



# NEWSLETTER

## NEXT EVENTS:

### Monday May 3rd

Association AGM at Chelmsford

### Thursday May 6th

District Surprise Major Practice at South Weald  
7.30pm

### Saturday May 15th

Striking Competition Shenfield 5pm start

### Thursday May 27th

District Evening Practice Brentwood 7.30pm

### June 12th

District Outing to Hertfordshire

## St Paul's, Bentley Common

The original ring of 5 bells was cast and hung in a wooden frame (oak) in 1880 by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. A new treble, also cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, was added in 1965 and hung in a metal frame above the other 5 bells. It was dedicated by the Venerable W.N. Welch M.A. the Archdeacon of Southend on Sunday 17th October 1965.

There is a left handed spiral, stone staircase to reach the bells, approx. 20 steps to the ringing chamber where there are a number of peal boards dating back to 8/6/1946.

The 6 bells are in C#.

Treble Bell: 2cwt 1qtr 13lbs 1965. 21inches in diameter.  
Second: 2cwt 2qtr 15lbs 1879  
Third: 3cwt 0qtr 9lbs 1879  
Fourth: 3cwt 1qtr 24lbs 1979.  
Fifth: 4cwt 0qtr 3lbs 1879  
Tenor: 4cwt 1qtr 17lbs 1879.



*Practice night Tuesdays 7:30pm-9pm. Tower Captain - Ron Brown.  
Deputy and Treasurer - John Cousins.  
Secretary and Correspondent - Rowena Marshall. (01277 222814)*

## CONTACTS

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### TREASURER

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## Bentley fund raising for handbells restoration

Bentley are trying to raise £4,000 to have their set of handbells repaired; we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help by ringing a quarter peal at Bentley Common or Navestock and donating £5 a rope.

Steve Nash has already been with a band to ring Bentley at Bentley. I've looked up to see if there is a Navestock and there is! Navestock Surprise Minor. I just wondered if you fancied supporting us by getting a band together to ring something at one or the other tower? (or both!) Rowena Marshall

### Sunday 28 March 2010

Bentley Common

1272 Bentley Surprise Minor

1 James Laken

2 John G Harpole

3 Helen L Harpole

4 Trevor E Church

5 Paul R Trueman

6 Stephen J Nash (C)

1st (and probably last!) Blows in method by all. (Steve Nash)

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## News from Basildon



On Saturday 17th April, the Basildon Belltower hosted our own 'Belltower Experience'. This was picked up by the Echo newspaper and also a short interview by BBC Essex.

Nine visitors came to find out what ringing was about. I was helped in the tower by the District Master, the EACR Publicity Officer and a number of members of the Basildon band.

The morning started with refreshments, a short introduction to the Belltower and some safety briefing. All who were brave enough to climb our vertical ladders then went up to the belfry, where the workings of bells were explained and silencers fitted for the morning's ringing. After descending and ringing up, the band then demonstrated a quick series of changes into Queens and how we worked as a team to keep in the rhythm. Then it was time for every one to take a try at ringing a bell 'tail end only', all seemed to pick up the technique quite quickly and came back for several tries.

At midday the session was completed, all those who came to ringing as complete novices professed to have enjoyed the morning and found the experience to be interesting and instructive. Most promised to return for Wednesday night practice to continue to explore the hobby, we shall see who comes along!

Many photos were taken by a photographer from the Echo; I found out just how difficult it is to ring with a camera under your nose, and looking in the wrong direction whilst trying to feign a smile. How we suffer for our art!  
Roger Hobson



## A big Happy 50th Birthday to John Harpole on 20th April.

### Basildon, Essex. 25 April 1250 Yorkshire S Major:

Jim Laken 1, Jillian Laken 2, Hilary Donoghue 3,  
Cathryn Corns 4, David Belcham 5, Gordon Lucas 6,  
Darren Osborne 7, John Harpole (c) 8.  
Compliment to the conductor on his 50th birthday.  
Circled the tower - 6



### South Weald, Essex. 25 April, 1280 Spliced S Major (5m: R,S,Y,N,C)

John Cousins 1, Helen Harpole 2, Rowena Marshall 3,  
Ian Jorysz 4, John Harpole (c) 5, Andrew Martin 6,  
Steve Nash 7, Paul Trueman 8. For Evensong.

Compliment to the conductor on his 50th birthday.

Well done to **Trevor Church**  
from Leigh-on-Sea for completing  
the London Marathon in an  
amazing 3 hours 53 minutes and,  
in the process, raising lots of  
money for Fairhavens Hospices.

**Rayleigh** will be out of action  
from the 25th April till December  
2010 due to extensive tower  
repairs being carried out.  
Recommencement of ringing will  
be announced nearer the date.  
Simon Smith, Tower Captain

#### 'Ring for England'

All Saints, Hutton  
Plain Bob Minimus  
Treble Susan McKay  
2nd Robin Page-Jones  
3rd Renee Page-Jones (c)  
4th Raymond Jones  
Tenor Paul Wiggins  
Rung on St. Georges' Day  
23rd April 2010  
First quarter peal for  
Susan McKay

### Southern District Striking Competition

Saturday May 15th at Shenfield

Draw at 5:00 pm

Please let Alison know if you  
are entering a band

### District Surprise Major Practice

May 6th South Weald 7.30pm  
Methods this practice: Bristol and  
Lincolnshire, as well as previous  
methods & some spliced if there  
are enough experienced ringers.  
Come along if you want to ring  
surprise regardless of your level.

### NEWSLETTERS

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

The Southern District newsletters  
will be published in 2010 as  
follows:

Mid Aug - copy date end July

End October - copy date 15 Oct

End of December - copy date  
15 December

A newsletter is circulated two  
weeks before each business  
meeting. Copies are sent to tower  
correspondents, preferably by email.  
Members can request their own  
copies via email by contacting Beth.

### Records update

I am in the process of updating  
the district records and I would  
be most grateful for your help.  
One potential hole in our records  
are of those over-65 members  
who still ring but do not pay a  
subscription or donate in lieu of  
subs. We may also have records  
of those who are members but  
who don't actually ring any more.  
Therefore could you please  
send me a list of members of the  
association who currently/still ring  
at your tower and those that do  
not. Mark Robbins

## It's Easter so it must be time for the Essex Ringing Course!

The 20th annual Essex Ringing course was held on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the week after Easter. 75 students attended the course, held at Honywood School in Coggeshall, together with around 150 tutors and helpers; so quite an event! Groups ranged from rounds and call changes through to Double Norwich via plain hunt, Grandsire and Bob Minor. This was the third year I have attended the course. In previous years I have learnt Stedman and Cambridge but this year I joined the Learning to Teach sessions run by Adrian Semken. The emphasis was on teaching bell handling from scratch and most of the time we practiced what we were taught on fellow novice teachers. It is surprising how difficult it is to pretend to be a complete beginner and to remember what the early stages of learning to ring are like. Most of the other groups held their practical sessions at the wide variety of towers in the local area and in previous years I have found this a great experience trying the different bells. This time my group concentrated on using the simulator at Coggeshall church, fitting around other groups. On the Friday we joined Steve Nash's call change group to see if we could see any handling funnies. His group had obviously made great progress as they were ringing plain hunt! On the Saturday we were let loose on a real novice "guinea pig" and got him ringing backstroke quite competently.



As well as the main tutor groups other sessions were arranged and included rope splicing, listening skills and conducting. This year I attempted hand bell ringing which was very challenging but fun and my tutors showed great patience!

Once again the course was extremely well run, very rewarding and great fun. My only regret was that only a few students from our district made use of this wonderful event. Next year the course will be held from the 14th to the 16th April so please put those dates in your diaries. I hope to see more of you on the course next year when I aim to attend as a helper.

Mark Robbins 13th April 2010

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## Quarter Peal fortnight

The date for the quarter peal fortnight has been set at Sunday 13th June until Sunday 27th June.

The idea is to raise as much money as we can for the fund to put bells in at South Ockendon. Therefore it would be good if you can get sponsors to promise money for your efforts. The more you can get, the more money we can make. If you are unable to get any sponsors then we would say a donation of £1 a rope should be the minimum.

If you are able to arrange your own quarter peal band, that is great! Just let me know the details and date etc.

If you don't have enough ringers after asking other ringers that you know and you still need help, decide when you want to ring and what you want to ring, then get in touch with me ([rowenamarshall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rowenamarshall@hotmail.co.uk)) or (01277 222814) and I will try to find people to fill in for you. Don't forget to tell us if you need a conductor.

When everything is set, go ahead and ring your quarter peal.

Afterwards, if you could send me all the details of your quarter, I will collect them all up and send them off together with a covering explanation. You can then collect your sponsorship money for your tower and let me have that too. When it is all in, I will pass it on to the appropriate people and let you all know how we did!

Good luck everybody! Rowena Marshall (Bentley Common) Sponsor form attached

## Minutes of Meeting at Fobbing Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### 1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present including a visitor, Tracey Southgate from Harwich, the new Association Public Relations Officer and invited everyone to sign the roll book. There were 31 Southern District Members present.

### 2. Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Ed Hanson for taking the service and Darryl East for playing the organ. He also thanked Gordon Lucas for the use of the bells and Cathryn Corns and her helpers for the excellent tea.

The service touch was Cambridge Surprise Major rung by Alan Gisby, Cathryn Corns, Andrew Beech, David Sloman, John Cousins, Dennis Stott, Darren Osborne and Andy Martin.

### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chris and Margaret Bailey, Brentwood; Trevor Church, Anthony Neale, Betty Neale, Peter Wilkins, Leigh-on-Sea; Peter Sloman, Prittlewell; Sheena Booth, Rayleigh; Julia Jones and Nigel Taylor, Downham; Raymond Jones, Shenfield; and Beth Johnson, South Weald; Phil Harrison, Thorpe Bay; Stephen Nash, Langdon Hills; Julia Fry, Basildon; Martin and Veronica Newman, Eastwood; Marion Squiers and the Canewdon Ringers.

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Brentwood on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were printed in the February Newsletter, and also circulated at the meeting. There being no amendments, they were signed as a true copy.

### 5. Matters Arising

District Public Relations Officers - The Master, John Harpole, asked Tracey Southgate, Association Public Relations Officer, to describe the job requirements of a District PRO. The PRO's main job is to promote the Essex Association. She stated that the person would need to cover publicity for open days and courses and liaise with her at all times. John Harpole stated that in May, Basildon were hoping to host an open day so if we had a PRO this would be very helpful. John asked if there were anyone at the meeting who would be willing to do this important job. There were no volunteers.

Quiz Night - The Quiz Night and Ploughmans tea held on 6<sup>th</sup> March and hosted by North Ockendon was a great success. £140.50 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund. The Master thanked the North Ockendon ringers for hosting this again this year.

District Afternoon Practice - The District Practice was hosted by Leigh-on-Sea on 20<sup>th</sup> February. There was a good turnout - eventually. A normal half an hour drive took 1½ hours on this occasion due to traffic jams on all routes to Leigh.

The District Evening Practice at Brentwood on 25<sup>th</sup> February was well attended: As was the Surprise Practice evening at South Weald on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Quarter Peal Fortnight - This will take place from Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Rowena Marshall is organising this. The initial letter to towers has now been sent and replies are now being received. Rowena stated all quarter peals would be sponsored to raise money for the new ring of bells at the Catholic Church in South Ockendon. Each team needed to provide its own sponsors but if this was not possible she suggested a donation of £1 per ringer, per quarter peal. If they were able, each tower needs to organise their own quarter peal but she requested all the details to be sent to her so that she could send them up to The Ringing World together.

### 6. Correspondence

The Secretary, Alison Nash, had received a letter from Phil Harrison who was currently in The London Chest Hospital. In the letter he thanked the members for his get well card and said he was due to have an operation very soon.

A note was also received from Raymond Jones of Shenfield; in it he stated the Shenfield clappers would be removed by a Shenfield working party on 24<sup>th</sup> April. They will stay in the church overnight and be transported to Taylors of Loughborough on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The clappers are to return on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May and they will be fitted very soon after.

### 7. Committee Meeting Report

The District Master, John Harpole, explained that at the February Executive Committee Meeting a proposal from members of the South East District to prohibit anyone whose name appears on the sex offender's

list from being a member of the Association. The Master explained why the Executive Committee had voted not to support this motion. He also gave a summary of the work of the Rules sub-committee who are currently drawing up a draft set of new rules. They will be making a presentation at the Annual General Meeting in May with the target of proposing a full set of revised rules at the Annual General Meeting in May 2011.

Election to Grants Application Committee. It was hoped David Sloman would be able to fill this post from the Southern District but he stated he was already on the Diocesan Advisory Committee and therefore could not be our representative. John Harpole explained the Committee was set up to examine requests for grants to the Essex Association. They would review all information and quotes for work before the request for a grant is put before the Executive Committee. There are two meetings a year which takes place before the Executive Committees in February and October. No volunteer was forthcoming.

Essex Ringing Course - At the Executive Committee Meeting, Mary Bone, the new Essex Course Convenor, put forward a proposal to add ringing course jobs to the rota already in existence for districts. (This rota already includes providing sidesmen for the service before the AGM, tea and afternoon ringing after the AGM, hosting the Striking Competition finals, and providing teas at the Executive Committee Meetings). It was hoped that districts would be able to take it in turns to prepare a ringer's tea on the Thursday, supper and organise entertainment for the Friday night social and to provide morning and afternoon tea and coffee each day. The Master asked if members would be prepared to support this; the general feeling was that the proposal was unworkable and unlikely to be supported by the District.

#### 8. Training

Cathryn Corns is to organise a course for Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles inside. She will be advertising this in the next newsletter due out in April.

#### 9. Election of New Members

James Nutman (Ingrave), proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Renée Page-Jones.  
Katherine Windsor (Ingrave), proposed by Ron Brown, seconded by Renée Page-Jones.  
Colin Henshall (Eastwood), proposed by Peter Knight, seconded by Martin Newman.  
Jean Pavely (Downham), proposed by Paul Cammiade, seconded by Roger Dorking.  
Lee Yellop (Orsett), proposed by Andy Martin, seconded by Cathryn Corns.  
Audrey Boreham (Orsett), proposed by Andy Martin, seconded by Cathryn Corns.

#### 10. Future Events

The Essex Ringing Course - This starts on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April for three days. More helpers are always needed.

The Annual General Meeting is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Our District is hosting the afternoon ringing and tea. The towers open for the afternoon are Downham, Rettendon, Eastwood, who are also hosting the tea, Rochford and Canewdon. There is a possibility Canewdon may be having the church floor re-laid and Prittlewell have agreed to be open if Canewdon are not available.

27<sup>th</sup> May is the next District Evening Practice at Brentwood.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, Shenfield are hosting the Striking Competition. John Harpole asked if anyone had any ideas for judges.

#### 11. Any Other Business

The top of Rayleigh tower needs extensive repairs and during this time no ringing will be allowed; the bells will therefore be out of action from the end of April until early December 2010.

Prittlewell bells are due to be removed during the Summer and replaced with a new peal.

Mark Robbins, District Treasurer, advised all new members that subscriptions are now due. Could members please sign a Gift Aid form, even if they think they may have already completed one, so that his records are up-to-date.

Tracey Southgate asked if as many towers as possible could ring on St Georges Day, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. If towers could ring a quarter peal please send the details to Tracey who will compile a list to give to the organisers.

The next newsletter is due the end of April. Each newsletter will now feature a different district tower each month and members are asked to send Beth Johnson a photograph and a few words about their tower and she will feature them on the front cover.

The collection raised - £37.75 Raffle - £59 Tea was donated - £80

Further ringing until 8pm and the meeting closed at 6.45pm.





# Quiz Night



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

7 for 7:30pm start.

At

The Fane Hall

Kelvedon Hatch

(next to the church)

£5 each (all proceeds go to the  
bellringers fund to have the handbells  
restored)

Bring your own nibbles and drinks.

Tables of 8.

Please contact: Rowena Marshall, 01277 222814 or  
rowenamarshall@hotmail.co.uk