



EACR



Newsletter

No. 26

DECEMBER 1996

TOWER:

The Dinner & Dance

A change of venue for this year's Annual Dinner and Dance did not sway support for this very social occasion. Held at the Benton Hall Golf Club it attracted a major turnout. Our guests were the Colchester Area Bishop, The Rt Rev'd Edward Holland, and Phil Rogers, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths 1984-1985. Phil is a regular contributor to the Ringing World, writing under the name of Scurrilous Scribo. Another guest of the Association was Canon Anthony Abbey who had recently stood down as our Chaplain, a position he had held for the past 10 years. Following the excellent food and speeches given by our guests and of course the Master, we had the choice of either dancing to the Starlight Disco or just sitting, as many did, and talking to old and new friends.

One of the attractions of Benton Hall is that the disco is held in another room. This gives those who just want to sit, talk and socialise a chance to, and those who wanted to dance very easy access to the bar. As with all good things the evening finished all too early but the overwhelming opinion was that it was a great evening.

Arrangements are in hand for 1997, so be sure to book the date in you diary, 11th October, and book early.

Mike Bishop

Nominations

Our rules require that nominations for Association Officers - Master, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Trustees, and any Notices of Motion must be received by the Association Secretary by the 1st February 1997. All current Association Officers are prepared to stand again but this should not stop anyone putting forward other candidates.

Mike Bishop

Points from the Committee Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Executive Committee usually gets through a large amount of work and the October meeting was no exception. The following points may be of interest, if you want to know more ask one of your District Officers.

Association President: The Rt. Rev'd John Perry, the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford has accepted our invitation to be our President and the Association looks forward to his time with us.

The Association Library is no longer in the Central Library at Chelmsford but is currently being stored at Colin Chapman's home. If anyone wishes to access it please make contact with Colin. Telephone number in the Annual Report.

The Millennium: A sub-group has been set-up to look into, and explore, ways in which the Association can celebrate this important event and how we can promote bell ringing and it's associated activities. The sub-group is to report back to the Executive Committee in February when decisions will be made as to the way forward. Ann Chapman, Chair of the sub-group, has written more on the subject elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Association's Chaplain: Following Canon Abbey's decision not to seek re-appointment, the Rev'd Roger Mason has been appointed to this important office. More on this subject further on in this Newsletter.

Caister 97: We have been invited to run a workshop at the 1997 event. Dickie Furninger has offered to run a 3-day course for hand-bell ringing. He is looking for helpers, so if you would like to help please contact him on 01206 271638.

Mike Bishop

... And Now There Are Five

The addition of the fifth bell has made more difference than we could have anticipated. As none of us are proficient ringers, even Plain Hunt is a challenge, and if anyone is "off sick" or on holiday, we cannot even practice that. We then revert to call changes that are also more difficult on 5, particularly for the caller. This is made worse by the fact that the ringers forget that the old treble is now 2 and 2 is now 3, etc., or invariably one or more of us cannot hear the call clearly because the bells are now much louder (excuses, excuses)!

We are trying to remedy the latter problem by laying carpet in the Belfry in the hope of deadening the sound.

However, we continue, and feel that some progress is being made. We are thankful to Jonathan from Hutton who now joins us each Monday and other visiting ringers who have called in to enquire how we are getting on and to help us with useful advice.

There is no doubt that the new bell has changed life in the tower and even if we cannot do justice to the new ring of 5, the extra bell has opened up more opportunities for us and visiting ringers, thus putting us on the bellringing map.

Jennie Scott

Quiz Night at Terling

The order of the day was for everyone to "do their bit" for the Margaretting bell fund. As Terling were looking into raising their ringing floor to provide a new vestry for the church, a joint venture was discussed by Yvonne Towler and Sue Page, splitting any profits evenly between the two causes.

A quiz night was considered to be an appropriate event, so was duly arranged to be held in Terling Village Hall on Friday 27th September under the banner of Inworth and Terling.

Just under 130 people in 18 teams sat down and thoroughly enjoyed a noisy quiz together with a ploughman's supper prepared by Sue Page and Jenny Parris. Yvonne Towler organised the quiz, ably supported on the evening by David Hengeli.

An unfortunate incident could have marred the proceedings, but for the sporting nature of one of the teams. After the prizes had been awarded to the "winning" team, it was discovered that the wrong joker score was doubled for Steve Waters' team, and in fact made them the winners by half a point. They were not only to be congratulated on winning, but also for the way they accepted the situation as it was. As one member of the team put it: "We know we won, and that's all that matters. The money was for a good cause anyway".

A total of £482 profit was realised, and we wish to thank all the ringers and friends from all over Essex who came to support the event, and for the donations of raffle prizes from those who could not make it.

It is hoped that another entertainment evening will be held next year.

Jim Towler

Margaretting

Did you manage to raise your £10 towards the Margaretting "George Eve" bell? If you did, well done. Thank you for all that you did. There were lots of special events. Some went well, some didn't, but I hope you all enjoyed those that you supported. As I write this, there is still the Barn Dance and Grand Draw to take place so the final amount raised is not yet known. We should have news of that by the next Newsletter, so watch this space. A special thank you from me to Vicki Patmore, Colin Chapman and David and Laura Childs who have done a lot of work behind the scenes to help the fund raising be as successful as possible.

Janet Edwards

1996 Report

Work will soon be starting on the 1996 Annual Report. Please let me know if there are any mistakes from the 1995 report which need correcting.

Ann Chapman

The Millennium

There has been quite a bit in the Ringing World recently about the Millennium so “What is the Association doing about it?”

A Millennium sub-committee was set up at the last Committee Meeting and our first meeting is scheduled for early December. We will be reporting to the Executive Committee and keeping all districts informed of the Association’s plans for this major event (in the eyes of the media at any rate!). The Open Churches Trust has formulated a **Celebration 2000** Project to promote the idea of holding a service in every church at 12 noon on 1st January 2000.

The Association’s aim is to ring for this service in **ALL OUR RINGABLE CHURCHES** and it will be down to all of us, every single ringer, whether a member of the Association or not, to make this possible. Early in the New Year we shall be contacting every church within the Association to establish what the ringing situation is and what enthusiasm and expertise can be called upon to help in recruiting and training ringers, and retaining them into the 21st Century. Please give us as much information as possible, tell us what the particular problems are in your area (you know them better than anyone), offer to learn how to teach, make suggestions as to what you think could be done and then we will do our best to put these ideas into action.

The sub-committee at present comprises: Ann Chapman (Chairman - 01245 324461), Roger Dorking (01277 655979), Sue Beale (01255 676472), Mary Bone (01279 726159) and Phil Stephens (01245 421022). Please give us a call if you would like to talk about ideas for the Millennium.

Ann Chapman

Farewell But Not Good-bye

The Reverend Canon Anthony Abbey, to give him his proper title, has been our Chaplain for a little over 10 years. During that time he has given great help and advice to the Executive Committee and to the Association Officers. Anthony brought a unique insight to the job by being both a ringer and a vicar. His last contribution was to the successful ‘Bell Sunday’ event, where his theological and liturgical advice was invaluable during the planning stage. On behalf of the Association I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anthony for all his work and am confident that this is not good-bye.

Like all good stories, this has a happy ending and a new beginning for us. The Rev’d Roger Mason, Vicar of Prittlewell has been appointed by the Executive Committee as our new Chaplain and also brings some insight to the job. Although not a ringer himself he does have a daughter who rings and is well versed in ringing terminology. He also knows what good ringing is, ask his local band. For those who don’t know the Rev’d Mason, he was the preacher at this years AGM service, and if you weren’t there, you don’t know what you missed. On behalf of the Association I would like to welcome Father Roger and look forward to his time with us.

Mike Bishop

The Essex Trophy - 21st September 1996

The competition in 1995 had been hosted by the Kent County Association and had been held at Leeds with the test piece being Lincolnshire Surprise Royal. Those who have rung at Leeds will know that they are a particularly challenging peal of bells. As such we were pleased with our second place only two points behind the Hertford County Association - the winners for the second time in a row.

The plan to improve on this performance was hatched in the car on the way home. Essex were to host the 1996 competition and thus had "home advantage" with choice of venue and test piece. Superlative No. 2 Surprise Royal, and Bocking were chosen.

Mike Bishop took on the job of organising the day, making the necessary arrangements with the authorities at Bocking and inviting the other teams. Most unusually it was left to the Master to organise the Essex team when Adrian Malton secured a job in Greece a few weeks before the competition. Despite the clash with the College Youths Peal Day a willing band of volunteers was found to do battle and for once we actually managed to assemble the entire band for a much needed practice before hand. The judges, John Loveless and Linda Garton had been approached 11 months before the event and as they said on the day it is not very easy to decline the invitation claiming that you have a peal arranged that far in advance.

The day went off extremely well and the bands in each half of the draw were welcomed by the Dean of Bocking, the Revd Philip Need. His interest in the ringers and the day in general was much appreciated by all involved. Rumours that the rather long gap between the end of the first half and the start of the second was sponsored by the Landlord of "The Retreat" are wholly unfounded.

In the end six teams took part from Middlesex, Herfordshire, Surrey, Guildford, Sussex and Essex - ringing in that order. The standard of ringing was very high from all the bands and after a fairly appalling three minute practice session the Essex band settled down well with the ringing improving as we approached the marked, second half of the plain course.

Our hopes were raised by the favourable general comments and these were fortunately not dashed (as is so often the case!) when the results were announced: Essex 56 faults, Sussex 70 faults, Hertford 76 faults, Guildford 116 faults, Surrey 123 faults, Middlesex 195 faults.

Thus the Master found himself in the embarrassing position of having to ask the Very Revd Philip Need to present the trophy to himself. This is only the second time that Essex has won the Essex Trophy in its seventeen year history. Next year's competition is being hosted by the Guildford Diocesan Guild and it is likely to be held at the Cathedral itself.

My thanks are due to Mike for all his hard work behind the scenes, to the ladies and gentlemen who kept us topped up with Tea and Cakes, to the Dean and the ringers of Bocking for their support and enthusiasm on the day and of course to the ringers for their efforts and support. For the record the winning band stood as follows: David Sparling (c), Paul Cammiade, Andrew Dickinson, John Armstrong, David Rothera, Colin Chapman, Tony Bloomfield, Brian Meads, John White and Jim Towler.

David Sparling

THE ESSEX RINGING COURSE

You may well be reading this around Christmas time and the New Year but the other major festival of the Church, namely Easter, is not far away. Easter 1997 is early and that means that the Essex Ringing Course is also early, being the Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Easter. The dates are 3rd, 4th and 5th of April.

The Course is now well established and many have attended as a student since it was all started. If you are interested in applying but are not sure what the Course is all about why not talk to somebody who has been before? Alternatively discuss it with one of your District Officers or with Adrian Semken, the Education Officer.

Many aspects of ringing will be on offer in this year's Course from call changes and basic hunting to Stedman and Cambridge Surprise. With the millennium, and the need to train many more ringers if all the bells are to be rung to mark the occasion, the subject of Tower Captaincy and Teaching Bell Control will again be offered. In the past, support for this particular aspect of ringing has been very poor but if we, as ringers, are to ensure that our skills are passed on to future generations, does it not make sense to get to grips with at least some of the fundamentals of teaching bell control and running a tower in an efficient and enthusiastic way?

Course brochure and application details will be available after Christmas from Adrian Semken - see Tower Notice for further details.

Help!

Ringing Courses can only be successful if the students and tutors are backed up by a strong team of willing helpers. Those who have helped in the past know how rewarding it can be to see a group or an individual make progress during a course. If you would like to give something back into ringing - after all somebody gave of their time to teach you - why not offer to come along as a helper. You do not have to give up all three days although obviously it helps the organisers if you can, and helpers with a wide range of abilities are required. The only stipulation is that helpers are available for the practical ringing sessions of their group - typically about 1100 to 1230 and 1330 to 1515 - but all helpers are most welcome to join in with all the other Course activities including the social.

Adrian Semken

Whitechapel and Beyond

On Saturday, 26th October, Janet Edwards organised a coach outing to London, visiting the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and five eight bell towers.

The 29-seater coach left Colchester at 8 a.m., picking up more passengers at Kelvedon, Chelmsford and Margaretting. At 10.15 a.m. ten of us were left at St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, while the others went on the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The Church of St. Matthew (tenor 13-3-23) has been substantially rebuilt since World War II. When we arrived we were told that we were ringing for an 11 a.m. wedding. After a good half hour's ring, we crept down the tower stairs, to encounter the Vicar explaining to would-be guests that the wedding had been cancelled at short notice! Our second morning ring was at St. Botolph-without-Aldgate, the easternmost of all the City Churches. Consecrated in 1744, it is the third Church on this site from Saxon times. The bells were the heaviest of the outing (tenor 25-0-7) and a pleasure to ring.

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At 12 noon, we rejoined the rest of the group, whose visit to the Foundry had been both enjoyable and informative. The general comment was that it was like stepping back in time, as the basic techniques of bell founding have changed little since mediaeval times. The biggest advance this century has been in the field of bell tuning, in which modern science has made possible a much greater degree of sophistication.

For lunch our coach driver took us to the Royal Festival Hall. This was a good choice, offering several eating areas as well as a lively jazz band in the foyer. First stop after lunch was the Pimlico Ringing Centre at St. Saviours Church (tenor 7-1-20), where the tower is set up as a teaching centre to encourage new ringers in the area. Unfortunately a misunderstanding about times meant that we were clashing with the church choir practice. We compromised by cutting short our visit by 25 minutes and went on to St. George the Martyr, Southwark (tenor 14-2-24). The present building was consecrated in 1736, though a church may have existed on the site since the time of the Roman Occupation. Dickens mention St. George's Church in his novel "Little Dorrit". The final visit was to St. James, Bermondsey (tenor 14-1-15). Built in 1829 with a Greek exterior and galleried interior, it was considered by John Betjeman to be the finest Commissioner's Church in London. The ringing chamber is very near the bells, making a noisy end to the day's ringing. In a separate room was a simulator with a dummy bell, which several of the group were able to try out.

Back on the coach for the journey home, Janet gave special thanks to David Childs, who had made all the ringing arrangements but was unable to join us on the day. She also announced that the outing's income over expenditure left only £1 for the Margaretting Bell Fund. Never mind, Janet; the effort was definitely worthwhile for the pleasure it brought all of us who took part.

Nan Gibson

Association Registers

Engagements: Congratulations to David Hill and Hilary Brown (both of Prittlewell).

Marriages: Congratulations to Sarah Orman (Thorrington) and Paul Millard, David Hull and Alison Edmonds, Jennifer Moore (Sawbridgeworth) and Martin Shattock, Nicola Taplin (Gt. Totham) and Richard Gunen, Teresa Adams and Jason Turnock.

Silver Wedding Anniversaries: Congratulations to Rebecca and Geoff Fuller (Rayne), Chris and Marilyn Tucker (Downham) and Barry and Lynda Rochester.

Ruby Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Lawrence and Nellie Smith of Great Baddow.

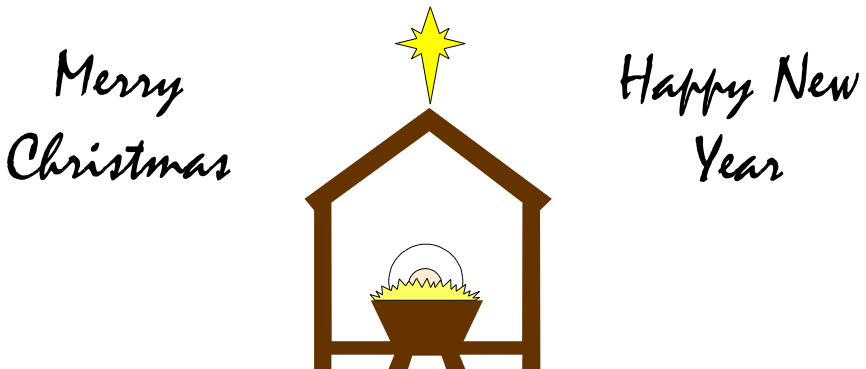
Golden Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Toddy and Muriel Emms of Matching.

Get Well Soon: Frank and Edna Lufkin who are at the time of writing both in Clacton Hospital.

Deaths: Sadly, we must report the deaths of Harry Appleton, Life Member of Goldhanger, Jean Goodwin of Chigwell Row, Ernie Roast of Danbury, and Pip Sadler.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>District</u>
7 December	Terling	Social	SE
14 December	St Leonards, Colchester	Carol Service	NE
	Woodford	Carol Service	SW
	Sandon	Carol Service	SE
	Much Hadham	Carol Service	NW
	Wickham St Paul	Carol Service	N
4 January 1997	Galleywood	A D M	SE
	Gesitingthorpe & Halstead	A D M	N
11 January	Barking	A D M	SW
18 January	Ardleigh	A D M	NE
	Brentwood	A D M	S
25 January	Stansted	A D M	NW



The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1997. Contributions please to Vicki Patmore, 48 Crocus Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6XN ☎01245 461973 by 15th March.