



No. 27

APRIL 1997

TOWER:

The AGM

The One Hundred and Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday, 5th May, 1997. The Cathedral bells will be available for general ringing from 9.15 am until 9.45 am, at which time an invited band will ring the service touch. Members and visitors are requested to be seated by 9.55 am in order that the service can start promptly at 10.00 am. This year the address is to be given by the Rev'd Canon John Brown, Priest-in-Charge at Margaretting. The Boreham Choir, together with Mrs Christine Walker, the Organist, will be supporting us once again. The meeting, which follows the service, will also be held in the Cathedral, starting at 11.00 am. Morning coffee will be available at the Age Concern Hall from 9.15 am. Lunch will also be served there at 1.00 pm by members of the North-Western District. The afternoon ringing and tea will be in the Northern District. Tickets for Lunch (£4.50), Tea (£1.75) with details of afternoon towers are available from M.A. Bishop, 56, Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9LH or telephone 01376 761982. Please send you cheque, made payable to the EACR, together with your order and SAE, by Thursday 1st May.

Points from the Committee Meeting

The Committee met on 1st February at Danbury, where the following points were amongst the items on a very full agenda.

Nominations for Association Officers

The present Officers had indicated their willingness to stand for a further year and had been nominated en bloc by all the Districts. These nominations would go forward to the AGM.

Nominations for Life Members

One nomination had been received, that of the Rev'd Canon Anthony Abbey, our past Chaplain. Proposed: Michael Bishop, seconded: Ann Chapman. This nomination was accepted by the Committee and would go forward to the AGM.

Bell Restoration Grants

A number of grant applications had been received and approved, amongst them were Langdon Hills (full re-hang), Laindon (chime of 5), Thorrington (tower work), Wivenhoe (full re-hang). News of a number of other projects was reported with an ambitious programme involving 4 towers in the Rodings.

The Millennium

In October 1996 a sub-committee, chaired by Ann Chapman, was appointed. Its purpose was to find a way forward for the Association not only for the forthcoming celebrations but into the next millennium. Ann gave an excellent computer generated presentation giving the findings of the sub-committee and asked for the Executive Committee's approval to start the hard work. Approval was given and you will find out more within the pages of this edition and on AGM day.

Competition News

The Essex Association of Change Ringers Newsletter has been going for some 8 plus years now and I think it's about time it had a face lift.

We would like to hold a competition to relaunch the Newsletter with a new name - one that will take us into 2000 and beyond!

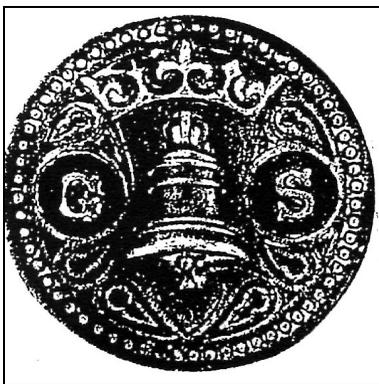
Ann Chapman started the Newsletter all those years ago while she was Association Secretary, Mike Bishop then became Secretary and the Newsletter went with the job! I took on the Newsletter from Mike last year, as I felt that it shouldn't necessarily be the Secretary's job - they have plenty of other things to do! (That does not mean I want to take on the Secretary's job, Mike!). I have asked Ann and Mike to help me judge the competition, and there will be a prize for the winner; so all we need now are some entries.

If you can think of an amusing, catchy, stunning new title, that reflects the Association and it's aims, please send it to me (address on the back page), by 1st July, with your name, address and tower. The entries will appear in the August edition of the Newsletter, and the new name will be on the December issue and winner announced.

Get your thinking caps on, have as many goes as you like, and good luck!

Vicki Chapman

Bellmetal Paper Weights of Writtle



At Writtle we have recently been given a metal paper weight by a Miss Hilda Sorrell. She is the daughter of George Sorrell who was a ringer at Writtle from the late 1890s through to the early 1920s. The paper weight, which is about 2½ inches diameter and about ½ inch thick, is embossed with a bell and the initials of George Sorrell (see picture, not to scale). We think this is one of several that were cast when the second, sixth and tenor were recast in 1916/17. We are interested to find out if there are any others in existence, to add photocopies to our recently compiled archives.

The initials that might be on the other paper weights could be those of the following, who were members of the Writtle band around the same time: G Finch, Ernest Edwards, Fredrick Edwards, William Emery, Arthur Head, Henry Head, H Lincoln, Thomas Lincoln, William Lincoln, R Miller, Henry Cooper, Fredrick Radley, Robert Wood, E Poole, Henry Kirton, William Judd and Ernest Runter.

Finally, we would be interested to hear from anyone who would know if the casting of paper weights, when bells were recast, was common practice at any time. Please contact me with any information you have on 01245 421022.

Phil Stephens

News From the North East!

Yes, the N.E. District is indeed alive and kicking. So much so, that we now have our own P.R.O. (that's me!). We're getting busier by the week, with restoration projects, training days and impromptu practices springing up all over the place!

Fund raising for the St. Peter's frame renovation is almost complete, but enough money has been raised for the project to start. There is a meeting planned for early April between the relevant parties and it is hoped that a start date can be arranged soon. At Wivenhoe, estimates have been obtained for a major restoration. The P.C.C. are supportive of the project and fund raising has already started. Due to the size and cost of the project, it is likely to be some time before work actually begins. Harwich's self-help scheme is ongoing and it is hoped that over the coming months the local band will have completely refurbished the peal.

We don't have District Practices as such, but bands are helping each other out. At Great Holland for instance, some of the Tendring ringers went over recently for a Plain Bob Doubles practice night, and 17 people turned up.

On the social front we have an outing to Derby to look forward to, as well as a summer Treasure Hunt and social. Following the success of last year's Beetle Drive, we are planning another one for October 25th will all proceeds going to the B.R.F. Details will appear in the next Newsletter.

Tracey Southgate

Millennium Update

Questionnaire - has been sent to tower correspondents as listed in the 1996 Report. Please return the forms asap; thanks to all those who have already done so.

Ringling Schools - The Southern District already has a successful ringling school at Prittlewell and a further school is being set up in the SE, possibly at Writtle or Terling. This should benefit some of the neighbouring towers in other districts as well as those in the SE.

Recruitment Launch - A county-wide open weekend is to be held 13th and 14th September. A resource pack, leaflets and further information will follow shortly.

Sponsorship - To help cover the costs that preparation for the Millennium will incur, we are seeking sponsorship. This could be to cover the cost of printing leaflets (£800ish), resource packs, or donations towards photocopying, stationery or postage. If anyone has a suitable contact, please let us know.

Fund-raising - There are several towers which will be seeking grants for restoration work over the next few years. In order to give them reasonable grants the districts will need to continue, and preferably increase, their fund-raising activities.

Publicity - It is important there is ongoing publicity in local papers, parish magazines, libraries etc. etc. Let your district PRO (or Association PRO) know what you are planning. There should be a news item on Anglia TV in the not too distant future - so look out for it!

Ideas/Suggestions - Please let any of the sub-committee members know if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions.

The "**Ring in 2000**" Project will be very exciting and challenging. I hope all ringers in Essex, members of the Association or not, will feel it is *their* project and do all they can to help and support the sub-committee and districts in their endeavours.

Thank you.

The members of the sub-committee are:-

Ann Chapman (01245 324461), Sue Beale (01255 676472), Mary Bone (01279 726159), David Childs (01376 329706), Roger Dorking (01277 655979), Janet Edwards (01621 816496) and Phil Stephens (01245 421022).

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~ We still have exhibition material and boards for the Association's use. If you would like to borrow them (donations are always acceptable to keep the material up to date), please book your dates with Janet Edwards but please don't ask for 13/14 September.

~ Don't forget to have some mugs for sale at your open day. People always like to take home a souvenir of their visit. Your District Secretary should have a supply.

~ If there is a Society or Club that would like a talk on bellringing Janet Edwards or Ann Chapman can arrange this.

~ If you don't have ringling articles in the newspaper or magazine you read, contact Janet and she will arrange for it to be added to her mailing list.

Open Weekend - 13/14 September

The Countywide Open Weekend planned for the weekend of 13th and 14th September is definitely NOT for ringers. It is for the non-ringer or lapsed ringer to come along and find out what ringing is all about. It is for information, exhibitions, demonstrations and publicity with the aim of recruiting as many new ringers as possible. There will be as much media coverage as we can obtain and we hope that every tower will be open for some of the time.

It is especially important that the towers that need ringers because they have no band at the moment, are involved. We are producing a resource pack of leaflets, posters and, hopefully, glossy brochures for every tower, and then, like Bell Sunday, it is up to you. The times that each tower is to be open will need to be advertised locally and, while the Church is a good place to recruit, don't forget doctors surgeries, libraries, schools, etc. Those places that don't have ringers will need to rely on their District to place the posters and man the towers.

We hope that by then each District will have a Ringing School in place, so that we can quickly get any recruits on the end of a rope while their enthusiasm is still keen. This is our chance to at least try to get all our bells ringing at the same time on 1st January 2000 but it will need effort by all of us to do it. Keep the 13/14 September, or at least part of it, free for this project.

Janet Edwards

LONG SERVICE

Some time ago I heard a suggestion that we should in some way honour the long serving members of the Association. For example the Suffolk Guild lists them in their Annual Report each year. In order to stimulate discussion on this I have researched from Annual Reports those who will complete 50 years or more membership in 1997 and list them below. Comments and corrections will be gratefully received, I apologise for errors and omissions.

70 Years

H Stebbings, Burnham-on-Crouch (1927)
J H Crampion, North Weald (1927)

60 Years

W H Aley, Harlow Common (1936)
A R Andrews, Thorrington (1930)
T Bird, Wickham St Paul (1931)
A R Groves, Chelmsford (1936)
V B Leggett, Wormingford (1935)
B C Mann, Goldhanger (1930)
H J Millatt, Colchester (1936)
D Parker, Feering (1936)
E W Roast, Danbury (1934)
C S Smith, Ford End (1933)
Miss H G Snowden, Gosfield (1930)
R Suckling, Bocking (1936)
U W Wildney, Kirby-le-Soken (1928)
W J White, Goldhanger (1928)

50 Years

J Aley, Nazeing (1945)
J Armstrong, Dagenham (1945)
E W Brown, Castle Hedingham (1945)
L W Bullock, Dagenham (1945)
Dr L Castledon, Great Dunmow (1947)
P Childs, Boreham (1947)
P J Eves, Chelmsford (1945)
F R Goddard, South Weald (1945)
H G Goddard, Chelmsford (1945)
D G Mayell, Shenfield (1945)
G N Orman, Thorrington (1945)
B C Sadler, Prittlewell (1946)
P W Saltmarsh, Sandon (1947)

Colin Chapman

Congratulations! - Grand Draw Prize Winners

The Grand Draw took place at the barn dance at Mountnessing on 30 November. Here are the winners. Congratulations to everyone and thank you all for supporting the Draw.

1st	£100	Mark Button
2nd	Behind the scenes tour of Stansted Airport for four	Contact number only given
3rd	Free Makeover at Diamond Studios	Angela Moody
4th	Harrods Teddy Bear	Joe Cooper
5th	BBC Essex Studio visit	David Sparling
6th	Dixons Vouchers (£20)	S Slater
7th	3 Bottles of Wine	David Church
8th	WH Smith Voucher (£10)	G E Evans
9th	WH Smith Voucher (£10)	Frank Delderfield
10th	Marks & Spencer Voucher (£5)	John Greenwood

QUARTER PEALS REPORT

Were you disappointed that all your tower's quarter peals were not listed in the 1996 Annual Report? Some towers are much better at supplying information than others.

Why not put the enclosed form on your tower notice board, fill it in as you go through the year and return it to the Peals Secretary next January.

Bumper Edition

It is now a year since I took over putting together the Association's Newsletter. I hope you have found something of interest to read during that time.

Some of you have been kind enough to send me articles, or poems, or readings etc., but unfortunately I have not always had the chance to include them due to other, more "official" notices that must be included in this important means of communication.

However, I am pleased to say that I will be presenting a bumper edition of the Newsletter next time to include some of these articles, which I hope you will find interesting and some of them amusing.

Please keep sending in your articles, whether it be details of a special quarter or peal, general information about an event you will be holding, something that you think others might be interested in, or anything that you want others to know about. Don't forget to let me know if someone has just had a special birthday, or a baby, or just got married.

Just in case you never get as far as the back page, please send your snippets for the August Newsletter by 1st July to:

Vicki Chapman at 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9PF, or telephone on: 01245 358040

Association Registers

Birthdays: Congratulations to Pat Saltmarsh (LVP, Sandon) who was 70 on 12th March.

Marriages: Congratulations to Brian Lord (Lt. Horkesley) and Marina Mitcham who are to be married on 12th April and to Vicki Patmore and Colin Chapman (both of Chelmsford) who were married on 15th March.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Tom and Bertha Bird who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 20th February. Tom is a Life Member from Wickham St Paul.

Deaths: We are sorry to have to report the deaths of Harry Carter (Life Member of Great Baddow), Bewley Weaver (Life Member of Great Holland) and Frank Lufkin (Life Vice-President of Kirby le Soken and CC Life Member). For a full obituary and other sentiments about Frank see the Ringing World dated 21st Feb and the Annual Report.

Other Achievements

Dennis Whent (Shrub End, Colchester) might have made it to the Guinness Book of Records. In February, Dennis scored two holes in one at the same hole on the nine hole course at Birch Grove, near Colchester. With his holes in one, he won the senior section of the club's Monthly Medal Competition. Dennis also came second in the raffle! Although no-one from the Guinness Book of Records made comment at the time, a spokesman for the Hole in One Society said that they had no record of a similar achievement. Perhaps Dennis could let us know if indeed he does make it to the records books. Congratulations Dennis!

Jenny Atkinson (Little Baddow) also made the papers when she won a Cleaner Chelmsford Committee's Gold Award for picking up 22 bin bags worth of litter during the summer holiday. Jenny raised over £1,200 which went towards a new development appeal. The award was made by the Mayor, Freda Mountain and councillor Nina Stephenson, chairperson of the Cleaner Chelmsford Committee, at Jenny's school, Chelmsford County High School for Girls. Congratulations Jenny, and any time you get the urge to have a clean up, my address is on the back page!!!

Legacies

Frank Lufkin

Frank Lufkin very kindly left the Association £250 in his will. At the time of writing, other donations in memory of Frank total £463. Frank has also left his peal records to the Association.

Harry Appleton

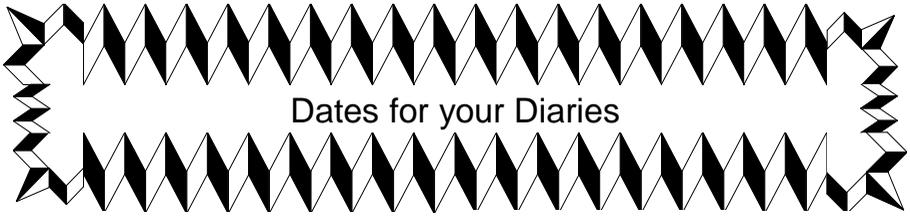
I have recently received a legacy of £100 from Harry's Executors.

Andrew Taylor

Insurance

I would just like to remind members in arrears at 31 December 1996 that, as agreed by the Executive Committee, insurance cover will continue after 27 July only if those arrears have been paid.

Andrew Taylor



Dates for your Diaries

APRIL

12th	District Meeting	West Ham	South Western
	District Meeting	Foxearth	Northern
26th	District Meeting	Helions Bumpstead	North Western
	District Striking Competition	Purleigh	South Eastern

MAY

5th	AGM	Chelmsford & N District	
17th	District Striking Competition	Ingrave	Southern

JUNE

7th	District Striking Competition	Great Holland	North Eastern
	District Striking Competition	Great Yeldham	Northern
	District Striking Competition	Fyfield	North Western
	District Meeting	Bradwell-juxta-Mare	South Eastern
14th	District Striking Competition	Tower to be confirmed	South Western
21st-29th	Quarter Peal Week		South Eastern
28th	District Barbecue	Sycamore Cottage, Danbury	South Eastern

JULY

5th	STRIKING COMPETITION FINALS	Great Totham & Goldhanger	South Eastern
12th	District Meeting	Chigwell Row	South Western
19th	Treasure Hunt & Social	Tendring	North Eastern



The next issue of the Essex Association of Change Ringers NEWSLETTER is planned for August 1997. Contributions please to Vicki Chapman 20 Mews Court Chelmsford CM2 9 PF ☎01245 358040 by 1st July 1997.