



Registered Charity No. 292250

NEWSLETTER

No. 84

October 2004

District meeting held at Bentley Common on Sat. 25th Sept 2004

The Master reported that six teams entered the Quiz Night held on 24th April and Bentley Common were the winners. The evening raised £142.70 plus £48 raffle profit. The District Outing visited 5 towers in Cambridgeshire, 16 members attended (less than last year) and £25 was raised (£93 last year).

Election of New Members:

Cathryn Corns from Prittlewell, prop by Peter Sloman, sec by Martin Newman

Alan Ball from South Weald, prop by Vic Dale, sec by Beth Johnson

Phil Gay was ratified as a non-resident life member, elected prior to a peal at South Weald on 31st July.

Another Other Business:

Open Day – the Master thanked all towers especially the openers and stewards and wanted to record special thanks to Chris Bailey for all his hard work to ensure the day was a success. £1600 was raised with 125 day tickets sold (appropriate number) at £12 each. It was agreed beforehand that £2 from each day ticket would be given to Basildon with the Association taking £10 so £250 went to Basildon's bell fund.

District Programme for 2005 – the Master asked for suggestions for events and hosts for meetings. Brian Beech offered to run another Quiz Night but suggested a more central venue.

The Master gave some reminders:

Life Member nominations must be submitted in writing to Mary Bone by 1st December.

Sat. 27th November is the Association Training Day to be held at Terling.

The last District practice for the year is at Thorpe Bay on Wednesday 10th November at 7.30 p.m.

November's District meeting and Call Change Competition is at Eastwood with a 3.30 p.m. prompt start.

The Master updated the meeting on the 125th anniversary peals: only two had successfully been rung, at Downham and Bentley Common although more were planned.

The Master thanked Rev. Rob Rose for taking the day's service, John Stanley for playing the organ and the Bentley Common ringers for the use of the bells and for a splendid tea.

The Service Collection raised £24, the profit from tea, kindly donated by the Bentley Common ringers, was £58 and the raffle made £22.

There being no other business, the Master declared the meeting closed.



OPEN DAY DIARY

By Andy Martin

It is the evening of Tuesday 31st August. I'm relaxing, if you can call painting the bathroom door relaxing!

The phone rings. "Hello Andy, Chris Bailey here. Are you sitting comfortably?"

Of course yesterday was the Southern District Open Day.

Monday started early, 7:30am getting petrol ready for the day, then round to Chris Bailey's house in Shenfield to pick up the last bits and pieces. A quick chat about the day ahead and now it's time to go to Navestock, the first tower which was due to open at 9:00am.

I arrive at about 8:40am to find nearly 100 visitors queuing at the door. Steve Nash is busy writing out makeshift Day Tickets as I've got the tickets in my bag! I'm now beginning to panic. The real tickets are handed over, a pack of 47. Two minutes later and Steve's after more and I have to give him another 30, which were meant for South Weald. Ringing starts at 8:45am. Oh no, I get the feeling things are beginning to go wrong. I had better get cracking! As I run down the path, Steve shows me that he's nearly run out of tickets again. Aaargh!

A quick dash to Bentley Common and I find that ringing has already started! It's still only 8:50am! I shout a warning to Ron Brown and Julie Pye to expect an invasion and I'm off to South Weald. At least I can slow down a bit now because they don't start until 9:30.

How silly of me to think that! 9:10 and the bells are being raised by the first band! Inside there is frantic activity to get things ready. I hand over a pack of day tickets and immediately two are sold. Off to Shenfield next but I pass by Brentwood who have already begun and it's hardly 9:30.

Arrive at Shenfield at 9:40 and all is quiet. At last, a rest. I'm in the porch searching out the last of my day tickets to hand to Mo when the first of the grabbers arrive. Luckily Mo follows them and they can get started.

Right, now to pop into Ingrave. I get there for about 9:50 and to my amazement they're just starting. In the first official hour of the day we have simultaneous ringing at six towers and are running just over half an hour ahead. Surely it must slow down soon.

Better get to Basildon, it starts at 11:00, but the way things are going there probably will be a riot there already! I pull into the car park at 10:30 but no one is here. At last I can have a cup of coffee. I go to look at my schedule but can't find it anywhere. In the rush of the morning I've lost it, plus the very last 3 day tickets. Blast!

It is gone 11:00 before ringing starts and the first hour is slow. Only 25 people turn up. Oh well, they must be all going to come this afternoon. No, only a further 55 turn up for the second session. I can't work this one out!

Now for mopping up. After a lunch break it's time to get to Leigh to collect cash. There's the usual queue of people going up the stairs. Now remember this, the Leigh Stewards are using walkie talkies to communicate and monitor numbers in the tower, calling down for the next group when ready. Right, times up, how much cash is there? £11.... is that all? During the rush of the morning, I hadn't realised that most of the visitors had bought day tickets. So how many were sold? I've seen at least 100 different people today and 12 times say 80 that's... Mental maths is not working at the moment.

I dash to Thorpe Bay to see Ron Brown at the end of his last session as a steward. People are still arriving with five minutes to go and the towers full. The finish time comes and goes and still people arrive, oh dear. There is now a group of ringers on the stairs refusing to let anyone out until they have had a ring! It is at least 15 minutes over time before the doors can be closed.

Next is Prittlewell. And despite the fact that Southend United were so inconsiderate to hold a home match today, all is well and ringing ends nearly on time.

I now skip Eastwood and go straight to Rochford. Here it is packed but calm. Those who have just rung are coming out with rather dazed expressions on their faces. "It's like going to the dentist" one woman mutters as she leaves. I've heard some strange descriptions for the Rochford peal but this was by far the strangest.

Final stop is Rayleigh, which, as at many of the other towers, has over run by 15 minutes. That's it, the day is over and not one incident, no broken ropes or stays, no riots and the majority of the visitors seemed pleased. After a short celebratory drink I can go home and sleep for the first time in 24hrs.

"Hello Andy, Chris Bailey here. Are you sitting comfortably?" "Er, yes". I'm waiting for the bad news. What was broken? Who has said what? Is there a complaint? "I've just banked the money from yesterday. I collected the last bits from the stewards today and if you add that to the amount from yesterday plus....." remembering the figures I scribble down calculations on the nearest scrap of paper - I'm beginning to lose count.

"So how many day tickets were actually sold?" I ask. "Well, you printed 180, I've got 53, but there were some lost and a few people were still using the receipts Steve wrote out, so if we..." Again maths is straight out the window.

Eventually we decide that 125 Day Tickets were sold, a rather apt number. Now the maths kicks in. 125 times twelve is 1500 plus loose change for those who paid by the tower...£1606 collected. Once expenses (postage) has been paid and donation to Basildon taken off, the money raised for the BRF is about £1300. Yes, that's £1300. I would have been happy with £800, £600 if the weather was really bad, but this is beyond all expectations.

--oOo--

The success of The Southern District Open Day is staggering. It is down to not one person, but all those who volunteered their help.

Thanks go to: the district committee for spending the last 18 months planning the day down to the last detail, particularly Chris Bailey for corresponding with all the towers and stewards;
to the roving Stewards Steve Nash, Ron Brown, Julie Pye, Steve Hunter, Paul Cammiade, Mo Venus & Steve Clayton, Andrew Beech and John Harpole;
to Clare Beech for allowing Andrew out so soon after the birth of their second son. (Congratulations by the way);
the ringers and parishioners at each tower for opening up, stewarding, providing refreshments and of course for giving us permission to use the bells;
and finally, to the visitors who came from all over England and Wales and whose generosity made the day the success it was.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers Essex Trophy 2004

This year's competition for the Essex Trophy was held on 11th September. The competition was founded in the centenary year of the Essex Association and has been an annual event in the ringing calendar with the exception of 2001 when it was cancelled as it was due to be held the weekend following the September 11th attacks in the USA.

The Essex Association celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year and the competition was held in the recently augmented 10 bell tower in Hornchurch as one of the events in the Association's anniversary year.

Seven bands from the South East of England competed for the trophy, ringing a touch of 317 Stedman Caters, described by its composer, Alan Barber, as "interesting but not too difficult".

Judges David Hull and Paul Carless commented that all bands produced an extremely competent standard of ringing, with results ranging from 70% to 90%.

The winner for the third time in succession was the Guildford Diocesan Guild with 90%, closely followed by the Essex Association with 86%. In 3rd place was the Sussex Association.

The full results are:

Guildford Diocesan Guild 90%
Essex Association 86%
Sussex County Association 78%
Hertford County Association 76%
Middlesex County Association 74%
Surrey County Association 70%
Kent County Association 61%

Steve Nash



District Call Change Competition

Prior to the November District Meeting at Eastwood on 20th November.

This is 'a bit of fun' to encourage the less experienced ringers, or those who haven't entered a competition before, to join in.

Towers who are planning on taking part and who have a number of 'expert' ringers - by all means enter a team but please bear in mind the spirit of this competition.

Please be aware that those taking part DO NOT have to be members of the Association, so don't feel you can't enter a band just because you don't have sufficient Association members.

If there isn't enough from one tower why not join forces with another to enter a joint team.

Likewise, there's nothing stopping a tower entering more than one team if they have sufficient ringers wanting to take part.

The attached rules may seem a bit formal but they are only there as a guideline, they are not set in stone and should be classed as just a starting point which can be 'massaged' for future years (they are basically a concoction of other districts rules!)

If possible, so that we know what to expect, could teams please let either myself, Chris, Phil or Mo know which towers anticipate taking part by the Thursday before - that's Thursday 18th November.

If you have any other questions about this please feel free to give me a ring on 01708 440939.

Look forward to seeing many teams taking part.

Best wishes,
Andrew Beech



*Gerald Cash from Brentwood has recently rung his first Quarter Peal.
He rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Chigwell.*



Do you have any news for your newsletter?
Rung any special quarter peals, any birthdays or anniversaries to be mentioned?
Going on a ringing outing – send in a report with a photo!
Having any fundraising events that need advertising?
Know any (clean) bellringing jokes?

Send your contributions for this newsletter to Mo Venus (address in Annual Report),
hand to me or a District Officer at any ringing event,
or e-mail me at mo.venus@bbc.co.uk or movns@aol.com
The final newsletter for 2004 will be published during the
second week of December.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers



SOUTHERN DISTRICT

2004 Diary of Events

JANUARY - DECEMBER	125th ANNIVERSARY PEALS	(District coordinator: Terry Earle)	
Wednesday 10 November	District Practice	Thorpe Bay (8)	7:30 pm
Saturday 20 November	DISTRICT MEETING	Eastwood (6)	3:30 pm
	Preceded by Call Change Competition		
Saturday 11 December	Association Carol Service	Great Dunmow	3:30 pm
2005			
Saturday 22 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Rayleigh (8)	3:30 pm

District Meeting arrangements (*times for Tea, Meeting & Evening Ringing are approximate*):

3:30pm: Afternoon Ringing, **4:30pm:** Service, **5:00pm:** Tea, **6:15pm:** Meeting, **7:00pm:** Evening Ringing

The Essex Association of Change Ringers

***SOUTHERN DISTRICT
CALL CHANGE COMPETITION***

General

1. The competition shall take place at a tower within the District and shall be open to all ringers within the District.
2. The District Master, or a steward appointed by the Master, shall supervise the event. He shall be the only person with the ringers in the ringing room and shall check that the competition test piece is rung correctly in accordance with the rules.
3. The District Officers shall appoint one or two judges to assess the quality of the ringing, give comments and announce the results.
4. A trophy shall be presented to the winning team (if successful in 2004 and if it is wanted as an annual event) and shall be held in safekeeping until the next competition. Provision shall be made for the trophy to be suitably engraved.
5. If necessary, the District Master or his nominee shall give ruling concerning matters not covered by these rules, and any such decision shall be final.

Teams

6. In order to encourage less experienced bands to enter, towers which came first, second or third in the district 6-bell method competition may only enter this Call Change competition if the band contains at least three ringers who did not take part in the 6-bell method competition for the current year.
7. Each team shall be allowed no more than one substitute nominated on the day by the District Officers.
8. Towers with insufficient members under Rule 6 and other than the provision in Rule 7 may join with another tower and enter a joint team.
9. A ringer may only ring in one team. If a last minute substitution is required for another team and there are no spare district ringers available then, in this case, a ringer may ring in another team but only in agreement with the District Officers.

Practice

10. Two minutes of practice rounds and changes (not judged) shall be allowed after which the bells must be set.

