

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER



CANEWDON

In 2009, after an absence of over a century, the bells of St Nicholas were ringing out as a result of a bequest from a parishioner, which allowed them to install 10 new bells with a 17¾cwt tenor, and an impressive ringing gallery. Canewdon was the tower for February's afternoon practice, included lots of call changes and Grandsire as well as Yorkshire and Cambridge Royal.

After the practice Brian offered to take us up to the top of the tower. It was fascinating to see the 10 new bells, and then a bit higher up the tower, the old ring of 5 in their timber frame, complete with the remains of wheels and stays.

The views from the top of the tower were amazing, with Southend to the south and the Essex coast to the north and east, and the setting sun in the west. Thanks to the local ringers for providing tea, cake and biscuits. Canewdon's practice night is Wednesday, ring Brian Meldon on 01702 258401 for more information.

CONTACTS

**MASTER
Nigel Taylor**

(Downham)
10 Teignmouth Drive,
Rayleigh, Essex,
SS6 9PF.
Tel: 01268783792
Mob: 07825810847
s-district-master@
eacr.org.uk

**DEPUTY MASTER
Hilary Donoghue**

(Downham)
16 Norsey Close
Billericay CM11 1AP
Tel: 07540 066789
s-district-deputymaster@
eacr.org.uk

**SECRETARY
Alison Nash**

(North Ockendon)
2 Woodview,
Langdon Hills,
Essex SS16 6TZ
Tel: 01268 490061
s-district-secretary@
eacr.org.uk

**TREASURER
Mark Robbins**

(South Weald)
6 West Way,
Brentwood
Essex CM14 4PB
01277 234345
mark@southweald.
org.uk

**EDUCATION
OFFICER**

Steve Nash
(Fobbing and Langdon
Hills)
2 Woodview,
Langdon Hills,
Essex SS16 6TZ
Tel: 01268 490061
stevejnash@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT DISTRICT MEETING HUTTON 21 MARCH

3pm ringing, 4.30pm service,
5pm tea followed by meeting.
Names for tea to Renée
Page-Jones on 01277 218531 by
Wednesday 18th March the latest.

SOUTH OCKENDON LEARNERS' PRACTICES

The next Learners' Practices at
South Ockendon will be on the
7th March 10am to 12 noon.
***If you have not been before then
now is the time to try something
new and don't forget we always
need helpers.***

DISTRICT 8-BELL SURPRISE PRACTICE

7.30pm 19th MARCH 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.

SOUTH BENFLEET

is currently having work carried
out in the church and therefore
the bells will be out of action for
5 to 6months.

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

FROM OUR NEW MASTER: NIGEL TAYLOR

I was born in London, but lived in
Oxfordshire until I was 18. It was
there I learnt to ring, at Chinnor, in
1970. The bells had been recently
rehung, and I had listened to the
bells being rung for the 'tryout'.
I also went to the dedication service.
Martin Cross, a school friend,
suggested we learn to ring. This we
did. He still rings too.

After that, I lived and rang in London
until I moved to Essex in 1983. My
home tower was St. Mary Abbots,
Kensington. I don't come from a
ringing family although my brother
used to ring, as did my youngest
son, Edward, who sadly gave up after
attaining rounds.

Now my home tower is Downham: a 7¾ cwt. ring of six cast by Gillett &
Johnston in 1946. Unusually, bells are part of my day job as well as my
hobby: I am the Tower Bell Production Manager at The Whitechapel
Bellfoundry. I also do some tuning and most of the inscriptions.

One of my greatest ringing achievements was ringing in a peal of 13500
Grandsire caters at Isleworth in 1981; quite good fun, apart from a clock
hanging on the wall directly opposite me! Also very enjoyable was the peal
of 35-spliced surprise maximus at Chelmsford Cathedral in 1999; a record
for the Essex Association.

As District master, I am looking forward to visiting all the towers in the
district. I would like to hold some workshops to teach learners to count
their places rather than just trying to follow ropes. And I also want to carry
on with John's idea and see if a district band can ring a quarter of surprise
maximus (probably Cambridge) at Chelmsford Cathedral. I am sure I shall
formulate other ideas in due course – and look forward to seeing many
District ringers at the events currently planned for 2015.



INGRAVE OUTING 8TH NOVEMBER

Ingrave ringers and their intrepid guests ventured off bell ringing bright
and early on the 8th of November.

We started at Theydon Garnon with our first '6' of the day. The bells handled
beautifully and it was a both delightful and reassuring start. Our bell guru
nonagenarian Ron Brown was able to tick this off his tower list which was
one of the main aims of the day.

Moving on to Epping Upland we were at first unsure whether to ring or
join the grounds working party. These bells were quite a challenge. One
experienced ringer said, "It's good to be taken by surprise sometimes."

We moved onto Moreton's ground floor ring and the sun started to shine on
us. We therefore seized the photo opportunity. A delicious meal followed
with a chance to relax and chat.

The twin churches of Willingale followed, another first for most. It was
interesting to hear how the project was undertaken by the villagers and the
impact this has had on their ringing numbers, leading to practice nights
each week. Another lovely ring.

Finally homeward bound we visited Ingatestone, which had the biggest
ringing room I've been in so far! Our day finished with a 'bit of a do' as
always. An extremely pleasant conclusion to a rewarding and interesting
day. Thanks to all who helped make it so.

Liz Atkins and Ronnie Crighton

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.

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.



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'.

RINGING ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to:

Clare Merivale, from South Ockendon, for her first quarter, ringing as part of the Southampton University Guild at St Barnabas, Southampton on Tuesday, 3 February 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Clare Merivale	2 Kristian D Scudamore,
3 Philip D Moyse (C),	4 Alice Gibbin,
5 Lorna P Neal,	6 Jonathan Mills

Also Jonathan's first as cover; however, Jonathan has rung nine quarters over the last two years, the penultimate being Stedman doubles inside. Congratulations to Clare from all her Southern District friends.

Anne Porter for her first in method at Eastwood on Saturday, 14 February 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Alan Gisby	2 Gordon Lucas
3 Anne Porter	4 Cathryn Corns
5 David Belcham	6 David Sloman (C)

Steve Nash, who circled the tower as conductor at Fobbing on Sunday, 8 February 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Stephen Nash (C)	2 Gordon Lucas
3 Cathryn Corns	4 Clive Garraway
5 Alan Gisby	6 David Belcham

Alwyn Brock for her first quarter away from cover at Rayleigh on Sunday,

1 February 1300 Plain Bob Doubles	
1 Alwyn Brock	2 Simon Smith
3 Cathryn Corns	4 Gordon Lucas
5 David Belcham (C)	6 Tony Lowe

Sue Matthews for her first in minor at Shenfield on Sunday, 1 February 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen Harpole	2 Sue Matthews
3 Andy Sutherland	4 Ray G Jones
5 Beth Johnson (C)	6 John Harpole

Cathryn Corns for her 800th quarter at Rayleigh on Sunday, 25 January 1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Simon Smith	2 James Laken
3 Ros Skipper	4 Nicholas Allen
5 Cathryn Corns	6 Lydia Roberts (C)
7 David Belcham	8 Tony Lowe

and **Cathryn** again for her first in method as conductor at Rayleigh on Sunday, 18 January 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Alan Gisby	2 Gordon Lucas
3 Simon Smith	4 David Belcham
5 Cathryn Corns (C)	6 Tony Lowe

Alan Ball for his first in method at South Weald, on Sunday, 18 January 1344 London Surprise Major

1 John Cousins	2 Helen Harpole
3 Maria Jorysz	4 Ian Jorysz
5 Steve Nash	6 Alan Ball
7 Paul Trueman	8 John Harpole (C)

Alan Gisby for his first triples inside at Stanford-le-Hope on 1 January 1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Ros Skipper	2 Cathryn Corns
3 Lydia Roberts	4 Alan Gisby
5 Gordon Lucas	6 Richard Dunhill
7 John Harpole (C)	8 Tony Lowe

QUARTER PEAL DAY WITH-A-DIFFERENCE

This new district event will be based at INGRAVE on **Saturday 18th April** starting at 10:00am. The idea is a bit of a social event as well as to encourage ringers to ring with other people in the district and to have a bit of fun! Here's how it works:

- Everyone meets at INGRAVE at 10:00am.
- Ringers have their names put into a pot, and quarter peal bands are formed by names drawn at random from the pot, (those that only ring the treble or tenor behind can still take part, just let me know beforehand).
- Bands ring at the tower that they draw at random from the tower pot.
- The bands then decide amongst themselves what method they will ring and who will be the conductor. The choice of method will take into account the abilities of all the band members.
- Each band then makes their way to their allotted tower to ring their quarter peal. Car share where possible so you should only need to take two cars.
- Lunch at a local pub
- All return to INGRAVE for 2:00pm where the successful quarter peals are recorded.
- Ringer's names are drawn at random again for the afternoon quarter peal bands. Towers are drawn again too.
- Methods and conductors are decided also.
- Each band then makes their way to their afternoon tower to ring their quarter peal. Car share again where possible.
- Following the afternoon quarter peals, everyone returns to INGRAVE for 4:30pm where the successful afternoon quarter peals are recorded and well earned cups of tea & coffee and cake are consumed!

The planned schedule for the day:

10:00	Meet/Start at INGRAVE
10:00-10:30	Draws made for morning QP bands
10:30	Bands leave for morning towers
11:00-12:00	Ring morning QP
12:00-1:30	Team lunch at pub
2:00	All meet back at INGRAVE
2:00-2:30	Draws made for afternoon QP bands
2:30	Bands leave for afternoon towers
3:00-4:00	Ring afternoon QP
4:30	All meet back at INGRAVE for tea/cake

There will be a small cost of £1.50 per person per quarter peal (£3 for both QP's) to cover tower donations and Ringing World - £1 per rope for the tower and, should the quarter peal be successful, 50p for the Ringing World.

So that I know how many towers we will need, please can you let me know if you would like to take part by giving me your name, home tower, and contact details (either email, mobile or landline) by Saturday 11th April.

I can be contacted on email (andrewbeech1@yahoo.co.uk), mobile (07957 384764) or landline (01708 440939)

Additionally, if you can provide a cake/cakes for the after-ringing "bring-and-share-cake-fest" at the end of the day, that would be very much appreciated! Please let me know if you can help by bringing cake - it doesn't have to be homemade, we will just need cake!

Look forward to hearing from you - it should be a fun day!

Andrew Beech

ESSEX RINGING COURSE 9th TO 11th APRIL

The Essex Course was over subscribed this year, so that means along with all the other organisational tasks such as booking towers and co-ordinating the groups, we need about 72 helpers so that we can provide a complete band for each group.

Many of you will already have been contacted by Hilary to ask if you can help, if you are on her list. However, Hilary still needs more willing hands, even if you can

only do one day, and particularly if you can only do the Saturday. Don't feel that you are only needed if you can do the full 3 days.

And if you sadly haven't got a place, why not come along as a helper instead?

If you are available, please contact Hilary Donoghue straight away on norseyhound@aol.com or phone 07540066789 or 01277656346.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES: OUTING SATURDAY 31 JANUARY



This was the third year that a group of Southern District ringers have resolved to "beat the winter blues" by organising a day's outing to visit some 10 and 12-bell towers. We had certainly chosen a cold day, but initially the sun was shining as we set out for High Wycombe, All Saints, a new 26 cwt ring of 12. Most of us are not accustomed to 12-bell ringing on a regular basis, so it took us a little while to "get

into the swing" and we avoided Surprise Maximus at High Wycombe, concentrating instead on Grandsire, Stedman and Erin Cinques and Little Bob Maximus.

Amersham St Mary was the next stop, another ring of 12, a bit lighter this time with a tenor weight of 19 cwt. In addition to our High Wycombe repertoire we did manage some Cambridge Surprise Maximus.



Some of us felt slightly relieved that the next tower had only 10 bells. This was St Mary-the-Virgin, Rickmansworth (below), where, amongst other ringing, we attempted and nearly accomplished a course of London Surprise Royal on the 20 cwt ring.



The second part of the outing was based at St Albans. We started at the Cathedral, a 21cwt ring of 12. We met under the magnificent rose window and began the most interesting ascent up to the ringing chamber, through narrow passages and stairwells, ending with a section exposed to the weather but affording a great view onto the roof and across the parkland.

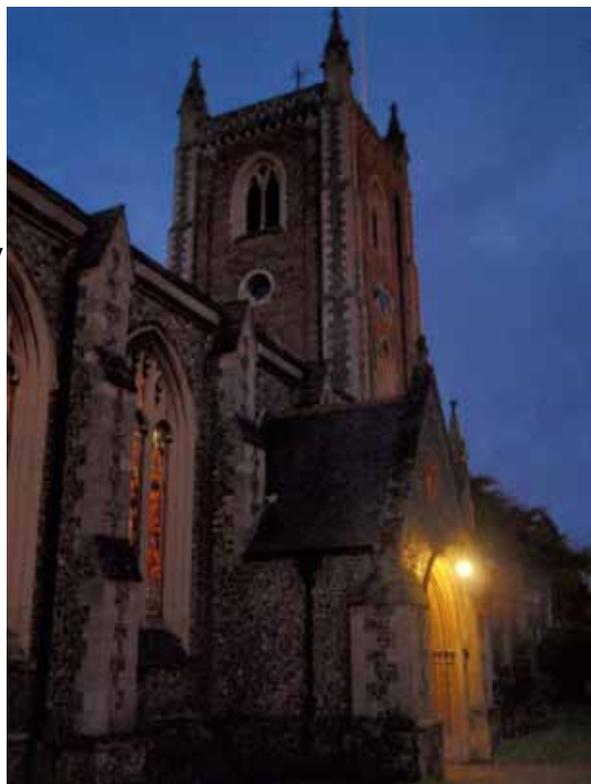


The tower of the Cathedral is broad and the bells are hung in one corner. The ringing chamber contained wooden beams at various angles between which the ropes dropped, making visibility from some bells difficult. This issue, together with the bells not being particularly easy to hear, resulted in our ringing not being of the highest standard!





We descended in time for choral evensong. A few of our number attended the service, whilst the remainder trudged across St Albans towards St Michael's (left), a 12cwt ring of 8. By this stage in the day there was no sign of sun, the wind had picked up and it felt freezing. Two or three opted to cut the walk short and warm up in a tea shop. Perhaps this was the sensible option, as the ringing chamber at St Michael's felt no warmer than the outside temperature. I for one was cold through and through



and did not manage to warm up on the brisk walk across the other side of the city to the glorious 24cwt ring of 10 at St Peter's (right). Ringing here was generally of a good standard, except unfortunately our further attempts at London Surprise Royal in which I was very much the weak link.

Our day closed with a welcome warm curry at an Indian restaurant just a few yards from our last tower. I hope everyone enjoyed the day and that it made some contribution to "beating the winter blues".

Maria Jorysz

Essex Association of Change Ringers

Southern District

MINUTES

Meeting at Prittlewell Saturday 17th January 2015

1. Welcome and Thanks

The Master, John Harpole, welcomed all present and invited everyone to print their name in the attendance book. There were 69 members present, including visitors – Vicki and Colin Chapman (Association Secretary and Report Editor respectively – Chelmsford), Liz & Peter Rayner from West Ham, Jen and David Fields, Mary and Fred Bone (Essex Course Organiser and Web Master respectively – Sawbridgeworth) and Donald Heath from Romford.

The Master thanked the Rev. Chris Cousins, for taking the service and Warren Symes for playing the organ. He also thanked the Prittlewell ringers for the wonderful tea.

The service touch was Grandsire Caters rung by John Harpole, Steve Halliwell, David Sloman, Cathryn Corns, Steve Nash, Hilary Donoghue, John Cousins, Andrew Beech, Liz Rayner and Alan Gisby.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the District Meeting held at Great Wakering on 15th November 2014 were printed in the December 2014 Newsletter (No. 136), emailed to those on the Secretary's mailing list and copies available at this meeting. There being no amendments they were signed as a true copy.

3. Matters Arising

The Association Carol Service held at South Weald was a great success when around 70 people attended the service. Thank you to those towers who were open during the afternoon namely, Hutton, Shenfield, Bentley Common and of course South Weald.

4. Correspondence

An email had been received from Vicki Chapman, Association Secretary, concerning the election of Association Officer at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th May. Nominations for Master, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 Property Trustees, Public Relations Officer, Technical Advisor, Education Officer and 2 Independent Examiners need to reach Vicki by 1st February.

The District Secretary had received an email from Andrew Taylor, the Association Treasurer concerning the Membership Information Form. This should be completed if a member has changed their name and/or address (or intends to in the near future) and if they have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and have stops paying tax.

5. Reports

- (a) The Master, John Harpole, presented his report for 2014 and is attached to these Minutes.
- (b) The Secretary, Alison Nash, presented her report for 2014 and is attached to these Minutes. (*The Diary of Events attached to these Minutes is an updated version and different to what was distributed at the meeting*).
- (c) The Treasurer, Mark Robbins, presented his report and the District Accounts for 2014 and these are attached to these Minutes.

6. Election of District Officers

Colin Chapman took the chair for the elections.

a) Honorary Officers (members of the EACR Management Team)

- (i) Two nominations had been received for District Master; Helen Harpole, proposed by Andrew Beech and seconded by Mark Robbins and Nigel Taylor, proposed by Roger Dorking and seconded by Stephen Nash. There was a paper ballot. Whilst the votes were being counted the rest of the elections took place.
- (ii) Hilary Donoghue was proposed as Deputy Master by Cathryn Corns and seconded by Ray Jones and was re-elected.
- (iii) Alison Nash was proposed as Secretary, by John Harpole and seconded by Chris Bailey and was re-elected.
- (iv) Mark Robbins was proposed as Treasurer by Roger Hobson and seconded by John Cousins and was re-elected.

b) Other District Officers

- (i) Stephen Nash was proposed as Education Officer by Anthony Neale and seconded by Nigel Taylor and was re-elected.
- (ii) Beth Johnson was proposed as Public Relations Officer by Roger Hobson and seconded by William Swire.
- (iii) Beth Johnson was proposed as Newsletter Editor by Andrew Beech and seconded by Peter Knight.
- (iv) Stephen Nash was proposed as Bell Grants Committee member by Nigel Taylor and seconded by Julia Jones.

At this point in the meeting the results for the election of District Master were ratified and Nigel Taylor was duly elected as Southern District Master.

The present District Master, John Harpole, re-took the chair.

7. Election of New Members

- (a) Fifteen new ringing members were elected to the Southern District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers as below:

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

Thomas Infanti (Brentwood) proposed by Chris Bailey, seconded by Warren Hawkings.

George Hayward (Hutton) proposed by Renée Page-Jones, seconded by Robin Page-Jones.

Samuel Beech (North Ockendon) proposed by Andrew Beech, seconded by Alison Nash.

Siim Sinihelm (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by Deborah Webb.

Prisca Sinihelm (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by Deborah Webb.

Carman Archer, (South Ockendon) proposed by Cathy Merivale, seconded by Deborah Webb.

Bill Hindley (Shenfield) proposed by Beth Johnson, seconded by Ray Jones.

Kathy Pattison (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

John Pattison (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

Sue Gilder (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

Joel Wiggins - Junior member (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

Amy Brindle - Junior member (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

Esther Brindle - Junior Member (Shenfield) proposed by Ray Jones, seconded by Beth Johnson.

Emma Pinnock (Prittlewell) proposed by Peter Sloman, seconded by David Sloman.

- (b) Friends of the Association - There were no friends elected.

(c) Non Resident Members - No Non Resident Members were elected.

9. District Programme

The next event is the District Learners Practice at South Ockendon on Saturday 7th February, 10am-12noon.

Saturday 21st February is the District Afternoon Practice at Canewdon, starting at 3pm and finishing at 5pm.

The next District Meeting is on Saturday 21st March at Hutton. Ringing starts at 3pm.

The next District Surprise Practice at South Weald is on Thursday 19th March.

The District Outing will be on Saturday 13th June in Suffolk. Details to follow.

10. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 17 members. A record of apologies can be found in the Attendance Book.

11. Any Other business

Mary Bone made a plea for the Essex Ringing Course which is on 9-11th April 2015. If you wish to be a student please download and complete the form on the Association website and return it to her no later than Friday 13th February. Helpers, of all abilities, are always needed so please contact Hilary Donoghue if you are able to help. Her details are email norseyhound@aol.com or phone on 01277 656346 or 07540066789. All students and helpers can attend any talk/seminar taking place throughout the three days.

Two members of the Southern District are to become Life Members due to 50 years membership of the Association. Steve Halliwell (Prittlewell) was elected to the Association on 9th January 1965 at Leytonstone. (The Southern District did not exist at that time) and Jim Laken (Southern District Non Resident) was elected on 14th January 1961 again at Leytonstone. They will be presented with their 50 years of membership certificate at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th May 2015.

John Harpole read out a letter he had put together on behalf of the three principle officers of the Association. Letter attached.

Stephen Nash, Education Officer, asked the meeting if there was anyone who needed training, either themselves or their tower, to please contact him. Chris Bailey (Brentwood) said the Brentwood ringers would like a course on triples ringing. Chris and Stephen are to confirm a date.

The collection raised - £142.30

Raffle - £124.00

Tea was donated - £245.00

That's over £500 raised today. The Master thanked everyone for their generosity.

There was further ringing after the meeting up to 9pm.

DISTRICT MASTER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2015

During the last year we have held our usual programme of meetings, striking competitions and practices. These have generally been very well attended, and I thank all of you for supporting our district events.

Congratulations to the bands from Prittlewell and North Ockendon who won our striking competitions. The Prittlewell band then came a very creditable third in the Association finals at Nazeing; unfortunately our district band could only manage 4th place in the 8 bell competition.

Thanks must go to the South Weald ringers; in March they organised a quiz night, which I'm told was a very enjoyable evening and raised over £300 for the bell restoration account. Then, in December, they hosted the Association's carol service, which was well attended by ringers from all over Essex.

We held another very enjoyable outing in June, this time visiting St Ives and the surrounding area in Cambridgeshire. The weather was perfect, and the ringing enjoyed by all – some even managed to fit in a cream tea!

All of our events have been reported in the District Newsletter. I know I say this every year, but I think Beth does a fantastic job putting it together. It is particularly pleasing to see so many people submitting articles about local events and ringing achievements.

One new initiative in the past year has been the establishment of a district Facebook group, and 48 members have now signed up to receive reminders for meetings, snippets of news and requests for help. Anyone can post to the group, so why not initiate some interesting discussions!

As you all know I am not seeking re-election as district master. I have been master for the last 7 years, in addition to the 4 years I did some years ago.

During this time, our meetings have been well supported, a good number of teams have entered our striking competitions and practices well supported. I'm particularly pleased with our regular practices; at South Weald which give more experienced ringers the chance to learn new methods and generally exercise their minds. Our monthly practices at South Ockendon continue to attract a good number of helpers and less experienced ringers, and its pleasing to see ringers advance from month to month.

One thing that goes by almost unnoticed is the amount of money we raise for bell restoration at our meetings. We regularly raise around £1000 through service collections, raffles, profits from teas and one-off events. I thank you all for your generosity.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being District Master, and I wish my successor good luck; I know you will all give them your support. 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. In addition I'd like to thank Hilary, Mark and Steve for their support during the last year.

John Harpole

SECRETARY'S REPORT – JANUARY 2015

Our Annual District Meeting was held at Grays when 53 members and visitors attended. Throughout the year we have had other business meetings at Thorpe Bay when 40 attended, Brentwood where 27 attended and Great Wakering when 42 attended.

The District 6 Bell Striking Competition was held in May at Shenfield where six teams took part. The District Trophy was presented to Prittlewell and Rayleigh came second. Both teams represented the District at the Striking Competition finals in July.

At the Annual General Meeting in May our District Master, John Harpole, was elected Association Master and a past Association Master, District and Deputy Master, Child Protection Officer and our current Education Officer, Stephen Nash, was elected a Life Vice President. Congratulations to you both.

In June we held a District Outing to Cambridgeshire about 25 members attended representing towers from all over the District. We had a great days ringing, the weather was on our side so cream cakes and ice creams just had to be eaten.

Great Wakering hosted the Call Change Competition in November when an amazing 8 teams entered. Unfortunately, North Ockendon could not be knocked off their first place position and they retained the trophy for yet another year.

District Afternoon Practices were held at Rayleigh in February and Stanford-le-Hope in October. There was no District Carol Service for 2014 but an Association Carol Service which was held in the Southern District at South Weald when we had good ringing, good singing and mince pies and cakes followed.

Sadly, Betty Neale, a Friend of the District died in April.

Bi-monthly Surprise Major Practices have been held at South Weald and monthly Learners Practices at South Ockendon have all been well attended.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those towers the District has visited during 2014, all those hot cups of tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes and for the warm welcome we received.

Alison Nash Southern District Secretary 15/1/2015