



Rounds & About

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Another year over. Doesn't time fly by when you're having fun? Something that the Essex Association is always good at. Looking back over the past 12 months, we had our very successful Ring in 2000 campaign, putting Essex in a unique position as reported in the Ringing World; the 10th Essex Ringing Course in April, a superb achievement by those involved with making it happen; our AGM in May, again an excellent turn out; the Celebration Day with the striking competition finals, another example of how Essex shows what it's capable of; and many other events on a more local or District scale. I think 2000 was an excellent year for the Essex Association of Change Ringers.

Let us turn our thoughts to the year 2001 as we welcome it in traditional style - open arms, warm hearts, a glass or two and plenty of ringing.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

Vicki Chapman
Newsletter Editor

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Nominations for Association officers and notices of motions for the 2001 Annual General Meeting must be received by the General Secretary before February 1st 2001.

Tips on how to avoid a complaint

- Ring regularly at known times
- Fix a pattern for additional ringing
- Consider you neighbours
- Publicise special events
- Maintain good striking
- Have open days
- Be reasonable

COMPLAINTS HELPLINE

If you need help in dealing with a complaint
01483 569535

Advice on dealing with a complaint

- Respond courteously and promptly, be reasonable
- Keep a written record of complaints
- Seek experienced help
- Clergy, wardens and ringers must work together
- One person should be appointed spokesperson to avoid confusion
- Aim to reach an amicable solution at the outset
- Discuss the problem with the complainant face to face if possible
- Invite the complainant to see the ringing and meet the ringers
- Explain why and when the bells are usually rung and for how long
- If necessary be prepared to modify your ringing pattern to reach a compromise
- Take the Environmental Health Officer seriously



The Master presents Adrian Semken with his Life Vice President's certificate.

Canon John Howden and the Master share a word and a glass or two!



Annual Dinner and Dance

This year's Dinner took place on Saturday, 14th October at the Benton Hall Golf Club, and on arrival we were greeted by the Master and the sound of the Riverside Reeds Quartet from Coggeshall. Some traditions die hard, and saying Grace before we sit down to eat is one of them, but who said it should ever be dull? We seem to have started something of an imaginative trend, and this year Rev'd Janet Donaldson received very warm applause for her specially written piece which you can find elsewhere in this edition.

Our guests included Canon John and Mrs. Sue Howden, formerly of Pleshey, but now Vicar of Wickham Bishops. Canon Howden entertained us with his many jokes, and also recalled how he used to walk to church and hear the sound of the bells drifting across the fields. He hoped to be the vicar of a church with bells one day, and his dream came true when he moved to Pleshey. There was one small problem though - there were 5 bells and no ringers. He regularly asked if there were any volunteers among the congregation, but was always met with silence. However, this changed when the 'Ring in 2000' campaign got underway. After the Christmas Day service a couple of years ago, a couple approached him and gave him one of the best Christmas presents he had ever had - they wanted to start a band of ringers. With a lot of help from the S.E. District and in particular the ringing school at Writtle and Terling, a band was formed and they continue to go from strength to strength today. Canon Howden finished his speech by declaring that the treble was going, he was gone! much to everyone's amusement!

Our second guest was Robert Lewis, Editor of the Ringing World, who started off by congratulating Essex on its remarkable achievements with 'Ring in 2000' - by far the most successful in the Country and something to be very proud of. It was a year of other spectacular achievements too, with the Essex Ringing Course celebrating its 10th anniversary in April. Robert went on to explain some of the difficulties facing the publication which he had inherited. However, he was confident that some of the difficulties could be overcome, but it would take time and he urged us to continue to be patient and supportive.

It was then our Master's turn, Steve Nash passed on his wife Alison's apologies for not being able to join us this year. Steve and Alison were expecting their first child imminently and certainly everyone assembled was asking the same question - how is Alison? Steve went on to say how much he had personally enjoyed taking part in the rededication services at the newly restored installations at Steeple Bumpstead and Great Chishill. This again was another significant part of the 'Ring in 2000' project and he was very pleased to see the amount of restoration work going on throughout the County. Steve finished by presenting a certificate to our other guest for the evening Adrian Semken of Coggeshall, to celebrate his recent election as a Life Vice-President of the Association. It is the highest accolade the Association can grant its members, and reflects Adrian's work with the training and education of ringers and the tremendous amount of work he undertakes with bell maintenance.

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. The raffle raised £114 for the Association's Bell Restoration Fund. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Tracey Southgate

With this Newsletter you should find...

- 🔔 A Quarter Peal form for you to record Quarter Peals rung during 2001, please send it to the Peals Secretary by early January 2002. Don't forget to return your 2000 form by 15th January 2001.
- 🔔 A poster for the 2001 Essex Ringing Course.
- 🔔 A special offer form for new subscribers to the Ringing World

Dinner Dance 2001?

Do you want a Dinner and Dance next year? Or just a Dinner? Or a Dance and Buffet Supper? At what maximum price?

We can only organise this kind of Association-wide social event if it will be supported by sufficient members and friends from all district. Comments, suggestions and advice welcome.

Mary Bone

The Ringing World

The Weekly Journal for Church Bell Ringers

SPECIAL OFFER

The Ringing World is offering a special introductory offer for new subscribers in 2000 at the rate of £25.00.

To apply complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to The Ringing World with your cheque or postal order.

Happy Birthday Harry!

Harry Millatt (Life Member at St Peter's Colchester) celebrated his 85th birthday on Saturday 14th October. To mark the occasion the following Quarter Peal was rung:

Sunday 15th October 2000

St Peter's Colchester

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Martin Jones | 5 Derren Felgate |
| 2 Peter Barnes | 6 John Felgate |
| 3 Bernard Fairhead | 7 Harry Millatt (c) |
| 4 Helena Parry | 8 Trevor Fincken |

The Quarter was also rung to congratulate Michael Parry and Helena Shaw on their wedding at St Peter's on Friday 13th October.



The 11th Essex Ringing Course will be held between the 19th and 21st April 2001. That is the Thursday, Friday and Saturday after Easter.

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 can be found in the Course Brochure which, together with application forms, will be available by Christmas. The brochure can be obtained from Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF. Please remember to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. The closing date for applications is 17th February 2001. 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 also needed to assist at all levels during the practical ringing sessions. If you would like to be a helper please volunteer - don't wait to be asked.

Vicki Chapman
Course Administrator



Danbury Diary

The Executive Committee met as usual at Danbury on 7 October; there was a lengthy agenda and the meeting lasted nearly 4 hours. A number of routine items were dealt with quickly. Considerable time was spent discussing the 6-bell striking competition trophy, the Association Library, 10-bell striking competitions, data protection and the planned special Millennium report. The Committee received updates from the officers on their activities since the February meeting and heard a final report from Janet Edwards on the Millennium celebration day at Writtle. A grant was voted towards the augmentation of Hornchurch to 10; the meeting noted the proposals for a complete new installation of 10 at Writtle with great interest and requested further information on this. A proposal on the organisation of the Essex Ringing Course was accepted and Vicki Chapman is the convenor of this new sub-committee. Districts were asked for feedback on the Dinner and Dance as numbers attending have declined in the last few years.

2004 will mark the Association's 125th anniversary; we have already invited the Central Council to hold their meeting that year in Essex and the Committee decided to begin discussions in February on our own celebrations.

Please ask your district Committee representative for further details of the meeting.

Essex Trophy

This year's competition was hosted by the Kent County Association and held at Staplehurst. Eight teams entered, ringing the set touch of 288 Little Bob Royal. The judges were Alex Byrne and Steve Rossiter from Reading. The Sussex team was placed first (108 faults); the Essex team came third (123 faults). The team consisted of Vicki Chapman, Sue Page, Mary Bone, Gill Sparling, Sue Rothera, Fred Bone, Alan Barber (C), David Rothera, David Sparling and Colin Chapman.

The 2001 competition will be held in Essex, provisionally on 15 September at Saffron Walden.

Mary Bone

Here is the full Grace that was especially composed by Rev'd Janet Donaldson for this year's Annual Dinner

Throughout the county we ring our bells,
In Church and tower wherein God dwells,
We climb the stairs for methods and rounds,
Hunting and dodging, but now let the sounds
Of music be not Stedman or Single
But knives and forks and plates all a-jingle
With grateful thanks to God in our hearts
For food and friends - the meal now starts!

Amen

The More the Merrier

The Essex Association depends on a great many people, not just the elected and appointed Association and District officers, who have a wide range of jobs - all dedicated to the cause of ringing in Essex. Volunteering is rewarding and fun so don't wait to be asked - volunteer and get involved!

At present we have "vacancies" for people to help with publicity work and with the bookstall. Do get in touch if you would like to help.

Mary Bone

Special Report for the year 2000

It does not seem nearly a year since that tremendous day when we rang at all the Essex towers for 1st January 2000 - time has really flown by. We are now looking to make the Special Report of the Year something which everyone of you can keep as a souvenir. We are going to include all the names of those who rang at each of the towers and we already have that information but we need the extra bits of news. These can either be from the day itself - perhaps some of you had to travel, or rang while having the flu, or heard stories of parishioners who heard several different set of bells at the same time, or had a special service, etc.

But the stories we want can come from any time in the year. It could be that you held a special concert, flower festival, village event, peal, etc. and we want to hear about all of them. We are looking to include something from each tower. It could be a one-liner or a short paragraph. We hope to include some photographs and you can send them in as well but the editor will have to decide which ones to use.

Don't let your tower be the only one without a special mention. Send your contribution today and definitely by the end of this year to me Janet Edwards, 7 Kings Meadow Court, Kelvedon CO5 9LT and I look forward to putting together a report worthy of the efforts you all made.



Association Register

- Births:** Congratulations to Stephen (Association Master) and Alison Nash (both of North Ockendon) on the arrival of Amy Rosina on 20th October weighing in at 6lb 14oz.
- Birthdays:** Congratulations to Richard Sloman (Prittlewell) 18 on 30th September, Ann Dorking (Downham) 60 on 6th October, Harry Millatt 85 on 14th October, Nina Smith (Halstead) 60 on 15th October and to Yvonne Towler (Inworth) 50 on 25th November.
- Weddings:** Congratulations to Andrew Beech and Clare Atkinson (both of North Ockendon) who were married on 5th August and to Michael Parry and Helena Shaw (St Peter's, Colchester) who were married on 13th October.
- Anniversaries:** Congratulations to David and Penny Sloman (Prittlewell) who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on 8th August, Anita and Roger Butt (unattached Southern District) who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 10th September, and to Rose and Andy Bimson (Ingrave) who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 2nd October.
- Deaths:** It is with regret that we report the deaths of Andrew Crowson (Woodford), Ron Lumsden (Walthamstow), Terry Plante (Loughton) and Lionel Tickner (Tillingham).

On Line and In Touch

Here are some web sites that are accessible via the Association's Website, that may be of interest. Look for the Association's site on www.eacr.mcmmail.com

Essex Districts and Towers On-line

- Brentwood - St. Thomas of Canterbury
- Hornchurch - St. Andrew
- Leytonstone - St. John the Baptist
- Margaretting - St. Margaret
- North-Eastern District
- Tendring - St. Edmund King & Martyr
- Writtle - All Saints

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Web Pages

- The Ringing World (The Bell Ringers Weekly Newspaper)
- The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
- Ringing Resources (Resources from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)
- Peal Records (Canon Felstead's Peal Records)

Miscellaneous Bell Ringing Web Sites

- Essex Ringing Email List
- Change Ringers Web Directory (For more Bell Ringing links)
- Pam Copson's Teaching Aids (Useful site for Learners of all ages and stages)

Bell Founders and Hangers On-line

- Whitechapel Bell Foundry
- Hayward Mills Associates

Sites of Interest

- Diocese of Chelmsford
- The Unofficial Diocese of Chelmsford Web Site
- Essex County Council
- Riverside Reeds (Music Group)

GIFT AID PROVISIONS

From 6 April 2000, revised Gift Aid measures replace the provisions relating to Deeds of Covenant. The Inland Revenue published new comprehensive guidance notes in the summer. As this note relates only to matters that are relevant to the Essex Association of Change Ringers, it is therefore not a comprehensive guide to all the new measures.

The main changes as far as the Association is concerned are:

The £250 minimum limit for Gift Aid donations has been abolished so that the scheme applies to any donation to the EACR whether large or small.

All payments formerly made under a Deed of Covenant will now receive tax relief under the new Gift Aid provisions.

There is now a simpler Gift Aid declaration to be completed. A Gift Aid declaration may be made in writing, over the phone or over the Internet.

If you would like further information on completing a Gift Aid form, contact Andrew Taylor, Hon Treasurer.

Dates for Your Diary

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 - Little Hadham	North-Western
9	District Social - Dagenham	South-Western
16	District Carol Service - Gosfield	Northern
16	District Carol Service - Danbury	South-Eastern

January 2001

6	ADM - Rayne & Braintree	Northern
6	ADM - Terling	South-Eastern
9	District Practice - Inworth	South-Eastern
13	ADM - (Venue to be confirmed)	South-Western
19	District Practice - Wickham St Paul	Northern
20	ADM - Laver de la Haye	North-Eastern
20	ADM - Rochford	Southern
26	District Practice - Matching	North-Western
27	ADM - Stansted / Henham	North-Western

February

3 - 11	Quarter Peal Week	South-Eastern
15	District Practice - Tolleshunt D'Arcy (tbc)	South-Eastern
16	District Practice - Sible Hedingham	Northern
23	District Practice - Clavering	North-Western

March

3	District Meeting - Black Notley & Witham	Northern
3	District Meeting & Mini Outing - Ingatestone	South-Eastern
14	District Practice - Great Waltham (tbc)	South-Eastern
23	District Practice - Wendons Ambo (tbc)	North-Western
24	District Meeting - Hatfield Heath	North-Western

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 April 2001. 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 2001.

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.