

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER



ST CLEMENT'S LEIGH-ON-SEA

Perched at the edge of Leigh Old Town, overlooking the Thames estuary, is St Clement's. For his faith in Jesus Christ, St Clement was bound to a heavy anchor and thrown into the sea. St Clement is one of the patron saints of fishermen, so it is appropriate that he should be Patron Saint of Leigh, with the town's long seafaring tradition and cockling industry.

Directly outside the church porch is a tomb with the inscription 'Here lies the body of Mary Ellis, daughter of Thomas Ellis and Lydia his wife of the parish. She was a virgin of virtuous courage and very promising hope, and died the 3rd of June 1609, age 119'. The tomb was reputedly used by the Press Gang to sharpen their cutlasses!

The tower holds eight bells with a 10¼ cwt tenor. Practice night is Thursdays – contact Mary Folley on 01702 471799 for more information and to check they are ringing if you plan to visit.

QUIZ NIGHT RESULTS

The Southern District Quiz on 29th March at South Weald raised £312.70 for the Bell Restoration Fund. South Weald teams came first...and last! Thanks to the South Weald Ringers for organizing an excellent, if challenging, evening.

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SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

Next dates for the Saturday morning practice for learners are 3rd May and 7th June, 10am to 12 noon. All welcome. Helpers needed for each practice.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT & SOCIAL MEDIA



Would you like to discuss Southern District ringing activity on Facebook?

Is there any interest in creating a District Facebook group? The District programme could be set up as events, and everyone could post pictures and messages about all things ringing related in the Southern District. Would people prefer the group to be secret, so that only members can view the contents? **Any volunteers to act as the administrator?**

John Harpole

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.**

THE ESSEX RINGING COURSE 10TH - 12TH APRIL

Arriving at Coggeshall, with a bright and sunny day forecast, we were welcomed by the Master of the Association Brian Meads. After meeting our tutor, the students attended a lecture which introduced them to the method they had wished to study. A comprehensive pack was given out which consisted of diagrams and tips from the plain course to touches and variations of the chosen method. It was up to each individual to read through the information and pick out what they wanted to learn in relation to their ability.

The tutor and helpers put students at their ease as nerves slowly ebbed away. A welcome coffee break set us on our way to the practical ringing sessions with a lunch break in the middle, returning to much needed refreshments. The lecture that followed continued with theory in preparation for the following day's ringing. Talking to some of the students, the consensus appeared positive with the tutors and helpers very encouraging; all were looking forward to the next day. Tutorials were available throughout the course for those students who wished to increase their knowledge within the Ringing Circle.

Day Two and another bright and glorious day lay ahead as we ventured to our towers. On returning to much needed cups of tea and coffee and a lecture, most students felt they were progressing well. However, a few felt that the theory sessions were leaving them somewhat bewildered and confused as prior knowledge of the method chosen was fairly limited. They were persevering and, as we all remember, it is challenging to learn something new in a short space of time.

Other students were gradually getting a better depth of understanding, especially with belfry jargon. Standing behind experienced ringers, and being able to ask questions, kept them enthused and interested. The events of the day ended with evening team-building festivities and fun brain-training exercises, including a hearty buffet. This ensured everyone socialised together in the ringing fraternity.

The final day proceeded with continuing practical experience. The students remained focused, learning at their own pace, assessing their own progression with essential, constructive criticism from tutors and experienced ringers. On returning back to base the course began to draw to a close with a question and answer session, hosted by Tracey Southgate with a panel of a student and three experienced, dedicated tintinabulists, followed by a few words from Brian Meads.

To conclude: the Essex Ringing Course appears to have been a great success due to the hard work of Mary Bone and our Deputy Master, Hilary Donoghue, the tutors and volunteer helpers. It was a fantastic and wonderful learning experience. It must be noted that it was great to see enthusiastic young students attending the course. Young recruits are always needed because otherwise in the future ringing could well become a dying art. Good luck and best wishes to all the students with their ringing!!!

by student Ros Skipper

FROM RINGERS' QUESTION TIME:

Would the panel recommend natural hemp or synthetic ropes?

Synthetic tops with a 'long short' splice above the sallies, unanimously.

Are the Essex Course Tutors going to be required to be accredited?

The only accreditation scheme is the ITTS which does not train tutors above bob doubles; many of the courses offered by the Essex Course are more advanced and so no accreditation is possible, or planned, at present.

What do you do about the 'difficult' member in the ringing room?

Well, it depends on the make up of the tower but if you have a key pad you can change the number!

ORANGES AND LEMONS AT ST CLEMENT DANES by Jim Laken

A fine 1682 Wren church, St Clement Danes is situated outside the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. It was gutted by fire during the Blitz of May 1941 leaving only the walls, and its later-added tower and steeple defiantly intact.



For a while SCD remained a fire-blackened bomb site until in 1953 it was taken over by the Air Council. They started an appeal and by 1956 in excess of £250,000* was raised to fund the rebuilding. As a result, in 1958 the church was re-consecrated as the Central Church of the Royal Air Force (RAF). The interior of the church now houses books of remembrance dedicated to the allied airmen killed on active service from the First World War (1914-1918) to the present day, as well as many RAF Queen's Colours and standards. It is a perpetual shrine of remembrance to those who gave their lives on active service.

The Tower now contains ten bells, tenor 21cwt, together with a flat 4th and a surviving Robert Mot Sanctus bell. For most of the time since the re-consecration Essex ringers have taken the responsibility for providing a regular monthly Sunday morning service band. A member of this band and now retired, I was able to accept an invitation to ring for the church's annual Oranges & Lemons Service in the afternoon of Thursday 20th March 2014.

Ringling took place prior to the service and comprised of ringers with connections to SCD but more importantly it included children from SCD's Church of England Primary School, (founded 1700) and currently situated close by in theatre land's Drury Lane. These children and two of their parents have for the last year been receiving instruction during term time and were able to ring for the first time at this special event in their school calendar.

For my part I was aware of the nursery rhyme connection of 'Oranges and Lemons' – apart from during the WW2 and until its subsequent repair, the church's carillon has chimed the tune at regular intervals throughout the day. However, I had never witnessed the annual celebration service, which, by the way, does not mark St Clement's Day, this being much later in the year. So, our ringling over, I joined a capacity

congregation in this wonderfully restored interior with its many RAF memorials including 700 slate badges set in the aisle floor. Here was the entire school with an audience of proud parents and staff filling the pews and aloft in the two substantial galleries.

The atmosphere was full of excitement and anticipation for what was to come.

The formal proceedings commenced with a procession of the clergy and honoured guests, which included the Deputy Mayor of Westminster accompanied by a very well-dressed lady wearing an impressive hat more befitting Ascot's Ladies Day. On reflection I recall every female teacher was sporting some sort of head-gear consisting mainly of what my fashion adviser tells me are

'fascinators'. One or two of perhaps a more radical bent appear to have raided the Christmas decorations box and tinsel had been skilfully woven into the hair.

The welcome was given by David Osborne of St Paul's Covent Garden who is lead priest for the school since SCD is no longer a parish church. And because of its RAF affiliations it was fitting therefore that the Chaplain in Chief, The Ven Ray Pentland was also in attendance.

Following the gustily sung hymn 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' the fun started.

Five young girls in full uniform and white gloves gave a creditable rendition of Oranges and Lemons on their school handbells. Then it was the turn of the Nursery and Reception children to re enact the O&L street game in the aisle. Surely the smallest girl in school being the last to arrive and to be greeted with "... and here comes a chopper to chop of your head!" – this much to everyone's delight.

Poetry was read loudly and with confidence. The hymn, 'The Lord is my Shepherd' was sung well and lustily by all. As was 'Jerusalem'. Then we all stood for the school anthem with its opening line, 'You are my brother, you are my friend'. In what I imagine is a multicultural school these are important aims for them – and for us all.

Other high points for me were the performances given by the various year classes embracing music that could have only been chosen for them by their teachers. For example, Year 5, in the costume of the time, singing WWII hits led by a very young air-raid warden complete with tin hat and followed by a crocodile of girls in housecoats with hair tied in those turbans so popular of the time. Year 2's 'Rock around the Clock' session featured some well-practiced jiving, a dance I admit to performing in the past (see picture, over).

Again every child in costume. I even recognized some of the styles from my current wardrobe.

*today £4m.



To give us a moment to catch our breath there followed a short talk by a former pupil and now a Governor reminding us of the long history of the school. (For anyone interested in social history I can recommend the school's website on the subject of education in that area.) This done, the pace picked up as Year 4 gave us a homage to the 60s, followed by Year 3's Disco Divas, including a Jackson Five performance complete with Afro wigs that was greeted by an audience now on its feet.

The Service closed quietly with a Blessing and we processed out behind the clergy and guests to a chilly leaden London sky. As each child emerged, he or she was handed a bright orange and lemon, thereby carrying on a tradition started by the Rev Pennington-Bickford in 1920 who was vicar of the Parish when a carillon was installed so that the ancient bells would ring out the old nursery rhyme.

I wondered as I travelled home how the economic background of the children of 1920s London compared to the children I witnessed that day in 2014. I suspect it was rather different.



*Oranges and lemons
 Say the bells of St Clements
 You owe me five farthings
 Say the bells of St Martins
 When will you pay me?
 Say the bells of Old Bailey
 When I grow rich
 Say the bells of Shoreditch
 When will that be?
 Say the bells of Stepney
 I'm sure I don't know
 Says the great bell at Bow
 Here comes a candle to light you to bed
 Here comes a chopper to chop off your head
 Chop chop chop the last man's dead!*

60TH ANNUAL ESSEX DINNER ON SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Early Bird tickets, at a price of £32, for the dinner at the County Hotel Chelmsford are only available until Monday 5th May (AGM day).

To secure your place please send a non-returnable deposit of £16 per person, or alternatively please complete and return the Booking Form (available

to download from the EACR website) together with the appropriate amount of £16 deposit per person.

Hurry while stocks of Early Bird tickets last. After AGM day the price will rise to £34.

Andrew Brewster

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

Richard Dunhill for his first in method as conductor at Rayleigh, Sunday, 13 April, 1296 Beverley surprise minor: 1 Peter Smith, 2 Gordon Lucas, 3 Cathryn Corns, 4 Lydia Roberts, 5 David Belcham, 6 Richard Dunhill (C).

Tracey Taylor for her first quarter, and to **Dion Laycock** for his first quarter as cover at South Weald, Sunday, 9 March 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Tracey Taylor 2 Maria Jorysz
3 Mark Robbins 4 Alan Ball
5 Paul Trueman (C) 6 Dion Laycock

Paul Wiggins for his first minor inside at Shenfield, Sunday, 2 March 1260 Plain Bob Minor 1 Bryan Shedel
2 Beth Johnson (C) 3 Paul Wiggins
4 David Reed 5 Raymond Jones
6 Stephen Nash

Jeanne Defries for her first quarter at South Weald, Sunday, 2 March 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Jeanne Defries
2 Maria Jorysz 3 Mark Robbins
4 Alan Ball 5 Paul Trueman (C)
6 Al Sacco

Stephen Nash for his 1150th quarter at Langdon Hills, Sunday 16 March. 1269 Surfleet S. Minor 1 Alan Gisby
2 Gordon Lucas 3 Cathryn Corns
4 Stephen Nash 5 Richard Dunhill
(1st in m) 6 Andrew Martin (C)

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

DISTRICT EMAIL LIST

Alison and I are trying to consolidate our district email lists so we can reach as many district members as possible. If you haven't received recent emails about District events from Alison or I, please make sure Alison has your up-to-date email address.

The District list is also used for Newsletter distribution, so let Alison have your address and you'll get your own personal copy each time!

John Harpole

A NEW BELL FOR SHENFIELD



The Shenfield ringers are the delighted recipients of a new model teaching bell, made by one of their ringers, Bill Hindley.

Bill is a great craftsman and exceptionally helpful member of the band. After borrowing the Waltham Abbey bell for a demonstration AGAIN, Bill was asked if he might be able to make a bell for the tower. After much research, Bill made the model shown left, with a perfectly balanced mechanism so the bell will stand at both strokes. Bill also built himself a rope making machine so he could make a mini sally for the bell.



If any towers in the district need a bell for a demonstration event, Bill might be persuaded to lend his bell out. If you are visiting for the striking competition, do take a look, on the window-sill by the tower stairs.

ANY COMPETITORS?

John and Helen spent a day ringing around Northampton on March 29th, with the first stop being Harpole, meeting up with other members of a group visiting USA and Canada for a ringing holiday this summer.

Can anyone else provide a similar photo? And have rung at the church?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rayleigh, Essex

Holy Trinity

Sunday, 6 April 2014 in 47 mins

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Alan Gisby

2 Darren Osborne (C)

3 Cathryn Corns

4 Nick Allen

5 Simon Smith

6 David Belcham

7 Doug Bowles

8 Tony Lowe

Dedicated to Gordon Lucas, who was unable to join us this evening on the event of his 80th Birthday. Happy Birthday from everyone at Holy Trinity, Rayleigh. Thank you for all your help over the years.

CONGRATULATIONS

Prittlewell, Essex

Saturday, 5 April 2014

1280 Bristol Surprise Major

1 Cathryn Corns

2 Penny Sloman

3 Helen Harpole

4 Paul Cammiade

5 Stephen Halliwell

6 John Harpole

7 David Sloman

8 Stephen Nash (C)

2-1st Bristol

Rung as a belated welcome to Callum David Grainger and Ethan Thomas Grainger, born 14th January, grandsons of the 2nd and 7th ringers.

STRIKING COMPETITION

This year's competition will be taking place on Saturday 17th May at Shenfield. The draw will be at 5pm prompt. Could you please let Alison Nash, Secretary, know if your tower is entering a band and contact Sue Matthews with names for tea on 01277 224862. It is possible to park in St Mary's School, as the church carpark is quite small.

Attached are the Striking Competition rules.

RINGING ROADSHOW

The Central Council has announced that the next Ringing Roadshow will be held on Saturday 6th September 2014 at Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire.

This is a great day out with lots of activities, exhibitors and mini-rings to try out along with hundreds of other ringers. I was lucky enough to go to the last one, which was held in 2008 at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. To see some pictures, go to <http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/roadshow/> and click on the RW editor's blog.

Wendy Godden from the south-east district is planning to organise a coach, and has offered places to our district. I have arranged a pick-up at South Weald church, where we can leave cars in the church car park all day. Please contact Wendy direct on 01245 223873 or email her at richwen15@btinternet.com if you are interested.

HAVE YOU GOT THE DISTRICT OUTING IN YOUR DIARY?

This year's outing is on Saturday, June 21st and we will be visiting six towers in and around St Ives in Cambridgeshire. More details to follow.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

At our District Annual Meeting, I encouraged you all to come along to this year's EACR AGM. What I couldn't tell you then was that Steve Nash has been nominated as a Life Vice President, and we need you to come along and vote for him! His nomination was approved unanimously by the Management Committee, and now needs to be approved by a majority of those present at the AGM.

There will also be an election for the Association's new Master, with both Fred Bone (from the NW district) and myself having been proposed.

John Harpole

Do attend the meeting if you can and support John in standing for our Association Master.

MINUTES
District Meeting at Thorpe Bay
Saturday 15th March 2014

Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to print their name in the attendance book. There were 38 members present and 2 visitors, Rosemary Wright and Chris Adams from Eccleshall, Staffordshire. Robin Winkworth from Woking, Surrey joined us earlier in the day.

Thanks

The Master thanked the Rev. Jonathan Collis for taking the service and Lorraine Everett for playing the organ. He also thanked the Thorpe Bay ringers and their helpers for the delicious tea.

The service touch was a plain course of Bristol rung by Helen Harpole, Maria Jorysz, John Harpole, Hilary Donoghue, Paul Cammiade, Stephen Nash, Darren Osborne and David Sloman.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held at Grays on 18th January 2014 were printed in the February 2014 Newsletter (no. 132), emailed to those on the District's Mailing List and copies available at the Meeting. There being no amendments the Minutes were signed as a true copy.

Matters Arising

On 29th March South Weald are hosting a Quiz Night. Tickets are available from Maria Jorysz.

The Master is in the process of organising the District Outing to the West of Cambridge. He is hoping lunch will be in St Ives.

Correspondence

Those who subscribed to Essex Notices will already have seen the email from Andrew Brewster concerning volunteers for helping with the teas on the Essex Course. He still needs several volunteers to help on Thursday 10th April – 10 to 11.15am, Friday 11th April – 2.45 to 5pm and Saturday 12th April – 9.15 to 10.45am and again 2.30 to 4pm. If anyone can help please contact Andrew direct on andrew.brewster@talktalk.net or on 01245 421166.

Elections of New Members

Jordan Beamish (Basildon) proposed by Roger Hobson, seconded by John Harpole.

Arrangements for Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014 at Chelmsford Cathedral. The ringing will commence as usual at 9.15 until 10.15am. The service will commence at 10.30am followed by the meeting.

This year the Association will be electing a new Master. Two candidates have had their names put forward namely John Harpole (Southern District Master) and Fred Bone (Web Master and Newsletter Editor).

There is also an election for a Life Vice President namely Stephen Nash from our own district. Although his nomination was approved by the Management Committee in February he still needs to be elected by the membership. So please come along to the meeting and make your votes count.

This year the Southern District is responsible for the refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and before the meeting. The Secretary, Alison Nash, asked for volunteers to help her "man" the refreshments. Hilary Donoghue and Ray Jones agreed to help. One or two more volunteers would be appreciated.

Future Events

The Secretary wished to hear the view of the meeting concerning the District Afternoon Practices in February and October. As neither seemed to be that well attended (at Rayleigh – February District Afternoon Practice there were about 15 people) and wondered if anything needed to be changed, ie, the time which is normally 3-5pm. There was no feedback at all.

The next Surprise Practice at South Weald is on Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm. It would be good if there were some new faces.

As already mentioned the Quiz Night is on Saturday 29th March, again, at South Weald.

The next Learners Practice at South Ockendon is on Saturday 5th April, 10am to 12 noon. Helpers always needed.

On Saturday 17th May, Shenfield are hosting the District Method Striking Competition - everyone welcome. It would good to see as many teams entered for this competition as there was for last year's Call Change Competition.

The District Outing is on Saturday 21st June. More information to follow.

On Saturday 6th September the Ringing Road Show takes place at Newbury Race Course, Berkshire. If anyone is interested there is a coach going from Essex. The Southern District pick up is at South Weald church where your cars can be left in their car park. Please contact Wendy Godden on 01245 223873 or on richwen15@btinternet.com.

The Essex County Show at Barleylands, Billericay is on Saturday 13th September and Sunday 14th September. More details to follow.

The Annual Dinner is at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Tickets will be on sale at the Essex Course and at the AGM. Early bird tickets are £2 cheaper up to the AGM so get them quickly.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 13 people. These can be seen in the Attendance Book.

Any Other Business

A few points from the Management Meeting held in February. Please see February Newsletter for full report.

Roger Collins is the new Child Protection Officer. Contact him direct if you have any issues or if any forms need signing.

Grants have been given to Hornchurch (£1050) – their old 9th bell was cracked, and to Loughton (£950). These grants are subject to satisfactory inspections by the Technical Advisor.

The Essex Course has again been over-subscribed but 15 students from the Southern District have been successful in gaining a place on the Course. Three of the tutors are from our district namely, John Harpole, Stephen Nash and Andy Martin. More helpers are still required for the Saturday of the course, please see Hilary if you can help out.

At the September District Meeting at Brentwood ringing will start at 3.30pm, followed by the service at 4.30pm, then the tea followed by the meeting. The church car park is small so it would be preferable if cars could be parked in surrounding car parks in Brentwood, eg. Coptfold Road, Multi Storey car park (CM14 4FE) and possibly at the Council Offices car park, Ingrave Road, (CM15 8AZ).

The service collection was: £52.10

Profit from Raffle: £62.00

Profit from Tea: £161.00

SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

TAKEN FROM THE WEBSITE OF ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

- 6.1 There shall be up to two teams from each District in the Six Bell Final. Each District must arrange and hold their Heat before the end of June and the winners and runners-up of each District Heat shall be entitled to compete in the Final. In the event of any District having less than three teams prepared to compete in the District Heat then that District may dispense with the District Heat and if applicable those teams who were prepared to compete shall be deemed to have qualified for the Final.
- 6.2 **THE COMPETITION PIECE** shall be 240 changes of either Minor or Doubles with tenor covering. Five bell towers may ring Doubles without a covering bell.
- 6.3 Practice rounds or changes of two minutes will be allowed before each team rings the competition piece. Commencement of the competition piece shall be indicated by an agreed signal.
- 6.4 Any team failing to complete the competition piece at the first attempt (unless due to a mechanical breakdown, e.g. broken rope) shall retire.
- 6.5 **TEAMS** — All towers within the Association's boundaries may compete in their District Heats.
- a) A tower may enter any number of teams composed of ringers listed as being members of that tower in the current report or any who may have been elected since the last report was published. Up to three ringers listed as Unattached in the District may ring for a tower provided that they regularly ring at that tower.
- b) A tower finding difficulties to form a team on the competition day, may make their own arrangements to have up to two substitutes from neighbouring towers.
- c) A tower with insufficient members to form a team may join with a neighbouring tower in the same situation to form a joint team, entering the competition in the joint name of both towers. Ringers at Towers within a United Benefice may join together and enter a team in the name of the United Benefice.
- d) No ringer shall compete in more than one team. To overcome any attendance difficulties teams may with the consent of the District or Association Master and the other teams re-arrange the order in which they shall ring.