

LOOK To!



SCACR Eastern Division Newsletter

March 2015 to June 2015

This is the Spring edition of Look To! We wish all of our ringers and readers a very Happy Easter and much joyful ringing.

Some dates for your Diary:

Saturday Meetings

March 28th

11:00 a.m. Heathfield

2:15 p.m. Dallington,

Own arrangements for Lunch: There will be soup available at Dallington.

Please contact Diana Day for further information

April 1st

Dewbys Mini Ring Hooe from 7.15 p.m.

OUTING TO PLYMOUTH AND TAVISTOCK AREA

1ST May - 4th May

All are welcome to attend the Eastern District Outing, please make your own accommodation arrangements. The price for the outing is **£15.00** per adult. Please contact Marion Hollands for further details. The schedule is as follows:

Friday 1st May

6.30 p.m. St Stephens-By-Saltash Postcode PL12 4AP

Saturday 2nd May

9.30 a.m. Plymouth, Eggbuckland Postcode PL6 5RH

10.30 a.m. Emmanuel, Compton Gifford Postcode PL3 5BZ

11.45 a.m. St Andrew, Stoke Damerel Postcode PL1 5QP

Luncheon

2.45p.m. St Andrews, Plymouth Postcode PL1 2AB

4.00 p.m. St Mary, Plympton. Postcode PL7 1QN

Sunday 3rd May

9.00 a.m. Service Ringing, Tavistock Postcode PL19 8AA

10.00 a.m. Bren Tor Postcode PL19 0NW

12.00 Whitchurch Postcode PL19 9ED

2.15 p.m Service Ringing, Sampford Spiney - 3.00 Service Postcode PL20 6LH

5.00 p.m. - 5.55 p.m. **Service Ringing Buckland Monachorum** Postcode PL20 7NA

Monday 4th May

10.00 a.m. Ilsington	Postcode TQ13 9RJ
11.00 a.m. Lustleigh	Postcode TQ13 9JD
12.00 Mortonhampstead	Postcode TQ13 8NN
1.15 p.m. Dunsford	Postcode EX6 7AA

SCACR AGM May 9th 2015

THE FOLLOWING TOWERS WILL BE OPEN

10.15 - 11.30am	Bexhill (10)	17cwt
Refreshments available in the church (also toilet)		
11.15 - 12.15pm	Ashburnham (6)	9 cwt.
12.00 - 1.15pm	Battle (8)	21cwt
12.30 - 2.00pm	Salehurst (8)	18cwt
3.00 - 4.30pm	St Clement Hastings (8)	15cwt
4.30pm.	Service	
5.00pm.	Tea	
6.00pm.	Annual General Meeting	

Names for Tea to Rosemary Smith 01424 718736 hastingsscacr.org

29th May - Bexhill Quiz in aid of their bell ropes.

ST PETER'S BEXHILL



BELLRINGERS

FRIDAY 29th MAY 6.30 for 7.00PM
At
ST PETER'S COMMUNITY CENTRE TN40 2HE

It is over twenty years since our ten bells were re-hung.
We are raising money to carry out routine maintenance such as re-greasing the bearings.
Please come and support the ringers in raising the money to carry the work out.

Each team can consist of up to eight members.
The number of teams is limited to 18 because of safety regulations

We would like the names of the teams and the names of the participating members in each team before the quiz, **as we will provide a ploughman's**. Tickets will still be available at the door but supper will not be guaranteed. Tickets are £5 per/person. For more information please contact Roy Cox roymcox@live.co.uk or on 01424 211473. If you pay by cheque please make it payable to 'St Peters Bexhill Bellringers'.

June 27th Mini outing to Birchington area

10.00 a.m.	Quex Park,
11.30 p.m	Birchington,

2.15 p.m. Ash,
 3.45 p.m. Eastry, TBC and
 5.00 p.m. Wingham

Eastern District Quiz Night

For the fifteenth year running the Eastern District held its Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper. Over 100 members met at the community hall in Hailsham. This year the questions were written by members from All Saints who also were the question masters on the night. There was a wide variety of questions with each round given a cryptic title.

It was a close run thing with a team from Heathfield and one from Waldron equal first. After a tie break Waldron were the overall winners providing the closest answer to the question how long is the river Thames. As usual the members present were generous in the raffle. The proceeds this year are to go to Hailsham to assist in their repair works. Together with a small profit from the quiz itself a total of £260 is on its way to Hailsham. The Results:

2015 EASTERN DISTRICT QUIZ		
FINAL SCORES		
Position	TOWER	FINAL SCORE
1	Waldron	82.0
2	Heathfield	81.0
3	Salehurst [Table 13]	80.0
4	Hailsham [Table 8]	79.0
5	Dallington	77.5
6	Bexhill	75.5
7	Hailsham [Table 9]	75.5
8	Chiddingly	72.5
9	Alfriston	72.5
10	Willingdon	71.5
11	Mayfield	69.5
12	Christ Church	69.0
13	Salehurst [Table 14]	66.0
14	Hellingly	64.5
15	St Mary's Eastbourne	60.5

St Mary's, Hailsham Maintenance work to be carried out on the bells

Hailsham bells are to undergo maintenance work in the next few weeks. They have had no work carried out on them for some 60 years and over the last year or so it has been noticed that several of the bells are becoming increasingly odd-struck.

A year ago it was decided to ask Nicholson Engineering Ltd. to give us an overview of the work which might be required. A report was received advising a number of fairly minor works (no bells need to be removed from the church) but collectively this would cost us some £16,500. The bells all appear to be sound but the frame-work needs some attention, particularly the ironwork, although the timbers are sound. All the clapper

assemblies, some of the pulleys, and all the bearing assemblies need to be dismantled and returned to Nicholsons for improvement work to be carried out them. All the ironwork will need to be thoroughly cleaned and tightened up before everything is put back together.

We have been very fortunate to receive two or three substantial donations/pledges towards this work and also the Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund have agreed to a grant of £3,500. We therefore have very little further funding raising to be done.

We do, however, need help with work which is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 7 April – three to four days – dismantling of bits to go back to Nicholsons

Monday, 20 April – approximately five days – cleaning, painting and tightening up parts

Tuesday, 5 May – approximately four days – re-assembling everything ready to ring the bells!

We need bed and breakfast accommodation for two men, in the vicinity of Hailsham, and the assistance of two or three fit persons (under the age of 70 to ensure they are covered by the insurance) to help with the physical, dirty, not dangerous, well supervised and instructed work. We have a couple of names so far - it does not have to be same person for each of the weeks but preferably a commitment to do a whole week at a time, not odd days. If you are able to help, please contact me.

Elizabeth Munday
01323 841127

Jim Beckingham 1934-2015

Jim was born in February 1934, son of William & Minnie, in Ripe. He lived his whole life in the three adjacent villages of Ripe, Laughton & Chalvington and was heavily involved in village life, especially the Church. He was Churchwarden at Ripe for approximately 50 years, PCC member for even longer, bell-ringer, clock winder & member of the Pelham Choir.

He learnt to ring in 1953 and in 1971 took over the captaincy of the Ripe band when his father William died. In the late 1970's a group of ringers from Ripe and the surrounding area started up a regular Saturday evening excursion to other towers in Sussex, usually followed by a trip to the local pub. He rang his first Quarter Peal in 1979, becoming the first Ripe ringer to do so. Membership of the SCACR, along with the rest of the Ripe band started around this time. Ringing activities were curtailed in 1983 when Stephen was born – he continued to ring at Ripe but visits to other towers were much less frequent. In the late 90's, when Stephen began ringing, his interest was re-ignited and he regularly attended meetings, outings and other ringing events.

He rang in 128 different towers, mainly in Sussex, although he lists one of his proudest ringing achievements as ringing at Winchester Cathedral in 2006. He was also particularly proud to ring in Stephen's first Quarter peal in 1998, together with his wife Lynda. He rang approximately 100 quarter peals, the majority of which were since 2000. At the time of his death he had been a ringer for 62 years, Tower Captain at Ripe for 44 years and member of the SCACR for over 35 years.

He will be fondly remembered by many people, both locally and further afield, and by ringers in Sussex.

Stella Shell 1931-2015

Stella was born to The Rev John and Kathleen Kingdon on the 16 May 1931, at the age of eleven she was boarded, as was the custom in those days, to a School. Endured was a term she used to describe her education.

After qualifying as an Occupational Therapist in Liverpool Stella was called to the National Health and Local Government Occupation Services in Darlington, Durham. Kent Hampshire and London.

Music, mainly classical played a full part in her earlier years and she secured a place as a violinist with Durham Cathedral Orchestra. Having enjoyed the cold conditions in boarding school she had little difficulty surviving the cold of Durham Cathedral. Akin to standing on a platform of Durham rail station during the winter.

Winter evening were enjoyed dancing to the strains of "Jimmy Shand" and his Scottish music. A well known Northern musician some 60 years ago. How time passes. At this time of the year Burns Night in the ball room of Durham castle was the place to be. And it was some sixty one years ago she decided Allan might be useful as a dancing companion. He was fairly good at the Highland fling until he broke his ankle dancing. As was normal in those days they courted for two years and they were married by her father at St Mary within the Walls of Chester on the 3rd September 1955

They bought a house in Durham - £1,500 with a mortgage of £5.00 pcm (in those days mortgages were rationed) "Happy memories" A short while later they moved to Ramsgate and onwards and some might say upwards to Winchester and London.

Stella and Allan had the great joys of a daughter Hazel and a son Andrew. They gave to their delight Granddaughters and Grandsons who in turn showered her with eight Great Grand-children, to her obvious and evident delight.

Stella was not deterred by age or challenges. At 60 she obtained her O level in music. At 70 while in Cyprus she enjoyed Paragliding . For her 75th Ballooning across Sussex - Rides on a Balloon that dangerously fell into the wrong fields. On "thrilling" roundabouts with the Grand-children at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland in biting cold. Travelling on her own from Sydney to Perth on the Trans Australia Rail. At 72 being bounced on a rubber ring from a speeding ski boat. Just giving some insight into the ease which Stella was not fazed by challenges. And lots and lots more.

Maturity induced a return to an early love of Bell Ringing. Starting within the Diocese of Chester. Those accomplished Bells Ringers who are sharing this time with her will know just how much she enjoyed travelling the Country and the World finding existing Towers and the excitement of finding a new one. Only a true Bell Ringer understands the delight of a "call" we are ringing at x can you join us. Or after Ringing and a healthy drink of Real Ale deciding who should improve their talent. Stella was very proud to be among those very few who had rung in nearly every church with bells not only in the UK but throughout the world. And she must have travelled an enormous number of miles to achieve that feat. Stella loved the friendships which endured those many years and how pleased she would be with the Open Tower ringing this afternoon.

Stella will be remembered by most people as a woman of quiet dignity and loving tenderness who lived and enjoyed a quiet life undisturbed by the turmoil that sometimes surround us all. Her talent was to deliver the feeling of quiet content to all who shared her life. Her Family remember her as the anchor that they clung to in times of trouble and as someone who nurtured them physically mentally and spiritually and who was always there for them. She leaves an endearing legacy of love and a fund of good will for all her children Grandchildren and great Grandchildren.

As far as we can work it out mum rang a total of 30 peals and 2861 quarter peals, I'm fairly sure this is accurate as we have found all the records dated and stored. Some of the quarters are recorded as mini peals but without looking at each one I can't get the exact number. Stella's last quarter was rung at Christ Church Eastbourne on Sunday 31st August.

Stella is one of very few people to have rung on over 6000 different rings of bells, being the second person to reach that total.

The following two quarters were rung on the day of Stella's funeral, attended by many ringers supporting her family and friends

Sussex County Association

Eastbourne, Sussex

Christ Church

Monday 9 February 2015 in 44 mins (8 3/4)

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed: Joseph J Parker

- 1 Peter M J Bradford
- 2 Rosemary Cox
- 3 Christine M Baldock
- 4 Marion C Hollands
- 5 Roy M Cox
- 6 Frances P Bradford
- 7 Alan R Baldock (Conductor)

8 David J Hollands 75th quarter peal on the bells - 3. 50th together - 2 & 3. Rung, prior to her funeral, as a thanksgiving for the life of Stella Mary Shell, a ringer at this church, who died on 24th January 2015, aged 83.

Sussex County Association

Eastbourne, E Sussex

Christ Church

Monday 9 February 2015 in 42mins (8 3/4cwt)

1260 Doubles in 4 methods

1-2)Stedman 3-6)St Simons 7-8) Plain Bob 9-10+60)Grandsire

- 1 Frances P Bradford
- 2 Hazel Horrobin
- 3 Louise G Pink
- 4 Nick Cant
- 5 Peter M Bradford (cond)
- 6 Ann Wright

Rung during the funeral service at Christ Church for Stella Shell at the request of Stella's family.

Eastern District Annual General Meeting

The **2015** annual meeting was held on the 28 February. It was hosted by the ringers at All Saints Eastbourne. As usual there was ringing prior to the meeting this was followed by a short service led by Pip Pawley , a lay reader and also a ringer at All Saints, Eastbourne. Tea followed and then the meeting. After the meeting a few hardy ringers moved on to the 10 bell tower at St Saviours in Eastbourne. For those who do not know this is just a short 10 minute walk away.

The meeting took the usual format. It was chaired by the SCACR Master Christine Baldock. New members were welcomed to the association. There were several new members at the meeting who were presented with their membership certificate. Following the adoption of the 'Vision New Rules' in the Autumn of 2014 new members no longer need to be elected . The new members were as follows

Fr. David Reynish and Daniel Meyer from Bexhill. Amanda Bryant and Rosie Williams from Brede. Somerset Akerman from Brightling. Alex Thompson from Chiddingly. Hazel Horrobin from Christ Church Eastbourne. Hayley Bell from Hailsham. Dorothy Withers from Waldron.

Fiona Stapley from Salehurst. Pauline Bishop from Westham. Susan Cheesman from Pevensy. Laurence Lecomte, Alice Purkiss and Jenny Pawley from All Saints Eastbourne

Those of you who have kept abreast of the changes within the vision project will be aware that there were some fundamental changes to the structure and the way ringers become team members. There is a requirement at District level to have a secretary. However the current Eastern committee agreed that there was simply too much for just one person to do. On this basis we have retained the original District structure. Whilst we were not able to fill all the roles we do have a balanced team. The roles of Master and Education Officer remain vacant . Marion Hollands was elected as secretary , David Hollands as Treasurer, Nick Rees as Look To editor. Following this Peter and Frances Bradford together with Nick Cant became committee members

When it came to the county Teams Alan Baldock was proposed onto the Administration team although under the new rules it was not necessary to be proposed to any of these county teams, and members can join during the year. In addition Frances Bradford along with Stephen Beckingham have joined the Training & Recruitment team. There were no other Eastern District representatives to any of the other teams.

There was no further business although the meeting was reminded of the various events planned in the coming months.

Bell Maintenance and Restoration Team Representative

After Eastern District Annual Meeting in February, I was asked to write a few words about being a BRF rep., although it must be well over 15 years since I returned, after 14 interesting and enjoyable years.

Firstly, I must point out that the rep's title has now changed. The word 'maintenance' has been inserted BUT this does not mean that the rep must be prepared to dirty his/her hands! Rather that bell maintenance should be encouraged, especially after costly restoration work has been completed.

I enjoyed visiting towers, meeting the ringers and advising on fundraising, especially in places where money was short. Also there is the reassurance that other towers have similar problems that can often be overcome by talking with experienced members of the BRF team.

The rep does not need to be a bell expert, but a good communicator.

Do you or someone you know fit this bill?

Eastern District really does need this officer now.

He/she would liaise with the BRF secretary and attend only 2 or 3 committee meetings a year. Please 'phone Marion Hollands if you would like to help.

Margaret J Bennett

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

A fine set of 8 diatonic Whitechapel Hand Bells.

Sizes no.15C up to no.8C (no case);

Pitch A = 440 Hz.

Purchased with enthusiasm 25 years ago by tower bell ringers, but never actually used. They have been stored in a domestic environment (ie not somewhere cold and damp!). They all strike well and should need no adjustment. The bells have never been polished. They can be seen and trialled in Lewes.

The cost then was just over £1,000. The original receipt can be produced. The current price is just under £2,500. Guide price today £1,000.

Contact: flutewood@aol.com

Dedication and call of duty.

What a wonderful thing is bell ringing; it keeps one mentally and physically active and allows one to forge life long friends. It seems one has only to make a passing remark at a function when often you discover that the person, to whom you have been talking is also a practitioner in the art of ringing. And so it was that recently I was chatting to a delightful gentleman from West Sussex; he told me how there had been a time, when he would arise early on a Sunday morning to catch the first flight from Manchester to Gatwick; he would then hire a car and drive down to Washington in time to ring for the Sunday morning service. The reverse journey would still afford him the chance to catch Sunday lunch with the family. No longer will I moan at getting up on a Sunday and driving the couple or so miles to ring.

Look To!

We are always glad to receive submissions for publication in Look To! Whether it is to tell us about a forthcoming event for your Tower or to write about an earlier event that you would like to share. Articles for publication should be submitted to the Editor, nickrees@operamail.com. Please, also don't forget to let us know if you would rather receive your copy of Look To! by email.