

Essex Association of Change Ringers

# NEWSLETTER

Southern District

No. 108

end April 2009

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*Please send any and all reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson (South Weald) at b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk, Tel: 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN*

## NEXT EVENTS:

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Association AGM 4 May - see page 2

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Saturday 16 May Striking Competition at Ingrave 5pm. If you are entering a band, please let Alison Nash know asap.

*Ingrave is on the A128 between Brentwood and the A127. There is a turning just after the church and car park beside the hall. Names for tea to Caroline Lowe on 01277 810095 by Tuesday 12th May.*

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Thursday 28 May District Practice at Brentwood 7.30pm *Do come and try out the rehung bells, if you haven't already.*

## TRAINING DAY JUNE 6TH

**There will be a District Training Day on June 6th from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., offering plain hunt training on 5, 6 or 7, as required.**

**Helpers are now needed! You do not need to be terribly experienced, just able to plain hunt competently and manage some plain courses of plain bob/grandsire up to triples.**

**In addition, Cathryn has arranged with Peter Sloman that anyone who wants help with their handling will be welcome at the 'Saturday morning school' which runs between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on the same day. Numbers will be limited for this, so please let Cathryn know in advance if anyone wants to take the offer up. Someone recently described the Saturday morning school as 'the best kept secret in the district' - so perhaps this would help increase awareness that ANYONE can go along!**

**If you are coming to the training day please contact Cathryn, preferably by email or leave a phone message - details on the left) so she can plan the day; helpers please also let Cathryn know you are available.**

**Please support this venture - open to everyone in the District.**

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**Canewdon - Practice Night on Wednesday 7pm to 9pm**

Sunday service ringing: 10:45 - 11:15am or 6:00 - 6:30pm on the 3rd Sunday (With exceptions)

See page 3 for a report on the Canewdon bells

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## A MARATHON SUCCESS

Trevor Church from Leigh-on-Sea appealed for sponsorship for the London Marathon in the last newsletter. He was hoping to raise £2,000 for Little Haven's Children's Hospice. Well done Trevor for coming in at position 10901 in a time of 4hr 01 min 38 secs!

## NEWSLETTERS

The Southern District newsletters will be published in 2009 as follows:

Beginning of January

End February - copy date 15 Feb

End April - copy date 15 April

End August - copy date 15 Aug

End October - copy date 15 Oct

Distribution

A newsletter is circulated 2 weeks before each business meeting. Copies are sent to tower correspondents, preferably by email. Members can request their own copies via email by contacting the editor (Beth Johnson, b.johnson@creative-plus.co.uk).

## In Memoriam

Bernard Fairhead, from St Leonard at the Hythe, Colchester, Association master from 1982-1987 and Life President of the Association.

## Congratulations...

Special birthday wishes to Ron Brown, of Bentley Common, who celebrates his 85th birthday on 6th July, from all your friends in the Southern District.

## EACR AGM

Don't forget the **Annual General Meeting** of the Essex Association of Change Ringers is on Monday 4th May, Bank Holiday Monday.

**General ringing** - 9.15am to 10.15am

**Annual Service** - 10.30am

**AGM** - 11.45am

**Afternoon ringing** is in the South Eastern District with tea at Terling.

Tickets and tower lists can be bought from Vicki Chapman in advance for £3.50 (or on the door for £4.00).

Vicki's address is 20 Mews Court, Chelmsford, CM2 9PF  
Email: secretary@eacr.org.uk

## FROM THE MASTER:

I write this a few days after the end of the 19th Essex Ringing Course; the district was well represented with two tutors and several students and helpers. I hope that all those who participated enjoyed themselves and learnt something – I certainly did!

You'll see elsewhere in the newsletter details of the district training day that Cathryn is organising on June 6th, and it is also our turn to host the Association training day in November. I hope both events will be well supported, along with our district practices.

## District Outing

Included with the newsletter is an initial poster for your tower advertising this year's district outing, which will be on Saturday June 20th to East Surrey; the first tower will be about 30 miles from the Dartford Crossing, so no distance at all! Also included is a map of the area, with the towers confirmed to date circled.

All ringers are most welcome, along with non-ringing friends and family members. Please let John or Alison know by the end of May if you are intending to come. Travel will be by own car. You will need to make your own arrangements for lunch, but I believe that Bletchingley has several pubs, along with a number of antique shops!

You can find out more details about the towers by visiting the Surrey Association website at <http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/SD/Towers.html>. Towers to be visited will be finalised over the next few weeks, and more details will be sent out when available.

**Please support the outing this year and help to make it a very enjoyable district event.**

## DEDICATION OF BASILDON BELLS ANNIVERSARY QUARTER

A quarter peal was rung on Sunday 15 March 2009 of 1260 Grandsire Triples in 44 minutes. This was to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Basildon Bell Tower on March 12 1999.

The quarter was rung by:- Treble - Gordon Lucas; Second - Penny Sloman; Third - Jillian Laken; Fourth - Catherine Gisby; Fifth - David Sloman; Sixth - Stephen Nash; Seventh - John Harpole (Conductor); Tenor - Alan Gisby. (see below).



## John Mitchell Canewdon Bells Update

The 10 new bells and the new bell frame arrived at St Nicholas church Canewdon on Friday 13th February. The bells were blessed the following day and then following four days of hard work by the Whitechapel bell hangers the bells were test rung at 7pm on Thursday 19th February. As well as the Canewdon ringers, who were the first to pull off in rounds, there were four from Whitechapel and several invited ringers who, amongst other things, rang a particularly fine course of Stedman Caters. The memories of both John Mitchell and our late project leader Ken Smith combined with the wonderful sound of the bells to make this a very emotional event for many in our village.

Although the building work was far from complete we rang them again for service for the first time on 22nd February on what would have been John Mitchell's 89th birthday.

As well as the 10 new bells Whitechapel had also completed the Ellacombe chiming mechanism on the 5 old bells and despite previous reports about the poor tuning of these bells they actually sound quite good.



*Top right: Bells 1-5 and the tenor in the church. Above left: Canewdon ringer Charlotte Meldon with her favourite bell, the treble. Above right: The tenor in the church with all but one of our junior ringers around it.*



*Left: All but four of the Canewdon ringers with the new bells.*

Building work is now complete and regular ringing is taking place. There is a church open day on 13th June that will, for the first time in many years, include tower tours and the dedication service for the bells with the Archdeacon in attendance is booked for the 11th July. We are also looking forward to welcoming many ringers at the district meeting on September 19th.

Brian Meldon

## Brentwood's Bells Rededicated



*Left to right: Fr. Matthew Bemand, Assistant Curate; Chris Bailey; Tony Dipper (Church Warden); Mayor of Brentwood Cllr. Dudley Payne; Dr. Laurie Green Bishop of Bradwell; Paul Pullin (Church Warden); Nigel Taylor; Stuart Armitage; Fr. Ossie Trellis.*

After nearly seven years work the Brentwood Bell Project is now finally complete (within budget) and the bells are back in action - very fitting end to the 125th anniversary year of the parish church on its present site.

The project culminated in a wonderful Service of Rededication on 15th March performed by the Right Revd. Dr. Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell. More on that later.

The bells arrived back in Brentwood late in November and the task of re-installation took two weeks hard work by Andrew Nicholson's men. A preliminary test ring was held on 4th December to enable the bellhanger to identify anything which might need final adjustment before the full test the following day.

The full test was attended by many local ringers as well as David Sloman (DAC Bells Adviser) who had also brought along a number of experienced ringers to put the bells through their paces. Many of the ringers had represented our District in Association 6 and 8 bell striking finals and were on hand to ring whatever was requested by those inspecting the installation.

Andrew Nicholson, (Bellhanger), Stuart Armitage (The Morton Partnership – engineer) and Adrian Semken (EACR Technical Officer) were also in attendance. These gentlemen, all with their ear muffs, remained in the Belfry while various combinations of bells were rung. The engineer also monitored for any movement of the floor of the Belfry from within the Clock Room – thankfully no problems were found. The installation was declared satisfactory and thereafter some 24 ringers from the District had a ring before adjourning for drinks and nibbles in the Church Centre Foyer.

The bells now sound a lot brighter and very much louder (believe me - I speak as one with hearing difficulties!). We have been advised that the new installation will take some time to bed-in as the surfaces of both clapper and bell 'flatten' causing the bells to develop in sound quality and loudness. We must now monitor and note any problems so that the bellhanger can return later in the year to check the whole installation.

Back to the Service of Rededication which was held within Choral Evensong. The Service band comprised Andrew Beech, Mary Bone, Fred Bone, John Cousins, Gillian Laken, John Harpole, Steve Nash and Brian Meads who rang Cambridge Major. The service itself was very well supported by some 150 people from

the parish and Essex ringing community. We were graced by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Brentwood, Mr. and Mrs Dudley Payne. In addition there were several of the principal donors to our Bell Fund including Jim Baker (a previous Tower Captain) and representatives from The Essex Association of Change Ringers, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and SongCycle (a quartet of singers from the choir who perform charitable concerts). It was especially pleasing to welcome back Fr. Bob White and Rosemary (always great supporters of the bells) to witness the culmination of the project which was begun during their time here. Fr. Bob retired at the end of October 2008.

It was a very moving occasion with some wonderful music and singing. It was taken by Dr. Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell who, in a thoughtful sermon, reminded us all of the purpose of church bells and the message that they ring out.

The Rededication process involved the 'handing back' to the Bishop of a symbolic bell rope from those involved in the restoration of the bells. As Andrew Nicholson could not be present, Nigel Taylor took his place – Nigel re-tuned the bells at Whitechapel. The bishop then handed the bell rope to the Churchwardens who in turn handed it to me as the Tower Captain. At this point the bells were rung in 'rounds' to celebrate the occasion. The band comprised Rowena Marshall, Amanda Hazel-Rayner, Frank Southwood, Warren Hawkings, Jonathan Lee, Raymond Jones and Vic Dale. A splendid spread of tea and sandwiches was available for all after the Service.

A project such as ours has taken a lot of work and support from so many people and although it is perhaps dangerous to mention names we would like to acknowledge the contributions of David Sloman as DAC Bells Adviser, Andrew Nicholson of Nicholson Engineering Ltd., Stuart Armitage of the Morton Partnership (our engineers), Graham Pledger from English Heritage and the other members of our Bell Project Team (Tony Dipper and Brian Davis).

Well, now we've got the refurbished bells back, we've lost all our excuses for less than perfect ringing! Our aim now is to improve and learn to ring on eight bells, something which will be a new experience for most of our local band.

Chris Bailey (Tower Captain)

### District wedding fees, a comparison

<b>Tower</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number of bells/ropes</b>	<b>Ringling before or after or both?</b>
South Weald	£65	Normally 6 ringers	Ringling before and after
Rettendon	£75	£10 per rope, £15 to funds	
Basildon	£100	£80 for ringers, £20 to funds	Ringling before and after
Ingrave	£100	£10 each ringer, £40 to funds	
Bentley Common	£76	£10 each ringer, £16 to funds	
Navestock	£76	£10 each ringer, £16 to funds	
North Ockendon	£80	£10 each ringer, £20 for funds	

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON SATURDAY 21ST MARCH FOLLOW: PLEASE NOTE:

- a) The report on Canewdon bells (under point 5) is combined with the article on page 3.
  - b) The insurance document referred to under point 6 has now been circulated to all towers; if any tower requires an additional copy please contact Alison Nash.
  - c) The report by Renée Page-Jones was read out at the meeting and included in the last newsletter.
- These attachments have not been reproduced in the newsletter to avoid it becoming too lengthy.

Essex Association of Change Ringers  
Southern District

MINUTES  
Meeting at Downham  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009

**1. & 2. Welcome, Thanks & Sign the Roll**

The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the roll book. 32 members were present.

The Master thanked the Rev. Stephen Robertson for taking the service, the organist Robert Andrews and the Downham ringers for the tea and the use of the bells.

The service touch was Grandsire Doubles rung by Cathryn Corns, Ron Brown, Renee Page-Jones, Gordon Lucas, Phil Harrison and Beth Johnson.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Ann and Roger Dorking, Tim and Sally Baskett, Sheena Booth, David and Penny Sloman, Lynn McEwan, Sally-Ann Elkington, Peter Nicol, Jackie Carr, Sharon Jones, Marion Squier, Joan Marshall, Laurence Beal, Susan McKay, Vic Dale, Peter Sloman, John Cousins, Raymond Jones and the Rochford Ringers.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the ADM held at Prittlewell on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were printed in the February Newsletter. Additional copies of the Minutes were circulated at the meeting to those that had not seen a copy. Amendments already received were:-

Election of New Members - the last name in the list should have read "Louise Meldon".

On the last page, second paragraph, the name would have read "Simeon Bayton".

There were no further amendments and were approved and signed as a true copy.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Re-Dedication of the bells at Brentwood took place on 15<sup>th</sup> March with the Bishop of Bradwell in attendance.

Canewdon bells have now been installed. The 'try out' was on 19<sup>th</sup> February. (Attached to these Minutes is the report given by Brian Meldon at the meeting).

The district practices at Orsett on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 and Brentwood on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were well attended.

Brian Mead's questionnaire "Looking to the Future" is a time consuming exercise and only a few towers have been visited so far. It is hoped all towers will be visited in the next few months.

## **6. Correspondence**

The Secretary, Alison Nash, had received an email from the Association Treasurer, Andrew Brewster, concerning insurance. A document, which he wanted to be displayed on all tower notice boards, was handed out at the meeting and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

## **7. Committee Meeting Report - Renée Page-Jones**

A copy of Renée's report is attached to these Minutes.

It was suggested, at the Committee Meeting, that a sub-group be set up to review the whole grants process, especially the application process so that the Committee was better informed. David Sloman had already expressed an interest in serving on this committee and was duly nominated to represent our District.

## **8. Training**

A training day at Prittlewell has been confirmed for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009 starting at 3.30pm using their simulator. The aim is to ring Plain Hunt from 5 bells progressing to 6 or above.

If anyone feels they need to improve their handling, then Prittlewell bells are available on the same day, 6<sup>th</sup> June, in the normal morning school. Anyone interested should speak to Cathryn Corns to confirm a place which will be on a first come-first served basis.

It was also thought that this day could be used for ringing up and down and also perhaps treble bobbing on the treble and/or maybe progressing to Plain Bob and Grandsire in the inside. Please see Cathryn Corns, District Training Officer, for further details.

## **9. Election of New Members**

The following new Ringing Members were unanimously elected:

Jonathan Lee (Brentwood), proposed by Chris Bailey, seconded by Ron Brown.

Paul Burke (Brentwood), proposed by Chris Bailey, seconded by Ron Brown.

Mark Buckley (Rayleigh - Junior Member) proposed by Simon Smith, seconded by Tony Lowe.

## **10. Future Events**

The Master reiterated the future events in the district.

Essex Ringing Course - Helpers are still needed for this. If you could help, please contact Yvonne Towler with details of any session(s) you could help with.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - District Evening Practice at Basildon. 7.30pm start.

Annual General Meeting at Chelmsford - 9.15am to 10.30am ringing followed by a service and then the AGM. Afternoon ringing is in the South East District with tea at Terling.

District Striking Competition - This is taking place at Ingrave on 16<sup>th</sup> May with a 5pm prompt start.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May - District Evening Practice at Brentwood. 7.30pm start.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June - District Training Afternoon. Please see above for details.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June - District Outing. This will be off Junction 6 of the M25 - Godstone to Surrey. Starting at Reigate. Six towers on this route. It will be a car outing with lunch at a nearby pub. John needs to know one month before if you would like to go as he will need a minimum of 15 people to make it a success.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September - District Meeting at Canewdon.

## **11. Call Change Competition - Review Rules**

The meeting was asked if they were happy with Rule 6.

Rule 6 states - "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."

Phil Harrison stated that if a tower only has six ringers in the band why should they be penalised. It was agreed the rule should be left as it stands.

## **12. Any Other Business**

The meeting was reminded of the Association clothing available. Cathryn Corns modelled a sweat shirt.

Beth Johnson was thanked for producing a great newsletter once again. It would be appreciated if ringers would let Beth know what their tower charges for weddings as South Weald were advised their fees were too low. The next newsletter is due out at the end of April so any events, mile stones, etc would be appreciated.

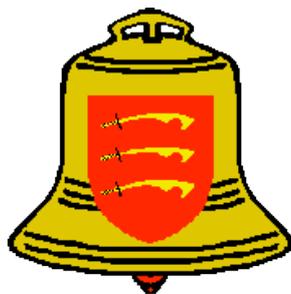
Association Subscriptions are now due so please pay up if you have not already done so.

The collection raised - £74.70

Raffle - £55

Tea was donated - £102

Further ringing was to be up to 8pm and the meeting closed at 6.40pm.



## SOUTHERN DISTRICT OUTING TO SURREY

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Towers confirmed to date:

10:30 am	Oxted	(6)
2:30 pm	Bletchingley	(10)
3:45 pm	Nutfield	(6)
5:00 pm	Merstham	(8)

I have still to get confirmation of 2 more towers for the morning.

Cost is £5 per person to cover tower donations, etc - remainder to BRF.

Please let John or Alison know that you are coming by Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Phone numbers / email addresses can be found at the back of the annual report or on the district newsletter.

All ringers in the district are welcome, so please support this event as it promises to be a most enjoyable day.

Please display this poster on your tower notice board and we look forward to seeing you.

