

EACR



THE
ESSEX
ASSOCIATION
OF
CHANGE RINGERS

NEWSLETTER

Registered as a Charity No: 292250

No 19

August, 1994

TOWER :

The Annual Dinner & Dance

What a great occasion the 1993 Annual Dinner and Dance was with a complete sell-out. This year we will be at the Rivenhall Resort Hotel on the 8th October. Our speakers will be The Ven. Michael J. Fox the Archdeacon of Harlow, a new Archdeaconry and Gareth Davies, one-time Essex ringer who learnt to ring at Danbury. Unfortunately this year the ticket price has had to be increased to £19, the first increase for 4 years. It's good news for those who like draught beer. After much badgering I finally convinced the hotel to install draught beer in the Barn function room. For those interested in the menu (and who isn't) we are to start with Prawn and Noodle Cocktail in Marie Rose Sauce followed by pan fried Breaded Lamb Cutlets topped with Asparagus Tips with a selection of Vegetables. The sweet will be Fruits of the Forest Tartlet with a trio of sauces, with Coffee and mints to finish. There is a choice of a vegetarian main course and for those on a gluten-free diet special arrangements can be made, so please let me know when ordering your tickets. As usual there will be a cash wine table and a table to hold the raffle prizes. Talking of raffle prizes, we rely very much on your generosity for the prizes so if you could possibly bring one along we could all end up winners. As we are limited to 120, a system of first come first served will operate, but if this is to be a worthwhile occasion 100-plus are required. Tickets are available now from the Secretary (address at the end of this Newsletter); please include names, including first name, and cash with order plus SAE, all orders on or before 24th September (Association Training Day!) please.

CAISTER 1994

The Monday immediately following the Ringing Course at Coggeshall, found me loading my car up with Exhibition Boards borrowed from the Essex Community and Youth Store and promotional material to display at the Caister week for the Chelmsford Diocese. I found my way easily enough, with AA signs to guide me once Great Yarmouth had passed and, as instructed, I presented myself at the Reception to let everyone know I had arrived. Complete disarray - they had not expected anyone to arrive as early as 11 o'clock and were not prepared but, after a short while, I was directed to the dining area where I was instructed to ask for Brian who was in charge of displays. Has anyone seen Brian? Only workmen having a well-earned cuppa in the dining area. Oh well if you can't beat them, join them. Good job I'd brought a flask! No sign of Brian once the coffee was consumed, so back to reception to ask again. This time I was directed to his chalet! Did I find him there? No, only the cleaner who directed me to where I found Brian sitting in his car. Back to the dining area where the workmen were clearing the area to be used for the displays. I obviously had arrived far too early. However, from then on all was plain sailing in erecting the boards and putting the material on them. Thanks in no small part to David and Laura Childs and Mick who had spent the entire Sunday afternoon on a trial run of the display even to the extent of drawing up plans of where each poster, photograph and booklet were to be positioned. All I had to do was follow the plan!!

My thanks must go to all the people who helped in this venture, especially Dickie Furninger, Bernard Fairhead and Bert Goddard who all travelled to Caister and looked after the display during the Clergy conference. This must have seemed a waste of time for most of the day, as the Clergy did not have much free time to wander and look at the exhibitions except during lunch and tea breaks, but I have heard from several people that it was seen and remarked upon, so I'm sure it was worth the effort.

The Lay part of the conference was different, as people were free to do their own thing, attending workshops or browsing round the bookstall and our stand was visited by a fair number of people. Alistair Donaldson helped me over the Saturday and Sunday as he was attending the conference and between us we managed to get his handbells rung by a group of ringers from a wide area. We asked if we might make some contribution towards the Service held on Sunday morning and were able to ring twelve handbells to rounds and queens as the congregation arrived for the Service and also rang the hymn 'Peace, perfect Peace' with guitar accompaniment whilst Communion was being taken.

There were not many people who did not realise we were there by the end of the weekend and as there were representatives from most parishes in the Chelmsford Diocese attending, I believe it was a worthwhile exercise. If a further conference should be held, possibly in two years time, I shall be looking to take this one step further and run a workshop, when we could have a more specific role to play in the worship.

Janet Edwards.

Association Book Sales

Maurice Downs who has looked after the book sales for the last 3 years asks if there is anyone who could help him with them for the rest of 1994 and would be prepared to take over the selling of them at the beginning of 1995. If you would be prepared to help or need more information please contact Maurice on 0376 330412.

Association Training Day

This year the Training Day will be held on Saturday 24th September at Kirby-le-Soken.

As is usual there will be a small charge for Association Members and a slightly bigger small charge for Non-Members.

For further details and booking arrangements see your Tower Notice Board also please send SAE to A.G. Semken, 117a Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex. CO6 1QN.

As with any ringing training of this nature **helpers are required** to provide support at the practical sessions - it is not essential to spend the entire day helping although it is hoped that most helpers will be able to join in with the lectures and discussions. If you are interested in helping please ring ☎ 0376 561183.

The AGM

This years AGM was a very enjoyable occasion with the address at the Service being given by one of our own members, the Rev'd. Sylvia Wood, from Hutton. At the meeting we welcomed Mary Roast as a new Life Member and approved a change in our rules. You could be forgiven for thinking that over the last few years a lot of our time has been spent changing rules, but it has been necessary to comply with the requirements of being a registered charity. Following the meeting we enjoyed lunch, which this year was prepared by members from the South-Western District. The afternoon was spent ringing in the North-Eastern District. Our thanks go to the Cathedral authorities for allowing us to use the Cathedral, Chelmsford Age Concern for the use of their facilities for Lunch and to the members of the South-Western and North-Eastern Districts for lunch and tea respectively.

As 1995 is the 50th anniversary of VE-day it is highly likely that there will be national celebrations around the beginning of May-therefore the 1995 AGM will be held on 29th May, the Late Spring Bank Holiday.

Video Competition

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is holding a national bellringing video competition. It is being organised by the Public Relations Advisory Group and is open to Associations, Guilds, Districts and Towers to enter. Janet Edwards has details and has offered to co-ordinate an Association entry. If you have video equipment, professional or amateur, including an editing suite and/or would be interested in having-a-go please contact Janet ☎ 0621 816496. Even if we don't win we could be making something worth while that could be of use promoting ringing in Essex!

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

NORTHERN: enjoyed a district dinner on June 17th at The Five Bells, Colne Engaine and a barbecue at the home of Adrian and Heather Semken on 17th July which marked the start of the Quarter Peal week which included quite a lot of 'First Quarters'.

AROUND IN CYCLES.

At All Saints, Rayne on 30th May 10 bicycles and 12 cyclists met with 3 ringers from Gosfield in a Renault Clio for the Braintree, St. Michael's Guild of Ringers cycle outing.

After ringing we waved goodbye to the Clio and joined the Fitch Way, following the disused railway to Felsted. Crossing the A120 took some nerve, but the rest of the journey was delightful, with no wind and glorious sunshine.

Following a pleasant ring at Felstead we headed for Stebbing, all cyclists by now looking forward to a break for lunch at the Fitch of Bacon in Little Dunmow. Highly recommended for its liquid refreshments, but don't go there if you are hungry. By the time we arrived at Stebbing the riders were spread out - the hill at the end proved a challenge for some!

More good ringing, and then goodbye to the visitors from Gosfield before we returned home along the railway line, dodging the A120 traffic again. The 2 cyclists not pedalling were by now fast asleep.

On the way everyone stopped briefly at our house for refreshment, the 2 ringers from Kelvedon having the furthest to go. Plans are already afoot for the next one, despite sore legs and bottoms!

Helen Harpole

NORTH-EASTERN: have elected Ron Johnston as Committee Representative, following the departure of Annabel Preston to Suffolk.

BERNARD'S COACH OUTING.

We left from Paxman's club at 07.45 and arrived in Whittlesey at 09.45 to ring on the two 8s in the town. At the 1st tower (St. Mary) we were met by a "local" with a bell-rope tucked under his arm, an ominous start. 1st tower and a missing rope!! The visit to the 2nd tower (St. Andrew) the bells especially the front 3 seemed like hard work. In the church a pianist and violinist were rehearsing for a wedding but after we carried on ringing for a while they gave up, the ringers winning the duel.

We travelled on to Peterborough and following lunch we rang on the excellent 12 in the Cathedral, when you consider we are from a district with no 10s or 12s we didn't show ourselves up. After the Cathedral we rang at the new St. Mary's and the 6cwt 8. This was followed by St. John's where the rope on the 6th broke, luckily below the sally, a quick repair job comprising of an "Essex Splice" (Granny Knot) meant we could carry on ringing.

It was then on to Crowland Abbey where the long draft was a bit off putting for some of the ringers but most coped well. We then boarded the coach and headed back to NE Essex after a very enjoyable Bernard outing.

During the day we rang from Rounds and Called Changes to Surprise Major and Little Bob Max. A special thank-you goes to our driver Trevor who seemed to ring at more towers than on previous outings. *A.J.B.*

SOUTH-EASTERN: 17 quarters were rung during the annual quarter peal week (18th-26th June). Again the highlight was a barbecue in Pat Saltmarsh's garden on the 25th, which made £142 for the BRF. A report is to be published in The Ringing World. Thanks go to Phil Stephens for once again organising the week. The 25th June 1994 was also a red-letter day for the Association's PRO, Janet Edwards. For it was on that day in 1944 that Janet

entered this world. *Little wonder that 1944 saw a beginning of the end to the Second World War!*

PLESHEY - 600

A peal was rung at the beginning of this year on the five bells at Holy Trinity, Pleshey. It was at the request of the Rev'd. John Howden to start their year of celebrations of the 600th anniversary of their church being on the same site. Afterwards, I suggested to John that, as I knew he was anxious to get Pleshey bells ringing, we might be able to make a valued contribution to their weekend of celebrations by opening up the tower, showing people what ringing was all about and letting them 'have-a-go' if they wished. He agreed and during the weekend of 11/12th June a group of 'willing' helpers arrived at Pleshey to do just that.

We think that, over the two days, we probably had 200-300 people in the tower. Most of them were given a short talk on ringing and the history of Pleshey bells, then if they had the nerve, they were able to go out on to the roof of the tower and enjoyed some good views of the area on the two lovely sunny afternoons. After this if they wanted to have a go the opportunity was there for a few pulls at backstroke. Several people took up this opportunity and we encouraged them to fill in a slip with their name, address and telephone number which said they were interested in learning more about ringing and might like to learn. I have passed these slips on to the tower nearest to them and I hope that, in turn, those tower captains will contact them and that they get some positive response.

Unfortunately, we did not get anyone from Pleshey itself but, as most of the villagers were actively involved in the events of the weekend, it is not surprising. We have, however, been asked to go back in the Autumn and organise a 'Have-a-Go' session just for the people of Pleshey, so all is not lost yet. J.E.

SOUTHERN: held a district training course on 23rd April for those learning Cambridge Surprise. The course was organised by Gordon Lucus, the District Education Officer, who has also planned a course for the 22nd October on Raising and Lowering in Peal.

Portable Ring at Witham

On Saturday 3rd September 1994 Roger Durrant's Portable Ring of Bells will be at The Grove shopping area in Witham Town Centre. I am looking for volunteers to come and help assemble an exhibition, man the exhibition and take it down at the end of the day. There will be some general ringing on the bells. If you can help please contact David Childs on 0376 329706 as soon as possible.

Quiz

What do Danbury, Witham and Tillingham have in Common?

Answer on the back page.

Striking Competitions

The Annual Striking Competition Finals.

A full-house of 12 teams for the 6-bell and 6 district teams for the 8-bell gathered on Saturday 3rd July in the Southern District. The 6-bell competition was held at Navestock, the 8-bell at South Weald. The judges for both events were Alan Mayle with Tim and Steven Peverett. The results were as follows :-

SIX-BELL.

1st. Danbury (17½ faults); 2nd. Prittlewell (30 faults); 3rd. Braintree (31½ faults); 4th. Hornchurch; 5th. Dagenham; 6th. Little Waltham; 7th. Coggeshall; 8th. Kirby-le-Soken; 9th. Bentley Common; 10th. Wormingford/St. Leonards; 11th. Sawbridgeworth; 12th. Waltham Abbey.

EIGHT-BELL. (*Test piece 256 Spiced Plain and Little Bob Major*)

1st. North-Western District (60½ faults); 2nd. South-Eastern District (61 faults); 3rd. Northern District (65½ faults); 4th. North-Eastern District. (83 faults); 5th. Southern District (94 faults) and 6th. South-Western District (Disqualified-miscalled).

Congratulations to all those teams who got through their district heats in order to enter the finals, and of course to the winners of both events. Thanks must go to those members of the Southern District who organised the event and supplied the tea at Bentley Common.

The Ridgman Trophy.

On Saturday May 7th the Association hosted and organised the Ridgman Trophy 10-bell competition. The venue was Tollesbury where Nan Gibson and the Tollesbury ringers made everyone very welcome. Much work had been carried out on the acoustics within the ringing room, especially the Trebles, by Mick Edwards and Jim Towler prior to the competition.

The results were as follows :-

1st. place	The Suffolk Guild.
2nd. place	The Hertford County Association.
3rd. place	The Ely Diocesan Association.
4th. place	The Cambridge University Guild.
5th. place	EACR (disqualified, miscall)

The Judges were Ruth Foreman and Roger Bailey from the Middlesex County Association. Our thanks must be given to the small team of caterers who provided an excellent lunch and to Colin Chapman who organised our band.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR CAMERA?

Following the 8-bell competition at South Weald a camera was found within the churchyard. It is at this very moment being looked after by the Master and can be reclaimed by its owner by contacting him on 0255 861938.

Annual Report Update

NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT : Committee Representative is now Ron Johnston

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT : Clive Moore, NW District Master, telephone number is incorrectly shown. It should be 0279 723963. *Apologies to Clive.*

BRENTWOOD : The Tower Correspondent, Jane Gladwin, has changed her address - 26, Bardeswell Close, Brentwood, CM14 4TJ. Telephone number remains the same.

INGRAVE : The new Tower Correspondent is now Mrs Caroline Lowe, 3a The Meadows, Ingrave, Brentwood, CM13 3RL. ☎. 0277 810095.

Association Registers

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the death on 7th May of Walter Fellgate, *Life Member, Harwich* also of Fred Whiterod, *Kelvedon* and Rosemarie Knott, *Tower Captain, Rayleigh.*

David Belcham writes:- As many of you know, Rosemarie Knott died on 27th June, aged 44. She rang at Chelmsford before moving to Rayleigh, and was known at many other towers. She was also well known among handbell ringers, both tune and change ringing. We shall miss her and our sympathy is with Peter, Alistair and Fiona.

We plan a peal attempt at Rayleigh one Saturday morning (12th or 19th) in November, near her birthday. We hope to have a band of her ringing friends. If anyone would like to be included in the peal band, and perhaps a quarter for the less ambitious, please contact David Belcham (0268-734458).

Peter Knott suggests The Macmillan Fund if anyone wishes to make a donation in her memory. The Rayleigh gift will be sent off in November and additions to this are welcome.

Get Well Soon

Dick Roast, *Life Vice-President, Danbury*, has suffered a stroke and has been hospitalised.

Births

Congratulations to:- Annette and John Hall on the birth of Alexander James on 24th May also Pat and Paul Clarry on the birth of Hannah Mary on 5th May.

Engagements

Congratulations to:- Andrew Downs and Claire Wright on 28th April also Tim Peverett and Caroline Burton who announced their engagement in June.

Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Peter and Kath Childs, *Boreham*, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 31st July.

Birthdays

Congratulations to Mrs. Dot Goodhew, *Life Member, Great Dunmow*, who celebrated her 80th in May.

Calendar Update

September

3rd	Meeting	Great Waltham	SE
9th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
10th	Meeting	Great Bardfield & Great Dunmow	N
10th	Call Change Competition	Ilford	SW
17th	District Practice	Stratford St. Mary (Suffolk)	NE
17th	Meeting	Downham	S
17th	Essex Trophy 10-bell Striking Competition (Betchingley, Surrey)		
24th	EACR Training Day	Kirby-le-Soken	

October

8th	Association Dinner & Dance	(Rivenhall Resort Hotel)-	
14th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
15th	Meeting	Barking	SW
15th	Meeting/District Practice	Lt. Horkesley/Gt. Horkesley	NE
22nd	12-bell Practice	Chelmsford Cathedral	N
22nd	Meeting	Harlow Common/Harlow (tbc)	NW
22nd	Training Day	Raising & Lowering in Peal	S
24th	District Practice	Maldon, All Saints	SE

November

11th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
12th	Meeting	Gestingthorpe/Gt. Yeldham	N
12th	Call Change Competition	Sandon/Chelmsford	SE
12th	Evening Ringing	Walthamstow, St. Saviour	SW
12th	Training Day	Wormingford/Shrub End	NE
19th	Meeting	Grays	S
19th	District Practice	Colchester, St. Peter's	NE
26th	District Training Day		SE

December

3rd	Advent Carol Service	Hutton	S
10th	Carol Service	Writtle	SE
10th	Carol Service	Sawbridgeworth	NW
10th	Carol Service	Colchester, St. Peter's	NE
10th	Carol Service	Black Notley	N

***** Answer to the quiz on page 5 *****

Well, what do Danbury, Witham and Tillingham have in common? They are among twelve towers illustrated by Helen Harpole to be featured in the **EACR 1995 Calendar**. On sale from September at your District Meetings. Limited number, so get yours early!

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS is registered as a charity. Registered No. : 292250
 The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is planned for December. Contributions please to M. A. Bishop,
 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex CM7 6LH ☎ 0376 325281 by 12th November.