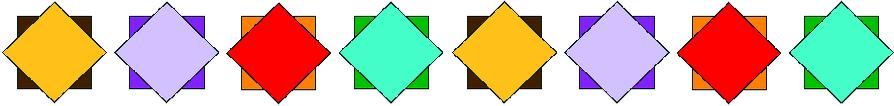


Rounds & About



EACR Newsletter, Issue 37, August 2000

Charity Number 292250



The Annual Dinner & Dance

Yes, it's time once again to get out your party clothes for the Association Dinner and Dance! The date is 14th October, the time is 7 for 7.30pm and the venue is the Benton Hall Golf Club near Witham. Our guests will be Canon John and Mrs Sue Howden from Pleshey, the new Editor of the Ringing World, Robert Lewis, and our newly-elected Life Vice-President Adrian Semken and his wife, Heather.

The menu will be Brie-stuffed mushrooms, herbed salmon fillet on roasted vegetables accompanied by new potatoes and seasonal vegetables, followed by strawberry cheesecake and coffee. A vegetarian main course is available and special diets can be catered for - please specify when ordering your tickets.

After the formal proceedings we can dance til midnight, with the usual break to draw the raffle in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund.

Tickets are available from Mrs Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB at £23 each. Please enclose your payment (cheques payable to EACR) and SAE with your order, and include names for the seating plan. The deadline is 29th September.

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EACR AGM

Another glorious sunny May Day Bank Holiday Monday! The Cathedral bells were kept busy for an hour before the Master's invited band rang the service touch. The service was led by the Vice-Dean, our Chaplain read one of the lessons and led the prayers, Mrs Christine Walker was the organist and the Boreham choir was directed by Miss Hilliar. The preacher was the Diocesan Mission Officer, Canon R Matthews,

The AGM itself was one of the quickest on record. We approved the Accounts and Annual Report, re-elected the Association Officers (Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees and Independent Examiners) and elected Adrian Semken as a Life Vice-President. The longest item was the report from Janet Edwards on the success of Ring in 2000 and plans for the Celebration Day on 1st July.

We went our separate ways for lunch before meeting again in the South-West district for afternoon ringing. Seven towers were open. Tea was at Hornchurch; the historic ringers' jugs were on display, as well as information about the planned augmentation.

I would like to thank all those involved in the day's arrangements, particularly the Cathedral authorities and Sandra Lee and the South-West District. A full report of the day is available on the Association web-site (<http://www.eacr.mcmail.com>) and has been sent to the *Ringin' World*.

Mary Bone

Wanted - A New PRO!

Please don't forget that I will be standing down at the October Committee Meeting, and at this meeting the Association will need to appoint a replacement to start in January 2001.

If anyone would like to find out more or have an informal chat about the position, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tel: 01255-507357 or e-mail
t-e-southgate@msn.com.

Tracey Southgate

Life Membership

Any nominations for life membership of the Association must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 1st December. All the information, including details of the nominee's work for the Association, will be sent to the districts and given out at the annual district meetings in January. Do consult your district officers for advice on the criteria.

Mary Bone

Ringin' and The Internet

Does your tower have a Web presence, or if not, does your church have one that includes your tower? If so, why not have a link to it via the Association's Web Site (eacr.mcmail.com). In order to give a rounded view to the world of ringin' in Essex, I'm trying to link to as many suitable Essex ringin' sites as possible. I have a few, take a look, but I would like more.

If you think your tower's site should have a link to it, e-mail your site address to me (mbishop@cwcom.net) and I'll include it on the Links Page. Of course you could reciprocate and link to the Association's.

Mike Bishop



Reach Out and Recruit!

September/October is "Reach Out and Recruit!" month for the Guide Association. As a (fairly) newly rewarranted Assistant Guider in my daughter Vikkie's unit in South Woodham Ferrers, I would like to try and organise a quarter peal of Guiders during that time. I know of three other ringing Guiders - whom I shall of course be contacting in due course - there must be others though. Please give me a ring (01245 324461) or email me (achapman@talk21.com) if you are interested in participating or if you would like to know more about Guiding or even become a Guider!!! You could also visit the Guide website at www.guides.org.uk.

Ann Woolley

"Ringer of the Year":

a clarification

I'd like to make clear that attendance on the Essex Course counts as three days' training (assuming you were there all three days, that is!). I'll try to remember to make the rules a bit clearer for next year!

Fred Bone

Ridgeman Trophy

This year's competition was held on 20 May 2000 at Wymondham, Norfolk.

The results were as follows :-

Hertford	82%
Suffolk	74%
Leicester	73%
Ely	70%
Lincoln	67%
Essex	65%
Norwich	60%
CUG	60%

The judges were David Hilling and Martin Whiteley.

Thanks to all the band who travelled the distance namely, Adrian Semken, Mary Bone, Heather Semken, Clive Moore, Angus Dodds, Fred Bone, Alan Barber (C), Steve Nash, Brian Meads and John Hall.

Steve Nash

Young Essex Ringers - Outing

We had our first meeting on 3rd June at Galleywood to decide whether we just wanted to do a display for the Millennium Celebration Day, or whether we wanted to form a young ringers group.

Under the watchful eyes of Marion Brewster and Tracey Southgate, Matthew Bareham (Shrub End), John Keeble (Layer-de-la-Haye) and Sarah and Hannah Brewster (Writtle) and myself thrashed around some ideas.

We've decided to form a group, so that we can have get-togethers of youngsters our own age and meet for ringing or ringing related activities.

For our first project, we are hoping to organise a ringing outing for the under 21's on Saturday 28th October. Six towers have been booked in the Ipswich area, and the idea is that we will be able to walk between towers.

There will be some information available at the Celebration Day, but if you miss that and would like to take part a) ask your parent's permission and b) contact me on 01787-227116. We need a rough idea of numbers so that we can organise adult supervision and transport to and from Ipswich.

Christopher Lee

Essex Show

We've all heard the expression 'It will be all right on the night!', well the Essex Show was a bit like that for us this year. To start off with, I arrived at the Show Ground on Thursday evening and looked for our stand inside the marquee so that I could begin to set up. I was a bit confused at first, since I couldn't find our name anywhere. I'm not quite sure whether I felt panic or a sinking feeling (possibly both)! In the end I had to contact the Diocesan Office and ask ever so politely where our stand was. Canon Roger Matthews kindly explained that the two Churches Together in Essex marquees had actually been put up the wrong way round, so we were not in our usual spot, and he wasn't in the least bit surprised that I was confused!

Having got off to a wobbly start, the demo bell had been delivered earlier in the afternoon, and four of us together with a couple of innocent passers-by managed to get the thing assembled. Problem number two was that the generators were in place behind the marquee, but how did we connect the leads from the demo bell to the generator? We just had to hope that that one sorted itself out on Friday morning, which it did thankfully, when someone came round with special connections.

By all accounts Friday was pretty quiet, which is usual as most people are still at work. There weren't any special visitors this year, but we still managed to have in excess of 540 visitors to the stand. The demo bell outside and the handbells inside the marquee were kept extremely busy especially on Saturday and Sunday. We had lots of enquiries about learning to ring both tower and hand bells, and there was also a demand for information about handbell repairs. I'll pass these all on to the relevant tower correspondents in due course.

It just remains for me to thank everyone who helped put the stand together:-

- Roy Threadgold and Trevor Smith for collecting and delivering the demo bell.
- My wonderful team of helpers comprising Peter Childs, Andrew and Carol Taylor, Jonathon Dickenson, Mary Bone, Steve and Alison Nash, Alistair Donaldson and Wendy Godden.
- And to two visitors who ended up helping – Brian Patmore and Jenny Askew.

Tracey Southgate



Lost property?

Did anyone leave a corkscrew in Sawbridgeworth on 13th May? Please contact Fred or Mary Bone (01279 726159) to claim it!

Thank you!

Fred and Mary Bone were overwhelmed by the number of cards and messages received for their Silver Wedding anniversary in May. Thank you all very much indeed.

Celebration Day at Writtle 1st July 2000

Bellringers know how to get their priorities right and when I arrived at Writtle on Saturday 1st July just before 9 o'clock in the morning the beer had already been set up for the evening bar. There had been a few spots of rain on the windscreen on the way but I was hopeful that the weather would cheer up and was wearing shorts and T-shirt. They got wet several times during the morning!!!!

We managed to get the tents up, after a struggle, just before the first exhibitors arrived and from then on it was all go. Pritchard Ropes, Steve Coleman books, Pam Copson teaching aids and Andrew Gordon jewellery all had their stands set up by lunchtime, when we sent a massive order to the fish and chip shop. They were soon joined by Tilkey Technical Services and John Harrison and his dumb bell and another trip to the fish and chip shop followed and yes, it was raining again. Meanwhile Tracey had set up an Essex display showing the timetable of events for the Ring in 2000 project with reports from each of the six districts on their own activities. It made very good reading but if you missed it, you should be able to catch up when our special Year 2000 report comes out. The Young Ringers of the County have formed a group and organised a display hoping to attract other young ringers to join them. They want to arrange special training days, outings and other ringing related events aimed at the young age group. And we had Mike Bishop with the Association Web site and other ringing software on display.

By 2 o'clock the Districts had set up their Village Fair stalls on the green and the sun had come out for the afternoon. The Bouncy Castle had arrived and, of course, I had to try this out to make sure it was safe for the children.

During the afternoon the six bell striking competition took place and there were lots of visitors to the exhibition and village fair. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford spent over an hour with us and enjoyed a demonstration of handbell ringing by the Writtle Handbell Ringers. The Mayor declined the offer of a cup of tea and opted for a pint of beer instead - obviously a ringer in the making - and would

clearly have had another one had he not been reminded of a further engagement. The stocks, which were organised by the North Western District, proved a very popular side-show with some well known Association names getting rather wet. The afternoon finished with an inter-district tug of war ably refereed by Bernard Taplin with ladies and children's teams joining in as well.

By teatime John Anderson, President of the Central Council, and his wife had joined us and we caused him some embarrassment by singing Happy Birthday and giving him a cake in the shape of a bell. After the results of the six bell striking competition were given, John presented the District Masters with certificates for each of the towers in their district for ringing on 1st January 2000.



The evening proceeded with the District Eight bell striking competition and, just in case anyone still had any energy, a Barn Dance which went on until 11

o'clock. Dancing was to the Thatchers and a great time was had by all.

It was a great day and I hope that everyone enjoyed it. My memories are of the way everyone joined together to make the day go well, Tracey doing her excellent PR job with mobile phone in hand, John Anderson congratulating us on being such a thriving, enthusiastic and go-ahead Association, being part of the team which won the eight bell striking competition and the bike ride. Thanks Andy.

Janet Edwards

The Finals

The Striking Competition finals were held at Writtle on 1st July as part of the Celebration Day. The judges for both competitions were Derek, Jane and Andrew Sibson who kindly included updates on the Test Match in their comments on the results.

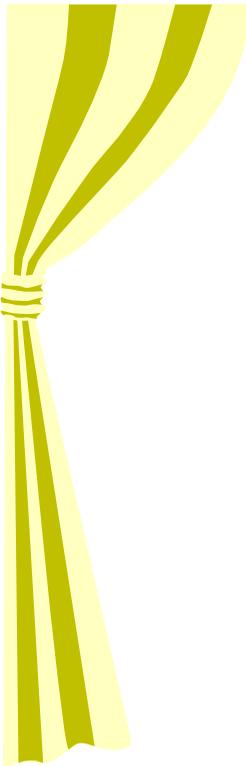
12 teams competed in the 6-bell inter-district finals. Most teams chose to ring doubles as the back 6 at Writtle are quite a challenge. Chelmsford Cathedral were the winners (53 faults), 2nd place Dagenham (64), 3rd North Ockendon (79), 4th Kirby-le-Soken (85), 5th Prittlewell (98), 6th Sawbridgeworth (103), 7th Hornchurch (118), 8th Bocking (121), 9th Coggeshall (122), 10th Great Parndon (169) and 11th Colchester St Leonard (174). The Writtle test piece did not comply with the rules.

All six districts competed in the 8-bell competition ringing 252 Erin Triples. The South-East District, on home ground, came first (70 faults), 2nd Southern (83), 3rd South-West (97), 4th North-West (117), 5th North-East (184), Northern (did not complete).

Our congratulations to the winners and to all those who competed in district competitions. Thank-you to the judges; Mo Venus, Mick Edwards and Andrew Brewster for controlling proceedings in the ringing chamber; and to all the Writtle ringers for their assistance.

The Essex Trophy 10-bell competition will be hosted by the Kent County Association at Staplehurst on 16th September. You can read the history of this competition on the Association's Web Page.

Mary Bone



Training Day

The Association Training Day this year will be on

Saturday 25th November

The South-West District will be our hosts.

I have had requests for Treble Bob and for an introduction to conducting.

Other ideas are welcome: I want to offer what's wanted. Please let me have your requests as soon as possible.

Details of the event will be circulated nearer the date, but please note it in your diary **NOW!**

Fred Bone
01279-726159
fred.bone@dial.pipex.com

Association Register

- Birthdays:** Congratulations to Steve Waters (Great Baddow) who was 50 in July and to Fred Bone (Sawbridgeworth, Association Education Officer) who reaches 50 in November.
- Weddings:** Congratulations to Ann Chapman and Mark Woolley (both of Danbury) who were married on 17th June.
- Deaths:** It is with regret that we report the deaths of Jack Crampion (Life Member, North Weald) who died on 7th July and of Bert Goddard (Life Member, Chelmsford) who died on 16th July.



Quiz Night

**Saturday 16th September
2000**

7.30pm

Quiz Night at

**St Andrew's Church Hall,
Hornchurch**

**£6.00 includes fish and chip
supper.**

**Proceeds towards 2 new
bells**

**Contact Kim Logan
01708 346255**

Dates for Your Diary

September

2	District Meeting & Harvest Supper - Little Baddow	South-Eastern
9	District Meeting - Finchingfield	Northern
9	District Call Change Competition - Loughton	South-Western
16	District Meeting - Great Bentley	North-Eastern
16	District Meeting - North Ockendon	Southern
16-24	Quarter Peal Week	Northern
23	Quiz Evening	Northern
23	Quiz Evening - Boreham	South-Eastern
30	Meeting with Bishop's Stortford District - Sawbridgeworth	North Western

October

7	COMMITTEE MEETING - Danbury	
14	ASSOCIATION DINNER - Benton Hall, Witham	
21	District 12-bell practice - Ipswich (tbc)	Northern
21	Beetle Drive - Tendring	North-Eastern
21	Quarter Peal Day - Eastwood	Southern
21	District Meeting - Chigwell	South-Western
28	District Meeting - Great Chishill	North-Western

November

4	District 10/12-bell practice - Saffron Walden	North-Western
11	District Meeting - Kelvedon & Feering (tbc)	Northern
11	Call Change Competition & District Meeting - Burnham	South-Eastern
18	District Meeting - Leigh-on-sea	Southern
18	District Training Day - Goldhanger & Great Totham	South-Eastern
25	ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY - (South West)	

December

2	District Carol Service - Thorpe Bay	Southern
2	District Fun & Games Evening - Boreham	South-Eastern
9	District Carol Service - St. Leonard's, Colchester	North-Eastern
9	District Carol Service (venue tbc)	North-Western
9	District Social - Dagenham	South-Western
16	District Carol Service - Gosfield (tbc)	Northern
16	District Carol Service - Danbury	South-Eastern

This information is believed to be correct at the time of publication, please check details in *The Ringing World*.

The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for December 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 November 2000.

Contributions will be included on a first come, first served, basis. The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse publication. Inclusion does not imply agreement with or approval of the article by the Editor or the Essex Association of Change Ringers.