

Essex Ringing Course 2019

The 28th Essex Ringing Course will be held on 11–13 April 2019 based at the Honywood School, Coggeshall.

Tutor groups on offer are:

- Bell-handling from scratch (for novice ringers)
- Improving foundation skills
- Call changes
- Beginning Plain Hunt
- Advanced Plain Hunt
- Plain Bob Doubles inside
- Plain Bob Minor inside
- Grandsire
- Treble Bob Minor
- Eight Bell Ringing (Plain Bob Triples / Major)
- Calling & Conducting touches

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

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Helpers are also required for each group (email to coursehelpers@eacr.org.uk).

We are keen to create opportunities for people to develop teaching skills. If you have recently completed an ART teaching course and would be interested in finding out about teaching on the course please contact Anne Bray for further information (email to essexcourse@eacr.org.uk).



For a brochure and application form please send a stamped self-addressed C5 envelope to Mrs Anne Bray, 7 D'Arcy Close, Kirby Cross, CO13 ORR or visit the EACR website at www.eacr.org.uk/course



Closing date for applications **Friday 15 February 2019**



Annual Subscriptions for 2019

Adults £8 Juniors/friends £4

Subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2019. Rates remain the same – £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2019) and £4 for junior members or friends.

Subscriptions are one of the primary sources of Association revenue and it is very important for members to pay their subscription promptly. If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription (forms can be downloaded from the [Association website](#)).

All subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2019. Members not paying by this date shall not participate in or vote at meetings (e.g. District meetings or the AGM) or ring peals for the Association until the subscription is paid.

Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 31st December 2018 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the 2018 Annual Report.

Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2019) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2019. However, after this date lapsed members shall be re-elected in accordance with normal procedures.

Completion of a Membership Form is 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 of membership

1. Every member receives an annual report
2. Each member is covered by the Association's group personal accident and public liability policies

3. Members can take part in Association activities
4. Each tower receives a copy of the newsletter *Rounds and About* three times a year

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

Please pay your subscriptions promptly and before 30 April 2019 – it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

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

Halstead practice night

With effect from 9th November 2018 Halstead will now hold their practice on a Friday evening from 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Muffles

It might be of interest to some that Mr Frostick of T J Frostick & Son, 8a Market Hill, Maldon CM9 4PZ (01621 857511) makes very good muffles. He has just made a couple for our new treble and two, after our restoration project. He likes to have a pattern – by all means borrow one of ours – and we gave him lengths of Velcro to sew on – quicker to take off at 11.58 pm on December 31st than the traditional leather ties. He charged us £20 each. Anyone interested in more details, email or phone Ann Hart, our tower correspondent.

Brian Clayden, Bradwell-on-Sea

Articles for Rounds & About

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

- Around 400 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.

NW District Ringing School

The 8-week autumn ringing school started on October 8th at Henham with 6 willing students, Liz Griffith-Jones is our tutor ably assisted by her husband Bill. Every week helpers arrive from the surrounding area, giving up their free time to help us, for which we are all very grateful. We are learning a full range of ringing skills from trebling to methods, plain hunt, bob doubles, grandsire and bob minor. It never ceases to amaze me how good the helpers especially those like Liz who know exactly where you should be and the other 5 ringers! Under their guidance we are all improving and the mystery of ringing, particularly methods, gradually unravels in our brains. Thank you, Liz & Bill, for your patience and perseverance. Finally, a thank you to all the students who bring cakes every week to give our tea break an extra boost. If you would like to help or at future ringing schools, please contact Ian Kerwin on 07837170816 or go to the EACR website eacr.org.uk



One of the helpers taking a well-earned rest

Patricia Ormes

Practice Diary

Dec	13	District Practice	Little Baddow	SE	7:30
	15	Advanced Practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	21	Surprise Major Practice	Felsted	N/NW	1:30
Jan	5	District Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00

*No other practices notified at press date
Please refer to the [website](#) for further information*

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st quarter at 1st attempt: Michael Auker, Jayani Peal-Shankar, Dawn Withams
 1st quarter: Hayden R Musham, Michael Estcourt, Jeff McDonald
 1st quarter as cover: David Thorpe
 1st quarter inside: Ian Patch
 1st Plain Bob Doubles: Vicki Hipwell
 1st Minor inside: Ellie Gray
 1st Delight Minor: Clare Beech, James Laken, Andrew Beech, Paul Cammiade
 1st Single Oxford Bob Minor: Gina Brown
 1st Norwich Surprise Minor: Wendy Godden, Jillian Laken, James Laken
 1st Stedman: Samuel Beech, Alwyn Brock
 1st Grandsire Triples: Alwyn Brock
 1st Kent Treble Bob Major: William Beech
 1st Lincolnshire Surprise Major: David Learmonth
 1st Yorkshire Surprise Major: Clare Beech
 1st London No.3 Surprise Royal: Vicki Chapman
 25th quarter: William Beech
 200th quarter: Jonathan C Mills
 400th quarter: Perry French
 950th quarter: Cathryn Corns
 1350th quarter: Stephen Nash
 1800th quarter: Patricia Cresshull
 1st as conductor: Roger Carey-Smith, David Buckley
 1st Plain Bob Minor as conductor: Bradley Hill
 100th as conductor: Perry French
 200th as conductor: Vicky LeFèvre
 25th together: Vicki Crispin & Philip Saunders; Samuel Beech & Clare Beech; Daniel Howell & Philip Saunders; Paul Cammiade & Andrew Beech
 150th together: Vicki Chapman & Hazel Steed
 175th together: Richard Wilson & Philip Saunders
 200th together: Clare Beech & Andrew Beech
 800th together: Liz Griffith-Jones & Ian Cresshull

Peals:

1st Double Norwich C B Major: Vicki L Chapman, Clare M Merivale, Jonathan C Mills
 1st Bristol Surprise: Matthew J Bayley
 1st on 12: Matthew J Bayley
 150th together: David E Rothera & Keith W Brown

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

Essex Young Ringers Outing

On Saturday 29th September, Essex Young Ringers went for a day outing to the Essex/Herts border.

The day was well attended with 15 young ringers, representing five of the six Essex Districts, plus adult helpers and parents (ringing and non-ringing).



The day started at St Peter's, Roydon (6 bells, 9cwt). Four of the young ringers were new to the group, including the youngest two, and much of the ringing consisted of rounds and call changes to help everyone settle.

Our second tower was the 6 bells at All Saints, Nazeing (9cwt). The start here was very slightly delayed as the attraction to continue up the spiral stairs to see the bells and then continue up to see the view from the

top of the tower proved to be compelling to many of the group. The problem was that in trying to ensure that everyone had come down more people went up!



It was then time for lunch at The Crown, Broxbourne where the majority of the party had pre-ordered lunch while others basked in the sunshine and ate their BYO lunch on the banks of the River Lee. Unfortunately, the kitchen were very slow in serving the meals – well over an hour from when we sat down! This meant that we were late for our next tower as the group made a staggered departure (with indigestion!) with those having desserts being the last to leave.



It should have been a gentle stroll along the river bank to St Augustine, Broxbourne for our first 8 of the day (18cwt), but for many it was a brisk walk/jog. They were not an easy ring and with the problems of the group arriving throughout our allotted time no method ringing could be attempted. However, the local who had opened up thought the group had made a good job of the bells and was impressed with some of the youngsters ringing the tenor.

The next tower was Ss Catherine and Paul, Hoddesdon a 12cwt 8 – a fairly small tower and so rather cosy for the numbers in our group. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to some plain triples.

The final towers were the 8 and 10 in Hertford. We parked at All Saints and were led through old Hertford by Andrew Case to St Andrew's.

Andrew then walked us back to All Saints, the final tower of the day. All Saints are a glorious 25cwt 10 but are not easy to ring and were quite a challenge for the group. For a few it was their first ring on ten and most of the ringing consisted of rounds and call changes but a steady touch of plain bob major on the back eight was a highlight.

Many thanks to Andrew Brewster for organising the outing and all those attending, young and not-so young! A challenging but enjoyable day.



Owen Webster

Owen C R Webster, 30th May 1948 – 27th July 2018

Owen was born and brought up in Rolvenden, Kent. He was part of church life there, first as a choir boy and then as server and bell ringer. He was the eldest of five children, three of whom learnt to ring; Owen, Michael and Richard. They have all contributed to the art for many years. Owen soon became part of the scene in the Ashford District of the Kent County Association, making it a mission to ring in every tower in the Association. Ringing was always lively, described by a friend of the time as happy and slightly wild, grabbing as many as 15 towers in a day. Owen developed skills in method ringing, and became a reliable conductor. His first peal was notable as it was of Plain Bob Major, rung at Lydd, Kent on 21 September 1968 and was a peal of 'first peelers' :

On 21st September 1968 in 2 hours 56 mins at All Saints, Lydd,
Kent

5056 Plain Bob Major.

1. Sylvia A E Knight
2. Margaret S Jenner
3. Alan C Bourner
4. John A Hemsley
5. Nicholas J H Small
6. Owen C R Webster
7. Keith D Butler
8. Brian Johnson (cond)

Composed by J R Pritchard.

First peal by all the band.

First peal of Major, by a band of first- peelers, for the Association,
all the band being members of the Ashford District.

Owen moved to Walthamstow, East London in 1969 and soon became instrumental in maintaining a band at St Saviour's, Walthamstow and soon afterwards, St Mary's, Leyton. As well as always being willing to spend time teaching new ringers, he progressed to surprise ringing. Owen married a ringer from a ringing family, Jane Hough, sister of Richard and Eleanor, and they had two children, Jonathan and Nicola, who still complain about a childhood sitting in ringing rooms and being dragged around on ringing outings! Nicola still rings at Shenfield in Essex, so family ringing continues.

John Hall first met Owen when he started to attend the practices at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow and St. Mary's Leyton in the early '70s. Owen was an enthusiastic, no-nonsense conductor and a major force in the creation of a band that regularly rang spliced surprise major for services at both churches. John says: 'Some of the highlights of my ringing in those years were thanks to Owen's propelling of the rusty old Leyton Parish Church minibus on ringing tours to Yorkshire, Cornwall, Devon and Shropshire, where, on more than one occasion, his knowledge as a professional motor vehicle engineer proved to be vital in keeping us on the road! I was just one of many people who appreciated and benefited greatly from Owen's encouragement and hard work in furthering our ringing lives, and I won't forget the laughter and good humour that centred on him in the pub afterwards'.

Another great friend, **John White**, rang with Owen in the '70s. They did a lot of ringing together in the East end and around Essex; in fact he called John's first peal of surprise major at Barking in 1979.

They started to go over to Waltham Abbey on Wednesdays to gain experience on higher numbers. From there, they attended ringing in London at CY practices, and in Feb 1980, were elected members of the Society at the same meeting.

John comments: 'I had no idea that Owen was very ill until quite recently, when he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer, he was 70 in May. Colin Wright & I managed to visit him shortly before his birthday. Owen was one of the good guys: he said what he thought and didn't mince his words as those that knew him would testify, but at least you knew where you stood with him. It is a huge shame that he has now passed, he will be greatly missed by a good number of people, and his funeral was well attended, he was given a good send-off which to me said it all'.

In 1981 the family moved to Waltham Abbey and Owen joined the band there. In 1986 he was asked to teach a band at St John's, Epping, where the bells had been silent for ten years. There is still an active band at Epping today. Owen took on responsibilities within the Essex Association of Change Ringers being Peals Secretary from 1982–1990. He was elected as Central Council Representative in June 1977 and served from 1978–1989, being active on the Peals Analysis Committee during this time.

Regrettably, his first marriage ended and Owen eventually moved back to Rolvenden with Jullie, his second wife, and their two children, Mark and Danielle.

Owen remained a regular Sunday Service ringer at the RAF Church of St Clement Danes for about 40 years. He joined the 3rd Sunday Service band in about 1995, organised by Clive Stephenson of Hornchurch, and rarely missed the opportunity to come and ring with his friends from Essex. Many quarter peals were rung and Owen

would stand in as conductor, when required. He last conducted for Battle of Britain Sunday in September 2017, just before becoming unwell. He continued to support the band for as long as possible during his illness and remained cheerful and reliable throughout

On returning to Kent, **Steve Davis** writes, Owen started to become really active in the Ashford District again around 2003. Although he was not attached to one particular tower, he was a good friend to many – often willing to turn out at quite short notice in order ‘to make up the numbers’. It therefore did not take long before he became the mainstay of several long running quarter peal bands, most notably at Ashford for Sunday evening service and every Wednesday evening primarily at High Halden where he encouraged new, and not so new, ringers to tackle various minor methods with ever increasing levels of complexity. Always quick to celebrate the success of others, perhaps even more valued was his ability to disarm disappointment when ringing didn’t go as well with a wry smile and a chortle. Whilst he didn’t boast about his own ringing achievements which were significant, he was very proud of the peal of Double Norwich rung at Tenterden on 2nd April 2011 – the 100th on the bells – rung by a band who had all attended Homewood School, the local secondary.

As Owen settled into retirement he also become involved in a couple of daytime quarter peal bands ringing at various towers right across Kent, tackling everything from unnamed triples methods to spliced surprise major, but always in his trademark laidback style of helping others achieve their goals by ‘making up the numbers’. Of course all those that rang with Owen knew that he did far more than that and ringing in Kent and the Ashford District in particular is much diminished with the passing of such a good ringer, loyal friend and great mentor.

It was pleasing that old friends gathered together to ring quarter peals in Rolvenden and Benenden on 21 May, 2018 to celebrate Owen’s 70th birthday and that he was able to join us for a drink, despite his illness. There have been many affectionate and appreciative moments shared about Owen since news of his death has reached other ringers, many of whom owe learning to ring or their first peal or quarter to his friendship and expertise.

Owen was a great friend who will be sadly missed.

Steve Davis
John Hall
Clive Stephenson
Jane Walters
John White

Essex Young Ringers Events 2019

Provisional Dates for Young Ringers for Practices, Outings and Contests in 2019

Sunday 27 January – Practice

Sunday 24 February – Practice

Saturday 9 March – Half Day Mini-outing and evening social

Sunday 31 March – SEECON Practice

Saturday 6 April – Fourth SE England Youth Striking Contest (SEECON) at Horton Kirby, St Mary, (8 bells, 5-2-26) hosted by the Kent County Association

Sunday 28 April – Practice

Sunday 19 May – Practice

Sunday 23 June – Practice

Sunday 30 June (pm) – RWNYP mini-outing

Saturday 6 July – RWNYP in Liverpool

Sunday 21 July – Practice

Saturday 28 September – Day Outing

Sunday 27 October – Practice

Sunday 24 November – Practice

From the Registers

75th birthday: Eileen Drew

80th birthday: John Williams, Dennis Ellison

Engagement: Phillip Spalding & Alex Priestley; Ros Skipper & Mike Allott; Christopher Lee & Laura Wood

Wedding: Michelle Long & Clive Stephenson

40th wedding anniversary: Graham & Maggie Lennard

50th wedding anniversary: Paul & Elaine Ellis; Sue & Tony Spurgeon; Peter & Elizabeth Sloman

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Rt Rev Derek Bond, former Bishop of Bradwell and EACR Vice-President; Owen Webster, formerly of Walthamstow (St Saviour), former Central Council Representative and Peal Secretary; Stephen Goddard, of Colchester (St Peter); Brenda McLean, of Ardleigh; and Mike Gibson, of Tollesbury.

Dates for your Diary

Dec	8	Carol service	Langham	NE	2:00
	8	Carol service	Sandon	SE	3:00
	8	Carol service	Shalford	N	3:15
	8	Carol service	Hutton	S	3:30
	8	Carol service	Hatfield Broad Oak	NW	4:00
Jan	5	Annual District Meeting	Terling	SE	3:00
	5	Annual District Meeting	Great Dunmow	N	3:00
	12	Annual District Meeting	Colchester St Peter	NE	3:00
	12	Annual District Meeting	(tba)	SW	3:30
	19	Annual District Meeting	Prittlewell	S	2:00
	26	Annual District Meeting	Waltham Abbey	NW	3:30
Feb	2	Association Committee Meeting	Danbury		
Apr	11-13	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
May	6	Association AGM	Chelmsford		
Jul	13	Association Striking Competitions			

Stop Press

The 65th Annual Essex Dinner will take place
at **Benton Hall Golf & Country Club, Witham**
on **Saturday 19th October 2019**.

Further details will follow in the New Year.

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2019. 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 March 2019**.