

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER**ST GILES & ALL SAINTS, ORSETT**

St Giles & All Saints is a large Church at the centre of Orsett village. The earliest part of the church is the Norman doorway, although the rest of the building is predominantly Medieval. The base of the tower dates to the early 15th Century, but was largely rebuilt in 1610 of brick and the spire was added in 1694.

Orsett has six bells, with the tenor weighing approximately 11 cwt. Five of the bells were installed in 1792 whilst the treble was added in 1886. All were made by Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Formerly rung at ground floor level, the ropes were moved up to the first floor sometime in the 1960s, creating a light and spacious, although slightly noisy, ringing chamber. Practice is held on Thursday evenings from 8-9pm.

Judith Church

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A message from Ron:

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and warmth of good wishes and congratulations following my Lifetime Achievement Civic Award for 'teaching, mentoring and guidance in the art of bell ringing'.

The letter from Brentwood Council came as a complete surprise and I felt touched and honoured to be given this award.

With only 10 days notice I was invited to the Civic Dinner where I was presented with a trophy and certificate by the Mayor of Brentwood, Councillor Ann Coe, who is Verger at St Peter's South Weald. It was an enjoyable evening where only two other people received awards.

My sincere thanks to Ronnie Crighton of Ingrave and his 'collaborators' for my nomination.

On the Tuesday evening of Holy Week, there was another enjoyable surprise get-together at Shenfield which was attended by 30 to 40 fellow ringers. My heartfelt thanks to all concerned.

Ron Brown

SHENFIELD, ESSEX

Thursday, 21 March 2013
(7-0-20)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 John Armstrong
- 2 Beth Johnson (C)
- 3 Roger G Butt
- 4 Ray G Jones
- 5 John Cousins
- 6 Alan Moody

As a compliment to Ron Brown, awarded a Civic Lifetime Achievement Award by Brentwood Borough Council for his services to bell ringing. Also for the enthronement of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury.

RON BROWN - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT CIVIC AWARD FROM BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL



Several of the Brentwood ringers made sure that on March 1st, Ron Brown had a surprise in store. Their 'leader' was Ronnie Crighton from Ingrave, who proposed Ron and presented such a good case that the Borough Council could not fail to make a lifetime achievement award to Ron for his service to bell ringing in the area. Ron is shown above at the Civic reception with Ann Coe, Mayor of Brentwood and also verger at St Peter's South Weald.

The local Brentwood ringers, not to be outdone by the Civic reception, held their own award evening for Ron in the Turner Vestry of St Mary's Shenfield. Many friends came along to congratulate Ron and see his award and were rewarded by a speech by the man himself; Ron warned us of teaching those who did not understand that a requirement of being a ringer was attending service ringing on Sunday mornings. He said he was disappointed when teaching over a dozen ringers one time at Ingrave to only keep three, but two of those three were Chris Bailey and Ronnie Crighton so what he missed in quantity he more than made up in quality. He also confessed to have been instrumental in training North Ockendon for their first striking competition and as we all know, they haven't looked back since.



Ringers gather at Shenfield in the Turner Vestry to celebrate Ron's Award.

QUIZ NIGHT

A very successful quiz night was held by the bell ringers of Bentley Common church.

The Fane Hall at Kelvedon Hatch was full to capacity on Friday 15th March for an enjoyable evening to stimulate the 'little grey cells!' The results were very close but the eventual victors were the ringers and their families from Bentley tower! Together with an extensive raffle, a profit of £600 was made for the church. Thank you to all who attended.

Rowena Marshall

METHOD NAMED

Navestock, Essex, St Thomas

Wednesday, 10 April 2013 in 46 mins (9-3-20)

1272 Navestock Heath surprise minor

- 1 Peter Sloman
- 2 Gordon Lucas
- 3 Cathryn Corns
- 4 Lydia Roberts
- 5 Stephen Halliwell
- 6 David Sloman (C)

Method rung for the first time and named.

First blows in method: 5, 6

Rung to celebrate the birthdays of 1, 2 & 3 which all fall this week.

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

At Ingrave on 22nd March, Double Oxford bob minor was first in method for Cathryn Corns, Lydia Roberts, Stephen Halliwell and David Sloman (C).

Sophie Ann Olley at Shenfield 10 March – first quarter away from the tenor.

Ray Jones also at Shenfield 10 March - 500th quarter.

At South Weald on 17 March, Lessness Surprise Major was rung by Hilary Donoghue, Maria Jorysz, Helen Harpole, John Cousins, Steve Nash, Ian Jorysz, Paul Trueman and John Harpole. It was the first in the method by all apart from John Harpole.

(As found on Bellboard; please let editor know of any other significant achievements.)

STRIKING COMPETITION

19 MAY RETTENDEN 5PM DRAW

Our district method striking competition is on Saturday May 18th at Rettendon. The draw is at 5:00 pm, and I hope that as many towers as possible will enter a team. This is an opportunity for all bands to try their best, and to get some feed-back on their striking from the judges. 240 changes of any method are to be rung – doubles with the tenor behind or minor – and the choice of method does not affect your chances of success! Names for teas to Lyn Benson on 01245 400468 or by email at traceybenson31@aol.com by Wednesday 15th May - the latest. Please let Alison Nash know if you intend to enter a team(s) in the competition.

We are also having a quick 'members election' after the tea so if you have anyone in your tower who you forgot to put forward for membership in March you can do it at the Striking Competition but please remember to bring the correct form with you. If a completed Members Application form is not completed for the elections then they will have to wait until the September District Meeting to become an Association Member. The Members Application Form can be downloaded from the Association website (http://www.eacr.org.uk/files/documents/mem_app_form.pdf). Please do not use the Members Information Form as this is not the correct form for a new member.

DISTRICT OUTING - JUNE 8TH

Please see page 7 for a poster on the District outing to display in your towers. All towers have now been confirmed, and it should be an enjoyable day out. As lunch will be in a village, I will be making a booking in the village pub for lunch; as last year we will then be taking food orders at the first tower and phoning them through to the pub.

Please let me (John) or Alison know if you intend to come, and if you would like to be included in the lunch booking.

NOTICEBOARD

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION

A reminder that Sunday June 2nd is the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, and a good excuse for lots of ringing and getting publicity for our art.

BASILDON OPEN AFTERNOON DATES

All are welcome again in the Bell Tower between 2.00 and 4.00pm on May 4th; June 1st; July 6th; August 3rd; September 7th and October 5th.

SURPRISE MAJOR PRACTICE

Thursday 23rd May

South Weald - 7.30pm

Methods of the evening are London and Yorkshire. All Surprise major ringers welcome.

Parking in Church car park which will be open for ringers' use.

SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES...

...continue on first Saturday of every other month 4th May and 1 June 10am to 12 noon. All welcome to attend either as learners or helpers. Please let John or Steve Nash know if you plan to come along.

ASSOCIATION AGM CHELMSFORD MONDAY 6TH MAY

The 134th Essex Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May. The arrangements are as follows:

9:15 – 10.15 General ringing

10.15 – 10.30 Service touch by the Master's invited band

10.30 Service

11.45 Annual General Meeting

Do come along and ring at the Cathedral - the ringing is for everyone! Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can ring.

There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and again afterwards whilst we set up for the meeting.

Our President, the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell will be preaching. Unfortunately this year we will not have the Boreham Choir with us but the North Eastern District's very own Stephen Cheek will be playing the organ for us.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged. The Agenda is available from Vicki Chapman (Ass Secretary).

Afternoon ringing details and advance tea tickets are available at £3.00 from the General Secretary by 1st May, please enclose an SAE if you wish these to be posted to you.

Tea tickets will be available on the door at £3.50, so make sure you book early!

The following is the latest list of District members eligible for Life Membership under the 50-year rule.

Keith Gardner, Navestock (first elected 2nd Oct 1954)

Ray Jones, Shenfield (first elected 7th July 1956)

Penny Sloman, Prittlewell (elected 6th Apr 1963)

Betty Matson, South Benfleet (first elected 2nd Apr 1949)

These will be announced at the AGM on 6 May and they will be presented with certificates if they are present.

ESSEX RINGING COURSE

I am writing this a few days after the end of another very enjoyable Essex Ringing Course. Five district members attended as students: Jeanne Defries and Al Sacco from South Weald, Terry and John Thornhill from South Ockendon, and Marion Squier from Canewdon. Several members acted as helpers on the course, ably organised by Hilary Donoghue, and Steve Nash and I were tutors. Despite poor weather (and ringing at Wethersfield while it's snowing outside is even colder than Basildon on a winter's evening!) everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I hope all the students learnt something that they will be able to put into practice in their own towers.

On the Thursday evening we had a talk on the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) by Peter Dale, a member of the Association of Ringing Teachers. Peter described the scheme, which aims to provide a standard syllabus for the teaching of ringing, as well as support for teachers of ringing. I would urge you all to look at their website at <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>.

John Harpole

REVIEW BY COURSE MEMBER JEANNE DEFRIES

It was with some trepidation and a degree of excitement I drove down the A12 on the first day of the course, not knowing what to expect. On arrival at Honeywell School I was surprised to see so many people registering for the course; amongst the crowd were a number of familiar faces who helped to usher me in the right direction. Quickly, I found the group I was assigned to and met our tutor, who had taken the trouble to contact each of us shortly beforehand to find out about our ringing experience and expectations. Personally, I believe this type of thoughtfulness towards learners enabled us from the start to gain a sense of being a team and put our energies into working together.

Because the number of helpers equalled the number of learners this meant we were each given individual advice and support and not just left to the course tutor to teach us. It became apparent the helpers had the most difficult job, ringing continually during the morning and afternoon sessions apart from short breaks while the learners received feedback from the tutor. Their patience was quite remarkable, generously sharing observations and giving positive encouragement once progress was made.

During lunches in local pubs people shared their stories of various churches and ringing, often including life experiences from home and abroad, making us closer as a group. We were privileged in our group to have two helpers visiting from Australia who were prepared to give up three days of their holiday to be with us - what a marvellous gesture on their behalf which I believe benefited all of us in a variety of ways.

I experienced feeling physically and mentally tired after ringing each day, and was relieved to join one of the many lectures organised back at the school. Sometimes I questioned whether or not a particular lecture/presentation was suitable at my level, but despite my concerns I always got a lot out of each lecture I attended. Often the information presented was completely new to me. For example, 'Place Notation' which seemed to be similar to a game of Sudoku, which, in a rather childlike manner I complete without difficulty using a code provided. However, I had no idea how this shorthand way of ringing a method might be put into practise - so felt surprised when a very experienced ringer asked to check her answers with me. We spoke about the difference between our experiences of ringing and laughed with each about the irony of the situation.

At the end of the three days I was 'hooked', if it were possible at that time I would have completed the course all over again given the level of confidence and progress I felt I had achieved. As this was not possible, can I put my name forward for next year, please?

MINUTES

District Meeting at Canewdon

Saturday 16th March 2013

1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 34 members present, including visitors – June McKay from Meldreth, Cambridgeshire, Donald Health from Romford, South West District and James Lilley from Shoreham, Sussex.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Tim Clay, for taking the service and Martin Adcock for playing the organ. He also thanked the Canewdon ringers for preparing the tea.

The service touch was Stedman Caters rung by Andrew Beech, Helen Harpole, Stephen Nash, Paul Cammiade, Andy Martin, Maria Jorysz, Paul Trueman, Charlie Martin, Peter Sloman and John Harpole.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Basildon on 19th January 2013 were printed in the February 2013 Newsletter (No. 127) and emailed to those on the Secretary's mailing lists. There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

4. Matters Arising

John Harpole (District Master) thanked the Ingrave ringers for their warm welcome when the District held an afternoon practice at Ingrave in February. What a great afternoon ringing.

2013 is the Centenary of the 12 bells at Chelmsford Cathedral. To mark the Centenary each of the districts has been invited to attempt a quarter peal at the Cathedral during 2013. Our district's successful attempt took place on Sunday 24th February with a quarter peal of 1320 Erin Cinques. Congratulations to the following ringers who took part: Hilary Donoghue, Julia Jones, Paul Cammiade, Maria Jorysz, Helen Harpole, Peter Sloman, John Harpole (c), David Sloman, John Cousins, Nigel Taylor, Stephen Nash and Paul Trueman.

5. Management Meeting Report

The Deputy Master, Stephen Nash, wrote a report for the February Newsletter but the District Master reiterated a few points.

All the Association Senior Officers - Master, Secretary and Treasurer - have been nominated for the AGM. There are still a few posts that have not received nominations namely, Honorary Technical Advisor, Association Training Officer and Public Relations Officer. If you feel you may be able to fill one of these positions please contact the Association's Master or Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday 6th May – May Day Bank Holiday. Ringing is 9.30am-10.15am. Service at 10.30am. The ringing is available to everyone so please arrive in good time so as many people as possible can have a ring. The South East District are organising the refreshments before the service and after whilst the Cathedral is being set up for the meeting. The afternoon ringing and tea is in the North East District. Tickets for the tea are available in advance by 1st May from the Association Secretary for £3 or on the day/at the door for £3.50.

At present the South West District do not have a Master or a Secretary. The future for the district looks bleak. This will be discussed at the AGM.

The position of Association Training Officer will be vacant from the AGM in May, if there are no nominations for this post by the AGM the Training Day in November will not go ahead.

If there is anyone who can help on the Essex Course on the Thursday (4th April) for tea making could they please contact Andrew Brewster, Association Treasurer.

6. Correspondence

The District Secretary received an email from the Essex Ringing Course Convenor stating "there is one place available for either the Plain Bob Minor or Plain Major group at the Course." If you are interested speak to Mary Bone direct.

7. Election of New Members

There were no new members elected.

8. Training

The next South Ockendon Learners Practice is on Saturday 4th May. If anyone is able to help please contact Stephen Nash or John Harpole so they will know if there are enough helpers for the morning.

At present the District does not have a Training Officer. If anyone is in need of a course of any kind, whether a few hours in the morning or afternoon or a full days course of whatever kind, please contact Alison Nash, District Secretary, or any other District Officer.

Peter Sloman, Prittlewell, stated if anyone wants to brush up on their bell handling this can be achieved at the Prittlewell Ringing School on Saturday mornings 9am to 12noon. The school is there permanently for those who need bell handling advice/help so please don't hesitate to contact him on 01702 545889 if you need assistance.

9. District Programme

The last two, currently confirmed, South Ockendon Learners Practices continue on Saturday 4th May (Bank Holiday weekend) and Saturday 1st June.

The Striking Competition will take place at Rettendon on Saturday 18th May. Draw to take place at 5pm prompt. Ringing will start immediately after the draw. If you wish to enter a band please let the District Secretary know.

The next Surprise Practice is on Thursday 23rd May. Surprise ringers always welcome.

The District Outing is on Saturday 8th June to Surrey. In previous years this has proved to be a great success so don't miss out.

The Southern District is hosting the 6-bell Striking Competition Final and 8-bell Districts Competition on Saturday 6th July. The 6-bell final is being held at North Ockendon who are also hosting the tea and the 8-bell competition is at South Ockendon.

The next District Meeting is after the summer on Saturday 21st September. Further details to follow shortly.

10. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 18 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

11. Any Other Business

The Essex County Show is on the weekend of Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September and is being organised by Andy Martin (Langdon Hills). He urgently needs helpers to set up the Suffolk mobile ring on the Friday night and to help "man" the mini-ring at the weekend. If you have helped before, and are able to help again, or if you have not helped before and would like to please contact him direct on 01375 671070 or by email at andy@anchamartin.co.uk. He will need at least 6 volunteer helpers per day to make the Saturday and Sunday a success so please contact him as soon as possible. As a helper you will be entitled to free entry (passes will be allocated to you) so when you have a break from helping you can also have a look around free of charge!

The 2012 Annual Reports are today on their way to your towers so please take your towers, and other towers if you visit them during the week, before you leave.

Congratulations and our Best Wishes to Ron Brown of Bentley Common who was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by Brentwood Borough Council for 57 years of ringing and teaching others to ring. Well done Ron!

A last minute plea for the Essex Course taking place from Thursday 4th April to Saturday 6th April helpers are still needed. Please contact Hilary Donoghue if you can help on 01277 656346 or 07540066789.

The collection raised - £71.73; Raffle - £39; Tea - £98.20

NEWSLETTERS

Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, Tel: 01277 205102 or post to 67 London Road Brentwood CM14 4NN.

Newsletters are distributed at the end of Feb, April, August, October, and December - copy date for each on the 15th of the month.

Copies are sent to tower correspondents, preferably by email. Any member may request a copy via email by contacting Beth.

LOCAL PRESS

As District Press Officer I am endeavouring to compile a list of contacts at the various local newspapers and radio stations.

If you have a good contact with your local press, can you forward details to me please, for use when we have press releases to put out. Thanks Beth Johnson (see left for details).

GET A GRIP!

Several towers in the district are using liquid chalk to help when gripping the rope. Roger Hobson recommends sourcing this from www.megagrip.co.uk; half way down the list of products is 'Liquid Chalk'.

Roger advises that he usually orders two at a time as it has a long shelf life, you get a discount and the postage is more economical. They are generally pretty quick to respond.