

SW DISTRICT REPORT 2025

District practices have been well attended again this year. We visited Edwardstone, Kersey, Polstead, Sudbury, St Gregory, Nayland and the lovely new six at Drinkstone. It was encouraging to see several members taking early steps in change ringing on eight during the year. All our practices have been very sociable occasions and thanks go to the host towers for refreshments provided.

The District Striking Competition in July was hosted wonderfully by Gerald Bird and the whole Little Cornard band. Seven teams entered the Call Change Competition, which was won by Sudbury, St Gregory, with a very creditable piece of ringing. It was good to see the return of the Method Competition. Hadleigh emerged as winners out of the 4 entries. The event was judged by Claire Free and Neal Dodge from the NW District.

The Secretary arranged a very enjoyable outing for 4th October to the Maldon area, which was attended by 26 people. We visited Danbury, Maldon, All Saints, Goldhanger, Tollesbury and Great Totham. Three eights and a ten provided opportunities for members to experience ringing on higher numbers and we were grateful for the support from experienced visitors from the SE and NW Districts. Some rang on ten for the first time.

Christine Knight organised another Quarter Peal Month in August. Previous events had taken place in 2018, 2019 and 2024 and it is very pleasing to see the progress individual members have made over this period, from first quarters to 'first inside', 'first of Minor' and beyond. Grateful thanks go to Alan Mayle, who has conducted many of the quarters, and to the experienced ringers (several from the NW District) who have taken part. Extended ringing with a strong band is an excellent learning opportunity. Eleven quarters were rung this year. Congratulations go to Sue Tye, Tony Baker and Gary Edwards on their first quarter peals, Tim Forsey on his first of Grandsire as conductor and to Pauline Brown on her 100th quarter peal. This was at Polstead on 14th August and was rung as a farewell compliment to David and Lynda Lee of Bures, thanking them for their huge contribution to the SW District over many years.

In September/October, the District collaborated with Guild Ringing Master, Julian Colman, to organise a Training Event. This was held on 25th October. The Secretary had secured Rattlesden, Woolpit and Tostock as venues and we were delighted by the tremendous support from 17 District members, who volunteered to be helpers. There were 23 helpers in all and fifteen students were divided into three groups for an 'Advanced Bob Doubles' course at Rattlesden, focusing on touches, and two 'Starting Bob Doubles' courses, at Woolpit and Tostock. We are very grateful to Julian and Cath Colman and Jenny and James Croft for acting as tutors, for which great appreciation was expressed. The event was planned as a pilot project. Constructive feedback was received, which will enable Julian to fine-tune the content before rolling out to other districts.

Once again, great enthusiasm has been shown at SW District events and the officers appreciate this level of support.

Pauline Brown, SW District Chairman
Richard Knight, SW District Ringing Master
Christine Knight, SW District Secretary