



AGM 7 May 2001

The Association's 122nd Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 7 May. The arrangements are as follows:

General ringing	9.15 to 10.15am	Afternoon ringing details and tea tickets (£2) are available from the Secretary: Mrs Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB (by 2 May). Please enclose a SAE.
Service touch	10.15am	
Annual Service	10.30am	
AGM	11.35am	
Afternoon ringing	North-East District	
Tea at Tendring		

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Everyone is welcome for the general ringing. Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can have a ring. Entrance is by the West or South Doors - quietly as a service will just be finishing.

The address at the service will be given by the Rt Revd Edward Holland, Bishop of Colchester. The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged after the service. The Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the Annual Report. A presentation will be made to the Ringer of the Year 2000.

The weather is usually wonderful so do come along! We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Bone

Danbury Diary

The Executive Committee meeting on 3rd February began with the Master welcoming the new members elected at the Annual District Meetings. Then it was down to business: approving the Accounts and Trustees' Report and looking at the arrangements for the AGM in May. Mike Bishop was "persuaded" to stand for one more year as a Custodian Trustee so all the current Association officers have now been nominated for re-election. We voted a grant from the BRF to Toppesfield and heard about the completion of the augmentation at Coggeshall and the augmentation and restoration at Layer-de-la-Haye. Vicki Chapman agreed to lead a new group to plan our forthcoming 125th anniversary in 2004. The meeting also heard reports from the appointed officers (Peal Secretary, Technical Adviser, Education Officer, Report Editor, Public Relations Officer) and from each district; this ensures that we are all up-to-date with what is happening throughout the Association.

The meeting took just over 3 hours this time - thanks to a slightly shorter agenda and the Master's chairing. Some members continued informally later at The Griffin!

Do get in touch if you've ever wanted to run a bookshop or liaise with journalists as the Public Relations position is now vacant and Maurice Downs will be giving up the bookstall.

Mary Bone

Albert Wiseman

1924 - 2001

Many people have been deeply saddened by the sudden death of Albert on 21st January. He was born at Sible Hedingham on 5th March 1924. He began ringing in the mid-seventies as a mature student, taught by Peter Chapman at St Nicholas, Witham. He did learn to hunt the treble but found his niche drumming the tenor. He rung over 160 quarters, mainly at Witham. In 1994 when he was seventy he wanted to ring a longer length, but thought that a peal would be too long. So, to celebrate, he rang a half peal of Bob Triples conducted by Paul Cammiade. He rang a full peal for his seventy-first birthday.

The church was full as the bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service by the local ringers and many ringing friends from throughout Essex.

Albert was a dedicated, loyal and much loved member of the Witham band and will be greatly missed.

Roger Dorking

31st January 2001
1274 Plain Bob Triples

4th February 2001
1260 Grandsire
Triples

1. Ann Lee
2. Ann Dorking
3. Sue Stephens
4. John Watson
5. Tom Monk
6. Peter Chapman
7. Andrew Taylor (c)
8. Roger Dorking

1. Peter Chapman
2. Sue Page
3. Sue Stephens
4. David Childs (c)
5. John Connell
6. Michael Edwards
7. Paul Cammiade
8. Roger Dorking

The EACR Demo Bell

Available for use by anyone for Village Fayres, Church Fetes, Tower Open Days, ringing recruitment and a whole multitude of other reasons.

Contact Tracey Southgate on 01255 507357 for further details, or to book.

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Layer-de-la-Haye

On 26th January 2001 the bells at Layer-de-la-Haye rang for the first time since 1884. The restoration and augmentation of the peal from 5 bells to 6 was finally complete, and the official test ring took place. Prayers were said by Rev'd Martin Clarke before a specially invited band rang the bells for the first time. For the next couple of hours, all the local ringers were able to join in with an experienced band and ring their own bells for the very first time. Some of them have been learning to ring since 1997, so it was a moment they had been looking forward to for a very long time. Amid much joy, a bottle of champagne was cracked open and the health and prosperity of the parish and the ringers was toasted. Our thoughts were also very much with the late Frank Lufkin, whose estate had made the augmentation possible. It was an evening of tears and laughter, mixed with lots of beer and chips over the pub afterwards!

The Rt. Rev'd John Perry; Bishop of Chelmsford was invited to conduct the dedication service on Sunday 18th February. Over 200 invited guests crammed into the small parish church of St. John the Baptist to witness the commissioning of the band of ringers. A representative from Hayward Mills, the contractors who had re-hung the bells, formally presented a rope to the Bishop as a symbol of the bells and fittings, and hoped that they would be well used by the ringers of the parish. The Bishop received the rope, and thanked all who had been involved in the project. He then made the dedication prayer.

The Association's Master, Stephen Nash was also on hand to present the Association's Grant towards the project, together with membership certificates for the ringers who had been elected at the NE District's recent ADM. During the service readings were given by Ann Dorking, Frank Lufkin's daughter and also John Rolinson, one of the Layer ringers. The prayers were lead by Canon John Sibson, who is a former vicar of the parish. After the service, we enjoyed some light refreshments and then general ringing until late in the evening.

I'm sure Brian Keeble the Tower Captain, the rest of the ringers at Layer, together with the Vicar, Martin Clarke and the PCC would like me to take this opportunity on their behalf of thanking everyone who has contributed to the restoration and augmentation project in any way. The project has been known locally for some time as 'Brian's Dream'. Well, at last Brian's Dream has come true. From all the Association's Officers and members, congratulations and best wishes to everyone at Layer. Happy ringing!

Tracey Southgate

St. Martin of Tours, Basildon, Bell Tower

Members will have been concerned to read, in *The Times* of 20 October 2000, of the fund-raising difficulties at Basildon.

Whitechapel were the contractor for the bell part of this project, to which the Association's grant related, and their work has been completed. The bells, frame and fittings are the property of the parish.

We understand that steps are being taken to resolve the financial problems. Association officers have repeatedly offered to help train recruits and organise an "Open Day"; these offers remain open.

Mary Bone
February 2001

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Our Chaplains

Congratulations to Revd Roger Mason, current chaplain, and to Revd John Sibson, a former chaplain, on their installation as Non-Residentiary Canons of Chelmsford Cathedral on 3rd March.

Canon Anthony Abbey, chaplain 1984 to 1996, celebrates the 40th anniversary of his Ordination, and his forthcoming retirement, with a service at Chelmsford Cathedral on 21st May at 7.45pm. The service will be followed by a reception.

Please contact me by 15 May on 01279 726159 if you would like to attend so that I can pass on the names and numbers.

Mary Bone



2004 - A Ringing Odyssey

It seems such a long way off at the moment, but the 125th Anniversary of the Essex Association of Change Ringers in 2004 will soon be upon us.

As we have proved so many times in the past, early planning works very well. The recent Millennium ringing campaign being a prime example.

I have been asked by the Exec. Committee to get together a group to begin looking at how the Association might celebrate this anniversary.

As many of you are probably aware, we will be honoured to host the Central Council's Annual Meetings and plans are already under way for that. But how else can we celebrate? There have been a few suggestions already.

- Feature on the Ringing World calendar for 2004;
- Put together a CD recording of bell ringing throughout Essex;
- Design a new Association badge...

I am sure there are many, many more wonderful ideas out there, but I'll need your help. If you would like to join the group or send in ideas of how we might celebrate, I'd like to hear from you.

It is important that ALL districts are represented, so far I only have volunteers from:

- SE - Andrew Brewster
- S - Andy Martin
- SW - Sandra Lee

Surely there are some more of you out there that have good ideas, so why not join in. If you would like more information, please contact me by any of these means:



01245 358040



cvevrc@globalnet.co.uk



20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF

Vicki Chapman

Annual Dinner ... Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 6 October at the County Hotel, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford. **Please note the change of date and venue!**

Deposits of £10 a head are being taken. Why not join with friends to form a group for a table?

A New Ten in the Northern District

Many of you will be aware that we now have ten bells at Coggeshall, but I thought that some of you might be interested in how we have gone about realising our ambition.

Adrian Semken has had at the back of his mind for a number of years the idea of augmenting our ring, but what made us decide to "go for it" was the availability for sale of a bell from St. Barnabas' Church, Penny Lane, Liverpool. This was a Taylor bell of excellent tone, and just the right weight and note (with very very minor tuning) to make a new tenor on the 'back end' of our existing bells. What is more the cost would only be about a third of that of a new bell of that weight (25cwt). Moral - look into sources of existing bells when planning any alterations to the ring in your tower!

I will not go on about the lengthy, detailed and boring process of getting the administration right, except to say; make sure of your good relationship with and support by the incumbent and PCC, do comply with all the requirements of the Faculty System and do this job properly - allow it all plenty of time - you know what bureaucracies are like! The next thing to think about is your finances. If you wait until you have all the money before you place your order you will never get started. But you must have at least a good start (we had saved about half the cost over the

years by putting ALL our wedding money into our tower fund) and a good idea of where you are going to get the rest from. Do work hard at attracting significant donations and at obtaining sizeable grants; - this is much more effective at much less effort than any number of jumble sales and coffee mornings.

At Coggeshall we were extremely lucky to have Adrian to lead our self-help team; to the extent that virtually all the work in the tower has been done by our band and friends. You may not be so lucky to have the technical knowledge on hand, but do not ignore the money that can be saved by doing as much of the work yourselves as is possible. Do not forget that this will require commitment, dedication and many hours of your leisure time, and can lead to friction if left to only a small proportion of your band!

We now have what we think is one of the very best rings of ten around (Tenor 24-1-7 in D). You are most welcome to visit us on a Thursday evening to try out our new bells; we are certain that you will not be disappointed!

Brian Meads

A service of thanksgiving took place at Coggeshall on 11th February 2001, led by the Bishop of Colchester.



Congratulations

Congratulations to all the following who have rung quarters and peals for the first time recently.

Quarters

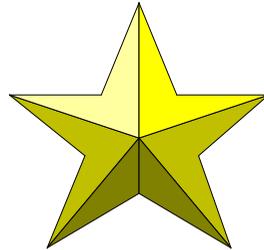
Jo Elliott, Samantha Awcock, Emma Stenning, Lorraine Berriman, Martin Cansdale, Ian Hamilton, Jon Dahl-Jacobsen, Adrian D'Silva, Sylvia West, Hillary Spooner, Noel Parker, Bernard Bringley, Terry Poulter, Stephen Hunter, Nicholas Rayner, Rachel Wetherfield,

Peals

Mary Bayliss

A Manuden Ringers Grace

On winter nights when all is still
our church stands out with gentle glow,
and Tuesday ringers ring below
and show a listening world their skill.
Iron, wood and sally blend
with muscle, mind and listening ears,
and so they pull, these gathered years
as to the stars their changes send.
Now ringers find a diff'rent place,
for dinner beckons friends and team,
and so, in tune with Christmas theme
we thank you Lord, in this our grace.



Association Register

Birthdays: Congratulations to Doug Southgate (Great Baddow) who was 70 in November, Yvonne Towler (Inworth) who was 50 in November, Michael Down who was 65 in December, Clare Beech (North Ockendon) who was 30 in December, John Stephenson (Hornchurch) who was 70 in December, Vicki Chapman (Chelmsford) 30 on 20th February, Roger Dorking (Downham) 60 on 7th March

Anniversaries: Congratulations to Colin and Janet Bingham (Tollesbury) who celebrated their Ruby anniversary in November, Terry (unattached) and Wendy Earle who celebrated their Ruby anniversary in December, Jim and Mary Aley (Harlow Common) who celebrated their Diamond anniversary on 15th February. A Quarter of 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung at Harlow Common on 14th February, the band included Lewis Whitby - a choirboy at the wedding in 1941! Also to Eric and Norma Cross (Loughton) who celebrated their 45th anniversary on 3rd March.

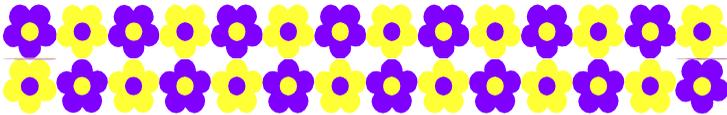
Deaths: It is with regret that we report the deaths of Albert Wiseman (Witham), Chris Matthams (Maldon, All Saints) and David Church (Great Wakering).

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Wanted...

Public Relations Officer: At present the Association does not have a PRO. Tracey Southgate relinquished the position last year and as yet, no one has come forward to volunteer. The role can be split up into more manageable parts, so you don't have to take on all of it. If you would like further information about this very important job within the Association, please contact Tracey on 01255 507357.

Book Stall Keeper: The book stall makes appearances at all Association functions and many district events throughout the year. It contains virtually every kind of book you could ever want to read on ringing topics, from beginners to the more experienced, to something that's just a good read. Maurice Downs has looked after the book stall for several years now and has decided that it's time to let someone else have a go. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Maurice on 01376 330412



The CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

... is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel, the majority of whom practise the art of change ringing. Founded in 1891, the Council today represents 67 affiliated societies, which cover all parts of the British Isles as well as centres of ringing in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Italy. These societies in turn comprise the members of the local companies of ringers in their areas.

The Council's members include: Representative Members elected by the affiliated Societies for a three year period; Honorary Members elected by the Council for a three year period; and Life Members elected by the Council by reason of their services to the art of change ringing. The Council's officers are elected by the Council at the annual meeting at the start of each triennium.

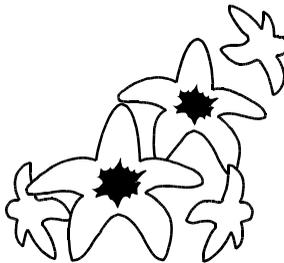
Aims:

- 🔔 To promote and foster the ringing of bells for Christian worship and on other appropriate occasions
- 🔔 To represent all ringers to national bodies and the world at large
- 🔔 To make available advice, assistance, and information to ringers and ringing societies on all matters concerned with bells and bell ringing
- 🔔 To bring together ringers to discuss matters of common interest
- 🔔 To recommend standards in change ringing and maintain such records as may be necessary to uphold these standards
- 🔔 To assist in the provision, maintenance, and transfer of church bells.

The Council meets each year on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, this year's meeting will be in Liverpool, hosted by the Lancashire Association. In 2004 the Council will be in Essex!

DIARY

April	19-21	Essex Ringing Course - Coggeshall	
	21	District 10/12-bell practice - Saffron Walden	North-Western
	21	District Meeting - Ilford (tbc)	South-Western
	28	District Ringing Outing	North-Eastern
	28	District Striking Competition - Little Waltham	South-Eastern
May	7	A.G.M. - CHELMSFORD & North-Eastern District	
	12	District 12-bell practice - Waltham Abbey	South-Western
	17	District 10-bell practice - Coggeshall	Northern
	19	Quiz Night (venue tbc)	Southern
June	2	District Meeting & Rounders Match - Springfield	South-Eastern
	9	District Striking Competition - Pebmarsh	Northern
	9	District Striking Competition - Great Bromley	North-Eastern
	9	District Striking Competition - Arkesden	North-Western
	9	District Striking Competition - Navestock	Southern
	9	District Striking Competition - Leytonstone (tbc)	South-Western
	24	District Barbecue - Terling	South-Eastern
	July	7	ASSOCIATION STRIKING COMPETITION FINALS
			- Southern District
14		District Barn Dance - Great Bentley	North-Eastern
14		District Meeting - Chigwell Row (tbc)	Southern-Western
15		District Barbecue - Braintree	Northern
21		District 12-bell practice - Chelmsford	South-Eastern



The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for August 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 July 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.