



# EACR Newsletter

Registered as a Charity No. 292250

No: 24

April, 1996

TOWER:

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

The One Hundred and Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 6th May 1996, in 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. The address is to be given by the Rev'd. Roger Mason, the vicar of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Prittlewell, and we will be supported by the Boreham Choir. Following the service will be the Meeting which 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 Southern District. Afternoon ringing will be in the South-Western District with tea at West Ham. Tickets for Lunch (£4.50) and Tea (£1.75) are available from M.A. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex. CM7 9LH. Please send your cheque made payable to the EACR, together with your order, enclosing an SAE, stating whether you would prefer a vegetarian dinner, by Wednesday 1st May.

## The February Committee Meeting

The Committee met on the first Saturday in February where the following points were amongst the items on the 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.

**A Rule Addition,** not really a change, had been proposed for consideration by the Committee. In effect it would entitle members under 18 years of age and in full time education to a 50% reduction in their subscription. The full wording can be found in the agenda for the AGM.

**The Association's Library** is to move from the central library in Chelmsford. At present negotiations are continuing with the Essex Records Office who are deciding which of our books and records they can store. It is clear however that not all the books would be accepted and an alternative home would be needed for the remainder. This is being pursued by our Trustees. Watch this space for more news.

**Health and Safety.** Peter Eves attended a Central Council seminar on Health and Safety. It took place at Towcester, and covered the Health and Safety at work Act of 1974 and the insurance cover for ringing and work being carried out on bell installations. The definition of work covers both those paid and unpaid. Further information on this subject will become available during the year.

**The Retirement of The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford.** For those who don't already know, our President, The Rt. Rev'd. John Waine, The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, is to retire in April. The Secretary, on behalf of the members, has written a letter of thanks and wished him well for the future. It is our intention to make a presentation to him upon his retirement and all donations towards the cost would be very much appreciated.

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# Under New Management

I am very grateful to Vicki Patmore who has offered to take on the production of the Newsletter. It's not an easy task to produce a newsletter, but it could be made a lot easier with your help. Articles and items of news, such as first Quarter Peals and Peals are of interest. So send your items to Vicki or myself, addresses can be found in the Annual Report.

Mike Bishop



## IMPORTANT NOTICE Insurance

It was agreed at the last Committee Meeting that with effect from 1st January 1997, any member whose subscription is in arrears and who has not paid those arrears by the following Annual General Meeting, will not have their insurance cover renewed. It is therefore even more important that you do not let your membership lapse.

An updated notice is enclosed concerning the Association's two insurance policies. Please display this in your tower.

Andrew Taylor



**JUNE 16 - JUNE 16**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HAVE YOU DECIDED YET?

ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY?

HAVE YOU CONTACTED YOUR CLERGY YET?

Please let me know when you have definite plans. I hope to record all Churches activities in some way so that we can assess how successful Bell Sunday is in improving communications and letting people know who we are and what we do.

It would be helpful to know if the resource pack is used too.

Please telephone me on 01621 816496 - the ansaphone is always on so it is easy to leave a message at any time.

Janet Edwards

## "Jimima" - Saves the Day!

On 12th February 1896, Alice White became the first lady to ring a peal. One hundred years later, ladies bands all over the country attempted peals to celebrate this event. Eight Essex girls (!) met at Terling on 10th February for a peal of Cambridge but this was lost after 2½ hours. The second attempt was on Sunday 25th February, although 2 different ringers had to be found.

At 1.45 pm, seven ladies awaited the arrival of Gwen Rogers, traveling from London, and still waited at 2.00 pm ..... 2.15, then at 2.20 in walked Jim Towler with a message that Gwen had been in an RTA (it later transpired, held up in bad traffic in Redbridge) but if we wanted to go for the peal, short of actually having the operation, he would be a lady! So we went for it (the peal, not the operation) with Jim on the treble, and this time scored without any mishaps. Of course, after 4 pints at lunchtime Jim couldn't get out of the door quick enough when the peal ended. He was back 5 minutes later with a look of intense relief on his face! Thank you Jim, you're a real lady, sorry gentleman!

The successful band comprised Jim Towler, Mary Bone, Sue Rothera, Janet Edwards, Jill Wright, Sue Page, Ann Chapman (1st at conductor) and Yvonne Towler. Rowena Marshall and Renée Armstrong rang in the first attempt.



### **Sponsored Treasure Hunt Saturday 13th July 1996**

The Treasure Hunt will be a sponsored event to help raise funds for the work at Margaretting, and will be a chance for EVERYONE throughout the Association (and beyond) to get involved.

More details will follow soon.

## 50 Years On

On 3rd February 1946, five teenagers rang their first Quarter Peal together on the then ring of 5 at Bentley Common. They had been given only the minimum of tuition in rope handling and then it was up to them. Quite an achievement in itself but from that small beginning they have moved on to much ..... but I digress.

50 years on to the day, three of the original five; Des Mayell, Bert and Francis Goddard returned to Bentley Common on a very crisp evening of 3rd February 1996. The same Quarter Peal was repeated with the original three ringing the same bells as previously. The original treble being now the 2nd as a result of augmentation to the present six.

After a successful Quarter, we left with a reminder to book 3rd February in 10 years time! "What day of the week would that be?", was all that was asked. "Dunno, but I hope it's warmer that this" came the reply.

Roger Butt

### Bentley Common

3rd February 1996

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 41 mins.

1)	V J C Dale	4)	F R Goddard
2)	D G Mayell (c)	5)	R G Butt
3)	R J Brown	6)	H G Goddard



Copy of a letter received by Dickie Furminger from Win Leech, widow of the late Stan Leech:-

*Thank you so much for the beautifully written record of the peal rung in memory of Stan. I have it framed and it will be a lovely memory of Stan for me.*

*I also want to thank you for arranging the ringing at the Crematorium - everybody was most impressed - especially some of my relatives who came some distance for the funeral.*

*Please convey to all bellringers my thanks for their friendship to Stan - he loved to teach youngsters to ring - and apart from his garden was his most loved hobby.*

*May you, your family and all bellringers have a happy and peaceful new year."*

# Margaretting

The challenge to us all this year is to raise a great deal of money as a special 'George Eve' memorial project. George was loved and respected by all who knew him and the ring of four bells at Margaretting is being augmented to five in his memory. There is some money in his fund to start us off but, as the project, which will include maintenance work on the original four, is costing in the region of £14,000, we still have a lot to raise.

By the end of this year I aim to have raised the money we require but I can only do it with your help. Please do what you can by supporting the various events which both the Association and the individual districts will be organising. This will probably mean buying raffle tickets, donated prizes, selling anything from cakes to Christmas cards, etc. etc. We hope to involve people other than ringers in our events so that we spread the load, and the parish of Margaretting will be working alongside us all the way.

If any individual tower wants to organise their own event, we shall be only too pleased to accept any proceeds they wish to donate and, of course, I shall try to arrange publicity where required. It might be an idea to arrange something in conjunction with Bell Sunday!

Janet Edwards



## Peal for the Bishop

As a fitting farewell to our President, The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rt. Rev'd John Waine who took his last service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 9th March, a Peal was rung by the following band prior to the service.

### Chelmsford Cathedral

9th March 1996

5000 Stedman Cinques in 3 hours 24 minutes

- |    |               |     |                |
|----|---------------|-----|----------------|
| 1) | Peter Eves    | 7)  | David Sparling |
| 2) | Sue Page      | 8)  | Peter Fleckney |
| 3) | Alan Barber   | 9)  | Adrian Malton  |
| 4) | Yvonne Towler | 10) | Colin Chapman  |
| 5) | Sue Rothera   | 11) | Jim Towler     |
| 6) | Steve Waters  | 12) | David Rothera  |

Composed and Conducted by Alan Barber

# Association Registers

**In memorium:-** It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Arthur Grubb of Shalford, Harold Moore (Life Member) of Bocking and Charles Hill (Life Member) of Hutton.

**Birthdays:-** Congratulations to Colin Chapman (Chelmsford - SE District Master) who celebrated his 40th birthday on 2nd March, Andrew Taylor, (Coggeshall - Association Hon. Treasurer), who celebrated his 40th on 23rd March and to Hilda Snowden (Gosfield - LVP) who reached 80 on 25th March.

**Anniversaries:-** Congratulations to Chris and Betty Jaggard (Boreham), who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 9th March.



**40 40 40 How old!!! 40 40 40**

The South Eastern District couldn't let their Master's 40th birthday pass unnoticed, especially as it fell on meeting day.

After the tea and meeting at Writtle in March, and while Colin was organising the evening ringing in the tower, the hall was transformed into a party venue, with balloons, food and drink.

By the time he was eventually coaxed into the hall, a crowd of well wishers, had gathered to help him celebrate. Ringers, friends and family attended and a good time was had by all.

The highlight of the evening was the cake which his brother had brought down from Suffolk. It was in the shape of a bell, had been cooked in a special bell shaped tin (they managed to find a set of three of these tins) and had taken eight hours to cook. The icing was a steel grey colour and the bell had a headstock which was the only part which was inedible, being made of polystyrene. On top sat two pigeons and the outside of the bell was splashed with ..... well I'll leave you to work that out!! It was a real work of art.

Happy birthday Colin!

## Dates for your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>District</u>	
<b>April</b>	<b>11th-13th</b>	<b>ESSEX COURSE</b>	<b>COGGESHALL</b>	
	20th	District Practice	Greenstead Green	Northern
	27th	District Striking Comp	Burnham on Crouch	South East
<b>May</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>CHELMSFORD</b>	
	17th	District Practice	Bradwell	South East
	18th	District Striking Comp	Downham	Southern
	27th	District Open Towers Day		North East
<b>June</b>	1st	District Meeting	Tolleshunt D'Arcy	South East
	1st	District Striking Comp	Thorpe Le Soken	North East
	8th	District Striking Comp	Chigwell Row	South West
	8th	District Striking Comp	TBC	North West
	8th	District Striking Comp	Great Yeldham	Northern
	15th	District Practice	Eastwood	Southern
	<b>16th</b>	<b>BELL SUNDAY</b>		
	20th-30th	Quarter Peal Week		South East
	21st	Quiz Night	Belchamp St. Paul	Northern
	23rd	Great Ringing Day	Saffron Walden	NorthWest
	29th	District Barbecue	Danbury	South East
<b>July</b>	6th	STRIKING COMP. FINALS		North East
	13th	District Meeting	Hornchurch	South West
	13th	District Training Day	Stebbing/Rayne	Northern
	18th	District Practice	Purleigh	South East
	20th	Treasure Hunt & BBQ	Wormingford	North East
	21st	District Barbecue	Belchamp Otten	Northern

*Happy*



*Easter*

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The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for August 1996. Contributions please to Vicki Patmore, 48 Crocus Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6XN ☎01245 461973 by **7th July**.