

# Southern District NEWSLETTER



*The Holy Bible on the lectern facing you as you enter the church was printed in 1717 and is known as the 'Vinegar Bible'; so called from the misprint where 'Vineyard' has been misspelt 'Vinegar' (Luke 3:20).*

## FOBBING

The West Tower, built in the 15th Century, has a circular turret containing a staircase, which gives access to the top. The tower contains a peal of eight bells with a 11cwt tenor.

Four of the bells were installed in 1629, and the tenor was hung in 1724. By 1900, the bells and bell-frame had fallen into a bad state of repair, but through the efforts of the parishioners it was possible to have the bells recast and installed in a steel frame. In 1931 the bells rang out again after 30 years of silence. A sixth bell was installed in 1934, and two more in 1935 completing the peal.

On 21 October the 750th quarter peal was rung. Practice nights are 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays but ring Gordon Lucas (01702545941) before visting.

**Sunday, 21 October 2012**

**1272 Luton S. Minor**

- 1 Gordon Lucas
- 2 Cathryn Corns
- 3 Clive Garraway
- 4 David Belcham
- 5 Steven Nash
- 6 Darren Osborne (C)

*First in method 2 and 6.*

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## CONTACTS

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## NEXT EVENTS

### DISTRICT MEETING AND CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

Langdon Hills

17th November

draw 2.30pm

4.30pm meeting

5pm tea, followed by  
meeting and further ringing  
(see below right)

### DISTRICT SURPRISE PRACTICE

Thursday 15th November

7.30pm - South Weald

Methods: Belfast, London  
and Lincolnshire.

### CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 8th December

3.30pm - Downham

### ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Saturday 19th January 2013

Basildon - ringing at 3pm

Service at 4.30pm

Tea, followed by meeting  
5.30pm

## 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.**

## PHYLLIS ANDREWS



Phyllis Andrews died on 2nd September 2012 aged 89 years after a spell in hospital that began with a broken hip.

She had been a life-long member of Bentley St Paul's, Bentley Common from Sunday school days, joining the choir as a youngster and remaining a chorister until it was disbanded six or seven years ago.

She was also a bellringer and member of the Essex Association from 1970.

Phyllis rang two peals, one for the centenary of Bentley church in 1980, and a number of quarter peals. She was a stalwart Sunday service ringer. She was also prominent in the social activities of the church and bellringers.

A half-muffled quarter peal of doubles was rung by the Sunday service band on the day of her funeral, 18th September 2012.

**18th September 2012**

**Bentley Common, St Paul**

**1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Grandsire,  
Plain Bob Doubles in 45 mins.**

1. Pattie Folkson
2. William Chandler
3. Rowena L Marshall
4. Ronald J Brown (c)
5. Alan Moody
6. John Cousins

Rung half muffled in memory of Phyllis Andrews, long-time ringer at this church.

## CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

Langdon Hills are hosting the November District Meeting and Call Change Competition being held on Saturday 17th November.

Draw to take place at 2.30pm prompt. If your tower can ring call changes then you can enter a team. The rules are printed on the last page of this newsletter. Remember that towers can combine to make up a team.

## WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG?

Service at 4.30pm, followed by tea, business meeting and competition results.

Names for tea (and tower team names) to Alison Nash, District Secretary on 01268 490061 by Wednesday 14th November.

## RAYLEIGH OUTING

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October a dozen members of Holy Trinity, Rayleigh set off on their annual ringing outing. Naturally, being of a gregarious nature, invitations had been sent to past Rayleigh ringers now residing elsewhere in the county and to friends within the Southern District. We also included a recent English visitor to a Rayleigh practice, Jamie Hamper, who works in Edinburgh but had been staying with his family, locally.

Car sharing having been skilfully organised by Tony Lowe, we left Rayleigh at 8am on a crisp, cold but fortunately dry morning arriving at our first tower to ring on the eight at Great Bardfield. By this time our numbers had swollen to around 30 including the youngest, Liam Smith, baby son to Simon our Tower Captain and his wife Tina.

The morning towers that followed were the eights at Finchingfield and Toppesfield and then to lunch at Great Yeldham.

Rested, we moved further North to Ridgewell to 'grab' this augmented six. Here a group photo was taken with the able assistance of Lawrence Beale. Then it was over the border to Suffolk to ring in the 'boiler room' at Stoke by Clare. Those who had dessert at lunch may have regretted it as it is something of a squeeze to get into the ringing room. We ended our day at Kedington. Here a monument stands to the memory (or ego, depending how you view these matters ) of the Barnadiston family. Nonetheless, a very interesting interior.

The best memory of the day is that of one of Rayleigh's newest recruits, having started the day understandably apprehensive, ringing at Kedington unaided for the first time in excellent rounds with her face wreathed in smiles.

Our thanks go to our host towers and to the correspondents who kindly gave up their time to meet us. Special thanks go to Marion Wood who for our comfort arrived early to vacuum away an earlier fly infestation in the ringing room. All much appreciated.

A good day.

Jim Laken



# BARLEYLANDS COUNTRY FAIR SEPTEMBER 2012



*A very successful weekend once again at this busy event. Tracey Southgate extends her thanks to those who came to help, to keep the profile of ringing up in the county, and particularly to those who collected, erected and returned the mini-ring.*

*Tracey is retiring at the end of this year so would anyone be prepared to act as County PR Officer? If so, please contact John Harpole.*

## NOTES FROM EACR COMMITTEE MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2012 *(with thanks to Cathryn Corns)*

1. **Refreshments at the AGM:** the District providing Sidesmen for the service will now be asked to supply tea and biscuits. This could be used as a fund-raising opportunity for a tower.
2. **Annual dinner:** this year was the lowest ever attendance (only two from the Southern district). Agreed that the dinner would continue as long as it is financially viable.
3. **Ringing course:** to continue to be run at Honeywood School as other districts do not have sufficient towers/facilities in an appropriate location. Fees will be increased for 2013, with adults £45 and under-18s £35, with full fees due on application. Cheques will be returned if a candidate is not awarded a place and juniors who are EACR members will continue to receive a grant. If someone withdraws, the fee will be returned only if an substitute applicant can be found.
4. **District Officers:** Concern was expressed regarding the difficulties of finding people to stand as District officers – this is particularly a problem in the SW District.
5. **Central Council Meeting:** 50% of ringers (20,000) will stop ringing within the next 20 years. Across the country we need to recruit and train 1,000 new ringers a year. The competence of the average band is low, with many only able to ring rounds a call changes. An Integrate Teacher Training System (ITTS) has been launched to train more people to teach ringers, on a cascade basis.
6. **Child protection:** The Diocese has issued a revised checking procedure with more documentation checks needed at the local level. This will speed up the new on-line application process. In future, only the applicant will receive the CRB check and the individual will then have to show this to their employer/organiser.
7. **Training Day 24th November:** a few places are still left, but MORE HELPERS ARE STILL NEEDED!
8. **Website:** is to be updated. Most towers now use the tower generic e-mail system, but towers must keep the Webmaster (Fred Bone) updated if the tower correspondent contact e-mail address changes
9. **Grants:** there are currently no applications for grants from the Bell Fund
10. **EACR Officers 2013:**
  - i. The post of Hon Technical Advisor is still vacant
  - ii. Liz Rayner (Education Officer) and Tracey Southgate (Public Relations Officer) are both standing down from next year and replacements are sought.



### ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 8 December

DOWNHAM

RINGING FROM 3.30PM WITH SERVICE AT 4.30PM

Please come along, as the carol service has not been well supported in recent years. Lovely bells, cosy bell tower and picturesque location, in the centre (roughly) of the district. Downham ringers will be providing refreshments.

## MINUTES

### Meeting at South Weald Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012

#### 1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 32 members present, including visitors – Ross Skipper from Prittlewell, Jeanne Defries and Al Sacco from South Weald, Donald Heath from Romford and earlier in the day Jim Lilley from Shoreham -by-Sea.

#### 2. Thanks

The Master thanked Rev. Ian Jorysz, for taking the service and Alan Ball for playing the organ. He also thanked the South Weald ringers for the use of the bells and for the wonderful tea. The service touch was Stedman Triples rung by Andrew Beech, Mark Robbins, Maria Jorysz, John Cousins, Stephen Nash, Vic Dale, John Harpole and Jim Lilley.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Great Wakering on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were printed in the April Newsletter (no. 123), and also circulated at the meeting. There being no amendments, they were signed as a true copy.

#### 4. Matters Arising

The Master confirmed the events which had happened over the summer.

We celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics 2012 – congratulations to all those who rang for these celebrations including the 3 peals, many quarter peals and general ringing. On the Olympic torch relay through Essex our district towers rang at Rayleigh, Prittlewell, Grays, Ingrave and Shenfield. Basildon had their red, white and blue flags out for both the Diamond Jubilee and for the Olympics. They also had their photograph in the Evening Echo and other newspapers.

The Striking Competition took place at Navestock on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Clive Stephenson (Hornchurch) from the South West district was our judge. He placed Langdon Hills in first place and Prittlewell in second place. In the finals in July, Langdon Hills came third and Prittlewell were placed sixth. Well done teams.

In the 8-Bell competition the chosen method was Kent and Oxford. This was rung on the back 8 at Writtle. The Southern District were placed second.

“Well done” to Barbara Leigh who scored her first peal on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

In June we had our outing to Kent. 40 members and friends attended and there was a good mix of bells.

#### 5. Correspondence

An email has been received from Tracey Southgate, PRO - At the Essex Country Show, which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, she was approached by several people who were interested in becoming bellringers. Their details had been received by the District Secretary who has forwarded them to various towers nearest the volunteers homes. They were - Rayleigh – 2, Orsett – 2; Leigh-on-Sea – 2; Great Wakering – 2; Grays – 2; Downham – 1; Basildon – 7 and South Benfleet – 1

Tracey would like to thank all those from our district who came to help over the weekend including Hilary Donoghue, Simon Higgins, Roger Hobson, Jim Laken, Tom Pinnock, Penny Sloman, Peter Sloman, and also to Andy Martin, who has gone out of his way picking up the mini ring from Walthamstow on the Friday before the show and taking it back to Suffolk on the Sunday night.

Tracey advised us she will be standing down from the post of Public Relations Officer with effect from the Annual General Meeting 2013, therefore if we want to proceed next year with

the Essex Country Show we will need to find someone who is willing to take this project on for the Southern District.

An email had been received from the Association Treasurer, Andrew Brewster, concerning the Annual Dinner which is to take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at The County Hotel, Chelmsford. Tickets are £33. He stated the Southern District, to date, do not have many members attending – presently only two. Please support this if you can. Closing date for tickets is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Booking forms and menu were available at the meeting.

Also the Association Newsletter, Rounds & About, which had been distributed before the meeting, had a poster accompanying it for the Association Training Day on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, initial meeting at Ardleigh Church (North East District). Students are on a first come, first served basis but helpers are always needed. Please put this notice on your tower notice boards and contact Liz Rayner, EACR Education Officer if you can help or want to be a student.

#### 6. Training

If there is anyone who would like a training course for themselves or their tower, please contact Cathryn Corns.

Returning to the Essex Country Show, the PRO, had forwarded details from a Scout Group based at Stanford-le-Hope who were interested in a training course of some kind. It was felt these details should be passed to Cathryn Corns, District Training Officer, for her to contact the Scout Leader.

#### 7. Future Events

- The next Surprise Major Practice will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September at South Weald.
- The Annual Dinner is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at The County Hotel.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> October there is a District Practice at Orsett, 3-5pm.
- The next District Meeting will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at Langdon Hills. This is preceded by the Call Change Competition. This is an opportunity for all teams to enter. Please note draw is at 2.30pm.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November is the Association Training Day with an initial meet at Ardleigh church.
- The District Advent Carol Service is being held at Downham on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Ringing starts at 3.30pm.
- The Southern District's Annual District Meeting is being held at Basildon on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

#### 8. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 10 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

#### 9. Any Other Business

Raymond Jones, Shenfield, who was in Basildon Hospital, is now home and recovering well.

Dennis Stott, Langdon Hills, is in Basildon Hospital, although at present we have no further details.

The meeting was asked if we knew what was happening with the 27 ton Olympic bell. At present it is being stored in a warehouse in Essex. A "home" for the bell has not yet been finalised.

Service collection raised - £49.55                  Raffle - £41.00                  Profit from Tea - £40.00

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

The Essex Association of Change Ringers  
**SOUTHERN DISTRICT CALL CHANGE COMPETITION**

**GENERAL**

1. The competition shall take place at a tower within the District and shall be open to all ringers within the District.
2. The District Master, or a steward appointed by the Master, shall supervise the event. They shall be the only person with the ringers in the ringing room and shall check that the competition test piece is rung correctly in accordance with the rules.
3. The District Officers shall appoint one or two judges to assess the quality of the ringing, give comments and announce the results.
4. A trophy shall be presented to the winning team and shall be held in safekeeping until the next competition. The winning team may have this trophy suitably engraved.
5. If necessary, the District Master or their nominee shall give ruling concerning matters not covered by these rules, and any such decision shall be final.

**TEAMS**

6. In order to encourage less experienced bands to enter, towers which came first or second in the district 6-bell method competition may only enter this Call Change competition if the band contains at least three ringers who did not take part in the 6-bell method competition for the current year.
7. Each team shall be allowed no more than one substitute nominated on the day by the District Officers.
8. Towers with insufficient members under Rule 6 and other than the provision in Rule 7 may join with another tower and enter a joint team.
9. A ringer may only ring in one team. If a last minute substitution is required for another team and there are no spare district ringers available then, in this case, a ringer may ring in another team but only in agreement with the District Officers.

**PRACTICE**

10. Two minutes of practice rounds and changes (not judged) shall be allowed after which the bells must be set.
11. Stopping the practice and restarting is allowed (e.g. to adjust ropes or use a box) - the steward will "stop the clock" at such points and will tell the team how much time remains of the two minutes before the team restarts. Ropes may also be adjusted and boxes changed at the end of the practice time.
12. Following the practice (including any final adjustments) the treble ringer should signal to the judges that the team is about to start the competition test piece by turning the treble over (not judged).

**THE TEST PIECE**

13. The competition shall be rung on 6-bells with a covering tenor. Bona-fide 5-bell towers may ring without a covering tenor if they wish.
14. Each team must ring for 5 minutes (including opening and closing rounds). The Master or steward will announce when 5 minutes has been rung.
15. The test piece must start and end in rounds and contain the following 'named' changes: 142536 (Tittums) and 135246 (Queens). Any sequence of changes between these changes is allowed. The 'named' changes must be rung a minimum of 4 whole pulls, all other changes can be of any length.
16. All closing rounds will be judged. The duration of the closing rounds is at the discretion of the conductor, but must be a minimum of 1 whole pull. Opening rounds will be judged after the 5th whole-pull, i.e., from the 6th whole-pull onwards.
17. If during the first 60 seconds of the test piece, the ringing deteriorates irretrievably and is terminated by the conductor, then at the discretion of the Master or steward, the band may restart the test piece. The ringing should restart from rounds and consist of a further 5 minutes of ringing as specified in rules 14, 15 and 16. Faults shall be marked on the completed piece of ringing only, the aborted attempt not counting towards the final fault total.
18. At the end of the test piece, a team will not be penalised should any bell not be able to stand. However, in the event of two teams tying on faults/points then failure to stand the bells will be taken into account to achieve the final order of teams.