

LOOK TO!



SCACR Eastern Division Newsletter

March 2015 to June 2015

This is the Summer edition of Look To! There are lots of opportunities to ring at towers other than you own. There are various fund raising events that would welcome your support. Don't forget to check the SCACR Facebook page for up to date news of what is going on. Meanwhile we wish you all a happy summer with much joyous ringing.

Some dates for your Diary:

Alfriston Thursday 25th June at 7.30.

Progressing in minor:

Concentrating on Kent Treble Bob (and treble bobbing experience)

Further proposed dates, but to be confirmed: Wed 29th July, Wed 26th Aug, Thur 24th Sept.
The method of the month will change each time, to include some plain and some Surprise/ Treble Bob.

I am hoping to be able to organise more Minor practices based on the eastern side of the district.
Anyone interested in attending contact nickcant@scacr.org.

June 27th Mini outing to Birchington area - All Welcome!

10.00 a.m. Quex Park

11.30. a.m. Birchington

Lunch (own arrangements)

2.15 p.m. Ash

3.45 p.m. Easter

5.00 p.m. Wingham

Surprise Major (Joint with Southern District):

Monday 6th July at Southover 7.30

Thursday 6th August at Christ Church, Eastbourne 7.30

September, to be confirmed, but likely dates Thur 3rd or Monday 7th

Westham Quiz 11th July

Westham Bell Ringers are holding a quiz in aid of their bell fund
[11 July](#) -Westham Village Hall - 7 for 7.30.

Tables of up to 8. £6 to include ploughman's supper.

Book beforehand - Tickets from Meg on [01323 761019](tel:01323761019)

August bank holiday weekend.

Dewby's mini ring will be at St Nicholas Pevensey for open ringing over the weekend of 29th/30th/31st August. There will be the usual flower festival taking place, and tea, coffee and cakes and produce will be on sale. All ringer's will be most welcome.

St Nicholas Flower Festival 29th to 31st August

Sat.29th August Open from 10.00 till 17.30

Sun.30th August Open from 11.30 till 17.30

Mon 31st.August Open from 10.00 till 17.30

There is an entrance fee of £2.50 for all visitors, but helpers to the mini ring will be allowed in free. Please contact Ian if you're able to help. All Donations gratefully accepted

Any further details please contact Ian on 01323 765332 or iandianaclark@uwclub.net

Meeting details for Sat October 17th Walk & Ring

Exact details to follow, but we will ring at Willingdon and Eastbourne St Mary (times t.b.c.), and walk between the towers. Willingdon to Eastbourne along the foot of the Downs (morning), Eastbourne to Willingdon along the top of the Downs (afternoon). Proposed lunch: make own arrangements but will be in the Eastbourne Old Town area - pub meals (currently!) available at Tally Ho Two Bulls Steakhouse and Pizzeria, Lamb Inn, Prince Albert, Crown Inn, at least two other cafes, or picnic in Gildredge Park.

July 25 and 26th Outing to Brownsea and area

The July meeting is arrange your own accommodation and places are limited as the ringing we can do on Brownsea is also limited. I am afraid I will have to arrange it on a first come basis. There will also be ringing on the Saturday around the area, then a ring and explore on Brownsea Island on the Sunday. Boat fees and National Trust fees will apply plus donation all the towers that are arranged but please note you need to make your own accommodation arrangements.

Please contact me for further details

Marion.

marionhollands@aol.com

Burwash Bell-Ringers tribute to Michael Upton

1941-2015

Ten years ago Michael was determined to get the Bells of Burwash ringing again. Like all groups in the village numbers had dropped, but Margaret Waterhouse and Rosemary Parslow had managed to toll three bells between them to keep them going. In June 2005 Michael convinced a couple of Bell-Ringers who had not rung since they were teenagers in the early seventies to help restart the band, he also encourage others like himself to start learning the old skill.

In the ten years we have been ringing Michael was always there to tell us amusing stories and anecdotes of his time in the Life Guards and City of London Police. He told many a rude joke and would frequently start an argument as he thought he was always right! This was always taken in good humour.

On hearing of Michael's illness and passing the ringers have been deeply saddened. On the 17th May before the Sunday Service Sally came up to the belfry and said a prayer in Michael's memory, and to mark our respect we rang the bells half muffled.

Without Michael Burwash would probably have lost their bells. We have lost our Number 6, but he will always be remembered with great affection.

Our thoughts are with Trish and family.

New contact For Burwash details are

Nigel Jarvis is the Tower Captain and his contact number is 01580 819239

Correspondant Linda Mintram 01435 882444.

Email address is linda.mintram@btinternet.com.

18 Shrub Lane, Burwash, TN19 7BL.

Eastern Division outing to Tavistock area, May 2015

As we have discovered, the best way to avoid driving home on a Bank Holiday Monday is to stay away for the week. So, on May 1st we set off for a cottage a few miles south of Tavistock. Being away for the week meant that we would miss the elections (government and local) so we requested our postal votes in good time. A few days before we left home, ballot papers for our future MP were received, but not for the town council. Having visited the council offices, as requested, on the Thursday (April 30) we were told that Royal Mail had not delivered the original voting papers on time, and that replacement papers had not been received yet. Later on that day, an e-mail said they would be available at 9am on Friday May 1st. All packed up and ready to go, we called into Southover House one more time, only to be told that replacement papers had still not been received. I mentioned disenfranchisement among other things, and the clerk promised that our voting papers would be forwarded to our Devon address.

We set off on a 250 mile drive, with not too much traffic, and very little sun, to reach our very pleasant holiday cottage in an old school house. We played truant from Friday night's ringing, but attended our first 'lesson' on Saturday morning. Over the past few years class members have been quite regular, so it was very nice to welcome some new Sussex pupils, including 14 year old Darren who has been ringing for a few years, as well as Anne and Guy from West Grinstead.

Saturday: Plymouth area

We warmed up on 6 bells at Eggbuckland, before heading for a 19 cwt 8 at Compton Gifford, where methods ranged from call changes to Cambridge Major. The third tower (Stoke Damerel) was a surprise – a small ringing chamber with a very light ring of 8, Tenor 4 cwt. These were not easy to ring, and the sound was rewarding.

Plymouth (after Lewes) is a big city with too much traffic and difficult parking. St Andrew's is in the centre of the town, so we chose a multi-story car park, but ended up going to the very top and then starting down again before we found a space. After a walk around the shopping centre we met up at St Andrews for the climb to the ringing chamber; each step in the spiral staircase was both high and very steep – there was a lot of 'huffing and puffing' on the way up! We were very lucky to find that the bells had been set at back stroke, so no ringing-up after an exhausting climb. The 30 cwt 10 sounded OK, but I found even the front bells hard to ring, requiring a strong pull on each hand stroke: after a plain course of Grandsire caters I was exhausted.

In the late afternoon we headed out of town for the final 25 cwt 8 of the day (Plympton St Mary). Ringing up started, and stopped very suddenly when the 5 jammed!! There was a problem with the chiming mechanism that the tower captain managed to fix. They were probably some of the best bells of the day and ringing included some nice Stedman Triples. The drive back to 'school' remained damp.

Sunday: Tavistock area

Marion must have thought that we needed lots of exercise on Sunday too, so we started up the 51 steps, (other step counters reported 50 and 52) to the 25 cwt 10 bell tower in Tavistock with an uncommon dedication (St Eustachius). The climb was worth it; we had time for a mixture of call changes (we were in Devon after all) and some very well struck Stedman Caters. While at the Tavistock tower, I was asked to take charge of the next 5 bell ring at Brent Tor (St Michael de Rupe). I was told that the church was a 15 minute walk from the car park, but I had not looked closely enough at the OS map, and so missed the contour markings, all rather close together! Wikipedia gives the altitude of 1100ft (330m) while Google Earth shows the car park at about 940ft. The climb to the highest working church in England was justified and we had a fantastic 360 degree vista. St Michael's was obviously lovingly cared for, despite the difficulties of access. We were greeted by two local ringers, who discussed the issues of bell ropes in an unheated church. Having only 5 bells meant (obviously) only 5 ringers at a time, so I tried to make sure everyone had a ring. We tried a varied mix of doubles methods, ending with Stedman. On our descent we met some walkers who asked if the bells were electric. They were politely informed otherwise, as we pointed to the line of ringers. (and anyway, the church has no power supply). We made it back down to the car park just as yet another rainstorm swept across the moor.



Before

and after lunch there were two 6 bell towers; conventional perhaps, but they both rang well (Whitchurch St Mary was first). Surprise minor methods were attempted at both towers, including London, Norwich and Cambridge. The second tower, Sampford Spiney (St Andrew) was only just over 2 miles from our cottage, but it took us well over ten minutes to get there, driving down very narrow lanes, with 10 foot high banks on either side.

The final tower of the day, Buckland Monachorum (St Andrew) was service ringing, but there was a delay in finding the key-holder. It did give us a chance to examine the 16 angel-musicians high above the nave, before ringing up the 15 cwt 8. Limited time meant we stuck to Plain Bob Major and call changes. A BBQ at Lizzy's (Alan Collings' daughter) house in Clapstone was planned for the end of the day, but due to the weather this was moved inside. Lizzie provided a very splendid supper spread, enjoyed by all, and there was time for lively conversation too. The GPS guided us home across the moor, over cattle grids and some very dark, damp roads.

Monday: The Moor

The final day started with a bit of sunshine, and for us, a drive right across Dartmoor, with twisty roads and dramatic scenery. All four 6 bell towers were all on the edge of Dartmoor and approached by narrow, yellow roads on the OS map. These could be considered very exciting, but from a driver's point of view, they were a nightmare: all about 9ft wide, often with high stone walls on each side; passing spaces were few and far between. The thought of having to reverse a few hundred yards, round bends and steep hills did not make for relaxed driving. The miles were obviously Devon miles: you drive for 30 minutes, and the car milometer increases by only a mile or three. This all led to a bit of 'creative' time keeping which meant we had to split the group so that there was always someone to arrive at the next tower on time. A few people got lost getting to one tower as the schedule had an incorrect postcode. I got the blame for this, though I had only added the (correct) OS map reference to the printed schedule.

Jim Lilly introduced us to a new version of Plain Bob Minor where the tenor was the treble, so that after 5 blows, the 4 was making seconds over the 6 (I think!). After a few false starts this worked well. The spliced Plain and Little Bob fell into place once treble remembered to make fourths.... Darren, aged 14, seemed to enjoy the call changes, and his skills visibly improved over the long weekend; he coped with a succession of new bells extremely well, no.3 being his favourite place. Being Devon, some of the towers were set up for Devon call changes, with very long ropes and odd tails, something that did not seem totally compatible with change ringing.

Rain set in (again) at the final tower, Dunsford (St Mary), and after a group photo we all went our different ways, most home to Sussex, but a few of us stayed longer the West Country. Marion deserves big thanks for organising yet another very enjoyable ringing trip, and we are already looking forward to next year.

While we were in the pub next to Dunsford Church, we were given the credit for ringing for someone's 80th birthday party, taking place down the street. We accepted the credit, but did confess it was pure chance.



As a post script to my postal vote, on the day before the election I received replacement papers from the council – but they were for the wrong ward! I also received the original papers that my neighbour had forwarded to me, so I managed to vote.

Michael Cotgrove

May 2015 (with editorial advice from Sheila Wood...)

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.

Other Notices & News

You may wish to see what the other districts get up to! You are welcome to attend any events in all districts and the best way to find out more is to request other notices and newsletters via email. Send your request to database@scacr.org