

**Minutes of the District Meeting held Great Bardfield on
Saturday 4th September 2021**

Present: Simon Ward (District Master), Bradley Hill (Deputy District Master), Ian Cresshull (District Secretary), Vicki Elliott (District Treasurer), Pat Cresshull, Kath Downs, Maurice Downs, Ellie Gray, James Green, Debbie Hill, Nick Holland, Sarah Holland, Peter Smith, Roy Threadgold, Kieran Ward.

Andrew Kelso (EACR Master) joined the meeting part way through.

The District Master chaired the meeting.

1 Welcome

The District Master welcomed the attendees and thanked the Great Bradfield ringers for arranging the meeting and providing refreshments.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Terry Earle, Wendy Earle, Janet Edwards, John Elliott, David Learmonth, Brian Meads, David Newton, Andrew Taylor, John Taylor, Emily Thompson, Cherry Threadgold, Marian Wood, Peter Wood.

3 Election of new Members

No new members were proposed for membership.

4 Ratification of EACR District Trustee

The secretary explained to the meeting that the EACR rules had been changed at the AGM in May 2021 so that the Association now only had 15 charity trustees compared to the previous total of over 50. The result of this was that the District now needed to elect a trustee each year.

Simon Ward had been filling this role for the Northern District since the AGM and his position was ratified by the meeting, proposed : Ian Cresshull, seconded : Maurice Downs.

The election of the District trustee will be included in future Annual District Meetings.

5 Tower work update

Braintree. Bradley Hill reported that the rehang of the bells was now complete and the bells are now being rung. Some decorative work in the ringing chamber still needed to be completed. The ringers are still looking for funding to complete the payment for the work.

Kelvedon. Vicki Elliott read a statement from John Elliott. The work on the bells is complete apart from the installation of some frame cross braces. There is a disagreement about whether these braces are necessary and until this has been resolved the bells cannot be rung.

6 Northern District Centenary Year

The majority of the District Centenary Year celebrations had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic but some celebrations have been transferred to the 101st year.

The first meeting of the Northern District was held on November 27th 1920 and it is planned to ring a Quarter Peal at Halstead on November 27th to celebrate this.

The original plan to ring 100 Quarte Peals in the District in the centenary has been extended to the end of 2021. All District ringers are encouraged to take part in a Quarter Peal for the centenary, all Quarter Peals rung should be recorded on Bellboard and linked to the Essex Association – Centenary of the formation of the Northern District event (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=11005>).

The finishing date for people to complete the “101 Things do in the Northern District Centenary” will be the District ADM on January 8th 2022.

7 District Calendar for 2021

The proposed calendar for the rest of 2021 was discussed.

The monthly 10 bell practice at Coggeshall has now moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The proposed social event on November 27th may be held online.

8 Any Other Business

1. Ian Cresshull reminded the meeting that he had not intended to remain as secretary for 2021 and that he would not be seeking re-election at the 2022 ADM. Therefore a new secretary needs to be found before the end of the year.
2. Roy Threadgold, District Training Officer, informed the meeting that the Association now has a fund available for training and recruitment purposes and towers are encouraged to apply for grants from the fund. For more information about the grants, Roy should be contacted or see the Association website <https://eacr.org.uk/education/recruitment-and-training-fund.html>
3. Peter Smith thanked the District Master, Simon Ward, for all his work during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep the District together and functioning.
4. Great Bardfield have moved their practice to Thursday from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The District Master thanked everyone for attending the meeting,

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Following the meeting a touch of Plain Bob Major was rung dedicated to the new Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani who was seated at Chelmsford Cathedral earlier in the day.

Signed

Dated