



AGM 6 May 2019

The 140th Annual General Meeting of the Essex Association of Change Ringers will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May 2019.

The arrangements will follow the traditional pattern:-

- 9:15–10.15 General ringing
- 10.15–10.30 Service Touch by the Master's invited band
- 10.30 Service
- 11.45 (approx.) Annual General Meeting to conclude by 13:00

The general ringing at the Cathedral is open to EVERYONE and will cater for all levels of experience. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and again afterwards whilst we set up for the meeting. The Preacher at the Service will be the Venerable Vanessa Herrick, Archdeacon of Harlow and we will be joined by our new Chaplain, Rev. Paul Watkin who will lead the prayers. We will also be supported by Lexden Choir from Colchester who will be joining us for the first time.

<i>Contents</i>	
Dates for your Diary.....	3
Two notable performances..	4
Practice Diary.....	5
<i>Rounds & About</i>	6
First quarter, aged 11.....	7
That's a First!.....	8
A new recruit.....	10
Tongue Tied Bells Enlighten Youths.....	11
From the Registers.....	12
Association Dinner 2019: new venue!	12

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been rearranged. We have a very full and interesting Agenda this year with two nominations for Life Membership (Clive Stephenson, Hornchurch & Brian Clayden, Bradwell on Sea) both of whom have been unanimously endorsed by the Management Committee, as well as two nominations for the Association's highest honour of Life

Vice-President (Yvonne Towler, Inworth & Mary Bone, Sawbridgeworth).

We have received nominations for all Association Officers except that of Public Relations Officer. Emily Ashton is not re-standing and so currently this very important position is vacant. Please think carefully about anybody that you feel could help in this role.

If that were not enough, we also have a Motion to change the Rules to allow the election of just one Independent Examiner (although our preference is always to appoint two!) and we have two special agenda items.

The first of these discusses the idea of adding to the Memorial at the back of the Cathedral commemorating the Association Members who lost their lives during both World Wars to include extra names from WWI that have recently been found as a result of the extensive research done by Alan Regin MBE in his position as Steward of the Rolls of Honour for the Central Council. This will be a significant project for the EACR and is particularly poignant in this, the 100th anniversary year of the signing of The Treaty of Versailles which formally ended the war.

The second item relates to possible future Rule Changes to reduce the number of Charity Trustees – currently ALL District and Association officers are Charity Trustees.

The full Agenda and the Minutes of the 2018 Meeting will be included in the 2018 Annual Report. Please do come and have your say on all of these matters.

Afternoon ringing will be in the North Eastern District. Tickets for tea, which will be at in the Village Hall opposite St Edmund K&M Church, Tendring will be available from the Interim Secretary in advance at £4 each or will be £4.50 on the day. Please apply before April 30 2019 and enclose a SAE if you wish these to be posted to you.

David Sparling
Interim Secretary

Dates for your Diary

Apr	11–13	Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		
	21	SE RingFest (to May 6)		SE	
	27	Quarter Peal Day		S	
		Quarter Peal Day with a difference		SE	
May	5	District Evening Meeting	Belchamp St Paul	N	5:30
	6	Association AGM	Chelmsford		
	11	6-bell Striking Competition & Meeting	Castle Hedingham	N	2:30
		Call-change & 6-bell Striking Competitions & short meeting	Little Baddow	SE	3:00
	18	District Meeting & Method Striking Competition	Nazeing	NW	9:30
		Bell maintenance seminar	Terling	SE	9:30
		District Meeting	Stanford-le-Hope	S	5:00
Jun	1	District outing		S	
	8	Method Competition & District Meeting	Hornchurch	SW	10:00
	8	District Meeting & Striking Competition	Wormingford	NE	2:00
Jul	6	Ringing World National Youth Contest	Liverpool		9:00
	13	Association Striking Competitions			2:30
	29	District Car Outing		NE	
Aug	10	District outing		NW	

Two notable performances

South Ockendon, Essex

Holy Cross

Tuesday, 6 November 2018 in 40m (3–3–9 in D)

1272 Bob Minimus

- 1 John Merivale
- 2 Cathy Merivale (C)
- 3 Deborah Webb
- 4 Terry Thornhill
- 5 Carmen Archer

Rung for Remembrance Week; 1st quarter: 1,3,5; 1st inside: 2,4; 1st as conductor: 2; 1st quarter as a local band

St Christopher's Willingale, Essex

Tuesday, 29 January 2019 in 43m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Plain Bob Doubles, conducted by the ringers on bells 2,3,4,5.

- 1 Pat Ormes
- 2 Sue Evans (C)
- 3 Kieran Kerwin (C)
- 4 Scott Kerwin (C)
- 5 Ian Kerwin (C)
- 6 Martin Sweeting

The first quarter peal rung at Willingale by a band of all Willingale ringers. This quarter peal was rung in the memory of Jane Jackson, dedicated supporter of the restoration of the Willingale bells.

Practice Diary

Apr	10	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	24	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	25	Surprise practice	Prittlewell	S	7:30
	26	District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	27	8-bell practice	Ardleigh	NE	2:30
May	4	District Learners Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00
	8	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	15	District practice	Goldhanger	SE	7:45
	17	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	18	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	24	District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	29	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45
Jun	1	10/12-bell practice	Waltham Abbey	NW	10:30
	8	12-bell practice	Chelmsford Cathedral	SE	10:00
		Evening practice	Black Notley	N	7:30
	12	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
		Surprise practice	Fobbing	S	7:30
	15	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	21	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
		District practice	Great Totham	SE	7:45
	26	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45
	28	District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
Jul	6	District Learners' Practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00
	10	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	19	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	20	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	26	District practice	Stansted	NW	7:45
	31	Surprise practice	Terling	SE	7:45
Aug	14	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	16	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	17	Advanced practice	Braintree	N	7:30



*Ringin Remembers Recruits from Hornchurch
 L - R: Kim, Val, Paul, Sue, David, Lisa, Steve*

Rounds & About

Articles for *Rounds & About* are always welcome, whether short or long, with or without photographs (though short ones with photographs are perhaps more likely to be read). A page without photographs holds 400–450 words. Photographs to be printed at full page width should be at least 980 pixels across. Please supply captions with people’s names as the editor may not recognise everyone in your photograph.

First quarter, aged 11

Shenfield, Essex

St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 23 February 2019 in 43m (7–0–20)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Sarah Robbins

2 Susan V Gilder

3 Beth Johnson

4 Ian P Stockwell

5 Mark Robbins (C)

6 John M Church

First quarter for treble, aged 11.



*Front row, L-R: Sarah, Susan, Beth;
back row, L-R: John, Mark, Ian*

*That's a First!***Quarter peals:**

1st quarter at 1st attempt: Chloe Marr, Paul D Withams, Luke Dolan, Thomas Cubitt

1st quarter, aged 11: Sarah Robbins

1st quarter: Martin Sweeting, Hilary C Walls, John Merivale, Deborah Webb,

Carmen Archer, Joan Marshall, Rachel Arnold, Sue Patch, Alexander J Bond,

Joseph Hurley, Theo Johnson, Helena-Katie Scholes, Grace Moran

1st on Treble: John Randall, Sherry Moran

1st as cover: William Beech

1st inside: Cathy Merivale, Terry Thornhill, Rosemarie Edwards, Graham

Lennard

1st Triples: David Newton

1st Triples inside: David Buckley

1st Major: Alwyn Brock

1st on 8: David Thorpe, Daniel Howell, Ethan J Musham, Nick De-vries

1st on 10: Ellie Gray

1st Grandsire Doubles: Susan Sherrington, David Buckley

1st Grandsire inside: Michael Warren

1st Grandsire Triples: Ian Stockwell, Ellie Gray

1st Grandsire Triples inside: William Beech

1st Plain B Minor: David Thorpe, Ian Patch

1st Plain B Royal: Gareth Bennett

1st St Clement's B Minor: Gareth Davies, Ellie Gray, William Beech, Martin

Jones

1st Stedman: John M Church, Sarah Chin-a-Loy

1st Stedman Doubles: Ian P Stockwell, Mark Robbins

1st Stedman Cinques: Peter Chapman

1st Kent TB Minor: David French

1st Oxford TB: William Beech

1st Oxford TB Major: Andrew Beech

1st Surprise on a working bell: Vicki Elliott

1st Cambridge S Major: Anne Porter

1st as Conductor: Bryan Morrissey, Cathy Merivale, Ellis Whitehouse

1st Minor as Conductor: David Buckley

1st St Clement's as Conductor: Bradley Hill

1st Surprise in hand: Andrew R C Kelso

50th quarter: Samuel Beech

75th quarter: Mark Robbins

100th quarter: John M Church

300th quarter: Philip H Denton

400th quarter: Gary Howard

3000th quarter: David Belcham

600th as Conductor: Stephen Nash

25th together: Nigel S D Taylor & Andrew Beech, William Beech & Andrew Beech,
John Harpole & Clare Beech, Samuel Beech & William Beech

100th together: Alwyn Brock & Cathryn Corns

400th together: Margaret French & Perry French

Peals:

1st Royal: Matthew J Bayley

1st Surprise Royal: David M Hengeli

1st Cambridge S Maximus: John G Harpole

1st Bristol S Maximus: Stephen C Wood

25th peal: Josh L Harris

150th peal: David M Hengeli

1600th peal: Yvonne A Towler

25th together: Josh L Harris & Clare M Merivale

75th together: Andrew P Brewster & James L Towler

300th together: James L Towler & Alan P Mayle

100th Essex tower for a peal: Alan P Mayle

Rung peals on all 366 dates of the year: David E Rothera, James L Towler, Brian G
Meads

A new recruit

Motivated by the thought of playing a part in one of the most memorable Armistice Days, and in response to Roy's advert in the Shalford Parish News, I thought I would give bell ringing a go. After all, how hard could it be? All I had to do was pull on a rope to some kind of regular beat and avoid disappearing into the belfry in Norman Wisdom fashion. Well, how wrong I was! I was completely unaware that I was about to embark on a journey into a whole new world of sayings, meanings, terminology and delightful eccentricity.

My opening lesson was at Wethersfield Church on a Friday evening and I was glad to learn that I wasn't the only newbie. It was quite clear that in the last few months, a number of people had come forward and indeed, as our lessons progressed; more people joined this worthwhile campaign.

It was here we learnt that simply pulling on the rope was not even scratching the surface; there were backstrokes and hand strokes, and when these two things were united, we were absolutely perplexed as to why we were simply unable to keep the rope under control. Apparently, this is because we were standing in the wrong position, looking up, pulling too hard, choking it, not gripping the Sallie properly and basically making a complete hash of it. And trying to set the bell – well, we had no chance! We were, instead, banging it against the stay and then watching in dismay as the rope span around like an angry snake.

Suddenly, early motivation to take part was replaced by sheer frustration. How was it that we seemed so ill equipped to do something that others around us made look so effortless? Still, during all this, Roy remained wonderfully patient, although I was rather deflated one evening when he mentioned, in passing, that recently a primary school student had picked up setting the bell first time.

Then unexpectedly, one by one, something clicked in each of us and we managed to do two things; keeping the rope taught and setting the bell. Unfortunately, we still couldn't do either consistently, or even consecutively; nevertheless, it was a personal best. However, it soon became apparent that all we had done was get to first base and, in fact, there was still a long way to go which was rather daunting as we were now in September and Armistice Day was looming.

Saturday morning practice had now started and we visited various churches; this was enlightening but correspondingly daunting. There was an army of helpers who turned up, supportive and incredibly helpful. We learnt how to throw the rope in an imaginary hole in the floor and keep an imaginary £5 note between thumbs in-between backstroke and hand stroke. We also discovered that these various churches threw up so many different types of bells; so just as we were thinking that we might actually be making some progress, we realised that the bell weights and rope lengths introduced yet another layer of complexity.

Despite this, we were determined to continue and as Armistice Day drew nearer, our confidence and excitement grew. The day itself was wonderful, with so many new and experienced bell ringers united in such an excellent endeavour and all our hard work and determination finally paying off. It is an experience that will live with us for a very long time.

David Brown

Tongue Tied Bells Enlighten Youths

In an effort to redress the lack of ringers in Southminster, an evening of bell instruction was given at Southminster Church to the local Youth Club on the 18th February.

Four bells were clapper tied and the evening took the form of :-

- An introductory talk, using a model bell
- A visit to the bell chamber to see a striking bell
- Bell handling instruction
- A demonstration of change ringing by the assembled ringers

Eight youths took part with the helpers coming from the Burnham, Bradwell and Tillingham towers. A pleasant and dusty evening was had by all.

We did however have one faux pas. After temporary flood lights had been installed in the bell chamber and intermediary room, one of us found the tower light switches in the fuse box. Piccadilly Circus comes to mind.

Ringing Tone

From the Registers

18th birthday: Ethan Musham

60th birthday: Christopher N McCarthy, Nigel S D Taylor, Gary Howard, Vicky DeVries

70th birthday: Lesley Barrell

80th birthday: David E Rothera

90th birthday: Frank Warboys

50th wedding anniversary: David and Marjorie Culham

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Dennis Taylor, formerly of Rayne; Ian Hughes, formerly of Broomfield; Phil Clarke, formerly of Rayne; Nancy Crisp, of Burnham-on-Crouch; Laurie Cansdale, of Writtle; Peter Eves, of Chelmsford Cathedral, Life Vice-President, former Association Treasurer and former Central Council representative; Donald Heath, Life Member, of Romford

Association Dinner 2019: new venue!

Put the date in your diary now

Saturday 19 October 2019

65th Essex Association Dinner

at **Benton Hall Golf & Country Club**,
Wickham Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 3LH

Look out for details of the menu
and the early bird ticket price
on the website

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for August 2019. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to newsletter@eacr.org.uk or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1 July 2019**.