



Essex Association of Change Ringers

NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 100

December 2007

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**PLEASE NOTE CHRIS'S NEW
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Deputy Master:

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Your Annual Subscription is due

Your subscription for 2008 falls due on 1st January. The rates are the same as this year:

Ringling Members	£8
Junior Ringling Members	£4
	(minimum)
	(aged 17 or under on 1st January)
Friends	£4
Non-Resident Life Members	£8

Paid life membership

Ringling £160

Friends £80

Avoid the queue at the ADM and make your payment early.

Please send your tower's subscriptions direct to Chris Bailey, 6 Parkway, Shenfield, Essex, CM15 8LH, or pay at the District Advent/Carol Service. (Cheques payable to EACR)

December 8th - District Carol Service at Langdon Hills 3.30pm

See last page of newsletter

January 19th 2008 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING at Leigh on Sea

3.30pm

First at Basildon

The Deanery Confirmation service was the catalyst for a quarter peal attempt at St Martin of Tours, Basildon on Sunday October 14th. For the tower captain, Roger Hobson, it was his first attempt, and the first by a ringer who has learnt to ring at the belltower. A foggy, cold morning gave way to beautiful autumnal afternoon, which meant that the temperature in the ringing chamber had risen to over 25°C, so the blinds were lowered and fan turned on. After a nervous start, a creditable quarter peal was rung on the back six by a band of Basildon ringers and helpers, with a guest drummer.



14 October 2007 Basildon, St Martin of Tours

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

48 Minutes

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Roger Hobson | 4 Stuart Ricketts |
| 2 Hilary Donoghue | 5 John Harpole (c) |
| 3 Gordon Lucas | 6 Steve Hunter |

For the Basildon Deanery Confirmation service, conducted by the former Bishop of Bradwell, Rt Rev Derek Bond.
1st attempt – 1. 1st Doubles in the tower.

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT
CALL CHANGE
COMPETITION
Shenfield
Saturday 17 November
2007**

Many thanks to Anne & Paul Bray from Kirby-le-Soken (NE) for acting as judges for the competition. Four teams entered the competition this year and the results were:

1st North Ockendon (top)
22½ faults rang 4th

2nd Bentley Common/South Weald (right)
31 faults rang 2nd

3rd South Weald (below right)
37 faults rang 1st

4th Hutton (bottom)
40 faults rang 3rd

Pictured as follows from top, left to right, treble to tenor:

North Ockendon

*Hilary Spooner, Andrew Beech,
Matthew Scott, Michael Warren,
Alex Barnes, Brian Beech*

Bentley Common & South Weald

*Ron Brown, Rowena Marshall,
Paul Trueman, Emily Newton,
John Cousins, Alan Moody*

South Weald

*Vic Dale, Marie Jorysz, Beth
Johnson, Amy Gelderbloem,
Ian Jorysz, Richard Pearson*

Hutton

*Susan McKay, Georgina Dearing,
Renee Page-Jones,
Chris Bailey, Raymond Jones,
Robin Page-Jones*



Minutes of Southern District - District Meeting at Shenfield
Saturday, 17th November, 2007

Call Change Competition. Prior to the meeting, the Master, Andrew Beech, thanked Anne & Paul Bray (Kirby-le-Soken) for acting as Judges to the competition. The results were as follows:

1 st	North Ockendon	22 ½ faults	(rang 4 th)
2 nd	Bentley Common & South Weald	31 “	(“ 2 nd)
3 rd	South Weald	37 “	(“ 1 st)
4 th	Hutton	40 “	(“ 3 rd)

Congratulations to North Ockendon on their victory and thanks to everyone who supported the event. Hilary Spooner received the trophy on behalf of the team.

Andrew said that although it was disappointing that only 4 teams entered, he was pleased that those who had participated had performed well. He also praised those for whom this was their first attempt at entering a striking competition.

The Meeting then followed with the Master Welcoming the 26 members present and also 2 visitors, Derek Talbot (Unattached, Northern District and Tunbridge Wells) and Ian Cochrane (Tunbridge Wells). In addition, the Master thanked the Rector, Revd. Canon Paul Brett for taking the Service, Gerald Evans for playing the organ and the St. Mary's parish Choir for leading the singing, and finally the Shenfield ringers, especially Ray Jones (and ringers from Hutton), for the use of the bells and for providing tea. He also thanked the Service touch band. (*Hilary Spooner, Beth Johnson, John Harpole, Derek Talbot, Ian Cochrane and Andrew Beech*)

Apologies for Absence were received from Renee & Robin Page-Jones (who had to leave before the meeting), Lauren Spooner and Lyn Benson.

Minutes of previous meeting, the District Meeting, held at Thorpe Bay on 15th September 2007 had been printed in the Newsletter and were approved and signed by the Master as a true record.

Matters Arising.

- The Quiz Night at North Ockendon was enjoyed by 8 teams, the most for several years. The event raised £266.10 profit for the Bell Restoration Fund and was won by a team from North Ockendon.

Correspondence. The Secretary, Chris Bailey, reported that:

- The Association Secretary, Mary Bone, had emailed the districts about the Association's Annual Dinner. In recent years the numbers attending had been declining and the financial viability of holding such an event was in question. This year's dinner had been a very enjoyable evening with good food and entertainment and a provisional booking had been made at The County Hotel Chelmsford for 2008. However, she was seeking suggestions for future Association-wide formal/semi-formal events which the membership might find more appealing than a formal dinner. The matter is due for discussion at the February Executive Meeting of Association and District Officers. Please let your District Officers have your views.
- Ringing World notices. The regular delivery of the magazine on a Friday has become much more erratic often making the inclusion of a notice advertising a meeting on the next day (Saturday) irrelevant. In future, notices with contact details will appear for two weeks only, i.e. 3rd and 2nd Friday before the event. The District diary is also available on the website and on the Agendas of all District meetings.

Executive Committee Report Lyn Benson had submitted a written report of the Committee's October meeting which was read out by Phil Harrison, (copy attached to these Minutes). Details will also be included in the next Newsletter.

- One significant point was that a proposition is to be put to the next AGM to amend the rules relating to subscriptions so that as from 2009, members 65 years old or more will no longer be exempt from the annual subscription.
- In reply to a query about the Child Protection Policy as produced by the House of Bishops and now adopted by the Diocese, Steve Nash, (Association Master and Association Child Protection Officer) said that he was very unhappy about the situation. The Diocese had disregarded the previous agreement whereby they agreed that the CCCBR wording would be suitable for bell ringers. He was seeking further meetings with the Diocesan representatives to sort matters out. As things stand parishes could require **all** ringers to be CRB checked which is clearly unworkable and unnecessary.

Election of New Members. There were no nominations for new members of any category.

District Programme for 2008. A copy of the programme had been circulated and all venues had been confirmed. Thanks were extended to those towers hosting events.

Any Other Business.

The Master raised the following:

- The next District Newsletter will be the 100th edition and articles for it should be sent to Beth Johnson of South Weald as soon as possible.
 - Any nominations for Life Membership must be submitted in writing to the Association Secretary by 1st December.
 - The current District Master and Secretary/Treasurer will be standing down at the ADM in January 2008. He reminded the meeting that 'job descriptions' had been published in the April edition of the Newsletter.
- Ray Jones (Shenfield) enquired if there were any places still available on the Association Training day, 24th November. Steve Nash said that places are available and that he should contact Vicki Chapman as soon as possible.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that:

- Copies of the new Recruitment Poster are available either from *The Central Council* website (www.ccabr.org.uk) or from Mrs B.M. Wheeler, 2 Orchard Close, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1XE free of charge, except postage (all cheques for postage should be made payable to *Central Council Publications*), see *The Ringing World* of 26 October 2007 (issue 5035)
- Subscriptions for 2008 can be paid in advance. Please consider signing the Gift Aid Declaration to increase income tax recovery for the Association.
- A limited stock of Association pin badges (£1) are available from the Secretary.
- Beth Johnson would welcome more entries for the caption competition to the photograph in the August edition of the District Newsletter.

Finally.

- The Service Collection raised £53.76 (and 2 euros.!))
- The profit from Teas, kindly donated by the Shenfield (and Hutton) Ringers, was £50.00. (Because of St. Mary, Shenfield Parish policy, we were not permitted to hold a raffle on the premises).

The District Advent/Carol Service will be held at Langdon Hills on Saturday 8th December with ringing from 3.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 6.35pm. Further ringing available until 8.00pm.

12th October 2007 EACC meeting held at Danbury Hall 2-30pm

After prayers and apologies of absence, we signed the rolls, and read and adopted the minutes of the previous February meeting. Matters arising were the Charnbell mobile ring – a letter had been received asking for a donation of £2,000; the members were sceptical and decided to ask for more information.

The committee agreed on a donation to the Cathedral of £100 for its use for our AGM and a donation to the Boreham choir was deferred this year. A member asked if coffee could be provided in the cathedral next year.

Some time was then spent on the Annual Dinner. It was reported that 64 members attended and apart from the vegetarian, the meals provided by the County Hotel were good. The expected loss of £300 will be a lot less as the hotel only charged for meals eaten and not the 80 that had been provisionally ordered. Further discussion about lack of attendance followed and a decision to be made at the next meeting.

There then followed the district reports about ringing and social events in their areas. Levels of support varied. Quarter peal and striking competitions and ringing outings being the better attended.

Colin Chapman reported 62 peals rung this year with the most in Terling. 428 QP's rung.

The Education officer reported on the Essex course; as well as being supported with 72 students there was an excellent talk by Steve Colman which involved square dancing to methods. The Education Officer is standing down after 7 years. She was thanked, and in turn thanked all the tutors.

Officers were appointed, no change apart from the Web master now to be Fred Bone.

There then followed a discussion on Child Protection in the ringing chambers, because of a policy of the House of Bishops, all visitors to towers may have to be checked out. Members felt this to be totally out of proportion, and that we were to be firm and to fight this with some vigor.

Grant applications were received from Earls Colne, Orsett, Ridgewell and Pebmarsh. The respective sums awarded were £350, £750, deferred and £1,800. Thanks were received from previous recipients,

A proposal will be put to next years AGM to change the rules so that members 65 years old or more will no longer be exempt from the annual subscription.

Property trustees reported that trophies were in good order. And the meeting concluded with any other business being - AGM '08 tea in the N district and the striking competition in the NW.

QUARTER PEAL DAY IN THE NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Raymond Jones organised another of his quarter peal days on November 8th for seven ringers from seven different towers. We met at High Ongar which was the first tower of the day. Unfortunately we lost that quarter about half way through. (This is the first time we have lost one on one of Raymond's quarter peal days.) However, North Weald, Epping Upland and Nazeing were all successful.

The ringers were: Chris Bailey (Brentwood), Wendy Hooper (Burnham on Crouch), Roger Butt (Hornchurch), Renee Page-Jones (Hutton), Bryan Shedel (Ingatstone), Raymond Jones (Shenfield) and Tony Eaton (Tillingham).



URGENT! Will YOU take the baton.....?

New District Master and District Secretary/Treasurer needed in January 2008

Both Andrew and Chris announced at the 2007 ADM in January that they will be retiring at the 2008 ADM.

It is imperative that the district finds new members to take over these important roles. We all know that the Southern District is a very good and profitable district – for example, it is always near the top when it comes to raising money for the BRF and the companionship and fellowship of the district members is highly praised. This has been partly due to the hard work and the behind-the-scenes organisation of the current and past officers of the district over the many years.

If you think YOU have the necessary skills and dedication to take the district forward here are details of what the posts demand.

The Secretary and Treasurer post do not have to be one and the same person – there is scope for them to be split out into separate jobs to lessen the ‘burden’ if so wished so that the District Officers would then be Master, Deputy Master, Secretary, Treasurer.

The person(s) needs to have certain skills - eg. organisational skills, be motivating, happy to organise events and cajole people into attending, consider the needs of the various towers in the district, and of course be enthusiastic about ringing! They also need to be computer literate and able to use email as a vast amount of regular communication between D.Master and D.Secretary, as well as between District Officers and Association Officers, is done through email.

Job Description – DISTRICT MASTER

To agree agenda items for District meetings with the District Secretary. To chair district meetings, both quarterly and Annual (ADM). To run the ringing at practices and meetings, ensuring that each person present has a chance to ring. To attend Association Committee Meetings (1st Saturday in February and 2nd Saturday in October). To be altogether responsible for the affairs of the District. To obtain judges for the Striking Competitions and to be in charge on the day, ensuring that the Rules are kept. To write a District Master’s report for the ADM, itemising events for the previous year. To aim to visit towers in the District on their practice night occasionally. To encourage training at all levels within the District.

Job Description – DISTRICT SECRETARY /TREASURER

To arrange meetings and practises within the District by :
Writing letters requesting events to be held at towers. Checking with the tower correspondent that the arrangements are in hand. Sending the advertisements to “The Ringing World” for publication in time. Preparing agendas for items to be covered (with agreement of District Master). To maintain a Receipt Book for all donations, subscriptions and collections, together with an Account Book. A receipt is given for each type of money received and is paid into the Association bank account. All records of payments paid in are sent to the Association Treasurer. To maintain a subscription list of members who have paid and those who have not paid. This should tie in with the receipts written. These records are cross checked with information received from the Association Treasurer.

Reports to prepare: Report and updated list of members and tower correspondents, for the Association Annual Report. Report for the ADM. Reports for the Association Committee Meetings (2 per year).

If anyone is interested in more information about either position, please contact Andrew or Chris.

There are more in-depth notes for the District Secretary/Treasurer job if anyone would like to see them.



The Winner:

It's alright. You're safe. You can come out of hiding now, they've started ringing!
*Rowena Marshall,
Bentley Common.*

Other entries:

Robin Page-Jones
"Some people will do anything to get ahead"

Renee Page-Jones
"They do say two heads are better than one"

Margaret Bailey
"Peek-a-boo!"

Chris Bailey
"Oh bother, I thought I'd given the paparazzi the slip"

Next - a Technical Quiz

In 1988, the bells at St Peter's South Weald were repaired and augmented to eight. The two new bells were inscribed. How much did it cost PER LETTER for the inscription?

Answers to Beth Johnson - contact details right.

The Association's Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner this year was held at the County Hotel Chelmsford. The turn-out was disappointingly low at just 64 members and guests, several below the break-even point for the event.

However, those members who did attend enjoyed a good meal, good fellowship and excellent musical entertainment from SongCycle, a male quartet from St. Thomas of Canterbury, Brentwood.

The Executive Committee were told that the event sustained a loss of between £200 and £300 this year but that the County Hotel had offered very favourable terms for the 'fixture' to continue. Accordingly, after a vote in which the Southern District abstained, it was decided that a provisional booking should be made for next year.

Attendance at the event has been on the decline for the last few years but it was felt that an Association such as ours ought to have an annual social event such as a formal dinner or such other gathering as the wider membership would prefer.

Accordingly, please let your District Officers have some 'feedback'. Do you want an event, should it be formal or less so, what type of event would you support?

Brentwood's Bells – an update

The bells at St. Thomas of Canterbury Brentwood are in dire need of a major overhaul. The No. 2 bell is no longer ringable and the Association have conditionally granted a total of £12,000 towards the major refurbishment.

This is a generous and substantial sum which has been gratefully received. Our fund raising continues and we have held two sponsored Teddy Bear Parachute Jumping events which have been very successful. Work is underway to submit grant applications to other bodies.

In April this year we succeeded in obtaining a DAC Certificate to proceed with investigation work. The main issue to be resolved is what has to be done to the original cast-iron frame. English Heritage is keen to preserve it as it is of some historic interest but preliminary inspections cannot be definitive enough to say that refurbishment is a practical solution – this will not be known until the bells are out, the frame cleaned and a through inspection undertaken.

In the meantime, we are seeking estimates for all aspects of the work such as are known at present so that a Faculty can be obtained.

St Thomas' Church will celebrate its 125th Anniversary of dedication on 26th April next year and it is fervent hope that we will achieve completion of the bell refurbishment sometime during the year.

If you are able to help us achieve this ambition either through financial donation or offer of physical labour we would be pleased to hear from you.

Chris Bailey

Thanks to everyone for so many interesting entries to the newsletter. Please send any and all reports, pictures, notices etc to Beth Johnson at b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, tel 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

Rayleigh Outing October 6th

On Saturday October 6th, Rayleigh ringers decamped en masse to Bedfordshire for their annual ringer's outing. The weather was kind to us, it stayed dry and fairly bright all day, and there were no horrendous traffic hold ups to make us late, as had happened in a previous outing. Everyone arrived at Ampthill in good time for the first ring of the day, which was a reasonably well struck course of Superlative.

On to Campton, a nice light (6cwt) eight, where we rang some Cambridge Major to start with followed by the usual mix of methods. Clifton was next, another eight. Here we attempted St. Clements which sounded somewhat different to normal, mainly because the treble ringer, being unfamiliar with the method, treble bob hunted for the first lead! Everyone realised what was happening and kind of jumped a place at the lead end, which resulted in the course eventually coming round! On leaving Campton, two vehicles with identical sat-nav systems went in opposite directions in order to find the pub for lunch. Fortunately both arrived safely, although one was speedier. Lawrence took the perhaps less than wise decision to follow Andy to the pub. Andy, unaware of this, was on his Honda VFR and soon left Lawrence behind. Fortunately Lawrence found his way and did not have to miss his dinner!

The pub was very cosy; we had a whole room to ourselves which was very pleasant. The food was a little slow to arrive but the quality and quantity of it more than made up for the wait. Everyone enjoyed their meal, and one or two even stayed on a little longer for plum crumble and custard.

Old Warden after lunch was a ground floor ring, for which we were all grateful having had such enormous lunches. On the grass outside the church we were delighted to see a young squirrel happily having his lunch! He seemed more than happy to pose for lots of photographs. However he took us all by surprise when he took a nut from Andy's hand. No one was more surprised than Andy who leaped nearly as high as the squirrel who then ran up the nearest tree.

Haynes provided us with the heaviest ropes and the fattest sallies any of us had ever seen. It was a real effort to get fingers around them on this 6cwt six. This tower made us very welcome with its facilities for making tea and coffee if we wanted it, as well as other facilities which some of us most definitely did want!

By the time we reached Mauldon most of us were starting to wilt a little, and we managed some less than impressive ringing in what must be the warmest ringing room in the country, probably even hotter than Basildon in the summer. Our final tower was Upper Gravenhurst. A redundant church with a very impressive Norman arch. Five bells with a long draught, but not too hard to handle. They were not the most tuneful ring of the day though. Dog lovers amongst us were pleased to meet the churchwarden's Bearded Collie. She was so friendly she came and got in the car with us and had a cuddle on our laps.

By the time we finished the last ring of the day, it was nearly seven in the evening. Everyone was tired and was ready to go home. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make it such an enjoyable day, and special thanks to John Harpole for his excellent organisation in finding seven good towers and a great pub for lunch!

Left to right: Sheila Smith, Christina Kelly, Sarah Pye, Peter Smith, Simon Smith, Pat Smith, Cathryn Corns, David Belcham, John Harpole, Lydia Roberts, Tony Lowe, Steve Hunter, Alan Smith, Andy Martin – photos by Steve Hunter.



From left to right: Sheila Smith (seated), Peter Smith, Lydia Roberts, David Belcham, Tony Lowe, Simon Smith, John Harpole





The Essex Association of Change Ringers

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

2008 Diary of Events



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
Saturday 19 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Leigh-on-Sea (8)	3:30 pm
Saturday 2 February	<i>Association Executive Committee Meeting</i>	Danbury	2:30 pm
Saturday 16 February	District Afternoon Practice	Ingrave (6)	3:00-5:00 pm
Saturday 15 March	DISTRICT MEETING	Great Wakering (6)	3:30 pm
Saturday 19 April	CONSOLIDATION TRAINING DAY	(TBC)	(tbc)
Thursday 10 April	<i>Association - Essex Ringing Course</i>	Coggeshall	10,11,12 April
Monday 5 May	<i>Association AGM - Chelmsford</i>	Ringling in N District	
Saturday 17 May	STRIKING COMPETITION	North Ockendon (6)	5:00 pm
Saturday 21 June	DISTRICT OUTING	(location tbc)	from 10:30 am
Saturday 5 July	<i>Association Striking Competition FINALS</i>		
Saturday 20 September	DISTRICT MEETING	Basildon (8)	3:30 pm
Saturday 27 September	QUIZ NIGHT	North Ockendon	7:00 for 7:30 pm
Saturday 4 October	<i>Association Annual Dinner</i>	County Hotel, Chelmsford	
Saturday 11 October	<i>Association Executive Committee Meeting</i>	Danbury	2:30 pm
Saturday 18 October	District Afternoon Practice	Rayleigh (8)	3:00-5:00 pm
Saturday 15 November	DISTRICT MEETING Preceded by Call Change Competition	Rettendon (6)	2:30 pm (note earlier start)
Saturday 13 December	District Carol Service	Bentley Common (6)	3:30 pm

2009

Saturday 17 January	ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING	Prittlewell (10)	3:30 pm
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PLEASE NOTE:

JAN / MARCH / SEPT - 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

NOVEMBER - District Meeting arrangements (*times for Tea, Meeting & Evening Ringing are approximate*):
2:30pm: Competition Ringing, 4:30pm: Service, 5:00pm: Tea, 6:15pm: Meeting, 7:00pm: Evening Ringing

MAY - District Striking Competition arrangements:
5:00pm: Draw & Competition Ringing, followed by Tea, Brief Meeting, Results

DECEMBER - District Carol Service arrangements:
3:30pm: Afternoon Ringing, 4:30pm: Service, 5:30pm: Seasonal Refreshments

Any changes to the programme will be announced at district meetings
or via the district newsletter.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers Southern District



Saturday
8th December

3:30pm

St Mary and All
Saints,
Langdon Hills



Carol Service

Ringling from 3.30pm—Service 4.30pm

Seasonal refreshments will be available following the service.

There will also be a raffle giving you a chance to win some last minute Christmas Presents.

The Langdon Hills ringers look forward to welcoming you on the day.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, with lots and lots of lovely ringing!

