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DISTRICT PRACTICE Saturday 20 October - Grays - 3-5pm

ALL ringers are welcome to this practice... and we mean **ALL**... including those who are ringing rounds.

... "The experience of ringing on different bells in a different tower with different ringers will do wonders for your ringing development."

... "Come and experience the revitalised bells at Grays after some help from a neighbouring tower has put some zoom zoom zoom back into them... you won't recognise them!"

Andrew

Essex Association of Change Ringers

NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 99

October 2007

October 20th	- District Afternoon Practice at Grays	3-5pm
November 17th	- District Meeting at Shenfield	2.30pm
Note preceded by Call Change Competition		
December 8th	- District Carol Service at Langdon Hills	3.30pm
January 19th 2008 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING at Leigh on Sea		
		3.30pm

Canewdon Church Tower



Within two years, God willing, Canewdon will once more hear the sounds of church bells. As far as is known, the last time the church bells were rung was around 1900.

Whether they were chimed, or rung, is not known. There are five bells all of which are protected. Nearly 600 years old, the main frame is in reasonably good condition and has a preservation order on it. The wheels are in such a state that today there is no way they could be used.

Three of the bells are cracked and need attention. The tenor bell weighs 10½ cwt and is 3ft 3½in. in diameter — it is so badly damaged that it cannot even be tolled. The bells each have their separate inscription, and their dates are 1634, 1678, 1704, 1724 and 1791.

The 'old bells' are being retained and used with a chiming apparatus situated on the ringing gallery in the base of the tower. One of the first jobs in the restoration will be to remove the three cracked bells from the frame, and lower them to the ground. For the existing cracked bells to be bought down from the tower, the belfry floor will have to be removed. The existing ringing chamber still has its trapdoor so there is no difficulty there. Once the bells are down they will be sent away for welding and any other restoration work considered necessary. The remaining bells still in the bell frame will be 'cleaned up' and any restoration work carried out. On their return the repaired bells have to be re-hung in the existing belfry before the new peal of bells can be installed. After fitting, the remains of the old belfry floor will be removed and an open mesh one fitted. The existing louvres will either be retained or replaced, depending on condition.

The old ringing chamber will become the new belfry housing ten new bells to be cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in the key of E. The tenor will weigh 18cwt with a diameter 3ft 10¼in. and the treble just over 4cwt, and 2ft 2in. in diameter. A suitable inscription will be cast on the tenor recording the fact that John Mitchell left the money for bells to once again be heard in the village of Canewdon, and the surrounding area. Incidentally, the remains of the two windlasses

District Quiz Night - Saturday 29th September

The church hall at North Ockendon was full for this year's District Quiz Night with a record breaking eight teams entering to be crowned Southern District Quiz ... whatever quiz winners are called!!! In total, 45 people took part in the quiz and with five local ringers running the evening's proceedings, Hilary Spooner and Liz Burton from North Ockendon did a tremendous job catering for 50 ploughmans suppers. The winning team were a group of friends lead by Richard Moorey from North Ockendon who received a tin of biscuits each as their winners' prizes. Together with the profit from the raffle a marvellous sum of £266.10 was raised for the Association Bell Restoration Fund.

Special thanks should be made to the North Ockendon ringers for hosting the event, to Brian Beech as Quiz Master, Hilary and Liz for organising the catering, and to the many people who came along to support the event - thank you for making it such a success.

Send your contributions for this newsletter to Beth Johnson, by phone 01277 205102, or by email to b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, or post to 67 London Road, Brentwood, CM14 4NN.

originally used to hoist the bells, and such like, up the tower are still located in the chamber and have to stay.

As the distance from the floor in the tower to the new bells in the existing ringing chamber is so great the bell ringers will have to be located higher up the tower on a gallery. With this there are a number of problems, such as how the ringers climb there, and how will it be positioned so that the bells can be rung and the ringers remain safe? English Heritage and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings have to be involved and have had a say in what they would like to see to protect the views of key features in the tower. How are their suggestions to be met? These two organisations have already made an input which have to be considered and incorporated if they are to be kept happy.

People have been climbing the tower stairs for nearly 600 years and many of the steps are badly worn and need resurfacing. An electricity supply will need to be installed to the top of the tower, mainly for use during winter, to enable the bellringers to service the bells for practice nights. Additionally a safety handrail will be fitted to the central column. When everything, including the bells, is finished it is hoped that visitors will, once again, be able to climb to the top of the tower to admire the outstanding views across the surrounding area.

To ensure that the bells can be rung competently at the inauguration, at present, around 12 people ranging in age from 12 years to over 70, are being trained by St Mary's, Prittlewell under the watchful eyes of David, Penny and Peter Sloman, and Martin Newman. Work is continuing to attract more ringers to join us.

Ken Smith

Minutes of Southern District District Meeting at Thorpe Bay Saturday, 15th September, 2007

Welcome The Master, Andrew Beech, welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the Roll Book (29 members were present).

Apologies for Absence were received from Renee & Robin Page-Jones, Jean Dunne, Georgina Dearing, Holly Mifsud, Ron Brown, Rowena Marshall, John Cousins, Beth Johnson, Ann & Roger Dorking, Christine Allman, Jennifer Derby, Penny & David Sloman and Martin Newman.

Thanks. The Master thanked Revd. Robert Farrell for taking the Service, Victor Knill for playing the organ, the Choir, and the Thorpe Bay ringers for the use of the bells and for the splendid tea.

- The Service Collection raised £33.92.
- The profit from Teas, donated by the Thorpe Bay ringers, was £51.50
- The profit from the raffle, all prizes donated by Thorpe Bay ringers, was £46.00.

The Master also thanked the service touch band, (Steve Nash, Steve Halliwell, Mike Hallett, Tim Baskett, Lawrence Beal, Phil Briant, Jim Laken and Andrew Beech).

Minutes of previous meetings, those of the DM, held at North Ockendon in March had been published in the April Newsletter. There being no amendments, they were signed by the Master as a true record.

Matters Arising.

1. The Master reported that the District Outing in June to five very good towers in Cambridgeshire had been supported by 26 ringers and

New District Master and Secretary/Treasurer needed in January 2008

Both Andrew and Chris have announced that they will be retiring at the 2008 ADM. Despite previous appeals, no one has professed an interest in either post. Here are a few reminders:

- 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' so that the D.Officers would then be Master, Deputy Master, Secretary, Treasurer
- The person(s) need 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!
IS THAT YOU?

The DISTRICT MASTER chairs district meetings, runs the ringing at practices and meetings, attends Association Committee Meetings (two per year), to be altogether responsible for the affairs of the District. To visit towers in the District on their practice night occasionally, and to encourage training at all levels within the District.

The DISTRICT SECRETARY / TREASURER liaises with tower correspondents (and places ads in the Ringing World) to make sure meetings and practises are advertised. Prepares agendas for items and is covered (with agreement of District Master). Maintains Receipt and Account Books for all donations, subscriptions and collections, maintains a subscription list of members and prepares reports for the Association Annual Report, the ADM and for the Association Committee Meetings.

If you would consider either post, call Andrew or Chris.

friends, the best attendance for several years, and he thanked all those who attended. A full report had appeared in the August Newsletter.

Correspondence. The Secretary, Chris Bailey, reported that two significant items had been received:

- the Southern District will be responsible for providing 4 Sidesmen for the Service at Chelmsford Cathedral prior to the 2008 Annual General Meeting.
- John Green, Tower Correspondent for Stanford-le-Hope had written about the recent inspection and resulting remedial work that had been identified by David Sloman. He wished to record his thanks to David and to Catherine & Alan Gisby for their help. He had also received Health & Safety advice and equipment from Fobbing Power Station. A short report will be in the next Newsletter.

Election of New Members. Ringing Members. The following were proposed and unanimously elected to membership:

	Tower	Proposed by	Seconded by
John Lambert	Prittlewell	Peter Sloman	Martin Newman
John Woollard	Prittlewell	Peter Sloman	Martin Newman

District Programme for 2007.

1. The Quiz Night (29th September) – will be held at North Ockendon, 7.00 for 7.30pm at a cost of £5 a ticket, which were available at the meeting. Teams of 6 people per table.
2. The afternoon Practice on 20th October will be held at Grays (3.00 – 5.00pm).
3. The Call Change Competition will be held at Shenfield prior to the District Meeting on 17th November. The rules will be unchanged from the 2006 competition. Copies are available from the Master and will be reproduced in the next edition of the Newsletter.

District Programme for 2008

The Master asked members to let any of the Officers know of any new events or changes they would like to the usual annual programme. Towers were also asked to volunteer to host the various district meetings. The Officers would be meeting in early October to arrange the programme.

Any Other Business.

Peter Sloman (Prittlewell) informed the meeting of the developments at Canewdon where the original ring of 5 bells are being refurbished (for chiming only) and an entirely new ring of an 18 cwt. 10 bells in E are being installed. An entirely new band of locals ringers are being trained at Prittlewell. Peter invited members to join him at Wednesday evening practices at Prittlewell with the new band. An article is to appear in the next Newsletter.

The Master raised the following items:

1. Congratulations to the District on winning the Association 8 bell Striking Competition.
2. The Association Training Day on Saturday 24th November. A poster had been sent to each tower, early application is recommended as places are limited. Andrew also mentioned that helpers would be needed for this event too and that if anyone was able to help they should also contact Vicki Chapman – the Association Education Officer.
3. Copy for the October Newsletter to be submitted to Beth Johnson (b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk) as soon as possible. If members would like a copy emailed to them directly, please email Beth. Andrew also congratulated Beth (in her absence) on the excellent job she had done on producing a very professional looking August issue.
4. The Association Dinner will be held at The County Hotel,

Good House-keeping at Stanford-le-Hope.

John Green, Tower Correspondent for Stanford-le-Hope, has written to tell us about some good house-keeping which is underway at the tower. Here is his letter:

'... David Sloman came to have a look at our belfry, made an inspection and gave us a list of "Jobs needing manpower" to put things in order.

'So very shortly work will commence on cleaning the floor, wire brushing the framework and re-painting and re-greasing the bearings. The pulleys and new ropes will come once we have got the framework looking good.

'... on our behalf [please] thank David and also Alan & Cathrine Gisby for repairing ropes (two snapped and they spliced them together). Fobbing Power Station, in reply to a letter I wrote asking their advice on safety, should we undertake the work, made a most generous gesture of wire brushes, hard hats, goggles and masks.

'I have invited a team from the power station to come and view the tower only to find that the Station Manager is a 'campanologist' and would like to have a go.

'We feel it is all meant to happen and David Sloman has given us the incentive'

John Green

Chelmsford on 6th October. See notice on page 1 of the August edition of Rounds & About. The principal guest this year will be Gordon Lucas.

4. The Master again reminded members of the need to find a new District Master, Secretary and Treasurer for January 2008 as both Chris and himself would be retiring at the ADM.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 6.25pm. Further ringing was available until 8.00pm.

Call Change Competition - Saturday 17 November and District Meeting at Shenfield

Even if you haven't entered a band in a striking competition before, consider taking part in this one. It's good ringing experience and not too serious - well, it's as serious as you make it! Great for new ringers.

2:30pm - Draw, followed by the competition ringing... and, time permitting, there will be open ringing before the service

4:30pm - Service

5:00pm - Tea (time approx)

6:15pm - Competition results and Meeting

Further ringing after the meeting if required and time permitting.

Here are the rules, which are the same as last year:

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. They 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 and shall be held in safekeeping until the next competition. The winning team may have this trophy suitably engraved.*
- 5. If necessary, the District Master or their 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 or second 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.*
- 11. Stopping the practice and restarting is allowed (e.g. to adjust ropes or use a box) - the steward will "stop the clock" at such points and will tell the team how much time remains of the two minutes before the team restarts. Ropes may also be adjusted and boxes changed at the end of the practice time.*

South Weald outing to Cambridgeshire

On September 8th, we all climbed into a minibus and set off for our first tower: Ickleton – 8 bells, 18cwt. These bells, rung from the centre of the chancel, were renowned as “Gillet and Johnson’s finest peal” said the ringer who met us. Longish draft, sounded very nice outside but quiet in the church. This was Pam’s first non-South Weald ring and she did well, despite being very nervous.

On to Wittlesford – 6 bells, 14 cwt. A small, low-ceilinged tower, this was a very old-fashioned style of ring, the tenor a ‘bit of a bucket’. Sawston next: 8 bells, 14 cwt set in a very small ringing chamber; very large (real) spider! Nice creche in the church for the children in our party. Bells very heavy going. Time for lunch!

Little Shelford had 6 bells, 8 cwt: a very pleasant ring, very nice ‘well-heeled’ church. The ringing chamber was set in the tower but had a glazed panel that opened into the church, which gave a nice feeling of one-ness. On to Great Shelford – 8 bells, 8 cwt. These bells have been recently rehung – backwards! Bells rung from around a lovely font and mosaic floor at the back of the church. An extremely nice ring, enjoyed by all, but our novice ringers were surprised at how having the bells hung clockwise was so difficult!

Finally to Trumpington – 8 bells, 10cwt. The pearl of our day, and a great finish. Lovely bells, very easy to ring and tuneful in a well-maintained ringing chamber high in the tower. Lit by late afternoon sun, looking out over pleasant countryside, with the bells running well, this was a delight.

We returned to Brentwood for a ‘bring and share’ BBQ. Many thanks to Maria Jorysz for driving the bus!

12. Following the practice (including any final adjustments) the treble ringer should signal to the judges that the team is about to start the competition test piece by turning the treble over (not judged).

The Test Piece

13. The competition shall be rung on 6-bells with a covering tenor. Bona-fide 5-bell towers may ring without a covering tenor if they wish.

14. Each team must ring for 5 minutes (including opening and closing rounds). The Master or steward will announce when 5 minutes has been rung.

15. The test piece must start and end in rounds and contain the following ‘named’ changes: 142536 (Tittums) and 135246 (Queens). Any sequence of changes between these changes is allowed. The ‘named’ changes must be rung a minimum of 4 whole pulls, all other changes can be of any length.

16. All closing rounds will be judged. The duration of the closing rounds is at the discretion of the conductor, but must be a minimum of 1 whole pull. Opening rounds will be judged after the 5th whole-pull, i.e., from the 6th whole-pull onwards.

17. If during the first 60 seconds of the test piece, the ringing deteriorates irretrievably and is terminated by the conductor, then at the discretion of the Master or steward, the band may restart the test piece. The ringing should restart from rounds and consist of a further 5 minutes of ringing as specified in rules 14, 15 and 16. Faults shall be marked on the completed piece of ringing only, the aborted attempt not counting towards the final fault total.

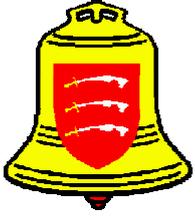
18. At the end of the test piece, a team will not be penalised should any bell not be able to stand. However, in the event of two teams tying on faults/points then failure to stand the bells will be taken into account to achieve the final order of teams.



Back row: Simon Higgins, Paul Trueman, Maria Jorysz, Charlotte Ratnage, Ian Jorysz, Emily Newton, Dorothy Dale, Alan Ball, Vic Dale, Beth Johnson. Front Row: Peter, Katherine and David Ball, Amy Gelderbloem, Thelma Smith, Pam Rodwell, Mark Robbinc

CAPTION COMPETITION

Any entries to the caption competition from the last newsletter? I have another quiz for you, but I can’t publish it until we have at least one entry to the last competition. Come on! Send your suggestions to Beth Johnson at b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, or by post to 67 London Road, Brentwood, CM14 4NN.



The Essex Association of Change Ringers

Charity Registration Number 292250

Association Training Day

Saturday 24th November 2007

9.30am— approx 5pm

@ Leyton Church

(SW District)

4 Groups on offer:

- Plain Hunt Doubles & Minor
- Plain Bob Doubles & Minor
- Grandsire Doubles & Triples
- Cambridge Surprise Minor

Send an SAE for an Application Form to:
Vicki Chapman, EACR Education Officer, 20
Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF

Limited spaces, first come, first served
Closing date for applications 3rd Nov 07

Helpers also required, please contact Vicki
Chapman on 01245 358040 or email

vicki:@cvevrc.co.uk