

Essex Course, 8th–10th April 2021



Usually in this edition of *Rounds and About*, a notice would appear announcing outline details of next year’s Essex Course. Despite announcements of a possible vaccine, there is still significant ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. It remains highly likely that ringing could be restricted in Spring 2021. Therefore, we have taken the decision that in 2021 the

Essex Course will not run in its usual format.

Similar to the Association Training Day, a series of online sessions will be arranged between 8th and 10th April 2021, including virtual ringing if there is sufficient demand. Quarantine restrictions allowing, face to face handbells sessions may be arranged. Should the pandemic change direction and ringing “go back to normal” sooner than expected, then a day of tower bell training sessions will be arranged on Saturday 10th April. Further details of these arrangements will be advertised in *The Ringing World*, on the Association website, and distributed to members of the Association as usual in the New Year.

As you will appreciate, this is a moving situation, and attempts to predict the future are aspirational at best, so all of this is provisional. The Essex Course that we know and love is central to what our Association does, and we are committed to preserving it for the future through these difficult times.

Stay safe and well everyone

Andrew Kelso, Association Master
Sharon Lacey, General Secretary
Andrew Brewster, Treasurer

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Annual Subscriptions for 2021

Adults **£8** Juniors/friends **£4**

Subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2021. Rates remain the same – £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2021) and £4 for junior members or friends. Subscriptions have remained at this rate for 15 years!

Subscriptions are still one of the primary sources of Association revenue and it is very important for members to pay their subscription promptly. If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription (forms can be downloaded from the Association website).

Where do your subscriptions go?

- 25% of subscriptions automatically go to our Recruitment and Training Fund. Recruitment and training are going to be key activities when we eventually get back to anywhere near 'normal' ringing so having funds ready for this is going to be vital to our towers and for the future of ringing in Essex
- Each member is covered by the Association's group personal accident and public liability policies
- Every member receives an annual report
- Each tower receives a copy of the newsletter *Rounds and About* three times a year
- Funding youth activities and investing in the future
- Payment of the annual CCCBR affiliation fee
- Members can take part in Association activities when Covid allows or via Zoom or Ringing Room for example
- It's one of the lowest membership rates around

- We are talking about £8 per year. The price of a couple of pints or a large glass of wine!

Meanwhile, it would be appreciated if those members who pay a subscription and have yet to pay for 2020 would either send their subscription to their District Treasurer in the next few weeks, or arrange a bank transfer (your District Treasurer should also be advised, and can supply the details).

All subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2021. Members not paying by this date shall not participate in or vote at meetings (e.g. District meetings or the AGM) or ring peals for the Association until the subscription is paid.

Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 31st December 2020 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the 2020 Annual Report.

Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2021) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2021. However, after this date lapsed members shall be re-elected in accordance with normal procedures.

Completion of a Membership Form is mandatory and no elections should take place without a completed form which must be submitted to the District Secretary before the start of a District meeting. The current form can be downloaded from the EACR website.

Payment of subscriptions in 2021 during Covid-19

As all ADM's are likely to be held virtually and no ringing meetings or practices will be held for the foreseeable future, the issue of how members continue to pay their subscriptions has been discussed.

Members are asked to pay their subscriptions or donations by cheque and post to the District Treasurer or myself (the addresses are in the report). Alternatively, members may their pay subscriptions and donations by BACS. Please ask your District Treasurer for the bank details.

However, it would be helpful where possible if one person collected or paid subscriptions for all tower members and submit them as above. Whichever method is used please ensure the District and/or Association Treasurer are made aware

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which tower and which members are covered by any payments to ensure payments are correctly attributed so members remain covered by the Association insurances. Thank you.

If you have any queries about membership or subscriptions then please let me know.

Please pay your subscriptions promptly and before 30 April 2021 – it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

Andrew Brewster
Association Treasurer (treasurer@eacr.org.uk)

Training resources

The St Martin's Guild is publishing a series of "virtual training sessions, webinars and online social events" via its website at <https://www.stmartinsguild.org/teaching/training-and-resources/>.

The talks cover a wide range of topics and there should be something for everyone. Do have a look.

Saxilby Simulator Competition Winner

We had 5 entries from 4 districts for the Saxilby Simulator competition, all were of a high standard, which made it more difficult for the judges to choose a winner. Fortunately the five judges were unanimous in their decision.

Very many congratulations to the Coggeshall band, the winners of the Saxilby Simulator donated by Jo and Ken Elliott.

Thank you to all who took part and to the judges for their deliberations.

Colin Chapman
Property Trustee

EACR-Notices

“EACR-Notices” is an email mailing-list used for distributing information from the Association to anyone interested. Only designated individuals (mainly Association and District officers) are allowed to send messages to it.

For some years it has operated via Yahoogroups, but Yahoo are closing this service in mid-December.

By the time you read this, we will have set up a replacement service hosted on our own web server. Everyone who was subscribed to the Yahoogroups list should have been automatically added to the replacement one, and should have received a “welcome” email.

If you are not already a member and would like to join the list, or if something went wrong with the transfer, you can join by visiting the list webpage at https://eacr.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/eacr-notices_eacr.org.uk, or by sending a blank email to eacr-notices-join@eacr.org.uk (in either case you then need to reply to a “please confirm” email).

Dates for your Diary

These events may be held “virtually”: please check with your District Officers

Jan	9	Annual District Meeting	SE	3:00
		Annual District Meeting	N	3:30
	16	Annual District Meeting	SW	2:30
		Annual District Meeting	NE	3:00
	23	Annual District Meeting	S	3:00
	30	Annual District Meeting	NW	4:00
Feb	6	Association Committee Meeting		2:30
Apr	8-10	Essex Ringing Course		
May	3	Association AGM		

EACR YouTube Goes Live

The Essex Association now has a YouTube channel for sharing video content on Association news, events etc.

You can access it via

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwQcGeDDYSzKVw-m4huwKZw>

and click on the subscribe button (its free) to get notification each time new content is uploaded.

We've started off with a series of interviews with members of the Association, to get to know them a bit better and find out what interesting stories they have to tell and what else they get up to besides ringing. If you have an interesting story to share, or know someone that does, please contact me at pro@eacr.org.uk. New content will be publicised on our social media sites and the website.

Don't forget to follow our social media sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/EssexBells>

<https://twitter.com/Essexbells>

And why not sign up to the email lists at EACRNotices by emailing EACR-Notices-join@eacr.org.uk to make sure you don't miss out on anything happening around the Districts and in the Association.

Vicki Chapman
Public Relations Officer

From the Registers

70th birthday: Yvonne Towler, Fred Bone

Little Baddow Tower – what did COVID ever do for us?

For a start, it stopped us ringing our bells! It was with dismay that, like every other tower in the land we ceased ringing in the middle of March. Initially we thought it would only be for a short while, but it wasn't, and after a few weeks we were missing not only ringing, but each other too.

Although our church did its best to keep us all connected, mainly through an extended weekly 'Pew News', we, as ringers, felt we needed more. Soon after a very quiet Easter we discovered RingingRoom and thought we'd give it a try. Thursday night is our normal Practice Night and, as we were all still available then, virtual Practices began. Nothing new in this, I hear you say – lots of other towers were doing the very same thing.

We floundered at our first attempt, but persevered and gradually became a little more proficient. Most of us found it quite challenging and very different from being in the tower and being able to make use of ropesight. We kept going all through the summer and, because we are getting better at it, we're now really enjoying it.

As a tower band we're fairly 'run of the mill', ringing basic methods and managing around 8 Quarter peals a year. RingingRoom took us back to basics but over time, we've mastered Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles and then, at our last Practice, a very good plain course of Grandsire Doubles at our first attempt in that method.

This is probably the experience of many towers who have given RingingRoom a go, but the very best bit for us in Little Baddow is that we have been able to include a former regular member of our tower, Christine Smiley, who returned to the USA some 8 years ago. She has missed ringing and us more than she ever thought she would, so was absolutely delighted when we invited her to join us. The time difference means that she joins us at lunchtime (California time) and although she was worried that she would have forgotten how to ring, she hadn't – it all came back straightaway!

So, what has COVID ever done for us – it's enabled the renewal of a friendship we thought we'd lost and as well as virtually ringing, we have plenty of time to chat too.

Wendy Godden

Provisional Dates for Essex Young Ringers Practices

and Dates for Outings and Contests in 2021

Sunday 31 January – Practices start at 4.30pm

Sunday 28 February – Practice

Saturday 27 March – Half Day Mini-outing and evening social

Saturday 17 April – Fifth SE England Youth Striking Contest (SEECON) at Writtle, Essex hosted by the Essex Association

Sunday 25 April – Practice

Sunday 30 May – Practice

Sunday 27 June – Practice

Sunday 4 July (pm) – Ringing World National Youth Contest mini-outing

Saturday 10 July – RWNYC in Worcester

Sunday 18 July – Practice

Saturday 25 September – Day Outing

Sunday 31 October – Practice

Sunday 28 November – Practice

Please note there obviously remains considerable uncertainty about practices, outings, SEECON, the format of the 2021 RWNYC and the state of ringing especially in the first half of next year. Please watch out for announcements via Email: essexyoungringers@eacr.org.uk, the Website: <http://eacr.org.uk/eyr/> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/youngsessexringers/

Christina Brewster
Youth Coordinator

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2021. 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 March 2021**.