



No: 29

DECEMBER 1997

TOWER:

Videos

At the recent Committee Meeting, it was agreed to purchase the Central Council "Bellhandling" video so that each district could have a copy. The video and accompanying leaflet, together with "The Tutor's Handbook" and "Starting a New Band" provide a useful "teaching package" for anyone who would like to know more about teaching learners to handle a bell.

The video, which lasts about 40 minutes, shows tutors giving their pupils practical help at various stages of Bellhandling i.e. handstroke only, backstroke only, catching at handstroke etc. etc. It also deals with fault corrections and silencing a bell. Not everyone teaches in the same way and this video doesn't profess to cover every aspect of everything to do with Bellhandling. It does, however, provide a very useful introduction to the teaching of bell control which could then be consolidated by attending a "Teach the Teachers" course or discussion and practical help from someone who has taught a lot of ringers whom you think are good handlers.

The video can also be used for discussion. If you have to cancel your practice during the winter, why not get your band together at someone's house with beer and cocoa, watch the video and then discuss the good points and bad points and look critically at your own Bellhandling!

If you would like to borrow the video and accompanying books, please contact your district secretary.

Ann Chapman

Committee Meeting

Your Executive Committee met at Danbury Church Hall on Saturday 4th October. Two new Vice-Presidents were announced, namely The Very Rev'd Peter Judd, the new Provost of Chelmsford Cathedral and The Ven. Martin Wallace, the new-ish Archdeacon of Harlow.

The Treasurer, Andrew Taylor, circulated copies of the Accounts and reported that he could see no reason, at this time, to increase the subscriptions for 1998. The Master thanked Andrew for all his hard work in maintaining such a concise record of the Association's financial matters; it was indicative of this good work that there were no questions concerning the accounts.

The Hon. Technical Adviser, David Sloman, reported that work was planned at: Langdon Hills and that Black Notley would soon be back in working order, having been rehung. Things were looking good at Sheering where it is hoped that a new steel frame for 5 bells may be installed below the existing one.

Ann Chapman, the Millennium Sub-committee convenor, reported that all Districts had been encouraged to set up their own Millennium groups. A District Copy of the CC's bell handling video would be available together with a copy of the Tutor Handbook. Ann took the opportunity to remind everyone that the sub-committee is there as a facilitator to support districts in the run up to the year 2000 and would welcome comments and suggestion of their activities.

The Education Officer, Adrian Semken, reported on the Essex Ringing Course and the Association Training Day that had been held at Hatfield Heath. This was Adrian's last year as the Education Officer and he thanked all those who had supported him during the last 10 years. The Committee thanked Adrian for all the work he had done for the training of bellringers and in putting the Essex Association firmly on the good training map.

October is the month where the Committee appoint Officers for the forthcoming year. They are as follows:- Chaplain Rev'd Roger Mason, vicar of Prittlewell; Report Editor Mo Venus, Ann Chapman having stepped down; Peal Secretary Colin Chapman; Hon. Technical Adviser David Sloman; Education Officer Fred Bone; Public Relations Officer Tracey Southgate. The Master recorded thanks to Janet Edwards the retiring PRO, for all the good work she had done in ensuring that the Association had been kept in the public eye; Hon. Librarian vacant at this time; Newsletter Editor Vicki Chapman. A new position of Newsletter Editor had been suggested by the Hon. Gen. Secretary at the meeting in February. A formal proposition was made that the position be an official appointment. In making the proposition the Secretary emphasised the importance of getting the Association's news and forthcoming events published to all the members and that the Newsletter was playing an ever increasing role in doing just that. The gathering and publishing of this information was a very important role, which therefore warranted recognition by the Executive Committee.

Memorial to Frank & Edna Lufkin: An investigation into the possibility of installing a peal board at Terling would be made. The peal was rung in 1996 and was the last peal that Frank conducted. Due to failing health Frank did not ring in the peal but conducted it from a chair sitting behind the 4th. The Association has received news of a bequest from Edna Lufkin's estate. The purpose was for it to be used in a bell related project. It was agreed that a memorial bell be cast to the memory of Frank and Edna Lufkin at a suitable opportunity.

The EACR and the Internet: Mike Bishop had offered to set up, host and maintain a WWW site for the Association. This would give access to a selection of Association information to over 50 million people world wide.

Mike Bishop

The Essex Trophy

Saturday 20th September and the setting was Guildford where the Cathedral stands impressively on a hill dominating the surrounding area.

John Couperthwaite, Master of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, hosts for the event, had chosen an interesting and, as it turned out, demanding test piece of 305 Double Norwich Court Bob Caters.

The back ten bells were used and of themselves did not present any particular problems. However a large rope circle and a massive ringing chamber always tend to have psychological effects and make ringing slower than perhaps it should be.

Six teams were entered and the draw split into afternoon and evening sessions. Essex were in the 17:00 draw. Grapevine gossip revealed that one of the earlier teams had broken down and restarted (permitted within the rules!). Of the three teams in our draw, we were the only ones to complete the touch without a restart; the final team, Surrey, failed again at their second attempt.

Steve Castle was the judge and here is a summary of his comments in the order in which the teams rang:-

Guildford Diocesan Guild :- Impressive confident ringing which definitely set a standard with an equivalent peal time of 3:34. The tenor was a bit hesitant at times but the ringing was pleasing to listen to.

Sussex County Association :- Peal time 3:34. The 4th was quick at hand throughout and the tenor was quick towards the end. The touch was restarted with 21 faults being accrued from the first attempt.

Hertford County Association :- 3:51 equivalent peal time. Most faults occurred at hand stroke; some rough patches - problem with the method? There was a significant half lead error in the 3rd course but apart from this faults were evenly distributed.

Essex Association :- Confident ringing with a peal time equivalent to 3:43. There was a tendency to half lead faults i.e. when the treble was at the back whilst the tenor became quick towards the end. There was a "rough" patch in the 2nd course with some hesitancy and the 8th was quick at back on occasions.

Kent County Association :- This touch was restarted before the judged section was reached. Fast ringing with an equivalent peal time of 3:18. One of the front bells seemed to have a problem with the method and in the middle of the judged section there were 5 leads which caused real problems.

Surrey Association :- This band had problems! The ringing was much slower than the Kent speed. Ringing in the 2nd attempt was generally good until the problems arose that ultimately caused the ringing to be halted. The judge awarded the score on a pro-rata basis from what was rung.

Results:- Guildford 45 faults, Sussex 100, Hertford 84, Essex 85, Kent 113 and Surrey 120. Therefore we were pushed into third place by just one mark!

Overall we thought this was a fair result although it was a shame we had not heard the winner's test piece as this was obviously a very good example of 10 bell ringing. Having already commented on the ringing conditions it is hardly surprising that the home team performed best on the day. Our own practice efforts paid off in that at least we did not have a false start. Although we were beaten by some obviously high quality ringing we did not feel that we, as a band, had let ourselves or the Association down.

Essex was represented by Mick Edwards, Sue Page, David Sparling, John Steed, John Harpole, Peter Fleckney, Colin Chapman (c), Brian Meads, Jim Towler and Adrina Semken.

Quiz Night Two at Terling

After the success of last year's quiz, it was decided to give it another go this year, and put the total proceeds to the "Terling Belfry Floor" fund. This was arranged for 26th September, the venue as last year in Terling Village Hall.

As before, we managed to squeeze nearly 130 people into the hall for another enjoyable evening, with a ploughmans supper served during the interval. The end of the evening saw two local teams tie for first place; the Rector's team and David Hengeli's team. After a sudden death play-off, David's team emerged the winners to received a small travel bag each, kindly donated by "Totes". The raffle prizes were again donated by people who could not make it.

A total of £450 was raised from the event, and thanks are extended to all those who contributed. Special thanks go to Sue Page and Jenny Parris for preparing the food and making local arrangements, Yvonne Towler for organising the quiz, and Richard Godden for scoring. Young Luke and Richard should also get a mention for setting up the sound system.

It is hoped to arrange one more evening next year when we hope to be closer to our target for the new floor.

Jim Towler

THE EACR ON-LINE

For those who have access to the Internet you can now find the Association's Web Site at <http://www.eacr.mcmail.com> The site is still being developed so keep watching for updates. The plan is to keep the sit bang up to date but this can only be done with your help. The WWW may be a Super Information Highway but it can't tell you what it doesn't know, so if you find any information on the Association Web Site or in the Annual Report that is incorrect there's a 'Webmaster' e-mail address on the 'Home Page'.

CHECK IT OUT

Mike Bishop

Watch Out - Beetle's About!

Up here, in the North East, we believe there are three key ingredients to a good social evening; fun, food and fund-raising. Our Beetle Drive on 25th October was no exception and things got off quite literally, to a flying start. There were dice and accusations of cheating flying around all over the place. Fun it definitely was because it brought out the worst in otherwise mild mannered people! We had a special award for the person with the lowest score of the evening, and the fish 'n' chip supper was great. In total the evening raised £155 for bell restoration. My thanks to Bernard Fairhead for organising and running the raffle, to the ladies of the Tendring Band for all their help on the night, and also to Sue Beale for organising the poster and tickets. Last, but by no means least, a special thank you to my husband Dave who was bravely fighting the flu. I wouldn't have been able to do it without him!

Tracey Southgate

Millennium Update

Recruitment Launch - this was very successful with an estimated 50+ towers throughout Essex open for some time over the weekend 13/14 September. The number of visitors ranged from 0 to 50+ and several towers have now recruited new learners.

Leaflets & Resource Packs - resource packs were distributed to all towers with the last newsletter and much of the contents can be used or adapted for use at other events at your church. There are still plenty of leaflets left so if you can put some in strategic places, please contact your district secretary, the PRO or myself for some more.

What next? - Each tower should receive a letter with this newsletter. Please fill in the slip at the bottom and return it to your district secretary or one of the sub-committee. If the sub-committee can help create some enthusiasm for a restoration project or for a recruitment drive in your parish/village by running a seminar/talk/demonstration or whatever you need, please contact one of us to discuss it.

Essex Show - 19-21 June 1998 - We are hoping to participate in the Essex Show next year. This is in the very early stages of planning (as far as our "bit" is concerned) but please put the date in your shiny new Ringing World Diary as we shall be looking for lots of help!

Ringing Schools - schools are either established or ready-to-go in all districts. If you would like your learners to attend or want to go yourself, please contact your district master for more details.

"Teach the Teachers" course - the Central Council run course hopefully will take place in June next year. We hope to have a firm date by January.

A "league table", compiled from the information provided in the questionnaires and enclosed letter, hopefully will be available in February. Please update it as you get more ringers. If you have any ideas or suggestion or can help with sponsorship or any other way, please let us know.

Ann Chapman (01245 324461), Sue Beale (01255 676472), Mary Bone (01279 726159), David Childs (01376 329706), Roger Dorking (01277 655979), Janet Edwards (01621 816496), Phil Stephens (01245 421022)

Bloopers!

Several Sundays ago, thanks to a copyreader's blooper, the final hymn was listed in the service leaflet with the arresting title, "Crown him with many crows". That's an interesting image, but hardly orthodox theology. We are not alone. Richard Lederer, in his book *Anguished English*, shared the following bloopers found in various church bulletins:

- Next Sunday Mrs Vinsion will be soloist for the morning service. The Rector will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience".
- The Rector spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy".
- Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Pot Luck Supper: prayer and medication to follow.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in school days.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- During the absence of our Rector, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J F Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

- via St Luke's Church
Darien, Connecticut

THE ANGLICAN DIGEST

What's Going On?

Sending in your articles for the Newsletter is so easy.

1. E-mail me at Vicki_Chapman@mandg.co.uk
2. Telephone me on 01245 358040
3. Send it by snail mail to the usual address (on the back page)

Now there's no excuse!

Association Registers

Births: Congratulations to Laura and David Childs (Braintree) on the speedy arrival of Ruth Hannah, a little sister for Thomas.

Birthdays: Congratulations to Eric Potter (Ingrave) who celebrated his 80th birthday on 7th November.

Silver Wedding: Congratulations to Mike Bishop (Hon. Gen. Secretary) and long suffering wife, Jane (both of Gosfield) who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on 18th November.

Golden Wedding: Congratulations to Mrs and Mrs C Crabb of Epping Upland who recently celebrated 50 years of marriage.

QUARTER PEALS REPORT

A reminder that you should return the completed Quarter Peals Report form for your tower (as distributed with the April 1997 newsletter) to the Peals Secretary by mid-January to ensure that the most accurate information is available for the 1997 Annual Report.

Enclosed with this Newsletter you should find a new Quarter Peals form for you to pin up in your tower. Please fill it in as you go throughout the year and return it to the Peals Secretary in January 1999.

SE District Call Change Competition Goes Mad!

Every November, the SE District holds a Call Change Competition to encourage those members of our District who may not be quite up to the Striking Competition level yet. For some unknown reason, this years competition attracted no less than 9 teams! This included a band from Broomfield who have only recently started up with the help of the District Ringing School and support from some of the District Officers. Although they came ninth, the Broomfield ringers have told me that next year they fully intend to win! Good luck, I say!

The competition was judged solely by Adrian Semken, his assistant failing to show up! The winners were Little Waltham with Danbury and Terling, who also entered a team for the first time in many years, coming second and third respectively.

Following the competition was a short business meeting at which, 3 new members were elected as Ringing Members of Pleshey. It is believed that these are the first members ever to be listed for Pleshey!

PRACTICE NIGHTS

Following the success of the SE District Ringing School, two new bands are up and running their own practice nights. Please come along to support them if you can.

PLESHEY - Friday 8pm to 9.30pm

BROOMFIELD - Tuesday 8pm to 9pm

Dates for Your Diaries

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>District</u>
6th December	Carol Service	Eastwood	Southern
13th	Carol Service	Tendring	North Eastern
	Carol Service	Tolleshunt D'arcy	South Eastern
	Carol Service	Witham	Northern
3rd January 1998	ADM	Great Baddow	South Eastern
	ADM	Shalford & Bocking	Northern
10th	ADM	Loughton	South Western
	ADM	Great Holland	North Eastern
17th	ADM	Grays	Southern
24th	ADM	Saffron Walden	North Western



Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for April. Please send contributions to Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF or telephone 01245 358040, or E-mail Vicki_Chapman@mandg.co.uk by **15th March 1998**.