## **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

# NEWSLETTER



Unusually, Holy Cross is a Catholic church with bells, mainly thanks to Fr Philip Denton who was Priest here in 2009 when the idea was put forward to install a peal of bells. The installation took place in December 2012. Despite the tenor only weighing 3¾ cwt, the bells are extremely easy to ring and pleasant sounding.

As a completely new band was needed, to help them our monthly learners' practice on the first Saturday each month is held here. Come along one month or any week on a Thursday from 7.30pm - the bells are a delight and visitors always welcome. Contact Cathy Merivale on 01708 852172 for more information.

## ----- CONTACTS

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We do now have a facebook group at Southern District - EACR. If you are a facebook user do 'like' the page. If not follow this link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/eacr.southern/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/eacr.southern/</a>

It is proving invaluable for sharing information, especially for appealing for additional ringers for weddings, funerals and so forth. To become a Facebook member go to Facebook.com. Protect your privacy via the padlock icon and 'settings'.

John Harpole

District Call Change Competition On Saturday November 15th

At

Great Wakering SS3 0AG

Draw at 2:30pm

Followed by tea and meeting

Names for tea to Tim Baskett by November 12th

## SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

The next Learners' Practices at South Ockendon will be on the first Saturday of each month as follows, 10am to 12 noon:

6th December

3rd January 2015

If you have not been before then now is the time to try something new and don't forget we always need helpers.

## **Eastwood and Leigh-on-Sea Practices**

Over the last couple of months, because of lack of 'home' ringers, we have resurrected the monthly joint practice, first tried many years ago but which faltered at the time because of people using it as an excuse for a night off!

It is the **FIRST** Thursday each month, with **EVEN** months being at Eastwood and **ODD** months being at Leigh, and so far, considering the time of year, attendance has been OK. Visitors welcome at either Eastwood or Leigh on that first Thursday.

Peter Knight

## Hutton All Saints Outing 27th September 2014

The day dawned bright and warm as ringers and friends travelled to Bradwell-on-Sea, in the Northern part of the Dengie peninsula. At the last minute we had been informed that the Kings Head pub opposite the Church had had a serious fire the night before, so we expected a lot of emergency vehicles around! Each tower was organised by a different tower master. Ray Jones organised ringing at the first tower. With 19 ringers on the trip there were plenty of call changes and rounds, finishing off with a ring of 120 plain bob minor conducted by Phil Harrison.

Our next church was Tillingham where many of us ordered our lunch in one of the two pubs before ringing - Cap and Feathers and the Fox and Hounds. Here Ronnie Crighton (Ingrave) organised the ringing and a good variety of call changes, rounds, and 120 of Grandsire Doubles was rung.

After lunch many of us sat outside overlooking the green, which was enjoyed by all. Here Ron Brown and Alwyn Brock had to leave us to ring for a wedding at Bentley (which was 40 minutes late starting!)

Our next church was Southminster, an augmented peal of eight, which some of us had a bit of a problem with. Renée and Robin could not be with us in the morning due to a unexpected hospital appointment. Renée and Robin joined us here, and Renée came up to the ringing chamber. Phil Harrison organised rounds on eight and call changes on seven finishing with two courses of Stedman doubles.

Our next church was a fine peal of six at Burnham-on Crouch. Chris Bailey was in charge and everybody got plenty of ringing and we finished with plain bob doubles.

Now for a longer ride towards home, and Downham was our last call. Paul Wiggins arranged the ringing, including Grandsire doubles. His son Joel, who is ten years old and learning at Shenfield, had a good ring here, as he had at all the other towers. By now we were getting a bit tired, but everyone had very much enjoyed the day.

Thanks to the churches we visited for allowing us to ring, and, and thanks to everybody who took part. John Armstrong and I finished off the day with nice pint in the Green Dragon at Shenfield.

Raymond Jones

Thanks to Raymond for arranging the route and all the towers and to Robin for the phone calls, letters and emails that he did for me. Renée P-J

If you have changed your **email address** within the last 12 months can you please inform Alison Nash, District Secretary, at alison1nash@yahoo. co.uk, on 01268 490061, or text on 07526 417787 asap. It is imperative that the District Officers email lists are kept up to date so that we can contact you at a moments notice.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, 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.

## The Association's insurance policy changes

All Towers will have received a notice summarising the current public liability and personal accident insurance available to our members. The only change has been an increase in the limit of public liability indemnity from £2million to £5million and an increase in the policy excess from £100 to £250.

Please ensure this notice is displayed on tower noticeboards. Any queries, contact Alison.

Snapped from the tower wall at Waterinbury, with thanks to Andrew Beech



## SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 17 2015

It is now just over two months to our district ADM, which is being held at Prittlewell on Saturday January 17.

As you all know I will be stepping down as your district master after 7 years.

So who is going to be the new master?

It is up to all of us to talk to people in our own towers and ask people if they would be willing to stand. If people ask you, please take the suggestion seriously.

It is a very rewarding role, and great for boosting self-confidence if, like me, you are nervous at standing up in front of others. You don't need to be an experienced ringer or a tower captain – there are always people around who can help run practices, and you'll soon get the hang of it.

#### The main duties of the district master are:

Chair four district meetings each year

To run, or delegate, district practices and other events

Attend and represent the district at twice-yearly Essex Association Management Committee meetings

Work with other district officers to look after affairs of the district

Assist with the production of the district newsletter

Encourage membership and attendance at district and Association events

A full job description is on the EACR website at http://eacr.org.uk/etc/job-descriptions, but if anyone wants to discuss what is involved, please ask me!

John Harpole



Also attached you will find a poster for the Association Carol Service which we are hosting in the Southern District at South Weald.

Please display the poster in your tower, and encourage everyone to come along. As well as the service itself, we have organised some ringing beforehand so you can make an afternoon of it; plus festive treats afterwards.

## DISTRICT 8-BELL SURPRISE PRACTICE

7.30pm 20th November St Peter's South Weald.

Cambridge and Yorkshire will be rung at all practices, along with other methods announced by the Master. All able and aspiring surprise ringers welcome.

Downham, Essex St Margaret

Sunday, 14 September 2014 in 39mins (7-3-0)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Christopher J Tucker
- 2 Nigel S D Taylor
- 3 Julia V Jones
- 4 Roger H Dorking
- 5 Paul A Cammiade (C)
- 6 Roger F Jamieson

Rung as a 50th wedding anniversary compliment to Roger and Gill Jamieson

## Rayleigh outing to Suffolk

Rayleigh holds its annual ringing outing each October and 2014 was no exception.

So Saturday 25th October we set out early, too early for some, into the wilds of Suffolk to sample the delights of the county's bells.

First call was at the 16cwt, 8 at Framlingham. These were found to be somewhat challenging although in themselves not much heavier than Rayleigh's own bells. After a long drive and the early start we made a good effort to get a decent result here. Next call was to Wickham Market where the old hands had come prepared for morning coffee knowing that Starbucks has not always made it to the more outlying districts. The Downham two, aka Paul and Barbara, outclassed us all by producing their beverage not in plastic travel cup but in pretty china mugs served from a cafeteria and they kindly took pity on the plebs and shared their healthy option banana cake with us. Next year may we expect them to produce candelabra as well? Wickham were a delightful ring and some

excellent striking was enjoyed by all throughout.

Grundisburgh was the last tower of the morning session. Unusually, this imposing redbrick tower contains a ring of 12 but despite some lack of experience amongst our ranks some good results were achieved on all the bells. And so to lunch at "The Dog" opposite the church. For the off-roader, otherwise known as Tony Lowe, the ford outside the church proved to be too tempting and had to be negotiated in order to reach the pub. He likes to make a splash and here was a real opportunity to do so.

The afternoon session commenced with the pleasant 6 at Bramford and here we again managed some good striking.

Finally, we come to the last two towers of the day. Both contain tenors in excess of 20 cwt. Having made the long climb to the ringing room of Stoke by Nayland this dimly lit tower offered an opportunity to ring on a heavy going mix of bells dating back in one case to the 14th century. Onward then and by this time feeling a little weary we arrived at the pretty village of Lavenham with its equally imposing tower. For those on their first visit they were taken by the size of the circle and the boxes under some of the back bells. Some excellent ringing was achieved although there seemed to be some reluctance to get up from a seated position by some as the day and the stairs had by now begun to take its toll.



Ringing at Grundisburgh. Ready for lunch?



Stoke by Nayland - heavy-going mix of bells, 20cwt tenor.

Our thanks to those ringers from 6 other towers who joined us and made the day possible and a success (seen left at Lavenham). One small regret was that the original organiser Darren Osborne could not be with for this very efficiently planned day and a glass was raised at lunch in his honour.

Jim Laken

## **USA AND CANADA 2014**

After 3 years of planning, 30 people spent Wednesday August 6th packing and getting ready for an adventure of a lifetime. Bright and early the following morning, 25 had gathered in terminal 3 at Heathrow, with a further 5 at Leeds / Bradford airport. Our destination – Boston, Massachusetts and the start of a 17-day ringing and sightseeing tour of USA and Canada.

Ten of the party came from the Southern District, with a further four from the South-East District; the remaining from various parts of England. During the tour we were to drive 1,800 miles around the north-east USA, and then use coach and an internal air trip to visit Toronto and Quebec. We rang at 19 different towers, scored

seven quarter peals, stayed in 10 different hotels, and had opportunities for sightseeing in Boston, New York, Washington DC, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Quebec. Our route, with overnight stops highlighted, is above.

We were to travel through the USA in 6 vehicles, to which drivers and passengers had been allocated before the start. This is a report from "Team Arthur", named after car A, a Ford Explorer, which we had named Arthur. During our last dinner together, we put together this list of memories:

Biggest help: Emily, our English speaking satnav

Friendliest city: Boston, and especially the staff in

The Cheesecake Factory

**Best ringing:** helping the locals at Princess Anne, and a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters at Washington National Cathedral

Best bells: Princess Anne and Orleans

Best hotel: Hilton Garden Inn, Danbury, CT

Worst hotel: Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA

Reddist hotel: Hotel Rouge, Washington DC



Orleans, at the end of Cape Cod (left), and the CN Tower in Toronto



Most challenging bells: Hingham Memorial Tower - and also the loudest (left)

**Most unusual tower:** Mendenhall Centre, Northampton and Melrose School, Brewster (right)





Most spectacular place: Niagara Falls (especially The Cave of the Winds)

**Best meal:** at the top of the CN Tower in Toronto, and in The Golden Corral in Salisbury, MD

**Most hair-raising time:** Anne's drive into Pittsburgh

**Best "Marilyn Monroe" moment:** Had at Orleans, MA

**Least favourite city:** Toronto **Best ice cream:** Quebec City

## Most memorable place:



Top of the Rock in New York (left), and the campanile in Washington National Cathedral (right)



**Best breakfast:** Thorntons in Boston



**Best selection of deserts:** The Cheesecake Factory in Boston



**Team Arthur:** John Harpole, Had Halliwell, Anne Porter, Helen Harpole, Steve Halliwell

**Most moving experience:** the 9/11 memorial in New York



Most forgettable ringing: Helen has virtually no recollection of trebling to a quarter at Boston on our second evening, when her body (still on BST) told her we didn't start until 1 am

**Best rope splicing:** Steve at Groton **Weirdest ringing experience:** ringing in a French library in Quebec (a former church), and using hand signals to call changes at Hingham



Most surprising tourist attraction: the National Mall in Washington DC

Favourite sign (right): Seen in Quebec Cathedral, which loosely translated means "Here only the bells speak in English. We'd rather talk to each other in French."

**Worst traffic jams:** leaving New York via Lincoln and Holland tunnels

**Longest traffic jam:** crossing the Chesapeake Bridge on the way from Princess Anne to Washington DC

**Best bicycle ride:** On "Boris" bikes down the west side on Manhattan



**Biggest challenge:** getting a cup of tea with fresh milk

**Biggest surprise:** finding vineyards in Ontario, and discovering the wine was very drinkable





And finally... the best tour organiser: Andy Sutherland from Ilkley, West Yorkshire



We rang in schools, colleges, libraries, secular towers, episcopal churches, Presbyterian churches and religious communities. Most of us rang at least one quarter peal, and we all arrived back home

exhausted, but with many happy, memories. Andy, our organiser, had done an amazing job planning the holiday and working with the North America Travel Service in Leeds to get all the arrangements made. It is a holiday that none of us will ever forget.

Team Arthur

## MINUTES District Meeting at Brentwood Saturday 20th September 2014

## **Welcome and Sign Roll Book**

The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to print their name in the attendance book. There were 27 members present and 1 visitor, Donald Heath of Romford.

#### **Thanks**

The Master thanked the Rev. Colin Hewitt for taking the service and Sam Adams for playing the organ. He also thanked the Brentwood ringers and their helpers for the superb tea.

The service touch was a course of Stedman Triples rung by Judy Rolfe, Maria Jorysz, Helen Harpole, Anne Porter, John Cousins, Paul Trueman, David Sloman and John Harpole.

#### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous District Meeting held at Thorpe Bay on 15th March 2014 were printed in the April 2014 Newsletter (no. 133) and available at the Meeting. There being no amendments the Minutes were signed as a true copy.

#### **Matters Arising**

The Annual General Meeting took place at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday where our District Master, John Harpole, was elected as Association Master and Stephen Nash was elected as a Life Vice President.

The Quiz Night on 29th March at South Weald was a great success and £321.70 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund.

We held our Method Striking Competition at Shenfield on 17th May. Six teams entered. Prittlewell won the competition and Rayleigh came second. Both teams went forward to represent the District in the final at Nazeing in July. Prittlewell came 3rd and Rayleigh 9th.

The District Master organised another successful District Outing on 21st June which followed the banks of the River Ouse to the West of Cambridge. It was a very hot day where ice creams just had to be eaten and a local tea room offering cream teas just had to be visited. The outing raised a profit of £66 which went to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Please see attached report from Hilary Donoghue's concerning the 24th Essex Course and the Annual Dinner on Saturday 4th October.

## Correspondence

A letter was received from Vicky Chapman, Association Secretary, thanking us for providing the refreshments and providing the sides people for the AGM service on May Day Bank Holiday Monday.

An email had been received, and forwarded to those on the District's email lists, from Peter Knight of Eastwood concerning future practice nights. The "first Thursday of each month, with even months being at Eastwood and odd months being at Leigh"

An email had been received, and forwarded to those on the District's email lists, from Renée and Robin Page-Jones about the Hutton Outing on Saturday 27th September. They are a little short on numbers and stated if anyone wanted to join them they would be most welcome. They are visiting: Bradwell-on-Sea, Tillingham, Southminster, Burnham and Downham.

John Harpole, District Master, stated there was only 100 ringers signed up to Essex Notices and therefore it was important that the District Secretary and himself had as many email addresses as possible so that important information can be sent out to the District.

#### **Elections of New Members**

Maria Loughenbury (Langdon Hills) proposed by Gordon Lucas, seconded by Cathryn Corns.

## **Training**

The Association Training Day is on Saturday 22nd November meeting at Coggeshall. The groups on offer this year are: Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples, Surprise Minor to Cambridge and Norwich.

### **Future Events**

The next Learners Practice at South Ockendon is on Saturday 4th October, 10am to 12 noon. Helpers always needed please.

On Saturday 18th October is the District Afternoon Practice at Stanford-le-Hope ringing 3-5pm.

Saturday 15th November is the Call Change Competition and District Meeting at Great Wakering. Draw 2.30pm prompt.

The Association Carol Service is an event that happens every 5 years and this year it is in our district. The service is being held on the same day as we would normally hold the District Carol Service so please support this event if you can. It is being held on Saturday 13th December at South Weald. Start time to be advised. A poster will be available nearer the date.

The Annual District Meeting is on Saturday 17th January 2015 at Prittlewell. Ringing starts at 3pm, followed by a service and tea.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from 21 people. These can be seen in the Attendance Book.

#### **Any Other Business**

The District will need to elect a new District Master at the ADM in January so please speak to those people in your tower, and other towers you may visit, who you feel may be a suitable candidate for this post. A job description is attached to these Minutes.

At the October Management Meeting the new post of Youth Ringers Co-Ordinator/Youth Development Officer will be elected. If you are interested please contact a District Officer or Association Officer. A job description is attached to these Minutes.

The District now has a Facebook page in the name of "Southern District – EACR". This is used to promote the ringing in the district and/or district events, or if you are in need of ringers for a wedding or any other aspect of ringing in the Southern District. This is a closed group and if you wish to be added put in a request and either John Harpole or Alison Nash can add you. There are currently 47 subscribers.

The District Master congratulated Ron Brown of Bentley Common for reaching his 90th birthday on 4th July. The Ingrave ringers held a very tasty "ringers tea" and a number of quarter peals had been rung in the District on and around Ron's birthday.

The service collection was: £93.80
Profit from Raffle: £50

Profit from Tea: £45

## 72 SPLICED AT LANGDON HILLS

We don't think this has been done before in Essex! Congratulations to Steve Nash for working out how to fit all the methods in (and making us learn 'upside down' methods) and keeping us all on the blue line on the day! The quarter was to mark the 12th wedding anniversary of Alan & Catherine Gisby. (The week before they limbered up on 62 spliced.)

Langdon Hills, Essex St Mary Sunday, 12 October 1440 72 Spliced Plain Doubles Newton Place, Ancaster Bob, Braceborough Place, Rev Cardiganshire, Rev Glamorgan, Rev Denbighshire, St Faith, Union Bob, Rouen Place, Rev Bedfont, Rev Eton, Rev Boveney, Rev Winchendon, Rev St Nicholas, Semprigham Place, Rev Longford, Rev Hascombe, Rev Thornborough, Rev St Martins, Rev St Simons, Chapel en le Frith, Rev Rugby, Rev Merton, Rev Slapton, Chevasse, Maltby, Montgomeryshire, Cardiganshire, Glamorgan, Denbighshire, Bampton, Twineham, St Ouen, Bedfont, Eton, Boveney, Blackburn, Westminster II, Dragon place, Chesham, Ockham, Broughton, Hunstspill, New Bob, Blaisdon, Itchingfield, Chipstead, Oakley, Suffolk, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Somerset, Westmoreland, Surrey, Winchendon Place, St Nicholas, Huntley, Longford, Hascombe, Thornborough, Lancashire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, St Martins, St Simons, Eynesbury, Rugby, Merton, Slapton

1 Alan Gisby 2 Gordon Lucas 3 Cathryn Corns 4 Andrew Martin 5 Stephen Nash (C) Most methods for all the band; 1700th QP on the

bells: 2

## RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

**Alwyn Brock** for her first quarter at Bentley on Wednesday 29th Oct 1260 Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire and Bob Doubles

1 Anna Biddulph2 Rowena Marshall3 John Cousins4 Ron Brown (C)5 Alan Moody6 Alwyn Brock

For confirmation service by Bishop Bradwell, and birthday compliment to Alwyn.

**Mark Robbins** for his first in method at South Weald on Sunday 19 Oct - 1280 Superlative Surprise Major

1 Helen Harpole
3 Maria Jorysz
5 Mark Robbins
7 John Harpole (C)
2 Nigel Taylor
4 John Cousins
6 Ian Jorysz
8 Paul Trueman

**Alan Gisby** & **Ros Skipper** for their first in method at Rayleigh, on Sunday, 5 Oct - 1260 St Martin's doubles 1 David Belcham 2 Alan Gisby 3 Ros Skipper 4 Simon Smith 5 Cathryn Corns (C) 6 Tony Lowe

**Ros Skipper** for her most methods at Rayleigh on Sunday 19 October 1260 420 Grandsire,

240 St Martin's, 240 St Simons, 360 Plain bob 1 David Belcham 2 Ros Skipper 3 Alan Gisby 4 Lydia Roberts 5 Cathryn Corns (C) 6 Tony Lowe

**Lydia Roberts** for her first as conductor at Rayleigh on Sunday, 28 September - 1260 St Simons Doubles

1 Cathryn Corns 2 Ros Skipper 3 Alan Gisby 4 David Belcham 5 Lydia Roberts (C) 6 Tony Lowe. Also Alan and Ros's 1st in method again.

Lydia again for her first in method at Rayleigh on Sunday,

14 September - 1272 Wells Surprise Minor
1 Cathryn Corns
2 Gordon Lucas
3 Lydia Roberts
4 Richard Dunhill
5 David Belcham
6 John Harpole (C)
And to John for his first in method as conductor!

## Highlights from the Essex Association Management Meeting – 4th October 2014

The meeting started with a minutes silence to remember Peter Barnes (past NE Master, Treasurer and Committee Rep) and Canon A Abbey (former chaplain).

The Ringing Foundation had requested that the Essex Association pay £1 for every member of the Association. After discussions it was felt that none of the money would be guaranteed to come back to Essex. It was felt that training within Essex was more important before any money was sent elsewhere and there is currently uncertainty over the long-term future of the Ringing Foundation. It was agreed no money would be sent to The Ringing Foundation until we had a better idea of what they would use the money for and they provide a long-term revised business plan.

There are 40+ members on the Management Committee but where were they? Some had given their apologies for the meeting but most had not. We only just had a quorum (23) for the meeting. So if you are eligible to be at the Management Meetings which take place on the first Saturday in February and the second Saturday of October please come along.

The budget for the Essex team to enter the Ringing World National Youth Competition was £400 to help with accommodation and fees. This year they used £350. The Essex Young Eagles came second in the Call Change Competition.

At the Annual General Meeting in May the service was attended by the new Dean of Chelmsford. Boreham Choir and organist were also present but they will not be at the 2015 AGM. Therefore, we need to find a choir and an organist for the 2015 service at the Cathedral. If you know of a choir and/or an organist who would like to participate, please contact Vicki Chapman, Association Secretary, before Christmas.

The Association Treasurer is obtaining quotes for a new stock of Association badges which will be brought back to the February Management Meeting. Watch this space!

Andrew Taylor who was a past Association Treasurer and is a Life Vice President of our Association how now been appointed as Treasurer of the Central Council.

Saturday 22nd November is the Association Training Day. Helpers are always needed so if you can spare a morning, afternoon or a full day session to help, and that includes helpers for Surprise Minor, please contact the Education Officer.

The next Essex Ringing Course is on 9-11 April 2015. The fee for this will be £50 for adults and £35 for juniors. This will be the 25th anniversary of The Ringing Course and Helen Harpole has come up with a few designs for course clothing. Watch this space for updates.

There were 66 people at the Annual Dinner this year. Next year's dinner will be on 3rd October 2015.

## Grant Applications were received from:

Great Baddow. Their estimated work was £6,278. The Committee approved a grant of £630; Great Waltham. Their estimated work was £3,220. A grant was approved of £320 subject to the grant of a faculty; The work at Ford End was estimated at £3,080 and the Committee recommended a grant of £300 subject to the grant of a faculty.

The Webmaster, Fred Bone, asked for feedback on the new website. Please contact him with ideas.

Christina Brewster was elected as Youth Officer after a recent advertisement (we need a new name for this post).

If you think you are eligible for life membership under the 50 year rule please contact Colin Chapman who will be happy to check your year totals. At present the only person who is eligible for 50 years member from the Southern District for 2015 is Steve Halliwell.

For 2015 the North West District will be providing sides people for the Cathedral service, the AGM ringing will be in the South East District, and the Striking Competition final will be in the South West District, the Southern District will be providing the refreshments for the Management Meeting in February and the Northern District will be providing refreshments for the October meeting.

In 2016 the Annual District Meetings will need to be altered as the first Saturday in the month of January is 2nd so all ADM's will be as follows: 9th January – Northern & South East, 16th January – North East and South West, 23rd January – Southern and 30th January – North West.

The Association Carol Service is being held at South Weald on Saturday 13th December. To encourage more people to the service there will be a mini outing which will be held at Hutton, Shenfield and Bentley Common and then South Weald. The service will start at 4.30pm. A poster will be available soon.

It was suggested that a list be made available for those who are willing to judge striking competitions. If you have judged a competition before please contact Vicki Chapman who will be more than willing to add you to the list. There will be a course on how to judge striking competitions on the Essex Course next year.

Are you a member of "Essex Notices"? If not why don't you sign up at http://eacr.org.uk/links/email-lists.html. You will find out what is going on in the whole of the Association.

Alison Nash