

## **South East District Chair Report 2025**

Well, where did that year go! Not a year really as we are holding the ADM in November rather than December as we had a potential issue with the December Event location. What does that matter? The ADM is taking place across other Districts in October/November, shall we continue?

I have tried to get out around the District but have not managed too as much as intended. I have managed to get to most of the District events and a few of the Surprise Major Practices. I did manage a course of Cornwall and three leads of Bristol! These practices have been well supported and a successful addition to the events organised for us by the District Ringing Master. Thanks.

I haven't been able to attend for a while as even I cannot be in two places at once! I have been supporting Liz with the Foundation Skills sessions held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, mostly at Barham, but recently we ventured to Dennington. All those who attended enjoyed the evening and went away feeling they had become more accomplished ringers through the course of the evening. They took away small changes and hints to how they rung but appreciating what well struck ringing is, and how this makes such a difference in what you have the potential to achieve. I am a very strong believer that by getting the basics 'nailed' allows you then to develop your repertoire. If you can control your bell and place it well you just need a few more folk who have the same ambition. Practice makes permanent not perfect unless it is structured appropriately. This is very much the ART approach which I am now a great believer in. It has opened my eyes to what can be done. Ringing should sound good whatever you are attempting, be it rounds on three as that is all you have on a Sunday morning or Bristol Maximus, striking is the key. Either struck badly is not pleasant, but if nice and clear and crisp both sound fantastic.

So, it is good to see a steady trickle of new members coming through so that there is some progression. It can be a long haul but worth it in the long run.

Likewise, I was pleased to see some of our ringers in the Ringing World, yes for peals and quarters but also in photographs as part of National celebrations and days to remember what others did for us many years ago.

Much of what I have mentioned above has come through in the reports written by the tower representatives on this year's activities and aims. Thank you for these and let's work together to provide support for each other where we can. Much of this in line with the Guild Ringing Masters direction.

The SE District are making some amendments/additions that may not be to everybody's liking but these are simply to provide an equitable ringing experience for everyone wishing to take part.

Podge

[S J Christian]