



10th Anniversary Edition

No. 31

AUGUST 1998

TOWER:

Annual Dinner and Dance

....will be held on Saturday 10 October 1998 at Benton Hall Golf Club, near Witham, when the speakers will be the Ven. Peter Taylor, Archdeacon of Harlow, David Potter from York Minster (you read him in the Ringing World - now come along and hear him) and, of course, Stephen Nash. There will be a raffle in aid of the BRF and donations of prizes will be very welcome. Dancing afterwards to Starlight Disco. And you can also sample the new “ringing” beer brewed for the EACR by Mighty Oak of Hutton as this will be available at the bar. The name is still to be revealed!

The menu will be: Three Melon Salad with Raspberry Dressing; Cornfed Chicken Breast filled with creamed leeks and spinach and accompanied by seasonal vegetables; and Pear and Almond Tart followed by Coffee and Mints. Vegetarian and special (gluten-free) diets can be catered for; please let me know when ordering your tickets.

Tickets are available by post from Mrs Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9DB, and cost £22 - the same as last year. Please enclose your payment and SAE with your order, and include names for the seating plan. Book early as numbers are limited; the deadline is September 26 (Association Training Day).

The AGM

There was an excellent attendance at this year's service and meeting. The address was given by our President, Bishop John Perry, who also had time to meet members during the "interval" between the service and the meeting and to stay for part of the meeting itself. At the meeting we received another splendid Annual Report, elected our new team for the coming year with Steve Nash as Master and Mary Bone as General Secretary, and heard an update on the Millennium preparations. The Association was privileged to be presented with the ringing diary of Eric John Coe and with Hilda Snowden's peal records. On behalf of all the members, Don Cobb thanked David Sparling and Mike Bishop for their great contribution to the Association during five years in office; they were presented with engraved glass bowls, and Jane Bishop received a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her support.

Lunch was served by members of the North East District and followed by ringing in the Southern District with tea at Prittlewell. Our thanks go to the Cathedral authorities for the service arrangements and for allowing us to use the Cathedral for the meeting, to Chelmsford Age Concern for use of the hall for lunch, and to all those involved in making the day such an enjoyable occasion.

Mary Bone

Association Training Day

The Training Day this year will be held on Saturday 26th September, based at Terling.

Tuition will be offered in:

- 🔔 Rounds to Call-Changes: for those who can handle a bell competently with no assistance and are ready to begin, or are just starting Call-Changes;
- 🔔 First Steps in Plain Hunt: for those with experience of Call-Changes and an understanding of the different speeds of ringing;
- 🔔 Little Bob and St Clement's Minor: for those who can ring touches of Plain Bob Minor "inside";
- 🔔 Raising and Lowering in Peal: for anyone who can raise and lower a single bell and ring rounds competently.

There will be a small charge (probably around £4) to cover tower donations and other expenses. Application to me as soon as possible, please; 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9DB, telephone 01279 726159. Volunteer helpers are also needed!

Fred Bone

Tower Correspondent Update

Chelmsford Cathedral:

Mrs Vicki L Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF 📞 01245 358040

Great Waking:

David A Church, 91 Leitrim Avenue, Shoeburyness, SS3 9HE 📞 01702292165

Rayleigh: Mrs Julie Pye, 4 Bromfords Close, Wickford, SS12 0PN 📞 01268767948

Thorrington:

G Noel Orman, "Barnview", Church Road, Thorrington, Colchester, CO7 8HS 📞 01206 251635

SE District BBQ

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported this event on Sunday 28th June. £294 was raised for Bell Restoration.

Hazel Steed

Meet Your New Master

One of the first jobs I have been asked to do is write something about myself and my hopes/expectations for the future. Editors can be very persuasive in the way they ask for newsletter items (start the way they mean to carry on I think!).

I can honestly say that if someone had told me a few years ago that I would be the person at the front I would not have believed it. I would like to thank those who have already shown that they support me, I only hope that I can live up to the standard that has been set by my predecessor. I am sure that I can speak for us all in thanking David for all the effort that he has put in during his years of office, I feel sure that I am about to realise the amount of effort that goes on behind the scenes.

At the age of 11, a number of school friends in Wargrave, Berkshire, all disappeared on a Wednesday night to go ringing at the village church. I thought I might join them and I learnt to handle a bell and became as keen as the others. Looking back I can now see what an important time this was in my ringing career, as we all know that ringing style or technique originates from the tutor and I am indebted to Harry Smith for his hard work and patience. My family then moved to Wimborne, Dorset in 1977. I was very fortunate to be the only learner in a tower that had lots of experienced ringers.

While at University my family moved to Brentwood, thereby becoming an Essex boy again (I was born in Romford) and a member of the EACR.

Turning to the present day the EACR has many strengths, but the main asset of course is its members - you. The vast number of people who carry out tutoring and training in their own towers and across the county is a real credit to the Association. Not forgetting the number of ringing schools that have been set up to train the many people who are being recruited at the moment through the Millennium campaign. This was noticed in the number of requests for Rounds and Call Changes groups on the Essex Course this year.

I can see that as we approach the year 2000, the number of members will be increasing and I hope that this will mean an increase in the number of towers that are rung each Sunday for that is our primary reason for the recruitment drive.

As you know part of the Master's job is to visit each of the Districts as often as they can, and I will endeavour to be at your district events if at all possible. Some of you may know that I am currently the District Master of the Southern District, however I feel that I must vacate this post so that I am able to visit the other districts that have events on the same dates.

Thank you once again for your support, if you have any questions or comments about anything please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to answer them.

Steve Nash 01708 856876

Peal Board Dedication Service

There will be a service of dedication at All Saints, Terling on Sunday 27th September 1998 at 11 am for the peal board recording the last peal conducted by Frank Lufkin. All are welcome to attend.

Terling Quiz Night

In aid of Terling Belfry Floor

Friday 25th September 1998 at 7.30pm at Terling Village Hall

£4 per person (included Ploughman's Supper) Bring your own beer!

Contact Sue Page: 01245 233488 or Yvonne Towler: 01621 817212

Have you visited the EACR Website yet? //www.eacr.mcmail.com

Essex Show 19th-21st June

A demonstration bell was borrowed from Ralph Earey of the Suffolk Guild, This was pitched outside the marquee, together with an exhibition of posters and leaflets and some ringing hardware borrowed from Adrian Semken. In the weeks leading up to the show it poured with rain continuously and we were not looking forward to 3 days in the field, up to our necks in mud!

However, all that changed and the weather was glorious. Friday was a little quiet, but Saturday and Sunday were very busy indeed. We gave away stickers to anyone who tried their hand at the bell so we know we had over 700 visitors. We also had nearly 60 genuine enquiries from people wanting to learn to ring from all over the County. The details have been passed on to the relevant tower captains to follow up. One young girl from the Southend area was so keen, she came back to see us 4 times and we got as far as teaching her handstroke!

Celebrities that we managed to coax into having a go included the Bishop of Colchester (who was very proud to wear his EACR sticker on his purple shirt), Nigel Bird the President of the Essex Royal British Legion, and Revd Matthews who is the Diocesan Millennium Coordinator. The stand was also featured on BBC and Anglia Television and I did an interview for Telewest (Basildon) on the Saturday.

It was the first time we had a stand at the Show for quite a few years, but we were all agreed that despite the very hard work involved in organising it, it was a great success. Keep your eyes open for some interesting ideas for next year, or if you have any ideas of your own, please let us know.

I'd just like to say a big thank you to all our helpers for the three days: Peter Childs, Wendy Godden, Reg Dixon, Phil Stephens, Roger Dorking, Steve and Alison Nash, Dickie Furringer, Maurice Downs, Sue Beale, Ann Chapman and Mary Bone.

Tracey Southgate

Millennium Committee - Train the Trainers Course

Saturday 20th June was an eye opening day for 15 ringers from around the county as they tried their hand at teaching for the first time. They were split into four groups and sent to towers in the Writtle area, where they were met by a Central Council Tutor and an Assistant Tutor from the EACR. The morning theory session included practical demonstrations of common handling faults by the Tutors and Assistant Tutors. This proved to be the hardest part for the Assistant Tutors who had great trouble in ringing incorrectly.

Following a pub lunch, each group was met by some volunteers who, under supervision, were taught to ring by our obviously nervous students. It was very pleasing that after a few hours of training and a few flailing ropes, almost all of them were handling a bell unaided.

The day was rounded off with the viewing of the Central Council video on bell handling, complemented by a wonderful tea prepared by Mary Bone.

The course was considered a great success by all those attending and it is hoped that another one can be arranged for those who missed out this time.

Colin Newman

Airing & Sharing

A workshop for Tower Captains and anyone else who is interested will be held on 14th November 1998 at The Church House, Braintree from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. See enclosed brochure or apply by 30th September 1998 to Janet Edwards, 24 Perry Road, Tiptree, Colchester CO5 0UB, stating your tower and if you require lunch.

Mary Bone writes: -

I learnt to ring at Blackmoor, Hants, at the time of my confirmation; it was either the choir or ringing (the then Vicar was involved in both), and Fred would certainly agree that ringing was the better choice! I was helped a great deal by ringers from nearby towers who encouraged me and helped with transport to enable me to attend practices and other events. They were “association-minded” and it therefore seemed natural to me to become involved myself and help put something back in to ringing when I was able to do so. Before Fred’s job was moved to Harlow my ringing was mainly at Blackmoor, Portsmouth and Battersea, and with the South London Youths who provided Sunday Service bands at several towers. We were married at Battersea in 1975.

Vicki has asked for my views on the Association ...I think Essex has many strengths: we take our aims seriously, have fun while working towards them, are prepared to change what we do and how we do it, and there are a great many people (not just Association and District officers) constantly involved in maintenance, restoration, fund-raising, recruitment and training. This support network is one of the reasons for our success, and I know that the EACR has a high reputation among other societies and guilds. I’m sure that, as we move from the Millennium projects to our 125th anniversary in 2004, we will have more bells in ringing order and more ringers at both existing and new towers to ring for Sunday Service, weddings and other special occasions, and peals!

I see the secretary’s role as providing the central administrative support to help us all achieve these aims. I am usually well-organised and efficient, and my IT skills are improving rapidly with intensive personal tuition! My predecessors set a high standard; I feel very nervous and can only hope that I will be able to live up to it, as well as take our activities further. I would like to thank all those members who’ve offered me support, encouragement, and practical help, and especially, of course, Mike Bishop - who may well feel that he has not yet actually retired from the position!

100 Bell Club

- £50 prize each month!

Applications for the club have been steady but slow and as at 22nd June there were not enough applicants to enable the club to start. After an electronic consultation it was decided to delay the first draw until OCTOBER 1998 to give people more time to get their applications in. So, if you are now saying to yourself “Oh yes, I was going to join that” - now is your last chance. Go and dig out that application form you got from your district secretary 3 months ago, fill it in and SEND IT IN. If you’ve lost the form ask your district secretary or myself for another - or send in your name and address together with a cheque for £12 (or multiples thereof) made out to “Essex Association of Change Ringers”. Allocated numbers will be sent out in September. Should there still be insufficient participants by mid-September to make it worthwhile proceeding, the club will not start up and all cheques will be returned to applicants.

Ann Chapman

Striking Competitions

The Associations striking competition finals were hosted by the South West District at Ilford and Barking on 4 July. Ten teams took part in the 6-bell finals and all districts rang in the inter-district 8-bell competition. The set touch for this was a course of Cambridge Surprise Major. The judges for both competitions were Ian Fielding and Richard Hobbs.

The results were as follows:

Six bell

1st Chelmsford (48 faults); 2nd Coggeshall (52); 3rd Hornchurch (59); 4th Downham (80); 5th Gt Totham (89); 6th Dagenham (112); 7th Halstead (125); 8th Bentley Common (128); 9th Gt Parndon (159); 10th Kirby-le-Soken (did not complete).

Eight bell

1st SW District (65 faults); 2nd SE (79); 3rd S (99); 4th N (130); 5th NW (134); 6th NE (ringing with two substitutes: 175).

Congratulations to the winning teams and to all those who entered bands in the District competitions. Many thanks to Sandra Lee and the South West District for making all the arrangements and for providing and serving tea at Ilford.

Unfortunately the Association was unable to enter a team for the Ridgman Trophy competition held at Peterborough in May. The Hertford County were the winners. The Essex Trophy will be held at Warnham, Sussex, on 19 September.

Mary Bone

Millennium Update

Ringling School Meeting - Most of the schools were represented at this meeting and very useful discussion resulted. Topics covered included: syllabus, handling styles, teaching the tutors, format for teaching sessions, organisation of tutors/helpers, mechanisms for transferring students from the school to towers, selecting and nurturing prospective tower captains for new bands, monitoring progress in new bands and “aftercare requirements”, insurance and new child safety laws, and general discussion of success/failure and best practice.

Ringling schools have provided a partial solution to the teaching of large numbers of recruits and are generally considered to be a “good thing”. Sometimes, however, they have led to difficulties integrating learners into a local tower, and they also represent a huge commitment of time. Three of the Essex schools are run by district masters, who usually have one or two other things to do as well! Most of the ringling schools are on a Saturday morning and although not all the tutors are there every week, the majority must be giving up at least 75% of their Saturday mornings each month. New bands need support in their own towers too which often seems to fall to district officers to provide (no wonder they are getting harder to find!).

We are hoping that other MEMBERS will see this as their opportunity to help with the “Ring in 2000” initiative. So come on – are you helping a struggling or new band? ...even if it’s only once a month on a regular basis. If not, please give your district master a ring and find out where help is needed.

Millennium Ringer - This new brew by Mighty Oak Brewery, Hutton is to be launched at the Essex Dinner on 10 October at 6.30 pm. There will be some free beer and it will also be available to buy at the bar. We are also hoping that you will be able to persuade your local pub to sell it as a guest beer. They will need to contact Mighty Oak Brewery direct to order – contact details can be obtained from Roger Dorking or Phil Stephens.

Demo bell - We are hoping to obtain funding to build our own demo bell similar to the one borrowed from the Suffolk Guild for the Essex Show. We will then need volunteers with skills and enthusiasm

and time on their hands to build it. The Suffolk bell is a fibreglass mould of a real bell, with all the normal fittings mounted in a scaffolding frame which can be dismantled for portability. It is counterbalanced to give a similar feel to a normal bell and a simulator provides the “dong”. If anyone thinks he/she fits the bill and would like more information (no commitment) please give Tracey or Ann a ring to discuss further.

Publicity/Talks etc - If the Millennium Committee can help in any way at churches where the bells are silent by talking to the PCC, villagers, etc., to try and engender some interest in getting the bells ringing again, please let us know and we will try to help.

There is only 18 months before “M-Day” and there is a lot still to be done. New bands are starting up or strengthening and in the next newsletter we hope to print a list of those which have started or recommenced as a result of the Millennium recruitment drive. If there is anything you think we should be doing (or should not be doing!) please let us know and if you fancy joining our happy band of overworked and unpaid volunteers please give me a ring!

Ann Chapman

Millennium Sub-Committee

Ann Chapman (01245 324461), Sue Beale (01255 676472), Mary Bone (01279 726159), Roger Dorking (01277 655979), Janet Edwards (01621 816496), Colin Newman (0181-550 1931), Tracey Southgate (01255 507357), Phil Stephens (01245 421022).

Retirement!.....What Retirement?

About mid to late February this year Vicki Chapman asked me if I would write a small piece for the April edition of this Newsletter. My brief was to recall any funny situations that have occurred during my time as the Hon. Gen. Sec. I was, at the time, in the middle of organising the AGM and so I asked if I could submit it in time for the August issue. When I started to recall the last five years I couldn't recall any really funny situations at all. What I do recall is just how much I enjoyed the work and the huge amount of satisfaction I got. Of course there are always worries when organising a large Association like ours. These include: will we cover the cost of the Annual Dinner; will the AGM be a success, (usually judged by how many complaints received about the choice of hymns); will enough teams enter the Ridgman or Essex Trophy 10-bell striking competitions, and so on, for the other functions during the year. A well run organisation relies very much on many people, and it's all those who helped to make the job so enjoyable. There was also frustration and disappointment; these were also caused by people, but then that's what you get for dealing with humans!

I wish all the best to my successor, Mary. She has joined a long list of secretaries who have all had the honour to have served a fine Association. To the members I would ask, remember that all your Officers are volunteers who receive no payment and get no privileges. Their time is as valuable as yours. If you can't find the time to help, ask yourself, how do they?

So what's this to do with retirement? Well, quite a few people have asked me how I'm enjoying my retirement from the Secretary's job. My reply is, if I had time I would probably miss the job, but since I'm now doing all those little jobs I put off, I'm not missing ityet! I am missing not being at the centre of things, which doesn't help if you're trying to keep the Web Site updated. I'm still getting phone calls from people who think I'm still in Office and I help them if I can, whilst gently informing them of the new Secretary's address and telephone number. Doesn't anyone read the Ringing World?

And now I've come to the part which I really did want to include. I must thank everyone for the beautifully engraved fruit bowl which was presented to me at the AGM. I had suspected that something was being organised, but I still received an enormous amount of joy when it was presented and was a little emotional. The gift that was presented to my wife Jane, also gave me much pleasure and I must add my own very special thanks to her for all the support she has given me. When I first took on the job of Association Secretary Jane stated that “it's your job, so don't expect me to do the typing,” something which she never did. But, she did encourage and support me in many other ways which were of greater benefit. So there it is, once again my thanks to everyone for the support and **DON'T FORGET TO KEEP ME INFORMED IN ORDER THAT THE WEB SITE CAN BE KEPT UP TO DATE.**

Michael Bishop

Association Register

Births: Congratulations to Colin and Judith Newman (Chigwell Row) on the arrival of Katharine Rose on 1st March and to Charlotte (née Gould) and Tom Mackle on the arrival of Alexandra Kate born on 16th May.

Birthdays: Congratulations to Clare Ould (Braintree) on reaching her 18th in April and to David Sparling, recently retired EACR Master (Kirby le Soken) and twin brother John on reaching the BIG 40 on 19th June.

Marriages: Congratulations to Peter Fleckney (Downham) and Christina Hassard-Jones (Liverpool) on their marriage on 25th April.

Deaths: Sadly, we report the deaths of Alan Andrews, Life Member of Thorrington, who died on 26th April, and Charlie Smith, Life Member of Ford End.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

5	Great Bardfield - District Meeting	Northern
5	Maldon (SMV) - District Meeting & Harvest Supper	South-Eastern
12	District Call Change Competition (venue tbc)	South-Western
19	Langham - District Meeting	North-Eastern
19	Great Wakering - District Meeting	Southern
25	Quiz Evening - Terling	
26	ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY - Terling	

October

3	COMMITTEE MEETING - Danbury	
10	ASSOCIATION DINNER - Benton Hall, Witham	
17	Chelmsford - District 12-bell practice	Northern
17	District Social - Tendring	North-Eastern
17	District Meeting (venue tbc)	South-Western
24	Henham - District Meeting	North-Western

November

14	Great Dunmow - District Meeting	Northern
14	Broomfield + Little Waltham - Call Change Comp. & District Meeting	South-Eastern
21	Navestock & Bentley Common - District Meeting	Southern
28	Waltham Abbey - District 12-bell practice	North-Western

December

5	Downham - District Carol Service	Southern
5	District Ceilidh/Barn Dance - Terling	South-Eastern
12	Black Notley - District Carol Service	Northern
12	Shrub End, Colchester - District Carol Service	North-Eastern
12	District Carol Service (venue tbc)	North-Western
12	Great Baddow - District Carol Service	South-Eastern
12	District Social - Wanstead	South-Western

This edition of the Newsletter had to be reshuffled and produced in slightly smaller type to accommodate all the inputs received by 15 July: it was full and ready for print over a week before the deadline! Apologies to any readers who need stronger glasses.

The next edition of the EACR NEWSLETTER is planned for December 1998. 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 1st November 1998.**

Contributions will be included on a first come first served basis, if you have important news **SEND IT NOW.**