

SallyForth

Western District Newsletter

April/May 2015



Wishing you all a very
Happy Easter



Diary of Events

April

Friday 3 rd	Basic 8 Bell Practice	}	These two practices will not take place as it is Holy Week	
Saturday 4 th	Beginners & Improvers Practice			
Saturday 4 th	Change Ringing Handbell Day		Burgess Hill	
Wednesday 8 th	Codgers - This is a week later than usual		Charlwood (tbc)	11am - 12.15pm
			Rusper (tbc)	2pm - 3.30pm
Saturday 11 th	Morning Practice and Get-Together		Pulborough	10am - 12noon
Friday 17 th	Advanced 8 Bell Practice		Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 25 th	Surprise Minor Practice		Walberton	10.30am

May

Friday 1 st	Basic 8 Bell Practice	Arundel	7.30pm
Saturday 2 nd	Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Wednesday 6 th	Codgers	To be arranged	11am - 12.15pm 2pm - 3.30pm
Saturday 9 th	Ringling and Association AGM See page 8	Hastings	
Friday 15 th	Advanced 8 Bell Practice	Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 23 rd	Surprise Minor Practice	Walberton	10.30am
Saturday 30 th	Kaleidoscope Ringing Course	Billingshurst	10am - 12 noon

KALEIDOSCOPE RINGING COURSE BILLINGSHURST

SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2015

The course will be run by Elaine Farrow

10am to mid-day

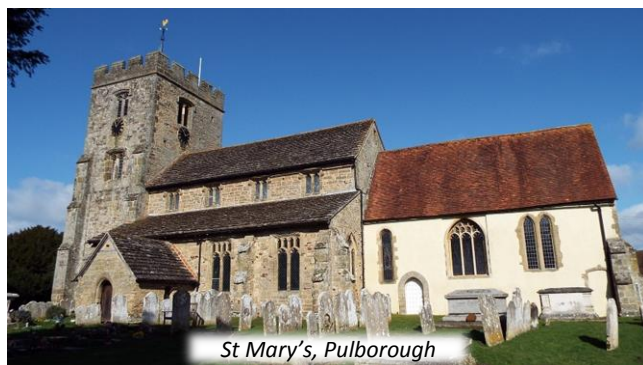
Kaleidoscope ringing is a series of exercises to take beginners through various stages to help develop their bell control, such as "place making", "dodging" and "listening".

More information can be found on the CCCBR website
http://cccbr.org.uk/education/practicetoolkit/pdfs/fs_kaleidoscope.pdf

If you would like to attend this course, please contact
Graham Hills tel: 01903 266980, e-mail gr.hills@yahoo.com

Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for the newsletter. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Please send your contributions for the next edition to Margo and Liz at our gmail address, as before, or via news-west@scacr.org by 15th July 2015. Thank you.



St Mary's, Pulborough

Regular Practices

Beginners & Improvers Practice	1 st Saturday of every month	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623
- contact Christine first			
Basic 8 Bell Practice	1 st Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
General 8 Bell Practice	3 rd Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
Surprise Minor Practice	4 th Saturday of every month	Graham Hills	01903 266980
Codgers Practice	1 st Wednesday of every month	Mike Foster codgers@scacr.org	01903 741664

Looking Ahead

13 th June 2015	Morning ring at Milland (tbc)
11 th July 2015	Walk and Ring (to be arranged)
8 th August 2015	Evening ring at Heene (tbc)
12 th September 2015	Afternoon ring at Upper Beeding, followed by an evening ring at Henfield (tbc)

The Last Western District's Master's Mutterings – Graham Hills

In my previous Master's Mutterings, I said that I was going to step down from being District Ringing Master at the ADM in February, and hoped that someone would come forward to take over. Unfortunately, no one came forward, so like all the others, our District now finds itself "Masterless".

Therefore, if you are thinking whether or not to be the Ringing Master, please speak to either Jack or one of the other committee members. You would not have to run all the ringing practices, but your input would be a great advantage in the running of the District.

Here I must say thank you to all members of the Western District for all the support you have given me in the last 4 years. For those of you who don't know; I am sorry, but you are not getting rid of me altogether, as at the very same ADM, I was nominated for the position of Association Master. As no one else was nominated from any of the other Districts, I will take up this post at the SCACR Annual General Meeting on 9th May, which is being held in Hastings.

I look forward to receiving the same support in my new role, as you have given me in the past, and I will close now by wishing you all A Very Happy Easter.

Please see page 9 for the Secretary's 'Scratchings'

Striking Competition at Pagham

It was a good afternoon, with 8 teams entering, a great tea, and £90 raised for the BRF. The results were:

	Call Change
1 st	Pagham
2 nd	Amberley
3 rd	Westbourne
4 th	Westbourne

	Method
	Pagham
	Chichester
	Goring
	Westbourne



Bell Restoration Fund Report for 2014 – Graham Hills pp Geoff Rix

I will start this report with a couple of items that did not involve the Bell Restoration Fund. Early in 2014 at West Tarring all the clappers were overhauled and fitted with new Tufnell bushes and stainless steel hinge pins. All the bearings were replaced, and so were all the rope pulley blocks. One of the main changes was that the 5th bell was re-rope to bring the ringer out of the corner to make more of a ringing circle.

Again not a grant issue - **Rogate** commissioned the casting of a new sanctus bell to commemorate those who lost their lives in the 1914-1918 war, in time for a service in August. This bell is to be hung above the existing bells to be swung

chimed. However, Taylors got it wrong and have submitted a drawing for a completely new frame, adding 2 extra bells for full circle ringing. It is hoped that the bell will be installed this year.

At Duncton - Alan Hughes from Whitechapel has visited and confirmed that the bell can be rehung for swing chiming, thereby keeping the half wheel. The original BRF grant offer lapsed in September, but a new application has been received, and a new grant offer of £1,200 has been made to the PCC. Whitechapel will restore the half wheel; fit a new headstock, bearings and clapper assembly. The old ironwork supporting the bell is to be reproduced on the headstock. There will also be some reinforcing work to the bell support beams. This work is due to start in March 2015.

At Hunston - On a visit made in July 2013, it was discovered that the steel rods fitted in the 1950's to secure the treble to the headstock had severely corroded and had cracked the crown of the bell. An Archdeacon's Certificate had been obtained, and the bells were removed by Nicholson Engineering, who are holding them in safe keeping. It may be possible to weld the bell, but both bells would require new headstocks, support bolts and fittings. It is now down to the parish to decide the next course of action.

Apuldram - On a previous visit, the bell chamber was found to be full of bird's nest and other debris. I am now pleased to report that this has all been cleared out and the 3 bells are in chimeable order.

At Wick near Littlehampton, the single bell is hung in a bell turret, and an Inspection through binoculars showed this to be in a poor state, with the headstock badly cracked around the gudgeons. I suggested there was a danger of it falling out with potential risk to the roof, and Nicholson has now removed the bell and has it in store pending its future.

Rustington - Another single bell; cast 1671 and hung in a 3 bell frame. I visited here in 2009 and am now pleased to say that a recommendation for the bell to be refurbished for stationary chiming is now being undertaken as part of a large re-ordering of the church.

East Wittering - An interesting one this, a single bell which it was discovered came from St Andrews, in the Oxmarket, Chichester. The church is a modern 1960's style, with a tower that is more decorative than functional and could not take more bells. The parish had thought of installing a Smiths of Derby digitised bell sound system as a way to get some bells sounding from the church. After much thought and discussion it was suggested that a digitised sound of a light ring of 6 bells with change ringing may be a possibility, and the parish is looking further into the idea.

At a BRF committee meeting at the end of November 2014 it was decided to offer a grant of £3,500 to **Arundel** PCC to help with the cost of the bell work. Whitechapel Bell Foundry have been contracted to undertake the work which started on 12th January 2015, and it is expected that the bells will be out of action for between 6 and 8 weeks. In the meantime, volunteers are cleaning the bell chamber, painting the frame, and helping Whitechapel. It is also hoped that a simulator will be installed.

Events you might like to ring for, and an opportunity to promote bellringing:



There's an exciting project at Mancroft in Norwich to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the first ever recorded peal, which took place there. See <http://www.mancroftappeal300.co.uk/wp/>

But this isn't just about East Anglia. The Central Council are supporting a nation-wide plan called 'First Peal 2015', with the aim to get 300 first pealers this year (double the usual number). It's not too soon to start thinking about who you could encourage to ring their first peal.

8th May 2015 – 70th Anniversary of VE Day - According to a Government website they are planning a 3 day weekend of events to mark this occasion. Some of the events are:

Friday 8th – A Service of Remembrance, with a 2 minutes silence at 3pm to mark the moment Winston Churchill broadcast his historic speech to the nation on VE Day in 1945.

Saturday 9th – A day of celebration. Cathedrals and churches across the country are to be invited to ring their bells in celebration at 11am, or at another time if not possible then.

On Sunday 10th – A service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, followed by a parade along Whitehall.

15th June 2015 – marks 800 years since King John put his seal to the Magna Carta at Runnymede

(From the CCCBR website <http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/articles/magna-carda-and-liber-teas.pdf>) Magna Carta will receive a lot of publicity in the media and as part of the 'Strike a Blow for Democracy' week-end there is to be a **Grand Ringing Day** on Sunday 14th June 2015. At 3pm, as part of a UK-wide event entitled 'LiberTeas', the whole nation will be encouraged to sit down to tea. This is also the time that is designated for ringing as part of the Grand Ringing Day.

16th June 2015 – Sussex Day – A chance to celebrate our wonderful county. This date was chosen as it is also St Richard's Day – the patron saint of Sussex. He was Bishop of Chichester from 1245 until his death in 1253.

18th June 2015 – 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo

Creating a Christmas Quarter Party - Andrew Rose

Every Christmas the Funtington Tower hosts a Fish and Chip Supper for all the tower members, as well as those who regularly help out at practices, on Sundays and with Quarter Peals. Without a number of people who live outside the Parish our ringing progress would be much slower than it has been. To make this a full evening we also ring an uninterrupted quarter peal before supper which sees everyone ringing either call changes or methods.

It's all in the planning: To make the evening run smoothly, two pieces of intense planning take place; firstly to allow everyone to ring to the level that they have reached during the year, and secondly to provide 50 portions of Fish and Chips to the assembled in super quick time.

Who wants to ring? When we first started this we were much less able as a tower and would ring 2 touches of something doubles, possibly a plain course of minor and the rest would be call changes. In 2014 we are so much more capable as a tower, so this year's repertoire included 1 plain course of Cambridge, 2 touches of Plain Bob Minor, a touch of Grandsire Doubles, 4 touches of Bob Doubles and 4 sets of call changes. This year the plan was developed to enable everyone to ring to their capabilities.

1	Funtington Christmas Quarter 16th December 2014: Schedule															
2																
3	Estimated	06:10	06:15	06:20	06:23	06:26	06:32	06:38	06:44	06:49	06:52	06:55	07:00	07:05		
4		Cambridge	Bob Minor	PB Doubles (60)	PB Doubles (60)	Call Changes	Call Changes	Call Changes	Call Changes	PB Doubles (60)	PB Doubles (60)	Grandsire Doubles 120	Plain Bob Minor	END		
5	Time (m)	5	5	3	3	6	6	6	5	3	3	5	5			
6	1	21 Simon K	8 Maggie W [^]	16 Anne M [^]	12 Miriam C [^]	12 Miriam C	16 Anne M [^]	16 Anne M	11 David C [^]	11 David C	15 Bill M [^]	2 John K [^]	2 John K			
7	2	23 Carol B	23 Carol B	9 Mandie M [^]	9 Mandie M	2* John K [^]	14 Phyllis [^]	14 Phyllis	8 Maggie W [^]	18 Wendy [^]	18 Wendy	18 Wendy	18 Wendy			
8	3	3 Jane W	6 Edward R [^]	6 Edward R	6 Edward R	10 Julie R [^]	10 Julie R	17 June H [^]	17 June H	13 Sue La Hive [^]	13 Sue La Hive	13 Sue La Hive	13 Sue La Hive			
9	4	5 Andrew R	5* Andrew R [^]	5* Andrew R [^]	5* Andrew R [^]	22 Steve J [^]	22 Steve J	12 Miriam C [^]	12 Miriam C	3 Jane W [^]	3 Jane W	21 Simon K [^]	21 Simon K			
10	5	7 Jack B	19 Geoff [^]	19 Geoff	3 Jane W [^]	3 Jane W	13 Sue La Hive [^]	13 Sue La Hive	21* Simon K [^]	21* Simon K [^]	21* Simon K [^]	4* Peter W [^]	4 Peter W			
11	6	4* Peter W [^]	4 Peter W	11 David C [^]	11 David C	11* David C [^]	15* Bill M [^]	15* Bill M [^]	22 Steve J [^]	22 Steve J	22 Steve J	5 Andrew R [^]	5* Andrew R [^]			
12																
13		Ringer Changes (Bold Italic)		3	3	2	3	4	2	4	3	1	4	0		
14																
15	Legend	© Conductor														
16		[^] New Ringer to take over a bell														

The Plan above is the Excel sheet that identifies not only the methods and band, but estimated start times and conductor. From this the basic plans start to form and it is possible to check that everyone is getting enough goes. For information, the above plan has 22 ringers across 12 sets.

Don't stop ringing under any circumstances. Weeks before, we practice in-flight handovers as this is something that takes practice. The plan above is also designed to minimise the number of handovers between sets as this is where time really gets used up. The aim is to always get away with 2 or 3 changes only between sets but we didn't achieve that this year because of the range of methods we rang necessitated more handovers. All in all there were 29 in-flight handovers.

If anything goes wrong under any circumstances then we are drilled to carry on ringing, and strong bands are formed around people being stretched and in some cases, a coach is standing by. So you can forget everything you are doing but DON'T STOP!

The Master of Ceremonies. Making sure that people are at the entrance to the ringing chamber and know what they are doing is the responsibility of the Master of Ceremonies, Jack Burton. With his Music Stand, torch and clicker he gets people to the entrance, makes sure they know what they are doing, tells the conductors when he/she can start and is also clicking the changes and timing the whole event. Requiring elements of military planning, an ex-Naval Officer fits the bill perfectly.

What might Campanophile look like? We don't submit this to Campanophile to register this type of quarter, but to the right is a picture of what it might look like.

St Mary's, Funtington, West Sussex
Tuesday 16th December 2014 (5-3-21)
120 Cambridge Minor, 240 Plain Bob Minor,
120 Grandsire Doubles, 240 Bob Doubles,
700 Call Changes

- 1 Simon Kelly
- 2 Carol Bishop
- 3 Jane Wilkinson
- 4 Andrew M Rose (C)
- 5 Jack Burton
- 6 Peter M Wilkinson (C)
- 7 Maggie Webb
- 8 Edward T Rose
- 9 Geoff Anthony
- 10 Anne Maddock
- 11 Mandie Merlin
- 12 David Callas (C)
- 13 Miriam Callas
- 14 John Kitchener (C)
- 15 Julie Rooker
- 16 Phyllis
- 17 Bill Maddock (C)
- 18 Sue La Hive
- 19 June Hughes
- 20 Wendy Shutler
- 21 Steve James

Rung to celebrate Christmas
and thank all of the Tower helpers.

First as Conductor 12, 17.
First Christmas Quarter 11, 15, 16, 19.

Steining ringers get bowled over – *David Kirkcaldy*

This year the Steining ringers had a pre-Christmas social evening playing skittles. Jan Whitchurch made all the arrangements, and a very enjoyable evening was held at The Bull just north of Henfield. The new vicar and his wife were our guests and they entered into the spirit of the event and had a good time as well.

The Saturday before on 28th November we had a stall at the church at St Andrews; this was mainly a PR exercise and perhaps fortunately our idea of ringing handbells came to nothing due to non-stop music provided by other groups. As part of this event there was a competition for church organisations to decorate Christmas trees judged by local resident and Gruffalo author, Julia Donaldson. The ringers' tree won this, so well done to Julia Elliott and Emma Gadd who did all the work; winning us a box of chocolates in the process.

That said, Steining has also been busy ringing, and two more 'firsts' were achieved in quarter peals during the run up to Christmas. Roll on more challenges in 2015!



Steining tower's Christmas skittles social

Standing: Ben Staines, Kate Burnett, Ronnie Stillwell, Father Neil Roberts, David Kirkcaldy, Gina White, Russell Pickup
Crouching: Julia Elliott, Helen Wells, Helen Roberts, Jan Whitchurch, Sue Gadd, Paul Wells, Marion Pickup, Kathy Howard



The winning Christmas tree

St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steining

21st December 2014
1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Caroline House
- 2 Ronnie Stillwell
- 3 Sue Gadd*
- 4 David House
- 5 Emma Gadd
- 6 Kathy Howard
- 7 David Kirkcaldy (C)
- 8 Mike Peate

*First quarter on eight inside
Rung prior to service of nine lessons and carols

St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steining

23rd December 2014
1250 Cambridge S Major

- 1 Kathy Howard
- 2 Ronnie Stillwell
- 3 Emma Gadd*
- 4 Sue Meyer
- 5 William Wilson
- 6 Gavin Bennett
- 7 Mike Peate
- 8 David Kirkcaldy (C)

*First quarter of major
Rung following 'A Christmas Spirit' concert.

'Brain of Britain' or 'Mastermind'! – *Margo Grundy*

If you were one of the lucky people who came along to the Quiz Night and Supper on the 10th January 2015 you would know which one of the above you were!!!

Once again the Western Division put on an excellent evening at Pulborough Village Hall where teams of 6 people joined in a quiz. The questions were once again set by Liz Beadle, who having thought that the questions she set at a previous quiz night were too easy, decided to really try (or should that be fry) our brains by setting some quite challenging conundrums for us to think about. There were the usual picture and dingbat sheets on the table to ponder, while searching into the depths of your brain for something that you knew was there at some time or other, but just not now!

After round five we all adjourned for an excellent supper prepared and cooked by some of the Steining ringers. They really are very good at catering for such a large crowd and made it all look so easy, as well as delicious. Puddings were provided by ringers from other towers, and were again of the high standard we have all now come to expect.

Once our tummies were all full to capacity the question master, Liz's husband, Alan, began the rigorous task of extracting a winning team with three more rounds of questions.

After several hours of brain wracking by us all, the triumphant winning team with a score of 79 points was "Count Your Places", one of the Steining teams. They were followed closely in second place with a score of 78 points by "The Tail Enders", one of the teams from Goring.

Once again it was an excellent and well organised social evening, so a very big "Thank You" goes to all those involved in arranging the event and to all those who put together a team of quizzers. Well done everybody.

St Nicholas' Arundel Refurbishment of the Bells – *David Hall*

How much paint does it take to redecorate a bell frame? About 4 times as much as you estimate! How long will it take? The only way to find out is to try it, so we did.

Amazing fund raising efforts by Teresa Kendall (who has since moved down to Devon) and the congregation of St Nicholas' had allowed an estimate from Whitechapel Bell Foundry to be accepted for the long awaited refurbishment of the ring of eight at Arundel. Little had been done for the bells since their installation some 65 years ago, and wear and tear were showing badly. The original smear of red primer on the frame was well past its sell-by date so it was decided to redecorate the frame and supporting structure while the bells were out of action. Someone mentioned that this was the coldest time of the year but it was a chance not to be missed!

Volunteers were requested from ringers and the congregation, wire brushes, protective overalls, masks, gloves and scrapers bought in bulk and the first session arranged for 5th January. The bell ropes were removed for safe storage and we were ready to start.

The frame is a lattice of steel and cast iron and about 20 feet square by 5 feet high. Fortunately, it is reasonably accessible with a walkway around but this did little to compensate for the 80 or so spiral steps to climb to the bell chamber!

Years of dust, builders' debris, hardboard, cardboard and wood boards, dead butterflies, rags and old bags all had to be cleared away before we could start. Then it was a thorough vacuum job before putting on the masks, gloves and "Ebola" type disposable overalls and taking up our scrapers and wire brushes. Volunteers were of varying degrees of agility so those who felt able headed for the interior of the frame, to dive below the bells and do the awkward bits, while others chose the areas they could easily reach without too much bending.



Amazingly, we had 8 of us that first morning who worked for 2 hours with a welcome coffee break, so the area didn't look too bad by the time Neil Thomas from The Whitechapel Bell Foundry came along the next Monday to start his refurbishment. Neil was there to renew all the headstock bearings and replace the old clappers after new bearings had been fitted at Whitechapel. He discovered that we still had the old wrought iron clappers which were more suitable material than steel, so these were taken back along with the old steel ones as patterns. We had to set about removing all of the pulley blocks (what a struggle with some imbedded in the flooring!), the slider boxes and flapper boards and generally assist with Neil's work. Graham, our ever indispensable Ringing Master, was always in the action, sometimes with hammer and chisel, but often doing the heavy stuff.

The number 4 bell had always been a little "odd-struck" and when the headstock was lifted, one gudgeon pin was found to be loose. This required the headstock to be removed from the bell and wheel, and sent back to the foundry where the overall pin alignment was discovered to be "out" in the vertical plane by about 1 inch due to poor casting. The wheel to the side had also been packed out to compensate for the misalignment. All old blocks, sliders, clappers and headstock had then to be taken down the stairs which we knew would be easier then bringing them back up later!

After the wire brushing and scraping we clad all the bells in plastic protection, degreased the frame and removed as much gunge and oil as we could so that the primer could be applied. Various paints had been proposed (Permaglaze, Hammerite, etc) but we went for one advised by Geoff Rix, our Bell Restoration Officer (who wisely went on holiday to South Africa while the work progressed). This was Rustoleum, a paint developed for North Sea oil rigs and trawlers, so it should last well.

A work schedule of two or three hours on Saturday and Monday mornings for the next 6 weeks meant that the primer and topcoat were almost complete by the time the headstock and other bits were returned. This equated to 135 hours of work and saved about £7,000 plus VAT. We had used 18 litres of primer and 12 litres of topcoat!

The reassembly on 23rd February of all the refurbished and new components required some strong helpers and we were grateful for Terry Tunmore and his men on the stairs! Graham again was in the thick of it, and we had a few problems sorting out the correct clappers



(not numbered unlike the other bits). That first full day was really hard trying to keep up from 8.30am until 5.30pm, but after re-fixing the ropes and testing the swinging on the next day we were able to get a band together to try them out to everyone's approval.

This had been a highly beneficial communal activity, from the fund raising, to the refurbishment and redecoration, and showed what could be done. Many thanks to all concerned, especially those brave souls who climbed the stairs time and time again, most of us a long way from our youthful days, and braved the windy, uncomfortable and cold conditions.

Some of these kind people were John M, John P, Rodney, Trevor, Tony, Anna, Colin, Sue, Wayne, Sheri-Ann, Helen, the coffee ladies and especially Graham Hills. Come back and see the result of your fund raising Teresa, and many thanks also to Neil from Whitechapel Foundry for whom nothing seemed impossible.



A new hat, and a feather in his cap!

**A big 'thank you' to Graham Hills
from the members of Western Division**

for all the time and effort you put into your role as Ringing Master over the past 4 years, and wishing you all the best for when you take up your new post as Master of the Association at the AGM in May.

Thank you!



Quarter Peals

St Mary's, Funtington

4th January 2015

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 John E Kitchener*
- 2 Jane Wilkinson
- 3 Andrew M Rose
- 4 Simon L Kelly
- 5 Jack Burton
- 6 Peter M Wilkinson (C)

*First of Minor

To congratulate John and Dena Kitchener on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

St Andrew and St Cuthman's Steyning

1st February 2015

1260 Plain Bob triples

- 1 Susan Gadd
- 2 Rachel Mahoney*
- 3 Kathy Howard
- 4 Emma Gadd
- 5 Arthur Wright
- 6 Ian Vaughan
- 7 David Kirkcaldy (C)
- 8 Graham Hills

*First of triples inside

St Mary's, Funtington

1st February 2015

1260 Doubles (2 methods)

780 Grandsire; 480 Plain Bob

- 1 John E Kitchener
- 2 Jane Wilkinson
- 3 Andrew M Rose
- 4 Jack Burton
- 5 Peter M Wilkinson (C)
- 6 David Callas

In memoriam Mrs Ruth Callas, 1906-2015, mother of the tenor ringer.

St John the Baptist's, Westbourne

1st February 2015

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Barbara Salmons
- 2 Wendy Shutler*
- 3 Jane Wilkinson
- 4 Simon L Kelly
- 5 Jack Burton
- 6 Andrew M Rose
- 7 Peter M Wilkinson
- 8 Geoffrey Anthony (C)

*First of PB Major inside

Chichester Cathedral

7th March 2015

1312 Spliced S Major (8 methods)

- 1 Colin Spencer (C)
- 2 Keith Game
- 3 Alison Hunt
- 4 Jane Deadman
- 5 Philip Down
- 6 Hamish McNaughton
- 7 Ian Hunt
- 8 Nick Deadman

In memory of Very Rev. John Treadgold, Dean of Chichester 1989 to 2001, who died last month.

SCACR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HASTINGS

Saturday 9th May 2015

The following towers will be open for ringing:

10.15am – 11.30am	Bexhill (10) - <i>Refreshments available in the church (also a toilet)</i>
11.15am – 12.15pm	Ashburnham (6)
12noon – 1.15pm	Battle (8)
12.30pm – 2pm	Salehurst (8)
3pm – 4.30pm	St Clement's, Hastings (8)
4.30pm	Service
5pm	Tea
6pm	Annual General Meeting

Names for tea please to Rosemary Smith tel 01424 718736 e-mail hastingsas@scacr.org

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 trialed 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 (Sheila Wood)

WESTERN DIVISION CONTACTS

Secretary	Jack Burton	01243 374937	sec-west@scacr.org
	4 Highland Close, Emsworth, West Sussex PO10 7JP		
Education Officer	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623	ed-west@scacr.org
Bell Restoration	Geoff Rix	01798 861858	brf-west@scacr.org
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	Liz Beadle	01903 503254	news-west@scacr.org
Central Council Rep	Andrew Barnsdale	01428 652624	adbarnsdale@aol.com
Committee Members	Sue Gadd	01903 813174	suegadd99@gmail.com
	Graham Hills	01903 266980	gr.hills@yahoo.com
	Moya Hills	01903 266980	mchills@talktalk.net
	John Taylor	01903 745477	alansuetaylor@btinternet.com

WESTERN DIVISION PRACTICE NIGHTS

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other towers in the division, but it might be an idea to check before you get there!

Monday: Aldingbourne, Arundel (2nd & 4th) & Lyminster (1st & 3rd), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

Tuesday: Aldwick, Findon (2nd & 4th), Fittleworth, Funtington, Goring-by-Sea, Graffham, South Harting, Washington & Wisborough Green (2nd & 4th)

Wednesday: Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Kirdford (7.45pm), Milland, Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham, Tillington (7.45pm - 1st only) & Upper Beeding

Thursday: Angmering (2nd, 4th & 5th), Bosham, Easebourne (1st & 3rd), Findon (1st & 3rd), Midhurst (2nd & 4th), Petworth, Steyning & Walberton

Friday: Amberley, Rogate & Storrington

Other Towers: Fernhurst (3), Lodsworth & Trotton (4)

Scratchings from the Secretary – Jack Burton

As you all probably now know, Graham has stood down as the District Ringing Master. He will be a hard act to follow and he will be seriously missed in the District but hopefully our loss will be the Association's gain. We shall see at the May AGM. This loss is not unusual in District terms as it now means that none of the four districts in the SCACR have a ringing master and leaves the Secretaries to take the lead in the day to day business. I am now chairman of the District Committee; the last meeting of which was on 9th March. I have more about that later.

The past programme has included our annual social event, again at Pulborough hall but this time it was a quiz. It was well attended and many thanks must go to the people who made the whole evening possible. The chosen tower for ringing beforehand was Storrington, where we were made very welcome. For the February meet we had the ADM of course at Aldwick. They did us proud.

This year February had five Saturdays, so on the fifth one we organised a raising and lowering practice at Funtington. It very soon became apparent that one tower was not going to be enough so Westbourne had to be booked quickly. Peter Wilkinson organised the whole morning, with Hamish McNaughton helping and running the ringing at Westbourne. Many thanks must go to both of them and all the many helpers who turned out for their patience and help.

As we do not now have a ringing master the future meetings and practices are going to be organised as I explained in my last 'Scratchings'. The draft programme has been put together by the District Committee for me to work to and do the initial contact with towers. I shall then ask another ringer to take the lead, liaise with the tower and then run the practice on the day. A number of ringers have quietly come to me and expressed a willingness to help. Whilst they were not prepared to stand as ringing master, they were more than ready to help me in the running of events. This is the way I intend to work and I have a draft programme which goes as far as the AGM in 2015. I shall be contacting the towers and asking the volunteers in the next few weeks.

On Saturday 7th March we had the last General Committee meeting at Hurstpierpoint. This was the first of these meetings after the adoption of the new rules, so those present were very much feeling their way. There were some new faces present who had been elected as a result of the February annual district meetings. Besides the more usual reports from the various officers there was quite a bit of discussion connected with the management and representation on the new 'Teams'. I believe the district is only just covered in these teams and more help and representation would be most welcome. If you feel you can help and would like to join a team, or find out what is involved, or when a particular team is next meeting, please contact one of the Central Officers. Their details will be in the Report for this year and on the web-site. Alternatively if you wish to discuss the work of a particular team and how it relates to our District, please do get in touch with me and then we can coordinate you with the District Committee.

As for the Association programme for the year, the first item will be the AGM at Hastings on 9 May. Please do try and attend and make your opinions count and support Graham Hills, our last District Ringing Master, who is now standing for the post of Master of the Association. The General Committee were also asked for help and support at The South of England Show on 11-13th June. This year the Association stand will be near but separate from the diocesan stand and will have a mini ring which will need helpers. Again, please contact me or the General Secretary if you think you can help. It is hoped to plan a social event for the whole SCACR later on in the year, but this is still to be arranged. On the subject of ringing courses, the feed-back after the courses last year has led to a review of the format and programme and this is being taken up by the Training and Recruitment team at their next meeting, so watch out for the notices and be ready to put your bid in if you wish to go on a course in the Autumn this year.

As you can see, my 'Scratchings' have gone on a bit longer, but we are now in a settling down stage after all the upsets of the new rules last year. It is now very much business as usual, but without a ringing master as far as the District is concerned. The so called 'Teams' have to shake down and work out their ways of working and how they relate to the districts and the wider members. They definitely require support and more people on the teams. In the mean time we have a varied and interesting programme for the coming year and we must make it a successful ringing year.