

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT

# NEWSLETTER



## A LUNDY EXPERIENCE

With the nights drawing in and any last remnants of warmth from the sun rapidly fading, what better escape than a weekend away to one of England's most isolated spots. Add to that great company, good ringing, excellent food and a roaring log fire, what more could you ask for? Well, no traffic, no roads, no phones, no radio and no television and that has to be good.

So it was that a group of Prittlewell ringers and friends descended on the small village of Morchard Bishop at the start of what proved to be a most memorable weekend. A long draft and long ropes here were testing for some but we soon moved on to Washford Pyne where all was a little more familiar. The picturesque village of West Worlington was next before the East. From there our journey to Cheldon was led in the dark by a local churchwarden who took us on an unnecessary diversionary route via steep gradients, a ford, hair-pin bends and the wrong kind of leaves that proved too slippery for some. More appreciated, or daunting, by daylight I am sure. As we moved on in the darkness our navigational skills were again tested as we sought out our various guest houses for the night in the remotest unlit areas of the Devon countryside.

The following day dawned bright and clear and we reassembled at Hartland Point from where our ultimate destination was clearly visible - just 11 miles of sea in-between. However a series of seven flights saw us all air-lifted to Lundy Island via the helicopter service, where the Marisco tavern provided a welcome, hospitable spot while we awaited the readiness of our accommodation.

Before the first round was in, a hefty £1 fine was imposed on one our number for daring to bare a mobile phone, a deed strictly prohibited and rigidly enforced under local rules!

With no Bear Grylls to help, our first survival test (for warmth and comfort) was to light the Wenlock stoves in our various properties and, while the coals reddened, we gathered in the tower for our first ring on the very respectable ring of 10, to which we had unrestricted use whilst on the island (at least until 6pm). Despite a failed attempt at a course of Lundy Treble Bob Minor, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was scored and was followed shortly after by another of Grandsire Triples.

With the prospect of a fine day following we were left to explore the emptiness (but nonetheless engaging charm) of this vast island (approx 3 miles x 0.5 mile). And to sample the delights of the legendary Indian take-away at its northernmost point (see picture below!). As darkness fell there was further ringing and a quarter of Stedman Triples was scored.



With no service at the church, Sunday morning ringing concluded with a quarter of Cambridge Surprise Minor on the back six. The continuing fine weather allowed us to explore further aspects of the island and having certified ourselves (some of us) of sane mind and not liable to test Newton's laws of gravity we were allowed the key to the balcony of the old lighthouse, from where extensive views of the island and beyond were quite amazing. Visits to the castle, jetty and southern lighthouse filled the day which passed all too quickly and our final ringing session ended with a quarter peal of Lundy Treble Bob Minor.

Dinner together in the Tavern, where we celebrated Sandra's (significant) birthday provided a good ending to a most enjoyable and successful weekend.

A final memory of the trip was provided at the pre-flight briefing the following morning when essential safety information was delivered with all seriousness but with an injection of local humour (Raising your hands to wave farewell as you board the helicopter is not a good idea!) which held everyone's attention. (A lesson here for commercial airlines, maybe.)

Thanks must go to Penny and David Sloman for making all the arrangements and despite having to book a year in advance the wait was definitely worth it. Our enjoyment was certainly enhanced by the fine weather (praise the Lord), although plenty of games, jigsaws and more ringing are available to while away the hours in adverse weather conditions. Our thoughts were also with Teresa Church, whose broken bones did not allow her to travel, but when mended might provide a good reason to return in the future. Those who have been, I am sure, will agree that no excuse for a repeat trip is needed.

*Right - left to right: David Field, Sandra Markham, Judy Rolf, Phil Harrison, Jen Field, Steve Halliwell, Had Halliwell*

*Below - left to right: John Harpole, Helen Harpole, Dan Squier, Marion Squier, David Sloman, Penny Sloman, Ann Porter*



With thanks to Steve Halliwell for the report. It's not often we get the chance to put a picture of a helicopter on the front of the newsletter. Ed

## LUNDY ISLAND QUARTERS

St. Helena

Friday, 22 November 2013

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Sandra Markham

2 David Field

3 David Sloman

4 Marion Squier

5 Stephen Halliwell (C)

6 Anne Porter

St. Helena

Friday, 22 November 2013

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Anne Porter

2 Penny Sloman

3 Judy Rolf

4 Helen Harpole

5 David Sloman

6 John Harpole (C)

7 Stephen Halliwell

8 David Field

St. Helena

Saturday, 23 November 2013

1260 Stedman Triples

1 Helen Harpole

2 Judy Rolf

3 Penny Sloman

4 John Harpole

5 David Field

6 Stephen Halliwell

7 David Sloman (C)

8 Phil Harrison

1st of Stedman-2

St. Helena

Sunday, 24 November 2013

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Phil Harrison

2 Helen Harpole

3 David Sloman

4 Stephen Halliwell

5 David Field

6 John Harpole (C)

65th Birthday Compliment to  
Sandra Markham

St. Helena

Sunday, 24 November 2013

1320 Lundy Treble Bob Minor

1 David Sloman

2 David Field

3 Penny Sloman

4 Helen Harpole

5 John Harpole

6 Stephen Halliwell (C)

1st in method by all.

65th Birthday Compliment to Sandra Markham.

2014 Essex Course

Details of the various courses,  
and application form, now  
available for the 2014 course on  
10th to 12 April: [http://eacr.org.uk/training/course\\_2014.shtml](http://eacr.org.uk/training/course_2014.shtml)



## DEPUTY DISTRICT MASTER NEEDED

At our District Annual Meeting at Grays on January 18, we will be electing our district officers for 2014. The rules of the Essex Association state that each district needs a District Master, District Deputy Master, District Secretary and District Treasurer; job descriptions for these posts can be found on the Association website ([www.eacr.org.uk](http://www.eacr.org.uk)). In addition, we also elect a report editor, training officer, bell grants committee representative and public relations officer.

While all roles are up for election (and I'm sure the present incumbents would gladly stand down in favour of a new, eager volunteer) we particularly need someone to stand as Deputy Master. I see the main tasks of the Deputy District Master as:

- Enthusiastically supporting the work of the District and Association
- Supporting as many events as they reasonably can, and encouraging others to do likewise
- Helping the District Master at District events by running ringing, assisting with the running of striking competition, and chairing meetings when the Master is unavailable
- Attending the twice yearly Management Committee meetings of the Association, and so participate in the decision making of the Association
- Helping to plan the District programme of events
- Helping to identify training needs and other ways in which the District can help towers and ringers

I look forward to seeing as many of you as are able at our ADM in January.

John Harpole

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

is to be held at Grays (RM17 6NX) on Saturday 18th January 2014.

Ringing starts at 3.30pm, service at 5pm, followed by tea at approximately 5.30pm, then business meeting – please note change of times from Diary of Events.

Names for tea to Alison Nash, 01268 490061 by Wednesday 15th January the latest.

If you want to elect new members please use the form at [http://www.eacr.org.uk/eacr\\_membership.shtml#form](http://www.eacr.org.uk/eacr_membership.shtml#form) (it will help Alison if she can have proposal forms before the meeting). Mark Robbins (Treasurer) will be at the meeting to receive your subs for 2014.

## CONTACTS

### MASTER

**John Harpole**  
(Basildon)  
17 Tiplers Bridge  
Ramsden Heath Billericay  
Essex CM11 1JE  
Tel: 01268 711687  
[s-district-master@eacr.org.uk](mailto:s-district-master@eacr.org.uk)

### DEPUTY MASTER

**Steve Nash**  
(Fobbing and Langdon Hills)  
2 Woodview,  
Langdon Hills,  
Essex SS16 6TZ  
Tel: 01268 490061  
[s-district-deputymaster@eacr.org.uk](mailto:s-district-deputymaster@eacr.org.uk)

### SECRETARY

**Alison Nash**  
(North Ockendon)  
2 Woodview,  
Langdon Hills,  
Essex SS16 6TZ  
Tel: 01268 490061  
[s-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk](mailto:s-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk)

### TREASURER

**Mark Robbins**  
(South Weald)  
6 West Way, Brentwood  
Essex CM14 4PB  
01277 234345  
[mark@southweald.org.uk](mailto:mark@southweald.org.uk)

## SURPRISE MAJOR PRACTICE

16 January 2014

South Weald - 7.30pm

Methods of the evening are Yorkshire and London. All aspiring and competent Surprise major ringers most welcome. *Parking in Church car park that will be open for ringers' use.*

## SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS PRACTICE

Next dates for the Saturday morning practice for learners are 4th January and 1st February, 10am to 12 noon. All welcome. Helpers needed each practice.

## REPORT NAME FORMAT

As you will have noticed in the latest edition of the EACR newsletter, the report editor is able to be more flexible in how members' names are listed.

This was as a result of some ladies asking me why their marital status was printed. Names appear in the newsletter based on the membership list that the district treasurer maintains, so if you would like your name printed in a different format (e.g. surname, forename) then please make Mark aware when your subs are paid; I will certainly be asking to be listed as 'Harpole, John'

## NEWSLETTERS

*Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at [bethjohnson6710@gmail.com](mailto: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 for each on the 15th of the month.

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

## WHAT GOES ON AT A SURPRISE PRACTICE?

Picture the scene in the Harpole dining room one evening, with Mum (Helen), Dad (John) and younger daughter (Rachel) sitting around the table eating dinner.

H: What methods do I need to learn for the next surprise practice?

J: The usual, plus Glasgow

R: How can it be a surprise practice if you know what methods you are going to ring?

H: Who are you expecting to be there?

J: Not sure, hopefully the South Weald lot, Steve, Paul, John, Andy, etc.

R: How can it be a surprise if you know who is going to be there? Do you know where you are meeting?

J: Yes... South Weald

R: So it's a surprise practice and you know what you are ringing, where it's at and who is going to be there. Not much of a surprise then.

I could have reached for one of Steve Coleman's books and explained to Rachel that a surprise method is a treble dodging method with an internal place made every time the treble passes from one dodging position to the next, although not including the half lead or lead end. But then she may have asked what on earth that all meant...

We certainly had some surprises at our last district practice in November. As people gathered we started ringing the bells up; in the corner Penny and David were spied in a strange position and photographic evidence obtained. What were they doing? Pretending they were ringing up Liverpool Cathedral tenor maybe? Answers on a postcard c/o Prittlewell ringers.

The practice proceeded and after some good ringing, we came to our last touch. A visitor from the SW district excused himself, as he had to get home, and then we rang a final touch of 8 spliced before ringing the bells down. We put on our coats, said our goodbyes, and opened the tower door. Or rather, we failed to open the door as it appeared to have been locked from the outside. What were we to do? We were marooned, to quote Private Fraser. Phone calls to the vicarage and church warden went unanswered. We then tried Maria, who had missed the practice due to work commitments; fortunately her meeting had just finished and she was able to zoom over to South Weald and let us out.

It looked like our visitor had accidentally knocked the bolt on the outside of the ringing room door as he left, pushing it across and locking us in. Apart from the loss of valuable drinking time, no harm was done this time but imagine what would have happened if we had been unable to contact someone (and towers often have poor phone signals), or someone had hurt themselves or there had been a fire.

***So please, check the exit routes from your tower and make sure it is impossible to get locked in. Consider having a list of phone numbers pinned to the tower notice board of people who live nearby who could be contacted in case of emergency.***



## CALL CHANGE STRIKING COMPETITION

Our competition this year was held at St Giles and All Saints, Orsett on Saturday, November 16th. An amazing nine teams entered, and provided a tough task for our judge, David Sparling, from Kirby-le-Soken. Steve Nash was master of ceremonies, making sure each of the teams abided by the rules and offering helpful advice.

The first team to ring was a scratch band, made up from ringers from Eastwood, Orsett, Langdon Hills and Grays. While they were ringing the master took photos of all the bands... and then forgot to take one of the scratch band; many apologies for that.

The ringers taking part in each team were:

Scratch band: Helen McBride, Penny Jack, Cathryn Corns, Judith Church, Chris Sullivan, Peter Knight (c)

Ingrave (right): Robin Page-Jones, Ronnie Crighton (c), Sue Farnsworth, Sophie Olley, Wendy Olley. Andy Martin also rang for Ingrave, but was absent from the photo



Basildon (left): Julia Fry, Helen Harpole, Roger Hobson, Jenni Pinnock, Tom Pinnock, John Harpole (c)



Canewdon (right): Marion Squier, Sharon Jones, Ben Jones, Sam Jones, Don Stoneman, Brian Meldon (c)



Downham (left): Ann Dorking, Linda Stewart, Jean Paveley, Barbara Leigh, Roger Dorking (c), Chris Tucker

North Ockendon (right): Brian Beech, Andrew Beech (c), Michael Warren, Alison Nash, Hilary Spooner. Judith Church also rang for North Ockendon, but was absent from the photo



Shenfield (left): Ron Brown, Beth Johnson (c), David Reed, John Pattison, Paul Wiggins, Ray Jones



Prittlewell One and Five (right): Anne Porter, Steve Halliwell, James Laden, John Lambert, David Sloman (c), John Woollard



Prittlewell Five and One (left) : Michelle Shorter-Bowen, Peter Sloman (c), Judith Williams, Alyson Browning, Ros Skipper, Penny Sloman

After the service, our judge gave the results as follows:

- |                               |                                |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. North Ockendon = 13 faults | 2. Prittlewell 1+5 = 32 faults | 3. Prittlewell 5+1 = 35 faults |
| 4. Canewdon = 46 faults       | 5. Scratch Band = 47 faults    | 6. Downham 52 = faults         |
| 7. Basildon = 57 faults       | 8. Shenfield = 58 faults       | 9. Ingrave = 75 faults         |

So, North Ockendon won the trophy for the 7th time in succession. However, the real winners are all those who took part and gave us a record entry – well done!  
John Harpole

## WHEELS, BELLS AND POPPIES

This is Prittlewell's old wheel that they sold off; one of the Rettendon ringers bought it and did a lovely job of displaying it in the church window. The theme is of course remembrance,

Thanks to Lyn Benson for sending the photos in.



## **RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:**

**James Laken** for his first in minimus at Rayleigh Holy Trinity 22 December 1296 - 2 plain minimus Rev Canterbury & Plain bob 1 James Laken 2 Cathryn Corns (C) 3 Darren Osborne 4 David Belcham 5 Tony Lowe (cover)

**Dion Laycock** for his first quarter and **Al Sacco** for his first quarter as cover at South Weald St Peter 22 December 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Dion Laycock, 2 John Harpole, 3 Maria Jorysz, 4 Helen Harpole, 5 Paul Trueman (C) 6 Al Sacco

**Bryan Shedel**, first in method at Fryerning St Mary 19 December 1320 Oxford TB Minor 1 John Harpole (C) 2 Maria Jorysz 3 Brian Shedel 4 Jim Laken 5 Paul Trueman 6 Helen Harpole

**John Harpole**, for his 1150th quarter at Leigh-on-Sea 15 December 1260 Grandsire Triples 1 Bernard Arcscott 2 Penny Sloman 3 Judy Rolf 4 Trevor Church 5 David Sloman 6 Phil Harrison 7 John Harpole (C) 8 Don Stoneman Rung as a compliment to Peter and Irene Wycherley on their recent marriage.

**Sharon Jones** for her first quarter away from cover at Eastwood 14 December 1260 Grandsire doubles 1 Sharon Jones 2 David Belcham 3 Gordon Lucas 4 Cathryn Corns 5 David Sloman (C) 6 Peter Knight

**Steve Nash, Maria Jorysz, Ian Jorysz and Paul Trueman** for their first in method at South Weald 8 December 1280 Essex Surprise Major 1 John Cousins 2 Helen Harpole 3 Steve Nash 4 Maria Jorysz 5 Paul Bloomfield 6 Ian Jorysz 7 Paul Trueman 8 John Harpole (C). 1st in m: 3,4,6,7. To mark 40 years membership of the Essex Association by John Harpole.

**Cathryn Corns** for her 700th quarter peal, ten years after first handling lesson, at Langdon Hills 24 November 1269 Cambridge S. Minor 1 Alan Gisby 2 Cathryn Corns 3 Gordon Lucas 4 Stephen Nash 5 Richard Dunhill 6 Andrew Martin (C)

**Cathryn Corns again, and Andy Martin**, ringing their 250th quarter together at Rayleigh 17 November 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major 1 Alan Gisby 2 Lydia Roberts 3 Cathryn Corns 4 Darren Osborne 5 David Belcham 6 Richard Dunhill 7 Andy Martin 8 John Harpole (C)

**Darren Osborne**, for his first in method as conductor at Rayleigh 11 November 1260 Single Oxford bob triples 1 Peter Sloman 2 Hilary Donoghue 3 Lydia Roberts 4 David Sloman 5 Cathryn Corns 6 Stephen Halliwell 7 Darren Osborne (C) 8 James Laken. Rung half-muffled for Armistice Day.

**Cathryn Corns, David Belcham and Darren Osborne** for their first in method at Rayleigh 3 November 1380 Bampton place doubles 1 Doug Bowles 2 Gordon Lucas 3 Cathryn Corns 4 David Belcham 5 Darren Osborne (C) 6 Tony Lowe. First in method: 3,4 & 5

**David Belcham, Cathryn Corns and Lydia Roberts** for their first in method at Rayleigh 27 October 1320 Twineham doubles 1 Darren Osborne (C) 2 David Belcham 3 Cathryn Corns 4 Gordon Lucas 5 Lydia Roberts 6 Tony Lowe First QP in method: 2,3 & 5

(As found on Bellboard; please let the editor know of any other significant achievements.)

## **MINUTES**

### **DISTRICT MEETING AT ORSETT SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

#### **1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book**

The Deputy Master, Stephen Nash, welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 38 members present including one visitor – Donald Heath from Romford. The Deputy Master read out a letter received from John Harpole, District Master, stating his reason for not attending the meeting and his hopes for the future. This letter is attached to these Minutes.

#### **2. Thanks**

The Deputy Master thanked Rev. Ed Hanson for taking the service and David Frostick for playing the organ. He also thanked the Orsett ringers for preparing the delicious tea.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at South Ockendon on 21st September were printed in the October Newsletter (No. 130) The Minutes were emailed to those on the Secretary's mailing lists and distributed at the Meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

The Annual Dinner was a great success and was very well attended. A good evening was had by all.

Taking some points from the recent Management Meeting:

A discussion was had about the South West District. The District is hopeful they will gain a full complement of 4 District Officers for 2014.

From January 2014 although Ian Jorysz will continue as Association Chaplain the position of Child Protection Officer will be filled by Roger Collins.

Nominations for Life Membership should reach the Association Secretary, Vicki Chapman, no later than 1st December 2013.

The Association Carol Service, which is held every 5 years, will be held in the Southern District in 2014. South Weald have already been approached to hold this service.

The Learners Practices which are held on the first Saturday of every month will continue into 2014. The first practice being Saturday 4th January 2014.

After the success of the quarter peal held at Chelmsford Cathedral by the Southern District, they were asked to return for a further quarter peal. A successful quarter of Little Bob Maximus was rung at the Cathedral on Sunday 13th October.

**5. Correspondence** - There were no correspondence.

**6. Election of New Members** - There were no new members elected.

**7. Training**

The Association Training Day will take place on Saturday 23rd November, starting at Hornchurch, South West District.

**8. District Programme**

7th December – Learners Practice at South Ockendon, 10am to 12 noon.

14th December – District Carol Service at Eastwood.

4th January 2014 – Learners Practice at South Ockendon, 10am to 12 noon.

16th January 2014 – Surprise Major Practice at South Weald.

18th January 2014 – Annual District Meeting at Grays. Please put this in your diaries and remember we will need a new Deputy Master as Stephen Nash will not be standing for re-election.

**9. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from 9 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

**10. Any Other Business** - There was no other business to discuss.

The collection raised - £73.76

Tea and Raffle - £65

\*\*\*\*\*

### **District Meeting Apologies from John Harpole**

I'm sorry that Helen and I have been unable to be with you at the meeting today, but we have come to Cambridge for the evening where our elder daughter is playing and singing in her college concert.

At this time of year we think ahead to next year, and Alison will be taking you through the draft programme of events for 2014. We also need to think about our district officers and the other roles we have; this year we have been without an education officer, and Steve only stood as deputy master because no-one else was nominated.

I am quite happy to be nominated as your master again, and Alison and Mark are similarly happy to be nominated as secretary and treasurer. I'm sure Steve will be more than willing to let someone else be nominated as deputy and gain an insight into running the district. It is now 20 years since Steve was first elected as a district officer and he deserves a break.

In May, we have the Essex Association AGM and our master, Brian Meads, has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election. I wanted you, the Southern District, to be the first to know that I have been approached to stand as Association Master. After careful consideration, I have decided to let my name go forward and be nominated. If I do get elected as Association Master in May, then I will continue as your district master for the remainder of 2014 (assuming I get re-elected at our District ADM at Grays!).

Regardless of whether I get elected as Association Master or not, next year will be my last as District Master. By then I will have completed seven years as master, in addition to the 3 years from 1988, and it is time for someone else to lead the District.

So, the District will need a new master in January 2015. Steve is unwilling to do it, as it is not fair on his family, or desirable for the district, for Alison and him to be secretary and master.

Our ADM in January will be the perfect opportunity for someone new to stand as Deputy Master, and we will need someone to stand as Master in January 2015 (of course, anyone can stand for election as master this January!). We all have a responsibility to talk to people in our own towers and encourage a member to stand. You don't need to be an expert ringer, and it is long overdue for us to have our first lady master! Job descriptions are available on the Association website, and I will write some notes for our next district newsletter.

Please also think about the other posts we have in the district; it would be great if they could all be filled in 2014.

I look forward to seeing you all next at our district carol service at Eastwood on December 14th.

ENDS