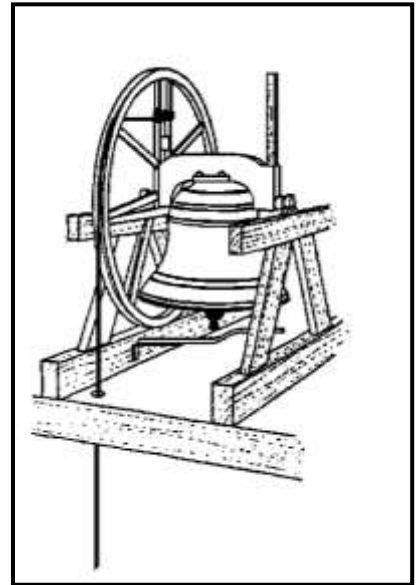


"SUSSEX'S BIG RING DAY" - SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2012

The suggestion behind The Sussex Big Ring Day has evolved since it was originally discussed at a Publicity Committee meeting over a year ago. It was thought that if enough Sussex towers had an open day of some sort, there would be more interest from the county's media. Since then many of us have experienced a busy year of ringing for the Jubilee and the Olympics. So the idea has been amended to more of a local tower Open Day to help individual towers who wish to build on this recent publicity about bells in general (eg from the Martin Creed project).



From my experience amongst non ringing friends, even though some had heard about the Martin Creed project, they just associated it with any old bell making a noise, and they're none the wiser about church bellringing surprisingly one of my colleagues rang his bicycle bell on the way to work - I was most impressed - but he still knows nothing about church bellringing!

If not many towers wish to take up the idea of an event in September to encourage new recruits and/or further publicise ringing, it is unlikely that there will be a county wide press interest. However, there is nothing to stop you contacting your local newspaper, inviting a journalist to come and see what ringing is all about. We did this at Steyning earlier in the year and had a double page article in the Steyning Gazette as a result!! If you decide not to do anything, don't worry, just save these notes for another time when they might come in useful. I've also attached electronic bellringing leaflets that Hurstpierpoint and Storrington have produced; this may help towers to think about making their own versions.

So it's really up to individual towers to use these ideas as & when should they wish to. However, do let me know if you are intending to do something, however small, by contacting me on publicity@scacr.org or phone 01903 813653. Many thanks.

Kathy Howard
General Publicity Officer

IDEAS FOR A TOWER OPEN DAY

- the event can be anything you like. For example, a coffee morning, tower/belfry open day, have a go day, meet the bellringers, trips up to the tower. Much will depend on the local set up, eg ground floor ring, large belfry, easy access, number of ringers/local support, access to a kitchen, etc
- remember to consider H&S Risk Assessments for people entering towers, eg low ceiling staircases to the ringing chamber, steep and/or uneven steps.
- decide what your tower would like to get out of the day, for example find more recruits, publicise ringing in general.
- ensure the local vicar is in support of the belfry/tower opening on this day; hopefully enlist his help (eg he/she could mention it after service)
- try and publicise the day as widely as possible. For example, in the parish magazine, local paper, local freebies, poster in library/ community centre, parish hall, village notice board etc. Find out a contact in your local newspaper, and phone/email them, perhaps invite them over, a journalist may be willing to come if they are available and take a photo or two.
- produce a poster to advertise the event. A draft one is attached, just as an idea, which can be amended depending on individual tower arrangements for the day.
- Central Council leaflets on bellringing are available by contacting John Harrison on 0118 978 5520. Perhaps make your own tower leaflet, to explain what bellringing is all about. Attached is one that John Norris produced for Hurstpierpoint, plus the two that Sheila and Mike Foster wrote for Storrington. The authors are happy for others to adapt these leaflets for their own use.
- follow up: if you do hold an event for recruiting new ringers, remember to take the contact details for anyone who is interested. Don't rely on them contacting you. Even better, make a follow up appointment with them there and then. It's best to be prepared for new recruits, as they may lose interest if their first lesson is delayed.
- Autumn seems to be the time of year when people are looking to start a new hobby, and that is why many evening classes commence at this time of the year. So they might consider learning to ring!