

Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will take place at County Hotel, Chelmsford on Saturday 4th October 2008.

To make sure you don't miss out on our new *Master's* speech, please your payment of £29.00 per person (cheques payable to EACR) to Mrs Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF. For those of you who have paid a deposit, the balance of £14.00 is now due.

Please include all names for those covered by payment and your preference for main course or any other special dietary requirements i.e. gluten free etc. If no main course preference is stated then Lamb will be ordered.

Menu

Starter: Plum Tomato, Mozzarella & Pesto in a Filo Pastry Cup presented on a Salad of Watercress

Main: Slow Roasted Lamb Shank, Grain Mustard Mash, Rosemary & Garlic Infused, Red Wine Jus

OR

Ratatouille Timbale, Tomato Sauce, Tapenade & Parsnip Crisp (v)

Dessert: Iced Lemon Parfait, served with Sliced Cantelope Melon & Strawberry Coulis

Followed by: A Selection of Teas and Coffees with Home-made Petit Fours

Association Training Day

This years training day is on Sat. 22nd November 2008, 9.30am - approx 5pm and is based at Stebbing (Northern District)

The groups on offer are:

- Plain Hunt
- Plain Bob Doubles
- Cambridge Surprise Minor
- Raising & Lowering

To apply for a place, download an application form from www.eacr.org.uk training page or send an SAE for an application form to Vicki Chapman, EACR Education Officer, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF.

Limited spaces available, first come, first served. Closing date for applications is 7/11/08.

Helpers are also required, please contact Vicki on 01245 358040 or email vicki@cvevrc.co.uk

Striking Competition Finals

The Association striking competition finals were held on 5th July, hosted by the North-Western District. Eleven teams entered the 6-bell competition at Henham; four teams rang Grandsire Doubles, three rang Plain Bob Doubles, three rang Plain Bob Minor and one team rang Norwich Surprise Minor. The results were: 1st Chelmsford (85 errors); 2nd Prittlewell (119); 3rd Dagenham (121); 4th Coggeshall (131); 5th Downham (145); 6th West Ham (166); 7th Sawbridgeworth (196); 8th Writtle (226); 9th Rayne (231); 10th Saffron Walden (237); 11th Kirby le Soken (335).

After tea at Henham and the 6-bell results the inter-district 8-bell competition was held at Hatfield Broad Oak.

Cont...

The test piece was a plain course of Superlative Surprise Major. The South-Eastern District won the trophy with 34 errors; 2nd North-Western (56); 3rd Northern (76); 4th South-Western (93); 5th North-Eastern (107); 6th Southern (133).

Our judges for both competitions were Chris McCarthy and Owen Claxton. We'd like to thank them, the North-Western district officers and friends for making all the arrangements and especially a wonderful tea.

The Essex Trophy inter-Association 10-bell competition will be held at Lewes on 13th September, hosted by the Sussex Association.

Vicki Chapman

**Service of Thanksgiving & Blessing of the Community
Room and Bell Ringing Chamber at St Mary
and St Lawrence, Great Waltham.
Monday 7th April 2008**

A good number of residents and a handful of ringers met with the Parish Priest, Rev. Carla, Church Wardens and the Bishop of Bradwell at Great Waltham to give thanks for the completion of the works to the church.

The Bishop described how the new kitchen and other facilities would mean that the church could continue to be used by the community for hundreds of years to come as it had been for centuries past, and he thanked everyone who had made the work possible by their giving of time and money towards the project.

The band before the service consisted of local and visiting ringers accompanied by Stephen Nash (Master) and Andrew Brewster (Treasurer).

Jo Elliott

Dave Sparlings 50th Birthday

David Sparling (and his twin brother John) celebrated his half-century on Thursday 19 June.

Rumour has it David is beginning the second half of his century with a much more relaxed approach to ringing than some of the first half - or maybe that's just the effect of the kids! When congratulated on reaching 50 he said "It was easy - I just breathed in, breathed out, repeat."

The following ringing tributes were paid by ringing friends:

Thursday 19 June 2008
Kirby-Le-Soken, Essex
1250 Superlative Surprise Major

1. Heather Semken
2. Gillian M. Sparling
3. David L. Sparling (c)
4. Anne R. Bray
5. Andrew Burgoyne
6. Adrian Semken
7. Brian G. Meads
8. Paul A.J. Bray

Saturday, 21 June 2008
Kirby-le-Soken, Essex
5050 Sparky Delight Major
Composed by: B E Whiting

1. Adrian Knights
2. Susan Page
3. Yvonne A Towler
4. James L Towler
5. Ralph N Earey
6. David I Stanford
7. Brian E Whiting (C)
8. David L Sparling

With the band's best wishes to our dear friend Sparky as he enters his

"next decade"



Sunday 29 June 2008
Thorrington (Red Brick House),
Essex

- 1312 Oxford Treble Bob Major
1-2 Gillian M Sparling*
3-4 David L Sparling (c)
5-6 Paul A J Bray*
7-8 Anne R Bray*

*First in method in hand

Thanks

Thank you all very much indeed for the flowers, engraved vase and generous gift tokens presented to me at the AGM on 5 May. I have not yet decided how to spend the vouchers and think I will need several shopping trips to Lakeside or Bluewater.

I can truthfully say that I enjoyed my time as Secretary. I learnt a lot about ringing and bell restoration, and there were the highlights of the Ringing Course and Annual Service each year, as well as the Millennium and our 125th anniversary.

It was a privilege to serve the Association and I look forward to continued involvement - but in a less intensive way! I still need a few towers to complete the county and hope to complete this soon as I will now have more time for ringing.

Mary Bone

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW MASTER

I feel extremely privileged to have been elected your new Master at the recent AGM. The Essex Association has been very fortunate over many years past in having such excellent Officers, not only Masters, but also General Secretaries, Treasurers and others at Association and District level. Their hard work and enthusiasm has done much to create the active and well run Association we all benefit from. As one who often rings with those from other parts of the country, I can tell you that ringing in Essex is doing comparatively well. As your Master I will seek to maintain all the excellent work of the past, and to represent the Association to the best of my ability to the Church and the wider community.

However, we must also look to the future. We are an Association of change-ringers, as well as being a body of church-bell ringers. Whilst maintaining our work of Church service we must also work

Cont...

to secure the future of our heritage - change-ringing itself.

Notwithstanding much excellent youth work, we are an ageing group. It will be a priority of mine to see what more can be done to encourage young people into ringing - these are the people who will be ringing congregations into Church in 30 years time. My second and equal priority will be to encourage the Association to increase its efforts to raise the public awareness and understanding of ringing, and to widen community interest and involvement in our art. By this means we can hope to increase our potential recruitment base, and do our bit to secure the future of ringing in this county.

If you have any ideas on how the Association could do more to benefit ringing in Essex, then I would like to hear from you. I believe that new and innovative approaches to recruitment and teaching are needed if we are to keep ringing in Essex in a healthy position. E-mail me on master@eacr.org.uk or phone 01376 562892.

Finally, we are all ringers mainly because we get so much fun out of it. Let's work to make sure that that is what comes over to everybody in Essex - ringers and non-ringers alike.

BRIAN MEADS

Prittlewell Ringing Centre

Congratulations to Prittlewell Ringing Centre for winning the annual Ringing Centres Prize awarded by the Worshipful Company of Founders.

Harwich: new Tower Correspondent

The new Tower Correspondent for Harwich is
Mrs Tracey Southgate, 4 Sweden Close, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex,
CO12 4JU. Tel: 01255-507357.

75 YEARS ON AND STILL LIKE NEW

On Saturday 19 July St Mary Magdalen Church Thorrington celebrated 75 years of the rehangng of the church bells.

The bells at Thorrington were rehung between February and May 1933 by Alfred Howell, Ipswich, for a fee of £227. This included a new steel frame which could hold up to eight bells, new fixtures and fitting and new chiming apparatus.

Before the bells were rehung they were a ground floor five in a wooden frame and in 1902 the treble bell was added. It was said that when the frame was altered to accommodate the sixth bell they were not the best to ring. One Sunday in January 1933 while ringing for service the tenor gudgeon pin broke, this causing the bellringers to think about having the bells rehung. In 1937 Harry Millatt design and built a gallery floor where the bells are still rung from today, still handling like new after

75 years, continuing to be known for their tone and ease to ring. This occasion was also combined with celebrating Mr Noel Orman's 62 years of ringing at Thorrington and being a member of the North East Essex Association. Noel was taught to ring by Harry Millatt joining the Thorrington band along side members of his family which included his father, uncles, grandfather and cousins and in latter years, with his daughter Sara. Noel first join the North East Essex Association in 1946 and rang his first peal at Great Bentley in 1948 of Plain Bob Major and since has rung well over a hundred peals.

After a Quarter Peal of 1440 changes of Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor a small gathering of ringers and friends attended a surprise light lunch in the church grounds for Noel's achievement and for the 75 year of the rehangng of the bells.

The AGM

The AGM took place on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2008 and as usual the Cathedral bells were available for general ringing prior to the service before the invited band rang the service touch of half a course of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. Refreshments were served during general ringing to help raise funds for the Cathedral bell restoration appeal.

The service was conducted by the Precentor, Revd Canon Simon Pothen; lessons read by the Master and Revd John Delfgou, our Chaplain. The address was given by the Rt Revd John Gladwin, Bishop of Chelmsford, our President, who also stayed for the entirety of the meeting. The Boreham Choir sang the anthem "Shout for Joy", arranged by Alan Bullard.

At the AGM members approved the accounts and annual report. Several rule changes were put forward. The first was to amend rule 6i so that Members aged 65 or over on 5 May 2008 and elected prior to that date shall be free from subscription. This means that Members over aged 65 elected after this date would pay the current full subscription rate. Other rule changes referred to administrative updates to reflect the current operations within the Association. All were approved.

Next came the interesting bit - an election for the position of Master of the Association! Following speeches from Proposers and Seconders and the Nominees themselves, Brian Meads was eventually declared our new Master at the end of the meeting.





In between, Vicki Chapman was elected as Hon. General Secretary, succeeding Mary Bone, Michael Green and Richard Dunhill were elected as Independent Examiners, succeeding John Tipping and Wendy Godden, who had served in post for 35 and 34 years respectively. Yvonne Towler was elected as a Life Member.

Discussion about the Annual Dinner took place and from a show of hands and general support from the floor, it was confirmed that the Annual Dinner would take place as planned this year. Saturday 4th October at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

At the end of the meeting, Bishop John said words of thanks to Steve Nash and Mary Bone for their sterling work as Master and Secretary over the past 10 years and presented them with engraved glassware and vouchers on behalf of the members. He also presented gifts to John Tipping and Wendy Godden and wished them all well in their retirement.

Towers in the Northern District were open for ringing in the afternoon, with tea at Great Dunmow.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the day's arrangements, particularly the Cathedral staff, Owain Jones and Simon Harvey of the Boreham Choir, and the Northern District Officers, and of course Mary Bone for making sure everything ran smoothly for her last AGM as Secretary.

Association Register

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Haddon Spurgeon of Maldon (All Saints), Jessie Kippin of Downham, Eric Cross of Loughton and Eileen Button of Thorrington.

That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers

First Quarter : Alexandra Mackle (07/04/08 Rayleigh)
(9 Years and 11 Months)

Keith Patten (29/04/08 Chigwell)
Rohna Whittaker (11/05/08 Gt Totham)
Robbi Whittaker (11/05/08 Gt Totham)

First Peal : Tom R Childs (14/06/08 Braintree)

You may have seen the review of the new survey and history of the bells of the Channel Islands in *The Ringing World* last August. The reviewer and others have commended its usefulness as part of the corpus of regional studies of bells and their histories, and as a lively read. And they have been kind enough to acknowledge that the book is attractive and well produced.

The book was published by the Guild in which the Channel Islands fall, the Winchester and Portsmouth, and if you visit their website www.wp-ringers.org.uk and click on the news item relating to the book you will see a fuller description and a further link to the RW review. Also provided there are instructions for ordering by post and a link enabling internet ordering.

Jack Walters

EACR Education Officer

At the AGM in May, I announced that I would not be seeking re-election as Association Education Officer at the October Executive Committee Meeting. Having said this, I have already organised the 2008 event, details of which are elsewhere in this newsletter and on the accompanying poster.

The Education Officer's role is primarily to organise and arrange the Association Training Day at the end of November. I have also, in the last couple of years arranged some ad-hoc training events on Teaching the Teachers, and introduced a training page on the Association's website. The Education Officer is currently **not** responsible for running and organising the Essex Ringing Course.

Please consider putting yourself, or someone else you know who would be good at it (with their permission of course!) at the October meeting. If you would like any further information, or an informal chat about what is involved, please contact me.

Vicki Chapman
01245 358040

Life Membership

Any nominations for life membership must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by 1 December (rule 7(iii)) and should include details of the candidate's Association activities.

Guidelines were agreed by the Committee in February 1986 as follows: "... To honour a member for work undertaken throughout the district and promotion of work throughout the Association." Further advice on the criteria is available from the Association Master or Secretary or from your district officers.

Vicki Chapman

Dates for your Diary (From the website)



September	NE District Quarter Peal Month	
	05/06 Ringing Roadshow, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire	
	6 District Call Change Competition, Wanstead	SW
	12 District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE
	12 District Practice Stansted	NW
	13 Essex Trophy Striking Competition Lewes (Southover)	
	18 District Practice Gt Leighs	SE
	20 District Walking Treasure Hunt Colchester	NE
	20 District Meeting Basildon	S
	20 District Call Change Competition & Meeting Goldhanger	SE
	25 Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE
	26 Learners' Practice Roydon	NW
	26 Surprise Practice Terling	SE
	27 District Minor Practice St Osyth	NE
	27 Quiz Night North Ockendon	S
	27 District Training Day	SE
	30 5th Tuesday Practice Saffron Walden	NW
October		
	04 Association Annual Dinner County Hotel, Chelmsford	
	10 District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE
	10 District Practice Stansted	NW
	11 Executive Committee Meeting Danbury	
	11 District Meeting Ilford	SW
	18 District Afternoon Practice Rayleigh	S
	18 Autumn Meeting Colchester Shrub End & St Leonard's	NE
	22 District Practice Broomfield	SE
	24 Learners' Practice Hempstead	NW
	25 District Meeting Earls Colne & Colne Engaine	N
	25 District Meeting Fyfield & Moreton	NW
	30 Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE
	31 Surprise Practice Terling	SE
November	Northern District Quarter Peal Month	N
	10 District Practice Springfield	SE
	14 District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE
	14 District Practice Stansted	NW
	15 District Meeting & Call Change Competition Rettendon	S
	15 District Quiz Night Tendring	NE
	22 Association Training Day	N
	27 Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE
	28 Learners' Practice Epping Upland	NW
	28 Surprise Practice Terling	SE
	29 District Raising & Lowering Training Morning Ardleigh	NE
	29 Barn Dance Terling	SE

The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for December 2008. Please send contributions to Bryan Morrissey at Jireh, 30 Turner Avenue, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2LG or by email to bdm@pempo.co.uk or call 01206 392959 by 1st November 2008.