

Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Essex Association Dinner Saturday 4th October 2014

The Association's 60th Annual Dinner will be held in the Crystal Room at the County Hotel, Chelmsford on Saturday 4th October at 6.45 for 7.30pm. Join us in the pleasant surroundings for an enjoyable evening of good food and good company in the presence of Rosalind and Tim Martin from Dorset and the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral.

Ros is a ringer and a ringing tweeter and blogger. She is also PRO, Webmaster, and a Central Council rep for the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild; she was elected to the CC Public Relations Committee in May. She has some interesting views on ringing, recruiting and retention, communication and use of social media amongst ringers. Tim is Tower Captain at Christchurch Priory. It promises to be a very interesting evening.

The following menu choices are available:

Starters

A salad of butternut squash, feta cheese, lentils and black olives [v]

Freshly made Soup of the Day [v]

Smoked trout parfait, marinated cucumber and melba toast

Main Course

Baked sea bass, white wine and new potatoes

Filo tart with braised chicory, bortolli beans, gorgonzola, on carrot puree with crushed jersey royals [v]

Roast chicken breast wrapped in parma ham with mozzarella mashed potato

Dessert

Apple, plum and pear strudel with Vanilla Ice Cream

Passion fruit panacotta, pineapple carpaccio,

Steamed spotted dick with forest fruits & brandy sauce

Coffee and Petit Fours to follow

Special diets can be arranged on request

Rounds & About

The charge for the evening will be £34 per person. Dress will be Black Tie or Lounge Suit. Download the booking form from the website <http://eacr.org.uk/dinner2014>, select your menu choices, add your name and send your completed form, SAE and payment (payable to 'EACR') to Andrew Brewster at the address below. The last date for ordering is 14th September 2014. Alternatively secure your place now by paying a deposit of £16pp and pay the balance by 14th September.

There is discounted accommodation available in the hotel if anyone wishes to stay. Please book accommodation directly with the County Hotel (01245 455700) and inform them that you are attending the Essex Dinner, to secure the special rate

There is also a bar, which sells real ale, and there are car parking spaces at the hotel or nearby, or you can use the train! We will be seated on tables of 6, 8 or 10, so do think about making up a table from your Tower.

Let's make it a great success. Please come along and support it!

Andrew Brewster
16 The Priory, Writtle, Essex CM1 3JE
01245 421166

25 for 25

The 25th Essex Ringing Course next year will offer up to 25 places to Essex ringers aged under 25 at a special fee of £25. Watch for details in December.

Mary Bone
Course Convener

News from Terling and Inworth

Terling and Inworth ringers rang a touch of Plain Bob Triples to mark the opening of the Terling and Fairstead Open Gardens event on Sunday 15 June.

This was the second year of Terling and Fairstead Open Gardens and £5,450 was raised in aid of the Farleigh Hospice.

Colin Cutler

Youth Co-ordinator/Development Officer Role

Following on from the February Management Committee meeting, a draft role description for the post of a Youth Co-ordinator/Development Officer, to co-ordinate activities for young ringers across the whole Association and be responsible for entries to the National Youth Contest and other events, was introduced at the AGM in May. An initial role description is now published on the website (<http://goo.gl/vYSTiS>) and anyone interested in finding out more, or applying for the position should contact the Association Secretary.

The post will be appointed to at the October Management Committee and the successful candidate will take up the role with effect from 1st January 2015.

Vicki Chapman
Gen Sec

From the new Master



Thank you to all of you who came along to this year's Association AGM, at which I was elected the new Master of the Essex Association. It was a great pleasure for me that my first task as Master was to say, on your behalf, a big thank you to my predecessor, Brian Meads, for all his work and enthusiasm during the last 6 years.

I was overwhelmed by all the messages of support I received after the AGM, and am looking forward to meeting you all. I intend to visit each of the districts at least once a year, and have been to five so far this year; I promise I will get to the North-West soon!

I hope you all have a good summer, and will try and support all of your district and the Association events through the autumn, culminating in our Association carol service at South Weald on December 13th.

If anyone does have any questions or wants to discuss any Association matters, then please feel free to contact me.

John Harpole

The AGM

The AGM took place on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014 and as usual the Cathedral bells were available for general ringing prior to the service before the invited band rang the service touch. Refreshments were served during general ringing and between the service and meeting by members of the Southern District.

The service was conducted by the new Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral, the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall; lessons read by the Master and Revd Ian Jorysz, our Chaplain. The address was given by the The Reverend Patrick McEune, Priest in Charge of The Donyland Parishes. We were joined by the Boreham Choir under their Master, Owain Jones and the organist was Richard Reed.

The meeting followed the usual formalities until the election of Honorary Officers. Two candidates had been put forward for the post of Master following the retirement of Brian Meads. Fred Bone and John Harpole were asked to leave the building whilst their Proposers and Seconders spoke to the meeting. Other members had the opportunity to speak before a paper ballot was held, the results of which were to be announced later in the meeting.

After the two candidates returned to the meeting, the agenda continued. Stephen Nash was proposed as a Life Vice President of the Association having been endorsed at the February Committee Meeting. Steve was asked to leave the building whilst his Proposer and Secunder spoke; again others were given the opportunity to speak before the vote. Steve was duly elected, nem con and congratulated on his return to the meeting. He will be presented with his certificate at the Annual Dinner in October.

In accordance with the Rule 8.2 (c) those who have been Ringing Members for at least 50 years are entitled to become Life Members. The following members were presented with Life Membership certificates where they were present, others will be distributed via Districts:

Roy Threadgold, Wethersfield; Paul Bloomfield, Dagenham; and John Stephenson, Hornchurch.

The early bird booking system for the Annual Dinner was in play again this year. Details of the event will be posted on the website and sent out with this newsletter.

After the Master had announced that the 8 Bell Striking Competition Touch would be a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Major.

The ballot papers, having been counted, were given to the Master who declared that John Harpole had been elected as the new Master. Brian Meads passed over the badge of office and before the meeting closed was presented with an engraved tankard and gardening gift vouchers from the Association in thanks for his contribution over the last six years.

After the meeting, towers in the Northern District were open for ringing in the afternoon, with tea at Sible Hedingham.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the day's arrangements, particularly the Cathedral staff, who were frantically preparing for HM the Queen's visit the following day, Ian Jorysz, members of the Southern and Northern Districts.

Vicki Chapman
Gen Sec

Essex Hosts Eliminator

On an early Spring day in Essex, Saturday 22 March six top bell-ringing teams rang at Waltham Abbey in one of three eliminator heats (semi-finals) of the National 12-bell Striking Competition: Guildford Cathedral, Leeds Minster, Melbourne (Derbyshire), St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, and York Minster. After three hours of closely-fought ringing the three bands to go forward to the Finals at Christchurch Oxford were York Minster, Melbourne and Leeds, who were first, second and third.

The day, mostly sunny but cold and punctuated by sharp showers, was enjoyed by all, both the contestants and their families and those who came to listen. Many of those who came were members of the Association who could be identified by listening intently, taking shelter under shop overhangs, ready to analyse and pass opinion on the performance of each team. The day also included guided tours of the church for supporters and a well-attended bell-themed organ recital by Jonathan Lilley, Director of Music at the Abbey Church.

Waltham Abbey was privileged to host this event and both the competition and providing refreshments for seventy-two ringers and their families went smoothly and were much appreciated. Four barrels of local brew were consumed and John Hall's legendary chilli proved as popular as ever. The local band are grateful to everyone in the Association, the church and the community who contributed to the success of the day.

Practice Diary

Aug	8	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	16	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	29	Learners Practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	7:45
Sep	12	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	18	Surprise Practice	South Weald	S	7:30
	18	District Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	20	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	24	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	26	Learners Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	7:45
	27	Beyond Bob Minor	Wethersfield	N	7:00
	30	5 th Tuesday Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	7:45
Oct	4	10-12 bell Practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	10:00
	10	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	17	District Practice	Pleshey	SE	7:45
	18	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	18	Afternoon Practice	Stanford-le-Hope	S	3:00
	24	Learners Practice	Moreton	NW	7:45
	25	Beyond Bob Minor	Wethersfield	N	7:00
	29	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
Nov	14	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	15	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	20	Surprise Practice	South Weald	S	7:30
	20	District Practice	Little Baddow	SE	7:45
	26	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	28	Learners Practice	tba	NW	7:45
	29	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00
	29	District 8-bell Practice	Ardleigh	NE	4:00
Dec	12	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
Jan	9	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	10	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	23	Learners Practice	Matching	NW	7:45
	31	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00

Ridgman Trophy

The Ridgman Trophy 10 bell striking competition took place on Saturday 7th June at our very own Coggeshall. The judges were Alan and Mark Ainsworth, the test piece was 264 Stedman Caters. We laid on extra ringing at Inworth, Kelvedon and Great Tey to keep people amused during the afternoon and the ringers at Coggeshall provided excellent refreshments throughout the day and ploughmans lunches. The judges declared the results as follows:

1 st	ESSEX	20 faults
2 nd	Hertfordshire	36 faults
3 rd	Ely	38 faults
4 th	Suffolk	50 faults
5 th	Lincoln	52 faults
6 th	Cambridge University	65 faults
7 th	Bedfordshire	Did not complete
7 th	Peterborough	Did not complete

Representing Essex were: Hazel Steed, Vicki Chapman, Gill Sparling, Steve Waters, John Steed, David Sparling, Paul Bray, Brian Meads, Colin Chapman (c) and Nigel Taylor. Our two subs were John Hall and Stephen Nash.

Next years competition will be hosted by either Norwich or Ely on 6th June 2015.

Life Membership

Any nominations for life membership must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by 1 December (rule 10.4) and should include details of the candidate's Association activities.

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." Further advice on the criteria is available from the Association Master or Secretary or from your district officers.

Vicki Chapman
Gen Sec

After the Restoration an Update from Willingale

Almost weekly the *Ringing World* front page features a restoration project, but what happens thereafter? Here is the latest from Willingale.

Willingale's bells were augmented and restored in 2012 and first rung for the Queen's Jubilee, since when the local ringers have been practicing, ringing for services and increasing in number. Now the group consists of 20 adults and eight young ringers, the majority of whom had not rung before. To cater for the size and diversity of the group, practices are held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; unfortunately this gave rise to some disquiet in the village, hence, a simulator was installed in early 2014. The Thursday practice devoted to young ringers has been a particular success; we are greatly encouraged by their enthusiasm.

The group has entered two bands in the NW District striking competition on two consecutive years and a band scored a second place in the NW District 2014 methods competition. Since the restoration four Willingale ringers have achieved their first quarter peals.

The group enjoy social activity connected to ringing, two ringing tours in Essex have been organised and a third is planned for later in 2014. The group has established a routine of ringing at all four towers in the benefice on St. George's Day with a toast at each church, and Mayday has become a village celebration of ringing, Maypole dancing and general fun.

In the background the group has constituted themselves, opened a bank account and appointed officers.

The group do face a challenge – the oddstruck fourth – which it is planned to be replaced. The Keltek Trust has purchased a replacement bell, fund raising has commenced and permissions are being sought. It is hoped that the fourth will be replaced in early 2015.

Many members of the group have benefited from the support of the NW District and the Association generally by attending the Essex Ringing Course, tutor training sessions and by having experienced ringers visiting the tower. The group has a debt of gratitude to so many people.

For further information or to join us on a practice evening contact tower captain Kieran Kerwin 07854 277758.



Willingale's 2014 Essex Ringing Tour

From the Registers

Birth: Amelia Willow Keeble on 8 February, daughter of John Keeble; Callum David Grainger and Ethan Thomas Grainger on 14 January, grandsons of Penny and David Sloman

Marriage: Rebecca Edwards, of South Ockendon, to Aaron Withers, on 26 April

Ruby wedding anniversary: Jenny and Alan Parris, of Terling, on 1 June

50th birthday: Andrew Burgoyne, of Kirby-le-Soken, on 3 May; Ro Kelsell, of Sawbridgeworth, on 23 June

60th birthday: Barry Bloyce, of Great Bromley, on 11 April; David Lee, of Bures, on 13 April

70th birthday: Jean Pavely, on 23 May; Wendy Godden, on 1 June

80th birthday: Ian Valentine, of Wivenhoe, on 2 March; Gordon Lucas, on 6 April; Laurie Turner, on 1 June

90th birthday: Jim Bullock, of Dagenham, on 22 June

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Revd Anthony Abbey, former Chaplain; Betty Neale, Friend of the Association, of Leigh-on-Sea; Janet Rowley, of Mistley; David Reeve, of Wormingford; Ced Robinson, formerly of Burnham-on-Crouch; Don Robinson, of Southminster; and Don Nowell, of Purleigh.

A peal for Wendy Godden's 70th birthday

Many people will be surprised to know that Wendy is celebrating her 70th in July! But she is, and as one of the most well-known and popular ringers in the Essex Association, we rang a Peal to mark the occasion.

Wendy has been ringing since she was 12, and moved to Essex in 1966 - since then she was our EACR Independent Examiner for 34 years, and is now one of our CC Reps, but has done mountains of work for the Association and other ringers and learners, and been a student or helper on every Essex Course except the first one - and still says she gets more out of it than she puts in!

Wendy is also the Essex Rep for the Ladies Guild, and this Peal band were all Guild friends - two from Essex, three from Cambs, and one from Kent, and our photo shows us having a drink afterwards on the lovely green outside Matching Church. We are sure ours won't be the only ringing to celebrate for her!

Carol Wilkinson



Sunday, 1 June 2014, in 2 hr 50 mins.
Matching Church (St Mary), Essex
5040 Mixed Doubles (5m)
1 Joanne Rutter 4 Marina Warner
2 Carol Wilkinson 5 Janet Garnett (C)
3 Wendy Godden 6 Helen Webb
Rung as a 70th birthday compliment to
Wendy Godden.
Most methods in a Peal: 3

1 June 2014 FELSTED Holy Cross, 1296 Cambridge S.Minor: David Learmonth 1, Clive Moore 2, Carol Wilkinson 3, Gerald Pearson 4, Peter Smith 5, C John Warboys (C) 6. A 70th birthday compliment to Wendy Godden.

Birthday boy

We hear that our new Life Vice-President, Steve Nash, has a big birthday coming up, on 19th November. We wouldn't dream of being more specific, but here's a clue: he was 40 in 2004.

That's a First!

Congratulations to the following ringers:

1st quarter: Jeanne Defries; Steven Turner; Tracey Taylor; John Randall; Jean Pavely

1st quarter as cover: Dion Laycock

1st quarter inside: Ian Kerwin; Kieran Kerwin

1st quarter of Minor: Steven Turner; Nicole Brooks; John Woollard

1st quarter of Minor inside: Paul Wiggins

1st quarter of treble bob: Diane Arnold; Ros Skipper

1st quarter as conductor: Valerie Banwell

75th quarter: Charmane May

125th quarter as conductor: Bryan Morrissey

1000th quarter: Pat Cresshull

1100th quarter: Ian Cresshull

1150th quarter: Stephen Nash

2000th quarter: Liz Griffith-Jones

1st peal as conductor: James Watkins

125th peal: Ian Culham

200th peal: Liz Griffith-Jones

300th peal: Fred Bone

700th peal: Richard F Prime

1850th peal: David Rothera

100th peal for the Association: Ian Culham

175th peal for the Association: Jon Waters

200th peal for the Association: Fred Bone

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

Ringling World National Youth Contest

As the Association was hosting its striking competition, a group of intrepid young Essex ringers under the leadership of Christina Brewster took part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Worcester. As we were receiving the 6 bell results, news came in that the Essex Young Eagles had been placed 2nd in the Call Change section of the competition.

Huge congratulations to them, and their support team. We look forward to a full report in due course.

Vicki Chapman

Striking Competition Finals

The Association striking competition finals were held on 5th July, hosted by the North Western District. Eleven teams entered the 6-bell competition at Nazeing. The results were:

1st	Chelmsford Cathedral	7 faults
2nd	Kirby le Soken	9½ faults
3rd	Prittlewell	15 faults
4th	Hornchurch	19 faults
5th	Mistley	19½ faults
6th	Coggeshall	21 faults
7th	Dagenham	25 faults
8th	Writtle	27½ faults
9th	Rayleigh	30 faults

Unfortunately Sawbridgeworth did not complete their test piece and Willingale rang insufficient changes.

After an excellent tea and the 6-bell results the inter-district 8-bell competition was held at Harlow Common. The test piece was a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Major. The results were:

1st	North Eastern	17½ faults,
joint 2nd	South Eastern & North Western	19 faults
4th	Southern	26½ faults
5th	Northern	29 faults

Vicki Chapman

Association Training Day 2014

This year's training day is on Saturday 22nd November 2014, 9.45am to approx. 4:30pm and is based in the Northern District with the initial meet in the church at St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall.

The groups on offer are:

- Plain Bob Doubles
- Grandsire Doubles
- Plain Bob & Grandsire Triples
- Surprise Minor – Cambridge, Norwich

To apply for a place, download an application form from www.eacr.org.uk training page or send an SAE for an application form to: Richard Wilson, EACR Education Officer, 57 Wilshire Avenue, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM2 6QW.

Forms will be available from both sources from 31st August 2014 onwards.

Rounds & About

There will be 6 places on each course; first come, first served. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2014.

This year there will be a charge of £6 which must be paid in advance, cheques to be made payable to EACR. We have introduced this system because in previous years there have been a number of people who have applied and then failed to attend without notice or reason, thus wasting valuable training spaces others could have used. No e-mail applications will be accepted this year.

Helpers are also required for this day; please contact Richard on 01245 358765 or 07587140804 or e-mail: education@eacr.org.uk if you are able to help.

Young ringers go ringing in the Southern District

The SE District Young Ringers Outing this year was to the Southern District generally and to the Southend area in particular. No thoughts of paddling in the sea though as this was March and although the sun shone all day it was much too chilly for a swim.

We checked the Southend United fixture list and selected a day they were not playing at home and organised the outing for Saturday 8 March.

The first tower was All Saints, Rettendon (8cwt 6) where the usual introductions and re-introductions took place.



Adam adjusting his rope with Mollie, David and Tom looking on

Rounds & About

The second tower was St Mary the Virgin, South Benfleet (12cwt, 6) where the long ropes were a challenge. A couple of youngsters more used to standing on boxes were amused to find that even they needed a knot (or two!).

We then drove into Leigh-on-Sea for lunch with each group making their own arrangements. Traffic was heavy all the way and parking a bit of a lottery. Some found the pub on the water front where they enjoyed a leisurely lunch (not of their own doing) while some spent ages looking for somewhere to park before grabbing a bite to eat. Hence, not everyone arrived at St Clements (10cwt, 8) at the appointed time of 2pm and unfortunately we had to ring on 5 and 6 for the first half of the visit.



The youngsters and some parents and helpers outside Leigh-on-Sea church. l-r David, Katy, Steven, Simon, Janice, Christina, Mollie, Adam, Philip, Jon, TJ, George, Andrew, Richard and Tom

It was then on to St Laurence and All Saints, Eastwood (9cwt, 6). As many will know Eastwood church borders the perimeter fence of Southend Airport and although all looked quiet it was not long before there was a loud roar of a plane coming into land. This resulted in several ringers, young and not so young, going off to investigate and apparently a quick check of the easyJet app on a mobile determined that a flight was due to leave at 3.50pm. Word went round and more left the church leaving barely enough to ring. Several members of the party were then spotted hanging on the perimeter fence waiting and then watching the plane taxi to sit at the end of the runway for some minutes before thundering down the runway for what seemed like only yards away as it passed over them.



Time for a 'plane' course of easyJet Surprise Minor!

The next tower was Prittlewell (18cwt 10) where we were met by David Sloman who had opened the car park at the east end of the church. Most of the ringing consisted of call changes and plain hunt on the 10 but we were able to ring a plain course of plain bob caters to finish.

We headed off to the final tower of the day, the lovely eight bells at St Augustine, Thorpe Bay (16cwt) and we arrived as dusk started to set in. A potential lock-out was fortunately averted as the local didn't live too far away and was in when telephoned. However, as weariness crept in nobody seemed too worry at the slightly shorter time at this tower

It was then time to relax at the MFA Bowl in the Kursaal Building on Southend seafront with two games of bowling and a buffet. Although the buffet was late coming out due to staffing shortages a good time was had by all and we made our weary way home.

Nine young ringers, from four different towers, took part - Katy from Gt Totham, Philip from Inworth, Adam, Mollie, Steven, Simon and TJ from Writtle and George and Tom from Layer-de-la-Haye. I would like to thank the nine adult ringers and parents for their help and support of the event.

Christina Brewster
SE District Master

DBE

Congratulations to Kate Barker, of Thaxted, on being made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the economy.

Dates for your Diary

Sep	6	Ringing Roadshow	Newbury		
	6	District Training Event	Kirby-le-Soken	NE	9:30
	13	Essex Trophy Competition	Kent		
	13	District Meeting	Great Dunmow	N	4:00
	13	Call Change Striking Comp	Wanstead	SW	
	20	District Meeting	Brentwood	S	3:30
	20	District Meeting	Pleshey	SE	3:00
	27	District Training Day		SE	
Oct	4	Association Annual Dinner	Chelmsford		
	25	District Autumn Meeting	Colchester St L	NE	3:00
	25	District Meeting & Call Change Competition	Manuden	NW	4:00
Nov		Quarter Peal Month		N	
	8	Quiz Night/Social	tba	NW	
	15	District Quiz Evening	Thorrington	NE	7:30
	15	Call Change Striking Competition & District Meeting	Great Wakering	S	2:30
	15	Barn Dance	Terling	SE	
	22	Association Training Day	Coggeshall		
	22	District Social		SW	
Dec	13	Association Carol Service	South Weald		
Jan	10	Annual District Meeting	Harwich	NE	3:00
	10	Annual District Meeting	Writtle	SE	3:00
	10	Annual District Meeting		SW	
	17	Annual District Meeting	Great Yeldham	N	3:00
			Toppesfield		4:30
	17	Annual District Meeting	Prittlewell	S	3:00
	24	Annual District Meeting	tba	NW	4:00

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for December 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 November 2014**