



Newsletter

April-May 2018



2018 Essex Course - 5th-7th April 2018

The Essex Course commences this week and I wish all the course organisers, tutors, helpers and students a successful and enjoyable course.

Ian Kerwin
District Master



April 2018 Events

- Thursday, 5th – Saturday, 7th April 2018: Essex Ringing Course, Coggeshall.
- Sunday, 8th April 2018: Young Ringers SEECON Practice.
- Saturday, 14th April 2018: Third SE England Youth Striking Contest [SEECON] at Warnham, Sussex.
- Friday, 20th April 2018: Surprise Major at Felsted – 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Friday, 27th April 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm. Method to be confirmed.
- Sunday, 29th April 2018: Young Ringers Practice.



May 2018 Events

- Monday, 7th May 2018: EACR AGM, Chelmsford.
- Saturday, 12th May 2018: NW District Meeting and Method Striking Competition at Thaxted.
- Friday, 18th May 2018: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted - 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Sunday, 20th May 2018: Young Ringers Practice.

- Friday, 25th May 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm. Method to be confirmed.



June 2018 Events

- Saturday, 2nd June 2018: 10/12 Bell Practice at Waltham Abbey – 10.30am-12noon.
- Friday, 15th June 2018: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 1.30pm-3.30pm.
- Friday, 22nd June 2018: Stansted Practice – 7.45pm-9.00pm. Method to be confirmed.
- Sunday, 24th June 2018: Young Ringers Practice.



Spring 2018 Ringing School

The Spring Ringing School took place at Henham commencing on the 10th February 2018, covering Treble Bob Hunt to Kent Treble Bob Minor. The six students thoroughly enjoyed the course and were very pleased with their progress, with a well-earned thanks to Liz and Bill Griffith-Jones and all the helpers.

Helpers are always required to assist on both the Spring and Autumn courses. There are a good number of extremely knowledgeable ringers in the District and if you are willing to spend some time providing advice and passing on the benefit of your experience, please contact Ian Kerwin on iankerwin@btinternet.com for your name to be added to the helpers list.



Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.eacr.org.uk

Registered Charity No 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



NW District Meeting and Method Striking Competition – 12th May 2018

The meeting and competition will this year be taking place at Thaxted. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend the meeting and as many towers as possible to enter a band for the competition, with those bands achieving first and second places representing the EACR NW District at the next round. General ringing will commence at 2.00pm and the meeting will commence at 3.30pm, followed by the draw for the competition. A copy of the rules is attached. The Thaxted ringers would be very happy for competition bands to join their Tuesday evening practice, from 7.45pm-9.00pm, for pre-competition practices. Please contact Cathy Lowe to let her know you are going along on:

lowecathy@googlemail.com



From Emily Ashton, EACR PRO



Emails to EACR –

A reminder to everyone to check that when you send emails using the @eacr.org.uk that you definitely put the .uk on the end of the mail address, otherwise it goes to the European Association for Cancer Research who may or may not forward it.

They advise me that they don't check their junk or spam so chances are you'd never know the intended recipient hadn't received it. How do I know this? Because they have forwarded an incorrectly addressed one to me this week from one of our members!



Social Media

We now have a series of social media accounts that are set up to promote EACR and create an awareness, disseminate information and hopefully act as a landing page for social media users.

We have:

1. **A Facebook Page:** essentially we're set up as a community organisation and unlike a Facebook Group it provides the ability for visitors to contact us. It's NOT a closed group. However it IS linked to;
2. **A Facebook Group:** set up by Vicki Chapman – which is closed and currently has no information and therefore no members (for those wondering). Don't know if we actually need another closed Group so open to comments/suggestions on this.
3. **A Twitter Account:** our Facebook page is linked to this so that anything posted on the Page will replicate on Twitter. Twitter however is NOT linked to Facebook so tweets will not automatically show.
4. **An Instagram account:** our Facebook and Instagram accounts are interlinked.

For 1, 3 and 5 the name is @EssexBells, or just Essexbells for Instagram. The Group is Essex Ringers

Now you've ploughed through that bit, here's the interesting part. The Facebook Page can have multiple contributors – so if you want to post (and tweet at the same time) you can. As long as you have a Facebook account I can add you to the Page. It will always appear as @EssexBells rather than your own personal name. If you just prefer tweeting and you have a Twitter account then you can tweet @EssexBells. There's an app called TweetDeck (by Twitter) that has to be downloaded and linked.

Not quite sure how best to use Instagram for us yet – perhaps it will just have nice pictures of churches in Essex to grow us an audience! If you're an experienced Instagrammer and have some suggestions then I'm all ears.

If you want to contribute to the Page, Tweet on EssexBells or have any questions etc then please get in touch

Emily Ashton

PRO@eacr.org.uk



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Central Council Rules Reform

From **Christopher O'Mahony,**
President, CCCBR

You will probably be aware from previous emails, from our social media presence and from the pages of the Ringing World, that we have been working hard to progress the mandate for reform agreed last May at Edinburgh, in order to deliver better services that benefit ringers and ringing.

A pre-requisite of these efforts is the work to revise the Council's Rules to give life to the proposals for reform which were agreed in May.

The working group tasked with this challenge published a first draft of the revised Rules in October 2017 and a second draft in December 2017, reflecting the comments received.

As promised in December, the "final" version of the revised Rulebook, reflecting the feedback received on the second draft, has now been completed and sent to the Charity Commission for their formal approval. It is this final version which will be submitted to the Council Meeting at Lancaster in May 2018. The attached briefing paper sets out its main features and has been sent to your Council representative(s).

Our focus now shifts from drafting the Rulebook to the practical work of transitioning with effect from the Lancaster meeting. This will involve the efforts of our existing Officers and Committees as well as the members of the new Executive and Workgroups which have been formed as a consequence of the decisions taken at Edinburgh.

Along with many others, I have both commented upon and provided input into the final version. In my view it delivers on the reforms agreed at Edinburgh and achieves our aim to create an organisation fit for the challenges of the 21st Century. In doing this,

it also draws on the many strengths of the existing Council and its volunteers.

As the attached paper explains, the new Rulebook has been through an extensive process of review. In addition to two formal consultations, it has been checked against Charity Commission guidance and 'stress tested' against our peers. The new Rulebook does not affect your representation and will not, so far as we can see, require changes to your society's constitution.

Without a new Rulebook, importantly, none of the other reforms agreed at Edinburgh can take place.

Our hope is that all ringers will feel a sense of "ownership" with the new Rulebook, so that your Council representative(s) can come to the Lancaster meeting in May prepared to vote in its favour.

In addition to the revised Rulebook and supporting documents, there is a growing body of "frequently asked questions" which we trust will answer any outstanding queries or concerns. These, together with the new governing documents and other explanatory material prepared by the working group can be found here:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/reform/rules/>

Christopher O'Mahony, President
The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



Letter from Buckingham Palace

The attached letter was received from Buckingham Palace in response to ringing undertaken to celebrate the Queen and Prince Philip's Platinum Wedding Anniversary.



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Ringling Remembers in 2018

If you have anyone who has started to learn to ring, or returned to ringing since November 2017, they are eligible to become part of the 1400 Armistice 100 band. All they need to do is register and tell us that they have already started to learn at:

<https://a100.cccbr.org.uk/register/>

On the 11th November 2018 bells will ring out in commemoration but also in celebration of peace. It is proposed that bells are rung half muffled at 11am on the 11th November 2018, with open ringing between 2pm-4pm or at a time to suit what is happening in your local area.

The campaign is being run by the CCCBR with Vicki Chapman as Project Leader and The Big Ideas Company on the PR side.

Posters and associated information can be obtained from the following websites and should be displayed in as many places as possible, eg, schools, churches, village halls, local shops.

The Big Ideas Company:

<http://www.big-ideas.org/project/ringing-remembers/>

Armistice 100 Registration:

<https://a100.cccbr.org.uk/register/>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nations-bells-to-ring-out-together-to-mark-armistice-centenary>



Tower Support Practices

Tower support practices can be arranged on your own practice nights via your Tower Captain. With the support of more experienced ringers, these are certainly worthwhile practices so please contact Sue Evans to request dates.



EACR Annual General Meeting – Monday, 7th May 2018

The AGM will be held on May Day Bank Holiday, Monday, 7th May 2018. Cathedral ringing will be available from 9.15am-10.15am and the service will commence at 10.30am, followed by the meeting. The meeting agenda can be found in the Annual Report 2017. Afternoon and evening ringing and afternoon tea will take place in the South Western District. Tickets for tea can be obtained from Rhona McEune, The Rectory, Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Colchester CO5 7HR, with SAE for reply.



Election of Honorary Officers

Rhona McEune will be withdrawing her nomination for Secretary at this year's AGM on the 7th May 2018. Rhona will also be resigning as Chaplain.

The role of Secretary is key to the smooth running of the Association. A full job description is available on the website and mainly involves organising association events, taking minutes at the Management Committee meetings, supporting the other officers and dealing with general correspondence.

The role of the Chaplain is to help organise the service prior to the AGM and to liaise with the Diocese and the Clergy as a whole. The Management Committee appoints the Chaplain at their meeting each October.

If anyone is interested in either of these roles, or knows of anyone who may be, please contact Rhona McEune or John Harpole for further discussion.

An additional nomination is also required for an independent examiner. Andrew Brewster, Treasurer, has written an article in the current edition of Rounds and About, describing the role in more detail. This is an important post and essential for charitable status.



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Essex Young Ringers

The third SE England Youth Striking Contest on the 14th April 2018 will take place at Warnham in West Sussex and a band from Essex will be participating in this 8 bell competition.

Ringling World National Youth Contest – 7th July 2018

This event will be hosted this year by Southwark Cathedral. Heats will be held in the morning with the top two bands from each heat going through to the final in the afternoon.



64th Annual Essex Dinner

Following all the delightful comments received last year, this year's annual dinner will again take place on Saturday, 13th October 2018 at Little Channels, Pratts Farm Lane West, Little Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 3PR. Early Bird tickets are now available priced at £29pp, but only until Monday, 7th May 2018 – AGM Day – after which the ticket price will be £33pp. To secure your place please send a non-returnable deposit of £15pp and complete and return the Booking Form together with the appropriate amount. If you would rather make your payment via direct credit, then please email for details at social@eacr.org.uk. A Booking Form and menu are attached. They may also be downloaded from the EACR website.



Bradfield Ringing Course –

Thursday, 16th – Sunday, 19th August 2018

Application forms to apply for a place at this year's Bradfield Ringing Course are now available at <http://www.bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk/students.php>

The course price is £224 for over-25 ringers and £168 for ringers under the age of 25 by the 16th August 2018. The closing date for applications is Monday, 30th April 2018.



Stansted Practice – 23rd March 2018

We were about to commence our ringing at this month's Stansted practice when there was a knock on the trap door. Assuming this was another ringer, we were surprised to see the top half of a man appear, complete with head torch and hi-viz jacket. He explained that he and other adults were on a night walk with eighteen members of the 1st Stansted Scout Group Husky Cubs and, having heard the bells, asked if he could bring the cubs up to the tower to listen and watch the ringing. Given the size of the tower and the size of the group, it was decided to split the group in two.

It clearly took some time to get the two groups up and down the ladder but the children and adults were very appreciative and complimentary about the ringing and were extremely inquisitive about the bells and the tower. Although it left only a short time to ring, it turned out to be an enjoyably different practice. Who knows, there could be some new recruits in future years!



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Sue Evans
Secretary – North Western District

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