



AGM 5 May 2025

Meet
&
Round
Up

The 146th Annual General Meeting of the Essex Association of Change Ringers will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May 2025 at 11:45.

The arrangements will follow the traditional pattern:

- 9:15–10:15 General ringing
- 10:15–10:30 Service Touch by the Master's invited band
- 10:30 Service
- 11.45 Annual General Meeting to conclude by 13:00

Do come along and ring at the Cathedral – the ringing is for everyone! Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can have a ring.

There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and again afterwards whilst we set up for the meeting.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been rearranged. The full Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the 2024 Annual Report. We will be electing a new Master, a new General Secretary, a new Education Officer and one new Independent Examiner.

The AGM will be followed by afternoon ringing in the South-West District:

- 2:30–3:30 Hornchurch
- 3:00–4:00 Romford
- 3:30–4:30 Epping
- 4:00–5:00 Loughton
- 4:30–5:30 Chigwell

Tea 3:30–6:30 at Chigwell

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Central Council Executive meetings | 2 |
| Annual Dinner – save the date | 2 |
| Taste and See: News from Chigwell Row | 3 |
| Practice Diary | 4 |
| From the Registers | 5 |
| George Pipe Trophy | 6 |
| Central Council meeting 2029 | 7 |
| Central Council focus | 8 |
| Floral tribute | 9 |
| That's a First! | 10 |
| Dates for your Diary | 12 |

Central Council Executive meetings

The Central Council Executive meets monthly, as part of its remit to monitor progress by the Workgroups and to plan for the future. Notes of its meetings are circulated to Council members – including your representatives – and are published on the Council's website at <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/executive/meetings/>

Recent matters have included:

September 2024: The organisers of the proposed South-West Ringing Course had requested a grant to help set it up; this was approved subject to some conditions; Two new Workgroup Leads were appointed (Historic and Archive: Dickon Love; Technical and Taxonomy: Kira Chase).

October 2024: Merger of two Workgroups (Stewardship, Management and Guidance and Ringing 2030 Environments); Discussions regarding Pealbase coming under the auspices of the Council Creation of a limited company to manage the proposed South-West Ringing Course.

November 2024: *Ringing 2030* t-shirts and banners now available via the online sales portal <https://wearebellringing.myshopify.com/>.

December 2024: An application from the Sheffield Universities Society of Change Ringers to affiliate as a Small Society was approved;

January 2025: The Business Plan was approved for publication on the Council's website; T-shirt sales were disappointing and a further promotion was agreed.

Annual Dinner – save the date

Association Dinner

Saturday 11th October 2025, 6:45 for 7:30 pm

Old Brentwoods Club, Ashwells Road, Brentwood CM15 9SE

Please book the date, full details will be available soon

Taste and See: News from Chigwell Row

from Rev Paula Preston

Our bells have been silent for a while but we hope that is changing from now on.

At the All Saints Summer Fair in June last year one of the activities on the programme was: “*Have a go at Bell Ringing*”. The Bell tower was open with Association banners promoting Ringing and fair goers had the opportunity to have a go at ringing one of the eight newly refurbished bells. We were under the close supervision of Fred Goodwin, our Tower Captain, together with Margaret, Perry and other ringers from the North-Western district of the Association. As a result, the seed was planted for the revitalised bell ringing band at All Saints’ to get established. Weekly learners practices began two weeks later, me being one of the novices and they continue on Monday evenings to this day. We are developing slowly but surely.

Advent Sunday 2024 saw our first public performance when we took part in rounds and call changes on seven bells with a tenor cover at the switching on of our Christmas Lights event. Again, we were ably supported by ringers from Nazeing and Great Parndon accompanied by Paul Crick, SW District Master for which I am very grateful. A lovely evening to switch on the Christmas lights with wonderful music from the bells and our beautiful voices echoing across the village. As usual for clergy, very difficult to be in several places at once during a Church event but I try!

Learning any new skill requires perseverance, practice and the patience of good teachers. Taking up bell ringing for me has been a big challenge and to be honest, I find it quite difficult! However, I do get a great sense of satisfaction when I realise, I am making progress and remembering the basics. We do have good and patient teachers and it’s been lovely to get to know some new people too.

In the learners’ workbook from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, the introductory paragraph says:

“Welcome, new bell-ringer!

You are beginning to learn an art which has been developed and passed from generation to generation in Britain for three hundred years. It’s a wonderful blend of SPORT, MUSIC, EXERCISE, FRIENDSHIP, A CHALLENGE TO YOUR WITS AND SKILL, WONDERFUL SATISFACTION WHEN YOU GET IT RIGHT, AND A SERVICE TO THE CHURCH.”

Our group includes people of all ages from teens to 70s, and I have experienced all these benefits. Taking up bellringing has been a positive move for me and I can recommend it.

There are plenty of opportunities to learn new skills, be challenged and make good friends. “Taste and see that the Lord is good,” you won’t be disappointed.

With my love and prayers
Paula
Team Vicar

Practice Diary

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Apr | 3 | 10-bell practice | Bishop's Stortford | NW | 7:30 |
| | 5 | 8-bell practice | Ashdon | NW | 10:00 |
| | | District practice | Black Notley | N | 7:30 |
| | 9 | 10/12-bell practice | Waltham Abbey | NW | 7:30 |
| | 11 | Surprise Major practice | Felsted | N/NW | 2:00 |
| | 13 | Young Ringers practice | <i>tbc</i> | NE | 2:00 |
| | 15 | Advanced 6 bell practice | Henham | NW | 7:30 |
| | 19 | Advancing practice | Braintree | N | 7:30 |
| | 23 | Higher numbers practice | Walthamstow St Mary | SW | 7:00 |
| | 24 | District practice | Walthamstow St Saviour | SW | 7:30 |
| | 25 | Surprise Minor practice | Henham/Hatfield Heath | NW | 7:30 |
| | 26 | 8-bell advanced practice | Terling | SE | 10:00 |
| | 27 | Beyond Bob Minor practice | Springfield | SE | 5:30 |
| | May | 1 | 12-bell practice | Bishop's Stortford | NW |
| 3 | | 8-bell practice | <i>tbc</i> | NW | 10:00 |
| | | District practice | Great Bardfield | N | 7:30 |
| 9 | | Surprise Major practice | Felsted | N/NW | 2:00 |
| 10 | | What shall I try next | Downham | S | 10:00 |
| | | Ring up & down practice | Downham | S | 2:00 |
| 13 | | Surprise practice | Rayleigh | S | 7:30 |
| 14 | | 10/12-bell practice | Waltham Abbey | NW | 7:30 |
| 16 | | District practice | Great Totham | SE | 7:45 |
| 17 | | Training morning | West Ham | SW | 10:00 |
| | | Advancing practice | Braintree | N | 7:30 |
| 20 | | Advanced 6 bell practice | Henham | NW | 7:30 |
| 23 | | Surprise Minor practice | Henham/Hatfield Heath | NW | 7:30 |
| 25 | | Beyond Bob Minor practice | Sandon | SE | 5:30 |
| 28 | Higher numbers practice | Walthamstow St Mary | SW | 7:00 | |
| 31 | 8-bell advanced practice | Great Baddow | SE | 10:00 | |
| Jun | 5 | 10-bell practice | Bishop's Stortford | NW | 7:30 |
| | | Moving onto Hunting on 5 | Thorpe-le-Soken | NE | 9pm |
| | 7 | 8-bell practice | <i>tbc</i> | NW | 10:00 |
| | | District practice | Castle Hedingham | N | 7:30 |
| | 11 | 10/12-bell practice | Waltham Abbey | NW | 7:30 |
| | 13 | Surprise Major practice | Felsted | N/NW | 2:00 |
| | 17 | Advanced 6 bell practice | Henham | NW | 7:30 |
| | | District practice | Sandon | SE | 7:45 |
| | 21 | Advancing practice | Braintree | N | 7:30 |
| | 25 | Higher numbers practice | Walthamstow St Mary | SW | 7:00 |
| | 27 | Surprise Minor practice | Henham/Hatfield Heath | NW | 7:30 |
| | 28 | 8-bell advanced practice | Writtle | SE | 10:00 |
| | 30 | District practice | Leytonstone | SW | 7:45 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Jul | 3 | 12-bell practice | Bishop's Stortford | NW | 7:30 |
| | 5 | 8-bell practice | <i>tbc</i> | NW | 10:00 |
| | | What shall I try next | South Ockendon | S | 10:00 |
| | 9 | 10/12-bell practice | Waltham Abbey | NW | 7:30 |
| | 11 | Surprise Major practice | Felsted | N/NW | 2:00 |
| | | Surprise practice | Brentwood | S | 7:30 |
| | 15 | Advanced 6 bell practice | Henham | NW | 7:30 |
| | 16 | District practice | Great Waltham | SE | 7:45 |
| | 19 | Advancing practice | Braintree | N | 7:30 |
| | 23 | Higher numbers practice | Walthamstow St Mary | SW | 7:00 |
| | 25 | Surprise Minor practice | Henham/Hatfield Heath | NW | 7:30 |
| | 26 | 8-bell advanced practice | Terling | SE | 10:00 |
| | | Training morning | <i>tbc</i> | SW | 10:00 |
| | | District 10-bell practice | Ardleigh | NE | 2:30 |
| Beyond Bob Minor practice | | Little Baddow | SE | 6:30 | |
| Aug | 2 | 8-bell practice | <i>tbc</i> | NW | 10:00 |
| | 7 | 10-bell practice | Bishop's Stortford | NW | 7:30 |
| | 8 | Surprise Major practice | Felsted | N/NW | 2:00 |
| | 13 | 10/12-bell practice | Waltham Abbey | NW | 7:30 |
| | 16 | Advancing practice | Braintree | N | 7:30 |
| | 19 | Advanced 6 bell practice | Henham | NW | 7:30 |
| | 22 | Surprise Minor practice | Henham/Hatfield Heath | NW | 7:30 |
| | 24 | Beyond Bob Minor practice | Springfield | SE | 7:30 |
| | 27 | Higher numbers practice | Walthamstow St Mary | SW | 7:00 |
| | 30 | Higher numbers practice | Writtle | S | 10:00 |
| 8-bell advanced practice | | Great Baddow | SE | 10:00 | |

From the Registers

21st birthday: Theo Johnson

Engagement: Courtney Mandell & Neil Pasmore

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Jim Towler, of Inworth; Charlotte Parsons, of Matching; William (Bill) Chandler, of Bentley Common; and Neill Skinner, of Bradwell.

George Pipe Trophy

On Saturday 15th February 2025, St Michael's Bishop's Stortford were proud to host the George Pipe 12-Bell method ringing competition. For the first time since the augmentation and rehangng of their bells in 2022, they were in a position to be able to enter a band into the prestigious competition.

'Who is this George Pipe?' you might be asking yourself, especially if you are fairly new to the ringing world. Well, I was fortunate enough to encounter John Loveless (known as Jake) at the event and managed to persuade him to give me a short interview. Jake knew George for over fifty years, and was well informed of George's life and ringing achievements. In fact, he has actually written a biography of his life if you are interested in finding out more (*A Biography of George W Pipe* by John Loveless). Sadly, George passed away in 2020 but was able to attend two of the yearly events since its commencement in 2017. It all began with Ian Culham's vision of a 12-bell trophy in the East Anglia region and he approached George because of his enviable achievements and contributions to ringing. These include masterminding the restoration of St Mary-Le-Tower bells (Ipswich) in 1976, and founding a ringing association in Melbourne, Australia whilst working out there for six years. According to Jake, he was a famous ringer of his generation and a charismatic and universally popular person. He was an excellent

| Place | Band | % | Peal Time |
|---|--------------------|----|-----------|
| 1 st | Norwich | 76 | 3hr36min |
| 2 nd | Chelmsford | 75 | 3hr20min |
| 3 rd | Saffron Walden | 73 | 3hr21min |
| 4 th | Bishop's Stortford | 71 | 3hr18min |
| 5 th | Bury St Edmunds | 67 | 3hr28min |
| 6 th | Ipswich | 63 | 3hr29min |
| 7 th | Waltham Abbey | 58 | 3hr21min |
| <i>Results of the George Pipe Competition February 2025</i> | | | |

motivator and instrumental in developing numerous learners and in developing quality 12-bell ringing in the region.

Seven bands entered the contest, the most since its inauguration, and each band rang 264 changes of Erin Cinques. Huge congratulations go to the St Peter Mancroft band (Norwich) for coming first and being presented with the trophy for the first time. They rang with a peal speed of 3hrs 36mins and an accuracy score of 76%.

Barry Mack looks towards his winning band whilst receiving the first-place certificate and trophy from judges Ian Bushell (member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) and Jadd Virji (member of the Ancient Society of College Youths)



Barry Mack looks towards his winning band whilst receiving the first-place certificate and trophy from judges Ian Bushell (member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) and Jadd Virji (member of the Ancient Society of College Youths)



Anne and Vee busy in the kitchen



Ringers relaxing in the dining room

Congratulations also go to Chelmsford for achieving a very close second place with a peal speed of 3hrs 20mins and an accuracy score of 75%.

Many thanks go to Nick Hughes and the Bishop's Stortford team for a very well organised day. They worked hard throughout to provide bacon baps for breakfast, hot baked potatoes for lunch, tea and coffee, a bar serving alcoholic drinks and a wonderful selection of cakes and biscuits. CCTV was set up in the dining room so that everyone could comfortably watch the teams ringing their test piece in the tower. A special mention goes to Steve Lee who stood outside in the cold all day monitoring the car park. Extra congratulations should go to the Bishop's Stortford band for achieving record time heading straight from the tower to the bar for a well-deserved pint of Bishop Nick real ale!

Anne Sloan

Rounds & About

Remember that a full colour version of *Rounds & About* is published on the website on the 1st of April, August and December. The complete archive since issue 1 can also be found there.

Central Council meeting 2029

In 2004, as part of the celebrations for the Association's 125th anniversary year, we hosted the annual meeting of the Central Council.

2029 will be our 150th anniversary year, and we have offered to host the Council's annual meeting again. The offer has been accepted – so watch this space!

Central Council focus

Why have Central Council subscription costs increased?

A proportion of our Association annual subs (now 40p per member and set to increase to £1 from 2026) goes to the Central Council. What do we receive in return?

The Central Council supports bellringers globally, not just in the UK. Its reach includes organizations like ANZAB, the North American Guild and, closer to home, the Veronese Association. If you use any ringing software – such as Abel/Mabel/Mobel, or mobile apps like iAgrams or Methodology – you're using a product that benefits from resources provided by the Central Council Methods Library. You likely have publications from the Central Council Publications Committee on your bookshelf. Do you own a copy of *Dove's Guide*, or do you make use of the Dove online database? Both of these receive Council backing. If you've participated in a bell restoration project, you may have received support from the Central Council's Bell Restoration Fund or the Fred E. Dukes International Bell Fund. Did you come to ringing via Ringing Remembers or Ring for The King? You have the Central Council to thank for coordinating those recruitment initiatives.

So why has the Council sought more funding from its member associations? While many projects under Ringing 2030 will be driven by volunteers, financial support is crucial to invest in the three pillars described above.

Examples of Ringing 2030 projects that will require/have required funding include:

- £1500 brought the Mobile Belfry to the 2024 Essex International Scouting Jamboree near Chelmsford, which attracted nearly 1500 visitors – potential future young ringers.
- Hosting the Central Council website costs around £2000 annually. While volunteers help maintain the content, more assistance is always welcome. Work is ongoing to create a centralised recruitment portal, featuring a logo and other branding designed by the YellowYoYo marketing agency. This will consolidate marketing efforts and eliminate the need for over sixty localized portals across association sites.
- The development of the Southwest ringing course, scheduled for autumn 2025, is progressing well, and funding will help establish it as a self-sustaining initiative.

These examples illustrate just a few projects the Central Council cannot accomplish without adequate funding. The projected expenditure for Ringing 2030 from 2024 to 2030 is over £220,000. Prior to the recent affiliation fee increase agreed upon at the 2024 AGM, the Central Council's annual income from these fees was slightly above £7,000—totalling around £42,000 over six years. Clearly, the Council cannot operate on a minimal budget, making the 400% increase over two years reasonable. In today's economic climate, what's the real difference between 20p or 40p and £1.00?

The Council's 2025 Business Plan was published in February, and can be found here: <https://ccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Business-Plan-for-2025-1.pdf>. (Or search "business plan" on the Council's website ccbr.org.uk). It should be read in conjunction with the 2025 budget, which can be found here: <http://ccbr.info/ul8ms>.

Martin Jones

If you are interested in learning more about the Central Council and its work, please contact your Central Council representatives by email at cceps@eacr.org.uk

Floral tribute



This beautiful floral tribute was on display at Matching church on the occasion of the funeral of Charlotte Parsons on 9th January. It was requested by David Parsons and made by Ann Woolley.

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

1st quarter peal: Tim Peckham, Hannah Bome, Guy Speakman, Charles Chikuruwo, Mandy Mickelsen, Ellie Verity, Viv Taylor, Peter E Lamb, Dalham Mallett, Karen Roddam

1st on treble: James R Dunhill, Annie Clubb

1st as cover: Louisa Hennessy, Wendy Dykes, Jodie Hill

1st inside: James R Dunhill, Charles K Chikuruwo, Ann Roder

1st Grandsire Doubles: Oliver C Lee, Philip J Waterfield

1st St Simon's Bob Doubles: Angus Threadgold, Steve Ashley

1st Stedman: Michelle A Stephenson, Sandra Murphy, Richard Wilson, David Quinnear, Daniel Howell

1st Stedman Doubles: Julie A Bloomfield

1st Minor: Steve J Ashley

1st Minor inside: Philip J Waterfield, Kieran Kerwin, James R Dunhill

1st St Clement's College Bob Minor: Megan Ellis, Carol Penfold Martin, Courtney Mandell, Andrew Brewster, Adam Sloman

1st Double Bob Minor: Oliver Clinton, Jan Richards, Jo Lerpiniere, Benjamin Quigley

1st Spliced Minor: Carol Penfold Martin, Adam Sloman, Courtney Mandell, Andrew Brewster, Neil Pasmore

1st Treble Bob: Catherine Miller, Alfie Holland

1st Surprise: Michelle A Stephenson

1st Kent Treble Bob: Michelle A Stephenson, Hannah Brooks

1st on 8: Carys E Hayward, Sarah Scannell

1st Triples: Timothy Needham

1st Grandsire Triples: Frances Hill, Martin C Jones, M Guy Nelson, Anne Brolly

1st Major: Hannah Brooks

1st Plain Bob Major: Sarah Chin-a-Loy

1st Lessness Surprise Major: Andrew Beech, Clare Beech, William Beech, Trevor Church, Alan Ball, Julia V Taylor, Stephen G Halliwell

1st Turramurra Surprise Major: Julia V Taylor, Janice S Spalding, David M Hengeli

1st Cornwall Surprise Major: Clare Beech

1st Spliced Surprise: Sarah Robbins

1st on 10: Mark Robbins, Matthew J W Townson

1st Grandsire Caters: Clare Beech, John M Church

1st Erin Caters: Julie A Bloomfield, Helen J Carter, Hugo L Tracey

1st Surprise Royal: James Green, Courtney J A Mandell, Adam L Sloman, Neil M Pasmore

1st on 12: Courtney J A Mandell, Neil M Pasmore

1st Surprise Maximus: Theo A Johnson

1st Bristol Surprise Maximus: William M Beech

1st as Conductor: Alfie Holland

50th quarter: Elle G Buttery, John Newman

75th quarter: Michelle A Stephenson

150th quarter: Lucas J Owen

200th quarter: William M Beech

275th quarter: James Green

400th quarter: Roger Carey-Smith

2500th quarter: Ian Cresshull

25th together: Steve Halliwell & Trevor Church

50th together: Clare Beech & John Harpole

75th together: Samuel Beech & William M Beech

100th together: Peter Chapman & Andrew Taylor

200th together: Hazel S Steed & Vicki L Chapman

Quarter peals on handbells:

1st Spliced Minor in hand: James Green

1st Plain Bob Triples in hand: Debbie Hill, Bradley Hill, James Green, Simon Ward

1st Bristol Surprise in hand: Janice Cherry, Nigel S D Taylor

1st York Surprise in hand: Janice Cherry, Nigel S D Taylor

1st as Conductor: Louisa Hennessy

1st Minor in hand as Conductor: James Green

Peals:

1st peal: Alfie Holland, Neil R Culham, Victoria J Richards

1st Surprise: Elle G Buttery, Lucas J Owen

1st Surprise Major: Courtney J A Mandell

1st Cambridge Surprise Major: Neil M Pasmore

1st Yorkshire: Josie E Rapley Mende

1st Royal: Kye L Leaver, Lucas J Owen

1st Stedman Cinques: Nicholas D Hughes

1st Royal as Conductor: Neil M Pasmore

200th peal: Andrew R C Kelso

750th peal: Stephen A Waters

1000th peal on a tenor: Alan P Mayle

150th for the Association: Andrew P Brewster

150th together: Andrew P Brewster & Christina D A Brewster

Information to end of February. Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

Dates for your Diary

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------|---|------------------------|----|-------|
| Apr | 10-12 | Essex Ringing Course | | | |
| | 26 | Classic car & St George's Day tour | <i>tbc</i> | NW | |
| | | Striking competition & District business meeting | Gosfield | N | 3:30 |
| May | 5 | Association AGM | Chelmsford | | |
| | 17 | District meeting & striking competition | Thaxted | NW | 9:30 |
| | | Trustees meeting | Danbury | | 2:30 |
| | 24 | District outing | <i>tbc</i> | S | |
| Jun | 7 | District meeting and Method striking competition | Springfield | SE | 1:45 |
| | 14 | District outing | <i>tbc</i> | NW | |
| | | Call change and Method striking competitions | Ingrave | S | |
| | | 6-bell striking competition & District meeting | Barking | SW | 10:00 |
| | | District Spring Meeting and striking competition | Layer-de-la-Haye | NE | 2:00 |
| | 22 | Call change competition and picnic | Terling | SE | 12:00 |
| Jul | 5 | Handbell picnic | Boydells Farm | N | 6:00 |
| | 12 | Association striking competitions | Terling, Sandon | | 10:00 |
| | 18-20 | District weekend outing | Worcestershire | NW | |
| Aug | 2 | District outing | <i>tba</i> | N | |
| | 30 | Ring and ramble | <i>tbc</i> | NW | |

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for August 2025. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to newsletter@eacr.org.uk or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1 July 2025**.