



Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.eacr.org.uk

Registered Charity No 292250

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT



MAY-JUNE 2020

Message from Ian Kerwin, District Master:

It is now seven weeks ago that two Willingale ringers, supported by the Spring Course Tutor and helpers, rang our last quarter peal, followed that evening with the suspension of ringing until further notice. Whilst a number of ringers are keeping their hands and ears in by ringing on social media, I have taken a rest from it altogether and just hope I can remember what it's all about when we get back to it. I did, however, participate last week in an Executive meeting via Zoom which all worked rather well.

I hear from different groups that our homes and gardens are better maintained now than they have been, all being helped by the [mainly] lovely weather. The way of life has changed for many people, not going to work or working from home, staying at home and social distancing, affecting many of us in some way.

I sincerely hope everyone and their families remain safe and well.

Ian Kerwin

Given the difficult times in which we currently are living, I decided to include future event dates from June in this newsletter although clearly some, or even all, of these either won't take place, or may evolve in a slightly different format. However, fingers and everything else crossed, we will be back ringing in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, I have set up a Zoom group for the District which was successfully tested a couple of days ago [thanks Ian and Trevor]. If you would like to join the weekly 30 minute meeting group to chat about what you are doing, what you have been looking at etc, please do let me know and I will send out invitations. I was planning to arrange the weekly meeting on a Wednesday lunchtime but if anyone has a time preference, again, let me know and we can see what the consensus of opinion is.

Alternatively, if some would prefer, I can also set up a WhatsApp group for ringing or other chat, but I do need you to let me know if you wish to join – you will need to confirm your mobile telephone number.

Sue Evans



June 2020 Events

- Saturday, 13th June 2020: Ridgeman 10 Bell Trophy t Boston, Lincs – 10.00am.
- Friday, 19th June 2020: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 21st June 2020: Young Ringers Practice at 4.30pm.
- Friday, 26th June 2020: Methods Practice at Stansted – 7.45pm-9.00pm.
- Sunday, 26th June 2020: RWNYP Mini Outing.



July 2020 Events

- Saturday, 4th July 2020: RWNYP at York.
- Saturday, 11th July 2020: EACR 6 and 8 Bell Competition Finals at Steeple Bumpstead and Radwinter.
- Friday, 17th July 2020: Surprise Major Practice at Felsted – 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Saturday, 18th July 2020: 8 Bell Practice at Saffron Walden – 10.30am-12noon.
- Sunday, 19th July 2020: Young Ringers Practice at 4.30pm.
- Friday, 24th July 2020: Methods Practice at Stansted – 7.45pm-9.00pm.



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IF YOU HAVEN'T YET RESPONDED, PLEASE DO SO ON THE '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



Spring Ringing Course

The Spring Ringing Course 'Beyond Bob Doubles' commenced at Henham on Saturday, 8th February 2020. with various methods being practiced - Reverse Canterbury, St Martins, St Simons, Wichendon Place, St Nicholas - to name but a few. Due to the current situation the eight sessions were reduced to six but before the 'self isolation' came into effect, the six Willingale students - Gemma Crouchman, Sue Evans, Ian Kerwin, Kieran Kerwin, Scott Kerwin and Charlotte Parsons - supported by tutor Liz Griffith-Jones and course helpers, all achieved quarter peals in their newly learned methods. A very challenging, but successful, few weeks and a big 'thank you' to everyone involved in the learners' progress.

Without the help and support of tutors and helpers, courses such as this would not take place. 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 continued after the Saturday morning Spring Ringing Course and were extremely well attended.



2020 AGM

A date for this year's AGM will be reviewed at the end of June or when Government guidance permits.



6 and 8 Bell Striking Competition Finals – 11th July 2020

The date will be saved and a modified competition held pending any restrictions.



Essex Trophy Competition – 12th September 2020

A decision will be deferred to KCACR, the hosts of this competition.



Annual Essex Dinner – 10th October 2020

This year's Annual Dinner date has been saved but ticket sales have been deferred until late August.



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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.



What's going on in the District

Saffron Walden has a WhatsApp group and has started a Zoom Tuesday night post-practice drink together with quizzes, chat and general mirth!

John Hall/Roger Collins

Thaxted Virtual Practice

We held our first virtual practice on Tuesday, 28th April via ringingroom.com. Seven of the band were able to join in and after a few initial technical challenges with the accompanying Zoom app, we were able to 'look to'!

Within a few minutes we were managing reasonable rounds on 6. We eventually managed call changes, including going into Queens and back to rounds. Finally, some 8 bell ringing [one ringer can ring two bells a lot easier in the ringing room than in the real one].

Overall, we were really pleased with our first attempt at virtual ringing and can see how it is possible to eventually ring Plain Hunt and move on to methods. Although no substitute for the real thing, it provides another means of keeping in contact while we are unable to meet in person. Whilst some of us may fear losing our physical bell ringing ability with being away for so long, perhaps virtual ringing can at least assist us to make progress with the theory side.

Trevor Haynes

Kevin Nicholas shared his memories of when he was a regular ringer at Great St Mary's, Saffron Walden – follow this on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwES9q3kzLU&t=27s>



VE Day – Friday, 8th May 2020

Whilst it was very sad that planned ringing and other widely attended activities had to be cancelled, I am sure that some celebrations did take place, albeit muted and at a social distance. If anyone has any photographs or narrative of events which did occur please let me have them for the next newsletter.

- Jo and James Pimblett tolled the bells at 7.00pm at Henham for 5 minutes; the performance has been added to Bellboard and linked to the Central Council event.

Liz Griffith-Jones

- At 7.00pm and attended by those living nearby, the church warden at Hatfield Broad Oak had a genuine air raid siren outside the church door and sounded the 'All Clear'.

Edna Halls

- At Thaxted, the No.5 bell is known as the 'Peace Bell' and is inscribed with the words 'I ring for Universal Peace'. It seemed appropriate for this bell to be chosen for ringing at 7.00pm. We received many kind comments and the 5 minutes of ringing one bell on this special occasion was well received by those who heard it in and around Thaxted.

Rung and written by Trevor Haynes



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