

# EA CR

## NEWSLETTER

No. 9

April, 1991

This NEWSLETTER contains details of ringing on AGM day, a "hot off the press" report on the Essex Course, details of the Silver Salver for anyone interested in purchasing it, plus various other articles. Please make sure the NEWSLETTER is put on your tower noticeboard so everyone can have an opportunity of reading it.

## A.G.M.

The Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May in Chelmsford Cathedral. The bells will be available from about 9.15 to 9.45 and the service will be at 10.00 with Canon Tim Stevens, the new Archdeacon of West Ham, giving the address. The Meeting will commence at approx. 11.00 a.m. to finish by 1.00 p.m. Morning coffee and lunch will be available in St. Cedd's Hall in the new Chapter House with the NW District officiating. Ringing in the afternoon will be in the Northern District as follows:

1445 - 1545	Greenstead Green (6 - Anti) 12½cwt	822285
1515 - 1615	Earls Colne (8) 14cwt	861288
1545 - 1645	Gestingthorpe (6) 16cwt	812386
1615 - 1715	Castle Heddingham (8 - Anti) 11½cwt	784355
1645 - 1745	Great Yeldham (6) 7cwt	757387
1715 - 1830	TEA - WETHERSFIELD	
1715 - 1830	Wethersfield (8) 11½cwt	712312
1800 - 1900	Shalford (5) 10½cwt	724293
1830 - 1930	Rayne (6) 6½cwt	733229
1900 - 2000	Bocking (10) 18½cwt	757257

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you require lunch (£3.50) or tea (£1.50) tickets please contact Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 News Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 1st May 1991.

# ESSEX COURSE

"What about a non-residential course?" asked Don Cobb at the October Committee meeting last year after Adrian Semken reported that Writtle Agricultural College had decided to cancel his booking for a residential course. And that is exactly what took place on 4th, 5th and 6th April based at the Honeywood School in Coggeshall. It took a lot of planning on Adrian Semken's part, a vast amount of secretarial and catering help by Heather, and numerous letters arranging towers sent by Fred and Mary Bone but it all came together and it was fun!

There were students from Essex, North Wales, Northamptonshire and Oxon amongst others; tutors and helpers came from every district of the Association. And what a variety of activities; the tutor groups covered plain hunting, Plain Bob Minor, treble bob hunting, Kent & Oxford, Surprise Minor and Major; lectures dealt with many aspects of ringing from handbells to simple conducting, from tower maintenance to place notation, from rope splicing to the structure of Double Norwich Court Bob Major and how to ring it (there really is a blue line!).

On the Thursday evening, the talk by George Pipe from Suffolk entitled "A bit of a ringer's life" was thoroughly enjoyed by all, even those who might never have heard of him before - they certainly know a lot about him now! The social on Friday evening was fun - the Master now being the proud possessor of a broken stay won in the raffle and one young lady winning a copy of "Change Ringing in Essex" for getting the fewest tower anagrams correct (the book was subsequently autographed by Pat Saltmarsh and Don Cobb - something to treasure!). As for the competition between a choir rehearsal and the Surprise major course - stories of that will be enjoyed for many months to come (ask David Sparling).

I am sure everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves, even if they did all look absolutely shattered by Friday evening - it's amazing what a few pints of Greene King can do to get you going again though! I hope that everyone, helpers and students alike, learned something during the three days - I know I certainly did (how to ring Bestow Little Court!). Well done Adrian and we look forward with eager anticipation to next year's course!

# Silver Salver

The 1990 AGM agreed that the Silver Salver should be sold in favour of the Education Capital Fund set up earlier in the year. The salver was presented to Bob Heazel (Secretary 1946-53 and Master 1953-67) on his retirement and subsequently given back to the Association on his wife's death.

The salver is solid silver (Hallmarked 1965), weighs 17½ ozs and is 10" in diameter. It is not engraved and has an insured value of £825.

Some members have expressed an interest in the salver. Any others interested in acquiring the salver should contact one of the Trustees preferably before the A.G.M. on 6th May 1991. Enquiries can be kept confidential and viewing can be arranged at other times if necessary.

CFC

## ADM Changes

The following changes in District Officers took place at the January A. D. M. 's:

South-West	Secretary	Julie Burlinson
North-West	Secretary Committee Rep Deputy Master	Jeni Dodde Frank Warboys Mary Bone
Northern	Secretary Committee Rep	Mike Bishop Heather Semken
North-East	Master Deputy Master	Malcolm Oliver Brian Lord

## 1991 DINNER

The annual dinner and dance will be held at THE RIVENHALL RESORT HOTEL on 12th October 1991. It is hoped that last year's price of £18 can be maintained for this year but this is not yet confirmed and may have to be increased due to the higher VAT rate. Please book the date in your diary NOW and support this very enjoyable social event. PLEASE NOTE that numbers will be limited to 120 so it will be strictly FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED and CASH WITH ORDER. A provisional booking has been made for 10th October 1992 at The New World Hotel, Brentwood.

# **Committee Meeting**

With no motions to be discussed the usual agenda items were quickly dealt with. Considerable time was spent discussing a paper prepared by Don Cobb concerning Sunday Service ringing, how more members can be recruited and trained, and how ringers can become a more integral part of the Church. This item is also to be included on the AGM Agenda so I hope there will be many members there to discuss it.

The following grants were agreed at the meeting:

**High Easter:** £1000 towards the cost of £8800 for repairing the timbers of the ringing chamber ceiling and supporting bell frame.

**Rayne:** £1500 towards the cost of £12000 for rehangng the bells with new fittings.

**Stow Maries:** £300 towards the cost of £3080 for rehangng the single bell with new fittings in existing frame, for swing chiming following storm damage last year.

## **Dystonia Society**

Sunday 19th to Sunday 26th May is Dystonia Awareness Week and the Society is hoping that the bells will be rung in support of this in at least 10 churches within the Diocese. They are not trying to raise money but just to make the public aware of what Dystonia is. They would like to send someone to the main service at the 10 churches to distribute leaflets and to have some publicity in parish magazines and the like. If you can ring for this (it needn't be special ringing) then please contact me as soon as possible. In case you're wondering ... Dystonia is a neurological disorder dominated by involuntary spasms of muscle contraction that cause abnormal movements and postures.

## **St Luke's Hospital**

Ringers throughout the country have been asked to ring peals on Saturday 19th October for the Centennial Appeal of St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy in London. These peals will be sponsored but ringers are not being asked to arrange the sponsorship. If you are able to arrange a peal for the hospital please let me know as soon as possible so sponsorship can be arranged.

# ***Mike's Sponsored Slim***

At the end of 1990 AGM Day a group of us were sitting in the "Queen's Head", Boreham when David Childs, in true fashion, remarked on how fat I was getting. He then challenged me to lose some weight and perhaps raise a few pounds for the Association. I, of course, accepted the challenge. We agreed that it would be for the benefit of the Education Fund and that the slimming period would be from June to Christmas. So the 1st June came and I weighed in at 17½ stone. Then, with a lot of help and encouragement from my friends, and especially from Jane, my wife, I managed to lose 4 stone (56 lbs or ¼ cwt) by Christmas morning, raising £375.70 for the Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all those who supported me in this campaign, especially David Childs who, together with Laura, shelled out more than most! I think he will probably think twice before setting me another challenge (at least I hope so), especially one that hits his wallet so hard!

Mike Bishop, Gosfield

PS. There are still some outstanding monies owed. The shame list will be published in the next Newsletter.

## **Around the Districts**

In the Northern District a district ladies band rang a peal at Great Yeldham in December, conducted by Charlotte Gould.

No-one can have failed to see the notice in *The Ringing World* congratulating Roger Dorking, of the Southern District on his 50th birthday. Somehow or other he also managed to persuade ladies in each of the six districts to ring quarter peals for this event. How does he do it!?

Enthusiastic gardeners should be preparing the ground ready for their sunflower seeds which were on sale at the March district meeting. All proceeds will go to the restoration account and judging of the sunflowers will take place in September.

The Open Day on 1st April in the Southern District was well organised and well attended and over £500 was raised for bell restoration.

The South-West District had a very successful recruitment and training day at Ilford in March which was well supported.

A change to the usual meeting format was proposed at the North-West District ADM. Instead of the usual Saturday gatherings which are often very poorly attended, the District will only have four meetings on Saturdays and a cycle of attendance at local practices is being scheduled. The confirmed ones are indicated in the calendar of events.

In the South-East District Dennis Withams rang a quarter peal at his home tower of Little Waltham with five other employees of local GEC Marconi companies in Chelmsford to mark 40 years continuous service with Marconi. The combined service record of all the ringers was 132 years.

Congratulations to David Rothera on ringing his 1000th peal which was Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Chelmsford Cathedral back in December last year.

## **P.R.**

Simon Poyser is hoping to purchase some suitable exhibition display boards for the Association. If anyone knows where he can obtain some or if someone is willing to make some stands, please let him know. Note his new number: 0277 840787.

## **Association Registers**

### Congratulations to:

Jose and Bernard Sadler (Prittlewell) on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Ted Leggett (Wormingford) on his 90th birthday.

### In Memoriam:

We regret to report the death of the following members:

Reg Rippingale (Life Member from Wickham St Paul)

Bert Dyer (Elmdon)

# Annual report

Have you ever wondered what is involved in the production of the Report. No? Well never mind, this fills a gap in the NEWSLETTER!

It starts early in the New Year when district secretaries and other officers are cajoled, prompted and pestered to produce membership lists, reports of the year's activities, accounts, obituaries and so on. Letters are sent to advertisers asking for artwork if they wish to advertise. Colin Chapman continues to plough through *The Ringing World* week by week to enter details of peals and quarters on the Amstrad database in order to produce analyses for the peal and quarter peal reports. By mid-March the pace really heats up and outstanding contributors are pleaded with to make their contributions. It can be very annoying when one person holds up the whole proceedings!

Peals can be typed into the word processor as they appear each week but the membership amendments and reports have to be typed as they arrive - the Report Editor using his red pen where necessary. It is not just a question of typing text into the word processor; all the typesetting routines - different typefaces, indentations, tabbing routines and so on - have to be carefully worked out and entered in the text. Print outs are produced for all the files, (the Report is not stored as one document due to its length, but broken down into several files) spelling errors are corrected (if spotted) and typesetting routines checked. This text is the final version - it does not need to be re-typed at the printers.

The disc containing all the files is sent to Sothersans of Redcar for processing. There the phototypesetter reads the disc and actions all the typesetting commands contained in the text and produces several metres of camera-ready copy. This is then returned to us for pasting up which I leave to Colin otherwise I would get pages in the wrong order or upside down! He spends a couple of evenings cutting and pasting the text onto A3 sheets of paper - four report-size pages to one sheet - and correcting any horrendous mistakes in the typesetting (usually my fault). The whole lot is then mailed back to Sothersans for printing which takes 7-10 days. Several boxes of Reports then clutter our hall for a few days before being counted out and forwarded to district secretaries for distribution to members in their district towers - hopefully before the AGM.

Colin and I then breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over for another year - and then start typing the next lot of quarters and peals!!! If anyone has an Amstrad PCW and would like to do some typing for the Report, please contact either Adrian Malton or myself.



# CALENDAR

The full calendar for the year (as far as is known at present) appears at the back of the Annual Report.

April	19	Learners' Practice - Great Easton	N
	26	Learners' Practice - Littlebury	NW
	27	Meeting - Helions Bumpstead	NW
	27	Barn Dance - High Easter	SE
	30	Practice - Saffron Walden	NW
May	10	Special Practice - Stansted	NW
	12	District Outing	SW
	13	Local Practice - Fyfield	NW
	14	Practice - Burnham-on-Crouch	SE
	18	District Dinner	N
	18	Striking Competition - South Benfleet	S
	24	Learners' Practice - Epping Upland	NW
	29	Local Practice - Thaxted	NW
	31	Learners' Practice - Felsted	N
June	1	Meeting - Galleywood	SE
	4	Local Practice - Great Parndon	NW
	8	Striking Competition - Epping	SW
	14	Special Practice - Stansted	NW
	15	District Striking Comp - Stebbing	N
	15	Car Rally	SW
	15	Barbecue	S
	16	Quarter Peel Week	SE
	22	Barbecue - Danbury	SE
	28	Learners' Practice - Manuden	NW
	29	Great Ringing Day - Saffron Walden	NW
July	5	Practice - Great Baddow	SE
	6	Striking Comp finals - Sandon & Little Baddow	
	12	Special Practice - Stansted	NW
	12	Learners' Practice - Foxearth	N
	13	Meeting - Walthamstow St Mary (TBC)	SW
	17	Local Practice - Hatfield Heath	NW
	20	Bar-B-Q	N
	26	Learners' Practice - Littlebury	NW
	30	Practice - Saffron Walden	NW
Aug	9	Special Practice - Stansted	NW
	23	Learners' Practice - Epping Upland	NW

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for AUGUST 1991. Any contributions please to Mrs. Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 12th July 1991.