Southern District NEWSLETTER

ST LAURENCE EASTWOOD IN THE SNOW

Six-bells, tenor 9cwt, practice night Thursday 7.30-9.30pm. Wikipedia describes the church as “one of the finest and most important small medieval churches in South Essex, and of exceptional architectural, archaeological and historical significance”. At one time the church was under threat due to plans to extend Southend airport, which adjoins the building but now, we are delighted that the demands of the airport extension have been able to be accommodated with the church remaining intact.

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

What a year 2012 has been, both for our nation and for bellringing in general. Firstly, we had the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee River Pageant being led down the River Thames by the Jubilee Peal, and then the London Olympics being opened by Bradley Wiggins striking that enormous bell. I was extremely proud that here in the Southern District we supported both events. In June, peals and quarter peals were rung for the Jubilee, along with other special ringing. Then our bells rang again as the Olympic torch relay made its way through the District, and, finally, we rang to mark the London Olympics, with many of us joining the national call to ring at 8:12 am on the day of the opening ceremony. This is in addition to the ringing we do week after week to call people to worship.

So, thank you to all who supported the District’s events throughout the year. Special thanks to those of you who helped with the organisation and provided refreshments, and to Alison, Cathryn and Mark, my fellow district officers, for their support; also to Beth for producing our fantastic newsletters and to Steve, our Bell Grants Committee Rep.

Our district programme came to an end with an enjoyable and well-supported carol service at Downham. I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Christmas, and all the best for 2013.

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NEXT SURPRISE MAJOR PRACTICE

South Weald, 17 January - 7.30pm. Methods of the evening are Belfast and London. All Surprise major ringers welcome.

NEWSLETTERS

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

Newsletters are distributed at the end of Feb, April, August, October, and December - copy date 15th of these months.

Copies are sent to tower correspondents, preferably by email. Any member may request a copy via email by contacting Beth.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our ADM takes place at St Martin's, Basildon on Saturday January 19th. As usual ringing will start at 3 pm, followed by a service and tea – the chef tells me that there will be lots of yummy cake for us to enjoy! You can park in the adjacent church car park. Directions to the church can be found on the church website http://www.stmartinsbasildon.co.uk/how-to-find-us/map/.

After tea we will hold our meeting. We will review our activities in 2012, look forward to 2013, elect new members, and elect our district officers. We have 8 district officers to elect (2012 holders in brackets):

Master (John Harpole) Deputy Master (Cathryn Corns)

Secretary (Alison Nash) Treasurer (Mark Robbins)

All of whom are trustees of the Essex Association and sit on the Association's management committee.

In addition we have:

Report editor (Beth Johnson) Education officer (Cathryn Corns)

District public relations officer (vacant) Bell Grants Committee Rep (Steve Nash)

Cathryn has indicated that she does not want to stand again as Deputy Master or Education Officer. Others are willing to stand again, although will gladly step aside if someone else wants to do a particular role!

If you are interested in getting involved with running the district, then please speak to one of the officers. The district cannot function without district officers. No particular qualities or qualifications are required – just a love of bellringing! John Harpole, Master

BASILDON 50TH ANNIVERSARY QUARTER PEAL

As well as being Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday, November 11th is also the feast day of St Martin of Tours, to whom Basildon church is dedicated. This year is the 50th anniversary of the church, and the climax of the celebrations was a special eucharist at 6:30pm on the 11th, at which the Bishop of Chelmsford presided. To mark the occasion a quarter peal of St Martins Bob Triples seemed appropriate.

"I have been asked by Bishop Steven to convey his thanks to you all for the quarter peal. He commented on what a wonderfully stirring sight it was to able to both see and hear the event."

Roger Hobson

Basildon Bell Tower Captain

Sunday, 11 November 2012 in 45 mins (11-2-24)

1260 St Martin's Bob Triples

1 Helen Harpole	2 Hilary Donoghue
3 Maria Jorysz	4 Cathryn Corns
5 Jim Laken	6 John Cousins
7 John Harpole (C)	8 Paul Trueman

Rung on St Martin's Day before a special eucharist presided over by the Bishop of Chelmsford to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of St Martin's Church. 1st in method for all except 7.

SOUTH OCKENDON SPECIAL LEARNERS PRACTICES

To help support the South Ockendon band, we have arranged monthly practices at Holy Cross on Saturday mornings through the winter months. While mainly aimed at the South Ockendon learners, all Southern district members are very welcome to attend, and we particularly need some experienced ringers to help with call changes and plain hunting.

The practices will start at 10 am and go on to midday on the following Saturdays:

Sat. 5th January 2013
Sat. 2nd February 2013
Sat. 2nd March 2013

OBITUARY

FRANCIS GODDARD

Francis began ringing with his brother Bert at Bentley Common in the 1930s; he and Bert moved to help set up a band at South Weald when the bells started ringing again after the war as there were only a couple of pre-war ringers in the tower. On Sundays Francis and Bert would ring at Brentwood, then cycle up to South Weald to ring for Mattins. Francis was instrumental in the augmentation of South Weald from six to eight in 1988 although rumour has it that the local band were quite happy with their six bells and the augmentation was the brainchild of the church warden.

Frances was a regular quarter peal ringer and has 16 peals recorded to his name in the early 50s. He was elected to Royal Society of Cumberland Youths in 1946 alongside Des Mayall, another local ringer very active in the 60s and 70s. Francis gave up as Tower Captain at St Peters in 1998, and ceased ringing after that. His funeral was on 12th December 2012 at St Paul's, Bentley Common.

Beth Johnson

INGRAVE OUTING

On a rather damp 10th of November St Nicholas', Ingrave ringers, many from Hutton All Saints and a wide selection of guests from the Southern area, set off for a day's ringing.

Our first ring was at St Margaret's, Stanford Le Hope with a lovely ring of 8. It was reassuring to the Ingrave ringers following an 'interesting' ring on Brentwood's 8 as a pre-tour practice (we only have 6 at Ingrave!).

This was followed up with St Michaels, Fobbing's 8, with discussion as to how 'inexperienced' is 'inexperienced' due to the Hastings Stays. Our experience varied from 10 months to 60+ years.

Lunch was a welcome break at a Real Ale pub, a shame not to have had longer to sample it!

Onwards to St Giles, Orsett to an impressively spacious ringing room, with definite female touches, apologies to any male ringers there.

Once we had found Holy Cross at South Ockendon (!) we enjoyed their 8 bells, and many felt they produced a very 'pretty' sound.

Finally on to St Mary's, North Ockendon for their anticlockwise ring – a bit confusing to begin with, but a lovely end to our day out. We witnessed a beautiful sunset through the church windows.

We were so warmly welcomed in all our churches, it was brilliant.

In the evening a number of us gathered to discuss the day's ring over a convivial glass or two.

I would also like to thank all the people I liaised with for making my first Tower Tour planning go so smoothly and putting up with silly 'questions'.

I believe I have been nominated for next year, so watch this space.

Liz Atkins

End of outing photo at North Ockendon.Off to a well-desrved supper.

CALL CHANGE STRIKING COMPETITION

The district call change striking competition was held at Langdon Hills on Saturday November 17th. I had invited Richard Dunhill, who learnt to ring at Langdon Hills, to judge the competition. As Richard had only judged one competition before, I offered to help him. So, while everyone else spent the afternoon inside the warm church, Richard and I were in a car with the windows wide open in a nearby car park. As well as trying to keep warm, we sometimes had to struggle to hear the bells as vehicles climbed up to the top of the hill on which the church is sited; no doubt a few faults were missed because of a particularly noisy car or moped struggling to climb the 118 metres to the top of the hill!

After a quick ring to remind ourselves how easy the bells are to handle, we agreed on our strategy for judging the competition and what classified as a fault. We then settled into the car and listened intently to each of the six teams. It was interesting hearing how each of the bands interpreted the rules. While some teams rang a good selection of changes, others rang the minimum and finished with 2 or 3 minutes of rounds. As each team finished we counted up the faults and agreed on a few comments on the ringing.

After our service, the tasty tea and our quarterly meeting, Richard gave out the results. The team with the lowest number of faults turned out to be the scratch band, captained by Ron Brown. After a quick perusal of the rules, I decided that they were ineligible to receive the trophy. This meant that the official winners were yet again the band from North Ockendon, and so I then presented the trophy to Andrew Beech.

A big thank you to everyone for entering, and giving us a good competition. Special thanks to Richard Dunhill for travelling from Braintree to judge our competition.

Results:

1 – Ron's Specials (5 faults)

2 – North Ockendon (12 faults)

3 – Prittlewell D (18 faults)

4 – Prittlewell C (33 faults)

5 – South Weald (40 faults)

6 – Downham (46 faults)

Prittlewell – C

Penny Sloman, Sandra Marham, Ros Skipper, Alyson Browning, Peter Sloman, Laurence Beale

Ron's Specials

Ron Brown, Cathryn Corns, John Cousins, Andy Martin, Alan Gisby, Helen Harpole

North Ockendon

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

Prittlewell – D

Anne Porter, Steve Halliwell, James Laden, Richard Sloman, David Sloman, John Woollard

South Weald

Vic Dale, Nicole Brooks, Maria Jorysz, Al Sacco, Paul Trueman, Mark Robbins

Downham

Hilary Donoghue, Jean Pavely, Linda Stewart, Barbara Leigh, Gareth Bayard, Chris Tucker

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Nominations for Association Officers and Central Council Reps for election at the AGM next May, need to be with Vicki Chapman by 1st February 2013; nomination forms available from Vicki (secretary@eacr.org.uk).

Master – currently Brian Meads; General Secretary – currently Vicki Chapman;
Treasurer – currently Andrew Brewster;
Property Trustees x 3 – currently Mary Bone, Colin Chapman and Andrew Taylor;
Public Relations Officer – currently Tracey Southgate; Technical Advisor – currently vacant;
Education Officer – currently Liz Rayner;
Independent Examiners x2 – currently Richard Dunhill and Michael Green

ALL positions are open to either re-election of the current incumbent, or nomination for someone else however, the positions in bold above will either become, or are currently vacant and require particular attention. Role descriptions for these posts are available from Vicki or from the EACR website. If you are interested, or you know someone that would be good at it, please take a look or speak to the current post holder, myself, Brian or Andrew.

In 2013 we also need to elect 5 Central Council Representative to serve for the triennium starting in 2014. A separate nomination form is available for this purpose, which also needs to be returned to Vicki by 1 February 2013.

Our current representatives are: Wendy Godden; Stephen Nash; John Armstrong; Fred Bone and Brian Meads. Brian has however said that he will not be seeking re-election as CC Rep at the AGM because he is, as Chairman of the Ringing Foundation, an ex officio member of the Council and therefore thinks it right to allow the opportunity for another member of the Association to represent us. If you have any questions regarding nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vicki Chapman

MINUTES

MEETING AT LANGDON HILLS SATURDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2012

Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the Attendance Book. There were 32 members present, including Ros Skipper from Prittlewell, Al Sacco from South Weald and Richard Dunhill, Call Change Competition Judge from the Northern District.

Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Colin Hopkinson for taking the service and Tony Dunhill for playing the organ. He also thanked the Langdon Hills ringers for the use of the bells and for the lovely tea.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held at South Weald on 15th September 2012 were printed in the October Newsletter (no. 125), and also circulated at the meeting. There was one amendment – paragraph 1, Welcome, Ros with one "S". The Minutes were then signed as a true copy.

Matters Arising

The Master reiterated on what had happened since the last meeting. The Annual Dinner was in October and, again, was not very well attended by our district. On Saturday 20th October we held a District Practice at Orsett which was not only well attended but members of both the Orsett and South Ockendon bands who attended gained from the experience.

An update was requested concerning the Scout leader from Stanford-le-Hope who had contacted us regarding an exercise with some 200 of his scouts. Cathryn Corns, District Training Officer, had contacted him about the scouts hiring a mobile mini ring and showing them how to ring bells on a mini ring before going to a tower peal of bells as it was thought it was not practical to have a couple of towers open for 200 children. She is still awaiting a response.

Correspondence

An email had been received from the Vicki Chapman, Association Secretary, concerning nominations of a Life Member. Any nominations for Life Membership of the Association must reach the Association Secretary, no later than 31st December 2012.

Election of News Members

There were no election of new members.

Management Meeting Report

There are still positions vacant in the Association. Namely Honorary Technical Adviser, Public Relations Officer and also Education Officer. If anyone felt they may be able to fill one of these positions, please contact an Association Officer. It was pointed out that as David Sloman had previously held the position of Honorary Technical Adviser we felt sure he would be only too pleased to talk to anyone wondering whether to take up this post.

Training

Nothing to report.

Future Events

On Saturday 8th December we are holding an Advent Carol Service at Downham. Ringing from 3.30pm, service to start at 4.30pm followed by tea and mince pies.

The Annual District Meeting is being held on Saturday 19th January 2013 at Basildon. Ringing from 3pm, followed by service, tea and then business meeting.

Also on the morning of the Carol Service on 8th December the first of the South Ockendon Ringers Practice is being held from 10am to 12 noon. This is primarily to help the South Ockendon ringers progress in their ringing as they have been left to fend for themselves since the departure of Simon Greenwood. The ringing will be rounds and call changes and progressing to Plain Hunt. These sessions will also take place on Saturday 5th January 2013, Saturday 2nd February, and Saturday 2nd March. To make these sessions a success there is the need for helpers. If you are able to attend as a helper on all or some of these dates can you please let John Harpole, District Master, know.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from 12 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

Any Other Business

As from January 2013 the District will need someone to take over the position of Deputy District Master as Cathryn Corns is stepping down from this position. If you feel you may be able to fill this position, could you please advise either John Harpole, District Master or Alison Nash, District Secretary. Although the other District Officers are willing to continue in their posts for another year, if you feel you would like to "stand" as a District Officer, please remember you will need someone to nominate you and second you at the Annual District Meeting being held at Basildon on Saturday 19th January 2013.

Stephen Nash, Association Child Protection Officer, advised the meeting that the Diocesan Child Protection Officer, Rev. Jean Halliday, has retired. There is presently an interim officer taking on the roll until a suitable person is found.

Call Change Competition Results

A good afternoon ringing was had by all. Six teams took part namely, Downham, North Ockendon, Prittlewell C band, and Prittlewell D band, South Weald and a scratch band – Ron's Allsorts. The results were: In first place Ron's Allsorts with only 5 faults, North Ockendon with 12 faults, Prittlewell D with 18 faults, Prittlewell C with 33 faults, South Weald with 40 faults and Downham with 46 faults. Unfortunately as more than two teams were represented in Ron's Allsorts the rules state this band could not inherit the trophy so North Ockendon will have their name on the trophy for another year.

A big "Thank You" to Richard Dunhill and to John Harpole who were our judges for the afternoon.

The service collection raised: £57.82

Raffle: £54

Profit from Tea: £50