

Saturday March 16th 1968

Ringing on the 6 bells commenced at 3.00 pm under the leadership of the D.R.M., followed by a short service at 4.30 conducted by the Rector of Essendon, Rev. Davis. Tea was taken in the village hall, prepared by the Essendon ringers, & before the meeting opened, the Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, who had to leave, for allowing us to ring & for taking the service.

Mr R. E. Shephard was elected to the chair for the business meeting.

Loss of members by death. Members were asked to stand to the memory of A. W. Colles from N. Myms. The Secretary stated that he had written to Mr. Colles while he had been in hospital, & had also written to his widow expressing sympathy on behalf of the District.

Apologies for Absence were received from Messrs. G. W. Debenham & R. W. Clouston, ^{from Mrs H. Doads} & Mrs J. Dodder. The Secretary added that Mr Debenham appeared to be quite well after his second operation, & had had a letter wishing us a successful meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed & signed as a correct record. Mr Rowney stated that A. R. Cotter had run the ringing at St. Minus because in the search for a new ringing master; this ~~set of things~~ helped to find prospective candidates, & to give them experience in running a meeting.

Election of New Members

Miss Rosalind Thorne of Essendon; proposed Paula Harding
seconded Susan Farnes

Miss Rachel Gregory of Harpenden; proposed Mrs Coburn
seconded R. Brown.

These were put to the meeting & carried.

Social Events

ATV visit; this had not been arranged owing to inability of ATV to accommodate us at the time required. It was agreed the Secretary attempt to arrange a visit for late July.

District Dinner; this was now booked for 7th December at the Pre Hotel, price roughly 27/6d.

Barbecue Social. A new recommended date of 7th September was adopted on the proposition of A.R. Carter, seconded by J. Ewer. No venue had yet been found but enquiries were in hand.

Forthcoming Practices

The following were announced:

Special Practices at	S. Myrns	April	4th
	Bornet	May	6th
	Essendon	June	4th or 5th

A Surprise practice at St. Stephens on March 20th. G. Penny gave details of method intended to be sung at this practice.

District Peal Programme

The D.R.M. announced that such a programme was being put under way, & requested members to make their requirements known to him, in order that the most benefit could be obtained.

Date & Place of next meeting

The next Association meeting would be the

A.G.M. at Hitchin/. The next district meeting was arranged for Wheatthampton, 18th May, as per the committee recommended list.

A. O. B.

The Secretary reminded members that their Annual Subscriptions were now well overdue.

Miss J. Slough stated that the route of the Wheatthampton sponsored ^{walk} was now fixed, & maps would shortly be available.

Mr John Euston, from London, spoke in Tribute to the late A.W. Coles, & said that a band of his old friends had rung a peal of Stedman that morning to his memory.

G. Dodds proposed a vote of thanks to the Essendon band for the tea arrangements, & to be against. This was heartily endorsed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed. Further ringing continued until 8.30 pm, & concluded with a well-struck touch of Norwich Surprise.

Profit from the tea, of 2-0-0, was donated & put towards the C.C. Fund.

M. Melville
18/5/68.

CHAIRMAN