

NEWSLETTER



NEXT EVENTS

Thursday 15 March 7.30pm
District Surprise Practice
South Weald

Saturday 17 March 3pm
District Meeting
Great Wakering

Saturday 24 March 10-12pm
District Morning Practice
South Ockendon

Thursday - Saturday 12-14 April
Association Ringing Course
Coggeshall

Saturday 21st April 7 for 7.30pm
Quiz Night
South Ockendon

*Our picture this issue is Holy Trinity,
Rayleigh - 8 bells Tenor 16cwt*

Practice night Tuesday

*Many thanks to the Rayleigh ringers
for their hospitality at our Annual
Meeting in January along with the
excellent hot tea.*

(photo courtesy of Cathryn Corns)

From the Master...

A big thank you to all of you who attended our district ADM at Rayleigh in January, and for re-electing me as your Master for another year. All of our existing district officers were also re-elected, with Alison continuing as secretary, Mark as treasurer and Cathryn as deputy master / training officer.

We have already held our first event since the ADM, with the afternoon practice at Canewdon attracting more than 30 ringers from 13 different towers. We rang everything from call changes, plain hunt and Grandsire to Cambridge Royal.

Attached to this newsletter you will find our district programme for 2012. If anyone has suggestions for

additional events, then please discuss with one of the district officers.

You will notice that we have not scheduled a quarter peal fortnight this year. Instead I hope we will come together and attempt many quarters and other ringing for both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in early June, and the Olympics later in the summer. If anyone would like to help me co-ordinate this, then please let me know.

I hope to see many of you at our events throughout 2012.

John Harpole

CONTACTS

MASTER

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DEPUTY MASTER & EDUCATION OFFICER

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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.

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 a copy via email by contacting Beth.

A Full House of Masters

At the Annual District Meeting in January, it was spotted that all the District Masters since the Southern District was formed in 1968 were present. See the photograph below, left to right: Mike Hallett 1968-1969, Gordon Lucas 1970-1974, Stephen Halliwell 1975-1983, Paul Cammiade 1984-1987, John Harpole 1988-1991, Roger Dorking 1992-1995, Stephen Nash 1996-1998, Andrew Martin 1999-2001, Andrew Beech 2002-2007, John Harpole 2008 to present day.



Thank you!

The members of the Bentley Common band would like to thank everyone who helped and supported their fundraising efforts over the last months. We are pleased to announce that our set of hand bells have now been refurbished and carrying cases purchased and they look and sound wonderful! They will be re-dedicated in church shortly. Thank you once again.

The Bentley Ringers.



Membership

Have you been a member of the Association for more than 50 years? Under our new rules anyone with more than 50 years continuous membership is entitled to life membership, and is no longer required to pay a subscription.

Please speak to the district treasurer if you think this applies to you.

SURPRISE PRACTICE

The next surprise practice is at South Weald on Thursday 15th March, 7.30pm. The methods are Lincolnshire and 8-spliced.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OUTING

This year's outing will be on Saturday June 9th, when we will be visiting towers south of Maidstone in Kent.

Put the date in your calendar now.

More details in the next newsletter.

Quiz Night

**Saturday 21st April
North Ockendon**

7pm for 7.30pm start.
Please consider taking a table of 6 - see attached poster to display in your tower.

Essex Ringing Course

There are 55 applications for this course; applications are now closed however, HELPERS ARE NEEDED! If you can help for a half day or a whole day please contact Hilary Donoghue (Norsehound@aol.com) as soon as possible.

60-spliced Surprise Minor!

On Sunday 4th December the normal Langdon Hills Sunday service band rang a quarter peal of 60-spliced surprise minor, 1440 changes in 50 minutes – something we don't believe has been done before.

We had been working towards this for some time; the plan was to use a range of methods based on the Luton group, with one back-work, 7 possible middle-works and a range of front-works.

As several of the method permutations had not been rung previously we had to ring and name the individual methods before we could splice them together. We found that the only front-works which went with all 7 middle-works were asymmetric, adding a further complication.

It was Gordon's idea, Cathryn found some new front-works, Steve and Andy shared the conducting in the build-up and kept an eye on us all, Alan kept the treble in the right place (absolutely vital!) and Dennis showed that even at 80 years young he can show the youngsters how to ring!

If you want a challenge give it a try - there are several 'new', un-rung frontworks to play with, you could ring asymmetric works in 3-4, or try a different backwork – but if you think it isn't really very difficult just try ringing and conducting it!

Cathryn Corns

Sun, 4 Dec 2011 at Langdon Hills a quarter peal of 60-spliced surprise minor was rung for morning service, 1440 changes in 50 minutes.

Methods rung were: Great Ryburgh, Coalhouse, Pigstye Green, Herongate, Jury Hill, Watery Lane, Dry Street, Eastwoodbury, Hawkwell, Kent Hill, Ghyllgrove, Ashingdon, Young's End, Shotgate, Westcliff, Fiddler's Hamlet, Ulting, Cessland, Xesse, Old Turncole, Ugley Green, Ballards Gore, Paglesham, Stonebridge, Two Tree Island, Canvey Island, Potton Island, Valiants, Rushley Island, Zider Pass, New England Island, Wallasea Island, Havengore Island, Bridgemarsh Island, Northey Island, Great Cobb Island, Cobmarsh Island, Pewit Island, Bramble Island, Ray Island, Rat Island, Cindery Island, Hedge End Island, Horsey Island, Skippers Island, Paul, St Erth, Nevendon, Mucking, Buttsbury, Tilbury, Hullbridge, Lelant, Ludgvan, Rawreth, Oozedam, Childerditch, Chadwell, Fambridge, Rhyl

- 1-Alan Gisby
- 2-Cathryn Corns
- 3-Gordon Lucas
- 4-Dennis Stott
- 5-Stephen Nash
- 6-Andrew Martin (C)

Most spliced surprise minor for all the band, longest length: 2

Notes from EACR committee meeting

4th Feb 2012

- 1) The Association now owns 3 digital projectors which are available to loan to EACR committee members. There is no charge if these are borrowed for District events, but a £10 hire charge and £50 deposit is required for other loans, e.g. for local tower events.
 - 2) The Association's financial position is stable, although total funds have decreased by £3,350 as at 31/12/2011. The ringing course made a £30 deficit but still has adequate accumulated funds. The adult fees have been increased by £5, to £45, in 2012 to cover increased hire and catering costs.
 - 3) Members are reminded that they will not be able to vote at the AGM unless subs have been paid by 30/04/2012.
 - 4) AGM arrangements: 09.15h ringing at Chelmsford cathedral, 10.30h service, 11.15h meeting. Afternoon ringing is in the SW District with tea at Theydon Garnon; members are encouraged to visit the afternoon towers as recent turnout has been poor
 - 5) There are still no nominations for the post of Hon Technical Advisor and anyone interested is asked to contact Brian Meads
 - 6) Life members:
 - a. People who have 50 years continuous membership of the association are entitled to Life Membership - anyone who believes that they qualify under this rule should make themselves known to the secretary
 - b. Life members are currently entitled to attend the Annual Dinner free of charge; it was agreed that this would in future apply only to elected Life Members.
 - 7) Grant applications: an application has been received from St Saviour, Walthamstow to help in pigeon-proofing the tower. It was agreed that £250 be offered subject to inspection
 - 8) Education officer's report
 - a. further courses are planned at the Chigwell Ringing centre. The next is on 'Teaching the Teachers' aimed for new tower captains and those who are starting to teach new ringers. At present there are few applicants for this and anyone interested should contact Liz Rayner.
 - b. Some people who had booked places failed to turn up at the Training Day last November; other people on the waiting list were therefore deprived of a place. It was suggested that, at the discretion of the Training Officer an advance charge will be made for this course.
 - 9) Essex Ringing Course: there are 55 applications for this course, applications are now closed. HELPERS ARE NEEDED! If you can help for a half day or a whole day please contact Hilary Donoghue as soon as possible
- Alternative venues are still being sought for future courses. The S, SE and SW Districts were all asked to look at possible tower availability for a future course by the end of May 2012. At present, Coggshall is used for 7 sessions and 6 towers with simulators are used.
- 10) Public Relations Officer report:
 - a. ringing is encouraged for St George's Day (23 Apr) as 'Ring for England', for the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics. These are events that everyone can participate in from call change ringing to peals. All ringing for the Jubilee should be notified to Tracey Southgate as she intends to collate performances and send a commemorative booklet to Buckingham Palace.
 - b. A stand is to be booked at this year's Essex Country Show at Barleylands on 8-9th September and volunteers will be needed to help!
 - c. Several Districts still do not have a PRO - a volunteer is still required in the Southern District!
 - 11) Annual Dinner is to be held at The County Hotel in Chelmsford on 5th October at the same price as last year, with an 'early bird' discount available.

Cathryn Corns

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting at Rayleigh

Saturday 21st January 2012

1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 58 members present, including visitors – Brian Meads, Association Master, from Coggeshall, Andrew Brewster (Association Treasurer) & Christina Brewster (Book Stall Holder), from Writtle, Peter Eves (LVP) from Chelmsford Cathedral and earlier in the day Jim Belshaw from Kensington.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked Rev. John Townsend, for taking the service and Ed Burt for playing the organ. He also thanked the Rayleigh ringers for the use of the bells and for the wonderful hot tea.

The service touch was a Plain Course of Bristol rung by Hilary Donoghue, Helen Harpole, Lydia Roberts, Simon Greenwood, Gordon Lucas, Stephen Nash, Brian Meads and John Harpole.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at North Ockendon on 19th November 2011 were printed in the January 2012 Newsletter, and also circulated at the meeting. There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

At the previous district meeting we were advised that only a fraction of towers had requested their email details be included on the Association website. This was discussed again and it was concluded that the district secretary will contact all towers requesting an email address that can be linked to the Association website.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence has been received from Vicki Chapman, Association Secretary for –

- (a) Nominations for Association Officers namely Master, Secretary and Treasurer, 3 Property Trustees and 2 Independent Examiners. Nominations must be with the Association Secretary by 1st February 2012.
- (b) Notices of motions for the Association Annual General Meeting must be with the Association Secretary by 1st February 2012.
- (c) Nominations for Life Membership of the Associations. Names should have been received by the Association Secretary by 31st December 2011. No names were put forward.

6. Reports

- (a) The Master, John Harpole, presented his report for 2011 and is attached to these Minutes.
- (b) The Secretary, Alison Nash, presented her report for 2011 and is attached to these Minutes.
- (c) The Treasurer, Mark Robbins, presented the district accounts for 2011 and is attached to these Minutes.

7. Election of District Officers

1. The Association Master, Brian Meads, took the chair while nominations for Honorary Officers (members of the EACR Management Committee) were taken:

- (a) John Harpole, was proposed as Master, by Stephen Nash and seconded by Mark Robbins and was re-elected.
 - (b) Cathryn Corns was proposed as Deputy Master, by David Sloman and seconded by Peter Sloman and was re-elected.
 - (c) Alison Nash was proposed as Secretary, by Chris Bailey and seconded by Cathryn Corns and was re-elected.
 - (d) Mark Robbins was proposed as Treasurer by Beth Johnson and seconded by Vic Dale and was re-elected.
2. John Harpole, District Master, re-took the chair for the other appointments:
- (a) Cathryn Corns agreed to stand again as Education Officer. She was proposed by Lawrence Beal and seconded by Penny Sloman.
 - (b) No-one was willing to stand as Public Relations Officer and therefore this post remains vacant.
 - (c) Beth Johnson was willing to stand again as Newsletter Editor and was proposed by John Cousins and seconded by Andrew Beech.
 - (d) Our Bell Grants Committee representative is Stephen Nash. He was willing to stand for another year and was proposed by Andy Martin and seconded by Roger Hobson.

8. Election of New Members

(a) Ringing Members

Tom Pinnock (Basildon) proposed by Roger Hobson, seconded by John Harpole.

Jennifer Pinnock (Basildon) proposed by Roger Hobson, seconded by John Harpole.

Nigel Payn (Thorpe Bay) proposed by Phil Harrison, seconded by Judith Rolf.

John Thornhill (South Ockendon) proposed by Simon Greenwood, seconded by Cathy Merivale.

Mary Thornhill (South Ockendon) proposed by Simon Greenwood, seconded by Cathy Merivale.

Nicole Pound (South Weald) proposed by Beth Johnson, seconded by Mark Robbins.

Leonard Dickens (Eastwood) proposed by Peter Knight, seconded by Martin Newman.

Jacqueline Channa (Ingrave) proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Ronnie Crighton.

Sophie Olley (Ingrave) proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Ronnie Crighton.

Elizabeth Atkins (Ingrave) proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Ronnie Crighton.

(b) Friends of the Association

There were no Friends of the Association.

(c) Non-Resident Members

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

9. District Programme for 2012

The Master ran through the District Programme for 2012:

The District Afternoon Practice is on Saturday 18th February at Canewdon. Everyone welcome.

The next District Meeting is at Great Wakering on Saturday 17th March. Ringing starts at 3pm.

South Ockendon are hosting a District Morning Practice on Saturday 24th March. Ringing 10am to 12noon.

North Ockendon is hosting another Quiz Night on Saturday 21st April. 7.30pm start.

On Saturday 5th May we are holding a Training Day at Ingrave - "The Other Doubles". Progressing from Plain Bob Doubles to Reverse Canterbury, St Martins, and St Simons. If you/your tower would like to do a course contact Cathryn Corns and she will arrange it for you.

10. Any Other Business

Hilary Donoghue is now in charge of the helpers list for the Essex Course. If anyone is willing to help could they please contact her as she is desperate for helpers to come forward. She needs helpers of all abilities – if you can ring rounds and call changes then you can be a helper.

Ray Jones advised Taylors, bell hangers, are starting work at Shenfield on Monday 30th January 2012.

Ron Brown advised Ingrave bells have been silent for many years but now have a healthy band who practice on a Wednesday night every week starting at 7.45pm. Both Ron and Renée Page-Jones were organising practice night for the Ingrave ringers but they are now able to handle this themselves and the practices are now run by their Tower Captain, Ronnie Crighton. If anyone is able to help could they please come along on Wednesday practice nights.

There were nine past and present Southern District Masters at the meeting. This was celebrated with a photograph after the meeting. Those present were Mike Hallett, Gordon Lucas, Steve Halliwell, Paul Cammiade, John Harpole, Roger Dorking, Stephen Nash, Andrew Martin and Andrew Beech.

The collection raised - £109.55; Games - £50.50; Tea - £81.00

MASTER'S REPORT FOR 2011

During 2011 we held our normal range of district events, with 4 business meetings, a training day, afternoon practices, striking competitions, our outing to Cambridgeshire, a quarter peal fortnight, and finished with our District carol service at Rochford.

I regard one of the perks of being your District Master is being invited to dedications and celebrations of the completion of successful bell projects. During my 4 years as Master we have seen the completion of major projects at Canewdon, Brentwood and Prittlewell. At the end of last year the project to install a new ring of bells at Holy Cross, South Ockendon was completed. I hope most of you have seen the article in our last newsletter, and it was also reported extensively on Campanophile. The bells are a wonderful example of how a modern, lightweight ring should sound and go, combining recently cast bells with older ones. Credit must go to The Whitechapel Bell Foundry for tuning the bells, and especially to Nicholson Engineering for their skill and craftsmanship for designing and building the frame and fittings.

As well as having a rare radial bell frame, Holy Cross is, of course, unusual in another way. According to my copy of Dove, there are only 24 other Catholic churches in the UK with rings of bells hung for change ringing, and not all of those are ringable; I believe the next nearest Catholic Church with ringable bells is Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge. For the remainder of us it will give us the opportunity to experience another Christian denomination, and make a small contribution to the already close relations between the Dioceses of Brentwood and Chelmsford. I hope you will all help and encourage the fledgling band at Holy Cross and support any practices or meetings that the District holds there. I must add that the church is not easy to find, so please consult a map or use a satnav when visiting for the first time.

Generally, I have been very pleased with the support our district events have had during 2011. Our District outing to Cambridgeshire was very enjoyable with good weather and the opportunity to visit the amazing Cathedral at Ely, we held well attended afternoon practices at Canewdon and Grays, and a fantastic 7 teams entered our call change competition, won once again by North Ockendon. Our method competition was won by Downham, and our 8 bell band won the Association striking competition. Some of you helped out on the Association stand at the Essex Country Show in September, and we held a training day in April at Downham. Over 20 quarters were rung during our quarter peal fortnight, while our bi-monthly surprise major practices at South Weald go from strength to strength.

One area where we do lag behind other districts is our support for less experienced ringers. We have held evening practices, but they have not been well supported. While the Prittlewell ringing centre provides this support in the east of the district, we have nothing similar to support those towers in the west or south of our District. I hope this is something that can be addressed in the future.

I really hope you all read the District newsletter that Beth compiles every 2 or 3 months. The contributors put in a lot of effort to produce the articles; please continue to send items to the editor so that it truly represents what is going on throughout our District.

In the last newsletter I hope you all read my review of the year and what we have to look forward to this year. Next month is the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne, and in early June we have the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations; traditionally the bells have always rung out for Royal events such as these. Later on, in the summer we have, of course, the London Olympics. My own tower has already been involved for the last 2 years by hosting open days as part of the Cultural Olympiad. On July 6th the Olympic torch will be carried throughout our District as it makes its way from Ipswich to Chelmsford. The exact route has yet to be announced, but it is due to visit Rayleigh, Southend, Basildon, Grays and Brentwood; I hope that we can accompany it by ringing bells. I would guess the route would pass by 10 to 15 of our towers; maybe we should attempt a quarter peal in each one? Then on July 27th, there is Martin Creed's idea 1197 for as many bells as possible to sound at 8 am to mark the opening ceremony; this has had some negative reaction from the ringing community to date, but there are 2 positive contributions in this week's Ringing World. Why not get up early to celebrate this once in a lifetime event?

Finally, I would like to end by thanking you for supporting the District events during the last 12 months. Special thanks to my fellow officers for their help and support: Alison for organising all our events, Cathryn for organising the training day and helping to rung ringing, and to Mark for maintaining the accounts. Also, to Beth for producing our newsletter.

I wish you all a very happy 2012.

John Harpole

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2011

Our ADM was held at Thorpe Bay with 73 members and visitors attending. Throughout the year we had 3 business meetings at Bentley Common (6), Prittlewell (10) and North Ockendon (6).

At the beginning of April we held a District Training Day and Downham were our hosts. The course was to learn and improve Grandsire.

The District 6 Bell Striking Competition was held in May at Eastwood. Five teams entered and Downham came first with Langdon Hills in second place.

In June we had a District outing to Cambridgeshire and again, this was a great success with over 26 members and friends attending.

North Ockendon hosted the District Call Change Competition in November. Seven teams entered and a great afternoon ringing was had by all. North Ockendon won the trophy for the fifth year in a row.

Afternoon District Practices were held in February at Canewdon and in October at Grays. Both practices were well attended.

Our District Carol Service was held at Rochford where good ringing was had and a very good service with lots of singing followed.

During the year we elected 18 new ringing members to the District. But sadly, Frank Southwood of Brentwood died in April 2011.

Quarterly District Evening Practices have been held at Brentwood at the beginning of the year and bi-monthly Surprise Major Practices held at South Weald.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those towers the District visited during 2011, namely Thorpe Bay, Canewdon, Brentwood, South Weald, Bentley Common, Eastwood, Prittlewell, Grays, North Ockendon and Rochford. Thank you for all the cups of tea and ringers teas throughout the year.

Alison Nash, Southern District Secretary

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS - SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Income & Expenditure Account for Year Ending
31 December 2011

INCOME

General Fund

Subscriptions		£	£
Ringing (Full)	148 @	8.00	1,184.00
arrears	6 @	8.00	48.00
advance	0 @	8.00	0.00
Junior	15 @	4.00	60.00
arrears	0 @	4.00	0.00
Friends	7 @	4.00 min	28.00
arrears	3 @	4.00	12.00
advance	2 @	4.00	8.00
Non-Resident	0 @	8.00	0.00
Sale of Badges	0 @	1.00	0.00
Sale of Annual reports	0 @	3.50	0.00

GENERAL FUND: TOTAL INCOME £ 1,340.00

Bell Restoration Account

Donations		£	
Donations in lieu of Subs.		13.00	
Service Collections		199.00	
Profit from Teas		235.13	
Profit from Raffles		466.55	
Quiz Night (including Raffle)		241.00	
Profit from District Outing		-	
		23.00	

BELL RESTORATION ACCOUNT: TOTAL INCOME £ 1,177.68

TOTAL INCOME £ 2,517.68

EXPENDITURE

Postage and telephone		£	
Stationery		5.45	
Engraving 8 bell trophy		0.00	
Hire of Halls		5.00	
		15.00	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ 25.45

TOTAL INCOME less EXPENDITURE £ 2,492.23

Total net district income 2,492.23

Add: Cash in hand at 1 January 0.00

Less : Cash in hand at 31 December 0.00

Payments to Association Treasurer £ 2,492.23

2010

£

139	1,112.00
4	32.00
2	16.00
15	60.00
0	0.00
5	20.00
0	0.00
2	8.00
0	0.00
0	0.00
0	0.00

£ 1,248.00

	40.00
	200.00
	257.32
	270.10
	259.90
	140.50
	40.00

£ 1,207.82

£ 2,455.82

	5.46
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00

£ 5.46

£ 2,450.36

£ 2,450.36

+ 2.00

- 0.00

£ 2,452.36

Mark Robbins

Southern district treasurer

SOUTHERN DISTRICT QUIZ NIGHT

...with Ploughman's Supper

Saturday 21st April 2012

at

North Ockendon Church Hall

7:00 for 7:30pm start

Come along to a brain stimulating, highly charged, fun packed evening of competition, entertainment and laughter!

Teams of 6 (max)

Tickets **£6.00 per person** available from
Ann Beech

(48 Glebe Way, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 3RR)

Cheques for tickets should be made payable to
"EACR"

and please enclose a SAE

Please try to order your tickets by Wednesday 18th April - thank you.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.