



Rounds & About

EACR Newsletter, Issue 35, December 1999
Charity Number 292250

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

This bit usually gets put on the back page, but I thought as this would be the last Newsletter of the 1990's, it shouldn't pass without comment from the Editor, taking care not to offend anyone who wishes to enter into the debate on whether the Millennium starts on 1st January 2000 or 2001!

The last few years have seen much hard work put in to ensure that all our bells ring out on January 1st 2000. We heartily thank all those involved in the sub-committee, district ringing schools, and at individual tower level. A lot of people have been involved one way or another, you are too numerous to mention, but you know who you are, and so do we! Special thanks go to Ann Chapman and Janet Edwards as sub-committee convenors, for all their efforts in trying to co-ordinate it all. The job is not over yet, by any means.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous new year. Let us welcome the year 2000 with open arms, warm hearts, and plenty of ringing!

Vicki Chapman

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

As you may have heard, at the October Committee meeting the Committee approved an increase in all subscriptions from 1 January 2000. Therefore for the the year 2000, subscriptions will be as follows:

 Ringing - £6.00 (Junior members £3.00)

 Friends - £3.00

 Non-Resident - £6.00

 Paid life membership - Ringing £120, Friends £60.

For those paying their subscriptions under a deed of covenant, the existing covenant will automatically cover this increase. Subscriptions were last increased in 1991, also by £1. If there are any questions, please do let me know.

Andrew Taylor - Honorary Treasurer

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Danbury Diary

As the Executive Committee only meets twice a year there is usually a lot of business to transact, and this October's meeting was no exception: 21 items on the agenda, 2.30 kickoff, and closing at 6.15 - in spite of a shorter tea break. Much of the business obviously consists of reports from the officers so that we are all up-to-date with the whole range of Association activities: restoration projects, public relations, education, Millennium activities and, of course, our finances.

The Committee approved the Lufkin memorial bells proposal (announced at the AGM) and a design for the new 6-bell Striking Competition trophy; decided to go ahead and acquire the Demo Bell; considered the future organisation of the Essex Ringing Course; established a group to prepare for the Central Council visit to Essex in 2004; and voted a subscription increase (subscriptions were last increased in 1991). There was considerable discussion on education and on the Association library.

Please ask your District Committee Representative for further information.

Mary Bone

Stop Press

The five bells at Great Chishill were re-dedicated on 27 October 1999 by the Archdeacon of Colchester.

Visitors/helpers are welcome at the Wednesday night practices.

Association Training Day

The Training Day this year had to be cancelled because only two people applied for places, so the Committee has decided to change the date for next year. It will definitely NOT be the fourth Saturday in September; late November (18th or 25th) is looking most promising.

The SW District have kindly offered to host it.

Fred Bone





RING IN 2000 PROJECT

Well done to everyone who is making the effort to make sure the bells of Essex all ring at 12 noon on 1st January 2000. Many of you have already committed yourself to ringing somewhere at that time and I hope you all get the chance to ring in your own tower at sometime during the day. We do want every tower to receive a certificate to hang in their bell chamber and we also want all our ringers to get a mention on at least one certificate.

The District Masters and Co-ordinators will be meeting on 1st December to get an up to date picture of what is happening and to try to fill in any gaps. If you are still having trouble after that date, please contact me or your District Officers for help. We anticipate having alterations to the plan right up to the last minute, as we can't allow for illness or other emergencies but if we don't know you are having problems, we can't help, so do get in touch. We'll try to wave the magic wand and get everything right on the day. Do let me know how it goes and keep a note of what actually happens. Good Luck and a Memorable Millennium to you all.

Janet Edwards



40 Years as LVP

Miss Hilda Snowden (Gosfield) has been a Life Vice President (the only female one too) of the Association since 1954. Her fellow LVP's joined with the Master of the Association in celebrating this achievement by ringing the following peal:

St Michael, Kirby le Soken, Saturday 21st August 1999

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major, 2hrs 49 mins.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joe E G Roast | 5. Dick Furminger |
| 2. Don E Cobb | 6. Pat W Saltmarsh |
| 3. Bernard W Fairhead | 7. Peter J Eves |
| 4. David Sloman | 8. Stephen J Nash |

To celebrate Miss Hilda Snowden's 40 years as a Life Vice President of the Essex Association of Change Ringers.

Rung by seven Life Vice Presidents and the Master of the Association.

MMM....

Master's Millennium Message...

The season of Christmas and the New Year is always exciting, but this year it is different. This year is special because we begin a new Millennium and we, in the Essex Association, have been preparing for this moment for a long time. Everyone of you will have your own way of celebrating both festivals and for most of you ringing is at the heart of each of them. It has long been a tradition to ring the old year out and the new year in, and this will happen as it always does. But, in addition, we have been asked to ring as a Christian witness at 12 noon on 1st January 2000. It will be an exciting and very moving experience.

Make a note of everyone who rings in your tower on 1st January and it will form the basis of a special Millennium Report. Each tower needs to keep a diary of all the special ringing that is done during the year and take some photographs. At the end of the year, all the information will be collated and we hope to produce a report worthy of all the effort that has gone into making the "Ring in 2000" project work.

Plans are already in hand for our own Celebration Day on 1st July 2000. It will be held at Writtle and will include something for everyone, so make a date in your diary and look out for further details.

Finally may I wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Millennium !

Steve Nash

Essex Trophy 10 Bell Striking Competition 1999



This year's competition was hosted by the Surrey Association and held at Dorking on 18th September 1999. The test piece was a set touch of 339 Stedman Caters and was judged by John Ridley from Gloucester. The results were as follows :

1. 16 faults Hertford CA
2. 21.5 faults Guildford DG
3. 24.5 faults Essex ACR
4. 33.5 faults Sussex CA
5. 35.5 faults Winchester and Portsmouth DG
6. 37.5 faults Surrey A
7. 47.5 faults Kent CA

Thanks to the following people for ringing in our band :- John Stephenson, Gillian Sparling, Sue Rothera, Paul Cammiade, David Sparling, Steve Nash, David Rothera (C), Maurice Downs, Colin Chapman and Yvonne Towler.

Steve Nash

"Ringer of the Year" --

(We're pinching an idea from the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association). The B&W have a very successful "Young Ringer of the Year" competition, in which points are scored for progress in various areas of ringing, and for regular attendance on Sundays and at practices, with a prize for the ringer with most points. Unlike them, we're opening it to all ages. Details are being finalised, and you'll be hearing more at your Annual District Meeting. And if anyone thinks they can improve on the "working title" I'd be delighted to hear from them.

Fred Bone

EACR Annual Dinner and Dance

This year's Dinner took place on Saturday, 9th October at the Benton Hall Golf Club, and I think it's the first Dinner I've been to where the guest saying Grace received a standing ovation! Roy Tricker, Area Field Officer for the Churches Conservation Trust prayed that the good food, drink and company we were about to enjoy resulted in strong biceps for Sunday morning ringing. This seemed to set the tone for the evening as we tucked into a delicious four-course meal.

Roy was the first of two guests to speak and he promptly informed us that it was our fault - or St. Mary Magdalene, Harlow Common to be precise - for introducing him to his love of Churches at the tender age of four. It was the sound of the bells that drew him to the church, and he said he remains envious that bell ringers can make far more noise from their ringing rooms, than he ever could from a pulpit! Roy also told us about the book he has co-written with George Pipe about Suffolk Churches, and there are rumours that he may be writing one about Essex. Can't wait for that!

Our second guest was John White, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. John has been Tower Captain at West Ham for 18 years, and he started us off by asking if we knew what the definition of the word 'belfry' is. He also asked if we knew where the custom of 'proposing a toast' came from. I won't tell you the answers; you will have to look them up for yourselves. John wondered how the Association's founders back in 1879 celebrated the turn of the 20th Century, and said what a privilege it was to propose a toast to the health and future prosperity of his own association.

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striking and bad. Better to ring something simple and ring it well, than to try something complicated and make an awful mess of it. Steve finished by presenting a certificate to Peter D. Chapman of Witham, to celebrate his recent election as a Life Member of the Association.

Our guests' wives received a bouquet of flowers and our Hon Gen. Secretary, Mary Bone also received flowers as a thank you for all her hard work in organising the evening. Our raffle raised £186.00 in aid of the Association's Bell Restoration Fund. Members carried on dancing until midnight, and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Tracey Southgate

Frank Lufkin Memorial Bell

The Essex Association of Change Ringers is delighted to announce that at a full meeting of its Executive Committee on Saturday 2nd October 1999, it has now reached a decision on locations for two newly cast bells in memory of Frank Lufkin, a former Master, Life Vice-President and Life Member of the Central Council -

St. John the Baptist, Layer-de-la-Haye will receive the gift of a new bell to complement the other 5 medieval bells and thus augment the peal to 6. St. Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall will also receive the gift of a new treble, enabling the church to augment its existing peal of 8 bells to 10.

Both of the bells will carry an appropriate inscription, to be determined at a later date. If anyone would like to make a donation to either of these projects in memory of Frank, please make your cheque payable to the 'Essex Association of Change Ringers' and send it to the Association's Hon.

Treasurer Mr. A. Taylor, at 23 Framlingham Way, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, CM7 8YY.

For the detailed Press Release, please visit EACR's Web Site.

Steve Nash



Apologies

The editor wishes to apologise to Jane Waters of Great Baddow for inadvertently adding 5 years on to her age. The 50th birthday congratulations should have been for Jane Walters of Waltham Abbey! Apologies to both Janes.

Association Register

Births: Congratulations to John and Frances Osborn on the arrival of Elisabeth Hannah born on 13th June and to Angus and Jeni Dodds (Great Parndon) who have given Melanie a baby sister - called Phillipa Helen on 9th October.

Birthdays: Colin Wright celebrated his 50th in July, Heather Semken (Coggeshall) celebrated her 50th birthday in August, Bill Aley (Nazeing) celebrated his 80th birthday on 30 September and Peter Eves (LVP, Chelmsford) celebrated his 70th in September.

Weddings: Congratulations to Jenny Bennett and Stuart Clark from Sawbridgeworth who were married recently.

Wedding Anniversaries: Sue and Alan George celebrated their first wedding anniversary, while Silver Wedding congratulations go to Jenny and Allan Parris (Terling), to Duncan and Sharon Hayes (Writtle), and to Colin and Gill Wright (SW District). 30th Wedding Anniversary for David and Sue Rothera (Chelmsford), Wendy and Richard Godden (Little Baddow) and Pete and Jo Brown (formerly Terling), 35th for Mick and Janet Edwards (SE District) and Chris and Margaret Pain (Hornchurch), Joe & Mary Roast (Danbury) celebrated their Ruby Wedding recently and Rohry and Joyce Rohrer (Great Hallingbury) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5th November.

From the Archives

From a notebook of Alfred J T Carter of Barking:

"Rung the old century out and the new one in 1900 & 1901"

From a notebook of Arthur Bradley of Broomfield:

*"On Monday Dec 31 1900 Before Midnight
720 New London Pleasure. Rung with the bells half-muffled"*

No references found to 31 Dec 1899 !!!



The year 2000 will be a special year for the Essex Ringing Course - the 10th. Course will be held between the 27th. and 29th. April. That is the Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Easter which is the established period for the event.

On offer will be the usual range of groups based on ringing from rounds and call changes, advancing through Bob Doubles and Bob Minor, to more advanced methods such as Treble Bob and Surprise. There are only 6 students in each practical group and each group is supported by a team of helpers all being lead by the Group Tutor.

Further details are to be found in the Course Brochure which, together with application forms, will be available from about Christmas onwards. The Brochure can be obtained from Adrian Semken, 117a. Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex. CO6 1QN. Please remember to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. Please note that the closing date for applications is 19th. February. Early application is recommended but as the allocation of places depends on what the demand is there can be no guarantee of a place.

In order for the Course to be successful helpers are needed to assist all the Groups during their practical ringing sessions. If you would like to be a helper please volunteer - don't wait to be asked!

Adrian G. Semken.

With This Newsletter You Should Find

- 🔔 A Quarter Peal form for you to record Quarter Peals rung during 2000, please send it to the Peals Secretary by early January 2001. Don't forget to return your 1999 form by 15th January 2000.
- 🔔 An insert on the 1999 Essex Ringing Course. Hopefully this will whet your appetite for the course to be held from April 27th and 29th 2000, just prior to the AGM.
- 🔔 A poster for the 2000 Essex Ringing Course.

DIARY

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1999

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|-----------------|----|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| December | 4 | District Carol Service - Ingrave | Southern |
| | 4 | District Ceilidh - Terling | South-Eastern |
| | 11 | District Carol Service - Great Easton | Northern |
| | 11 | District Carol Service - Bures | North-Eastern |
| | 11 | District Carol Service - Newport | North-Western |
| | 11 | District Carol Service - Inworth | South-Eastern |
| | 11 | Barn Dance - Barking | South-Western |
| | 12 | District Christmas Lunch - Frinton | North-Eastern |

2000

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|----------------|----------|--|---------------|
| January | 1 | Noon - Ring in 2000 | |
| | 8 | ADM - Stebbing and Felsted | Northern |
| | 8 | ADM - Great Totham | South-Eastern |
| | 15 | ADM - Tendring | North-Eastern |
| | 15 | ADM - Epping | South-Western |
| | 22 | ADM - | Southern |
| | 29 | ADM - Sawbridgeworth | North-Western |
| February | 5 | Executive Committee Meeting | |
| April | 27 - 29 | Essex Ringing Course | |
| May | 1 | Annual General Meeting | |
| July | 1 | Annual Striking Competition & Millenium Celebrations | at Writtle |
| October | 14 | Annual Dinner | Benton Hall |



District Secretaries: - please ensure that you keep the Newsletter Editor up-to-date-
with your programmes



The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for April 2000. Please send contributions to Vicki Chapman at 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF. Tel: 01245 358040, or E-Mail cvevrc@globalnet.co.uk by 1st March 2000.

Contributions will be included on a first come, first served basis.