedral. There will be three separate sessions. At least one of those involved is a member of the E.A.C.R. and we wish her well; there may be others. You may feel that this is an occasion for ringing a quarter peal - a ladies quarter would be particularly appropriate - several would be better. Please send details of any quarters or, indeed, peals that are rung for this event to me so that I can send them all, together with an account, to the Ringing World.

Janet Edwards, 24, Perry Road, Tiptree, Colchester CO5 9NB

Janet also writes - May I thank all the Districts I have managed to visit so far, for their welcome and friendship; also for letting me take over a small part of their agendas. I hope that now you can all put a face to the name, you will feel able to contact me whenever you feel I can help with promoting ringing in your own areas.

Who's Rung at Steeple Bumpstead?

Plans are being made to carry out a major restoration of the tower and bells of St. Mary's, Steeple Bumpstead. The project is to cost a considerable amount of money and the parish has sought help from many sources, including the EACR. If you take a quick look in the back of the Annual Report you'll see that the tower houses an unringable 14cwt ring of five, but no peals have been recorded. So, just when were these bells last rung? That's the question the vicar of Steeple Bumpstead, the Rev'd. Gordon Mansfield, has asked.

If you know the answer or know where documentary evidence could be found please contact the Secretary.

HELP WITH A 'MINI RING'

A letter from the Northern District PRO.

Telephone Braintree 0376 329706 (Home)
071 638 7595 ext 3335 (Work)

126 Church Lane,
Braintree,
Essex.
CM7 5SA

Dear Members,

Can anyone help with a 'Mini Ring'?

As a public relations exercise we are trying to arrange exhibitions in places such as shopping centres and shows. Normal display exhibitions would not be practicable and we have therefore decided to try to build a Mini Ring. The interest this would attract should fully show tower bell ringing as a skill that can never be shown in pictures and diagrams.

There is interest in the local area to help design and build the equipment but we would be interested to hear from anyone who has either tried to do something like this before or may have some useful advice on how we tackle our problem. The 'Tower' we would like to create would be a ring of very light bells, possibly large handbells hung in a completely dismountable frame. For obvious reasons the frame has to be light enough to transport easily and quick to assemble.

If you can offer any advice, help or even know where suitable bells may be obtained then please contact the undersigned.

I look forward to talking to anyone who can help.

Your sincerely,

David A Childs.

Changes at the ADMs

At the ADMs the following changes in District Officers took place:-

Northern:

Master: Heather Semken
Deputy Master: Maurice Downs
Secretary: Alistair Donaldson
Committee Rep: Alan May

Also elected were:-

PRO David Childs
Tower Maintenance Adrian Semken

North-Eastern:

Secretary: Sue Beale
Committee Rep: Annabel Preston.

South-Eastern:

Secretary: Viki Patmore

Southern:

Deputy Master: Stephen Nash

South-Western:

Secretary: Keith Gardner

I have included Keith Gardner, as he was first elected to this position during 1993 when Julie Burlinson retired to have her baby.

North-Western:

Master: Clive Moore

Also elected was:-

District PRO David Barlow

A Timely Reminder

Being a Registered Charity has its advantages but it does mean we are required to abide by certain rules. One of these is that whenever you advertise a fund-raising event, even a meeting where a raffle is to take place, you must include our Charity Registration Number on all notices that are used for advertising. The Association's headed paper has the number on it, so you might consider using this. Why not get into the habit of always putting the number on every communication. Our Charity Registration Number is 292250

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

Northern: At the ADM held at Bocking the district members joined with the Bocking ringers and members of Ron Suckling's family to celebrate Ron's 80th birthday. Ron retired as Tower Captain there this year, a position he held for many years. The new Tower Captain at Bocking is now Jonathan Thompson.

South-Eastern: Congratulations to the Rothera family (Chelmsford Cathedral) who rang a "family peal", their first, on Christmas Sunday. Their chosen methods were Plain Bob and Cambridge Minor, rung on the middle six at the Cathedral.

Chelmsford Cathedral - Practices

There will be no practice on Monday 18th, because of a choir recording, but there will be a practice on Friday, April 22nd - all are welcome. There will also be no practice on Monday, May 16th as this is in the Cathedral music festival week.

Association Registers

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we report the death of Len Dexter of Barking who died in January 1994: also that of Fred Whiterod of Kelvedon.

Births:

Congratulations to Andie and Paul Derby of Stansted, a son, Michael on 19th January 1994.

Birthdays:

Congratulations to:-

Ted Duffield (NE District), Honorary Life Member, who celebrated his 95th birthday in December 1993.

Ron Suckling (Bocking), Honorary Life Member, who celebrated his 80th birthday in January.

Joe Cadman (Colchester, St. Peter), who celebrated his 80th Birthday in March.

Albert Wiseman (Witham), who celebrated his 70th Birthday in March.

Frank Lufkin (Kirby-le-Soken), who celebrated his 83rd Birthday in December 1993.

CALENDAR UPDATE

May

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 2nd | Association AGM | Chelmsford Cathedral | |
| 13th | District Practice | Stansted Mountfitchet | NW |
| 21st | District Practice | Belchamp St. Paul | N |
| 21st | District Practice | Mistley | NE |
| 24/26th | District Practice | Burnham | SE |
| 27th | Learner Practice | Ashdon | NW |

June

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 10th | District Practice | Stansted Mountfitchet | NW |
| 11th | Inter-tower Quiz | Thorpe Bay | S |
| 17th | District Dinner | | N |
| 18th | Start of the Quarter Peal Week | | SE |
| 18th | 10-bell practice | Tollesbury | NE |
| 19th | Start of the Quarter Peal Week | | NE |
| 24th | Learner Practice | Clavering | NW |
| 25th | District Barbecue | | SE |
| 25th | District Barbecue | | SW |

July

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| 2nd | Association Striking Competition | Navestock (6) South Weald (8) | |
| 8th | District Practice | Stansted Mountfitchet | NW |
| 9th | District Meeting | Romford | SW |
| 14th | District Practice | Little Baddow | SE |
| 16th | District Barbecue | | N |
| 16th | Car Treasure Hunt | | NE |
| 22nd | Learner Practice | Moreton | NW |

August

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 12th | District Practice | Stansted Mountfitchet | NW |
| 13th | District Social Event | Ten Pin Bowling | SW |
| 26th | Learner Practice | Ashdon | NW |

The above information is believed to be correct. Check The Ringing World for details.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS is registered as a charity. Registered No. : 292250
 The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for August. Contributions please to M. A. Bishop,
 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex CM7 6LH ☎ 0376 325281 by 23rd July.