

*Essex Association Dinner
Saturday 1 October 2016*

The Association's 62nd Annual Dinner will be held in the Crystal Room at the County Hotel, Chelmsford on Saturday 1st October at 6.45 for 7.30pm. Join us for an enjoyable evening of good food and good company in the presence of Andrew Mills, Director of John Taylor & Co, the Loughborough Bell Foundry and the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

The charge for the evening will be £36 per person. Dress will be Black Tie or Lounge Suit. Download the booking form from the website <http://eacr.org.uk/events/annual-dinner-2016.html>, 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 18th September 2016. Alternatively secure your place now by paying a deposit of £17pp and pay the balance by 18th 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

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ROUNDS & ABOUT

Menu

Starters

Home-made tomato and basil soup [v]
Poached salmon, new potato salad, watercress
Chicken Liver Parfait, melba toast, red onion marmalade

Main Course

Beef bourguignon, creamed potatoes, red wine sauce
Roast hake, crushed new potatoes, salsa verde
Fricassee of artichokes, courgette, aubergine and gnocchi with
pied de mouton and tarragon crème fraiche [v]

Dessert

Dark chocolate and date pudding, coffee ice-cream
Pear and almond tart, crushed raspberries
Vanilla panna cotta, poached strawberries [gf]

Coffee and Petit Fours to follow
Special diets can be arranged on request.

All starters and mains can be gluten free - please specify when
ordering

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

Your District Representatives on the Social Committee are:
N - Vicki Elliott / S - Hilary Donoghue / SE - Wendy Godden / SW - Liz Rayner
Vacancies remain in the NE and NW Districts

Ringing World National Youth Contest

The Essex Young Eagles rang in the Ringing World National Youth Contest qualifying heat at St Dunstan-in-the West, Fleet Street. Three heats took place as 24 teams from all over the country took part. The Eagles band were, back row: Nick (SE), Courtney (SE), Rachel (NW), Daniel (SE), front row: Ellanor (SE), Mollie (SE and conductor), Lucas



(SW and reserve), Sam (S) and Joel (S). They received a B grade but unfortunately did not qualify for the final at St Olave's, Hart Street. They enjoyed a great day out with ringing at seven churches in the City of London, including St Mary le Bow, St Martins in the Fields and Spitalfields, as well as a special tour of the ringing chamber and bells at St Paul's Cathedral. Next year's contest is in Birmingham. A fuller report will appear in the next issue.

Annual General Meeting

The 137th AGM was held on 2nd May at Chelmsford Cathedral. Open ringing at the Cathedral began at 9.15 and was well attended. A service touch preceded sung Matins led by the Dean and the Springfield Choir. The Association's chaplain, Reverend Stephanie Gillingham gave the address and led the prayers.

After a pause for refreshments, organised by the South West District, the Master of the Association brought the meeting to attendance. 105 members from 39 towers were present as the AGM got underway. The minutes of last year's meeting were adopted, as were the Accounts and Annual Report. One motion was proposed – to

change the Association Striking Competition date to avoid clashing with the Ringing World National Youth Contest. This was carried.

Then followed the election of officers: those willing to stand were returned to their posts. Our General Secretary, Vicki Chapman, stood down after 8 years and has been succeeded by Dr Rhona McEune. The vacant Public Relations Officer post has been filled by Emily Ashton. Our Central Council reps are Fred Bone, Paul Cammiade, Mrs Vicki Chapman, Mrs Wendy Godden, and Steve Nash.

David Sparling has been honoured by the Association for his huge contribution at both Association and District level. The former Master was proposed and seconded by Ian Culham and Steve Nash. He was elected as a Life Vice President to much applause.

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. Mrs Anne Turner (St Peter Colchester), W Chandler (Bentley Common), Pat Cross (All Saints Maldon), Mrs Pat Cross (All Saints Maldon) and Mrs J Peacock (Hornchurch) were made Life Members. The Master presented those in attendance with certificates.

Andrew Brewster spoke for the Social Committee and confirmed the details for the Annual Dinner. These are on the EACR website.

The Master updated those present on the study set up to look at setting up a ringing centre and what was meant by the term. An indicative cost was given at the October management meeting by Richard Wilson. District Masters and Secretaries are already sharing some practices and setting up events that have proved successful elsewhere. Over the next few months he hopes to look at how training and recruitment could be funded. Time permitting he hopes to present some proposals at the October management committee meeting.

The Striking Competition Finals will be held at Mistley and Kirby-le-Soken on 9 July. The test piece for the 8 bell inter-district competition will be Westminster Bob Major.

Paul Bloomfield asked with the demise of the Ringing Foundation what had happened to monies donated in memory of Renee and John Armstrong. Brian Meads, Ringing Foundation Chair, responded advising that at the meeting of the Foundation held in August 2015 it was agreed to not continue and directed that the Foundation should be wound up. All funds at the end of December 2015 were donated to the Association of Ringing Teachers to assist with the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme and other training initiatives. The winding up process should be completed in the next few weeks.

Mrs Mary Bone, Ringing Course Convenor, thanked all those that helped on the Essex Ringing Course this year and advised that next year's course would be held between 6-8 April 2017.

Votes of thanks were given to the Cathedral Staff, the Springfield choir and their master, the organist M Frith, the Association Chaplain, the South West District for refreshments and the Southern District for tea later in the day.

Finally, the Master thanked Mrs Vicki Chapman as she stood down as General Secretary. Mrs Chapman was presented with gifts and cards from members of the Association.

Following closure of the meeting there was open ringing at various towers within the Southern District. It was particularly nice to see some (much) younger members coming along to ring.

Emily Ashton, PRO

Young Ringers Outing on Saturday 15 October

All young Essex ringers up to the age of 25 are invited on a ringing outing to Cambridge on Saturday 15th October.

The plan is to ring at six towers during the day with five towers, a twelve, two eights and two sixes all within walking distance in the centre of Cambridge.

For young ringers under the age of 18 then a parent, guardian or Tower Captain should also accompany you. For any non-ringers there are plenty of things to do in Cambridge.

Please put the date in your diary and watch out for more details nearer the time on the webpage: <http://eacr.org.uk/eyr/> and Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/youngsexringers/

Christina Brewster
Youth Co-ordinator

Association Training Day 2016

This year's training day is on Saturday 26th November 2016, 9.45am to approx. 4:30pm and is based in the North Western District commencing at St Mary the Virgin, Henham.

The groups on offer are:

- 1. Treble Bob Hunt
- 2. Grandsire Doubles
- 3. Trebling to Plain Doubles and Minor

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 2016 onwards. There will be 6 places on each course; first come, first served. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2016.

*There will be a charge of £7 which must be paid **in advance**, cheques to be made payable to EACR. We operate this system because in previous years there have been 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.*

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.

Articles for Rounds & About

Articles for *Rounds & About* are always welcome, subject to space being available. Please note the following:

- Around 500 words will fit on a page, without illustrations;
- Photographs, to be usable, should be at least 700 pixels across (to occupy half a page width; 1400 pixels for full-width), and are most useful if sent separately – photos embedded in word-processor documents or PDF are often at reduced definition.

Practice Diary

Aug	20	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30	
	26	District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45	
Sep	3	District learners' practice	South Ockendon	SE	10:00	
		10/12 bell practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	10:30	
		District meeting	Maldon, All Saints	SE	3:00	
		District meeting		N	5:00	
	21	Tower support practice	Fyfield/Willingale	NW	7:45	
	22	District Surprise practice	South Weald	S	7:30	
	28	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45	
	Oct	1	10/12 bell practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	10:30
15		District afternoon practice	Canewdon	S	3:00	
		District autumn meeting	Great Horkesley	NE	3:30	
		District meeting & call-change striking competition	Littlebury	NW	4:00	
		Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30	
21		District practice	Great Totham	SE	7:45	
22		District 8-bell practice	Ardleigh	NE	4:00	
		Evening practice, 10-bell	Bocking	N	7:30	
26		Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45	
28		District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45	
Nov		5	District learners' practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00
		12	District practice		SW	7:30
		16	Tower support practice	Bobbingworth/Willingale		
	NW				7:45	
	17	District Surprise practice	South Weald	S	7:30	
		District practice	Little Baddow	SE	7:45	
	19	Call change competition and District meeting	Prittlewell	S	2:30	
			Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
26	District 10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30		
30	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45		
Dec	6	District practice	Boreham	SE	7:45	

Striking competitions

The Association striking competition finals were held on 9th July. This year the North East District hosted and the judges for both competitions were Simon Rudd, Ros Keech and Faith Pearce. The 6 bell competition was held at Mistley. Eleven teams entered and there was some really excellent ringing. The results are:

- 1 – Kirby-le-Soken, 15 faults
- 2 – Mistley, 23 faults
- 3 – Writtle, 26 faults
- 4 – Chelmsford, 31 faults
- 5 – Coggeshall & Kelvedon, 35 faults
- 6 – Prittlewell, 42 faults
- 7 – Hornchurch, 51 faults
- 8 – West Ham, 68 faults
- 9 – Saffron Walden, 70 faults
- 10 – Sawbridgeworth, 80 faults
- 11 – Gt Bardfield & Gt Easton, 85 faults.



Kirby-le-Soken

The judges gave their views and comments after a fantastic tea.

Kirby's test piece of Bob Minor was 'foot-tappingly good', Mistley's was a 'very enjoyable piece' and Writtle's 'had style and flowed'. All eleven teams, they acknowledged, rang to a very high standard.



North-Eastern District

After tea the judges and those competing in the inter-district 8 bell competition sped to Kirby-le-Soken for the 8 bell draw. This year's test piece was Westminster Bob Major, which proved to be as least as much of a challenge as Kirby's bells. 5 teams took part:

- 1 – North-Eastern, 13 faults
- 2 – Southern, 33 faults
- 3 – South-Eastern, 38 faults
- 4 – Northern, 87 faults
- 5 – North-Western, 139 faults

Those listening in the somewhat midgy churchyard described N.E's performance as 'sparkling' and almost faultless. Congratulations to the North East District on their clean sweep. Thank you to all the North East District officers, members and friends who helped organise it all and provided such a good tea. And thanks go to John Harpole for presiding.

Emily Ashton, PRO

Old Harlow tower correspondent

Please note that the tower correspondent at Old Harlow is now David Chalk, telephone 01279 320242, email harlow@eacr.org.uk

Peal for the Queen's 90th birthday

At Hornchurch, a largely Essex band successfully completed a peal of Bob Royal for The Queen's 90th birthday:

Essex Association
Hornchurch, Essex, St Andrew
Saturday, 11 June 2016 in 3 hr 12 min (18-0-0 in Eb)
5040 Plain Bob Royal
Composed by Daniel Brady
1 Paul J Bloomfield
2 M Louise Booth
3 Jillian Laken
4 Colin Friend
5 Colin G Wright
6 David E Rothera
7 Owen C R Webster
8 William J Stungo
9 Matthew E Rayner
10 Clive J Stephenson (C)
Rung as part of H M The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.



L-R Paul Bloomfield, Clive Stephenson, Louise Booth, Matthew Rayner, Jillian Laken, Will Stungo, Colin Friend, Owen Webster, Colin Wright, David Rothera

Also to mark the 95th birthday of The Duke of Edinburgh.
First of Royal - 4.

Celebrating Shakespeare

Although we don't know the exact date, William Shakespeare was born on or around 23rd April 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon. At the time, Stratford was in the grip of an outbreak of plague and he was lucky to survive.

On 22nd April 1616, a group of friends gathered to celebrate Shakespeare's 52nd birthday but it was to be his last: 'Shakespeare and friends had a merry meeting and it seems drank too hard, for Shakespeare died of a fever there contracted'.

Every year, on or around the 23rd April, the anniversary of William Shakespeare is celebrated in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of his death and on 30th April, St Andrew's bell ringers chose Stratford-Upon-Avon as a venue for their spring outing. We rang the bells of Holy Trinity Church and also took the opportunity to visit Shakespeare's grave inside the church.

The photographs (*opposite*) show some of the ringers outside Holy Trinity Church and on the banks of the River Avon:

A week earlier, on Sunday 24th April, the bells of St Andrew's were rung to a date touch of 2016 changes of Grandsire Caters to celebrate the life of William Shakespeare and to mark the 400 years since his death:

Hornchurch, Essex, St Andrew

Sunday, 24 April 2016 (18–0–0 in Eb)

2016 Grandsire Caters

Backstroke start

Composed by Brian E Whiting

1 Lionel S Woods

2 John W Stephenson

3 Christopher C M Pain

4 Jillian Laken

5 James Laken

6 Leonie J McCaughren

7 Nicholas M Allen

8 Paul J Bloomfield

9 Clive J Stephenson (C)

10 Paul Trueman

Date touch for Evensong and to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare.



L-R Rose Kaziro, John Stephenson and Angela Achampong



L-R Eileen Drew, Lionel Woods, Rosemarie Edwards, John Stephenson, Jane Harper, John Thornhill and Terry Thornhill.

Ridgman Trophy

This year's Ridgman 10 bell striking competition was held on June 4th at Holy Cross, Daventry. Now in its 29th year, the competition is open to territorial associations in East Anglia; this year 7 bands competed against each other, the test piece being a touch of Erin Caters.



Ridgman 2016 : Essex

David Rothera, John Taylor, Ian Culham, Colin Chapman (C), Andrew Brewster
John Harpole, Andrew Beech, Christina Brewster, Penny Sloman, Vicki Chapman

The Saturday of half term week proved quite challenging to get a band together, and to organise practices. I was pleased that Andrew Beech and Penny Sloman accepted my invitation to join more regular members of the band. As Daventry are an 18 cwt ring of 10, it made sense to practice at Prittlewell which Penny duly organised for us. Two practices were held, and we were fairly confident at the end of the second one that we could ring the test piece well.

The draw is always held in advance of the competition, and so we knew that we would be ringing fourth, which required us to assemble for a team photo at 2:15. We had all arrived well before then, had lunch and then listened to some of the other bands taking part. We were following the Peterborough band, and ascended the tower as

they finished. We quickly found our bells, and then launched into our practice to get used to the bells; the rules of this competition allowed us to practice the whole of the test piece in the time available.

It was then time for Vicki to give the usual signal on the treble that we were about to start, and then we launched into the test piece proper. After a slightly shaky start we quickly got into our rhythm, with everyone concentrating hard and listening for Colin's calls. How time flies! Before we knew it we were back in rounds, and satisfied that we had rung as well as we could. None of us had slipped into Stedman or dropped our bells catastrophically!

We then made our way to the church hall, for well-deserved refreshments served by the local ringers. After all that stress a large piece of homemade cake was just what was needed!

Once the last team had completed their test piece, we all assembled in the church where the judges, Jeremy and Anne Pratt, gave their deliberations. Jeremy described the bells as glorious, how he had thoroughly enjoyed listening to them and that the standard of the ringing was much better than 5 years ago when he had last judged the competition. He described 3 golden rules to competition ringing:

1. Know the rules
2. Learn the method
3. Get your leading right

It was then time for the results. We were quite pleased to have been placed third with 40 faults, ahead of Lincoln, Peterborough, Suffolk and Bedfordshire. We were beaten by Hertford with 32 faults, with the well-deserved winners being the Ely Diocesan Association with just 21 faults.

More details, together with photos of all the bands can be found on the Ridgman website at <http://ridgman trophy.elyda.org.uk/home>. Of particular interest is the Steward's Report, which gives some insight into the effort the Ely DA put in to supporting ten bell ringing in the Association's 3 ten bell towers. Regular practices are held, consisting of quarter peal attempts followed by open practices, which then became more targeted to the Ridgman as the competition approaches.

We are a bigger Association than Ely, having 6 districts compared to their 4 districts. We don't have any Association level practices and I have often thought whether we should start having 10 bell practices at some or all of the tens we have in Essex to improve our ringing on higher numbers. I'd be interested to hear what people think of this.

John Harpole

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st quarter: Martyn Porter, Gail Farrow, Penny Kelsey, Linda Phelps, Jacky A Stockwell,
Susan Waters, Lynne Kent, Judith Cecil, Oliver Clinton

1st inside: Connor Harmer, Amanda Beggs, Susan John, Susan V Gilder, Samuel Beech

1st Minor inside: Elisabeth Isaac

1st Triples: Susan John

1st Triples as cover: Margaret French

1st on 8: David Buckley, Elisabeth Isaac

1st on 10: Helen L Little

1st Royal: Bryany Bartram

1st Treble Bob: Charlotte Parsons, Philip Spalding

1st in more than one method: Jochen Culeman, Julia Ibbotson

1st Grandsire: Charlotte Parsons

1st Grandsire Caters: Linda Ranby

1st Little Bob: Matthew Bareham

1st Plain Bob Triples: Helen L Little

1st Plain Bob Caters: Ros C Skipper

1st Single Oxford: Matthew Bareham

1st St Clement's: Ros Skipper, Patrick Draper

1st St Simon's Doubles: John Pearson

1st Stedman: Mark Robbins, Rebecca A Woolward

1st Stedman Doubles: Hilary Donoghue

1st Cambridge Major: Elaine J Woolward

1st Yorkshire: Vicki Crispin, Rhona McEune

1st Lincolnshire Royal: Jillian Laken, James Laken

1st Yorkshire Royal: Peter Chapman

1st Bristol: Matthew Bayley

50th quarter: Mark Robbins

200th quarter: Roger Bailey

350th quarter: Perry French

375th quarter: Andrew Brewster

700th quarter: Philip Saunders, Di Carpenter

1400th quarter: Patricia Cresshull

1800th quarter: D Ellisdon

1st as conductor: Paul Wiggins

1st Minor as conductor: Nicholas Allen

1st St Clement's as conductor: Lydia Roberts

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

1st Stedman Triples as conductor: John F Felgate

25th as conductor: David Wenden

400th as conductor: Ian Cresshull

25th together: Steven Turner & Andrew Brewster

50th together: Jon Waters & Andrew Brewster

Peals:

1st on 8: Lynda Lee, David Lee

1st on 8 as conductor: Stephen J Nash

1st Triples as conductor: Ian J Culham

1st Surprise Major inside: Nicholas M Allen

1st Royal: Nicholas M Allen, Colin Friend

25th together: Andrew P Brewster & Paul A Cammiade

50th together: Stephen J Nash & James L Towler

100th together: Neil V Avis & Alan P Mayle

250th together: Yvonne A Towler & Paul A Cammiade

From the Registers

Births: Rafe George Matthews, grandson of Sue Matthews; Georgia Rose May Kent, grandchild of Warren Hawkings; Amelia Marianna Hood, grandchild of Andrew and Catherine Hood

50th birthday: Tracey Southgate

60th birthday: Colin Chapman, Andrew Taylor, John Steed

65th birthday: Cecile Cross

75th birthday: Roger H Dorking

80th birthday: Gerald Pearson, Margaret Waller

Silver wedding anniversary: Margaret and Perry French, of Waltham Abbey

Ruby wedding anniversary: Valerie and Geoffrey Banwell, of Rayleigh

Golden wedding anniversary: Liz and Bill Grffith-Jones, of Henham

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Gordon Clarke, of Kirby-le-Soken; Revd John Delfgou, former Chaplain; Jenny Elliott, Friend of the Association, of Kelvedon; and Bill Pepper, of Great Waltham

Dates for your Diary

Aug	6	District outing		N	
Sep		District quarter-peal month		NE	
	10	Essex Trophy competition	Writtle		
	24	District training day		SE	
		Quiz night	Downham	S	
Oct	1	District training day		N	10:00
		Association Annual Dinner	Chelmsford		6:30
	8	Association Committee meeting	Danbury		2:30
	22	Striking workshop		SW	
Nov		Quarter-peal month		N	
		District quiz evening	Thorrington	NE	7:30
	26	Association training day		NW	
Dec	10	District carol service	Wormingford	NE	2:15
		Carol service	Springfield	SE	3:00
		Carol service	Thorpe Bay	S	3:30
Jan	7	Annual District meeting	Halstead	N	3:00
		Annual District meeting	Danbury	SE	3:00
	14	Annual District meeting	Walthamstow		
			St Mary	SW	3:00
		Annual District meeting		NE	4:30
	21	Annual District meeting	Basildon	S	3:00
	28	Annual District meeting		NW	3:30

E-mail lists

You can get news about forthcoming events, and changes and updates, by e-mail if you join one or more of the mailing lists. There is one Association-wide list, and several Districts run their own. Details at eacr.org.uk/email-lists.html

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for December 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 November 2016**.