

EA CR

NEWSLETTER

No. 12

APRIL 1992

TOWER:

Information in this NEWSLETTER includes A.G.M. day arrangements, brief details of the nominees for Treasurer and various requests for ringing. Last Saturday (28/3) I was pleased to attend, with 3 other Essex representatives, the Central Council seminar at Southwark Cathedral and hope to include some information on this in the next Newsletter. It was about "Initiatives for the 1990s" and one point raised was "How welcoming is your tower or district meeting?". This should not just be left to the district officers or tower captain either. Anyone can extend that hand of friendship to the stranger, the visitor from another district or the ringer/officer from your own district who 'never comes to meetings/practices'. You can't expect people to visit/attend or come again if they are not made welcome. AFC

A.G.M.

The service prior to the AGM will be held at 10.00 a.m. in Chelmsford Cathedral with ringing from 9.15-9.45, then an invited band will ring a service touch. The meeting and lunch will be held in the Age Concern Hall, Cottage Place (behind the Cathedral, near to the Chapter House) and will start at about 11.00 a.m. Morning coffee will be available from 9.15ish and a hot lunch will be served by the NE District at 1.00 p.m. HELP will be required, please, to put out chairs for the meeting - you can do this while waiting for your coffee to cool down! Chairs will need to be moved again after the meeting so that tables can be laid for lunch so more help required then please. During the spare half-hour you can either go for an aperitif, have a chat in the lounge upstairs or judge the practice ringing for the Ridgman Trophy 10-bell competition the following week!!

PLEASE NOTE: Should we find that there are a lot more people attending than usual, then it may be necessary to hold the meeting in the Cathedral again.

Ringling in the afternoon will be in the Southern District as follows:

15.00 - 16.00	Hutton (5) 6¼cwt	635943
15.30 - 16.30	Shenfield (6) 9cwt	605951
16.00 - 17.00	Ingrave (6) 10cwt	623920
16.30 - 17.30	Brentwood (8) 19¼cwt	596937
17.00 - 18.00	Bentley Common (6) 4¼cwt	566966
17.00 - 18.30	TEA - BENTLEY COMMON	
18.00 - 19.00	Navestock (6) 9¼cwt	540984
18.30 - 19.30	South Weald (8) 14¼cwt	571939

This year there will be elections for Treasurer and also for Central Council Representatives for the triennium commencing 1993. Very brief details of the nominees for Treasurer are given below - if you want to know more, come to the AGM and cast your vote!

C.C. Representatives - (4 required)

The present representatives are: John Armstrong (Dagenham), Fred Bone (Sawbridgeworth), Frank Lufkin (Kirby-le-Soken), David Sloman (Prittlewell).

The new nominees are: Maurice Downs (Rayne), Adrian Semken (Coggeshall).

Treasurer - (1 required)

Andrew Taylor - proposed by Adrian Semken, seconded by Mary Bone: Andrew is a qualified chartered accountant working in London with experience in dealing with all types of accounting records, procedures, reports etc. and has helped David Childs with the accounts in the past. He feels he has a particular skill which could be used for the benefit of the Association and would like to put something back into ringing. He learned to ring in 1982, joined the Association in 1983, was N. District Committee Rep in 1985, Deputy Master in 1986 & 1991 and is tower captain at Witham where he is a regular church-goer and a member of the PCC. He regularly supports all district and Association activities where possible and takes an active interest in Association matters.

Mark Woolley - proposed by Pat Saltmarsh, seconded by Don Cobb: Having taken an active part in ringing in many areas of the country, Mark moved to Essex 12 years ago. He first rang at Prittlewell but now lives in South Woodham Ferrers and rings at Chelmsford Cathedral where he is deputy tower captain. Mark is a member of the ringing sub-committee which is looking into ways to promote ringing in Essex, but would like to further his involvement within the Association. He is a manager with a regional firm of chartered accountants and has responsibility for servicing a wide range of clients, ensuring the timely preparation of their accounts and attending to their taxation affairs. He believes his job therefore makes him well-suited to stand as Treasurer.

A.D.M. Changes

The following changes in District Officers took place at the January ADMs:

South-West	Master Deputy Master Committee Rep.	Colin Newman Ian Blows Lois Carrington
South-East	Deputy Master Committee Rep.	Michael Edwards Phil Stephens
Southern	Master Deputy Master Committee Rep.	Roger Dorking Paul Cammiade Hilary Brown
Northern	Master Deputy Master Committee Rep.	Andrew Dickinson Andrew Taylor Maurice Downs

Dinner

The 1992 dinner will be held at The New World Hotel, Great Warley, Brentwood on Saturday 10th October. The hotel is a converted Manor House with oak beams, gabled roofs and is set in lovely countryside. The Goldings Banqueting Suite has retained its old world style features of a Victorian glass roof and elaborate supporting beams. It is a lovely venue with plenty of room (seating up to 250!), so bring your friends and relations, organise a minibus and support this fun, social event. Book the date now - more details in the next Newsletter.

BBC

I received a letter from the BBC asking for a recording of a special peal rung for St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy on 19th October last year - the letter arrived on the 21st! However, if there are any towers which would like to make a recording of their bells this would be welcomed by the BBC. Recordings can be made by an ordinary domestic cassette recorder and should be done on a calm, wind-free day preferably when there is not too much traffic noise. Up to 20 minutes of recording can be made; there should be a gap between different bits of ringing and a spoken identification before each one. The recording should be sent to Joanne Whitworth, Production Assistant, 'Morning Has Broken', BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA.

Requests for Ringing

The following requests to ring have been received:

The Dystonia Society are having another 'Dystonia Awareness Week' which runs from Sunday 28th June and the Society is hoping bells will be rung again in support of this. If you are able to ring generally, a quarter or a peal for the Society on either Sunday 28th June or Sunday 5th July please contact myself or Sister Daphne Walker, Omnibus Workspace, 41 North Road, Islington, London N7 9DP.

The Cancer Immunotherapy Trust would like towers to organise sponsored ringing to a) celebrate Her Majesty's forty years as our Monarch; b) raise funds for the Trust; c) raise funds for bell restoration. The money raised would be divided equally between the Trust and the church involved. It has now been decided, as stated in The Ringing World, that Saturday 12th September should be the day but it could be any day. If you are interested in participating please let me know or write to Elizabeth Ward, Fund Raiser, Vale Cottage, Quenington, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5BN.

1992 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the United States Army Air Force in East Anglia. The East Anglia Tourist Board is promoting events throughout the year to mark the "friendly invasion" of this country, to recall and renew the many friendships that were made, to pay tribute to the American servicemen and to give thanks for those who gave their lives. The incumbents of churches throughout the area are being approached to ask if they would fly the Stars and Stripes on 4th July and churches with bells have been asked if they could either ring on this occasion or arrange special ringing at some time during the year. Whilst you may not be in total agreement with the "celebration" of this friendly invasion, ringing would be a good public relations exercise and George Pipe of the Suffolk Guild would like to produce a map indicating towers which will be ringing and when they are ringing, which can then be advised to the media. I should be very grateful, therefore, if you would try and support this "invasion" and let me know, as soon as possible please, if and when you will be ringing.

Events which are taking place in Essex during this time, which you may wish to ring a quarter peal for, include the following:

North Weald	Fly-In Day	5 Apr, 3 May, 7 Jun, 12 Jul, 2 Aug, 6 Sep, 4 Oct
Tolleshunt Knights, Maldon	Golf Tournament	4 May, 1 Jun, 6 Jul, 3 Aug, 7 Sep

North Weald	Fighter Meet Air Show	16/17 May
Southend	Southend Airshow	24/25 May
Wormingford	Flower Festival	30 May/1 Jun
Chelmsford	Commemorative Service	18 Jul
Southend	BBC Radio Concert	25 Jul
Nr. Thaxted	Open Day Horham Hall	26 Jul
Braintree	American Weekend	15/16 Aug
Nr Saffron Walden	Debden Celebration Week	26 Sep/2 Oct
Wormingford	Exhibition	May/Aug
Cressing Temple, nr Witham	Exhibition	May/Sep
Waltham Abbey	Exhibition	Jul/Oct

GRAND DRAW

Don't forget to sell some tickets for the GRAND DRAW which will take place at the striking competition finals on Saturday 4th July at Chigwell. Tickets should arrived with this NEWSLETTER and counterfoils should be returned to the General Secretary by 30th June please. All proceeds to bell restoration. If every member sold three books, all the tickets would be sold!!!

Exhibition

The exhibition organised by Simon Poyser in County Hall, Chelmsford was a great success. It looked very effective and attracted a lot of interest. Over 500 general leaflets were printed and distributed during this time. Completed enquiry forms were followed up and at least three people have started to learn to ring. There was also coverage on BBC Essex. It was a very worthwhile exhibition which was excellent for public relations. Well done Simon and thanks to all district members who helped set it up, man (or woman) it either during the week or on Saturdays, or who rang handbells.

C.C. Course

The Central Council ringing school will take place between 24th to 26th July at Bretton Hall, near Wakefield. The main tuition is entitled "Teaching and Management in Ringing". If you are interested in going please do not hesitate to ask for sponsorship - that is what the Education Capital Fund is there for. Application forms are available from your District Secretary or the General Secretary but please apply early.

Sub-Committee

The sub-committee considering what the Association can do to promote ringing and gain more recruits has continued to meet. Enclosed with this NEWSLETTER is a copy of a leaflet produced by the Central Council - it was used at the Association exhibition and can be copied for use in your own church. It would probably be a good idea to put a contact name in the space at the end of the leaflet (this is what we did for the Association exhibition) so that anyone interested in learning to ring knows who they can contact. If there are no local ringers at your tower, you could either put your District or the General Secretary's name.

By the way, I assume every tower has an up-to-date poster in the church porch or on the church noticeboard giving details of ringing times and the local contact. If not, why not? They are available free from the Association bookstall or General Sec.

Also enclosed with this NEWSLETTER is a leaflet which has been produced by the sub-committee which concerns setting up a small display in the church. Whilst we realise that there are a few towers which already have some form of display, the vast majority have nothing visible in the church to show visitors that there are any bells or that they are rung regularly. We hope you will find the leaflet useful and if there is anything you think could be added, please let me or any member of the sub-committee know. If there is any aspect of ringing which you think could be covered by such a leaflet, please let us know. If you need any assistance with setting up a display please contact either Simon Poyser (PRO - 0245 490809 (work)), your District or General Secretary. (If the leaflet is not enclosed, it should arrive shortly!!)

The following statistics were compiled by Don Cobb and show tower membership trends within each district over the last 30 years.

Essex Association Members - 1960-90

(Based on 1990 boundaries - listed tower members only)

Tower membership (1960-90):

1990 Statistics:

Dist	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	Chge(%)	Towers	/tower	Bells	/bell
N	173	168	185	148	176	116	117	-32.4	31	3.8	214	.5
NE	128	135	116	184	168	146	134	4.7	20	6.7	133	1.0
NW	120	107	116	105	115	109	99	-17.5	36	2.8	237	.4
S	158	156	165	176	202	184	198	25.3	23	8.6	157	1.3
SE	211	213	200	184	164	173	167	-20.9	32	5.2	221	.8
SW	171	181	201	190	157	128	111	-35.1	19	5.8	154	.7
	961	960	983	987	982	856	826		161		1116	

Committee

1) The following grants were approved at the February Committee Meeting:

Stansted Mountfitchet: £200 towards replacement of gudgeons on the third.

Great Bromley: £2000 towards timberwork treatment to ringing chamber floor and belfry floor.

Rayne: further £1000 towards rehangng 6.

ii) Waltham Abbey had written expressing a wish to transfer from the SW to the NW district. This had been accepted at the NW ADM. This was not the first instance of a tower changing districts and after discussion it was considered that it was up to the tower and the districts concerned.

Around the Districts

Things seem to have been fairly quiet for the early part of the year with only one or two newsworthy items.

In the South-West District Hornchurch was the most successful tower in the country for raising money for the St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy appeal. There was a prize awarded of a trip to the Holy Land.

The district has continued with its support of newly-established bands with another successful training afternoon at Ilford.

There is to be a BARN DANCE with live band on the Gascoigne Estate, Barking on Saturday 6th June. The cost is £5 including supper and proceeds go to St. Margaret's church. For further information please contact Anne Hinchliffe (081-475 0336).

In the Northern District a quarter was rung at Bocking to celebrate the 57th anniversary of Ron Suckling's first peal.

Tackle

As you may be aware, the Association owns a set of lifting tackle, which is regularly tested, for use in bell restoration work. It is available for use by members of the Association but it is the responsibility of the borrower to ensure it is rigged correctly and is only used under adequate supervision.

Association Registers

We regret to record the following deaths:

Geoffrey Huckstep	Ringling Member	Kirby-le-Soken
Frank Roper	Life Member	Finchingfield
George Eve	Life Vice-President, former district officer and Association Secretary - Prittlewell	

It is intended to have a permanent memorial to George Eve, perhaps a new bell suitably inscribed as part of an augmentation. More details in the next Newsletter but if anyone wishes to make a donation towards such a project to George's memory, money should be sent to Bernard Sadler, 15 Priory Crescent, Prittlewell SS2 6JY.

CALENDAR

Additions to the Calendar as printed in the Annual Report:

June 6	District Dinner	Northern
16	Nazeing - local practice	North-West
27	Car rally	South-West
July 11	Car Treasure Hunt	Southern
15	Stansted - local practice	North-West
18	Treasure Hunt & Barbecue	Northern
Aug 20	Henham - local practice	North-West

The next NEWSLETTER is planned for August, 1992. Any contributions please to Ann Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF (0245 358040) by 15th July 1992.