

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 17 2015

It is now under a month to our district ADM, which is being held at Prittlewell on Saturday January 17th.

Ringling is from 3.00 p.m., service at 4.30 p.m. and tea at 5.00 p.m., followed by the meeting. The District is to elect a new master as John is stepping down after seven years, taking on his role of Association Master.

The District officers would welcome nominations for master prior to the meeting. **A full job description is on the EACR website at <http://eacr.org.uk/etc/job-descriptions>, but if anyone wants to discuss what is involved, please ask John.**

If you have new members to nominate, please download the form from the EACR website (<http://eacr.org.uk/about/membership/>), complete it and forward to Alison Nash. If she can receive these before the meeting it is very helpful (but not essential).

Also, subscriptions are now due! Ringing members' subs are £8, with £4 for juniors and friends. If your tower can collect subs from all members and one person forward them to Mark Robbins, our Treasurer, then again this helps with Mark's admin. Mark will be at the meeting to take subs in person.

Parking is available at the old school in East Street; if driving down the A127 towards the seafront, East Street is the first on the left after the church. Numbers for tea to Names for tea to Alison Nash by Wednesday 14th January on either 01268 490061 or text on 07526 417787 or email me on alison1nash@yahoo.co.uk

If you are not sure whether you are attending the ADM please let me know numbers for teas anyway because we would rather have more food than not enough.



CONTACTS

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We do now have a facebook group at Southern District - EACR. If you are a facebook user do 'like' the page. If not follow this link : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eacr.southern/>

It is proving invaluable for sharing information, especially for appealing for additional ringers for weddings, funerals and so forth. To become a Facebook member go to Facebook.com. Protect your privacy via the padlock icon and 'settings'.

John Harpole

SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

The next Learners' Practices at South Ockendon will be on the first Saturday of each month, 10am to 12 noon starting with 3rd January 2015

If you have not been before then now is the time to try something new and don't forget we always need helpers.

If you have changed your **email address** within the last 12 months can you please inform Alison Nash, District Secretary, at alison1nash@yahoo.co.uk, on 01268 490061, or text on 07526 417787 asap. It is imperative that the District Officers email lists are kept up to date so that we can contact you at a moments notice.

DISTRICT 8-BELL SURPRISE PRACTICE

7.30pm 15th JANUARY 2015
St Peter's South Weald.

Cambridge and Yorkshire will be rung at all practices, along with other methods announced by the Master. All able and aspiring surprise ringers welcome.

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

Samuel Bryan (aged 13) and **Jordan Beamish** (aged 14) for their first quarters at Basildon, Sunday, 21 December -1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Alan Gisby | 2 Samuel Bryan |
| 3 John Harpole (C) | 4 Helen Harpole |
| 5 Steve Nash | 6 Jordan Beamish |



The quarter peal band, left to right, in ringing order. Lovely jumper Helen.

Dion Laycock, for his first quarter behind on 8, tenoring to 1260 Stedman Triples at South Weald on Sunday, 14 December

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Helen Harpole | 2 Jim Laken |
| 3 Maria Jorysz | 4 Paul Bloomfield |
| 5 John Cousins | 6 Paul Trueman |
| 7 John Harpole (C) | 8 Dion Laycock |

Sarah Chin-a-Loy for her first quarter at Prittlewell on Sunday, 14 December 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Peter Sloman | 2 David Field |
| 3 Cathryn Corns | 4 David Sloman (C) |
| 5 Sarah Chin-a-Loy | 6 Richard Sloman |

Anna Biddulph at Bentley Common on 1st December for her first quarter of Minor inside, for her 18th birthday - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pattie Folkson | 2 Rowena Marshall |
| 3 Anna Biddulph | 4 Ronald J Brown (C) |
| 5 John Cousins | 6 Alan Moody |

Cathryn Corns for her first as conductor of a minor method at Rayleigh on Sunday, 23 November - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Lydia Roberts | 2 Ros Skipper |
| 3 Alan Gisby | 4 David Belcham |
| 5 Cathryn Corns (C) | 6 James Laken |
| 7 Tony Lowe (cover) | |

Julia Reynolds for her first quarter at South Weald on Sunday 9 Nov - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Julia Reynolds | 2 Maria Jorysz |
| 3 Mark Robbins | 4 Alan Ball |
| 5 Paul Trueman (C) | 6 Dion Laycock |

NEWSLETTERS

Please send any reports, pictures, notices etc., to Beth Johnson at bethjohnson6710@gmail.com, 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.

Eastwood and Leigh-on-Sea Practices

Over the last couple of months, because of lack of 'home' ringers, we have resurrected the monthly joint practice, first tried many years ago but which faltered at the time because of people using it as an excuse for a night off!

It is the **FIRST** Thursday each month, with **EVEN** months being at Eastwood and **ODD** months being at Leigh, and so far, considering the time of year, attendance has been OK. Visitors welcome at either Eastwood or Leigh on that first Thursday.

Peter Knight

ESSEX RINGING COURSE 9th TO 11th APRIL

Details of the course are now available on the EACR website - see poster attached. Closing date for applications for courses is February 13th.

We need about 72 helpers so that we can provide a complete band for each group. Many of you come and help each year and we could not run the course without you. If you are hoping to come again this year or to join us as a helper for the first time you can contact Hilary Donoghue straight away on norseyhound@aol.com or phone 07540066789 or 01277656346.

FROM THE MASTER...

The start of 2015 marks the end of my seven years as Master of the Southern district. During that time we have had new peals installed at Canewdon and South Ockendon, the old ten have been replaced with new bells at Prittlewell and a major restoration completed at Brentwood.

As more and more ringers "go online" we have been able to improve communication within the district, with frequent emails to advertise district events, the best newsletter in the Essex Association, and, during the last year, a Facebook group launched. I'm particularly pleased that people are using digital media to ask for help when they cannot get enough of their own ringers for weddings and other occasions.

Our district events tend to be very well attended, and I thank you all for your support. We are getting more teams entering our striking competitions, and a good number enjoy our annual district outing.

We probably haven't been as active as we could be on the training side. Our main focus is our monthly learners practice at South Ockendon, which was initially started to support the novice band at Holy Cross but which now provides an opportunity for all to learn. I also think it is important for more experienced ringers to progress, and we now regularly ring complex methods at our South Weald surprise practices; in 2013 we even managed 2 twelve bell quarters at the Cathedral.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being District Master, and I wish my successor good luck. Throughout my term I have been supported by my fellow district officers and I thank them for their help, especially my two long-suffering secretaries Julia and Alison.



Isabelle Nash taking her first steps in ringing at South Ockendon

ASSOCIATION CAROL SERVICE: SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

Every five years a Carol Service takes place for the entire Essex Association. This fell due in 2014 and St Peter's, South Weald was nominated to host the event. I am not quite sure why we were granted such a privilege – may be it was due to our relatively central location, or that the Vicar, Ian Jorysz, is also the Association chaplain.

The day dawned and we had catered for approximately sixty people. The Carol Service was preceded by ringing at other local towers: Hutton, Shenfield and Bentley, followed by service ringing at South Weald. We watched anxiously as the people entered the Church, hoping that the refreshments would be adequate.

The service included five readings which were delivered by Claire Culham (North Eastern District), Roger Collins (North Western District), Emily Thomas (Northern District), Andrew Beech (Southern District) and Stephen Taylor (South Eastern District). The South Western District was represented by June Gray who conducted the prayers. An address was given by Ian Jorysz and the service interspersed by rousing Carols.

An approximate count during the service revealed there to be approximately 70 people present, a very good attendance, and thankfully the provision of festive refreshments was sufficient to satisfy (I hope) the needs of our guests. The event concluded with a short speech from the Master, John Harpole. Maria Jorysz, Tower Captain, South Weald

FIRST PEAL IN BASILDON

Essex Association Basildon, Essex St Martin of Tours

Sunday, 23 November 2014 in 2h59
(11-2-24)

5058 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by C Adams

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Helen L Harpole | 2 John G Harpole |
| 3 Paul A J Bray | 4 Jon Waters |
| 5 Stephen J Nash | 6 David L Sparling |
| 7 Colin F Chapman (C) | 8 Brian G Meads |

Rung fully muffled to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.



The peal band, left to right, Steve Nash, Jon Waters, David Sparling, Paul Bray, Colin Chapman, John Harpole, Brian Meads, Helen Harpole.

Whenever a new ring of bells is installed, some peoples' thoughts begin to wonder when the first peal on the bells will be rung. During my ringing career, I have been lucky enough to be in bands that rang the first peal at South Weald after augmentation, the first peal at South Ockendon, and the first peal on the new bells at Prittlewell.

What about the first peal at Basildon? Ringing at the Belltower for a prolonged period presents a number of problems, some of which are unique to a modern, glass tower:

- The times when the bells can be rung and for how long are restricted by planning conditions
- The bells are very loud inside and out as there is no ability to install any kind of sound control
- The tower is just yards away from the Basildon Centre, with shops and houses also close by
- Prolonged exposure to the bells would probably not be good for the ringers' hearing

The commemorations for the outbreak of the Great War provided a good excuse to attempt a peal, and also to muffle the bells as sign of respect. From previous Remembrance Sundays we knew that half-muffling significantly quietened the bells, so that they were hardly audible above the traffic noise in Broadmayne.

Furthermore a November Sunday afternoon seemed an ideal time as the shops closed at 4.00 p.m., the internal temperature would be OK, and not many people would have their windows open.

The attempt was originally planned for Remembrance Sunday, but had to be moved so it didn't clash with preparations for the patronal festival evensong, which is always on the same day. Barbara Leigh kindly made sure there was no issue with groups who meet in the Basildon Centre on Sunday, and Ian Culham arranged the band. Unfortunately Ian had to drop out a few days before as he was posted to Kenya to serve with the army; Helen willingly stood in his place.

After a false start, the peal was scored in just under 3 hours. Not only was this the first peal in the Belltower, but also believed to be the first on the ancient back 6 bells which were previously hung in Colchester.

It was the first time I had ever rung fully muffled, and it was a strange experience. There was so much hum off the back bells that the trebles could not be heard. Many people stopped and watched us, and one short video clip was found on Facebook, with largely favourable comments. We don't believe any negative complaints were received by either the council or the Church.

John Harpole

QUARTER PEAL FOR ARMISTICE DAY

Prittlewell, Essex - St Mary

Tuesday, 11 November 2014 in 56 mins
1288 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Penny Sloman | 2 Peter Sloman |
| 3 Lydia Roberts | 4 Cathryn Corns |
| 5 James Laken | 6 Stephen Halliwell |
| 7 David Sloman (C) | 8 Alan Gisby |

Rung at 11:02 for Armistice Day remembering all those who have fallen in service to their country and especially Cpl Alfred Beal of the Royal Corps of Signals, who died 26/11/1942 and is buried at Imphal War Cemetery.

The band wish to associate Lawrence Beal, who was unable to ring with us today, with this quarter peal remembering his father Alfred.

SOUTH WEALD OUTING 8TH NOVEMBER

It was a bright sunny morning as several parties of ringers journeyed up to Suffolk for the "South Weald Grand Tour". Eschewing the traditional form of travel for our band (minibus) for a series of nominated drivers and their vehicles, the ringers arrived at the first tower of Dalham St Mary at approximately 9.15am.

This church has a ground floor ring of eight bells with a long draught, a traditional start to a South Weald outing (see Swanscombe in Kent last year). Every century is represented in the Church's fabric or artefacts since it was built in the early 14th on the site of a Saxon church mentioned in the Domesday Book. Located next door to the Summer residence of the Bishops of Ely, the church has been enlarged and extended over the centuries. However, in recent years thefts of lead from the roof and a location set apart from the village have sadly affected the building. The Tower held five bells one dating from about 1425; two from 1627; one from 1755 and one from 1832. They are housed in a wooden bell-frame built around 1750. In 1992 a new steel frame was built below the old frame to safely re-house the old bells and three new bells were cast to augment the peal to eight. As a comparative beginner I can safely say the bells were a challenge, especially the three which is apparently "odd struck". (That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it).

Elveden is usually visited by families as it is the location of Centre Parcs but I wonder how many know about the 17cwt ring of 8 at SS Andrew and Patrick. The bells are housed in a tower separate to that of the church and joined by a cloister built in the 1920s creating an illusion that it was once part of an abbey. The church has a fascinating history as it was developed and rebuilt in the 1860s by an influential and powerful Sikh family who often entertained royalty. A plaque in the nave declares that "Edward VII worshipped here". The ringing chamber is reached by a winding stair and the bells are well appointed, although oddly muffled from inside the chamber itself. From the outside the church is stunning and worth a detour if you are visiting Centre Parcs.

A little short on time now, our convoy drove onto the next tower. Despite the best attempts of the local wildlife to prevent us (in the form of several pheasants diving in front of the car), we arrived safely at All Saints **Hopton** to a warm welcome from the party of volunteers working in the churchyard. The bells and tower have recently been restored, bringing the bells to a fully ringable state and adding two bells to make a ring of eight. The back five bells, which date from the early 17th century, are the only remaining example of a ring by John Draper's Thetford foundry and the treble, cast in Downham Market, was added in 1807. The bells are now all hung in a new steel frame, with a concrete ring beam to strengthen the tower. The church has a painted medieval roof and is clearly tended for by the local community. It also has an added benefit for thirsty ringers of a well appointed kettle which was put to good use by our team. We rang plain Bob with some jammy dodgers.

On to **Bardwell** for lunch and a visit to the Dun Cow. A welcoming pub with a friendly atmosphere for a leisurely lunch. The village church of SS Peter & Paul has a ring of 8, the oldest of which dates back to 1717 and was augmented in 2009 by the addition of three more. The chamber is well appointed on the first floor, reached by a steep winding stair and the bells are lovely, even a comparative beginner can ring them up! The ringing here was fuelled by copious amounts of cinder toffee, this provides energy and helps maintain the peace of the ringing chamber.

It was getting a little dark by the time we reached St Mary **Gislingham** and so the sight of the lights on in the church was welcome indeed. Even more welcome was the sight of the home made cake and the cups of tea provided so generously. The church is steeped in history and has been many times extended and improved since medieval times. On particular interest is the 15th century glass and presence of box pews which those of us with young children realised would have definite benefits on a Sunday morning. The ground floor chamber has the unusual addition of names upon the walls showing where ringers stood in the 1700 and the bells they were responsible for. In 2006 the six bells that had been removed from the bell frame in the 1970's were repaired and re-hung in a new steel frame and two additional bells cast and hung. The church website states that the bells are "one of the finest ring of eight bells in the county". They are an 11cwt ring of 8.

And now as the sun had set while we rung at St Mary's, on to **Stowmarket**. Time had been allowed for "tea" between the last two towers but thanks to the contact book of our social secretary tea was laid on in the church. Home-made chocolate cake no less! The ringing chamber is on the first floor and reached by an entertaining wooden spiral stair leading to a hatch in the floor which made for an amusing "pop up" by the later arrivals of our band. The bells are a ring of 8 weighing 20cwt so the heaviest set of our grand tour. However, they are well looked after since extensive work in the 1990s and make a fabulous sound across the town centre.

A safe journey home by all the band despite some quite torrential rain (which anyone at the Danbury fireworks that evening would know all about) followed by meeting for a curry in the Rajmoni suitably finished the day off.

Credit roll: Organiser: Tracy, Tower consultant: Paul. Drivers: Paul, Ian, Mark. Social secretary: Julia. Toffee tester: Brian. Special mention to the Gray family for the provision of outstanding tea and cake at Stowmarket. And thanks to Maria for keeping us all on our best behaviour.
Julia Reynolds

DISTRICT CALL CHANGE COMPETITION



Langdon Hills: (l-r): Andy Martin, Catherine Gisby, Cathryn Corns, Alan Gisby, Charlie Martin, Steve Nash



Basildon (r-l): Helen Harpole, Samuel Bryan, Gary Beamish, Roger Hobson, John Harpole, Jordan Beamish



Canewdon (r-l): Hilary Donoghue, Sam Jones, Brian Meldon, Sharon Jones, Den Jones, Joan Marshall



Prittlewell 3+3 (l-r): Ann Porter, Ros Skipper, Steve Halliwell, John Lambert, James Laden, Sarah Chin-a-Loy



North Ockendon (r-l): Alison Nash, Hilary Spooner, Andrew Beech, Claire Beech, Michael Warren, Brian Beech



Prittlewell 4+2 (r-l): Alyson Browning, Judith Williams, David Sloman, Emma Pinnock, John Woollard, Michelle Shorter-Bowen



South Weald (l-r): Al Sacco, Paul Southard, Maria Jorysz, Paul Trueman, Julia Reynolds, Mark Robbins



Shenfield and Brentwood (r-l): Ron Brown, Beth Johnson, John Pattison, Paul Wiggins, Chris Bailey, Ray Jones

Our call change competition was held at Great Wakering as part of our November meeting. Eight teams took part, with all successfully completing their five minutes of changes. The competition was followed by a service, during which the master was made to stand up to acknowledge being a Spurs supporter! After a lovely tea we had a short business meeting, and then it was finally time for the results.

Our two judges were Ian and David Culham from Mistley, who had spent the afternoon in the Priest's room above the entrance to the vestry. Ian gave comments about each team, and then passed over to his dad who gave the scores for each team. Results overleaf.

COMPETITION RESULTS

1. North Ockendon - 17 faults
2. Prittlewell B (4+2) - 25 faults
3. Langdon Hills - 29 faults
4. Prittlewell A (3+3) - 34 faults
5. South Weald (& Paul) - 66 faults
6. Shenfield/Brentwood - 73 faults
7. Canewdon (+ Hilary) - 77 faults
8. Basildon - 84 faults



So North Ockendon kept up the tradition of winning the competition, and a smiling Hilary Spooner retook possession of the trophy from the judges.

RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE AT BRENTWOOD

In common with many parishes, the Christmas Bazaar is a major fund raising event on the calendar. In the past we bellringers have played our part by opening the tower to visitors for a small charge. However, times change and Health and Safety concerns and possible situations that might compromise the parish insurance meant that tower openings are no longer possible. So what could we do?

Our ringing membership has been static for a few years now and ringers' personal circumstances mean that our pool of available ringers is shrinking. We decided to have a small recruitment drive from a stall at the Bazaar on which we had the superb model bell made by Bill Hindley from Shenfield as well as video clips of our bells being rung. To make it more interesting we introduced a game of Guess the Weight of a Bell Clapper with a small prize or the closest guess. The clapper was one made in 1887 that was replaced when our bells were restored in 2008. It was truly amazing just how wide the range of guesses turned out to be – anything between 15lbs and 18 stone! The actual weight was only between 19 and 20lbs. As well as raising about £50 for the parish we attracted eight people to take part in a 'Come and Try' session. The response to this initiative has been far more successful than poster campaigns or requests in the parish newsletters or magazines. Our hope now is to encourage the initial interest into a long-term commitment to ringing in our band.



Chris Bailey

ANY UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

If you have any Christmas presents that you would like to pass on for any reason - two of the same maybe? - do bring them to the ADM or any other district event and give them to Alison Nash, District Secretary. They can be used for raffle prizes, raising much needed money for the bell fund.



MINUTES - DISTRICT MEETING AT GREAT WAKERING

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2014

1. Welcome and Sign Roll Book

The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to sign the attendance book. There were 40 members present including two visitors, our Call Change Competition Judges, Ian and David Culham of Mistley.

2. Thanks

The Master thanked Rev. Alun Hurd for taking the service and Brian Fletcher for playing the organ. He also thanked the Great Waking ringers for preparing the splendid tea.

The service ringing was rung by Samuel Beech, Samuel Bryan, Jordon Beamish, Clare Beech, Steve Nash and John Harpole.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Brentwood on 20th September were printed in the October Newsletter (No. 135). The Minutes were emailed to those on the Secretary's mailing lists and distributed at the Meeting. The Master signed them as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Election of New Members

There were no new members elected.

7. Training

The Association Training Day will take place on Saturday 22nd November in the South West District.

The Learners Practices at South Ockendon are continuing for the whole of next year. The next practice is on Saturday 6th December, 10am-12noon. The Master thanked the District Training Officer, Stephen Nash, for running these practices. The Master asked Stephen if he was willing to continue as Training Officer for 2015. He confirmed he was.

The meeting was asked if we would like an ITTS (Integrated Teacher Training Scheme) course for next year. Have a think about this?

The next Surprise Practice is on Thursday 20th November 7.30-9pm at South Weald.

8. Future Events

The Association Carol Service is on Saturday 13th December at South Weald. Ringing has been organised before the carol service at Hutton - 2pm-2.45pm; Shenfield - 2.30-3.15pm; Bentley Common - 3pm-3.45pm; and South Weald - 3.30pm-4.30pm. The service will start at 4.30pm. Please put the poster (attached to the October Newsletter) on your notice boards.

The Southern District, Annual District Meeting is being held at Prittlewell on Saturday 17th January 2015. Ringing starts at 3pm, service at 4.30pm followed by meeting and further ringing after the meeting.

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 12 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

10. Any Other Business

The Master asked Hilary Donoghue - Deputy Master; Mark Robbins - Treasurer; Alison Nash - Secretary; and Beth Johnson - Newsletter Editor, if they were willing to continue in their respective posts and they were all willing to stand again.

However, the District Master, John Harpole, announced he would not be standing again as District Master at our ADM in January - he is now Association Master. We will need a new District Master so please ask those you think would be suitable for this position. Please speak to ringers in your own tower and those towers you visit during the week. Please do not assume someone else will do the asking because if no-one is prepared to take this position on, the job will have to be shared between the present officers and this will make running the district much harder.

At present we do not have a District Public Relations Officer. Please have a think about a suitable candidate and ask them if they would be prepared to take this position on.

A Quarter Peal Day with a difference – please see attached extract from an emailed sent to the District Master and District Secretary from Andrew Beech of North Ockendon. Note: Alison Nash and Andrew Beech to arrange a suitable date for the District Calendar.

At the Management Meeting the Association had received a request from The Ringing Foundation asking our Association to give £1 for every Association member. This would be a sum of £1,100 but as it was unclear what the objectives are for this money the Management Meeting felt we needed more information.

Beth Johnson asked, "What is The Ringing Foundation?" The Ringing Foundation was set up by the Central Council of Church Bellringers to discuss the future of ringing and how to get more people to take up this art.

It was asked, "What does the Central Council receive from the Association?" The Central Council only receives money from the Association for the number of representatives who sit on the Central Council Committee. We are eligible for 5 Committee Reps (which is based on the number of members the Association has) and so the Central Council receives £25 per committee rep, therefore, £125 per year.

The 25th Essex Ringing Course is on 9th-11th April 2015. Completed application forms should be received by Mary Bone, the Course Organiser, no later than Friday 13th February 2015. The fees are £50 for adults and £35 for junior members of the Association. 25 for 25: The first 25 places will be available for Essex ringers aged under 25 on 9th April 2015 at a special fee of £25. An additional application form will need to be completed. All application forms and information can be viewed on the Association website. Don't forget helpers and tutors are needed to make this event a success.

A question was asked – is the Association Carol Service an Advent Carol Service? The secretary will find out! Note: The Carol Service is NOT an Advent Carol Service.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial if a band of young ringers – under 18 years - could visit Ingrave before the Association Carol Service on 13th December so that some of the District's young ringers could all ring together. Initially this was thought to be a good idea but have felt that, as we did not know how well the Carol Service will be attended, those ringers under 18 and their parents/guardians may be needed at the other towers so this has been postponed until another time.

The Call Change Competition Results are as follows:

1. North Ockendon - 17 faults
2. Prittlewell B (4+2) - 25 faults
3. Langdon Hills - 29 faults
4. Prittlewell A (3+3) - 34 faults
5. South Weald (& Paul) - 66 faults
6. Shenfield/Brentwood - 73 faults
7. Canewdon (+ Hilary Donoghue) - 77 faults
8. Basildon - 84 faults

Congratulations North Ockendon. Well done all those teams who took part. It was great to see so many teams entering.

The collection raised - £44.89 Tea - £49 Raffle - £66

Quarter Peal Day With A Difference - Suggested by Andrew Beech

This Quarter Peal event was a 'light-bulb' moment which I thought about as a result of those QPs that were organised and rung for Ron's 90th birthday.

Pot Luck Quarter Peal Event

Idea: To encourage ringers to ring with other people within the District; as a social event; and to have a bit of fun!

How it works:

- ◆ Everyone meets at a central location to the towers being used for the quarters.
- ◆ Ringers have their names put into a "ringer's hat" and teams are decided by random from names drawn.
- ◆ Ringers that are only capable of ringing the treble or tenor, but still want to take part, are put into a separate "hat" of just treble/tenor ringers.
- ◆ Teams get sent to whichever tower is drawn from the "tower hat".
- ◆ Once the teams had been drawn and their tower allocated they would all make their way to that tower to ring their QP. That way car sharing could be done, socialising, etc.
- ◆ The method would be decided by the team together with the conductor. Obviously, the choice of method would have to be made taking into account the abilities of all the team members.

- ◆ Approx. timings: disperse to ring first quarter peal at say, 10:30/11:00. The team then has lunch (at a local pub for example) before returning to the central location at a designated time (eg. 2:00). The successes/failures of the morning QPs are recorded before the second draw takes place where all names are drawn again to form new teams/towers/methods/conductors. The new teams then disperse to ring their afternoon quarter peal (eg. 3:00). Finally, everyone returns to the central location at a designated time (eg. 4:30/5:00) to record the afternoon successes/failures.
- ◆ If you wanted to do more quarter peals, say two in the morning and two in the afternoon, you could expand it but so that you don't waste too much time travelling back and forth you would probably keep the morning teams the same and the afternoon teams the same.
- ◆ The idea would be to inject a bit of fun and socialising into it thereby drawing, and redrawing, the teams, etc, on the day for the morning and afternoon quarters. But you would need to know roughly how many people wanted to take part beforehand so that you knew how many towers to organise.
- ◆ You could round off the day with a ringer's tea or a bring-n-share tea back at the central location.