

EA CR NEWSLETTER

No. 8

December, 1990

*** * HAPPY CHRISTMAS * ***

A variety of events are reported on in this NEWSLETTER. By the way, have you done your tower profile yet? By the time you read this a follow-up survey by the Central Council will have taken place to see if the situation has changed at all since the November 1988 survey - the results will make interesting reading.

RINGING FOR EVANGELISM

As many of you will know, Epiphany, Sunday 6th January 1991 is the start of the Decade of Evangelism. What better way to proclaim this than by ringing church bells? Apart from ringing for service at our own churches, it is hoped that the bells can also be rung at churches which don't have a regular band. A short notice will appear in the December issue of "Noticeboard", the monthly newsletter circulated to clergy throughout the Diocese, and incumbents without a band will be asked to contact one of the district masters if they would like their bells rung on that day. Can we manage to ring at all the churches with ringable bells throughout Essex at some time during that Sunday? Let's try.

Committee Meeting

The main points from the October Committee Meeting are as follows:

1. The Association has been asked to ring sponsored peals around Whitsun-tide 1991 in aid of St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy. Please ask Paul Cammiade for further details.
2. Subscriptions for 1991 will be as follows:

Ringing Members	£5
Friends	£2.50
Non-resident Life Members	£5
Peal fees	25p per ringer

The increase in ringing member subscriptions is in line with inflation and 25% will go to the Bell Restoration Account. The non-resident sub has remained unchanged since 1979 and it was agreed to increase it to £5 with 25% going to the Bell Restoration Account. Non-resident members will be entitled to an Annual Report for the year in which they are elected.

3. Grants approved: Matching - a further £2,000.
4. From 1st January 1991 Colin Chapman will take over from Owen Webster as Peals Secretary. Peal details and fees should be forwarded to him from that date as well as the name and address of any new non-resident members. Proposers of non-resident members are reminded that it is incumbent upon them (not the Peal Secretary) to ensure that belfry elections are ratified at the next business meeting in accordance with rule 7(1).
5. The Association came second yet again in the Essex Trophy 10-bell striking competition held at Guildford, St Nicholas. Next year the competition will be held at Braintree.
6. The meeting agreed that a letter should be sent to all incumbents with 3 or more unringable bells warning of a possible problem with ringers who may try to ring their bells. It is understood that at least one of the ringers involved in the widely reported events in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, earlier this year, is now resident in the county.

ESSEX COURSE

The residential Essex Course planned for 1991 will not take place due to a problem with accommodation. However, it is hoped to go ahead with a non-residential course during the week after Easter based at Honywood School, Coggeshall. Full details will be available shortly. Offers of help should be made to Adrian Semken (0376 561183).

TRAINING DAY

Our first Association Training Day for some time was held on Saturday 29th September, based at Church House, Braintree. The Surprise Major group was abandoned through lack of interest but the other groups went ahead with the Plain Hunt section being the most popular. Everyone who attended benefitted to some extent and it was a very worthwhile exercise. Church House is an ideal venue for theory as there are numerous small rooms for the different groups; the practical sessions took place in the morning and afternoon at Braintree, Coggeshall, Gosfield, Stebbing, Shalford, Felsted and Rayne. There were four groups - Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Belfry Maintenance.

Thanks to Adrian (and of course Heather) for organising the day and to tutors, tower arrangers, helpers for helping and of course students for coming.

Next year it is intended to hold another Training Day on Saturday 28th September, again based at Church House, Braintree.

DINNER

A very disappointing turnout again this year, although perhaps not entirely surprising with the large increase in ticket price and the return to the Marconi Club. In spite of the low numbers the evening went very well with good food and excellent speeches by Revd David Atkins, Rector of Downham and John Spence, a Churchwarden at Chelmsford Cathedral. Dancing was enthusiastic once the D.J. had got the music right and the raffle during the evening raised £80.

Thank you to all those who helped make the evening a success, particularly David and Laura Childs for selling raffle tickets, José Sadler for preparing the floral table arrangements and S.R. Design and Marketing (Simon Poyser's Company) for sponsoring the printing of the menus which means the dinner has made a profit.

Next year the venue will probably be the Rivenhall Resort Motel, on the A12 just north of Witham, in the new banqueting suite which is still being built! We are hoping that the ticket price can be held the same for next year but it may be necessary to have a small increase. However, if support for the dinner does not improve we shall have to seriously consider whether it is a viable proposition.

COVENANTS

Have YOU covenanted your subscription yet?

Do you realise that for every subscription paid from January 1991 the Association can claim £1.67 from the Inland Revenue?

At present only 4% of members have covenanted their subscription. The number has decreased recently as several covenants have expired. If everyone eligible covenanted the Association would benefit each year by approximately £800.

How do you covenant?

Covenanting is very easy. All you have to do is obtain a covenant form from your District Secretary or the Treasurer, fill in your name and address and sign the form in front of a witness (e.g. the District Secretary). You are also required to give details of your employment and tax office (if known) on a separate form. From then on all you have to do is pay your subscription annually.

Who can covenant?

Any member of the Association who pays tax is eligible to covenant. A married woman who is not working cannot covenant her subscription at present - she will have to persuade her husband to pay it. However, from 5th April 1991 if she has an interest-bearing account, which earns more than £5 interest net per annum (£10 for a joint account) the subscription can be covenanted against the taxed interest in that account.

If you wish to make a regular donation to the Association this may also be covenanted thus increasing the value of your donation by one third.

At your Annual District meeting, when you pay your subscription, ask your secretary for a Covenant Form.

1990 Annual Report

Work on the 1990 Report will begin early in January. If there are any amendments to your tower details, listed members or there are any obituaries or other items which should be included, please notify your District Secretary or the Report Editor (Adrian Melton) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Webb Ivory

Jane Bardwell (Southern District) has volunteered to take over the Webb Ivory account from Liz Hull. Unfortunately there was insufficient time this year to deal with Christmas orders but Jane will be in action next year. Very many thanks to Liz for the hard work she has put in raising funds for the Association and thanks to Jane for offering to take the hard work on!

— Ringing Worlds —

David Sloman has acquired a set of *The Ringing World* from 1963 to 1985 which he does not have house room for. If anyone is interested, please 'phone him (0702 545568).

1903 - A STORY THAT MUST BE TOLLED

In February they decided to repair the earthquake-damaged church bells. Four of the six bells made at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and hung in 1802 were cracked.

Alex Barlow, Henry Rice and the Rev. Sinclair Carolin joined other Wivenhoe celebrities at a meeting on Monday the ninth to consider, among other things, an offer from an anonymous well-wisher to help pay for the repairs. The un-named benefactor offered £10 with curious strings attached.

He insisted that if the offer was to stand "the work should be entirely completed on or before October 20, 1904. It was further requested that on the second day of November following, the big bell should be tolled at noon for half-an-hour, and again at 6 pm. for half-an-hour - to the memory of the dead - and that the peal of six bells shall be rung or pealed for the first time on November 9, 1904, namely, at noon for one hour, at 3 p.m. for one hour, and at 6 p.m. for one hour, also to the memory of the dead (five peals only being used prior to November 9)".

If these conditions were not complied with, the money would instead go to the Eastern Counties Asylum for Idiots, Colchester. The offer, however, was accepted and a further £33 8s was subscribed at the meeting.

(Taken from "A Potted History of Wivenhoe" and sent in by Bob Leavett.)

SPONSORSHIP

This year the Association has sponsored two people on ringing courses - one to the Hereford course (which was written about in the last NEWSLETTER) and the other on the Central Council course at Moulton. Both students enjoyed themselves and found the courses of benefit. If you are interested in attending a ringing course and would like to apply for sponsorship, please obtain a form from your District Secretary and when completed forward it to Ann Chapman, Hon. Secretary, as soon as possible, well before the closure date for entries. The main courses next year are:-

Hereford	4th - 7th April
Sparsholt	30th May - 2nd June
C. C. Moulton	end of July

At the February Committee Meeting, Frank Lufkin proposed that instead of using money from the General Fund to sponsor ringers on courses, a separate capital fund should be established and the interest therefrom used towards grants. It was envisaged that money for this fund could come from individuals, the sale of the silver salver, bequests and fund-raising. To date the fund has nearly £800 but it really needs to have at least £2-3,000 to accumulate sufficient interest to aid students. If you feel you would like to help the future of ringing in this way, please contact or send a cheque to David Childs, Treasurer. He will treat such donations in complete confidence if so requested. It is also possible to covenant these donations, thus increasing their value considerably.

C. C. SURVEY

The sub-committee was set up to consider the findings of the Central Council Survey in 1988 and how ringing can be improved in Essex. It has met two or three times for discussions, the last time involving Canon Abbey, Association Chaplain, to consider links with the Church. Hopefully during 1991 some sort of plan will emerge but any input you feel you would like to make would be extremely welcome. Only a few tower profiles have been received and a few more would be welcomed or if you have any strong views on what you think the Association could do to help ringing, do write to one of the sub-committee members - it can be completely anonymous if you wish!

283T Around the Districts

Firstly the 'Editor' would like to apologise for two errors in the August NEWSLETTER report on the Car Boot Sale held at Galleywood in June. There were in fact 3 or 4 ringers' cars there (not one as stated) and the event raised £250 for bell restoration. Well done Simon.

Quarters were rung at the following towers for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday:- Bentley Common, Brentwood, Chigwell, Coggeshall, Colchester (Shrub End), Fobbing, Langdon Hills, Nazeing, Shenfield, Springfield, Terling and Wormingford.

The following towers rang quarters to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the W.I.: Bentley Common, Colchester (St Peter), Great Totham, Great Wakering, High Easter, Ingrave, Manuden, Mistley and Springfield.

(These lists only include quarters listed under those main headings in *The Ringing World*. I regret I have not had time to go through all *The Ringing Worlds* to find any late ones.-Ed)

The South-East District call-change competition was held at Great Totham in November with five bands taking part and was won by ... Great Totham. The two new trebles at Tollesbury are to be dedicated by Canon Abbey on Saturday 24th November.

In the North-West District Matching bells were re-dedicated by the Bishop of Chelmsford in September. The final fund-raising event - a quiz evening - took place in November. Regrettably Stansted Mountfitchet church is now redundant although the bells can continue to be rung.

Slimming in the Southern District has been very successful with four trimmer ladies having lost 55lbs between them and raised £213 for the Association. Well done.

A treasure hunt starting at Downham was won by Peter and Jill Knight from Eastwood. This event raised £50 for the bell restoration account.

Congratulations to Des Mayell on ringing his 1000th quarter peal on 15th September at Shenfield. The band was a local one, and the quarter marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

ASSOCIATION REGISTERS

Congratulations to:

Paul Cansdale & Maria Taylor (Prittlewell) on their engagement.

In Memoriam:

We regret to report the death of the following members:

Edward Clough (Shenfield)

Reginald Goodship (ex Rayleigh)

==== *Calendar of Events* ====

1991			
January	5	ADM - Writtle	South-East
	5	ADM - Great Dunmow and Bardfield	Northern
	12	ADM - Hornchurch	South-West
	12	ADM - Ardleigh	North-East
	19	ADM - Rayleigh	Southern
	26	ADM - Thaxted and Saffron Walden	North-West
February	2	COMMITTEE MEETING - DANBURY.	
	14	Practice - Little Baddow	South-East
March	2	Meeting - Margaretting & Fryerning	South-East
April	4-6	NON-RESIDENTIAL COURSE	

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1991. Any contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 16th March 1991.