

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER



PLEASE SEE  
MINUTES  
ATTACHED FROM  
LAST DISTRICT  
MEETING

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, DOWNHAM.

St Margaret's has been so extensively restored and rebuilt over the centuries that it is hard to date the building accurately: however the tower is believed to have been built in the 15th century, whilst the rest of the church was rebuilt in 1871, re-using some of the features from an older 13th century church building. A more recent refurbishment occurred at the end of the 20th century when a fire resulted in severe damage including loss of the roof, all glass (apart from the west window), pews, organ, pulpit and choir stalls. The shell of the building was saved, and after considerable effort by the congregation, the church reopened in the year 2000. The dovecote, which is 16th century, was moved to the churchyard from Downham Hall. There are some interesting trees in the churchyard, including one of the largest Pollarded Field Maples (by girth) in the British Isles and a giant redwood. Also in the churchyard is the former stone font, the bowl of which may be of a similar age to the tower. The tower holds a lovely peal of six bells with a  $7\frac{3}{4}$ cwt tenor, in a cosy bell chamber! Practice night is Thursday, from 7.45pm.

## CALL CHANGE STRIKING COMPETITION

District Meeting & Call Change Competition at Downham. Draw 2.30pm prompt. Immediately followed by the competition ringing. Service 4.30pm followed by tea at about 5.30pm and meeting. Strictly names for tea to Barbara Leigh on 01268 763645 by Wednesday 18th November. Barbara says if you get your order for tea in promptly she can ensure there is enough bread pudding to go round. Call change rules are attached.

## CONTACTS

**MASTER****Nigel Taylor**

(Downham)  
10 Teignmouth Drive,  
Rayleigh, Essex,  
SS6 9PF.

Tel: 01268783792

Mob: 07825810847

s-district-master@  
eacr.org.uk

**DEPUTY MASTER****Hilary Donoghue**

(Downham)  
16 Norsey Close  
Billericay CM11 1AP

Tel: 07540 066789

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

**TREASURER****Mark Robbins**

(South Weald)  
6 West Way,  
Brentwood  
Essex CM14 4PB

01277 234345

mark@southweald.  
org.uk

**EDUCATION****OFFICER****Steve Nash**

(Fobbing and Langdon  
Hills)

2 Woodview,  
Langdon Hills,  
Essex SS16 6TZ

Tel: 01268 490061

stevenash@yahoo.co.uk

## SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

The next Learners' Practices at South Ockendon will be on the 7th November and 5th December 10am to 12 noon.

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

### Training Day 28 November

Helpers are wanted on the training day based at Downham. If you are available, see <http://eacr.org.uk/education/training-day-2015.html> or call Richard Wilson on 01245 358765

## NEWSLETTERS

Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at [bethjohnson6710@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



**Join the Southern District - EACR group on facebook. If you are a facebook user do 'like' the page. If not follow this link : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eacr.southern/>**

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'.

## PRITTLEWELL RINGING CENTRE



The Prittlewell Ringing Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary this year and an article was recently published in the Ringing World publicising this event. A celebratory service was held at Prittlewell on the 29th August conducted by the Revd Chris Cousins who drew up the form of service for us. Over thirty people attended and the Association Master John Harpole read the first lesson. A very enjoyable tea rounded off the afternoon.

Present and former pupils, partners and friends enjoyed a meal together at The Pipe of Port, a very well known Southend wine bar, on the 25th August.

Over the past 25 years :

- We have been awarded a grant of £2000 from the Worshipful Company of Founders. This allowed us to install a simulator and cameras.
- Anglia Television filmed us to publicise the Millennium Ringing programme.
- In 2004 our sessions were added to the Southend Adult Community College prospectus. This ceased in 2010.
- In 2005 monthly quarter peal attempts at Eastwood were started to consolidate method ringing.
- In 2007 we were awarded prize of £500 by the Worshipful Company of Founders for teaching adults.
- In 2008 we became a Central Council recognised Ringing Centre.
- Ringers taught at the Centre gave the 5th bell in the new ring of ten installed in 2010 by The Whitechapel Foundry.

We have taught people from many churches around the District and beyond. We welcome anyone who would like to learn to ring or improve their bell handling skills. Sessions take place at Prittlewell every Saturday from 9.00 a.m. to mid day.

Peter Sloman

[Those in the photograph are, from left to right, Don Stoneman, Emma Pinnock, Sarah Chin-a-Loy, Sandra Markham, Kathryn Ash, John Woolard, Alyson Browning, Peter Sloman, Martin Newman, Michael Lummis.]

## RINGING IN THE FUTURE

As reported in The Ringing World, dated October 23rd 2015, the Anglican Church has published a document on the future of its 16,000 churches. There are approximately 2,000 churches with ten or fewer regular worshippers and most of these are likely to close within the next few years. There are additionally some 6,000 churches with twenty or fewer regular worshippers and many of these may close within the next ten to fifteen years or so as ageing congregations continue to diminish.

As the accompanying editorial stated, this will have considerable implications for the future of bells and bell ringing.

Whilst they remain in ringable condition, many of the bells in closed churches will remain available for practices and ringing for special occasions, at least until they fall into a state of disrepair. Once this occurs, it is unlikely that funds will be available for restoration, and in any case, bell ringing associations and guilds are now beginning to consider spending far more on recruiting ringers than bell restoration, albeit extremely late in the day.

### **ARE WE COMMITTED TO RECRUITMENT?**

On recruitment and training, there is a long way to go. Whilst this is now being actively discussed, little has yet been achieved on how to recruit ringers. Elva Ainsworth has recently resigned from her post in the Central Council because she was unable to achieve any real commitment to new methods of recruitment with the inevitable risks that any new venture entails. At the last Management Committee Meeting of the EACR, recruitment was item 26 on the agenda!! Unsurprisingly, we ran out of time to discuss this vital matter in anything like sufficient detail. We have an association training day on November 28th, and thus far, there has been a deplorable lack of volunteers to assist with the course. This begs the question: are we really prepared to collectively expend the considerable time and energy required to teach new recruits of all ages?

So, what will we be facing in the next ten to fifteen years if we fail to recruit sufficient ringers? Probably inadequate numbers of competent ringers to ring the bells at the churches that do remain open, let alone have many bands of ringers able to achieve a high standard of both striking and method complexity. Are we too late? Personally, I do not think so, but we need to act now.

### **ALTERNATIVES TO CENTRAL COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

If the Central Council is ineffective, we need cross guild/association discussion in order to share ideas; moreover, we are going to have to work very hard indeed if we are to recruit and retain learners. Richard Wilson, the EACR Education Officer, has proposed several ringing centres with full simulator equipment; if his plan is realised in full, this will cost up to £14,000 to implement, so we shall also need to raise extra funds, or divert money into the general fund rather than the bell fund. Advertising campaigns will cost thousands more. The emphasis moves away from bell restoration towards finding the ringers to ring the bells we do have.

I suppose that the first thing to do is to interview the recruits we do have and ask them: "What persuaded you to learn to ring?" We can ask ourselves the same question, although back in 1970 when I learnt to ring, there was little else to do in a small Oxfordshire village on a Friday evening. Now, we are faced with extricating youngsters from their cosy rooms where they play games on computers and Xboxes. The band at Writtle have succeeded in attracting young ringers, and Christina Brewster organises special practices for them. A youth band from the EACR takes part in the youth striking competition each year. At Worcester, Mark Regan and his team have trained dozens of young ringers, so it clearly is possible.

### **CONSULT YOUR CURRENT RECRUITS**

The EACR have conducted surveys on recruitment, but I have yet to hear any feedback from these surveys. I therefore propose that we speak to all our recruits, be they young or old, and ask them what prompted them to learn to ring. I would like you all to share the answers by emailing me at: [nigelsdtaylor@outlook.com](mailto:nigelsdtaylor@outlook.com)

The information that I receive will be published in our next newsletter for discussion. The resultant feedback can then be passed on to the association officers and management committee for comment and action. The Essex Association master, John Harpole, published a document on recruitment at the beginning of this year, but sadly, I have heard little feedback. This subject is like a drum: it needs to be banged loudly and often!

Nigel Taylor

## FAREWELL TO RONNIE

A quarter peal was rung on Tuesday 20th October at Ingrave, to say a fond farewell to Ronnie Crighton, Tower Captain, who is leaving to spend his 'retirement' in Lincolnshire. The quarter was Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles

The ringers:

- 1 Wendy Olley
- 2 Ron Brown
- 3 John Cousins
- 4 Alan Moody
- 5 Ray G Jones (C)
- 6 Colin Tilbrook

Wendy Olley is taking over as Tower Captain.

## THANK YOU...

...to the South Weald Ringers for a successful quiz night in October – six tables enjoyed the quiz and the pizza supper and over £130 was raised for district bell funds.

## Are you on the Southern District's Email List?

If you are but have changed your email address, or you want to be added to the list, please contact your District Secretary

Please contact **Alison Nash** on:

alison1nash@yahoo.co.uk

or

s-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk

or

Give her a ring on  
01268 490061!

## FROM JOHN HARPOLE

Thank you ever so much for the very generous gifts given to me at the September meeting to mark my time as District Master. I will enjoy using the whisky glasses and drinking the Tennessee whiskey over the winter months, and will use the money to buy a new garden bench on which to enjoy future summers. It was very kind of you all.

I really enjoyed being district master and thank you for your support, whether it be as a fellow district officer or just attending district events.

## Jill Evans 30th August 1939-6th October 2015

Jill started her ringing life in Bromley, Kent, and began ringing at Shenfield in the late 80s with Harry Turner. Her first quarter on the bells was in 1997 when she organised a half-muffled quarter of Bob Doubles on the occasion of Princess Diana's funeral (Jill rang the third).

Jill and her husband Gerald first lived in Ingatestone after they married then moved to Shenfield where they lived for 40 years. Just two years ago they returned to Ingatestone, and it was there Jill's Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration was held on 30th October. It was a celebration indeed of a very full life: Jill was a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman and Clerk Emerita of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries. She was a Mothers' Union member, a prison visitor, a keen singer, and a server at St Mary's.

Jill was the treasurer of the Shenfield Guild for many years, ringing regularly for all services and participating in about 10 quarters. After moving to Ingatestone she would often return to help the band for special services. On July 21st this year, a quarter of Bob Minor was rung at Shenfield for Jill and Gerald's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Jill will be greatly missed by the St Mary's ringers.  
Ray Jones, & Beth Johnson

## Freda Hill 14th August 1931- 19th June 2015

Freda learned to ring in 1974 at St. Mary's, Prittlewell at the same time as her elder daughter Jenny. Freda joined the Essex Association in 1978 and was a regular member of the Prittlewell band for many years. She was happiest hunting the treble or drumming the tenor behind and rang a quarter peal at Prittlewell on the tenor. Her two other children learnt to ring too, as did some of her grandchildren. Three family members were able to join the local band for some half-muffled ringing on the day of her funeral.

Following a hip replacement, she was unable to climb the stairs at Prittlewell but, not one to give up, she continued to ring at Eastwood, on their ground floor ring, until fairly recently.

When a restoration of the bells at Prittlewell became necessary it was Freda who said that if we were going to have a new peal of bells she would pay for one of them. This magnanimous offer gave us the impetus to begin working towards a new ring of bells, and the second bell of the new installation was donated by Freda and her husband Tony.

It was always a source of regret to Freda that she was unable to manage the stairs but she continued to serve in the church as one of the flower arrangers long after she stopped ringing. She was a regular communicant at St. Mary's and involved in other social and fund raising activities.

David Sloman, August 2015

## RAYLEIGH'S AUTUMN OUTING

The poet Keats known for penning the odd stanza reckoned Autumn is a "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." One doesn't like to criticise the chap but he failed to mention that it is also a good time for ringing outings. So on 10th October, Rayleigh's finest together with ringing friends, relations and an ample supply of bread pudding set off on its annual ringing extravaganza over the Hertfordshire border.

Our first call was at **Cheshunt** with its excellent Gillett and Johnson eight hung in a near perfect circle, rung from a light and airy ringing room. Here some well-struck touches of Grandsire and Stedman were accomplished, hopefully setting the pattern of the day. Then onward, travelling through some of Herts' attractive leafy suburbs we next arrived at St Thomas of Canterbury, **Northaw** with its ornately decorated interior. This ground floor six proved a little more challenging and emphasised the need for correct handling. We teased out some decent touches of doubles and ended with one of our methods of the day, Helen Bob Minor, first introduced to us by our Devonian friend Darren Osborne.

**Essendon's** pleasant 15cwt (for the younger readers that's 768kgs) got us back on point and everyone managed to ring well whether it be method or in rounds and call changes. This church had perhaps the unique experience of being damaged by bombs dropped from a Zeppelin in WW1 with sadly some loss of life occurring in the village. It seems the 'novelist' Barbara Cartland lived in the parish at Camfield Place. Two tragedies occurring in one place, maybe? Afterwards we were to lunch in the Rose and Crown close by in the village and so unsurprisingly ringing finished rather more promptly than had earlier been the case.

Following our lunch we drove on to the pleasant church of St John the B., **Great Amwell** which is set in a wooded dell. With parking in its narrow approaches completed we walked through a pleasant terraced churchyard into this small chapel-like building. This gallery rung 6cwt six being a mixture of three different founders' bells cast c1499, c 1558 and 1612 are coupled with three 20th-century Gillett's. Surprisingly melodious considering the difference in age of casting. Here in the churchyard you can find near the west end of the church the grave of Olympian Harold Abrahams part of whose life story was told through Colin Welland's script of Chariots of Fire. Apparently, biographer and writer Izaak Walton, the author of 'The Compleat Angler', had been resident in the village. One can't help thinking he could have done with a better proof reader?

On arrival at **Broxbourne** time was taken to observe the various fowl paddling in the New River that flows past the church. A lovely setting. We were greeted by a local ringer who introduced us to a Canadian, native of Vancouver, now living on a narrow boat nearby and currently learning to ring. We did find this heavy and none too musical 18cwt eight the most challenging of the day. Having to raise all eight bells (the locals like to practise raising in peal, apparently) some time was taken to gather our breath and then we rang several plain courses in order that every one was comfortable with their performance. Tiring a little by now we moved on.

On our way those of us relying on SatNavs found ourselves being informed that the road ahead may involve tolls. Perplexed we meandered through what looked like a water treatment plant and yes, 50p was demanded at an unmanned barrier before we could continue our journey. At this point one of our ringer's cars was seen returning along the approach road as he had discovered resources did not include sufficient change. Fortunately a passing ringer's car (the one carrying the bread pudding mentioned earlier) was able to stop and provide the appropriate coinage.



*Ringers' window at Essendon*

*Great Amwell*





Now back in Essex the call at St Peter, **Roydon** was intended as a reminder of our late ringing friend Lawrence Beale who had departed this life earlier this year. He had lived in the village as a boy and his relatives had kept the Crusader pub. Here we encountered what can only describe as the 'Marie Celeste' moment of the day. We were of course expected, but on arrival found the church unlocked and the access to the tower open and the belfry trap door also. Fortunately, we had the presence mind to check above that there was no one working up there before we started to ring. By now we were running late and after a quick ring we left for our final call of the day but not before taking care to close the place down.

**Harlow Common** with its ground floor ring of eight was intended to be a comfortable final ring of the day. However, as twilight fell and a possible lockout looked on the cards we made the appropriate calls and half an hour late a key arrived. Once the ropes were lowered from the floor above we were able to close our day with some creditable ringing.

Now weary we nonetheless gave our thanks to those who deserved it and said our goodbyes to ringing friends and relatives. Returning home we could reflect on a successful day undertaken in the right spirit of our shared love of ringing and irrespective of ability. A couple of memories. One thinks of the two young teenagers both called Sam who during the day acquitted themselves very well



and are a credit to their instructors. If these young guys are an example of what we can produce then the future of ringing should be in good hands. Also the fact that ringers from 13 towers took part on the day and our thanks should go to them.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the bread pudding supplier who travelling in style in a Grade II listed Range Rover managed to make his supply last out until the final tower. Such miracles have not been seen since a time when five loaves and two small fishes were involved. Thank you Nick.



*Bread pudding!*

Jim Laken

## RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Cathryn Corns** for her 850th quarter at Eastwood, on Saturday, 10 October – 1260 2 Plain Doubles  
720 Grandsire, 540 Plain Bob  
1 Gordon Lucas 2 Roy S Sciver 3 Cathryn Corns 4 Peter Knight 5 David Sloman (C)

**Alwyn Brock** for her first quarter on an inside bell at Bentley Common, on Monday, 24 August  
– 1260 Grandsire Doubles, 1 Pattie Folkson, 2 Rowena L Marshall, 3 Alwyn Brock, 4 Ronald J Brown (C)  
5 John Cousins 6 Alan Moody

The next **Young Ringers' Practice** will be on Sunday 1st November from 4.30pm to 6pm at Inworth.

Please would you let me know who hopes to be there so that I can be sure there is sufficient uptake.

As usual, please could I also ask every young ringer to bring 50p each as a donation to the tower.

The practice on Sunday 29th November will be at Writtle from 4.30pm to 6pm.

Christina Brewster

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Any nominations for life membership must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by 1 December (rule 10.4) and should include details of the candidate's Association activities.

Guidelines were agreed by the Committee in February 1986 as follows: "... To honour a member for work undertaken throughout the district and promotion of work throughout the Association." Further advice on the criteria is available from the Association Master or Secretary or from your district officers.

Vicki Chapman, General Secretary

### **INTER-ASSOCIATION ESSEX TROPHY**

The 10-bell striking competition was on 12th September, at St Nicolas, Guildford, with the test piece being a course of Pudsey Surprise Royal.

I'm delighted to report that the Essex band were placed first, beating teams from the Kent C.A., Surrey A., Guildford D.G., Sussex C.A., and Winchester and Portsmouth D.G.

Congratulations to the Essex band : Vicki Chapman, Heather Rayner, Anne Bray, Paul Cammiade, John Taylor, John Harpole, Brian Meads, Paul Bray, Colin Chapman, Matthew Rayner.

Thanks to Christina Brewster, Julia Jones, David Rothera and Nigel Taylor for helping out with the practices.

John Harpole

## **Report of the Management Meeting held at Danbury on 10th October 2015**

It was exactly a year ago that I had my knee replaced and I missed the Management Meeting that was held the same day. This year there was nothing to prevent me attending the meeting and afterwards writing a report for you all the read in the newsletter.

One of the functions of the Association Management Committee Meeting is to receive reports from the various elected and appointed officers. Many of these just go through on the nod and are usually accompanied by a vote of thanks from the meeting to the people concerned. Some of the reports raise some quite interesting information and discussion.

There was quite a long discussion about the Essex Course. One of the suggestions was that the Association should offer a scholarship to a young ringer in memory of Adrian Semkin who started the course and was its administrator for many years. It was also suggested that the course offers a trophy for the most improved student on the course.

The dinner was discussed and it was agreed that this year's was a most enjoyable and successful social occasion even though the numbers (56) were lower than previous years. A social committee was formed three years ago with one member from each district. At present two districts no longer have a rep and one has never had a rep so only half of the districts are represented. Andrew Brewster (the Social representative for the Association) wonders if the committee is viable. I am still representing you all but I don't seem to do anything but exhort you to come to the dinner. 13 of you responded by coming but I hardly think that was due to me! It was a good turnout though. A few years ago we were down to five at the dinner. Maybe you all come to support the Association Master!

Now that Rev Ian Jorysz has left the district we need a new Chaplain so Stephanie Gilliam from Wickford was appointed by the committee. Other appointments were agreed. These were all the same as last year and are available in the report and on the website.

The Association continues to discuss ways of attracting and training new ringers. This was discussed at the last executive meeting and since then a subcommittee had been formed of principal officers, the Education Officer and District Masters to look into this further. As a result of this Richard Wilson and George Vant had both done research about Ringing Centres and Richard reported on their findings. At present there are three, one at Prittlewell one at Coggeshall and the most recent one at Chigwell. The most notable conclusion was that a new ringing centre with all the equipment thought necessary to ensure its success could cost £1,400. It was agreed that the subcommittee would continue to meet regularly to further the association's desire to encourage the training of new ringers.

Stephen Nash reported on the Central Council meeting that took place at the end of May. The Essex Association are well represented on the Central Council. John Hall had resigned and Paul Cammiade was to take his place. There is a further vacancy due to the death of John Armstrong. Steve reported that the council voted for the dissolution of the Ringing Foundation. The Council also hosted The Ringing World AGM during the weekend. Things are looking bleak at The Ringing World. Subscriptions are down again and it is becoming more and more difficult to balance the books. Various schemes were discussed to raise money including charging for peals and publishing fortnightly. The Central Council are running another ringing survey which will collect information on line this November. Wendy Godden is coordinating this for the Association

If you want to read any of the reports that were considered at the meeting do feel free to contact me, my contact details are on page 1, but you can reach me by email on [norseyhound@aol.com](mailto:norseyhound@aol.com). Do let me or any of the other southern district officers know if there is anything you would like the Management Committee to discuss.

Hilary Donoghue

Essex Association of Change Ringers  
Southern District

MINUTES  
Meeting at Fobbing  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The meeting started with a minute silence in respect of Freda Hill, past member of the Prittlewell band and a member of this District who died recently. Peter Sloman advised the meeting a little about Freda and stating the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell at Prittlewell is inscribed with her name.

1. Welcome

The Master, Nigel Taylor, welcomed all present and invited everyone to print their name in the attendance book. There were 25 members present.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked Father Justin Hutcherson, for taking the service, Father David Rollins for the use of the bells and the church and Darryl East for playing the organ. He also thanked Cathryn Corns and the Fobbing ringers for the excellent tea.

Stedman Triples was rung before the service by: Ros Skipper, Stephen Nash, John Harpole, Nigel Taylor, Julia Jones, Andrew Beech, John Cousins and Andy Martin.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Hutton on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 were printed in the August 2015 Newsletter (No. 139), emailed to those on the District's mailing list and copies available at this meeting. There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

The District Outing in June was not particularly well attended; a few more ringers would have been good, although it was a pleasant day out. Thank you to those who supported the outing. If Nigel Taylor is District Master next year he plans to visit the area of Tenterden in Kent, with time to ride on the steam railway for those interested.

The Quarter Peal Day with a Difference on 18<sup>th</sup> April was a great success. Quarter peals, tea and cake; a great day was had by all. Hopefully we can persuade Andrew Beech to organise another one next yet.

On, a very hot, 4<sup>th</sup> July the Striking Competition Finals were held at Barking. Langdon Hills were placed 7<sup>th</sup> and Prittlewell were 8<sup>th</sup>. In the 8-bell Inter-District Competition our district came 4<sup>th</sup>. The winners were Chelmsford Cathedral.

Members of the District rang a quarter peal at Chelmsford Cathedral on 12<sup>th</sup> July of Stedman Cinques. Well done to the band. Nigel hoped we can ring another quarter peal there soon.

#### 5. Correspondence

All correspondence received by the Secretary through Essex Notices is forwarded on to the District's email lists so that as many people as possible receive the Association news.

#### 6. Election of New Members

(a) New Ringing Members were elected as follows:

Ellie Pridgeon (Brentwood), proposed by Chris Bailey, seconded by Jonathan Lee.

Terry Babbage (South Benfleet), proposed by Jack Dobson, seconded by David Roberts.

Neil Spence (South Benfleet), proposed by Jack Dobson, seconded by David Roberts.

Barry Woolf (South Benfleet), proposed by Jack Dobson, seconded by David Roberts.

(b) Friends of the Association - There were no friends elected.

(c) Non Resident Members - No Non Resident Members were elected.

#### 7. Training – Association Training Day, 28<sup>th</sup> November

The Association Training day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November is being held in the Southern District this year. The itinerary for the day is as follows:

9.30am – Meet at Downham for initial chat (who is going where) and coffee.

10.30am-12.30pm – Talk with Tutor and 1<sup>st</sup> session of ringing.

12.30pm-2.00pm – Lunch

2.30pm-5pm – Talk with Tutor (if needed) and 2<sup>nd</sup> session of ringing.

*Note: Although towers are booked up to 5pm, the finish time is up to the group.*

Towers which have agreed to be open for the course are – Fobbing, Grays, Downham (both sessions) and Ingrave (both sessions).

The day will consist of Stedman Doubles and Triples, Trebling to Treble Bob, and Conducting.

Application forms are available on the training page of the EACR website, or send a SAE to Richard Wilson, Association Education Officer. There are six places available on each course so first come, first served! The closing date for applications is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The cost is £7. Helpers are also required. If you can help on all or part of the day, please contact Richard Wilson on 01245 358765 or 07587 140804 or email him at [education@eacr.org.uk](mailto:education@eacr.org.uk).

## 8. Future Events

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September is the Quiz Night at South Weald, tickets are still available from Mark Robbins.

The Annual Dinner is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at the County Hotel, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2PZ, starting at 7.30pm.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October is the District Afternoon Practice. The venue has been changed to Rettendon. Ringing 3-5pm.

The Call Change Competition and District Meeting is at Downham on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Please note this is a 2.30pm draw.

12<sup>th</sup> December is the Carol Service at Ingrave. Unfortunately the Ingrave Organist is unavailable. Two names were given to the secretary at the meeting who may be able to help us out. *Note – Alan Ball agreed to play the organ for this service.*

The Annual District Meeting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January is at North Ockendon. Ringing starts at 3pm.

## 9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 16 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

## 10. Any Other business

The Essex Young Ringers are looking for more ringers to join their group. They practice on the last Sunday of the month, although the next practice is on 1<sup>st</sup> November (to avoid half term week) and then on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 4.30pm to 6pm. *Note: 1<sup>st</sup> November is at Inworth and 29<sup>th</sup> November is at Writtle.* Although these practices have been centred round Writtle at present, it is hoped that future practices will be at different towers each month. The practices are also run by young ringers with some older ringers present. Who is classed as a young ringer? 25 and under.

*Note: the secretary has been added to the Young Ringers Facebook page (young at heart!) so that information can be passed on to the young ringers in our District.*

Before the close of the meeting the past Master of the Southern District, John Harpole, was presented with "Thank you" gifts for the hard work he had done in the district as District Master – Whiskey Glasses, Jack Daniels Whisky and £160 cash.

The collection raised was kept by the church.

Raffle - £39.00

Tea was donated - £33.10

The meeting closed at 6pm and there was further ringing after the meeting.

Signed ..... as a true  
record ..... (District  
Master)

N S D Taylor

Dated ..... 20.....

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.