

commented that there was usually no great take up by students until the last minute. Peter Smith thought that individual towers (i.e. tower captains) should be encouraging their learners to attend. It was asked whether the Ringing Remembers recruits were still ringing and it was thought that all of them are.

Roy Threadgold will be organising a very basic theory session on Tuesday 16th April and has booked the Shalford Church Annexe for the evening from 7pm. Simon Ward supported this session saying that it would add value but Bradley Hill thought that by pitching it at a low level, may mean that few people would attend. Roy Threadgold said that the session would include interactive and Do-it-Yourself work.

Action : Secretary to include theory session in April Newsletter.

James Lawson commented on the locations and accessibility of some training sessions and highlighted the need for assistance with transport for some people. Vicky LeFèvre suggested that if individuals had problems with transport they should contact either their Tower Captain or the District Officers to find out if someone local was also going to attend and could offer transport.

5 Achievements

The recent Quarter Peal achievements of District members were read out.

6 District Striking Competition

The District Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 11th May at Castle Hedingham, starting with the draw at 2.30pm.

Simon Ward said that the competition piece was 240 changes of either Minor or Doubles with tenor covering. Five bell towers may ring Doubles without a covering bell. Call changes were not allowed. 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 parish group, or who regularly ring in a parish group, may join together and enter a team in the name of the parish group.

Peter Smith made the observation that parking may be difficult and people should give extra time to walk to the church. Roy Threadgold commented that the early start time may prevent some towers from entering.

The District committee would complete the arrangements for the day and circulate them to all District towers.

Action : Secretary to contact Castle Hedingham to check arrangements

7 District Calendar

Towers were encouraged to print the District Calendar and put on Tower notice boards if they have not already done so.

Simon Ward asked if there were sufficient events on the District calendar, there was

discussion on this, but no consensus was formed.

Roy Threadgold said that the Association Carol Service would be a major event for the District. The Association Master had apologised for confusion relating to the Carol Service and support has been given from all Districts to hold only one Association - wide Carol Service this year. The Carol Service is confirmed for December 7th at Coggeshall, rather than Toppesfield as had originally been planned. Peter Smith asked whether Coggeshall would need any help from other District members to host the event and Simon Ward said he thought that Coggeshall could manage by themselves but he was aware that help from the District would be available.

A discussion was held about the importance of Tower Captains supporting District events by encouraging attendance by their tower members. The monthly newsletters should be read or printed out and actively promoted in towers.

Action : District Master to contact Tower captains to encourage support of the District

There was a discussion about the levels of District practices currently held compared to those held in the past. It was suggested that the Advanced practices could be better named.

Action : District officers to discuss levels of and naming of practices

8 Any Other Business

Quarter Peals

Simon Ward said that the number of Quarter Peals rung in the District is reducing and that we need to promote ringing more Quarter Peals in 2019 and aim to ring 100 in 2020, which will be the centenary of the District's formation. It was agreed that this was not an impossible target and all towers in the District should be encouraged to be included in the total with local ringers being include where possible. Andrew Dickinson asked for more 10 bell Quarter Peals, rather than ringing on the front 6 of 10 bells.

Essex Young Ringers

Simon Ward said that we should be promoting the Essex Young Ringers to all young ringers in the District. Roy Threadgold said that he has contacted his learners about the Young Ringers outing on March 9th.

Action : Secretary to add Essex Youths and weblink to next monthly newsletter

District Quiz Evening

Simon Ward said that the Quiz Evening held at Kelvedon in November 2018 had been a successful and fun evening. There was a request for a tower to host the 2019 Quiz evening on 30th November.

District Centenary

Members were asked for any ideas of how to celebrate the centenary. Roy Threadgold suggested plenty of firsts. The District boundaries, at the time of its foundation,

should be checked and towers that used to be in the District e.g. Inworth, Great Tey, Hempstead and Foxearth could be included in the celebrations. It was suggested that a peal be rung to commemorate the first Northern District ADM on 27th November 1920, the date would be checked and the peal attempt booked with the tower.

Summer socials

Andrew Dickinson remembered that there used to be fun District events in the summer aimed at ringers and non-ringers. Vicky LeFèvre said that there used to be a summer barbecue. A general discussion about summer socials followed highlighting that they needed hosts and organisers.

The next meeting would be after the Striking Competition on Saturday 11th May at Castle Hedingham.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.15pm.

Signed . . Simon Ward (District Master). . .

Dated . . 11th May 2019.