



*Essex Association Dinner
Saturday 28 October 2017*

ROUNDS & ABOUT

New date and venue for the Essex Association Dinner

The Association’s 63rd Annual Dinner will be held at Little Channels, Pratts Farm Lane West, Little Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3PR on Saturday 28th October at 6.45 for 7.30pm. Join us for an enjoyable evening of good food and good company in the presence of Christopher O’Mahony, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Rt Revd Roderick Thomas, Bishop of Maidstone.

The charge for the evening will be £32 per person. Dress will be Black Tie or Lounge Suit. Download the booking form from the website <https://eacr.org.uk/events/annual-dinner-2017.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 8th October 2017. Alternatively secure your place now by paying a deposit of £16pp and pay the balance by 8th October.

There is also a bar which will be selling real ale and there are plenty of car parking spaces. We will be seated on tables of 6 or 8 so do think about making up a table from your Tower.

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

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Menu

Starters

Prawn and Crayfish Tian with a Marie Rose sauce
Trio of Melon with strawberries and a raspberry coulis
Little Channels Salad: Stilton, bacon lardons, prawns, pinenuts,
cherry tomatoes, croutons and balsamic leaves

Main Course

Roast Breast of Chicken stuffed with cream cheese and sun-
blessed tomatoes with Lyonnaise potatoes
Fillet of Lemon Sole served with a citrus and tomato cream sauce
and Sauté potatoes
Mushroom and Brie Wellington with a redcurrant sauce and Sauté
Potatoes [v]

Dessert

Apple and blackberry Crumble served with Custard Strawberry
and Prosecco
Crème Brûlée with homemade Shortbread
Chocolate Brownie served with Raspberry Ripple Ice cream
Tea, Coffee and Chocolate Mints

Special diets can be arranged on request.
All starters, mains and sweets can be gluten free – please specify
when ordering

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

Your District Representatives on the Social Committee are:
N – Vicki Elliott / NE – George Vant / NW – Ian Kerwin
S – Hilary Donoghue / SE – Wendy Godden / SW – Liz Rayner

Ringing World National Youth Contest

The Essex Young Eagles again took part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest, which this year was held in Birmingham on Saturday 1 July, where 19 teams from all over the country took part. Four members of the band travelled up on the Friday evening while the remaining four had a very early start to be at the specially arranged final practice tower of St Giles, Packwood (6-3-14) by 9.30am. It was very pleasing to be told by the Tower Captain the next day that it was "Good to see so many youngsters ringing so well – I was more than impressed by the way they all handled what are difficult bells".

Then it was on to register at St James, Shirley (6-1-1), one of three towers hosting heats that morning, the others being Harborne and Yardley hosting seven and six bands respectively. Here the team leaders collected packs for their teams containing wristbands for team members, team leaders/responsible adults, programmes for the team and wristbands for all other adults/supporters so they could gain access to St Martins for the results. EYE were drawn to ring third of the six bands in this heat which also included the eventual winners and runners-up in the whole contest so a very tough draw!

The band produced their best overall ringing in the test piece and were pleased with their achievement finishing joint tenth out of 19 teams, having been given a C grade, even though they did not qualify for the final at St Paul's, Birmingham. With four new members in the team plus a different conductor this was a commendable performance.

They all enjoyed a great day out with further ringing at three churches: the 12 at Solihull (21-1-11), the 12 at Aston (24-2-18) and "the grab of the day" the 16 at St Martin in the Bullring (39-1-19). Five of the band also had their first experience of ringing on a mini-ring on the Charmborough Ring which was set up outside St Martin's. Next year's contest



*The Eagles band, clockwise from front right, were:
Treble - Courtney (SE), Emily (N), Sam (S), William (S),
Joel (S), Lucas (SW), Rachel (NW and conductor),
Tenor - Freja (SE).*

returns to London and will be hosted by Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 7 July.

In preparing for this contest my thanks go to the incumbents for the use of their bells and those who opened up the towers where we held dedicated practices: Tollesbury, Writtle, Leyton, Wanstead and Gt Ilford and to all the parents and supporters who assisted along the way.

If anyone is interested in joining Essex Young Ringers, we practice every month and have two outings a year. Please do get in touch or come along to a practice – the next one is Sunday 24 September (4.30pm-6pm) and there will be a day outing to the City of London on Saturday 7 October.

Christina Brewster
Youth Co-ordinator

Email: essexyoungringers@eacr.org.uk

Website: <https://eacr.org.uk/eyr/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/youngessexringers/

Young Ringers Outing on Saturday 7 October

All young Essex ringers are invited on a ringing outing to London on Saturday 7th October.

The plan is to ring at six towers during the day all within walking distance or short bus journey in the City of London.

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

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

Christina Brewster
Youth Co-ordinator

Practice Diary

Aug	17	District Practice	Barking	SW	7:30
	19	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	25	Stansted Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
Sep	2	District Learners' Practice	S Ockendon	S	10:00
		10/12 bell Practice	Saffron Walden	NW	10:30
	15	Surprise Major practice	Radwinter	NW	1:30
	16	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	21	District Surprise Practice	S Weald	S	7:30
		District Practice	Purleigh	SE	7:45
	22	Stansted Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	24	Young Ringers Practice	(tbc)		4:30
	27	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
30	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N/NE	7:30	
Oct	20	District Practice	Gt Totham	SE	7:45
	21	District Afternoon Practice	Rochford	S	3:00
		Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	25	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	27	Stansted Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	29	Young Ringers Practice	(tbc)		4:30
Nov	4	District learners Practice	S Ockendon	S	10:00
	16	District Surprise Practice	Leigh-on-Sea	S	7:30
		District Practice	Little Baddow	SE	7:45
	17	Surprise Major Practice	Radwinter	NW	1:30
	18	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	24	Stansted Practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	26	Young Ringers Practice	(tbc)		4:30
	29	Surprise Practice	Terling	SE	7:45

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

SE District Festival of Firsts

Very well done to all for these firsts and thank you to everyone who gave their time and filled in the bands.

20 April: Lizzie Lawrence, Goldhanger – first ring at another tower – St Mary's, Tollesbury.

21 April: Fourteen ringers from Burnham, Bradwell, Tillingham and Southminster, Brian Clayden, Brigid Main, David Mason, George Welham, Ian McPherson, Jean Allen, John Pryke, Laurie Main, Mike Cooper, Rodney Welham, Stuart Hodges, Sue Hanson, Tony Eaton and Wendy Hooper went to Southminster where eight of them rang their first course of Single Court Minor.

22 April: Shenfield. 1260 Doubles: 420 Grandsire, 240 St Martin's, 240 St Simon's, 360 Plain Bob. First time with the Southern District QP Day With-a-Difference and first at Shenfield, Steve Ashley of Springfield, on the tenor.

23 April: Goldhanger. Lizzie Lawrence, first Rounds and Call Changes on 8 bells.

23 April: Goldhanger. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles. First Quarter-peal, Clare Gebel on the treble.

27 April: Terling, 1280 Grandsire Doubles. First of Grandsire, Caron Harris of Goldhanger on the three.

29 April: Springfield, 1260 Grandsire Doubles. First in method Daniel Howell on the four.

30 April: Goldhanger. Lizzie Lawrence, first ringing for Sunday Service.

30 April: Goldhanger, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles. First Quarter-peal Vicki Hipwell on the treble.

30 April: Danbury. Michael Auker (Little Baddow), First Sunday Service ringing: First ringing Rounds & Call Changes other than at the Ringing Course.

30 April: Writtle. Michael Auker, First Young Ringers' Practice: First ringing on 10 bells.

1 May: Chelmsford Cathedral. Michael Auker, First on 12 bells.

1 May: Michael Auker. First post AGM Tower ringing: High Ongar, Bobbingworth, North Weald and Old Harlow.

3 May: Goldhanger. Barry Unger rang plain hunt on the treble for the first time, then rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles for the first time.

3 May: Maldon, All Saints. 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major. First Quarter-peal at Maldon, All Saints, Vicki Crispin of Great Baddow on the treble.

4 May: Terling. Michael Auker. First tenor covering other than on the Ringing Course. Michael rang at 7 new towers during the Festival. He is doing very well and everyone is very pleased with his progress.

5 May: Great Totham. Duncan Grant rang the tenor for the first time.

5 May: Great Totham. Vanessa rang Call Changes for the first time.

7 May: Great Totham. 1260 Grandsire Doubles. First in method Philip Spalding of Inworth on the three.

7 May: Boreham. 1260 Grandsire Triples. First in method Charmane May of Little Baddow on the three. First as conductor of Grandsire Triples, David Hengeli of Terling on the seven.

7 May: Terling. Naimh Simes, first Service ring.

7 May: Terling. Ella Hawthorn-Mears, first Service ring.

7 May: Great Totham. David Kemsley rang the tenor to 240 Plain Bob Doubles for the first time.

Special mention for Joshua Ashley's first ringing for a SE District Competition (Inworth 13 May). Joshua rang with the Boreham team which came second in the Call Change section and also went on his first ringing tour. Very well done as he's only been ringing since November.

Bradwell-on-Sea refurbishment

The history of the bells of St Thomas, Bradwell-on-Sea, is fascinating. We have six bells, five of them dating to 1744. But read this cutting from the Ipswich Journal of Saturday October 6th 1744:

THIS is to give Notice to all Lovers of Ringing, that on Tuesday the 9th of this Infant October, the Stonham Society of Ringers will be at Bradwell near the Sea in Essex, where all well Wifhers to that Noble Art, may hear good Ringing on the new Peal of Eight Bells, lately caft by Mr. Robert Catling, of London, and hung by Mr. John Williams, of Stonham in Suffolk.

N.B. Mrs. Tinsley, of the Three Rabbits, is defir'd to prepare Beds for the above Society.

(Stonham is near Ipswich)

The present tenor is modern – 1948. Our bell frame is the original by John Williams, referred to above, and the inscription on the fifth bell is: “THEODORE ECCLESTON ESQR OF CROWFEILD (sic) IN SUFFOLK GAVE THIS FRAME + R.C. 1744”. And where is Crowfield? – right next to Stonham.

So we have an 18th century eight-bell frame. We have five 18th century bells and one from the 20th century.

We have proof that in 1744 the frame possessed eight bells, but what happened to the other three? We just do not know.



Another mystery is why Theodore Eccleston paid for our frame, and Stonham ringers came to ring our new bells in October 1744. We do know Eccleston was from a wealthy family (his father was a director of the East India Company) and that he was a competent bell ringer, a member

of the Ancient Society of College Youths. But what was the connection with Bradwell?

The rector of Bradwell from 1739 to 1746 was Henry Anstis. Eccleston knew Anstis – in his Will of 1753 he left “all my Angling rods” to him, but we don’t know the relationship between the two.

So, we have space for eight bells. We had six bells in desperate need of refurbishment – nothing had been done to five of them for many, many years – we also have at the present count 14 ringers. This all pointed to major fundraising to solve several problems at once – make sure our six bells continue to ring out, put history to rights by casting two new bells, and provide for our enthusiastic band to continue the good work. All we needed was £56000.

We have received grants from The Leche Trust, The Sharpe Trust, Allchurches Trust, Heritage Lottery, Essex Heritage Trust and the Essex Association Bell Restoration Fund. The offer from Essex Heritage was a milestone for them – it brought the total they have awarded to projects in Essex to £1 million. Because of this the Trustees offered to increase the offer to fund one of our new bells, with a suitable inscription. So the new treble will be the Essex Heritage Trust bell. We ran fund-raising events in the village, and many friends in the village and further afield have been generous with donations. Which means we achieved our total earlier this year. On June 21st a number of us saw our two new bells being cast by Taylors in Loughborough (photo, right). The existing six went to Loughborough in early July for refurbishment, and our ring of eight – not an augmentation – a restoration – will be hung later in August. We look forward to our eight bells ringing out this coming September.



So, “*all Lovers of Ringing*”, stay tuned.

Brian Clayden – Tower Captain

Association Training Day

This year's training day is on Saturday 25th November 2017, 9.45am to approx. 4:30pm and is based in the South Eastern District. Initial meeting tower to be confirmed.

The groups on offer are:

1. Plain Hunt basics
2. Trebling to Plain Doubles and Minor
3. Plain Bob doubles
4. Surprise 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 2017 onwards. There will be 6 places on each course; first come, first served. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2017.

*There will be a charge of £9 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.

AGM 2017

Essex Association's 138th AGM was held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday 1st May. As usual, there was open ringing beforehand. A service touch preceded sung Matins led by the Dean and the Choir of St Nicholas, Witham. The Bishop of Bradwell, the Right Reverend John Wraw addressed the congregation. The Association's acting chaplain, Rhona McEune led the prayers.

After a pause for refreshments, organised by the North East District, the Master of the Association brought the meeting to attendance. 101 members from 38 towers were

present, a slight dip on last year. The minutes of last year's meeting were adopted, as were the Accounts and Annual Report.

Then followed the election of officers: As all current officers were willing to stand and were uncontested they were returned to their posts.

Newly appointed District Officers are:

N.E District: P Bray – Deputy Master

N.W District: I Kerwin – Master; M Slowe – Deputy Master; S Evans – Secretary.

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. Ann Dorking (Downham), Patricia Lindsell (Unattached), Len Bullock (Dagenham) and Roger Collins (Saffron Walden) 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, including a change of location. These are on the EACR website.

The Master updated those present on recruitment and training. There is a group looking at recruitment and training and Andrew Brewster is looking at how to finance this area.

The Striking Competition Finals will be held at Colne Engaine and Earls Colne on 8th July. The test piece for the 8 bell inter-district competition will be St Martin's Bob Triples. The Master also congratulated the Essex trophy winners for retaining the trophy.

Under A.O.B Nigel Taylor advised there were still places on 10th June for learning to use the "odd-struckness" meter recently purchased.

Mary Bone, Ringing Course Convenor, thanked learners and volunteers on the Essex Ringing Course this year and advised that next year's course would be held between 5-7 April 2018. Any ideas for groups would be welcome.

Brian Meads urged attendees to read the Central Council changes as they could be important for the future.

Peter Eves reminded those present that CC representatives don't necessarily reflect everyone's views.

Jim Towler voiced dissatisfaction with the service as it would have been "nice to join in" instead of listening to a concert.

Rhona McEune advised that she had membership packs available for District Secretaries if wanted.

John Harpole concluded by mentioning the afternoon towers.

Votes of thanks were given to the Cathedral Authorities; the Witham choir and their master, David Martin; Alex Boyle for the anthem *From vale to mountain high*; the organist Keith Gamble-Beresford: Rhona McEune for prayers and organising, the North East District for refreshments and the North West District for tea later in the day. He also thanked the Principal Officers for their support over the last 12 months.

Following closure of the meeting at 12.37 there was open ringing at various towers within the North Western District.

Emily Ashton
PRO

2017 Ringing Course

by Ruby Holland

I was so pleased to be offered the scholarship for the ringing course this year. I practice with Christina Brewster at Writtle, even though I live in Pleshey. I was a little nervous before I went on the course, as I had only been ringing since October 2016 and didn't want to make a fool of myself by losing control of the bell! I needn't have worried, as there were many people there of about my age and all stages of learning. My friend Courtney helped to settle me in with the other teenagers and my mum was in my group for the practical sessions.

It was great to have so many people to help me with my ringing and I felt that I became more confident as we went along. I really enjoyed going to so many towers and to feel and hear the differences between all the different bells. I wouldn't have known anything about that before I started ringing.

I found the lectures a bit daunting, but I hope to be able to join in with these in future. I thoroughly enjoyed the course this year, and very much hope that I get a place next year!

Boreham tower outing

The Boreham band and friends recently enjoyed a tower outing on Saturday 13th May 2017. Timed to coincide with the SE District Striking Competition, we set out in the morning with Great Totham as our first destination for the day. An idyllic little rural Church with delightful bells and a perfect setting for a picture of the band in the sunshine before going onto Tollesbury. The neighbouring emu wasn't in sight for us here, but that wasn't to stop us practicing our 10 bell ringing – something that some of the band had not attempted before and it was great to try something new and see if we could count beyond 7! Layer-de-la-Haye was the last stop of the morning as we admired the new tower porch and the views over Abberton Reservoir, whilst getting in some practice changes before the afternoon. A delicious pub lunch was enjoyed by all at the Donkey & Buskins just outside Layer – highly recommended! The afternoon was filled with fun, nerves, tea and tasty cake at Inworth as we took our turn at the competition and listened to the other bands, before finding out that we had come a narrow second, losing out in the Call Change Competition to Inworth and Great Totham by half a mark ... a challenge for next time! A wonderful day with great company and a memorable local tour – thanks to all involved and here's to the next one.

Teresa Meadows
Boreham Tower Captain



Boreham ringers at Layer-de-la-Haye

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st quarter: Ethan J Musham, William Beech (aged 12), Clare Gebel, Vicki Hipwell,
George Allen, Mary T Thornhill, Nick De-vries, James Lawson, Nathan Morrissey

1st on handbells: Andrew R C Kelso

1st as cover: Oliver Clinton

1st away from cover: David French, Mickey K Etches

1st inside: Steve Ashley, Lukas Wallis, Gareth Davies, David Buckley, William Beech

1st Grandsire: Claude Wallis, Caron Harris

1st Treble Bob: Paul Wiggins, Sue Matthews

1st on 8: Alwyn Brock, Marion Squier, Alan Moody, Courtney Mandell

1st Major: Samuel Beech

1st multi Doubles: Richard Paxford, Amanda Beggs

1st Grandsire Doubles: Daniel Howell, Philip Spalding, Amanda Beggs

1st St Clement's College B Minor: Samuel Beech

1st Childwall B Minor: Ro Kellsell

1st Buxton B Minor: Ro Kellsell, Mike Slowe

1st Kent TB Minor: Mark Robbins

1st Bourne S Minor: Mike Slowe, Jane Walters

1st Norwich S Minor: Ro Kellsell

1st Grandsire Triples: Charmane May

1st Little Bob Major: Philip H Denton

Completes Standard 8: Greg Pearce

25th quarter: Charlotte Parsons

50th quarter: Mandy Miles

900th quarter: Cathryn Corns, Colin Chapman

2500th quarter: Liz Griffith-Jones

1st as conductor: Steven Turner, Richard T Paxford

1st Plain Bob Doubles as conductor: David E Rothera

1st Grandsire Triples as conductor: David Hengeli

1st Surprise Major as conductor: Simon Ward

15th as conductor: Roger Carey-Smith

175th as conductor: Andrew Brewster

550th as conductor: Stephen Nash

50th together: Vicki L Chapman & Brian W Patmore

450th together: Andrew Beech & Steve Nash

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

Peals:

1st Rutland: Nicholas M Allen

1st Superlative: Nicholas M Allen, Matthew J Bayley

100th together: Christina D A Brewster & Alan P Mayle

200th for the Association: Ian J Culham

1850th peal: Alan P Mayle

2018 Ringing Course — help needed

The Essex Ringing Course management team is looking for a volunteer with good administrative skills to join them with specific responsibility for organising the towers. Lots of advice and assistance will be available!

Please contact essexcourse@eacr.org.uk to find out more.

Mary Bone
Course Management Convener

From the Registers

Births: Alfie Crosby son to Belinda Crosby of Purleigh

18th birthday: Connor Harmer

19th birthday: Daniel Howell

21st birthday: David Buckley

60th birthday: Vicky LeFèvre

70th birthday: John Cousins, Linda Hayes

80th birthday: Brian Beech, Peter Wood

30th wedding anniversary: Hazel and John Steed

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Clive Bryant, formerly of Barking; Caroline Lowe, of Ingrave; and Diana Belcham, of Rayleigh

Dates for your Diary

Aug	5	Northern District Ramble	(tbc)		
Sep	2	District Meeting	Galleywood	SE	4:00
		District Meeting	Great Bardfield	N	5:00
	9	Essex Trophy 10-bell competition	Hertford		
	16	District Meeting	Great Wakering	S	3:00
	23	District Training Day	(tbc)	SE	9:30
Oct	7	Young Ringers Outing	London		
		Training Day	Coggeshall	N	
		Striking Competition & District Meeting	Chrishall	NW	
	14	Association Committee Meeting	Danbury		2:30
28	Association Annual Dinner				
Nov		Quarter Peal Month		N	
	18	Call Change Competition & District Meeting	S Ockendon	S	2:30
		Social Evening	Terling	SE	7:00
	25	Association Training Day		SE	
Dec	9	Carol Service	Witham	N	3:00
		Carol Service	Shenfield	S	3:30
		Carol Service	Broomfield	SE	3:30
Jan	6	Annual District Meeting	Wethersfield	N	3:00
		Annual District Meeting	Great Baddow	SE	3:00
	13	Annual District Meeting		NE	
		Annual District Meeting		SW	
	20	Annual District Meeting	South Weald	S	3:00
27	Annual District Meeting		NW	3:30	

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for December 2017. 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 2017**.