



Northern District Newsletter

November 2005

The Ringing Roadshow 2005

On Saturday 10th September, at an extremely early hour - when only early birds and fanatical anoraks are normally about - 33 figures were seen to be parking their cars and otherwise generally lurking about a coach depot in the wilds near Great Dunmow....



Yes, the great day had finally arrived: the National Ringing Roadshow was being held at Newbury Racecourse and through the great efforts of our Deputy District Master, Marian Wood, a coach had been booked to take us all to Newbury and back.. The coach company had allowed time for the usual gridlock on the M25 - but as we had beaten nearly everyone out of bed that day we were only the 20th vehicle to arrive! The local Scouts who were directing parking had to think twice where to put us. Luckily Marian had got us pre-booked tickets so we found that, even though the turnstiles were not yet open, we were allowed in early while the stands were being finished.

There were many stands on 3 floors of the racecourse stand, with mini-rings ranged outside. In a separate pavilion were handbell ringing sessions



Trying tunes on handbells: 4 in-hand

I thought it was a fantastic and most enjoyable day - with not nearly enough time to see everything, let alone attend the special seminars - Thank you Marian for organising it all.

Your District needs



YOU

After 4 years in post your Master, Alistair Donaldson, has announced that he will **not** be standing for re-election at the next Annual District Meeting.

And, after 3 years in service to the District your Secretary, Ian Hamilton, has also announced that he will **not** be standing for re-election either.

Luckily both our Deputy Master, Marian Wood, and Treasurer, Di Carpenter, confirmed that they **will** be offering themselves for election again next year, thus assuring some continuity in the management of the District into 2006.

That means that we have 2 key District Officer vacancies to fill at the ADM at Wethersfield on Saturday 7th January.

Please ask yourself - would **YOU** be willing to take on a key role in the running of your District?

Or is there someone else you know who would be keen and willing to stand? If so **please** have a word with them...

The Secretary would be glad to receive all nomination papers, preferably by 1st December, for any of the Officer posts - or the Officers may be forced to come round with the thumbscrews...

Vacancies (cont.)

Official nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary, but any readable piece of paper, showing the name of the person being nominated and the post they are being nominated for, would be accepted. The nomination form must have the names and signatures of a Proposer and a Seconder - both of whom **must** be members of the Association.

But - please ensure that your nominee is willing to stand before sending your nomination into the Secretary!

Q: What am I letting myself in for?

A: There are official Job Descriptions available for each post - please contact the Secretary or an officer if you would like a copy.

But, in brief :

The Master encourages ringing in the District; chairs meetings and directs ringing at practices and competitions. Together with the Deputy, organises ringing at practices and competitions.

The Secretary books meetings, takes the Minutes and sends out Notices.

The 4 Officers also attend EACR Committee meetings twice a year.

As others hear us....?

Interested visitor to tower (after brief explanation of the ringing process):

'I can see that you are all following each other, but how do you remember where to put in all the syncopations?'

And, after years of trying to improve the striking at their tower the ringers were rather non-plussed when the new Rector said he preferred the ringing syncopated - as it was at his old parish!

District Officers for 2005:	
Master:	Alistair Donaldson (01787-463106)
Deputy:	Marian Wood (01371-856382)
Secretary:	Ian Hamilton (01371-850965)
Treasurer:	Di Carpenter (01279-870414)

**PLEASE PAY YOUR 2005
SUBS NOW!**

Obituary



William
Stephen
Hardy

“Steve”

Steve was the director of the London Pressed Hinge Co. Ltd., based in Braintree. He was at work there on September 26th when, while talking to one of his nephews, he died suddenly of a heart attack before finishing his sentence.

Besides his love for the family business, Steve loved ringing and cycling the lanes of north Essex from his home in Bocking. He learned to ring at Greenstead Green, but also rang regularly at Halstead.

Roger Fleming writes:

“I first met Steve when I took up change ringing, as opposed to chiming at my village church Alphamstone, on the ‘wrong’ side of sixty.

After telephoning the Tower Captain of Halstead I was invited to come along on Practice Night. It was there that I was introduced to Steve and we immediately became friends. He was a great help, as he was to anyone starting bellringing.

As well as being the Steeple-Keeper at St. Andrew’s Halstead, he was also a regular ringer at Greenstead Green where his sister Ros lived. Steve always volunteered along with John ‘Jock’ Scott to climb into the belfry there to make any repairs that were necessary.

An engineer by trade Steve was always able to diagnose what needed to be done – and he had a happy knack of easily obtaining any parts required. ‘Jock’ often wondered if there was anything the “Stores” *didn’t* have...

Steve also used to provide his fellow ringers with immaculate coloured drawings of various methods, including printed explanations of “work to be done”, etc. After Practice at Greenstead Green Steve and I would often discuss outside the church how we could improve our ringing, although being so mathematically-minded he was far ahead of me.

He took a keen interest in the art of Change Ringing, and rarely missed an Association meeting when we would take turns with transport to the venues.

Everyone who met Steve would agree that, although he was not a regular church-goer, he was a perfect example of a Christian gentleman.

He will be greatly missed by his ringing friends, and I am sure we can all visualise his friendly smile of greeting that he gave everyone on practice nights, ringing for services, or ringing on other special occasions where he could always be relied on both for attendance and punctuality.”

Alistair adds: “Over the last 10 years Steve has made quite an impact on the area - I will miss him for his quiet but greatly valued support for the activities of the District.”

(Please send any other reminiscences of Steve to the Master for the final Report)

Intermediate Practices

The next practice is 5th November, at Witham. This session will focus on **Double Oxford & Oxford Treble Bob Minor** - starting as usual with a short theory session at 7pm with ringing from 7:30 to 9pm.

A big “Thank you” to everyone, students and helpers, who have come along to past sessions - and then gone on to organise their own local practices.

Everyone welcome to come along – helpers especially welcome - but please let the Master know if you are coming during the week before...

Future Sessions:

3rd December 2005, Cambridge & Ipswich Surprise Minor at Sible Hedingham.

3rd February 2006, Little Bob and Kent Treble Bob at Bocking.

Situations Vacant Newsletter Editor

This edition has once again been put together by the District Officers... but we are sure that there’s someone out there who could do a much better job – please get in touch with any District Officer to discuss!

We presently publish 3 issues a year, broadly Spring, Summer and Autumn

Advanced Practices

These continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month at St. Michael’s Braintree: please come along if you can ring Treble Bob hunt, Surprise minor or major, or Stedman triples or better. We also intend to ring some Caters and Royal methods during the evening whenever practicable.

Please contact Maurice Downs on 01376-330412 if you want to practice a particular method on 19th November.

Future practice dates: 21st January, 18th February, 18th March. Put them in your new Diary *now!*

What’s On District Events

➤**Sat 12th November:** District Quiz Night and supper at Witham, 7:30pm. Book your team’s table **now** with Sue Stephens on 01376-500424. Or come along and make up a ‘scratch’ team.

➤**Sat 10th December:** District Carol Service at Gosfield starting at 4:30pm; with ringing beforehand from 3:30pm. Followed by the traditional mince pie...

➤**Sat 7th January 2006:** Service and Annual District Meeting. The service is 4:30pm at Shalford, with ringing from 3:30pm. Tea and Meeting from 5:30pm at Wethersfield, followed by evening ringing also at Wethersfield from 7:30 to 9pm.

➤**Tue 7th February:** District Practice at Greenstead Green, 7:30 to 9pm.

➤**Sat 4th March:** Service and District Meeting at Great Dunmow. The Service is at 4:30pm with ringing from 3:30pm; Tea & Meeting from 5:30pm. Evening ringing is at Felsted from 7:30 to 9pm.

Association Events

Saturday 26th November: Association Training Day from 9:30am based at Hatfield Heath.

Adrian Malton has planned for Tower Maintenance, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Major, Plain Hunt, and Treble Bob hunt – but could alter this or add other sessions if asked. Please contact him on 01371-859423 if you would like to go.

Adrian would also like to hear from anyone who could be a helper that day.

Thursday 6th to 8th April: The Essex Training Course, based as usual at the Honeywood School, Coggeshall. Note the date now – application forms will be issued in January for a mid-February closing date.

Note: Under-18s get a discount!