

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER**ST NICHOLAS
GREAT WAKERING**

St. Nicholas, Great Wakering is a Norman church built around 1100 so it has seen almost one thousand years of village life. The church is located at the east end of the village of Great Wakering, a village situated about five miles from Southend-on-Sea; lying between Shoeburyness and Foulness Island with one-and-a-half miles of coastline.

According to mediaeval tradition, Wakering was the site of a monastery during the seventh century AD and so predates the current church building. In Saxon times, probably c400-500 AD, the area was settled by the people of Waeccer; hence the name of Wakering. In the Domesday Book, written by the order of William the Conqueror in 1066, it is referred to as Wachelinga.

St. Nicholas has a ground floor ring of 6 bells with a tenor weighing 8¼ cwt. We ring Sunday mornings at 10.00 a.m. and our practice night is Tuesday. Our tower contact is Tim Baskett (01702 219523), please ring if making a special trip to practice night.

Tim Baskett and Mo Venus

FROM THE MASTER

It was great to see so many of you at our Annual District Meeting at Basildon in the middle of January, and thank you for electing me as your Master for another 12 months.

I hope you will all have a copy of our district programme for 2013 (copy attached to the newsletter), and make a note of the events in your diaries. I am particularly pleased that we are continuing with our learners' practices at South Ockendon through May and June, and I hope we will continue to get a good number of learners and helpers at these practices. This year our district outing will be on Saturday, June 8th, and I am planning to go to the Redhill / Dorking area along the A25 in Surrey; all are welcome to come along to what is usually a very enjoyable day.

If any of you would like any additional events organised, then please contact any of the district officers; this may be a training event for your tower, or you might like to organise a social event to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund – quiz nights are always popular!

Our next District meeting is at Canewdon, and I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to enjoy this super ring of ten bells. Even if you have never rung on 10 before, please come along and have a go!

John Harpole

CONTACTS

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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 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.

STEVE NASH

YOUR 'NEW' DEPUTY DISTRICT MASTER FOR 2013

I learned to ring at Wargrave in Berkshire in 1977, but then, after being able to handle a bell, moved to Wimborne in Dorset. After University in London, I came to Essex in 1985 and joined the EACR in 1986 as a resident member at Ingrave.

I have worked for the same company (LGC) since I left University; they were a Government Laboratory based near Waterloo Station. However, in 1988, they relocated to Teddington and I have been commuting there ever since. I was originally working as an analytical chemist smoking 100 cigarettes a day (using a machine!), then I moved sections to analyse water and soil, before finally moving to IT where I have been since 1996.

Many of you will know that I have held office in the District before, in fact here is a resume of my activity within the Essex Association:

- 1994-1995 EACR Southern District Deputy Master
- 1996-1998 EACR Southern District Master
- 1997-now Essex Ringing Course Tutor (2 years missed)
- 1998-2008 EACR Association Master
- 2004-now EACR Child Protection Officer
- 2011-now EACR Central Council of Church Bellringers Representative
- 2013-now EACR Southern District Deputy Master

	Total	Conductor
Quarters	1,100	444
Peals	200	5

Notable ringing related achievements :

- As Association Master - hosting the Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR) Meeting & Dinner held in Essex at Colchester in 2004
- As Association Master - representing the EACR at many dedication services for new or refurbished bells across the Association and often presenting cheques from our Bell Restoration Fund.
- Ringing at Westminster Abbey - the most pressured piece of ringing I have ever done (trying to not go wrong and strike my bell properly)
- Peals of 23 Spliced Surprise Major at Dagenham and 14 Spliced Surprise Royal at West Ham, under John Armstrong's guidance.
- Two peals of Bristol Surprise Maximus (the second to prove it wasn't a fluke!)
- Achievements left to do - Peal of 41 Spliced Surprise Minor (one day I hope, when I have time !)

What do I enjoy about ringing?

I do enjoy being a tutor on the ringing course, I like doing the rounds and call changes group, mainly because I don't really have to do much homework (!!) but also because I enjoy helping ringers to improve their basic skills. It is always rewarding to see someone improve as a result. Everyone has a different style of ringing but I believe that we can all improve our handling in some ways, even more experienced ringers.

I would also like to encourage more of you to become active in the Association both at District and Association level – there is a lot that the Association has to offer all of us. Although the most important ringing is done in our own towers each Sunday, we can all gain so much by helping each other to progress.

Steve Nash



ESSEX RINGING COURSE

During the Essex Ringing Course around 1,300 cups of tea and coffee are served to some 12 tutors, 72 students and around 100 helpers. As a consequence volunteers are needed to maintain this vital service and provide refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) over the three days of the course held at Honeywood School in Coggeshall.

At least three people are needed for each session, the times of which are outlined below (although these times are approximate until the Course programme is finalised). Outside of these times the tea urn must be refilled and turned on ready to serve at the times outlined.

Further detailed instructions are available. All items (including consumable items, utensils and cleaning products) will be supplied. All I need is your time.

The sessions are as follows:

Thursday 4th April - 3 sessions:
10.00-11.15am; 2.45-4.15pm;
5.00-6.15pm

Friday 5th April - 2 sessions:
9.20-10.45am; 3.00-5.00pm

Saturday 6th April - 2 sessions:
9.10-10.45am; 2.45-4.15pm

If you are able to help please email me with your name and the session(s) you can assist with. Even if it's only one session it will help greatly to the success of the Course.

Andrew Brewster

andrew.brewster@talktalk.net

Hilary Donoghue would also like to hear from anyone who can be a ringing helper. If you are not on Hilary's list already but would be prepared to help please email: Norseyhound@aol.com

WE DID IT!

This year is the centenary of the installation of the 12 bells at Chelmsford, which are the only complete Warner 12. To mark the centenary each of the districts have been invited to attempt a quarter at the Cathedral during 2013, and the Southern district is the first to do this, as recorded below:

Essex Association

Chelmsford, Essex

Cathedral Church of S Mary V, S Peter & S Cedd

Sunday, 24 February 2013 in 55 mins (34-2-22)

1320 Erin Cinques

1 Hilary Donoghue 7 John Harpole (C)

2 Julia Jones 8 David Sloman

3 Paul Cammiade 9 John Cousins

4 Maria Jorysz 10 Nigel Taylor

5 Helen Harpole 11 Steve Nash

6 Peter Sloman 12 Paul Trueman

For Evensong. Rung by a Southern District band during the Centenary year of the installation of Chelmsford's 12 bells. Birthday compliment to 12. 1st on 12 - 5, 6. 1st on 12 as C - 7. 1st Erin Cinques by all except 10. 1100th QP - 11.



*The band: Bottom row, right to left (in bell order): Hilary Donoghue, Julia Jones, Paul Cammiade, Maria Jorysz, Helen Harpole, Peter Sloman
Top row, left to right (in bell order): John Harpole, David Sloman, John Cousins, Nigel Taylor, Steve Nash, Paul Trueman.*

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

Al Sacco at South Weald – first quarter peal 16th December

Peter Hawes - first QP away from tenor, at Rochford 9th December

Sue Matthews & Amanda Hazel-Rayner, first in minor, Shenfield 10th February

Anne Porter - first major inside at Leigh-on-Sea 7th December Plain Bob Major and first in method Eastwood 9th February Grandsire Doubles

Sue Matthews - first inside Shenfield 20th January - Plain Bob Doubles

Helen Harpole, Maria Jorysz, Ian Jorysz and Paul Trueman - South Weald 9th December - Belfast Surprise Major - all first in method

Steve Nash on his 1,100th Quarter Peal, above. Only 1,099 to go All!

(as found on Bellboard; please let editor of any other significant achievements)

REFIT AT SOUTH OCKENDON BELLS

Our District's newest and lightest ring of eight experienced a minor setback recently when during January's training support practice organised for Sth Ockenden by the District Master the 'go' of some of the bells was thought to have deteriorated. Fortunately, expertise was near at hand and Tony Lowe from Rayleigh with Phil Denton undertook an immediate inspection. It was discovered that the mechanism on the prototype slider plates fitted to the frame contained rubber bushes and apparently these had been disintegrating thus giving rise to the problem.

Contact was made with the original installers Nicholson Engineering of Dorset who agreed that the problem should be inspected by one of its engineers later in the month. This took place a fortnight later during which time all 8 slider plates were removed and taken back to Nicholson's works. There a different type of bush was fitted to each slider mechanism and within two days the same engineer redelivered them and again with Tony Lowe's assistance they were reinstalled. With some testing and necessary adjustments being made Sth Ockendon was ready to go back into action.

Jim Laken

SPECIAL LEARNERS PRACTICES...

...continue at South Ockendon on first Saturday of every other month (2nd March, 4th May, 1 June) 10am to 12 noon.

LOST PROPERTY

Left at Basildon at the ADM - who do these gloves belong to? If they are yours, please contact Roger Hobson on 07836310109 email: basildonbells@aol.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY RENÉE

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles - 28th January 2013

Treble	Robin Page- Jones (Hutton)
2nd	Beth Johnson (South Weald/Shenfield)
3rd	John Cousins (Bentley Common)
4th	Chris Bailey (Brentwood)
5th	Raymond Jones (c) (Shenfield)

A compliment to Renée Page-Jones, tower captain of All Saints Hutton, for her 75th birthday (31st January 2013).



Renée says: Many thanks to all of you for ringing this quarter peal. I was especially pleased to note that the ringers came from different local towers. Thank you to the Hutton ringers for the beautiful flowers and wine, the Ingrave ringers (helpers included) for a large trough of plants, and the Shenfield ringers for the chocolates – all a complete surprise – and for the many cards and good wishes from ringing friends. Renée Page-Jones

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 2 FEB 2013

Nominations have been received for all Association posts except the following - Public Relations Officer, Honorary Technical Advisor and Education Officer. All these posts are now elected at our AGM in May. Anyone who could possibly carry out any of them is asked to contact Association Officers as soon as possible.

The Association AGM is on 6 May 2013 at Chelmsford Cathedral.

09:30 - 10:15 Ringing

10:15 - 10:30 Service touch arranged by the Master

10:30 Service followed by AGM in the Cathedral.

Afternoon ringing is in the NE district.

The South West District is without a District Master or District Secretary, the future of the District is looking bleak. We were all asked to think of options for the future.

The Association accounts were healthy, the profile being rather different since the new rules came into force as over 65's subscriptions are now treated as normal subscriptions rather than donations to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Association Training Day 23 November 2013 - unless an Education Officer is found this is unlikely to be going ahead. This is a real shame as it is usually very well supported and shows that there is definitely a training need.

Meeting finished at 16:45 - a new record I think!

Steve Nash

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Over a dozen intrepid Southern Essex ringers braved the threat of snow and ice on 26th January and journeyed across the water to the thawed County of Kent for a spot of extreme ringing. Methods for the day were Cambridge, Yorkshire, Stedman and Erin.

Organised by Maria Jorysz, the aim was to visit towers with 'lots of bells'. We were joined first at St Lawrence in Thanet, near Ramsgate, by a couple of local ringers, one of whom had taught Maria to ring 40 years ago. We had been warned about a walk along the roof to gain entry, but fears proved unfounded as it wasn't along the edge, though the hobbit-sized door was a challenge. The 10 bells were easy to ring, and we showed we were actually more than able at counting to 9 and 10, a good omen for the rest of the day.

Onward then to the much-awaited Waterloo tower of Quex Park near Birchington. A ring of 12 hung in a detached tower in the middle of a private estate. In the middle of a field in the middle of a private estate to be precise, and those who changed into wellies rejoiced at having dry feet, but at the same time losing all feeling in the cold, unheated tower. At least it had a door. The ropes all hung close to the walls, and unusually the largest box belonged to the treble rather than the tenor. The bells were a pleasure to ring though, and counting to 11 and 12 still did not defeat us.

The next challenge was to park in Canterbury and eat a lunch in less than 30 minutes, achieved with varying degrees of success. Met by another local ringer, access to the 12 bells in the Cathedral was again along the roof, but this time mercifully inside it, along to the south west tower. An unpretentious ringing chamber, these bells were an absolute delight, and we were honoured to ring for the choral evensong that followed. While some stayed to enjoy the choir of St Stephen's church and a splendid organ piece with Westminster chimes (did they know we were there?) some eager amongst us made their way across the city to St Dunstan for some mental relief on 6 bells.

Our last ring of the day was at Ashford. These are a lovely balanced ring of 10, if a little odd struck, and even the car-load that circumnavigated Ashford 4 times got a decent ring at the end.

After meeting up with a few friends and relations we sat down to an evening curry nearby, but alas they did not succeed on higher numbers as we had, and 23 diners proved a little daunting.

I'm sure all who went would like to thank Maria for organising the outing, and those who met us. Ringing on higher numbers should not intimidate or deter people from having a go, it's not nearly as scary as you think.

Helen Harpole



Waterloo tower of Quex Park near Birchington



Canterbury Cathedral in watery winter sunshine – cold but bright.

Thursday 14th March

Surprise Major Practice
South Weald - CM14 5QJ
7.30pm

Methods of the evening are London and Lessness. All Surprise major ringers welcome.

Parking in Church car park which will be open for ringers' use.

NOTICEBOARD

Saturday 16 March

District Meeting
Canewdon - SS4 3QW

3pm Ringing

4.30 Service

5.30 Tea followed by meeting & further ringing

Friday 15th March

Quiz at Fane Hall, Kelvedon Hatch in aid of Bentley Common Church

£5 per ticket: tables of 8

Tickets from Rowena Marshall
rowenamarshall@hotmail.co.uk

Due to building work being carried out inside the church, Grays will not be holding practice nights for at least 10 weeks starting from Monday 25th February 2013.

MINUTES

Annual District Meeting at Basildon

Saturday 19th January 2013

1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 66 members present, including visitors – Brian Meads (Association Master) from Coggeshall, Andrew Brewster (Association Treasurer) & Christina Brewster (Book Stall Holder), from Writtle, Vicki Chapman (Association Secretary) & Colin Chapman (Property Trustee, Report Editor & Peals Secretary) from Chelmsford Cathedral, and Peter & Liz Rayner from the South West District.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Esther MacCafferty, for taking the service and Mike Beacher for playing the organ. He also thanked the Basildon ringers for the wonderful tea.

The service touch was Stedman Triples rung by John Harpole, Hilary Donoghue, Penny Sloman, David Sloman, Andy Martin, Helen Harpole, Darren Osborne and Andrew Beech.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Langdon Hills on 17th November 2012 were printed in the December 2012 Newsletter (No. 126). There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

John Harpole (District Master) thanked the Downham ringers for organising the District Carol Service which took part on 8th December 2012. It was a very good service with good ringing before hand and lots of cakes, mince pies and bread pudding followed.

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 2013.

The present Association Officers – Brian Meads (Master), Vicki Chapman (Secretary) and Andrew Brewster (Treasurer) – were all willing to stand for another year. Nomination forms have already been received for them but no nominations have yet been received for Technical Advisor (presently vacant), Education Officer (vacant from May 2013) and Public Relations Officer (vacant from May 2013). Nomination forms have also been received for the three property trustees and one Central Council Representative. The present CCR's are John Armstrong, Fred Bone, Wendy Godden, Stephen Nash and Brian Meads. Brian Meads will not be standing for re-election as he already has a place on the Central Council Committee through another avenue.

(b) Notices of motions for the Association Annual General Meeting must be with the Association Secretary by 1st February 2013.

(c) Nominations for Life Membership of the Association. A nomination for Life Membership was received from the North East District. Evelyn Reeve of Wormingford was proposed by Barry Gibbons (Wormingford) and seconded by Lynda Lee (Bures). *This nomination was not available to read out at the meeting but it was emailed to those on the secretary's email list on Sunday 20th January 2013 with a request that it be shown to all members.*

6. Reports

(a) The Master, John Harpole, presented his report for 2012 and is attached to these Minutes.

(b) The Secretary, Alison Nash, presented her report for 2012 and is attached to these Minutes.

(c) The Treasurer, Mark Robbins, presented his report and the District Accounts for 2012 and these are attached to these Minutes.

7. Election of District Officers

(a) The Association Master, Brian Meads, took the chair while nominations for District Master were taken:

(i) John Harpole was proposed as Master by Andy Martin, seconded by Rowena Marshall and was re-elected. John Harpole, District Master, re-took the chair for the other appointments:

(ii) There was no proposal for Deputy Master and after some discussion Stephen Nash was proposed as Deputy Master, by Mark Robbins and seconded by Hilary Donoghue and was elected.

- (iii) Alison Nash was proposed as Secretary, by Renée Page Jones and seconded by Chris Bailey and was re-elected.
- (iv) Mark Robbins was proposed as Treasurer by Stephen Nash, seconded by John Cousins and was re-elected.
- (b)
- (v) Education Officer: No-one was willing to stand as Education Officer and therefore the role would be handled by the Master and Deputy Master.
- (vi) Public Relations Officer: Beth Johnson volunteered for this position. There were no other nominations.
- (vii) Beth Johnson was willing to stand again as Newsletter Editor. There were no other nominations.
- (viii) Our Bell Grants Committee representative is Stephen Nash. He was willing to stand for another year. There were no other nominations.

8. Election of New Members

(a) Ringling Members

Tony Grimes (Hutton) proposed by Renée Page-Jones, seconded by Robin Page-Jones.
 Noel Otley (Hutton) proposed by Renée Page-Jones, seconded by Robin Page-Jones.
 Patricia Kettle (Ingrave) proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Ronnie Crighton.
 Susan Farnsworth (Ingrave) proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Ronnie Crighton.
 Mick Lavers (Orsett) proposed by Andy Martin, seconded by Darren Osborne.
 William Swire (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Ron Brown.
 Deborah Webb (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by John Merivale.
 Patricia Speed (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by John Merivale.
 Patsy Morrison (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by John Merivale.
 Clara Morrison (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by John Merivale.
 Zachary Morrison (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by John Merivale.
 Jeanne Defries (South Weald) proposed by Mark Robbins, seconded by Maria Jorysz.
 Al Sacco (South Weald) proposed by Mark Robbins, seconded by Maria Jorysz.
 Ros Skipper (Prittlewell) proposed by Peter Sloman, seconded by Alyson Browning.

(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 2013

The Master ran through the District Programme for 2013:

The next event is the South Ockendon Learners Practice to be held on Saturday 2nd February, 10am to 12 noon.

The February District Afternoon Practice is on Saturday 16th February at Ingrave.

The next District Meeting is at Canewdon on Saturday 16th March. Ringing starts at 3pm.

The dates of a few of the District Surprise Practices held at South Weald need to be amended and therefore an updated Diary of Events is attached to these Minutes.

10. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 22 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

11. Any Other Business

The Southern District is hosting the Striking Competition Finals this year. The 6-Bell Final is at North Ockendon who are also providing the tea and the 8-Bell Competition is to be held at South Ockendon.

Essex Ringing Course: Hilary Donoghue who is in charge of the helpers list for the Essex Course asked 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. The course also needs helpers to make cups of tea so if you can help with either of these, please email her on norseyhound@aol.com or phone on 01277 656346 or 07540066789. An Application Form for students can be downloaded from the Association website. This needs to be returned to Mary Bone by 8th February. All students and helpers can attend any talk/seminar taking place throughout the three days.

When the 2013 Diary was being organised a tower had requested a £20 donation towards church funds for electricity etc. The District Officers agreed to this. John Harpole asked the meeting if there were any objections in the cost of

teas rising to £4 to cover the cost of this expenditure. There were no comments, therefore the cost of district teas will now be £4 so that host towers can receive a donation of £20 towards electricity costs, etc. If this donation is not required the money will be put towards The Bell Restoration Fund.

North Ockendon was asked to organise another Quiz Night. *(NB: after further consideration North Ockendon felt they were unable to host a quiz night this year as they are already hosting the 6-Bell Striking Competition Finals in July).*

John Harpole asked if there was any interest in a Quarter Peal Fortnight. Please have a think about this. If this is to go ahead we will need a co-ordinator.

Several members of the district were awarded 50 Years Life Membership at the Annual General Meeting in May last year. Those members who were not at that meeting were awarded their certificates today namely Laurence Beale (Prittlewell), David Belcham (Rayleigh), Don Crouchman, Vic Dale and Dorothy Dale (South Weald) and Roger Dorking (Downham). Those who were not at the meeting today were forwarded on to them via a member of their tower.

Ray Jones (Shenfield) will be awarded his 50 Year Life Membership at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 6th May 2013.

Rowena Marshall advertised her quiz night on Friday 15th March for Bentley Common funds. £5 a ticket – bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Beth Johnson suggested if anyone wanted their personal copy of the Newsletter would they please give her their email address.

Chelmsford Cathedral celebrates its centenary this year and the cathedral ringers have invited a band from every district to attempt a quarter peal at the cathedral. The Southern District's quarter is on Sunday 24th February 2013.

The collection raised - £123.65; Raffle - £71; Tea - £66

MASTER'S REPORT FOR 2012

2012 was a remarkable year in many ways. At the start of June, the Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, and I know I wasn't the only district member to get soaked to the skin watching the Jubilee Regatta sail down the River Thames, led by the Jubilee Peal. In the District, we marked the Jubilee with peals at South Ockendon and Shenfield, quarter peals at a further 8 towers, and special ringing at 5 others.

A month later and Olympic fever was beginning to grip the nation. The Olympic Torch made its way around our district on July 6th, and was accompanied by bells being rung at Rayleigh, Prittlewell, Basildon, Grays and Ingrave. Here, at St Martin's, we had the unforgettable sight of the square being filled by thousands of people as the torch went by, listening to our ringing and filming us on their phones.

The Olympics opened on July 27th, and ringers at Basildon, Downham, Hutton, Ingrave, Leigh-on-Sea, Orsett, Prittlewell, Thorpe Bay, Rayleigh and South Weald got up early to participate in the All the Bells performance at 8:12 am. Later in the day, there was further ringing at Ingrave, Bentley Common, Fobbing and Langdon Hills.

Particularly for those of us who were lucky enough to attend Olympic and Paralympic events, our ringing really made us feel part of something special.

In addition to these special events, we have also our normal programme of events. Our district outing to mid-Kent was well attended and enjoyed by all, and we have had good attendances at all our district events, culminating in our district carol service at Downham.

In our striking competitions, the 6 bell was won by Langdon Hills with Prittlewell as runners up; in the Association finals they went on to take 3rd and 6th places respectively. In the 8 bell competition, our district team was narrowly beaten by the south-east district on the back 8 at Writtle. The winning district definitely had a home advantage with the tenor at Writtle weighing 31 hundredweight; we will be looking to claim back the trophy this year, with home advantage on the very light bells of South Ockendon! Our call change competition was won by a scratch band led by Ron Brown; however, after a quick check of the rules, the trophy was awarded to North Ockendon for the 7th time in the last 8 years.

Rather belatedly we have started a monthly practice at South Ockendon on Saturday mornings to help the local band and other learners at the western end of the district; two have been held so far, and I am very pleased to report that both have been well attended by both learners and helpers. We will continue these practices through the winter months, and then decide on their future.

I hope you will all provide support to our district programme through 2013, and please let us know if there are any additional ways in which the district can promote and further ringing in our district.

I would like to end by thanking all of you for your support during 2012, and especially to our district officers; Alison, our secretary, for arranging all of our events and keeping me under control, Mark for keeping our accounts, Beth for producing our wonderful newsletter, and Steve for representing us on the bell grants Committee. Cathryn has

been our deputy master and education officer for the last 3 years, and has decided not to seek re-election. I would like to thank Cathryn for helping me to run the district, standing in for me when I was away, organising training events and general, wise counsel.

Wishing you all a very happy 2013!

John Harpole, Southern District Master

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2012

Our ADM was held at Rayleigh with 58 members and visitors attending. Throughout the year we had three business meetings at Great Wakering (6), South Weald (8) and Langdon Hills (6).

In April, North Ockendon held a Quiz Night where £107 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund. Well done Hutton, the winners.

A training day was organised to take place at Ingrave but unfortunately, this had to be cancelled through lack of support.

The District 6 Bell Striking Competition was held in May at Navestock. Six teams entered and Langdon Hills came first with Prittlewell following closely in second place.

In June we had a District outing to Leeds, Kent and again, this was a great success with over 40 members and friends attending.

Langdon Hills hosted the District Call Change Competition in November. Six teams entered and a great afternoon ringing was had by all. The competition was won by the scratch band - "Ron's Specials" but after a quick look at the rules it was decided this team was ineligible to receive the trophy therefore, the team placed second were named the winners. This team was North Ockendon.

A 10 Bell District Afternoon Practice was held in February at Canewdon and a further practice was held in October at Orsett. Both practices were well attended.

Our District Carol Service was held at Downham where we had good ringing followed by a very good service, great singing, followed by mince pies, bread pudding and cakes.

During the year we elected only 13 new ringing members to the District. Sadly, Judith Jones of Great Wakering died in April, Phyllis Andrews of Bentley Common died in September and Francis Goddard formerly of South Weald died in December.

Bi-monthly Surprise Major Practices were held at South Weald which were well attended. Our thanks to South Weald for hosting these.

I would like to thank all those towers the District visited during 2012, namely Rayleigh, Canewdon, South Weald, Great Wakering, North Ockendon, Navestock, South Ockendon, Orsett, Langdon Hills and Downham. Lastly, thank you for all the wonderful ringers teas and all the cups of tea that have been made over the year.

Alison Nash Southern District Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Firstly I would like to thank all members of our Southern District for prompt payment of fees due, especially following the rule changes last year. The following gives a commentary on the Summary of accounts presented overleaf.

The total income into the General Fund, mostly membership fees, is increased by ~25% over last year. As you will see, the payments made for full membership has increased considerably this year. This is almost entirely due to the rule change that means that all full members, including over 65s, must pay the full membership fee, unless they are Life or LVP members. Note that life membership can now be applied for those members with over 50 year's membership of the EACR. Please tell us if there is anyone known to you who will fall into this category this year. For 2012 we have seven members in our District covered by this rule change. Unfortunately 20 members of our district, that is 10 ringing, 4 juniors and 6 friends, have allowed their membership to lapse, i.e. membership fees have not been paid by 31st December and are therefore regarded as having withdrawn from the association. If full payment, arrears for 2012 plus 2013 fees are received by 30th April then the lapsed member can be reemitted without the need for re-election. Out of the 10 lapsed ringing members 4 are known to me to be no longer ringing and 4 are 65+ who chose not to pay the fees. In 2013 we had 13 new ringing members, but unfortunately no new Junior members. A summary of the current membership of the Southern District is given in the table below.

Membership Grade	Number for 2012 (including Paid Life)	Number for 2011 (including Paid Life)
Ringling	197	202
Junior	10	15
Friends	10	14
Life	14	7
LVP	1	1

It is interesting to see from the Summary Accounts, that the service collections have increased considerably compared with last year. This could mean an increased attendance at our meetings. However, the reduction in the profit from our raffles and teas does not support this. The total income to the Bell Restoration accounts remains similar to last year.

Expenditure is slightly up on last year and is dominated by the purchase of stamps and the replenishment of stationery. In summary, the total payments to the EACR Treasurer were up by ~11% compared with those for 2011.

Just as a reminder, subscriptions for 2013 are due on the 1st January and must be paid by the 30th April. As last year, membership fees are £8 for Ringling members and £4 for both Juniors (aged less than 18 years on 1st January) and Friends.

I thank you once again for your support and I hope you all have a peaceful and healthy 2013 and a great time ringling.

Mark Robbins, Southern District Treasurer, January 2013



SOUTHERN DISTRICT
2013 Diary of Events

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
Sat 19 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Basildon (8) SS14 1DX	3.00 pm
Sat 2 February	South Ockendon Learners Practice	South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	10-12 noon
Sat 2 February	<i>Association Management Meeting</i>	Danbury	2.30 pm
Sat 16 February	District Afternoon Practice	Ingrave (6) CM13 3RR	3.00-5.00 pm
Sat 2 March	South Ockendon Learners Practice	South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	10-12 noon
Thu 14 March	District Surprise Practice	South Weald (8) CM14 5QJ	7.30 pm
Sat 16 March	DISTRICT MEETING	Canewdon (10) SS4 3QW	3.00 pm
Thur-Sat 4-6 April	<i>Association - Essex Ringing Course</i>	Coggeshall	4th, 5th & 6th
Sat 4 May	South Ockendon Learners Practice	South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	10-12 noon
Mon 6 May	<i>Association AGM - Chelmsford</i>	North East - Ringing & Tea	From 9.30 am
Sat 18 May	STRIKING COMPETITION	Rettendon (6) CM3 8DR	5.00 pm
Thu 23 May	District Surprise Practice	South Weald (8) CM14 5QJ	7.30 pm
Sat 1 June	South Ockendon Learners Practice	South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	10-12 noon
Sat 8 June	DISTRICT OUTING	Surrey	9.30 am start
Sat 6 July	<i>Association Striking Competition FINALS</i>	North Ockendon (6) RM14 3QH South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	2.00 pm 6.45 pm
Thu 18 July	District Surprise Practice	South Weald (8) CM14 5QJ	7.30 pm
Sat 14 September	<i>Essex County Show</i>	Barleylands, Billericay CM11 2UD	Sat 14th & Sun 15th
Thu 19 September	District Surprise Practice	South Weald (8) CM14 5QJ	7.30 pm
Sat 21 September	DISTRICT MEETING	South Ockendon (8) RM15 5EJ	TBC
Sat 5 October	<i>Association Annual Dinner</i>	County Hotel, Chelmsford	
Sat 12 October	<i>Association Management Meeting</i>	Danbury	2.30 pm
Sat 19 October	District Afternoon Practice	Leigh-on-Sea (8) SS9 2DE	3.00-5.00 pm
Thu 14 November	District Surprise Practice	South Weald (8) CM14 5QJ	7.30 pm
Sat 16 November	DISTRICT MEETING Preceded by Call Change Competition	Orsett (6) RM16 3ER	2.30 pm (note earlier start)
Sat 23 November	<i>Association Training Day</i>	South West District	
Sat 14 December	District Carol Service	Eastwood (6) SS2 6UP	tbc 3.30 pm
Sat 18 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Grays (8) RM17 6NX	3.00 pm
<p>PLEASE NOTE -</p> <p>ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING 2013 & 2014 3.00 pm Ringing 4.30 pm Service 5.30 pm Tea followed by meeting</p> <p>MARCH District Meeting 3.00 pm Ringing 4.30 pm Service 5.30 pm Tea followed by meeting and further ringing</p> <p>MAY District Striking Competition 5.00pm - Draw & Competition Ringing, followed by Tea and Results</p> <p>SEPTEMBER District Meeting Ringing (time to be confirmed) Service (time to be confirmed) Tea followed by meeting and further ringing (time to be confirmed)</p> <p>NOVEMBER District Meeting 2.30 pm Competition Ringing 4.30 pm Service 5.00 pm Tea followed by meeting and further ringing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post codes sourced from Diocesan website & Royal Mail</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Any changes to the programme will be announced at district meetings, by email or via the district newsletter.</p>			