

# Northern News



The Northern Division Newsletter  
July-August 2013



## Dates for Your Diary

### JULY

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Elementary Practice	Itchingfield	7.30pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ringling, Tea & Business Mtg	Danehill	3pm
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins <a href="mailto:sec-north@scacr.org">sec-north@scacr.org</a> by 3<sup>rd</sup> July please</i>			
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Surprise Major Practice	Slaugham	7.30pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Doubles Evening	Ardingly	7.30pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Triples & Plain Major	Cuckfield	7.30pm
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Ringling and get-together	Bell Meadow	7.30pm

Hopefully something for everyone. Please continue to come along to the Monday evenings which offer support to ringers beyond what is available in their own tower.

### AUGUST

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Ringling, Coffee & Cake Lower Beeding 10am  
*"Come and Meet More Ringers!" Regular Sat & Mon ringers please bring others along*

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are no Monday practices arranged during August but if you would like to ring a quarter peal of anything, please contact David Perkins or Rachel Edwards.

### SEPTEMBER

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Elementary Practice West Hoathly 7.30pm



## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013

General Practice plus Coffee & Cake

### 10am at Lower Beeding

General Ringling with something for everyone whatever your ability.

Regular Saturday & Monday ringers please try to bring others from your tower for a nice sociable morning.

Numbers for refreshments to Anne Ekins:  
[sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org) by 31<sup>st</sup> July, please



## Official Opening of Ringing Chamber at Hartfield



*l-r: John Mahon, Lola Donner, Daphne Booker (Capt), Elsie Feltwell, Roz Burns, James Moore and Jan Smith*

On 4th April our usual practice took on a different feel, it was the official opening of our new ringing chamber. We invited a few prominent guests who had dealings with the alterations. David Perkins (right) unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion and with wine and nibbles, some ringing finished off the evening. We followed it up with an open afternoon on 13th April hoping to attract some more local people to take up ringing. Several came to inspect the new space and about seven people tried their hand at handling a rope. We now live in hope that maybe one will take it up. Our thanks go to David Perkins and Rachel Edwards for all their help on the day. It was much appreciated.



*Jan Smith - Hartfield*



### INSURANCE

Just a reminder that your membership includes insurance to ring, teach and maintain bells - at all towers (not just Sussex).

Full details at [www.scacr.org/downloads](http://www.scacr.org/downloads) Any queries to [secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org)





## *Two Towers Walk - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013 by Rachel Webbe*

This was my very first Two Towers Walk and like any good former girl guide I set off with my pac-a-mac in my bag thinking that if I took it maybe the weather might hold and I wouldn't need it. I even optimistically slapped on some sunscreen but it's a toss-up whether it was that or other ringers taking the sun cream with them on the walk and wearing shorts that did it for the sunshine!

We met at Fletching in the morning for a ring and to dust off our walking boots before setting off across the fields. Gemma and David's dog Archie enjoyed himself immensely scampering about totally unphased by us rambling ringers. It started to cloud over and I've been told I'm exaggerating by calling it 'driving drizzle' but it definitely felt on the heavier side of light. After a comedy moment of a small team wrestling in the wind with an emergency but no doubt welcome poncho, we carried on across the fields on our way to Newick.



*Back row l-r: Neil Dobson, Angela Cash, Anne Ekins and Guy Ekins  
Front row l-r: Ian Oram, Philip Mann, Rachel Edwards, Rosie Gregory,  
Rachel Webbe, Gemma Stratford, Archie, Ian Wiltshire and David Perkins*

We stopped for a very welcome chance to dry out and lunch at The Royal Oak in Newick and were greeted by Michael at his usual seat at the bar. When Ian Wiltshire and Elaine had done a dry run of the walk earlier in the week and stopped for lunch at the pub, Ian had been mistaken for Michael by more than one local before meeting the original inside, and here he was again as we stepped inside the door! If anyone happens to pop into the pub looking for a doppelganger-ish for Ian W, it won't take you long to spot him! After we were suitably warmed and refreshed we set off all the way round the corner to ring at Newick, before making tracks for Fletching.

Our splendid ramble about the Sussex countryside included pockets of woodland, open fields and rolling hills, lots of bluebells, a couple of Newick twittens, a smattering of livestock, a sewage works, a chance to nosey at some fabulous houses on the way, a wander (on the official footpath of course) through an orchard at the back of someone's lovely house and even an opportunity for

'Pooh Sticks'. After all the adventures and fresh air we were rewarded with a cup of tea and some of Elaine's finest baking.

Thanks to Fletching and Newick for the borrow of your bells and to Ian Wiltshire for planning and leading a super walk, to Elaine and Sonia for the marvellous tea and to everyone on the walk for a grand day out. See you all next time.

*Rachel Webbe - Horsham & Ruspur Ringer*



## **RINGING MASTER VACANCY FOR NORTHERN DIVISION**



David Perkins, our divisional Ringing Master, has confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election at the next ADM. If anybody might be interested in taking over this role, David will be very pleased to hear from you and answer any questions you may have. His contact details are included on the back page of this newsletter.

*May Littleton - Publicity Officer*



## **COULD YOU BE THE NEXT EDUCATION OFFICER?**

I'm reliably informed that the post of Education Officer is really what you make it. There is no "Job Description" as such because all the committee tasks are voluntary, so if you wanted to go out to different towers every night of the week helping people I'm sure you would receive a very warm welcome. You will be expected to attend the Northern Committee Meetings (about 3 per year) and, in addition, you represent the North at (again, about 3) General Education Meetings at Ringmer.

The main activity in the North is planning and arranging the weekly Monday practices. There is an established pattern for these but you and the committee may want to change the format from time to time. However, it is always held on a Monday as there are no towers with Monday practices in our Division. Towers are contacted by email and the towers' secretaries are usually most helpful in making the arrangements. Any other events, practices, quarter peals, etc. that you care to arrange are on your own initiative.

Rachel Edwards would be happy to job share on education matters with someone from the Horsham side of the Division. If you feel this is a way in which you could help to promote ringing, please ring Rachel on 01342-810210 to discuss how this would work in practice.

*May Littleton - Publicity Officer*





## Charles Shepherd

I regret to inform you that Charles Shepherd, formerly of Partridge Green, passed away recently, aged 81.

He had been increasingly unwell over the past few years since he moved north although, even when he was barely conscious, he still appeared to enjoy listening to CDs of bells being rung. Many members will recall the true gentleman that was Charles and we send our sympathy to his family. It was his wish for his body to be left to medical science so there was no funeral.



## SCACR AGM

Billingshurst was the venue for this year's AGM. We enjoyed some good ringing on the easy-going eight, ably led by Graham Hills, Ringing Master of the Western Division. The Reverend Brian Pritchard led the church service and spoke of expectations..... and then it was off to a superb tea laid on by the Billingshurst band. Expectations were duly met!

The AGM got into full swing with David Kirkcaldy in the chair. Reports were adopted, Officers elected and two ballots taken. The first to elect the SCACR's Fifth Representative on Central Council (2014-2016) and David Kirkcaldy narrowly beat Alan Baldock. The second to elect John Norris of Hurstpierpoint as an Honorary Life Member. This motion was carried by a majority.

A number of other matters came under discussion - more of that in the minutes which are now available at [www.scacr.org/downloads](http://www.scacr.org/downloads) or you can request a copy from the General Secretary on 01273 812790

At the end of the formal meeting, David Kirkcaldy handed the Master's Chain of Office to Christine Baldock. John Norris proposed a vote of thanks to David for his commitment to the Association during the last three years.

With the formal proceedings finished, the floor was given to Anne Franklin who spoke about the Vision of the new working group and encouraged all to attend or send tower representatives to a series of eight discussion groups across the county. Very many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the AGM.

*Marisa Hayes - SCACR General Secretary*



*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Danehill  
Ringing, Business Meeting & Tea*

3pm General Ringing - 4.30pm Business Meeting & Tea  
Numbers to Anne Ekins by 3<sup>rd</sup> July please  
Tel: 01403-864291 or email [sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org)





## *Weddings, Weddings and more Weddings at Worth!!*



Many of you will know that we get a lot of weddings at Worth. Not as many as we used to; we did 81 in 1999, but now it has dropped to between 30 and 40 a year. In order to cope with this number, our Rector and Assistant Rector have instituted quarterly wedding preparation meetings. These are effectively one-day seminars in which the couples meet various people who will be involved in their wedding day and the lead up to it and they are given a series of talks in the morning about the legal side of marriage, how to get on with the mother-in-law and other such topics.

After lunch, they travel from St Barnabas to St Nicholas, arriving to the sound of the bells being rung. Our chance to advertise our wares! They then get a short talk from me in the church about the bells, their history and how they are rung and that there are six people working hard to achieve a sound that should seem as if it was produced mechanically (but isn't). This also gives me the opportunity to tell them that there are six people waiting to ring as they leave the church so (a) don't be late (b) let me know if the service is going to be longer than usual (for example, if they have a favourite uncle who is going to deliver a thirty minute homily) and (c) let me know if their exit music is something out of the ordinary so that we know when to start (last Saturday, a couple left to a CD playing "Let's face the music and dance" even though we had been expecting Handel's Water Music). We even have a colourful hand-out in the form of an A4 leaflet ("Bells for your Wedding") to reinforce the points in an informative way. Needless to say, none of this has much effect, but they are also warned that their ringing may be curtailed if we are unable to start when we would normally expect to (which is 40 - 45 minutes after the scheduled start of the ceremony).

After my bit, the couples get a talk from our organist about music and hymns, with examples, including our singers, as they get a choice of a quartet or soloist or both, to provide music during the signing of the register (they don't get the choir as such). I'm not the only person encouraging them to be on time! If there is more than one wedding on a particular day, our location can result in carnage at the changeover with wedding parties and guests intermingling. I'm not looking forward to September, when we have two Saturdays each with four weddings (but no funeral as far as I am aware).

Of course not every wedding has bells, but most do. And, as far as I can recall from my time at Worth, we have only failed to provide wedding bells when requested on one occasion and that was a couple of years ago just before Christmas when the snow was a foot deep - I didn't think anyone would get to the church, but apparently the bride lived close by and arrived in wellington boots!

This number of weddings puts quite a strain on our resources (and is possibly why you don't see many Worth ringers at Divisional Meetings). So thank you to those who have helped us out in the past (we've already rung for 9 weddings this year as of 1 June) and those who may be called upon in the future.

*Neil Dobson - Worth*





## NEW FUNDING - by Marisa Hayes - SCACR General Secretary

At the March General Committee Meeting, the Trustees agreed that a sum of £8000 be allocated towards helping towers in Sussex to install their own simulator and training equipment such as dumb-bells.

The money comes from a legacy left to the Association by Bryan Burrough (who learnt to ring at Itchingfield in the 1950s and latterly rang at St Leonards) who died in 2006. It was his wish that his legacy be used for the advancement of ringing in Sussex and it is hoped that by offering some financial support, a wide mix of towers in all corners of the county might consider installing additional equipment.

An application form is now available from the website (see downloads) or by contacting your local committee. We are fortunate to have a number of experts among our membership and if you require further advice, do please contact a member of your local committee who will put you in touch with a suitable helper.



## South of England Show - by Marisa Hayes - SCACR General Secretary

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to everyone involved in the SCACR presence at the South of England Show. Dewby's Bells provided endless entertainment over the three days, we collected details of 50 potential recruits and provided smiles and laughs for hundreds of visitors, including Show President, Penelope Keith. None of this would have been possible without the support of Alan & Mary Collings and Christine & Alan Baldock who attended all day every day and the team of volunteers who took part. The full story will appear in the Summer Soundbow or visit the website gallery for some pictures now.



### SCACR Young Ringers Take 9 Event

Walking Ringing Outing

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

(First day of the summer holidays!)

9.30am meet in car park at Holy Cross Uckfield

Walk to Maresfield (1½ miles)

Ringling and cakes at Maresfield 10.30am to 11.15am (tbc)

Walk to Fairwarp (2 miles)

Ringling at Fairwarp 12.15pm to 1pm

Picnic Lunch (bring your own)

Walk to Buxted (3 miles)

Ringling at Buxted 3pm to 3.45pm

Walk to Uckfield (1½ miles)

Ringling and cake at Uckfield 4.30pm to 5.15pm

As usual please let either Anne or Sandra know if you would like to come.

Public transport is possible: 29 Bus from Lewes but lifts can be arranged.

Anne Franklin 01273 813189 [education@scacr.org](mailto:education@scacr.org)

Sandra Alford 01403 251240 [thealfords@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:thealfords@dsl.pipex.com)





### Sunday Ringing at Rusper

Please note that the Sunday ringing times shown in the recent Annual Report & Handbook for St Mary Magdalene, Rusper are incorrect. Ringing takes place 10.30am-11am each week but please check ringing times for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month.

### New email addresses

Have you noticed the new email addresses for some of the Committee members? If you haven't already done so, please amend your email address list.

### Lost Property at Billingshurst following the AGM

A large dark gray waterproof hooded coat (male?) was left at Billingshurst tower ..... somebody might be wondering where they've left it!

Please contact Kathy Fitzpatrick to reclaim. Email [billingshurst@scacr.org](mailto:billingshurst@scacr.org)

### Minutes of the AGM

Minutes of this year's AGM held at Billingshurst are now available at [www.scacr.org/downloads](http://www.scacr.org/downloads) or request a copy from the General Secretary on 01273 812790

### St Nicholas, Arundel

Bad news again for us at St Nicholas, Arundel. Due to work on the church tower, there will be no further ringing at Arundel for about 20 weeks from 9th June 2013. I'm hoping that the next repairs may be to the bells themselves but I'm not pinning too much hope on that one yet. I'll keep you updated on the progress.

*Teresa Kendall - Tower Captain*

### Contact details for the Northern Division Committee

Ringling Master	David Perkins	07776-082404	<a href="mailto:rm-north@scacr.org">rm-north@scacr.org</a>
Secretary	Anne Ekins	01403-864291	<a href="mailto:sec-north@scacr.org">sec-north@scacr.org</a>
Education Officer	Rachel Edwards	01342-810210	<a href="mailto:ed-north@scacr.org">ed-north@scacr.org</a>
Publicity Officer	May Littleton	01403-268528	<a href="mailto:news-north@scacr.org">news-north@scacr.org</a>
Bell Restoration	Terence McGinn	01293-519665	<a href="mailto:brf-north@scacr.org">brf-north@scacr.org</a>
Committee Members:	Rosie Gregory		<a href="mailto:na444@btinternet.com">na444@btinternet.com</a>
	Jo Faircloth		<a href="mailto:jo@jofaircloth.co.uk">jo@jofaircloth.co.uk</a>
	Richard Hutchings		<a href="mailto:richard.a.hutchings@btinternet.com">richard.a.hutchings@btinternet.com</a>
	Sandra Alford		<a href="mailto:TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com">TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com</a>



Very many thanks to all the people who have submitted articles and photographs. Your input is really appreciated. Thank you!!  
Please send items for the next newsletter to me at: [news-north@scacr.org](mailto:news-north@scacr.org) before 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013

