

NEWSLETTER

NEXT EVENTS

ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY

26 November WRITTLE see page 4

DISTRICT SURPRISE PRACTICE

Thursday 17 November SOUTH WEALD 7.30pm

DISTRICT MTG & CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

Saturday 19 November 2.30pm NORTH OCKENDON

DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 10 December 3.30pm ROCHFORD



Saint Mary the Virgin, Shenfield
6 bells, tenor 9 cwt

See article on page 2 'A Hundred years since Augmentation'

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CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 10 December

3.30pm

ROCHFORD

Please come along and support the carol service!



MISSING QUARTERS

It looks like we have lost the details of two quarters rung during the district QP fortnight in June. As Andrew Beech pointed out at our recent meeting at Prittlewell, the report in the newsletter states that 22 quarters were rung; however, the details of only 20 were published in the newsletter and submitted to the Ringing World.

One of the missing quarters was at North Ockendon, but we do not know where the other rung was rung. If you think your quarter was not included in the last newsletter, then please let Rowena know.

NORTH OCKENDON

Monday 20 June 2011

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

42½ minutes

1. Brian Beech
2. Andrew Beech (C)
3. Michael Warren
4. Matthew Scott
5. Chris Bailey
6. Jack Lincoln

Rung for the Southern District Quarter Peal fortnight.

A hundred years since augmentation.

An out of tune 5 cwt. 5 to an acceptable 9cwt 6 in A flat.

In George Buckler's book of 1856, *Twenty- two Churches of Essex*, there is a chapter on Shenfield It states that "In the Parish of Margaretting the Church in the Manor of Shenfield has 4 bells dated, 1626, 1637, 1664 and 1715". Later, in 1898, a treble was added to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The result being a most out of tune ring. In July 1911 the offer of a new Tenor was accepted in the hope that it would improve the tonal effect.

A survey revealed that both bells and wooden frame to be totally insecure and ringing stopped immediately. Just two months later, in September, after fund raising, a faculty was obtained for a new ring of 6 in a steel frame. Warners of Cripplegate were given the contract at a cost of £270. The schedule of work to be completed by 9th December just 5 months from start to finish.

The front 5 were put in the melting pot to create, with a new tenor, a 9cwt. ring of 6 in Ab. To retain a link with the past the new front 5 have cast on them the inscriptions of their predecessors.

Saturday 23rd December 1911 was the day of the dedication service followed by High Tea at the Eagle and Child. The speeches included one urging the local band to take up the art of Change Ringing and to join the Essex Association who would be glad to help them progress. There was also a demonstration of hand bell ringing by a group from South Tottenham.

Christmas Day 1911 the bells were sounding out once again.

The Ringing Room At the time of augmentation in 1911 it was more spacious than we see it today. Initially all ropes fell directly to the floor. The strengthening steelwork was added 17 years later in 1928. Hence the awkwardness of ringing the 2nd and 3rd did not exist before 1928. Flooring was added after installation there being no trap doors in floor or ceiling.

1926 the Bearings The Warner Bearings were showing signs of wear and needed replacing. Boswell's of Ipswich undertook the work, again with plain bearings, at a cost of £25 plus £1 for some blocks to help reduce wear on the ropes.

1927 the Tower Steelwork Death Watch beetles had attacked the structure of the Tower and the affected timbers were removed. The additional strengthening steelwork, that we see to-day, was added bedded in concrete at ground level, attached to the main wooden vertical beams it goes right up to the 1911 steel frame. With the cross bracing in the Ringing Room it gives the much needed support and rigidity to the bells. In 1928 H E Stratton designed the steelwork (£105), Messrs. John Butler bought the steelwork (£131.17.5) & erected it (£329.12.10) the safety certificate issued in October. The result is far less room for ringers & the 2nd and 3rd ropes fall directly onto beams.

In the 1970s Harry Turner was asked, by the Probation Board, to find work for a group of youngsters. A special mix of red paint was purchased and the frame given a completely new coat

In the 1990s A family of Glis-glis (fat, or edible doormice!) were evicted from the Tower. Also the vertical wooden ladder for access to the Ringing Room was replaced by the dog-leg staircase we see today. Strictly speaking, a ladder, not a stair because of its angle.

2010 The clappers Complete overhaul by Taylor's of Loughborough. Cost, £873.02

2011 April Taylor's visited to discuss future work. Their comments were that overall the ring is in excellent condition, an attribute to those who, over the years, have maintained them.

Future work A faculty has obtained to mount the 5th & 6th on ball bearings. The wheels to have new soles & flanges. The soles to be of the, wider, modern design. And it is hoped that Taylor's can complete the work before Christmas 2011. That is in time to celebrate 100 years since augmentation.
Roger G Butt. 16th October 2011

Update on South Ockendon

Unfortunately there has been further delays with installing the new ring of bells in Holy Cross, South Ockendon. The building work is now complete, but Nicholson's have had to move the installation of the frame and bells back to November. This means that we will not be able to ring there after our November meeting, as originally hoped.

SURPRISE PRACTICE

The next surprise practice is at South Weald on Thursday 17th November, 7.30pm. The methods are Cassiobury and Rutland.

EACR Website

Can all tower correspondents please let the webmaster (webmaster@eacr.org.uk) know their email addresses, so that generic addresses (e.g. Bentley-Common@eacr.org.uk) can be added to the website that automatically forward to your personal address. This will be a great help to outing organisers.

NEWSLETTERS

Please send any and all reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, Tel: 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

End of Dec - copy 15 Dec

Distribution

A newsletter is circulated two weeks before each business meeting. Copies are sent to tower correspondents, preferably by email. If you receive a copy by email on behalf of your tower, please confirm receipt to Beth so we know each tower has at least one copy. Any member may request his or her own copy via email by contacting Beth.

DOROTHY & VIC DALE'S GOLDEN WEDDING

On September 25th, Vic and Dorothy Dale and 5 of their ringing friends from Essex drove to Findon in West Sussex, the church where they were married 50 years ago on September 23rd 1961. Despite one of our cars being delayed by 2 hours following the closure of the M23, a good quarter peal of Cambridge Minor was rung with Vic on the treble and Dorothy listening close by.



Before we started ringing Dorothy proudly showed us a peal board with her maiden name on it (Saunders). Dorothy went on to tell us that this was the first peal on the bells after augmentation in 1958, and that she was the then tower captain and had taught the local band to ring.

Findon, West Sussex

Sunday 25 September 2011

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Vic Dale
- 2 Rowena Marshall
- 3 Mark Robbins
- 4 Maria Jorysz
- 5 Paul Trueman
- 6 John Harpole (C)

To celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Vic and Dorothy Dale, married at this church on 23 September 1961. £5



Photo top: Dorothy and Vic, with (l-r) Mark Robbins, John Harpole, Rowena Marshall, Maria Jorysz, Paul Trueman.

Photo left: The previous evening, Vic and Dorothy had been invited to South Weald church hall for a fish and chip supper after the annual ringing outing. They were presented with a celebration cake, which they duly cut and shared with all present.

Striking Competition

Our annual call change competition will be held at North Ockendon on Saturday, November 19th. The draw will be at 2:30pm.

Please try and support this, and see if we can have a good competition!

This competition is especially aimed at less experienced ringers, so don't be afraid to enter. If you cannot get 6 people from your own tower, then try and get together with one or two other towers.

The bells are an easy going, ground floor ring, and I'm sure we will get rewarded with a scrumptious tea!

Please contact the District Master if you need a copy of the rules.

Grays Afternoon Practice

Many thanks to all those who attended the practice at Grays on 15th October; it was a great help and much appreciated by the new band there.

CAPTION COMPETITION



Ian Jorysz at the post outing bash at South Weald. We've had a few entries already:

'Red or white, red or white?'

'Now, how did that water into wine thing go?'

'New pair of glasses? Should have gone to Specsavers...'

Send your entry to the newsletter editor (page 3).

Association Training Day — Saturday 26th November 2011

Initial Meet at Writtle (South East District) at 9:45am

Four groups are on offer as follows:

Improving your Basic Skills/First Steps in Plain Hunt
To join this group you should be happy ringing a bell Rounds and you may have rung some Call Changes.

Plain Hunt/Trebling to Plain Methods on 5, 6 or 7
To join this group you need to have good bell control and to have started ringing plain hunt on 4 or 5.

Plain Bob Doubles and Minor
To join this group you need to be able to ring the treble to touches of Bob Doubles without assistance.

Grandsire Doubles
To join this group you need to be able to ring the treble to Grandsire Doubles or Bob Minor without assistance.

The application form is on page 10 and needs to be submitted by November 4th.

Notes from EACR Management Committee Meeting 8 October 2011

1. Change Ringing for the Future

There is a meeting, organised by the Central Council, on recruitment and training to be held on Saturday 12 November 2011 in Warwickshire. The conference is open to anyone who is passionate about the future of the Exercise, especially those who have an active interest in teaching ringing, to express their views about the long-term prospects for change ringing. All organisations affiliated to the Central Council are asked to be represented. There were no volunteers from the committee, but Brian Meads and Fred Bone will both be present and it was agreed that Fred would represent the EACR. Details are on the CCCBR website.

2. Annual dinner

This was successful with 95 attendees, at an overall deficit of approx £20. It is planned to hold a dinner in 2012.

The dinner was the first event organised by the Social Committee, under the leadership of Andrew Brewster; Hilary Donoghue is our district rep. It was agreed that the group would arrange the dinner and the Friday evening entertainment at the Ringing Course.

3. Treasurer's report

Proposed to increase the charge for adults attending the ringing course by £5, to £45.

There will be no increase in subscriptions for 2012

There is a new expenses claim form available on the website; this is to be used for all future expenses claims to meet statutory requirements.

Membership forms: the new forms must now be used as the Association is required to have up-to-date addresses for Gift Aid purposes. District Treasurers are encouraged to keep a database of members' addresses, as recommended by The Charity Commissioners.

4. Education officer's report

Helpers are still needed for the training day on 26th November.

Ringing course: alternative venues are being sought for the course, as

there have been problems with Honywood school in Coggeshall. Two options are being considered, but it is complex as a large number of towers are needed within a reasonable travelling distance. The 2012 course will almost certainly be in Coggeshall.

5. Newsletter

Items for the newsletter are still needed! Please send any copy to the newsletter editor

6. Publicity

Organisations are being asked to ring for the Olympics at 8am on Fri 22nd July 2012, for 3 mins as 'loudly and quickly as possible' (!) as part of a nationwide celebration.

The opening ceremony is 27th July and it is hoped towers will ring for that event.

Extra funds were requested for publicity events; this was discussed and it was proposed that funds of £450 would be available for 2012 only. Any further funding requests would go to the AGM or another committee meeting.

7. Webmaster

More input from Districts is requested as there is little information being sent to the Webmaster.

Generic e-mail addresses have been set up for 38 towers, and tower correspondents are encouraged to use this facility.

8. Technical advisor

Paul Bray is standing down as technical advisor with immediate effect and a replacement is sought, initially on a temporary basis until a new advisor can be elected at the next AGM.

The Technical advisor also convenes the Grants Committee so the responsibility for this now defaults to the Master until the AGM.

9. Grant applications

£3K for Great Tey agreed, towards re-tuning and re-hanging

£2.5K for Harwich refurbishment agreed

Willingale have now received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund; agreed that EACR would fund up to 10% of the bell-related costs, to a maximum of £6K.

MINUTES: District Meeting at Prittlewell, Saturday 17th September 2011

1. Welcome & Thanks

The Master welcomed all present. We had a few visitors earlier on in the day – John Everett from Boreham, Keith Gatcombe from Abbots Langley and Alan and Maureen Cansdale from Halstead (Northern District).

The Master thanked Father Shaun Conlon for taking the service and for the use of the bells, the organist Warren Symes, and to the Prittlewell ringers for the wonderful tea.

The service touch was a Stedman Triples and was rung by Cathryn Corns, Hilary Donoghue, Catherine Gisby, John Harpole, Gordon Lucas, Stephen Nash, David Sloman and Simon Greenwood.

2. Sign the Roll Book

The Master invited everyone to sign the roll book and to indicate on the sheet provided those who had been asked to record apologies for absence. In the roll book were two cards for members to sign – one was a get well card to Renée Page-Jones (Hutton) who had been admitted to hospital and the other was a golden wedding anniversary card to Dorothy and Vic Dale (South Weald).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held at Bentley Common on 19th March 2011 were printed in the April/May 2011 District Newsletter and circulated at the meeting. As there were no amendments the Minutes were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

The District Training Day on 2nd April was a course for Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles and was a very successful event.

On 12th-16th June was our Quarter Peal Fortnight. Of the twenty five towers in the District, all except two had quarters attempted in them, although six quarters were lost. There were 22 quarters scored in eighteen different towers and there were a number of firsts. Andrew Beech mentioned North Ockendon had rung a quarter peal and had given Rowena Marshall the donation for the quarter but unfortunately this was not published with the others. John Harpole is to speak to Rowena about this.

The 11th June was the District Outing to Cambridgeshire. Twenty six members visited various towers in the county. All Saints, Cottenham, St Mary, Burwell and Ely Cathedral to name but a few. Again, a very successful outing.

The 21st May was our District Striking Competition. Five towers took part with Downham coming first and Langdon Hills coming second.

The Association Finals took place at Rayne (6) Downham came 7th and Langdon Hills came 9th. The Eight Bell Competition took place at Great Bardfield where the Southern District was placed first. The trophy is at present at Bentley Common tower.

The Essex Country Show took place at Barleylands, Billericay, between 10th and 11th September. Seventeen people had approached Tracey Southgate, Association PRO, showing an interest in learning to ring. Alison Nash, Secretary, has already passed on the details to those towers who would benefit, namely Downham – 6 people, Rayleigh – 1 person, Hutton – 1 person, Basildon – 4 people, Rettendon – 4 people and Prittlewell – 1 person. A big “thank you” to Andy Martin and several other helpers who helped, not only on the two days, but also setting up the equipment the Friday before.

5. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Ray Jones concerning Shenfield bells. A faculty notice has been submitted to widen the sole boards and deepen the edge boards so that the sallies will not slip wheel. The fifth and sixth bells will be temporary removed to allow ball bearings to be fitted. Although Taylors of Loughborough will be carrying out the heavy work local manpower is helping out. All monetary costs have been met by Shenfield church. It is hoped on 23rd December a celebratory peal can be rung as on this date it will be the centenary of the six bells.

The Secretary, Alison Nash, had received an email concerning the Association Training Day to be held on Saturday 26th November. The course is to be held in the South East District starting at 9.45am at Writtle. The course topics are: Improving basic skills/first steps in Plain Hunt, Plain Hunt/Trebling to Plain Methods on 5, 6, and 7 bells, Plain Bob Doubles & Minor and Grandsire Doubles. If there is anyone who wishes to be a student, please contact Liz Rayner, Association Training Officer, direct. Students will be on a first come, first served basis. If there is anyone who would like to be a helper on the course, again, please contact Liz Rayner stating whether you can help in the morning, afternoon or all day. All helpers gratefully accepted.

6. Election of New Members

(a) Ringing Members

Jonathan Mills (Holy Cross, South Ockendon, Catholic Church) proposed by Simon Greenwood, seconded by Cathy Merivale.

(b) There were no Friend members of the Association elected.

(c) There were no non-resident members of the Association elected.

7. Training

If anyone would like training of any kind or perhaps a particular tower is struggling with a method and they need a day of intensive training please contact Cathryn Corns, District Education Officer.

8. Future Events

The Master ran through the remainder of the District Programme for 2011:

The next District Surprise Practice is on 22nd September at South Weald. The next District Afternoon Practice at Grays on 15th October.

Hilary Donoghue spoke about the Annual Dinner at Chelmsford on 1st October. She stated that our district was the least represented and that it would be wonderful if more people from our district were present.

The next District Meeting will be at North Ockendon on 19th November when the Call Change Competition will be held before hand, 2.30pm start. The Master, John Harpole, tried to encourage more bands to take part. Don't be put off by the anti clockwise ring at North Ockendon. Let's try to get another tower name on the shield.

On 10th December there is the District Carol Service at Rochford. Ringing starts at 3pm.

On to 2012 – the Annual District Meeting is being held at Rayleigh (8). Ringing starts at 3pm.

9. Apologies for Absence

There were 6 apologies for absence. These can be seen in the Attendance Record.

10. Any Other Business

At Holy Cross, South Ockendon, Catholic Church, the building work has started. The wooden ceiling has been installed and so has the two trap doors. Nicholsons are hoping to start installing the bells on 17th October and to finish around 10 days later. Therefore the bells should be available at the beginning of November. There will be 8 bells, the tenor will weigh 3 cwt, 3 quarters and 9lbs and the treble 1½ cwt. As the bells should be ready by the November meeting on 19th November, Simon Greenwood, asked whether, instead of ringing at North Ockendon after the Call Change Competition and meeting, would we like to go to South Ockendon. The meeting accepted his offer.

Beth Johnson is in urgent need of photographs which can be used on the front of the District Newsletter and other material – anniversaries, birthdays, outings, etc. will also be gratefully received. The next newsletter will be out at the end of October. All material needs to be with Beth Johnson by 15th October.

Mark Robbins, District Treasurer, reminded everyone of the new Essex Association Rules. All subscriptions are due on 1st January each year. He quoted “Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 30th April each year shall not participate in or vote at meetings or ring peals for the Association until the subscription is paid”. This now includes all those over 65 years old. He also stated that it is a condition of membership he will need the addresses of all those who are Association Members. There was a small discussion on this point. As a reminder the subscriptions are £8 per adult member and junior members £4.

Penny and David Sloman’s son, Richard, will soon be working for Care International in Bangladesh. They are entering a 10km (6.1 miles) sponsored walk soon and would be grateful if anyone would sponsor them.

Peter Sloman advised DVD’s were available of the installation of St Mary’s Prittlewell bells at a price of £7.50 if anyone was interested.

Alison Nash, District Secretary, advised the meeting the district officers will soon be organising the 2012 district diary. Please feel free to give her any suggestions on where to visit in the district or what to do that may be different. Any suggestions would be helpful.

The service collection was £63.37

Profit from Teas was £84

Profit from Raffle was £59

The meeting closed with the raffle at 6.55pm.



ST JAMES'S PALACE

From: The Office of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and HRH Prince Henry of Wales

Private and Confidential

2nd September, 2011

Dear Miss Southgate,

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to thank you for the letter you sent on the occasion of their Wedding, kindly informing them of the wonderful celebratory bell ringing in the County of Essex. I do apologise for the time it has taken to reply, we are responding as quickly as we possibly can. However due to the tens of thousands of letters and cards received this has taken longer than we would have wished.

Their Royal Highnesses have been overwhelmed by the incredibly kind messages they have received and they were immensely touched that you should take the trouble to write as you did about this thoughtful and greatly appreciated tribute for this very special occasion. It really was most thoughtful of you and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to send you their warmest thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Holloway', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mrs. Claudia Holloway

Miss Tracey Southgate

EACR at the Essex Country Show, Barleylands (Billericay) 10th-11th September 2011

We had more notice this year so advertising for helpers was more straightforward and volunteers were easier to find, thank goodness. The organisers also contacted us before we even asked to register, which was a bonus.

Because the Maplestead Mini Ring has now moved north, we borrowed the Vesty Ring from the Suffolk Guild. My thanks to Vicky and Nick deVries and Bob the dog for helping me to go and pick it up. Also, thanks to Andy Martin for taking it to the show ground.



All set up and ready to go

Andy and I decided to take the Friday off work to go straight to the showground and set things up, which enabled us to finish in the afternoon. Last year we were still putting things together in the dark, which was quite interesting. Andy decided he would camp on the site for the weekend, and proceeded to make himself very comfortable indeed in his new tent with all mod cons. I stayed at my folks again, which saved all the trundling up and down the car park we affectionately call the A12.



Jim Laken doing a sterling job with some eager volunteers

The helpers all found the Vesty ring easy to handle, and in between demonstrations we did indulge in courses of Grandsire and Cambridge that even sounded like they were supposed to!



l-r: Roy Threadgold, David Sloman and Andy Martin indulging in some Grandsire

Each day started off quietly for the first hour which had me wondering if this was a good idea, but I need not have worried. There were definitely peaks and troughs and times when we were rushed off our feet. I was pleased to notice that the majority of the enquiries about learning to ring fell right in the age bracket we had in mind – the 9-14 year olds. We had enquiries for 5 out of the 6 EACR districts which was great news, with the southern end of the county benefiting the most – not surprising given the venue.



Can I have a lift back to my stand please?
I've been on my feet all day!

We also had two people express an interest in returning to ringing after a 30 year gap, and also a grandfather and grandson combo. The grandfather last rung 60 years ago, but given that his grandson was so keen he was prepared to come out of retirement to encourage him. We also had a few enquiries for other Associations and Guilds, ranging from Lincoln, Middlesex, and our neighbours in Suffolk.

Now it is up to people to give these interested would-be ringers an enthusiastic tour of their ringing rooms followed by some lessons on real tower bells. Fingers crossed, some of these turn into long lasting ringers.

My thanks must go to the fab group of helpers – Andy Martin, Janet Edwards, Jim Laken, Hilary Donaghue, Simon Higgins, Roger Hobson, Tony Lowe, David and Penny Sloman and Christine Allman.

Tracey Southgate
Public Relations Officer

17th September 2011