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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

BRIAN BEECH (of North Ockendon) - 71st birthday on 27th April.

Essex Association of Change Ringers

NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 102

April 2008

Upcoming Events

Wednesday April 30 (7:30 - 9:00) Beginners 8 bell practice at Basildon. We have been invited to join the regular practice at Basildon, and concentrate on rounds and call changes on 8, and plain hunting on 7. All welcome.

Monday May 5 Association AGM at Chelmsford Cathedral. The agenda and arrangements are now available on the Association website <http://www.eacr.org.uk/>.

Saturday May 17 (5:00pm) District striking competition at North Ockendon.

from District Master John Harpole

For those of you who were at our quarterly meeting at Great Wakering, you would have heard me say that our district education officer, Steve Hunter, had hurt his shoulder. Since the meeting Steve has seen a specialist, and has been told that the damage to the tendons in his shoulder is so severe that he should not attempt to ring again for at least a year. Under the circumstances, Steve has resigned as both our district education officer and as Rayleigh tower captain - I know he will be missed in both these roles and I wish Steve all the best and hope that his shoulder will eventually get better. Whether we ever see Steve on the end of the bellrope again, only time will tell.

If anyone would like to become district education officer, then please let me know. The main tasks for the education officer are to organise our annual training day, and to assist the other district officers in how we can help to develop ringing in the district.

We don't have to have an education officer, but it would be good if someone would take on this role.

We did have our annual training day arranged for Saturday April 19. However, as no arrangements had been made, the district officers decided to cancel it rather than try and put something together hurriedly. Instead we will try to arrange it for **Saturday October 18th**, when we already have a district practice in the calendar - we will expand this into an all-day event. If you have any particular training needs in your tower then please let me know.

Essex Association AGM

Chelmsford Cathedral, Monday May 5th. All members welcome.

There will be open ringing from 9:15, followed by a service at 10:30. This will be followed by the meeting. The main items on the agenda include:

- the election of a new Association Master, the two nominees being Brain Meads & Adrian Semken
- unopposed election of a new secretary and independent examiners
- motion for members to continue to pay subscription after the age of 65
- election of Yvonne Towler as a life member
- The meeting will finish by 1pm, and be followed by afternoon ringing and tea in the Northern District.



Cathryn Corns - Committee Rep

I took up ringing 4 years ago, as the result of an unwise comment made at Eastwood that I'd always fancied learning to ring - the next thing I knew was that somehow I'd been signed up for the Prittlewell Saturday morning ringing school! I went along thinking that I really didn't have time for this and that I'd probably be incompetent and everyone would be relieved when I said I didn't think that this was for me. However, by the end of my first lesson I was completely hooked by the challenge! I went to my first District meeting about 3 months later, and everyone was so kind to an incompetent novice that I started to venture out to other towers, and now ring regularly at Rayleigh, Langdon Hills and Fobbing as well as Prittlewell.

Having started ringing in my more 'mature years' I feel that I have a lot of work to do to catch up, but I have (in the words of Gordon Lucas) 'fallen among madmen' who ring quarter peals every Sunday and have now clocked up over 175, from minimus to major and recently rang my first quarter of Cambridge minor. As many people have helped me learn to ring, I'm now trying to help other learners, assisting at the Prittlewell Saturday school and helping teach the new band for Canewdon.

Despite this, I still feel very much a 'novice' - I can remember only too well what it is like to be at the end of a rope for the first time and how difficult it was to ring rounds and the impossibility of being able to ring bob double inside. I therefore feel that I bring to our committee of vastly experienced ringers a little of what it's like to be a learner and how we might help other learners in the District.

EACR committee meeting held 2 February 2008 at Writtle - Summary

1. Annual dinner

A provisional booking has been made for the annual dinner and Districts are being asked for their support. So that a decision can be made as to whether to go ahead or not, Districts are being asked to canvas support and return forms for the dinner by the AGM.

2. Website

This is to be transferred to a new hosting company

3. Gift Aid

The rules relating to Gift Aid have changed (and changed again in the budget) so that EACR can now only reclaim 25p in the £, instead of 28p. To maximise income to the Association members are asked to use Gift Aid for donations whenever possible.

4. AGM

The use of the cathedral bells has been requested from 09.30h with the service at 10.30h. Ringing in the afternoon will be in the northern district, with tea at Dunmow. The Southern district is asked to provide 4 sidesmen for the service

Elections will be held for the new Association Master.

A motion will be presented to the AGM concerning whether members over the age of 65 will cease to be exempt from paying subscriptions to the Association. There was some debate about this and two alternative proposals were discussed; it was decided that a revised motion would be put to the AGM in May. If there is a change in the rules, people who are already exempt by virtue of age will not be expected to restart payments.

5. Update on bell restoration projects

- Kelvedon: The frame is to be strengthened; the lower tier of bells can be rung, but not the upper tier; issues may not be fully resolved for another 18 months
- Ridgewell: there is room for a ring of 6 in a single tier; Whitechapel have confirmed that they could install 5 bells in a 6 bells frame
- Toppesfield: the ring of 8 is complete
- Harwich: discussions are on-going
- Theydon Garnon: a band is being trained and it is hoped that the bells will be back in and ringing by Easter
- Brentwood: plans are progressing, but English Heritage are saying that the bells must be rehung in the old frame
- Romford: the bells have been removed and the frame tested

6. Training

On 22 Nov there will be a training day held in the North district for the whole Association

The Essex course will run from 10-12 April – any volunteer helpers are asked to contact Yvonne Towler

7. Child protection

The Diocesan policy remains that all ringers should be CRB checked.

The Child Protection officer reminded ringers that tutors on the ringing course needed to be CRB checked every 3 years and to make sure that they have an up to date check.

He also reminded towers that the Tower Captain and 2 other ringers must be CRB checked as must any others who teach and that there must be one CRB checked person present.

8. EACR Carol service 2009

This will be on 5th December 2009 at Writtle, subject to confirmation.

Please send any and all reports, pictures, notices etc to Beth Johnson at b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, tel 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

Julia Jones, our new secretary says: I was taught to ring by Dennis Ellisdon at Barkingside in the early 1970's, became a member of the Cumberlands in the early 1980's while ringing regularly in London and at Barking then gave up ringing for 18 years until joining Downham just over a year ago.

Please let Julia have replies to the request for commitment to the Annual Dinner this year (4th October). Forms were given out at the AGM in January. Answers are needed by end of APRIL.

From the Retiring Master:

Dear Friends,

I would just like to say thank you very much for the 'retirement' present which I received during the district meeting at Great Waking in March.

For those who do not know, I received a gardener's mug, a larger than normal mug with a lid, and £75 worth of National Garden vouchers. I think if you were to ask Clare what I currently like doing I'm sure she would say that I have the gardening 'bug', so the vouchers will definitely come in handy and be very useful. I think I will use them either towards a garden bench or some nice pots.

As I have said before, it was a privilege to serve the district over the recent years - firstly as Committee Rep for three years and then as District Master for six years - and now I look forward to sitting on the other side of the table and in doing so I give my best wishes to John Harpole and all the district officers and hope the district will continue to be well supported.

Thank you once again for the gifts, they are very much appreciated.

Best wishes to you all.

Andrew Beech

CANEWDON UPDATE

On 5th March the project was passed by the Chelmsford DAC and the official notice of this arrived with the Canewdon PPC Secretary on the 15th. The public notice then has to be displayed for 26 days. Final approval from the Archdeacon is also required.

We still await the paperwork required for the building work to go out to tender from the architect David Ferguson. We have a preferred contractor for this who recently installed the kitchen and toilet in the base of the tower and who is keen to be involved and eager to start. The lack of this paperwork is now causing a delay in the project.

All the bell work will be done by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd. and they are starting the preparations for this already and are eager to get started with the work. There will only be an inscription on the tenor bell as follows:

'These bells are rung to the Glory of God by the generosity of John Mitchell (1920-2005)' The other nine bells will only have the makers mark and the year of manufacture but as no other inscriptions have been requested we have been told that they will have 'ornate bands' on them.

Brian Meldon

Peal Board dedicated at District Meeting 15 March Great Waking



During the service at Great Waking, prior to the meeting, a very handsome Peal Board, commemorating David Church's Captaincy at the tower from 1986 to 2001 dedicated. Despite the peal taking place in 2004, the peal board is now in place in the tower and the peal band were all in attendance.

Left is the new peal board and above a photo of the peal band, from left to right:

- 1 Tim Baskett, 2 Allen W. Cansdale
- 3 Bernard Sadler, 4 David Sloman,
- 5 Stephen G. Halliwell (C), 6 Phil Harrison,

Answers to the technical quiz: the letters cast on the South Weald bells in 1989 cost 85p each. Winner is Simon Higgins from Hutton.

Minutes of the SOUTHERN DISTRICT
Meeting at Great Wakering - Saturday 15th March 2008

Welcome The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the Roll Book. 54 members were present.

The Master thanked the vicars, Rev. Alan Hurd and Rev. Brian Shannon for taking the Service which incorporated the dedication of a peal board in memory of David Church. Thanks went also to the organist (Brian Fletcher) and the Great Wakering ringers for the use of the bells and for the provision of an excellent tea. Thanks were extended to the Service touch band (Phil Harrison, Steve Nash, John Harpole, Stephen Halliwell, Andrew Beech and Peter Knight) who rang 120 St Nicholas Bob Doubles.

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Bailey, Raymond Jones, Christine Allman, Jennifer Derby, Jessica Meade, Roger Hobson, John Cousins, Rowena Marshall, Roger and Ann Dorking, Robin and Renee Page Jones, Charlotte Meldon, Lynne McEwan, Marion Squier, Peter Hawes, Sally-Ann Elkington, Jacqueline Carr and Sharon Jones.

Minutes of the previous meeting, the ADM held at Leigh on Sea on 19th January 2008 had been circulated in the last Newsletter. There being no amendments, they were signed by the Master as a true record.

Matters arising

Correspondence An e-mail had been received from Andrew Brewster, the Honorary Treasurer of the Association asking for members to be reminded that donations were still being collected for the Honorary Officers retiring at the May 2008 AGM.

Election of new members A new Ringing Member, Michelle Bowen of Prittlewell was proposed by David Sloman, seconded by Peter Sloman and unanimously elected to membership.

Committee Meeting Report This was held at Writtle 2nd February 2008 and Cathryn Corns gave the report printed on page 2.

Diary of forthcoming events

1. Steve Hunter was to have organised the consolidation training day planned for 19th April but an injury has forced him to withdraw and cancel the event. It was agreed that the best wishes of the meeting would be passed on to Steve and Julie.
2. The Essex Ringing Course at Coggeshall is to take place on 10th April and is over subscribed. One person from the District will be attending.
3. The Master announced that a beginners' eight bell practice will be held at Basildon on Wednesday, 30th April at 7.30pm. Everyone will be welcome.
4. The Association AGM will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday, 5th May. Ringing is from 9.15am and the Service at 10.30am.
5. The six bell striking competition will be held 17th May at North Ockendon and the draw will be held at 5pm.
6. The Master announced that there is to be a District outing by car to Bedfordshire on Saturday 21st June and the itinerary will be confirmed in due course.
7. The Association striking competition finals will be held on Saturday 5th July.

Any other business

1. The Master made a presentation to the immediate Past Master, Andrew Beech and thanked him on behalf of the District for his hard work during his period of office. The meeting also thanked the immediate Past Secretary / Treasurer, Chris Bailey for his service during his period of office and will make a presentation to him at the earliest opportunity.
2. The Master has been asked to provide four sidesman for the Association AGM and these will be Hilary Donoghue, Ron Brown, Bernard Sadler and Josie Sadler.
3. David Sloman reported that Prittlewell opened a bell fund this week to recast their bells.
4. The Faculty for Brentwood should have been issued by now and the work will be carried out by Nicholsons.
5. A report on the progress of Canewdon bells was received from the tower correspondent, Brian Meldon, printed on page 3.

Finally:

The Service collection raised £74.95 The profit from teas, kindly donated by the Great Wakering ringers, was £112.10 The profit from the raffle for which the prizes were kindly donated was £108.

Further ringing was available until 8pm.



SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OUTING
TO BEDFORDSHIRE

Saturday 21st June 2008

Book the date in your diary

We will be visiting towers in and around Dunstable.

Cost will be £5 per person to cover tower donations, etc - remainder to BRF.

All ringers in the district are welcome, so please support this event as it promises to be a most enjoyable day.

Please display this poster on your tower notice board and we look forward to seeing you.