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NEWSLETTER

This will hopefully be the first of regular Newsletters which are intended to keep towers in touch with activities in their own district, other districts and the Association. Any comments, suggestions or contributions for future Newsletters would be welcomed.

AGM - 1988

The Association AGM was once again held in Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday 2nd May when we were very pleased to welcome Gilbert Thurlow who gave the address at the service. Following the meeting, which must have been one of the shortest ever, lunch was served in the Cathedral Hall by members of the South-West district. Ringing during the afternoon was in the North-East district.

The following items were amongst those dealt with at the AGM:

1. Subs Increase

The increase in subscription rate to £4 which was discussed and agreed at the October Committee Meeting now enables the Association to not only keep pace with inflation in the General Fund, but also to continue transferring part of the subscription (£1) to the Bell Restoration Account. Although some towers have reviewed membership, this has not resulted in an overall reduction in membership.

2. The amendment to Rule 14 adopted at the AGM (see Annual Report) now means that rule books will no longer be produced and that a Membership Certificate (currently being printed) together with a copy of the Rules will be given to new members. All other information currently contained in the old Rule Book will be published in the Report at least every five years. Certificates will also be produced to be issued to Life Members.

3. Miss Barbara Fisher (Bentley Common) and Mrs Josephine Sadler (Prittlewell) were elected Life Members of the Association.

STRIKING COMPETITION RESULTS

G-BELL AT GREAT WAKERING

- 1 - CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL (23 faults)
- 2 - VEST HAW (25)
- 3 - KIRBY-LE-SOKEN (56)
- 4 - DAGENHAM (60)
- 5 - COLCHESTER (75)
- 6 - PRITTLEWELL (76)
- 7 - SPRINGFIELD (81)
- 8 - NORTH OCKENDON (94)
- 9 - VETHERSFIELD (97).

G-BELL AT PRITTLEWELL

- 1 - SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT (19 faults)
- 2 - SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT (32)
- 3 - NORTH-EAST DISTRICT (59)
- 4 - NORTHERN DISTRICT (61)
- 5 - SOUTHERN DISTRICT (72)
- 6 - NORTH-WEST DISTRICT (87).

Judges: John Howard and Peter Hurcombe.

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AROUND THE DISTRICTS

On June 25th the South-East District held a Quarter-Peal day with 12 quarters being scored. The Chelmsford quarter was sponsored and this should raise at least £100 for bell restoration. A barbecue in Danbury in the evening was very successful and made a profit of £100.

Southern District: On Saturday 23rd July a barbecue was held at the home of Helen and John Harpole. The sum of £77.55 was raised for the BRF. Helen and John are to be congratulated for making the evening such a success. The food was delicious and the atmosphere friendly and relaxed. It was entirely due to all their hard work and kind hospitality that all who attended had such an enjoyable evening.

North-West District: Meetings in the first part of the year have generally been well attended and noticeable progress made by those who can come regularly. Most of the special methods have at least been attempted. Attendance in May and July has been quite pleasing - usually awkward months because of holidays.

In June a joint N.W./Bishop's Stortford districts Barn Dance and Supper was again held at Manuden (by kind invitation of David Collins). An enjoyable and fine evening for all with the N.W. share of the profit amounting to approx. £90. Grateful thanks go to Nick & Leelle Hughes and Pat & Dick Prime, and other members of the B.S. district, for their hard work in organising the event this year.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

Book the date ... SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. dancing to the ROGER KEY SOUND Tickets £12.25 (same price as last year!!!) available from Ann Chapman.

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P. R. NEWS

The Association has had a number of displays in several areas during the last few months. In June, displays were shown at festivals at Hatfield Heath and Clavering. In July, Sawbridgeworth borrowed Association display material and opened the tower to visitors during their flower festival. High Easter also had the display during their Armada Fete.

Saffron Walden and Arkeeden were kept busy during the afternoon of Saturday 30th July; the Royal wedding between James Ogilvy and Julia Rawlinson took place at Saffron Walden. Ringers at Arkeeden rang the bride out of the village, whilst Saffron Walden ringers rang before and after the wedding.

Harlow Common are this year celebrating their church's centenary, and a festival starting on September 9th will show the work of the community and church organisations. A peal attempt is scheduled for October.

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RESTORATION PROJECTS

The following restoration projects are currently in hand:-

SOUTH WALD - Six bells are being rehung in a new frame with additional 2 trebles. Cost of project - £37,000; grant offered - £3,000.

GREAT WAKRING - Two bells to be rehung and remaining four to have refurbished fittings. Cost of project - £6,060; grant offered £1,200.

WEBB IVORY

Don't forget to order your Christmas cards and other goods from Webb Ivory and so help raise money for the bell restoration account. Catalogues are available from district secretaries or contact: Mrs Liz Hull, 320 Long Lane, Grays RM16 2QU (Tel: 0375 381982).

ANNUAL REPORT

Please let your District Secretary and the Report Editor know if there are any errors in the Report especially tower details and membership lists. We can't correct them unless you let us know.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	3	Purleigh & Maldon - Meeting	South-East
	3	Car Treasure Hunt	Northern
	10	Ilford - Training Day	South-West
	10	Gestingthorpe & Foxearth - Meeting	Northern
	17	Thorpe Bay & Eastwood - Meeting	Southern
	17	10 Bell Striking Competition - Raigate	
	23	Learners' Practice - Stansted	North-West
	24	Hadstock & Ashdon - Ringing Meeting	North-West
	24	Wethersfield - Barn Dance	Northern
	October	1	Executive Committee Mtg - Danbury
7		Ingrave - District Practice	Southern
8		ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE - CHELMSFORD	
15		St Osyth - Meeting	North-East
15		Romford - Meeting	South-West
22		Newport - Ringing Meeting	North-West
November	22	District Teach In	Northern
	28	Learners' Practice - Clavering	North-West
	5	Goldhanger - Call Change Competition	South-East
	12	Walthamstow St Mary (ev)	South-West
	19	Leigh-on-Sea	Southern
	25	Learners' Practice - Manuden	North-West
December	26	Matching & Old Harlow - Bus. Meeting	North-West
	10	Great Tey - Carol Service (ev)	North-East
	10	Social	South-West
	17	Earls Colne - Carol Service	Northern
	17	Manuden - Carol Service	North-West

2nd Friday of the month - special practice at Stansted (North-West).
See The Ringing World for full details of all practices and meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ian Roper and Geraldine on their engagement.
John Harpole and Helen Corri on their marriage.
Simon Ward and Carol Kingston on their marriage.
Deborah and David Adams on the birth of Thomas William.

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for December. Contributions to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 News Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 356040) by 22nd NOVEMBER 1988.