

Minutes of the Annual Northern District Meeting held at Shalford on Saturday 4th January 2025

Present: Simon Ward (District Master), Tim Peckham (District Secretary), David Newton (District Treasurer), Jonathan Thompson, Kelly Thompson, Vicki Elliott, Nicholas Elliott, Peter Smith, Andrew Taylor, Carol Taylor, Cherry Threadgold, Roy Threadgold, Ian Cresshull, Pat Cresshull, Susan Sherrington, Michael Mason, Charlotte Mackle, Dianne O'Connor, Marianna Marriott, Peter Carman, Kath Downs, Maurice Downs, Hazel Kettlewell, Alan May, Linda May, Glen Dodsworth, David Kerrison, Elizabeth Jordan, Robyn Slater, Desmond Crone, Lee Prowse, Adam Brett, Jason Brett and David Brett.

The District Master chaired the meeting which started at 5.30pm

1. Welcome

The District Master thanked Michael Chumbley (reader) for leading the service. He then welcomed the attendees to the Northern District Annual Meeting, mentioning that this year would be the 105th anniversary of the Northern District. He thanked Marianna Marriott and others who had provided the refreshments and Michael Mason for setting up the church.

We were asked to reflect on the passing of Marian Wood on 13 Apr 2024. She was master of the northern district from 2006-2009. Also, her husband Peter Wood who passed away on 02 Nov 2024. A mention was made about Jim Towler who passed away on 30 Nov 2024.

A mention was made about the new ropes that were installed at Shalford. They were donated by Mandy French in memory of her late husband David French. He rang at Shalford and, as a Chelsea supporter, the sallies were coloured white and blue, consistent with the patron saint of Shalford being St Andrew.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Brewster (Association Treasurer), John Elliott (District Deputy Master), Pamela Ayling, Terry Earle, Wendy Earle, Jim Green, Janet Edwards, Vicki LeFèvre, John Pearson, Lorraine Cunningham, Gill Peters, Peter Chapman, Pat Chapman and David Learmonth.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 6th January 2024 had been circulated in advance. There were no other comments or corrections to the minutes. They were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, proposed: David Newton, seconded: Susan Sherrington. This was agreed by a show of hands. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Officers Reports

- a. The Master read his report:

As we gather to reflect on another year of ringing, I am pleased to present the Ringing Master's Report for 2024.

This year has been one of steady progress and enthusiasm within the Northern District, as we continue to rebuild momentum following the challenges of recent years. It has been heartening to see the commitment and energy of our members at practices, competitions, and social events.

The year began with the Annual District Meeting at Rayne, which was well attended and set a positive tone for the months ahead. Regular advancing practices, held in Braintree have been a cornerstone of advanced ringing development, offering opportunities for ringers to challenge themselves and hone their skills.

April saw the return of the Essex Ringing Course, hosted at Rickstones Academy, which was a valuable experience for those who attended. Later in the month, the 6-bell Striking Competition took place at Great Yeldham, with an excellent turnout and spirited performances from the teams. Congratulations to all who attended and showcased their ringing skills.

In September, we held a District Practice and Business Meeting at Witham, combined with a pub lunch at Kelvedon. This day highlighted the strength of our community and provided a platform for discussion and planning for the district's future.

As always, November was designated as Quarter Peal Month, with a particular emphasis on supporting first-time Quarter Pealers. The dedication shown by our members to achieving personal milestones and improving their ringing is truly commendable.

Looking back over the year, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the EACR Northern District, whether by organising events, attending practices, or supporting others in their ringing journeys. Special thanks go to my fellow District Officers, John Elliott, David Newton and Tim Peckham, for their unwavering support and hard work throughout the year.

As we move into 2025, let us continue to build on this year's successes and embrace the opportunities ahead. Together, we can ensure that the joy and tradition of change ringing remain vibrant within our district.

- b. The Secretary's report, circulated in advance, will be published in the EACR Annual report.
- c. The Treasurer's report and statement of accounts (attached) were circulated in advance.
- d. The Education Report was read by Roy Threadgold. Training: There was a successful November Association training course. The 2025 Essex Course will be held from 10th- 12th April. A locally available mobile belfry was demonstrated at the Essex International Scouts Jamboree and Colchester University Freshers Fair. Funds: The training and recruitment fund is available to improve the ring-ability of bells, to subsidise courses etc. Remember to apply. First Pealers Club: New members are being sought. Local Events: A "rope-sight" course and a session on "pushing the envelope" were held last year and are planned for this year.

There were no further reports, and no questions arose from the reports.

5. Election of new Members:

Desmond Crone (Pentlow), Ringing, (proposed: Tim Forsey, seconded: Ian Hamilton)
Robyn Slater (Unattached), Ringing, (proposed: Tim Forsey, seconded: Ian Hamilton)
Dianne O'Connor (Gosfield), Ringing, (proposed: David Kerrison, seconded: Susan Sherrington)
Deborah Rand (Stisted), Ringing, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Tim Peckham)
Elizabeth Jordan (Halstead), Ringing, (proposed: David Kerrison, seconded: Susan Sherrington)
Paul Osborne (Halstead), Associate, (proposed: David Kerrison, seconded: Angela Kerrison)
Mark Rickett (Halstead), Ringing, (proposed: David Kerrison, seconded: Trevor Beadle)
Jane Prowse (Stisted), Ringing, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Wendy Earle)
Lee Prowse (Stisted), Ringing, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Wendy Earle)
Ruth Jubb (Stisted), Ringing, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Wendy Earle)
Caroline Ellison (Stisted), Ringing, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Nicholas Elliott)
David Brett (Witham), Ringing, (proposed: Peter Chapman, seconded: John Newman)
Adam Brett (Witham), Ringing, (proposed: Peter Chapman, seconded: John Newman)
Jason Brett (Witham), Ringing, (proposed: Peter Chapman, seconded: John Newman)
Hazel Kettlewell (Coggeshall), Associate, (proposed: Simon Ward, seconded: Tim Peckham)

6. Announcement of Life Members (50-year-rule)

Carol Taylor nee Downs (Kelvedon), and **Stephen Sudbury** (Gosfield) were congratulated by the district on their achievement.

7. Election of district officers

Tim Peckham (District Secretary) took the chair for the election of the Master.
Simon Ward (District Master) took back the chair for the election of the other district officers.

The following district officers were all elected unopposed:

Master	Jonathan Thompson (proposed: Peter Smith, seconded: Susan Sherrington)
Deputy Master	(vacant)
Secretary	Kelly Thompson (proposed: Peter Smith, seconded: Susan Sherrington)
Treasurer	David Newton (proposed: Tim Peckham, seconded: Roy Threadgold)
Trustee	David Newton (proposed: Tim Peckham, seconded: Roy Threadgold)

Appointed officers:

Education	Roy Threadgold
Public Relations	Kelly Thompson
Grants Applications	Ian Cresshull
Social Committee	Kelly Thompson
Technical Officer	John Elliott
Website co-ordinator	Ian Cresshull

8. Nomination of Association Officers

There were no nominations from the Northern District.

9. District Calendar for 2025

The proposed calendar for 2025 had been circulated before the meeting.

The master brought the following events to the attention of the meeting:

Saturday 26th April 2025, District 6-bell Striking Competition, Gosfield.

Saturday 12th July 2025, EACR Striking Competition Finals, Terling and Sandon.

Saturday 3rd January 2026, Annual District Meeting, Witham.

10. Any Other Business

- a. David Newton (District Treasurer) reminded members that subscriptions were due. Subscription fees have increased from £8 to £12. Payment online would be preferable to cash.
- b. Members from the floor thanked Simon Ward the out-going District Master for his hard work and expertise looking after the district for 7 years.
- c. Members also thanked Tim Peckham for his work as district secretary and for all the other roles he'd filled during his time.
- d. David Newton thanked John Elliott for his hard work and dedication to the district as Deputy Master.
- e. Thanks was given to all the other volunteer post holders.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

Signed

Dated

EACR Northern District – Treasurer’s Report

Year Ending 31.12.2024

The vast majority of subscriptions are now paid directly to the EACR, meaning that the cash / cheques handled by the District Treasurer is much less than previously. Subscriptions are to increase for 2025 from £8 to £12 (£4 to £6 for Junior or Associate members). Thank you to all who have paid their subs promptly this year and to Pamela Ayling for dealing with all the online queries: membership@eacr.org.uk

There were 10 new member applications in 2024; 8 for Ringing members, 1 Junior ringing member and one Associate. 4 members have moved away or are no longer ringing, meaning that their membership has lapsed. Sadly, two members died in 2024. Two members received Life membership under the 50-year rule.

Membership currently comprises: 107 Full Ringing Members, 1 LVP, 15 Life members, 5 Junior Members, 1 Associate:

Total 129.

Please note that the figures in the accompanying table relate only to those payments received by me and the full report for the Northern District can be seen printed in the Annual Report for 2024, or online, once issued in February / March 2025.

Thank you all for your kind support and for your generous donations this year. Please contact me or the Membership Secretary with any queries about paying your membership subs for 2025, or the recent December *Rounds and About* in your tower for a comprehensive message from the Association Treasurer, Andrew Brewster, also available on the Association website.

And finally, please make sure that, if applicable, you have completed and returned to the Association Treasurer a Gift Aid form for your subscriptions and donations, worth an extra 25%. These can be downloaded from the website www.eacr.org.uk.

David Newton – 1 January 2025

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Northern District

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

<u>2023</u>	INCOME	<u>2024</u>
	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
264	Ringing members - Adult @ £8 -16 {2023-33}	128
8	Ringing members - Junior @ £4 - 1 {2023- 2}	4
8	Non-resident members - @ £8 - 0 {2023 - 1}	0
0	Associate members - @ £4 - 0 {2023 0}	0
8	Arrears for previous year - Adult @£8 -1/ Junior @£4 - 0 {2023 – 1 Adult}	8
0	Advances for next year - Adult @£8/ Junior @£4 -0 {2023-0}	0
288.00		132.00
	<u>Sales</u>	
3	Badges @ £1.50 - 2	3
	<u>Bell Restoration Account / Recruitment & Training</u>	
32	Donations	34.00
138	EACR striking comp surplus	221.95
0	ND striking comp surplus	25.70
17.50	ND meeting Kelvedon	15.75
0	ND quiz night Rayne	37.00
187.50		334.40
478.50	Total Income	469.40
	EXPENDITURE	
0	Postage/Stationery	0.00
0	Striking comp gift to judges	0.00
478.50	TRANSFERRED TO ASSOCIATION TREASURER	469.40

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