



Essex Ringing Course 2024

We are pleased to announce that the 33rd Essex Ringing Course will be held on 4th to 6th April 2024 and will be based at **The Rickstones Academy Witham**.

Tickets are priced at £65 per person, which includes an Eventbrite booking fee. The junior fee for all young ringers from an Essex tower aged under 18 on 4 April 2024 or junior members of the Essex Association is £30.

Tutor groups on offer are:

- Bell-handling basics.
- Moving on to rounds & call changes improving foundation skills
- Introduction to Hunting
- Advanced Hunting
- Plain Bob Doubles inside
- Plain Bob Minor inside
- Grandsire (Doubles / Triples)
- Moving on from Plain Bob
- Treble Bob Minor
- Elementary Calling touches
- Moving on to minor surprise methods
- Change ringing on handbells

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There will also be 1 day courses available in steeple keeping and using a simulator.

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 – information on applying to be a helper will be available in the course brochure. 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 shadowing a teacher on the course please contact Sarah Knights for further information (email to essexcourse@eacr.org.uk). The course brochure and application information will be available on the EACR website at www.eacr.org.uk/course. Applications will open on 2 January 2024. and should be made online if possible.

If you do not have internet access, application information is available by sending a stamped self-addressed C5 envelope to Mrs Sarah Knights, Corvette, Bacons Lane, Chappel, CO6 2EB.

Closing date for applications **Friday 16 February 2024**

Annual subscriptions for 2024

to remain at

£8 for adults and £4 for junior and associate members

Subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2024. Rates remain the same – £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2024) and £4 for junior or associate members. Subscriptions have remained at this level for over 17 years!

Subscriptions are still 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).

Subscriptions can be paid as follows:

- Via Membermojo once you receive the automatically generated renewal email (preferred method of payment)
- By bank transfer (Essex Association of Change Ringers, NatWest Bank, Sort Code: 60-05-13, Account Number: 22177035)
- Via your District Treasurer

Important – when paying by Bank Transfer please ensure the payment reference includes your tower and surname. Please also remember to inform the Membership Secretary (membership@eacr.org.uk), your District Treasurer (add district letter(s) e.g. N or SE etc to the email address -district-treasurer@eacr.org.uk) and the Association Treasurer (treasurer@eacr.org.uk) as appropriate when payment has been made.

The Association strongly encourages all bellringers within the Essex Association to join the EACR. Membership provides the opportunities for ringers to participate in a wide range of ringing activities with fellow ringers. Membership also provides vital funds for the Association to promote ringing within the Association, provide training activities for all members and sponsor bell restoration projects and maintenance activities.

Where do your subscriptions go?

- 25% of subscriptions automatically go to our Recruitment and Training Fund. Recruitment and training are key activities for the future of ringing in Essex.
- Every member is covered by the Association's group personal accident and public liability policies
- Every member receives an annual report
- Every tower receives a copy of the newsletter *Rounds and About* three times a year
- Funding towards youth activities and investing in the future

- Payment of the annual CCCBR affiliation fee
- We have one of the lowest subscription rates around
- We are talking about only £8 per year – the price of a couple of pints of beer (if you're lucky these days!) or a large glass of wine!

Meanwhile, it would be appreciated if those members who pay a subscription and have yet to pay for 2023 would either send their subscription to their District Treasurer in the next few weeks, or arrange a bank transfer.

All subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2024. 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 2023 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the 2023 Annual Report.

Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2024) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2024. However, after this date lapsed members shall be re-elected in accordance with normal procedures.

Completion of the current 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 form can be downloaded from the EACR website.

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

Please pay your subscriptions promptly and before 30 April 2024 – it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

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

Why on Earth would I want to go on an ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) Course?

I've been teaching ringing for years; I hardly imagine they could teach me anything that I haven't already seen.

Look at -----; he's a useless teacher and he's done an ART Module.

I was taught by a brilliant teacher. Why would I not want to follow his methods; they served me well?

I don't want to waste a day learning about what I already know.

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The first point I would make is that you “can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear”. Some folk, albeit brilliant ringers, just don't have the inclination or temperament to be a top notch teacher, or even a basic teacher. ART is not alchemy; it cannot produce gold from base metal.

If, on the other hand, you are already a really good teacher, then ART needs you all the more. The ART way is, after all, based on the collective skills, tricks-of-the-trade and insights of people like you, and everyone will benefit from your participation. Don't keep it to yourself!

The majority of us fall somewhere in between the two extremes; we may well be teaching simply because there's no one else to do it. We generally teach as we were taught – after all, it worked!

But are we teaching in the best way possible? Does our teaching get results? When did we last seriously evaluate the quality of our teaching? Have our former pupils gone on to achieve the high aspirations we have for them? A teacher doesn't just teach, he/she also inspires.

There may, of course, be a sub-conscious fear that your methods will be criticised. This just won't happen; ART is about building up, not tearing down

A parent may very well teach their child to swim, cycle, or even drive, but if they were getting someone else to do the teaching, would they not be perfectly justified in enquiring about their qualifications for the job? Where is the difference with ringing? All can be hazardous if not done well.

PCCs are now required to follow the C of E's “Safer Recruitment” guidelines (even for volunteer posts) which include checking qualifications for the task. How long before the insurance companies start insisting on this? Being a step ahead will ensure our teaching can continue without problem. After all, we have embraced (albeit often reluctantly)

DBS checks and Safeguarding training. I believe teacher training will also become the norm.

I confess I enrolled on my first M1 course out of mere curiosity, but by the end I was completely convinced of its value. This after having been teaching for 50 odd years and having among my former pupils several University Guild Masters and a past Chairman of the National Twelve Bell Contest. How could there be anything I hadn't come across? Well, yes there was – quite a lot.

So how about giving ART a chance? I have yet to hear of anyone coming away from an ART Module dissatisfied.

Look at the ART website to check for further information and upcoming courses: – bellringing.org

Roy Threadgold

New Association Chaplain

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev Sue Goldsmith, Curate at All Saints Hutton, as our new Chaplain. Rev Sue says:

"I've been a member of the Church of England since childhood but it wasn't until an opportunity to lead a choir at my church opened up that I really heard God's call for the ministry.

"I started (and completed) Licensed Lay Ministry training and then became an ordinand. This meant 5 years at part time theology college, which I loved in spite of the 36 academic essays I had to write in that time.

"I was Priested at the beginning of October and finishing the last two years of curacy at Hutton – I'm blessed to be working and training there. I love to hear the All Saints bells ringing when I arrive.

"My love of bells comes from those old churches I visited as a child and the mesmerising impression of the ropes disappearing into the ceiling.

"As an adult I did look into ringing but was too nervous to follow it up. To actually see and hear the bells being rung has proved to be captivating. The sound of bells calling the faithful to worship is both beautiful and a wonderful form of communication. Bell ringing creates, for me, a link between the church and community; the past and the present and the language of music and movement."

NW AGM & call-change competition

North Western District Meeting and Stan Clark Memorial Call Change Striking Competition

The NW District welcomed 73 ringers and visitors to its District Meeting and Stan Clark Memorial Call Change Striking Competition on Saturday, 7th October 2023 at St Nicholas Church, Fyfield. The meeting finished quite smartly as there were 17 bands taking part, which, as far as we were aware, was the largest number of bands participating in any competition that had ever been held across the District. We thought we had about 12 bands participating until the day before the competition and after a last-minute reminder the number of bands jumped to 17! So how did we achieve such a great number of competitors?

To start with, early and regular reminders encouraged tower captains, and ringers, to commence their call change practices as far in advance of the competition as possible, giving themselves ample time for practices and learning.

The aim of the competition was to bring into this arena the new, and newish, ringers of varying standards, providing the opportunity of meeting up and discussing ringing with more experienced ringers, to not only be encouraged to be part of a competition but to provide the invaluable experience of ringing with more experienced ringers, listening to other bands and to assess their own ringing and ways to improve their skills. In fact, one newish ringer actually learnt how to call changes just for the competition! Included in the bands were about 25 ringers who had never rung a quarter peal and about 18 ringers who had rung a quarter peal on the treble/tenor, and a good number of all those ringers were relatively new to ringing, some as recent as Ringing for the King in May. Whilst the rules relating to those ringers who had or hadn't rung a quarter peal either on the treble/tenor or inside were strictly followed, there was flexibility around some ringers participating in more than one band and in this way, it allowed less experienced ringers to participate in the competition.

Clearly, the competition needed to run smoothly and efficiently to get through the morning's ringing and the tower and band stewards did an incredible job to keep everything moving. The weather was kind to us, warm and sunny, enabling everyone to sit outside and listen to the ringing and enjoy the sun at the same time.

However, the entire morning wouldn't have gone anywhere near as well if it hadn't been for everyone who was so enthusiastically involved in various capacities from beginning to end, greatly aided by the amazing refreshments available throughout the morning and the excellent judging from Adam Sloman and Clive Sloman.

Altogether, an extremely well supported and enjoyable event and testament to the power of heaps of enthusiasm, some cajolery, and most of all, team working!

Ian Kerwin
NW District Master

Sue Evans
NW District Secretary

Annual Dinner 2023

The 68th Annual Dinner of the Essex Association of Change Ringers

The 68th Annual Dinner of the Essex Association of Change Ringers took place on Saturday 28th October 2023 at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Our guests included guest speaker Katharine Salter and the Reverend Stewart Gibbs.

Katharine Salter is Master of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, one of our neighbouring Associations. Katharine is also tower captain at the Ipswich churches of St Clement and St Lawrence, has been ringing for over 40 years.

The Revd Stewart Gibbs has ministries at High Ongar and Willingale previously at Hatfield Heath. Revd Stewart is a great supporter of bell ringers; he has been involved in fundraising for the Association bell restoration fund.

The dinner saw a return to the County hotel after some years, we were treated to some amazing food and excellent service. Some plates were enough to feed a family of four! We have received lovely comments from the guests.

The Master proposed the loyal toast to the King and delivered a speech noting similarities in bell ringing with the world of Harry Potter, muggles and wizards with ringers and non-ringers!

The Revd Stewart Gibbs responded to the Master's toast to the church, Revd Stewart shared his thoughts on bell ringing and the service we provide. This was followed by Katharine Salter's speech on her recollections of the Essex Association and her research into our history through the *Bell News* and *The Ringing World*. Katharine also recognised our young ringers and their achievements.

The raffle prizes were kindly donated by some of the guests, including a prized bottle of German glühwein. The raffle raised £182 towards the bell restoration fund.

We extend our thanks to Sharon and Denise for organising the event.

Practice Diary

Dec	7	10-12 bell practice	Bishop's Stortford	NW	7:30
	8	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	11	Advanced Minor practice	North Ockendon	S	7:30
	12	Christmas ring & celebration	Loughton	SW	7:30
	13	12-bell practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	7:30
	16	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	19	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	22	Surprise Minor practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	27	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30
Jan	4	10-12 bell practice	Bishop's Stortford	NW	7:30
	16	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	17	Beyond Bob Doubles	Henham	NW	7:30
	20	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	24	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30
	26	Surprise Minor practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
Feb	5	Higher numbers practice		S	
	17	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	20	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	28	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30
Mar	16	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	19	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	27	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30
Apr	20	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	21	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	24	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30
May	16	Advanced 6-bell practice	<i>tbc</i>	NW	7:30
	18	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	22	10-bell practice	Walthamstow, St Mary	SW	6:30

Essex Association Officers

Could this be you?

We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated people with an interest in ringing for the following roles:

General Secretary, this role is an important one for the Association, as the Secretary pulls everything together and organises meetings and events. Whilst there is a time commitment associated with it, it might not be as onerous as you imagine, and the duties could be flexed to accommodate a keen person if necessary.

Social Convenor with the help of the social committee the Social Convenor organises the Annual Dinner and catering arrangements for the Essex Ringing Course.

Anyone can volunteer for these roles. You don't need to have held a similar position elsewhere or be an experienced ringer – just be interested in this area, willing to help and contribute to ringing on a wider scale.

You do need to be organised, computer literate, friendly, open and flexible.

Support to do these roles will be provided through previous officers and the Association Trustees and Management Committee. A full handover will be provided, and a period of shadowing can usually be arranged. If you are interested in these positions, or would like further information, please contact:

Master@eacr.org.uk or Secretary@eacr.org.uk to ask more about the roles.

Did you know ...?

The Association has a Bell Restoration Account Fund that gives out grants for both major and minor works. The fund has helped over 90 Essex churches with grants totalling over £350,000. If you need some help to get your bells ringing again, or something minor that would make them go a bit better, find out more details at

<https://www.eacr.org.uk/about/bell-restoration.html>

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st quarter: Rosie Moule, Carol Adams, Callum Stark (aged 14), Alex Perraud (aged 14), Pete Bowman, Gavin P Edwards, Bradley Marshall, Peter Dykes, Frank Seago, David Wilson, Evelyn Atter, Rose Collier, Matthew Collier

1st inside: Philip J Waterfield, Charlie Smith

1st on treble: Kieran Grove

1st Plain Bob Doubles: Ethan J Musham

1st Plain Bob Doubles inside: Kieran Grove

1st Minor on treble: Luke Attfield

1st Minor inside: Gail Farrow, Angus Threadgold, Alfie Holland

1st Double Oxford Bob Minor: Adrienne Wood, Sarah Knights, Simon Mann, Richard Cottee

1st St Clement's College Bob Minor: Jodie Hill, Alfie Holland, Nick Holland

1st Cambridge Surprise Minor: Bernard Arscott, Lucas J Owen

1st Stedman: Sarah Knights, Jodie Hill

1st Triples: Rebecca M Sharples

1st on 8: James P Riley, Sharon Lacey, Robert Wallis

1st Major: Hayden R Musham, Alwyn Brock, Martin C Jones

1st Surprise Major: Courtney Mandell, Adam Sloman, Neil Pasmore, Sarah Knights

1st Lincolnshire Surprise: Beth Johnson, Peter Chapman

1st Rutland Surprise: Samuel Beech

1st Superlative Surprise: Rachel Arnold, Jo Lerpiniere

1st Caters: Courtney Mandell

1st Grandsire Caters: Theo Johnson, Neil Pasmore

1st on 10: Sarah Robbins, Michelle A Stephenson, David Newton

1st inside on 10: Clare Beech

1st Little Bob: Rachel Arnold, David Knott

1st Little Bob Royal: Lin Ould, Debbie Hill, James Green, Peter G Smith, David Newton, Simon Ward, Bradley Hill, Jane Walters

1st on 12: Claire May, Andrew Westwood

1st Maximus: Alice V Kirk

1st Cambridge Surprise Maximus: Rachel Arnold

1st as conductor: Julia V Taylor, Marianne R Hayward, Bradley Hill

1st Triples as conductor: Lucas J Owen

1st Little Bob Royal as conductor: John Harpole

1st Lincolnshire as conductor: Simon Ward

25th quarter: Emily Thompson

275th quarter: Clare Beech

400th quarter: Trevor Church

950th quarter: Andrew Beech

1500th quarter: John Harpole

500th as conductor: John Harpole

50th together: Paul Cammiade & Andrew Beech; James Laken & Andrew Beech

Peals:

1st Surprise Major inside: Theo A Johnson

1st Royal: Dylan J Thomas

1st Surprise Royal: Theo A Johnson, Simon Ward

1st Minor inside in more than one method: John G J Elliott

100th together: Colin F Chapman & Alan P Mayle; Paul A Cammiade & Neil V Avis

200th together: Yvonne A Towler & Neil V Avis

350th together: James L Towler & Colin F Chapman; James L Towler & Alan P Mayle;
James L Towler & Brian G Meads

1850th for the Association: James L Towler

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

Method practice app



My name is Matthew Collier, I've been a young ringer for a year and a bit and over the last 5 months I have been making a method practice app called Campana for my A-Level Computer Science Coursework with the input of Matthew Brown, Simon Mann and David Sparling. It turned out to be a much bigger task than I initially expected, but has been an immensely rewarding experience, and has taught me a massive amount of change ringing theory. To check it out, search "Campana" on the Apple AppStore or Google Play Store.

Matthew Collier

Dates for your Diary

Dec	2	District Carol Service	Greenstead Green	N	3:15
	9	District Carol Service	Hatfield Heath	NW	2:30
		District Carol Service	Harwich <i>tbc</i>	NE	2:30
		District Carol Service	Danbury	SE	3:00
Jan	6	Annual District Meeting	Great Baddow	SE	3:00
		Annual District Meeting	Rayne	N	3:30
	13	Annual District Meeting	Great Holland	NE	3:00
		Annual District Meeting	<i>tbc</i>	SW	<i>tbc</i>
	20	Annual District Meeting	Prittlewell	S	<i>tbc</i>
	27	Annual District Meeting	Harlow	NW	<i>tbc</i>
Feb	1	Association Trustees' Meeting			
	3	Association Management Committee			
	21	Association Trustees' Meeting			
Apr	4-6	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
May	6	Association AGM	Chelmsford		
	18	Association Trustees' Meeting			

From the Registers

18th birthday: Rosie Moule
21st birthday: Samuel Beech
50th birthday: Marianne Hayward
70th birthday: Roger Carey-Smith
80th birthday: Eileen Drew, Katherine Marshall, Tom Marshall
90th birthday: Keith Gardner

Wedding: Ros Skipper and Michael Baker; Nick Allen and Becky Hatton

Golden wedding anniversary: Barry and Mary Fisher; Katherine and Tom Marshall
Diamond wedding anniversary: Clive and Janet Moore; Dick and Pat Prime

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of David Knewstub, formerly of Great Totham; Ken Elliott, formerly of Great Baddow; and Jenny Parris, formerly of Terling

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2024. 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 2024**.