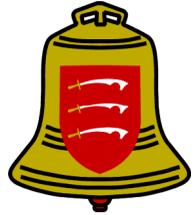


Rounds & About

(Charity Number 292250)



AGM 2 May 2011

The 132nd Essex Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May. The arrangements are as follows:

General ringing	9.15 to 10.15am	Afternoon ringing details and advance tea tickets (£3.50) are available from the Secretary: Mrs Vicki Chapman, 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF (by 1 May). Please enclose a SAE.
Service touch	10.15am	
Annual Service	10.30am	
AGM	11.45am	
Afternoon ringing	North Western District	Tea tickets (£4.00) will also be available on the door.
Tea at Sawbridgeworth		

Do come along and ring at the Cathedral - the ringing is for everyone! Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can have a ring. Entrance is by the West or South doors (a service will just be finishing so please enter quietly). The Cathedral ringers will be serving coffee in the Cathedral before the service.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged after the service. The full Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the 2010 Annual Report. The proposed new Rules for the Association will be put to the meeting for adoption so please come along to hear what changes are being put forward.

Vicki Chapman

Layer-de-la Haye - 10 years on ...

The band at St John the Baptist chose Monday 7th February 2011 for a low key celebration event, being half way between the 10th anniversary of the first test ring and the dedication service for the restored bells. The commemorative cake baking hadn't gone quite to plan, as the baker burnt herself getting the cake out of the oven. Realising how important the occasion was, she made a catch that the victorious England Ashes cricket team would have been proud of.

Martin, Diana and their daughter completed the icing, complete with red, white and blue sally coloured piping around the bell shaped cake. Guests at the event included Adrian Semken from Hayward Mills, Jim and Yvonne Towler from Inworth and David Cobb from Shrub End who are regular helpers and myself. After all this time, I continue to have the pleasure of helping the band with any media activities and events that make the most of their unique heritage.



Brian's son John, with the band and friends

We all met at 7pm to ring with the group of youngsters for their practice, ahead of the adult practice later in the evening. We broke off midway through the evening to convene downstairs where Martin told us of the shenanigans with the cake. Then the late Brian Keeble's son John bid us raise a glass and toast his father, who was so pivotal in getting the restoration project completed. Sadly within 6 months of the completion of the project Brian passed away unexpectedly, leaving us all feeling like the rug had been taken from under our feet, and the band and parish in a terrible state of shock. There wasn't a dry eye in the place as we remembered those dark times and our thoughts are never far from Brian's family and friends. We cannot praise enough Rev'd Martin Clarke and members of the PCC at Layer for their unswerving steadfastness.



However, I remember saying shortly afterwards that despite this roller coaster series of events and emotions, during the project (and I sincerely hope afterwards), the Essex Association feels very protective of the folk at Layer. We gave them a new treble bell in memory of Frank, Edna and Winifred Lufkin. We also remember at this time the late Dickie Furminger, one of our Life Vice Presidents, and the band at Ardleigh in Colchester who gave up so much of their on Saturday mornings to teach the emerging band.

The late Brian Keeble

We have always wanted Layer to be part of our ringing family, and we continue to be there for them in the good times as well as the bad. That is what being in an association is all about. It's not been easy for anyone connected with the project, but they've come through it all still smiling and still ringing. Brian would have been bursting with pride, Dickie would be quite chuffed and I suspect that Frank would be rather pleased too. So, to the ringers and everyone else at Layer we toast your health, prosperity and continued success. Here's to plenty more where that came from.

Tracey Southgate
Public Relations Officer

Display Equipment for Hire

Don't forget – if your tower is planning an open day or has other celebration activities planned, I have display boards, posters and a promotional roller banner stand you can hire. For a small charge you (and provided I haven't promised to lend them to someone else) I am more than happy to make arrangements to get these to you in time for your event.

- 7 panel free standing display board
- 3 panel table top display boards
- Roll up banner stand

If you would like further information, please call me on 01255-507357, email pro@eacr.org.uk or visit the Display Equipment for Hire tab on the website <http://www.eacr.org.uk/displayboards/>.

Tracey Southgate (Public Relations Officer)

Danbury Diary

The February Executive Committee meeting was held at Danbury. After the Master had welcomed the new members elected at the annual district meetings we moved on to the formal business, mainly concerned with items for the annual report and the Annual General Meeting.

The Treasurer's and Trustees' reports were approved and will be printed in the annual report; the accounts and full report still have to be approved by members at the annual meeting.

The Rules Review Sub Group put forward formal Motions to go before the AGM in May detailing the proposed new full set of rules for the Association. Stephen Nash has been nominated to be the fifth Central Council representative and if that is confirmed at the AGM, he will attend his first meeting at the end of May.

Two nominations for Life Member were received. Wendy Godden's and John Tipping's nominations will go forward to the AGM with the support of the Executive Committee.

A grant for £200 was offered to West Ham towards the rehangng of their Tenor.

Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up by reports from the appointed officers and the districts - keeping everyone informed about what is going on throughout the Association.

Do ask your district officers for further information on any of these items. The next meeting of the Committee is in October.

Vicki Chapman

Congratulations!

Ann & Brian Beech from North Ockendon celebrated their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary on 4th March.



They were married at St. John's church Stratford, London E15 on Saturday 4th March 1961. Ann was just 21 years old and Brian was 23. Here's a picture of them on their wedding day.

Association Dinner 2011

Make a note of the date in your diary for Saturday 1st October. The Annual Dinner will be going ahead. Guest speakers have already been booked. We will be able to meet our new President, the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, and Kate Flavell, the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

A newly formed Social Committee will be setting the menu and ticket price this year and will be hounding you to buy tickets.

In the meantime expressions of support would be welcomed by the AGM on 2 May. Please email secretary@eacr.org.uk to express your support, write or phone (20 Mews Court, Chelmsford CM2 9PF 01245 358040

Vicki Chapman

Royal Wedding Ringing Friday 29 April 2011

From EACR Public Relations officer, Tracey Southgate:

"If you are planning any celebratory ringing, whether its general ringing, a quarter Peal or a Peal attempt to celebrate the Royal Wedding, please let me have the details as soon as you can. I'm intending to collate performances from across the County and compile a commemorative booklet to send to the royal couple, with the Association's compliments on their marriage."



Details will also be useful for press releases, both in national and county papers, and also for local papers and your Parish Magazines. It can gain us good publicity for ringing in general, (or even encourage new local recruits) by showing people that this is what bellringers do! - particularly for an event which seems to be nationally hugely popular. Do make use of it and send something in!

Tracey Southgate is at tesouthgate@btinternet.com

St. Christopher's, Willingale Essex Bells & Quoins Update March 2011

Having secured permission from the church authorities for the bells and quoins projects effort is now focussed on raising the funds. (If this is the first of these newsletters that you have read and you'd like more background on the projects contact Peter Tottman at peter.tottman@tiscali.co.uk) This is off to a great start with the generosity already shown by the village in 2010. Although the village and friends will no doubt provide good support grants are going to be required, it is hoped that the main source will be Heritage Lottery. The plan is to get the bells project underway first and follow with an application for a grant for quoins, this is not to say that quoins are less important but there is only so much that can be done. Therefore, an application for a Heritage Lottery grant for bells was submitted in January and other smaller grants are being sought. We are grateful to John Barnes of the CCCBR's Bell Restoration Committee for his guidance on sources of grants and to the Committee for their very helpful publication "Organising a Bell Restoration Project".

On the smaller grants front there is great news. You may recall that to make the existing four bells up to a ring of six a £3,000 loan had been provided by the Keltek Trust to buy the retired bell from Prittlewell. At Christmas Keltek very generously converted that loan into a grant thereby giving a major boost to the campaign and enhancing the credibility of the project with Heritage Lottery. We are very grateful to the Keltek Trust. Now is there anybody out there who would like to be the proud sponsor of the sixth bell – the existing tenor is 400 years old and will last for many more hundreds of years so what a lasting memory sponsorship of the new sixth bell would be.

During 2011 please support the local effort to raise the funds to secure the restoration of the bells and quoins so that the long term future of the church building is secured.

The ringing band continues to make good progress and has plans to attend various training sessions in 2011. We have attended learners' evenings at Matching & Arkesden and Saturday learners' sessions at Henham. These

sessions have been very beneficial and we are very grateful to the experience ringers for their kind patience and encouragement. With so many learners in our band it is quite challenging for us to make progress. Ian, our tower captain, is getting quite keen that the band makes its mark by participating in some competitions this would really put Willingale on the ringing map even though we realise that it will be more a case of participating than winning. If you would like to start ringing, you'll not be on your own a number of band members are still learners, contact Ian on 01245 248382.



Willingale group at Bell Foundry

Inherent in these projects are opportunities for us to learn about our heritage. Part of that learning was the group visit in January to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. This visit was an important part of the Learning Programme and it further raised community awareness of the fascination of bells and ringing.

The new ringing floor would create an enclosed space in the base of the tower, the possibility of this becoming a toilet and tea making facility is being investigated and looks plausible. As with quoins and bells there is a process to secure permission from the church authorities. We have now secured Building Regulations approval for all parts of the bells and toilet & tea making facility projects.

This update is based upon the regular article that is placed in the Willingale parish magazine.

London 2012 - Discovering Places Open Weekend Challenge Saturday 23rd-Sunday 24th July 2011



Discover Bell Ringing is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to discover the local environment and a programme principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor and delivered in partnership between The Heritage Alliance and London 2012.

The idea is to challenge visitors to try something they've never done before. It sounds like an excellent opportunity to promote bell ringing by opening towers if we can from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 23rd July and from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday 24th July. Wherever possible, encourage visitors to climb up to the bells, see how they work and have a try at ringing themselves. You may get some new recruits and it will certainly increase awareness among the general public.

There will be will lots of other events going on all over the weekend with a sporting and cultural theme, ranging from learning a new dance or piece of music an hour before it is performed, to talent contests, learning stone masonry skills to create your own sundial to 3 kilometre races through unusual places, sports days, bicycle rides etc. There is an opportunity for everyone to challenge themselves to discover something new or take an existing interest up a gear. There will even be a dedicated Facebook page, where you can post pictures of your event afterwards!

I plan to issue generic press releases covering all districts nearer the time to attract attention to the event, so if you would like to take part please let me know, so that I can ensure your tower opening times are advertised in the press. I can then send you some promotional posters, postcards and stickers.

Tracey Southgate, Public Relations Officer

Sherbourne Teaching-aids Bell Club Scheme:

Blue Badge (Ambitious Apprentice) - Christopher Henty—Writtle

Green Badge (Happy Hunter) - Thomas Sloman—Writtle

50-years a ringer

Renee Page-Jones has been a ringer for fifty years, starting in September 1960. For the last forty years (apart from 1982) she has been Tower Captain at All Saints', Hutton.



A Quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles rung at Chalk in Kent on 25th November 2010 marked this event.

The team was:
Treble Wendy Hooper
2nd John Cousins
3rd Renee Page-Jones
4th Roger Butt
5th Raymond Jones (c)
Tenor Rowena Marshall

All Saints Hutton, tucked away in Hutton village in a delightful setting, has a light five (tenor 6¼ cwt) with the bells dating from 1637 to 1814; practice night Tuesday.

Association Register

Golden Wedding Anniversary: Terry and Wendy Earle

Deaths:

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Barbara Fisher, of Bentley Common

Reg Dixon, of High Easter

Alan Dixon, formerly of Stansted Mountfitchet

Wendy Came, of Maldon (All Saints)

Alan Parrott, of Colchester

Birthdays:

Significant Birthday congratulations to:

Roger Dorking - 70

David Reeve, Bures - 80

Yvonne Towler - 60

Prittlewell St Mary the Virgin

St. Mary's Prittlewell Bells Fund successfully secured funding for the replacement of the old ten bells and frame. The ten new bells were delivered to the church on 5th November and were arranged around the font for viewing over the weekend. In view of the recent bell thefts, ringers and members of the congregation stood vigil over them during the weekend.



They were blessed by the vicar on Sunday November 7th, as part of the parish Communion Service. Father Shaun Conlon sprinkled each of the bells with Holy water and anointed each of them with the oil of the sick and the oil of chrisam, as they stood around the font at the back of the church; the following day The Whitechapel Bell

Foundry started installing the bells in the tower, and they rang out for the first time on Thursday November 18th.

Monday practice night has been re-instated at Prittlewell and visitors are very welcome. The new bells sound rather better than the old ones!

(Practice Mondays 19.30-21.30h, not Bank Holidays).

Nine of the old bells have found new homes – three bells are going to form a clock chime in the National Maritime Museum of Malta – and it now appears that the tenor may also find a home in Lithuania.

The service of dedication for the new bells was held at Prittlewell on Saturday January 8th 2011.

The new ninth; donated by The Essex Association of Change Ringers bell restoration account and The David Tovell Bequest



Practice Diary (From the website)

APRIL	8	District Minor Practice, Gt Bromley	NE	7:30
	9	Surprise Major Practice, Helions Bumpstead	N/NW	2:30
	9	Easter lunch 8-bell practice Leyton	SW	12:00
	28	Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE	7:30
MAY	13	District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE	7:30
	13	District Practice Stansted	NW	7:45
	14	Surprise Major Practice Finchingfield	N/NW	2:30
	18	District Practice Maldon (SMV)	SE	7:45
	19	District Surprise Practice, South Weald	S	7:30
	21	Surprise Minor Practice Henham	N/NW	2:30
	26	Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE	7:30
	26	District Evening Practice Brentwood	S	7:30
	27	Learners' Practice Fyfield	NW	7:45
	27	Surprise Practice Terling	SE	7:45
31	5th Tuesday Practice Saffron Walden	NW	7:45	
JUNE	4	District 10-bell Practice Coggeshall	NE	7:30
	10	District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE	7:30
	11	Surprise Major Practice Ashdon	N/NW	2:30
	17	District Practice Southminster	SE	7:45
	18	Surprise Minor Practice Henham	NW	2:30
	18	12-bell Practice Chelmsford Cathedral	SE	10:00
	24	Surprise Practice Terling	SE	7:45
	30	Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE	7:30
JULY	8	District Minor Practice Gt Bromley	NE	7:30
	8	District Practice Stansted	NW	7:45
	9	Surprise Major Practice Wethersfield	N/NW	2:30
	9	Ringing 8-bell practice Epping (tbc)	SW	6:30
	16	Surprise Minor Practice Henham	N/NW	2:30
	18	District Practice Tolleshunt d'Arcy	SE	7:45
	21	District Surprise Practice, South Weald	S	7:30
	22	Learners' Practice Hatfield Heath	NW	7:45
	28	Surprise Major Practice Gt Holland	NE	7:30
	30	5th Saturday Practice Sawbridgeworth	NW	6:30



Dates for your Diary (From the website)

APRIL	2	District Training Day tbc	S
	8	District Meeting & Practice, Stansted	NW
	14–16	Essex Ringing Course, Coggeshall	
MAY	2	Association AGM Chelmsford Cathedral from 9.30	
	7	6-bell Striking Competition, Tillingham	SE
	7–22	Quarter Peal Fortnight	SE
	14	Spring Meeting & Striking Competition Gt Bromley	NE
	21	District Outing, London	NW
	21	Striking Competition, Eastwood	S
JUNE	4	District Meeting, Bradwell-on-Sea	SE
	10	Method Striking Competition, tba	NW
	11	District Outing, Cambridgeshire	S
	11	6-bell Striking Competition, Wanstead	SW
	12–26	Quarter Peal Fortnight	S
	18	Ridgman Trophy, Ipswich	
	24	Call-Change Competition & Learners' Practice, Gt Parndon	NW
JULY	2	Association Striking Competitions, Rayne & Gt Bardfield (tea at Stebbing)	N
	9	Young Ringers' Outing	SE
	16	Call Change Competition & Social Event, Wivenhoe	NE4

(Practice Diary can be found on P11.)

That's a First

Congratulations to the following ringers

First Quarter :	Sheila B Shilton-Brown (South Weald)
	Ann Powell (Great Totham)
	Amanda Chittock (Rayne)
	Shirley Broadhurst (Tollesbury)

The next edition of Rounds & About is planned for August 2011.

Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to

Mrs Anne Bray, 7 Darcy Close, Kirby Cross, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 0RR or
by email to arbray@gmail.com or call 01255 679312 by 1st July 2011.