



Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.eacr.org.uk

Registered Charity No 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



MARCH-APRIL 2020



March 2020 Events

- Saturday, 7th March 2020: Spring Ringing Course at Henham – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 7th March 2020: Foundation Skills Practice at Willingale – 1.00pm-4.30pm.
- Saturday, 14th March 2020: Spring Ringing Course at Henham – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 14th March 2020: Foundation Skills Practice at Willingale – 1.00pm-4.30pm.
- Friday, 20th March 2020: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 21st March 2020: Spring Ringing Course at Henham – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 21st March 2020: Foundation Skills Practice at Willingale – 1.00pm-4.30pm.
- Friday, 27th March 2020: Methods Practice at Stansted – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Saturday, 28th March 2020: Spring Ringing Course at Henham – 9.45am-12.15pm.
- Saturday, 28th March 2020: Foundation Skills Practice at Willingale – 1.00pm-4.30pm.
- Saturday, 28th March 2020: Half Day Youth Ringers Mini Outing and Evening Social.



April 2020 Events

- Saturday, 4th April 2020: 8 Bell Practice at Saffron Walden – 10.30am-12noon.
- Saturday, 4th April 2020: SE England Youth Striking Competition hosted by the Essex Association.
- Thursday, 16th-Saturday, 18th April 2020: Essex Ringing Course at Coggeshall.
- Friday, 24th April 2020: Methods Practice at Stansted – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Sunday, 26th April 2020: Young Ringers Practice.



May 2020 Events

- Friday, 15th May 2020: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 16th May 2020: NW District Meeting and Method Striking Competition at Arkesden – 9.30am.
- Friday, 22nd May 2020: Methods Practice at Stansted – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Monday, 25th May 2020 [Bank Holiday]: EACR AGM at Chelmsford – AM.
- Saturday, 30th May 2020: 8 Bell Practice at Waltham Abbey – 10.30am-12noon.
- Sunday, 31st May 2020: Young Ringers Practice – 4.30pm.



Future Stansted Practices

I would like to consider the possibility of moving the Stansted practices to the fourth Saturday afternoon of the month. In recent times the Friday night practices have dwindled in numbers and whilst it is intended to be, in my opinion, an introduction to eight bell ringing, we often ring on six.

I believe that moving the practices to Saturday could encourage more, and a wider range of, ringers to attend from across the District. As for time, I would suggest 2.00pm-4.00pm, giving people time to have lunch etc and then get home in time for dinner.

I look forward to receiving your thoughts and comments.

Ian Kerwin, District Master



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NW District ADM – Saturday, 25th January 2020

The NW District Annual District Meeting took place on Saturday, 25th January 2020 at Bishop's Stortford, and was attended by 40+ ringers and friends. Your District Officers remain as:

Ian Kerwin – District Master
Mike Slowe – Deputy District Master
Fred Bone – District Treasurer
Sue Evans – District Secretary

Ian Kerwin - Education Officer
Bill Griffith-Jones – Maintenance Officer, assisted by Mike Slowe and Ian Jolley.

Thank you to Rob Klinke for taking the service, Derek Harrison for playing the organ so beautifully, Rosemary Thomson – Church Warden, and to Nick Hughes and his team for arranging the entire afternoon and the thoroughly enjoyable tea.



District Training Day – Saturday, 11th January 2020

An extra training day for six students was arranged at Henham on Saturday, 11th January 2020 for an introduction to Stedman Doubles, with lunch arranged at The Cock. The day went really well and all the students progressed. It was a long day for helpers and students alike, but certainly worthwhile.



Spring Ringing Course

The Spring Ringing Course 'Beyond Bob Doubles' commenced at Henham on Saturday, 8th February 2020. Various methods are being practiced - Reverse Canterbury, St Martins, St Simons, Wichendon Place, St Nicholas - to name but a few, so eight challenging sessions!



Helpers Needed

Helpers are always required to assist on all the courses held throughout the year. 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.



Saturday Afternoon Foundation Skills Practices

The additional Saturday afternoon practices held by Ian Kerwin at Willingale continue after the Saturday morning Spring Ringing Course, including lunch and teatime refreshments. The practices have proved very successful in the past and have been extremely well attended.



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2020 Meeting and Competition Dates for your Diaries [details forthcoming nearer the dates]:

- **NW District Meeting and Method Striking Competition 2020**
The District Meeting and Method Striking Competition will take place at 9.30am on Saturday, 16th May 2020 at Arkesdon.
- **Finals of the 6 and 8 bell Method Striking Competition 2020**
The finals of the 6 and 8 bell Method Striking Competitions will take place on Saturday, 11th July 2020 at Steeple Bumpstead.
- **NW District Meeting and Call Change Competition 2020**
The District Meeting and Call Change Competition will take place at 9.30am on Saturday, 3rd October 2020 at Matching.



2020 AGM

A reminder that next year's AGM has been moved to Monday, 25th May 2020.



Annual Essex Dinner 2020

Next year's Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday, 10th October 2020.



Media

To join EACR notices email: EACR-Notices-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To join the District Facebook page, go on to Facebook, search for NW District EACR and request to join.



New and Returned Ringers

Are you aware of any new and returned ringers in your towers who are not on my circulation list for the newsletters/information etc? If so, please ask them to contact me to ensure they are kept informed as to what is happening in the District.



Waltham Abbey Surprise!

The new recipe book – Waltham Abbey Surprise – compiled by ringers using well tried family recipes, is still available to buy at a mouth-watering price of £7.50, with all proceeds going towards Waltham Abbey Repair Fund. To find out more or to order your copy, please contact Margaret and Perry French on 07971 297730 or Jane Walters on 07803 939023.



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WALTHAM ABBEY BELLS

It is with great jubilation and relief that I can report that we now have 12 bells ringing again. The 6th and 7th recast bells were welcomed back to Waltham Abbey from Taylors of Loughborough on Friday 7th February. The day was sunny and bright, to our relief, as they were delivered to the Market Square.



Over 200 people, including the 60 children of Year 5 at Leverton Primary School, gathered in the Market Square at Waltham Abbey to witness an event that most of them would see only once in their lives – the blessing and baptism of the Abbey Church's two newly

recast bells. The service of blessing and baptism was conducted by the Bishop of Barking, the Right Revd Peter Hill. The bells were winched down onto covered bell trolleys in the middle of the square and decorated with flowers. Even before the formal proceedings began they drew an interested and appreciative crowd.



Those present at the ceremony included the Mayor of Waltham Abbey and town Councillors, representatives of Taylors Foundry, members of the Abbey's band of bell ringers and ringers from the North West District and beyond. Friends and family members of eminent ringers from Waltham Abbey and more

widely across Essex to whom the two recast bells were dedicated and whose names are inscribed on the bells were also there, and others who had contributed to the cost of the work.





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The Bishop of Barking opened with welcome and introductions. The poem “Ring Out Wild Bells”, written by Alfred Lord Tennyson in the sound of the Abbey bells, was read by the Revd Peter Smith, Rector of Waltham Abbey, and the Mayor, Cllr Anthony Watts. The blessing and baptism by the Bishop followed. The Rector had named the bells Shadrach and Meshach, as they had come out of the “burning fiery furnace”, and these were the names they were given in baptism. The Bishop was assisted by Meg and Adam from Leverton School and holy water went over the congregation rather more than over the bells!

After a concluding blessing one of the bells was hoisted up and the Bishop was the first to strike it, followed by the Rector and Mayor, and then by very eager Leverton pupils! The service was followed by refreshments in the Square, mulled wine, coffee, beer and fruit juices, and traditional honey cake and a variety of other cakes, hot cross buns, sausage rolls and biscuits.



The bells were rehung the following week by Steve Westerman, a bell hanger from Taylors, ably assisted by Connor Harmer, Dave Knott, John Hall, Andrew Barham and John Church who all generously gave of their time. Margaret French, Richard and myself were also on hand to help, act as runners and keep everyone fed.

Jane Walters
Tower Captain, Waltham Abbey



Celebrating Christmas in Style – Continued

And if you are wondering what BAMBI stands for, you will just have to wait for the next newsletter!!

..... The “BAMBI AWARDS” mystery revealed!

The story so far.

Regular readers of the North Western District Newsletter and other revered Bell Ringing Publications may well be aware of the memorable Christmas celebrations held at Mulberry House on 18th December 2019, The dinner was hosted in the name of Willingale and three other associated Benefice Towers: Moreton, Fyfield and Bobbingworth. The closing event of the evening was an award ceremony presented by yours truly (Ken Heymer) in my unofficial capacity as deputy Tower Captain of Moreton and Bobbingworth and therein lies a clue as to the creation and delivery of the first ever (and maybe the last) “BAMBI AWARDS.”



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A little bit of history

Before all is revealed let's just go back in time, after all bell ringing has been around for more than the odd century or two. In 1923, almost 100 years ago, Felix Salten could have had no idea as to the global legacy he was creating. "Who was Felix Salten?" I hear you cry. Well dear old Felix was none other than the writer of an endearing little book called "BAMBI A Life in the Woods." Whilst not an immediate best seller it was later immortalised in 1942 by Walt Disney, when the film and starring cartoon character of the same name was created.

Revelations

To bring the story into the 21st Century it's important to record the fact that just 7 or 8 years ago, following a major restoration project of the bells at St Christopher's in Willingale, a breath of fresh air in both the interest and standards of ringing in our Benefice was instigated with much of the credit being due to our North Western District Master – Ian Kerwin. Ian of course was not alone, he had a very willing band of supporters and helpers who, like most people I have met in my 3 short years of ringing, are incredibly modest, incredibly hard working and incredibly determined to achieve the highest standards of ringing. As if those qualities alone are not adequate then it must also be added that our merry little band carry out their work both in teaching, in practice and in formal service ringing entirely at their own expense and completely free of any self-serving plea for recognition or status.

And so it was that the initial idea of the 2019 BAMBI AWARDS evolved. Having been asked to present at the dinner, a brief summary of the year's achievements at my own two regular towers, I just wanted to go the extra mile in recognition of the people who have given me 3 wonderful years of experience in an activity that hitherto I had little or no appreciation of whatsoever.

I sincerely hope that what I am now about to declare causes no offence, but if you, my reader, are anything of like mind with me, I do get somewhat peeved (understatement of the year) at the shallow, endless rounds of self-ingratiating and back slapping that goes on with grossly over rated and obscenely rewarded "STARS" at events like the OSCARS, BAFTAS, GOLDEN GLOBES and EMMY's etc, etc. For me it was time, the "High Noon", for us Ringers to strike back.

Birth of the BAMBI'S

During a short Christmas shopping trip around one of our local nurseries I spotted amongst the decorations the smiling and caricatured head of an ageing deer. There was something very appealing about the little fellow and so I popped one into the trolley. Just days earlier, two of my grandchildren had been watching a DVD of Disney's Bambi and in my blissfully meandering thoughts I just wondered if the 1942 Bambi, were he still alive today, might look something like the ageing Bambi in my trolley. It was in those same few flashes of "senior moment" mind wrestling that I suddenly realised what a wonderful acronym was staring at me through the eyes of my new found friend. BAMBI – the "BOBBINGWORTH and MORETON BELLS INSTITUTE."

And so the cat (or should I say the deer) is out of the bag. I went straight back to the shelves. collected another handful of Bambi's, a roll of suitable medal / presentation tape and the first ever 8 BAMBI AWARDS were conceived, destined for delivery on 18th December 2019.

Perhaps the last thing to say is that on the presentation evening itself I did have some reservations due to the fact that it was a bit of a gamble for me to hijack the stage without consulting any of my peer group. Also the fact that I had three other awards to present. These were born of a significantly higher degree of deservedness to ringers who had given extended public service in the field of ringing and tower project development. Thus sincerity far outweighed the slight "tongue in cheek" humorous element of the initial BAMBI's. Sincerity and comedy are not always willing partners and when combined need careful handling.



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Glad to say that from the feedback received the gamble paid off. My little contribution (with due thanks and acknowledgements to Felix and Walt), was welcomed in the spirit intended. Has the story reached its end? Well YES, at least for the time being. BUT. there might just be scope for another edition. Questions are already being asked; was this the first and last BAMBI ceremony or will it continue into the years and maybe decades ahead? Will the Bobbingworth and Moreton Bells Institute ever become a fully instituted and recognised entity? And will I ever get to grips with counting places and Bob Doubles.

Happy ringing ringers and who knows, you might just be in the running for the next BAMBI!

**Ken Heymer,
Moreton and Bobbingworth**



Ian Kerwin's Birthday Tour – January 2020



Back in January we had a three day tour to Dorset, having lunch and ringing at Bere Regis and Milbourne St Andrew on the Thursday. Unfortunately, the weather was so foul we didn't even venture out to a practice evening.

We woke to a lovely morning and after a full English breakfast, we headed out to ring at Piddlehinton and Piddletrenthide, where the ropes were so short even Jim Noon didn't need a knot! Luckily, we had Malcolm and Ann Corry [very experienced local ringers] ringing with us that day, and Ann proceeded to ring on an upside-down washing up bowl as there weren't any boxes! We then rung at Buckland



Newton, followed by lunch at The Green Man, Kings Stag. After our well earned break, we rang at Mappowder and the very loud Hazelbury Brian. All the towers that day were over 12cwt; Trevor Haynes was pleased with himself as he put up the heaviest bell and Denise Kerwin discovered she enjoyed ringing heavier tenors.

As we were staying in Dorchester, there were plenty of places to eat in the evening, so whilst some went out, Denise, Sharon Lacey and I slipped off to Hilton to join their practice evening, surprisingly the only sign of ART all weekend; they were also surprised when we said we would join in with the Mexican Wave. Back in Dorchester we met up with Kieran and Scott and before we knew it, it was the early hours – none of us took much rocking that night!

On Saturday we were up and out for 8.30am, meeting up with Mike and Angie Jasper, two more experienced local ringers. We rag at Upwey, Martinstown and Maiden Newton before stopping for lunch at the very charismatic Fox and Hounds in Cattistock. We then rang at Cattistock and Cerne Abbas. Back in Dorchester we all went out for a good pub food dinner and real ale. If you're ever in Dorchester and if that's the sort of food and drink you like, search out the Blue Raddle.



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A thoroughly enjoyable long weekend with fantastic weather, finished off with Sunday service ringing at Dorchester and a walk on Studland beach before heading off home.

Just got to wait until next year now!!

**Ian Kerwin,
Willingale**



West Hanningfield Bell Ringing Training Group



At St. Mary & St. Edward's Church, West Hanningfield we are trying to restore our four Miles Graye 1676 bells and mediaeval belfry and bell frame. We need to establish our own ringing team as our bells have been silent for some time, they probably have not been regularly full circle rung for over 150 years.

Our sincere thanks go to Ian Kerwin, and his enthusiastic band of ringers at St Christopher's, Willingale for taking on the training of our band of novices. Their cheerful encouragement and excellent programme, including full circle ringing demonstrations and careful one to one training of handling a bell from scratch, has really inspired us.

We have also appreciated their advice and slide presentation of how they achieved their own remarkable bells and tower restoration.

Thank you for your time, patience and for making us so welcome, Ian and colleagues, we look forward to becoming successful ringers too.

Mary Armson (novice ringer and Friends membership secretary)

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Deputy District Master	Mike Slowe	01279 861546	Mike.slowe@virginmedia.com
Treasurer	Fred Bone	01279 726159	Fred.bone@dial.pipex.com
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