

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - September 2017

Dates for Your Diary

September

Sat/Sun 9 th - 10 th	Heritage Open Days	(see pages 2/3)	
Monday 11 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Withyham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 18 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)*	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 25 th	General 10/12 Bell Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00
Saturday 30 th	Handbell Day - see below for details	Ringmer	10:00 - 16:00
Saturday 30 th	Barn Dance - see below for details	Bolney	18:30 - 22:30

* Special method: Littleport Little Surprise Royal

October

Saturday 7 th	District Outing**	Croydon	10:00 - 11:30
Monday 9 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Slaugham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 16 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 23 rd	General 10 Bell Practice	Warnham (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Fri 17 th -Sat 28 th	SCACR Ringing Course - see below for details		

**District outing will be by train, tram and tube to the Croydon area - more details to follow soon...!

November

Saturday 4 th	Ringing, ploughman's lunch & meeting	Turners Hill	11:00 - 14:00
Monday 6 th	Elementary Practice	West Hoathly	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 13 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Balcombe	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 20 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 27 th	General 10 Bell Practice	Horsham (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00

December

Saturday 2 nd	Ringing with mulled wine & mince pies	Slaugham	time TBC
Monday 11 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Rusper (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 18 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00

Northern District General Practices - 2nd and 4th Monday Evenings

These are general practices from rounds upwards. Typically, rounds & call changes, plain hunt, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Steadman and Surprise are rung. Any feedback or suggestions to Neil Dobson practice-north@scacr.org.

3rd Monday 9/10 Bell Methods at Warnham

Come along to practise methods (including plain hunting/treble bob hunting on the treble) on 9 and 10 bells. There will also be a suggested method to look up, for those who wish to try. These practices make use of the simulator.

Full details for all District and Association events are on the SCACR website calendar: www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar

What's coming up around the district?

Barn Dance - Saturday 30th September 2017

18:30-22:30 at the Rawson Hall, The Street, Bolney, RH17 5PF

The SCACR Annual Social Event is a Barn Dance, with music and calling by Touchstone Dance Band. Tickets on sale NOW! £11 adults, under 18's £6 (includes hot supper and puddings). Free parking at the hall. There will also be a raffle. Please bring your own cutlery, cups/glasses and drinks.

All welcome, including partners and children!

For tickets and more information, please contact publicity@scacr.org or your District Secretary, sec-north@scacr.org. Steph Pendlebury has tickets and will be selling them at District practices and events. It was a great night out last year - let's get a few more toes tapping in 2017!



Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Guides at Lower Beeding - 24th September

This September marks 100 years since the formation of the 1st Lower Beeding Guides.

Mandy Wicking, one of the ringers at Lower Beeding, who is also a guide leader, is organising a range of celebrations one of which is a service there on Sunday 24th September at 3.00pm.

We would love to get together a **band of former or present guides to ring before the service**. If you are suitably qualified, interested and available to ring, please contact the tower captain, Graham Burling : gjburling@gmail.com



Handbell Day - 30th September, 10 am to 4 pm

Ringmer Primary School, Harrisons Lane, Ringmer BN8 5LL

An ideal opportunity to learn about, or polish your skills at change ringing on handbells. There are three focus groups:

- Plain Hunting to Plain Bob
- Plain Bob to Treble Bob
- Beyond Treble Bob

Please let Hamish McNaughton know if you would like to come and which focus group you would like to join: hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk.

Bells as a Symbol of Church & Community, Heritage Open Days - 7-10 September



Although it is now too late to officially register for Heritage Open Days, you could still organise a tower open day and ringing demonstration - advertise it via pew sheets, church website and newsletter, local papers and local radio. If your church is already taking part, you can "piggy-back" their event! This is a great way to raise the profile of ringing and ringers with the general public (how many times have you heard, "but I thought a machine did that"?). Take a look at what St John the Baptist Westbourne are doing to give you some ideas:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/bell-ringing-and-church-tower-visit-westbourne

To coincide with Heritage Open Days, church insurers *Ecclesiastical* are leading a campaign to raise awareness of the contribution of churches to their community and the vital role that they play. Ringers are encouraged to take part by getting as many towers as possible ringing during 7-

10 September, to remind the community of the church's presence. Ecclesiastical will be engaging with the media to promote the event and the important message behind it.

Have a look on the Heritage Open Days website to find out more about the wider concept of the open days, including a nice spotlight on bells and ringing:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk/news/ring-out-the-bells

SCACR Two Day Ringing Course - 27th and 28th October

Developing Method Ringing Skills - 1 place remaining

Plain Bob Doubles - course full

Getting to Grips with Grandsire - 2 places remaining

Starting Surprise - 3 places remaining

Ring and Conducting Stedman - 3 places remaining

Please contact Anne Franklin for an application form: education@scacr.org. Anne is also looking for **volunteers to help!**

Commemorative ringing at Horsham, Warnham and Slinfold - 6th November

It is proposed to ring half-muffled quarter peals at Horsham and Warnham on Monday 6th November to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of two local ringers: James Miles and Alfred Comper Yates. The bands will then meet in the Sussex Oak for refreshments and all ringers will be welcome to join us.

On the same day the Slinfold ringers will be ringing two quarters to mark the death of two of their villagers who died on this date. Slinfold have undertaken to ring a quarter to mark the passing of everyone commemorated on the village First World War memorial.

These four soldiers plus three more on the Horsham War Memorial were killed serving with the Horsham based 4th Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment at the Third Battle of Gaza.

We will remember them.



What's happened around the District?

Congratulations to the Ringing World National Youth Contest striking competition team - our 8 strong team did us proud!

You have probably heard - the 'Sussex Young Ringers' came joint 2nd in the Methods category!

**Front row l-r: Rachel, Andrew, William, Catherine
Back row l-r: Lysbeth, Josh, Andrew, Harry**

Northern District Training Course - Saturday 1st July

Back in January I made three New Year's resolutions, one run a marathon, two learn French and three learn to ring Cambridge. Well six months later my couch to marathon training plan is mainly just couch et mon Français est terrible...but I have learnt to ring Cambridge Minor! In July three of us learners were accompanied by a dozen or so very (very!) patient ringers from across the association to for a tiring but extremely fun and rewarding day learning Cambridge Minor. I was amazed at the progress that was possible in one day, by the end of the day I was able to ring a plain course and was even starting to practice a touch. The course was a great kick start in Cambridge - next is to ring a quarter, have a go at major and of course dig out those running shoes...

Susannah Bowen, Bolney

Northern District Quarter Peal Day (Week) - Saturday 5th August

This first ever Northern District QP Day was conceived as a follow-on from the courses a month earlier, to encourage pupils on the course to consolidate what they'd learned... As well as Helen Goldstraw's first QP of Cambridge Minor, Slinfold, Worth and Rusper also rang QPs that week:

St Peter, Ardingly

Saturday 5 August 2017 in 45 mins
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Lynn Wilson
2. Helen Goldstraw
3. Ian Oram (C)
4. Steph Pendlebury
5. Sandra Alford
6. Richard Pendlebury

Rung following the wedding of Andrew Blackwell and Danielle Young. First of Surprise - 2.

St Peter, Slinfold

Saturday 5 August 2017 in 44 mins
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Prue Duncan
2. Val Farley
3. David Poole (C)
4. Jo Jennings
5. Isabel Woodward
6. Sandra Alford

Rung for the Sussex County Association Northern District Quarter Peal day

St Nicholas, Worth

Saturday 5 August 2017 in 42 mins
1260 Doubles (2m)
780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob

1. Martin R E Gibbs
2. Rachel Edwards
3. Jenny Dobson
4. Gerald Sandwell
5. Neil Dobson (C)
6. Philip Mann

In memory of private Douglas George Parsons, killed on 5th August 1917 in the Battle of Passchendaele. His brother Alan died earlier in the war and another brother would die before the war was over. They are commemorated on the war memorial in St Nicholas, Worth.

St Mary Magdalene, Rusper

Monday 7 August 2017
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Beverley A Simmons
2. Richard Pendlebury
3. Steph Pendlebury
4. Elaine J Farrow (C)
5. Neil Dobson
6. Ian Wiltshire

1st Quarter Peal - 1.

Congratulations to everyone on their successful quarters, particularly to Helen on her first in Surprise, and to Beverley on her first ever QP!

Northern District Rep at Central Council Annual Meeting - May

In 2016, Margaret Oram announced that she intended to stand down as Northern District CCCBR Rep, which she had done for "a few years" (this turned out to be at least a decade) - many thanks to Margaret for representing us for so long! As no-one else seemed interested in taking this on, I thought that as your District Secretary I might as well do that as well for a while... So I found myself back in the beautiful city of Edinburgh (where I did my undergraduate degree) for the annual CC meeting at the end of May.

I have to admit, I'd never really paid any attention to the Central Council previously - what's it actually for, what does it actually do, and what am I supposed to do



as a CC rep?! This put me in an excellent position to represent my "constituents" as I suspect that the vast majority of ringers feel much the same... Anyway, this year was to be rather less boring than usual due to the somewhat controversial reforms proposed by the hard-working CRAG (Council Review Action Group, of which SCACR Comms & Events Team Leader Alison Everett was a member). Prior to the meeting in Edinburgh, I canvassed as many Northern District ringers as possible about their opinions of the proposed changes to the CCCBR. These involved significant changes to the structure, membership and rules of the Council: to modernise it, bring it into line with Charity Commission guidelines, and to better represent and serve "grassroots" ringers (for details, see cccbr.org.uk/2017/04/28/crag-final-summary-report/). From my conversations with Northern District ringers, it seemed that everyone was broadly in favour of the proposed reforms; although some did have a few reservations about particular details, they generally did not feel that these were enough to vote against the proposals. Duly, I voted in favour of all the CRAG proposals, which were carried by a very significant majority. Personally, I found the CCCBR annual meeting an *interesting* experience, but laughably ridiculous in its "Victorian Gentlemen's Club" conventions and procedures - think school debating society where to comment one should stand up, with hand upon head and state, "Point of order"! (Will Bosworth wrote a rather entertaining column about the meeting in the 2nd June edition of *Ringling World*.) It seems to me that reform was overdue about a century ago - but better late than never! For more info on the progress of the reforms, see cccbr.org.uk/about/reform
Steph Pendlebury, Northern District Secretary and Central Council representative

In Memoriam - Robin Green

Robin Green sadly passed away peacefully in his sleep on 7th August 2017, aged 67, while out travelling around the country in his boat. He had been a ringer at Henfield before he moved to Oxfordshire, though he still visited Sussex regularly.

All are welcome at the funeral if anyone would like to attend - to take place at Worth Crematorium (Sussex & Surrey) at 3.15 pm on Friday 8th September. Family flowers only, but if you'd like to make a donation, please make payable to The Bluebell Railway Trust, and send to: C&T Radmalls Funeral Service, 2 Stanmore House, High Street, Henfield, BN5 9JJ.

July's WHIRLS extravaganza fell to Warnham to organise...



We knew we wanted to do something involving Bell Meadow, but what? Breakfast must involve brain food as that was when the idea of a Treasure Hunt was thought of, they're always popular. Ann Lloyd, Sharon Gent and myself set alarm bells ringing in the village as we walked slowly around with clipboards studying houses, gardens, road signs, draincovers and chimneys searching for ideas for clues. We were even asked if we were judges from the Horsham in Bloom committee!

Full of ideas we set to work devising a circuit which would finish up at Bell Meadow for coffee/cake and a ring. Jeremy and Charlotte Alford kindly acted as guinea pigs beforehand to check clues were in order, made sense, weren't too easy or obvious for the Warnhamites taking part and that the route didn't take 3 hours! It passed the test.



August 2017

41 people of all ages from 4 to George F on Bessie (his scooter), split into 9 teams, enjoyed the morning. The weather was thankfully dry, we'd have been drowned rats if we'd held it in the afternoon. There was a good mix of cryptic clues and more obvious clues with all teams managing to get round in time for coffee and cake.

Ann was cycling round the route in a marshalling role just in case anyone got lost. The answers were given and it was funny to hear the cries of 'I told you it was that!!' from quite a few teams. Congratulations to Ali, Matt, Ellie, Sophie and Isabel who were the winning team.

Sandra Alford, WHIRLS organiser for Warnham

A Tribute from the Slinfold Tower Bells



On Monday 4th August 2014, St Peter's, Slinfold rang a half-muffled quarter peal to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The Slinfold History Group have also produced a detailed booklet entitled "The Great War Project Slinfold: The Men Who Fell". This booklet lists the men and women from Slinfold who served during WWI, and includes a detailed piece on each of the 31 men who did not return and the date on which they fell. Inspired by this booklet, several of the bellringers decided we would like to attempt a quarter peal on the centenary of each of their deaths. Looking down the list, the 31 deaths covered 'six years' with one in 1914, six in 1915, six in 1916, seven in 1917, ten in 1918 and one in 1919; so this idea seemed very achievable.

On 3rd November 2014 we set about this task and rang a quarter peal for the first soldier. We are now over halfway through, having rung 18 quarter peals with 13 more to ring. The ringing is a small gesture of remembrance and gratitude to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Many thanks to the "ringing friends" of Slinfold who have and will hopefully continue to support us.

Val Farley, Tower Captain, Slinfold

The Summer WHIRLS Outing - Wednesday 16th August

Many thanks to Graham Burling for organising another brilliant outing, this time into the wilds of Hampshire. And with 38 ringers out of no less than 45 going, the organisation of the logistics was no mean feat!! Watch out for a full write-up and photos in the next edition...

Footnotes - Mike Cattell reports...

I have to report a very unfortunate incident following practice night at Horsham. Ian Smith returned to his car in the Causeway to find that someone had carelessly opened their car door and left that all too familiar dent in his driver's door. The parentage of the miscreant was severely questioned and there was much toing and froing to see if there was any other damage. Off to the RAFA club for pint but there appeared to be a rather unpleasant smell in the car. Upon arrival, the courtesy light revealed a very unwelcomed mess on the sole of the foot. All dogs along with all dog owners were dammed in robust manner with an outpouring of not to be repeated language. A pint of beer would at least have soothed the situation. Oh woe is me for the RAFA Club had run dry of beer! How bad can things get?



Ian Smith, consoling himself (on the WHIRLS outing).

Please send items for the next newsletter while they are fresh in your mind to:

news-north@scacr.org.