

## **Southern District Report 2017**

We have been busy in the Southern District this year. Our committee was enhanced in 2017 by the addition of two young ringers who brought energy and fresh ideas as well as expert editing of the newsletter. We also had the 'old hands' whose experience, expertise and advice were greatly valued.

We started the year with our quiz and fish and chip evening which as usual was a great success. Following the ADM last year we started an occasional Saturday morning 10 bell practice at Hurstpierpoint and these have always been a great success. They always coincide with the church coffee morning so there is plenty of time and space to socialise as well as practice 10 bells ringing. In addition there have been 8 bell practices at Seaford on Saturday mornings with visitors from across the county at times. We had a very enjoyable ringing outing to Guildford in September and again ringers from other districts joined us.

We are always happy to arrange courses if ringers request them and a ringing up and down course proved to be particularly popular early in the year. More recently Southover has hosted an ART course in October for teaching bell handling and a second (in January 2018) is planned for teaching rounds to plain hunt. The course proved to be very inspiring, full of practical ideas and should help more of us have the confidence to teach learners in our towers.

During the year there have been a variety of joint events with the Eastern District, including monthly joint Eastern/Southern minor and major practices. Unfortunately they have not been well attended in recent months and some have had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. There have also been joint outings and walking/ ringing days which have provided good opportunities to get together with members from other districts.

I attempted to visit all the practice nights in the Southern District in 2017 but with only partial success. I managed to visit eight tower practice nights (two twice) so it is now a two year challenge! I have had a warm welcome everywhere I have been and it has been good to meet so many enthusiastic ringers. Recently it has been good to have Richard and Penny Neal from Southover joining me and we all plan to visit the rest of the district in the next few months.

Mary Burr

Secretary Southern District