

Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Essex Ringing Course 2015

The 25th Essex Ringing Course will be held on 9 – 11 April 2015, based at the Honeywood School, Coggeshall.

Tutor groups on offer are:

- Improving foundation skills
- Call changes
- Plain Hunt
- Treble Hunt /Advanced Plain Hunt
- Plain Bob Doubles inside
- Plain Bob Minor inside
- Grandsire Doubles / Triples
- Beyond Bob Minor (Little Bob, Double Oxford / Court etc)
- Treble Bob Minor
- Stedman Doubles / Triples
- Surprise Major (Cambridge & Yorkshire)
- Calling & Conducting touches

There will be an additional programme of seminars and practical sessions on a wide variety of ringing topics.

Helpers are also required for each group.

Fees have been held at 2014 rates with a special offer for Essex ringers aged under 25.

For a brochure and application form please send a stamped self-addressed C5 envelope to Mary Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB or visit the EACR website at www.eacr.org.uk/course .

Closing date for applications Friday 13 February 2015

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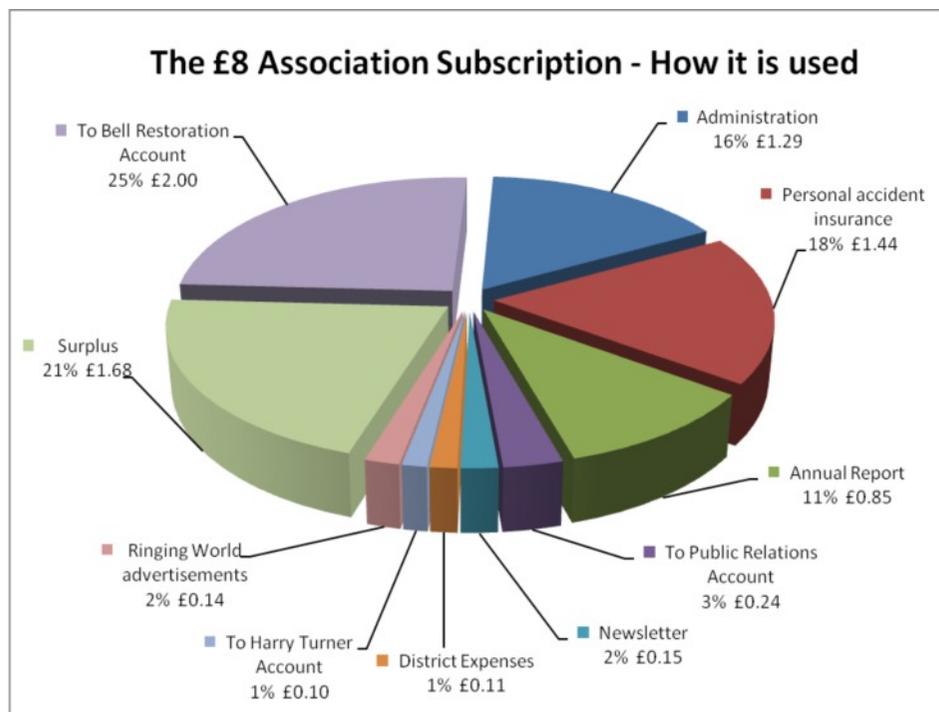
Annual Subscriptions for 2015

Annual subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2015. Subscription rates remain the same - £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2015) and £4 for junior members or friends.

Annual subscriptions are one of the primary sources of Association revenue and it is very important for members to pay their subscription promptly. Please pay your subscription before 30 April 2015 – it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

Please note:

- Subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2015. Members not paying by this date shall not participate in or vote at meetings (e.g. the AGM) or ring peals for the Association until the subscription is paid.
- Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 31st December 2014 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the Annual Report.



Rounds & About

- Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2015) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2015. After this date lapsed members shall be re-elected in accordance with normal procedures.
- Use of the Membership Form is now mandatory and no elections should take place without a completed form which must be submitted to the District Secretary before the start of a District meeting. The current form is downloadable from the EACR website.

If you have any queries about membership or subscriptions then please let me know.

Andrew Brewster
Association Treasurer

Association Carol Service

The Association Carol Service will take place at St Peter, South Weald, at 4:30 on Saturday 13th December, preceded by ringing at Hutton (2:00–2:45), Shenfield (2:30–3:15), Bentley Common (3:00–3:45) and South Weald (3:30–4:30), and followed by festive refreshments.

You should already have received a poster for your tower, but if not it can be downloaded from the Association website.

Training Day at Goldhanger

A highly successful Bob Doubles training day was held in September at Goldhanger for member of the local band. Organised by Caron Harris and led by Andrew Kelso, we worked through some of the theory of Plain Bob Doubles, identifying and discussing a number of different learning strategies, before splitting into individual tutor groups to provide focussed learning and practice for 3 local ringers. Help was very generously received from our friends from other towers, including Burnham-on-Crouch, Tillingham, Braintree and Great Bardfield. Lunch and tea was provided by the local ringers. The day was rounded off in traditional style in the Chequers Inn.

Andrew Kelso

Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC)

This year's contest, the fourth, was held on Saturday 5 July and was hosted by Worcester with the competition being on the back 8 of the light ring of 10 at Old St Martins Cornmarket.

The Essex Young Eagles band was selected from those who had attended the SE District Young Ringers Practices which have been held on a monthly basis since September 2013. Although essentially a District practice, with youngsters from Danbury, Gt Totham, Inworth, Maldon All Saints, Springfield and Writtle, youngsters from towers in other districts have been encouraged to attend and have included Coggeshall, Felsted, Layer-de-la-Haye and Willingale. 'Youngsters' for these practices mean anyone under 25!

However, for the RWNYC, team members must be aged under 19 on the day of the contest. As two members of last year's band were now 19 it meant having to look for at least two replacements. Dedicated practices were held at Writtle, Tollesbury, Goldhanger and South Ockendon and the final team was:



Ellanor Collop, Writtle (Aged 15 - 4th year)
Mollie Brett, Writtle (15 - 2nd year)
Stephanie Ovenden, Danbury (18 - 2nd year)
Neil Pasmore, Writtle (18 - 4th year)
Thomas Sloman, Writtle (15 - 1st year)
Francesca Coughlan, Danbury (16 - 1st year)
Adam Sloman, Writtle (Conductor) (18 - 4th year)
Jonathan Ovenden, Danbury (15 - 1st year)

Reserves were Claude and Lukas Wallis from Felsted. Due to the inexperience of some of the band the decision was taken to ring call changes. The test piece for this was to ring a minimum of 160 rows of call changes to include at least 2 from "Queens", "Whittingtons" or "Tittums". They chose not to include "Tittums"!

The majority of the Essex party of 29 band members, parents and supporters travelled to Worcester on the Friday evening while a few had a very early start and travelled up on the day. It is a testament to the contest that within the party the two ineligible members of last year's band went along to offer their support. Some of the early arrivals set up their HQ in The Plough where late discussion about tactics and strategy took place!

The Essex Young Eagles were drawn to ring sixth of the 16 teams who had gathered from all over the country. After registration eight of our youngsters enjoyed a fun but challenging session on the Worcester Cathedral simulators in their Ringing Centre. Then it was on to Old St Martins for the photo call for The Ringing World. They made good use of their practice time, getting the feel of the bells and finding a good speed to ring. The test piece went well, with just small errors but improving throughout. They were all very pleased with their effort and felt it was the best they had rung as a team. The day was then free to take part in the other ringing opportunities organised by the Worcester ringers. Mollie, Ellanor, David, Thomas, Claude and Lukas took part in a 12 bell masterclass led by Simon Linford of Birmingham. After lunch there was an opportunity to ring on the magnificent 12 of Worcester Cathedral. Whilst the ringing there was expertly managed by Mark Regan each practice piece was dominated by the youngsters from all over the country ringing rounds on this extremely challenging ring of bells. Open ringing was also available at several churches within walking distance of The Cathedral and the Founders Company had kindly laid on a coach for the two outlying towers. Finally it was back to The Cathedral to hear the results which were announced in the College Hall of Worcester Cathedral. They were announced in reverse order and when half way through Essex Young Eagles had not been called they realised that they had a chance of being placed higher than in previous years. They were called out in second place in the call change competition out of ten teams in that category. As two of them reported in their school newsletter "we were bouncing off the walls"! They were all justifiably delighted and felt it was a great achievement. There was time then for all to relax in the Cathedral grounds and enjoy the hog roast and BBQ on a beautiful warm and sunny evening.

Many of the group then returned home while the rest stayed on until the Sunday with the majority of those adjourning to The Plough for an important and leisurely wash-up meeting!

Christina Brewster writes: For some of the band, this was their first time in a striking competition. We can only be proud of their hard work and team spirit. We are very grateful to all who have supported us, in particular to the parents who have driven their children many miles, to the incumbents and churchwardens who kindly let us hold practices and to the Essex Association for providing funding. Special mention must be made of George Vant and Andrew Kelso who provided constructive feedback at a couple of our practices, Christine and Marion who provided light refreshments at our dedicated practice at Tollesbury and to Andrew Brewster, our row counter at all the practices and on the day.

Next year the competition will be in Oxford on 11th July. Regardless of the number of teams applying to enter Essex Young Eagles are guaranteed a place in the competition because of their second place this year. Adam, Neil and Steph have to retire due to the age restriction so we will be looking for new youngsters to take their places. SE District Young Ringers practices will take place on the last Sunday of the month and it is our strong hope that any youngster with potential and enthusiasm (who will be under the age of 19 on Saturday 11th July 2015) comes along to join us. If you are in another District and cannot make these practices but would like to be considered for a place in the band please contact Christina Brewster (essexyoungingers@eacr.org.uk). We are a friendly bunch and whilst we work hard to achieve a reasonable standard we do so whilst having fun.

The Essex Young Ringers

(Thanks must also go to Christina herself for her tireless efforts to organise practices and provide coaching and encouragement to the youngsters)

Things to Ring For

The Central Council maintains a list of “things to ring for”. Among these are some significant anniversaries occurring in 2015:

- 2 May 1715: first recorded peal
- 8 May 1945: VE Day
- 15 June 1215: Magna Carta sealed
- 18 June 1815: Battle of Waterloo
- 25 Oct 1415: Battle of Agincourt

The full list is at cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for/historic-events/

Central Council and Ecclesiastical Insurance

Regular meetings are held between the Central Council and Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, “aiming to encourage constructive dialogue with regard to health and safety in bell towers, minimising and mitigating risk in bell towers, and other matters relating to good stewardship of bells and bell ringers.”

A report on the meeting held on 8th May is now available on the Association website at eacr.org.uk/docs/external/cccbr/ecclesiastical-meeting-2014.pdf

New Tower Correspondents at Great Waltham, Goldhanger and Fryerning

The Tower Correspondent at Great Waltham (SE) is now:
Russell Townsend, 'Crowbush', The Village, Great Waltham, CM3 1AT.
Tel: 01245 362629

The Tower Correspondent at Goldhanger is now as follows:
Andrew Kelso, 9a Church Street, Goldhanger, CM9 8AS. Tel: 01621 788284

Correspondence for Fryerning, St Mary the Virgin, should now be addressed to
The Revd. Patrick Sherring, The Rectory, 1 Rectory Close, Fryerning Lane,
Ingatstone, CM4 0DB

Essex Trophy 2014

On Saturday 13th September the Annual Essex Trophy 10 bell striking competition took place at Maidstone, Kent. Essex were drawn to ring last so had to stay away from the beer on offer with the Ploughman's lunch for a little while. We did get to enjoy the glorious sunshine and listen to the opposition though. The locals had rigged up a video feed from the belfry so we, and the visitors doing their Stride and Ride, were able to watch proceedings. The test piece was 298 Stedman Caters. The judges were Phil Barnes and Ian Roulstone who placed the teams in the following order:

1 st	Kent	80 faults
2 nd	ESSEX	135 faults
3 rd	Sussex	140 faults
4 th	Surrey	146 faults
5 th	Hertfordshire	154 faults

Representing Essex were:

Vicki Chapman, Christina Brewster, John Taylor, John Harpole, Roger Collins, Steven Wood, Colin Chapman (c), John Hall, Stephen Nash and Andrew Brewster.

Next year's competition will be hosted by Guildford.

Vicki Chapman

Practice Diary

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
Feb	7	Evening Practice	Sible Hedingham	N	7:30
	14	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	14	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	21	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00
	28	Learners Practice	tba	NW	7:45
Mar	8	District Training Morning	tbc	N	
	14	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	21	Evening Practice	Stisted	N	7:30
	29	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00

North East Essex Quarter Peal Month

There were 32 Quarter Peals were rung in 16 Towers and 1 in Hand. The leading tower was Mistlely with 10, followed by Colchester St Peters with 3. A Total of 52 Ringers took part, the leading ringers for the month were Neil and Pam Avis with 12 each followed by Mary Coe with 10. Conducting was shared by 13 people; the leading conductors were Paul Bray and Ian Culham with 5 each followed by Brian Lord with 4. This enjoyable months ringing was only saddened by the passing of a dear friend to the district and much loved ringer Peter Barnes, to whom many of these Quarters were dedicated.

Congratulations to George Vant for his first Quarter Peal in Hand and first of Triples inside.

I would like to thank everyone that took part and made such a successful month possible.

Ian Culham

That's a First!

1st quarter: Tim Jenkins, Connor Harmer, Kelly Thompson, Peter Phelps, Paul Crick
1st quarter in hand: George Vant
1st quarter inside: Wendy A Olley, Jonathan Lee
1st quarter in more than one method: Wendy Upson, Peter Upson
1st quarter of Minimus: George Vant, Lesley Barrell, Dominique Erith, Steve Goddard
1st quarter of Minor: Megan Rankin
1st quarter of Triples: Ros Skipper, David Knott
1st quarter on 10: Emily Downing
1st quarter on 12 : Matthew Bayley
1st quarter on Treble to S Major: Sue Stephens
1st quarter of Spliced: Annemarie Adams
1st quarter of Triples inside: George Vant
1st quarter of Stedman: Matthew Bayley
1st quarter of S Major: George Vant
50th quarter: Tony Lowe
750th quarter: Cathryn Corns
1st quarter as conductor: Lydia Roberts
1st quarter of Spliced as conductor: Ian Hamilton
125th quarter as conductor: Ian J Culham
475th quarter as conductor: Stephen Nash
175th quarter together: Andrew Brewster & Roger Bailey
200th quarter together: Cathryn Corns & Darren Osborne
500th quarter together: David Belcham & Cathryn Corns
1st peal on 8: George J Vant
200th peal: Mary Bone
800th peal: Christina D A Brewster
1450th peal: Yvonne A Towler
2250th peal: James L Towler
1700th tower bell peal: Alan P Mayle
100th peal for the Association: David M Hengeli
25th peal as conductor: Ian Culham
100th peal as conductor: Fred Bone
50th peal together: David M Hengeli & Alan P Mayle
75th peal together: Yvonne A Towler & Jon Waters; Jon Waters & Ian J Culham
100th peal together: Yvonne A Towler & David L Sparling
200th peal together: James L Towler & Alan P Mayle; Yvonne A Towler & Alan P Mayle
250th peal together: James L Towler & Paul A Cammiade

Information to end of October. Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

EACR Annual Dinner 2014

The 60th Essex Association Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 4th October at The County Hotel, Chelmsford. Our guests for the evening were the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford with his wife Christine, and Rosalind and Tim Martin from Christchurch Priory in Dorset. Stephen Nash and his wife Alison were also guests in recognition of Steve having been made a Life Vice President of the Association at our AGM in May.

There was time to mingle before dinner and catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. I started to get a bit concerned when it was almost time to take our seats and the Dean and his wife hadn't arrived yet. I stood outside waiting for them to see them hurrying along the road. Just before entering, they stopped off at the corner of the hotel whilst Christine did a quick shoe swap from her comfy shoes into her posh dinner shoes! The Dean then apologised for their lateness, due to a service at the Cathedral overrunning, which he'd thought was going to be an informal service to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women priests, but turned in to a full blown service and refreshments. Just time for a quick G&T and sweet sherry before taking our seats.

As usual, the staff at the County did us proud with a superb three course meal followed by coffee and petit fours.



The formal part of the evening followed with an opening speech by our new Master, John Harpole. He recollected some of his personal highlights of the last twelve months including an ideal weekend on Lundy with bells and beer, and District Meetings where members who weren't at the AGM could put a face to his name. He thanked all officers for their work during the year. He was pleased to present his predecessor, Brian Meads with a certificate to acknowledge Brian's 20 years as a Tutor on the Essex Ringing Course. At the AGM in May, John had the privilege of proposing another former Master of the Association as a Life Vice President and presented Stephen Nash with his certificate.

In proposing a toast to the Church, John said one of the pleasures of being Master was to be able to visit many of the county's churches which ranged

from 7th century, 20th century, town, city and countryside and the unique glass tower at Basildon, John's home tower. He had recently been on a ringing holiday to the US and Canada, visiting both big cities and smaller places off the tourist trail in Cape Cod, and New Castle by the Delaware River, and ringing in the redundant church, now used as a library in Quebec. He noted the contribution that ringing makes to the life of the church and the mental and physical challenges of being a bell ringer.

The Dean responded by recollecting his long experience with bell ringing at Derby, particularly at New Year's Eve, heading up the tower, followed by a few whiskys or beers and trying to work out why the tower moved! Sacrilege struck at his last post at Harrogate which had no bells but a congregation of 400. Someone decided to install a sound system which included a recording of St Paul's Cathedral bells, which was played for weddings at no extra charge. When he took up his post at Chelmsford, he was told that vicars and Deans don't change things. He does not subscribe to that theory and has been exploring changes in evensong times and thanked the Cathedral ringers for rising to the challenge by agreeing to ring after the service rather than miss out altogether. The Dean was struck by the part that bell ringing plays in church history. The origin of ringing before service came from St Francis when he went to visit the Muslims on Crusades. It was a public display outside of what was taking place inside and St Francis determined that ringing bells should take place before daily prayer. In today's culture it shows how great religious traditions cross boundaries and that we should be proud of relationships with other faiths and what can be learnt from one another. He concluded saying that bells have a profound place that rises up above petty differences in a tower of praise spreading extraordinary messages of peace, love and hope.



Next came the double-act of Tim and Ros Martin. They had travelled up from Dorset and asked if there would be an opportunity for some ringing during the afternoon. This resulted in two successful quarter peals at Writtle and Danbury. Tim began, explaining that he'd been introduced to ringing by his father and learnt at a 5 bell tower. Ros had learnt as a student to get his attention, had given up for a period of time but returned to it about 5 years ago. He suggested



that changes in ringing today generally fall into 4 camps. To traditionalists he invited them not to be afraid of change; he was captivated by traditions in his youth and there is a need to pass on its values to the next generation. However, we are now at a crossroads and something needs to be done. In Dorset there was a gradual weakening of ringing tower by tower. Twenty to thirty years ago service ringing would include ringing the standard methods but now many towers struggle to ring all their bells. There are huge changes in demographics where retirees can devote time to ringing and are the bedrock of any band, but he asked, where is the next generation coming from? Time is precious for those that work and have family commitments. Ringing still has a time honoured structure and whilst there is nothing fundamentally wrong with this, some traditions

need to change to avoid an unhealthy arrogance to new ideas.

Ros said that it had taken 6 months for her to be persuaded to take on the post of Winchester & Portsmouth Guild PRO. She explained that she thought that we need to recruit people with courage. People shout, things get broken, people get ignored at other towers. Nationally, we lose about 80% of new recruits and we need to be honest with them; ringing can be frightening, dangerous and addictive. When someone gets shouted out, they should be reassured afterwards. If we want to be serious about young ringers we need to embrace technology; have a Facebook page, a district website and a vision to get more ringers get more enjoyment out of it. Ros told of one tower that was really struggling but then set aside Wednesday mornings and spent a term and a half helping ringers through Plain Bob. Ros wished the Association well in its challenges ahead and proposed a toast to the health of the Essex Association.

The Master finished the formal proceedings by thanking our guests and their partners for being with us and our speakers were presented with flowers and wine. He also thanked the Social Committee for their hard work in organising another fantastic evening.

With the speeches completed, the sweepstake was won by David Sparling who came nearest (I only missed out by 30 seconds!). The raffle followed which raised funds for bell restoration work and there was plenty of time for everyone to mingle and socialise.

Vicki Chapman

Roll of Honour

Among recent additions to the website is the Association Roll of Honour, recording the names of those members who served in the Great War.

The first of these to lose his life was Charles Henry Ballard:

Able Seaman CHARLES HENRY BALLARD

Royal Navy

Died on 1 November 1914 Age 29

PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL
Devon United Kingdom

Son of Thomas Henry Ballard, of Comer House, Great Totham, Witham, Essex, and the late Eliza Ballard.

Service No. 215387

Charles Henry Ballard was born 20th August 1885 in Maldon, Essex the fifth of six children born to Thomas Henry Ballard, Market Gardener & Eliza neé Redgewell. They all lived in Baleigh Road (possibly now known as Beeleigh Road), Maldon. By 1901 the family had moved to Maldon Road Wickham Bishops. Charles Ballard was also listed at this time as a market gardener. The Ballard family later moved to Comer House, Great Totham.

Charles was a member of the Essex Association and rang his first and only recorded peal at Great Totham on 3rd February 1901, aged 15 on the 5th bell. The peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in 2 hours and 47 minutes and was "Rung with the bells deeply muffled as a last token of respect to Our Late Majesty Lady Queen Victoria", who had passed away on 22nd January.

Charles did not stay in Great Totham for long as he is recorded as having enlisted in the Royal Navy on 28th June 1901. He was recorded as being 5 feet 4 inches tall with light hair, blue eyes



and a fair complexion. Following his training on HMS *Northampton* he served on a large variety of vessels from sloops and yachts to frigates & cruisers. He transferred to HMS *Monmouth* on 2nd August 1914. HMS *Monmouth* was an armoured cruiser built in 1901 with several design flaws. Most of her 6 inch guns were situated so close to the waterline that they were unusable in all but the calmest weather and in addition her armour was much too thin for an armoured cruiser and could be easily penetrated by artillery shells.

These problems would prove disastrous for her thirteen years later at Coronel. She served on the China Station between 1906 and 1913, before being put in the Reserve Fleet in January 1914.

On the outbreak of the First World War she was reactivated and sent to West Indies Squadron of Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock and participated in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1st November 1914. Outmatched and with an inexperienced crew, she was quickly overwhelmed and a 21 cm (8.2 inch) shell from SMS *Gneisenau* penetrated the armour of the forward 6 inch gun turret, destroying it and causing a massive fire on the forecastle. More serious hits followed, and she soon could no longer hold her place in the line of battle.

HMS *Glasgow* broke contact with the German squadron at 20:05 and discovered *Monmouth*, listing and down by the bow, having extinguished her fires. She was trying to turn north to put her stern to the heavy northerly swell and was taking water at the bow. There was little that *Glasgow* could do to assist the larger ship as the moonlight illuminated both ships and the Germans were searching for them.

The light cruiser SMS *Nürnberg* had been trailing the German squadron and spotted the plume of smoke from *Glasgow* at 20:35, and then saw *Monmouth* with a 10-degree list to port shortly afterwards. As *Nürnberg* closed the range, *Monmouth's* list increased so that none of the guns on her port side could be used. The German cruiser closed to within 600 yards (550m) and illuminated her flag with its spotlight in the hopes that she would strike her colours and surrender. There was no response from the British ship and *Nürnberg* opened fire at 21:20, aiming high, but there was still no response. The German ship then fired a torpedo which missed and turned off its searchlight. *Monmouth* then increased speed and turned towards *Nürnberg*, which caused her to open fire again. *Monmouth* capsized at 21:58, taking her entire crew of 735 men with her as the seas were too rough to attempt any rescue effort.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave,

Young Ringers Co-ordinator

At the Association Management Committee meeting in October no nominations were received for the newly created role of Young Ringers Co-ordinator as agreed at the AGM and as advertised on the EACR website. While I did not initially put myself forward for this role I did not wish to see this post remain vacant and to fail at the first hurdle. I was therefore duly elected to the position although I don't officially take up the role until January 2015.

I learnt to ring over 40 years ago on the Wirral and have been in Essex for the past 16 years. As some of you will know I have been involved in bringing on a group of young ringers in my role as Ringing Master at Writtle since 2005. I have been the driving force behind the Essex Young Eagles who have taken part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest in each of the past 4 years. The contests have taken place in London, Birmingham, York and Worcester and the Writtle youngsters have made up the core of the band on each occasion. This year the band achieved second place out of ten teams in the Call Change section. I also instigated annual young ringers outings and monthly young ringers practices in the South Eastern District where I am the Ringing Master. Although the monthly practices essentially draws in youngsters from towers in the SE, youngsters from towers in the Northern, North Eastern and North Western Districts have also been attending. 'Youngsters' for these practices mean anyone under 25!

It is envisaged that the job description will evolve over time but the main responsibility will be to co-ordinate activities for young ringers across the whole Association and be responsible for entries to the National Youth Contest and other events.

I also hope to:

- establish a contact network of existing young ringers under 25
- establish where young people are ringing so that those who are not yet EACR members can be contacted and included in any initiatives and events
- encourage and support local District initiatives for young ringers' events
- encourage and support links with like-minded Guilds and Associations e.g. Bedfordshire and Suffolk.

So what can you look forward to? Well the SE District Young Ringers practices will continue to take place on the last Sunday of the month.

Watch out too for a new section on the website (under the title of Essex Young Ringers) where future events could be listed and where reports of events, achievements by young ringers, photos etc could be posted. I will also shortly be setting up the Essex Young Ringers Facebook Group to provide a forum where young ringers can discuss ideas for events, advertise what is happening at towers across the county and share achievements in ringing.

Another project will be to organise a Young Ringers Day next year aimed at getting young ringers across the county together for a day of ringing or ringing related activities and possibly a form of social event. The idea of the day would be to promote the fun side of ringing so that young ringers can really enjoy the day together. Hopefully this could become a yearly event in the Association calendar.

The event really needs to be shaped around what the young ringers in our Association want, so this is where you all come in. I need to source some information to help with the planning of this event, so I can be sure it addresses what the young ringers in your district/tower want.

Please circulate this article as far and wide as you can, so I can hopefully make contact with as many young ringers in the Association as possible. Print it out and take it to the towers you ring at, email it to anyone you know who might have contact with young ringers – basically spread the word!

Ideally what I need to know is as follows;

- 1) WHO – How many young ringers from your tower/district do you have that would be interested in an Association young ringers event? (providing contact details would help me get future information out easily)
- 2) WHEN – What time of year would be best for your young ringers?
- 3) WHERE – Would Chelmsford be a suitable location for the first event as central to the Association? How about future events? Any restrictions on where your young ringers would be able to get to?
- 4) WHAT – What activities would appeal to your young ringers? Fun striking competitions? Ice skating, ten pin bowling, BBQ, rope courses, paintball, water zorbing? Any ideas are welcome, however crazy they may sound!

Any other comments/suggestions/questions are welcome. I look forward to hopefully hearing from lots of you very soon.

Christina Brewster
essexyoungringers@eacr.org.uk

From the Registers

Birth: Emily Louise Pannell on 19th October to Angela and William Pannell, unattached members of N District

Marriage: Claire J Turner, of Kirby-le-Soken, to Ian J Culham, of Mistley, on 2nd August; Leonie Hughes, of Hornchurch, to Christopher McCaughren, on 20th September

30th wedding anniversary: Lynda and David Lee, of Bures

Ruby wedding anniversary: Catherine and Andrew Hood, of Great Totham

45th wedding anniversary: Sue and David Rothera, of Chelmsford

Golden wedding anniversary: Joy and Lionel Woods, of Hornchurch; Gill and Roger Jamieson, of Downham

Diamond wedding anniversary: Kath and Peter Childs, of Boreham

50th birthday: Caroline Andrews

80th birthday: C John Warboys

85th birthday: Peter Eves

90th birthday: Ron Brown

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Sylvia Eyers, of Layer-de-la-Haye; Mervyn Balkwill, formerly of West Ham; Peter Barnes, of Colchester (St Peter)

All Saints, Maldon

With effect from the end of this year Pat Cross is retiring from the post of Tower Captain at All Saints.

Joint Tower Captains will be Dennis Johnson and Peter Chignell whose email addresses are as follows: johboyce@talktalk.net and peterjchignell@aol.com. Peter's mail address is: Gore Pit Cottage, Inworth Road, Feering CO5 9SE

Peter Chignell

The Marriage of Claire Turner and Ian Culham

Family and friends (including many ringers from Essex, Suffolk and as far as St. Leonard's, East Sussex and Exeter) gathered at St. Mary's Church, Lawford, on Saturday 2nd August, to celebrate the marriage of Ian Culham and Claire Turner.

The day began with the Groom ringing in a Guild of St. Agatha peal at Kirby-le-Soken (*Ringing World* p864). The Bride was able to listen to a few minutes of the ringing (her home tower) en-route to the hairdresser!

A full church greeted the Bride as she walked down the aisle in an elegant ivory and lace dress, accompanied by her mother and two bridesmaids in grey. The Groom also looked splendid, in full military dress uniform with medals. The service was slightly unusual in being conducted jointly by Rev. John Bryan (CofE) and Fr. Michael Stokes (RC), and including both Anglican and Catholic elements.



On leaving the church, the happy couple were greeted by ringing on the Suffolk Guild Vesty Ring, which had been erected in the churchyard, for the occasion. Between photographs, the newly-weds took part in the ringing. The mini-ring was then transported a short distance to the car-park of the Venture Centre, where the reception was being held, and provided entertainment (including an impromptu quarter peal), throughout the afternoon and evening.

Guests were treated to a hog-roast and buffet, provided by one of the Groom's brothers, and a four-tier cake (fruit, madeira and chocolate sponge!) made by the Groom's mother.

In his "step-father of the bride" speech, Paul Bray pointed out that many guests would recognise the story of how the couple met through ringing, and that his own peal-ringing rate had increased considerably since Ian had become involved with the family!

At the end of the evening the new Mr. & Mrs. Culham were whisked away to Gatwick for an early flight to a honeymoon in Mexico.

Dates for your Diary

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	tba	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
Apr	9–11	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
May	4	Association AGM	Chelmsford Cathedral		

ADMs: Arrangements for the NW and SW ADMs had not been confirmed at the time of going to press. Please contact the District Secretaries for information.

25 for 25!

The **25th** Essex Ringing Course will offer up to **25** places to Essex ringers aged under **25** on 9 April 2015 at a special fee of **£25**. Depending on the number of applications, up to 4 places will initially be offered in each district, with the Association Master selecting the **25th** young ringer.

The brochure and application form is available at www.eacr.org.uk/course; forms will need to be countersigned by your tower captain and district master.

Mary Bone
Course Organiser

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2015. 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 March 2015**