

Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



AGM 5 May 2014

The 135th Essex Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May. The arrangements are as follows:

9:15 – 10.15	General ringing
10.15 – 10.30	Service touch by the Master's invited band
10.30	Service
11.45 approx	Annual General Meeting

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.

There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and again afterwards whilst we set up for the meeting.

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Rev'd Patrick McEune, former Rector of Bradwell on Sea and St Lawrence will be preaching. The Boreham Choir will be with us again.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged. The full Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the 2013 Annual Report.

This year we will be electing a new Master. Two candidates have put their names forward: Fred Bone and John Harpole, so make sure that you come along to cast your vote.

Afternoon ringing will be in the Northern District and tower details and advance

tea tickets are available at £4.50 from the General Secretary by 1st May, please enclose an SAE if you wish these to be posted to you.

Tea tickets will be available on the day at £5.00, so make sure you book early!

Vicki Chapman
General Secretary

District Officer changes - January 2014

There were several changes of District Officer following the Annual District meetings in January:

Northern: Deputy Master: Jonathan Thompson

North-Eastern: Deputy Master: Martin Jones

Southern: Deputy Master: Hilary Donoghue

South-Western: Secretary: June Gray

February Management Committee

The February Management Committee meeting was held at Danbury on 1st February 2014. 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.

Reports are now submitted in advance of the meeting which means things get done a little bit quicker as everyone's had a chance to read through and digest prior to the meeting. As usual, there was lots of information about events happening around the districts.

Nominations for all Association Officers were received by the due date with the exception of a Public Relations Officer. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in helping out with this very important role, please contact me.

As you know, Brian Meads is standing down as Master at this year's AGM. Two nominations were received: Fred Bone and John Harpole, so there will be a vote required. Make sure you are there to cast your vote.

Stephen Nash has been proposed for Life Vice President, which will go forward to the AGM with the approval of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to support Essex young ringers by awarding a grant of £400 towards the cost of entry into the National Youth Striking Competition.

Bell restoration grants were approved for work carried out at Loughton and Hornchurch and will be paid following an approval inspection from the Technical Adviser.

The Ringing Foundation has written to all Associations asking for financial support towards running of the ITTS courses. The Management Committee have responded asking for further clarification on several points before making any decision.

Do ask your district officers for further information about these meetings. The next meeting of the Committee is in October when we appoint other officers for the Association - take a look at the job descriptions on the website to see if anything takes your fancy. You don't have to be an advanced ringer to be involved in your Association!

Vicki Chapman
General Secretary

From the Registers

Birth: Nicholas John Elliott on 25 December to John and Vicki Elliott, of Kelvedon.

40th birthday: Darren Osborne (Rayleigh) on 8 February

60th birthday: Linda A Stewart (Downham) on 12 January

70th birthday: Bill Hindley (Shenfield) on 24 January; Jim Towler (Inworth) on 27 January

80th birthday: G Noel Orman (Thorrington) on 21 December; Peter Barnes (Colchester) on 26 January

Silver wedding: Val and William Wass (Colchester) on 29 December

Death: We regret to report the death of Dennis Hewitt (Walthamstow, St Mary).

The Challenge Of The Year

During 2013 Chelmsford Cathedral celebrated the centenary of its ring of twelve bells. Part of the celebrations was to invite bands from each district to ring a quarter peal during the year.

The Northern District has three rings of ten bells, but there is no regular ten bell ringing in any of the towers. In discussion as to what we should do to mark the centenary the district officers asked me to co-ordinate the arrangements.

Knowing that we had some very experienced 10 and 12 bells ringers dotted around district, I invited them and some with the necessary potential to join a Sunday afternoon group to meet once a month and set the challenge of a quarter peal of Grandsire Cinques – we could ring caters in our own district!

We had a practice at Bocking in January, and that went well. We rang a couple of quarters of Grandsire caters, and then arranged to ring for Sunday evening Service at the Cathedral so that everyone involved in the quarter and a few others could have the experience of ringing on the heavy 12. This went very well and a date was set for the actual attempt – Sunday May 19th (Whit Sunday). A little bit of counselling (like I wouldn't have asked you if I didn't think you were up to it, would I), and we rang a very good quarter of 1253 Grandsire Cinques with little trouble.

The ringers were: 1 Janet Edwards, 2 Pat Cresshull, 3 Kath Downs, 4 Peter Smith, 5 Vicky LeFévre, 6 Angela Pannell, 7 Roy Threadgold, 8 John Taylor, 9 Maurice Downs (C), 10 Ian Cresshull, 11 Brian Meads, 12 Jonathon Thompson.

The band had three first on 12, (5, 6, 12) and one first of cinques (4). It was Ian's first of cinques inside, and my first of cinques as conductor, and also marked the fact the Kath had been ringing for 60 years.

The challenge was then widened, when there was the opportunity to ring a second quarter. While the ringing was again very good, sadly a couple bells swapped.

Altogether, 16 members of the district showed that they were up to ringing a quarter on 12. At least one of them had hardly rung on 10.

What of the future? At least one more challenge has been made, but more that another time.

Maurice Downs

Northern District education.

An intensive handling course was held at Wethersfield on Saturday mornings during February and March over a five week period. The main aim was to polish the handling skills of relatively new ringers and to make sure their style didn't slip as they concentrated on rounds and subsequent steps. With no more than two pupils per tutor there was the chance of plenty of rope time and worthwhile progress has been observed.

During the non-ringing time the pupils were able to try their hand at various ringing-related activities from calling changes on playing cards to writing out methods. One ten year old student was so keen on the maths that she worked out the extent on all numbers up to ten bells.

The course will be evaluated to determine if it is worth repeating.

Tour de France — 7 July 2014

The best cyclists in the world will be pedalling through parts of Uttlesford, Braintree, Chelmsford and Epping Forest this year following confirmation of the 2014 Tour de France route.

Le Tour will be coming to Essex on Monday 7th July 2014 for the third stage in the three-week race. The first two stages will take place in Yorkshire, beginning in Leeds on Saturday 5 July.

The third stage of Le Tour starts from Cambridge and then moves on to Essex before heading to London to finish on The Mall in front of Buckingham Palace.

The route enters Essex north of Saffron Walden, taking in parts of Uttlesford, Braintree, Chelmsford and Epping Forest, leaving the county through Epping en route to London.

With an anticipated worldwide audience of 3.5 billion what an excellent opportunity to show case ringing around our county. Essex towers near the route include Littlebury, Saffron Walden, Radwinter, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Rayne, Felsted, Broomfield, Willingale, Bobbingworth, Woodford and Walthamstow. For a route map see www.essex.gov.uk/Documents/tdf-TheRoute.pdf.

Please let me know if you are planning any ringing activity to coincide with the race as it passes through.

Vicki Chapman

Ringling Roadshow 2014



This year's Ringling Roadshow will be held at the Newbury Racecourse on Saturday 6th September.

Ringling Roadshows have been held periodically since 1997. The aims are to provide a showcase for

ringling organisations and vendors and an opportunity for ringers to meet, to buy ringling related things, to have a go on a mini-ring or handbells, attend seminars and so on.

The Roadshow website is at ringlingroadshow.co.uk – it will be updated as new information becomes available.

We understand that some Districts are planning to organise a coach. Contact your District Officers for details.



St George's Day, 23 April

Libby Alexander writes:



We are now in our fourth year and how well so many of you have contributed to creating a growing and successful campaign for St. George's Day. The point of this letter to you is to spur you on and to help support and encourage even more ringers to take part.

Such is the growing interest by the general public that a PR company has most generously come forward to help broadcast the efforts made by all bell ringers to a far wider audience and engage with people of note to help spread the word. And part of this exercise is to engage and inform people in the media (eg: cricket correspondents!) that most certainly something is very definitely happening. In turn this has a knock on benefit of reminding the public how fortunate they are to have in their midst so many volunteer bell ringers who form an integral part of our communities.

The more towers that ring out the more the public will hear and the greater the campaign will become and then as night follows day we will have a truly nationwide event.

This is such a worthwhile cause with a hugely untapped groundswell of public support which will be my role to play in and inform. I will keep you all informed of progress and in return, in order to help me help you, I would very much appreciate it if I was kept up to date with what the towers hope to do on the day. Last year more regional radio stations and regional newspapers covered the occasion than before. I am hoping with the PR company on board we can now inform a far wider nationwide audience and gain their support and goodwill.

If you are planning any ringing to celebrate St George's Day this year, please let Vicki Chapman have details so that she can forward it on.

Eight years on from winning the Founders' prize, the Northern District Young Ringers are still going strong.

2014 started with a successful New Year's party at Coggeshall at which some violent games failed to break even one of the hundreds of wine glasses set out for an event the following day. Several youngsters had their first taste of ten-bell ringing.

During the February half-term we held a bowling/ringing afternoon at Braintree. It was definitely proved that the skills are not interchangeable. So dire was some of the bowling that two of the girls had the side barriers put up for everyone. Happily the ringing afterwards was not quite as dismal and a good time was had by all.



Youngsters came from Braintree, Coggeshall, Gosfield, Pebmarsh, Ridgewell and Wethersfield.

Diocese of Chelmsford Centenary Year

In 2014 the Diocese of Chelmsford will celebrate 100 years of faithful service to Essex and East London. 2014 will be a great time to celebrate the hope which our churches have shared over the first 100 years and to commit to the next 100 years together.

To see what's happening near you visit the Diocese website at www.chelmsfordcentenary.org/whatson

News from Saffron Walden

Nineteen quarter peals were rung at SW during 2013 (the same as 2010, 2011 and 2012) of which fourteen were rung for Sunday Evensong. Two Peals were scored by visiting bands - Yorkshire Max for one, and ASCY's 5300 Stedman Cinques on the day of Fabian Stedman's 300th Anniversary on 16 October.

The Walden band continues to make progress, and we achieved some notable 'firsts' in 2013 - Janice Lambeth's first quarter, first treble bob Royal for John Hammond, first on 10 for Patrick Draper, first Stedman Caters as Conductor for James Watkins (who is now our Tower Captain), first of Cambridge Royal for Carol Wilkinson, and first Grandsire Cinques for June Mackay.

We have been extremely fortunate recently in having been gifted the most superb set of Whitechapel handbells, by a local lady whose late father left them. They are being well used already, with a handbell group on Wednesday evenings run by James, and also by the 3 new children who are being taught here. We had already also recently restored our own 1830's handbells, paid for voluntarily by individual band members.

The simulator installed by Roger Collins on the front eight is also being regularly well used; especially by the Friday afternoon learners practices, which run from 2-5pm. And the Society website, run by Gerard Clinton, now gets above 300 hits a month - have a look at saffronwaldenbells.org.uk

The next 5th Tuesday 10-12 bell Open Practice, for all those wishing to ring on higher numbers - is on Tuesday, 29 April, 7.45-9.00pm - there will be basic ringing on 10 and 12 for the less experienced, and up to Caters, Royal, Cinques or even Maximus if time allows - all ringing friends and neighbours are very welcome.

That's a First!

Congratulations to the following ringers

First Quarter: Nicole Young (Waltham Abbey); Dion Laycock (South Weald); Daniel Jennings (Wethersfield); Linda A Stewart (Downham)

First quarter as cover: Al Sacco

First quarter away from cover: Sharon Jones; Michael Mead

First quarter inside: Michael Mead

25th quarter: Raymoind Jones

250th quarter: Ian J Culham

500th quarter: Vicky LeFèvre

657th quarter: Philip Saunders

700th quarter: Richard Dunhill

1150th quarter: John Harpole

100th as conductor: Darren Osborne

First peal: George Vant

First peal inside: Roger Carey-Smith

First peal as conductor: Steven Clarke

100th peal: Philip G Erith; Ian J Culham

250th peal: Jon Waters

500th peal: Colin Chapman

1700th peal: George Thoday

200th peal for the Association: Paul Bray

275th peal for the Association: Richard F Prime

500th peal for the Association: Paul Cammiade

Information to the end of February. Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

Practice Diary

APRIL	5	Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00–12:00
	19	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	25	Learners Practice	Radwinter	NW	7:45–9:00
	29	5 th Tuesday Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	7:45–9:00
	30	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
MAY	3	Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00–12:00
	9	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45–9:00
	10	10-12-bell Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	10:00–12:00
	17	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	NE	7:30–9:00
	17	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	15	Surprise Practice	South Weald	S	7:30
	21	District Practice	Broomfield	SE	7:45
	28	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	30	Learners Practice	Bobbingworth	NW	7:45–9:00
	31	Beyond Bob Minor	Wethersfield	N	7:00
JUNE	7	Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00–12:00
	7	10-12-bell Practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	10:00–12:00
	13	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45–9:00
	18	District Practice	Goldhanger	SE	7:45
	19	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	25	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	26	Beyond Bob Minor	Wethersfield	N	7:00
JULY	5	Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00–12:00
	11	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45–9:00
	17	Surprise Practice	South Weald	S	7:30
	17	District Practice	Tollesbury	SE	7:45
	19	8-bell Practice	Ardleigh	NE	4:00–6:00
	25	Learners Practice	Fyfield	NW	7:45–9:00
	26	Doubles/Minor Practice	(tba)	SW	
	29	5 th Tuesday Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	7:45–9:00

Dates for your Diary

APRIL	10–12	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
	20	Quarter Peal Fortnight		SE	
MAY	5	Association AGM Ringing and Tea	Chelmsford N District		
	10	District Meeting	Felsted	N	4:00
	17	6-bell Striking Competition & short Business Meeting	Bradwell-on-Sea	SE	4:30
	17	District Meeting & Method Striking Competition	Matching	NW	4:00
	31	Spring Meeting & Striking Competition	Wivenhoe	NE	2:30
JUNE	7	Ridgman Trophy 10-bell Striking Competition	Coggeshall		
	7	6-bell Striking Competition	Theydon Garnon	SW	
	21	Call Change Competition & Barbecue	Gt Bromley	NE	4:00
JULY	5	Association Striking Competitions	Great Parndon (6)		2:00
			Harlow Common (8)		6:30

25 not out!

In 2015 the Essex Course will be 25 years old. If you have any ideas for how we might mark this occasion please email them to Mary Bone for consideration at the October Management Committee –
essexcourse@eacr.org.uk

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for August 2014. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to newsletter@eacr.org.uk or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1st July 2014**