



AGM 3 May 2021

The 142nd Annual General Meeting of the Essex Association of Change Ringers will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday, 3 May 2021 at 11.45.

Although the vaccination programme is progressing and cases are reducing, we are still unlikely to be able to gather in large numbers. Therefore, we are planning hold the AGM once again by video conferencing using a Zoom Webinar. Registration for the meeting will be required in advance, unfortunately members will not be able to attend without registering. This is to ensure that all attendees are members of the Association and are entitled to vote.

Guidance and practice sessions will also be made available to all members. A practice session is planned for 24 April 2021 at 11.45, registration and meeting details will be advertised nearer the time.

We have a full and interesting Agenda this year including three motions to amend the Association Rules. The first motion proposes to incorporate rule changes that will allow the organisation and management of the Association to be modernised and become more agile, the second motion will allow all members to vote (except non-resident life members) and the last motion proposes to change the majority required for Rule change approval.

Other agenda items include the election of Honorary Officers and naming of Appointed Officers and District Officers. The full Agenda and the Minutes of the 2020 Meeting will be included in the Annual Report. Please do come along and have your say on all these matters.

Sharon Lacey
General Secretary

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ROUNDS & ABOUT

Survival & Recovery Champions

To coordinate the flow of ideas and information, the Central Council (CCCBR) and Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) are coordinating a network of Recovery Champions across the country who will focus on recovery planning within the local area. They won't necessarily be the people doing all the work or dealing with mailing lists; but they will be in the best position to know how that could work in their local area.

Please consider becoming a Recovery Champion if you are planning activity in your local area. Networking with others will give you ideas, help and support – you don't have to do it all yourself. The Association has been asked to nominate people who will be good Champions, however particularly for the larger ringing societies, like ours, Champions will work best at District level or even more local than that. There is no limit to the number of Champions an Association can have.

The Recovery Champions will have access to a range of tools and contacts to help them meet the needs of their local area. It's all free and available to be shared with individual Tower Captains, churches and ringers.

If you think this initiative will be helpful to you and ringers, or you'd like to find out more, please contact Annie Hall who is coordinating the Recovery Champions at annie.hall@sky.com

Vicki Chapman
Public Relations Officer

South Benfleet on the BBC



The cockerel weather vane at St Mary's South Benfleet, a 'local landmark', made an appearance on BBC's *The Repair Shop* on 24th February. Dated from 1785, it had fallen in bad weather and was in need of serious repair. It was beautifully restored and is now waiting to be reset back on the tower.

Southern District Quiz Nights

At the beginning of the first lockdown, John Harpole of the Southern District suggested that it might be good to have a regular quiz night for members of the district to get together. The first one took place in May 2020 and have continued monthly – at the time of writing we have just held the tenth quiz. There have been between 25 and 30 quizzers each time, mostly from our district but with a few regular friends. The testing rounds have varied between Greek Deities and Christmas number 1 hits. John has provided variety by including picture and music questions. We have a leader board which is updated each time and plan to have a prize for the top team and top individual when we hopefully get back together again in summer 2021. It's been a great boost to see our ringing friends so regularly, and as one attendee said, it is the highlight of their month.

The District would like to extend its thanks to John for spending the time on developing and running the quiz night, no mean feat!

That's a First!

Quarter peals on bells:

1st Minimus: Clare Beech, William Beech, Samuel Beech

1st in hand: Michelle A Stephenson, Clive J Stephenson

Quarter peals on RingingRoom:

1st quarter: Valerie A Swain

1st quarter inside: Michelle A Stephenson

1st "virtual" quarter: Valerie A Swain, Michelle A Stephenson, Elaine J Woolward,
Gavin S Carpenter, Clive J Stephenson, Adam C Carpenter

1st in hand: John E Steed

*Information to end of February, from BellBoard reports mentioning "Essex".
Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.*

Practice Diary

All events subject to alteration

Apr	16	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	17	Advance practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	24	8-bell practice	Zoom	NE	2:30
	28	Advanced 8-bell practice	Terling	SE	7:45
May	1	Open practice		S	10:00
	10	Doubles & Minor practice	Zoom/RingingRoom	NE	7:30
	12	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	13	Virtual practice		SW	7:30
	14	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	15	Advance practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	19	District practice	Goldhanger	SE	7:45
26	Advanced 8-bell practice	Terling	SE	7:45	
Jun	5	District practice	Black Notley	N	7:30
	9	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	12	Raising & lowering expectations	Shalford	N	2:00
	18	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	18	District practice	Great Totham	SE	7:45
	19	10-bell practice	Tollesbury	SE	10:00
	19	Advance practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	30	Advanced practice	Terling	SE	7:45
Jul	7	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	8	District practice		SW	7:30
	15	District practice	Tollesbury	SE	7:45
	16	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	17	Advance practice	Braintree	N	7:30
	28	Advanced 8-bell practice	Terling	SE	7:45
Aug	11	10-bell practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	17	Doubles & Minor practice	St Osyth	NE	1:30
	20	Surprise Major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	21	Advance practice	Braintree	N	7:30

Survival & Recovery

We still don't know yet when a return to ringing as we knew it is likely to happen, and it is probably that it will be gradual and possibly regional when it does happen. In the meantime, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) have been collaborating to bring together a series of support events, articles and activities that ringers at local, group or Association level can use as a toolkit for getting ready.

At the moment the emphasis is on survival, concentrating on retaining existing ringers, by keeping people feeling wanted and finding ways of letting them enjoy ringing in whatever form ticks their boxes – handbells, online ringing, tolling a bell or joining virtual events such as webinars. It is hard finding new, stimulating things to do and maintain momentum so ideas have been sourced from around the country. Hopefully you'll find something you've not tried yet. The toolbox combines existing resources with case studies and opinion pieces relevant to the pandemic.

The toolkit can be found at <http://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox> and covers topics such as:

- Keeping in touch;
- Organising virtual ringing;
- Getting physical;
- Information for tower captains;
- Planning for return;
- Building good relationships with Church and community;

And much more!

Vicki Chapman
Public Relations Officer

New Website feature

We've added a new feature to our website (www.eacr.org.uk) In the footer of each page is now an option to "send this page" to someone via email. When you click on the link you should be presented with an open email containing that article/page link that you can forward on. This should help share information more easily.

Vicki Chapman
Public Relations Officer

Roadmap to Ringing Resumption

Published on 26 February

On Monday 22 February, the UK Government published a roadmap for exiting lockdown over the coming months, detailing how and when restrictions will be eased if everything goes to plan. It is a welcome and cautious framework for a return to normality. The roadmap provides us with an opportunity for ringing to return over the coming months.

While there is still detail to be studied, and every chance of change, all indications are that ringing in England at least will come out of lockdown as follows:

Stage 1 – 29 March

Rule of six outdoors will benefit handbell ringing (up to 15 for young people)

Stage 2 – no earlier than 12 April

Young ringers groups possible following the 'out of school settings' guidance (expect social distancing restrictions)

Stage 3 – no earlier than 17 May

Rule of six indoors enables ringing subject to social distancing rules to be confirmed (could still be 2m)

Stage 4 – no earlier than 21 June

All legal restrictions removed (it remains to be seen whether facemasks will still be suggested or mandated – that is not absolutely clear yet)

During any of these stages, ringers may still be cautious as not all ringers will be vaccinated, particularly young people. There is still risk of transmission and infection for us to be aware of; vaccination is not a passport. An article will be published in next week's *Ringling World** with updated analysis of transmission in ringing chambers and the benefits of ventilation. This will just be for guidance though to be interpreted in accordance with local circumstances – the law will be the primary driver for what ringing is possible.

This week's announcement applies to England only, and so we continue to keep in touch with our contacts in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to stay abreast of the situation there over the coming weeks. Scotland for instance has rule of six outdoors from 5 April and churches reopening for limited numbers from that date also. Then from 26 April at the earliest Scotland intends to go back to a "tiers" system of local restrictions.

* *RW* issue 5732 (5 March 2021), p. 192

This is the clearest we can be at the moment based on the information available, and after discussion with the Church of England Recovery Group this afternoon. It is a roadmap, with more detail to be considered as we move forward. We appreciate ringers are all now starting to plan ringing events from late June onwards, and being asked whether bells will be available for weddings, etc. The main word of caution is that the Government is at pains to stress that these dates are the earliest possible, so commitments made for shortly after those deadlines should be made with that in mind.

It does now feel like the end of an incredibly difficult year for ringing is in sight. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Simon Linford
President, CCCBR

Kelvedon's New Bell

John Elliott writes:

It is with pleasure that I send to you this photograph of the new Church Bell which has been cast for St. Mary's Parish Church, Kelvedon by Messrs John Taylor and Co. Loughborough. It was cast in memory of a local man John Papworth MBE who



amongst many voluntary roles within the village was Town Crier of Kelvedon. He was also a bell ringer and for many years wound the Church clock.

The new bell has now been tuned and weighs approximately 8cwt. The inscription from the old cracked 4th cast by John Briant in 1803 is visible within the inscription band.

It has taken both myself and the bell ringers an immense amount of time and effort to get this far and our sincere thanks must go to the EACR for their support and generosity. We are hopeful that the new bell can be delivered to the Church in April with the works completed by June. This schedule of course depends upon the current Covid restrictions.

Insurance

PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Association holds two insurance policies for its members. **These notes are intended as a guide only and are not intended as a substitute to the insurance policies held by the Association relevant to the period of cover, which contain the full policy definitions, terms, conditions and exclusions.**

Public Liability

The policy covers bell ringing, minor maintenance and fundraising events. No definition of 'minor maintenance' is available but it would cover routine maintenance and similar activities. Fundraising includes, for example, the use of halls for meetings and publicity and social events (including the use of mini-rings). The indemnity is up to £5,000,000 for every claim with a £250 excess and includes member-to-member liability. The policy is with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Public liability cover for major bell projects should be arranged separately.

Personal Accident

The policy covers all paid-up members of the Association (but not non-resident members), including any person under instruction prior to acceptance for membership of the Essex Association. The policy is underwritten by Allianz Insurance plc. Members are covered whilst ringing or attending to any works or travelling to or from a church or bell tower to practice or take part in ringing anywhere in the world. Cover and benefits payable have been extended in respect of age benefits (see table below). Cover is subject to the policy terms, conditions and exclusions — the Insured shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent accidents and any injury, loss or destruction or damage and shall take all reasonable steps to observe and comply with statutory or local authority laws, obligations and requirements.

Any member whose subscription is in arrears and who has not paid those arrears by the 30th April each year will not have their insurance cover renewed. It is therefore even more important that you do not let your membership lapse. In the event of a claim the Association Officers will decide whether or not you are a valid member based on membership lists, which the Association are required to maintain (Rule 11.3).

The above is a summary of the policies held and in any conflict with this summary and the actual policies, the policies will take precedence. Claims and queries concerning the extent of the cover, exclusions or operation of the policies should be directed in the first instance to the Association Treasurer so that the position may be clarified with the insurers.

Andrew Brewster
 Association Treasurer
 January 2021

Benefits payable in the event of an accident		Aged under 80	Aged 80-90
1	Death	£30,000	£2,500
2-3	The above amounts are also payable across the age ranges in respect of loss of sight of one or both eyes, loss of one or more limb(s), loss of hearing in one or both ears or loss of speech		
4	Permanent total disablement	£30,000	£30,000
5	Temporary total disablement	£300 pw for up to 104 weeks	Not covered
6	Temporary partial disablement	Not covered	Not covered
7	Paraplegia	£50,000	Not covered
8	Triplegia	£85,000	Not covered
9	Quadriplegia	£125,000	Not covered
Additional benefits are payable e.g. dental, optical, rehabilitation and counselling			

Did you know?

“Don’t Stop Believin’”, the 1982 hit single by Journey spent 32 weeks in the charts and reached No.6, 27 years after it was originally released.

The moral to us all, of this weird fact is that, after our long COVID journey, we must not give up, do not break our stay, we can and will carry on.

Don’t Stop Bel-hevin’.

Jo and Ken Elliott

Great Baddow said goodbye in January 2021 to two of our members, Jo and Ken Elliott, leaving to be nearer their family in Wivenhoe. They have been ringing at Great Baddow for many years and were stalwart supporters of the Sunday Service ringers and practice nights. Jo had been SE District Secretary for a long time, as well as Tower Correspondent, and Ken was also our Tower Treasurer. They were always willing to ring up the bells for weddings too.

Jo's excellent organising skills will be missed. Jo publicised the *Ringing Remembers* initiative, and organised several outings for our budding ringers in the area so that they could improve their skills.

Everyone at Great Baddow wishes them well in their new home – and, hopefully, their new tower when we all finally get back to ringing again.

Cecile Cross, Tower Captain, Great Baddow

From the Registers

50th birthday: Vicki Chapman

80th birthday: Roger Dorking

90th birthday: John Stephenson

60th wedding anniversary: Terry & Wendy Earle; Ann & Brian Beech

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of David Wallis, formerly of Felsted (died March 2020); Cliff Hunter, of Maldon All Saints (died Easter 2020); Jean Lewis, formerly of Great Yeldham (died April 2020); John Green, formerly of Stanford-le-Hope (died August 2020); Peter Nicol of Canewdon (died August 2020); Shirley Green, of Littlebury; John Thornhill, of South Ockendon; Rt Revd John Waine, former (1986–1996) Bishop of Chelmsford and EACR President; Tom Monk, formerly of Witham; Gordon Lucas, Life Member, of Langdon Hills; Richard A Huband, of Eastwood; and Allan Pye, formerly of Southminster

Shirley Green

25th July 1937 – 12th December 2020

Holy Trinity, Littlebury bell ringers are sad to report the death of Shirley Green who died in December 2020 after a valiant fight with cancer which she fought with her usual stoicism and faith.

When Littlebury changed their practice night to a Thursday they advertised for ringers. After years of being fascinated by the bells and thinking you had to be invited, Shirley started learning in July 1985 and her daughter, Helen, joined 3 weeks later.

Shirley rang her first quarter peal in October 2009 rapidly followed by her 2nd and final in July 2010 to celebrate 25 years of ringing. Both on the treble at Littlebury.

She enjoyed the Wednesday afternoon practices at Saffron Walden and they helped her improve but it was the ringers and ringing at Littlebury that she loved and was so pleased to see flourishing. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

May she rest in peace.

Isabelle Page

Allan Pye

It is with regret that I have to report the death of Allan Pye.

Allan was the last Tower captain of St. Leonards Church Southminster where he and his wife were active worshippers.

Allan made a huge contribution to bell Ringing and took on training a team of novices single handed to keep the Southminster bells ringing.

He died aged 81 and his funeral will be held on the 15th April at 2.30pm. Unfortunately attending and ringing to remember Allan is under COVID

Tony Eaton

Dates for your Diary

All events subject to alteration

Apr	10–11	Virtual Essex Ringing Course			
	24	QP Day with a Difference		SE	
May	3	Association AGM	Online via Zoom Webinar		
	8	District Ramble		NW	
	8	Striking Competition & Business Meeting	Inworth	SE	10:00
Jun	5	Spring Meeting	Zoom/RingingRoom	NE	2:00
	12	District Quarterly Meeting & Striking Competition		SW	10:30
Jul	3	Association Striking Competitions (tbc)			2:30
	3	Evening Meeting & Business Meeting	Finchingfield	N	5:00
Aug	7	District outing		N	

Association Dinner 2021

Put the date in your diary now
Saturday 9 October 2021

66th 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 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 July 2021**.