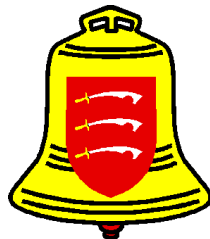


Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Special points of interest:

- 2004 Calendar now available
- Life Membership
- Beer Competition Ends

Dinner is Served!

The Association's Annual Dinner will be held at the County Hotel, Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford on Saturday 4 October 2003 at 7 for 7.30pm. The County is a very central venue (ample parking, rail station within walking distance, taxis etc), so the evening promises fine surroundings, good food and good company.

The meal will be followed by the speeches - who will win the sweepstake this year? - and entertainment, with plenty of time for socialising informally while the bar is open. As usual there will be a raffle in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund and donations of prizes will be very welcome.

The menu:

Tomato & Basil Soup followed by Medallions of Pork with a white wine and mustard sauce accompanied by seasonal vegetables, topped off with Crème Caramel with fresh fruit, and coffee.

A vegetarian main course is available and special diets can be catered for - please specify when ordering your tickets.

Some districts are organising a district table, so why not join in.

Additional tickets may still be purchased from Mrs Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB at £25 each (£10 for those who have already paid a deposit). Please enclose your payment (cheques payable to EACR) and SAE with your order, and include names for the seating plan. The deadline is **22 September**.



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Where is Kenneth Edge?



*Kenneth was
a keen
bellringer and
must have
rung at local
churches in
Essex.*

This may seem a strange request, and I'm not sure if you can help me, but I'm trying to trace my father's cousin, Kenneth Edge, who was a keen bellringer, and must have rung at local towers in Essex while stationed in the RAF at Stradishall in the early 1950's. He is believed to have left the RAF and entered the church, spending some time in Durham, but our efforts to trace him via the cathedral there have drawn a blank. I wondered if you could perhaps put a short paragraph in your next newsletter requesting anyone who remembers him to contact me. Someone may be able to point us in the right direction. I can be contacted on s.coton@countryside-inter.net and would be most grateful. My father, Derek Edge, is 77 and Kenneth would be probably 4 or 5 years younger. It would make

my father very happy to be able to trace him. I am also a bellringer, incidentally, my home tower being a nicely balanced ring of 6 at St James, Alveston, Stratford upon Avon. I've been ringing for 3 years, can manage a touch of Bob Doubles and am currently grappling with the mysteries of Grandsire bobs and singles!

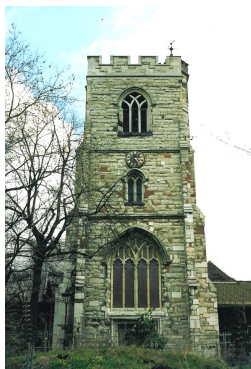
Thanking you in anticipation.

Sarah Coton

2004 Calendar

The 125th Anniversary 2004 Calendar is now available for £3.50 inc p&p from Vicki Chapman (address at the back of this newsletter), or from District Officers at £3.25.

These are limited edition, so make sure you don't miss out!



All Saints
West Ham

West Ham Bells Ring Out

For the first time in two years, church bells rung out over West Ham on 8th June. All Saints has been closed while building work took place on the roof and fabric of the building. Undaunted, the congregation held services at nearby West Ham Church School whilst the repairs took place. One thing was missing though – the sound of church bells to call people to worship. However, with the repairs complete, the ringers now have access to the bells. On Sunday morning, the congregation walked in procession from the school to the church for the opening service to the sound of the bells.

The church has a very fine ring of ten bells and ten ringers were present to ensure all the bells were rung to mark the resumption of services at the church. Housebound parishioners particularly welcome the return of the ringing as they find the listening to the bells on Sunday keep them in touch with the life of the church.

Bishop's Farewell

On 8th June the Right Reverend John Perry, Bishop of Chelmsford, celebrated his last Sunday in the Diocese with a special service on Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday). In addition to his responsibilities as bishop to a large and diverse diocese Bishop John was President of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. Bishop John has been a much respected and admired President. To mark the occasion of his retirement Steve Nash, Association Master, presented the Bishop with an engraved glass bowl at the Association's annual service in Chelmsford Cathedral on 5th May. In expressing his appreciation of the gift, Bishop John added a personal note by recalling that as a young man he had known Steve's father. Canon David Atkins, Vicar of Maldon All Saints, who is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable advocate of the Exercise, peppered his address with

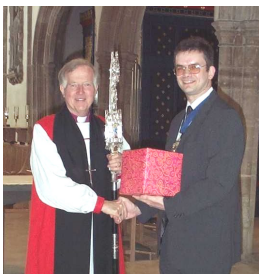
references to bell ringing. Prayers were led by Canon Roger Mason, Chaplain to the Association and the anthem was sung by the choir of St Andrew's in Boreham.

Prior to the service the cathedral bells were available for open ringing followed by the service touch. During the open ringing Bishop John visited the ringing chamber to meet the ringers and compliment them on their skill.

Iris A Lewis
Public Relations Officer



The Bishop's Gift



*A much
respected and
admired
President.*

North Western District Open Day

The Open Day held on Monday 26th May was well attended and raised £1100. After claiming gift aid and deducting expenses £1200 will be credited to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Visitors came from as far afield as Weston-super-Mare and Leeds. A beautiful morning found the early risers waiting to ring at Waltham Abbey half an hour before the scheduled time of 9.00am. One visitor was even trying to visit selected towers using public transport! A number said they were attempting to visit all 35 towers that were open. With this in mind one group of seven even changed ropes half-way through a plain course of Bob Minor.

Our Master, Margaret Burbery would like to thank everyone involved in making this such a successful day, particularly those who opened up their towers and all other members of the Association who supported us.



Lucky for some!

The course provides rich resources for ringers of all abilities.

The Thirteenth Essex Ringing Course

Belying its reputation, the number 13 proved a lucky choice for students on this year's Essex Ringing Course. 13 tutor groups were provided in this, the thirteenth year of the course. Methods offered ranged from Rounds and Call Changes to Double Norwich.

The course provides rich resources for ringers of all abilities. As well as concentrated theory and practice on their chosen method, students had the chance to join a variety of additional activities, including lectures of a first class standard by experts in their field and practical sessions on ringing up and down or the mini-ring. Alternatively students could opt to learn handbell ringing. But the richest resource of all are the ringers themselves: students, helpers and tutors all share and discuss their experiences and expertise. The Stedman group, for instance, found no fewer than three students who learn primarily by listening and rhythm rather than by ropesight. Stedman students also made practical use of the "Janograms" (a new way of notating methods featured some time ago in the "Ringing World").

A highlight of this year's course was David Kelly from the Keltek

Trust. David provided an entertaining and illuminating insight into the work of the Trust, which rescues and relocates otherwise redundant bells.

Social activities were not forgotten. Plentiful refreshments at mid-morning and afternoon breaks were a good accompaniment to catching up with old friends and making new friends while everyone got a chance to let their hair down at the Friday night social.

The course concluded with Bellringers' Question-time, when a panel of experienced ringers took questions from the floor on any aspect of ringing. An eclectic mix of questions included English Heritage's policy on the preservation of bell frames, the role of striking competitions and embarrassing moments in ringing. The question on call changes provoked a passionate plea from a member of the audience to abandon call changes as a teaching exercise in favour of using kaleidoscope ringing in the early stages of teaching people to ring methods. What is kaleidoscope ringing? Book for next year's Essex Ringing Course and find out!

Iris A. Lewis
Public Relations Officer

Life Membership

Any nominations for life membership, including details of the candidate's Association activities, must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 1 December (rule 7(iii)).

Guidelines were agreed by the Committee in February 1986 as follows: "... To honour a member for work undertaken throughout the district and promotion of work throughout the Association."

Do consult your district officers for further advice on the criteria.

AGM Day

Once again the Cathedral bells were kept busy to a variety of methods before our Annual Service on 5 May. The service was conducted by the Precentor, Revd Dr G Tunbridge, with the Master reading one of the lessons and our Chaplain, Canon Roger Mason, leading the prayers. Canon David Atkins, a Life Friend of the Association, gave the address, beginning with a "plug" for the Inworth augmentation project. The anthem sung by the Boreham choir had an Essex flavour - a setting of The Lord's Prayer by Jeffrey Wilson and Patrick Appleford - and we were played out to the splendid strains of William Walton's *Crown Imperial* on the nave organ.

At the AGM the Accounts and Annual Report were approved. The proposed rule change to re-introduce the category of Associate Member was lost; changes to the wording of Rule 5 on Vice-Presidents were approved (the revised text is available on the Association website). The Association officers were re-elected unopposed. Both Dr John Armstrong and Colin

Chapman were elected as Life Vice-Presidents of the EACR, and Sue Page was elected a Life Member. Ian Hamilton, Wethersfield, won the Ringer of the Year 2002 competition and was presented with a certificate and a book. Vicki Chapman and Janet Edwards reported on the arrangements for the 125th Anniversary and the visit by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers; a leaflet with the preliminary programme for the anniversary was also distributed. Ringing after lunch was at a number of South-East District towers, beginning at Maldon where Canon Atkins met us again.

I would like to thank all those involved in the day's arrangements, especially the Cathedral staff, the Boreham choir, Simon Harvey (organist), and those who prepared and served tea at Danbury.

And yes, once again, the weather was kind to us. So book next year's date in your diary now: Bank Holiday Monday 3 May 2004. It really will be the 125th Annual General Meeting!

Mary Bone

Name that Beer!

The closing date for entries into this competition has now passed. Lots of entries were received, some with suggested designs for a pump clip too.

They will now be shortlisted then sent to Mighty Oak to decide a final winner. The result will be published in the December

newsletter, the winner will be notified by telephone and their prize will be sent to them as soon as it is ready.

Thank you to all who took part. Don't forget that you will be able to order the new beer very soon via Mighty Oak.



*Both John
Armstrong and
Colin Chapman
were elected as
LVPs.*



Mighty Oak Brewing Co.



Striking Competitions

The Association finals were held at Havering-atte-Bower and Chigwell Row on Saturday 5 July. Ten teams competed in the 6-bell competition judged by Mike Thomas, Alec Gray and John Hall. Most teams found the bells at Havering quite challenging, particularly as the heat in the ringing chamber increased during the afternoon, and the Millennium recruits ringing in the competition deserve special mention. The results were: 1st Kirby-le-Soken; 2nd Chelmsford Cathedral; 3rd Dagenham; 4th Downham; 5th North Ockendon; 6th Bocking; 7th Hornchurch; 8th Saffron Walden; 9th Finchingfield; Writtle (did not complete).

Each district competed in the 8-bell competition, ringing a set touch of Stedman Triples selected by the Master. The judges were Adrian Malton and Martin Sutcliffe. The South-West district finally stopped the recent run of wins by the South-East, winning by a clear margin: 1st South-West (19 faults); 2nd South-East (25); 3rd Southern (31); 4th North-East (41); 5th North-West (51) and 6th Northern (52).

We thank Ant Brickell and Sandra Lee for making all the arrangements and members of the South-West district for providing and serving a lovely tea.

The Association was unable to enter a band for the Ridgman Trophy competition this year. It was won by the Cambridge University Guild team. The Essex Trophy competition will be held at East Meon on 13 September.

Mary Bone

Bits 'n' Bobs!

Let's Raise the Roof at Writtle with our singing at our Service on 6 June 2004! Do you sing in a choir or play a musical instrument? If so, do contact me so that we can form an Association choir and music group both for this service and for the Association Carol Service in December 2004.

I have a "little list" already - so do let me have lots of names to add to it!

Mary Bone

Job Vacancy—The Essex Regiment Memorial Chapel at Warley is seeking someone to play, or learn to play, the chime of 16 bells once a month.

Please contact me on 01279 726159 if you know of someone, not necessarily even a ringer, who could help.

Get dirty in a good cause! We're updating the list of names of those members who are willing and able to help with bell restoration work. The offer of voluntary labour to assist a bell-hanger can make all the difference to a project going ahead and saves a parish hundreds, if not thousands, of ££s.

This really is a case of the more the merrier - it's rewarding work and many hands definitely make it lighter!

Please get in touch with Terry Earle (01277 656479 or TTWEARLE@aol.com)

*Raising the
roof and
getting dirty
for a good
cause!*

That's a First!

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Quarter Peal recently:

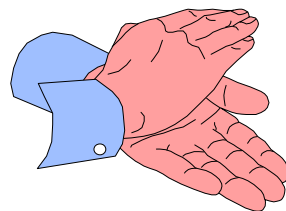
Dick Goodwin (06/04), Jo Jones (06/03), Michael Kennedy (30/03), David Lindy (09/03), Adam Rowntree (29/05), John Scott (10/06), S Carpenter (29/05)

First as Conductor:

S Clark (31/01), S Hunter (16/03), J Palmer (08/04)

Congratulations to the following ringers who have rung their first Peal recently:

Peter Brisley (12/04), Pam Jackson (07/06)



Congratulations!

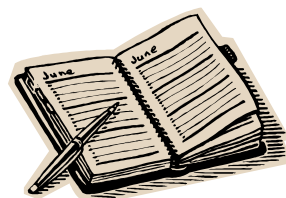
Association Register

Births: Congratulations to Steve and Fiona Cumbers (Belchamp St Paul) on the arrival of Elizabeth Mai in February

Birthdays: Happy birthday to Allen Cansdale who celebrated his 70th recently, Peter Smith who was 65 in June, Peter Knight who was 60 in April, Suzanne Drake who was 21 in April, John Keeble who was 18 in June

Wedding Anniversaries: Congratulations to John and Renee Armstrong (Dagenham) who celebrated their Golden anniversary in April, to Liz and George Hull who celebrated their 35th anniversary in March, to Christine and Derek Drake (Tollesbury) who celebrated their Silver anniversary in April, Karen and David Quinnear who celebrated their Silver anniversary in June

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Alf Honeywood (Mistley); Stanley "Toddy" Emms (Matching)



Don't forget the EACR Website at www.eacr.org.uk

Dates for your Diary



September	6	District Meeting & Harvest Supper - Springfield	South-Eastern
	13	District Meeting - contact District Secretary	Northern
	13	District Call Change Competition - Woodford (tbc)	South-Western
	20	District Meeting & SE mini-outing – Rettendon	Southern
	27	District 10-bell practice – Bocking (tbc)	Northern
	27	District Ringing Outing	North-Eastern
	27	Quiz Night	South-Eastern
October	4	ASSOCIATION DINNER - Chelmsford County Hotel	
	11	COMMITTEE MEETING – Danbury	
	11	Quiz Night – contact District Secretary	Northern
	18	District Meeting - Barking (tbc)	South-Western
	18	District Meeting – Wivenhoe	North-Eastern
	25	District Meeting – Epping Upland	North-Western
November	1	District Meeting - Kelvedon/Feering	Northern
	1	Call Change Competition & District Meeting - Purleigh	South-Eastern
	8	Quiz Night – Tendring	North-Eastern
	15	District Meeting – Grays	Southern
	22	ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY – South Eastern	
	29	District Christmas Party - Terling	South-Eastern
December	6	District Carol/Advent Service – Brentwood	Southern
	6	District Carol Service – Rayne	Northern
	13	District Carol Service - Thorrington	North-Eastern
	13	District Carol Service – Hatfield Heath	North-Western
	13	District Carol Service - Boreham	South-Eastern
	13	District Social – Leytonstone (tbc)	South-Western

Have a safe and happy holiday!



The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for December 2003. Please send contributions to Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF, Tel: 01245 358040 or email: vicki@cvevrc.co.uk by 1st November 2003