



No: 25

August, 1996

TOWER:

## **THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE**

As usual the Annual Dinner and Dance will be held on the 2nd Saturday in October, which is the 12th. This year the venue has changed to the Benton Hall Golf Club, Witham. Our guests will be The Rt. Rev'd. Edward Holland, the Colchester Area Bishop and Mr. Phil Rogers, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, 1984 - 1985. Unfortunately the ticket price has had to be set at £20, but this still represents good value for money. Benton Hall have a well stocked bar with at least 4 Real Ales available, and somewhere away from the music and dancing for those who like to just sit and chat. For those who interest themselves in such things the menu is:- Home Made Soup of the Day, Breast of Chicken Filled with Prawns, wrapped and baked in Filo Pastry and served with Lobster Sauce and a selection of vegetables, followed by a choice of dessert, with coffee and mints to finish. A vegetarian main course alternative is available and for those on a gluten-free diet special arrangements can be made, please let me know when ordering your tickets. A cash wine table will be available and, of course, a table to hold the raffle prizes. If you could possibly donate a prize please bring it along on the night. As there is a ceiling of 120 tickets, a system of first come first served will operate. This occasion has been very well supported over the last couple of years which does make organising it worthwhile. Mark the date in your diary and send for your ticket right away. They are available now from M. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, CM7 9LH; please include names, including first name, and money with your order, plus a SAE. All orders on or before 28th September (Association Training Day!) please.

Michael Bishop

# THE AGM

The One Hundred and Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Association held on May-Day Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May 1996 got off to a fine start with fair number of members attending. The Cathedral bells were available for general ringing prior to the service which started promptly at 10am. The address was given by the Rev'd. Roger Mason, the vicar of Prittlewell, and it was good to hear that the Boreham Choir are still in good voice. Following the service the Meeting which was also held in Chelmsford Cathedral went very smoothly. All the Association Officers were elected for a further year with the exception of the Hon. Librarian who's position remains vacant, as the Association's library is on the move. The rule addition motion which entitled those 18 years or under and in full time education to a 50% reduction in their subscription was passed but not without a change to the original motion. The outcome is that those members who are under 18 years of age on 1st January are entitled to a 50% reduction in their subscription. Unfortunately, if you qualify for this reduction, but have not yet paid your 1996 subscription, you will still have to pay the full £5. Of course new members elected after the AGM who satisfy the rule are entitled to pay the reduced amount, as will existing members when they pay the 1997 subs.

Morning coffee and lunch were served at the Age Concern by members of the Southern District. Following lunch, afternoon ringing was enjoyed in the South-Western District with generous tea at West Ham. My thanks go to all those members who helped support the success of this very important occasion in the Association's calendar.

Michael Bishop

## **A SUCCESSFUL OPEN-DAY FOR THE NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT**

A very successful open day was held in the NE District on the Spring-Bank Holiday, Monday, 27th May. The day was organised especially to raise funds for the work needed in the tower of St. Peter's, Colchester and raised £501. Well done to all those who organised the day. It just shows what can be achieved by good organisation and team-work.

Michael Bishop

# The Ridgeman Trophy

On Saturday 4th May 1996, four teams representing Cambridge University, Ely, Essex and Hertford met on a cold morning at Soham in Cambridgeshire.

The judges were Paul and Kate Flavell from Kingston. The method was half a course of Cambridge Surprise Royal.

The Essex team were Liz Wycherley, Colin Wright (c), Paul Cammiade, David Sparling, Peter Wycherley, Stephen Nash, Colin Chapman, Ian Blows, Anthony Bloomfield and John White.

After commenting on the standard of ringing the judges awarded points (max. 400) as follows:-

1st	Hertford	334 points
2nd	Essex	321 points
3rd	Ely	313 points
4th	Cambridge University	311 points

Hertford were presented with the trophy by Bill Ridgeman and will be hosting the event next year.

Thanks to Stephen Nash for organising the Essex band, and well done.

## ??? QUIZ NIGHT ???

1. What book do Stubb, Starbuck and Queequeg appear in?
2. What continent is considered the easiest to defend in Risk?

If you know the answers to these and many more, then you are just what we need.

The Inworth and Terling bellringers are holding a Quiz Night on 27th September at 7.30pm at Terling Village Hall to raise funds for a new belfry floor and the Margaretting project. £4 (per person) includes a Ploughman for teams of up to 8. Bring your own booze. Phone Sue Page on 01245 233488 or Yvonne Towler on 01621 817212.

P.S. Answers on the back page!

## Striking Competition Results

The Annual Striking Competition Finals were held in the North-Eastern District. 11 teams entered the 6-bell competition and 6 districts entered teams for the 8-bell competition. The judges for both competitions were, Paul Seaman and Richard Green, both of the Ely Diocesan Association.

### **SIX-BELL.**

The six-bell was held at Mistley (10¾ cwt) where the results were as follows:-  
1st. Chelmsford (62 faults); 2nd. Woodford (65 faults); 3rd. Coggeshall (66 faults); 4th. Danbury (73 faults); 5th. Kirby le Soken (85 faults); 6th. Wormingford (91 faults); 7th. Prittlewell (95 faults); 8th. Rayne (100 faults); 9th. North Ockendon (105 faults); 10th. Hornchurch (113 faults); 11th. Waltham Abbey (156 faults).

### **EIGHT-BELL.** (Test piece Lincolnshire Surprise)

The eight-bell was held at Ardleigh (13¼ cwt) and the results were as follows:-  
1st. South-Eastern District (92 faults); 2nd. North-Eastern District (105 faults); 3rd. Southern District (106 faults); 4th. South-Western District (123 faults); 5th. North-Western District (143 faults) and 6th. Northern District (159 faults).

Congratulations to the winners of both the 8 and 6-bell competitions and to all those teams who got through their district's competition in order to enter the finals. Thanks also to those members of the North-Eastern District who organised the event and supplied the tea at Ardleigh.

Michael Bishop

## **BELL SUNDAY**

Thank you to all those who joined in Bell Sunday, although I am sure you do not need my thanks; the rewards for the efforts you put in to this day will be obvious to you, if the reports I have received are a reflection of the whole Association. Ringers have read lessons, led intercessions, staged exhibitions, given talks, prepared factsheets and rung both tower and handbells.

Clergy have prepared special services where they are part of a United Benefice and no services were planned for 16th June, given sermons on a bell theme, allowed ringers hymns and special ringing and co-operated with the spirit of the day.

Janet Edwards

## Margaretting Update

We were very pleased to be able to ring what is believed to be the only ever peal on the four bells in their 500 year history on Sunday 5th May. Removal of the bells by Adrian Semken, Phil Stevens and David Sparling began on the Tuesday following the AGM. The last major work on the bells was done in 1931 when Alfred Bowell of Ipswich rehung them lower in the tower in a new wooden five bell frame. The probability is that all the work then was done in situ and that the bells were simply lowered into the new frame. It seems likely therefore that their removal from the tower on Wednesday 8th May 1996 was the first time they had been out for 500 years - an event witnessed by Canon John Brown, (the Incumbent), Ivy Day, (Churchwarden) together with a number of Margaretting Parishioners, Essex Association members and the local press.

Hopefully everybody will be aware that the old four are being refurbished in memory of Les Catterwell, a past tower captain at Margaretting (and formerly of Sible Hedingham) and that a new Treble bell is being provided in memory of George Eve. The order was placed with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry at the end of 1995 and the project took off in something of a hurry when the casting date was brought forward from mid-July to Thursday May 23rd. We were very pleased that George's daughter Cynthia was able to be present at what was a very special occasion and in addition the Parish of Margaretting was represented by Ivy Day and Jenny Scott, the EACR by David Sparling, Michael Bishop and Don Cobb and George's home tower by David Sloman and Bernard Sadler who of course taught George to ring.

Fortunately many of the volunteers involved in the Epping Project offered to help with the re-installation and despite short notice of the return date a rota was drawn up to cover the twenty man days required. The bells were brought back on Friday 28th June using the same combination of LandRover, trailer and Forklift truck as when they were removed, thanks to the kind generosity of John Curry of Margaretting. For some reason the tenor did not want to go through the door it had come out of only a few weeks earlier - had they watered it at the foundry?

The re-installation got off to a flying start on Monday 1st July as the foundry had installed the new bearing plates whilst the bells were out, the EACR lifting tackle had been left ready for use in the belfry and we had three helpers to cope with the initial heavy work. After three hectic days the job was complete! Thanks are due to all the volunteers -many of whom took time off work to assist. I know that with the early finishes at both Epping and Margaretting some people have now volunteered to help twice and still not been 'called to arms'. I am sure that there will be other opportunities and I hope that our efficiency has not caused too much inconvenience. Initial impressions at the 'acceptance trials' are that the new bell is an excellent fit tonally with its 500 year old colleagues. The date for the dedication has still to be fixed but it is likely to be either the last Saturday in August or the first Saturday in September. It is hoped that the recently retired Bishop John Waine, who of course knew George so well, will be able to return to take this service.

David Sparling

## **EPPING BELL RESTORATION PROJECT**

This has now been successfully completed! The heartfelt thanks of the Epping Ringers goes to all who responded so magnificently to our plea for help. All was ready for Martin Waldron, the Bellhanger from Whitechapel, when he arrived on 28th May. The work was scheduled to take three weeks but might have run into four, especially as one potential hitch was the imminent arrival of the blacksmith's first-born (no-one else could weld our clappers!) but fortunately paternity leave did not hold up the work in the end. We wish him and his wife and the baby well.

Everyone who came got on with the job in hand and everything in the belfry looked ship-shape in no time at all. The bells were quarter-turned, the bearings replaced and new pulley blocks put in within the first week. A lick of paint made a tremendous difference to the appearance and we were waiting for the clappers to return from the Foundry. The bells were ready to ring for Bell Sunday .... we hadn't dared to hope that they would be .... and yes, they "go well"!

We got on really well with Martin and he was delighted with the efficiency and enthusiasm of those who helped. We have been congratulated by the Foundry so that's one up to the Essex Association! Thanks also to those who offered their time but who didn't have to come in the end, we would never have dared start without you!

Laurie and Elizabeth King nobly provided sustenance for the crew each day and, as I work in Epping, my lunchtimes were spent in good company. Personally, I had a great three weeks!

Jane Walters

### **Subscription Confusion?**

A certain amount of confusion has arisen concerning just when the 50% subscription entitlement comes into effect. As with any rule change unless a date by which the new rule comes into effect is given, it becomes effective as soon as the motion is passed. The entitlement to a 50% reduction, for those who qualify, on the standard subscription was effective from the 1996 AGM, but, and this is where the confusion starts, those existing members who qualify for the reduction but have not paid their subs for 1996, will still have to pay the full £5. This even applies if they do not pay for 1996 until 1997. That's because, according to the rules all subscriptions are due on the 1st January and after that date if you had not paid you are technically in arrears. It stands to reason that those elected to membership after the AGM and who qualify for the reduction will get it. To sum up, if you were elected to membership prior to the 1996 AGM your subscriptions, including those for 1996, are still £5.

Michael Bishop.

# Association Registers

**Births:-** Congratulations to Andrew Blacklock and Heather Horn on the birth of Emma and to Angus and Jeni Dodds on the birth of Melanie Louise (15th April)

**Marriages:-** Congratulations to Rod Welham and Sheila Lambert (both of Bradwell juxta Mare) who were married at Bradwell on 18th May

**In memoriam:-** Sadly, we must report the death of Derek Perry, a life member of Great Dunmow

**Birthdays:-** Congratulations to John Steed (Chelmsford), 40 on 24th April, Tracey Southgate (Harwich), 30 on 1st May, Susan Rothera (Chelmsford), 50 on 25th June, Brian Meads (Coggeshall), 40 on 12th July, Ashley Law (unattached), 21.

## Margaretting

The Margaretting bells are now back from Whitechapel and in the tower with a new treble bell.

The bill now has to be paid and, as yet, funds have been very slow to come in. Please try to make that little extra effort, either as individuals, towers or Districts and send everything you can to our Treasurer, Andrew Taylor.

Has your tower donated one of it's summer wedding fees yet? This is a very easy way to raise money, it just means that you don't get paid for one of the weddings you ring for. We do this anyway when the bride or groom is someone we know, so just think of Margaretting as a well loved member of your tower or congregation.

Grand Draw tickets will be available in September; the draw will be held at a Barn Dance at Mountnessing Village Hall on November 30th. Make a date in your diary now. We could do with some more prizes for the Grand Draw. If you, your tower or maybe your firm are able to donate a prize please contact Vicki Patmore (01245 461973). She will be pleased to hear from you.

Have you taken part in the Sponsored Treasure Hunt or Quarter Peal weeks? If you have, thank you very much for your support. We do need everyone to help and support this venture and if the events we have planned are not your "cup of tea" then please do your own thing. Coffee mornings, bungy jumps, cake stalls, parachute jumps will all raise money and every little helps. Andrew is waiting for your contribution. Don't disappoint him.

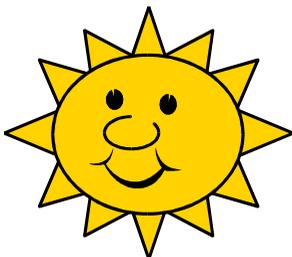
Janet Edwards

## Dates for your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>District</u>
7th Sept	Call Change Competition	Ilford	South-West
	District Meeting	Boreham	South-East
7-14th	Quarter Peal Week		Northern
14th	District Meeting	Kelvedon	Northern
21st	District Meeting	Kirby Le Soken	North-East
	District Meeting	South Weald	Southern
	Essex Trophy 10 Bell Competition	Boking	
<b>28th</b>	<b>Association Training Day</b>	<b>Hatfield Heath</b>	
<b>12th Oct</b>	<b>Association Dinner</b>	<b>Benton Hall, Witham</b>	
19th	District Meeting	Epping	South-West
26th	Service & Meeting	Matching	North-West
9th Nov	Call Change Competition	High Easter & Gt Waltham	South-East
	District Meeting	Gt Easton & Gt Bardfield	Northern
	Evening Ringing	Leytonstone	South-West
16th	District Meeting	Leigh on Sea	Southern
30th	District Training Day	TBA	South-East

**Don't forget the Training Day based at  
Hatfield Heath on September 28th.**

**Contact Adrian Semken on 01376 561183  
for more details.**




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The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for December 1996. Contributions please to Vicki Patmore, 48 Crocus Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6XN  
☎01245 461973 by 15th November.

Answers: 1 - Moby Dick; 2 - Australia