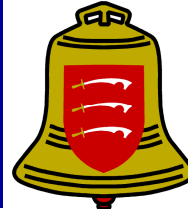


Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



AGM 4th May 2009

The 130th Essex Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May. The arrangements are as follows:

General Ringing	09:15 to 10:15
Service Touch	10:15
Annual Service	10:30
AGM	11:45
Afternoon Ringing	South Eastern District
Tea at Terling	Tea tickets (£4.00) will also be available on the door at Terling.

Afternoon ringing details and advance tea tickets (£3.50) are available from the Secretary: Mrs Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF (by 1 May). Please enclose a SAE.

Do come along and ring at the Cathedral - the ringing is for everyone! Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can have a ring. Entrance is by the West or South doors (a service will just be finishing so please enter quietly). The Cathedral ringers will be serving coffee in the Cathedral before the service to help raise funds for their restoration appeal.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged after the service. The full Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the 2008 Annual Report. The Rules are also available on the website (<http://www.eacr.org.uk>). G Noel Orman has been proposed as a Life Member of the Association which will be voted on at the meeting.

Vicki Chapman

Danbury Diary

The February Executive Committee meeting was held at Danbury. After the Master had welcomed the new members elected at the annual district meetings we moved on to the formal business, mainly concerned with items for the annual report and the Annual General Meeting.

The Treasurer's and Trustees' reports were approved and will be printed in the annual report; the accounts and full report still have to be approved by members at the annual meeting. G Noel Orman has been proposed as a Life Member.

Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up by reports from the appointed officers and the districts - keeping everyone informed about what is going on throughout the Association.

There were two applications for grants from the Bell Restoration account (Terling and Prittlewell).

Do ask your district officers for further information on any of these items. The next meeting of the Committee is in October.

Vicki Chapman

The Wandering Bookstall

As I was away most of January - which meant that I wasn't able to take the Bookstall to the District ADMs - I contacted various people around the county to see if it could be "handed on" from District to District. This worked really remarkably well - and I am most grateful to Susan Ashdown and Sandra Lee of the South-Western District, to Julia Jones of the Southern District, to Brian Meads who, it's reported, transported it to the North Western District and to Liz Griffith-Jones of that District who handed it back to me (at Sible Hedingham) and Penny Browne who, I'm told, actually did the selling at the NW ADM. And there were probably others I never heard about. It was all clearly worthwhile as, between these three Districts, they sold books worth £178. This is better than I'd have expected - so clearly they reach customers I can't!

Very many thanks to all involved.

David Learmonth

P.S. I'm re-stocking for the Ringing Course!

Liam Cann

Congratulations to Liam Cann of Goldhanger who last year was presented with a Jack Petchey Award by the Chief Constable for services to his school and the community. The Jack Petchey Foundation was established in 1999 to help young people take advantage of opportunities and to play a full part in society.

At the age of 16, Liam has become dedicated to bellringing and has the makings of an outstanding bellringer as well as being a very successful recruiter. At our recent AGM, Liam was presented with a special Certificate signed by the Goldhanger Rector and by myself as Tower Captain in recognition of the high value we place upon Liam's work at Goldhanger and as an encouragement to him and to the other young people who are learning to ring at Goldhanger.

May I suggest that the Association gives some thought, when preparing its Future of Ringing report, to the inauguration of some kind of award or reward system as an encouragement and in recognition of the work of young people learning to ring bells throughout Essex?

Ken Perry (T.C. Goldhanger St Peter's)

St. Nicholas Canewdon

Regular ringing has now recommenced at St. Nicholas Canewdon after a break of over 100 years. (The old five were last rung full circle on Thursday June 26th 1902.)

Practice on the new 17cwt 10 is on Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 pm. and ringing will be for 30 minutes before each church service.

Services at Canewdon Church follow the following pattern:

1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday 11:15am Service. (10:45am ringing)

3rd Sunday 6:30pm Service. (6pm ringing)

One out of four 5th Sundays 10am Service (9:30am ringing), including Sunday 29th March. (No service on the following three 5th Sundays.)

Last day of each full school term 2pm Canewdon School Service.(1:30pm ringing)

EACR membership — what's in it for me?

As a former District Master and District Training Officer and now the Honorary Treasurer I am often asked questions like: Are there any benefits of me being a member? What do I get for my annual subs? Where does all the money go? or, Why can't I be a ringer without bothering having to join the EACR? All very good questions and effectively asking, "What does the Association do for its members?"

For a normal member the fee is £8 per year (very cheap by anybody's reckoning — about 3 pints of beer, or 2-3 weeks average spend on the lottery). "But what do I get for it?" is the normal response. First and foremost the fact of being a member of a long established charitable ringing association — the only one that covers the whole of Essex, which in turn is part of the national Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Maybe the objects of the Association should be used as a reminder of what it is all about:

To further the work of the Church by the ringing of bells and to promote all aspects of the same; and to provide financial assistance to Churches within the Boundaries of the Association for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations.

How do we go about trying to achieve this? The answer is: in a variety of ways, but primarily the ringers from the Districts meet on a monthly basis to share time together, practise things they might not otherwise be able to ring and generally share good news and bad news alike, encouraging and helping each other wherever practical. Many members frequently go to other towers to assist at weekly practice sessions, and quite a few help out with Sunday service ringing at other towers in addition to their own.

But who gets my £8 per year? 25% of all subs go immediately to the Bell Restoration fund, whereby it is used to keep bells around the county in a suitable state for ringing. In the past year the BRA has helped fund major projects at Brentwood, Chelmsford, Romford, Theydon Garnon and Toppefield to the tune of £23,500. Fundraising for similar large or small projects forms a significant part of our activities. Of the remaining £6 around £1 is paid on insurance for all members. Insurance carried by individual churches for ringers varies considerably and in some instances doesn't even exist.

The insurance via EACR covers all paid up members for both personal accident (whereby the individual can claim for injuries they suffer as a result of ringing activities, including those suffered whilst travelling to and from ringing), or for public liability (whereby somebody may decide to sue a ringer as a result of some damage they feel has been inflicted upon them or their property during the course of a ringing activity). Personal accident insurance also extends to anyone under instruction prior to being accepted for membership. As most of you are well aware, in this increasingly litigious age, everybody thinks it is their right to sue for almost anything, so to have the knowledge of good insurance cover is very comforting. Full details of the cover should be available in your tower, but can be obtained from the District Secretary on request.

A further £2 is spent on general administration and running costs of the Association. Around a further £1 is spent providing every member with their own copy of the EACR Annual Report. The massive work of preparing the report ready for printing is done entirely on a voluntary basis. Around £1.50 is spent on publicity and advertising in the Ringing World, as well as generally spreading the news about bells and ringing such as this newsletter - tower copies are distributed free.

The final 50p is spent on officers' expenses (please note; nobody is paid by the Association and many of the officers pay their own expenses as well as giving up their time to attend these meetings). Nobody derives any financial benefit from the Association and many give a great deal.

If you think the Association should be "giving more", the question is, "What more would you like and how much more are you prepared to pay for it?" If you feel strongly that the Association should be doing more, please speak out constructively. For example, consider passing your views on to Brian Meads or one of the members of the 'Looking to the Future' working party. This fact-finding and consultation exercise will be used to produce recommendations for improving what the Association does for ringers and ringing in Essex.

Perhaps the final question should not be, "What more can the Association do for me?", but, "What more can I do for the Association?"

Andrew Brewster, Hon Treasurer

Association Dinner

We have made a provisional booking to hold the Dinner - the only Association-wide social event - in Chelmsford on Saturday 3 October.

Expressions of support would be welcomed by the beginning of May so that a decision on whether to go ahead, or not, can be taken at the AGM on 4 May. Please email secretary@eacr.org.uk to express your support, write or phone (20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF 01245 358040), or download the form available on the website.

Suggestions for the Dinner entertainment are also needed, so if have any contacts please let us know.

Vicki Chapman

SE District Officers

SE District Officers elected at the District Meeting on Saturday 7th March 2009 at Maldon, St Mary:

District Master - Mrs Christina Brewster
16 The Priory, Writtle, Chelmsford. CM1 3JE. Tel: 01245 421166
christina.brewster@tiscali.co.uk

Deputy Master - Father Nick De Keyser SSC
The Rectory, 61 High Street, Stock. CM4 9BN. Tel: 01277 840453
nick.dekeyser@btinternet.com

Jo Elliott
SE District Secretary

Brenda Clayden's 70th birthday

On February 27th Bradwell and Tillingham ringers (with a bit of help from Burnham) rang a quarter of plain bob doubles to mark Brenda Clayden's 70th birthday - treble Jean Allen, 2 Wendy Hooper, 3 Tony Eaton, 4 Jean Thorogood, 5 Brian Clayden conducting, tenor John Pryke.

Brian Clayden

Association Register

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Mrs Sylvia Evans of Harwich , Mrs A Everett of Boreham , Bernard Fairhead of Colchester.

That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers

First Quarter :

James Prior	(11/11/08 Romford)
Jo Pimblett	(13/11/08 Henham)
James Pimblett	(13/11/08 Henham)
Paul Wiggins	(30/11/08 Shenfield)
Emer Wilson (1st Att, Age 13)	(07/12/08 Writtle)
David Knott	(27/12/08 Epping)
Mickey Etches	(29/12/08 Barking)
M J Crawford	(28/12/08 Hornchurch)
Stephanie J Ovenden	(02/01/09 Danbury)
Edward M Brooks	(16/02/09 Henham)

First Peal :

Adam Sloman (1st Att, Aged 13) (31/01/09 Inworth)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jo and Ken Elliott of Boreham, a grandson, William James Jones. Born on 21st February and weighing in at 9lbs 5ozs. A cousin for Elisabeth and Alexander.

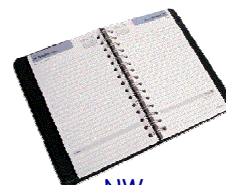
Also 70th birthday congratulations to Nan Gibson of Tollesbury.

Newsletter Editor

It has been a pleasure to produce the newsletter since April 2006 . However, I now wish to pass the responsibility of newsletter editor on to someone else. The task isn't too onerous, but it does need some level of IT skills to prepare. So if you feel that this is something you would consider, please contact me. The first newsletter that you would be required to produce will be the issue for April 2010. It would be a shame to see it disappear should there be nobody willing to take on the responsibility.

Bryan Morrissey

Dates for your Diary (From the website)



April	16 – 18	Essex Ringing Course, Coggeshall	
	24	Learners' Practice, Great Parndon	NW
	25	District Meeting, Radwinter	NW
	30	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE
May	4	Association AGM, Chelmsford Cathedral	
	8	District Minor Practice, Gt Bromley	NE
	8	District Practice, Stansted	NW
	9	Joint Surprise Practice, Finchingfield	N/NW
	9	Spring Meeting and Striking Competition, Kirby	NE
	16	10/12 bell Practice, Saffron Walden	NW
	19	District Practice, High Easter	SE
	22	Learners' Practice, Manuden	NW
June	28	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE
	30	5th Saturday Practice, Sawbridgeworth	NW
	6	District Striking Competition & Social Evening, Matching	NW
	6	District 6-bell Striking Competition, Burnham-on-Crouch	SE
	12	District Minor Practice, Gt Bromley	NE
	12	District Practice, Stansted	NW
	13	Joint Surprise Practice, Ashdon	N/NW
	18	District Practice, Tollesbury	SE
	25	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE
	26	Learners' Practice, Nazeing	NW
July	27	Call Change Competition & BBQ, St Osyth	NE
	30	5th Tuesday Practice, Saffron Walden	NW
	4	Association Striking Competitions	NW
	10	District Minor Practice, Gt Bromley	NE
	10	District Practice, Stansted	NW
	11	Joint Surprise Practice, Wethersfield	N/NW
	15	District Practice, Tillingham	SE
	18	Car Outing, Ipswich	NE
	24	Learners' Practice, Littlebury	NW
	30	Surprise Major Practice, Gt Holland	NE

The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for August 2009. Please send contributions to Bryan Morrissey at Jireh, 30 Turner Avenue, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2LG or by email to bdm@pempo.co.uk or call 01206 392959 by 1st July 2009.