

South East District Chair's Report

2024

Well where did that year go?

An interesting year with many positives.

Apart from me personally having prior engagements on the same dates of some of the District Events there has been a steady attendance to the various events arranged. I also had the problem of not being able to be in two locations at a time.

It is good to see the District Surprise Major Practices well attended and all ringers given an opportunity to start a journey of Surprise Major ringing or continue to develop their skills. Really positive to see the structure of the practice showing what can be achieved with good planning and using the skills of those more experienced ringers to support those needing a boost.

This theme is also evident at the Kaleidoscope sessions run by bellsashen and has been well attended in the warmer months. It is very unfortunate that due to issues with the tower at Henley these sessions have had to be relocated to Barham and Otley restricting the ropes to six. However many of those who have attended have expressed thanks for the approach and assistance in developing the basic skills required to allow further development.

I would encourage all ringers to look to use the Surprise Major practices and the Kaleidoscope sessions to develop their skills.

The District Striking competition was a success, held at Clopton, although the number of bands entering was a little disappointing. It was a fun morning with some good ringing and a valuable experience for all those who took part. Well done.

The Guild six and eight bell Striking Competitions were held in the South East District this year at Falkenham and Felixstowe respectively. Again a successful day but again a little low on the number of bands entering.

As a District we are very keen to understand what the 'blockers' are for bands entering the competitions and this was part of the reason for the Tower Reports being requested in the format that was sent out for the ringers at the towers to complete.

I had intended to get to more towers throughout the year and must apologise for not doing so. One for me to try and improve on.

That is enough from me but thanks for your support this year and looking forward to some more quality ringing in the year ahead.

Podge

[Stephen Christian]