



No 20

December, 1994

TOWER :

Hopefully you will find this issue informative and thought provoking, you might even find it entertaining, but that's a matter of personal preference. Do give consideration to the possibility of Inter-District Training; it could prove very useful. For those who fulfil the roll of District Public Relations Officer Janet Edwards has given some general thoughts on the subject.

On behalf of the Association Officers may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and good ringing, in good company, during 1995.

The Dinner & Dance

Once again the Annual Dinner and Dance, held at the Jarvis Rivenhall Hotel, attracted a grand turnout. Our guests were our new Vice-President, The Ven. Michael Fox, Archdeacon of Harlow and one-time Essex-boy Gareth Davies, who used to ring at Danbury. Following the meal and before we settled down to the excellent speeches, given by our guests and of course the Master, we were treated to some excellent Kent Treble Bob Royal rung on hand-bells. The evening finished in the usual way with dancing and socialising. Arrangements are well in hand for 1995, so be sure to book the date in you diary, 14th October, and book early.

Points from the Committee Meeting

The October Business Meeting of the Executive Committee got through a great deal of work, nothing unusual in that, but it struck me just how much when I came to type up the minutes. Some of the important points are explained elsewhere in this newsletter. The following is a short resume'.

Association Vice-Presidents: The Rt. Rev'd. Michael Vickers retired as Colchester Area Bishop on 30th September so would no longer be able to act as a Vice-President. An invitation would be given to his successor. As the Diocese now benefits from an assistant Bishop, The Rt. Rev'd. James Johnson, it was agreed to invite him to be one of our Vice-Presidents. He has accepted our invitation.

Bell Restoration: Work on the tower at Steeple Bumpstead has started, but it has been decided to reuse the existing framework. The 2 cracked bells are to be welded. We have been able to offer financial help to Mistley where, following an inspection, the steeple was found to be in a dangerous condition. Ringing has had to be stopped but it is expected to resume by late January 1995. We also offered financial help to Bobbingworth where the headstock of the 5th needed some urgent attention.

Nominations

Our rules require that nominations for Association Officers - Master, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Trustees, and any Notices of Motion must be received by the Association Secretary by the 1st February 1995. All current Association Officers are prepared to stand again but this should not stop anyone putting forward other candidates.

At the 1995 AGM we are to elect our representatives to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CC). The CC works on a 3-year cycle and we need to elect our representatives ready for the next tri-ennium, which starts in 1996. Nominations for our Representatives to the CC are required to be with the General Secretary by 1st February.

Frank Lufkin, who has served the Association as one of our representatives since before I was born, has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election. The Association's thanks go to Frank, who has done more for ringing than many of us ever hope to do.

WHAT DOES A DISTRICT P.R.O. DO?

You may well ask! I find it very difficult to define exactly what is the role of the District Public Relations Officer, mainly because every district is different and so are their needs. I feel, personally, that the job entails promoting ringing and ringers whenever and wherever possible. This might involve sending a report to the local paper on particular ringing events, either on district or tower level - two of the ones I remember sending were to record a peal for the 40th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession and an account of a presentation to a ringer for long service. It might be helping a tower to recruit new members by giving them some ideas, suggesting they hold an open day, advising them where they can obtain promotional material, and generally encouraging all their efforts. It is seeing an opportunity and utilising it, but it is also making your own opportunities and using your own ideas and imagination. Some towers ring sponsored peals and quarter peals to raise money for their own tower/bell maintenance - advertise it. The sponsorship may be for a charity - let other people know what you are doing. Encourage towers to tell their own church what they are doing. Via their church magazine, Tollesbury ringers make sure that everybody knows who is learning to ring, what stage they are at and if they have attended any training sessions. The November issue of their magazine had two full pages of ringing news, mainly because five of their members who attended the Training Day at Kirby-le-Soken had written a short account of their impressions of the day. If all towers were like this in promoting what they do, there would be no need for Public Relations Officers, but until that time, all Districts need someone to undertake this role. With District A.D.M.'s approaching I hope you will all give some thought as to who you could propose in your district. If you need any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me, Janet Edwards 01621 816496, and remember, if you want to book the Exhibition Boards and material for your event next year, some weekends are already booked, so get in early.

The 1994 Annual Report

We live in a changing world, *literally*, and despite the staid image ringing has, now and again we give in, just a little. Due to production changes the annual report for 1994 is to be word-processed. Because of this change the information required to produce one of the best reports available needs to be with the Report Editor in good time. So, if you know of any changes or corrections that need to be included or excluded, please forward them now, via your District Secretary, to either Adrian Malton (The Report Editor) or the General Secretary.

THE ESSEX RINGING COURSE

- 1995 -

The 3-day Essex Ringing Course, based at Honywood School, Coggeshall, will be held from Thursday 20th to Saturday 22nd April. The well established format will be followed. Theory and practical sessions for individual groups, backed up with general interest lectures, with of course a presentation by a guest speaker. Details and full information of the group options on offer for this Course can be found in the Course brochure which is available from:-

A.G. Semken,
117A, Tilkey Road,
Coggeshall,
Colchester,
Essex. CO6 1QN
☎ 01376 561183

Closing date for applications is 18th February.

Please provide an A5 Stamped Addressed Envelope for your Course brochure.

Helpers are also required to assist at the practical ringing sessions. This is a most vital part of the Course and involves ringing whatever the designated group is working at but does not necessarily involve any instruction or standing with a student. Helpers are welcome at the School and are entitled to attend any of the lectures etc. when their services are not required by their group, but they need only attend at the towers if they wish - this means two practical sessions a day of about 1¼ hours each side of the lunch break. Please book the dates and offer to help the next generation of ringers! Offers of help to the same address **please**.

Memorial Concert

'Sound in Brass' held a memorial concert for Rosemarie Knott and Claire Hudson, both were founder members of 'Sound in Brass' and were very active members of the Association when they lived in England. The appeal concert raised £500 which is to be divided between the 'Macmillan Cancer Fund' and St. Patrick's Church, Ballymena.

INTER-DISTRICT TRAINING.

It was suggested at the Executive Committee meeting that Association members might be interested in joining training days held by other districts. Not that the 3-day Essex Ringing Course or the Association Training Day aren't meeting the needs of those who attend them, as far as I know, but district training days are organised to meet their particular needs. On occasions not all the available places on these courses are taken up. For instance the Southern and the North-Eastern Districts ran a Cambridge Surprise day this year and both had places available. The Southern District ran a 'Raising & Lowering in Peal' course also this year. What has been suggested is this - the districts advertise, with a contact name and number, in the 'Newsletter', in plenty of time, their forth-coming training events. Members from outside that particular district who are interested in joining the course make contact and put their name down on a reserve list. Of course, members of the 'home' district must have first refusal. Then, nearer the time of the course, those on the reserve list can fill the spare places. As with any new venture there may be some teething troubles and fine tuning, but it is hoped that by making the teaching expertise that's available within the Association more accessible individual expectations can be reached and the general standard of Sunday Service Ringing in Essex raised.

The Essex Trophy

The Association entered a team, led by Adrian Malton, for this 10-bell competition. This year it was held at Bletchingley and hosted by The Surrey Association. Unfortunately we only managed to come 5th out of 8 bands.

The 1995 Association Calendar

12 Essex Towers

Illustrated by Helen Harpole.

Is now available from your District Officers.

Ideal for :-

The Tower, The Office, The Home,
and of course

Christmas gifts for friends overseas or at home.

Price £3

Proceeds to finance Association Exhibition Material and Public Relations generally.

Around the Districts

North-Eastern: Jack Nichols, late of Great Holland and author of 'Bells thro' the Ages, was joined by the Master, David Sparling, Frank Lufkin (LVP), Ron Johnson, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and members from the NE District, on Jack's 100th birthday and took part in some celebratory hand-bell ringing. A Quarter Peal was rung at Kirby-le-Soken that evening in celebration.

South-Eastern: A half muffled Quarter Peal was rung at Great Totham on 11th November in memory of Elspeth Gardner, Tollesbury. Elspeth, a regular visitor to Great Totham, was an enthusiastic learner and had attended this years 3-Day Essex Ringing Course and the Association Training Day in September. She was hoping to be elected a member of the Association at the SE District Annual Meeting. (*see Association Registers*)

40th Anniversary Peal at Purleigh.

Double Court, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob,
Cambridge Surprise, St. Clements and Plain Bob.

	5040 Minor	2hr. 54min	
M.J. Edwards	1	I.J.M. Saunders	4
T. Roast	2	P. Came	5
Mary Dowsett	3	J.E.G. Roast	6

Conducted by J.E.G. Roast

1st Peal 1 and 2

13th November 1954 saw six ringers assembling at Purleigh to attempt a peal which was to be the first for two of the ringers. It was a very young band, the oldest member being only 20. This year, being the fortieth anniversary, it was decided to try to ring a duplicate peal. All the ringers were contacted and, after some persuasion, all agreed to ring. The methods were to be the same and the ringers were all to ring the same bells. Unfortunately, only a week before the attempt, Peter Came had to withdraw due to ill health. Mick, whose idea the attempt was, looked to his second peal for a substitute. Peter Eves was contacted and agreed to stand for Peter Came. So, on 12th November, 1994 six ringers assembled at Purleigh to attempt to ring a peal. They were not such a young band now but, despite two of the ringers not being regular peal ringers, and three of the others usually being 'treble' ringers, they rang a creditable peal and were successful. Four ringers were local, the other two travelling from Norwich and Guildford to ring. Many thanks to John Mardon for the local arrangements and the tremendous interest and support from the Purleigh community.

Since Peter Came withdrew from the peal attempt, he has suffered a stroke and is at the moment undergoing tests. We all wish him well and hope he makes a speedy recovery.

Association Registers

In Memoriam:-

Elsbeth Gardner, *Tollesbury*, who met with a violent death on Monday 7th November.

Claire Hudson, *Non-resident member* - Northern Ireland, tragically killed in a road accident.

Sylvia Bedford, *Non-resident member* - Australia, tragically killed in a road accident.

Births

Congratulations to:- Alex and Paul Bray, *Great Holland*, on the birth of John William (Jack) on 7th September, weighing 8lbs 10oz.

Silver Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to:- Wendy and Richard Godden, *Little Baddow*, who celebrated on 11th October and Roger and Mary Folley, *Leigh-on-Sea*, who celebrated on 16th August also Jo and Peter Brown, *past General Secretary, Non-resident, Switzerland*.

Get Well Soon

Peter Came, *unattached*, has suffered a stroke. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:- Jack Nichols who reached 100 years young on 11th November, Harry Millatt, *Colchester St. Peter*, who celebrated his 79th on 14th October and Chris Jaggard, *Boreham*, who celebrated his 75th on the 16th October with a quarter peal at his home tower where he has rung for 60 years.

Active Member

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed.
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or just prefer to stay at home,
To criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part,
To help the work along?
Or are you simply satisfied,
To only just belong?

Think it over, member - really think.
You know right from wrong,
Are you an active member?
Or Do You Just BELONG?

Found in a local horticultural newsletter.

Calendar Update

December

3rd	Advent Carol Service	Hutton	S
3rd	District Social	Great Totham (Village Hall)	SE
9th	District Practice	Stansted Mountfitchet	NW
10th	Carol Service	Writtle	SE
10th	Carol Service	Sawbridgeworth	NW
10th	Carol Service	Black Notley	N
10th	Carol Service	Colchester, St. Peter	NE
10th	District Social	Dagenham	SW
12th	District Practice	Margaretting	SE

1995

January

7th	Annual District Meeting	Terling	SE
14th	Annual District Meeting	Tendring	NE
14th	Annual District Meeting	Rayne/Braintree	N
14th	Annual District Meeting	Hornchurch	SW
21st	Annual District Meeting	Prittlewell	S
28th	Annual District Meeting	Saffron Walden	NW

February

4th	COMMITTEE MEETING	Danbury	
11th	District Practice	Halstead	N

The above information is believed to be correct. Check The Ringing World for details.



The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1995.
Contributions please to M. A. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex CM7 6LH ☎ 01376 325281
by 19th March.