



ROUNDS & ABOUT

Essex Ringing Course 2016

The 26th Essex Ringing Course will be held on 7 – 9 April 2016, based at the Honywood 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
- Stedman Doubles / Triples
- Surprise Minor (starting with Cambridge)
- Plain Major (starting with Plain Bob)
- 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 (email to coursehelpers@eacr.org.uk).

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

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Closing date for applications **Friday 12 February 2016**

Subscriptions for 2016

Annual subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2016. Subscription rates remain the same — £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2016) 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. If you're a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription (forms can be downloaded from the website).

Subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2016. 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Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 31st December 2015 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the 2015 Annual Report.

Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2016) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2016. 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 can be downloaded from the EACR website.

Your District Treasurer will be in attendance at the annual district meeting in January. Why not go along and find out what is going on in your District, take part in some ringing and a bit of a social as well as ensuring your subscriptions are paid.

Benefits

- Every member receives an annual report
- Each tower receives a copy of the newsletter *Rounds and About* three times a year
- Each member is covered by the Association's group personal accident and public liability policies
- Members can take part in Association activities

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

Please pay your subscriptions promptly and before 30 April 2016 - it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

Andrew Brewster
Association Treasurer (treasurer@eacr.org.uk)

Christine Drake

Christine Drake passed away peacefully at Farleigh Hospice on Friday 16 October 2015. She was Tower Captain at Tollesbury for several years but had to retire when diagnosed with cancer. She still managed to ring, despite at times, being in a great deal of pain and was overjoyed at ringing a quarter peal of Tollesbury Delight which had been a bell ringing ambition. This was achieved just a couple of months before she died.

Marion Barrett

From Christine's daughter Suzanne:

I would just like to say thank you to all the bellringer's who turned up to ring for mum's funeral service, it was lovely to see so many people turn up, and to hear the bells ring out for mum. Also, thank you for all the generous donations for mum's chosen charities, Farleigh Hospice and St Mary's Tollesbury bell fund.

There is still time to donate, should anyone who couldn't make the service wish to. Cheques can be sent to Co-op Funeral Service, 13/15 Market Hill, Maldon, CM9 4PZ. Cheques can be made payable to East of England Co-op, and will be divided between the two charities. (Please write Christine Drake on the back of cheques)

Also, thank you to all who have sent cards, and for all your kind words and memories of mum.

Kind Regards,
Suzanne Turner

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st: Isabelle Page; David Buckley; Emily Thompson; Elizabeth Sparling; Ian Busby; Lorraine McTear; Sue Hanson; Mark McCarthy; Courtney Mandell (aged 15)
1st inside: Graham Lennard; John Latham; Emily Downing; Alwyn Brock; Helen M Hughes; Ella May; Megan Ellis
1st as cover: Gemma Crouchman
1st Minor: Ian Kerwin
1st Minor inside: Sarah Chin-a-Loy
1st Triples: Julia Ibbotson
1st on 10: Anne Porter; Judy Rolf; John Woollard
1st Royal: Matthew J Bayley
1st Plain Bob: Clare M Merivale; Jonathan C Mills
1st Plain Bob Caters: Cathryn Corns
1st Grandsire Doubles: Ian Kerwin
1st Stedman Triples: Bryany Bartram
1st Stedman Caters: Annette Hall
1st Surprise: Leonie J McCaughren; Ros C Skipper
1st Surprise Major: Julia M Ibbotson
1st as conductor: Caroline Andrews
1st in hand: Ian J Culham
300th: Ian J Culham
325th: Rhona I H McEune
450th: Caroline Andrews
750th: Alistair Donaldson
850th: Cathryn Corns
175th together: Andrew Britter and Philip Saunders
200th together: Vicky LeFèvre and Ian Cresshull

Peals:

1st on 8: Linda M Bullough
1st Surprise: Matthew J Bayley
100th: Andrew Brewster
175th: Ian J Culham
1750th: Alan P Mayle
2300th: James L Towler

2300th on tower bells: James L Towler

375th as conductor: James L Towler

600th as conductor: Alan P Mayle

475th for the Association: Alan P Mayle

200th as conductor for the Association: Alan P Mayle

100th together: Yvonne A Towler and David M Hengeli; Paul A Cammiade and Alan P Mayle

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

Quarter peal at Tillingham

Tillingham SE Region rang a Quarter peal of Bob Doubles for the 60th Birthday of Jean Thorogood, a long standing ringer.

No.1 Sue Hanson, No.2 Wendy Hooper, No. 3 Jean Thorogood, No.4 Tony Eaton, No.5 Brian Clayden (C), No.6 Mike Cooper

This was Sue Hanson's first Quarter.

Tony Eaton

News from Wormingford

St Andrew's Wormingford bells will be out of action for at least four months from early 2016 while a new kitchen and toilet are installed, with a new ringing gallery above. The project is costing £110,000 and the contract is due to be signed shortly.

Barry Gibbons has been honoured with the Freedom of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrews, Wormingford in recognition of his work in the churchyard and on the bells.

Maldon (All Saints)

Did you ring on Wednesday 9th September on the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest-reigning British monarch? The ringers of All Saints, Maldon, rang twice to mark the event. In the morning at 11am, accompanied by flag waving outside the church and again at 5.30pm. Following the afternoon session, ringers and Vicar raised their glasses and gave a toast to The Queen, God Bless Her. Many people stopped to listen to the bells and read the explanatory notice that had been placed outside the church and the Vicarage window cleaner on hearing the bells and reading about the reason for the ringing, donated his fee for cleaning the windows to the All Saints bell repair fund. Two birds with one stone!

Jo Elliott
SE District Secretary

Wedding congratulations 1

Congratulations to Andrew Barnes and Eleanor Payne of Tollesbury who were married at Tolleshunt Major on 19 September 2015, followed by a honeymoon New Zealand.

Jo Elliott
SE District Secretary

Wedding congratulations 2

Allan Ellis and Joanna Wren were married on Orkney at the Ring of Brodger on 27 August 2015. On Saturday 17 October 2015 a service was held to bless the marriage at All Saints Writtle.

On Sunday 18 October 2015, a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of 4 Doubles methods was rung at Writtle in 42 minutes. The band was as follows:

1. Christina Brewster; 2. Carol Brown; 3. Steven Turner; 4. Jon Waters; 5. Andrew Brewer (Conductor); 6. Roger Bailey

Rung for the blessing of the Marriage of Allan and Jo Ellis at Writtle on 17 October 2015 with the tower's best wishes

Allan Ellis

From the Registers

18th birthday: Rachel Chapman

60th birthday: Andrew Brewster; Paul Cammiade; Stephen Wood; Jean Thorogood

65th birthday: Brian Sayer and his wife Pat Sayer

80th birthday: Janet Croughton

Wedding: Martin Jones and Vince Lungley, of Harwich; Eleanor Payne and Andrew Barnes, of Tollesbury; Joanna Wren and Allan Ellis, of Writtle

Ruby wedding anniversary: Elaine and John Woolward

Golden wedding anniversary: Chris and Edna Cooper, formerly of Chelmsford Cathedral and Little Baddow; Jill and Gerald Evans; John and Jill Felgate; Jean and Ray Pavely

Diamond wedding anniversary: John and Blanche Stephenson

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Don Cobb, formerly of Waltham Abbey, former Association Master and Life Vice-President; Mrs Freda Hill, formerly of Prittlewell; Ken Stonehouse, of Boreham; Ken Perry, of Goldhanger; Ron Cook, of Goldhanger; Jack Brett, formerly of Sible Hedingham; Christine Drake, of Tollesbury; Anne Wilkinson, formerly of Stansted Mountfitchet; Jack Brett, formerly of Sible Hedingham

Erratum

Issue 82 (August 2015), p.11: 1st on 10 was Matthew J Bayley

Election of Officers 2016

Nominations for Association officers (Master, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 Property Trustees and 2 Independent Examiners, Technical Adviser, Education Officer and PRO) must be received by the Secretary by 1 February 2016. Nominations must be made using the form on the website and sent directly to reach the Secretary before the deadline; please remember to include the name of the proposer and seconder.

Please remember that the Association Secretary and one of the Independent Examiners will be standing down but nomination forms must be received for all posts even if the existing incumbent is standing again.

CCCBR Representatives will also need to be elected for the triennium which begins in 2017. A separate form is available from the website.

Information about any nominations for Life membership of the EACR will be available at the Annual District Meetings.

Elections will take place at the 2016 Annual General Meeting on 2nd May, Bank Holiday Monday, at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Notices of motion for the AGM (items for debate or proposed rule changes), sponsored by at least 2 members, must also be received by 1 February.

Vicki Chapman
Gen. Sec.

Goldhanger

Goldhanger has lost two long-standing bellringers in recent months...

Ken Perry

Ken was a bellringer at St. Peters Church and Tower Captain for 15 years. On occasions when not enough ringers were available he would use the Ellacombe chimes to play hymns and other music. A legacy of this is a page on the Goldhanger Past website that has music scores of 40 hymns, 30 carols and 25 pieces of well known traditional music, many transcribed by Ken and is now used by other towers with an 8-bell Ellacombe chime. (search for: goldhanger st peters ellacombe)

Ken encouraged and trained many new and young ringers. He managed the ringing for all the services, arranged concerts musical events and acted as stand-in organist. After military service in the Royal Air Force, Ken gained an apprenticeship with Marconi Company in Chelmsford and he stayed until retirement. He was a Chartered Engineer and a full member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. “Over the Horizon Radar” was his speciality. His major success was in 1985 when Marconi won a contract from the Australian government to install his system at Alice Springs that is still in use today.

As Tower Captain Ken fully utilised all his musical, engineering and managerial talents to the full. In 2005 he worked with his daughter Nina to produce a half-hour BBC radio-4 programme entitled: “Funeral of a Bellringer” which recalled the ringing life of the former Goldhanger Tower Captain Bernard Mann. A three minute extract of that audio is now on the Goldhanger Past website. (search for: “Funeral of a Bellringer”) The extract has the voices of late Rosemary Mann, Bernard's widow, former Tower Captain, Cyril Southgate, and Ken.

Ron Cook

Ron was also a bell ringer for about 15 years. He was deeply involved with St Peters Church and a long-standing member of the PCC. He was a regular lay preacher and played a major role in the financing, development and day-to-day running of the recently constructed Community Room.

Ron was an enthusiastic supporter of many Maldon based groups, good causes and clubs, such as Round Table, the Cavaliers and Rotary Club. For many years he was a member of the Parish Council and was a dedicated member of the Village Hall Management Committee and its Chairman.

David Newman
Goldhanger

WANTED: Entertainment Organiser

For the Essex Ringing Course on Friday 8 April.

Please contact Mary Bone on 01279 726159 if you can help or know of someone who could help.

EACR Annual Dinner 2015

The 61st Essex Association Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 3rd October in the Crystal Room of The County Hotel in Chelmsford. Our guests for the evening were the Venerable Annette Cooper, Archdeacon of Colchester and a Vice-President of the Association and her husband Andrew and Patrick Wills, Immediate Past Master of the Surrey Association accompanied by Kate Desbottes.

There was plenty of time to chat and have a drink and catch up with old friends and make new ones in the bar area before dinner was served.

John Harpole, the Master of the Association, welcomed all those present and introduced the guests before asking the Archdeacon to say Grace. We then sat down to a splendid three-course meal followed by coffee and petit fours and the staff of the County gave their usual first class service, which lived up to all expectations.



Annette Cooper in full flow

Once the dining was over it was time for the toasts. The Master began the formal part of the proceedings by proposing the Loyal Toast. After a short break he then proposed a toast to the Church and began with a resumé of the past 12 months which included chairing his first Management Committee meeting (stressful!) and Annual General Meeting at Chelmsford Cathedral where he presented several members with 50 year Life Membership Certificates. He recalled the 25th Essex Ringing Course which remembered Adrian Semken, a Life Vice-President and the course's founder. Two other LVP's had passed away during

the year too, John Armstrong, member of the Dagenham Spliced Surprise Major band and a member of the Central Council for over 50 years and Don Cobb, Master from 1975 to 1982 who had led the Association through its centenary and reorganised the districts into their current form. He went on to mention the Prittlewell Ringing School, founded by Peter Sloman, which was celebrating its 25th year and recollected his moving visit to the WWI memorials at Tyne Cot, Thiepval and the Menin Gate.

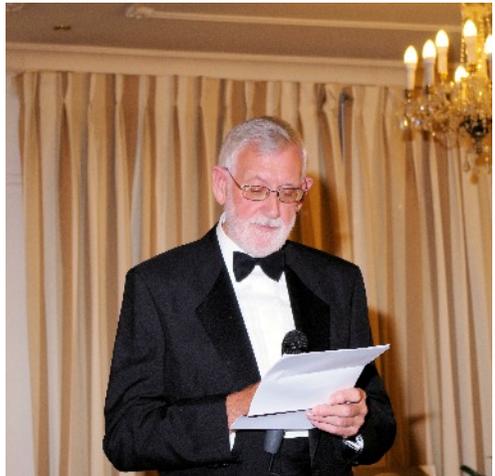
The Master then invited the Archdeacon of Colchester to reply. She had been Archdeacon since 2004 and had brought to that role a rich mix of experience as a social worker, hospital chaplain and parish priest. He said he was reliably informed that she was phenomenally efficient at what she did, with a real pastoral heart, and a good sense of humour!

Well the Venerable Annette Cooper did not disappoint! She began by thanking all ringers for all they do on Sundays, for weddings, for funerals and for ringing on celebratory as well as solemn national occasions.

She spoke about Bellringers Silent Creep with ringers ducking out of church after ringing and not staying for service. This had been talked about over dinner on the top table where, I hope, they put her right on a thing or two.

In preparing for her speech she said she had Googled bellringing jokes but could only come up with the one that ends “No but his face rings a bell! Groans all round the room! She went on that to say that normally Archdeacons only get involved with bells when there’s a problem!

After her entertaining speech, the Master invited Patrick Wills to propose a toast to the Essex Association. Patrick was Master of the Surrey Association, retiring from that post earlier this year. The Surrey Association was a smaller Association than our own with about 800 members representing 71 churches in Surrey and South London, but it shares many similar issues to Essex with recruiting and training new ringers. Many of those



Patrick Wills proposing the toast to the health of the Association

present will know Patrick and Kate from our ringing course, where they have been regular helpers for the last few years.

Patrick began by saying he had actually helped on five Essex Ringing Courses and he felt very at home with so many familiar faces in the room. Familiar faces were a theme. In 1984 he had attended his first Central Council meeting in Hull as one of the Surrey reps. He had also attended the 2015 meeting, which also happened to be in Hull and to his surprise on checking the attendance records there were 23 members who had attended both meetings, meaning that 13% of current CC reps were reps 31 years ago!

Patrick outlined the plan he had set out when becoming Master three years ago. Some progress had been made in two areas, breaking down boundaries and improving the standard of ringing, but the third area, increasing membership, had failed and the Surrey Association had failed to retain new members.

He outlined the short-term problem areas which needed addressing sooner rather than later as a crisis loomed, for example, the large proportion of experienced ringers over the age of 50, insufficient ringers aged 30-50 to take over, the difficulties in recruiting and retaining youngsters and the varying standard of teaching and ringing in some towers. He painted a bleak picture of our art and one that all Guilds and Associations will face sooner or later.

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 books on the history behind Essex village names. He also thanked everyone who helped organise the evening, especially Andrew Brewster, the convener of the social committee and the staff of the County Hotel who have looked after us so well before finally wishing everyone a safe journey home.

With the speeches completed, the sweepstake was won by Pauline Sweetingham of Shenfield who was nearest to 44 minutes and 23 seconds. The raffle followed which raised funds for bell restoration work and there was plenty of time for everyone to socialise before departing for home.

Andrew Brewster
Social Committee Convener

Practice Diary

Dec	5	District Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00
	8	District Practice	Sandon	SE	7:45
	11	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
Jan	8	District Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	16	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	22	Learners Practice	Thaxted	NW	7:45
	30	Beyond Bob Minor	Wethersfield	N	7:00
Feb	13	Evening Practice	(tba)	N	7:30
	20	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	27	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00
Mar	12	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	19	Evening Practice	(tba)	N	7:30
	26	Beyond Bob Minor	Felsted	N	7:00
	26	10/12-bell Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	11:00

The Challenge

Libby Alexander writes:

A 'ROLLING RING' challenge for 23rd April 2016

In the past there has been a wonderful support for St. George's Day from your ringers and across the country several Guild Branches organised a ring of as many towers as possible within their city which gave them great fun and gave their local media some excellent stories. It was referred to as a 'Rolling Ring'. This idea - to get as many towers as possible to ring during the whole day of April 23rd in one area has grown and caught the imagination of one of a Guild's Branch. They are now organising as many towers as possible to ring on the day, not just in their city, but throughout their entire Branch and so set a national record.

This is a great challenge. It will bring the ringing world and ringers into the national limelight and get more people, of all ages, interested in joining you. R for E will be only too willing to help if needed. So now we need to know - will your Branch take up the challenge for 2016?

Littlebury is Delightful

Littlebury is a small village just north of Saffron Walden in Essex. It sits astride the old A11, the main road from London to Norwich in earlier times but now thankfully relieved by the M11. The village church has a peal of six bells, definitely one of the better sixes in the area. They were rehung by Taylor's in 1961 and two bells were recast then.

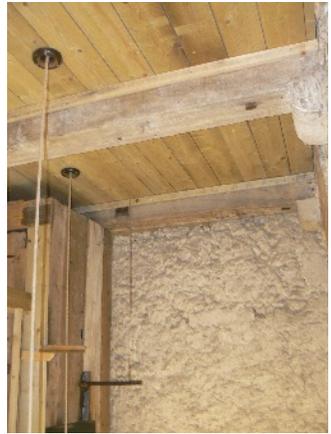


Littlebury bells have long had one little problem: the sound level for the ringers. The tower has a tall west window, so the ringing room is high up and immediately below the belfry. In days gone by the ringers attenuated the sound with carpet and egg boxes under the bells, but the egg boxes were condemned as a fire hazard and had to be removed. The result was a notoriously noisy tower.

A new access platform had to be installed for maintaining the clock, to meet health and safety requirements. This interfered with two of the ropes, so the ground pulleys were resited and the ropes dropped beside the clock rather than in front of it. Having solved that problem, the band wanted to reduce the sound level, improve the experience and make it easier to teach in the tower. The church architect was consulted; he recommended that the deep beams in the ceiling should remain exposed and a false ceiling be installed between the beams. This was made from 38cm tongue-and-groove boards, with a four-inch void to be filled with insulating material. Sheep's wool was chosen as the insulation and sleeves were specified for the bellropes because it was not clear how solid the wool would be. The work would cost around £3,000. Viridor Credits Environmental Company gave a grant of £1,500 and the rest of the money came from enthusiastic fundraising by the bellringers. The contractor, Colin Banks Ltd of Saffron Walden, started on a Monday morning and immediately hit the problem that his scaffolding would not fit up the spiral staircase; he just opened the trap-door and brought it in that way instead. He still managed to complete the job in three days, in plenty of time for Thursday's practice night and Saturday's Great Ringing Day - when a quarter peal was planned.

The sound meter (a cheap TSSL1) now measured 82dB against a previous reading of 86dB, a reduction of 60%. The verdict of the qp band was positive;

the sound was much more acceptable, albeit still rather loud, and was cleaner with less reverberation. However a reduction of 4dB was not as good as one might expect from the addition of an insulated ceiling, so there must be leakage of the sound somewhere. The meter pointed to the rope holes and the hatch as the problem areas. Out came the rope sleeves and in went a second insulated hatch under the first. The sound level dropped a couple of dB without the sleeves and went down to 75dB with the new hatch. For comparison, another tower where the sound level is regarded as ideal measured 70dB.



The decibel scale is a logarithmic scale, so 10dB is a factor of 10 and each 3dB is a factor of two. The achieved reduction of 11dB means that the sound intensity is now about one twelfth of what it was to start with.

A quarter peal was rung to celebrate a satisfactory conclusion; we thought about Littlebury Surprise, which has probably never been rung in this tower, but chose to use the same in-work for what we believe to be a new method and we wish to name it Littlebury Delight:

Littlebury, Essex. 9 Oct, 1296 Littlebury Delight Minor: Di Carpenter 1, Bill Griffith-Jones 2, Liz Griffith-Jones 3, Patricia Cresshull 4, Clive Moore 5, Ian Cresshull (C) 6.

Littlebury Delight Minor: 34-34.16.12-12.1236-14-56 LH14

Bill Griffith-Jones

Essex Young Ringers day outing to Suffolk

As Youth Co-ordinator, I decided earlier in the year to run a day long event for all young ringers from Essex.

We checked the Ipswich Town fixture list and selected a day they were not playing at home and organised the outing for Saturday 12 September. What we didn't know until it was pointed out a week or so beforehand was that Stage 7 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race ended in Ipswich town centre that very afternoon. We knew about it being National Ride & Stride Day but we also found out on the day that it was Heritage Open Day – making Ipswich a very busy place to be!

I had originally thought of spending the whole day in Ipswich but St Mary Le Tower (restoration work), St Mary at the Quay (ringing suspended) and St Matthew (wedding) were unavailable so I decided to ring at three towers in the morning and lunch in Ipswich and then visit three towers in the SE District of the Suffolk Guild in the afternoon.

Our first tower was St Nicholas where we had to negotiate our way past the Tour of Britain finish line and the 'caravan' of team and sponsors vehicles and merchandise tents. St Nicholas, where we were met by Eric Falla, formerly of Great Wakering, is a tricky 10cwt five. The entrance to the ringing chamber was where we were told "behind the optics" and bar area where the nave was set up for a wedding reception later that afternoon. On the way through the tables one youngster accidentally knocked into a table and the top tier of a cake stand fell off – thankfully there was no cake on it at that point!

Ringling was kept simple with just call changes being rung as this proved to be a sufficient challenge.



The removal team at St Clements

Then it was on to St Clement (15cwt, 6) where ringling was delayed whilst we moved several large pieces of the new arts centre paraphernalia to allow access to the ringling chamber. Ringling could be more adventurous here and touches of plain bob doubles and minor were rung successfully.

Our last tower of the morning was a brisk walk to St Margaret (14cwt, 8) where we rang call changes and plain hunt on seven and plain bob triples.

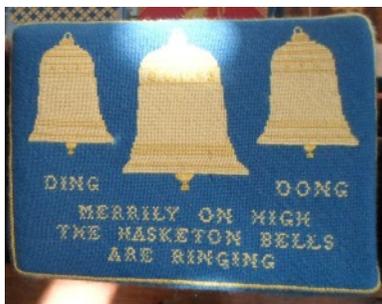
At this point we said goodbye to Adam as the remaining six youngsters and three adults set off for lunch at The Cricketers or to do their own thing.

After a good relaxing lunch we set off to our respective car parks to retrieve the cars for the journey out of Ipswich to St Mary the Virgin, Grundisburgh (9cwt, 12) where we were met by Steve Pettman. We were also joined for the afternoon ringing and bowling by Gill, James and Lizzie Sparling and Andrew and Sam Beech. Ringing on twelve was a new experience for at least four of the young ringers and the call changes at the end (numbering 1 to 4 three times) provided much excitement and enjoyment of ringing on higher numbers.



Hasketon

Next we headed off for the short drive to St Andrew, Hasketon (9cwt, 6), with its unusual round tower with an octagonal top. Access to the small ground floor ringing chamber was along a narrow passage behind the organ which made life difficult for the designated ringing master. More method ringing here included a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor.



A kneeler at Hasketon Church

Late afternoon and we departed for our final tower and heaviest ring of the day, St Mary the Virgin, Woodbridge (25cwt, 8). Here the weight was the challenge - for some the tenor, for some ringing their heaviest ever bell and for some just having the strength to pull their bell off from set. Their determination was commendable and after many R&C's the day's ringing ended with plain hunt on seven.

Steven departed after Woodbridge but we were joined by David Sparling for the bowling where 6 adults and 8 youngsters across three lanes enjoyed two games of bowling and a buffet meal and drinks in a convivial atmosphere.

All in all an excellent day and a fun-time was had by all. The weather had been kind after the morning showers, the towers were excellent and as it was also Ride and Stride Day, tea, coffee, biscuits, cake, apples and a warm welcome were on offer in every tower. Thank you to the youngsters who willingly took on the role of ringing masters for the day and in a couple of cases their mentors who assisted where the youngsters had no experience in that role before.



Some of the ringers outside Woodbridge I to r: Andrew, Sam, Daniel, Courtney, Yvonne, Christina, Kristin, Steven, George and Philip

Ten young ringers, from seven different towers and three Districts took part – Philip from Inworth, George from Mistley, Sam from North Ockendon, Courtney from Pleshey, Daniel from Springfield, Lizzie and James from Thorrington and Adam, Steven and Kristin from Writtle. I would also like to thank the adults – the two Andrews, Yvonne, Gill, David and Sarah for their help and support of the event.

Christina Brewster
Youth Co-ordinator

Management Committee Meeting News – October 2015

The Association's Management Committee, met at Danbury on 10 October. Our autumn meetings traditionally have a long agenda and this was no exception. The main business discussed included:

- The Committee confirmed a donation to Chelmsford Cathedral for the use of the Cathedral facilities for our AGM in May and to the Springfield Choir who supported our Service;
- The Interim Accounts and discussion around how we would be charged in future for making cheque deposits. The Association Treasurer and District Treasurer's are to identify methods to avoid bank charges where possible and report back.

- The CCCBR Representatives reported that the CCCBR had discussed moving its annual meeting date but this was not agreed; quicker and easier methods for electing people onto committees; and the much publicised Change Ringing for the Future discussion sessions. Full details can be found in the Ringing World.
- Revised Safer Recruiting Guidelines were being published but that he had not seen these yet. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team were looking as ways of identifying potential issues sooner through safer recruitment and knowing where the boundaries were
- The Dinner had made a surplus of around £40 and the Social Committee Convenor, Andrew Brewster, welcomed feedback, particularly to give to the County Hotel;
- The Technical Advisor told us that All Saints, Maldon are planning to rehang the bells with new gudgeons and ball-bearings, fit new pulleys, modify the clappers and fit new staples, and tune the bells; Wormingford are having a new ringing gallery installed; Old Harlow are to be sandblast, tuned and rehung with completely new fittings in the existing frame which will be strengthened;
- Appointment to Management Committee posts were confirmed with Rev'd Stephanie Gillingham was appointed as Association Chaplain;
- Association Officer and CCCBR nominations need to be with the Secretary no later than 1st February 2016;

Do ask your district officers for further information on the meeting.

Vicki Chapman
Gen. Sec.

Dates for your Diary

Dec	12	District Carol Service	Coggeshall	N	3:15
	12	District Carol Service	Thorrington	NE	(tba)
	12	Carol Service	Ingrave	S	3:30
	12	Carol Service	Boreham	SE	3:00
Jan	9	Annual District Meeting	Felsted	N	3:00
	9	Annual District Meeting	Little Baddow	SE	3:00
	16	Annual District Meeting	Bures	NE	3:00
	16	Annual District Meeting		SW	
	23	Annual District Meeting	North Ockendon	S	3:00
	30	Annual District Meeting	(tba)	NW	3:30
Feb	6	Association Committee Meeting Danbury			
Mar	5	District Training Day	(tba)	N	
Apr	7–9	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
May	2	Association AGM	Chelmsford		
Jul	9	Association Striking Competitions			

Association Striking Competitions

Please note the change of date for the Association Striking Competitions. This is to avoid a clash with the Ringing World National Youth Competition.

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2016. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to newsletter@eacr.org.uk or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1 February 2016**.