

Northern News



The Northern Division Newsletter
January/February 2014

  **HAPPY NEW YEAR**  

Dates for Your Diary

JANUARY 2014

Saturday 4 th	General Ringing plus coffee & cake	Slaugham	10.30am
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins sec-north@scacr.org by 1st January please</i>			
Monday 6 th	Elementary Practice	Hartfield	7.30pm
Monday 13 th	Surprise Major Practice	Crawley	7.30pm
Monday 20 th	Treble Bob Minor Practice	Hammerwood	7.30pm
Monday 27 th	10-Bell Practice	East Grinstead	7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1 st	ANNUAL DIVISIONAL MEETING	Crawley	3pm
Ringing, Service, ADM & Tea (see page 2 for further details)			
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins sec-north@scacr.org by 29th January please</i>			
Monday 3 rd	Elementary Practice	West Hoathly	7.30pm
Monday 10 th	Surprise Major Practice	Lower Beeding	7.30pm
Monday 17 th	Bob Doubles Evening	Worth	7.30pm
Monday 24 th	Spliced Surprise Major Practice	East Grinstead	7.30pm

MARCH

Saturday 1 st	Rounds & Plain Hunting Course (& tea)	West Hoathly	3pm
<i>Names for students & volunteers to Rachel Edwards ed-north@scacr.org by 26th February</i>			
<i>Numbers will be limited. (Follow-up ringing at Danehill practice on Monday 3rd March)</i>			
Monday 3 rd	Elementary & follow-up ringing	Danehill	7.30pm
Monday 10 th	Surprise Major Practice	Slaugham	7.30pm
Monday 17 th	Triples Evening	Bolney (tbc)	7.30pm
Monday 24 th	10-Bell Practice	Warnham (tbc)	7.30pm
Monday 31 st	Quarter Peal	tba	7.30pm

APRIL

Saturday 5 th	Quiz Evening and Fish & Chip Supper	Slinfold	7pm
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins sec-north@scacr.org by 2nd April please</i>			
Monday 7 th	General 8-Bell Practice	Crawley	7.30pm
Monday 14 th	HOLY WEEK - NO PRACTICE		
Monday 21 st	EASTER MONDAY - NO PRACTICE		
Monday 28 th	10-Bell Practice	Horsham	7.30pm





Annual Divisional Meeting
Saturday 1st February 2014
3pm at Crawley



General ringing (3pm-4.30pm)
Service (4.30pm)
Tea and refreshments (5pm)
ADM (commencing 5.30pm).

Here is your chance to nominate and vote for someone to any post on the committee - Ringing Master, Publicity Officer, etc. Please make every effort to attend as the whole afternoon is open to all SCACR members regardless of their ringing ability.

If your tower has any ringers to propose for membership, it would be appreciated if the duly completed forms could be sent to Anne Ekins in good time for the meeting. Where possible, it is always good to see the nominee and proposer at the meeting so the new members can be presented with their certificates and welcomed to Northern Division.



NORTHERN DIVISION COMMITTEE

The ADM is fast approaching and there are several vacancies occurring on the Northern Committee. The chief purpose of the committee is to plan the events and practices which we arrange for the Division. For this to work well, we need representatives from all areas of the Division, not just from the towers running down the centre.

If you ring in the North/West (Horsham/Warnham) area OR in the North/East (Fairwarp/Danehill), would you please think about volunteering to join the committee? It only entails about 3 meetings a year but we do need to hear about the requirements of the whole of the division.

Please consider if YOU can help. Thank you.

Rachel Edwards





St Leonards - Turners Hill



On a wild night in October an electrical storm raged above Turners Hill. Perched atop the hill at some 650 feet, the Church of St Leonards was perhaps closer to God than many of us that dark night and before long the inevitable happened - the tower was struck by lightning! The lightning conductor did its job and the surge of pure energy was rapidly earthed. But damage was done as it seems that the static energy inducted was sufficient to 'blow' the sensitive electronics of the lighting controller. For a while services were conducted in the dimness of the church interior with ambient light from the choir vestry.

We now have lights, although not with the ambient control we used to have - it's now either On or Off - sunglasses or torches! The next calamity to hit St Leonards was the failure of the old mid-20th century boiler. Just as the cold weather started to bite, the heating system was condemned. A plethora of electric fan heaters do little to warm up the interior and Sunday services are now conducted in brilliant light with the congregation huddled in great-coats and blankets. The Nine Lessons and Carols service - being conducted in candlelight - should prove one of the warmest events of the winter!

Despite these trials of our faith, the bells are still being rung at St Leonards - in the winter-time just for the two services per month as ringing practice has now been suspended until spring - none of our happy band - Alison, Jo, Sarah, Sarah, Margaret, Susie, Helen, Penny and Catherine - seem particularly enamoured with the weekly trudge to a cold, dark and isolated Church every Tuesday. Andrew, the only male in the group and despite having lived in Antarctica for two years and therefore comfortable with sub-zero temperatures and 24-hour darkness, is well and truly out-voted!

We are not 'serious' ringers and depending who turns up at the practice will dictate whether we practice techniques, (some still get scared at setting at back-stroke) or ring rounds and changes. Plain Hunt is a favourite and we are now learning Tittums. The chatter would no doubt upset some towers but when my ladies ring, they ring well and the striking is consistently good. As for me, well, I always ring cover as few have the strength to ring up the big tenor and of course, calling is much easier at the back!

So we now turn our attention to 2014 and what can we do to raise money to heat our church. One idea is to hold a Ringing-Day. Visiting groups will be welcomed to come and tackle the eight-metre draught of the bell ropes and the ringers of St Leonards will serve morning coffee and cakes or a lunchtime meal or an afternoon tea (or all three if we get the interest). Numbers will have to be controlled as our hall is not too large, but with some careful organisation and commitment we believe that this could be a good fund-raising event. So, we hope to be able to welcome you to our tower sometime in the New Year. In the meantime St Leonard's ringers wish all other towers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Andrew Denley, St Leonard's Tower, Turners Hill





Basil Pink from Warnham celebrates his 80th birthday.



A couple of months ago, Karen White discovered that Basil was going to be 80 at the beginning of November. Warnham never miss out on an excuse for eating cake or for a party, so a plan was hatched. Practice night on 7th November came around and Basil looked a tad confused as the ringing progressed very rapidly until at 8.30pm it was announced an extra special meeting was being held in the Parish Room. Luckily it takes Basil a little while to get down the stairs these days which gave everyone a chance to get into the room before him, ready for 'Surprise'. His face was a picture, even more so when he realised he was going to have to take the

special balloons home with him! A local quarter peal of Oakham S Royal was rung to celebrate the occasion. Congratulations Basil and we look forward to celebrating more birthdays with you in the coming years.



“SCA ringers who served in the Great War”

with Alan Seymour (Burgess Hill), who will be sharing his research with us.

With the help of members, Alan hopes to expand on his research, as this will also be a hands-on experience of looking through the Association and Divisional Minute Books for the years 1914-1925 for any references made to the Great War.

Saturday 8 February 2014 @ 10.30am

followed by the usual homemade soup and a ploughman's lunch at the library at:
Oaklands, West Chiltington Lane, nr Billingshurst RH14 9EA.

Contact: Stella Bianco (Librarian) on 01403 740010 or scb@biancoteam.com



CODGERS

Wednesday 8th January

Worth & Crawley (tbc)

11am and 2pm

For details of Codgers please contact Mike Foster: codgers@scacr.org

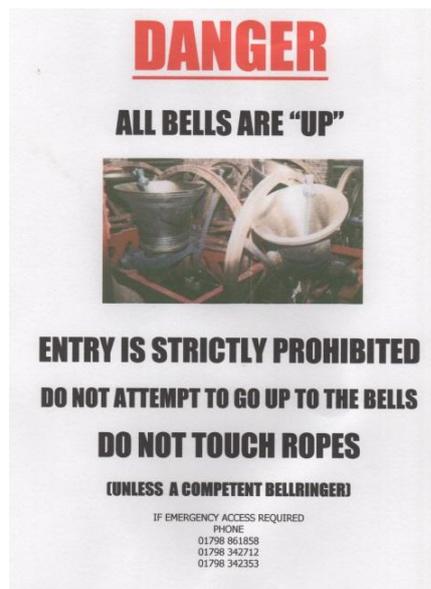




When did you last review your tower notices?

There have been occasions of contractors or others not taking any notice of the typical "BELLS UP" signage, possibly because they and other church officers don't always understand its full meaning.

There was an occasion recently, despite the notices, of a contractor climbing through the bell frame with the bells "up" to do some work. The person didn't understand what the signs meant and did not appreciate the potential danger once up in the tower. This despite his "boss" being told not to go up to the bells, a communication breakdown!



It may well be time to consider some stronger warnings regarding entrance to the bellchamber, with contact numbers and also to look at the feasibility of locking access on the occasions that bells do need to be left "up". This is the notice we are now using at Petworth.

Geoff Rix



Open day Etiquette

by Kate Flavell, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

I thought your Society might be interested to see a letter I have sent to the Ringing World regarding Open Days, as it is around this time of year that some societies start planning them for the Christmas period or later. I know many organisers know all this already and I do apologise if you feel I am teaching my grandmother! But last year's experience showed that there is still room for some better organisation and particularly better behaviour of visitors, so anything you can do to spread the word in your area will be very much appreciated.

"To: The Editor, The Ringing World
(by email)

Many associations will be planning their open days for the Christmas holiday period and beyond. I love these opportunities to visit new parts of the country, meet other ringers and grab new towers. They are also a brilliant way of raising funds. In the light of a few issues this year, already discussed in your august journal, can I offer a few ideas to help ensure they run smoothly and are enjoyed by everyone? (Readers may recall that visitors starting very early without waiting for a local steward to arrive caused some local problems and meant that those arriving in good time to ring found that all the other visitors had rung and gone.) These are ideas for those organising these wonderful events as well as those attending.

For organisers:

1. On all lists of open towers published or provided, include a clear statement that no ringing is to begin before the advertised time.
2. If possible, ensure that the local "steward" arrives early to check/sell tickets and is briefed not to permit an early start.
3. If possible, provide more than one local ringer to help out if visitors arrive and there aren't enough to ring.
4. Consider taking the opportunity to make more money by selling refreshments.

For visitors:

1. Do not start ringing before the advertised time even if the church is open and there are enough ringers there. Even if the local steward says it's OK - it's not fair on those still to come.
2. Do not leave without paying, just because no-one has asked you to. If you can't see someone to pay, leave the money in the ringing room.
3. Do not leave if that means there are no longer enough ringers there to ring with those waiting. Stay to ring once more. Then it is their turn to stay if necessary.

I am looking forward to a new year of open days and hope that we can all ensure that they are all successful and enjoyed by all who attend.

Kate Flavell, President
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers"



Contact details for the Northern Division Committee

Ringling Master	David Perkins	07776 082404	rm-north@scacr.org
Secretary	Anne Ekins	01403-864291	sec-north@scacr.org
Education Officer	Rachel Edwards	01342-810210	ed-north@scacr.org
Publicity Officer	May Littleton	01403-268528	news-north@scacr.org
Bell Restoration	Terence McGinn	01293-519665	brf-north@scacr.org
Committee Members:	Rosie Gregory	na444@btinternet.com	
	Jo Faircloth	jo@jofaircloth.co.uk	
	Richard Hutchings	richardhutchings@scacr.org	
	Sandra Alford	sandra.alford@hotmail.co.uk	



Very many thanks to all those 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
before 15th February 2014

