

Northern News



The Northern Division Newsletter
March/April 2014



Dates for Your Diary

MARCH

Saturday 1 st	Rounds & Plain Hunting Course	West Hoathly	3pm
<i>(Application deadline was 26th Feb. Follow-up ringing at Danehill practice on Monday 3rd April)</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	7.30pm
Monday 24 th	10-Bell Practice	Warnham	7.30pm
Monday 31 st	Quarter Peal	to be arranged	

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

MAY

Saturday 3 rd	Annual Two Towers Walk - full details to follow		
Monday 5 th	BANK HOLIDAY - NO PRACTICE		
Saturday 10 th	SCACR AGM - see full details on page 2 of the newsletter		
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Clare Cullen on 01273-474114 or sec-south@scacr.org by 7th May please</i>			
Monday 12 th	Treble Bob Minor	Ardingly	7.30pm



Saturday 5th April 2014

Quiz Evening and Supper 7pm at Slinfold

Teams with a maximum of six people
or you can join a team on the night.
£6.50 per person. Choice of fish, sausage or
vegetarian with chips.

(Must be specified when buying tickets).
Tickets from Anne Ekins sec-north@scacr.org
or from Slinfold Tower



Saturday 10th May 2014

SCACR AGM

2pm-4pm
at Uckfield

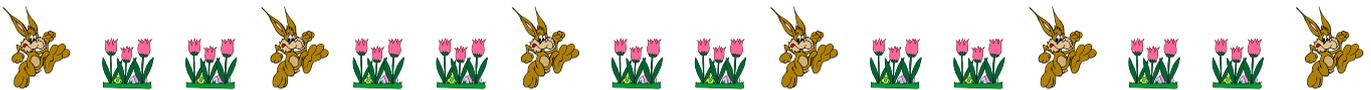
10am-11am Barcombe
10.30am-11.30am Little Horsted
11am-12noon Maresfield

12.30pm-1.30pm Buffet Lunch
at The Belmont Centre, Uckfield

2pm-4pm SCACR Annual General Meeting

4pm Ringing at Uckfield
5pm Service at Church of the Holy Cross, Uckfield

Names for lunch to sec-south@scacr.org
or telephone Clare Cullen on 01273-474114



Two Towers Walk - Saturday 3rd May 2014

Details to follow but basically, as in previous years, meeting somewhere and walking to a tower or two to ring, with a pub lunch somewhere, sometime during the day. As information is received, it will be added to the website.





The Bells of St Mary's, Balcombe by John Moore

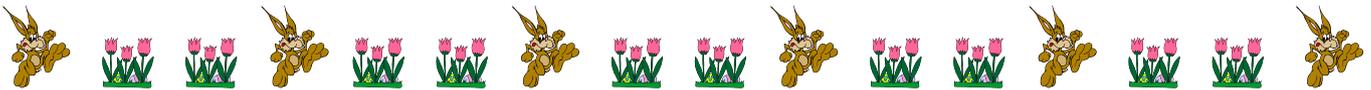
A good and true quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St Mary's church Balcombe on the afternoon of Sunday 12th January 2014 by ringers from Balcombe and neighbouring towers to mark the start of a fairly major overhaul of the bells and their fittings by Whitechapel Bell Foundry on the following day.

This all began when a clapper fell out of a bell in 2010. Whitechapel were invited to inspect the bells & fittings and provide a report. The intervening period has seen the necessary funding for the work (around £11,000) being raised by organisations, ringers and others in Balcombe, together with a generous donation from the Sussex ringers Bell Restoration Fund and, of course, St Mary's church itself. The bells were out of action for about five weeks and should be back in action about the time you read this article.

The dedication for the quarter peal will be for the start of the work and also as compliment to Mr & Mrs Richard Greenwood and Mr & Mrs Michael Dutton, both of whom celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversaries on the same day this summer. The ringers were:

1. Rosie Gregory - Slaugham
2. Martin Gibb - Worth
3. John Moore - Balcombe
4. Iain Davey - Crawley
5. Mike Peace - Lindfield
6. Patsy Whiteside - Lindfield
7. Richard Hutchings - Lindfield
8. Stuart Wallace - Crawley

John Moore - Balcombe



SCACR Clothing



A range of clothing is available with embroidered SCACR logo. Polos, T-shirts, fleeces, sweatshirts, etc. in many different colours and all sizes.

Order from Adele Potton on 01798-875514 or by emailing

SCACRclothing@potton.myzen.co.uk

The full range of clothing is available on the supplier's website:

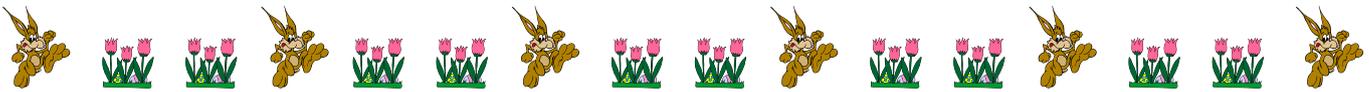
www.ricara.co.uk

Please note that the prices quoted exclude the cost of embroidery, VAT and postage, so please contact Adele prior to placing the order to obtain the final price. Once an order has been placed, the items are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. All orders must go through Adele and NOT direct to the company.

The next deadline for orders is 30th April 2014.

Adele Potton





Warnham's Invitation to Ring at Westminster Abbey

Whilst many residents of Warnham were waking, and perhaps regretting the excesses of New Year's Eve, St Margaret's bell ringers were making their way to London to help herald in the New Year. We had been invited to ring at Westminster Abbey!

It has for some years been the custom of the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers to invite a visiting band to ring at the Abbey on New Year's Day, which is one of their regular ringing days. One of our band, Simon Alford, is a regular ringer at the Abbey and hence we were honoured with the invitation. Over 20 of us travelled by train to London and we arrived in a very wet, grey capital.



The Abbey was busy with visitors, but we were given preferential treatment from the word go, being able to use the facilities offered to all employees at the Abbey. Up the stone spiral stairs of the North-West tower and into the ringing chamber. Compared to our ringing chamber it was very spacious, but similar with its ring of ten bells.

We had been met by Officers of the Company and they made us very welcome, putting our younger members at ease. Chris Rogers, Secretary of the Company, gave us a brief, but interesting, talk about the history of the bells and their role. They are rung for major church festivals and special services, on the anniversaries of the Queen's accession, coronation and wedding, and on other notable occasions such as the Queen's Official Birthday and Commonwealth Day. It is traditional to ring the bells at the conclusion of a service, but when the sovereign is attending the bells are rung beforehand as well. On anniversaries and festivals the bells are normally rung at one o'clock in the afternoon.



The striking of Big Ben at one o'clock was our cue to 'pull off'. Although a great deal heavier than those at St Margaret's, the Abbey bells were a pleasure to ring. We rang some call changes and a short touch of Grandsire Caters before the group split. Ten of our ringers rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters whilst the rest of us were treated to a whirlwind tour of the Abbey by Jeremy Pratt, Deputy Conductor of the Company. It might have been a hurried tour but how fantastic to be allowed into parts of the building that the public were generally prohibited from. To see, at

very close quarters, the craft work on the tomb of Edward the Confessor was certainly a highlight.

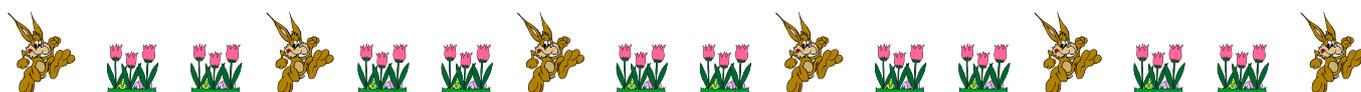
The quarter peal was successful, we reassembled and emerged out on to the wet streets of Westminster at 2.30pm. The youngsters had chosen to see the remnants of the New Year's Day parade instead of the Abbey tour. They returned happy, but very wet.

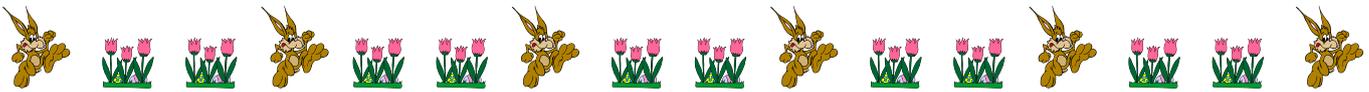
Jeremy Pratt congratulated the band on our ringing, but he especially noted how well the youngsters had handled the bells. I think that this praise should also be directed at the fantastic help and guidance given by their mentors back in St Margaret's.

After the Abbey, we moved on to St. Margaret's, Westminster. This is the 'parish church' for the Palace of Westminster. This was not such a pleasant ringing experience, with some of our band referring to the bells as 'buckets' due to the poor internal acoustics; outside they sound grand.

Our final ring was at St James Garlickhythe, which we enjoyed, even though we were a little tightly packed. These bells were the ones that many of you would have seen being rung on a barge as it sailed down the River Thames in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Our day was a fantastic start to the New Year.

Even the weather could not dampen our spirits as we headed home to Warnham.





Northern Division ADM at Crawley - Saturday 1st February 2014



Christine Baldock welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting that it was the first ADM she had attended as Master. It was a full meeting with no spare seats but lots of food to go round for everyone. Thanks were given to Revd. Tony Graham, the organist Trevor Doyle, Florence for reading the lesson and to the "tea ladies" for a truly splendid spread.

New members were elected as follows:- Beverley Simmons (Rusper), Irene Loft, Peter Railton, James Railton and James Hall (Itchingfield), Andrew Allen and Nikki Bache (Horsham), Susannah Bowen (Fairwarp) Gary Titherly and Caroline Mackenzie (Worth), Diane Verrall (West Grinstead), Daniel Holbrook (Ardingly) and Derek Shurvell (West Hoathly).



rt: Beverley Simmons

Following reports by the Secretary, Education Officer, Treasurer and Bell Restoration Fund Representative, it was time for the election of officers to the committee. There were no nominations for Ringing Master and Publicity Officer so these two posts remain vacant as David Perkins and May Littleton both stood down (although May agreed to produce the March/April newsletter).

The remainder of the committee were elected as follows: Anne Ekins (Secretary), Rachel Edwards (Education Officer), Terence McGinn (Bell Restoration Fund Rep) with Jo Faircloth, Richard Hutchings, Rosie Gregory and Angela Cash (General Committee Members).

Christine Baldock then addressed the meeting regarding the Vision for the Association. The proposal is to form teams at county level with support from each of the divisions. Christine asked for volunteers for each of the following four teams:

- 1-Training & Communication.
 - 2-Communication & Events.
 - 3-Bell Maintenance & Restoration and
 - 4-Administration, Records & Library.
- Unfortunately, there were no volunteers for any of the teams.

Details of the proposed Northern Division programme for 2014 were circulated including a Quiz & Supper evening at Slinfold on 5th April and Ringing & BBQ at Cowfold on 2nd August. Full details of all the proposed events will be on the website.

The date of the next Business Meeting was agreed for Saturday 30th August 2014 at Withyham with ringing from 3pm to 4.30pm followed by tea and the meeting.





Vacancy for Publicity Officer



At the recent Northern Division ADM, I stood down as Publicity Officer having been in the post for just over six years. Unfortunately, there were no volunteers to take over from me so there is now a vacancy on the committee. I agreed to produce the next newsletter (this one!) which, therefore, will be my last.

However, if the guidelines of The Vision for SCACR are implemented, the role of Publicity will be somewhat different to how it is now. For a start, the title may change to Communication & Events Officer with two members from Northern Division assisting this person. Full details of the proposed changes will be outlined and discussed at the SCACR AGM on Saturday 10th May 2014 (see notice on page 2 for full details). Exciting times.

If you feel you could take on the role of Publicity Officer for Northern Division, please contact our Secretary, Anne Ekins, who I'm sure would be extremely pleased to hear from you. Perhaps you would like to produce the newsletter which is issued every two months. Just six copies a year. Or you may know of someone who would be prepared to do this but needs a little encouragement to come forward. Get your thinking caps on!

May Littleton



Monday Practices (and Saturday Training Opportunities)

Monday practices will continue to alternate between special elementary, surprise and particular method evenings as follows:

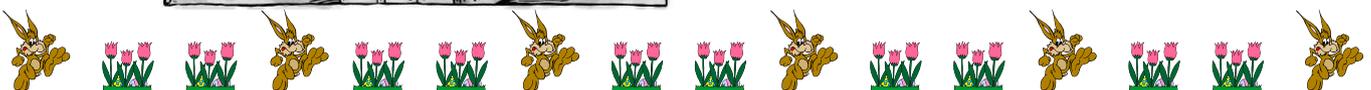
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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 st Monday in the month | Elementary - rounds, call changes and plain methods |
| 2 nd Monday | Advanced - surprise methods |
| 3 rd Monday | One special method eg Grandsire or Plain Bob |
| 4 th Monday | 10-bell or 12-bell practice |
| 5 th Monday | Quarter Peal |

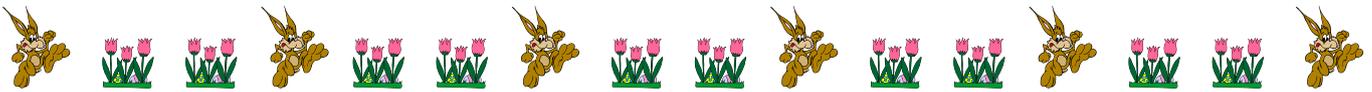
Also, there are to be several training opportunities on first Saturdays this year. Log on to the website for full details as these events are organised.



David Perkins

All our best wishes to you David for a speedy recovery following your operation. We hope you get well soon.





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



Divisional Practice Nights

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other Towers in the Division but it would be an idea to check before you set off.....

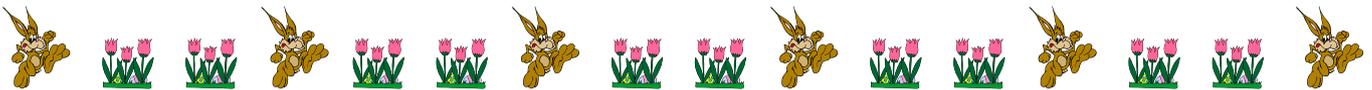
Monday:- Northern Division practice evenings. See Diary Dates on front page for full details

Tuesday:- Balcombe : Cowfold : Horsham : Lindfield : Rudgwick (1st & 3rd) : Turner's Hill (phone first)

Wednesday:- Ardingly : Danehill (except last) : East Grinstead : Slinfold : Withyham

Thursday:- Crawley : Fairwarp : Hartfield : Lower Beeding : Rusper : Warnham : West Grinstead : West Hoathly : Worth

Friday:- Bolney : Coleman's Hatch : Cuckfield : Fletching : Itchingfield : Slaugham



Contact details for the Northern Division Committee

Ringing Master	Position vacant		
Secretary	Anne Ekins	01403-864291	sec-north@scacr.org
Education Officer	Rachel Edwards	01342-311100	ed-north@scacr.org
Publicity Officer	Position vacant		
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		richard.a.hutchings@btinternet.com
	Angela Cash		



Finally, very many thanks to everyone who has sent me articles and photographs over the past six and a bit years. Your input has been really appreciated because without you Northern News would have been very difficult to produce and probably extremely boring! Thank you!!

May Littleton

