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Essex Association of Change Ringers

NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 109

August 2009

NEXT EVENTS:

Thursday 27 August District Practice at Brentwood 7.30pm

Saturday 19 September - District meeting at Canewdon 3.00pm start.

Our first district meeting on the new 10-bell peal. See page 2.

Directions to Canewdon on page 2 Post code: SS4 3PG OS OSGB36

Saturday 26 September Quiz night at North Ockendon, see page 6

Association Dinner Saturday October 3rd - see page 2

Quarter Peal - Downham

Gareth rang his first quarter peal at the first attempt at Downham on Saturday 25th July. He rang really well and considering that he had not rung for very long periods before managed the whole event without any blisters. Gareth was really pleased with passing this milestone and we at Downham are looking forward to ringing many more with him. We even had an audience in the Churchyard as his Dad had come to listen which made life easy for us when we came to get a team photo as we didn't have to balance cameras on tombstones.

Congratulations Gareth.



Saturday, 25 July 2009 in
39mins (7-3-0)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Gareth Bayard,
- 2 Julia J. Jones
- 3 Roger H. Dorking
- 4 James Laken
- 5 Paul A. Cammiade (c)
- 6 Christopher J. Tucker

First quarter at first attempt - 1.

Front row: Julia, Gareth. Back Row: Roger, Jim, Chris, Paul.

Congratulations...

We would like to congratulate Hannah Kidger, a ringer at St Augustines, Thorpe Bay, and Nicholas Khan on the occasion of their wedding on Saturday 6th June 2009 at St Mary's Church, Old Newton. It was a lovely day and the sun was shining. In the morning Hannah rang a quarter peal before dashing off for an appointment at the hair dressers. It was a very special service as Hannah had been a ringer at the tower for some time. After the service and photographs Hannah could not resist another ring just before they left for the reception, climbing two ladders in her bridal gown which is not an easy thing to do at the best of times. We would like to wish them every happiness in the future. Judy Rolf



NEWSLETTERS

The Southern District newsletters will be published in 2009 as follows:

Beginning of January

End February - copy date 15 Feb

End April - copy date 15 April

Mid Aug - copy date end July

End October - copy date 15 Oct

Distribution

A newsletter is circulated two weeks before each business meeting. Copies are sent to tower correspondents, preferably by email. Members can request their own copies via email by contacting the editor (Beth Johnson, b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk).

With thanks...

My grateful thanks to all ringing friends who rang quarter peals, signed cards and sent good wishes for my recent 85th birthday. Roll on 90! Ron Brown

EACR Dinner

The Association Annual Dinner will be held at the County Hotel, Chelmsford on Saturday 3rd October.

We will be welcoming G Noel Orman formally as a Life Member. One of our guest speakers will be Simon Linford. You will have read many an interesting article by him in the Ringing World. He is also currently on the Education Committee of the Central Council and is a former Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Our very own Hilary Donoghue will be accompanying proceedings on the piano. Send your deposit of £15 per head or full payment of £30 per head (payable to EACR) with the menu choices for each person to me as soon as possible before 31 August.

Vicki Chapman
Hon Gen Sec
20 Mews Court,
Chelmsford,
CM2 9PF

Next District Meeting - Canewdon, Saturday September 19

Our next district meeting will be at St Nicholas, Canewdon on Saturday September 19. Despite having a reputation for being one of the most haunted sites in Essex, I am sure we will have a very warm welcome from Brian and Peter, and the other members of the Canewdon band. As this will be the first time that many of you will have rung at Canewdon, we will start ringing from 3pm with the service at 4:30. For those of you who have never been to Canewdon before, it is situated a few miles north of Rochford with fantastic views over the River Crouch. I suggest you allow plenty of time to get there.

The bells are really easy to ring and sound glorious, so I hope that as many of you as possible will be there. There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to have a ring.

John Harpole

Directions: Take A127 to the Tesco Roundabout in Southend; take 1st exit B1013 to Rochford. Go past the church and under the railway; turn left to Ashingdon. At the bottom of Ashingdon hill, turn right, sign posted Canewdon. As you enter the village, turn left to the church; park at the top of the road.

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The following two quarter peals were rung as 85th birthday compliments to Ron Brown.

St Mary's Shenfield, 5th July 2009

1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles

Treble: John Church 2nd: Rowena Marshall

3rd: Renee Page-Jones 4th: Alan Moody

5th: Raymond Jones (c) Tenor: Paul Wiggins

All Saints Hutton, 6th July 2009

1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles

Treble: Robin Page-Jones 2nd: Rowena Marshall

3rd: Renee Page-Jones 4th: Chris Bailey

Tenor: Raymond Jones (c)

Also Hutton and Shenfield had a half day outing to Downham, Margaretting, Fryerning and Shenfield on Saturday, 25th July.

This was followed by a barbecue at the home of Raymond Jones. We were fortunate in having good weather all day.

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QUARTER PEALS IN 2008 - from Association Master

I have been studying the Ringing World quarter peal report for 2008 (page 483). Essex has the second highest total number of quarters rung (after Somerset with far more towers) and the highest number rung per tower (except for ANZAB and Scotland which are slightly exceptional cases).

These splendid statistics really do show how ringing in Essex at the grass-roots tower level is second to none.

Congratulations all round!

Brian Meads, Master

District Outing

Over 40 district members, friends and family, representing 15 different towers, went on the District Outing to Surrey on Saturday June 20th. The first tower was Limpsfield Chart, where access to the ringing chamber was via a vertical ladder on the outside of the tower; some preferred to enjoy the flower festival in the church instead! We then visited Oxted and Limpsfield, before splitting up for a well earned lunch break. Some of us took the local advice and had a super lunch at The Red Lion in Bletchingley - delicious food and excellent beer! After lunch we rang at Bletchingley, where everyone had a good ring on this fine peal of 10. Then it was on to Nutfield, where we all struggled to park following the wedding of a local BBC news reporter, before ending the day at Merstham.

It was really good to see so many people on the outing and from so many different towers - I hope you all enjoyed yourselves!



*Top: the challenge of the group photo, too many people to name!
Above left: Bletchingley,
Above right: Nutfield
Far left: Ringing at Merstham
Left: Helen enjoying a well-earned drink and profiteroles.*

Striking Competition Finals

The Association striking competition finals were held on Saturday July 4th, hosted by the South West district and judged by Roger Bailey from London. In the 6 bell competition at Theydon Garnon, Downham came 6th; unfortunately Langdon Hills failed to complete their test piece.

The 8 bell competition was held at Chigwell Row and, as in previous years, all the districts rang the same test piece – 251 Oxford Bob Triples. The district band put in a creditable performance and were the only ones to ring without any method mistakes. When the results were announced we were delighted to discover that we had won, for the second time in 3 years (we don't talk about last year!), narrowly beating the South-East district.

Congratulations to the band, and thanks to Gordon for allowing us to practice at Fobbing, and to Helen and Cathryn for substituting in the practices.



John Harpole receiving the trophy from Roger Bailey.



The winning band were (left to right):

Julia Jones, Hilary Donoghue, Paul Cammiade, Andrew Beech, Steve Nash (c), John Harpole, Andy Martin, Nigel Taylor

District Striking competition

The district striking competition was held at Ingrave on Saturday May 16th. Many thanks to Christina and Andrew Brewster and Nick De Keyser, all from Writtle, for judging the competition, and to the Ingrave ringers for a splendid tea.

The 5 teams were, in bell order (treble to tenor), left to right:



Bentley & Hutton: Robin Page-Jones, Georgina Dearing, Ron Brown, Renee Page-Jones, Rowena Marshall, Chris Bailey



North Ockendon: Hilary Spooner, Alison Nash, Matthew Scott, Michael Warren, Andrew Beech, Brian Beech



Downham: Ann Dorking, Cynthia Costelloe, Julia Jones, Roger Dorking, Paul Cammiade, Nigel Taylor



South Weald: Vic Dale, Beth Johnson, Maria Jorysz, Paul Trueman, Ian Jorysz, Alan Ball



Langdon Hills: Gordon Lucas, Cathryn Corns, Andrew Martin, Dennis Stott, Stephen Nash, Alan Gisby

Thanks to the 5 teams who entered the competition, and the results were:

1st	Downham	34½ faults	rang 2nd
2nd	Langdon Hills	47½ faults	rang 4th
3rd	North Ockendon	48 faults	rang 5th
4th	South Weald	52 faults	rang 3rd
5th	Bentley & Hutton	69½ faults	rang 1st

So Downham and Langdon Hills represented the district at the Association finals at Theydon Garnon on July 4th (see page 4).

Quiz Night

The District Quiz night will be held at North Ockendon on Saturday 26th September at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets from Andrew Beech at the Canewdon meeting.

Food provided.

Can your tower make up a table? Please support this event which is good fun and raises funds for the Association Bell Restoration Fund.

Please send me news of your outings this summer, Beth

South Weald outing Saturday 2nd May

We had an excellent outing to Epping, Chigwell and Chigwell Row on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. All very interesting and ringable bells, and a good circuit for an afternoon. Thanks to Maria Jorysz for driving the minibus.

Very shortly after sending out our request to ring we had a phone call from a lovely lady from Chigwell who was very enthusiastic for us to visit, as the proposed day was when their flower festival was to be held - it was lovely to be part of their festivities and we were able to have a nice cup of tea in their village hall.

We headed back to the Vicarage where Ian and Maria hosted a very welcome barbecue, the highlight being Pam's excellent salad and Ray's ability to eat vast quantities of beef burgers.

Right: Jenny and Mark ringing at Epping.

South Weald has a new website:
<http://stpetersringers.southweald.org.uk>



Judy's leap of faith!

I would like to thank everyone who supported me when I very foolishly jumped out of a plane on sunny day in June, at Headcorn in Kent. It was an amazing feeling though my legs are still a bit wobbly! I have raised over £1,200 so far for Little Havens Children's Hospice which is amazing and I still am collecting money if anyone would like to make a contribution.

Thank you again Judith Rolf, St Mary's, Prittlewell.

Adrian Malton

Most of you will know by now that Adrian Malton has been convicted of serious sexual offences against children, and has been sentenced to 30 months imprisonment. Once he is released from prison, he will be subject to lifetime restrictions on who he can ring with. Prior to the sentencing the Association Master, after consultation and agreement with the other Senior Officers, decided to suspend his membership of the Association. The matter has been the subject of much correspondence and discussion both within The Ringing World and privately. Like me, Adrian was taught to ring by Harry Turner at Shenfield in the 1970s and has lived in Great Dunmow for the last 20 years or so.

The matter raises a number of questions, including:

- are the Association's child protection policies sufficient to keep young and vulnerable people safe while involved in ringing activities?
- was the Master right to suspend his membership?
- did Adrian bring the good name of the Association into disrepute by continuing to ring peals for the Association after his conviction?
- should the Association be able to suspend or terminate membership in exceptional circumstances? What would be meant by exceptional circumstances, and who would decide? What would be the process for revoking the suspension or re-applying for membership?
- what should we do after Adrian has served his sentence and been released from custody? (NB this will largely be governed by Diocesan policy)

As this will be discussed at the Association's October committee meeting, I think it important that all members must be given the opportunity to comment, so please share your views either privately with the district officers or at the Canewdon district meeting.

John Harpole

Canewdon St Nicholas Bells Dedication, Re-dedication and Thanksgiving Service on 11th July.

At 3:30pm on July 11th 2009, after ceremoniously accepting a bell rope from the Venerable David Lowman, the Archdeacon of Southend, the two Canewdon tower captains and another 8 Canewdon ringers, accompanied by the tutors from the Prittlewell Ringing Centre quietly made their way up to the 1st floor ringing gallery while the choir sang and the Archdeacon, accompanied by Rev. Tim Clay, slowly walked up the aisle past the church packed with locals and bellringers.

The 10 Canewdon ringers nervously took hold at their pre-arranged positions, and on hearing Rev. Tim Clay's words "Let the bells be rung," 10-year-old Louise Meldon called, "Look to, treble's going, it's gone," and the bells rang out. After the service there followed a couple of hours of general ringing by the many ringers in attendance.

The dedication service was the final part of an ongoing effort to return bell ringing to Canewdon that had begun more than 80 years before.

Prior to 2009, there had been no full circle ringing at Canewdon for over 100 years. The legend in the village is that the 5 old bells were last rung full circle for the coronation of King Edward VII on 9th August 1902, and a photo exists taken around that time that appears to show the ringers outside the church. However, the photo is undated, has no caption and there is no record of any payments for ringing the five old bells after 1847. What is known is that by 1909 the old tenor was badly cracked and by 1923 so were the treble and the third.



Today, looking back to 3 years ago when Ken Smith called the first meeting of villagers interested in learning how to ring church bells, none of us realised just how much it would change and enrich our lives and that of our community. The loss of Ken in 2008 was a major blow to all of us, but all the work he had put in prior to his untimely death ensured that the project went ahead without any significant problems, and almost entirely as he had planned.

We have been ringing for services since February this year, and the numbers in the congregation have increased as a result. The bells have undoubtedly increased the awareness of the church in the village and we have had no adverse comments from anyone, apart from those that think the bells should be louder! Because the new 10 are one floor below the old bell frame and the louvers, and there are several large trees near the church, the bells are not very loud but this is not such a bad thing considering there has been no ringing here for many years. There are ways we can improve this and we may do so in the future. The next thing for us is the installation of the computer simulator on all 10 bells and we already have the equipment for this. After that will be the CCTV in the bell and ringing chambers.

We are deeply indebted to the ongoing help and assistance of the ringers from St Mary's Prittlewell and the Prittlewell Ringing Centre; without their tuition, advice and assistance the project at Canewdon would not have been the success it is. We would also like to thank all the regulars at our practice evenings that come along to help – without them, advancing such a novice band would be impossible.

We are still actively encouraging new starters and this has resulted in a steady influx of new ringers over the past few months. Three Canewdon ringers have now rung their first quarter, each ringing the tenor at Eastwood on separate occasions. We are still some way off ringing a quarter on our own at Canewdon, even on the front six, but this goal now looks far more obtainable than it did a few months ago.

We have produced a DVD (£5) with footage of each stage of the bell project at Canewdon and a small book (£2) is also available that deals with the history of the bells in Canewdon in some detail. Both will be available at the district meeting at Canewdon on September 19th or direct from us. We look forward to seeing many of you here in September.

Brian Meldon

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Rayleigh update

The Holy Trinity ringers are hoping to have all eight of their bells back in action in September, after the Whitechapel Bell Foundry have replaced the bearings. Contact Simon Smith for more details.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
2009 Diary of Events



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
Thursday 27 August	District Evening Practice	Brentwood (8)	7:30 pm
Saturday 19 September	DISTRICT MEETING	Canewdon (10)	3:00 pm*
Saturday 26 September	QUIZ NIGHT	North Ockendon	7:00 for 7:30 pm
Saturday 3 October	<i>Association Annual Dinner</i>	<i>County Hotel, Chelmsford</i>	
Saturday 10 October	<i>Association Executive Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Danbury</i>	<i>2:30 pm</i>
Saturday 17 October	District Afternoon Practice	Stanford le Hope	3:00 pm
Wednesday 28 October	District Evening Practice	Basildon (8)	7:30 pm
Saturday 21 November	DISTRICT MEETING Preceded by Call Change Competition	Navestock (6)	2:30 pm (note earlier start)
Thursday 26 November	District Evening Practice	Brentwood (8)	7:30 pm
Saturday 28 November	<i>Association Training Day</i>	<i>Hosted by Southern District</i>	
Saturday 5 December	<i>Association Carol Service</i>	<i>Writtle</i>	<i>tbc</i>

2010

Saturday 16 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Brentwood (8)	3:00 pm*
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** Please note the change in start times for both the September District Meeting
and the 2010 ADM.*

Any changes to the programme will be announced at District Meetings, by email
or via the District Newsletter.