

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - August 2019

Dates for Your Diary

September

Monday 2 nd	Elementary Practice to develop core skills	West Hoathly	19:30 - 21:00
Saturday 7 th	Training course: Intro to Plain Hunt*	Danehill	09:30 - 11:30
Sunday 8 th	Mini Ringing Roadshow**	London	All day
Monday 9 th	Improvers' Practice - Plain hunt on 7/8 up	Lower Beeding	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 4 th	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Monday 16 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
	Special Method is Lundy Alliance Royal		
Monday 23 rd	11/12 Bell Methods Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 30 th	General 10 Bell Practice - Rounds Onwards	Horsham	19:30 - 21:00

October

Saturday 5 th	Introduction to Bell Maintenance*	Cowfold	14:30 - 17:30
Monday 7 th	6 Bell Methods Practice - doubles/minor	Worth	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 14 th	Advanced Practice - Stedman onwards	Slaugham (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 21 st	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 28 th	11/12 Bell Methods Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

November

Saturday 2 nd	Ringing with Coffee & Cake and Meeting	TBC	14:30 - 17:30
Monday 4 th	6 Bell Practice	TBC	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 11 th	Improvers Practice - Plain Hunt on 7/8 up	TBC	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 18 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 25 th	11/12 Bell Methods Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

* More details below. Booking essential - register via Steph at sec-north@scacr.org

** See page 7 for details and how to register!

The programme is subject to change depending on availability of towers - keep an eye on the website calendar for full and latest details: www.scacr.org/calendar

Monday Evening Practices - the Plan

- The **first** Monday in the month will be a six-bell practice and the **second** Monday an eight-bell practice, varying between elementary level and advanced methods.
- The **third** Monday is the 10-bell methods practise using the Warnham simulator.
- The **fourth** Mondays are meant for 12 bell ringers and competent 10 bell ringers wishing to progress (from all districts), so we will only ring methods on 12 bells and not rounds or call changes. Keep your eye on the Facebook page, the website or contact [Steph](#) or [Elaine](#) to check which are suitable for you.
- Any **fifth** Mondays will be a general practice, mainly on 9 or 10 bells at Horsham.
- We look forward to welcoming **newer ringers** to the elementary level evenings. When you can handle a bell safely (without bumping the stay too often) and are ringing rounds and call changes at your home tower, come out and meet your fellow "improvers".

What's been happening in the District?

Annual Northern District Outing to Hampshire - Saturday 1st June

By Caroline Gould (Lower Beeding)

On the 1st June 2019 early in the morning, around 30 ringers from all over the District set off in cars for the annual Northern District ringing outing to Hampshire.

The weather was kind and it was a lovely drive into the beautiful Hampshire countryside, arriving around 9:00 at the first tower at St John the Baptist Purbrook. After a short detour to find the car park my carload arrived early to find a number of the ringers already ringing up.

The only problem at this tower was that although there was a toilet the lady in charge did not seem to have the correct code to let us in, so we had to ring with crossed legs! The bells were a 5 cwt 6, which were up a small set of stairs to a tiny ringing room; 6 people had to come down before 6 went up!



We then proceeded to the next tower and on the way me, Steph Tilley, Elaine Farrow and Ian Wiltshire stopped off for tea and coffee in the garden of a lovely Café in Denmead. On arrival at Soberton, we proceeded to St Peters Church a 13cwt 8 and a ground floor ring.

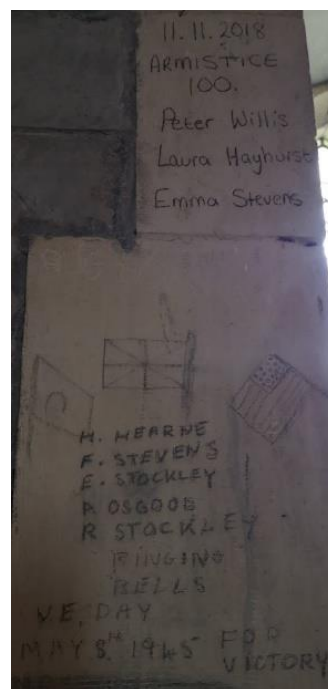
We left Soberton at 11:10 and travelled the short distance to St Barnabas, Stanmore a 6cwt 6. While waiting for turns to ring there was a cabinet of

stones next to the entrance on which children had obviously written what their hopes were. A large number seemed to want to be professional footballers, the proximity to Southampton and Portsmouth perhaps being relevant. The tower was also next to a café and the serving staff were interested in what the noise was and came to enquire, they were pleased I think to hear that the ringing would not be all day.

By 12 o'clock we were all ready for a drink and food, so we made our way to the Rising Sun Pub where we were able to sit in the garden before going in for our pre-ordered lunches, which had been ably managed by Jeremy Alford. After a few mis orders everyone was well fed and watered and ready for the afternoons ringing.

The first tower of the afternoon was St Nicholas, Bishops Sutton, a quant Norman Church built in the 12th Century with a roman coffin outside. It is also a stop on the Pilgrims Way, the tower had a 7 cwt 5, allowing for those who have never rung on a 5 before a great opportunity for this experience.

Our penultimate tower was at St John the Evangelist, Northington, home to Hampshire's newest 6! (6 cwt). The Church was very impressive being much more grand than would be expected in such a small village, it was learnt that 3 wealthy landowners had a competition as to who could build the biggest church in the area and Northington won. Some excellent ringing was had by all after a very long climb up to the ringing chamber thanks to the very tall tower.



After a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour's drive to Whitchurch, we met in the Kudos café for tea and cake, I enjoyed a large slice of salted caramel and peanut butter cake, a right reward for a day's ringing. We then proceeded up the hill to our final tower of the day - All Hallows Whitchurch and 26 cwt 10. Another ground floor chamber the bells were very nice to ring and allowed for some good ringing to end the day.

Thanks go to the organisers, especially Jeremy Alford, for a very enjoyable day of ringing in the beautiful Hampshire countryside.

Sussex Young Ringers Compete in Liverpool - Josh Hutchison reports



Group picture L-R: William, Andrew, Josh, Katherine, Rachel, Alex, Lysbeth, Michael (reserve ringer) and Molly

I can safely report the Ringing World National Youth Contest trophy has safely made it to Liverpool and been handed to the new RWNYC champions, Oxford. Sadly we couldn't defend our title this year, and settled with a commendable 6th place. We stepped up this year and rang Grandsire Triples, making us one of only a few teams to ring a method out of the 24 competing teams.

We ventured up to Liverpool by train on Friday 5th and stayed two nights in a hotel over the whole weekend. The Friday night saw some of us head over to St Nicholas Pierhead for their weekly 12 bell practice, while others stayed at the Hotel for dinner. On Saturday we were lucky to be drawn to ring third, meaning we could spend the rest of the day tower grabbing in Liverpool! The competition tower was St Francis Xavier's; a beautiful Roman Catholic Church. We found the bells challenge, with some interesting acoustics, but our hard work and preparation meant we could produce some top striking on these bells. Our feedback from the judges after the results in the evening commended our solid speed and purpose, with small striking mistakes not detracting from the overall quality.

The rest of Saturday saw us grabbing towers around Liverpool such as the 8s at Penny Lane and Bootle. We also got another chance to ring at Pierhead, an absolutely fantastic 12. It was great to ring Grandsire cinques at Pierhead and show other teams our 12 bell skills. Some older ringers doubt the skills of young ringers, but in Sussex we pride ourselves on being able to ring a variety of methods from 6 to 12 bells, and do it with confidence and skill.

The highlight for many was the chance to ring at Liverpool Cathedral after the competition results were announced. The Cathedral bells are the heaviest and highest in the world - It was a long way up! The experience of ringing these massive bells inside a huge ringing chamber, surrounded by 100s of young ringers, adults and friends, was astonishing.



The final result was a little disappointing, but we knew we gave it our all, and had done Sussex proud. We will be back next year (location tbc) to compete again and build on our ringing this year. Thanks to our coordinators, Anne and Sandra, and our supporters over the weekend. It was a blast!

Ladies 10 bell quarter peal - another first. Sandra Alford reports.



Can ladies ring round the back end? Yes, they can. Can they ring round the back end for 46 minutes? Yes, they can.

St Margaret's, Warnham was the venue for what is believed to be the first 10 bell quarter peal by a resident Sussex ladies band. All 4 Districts were represented with 6 of the ladies being Northern District members - Sandra Alford, Abi Fairhurst, Elaine Farrow, Margaret Oram, Steph Pendlebury and Isabel Woodward. Grandsire Caters was the chosen method and supporters listening outside later commented on the good quality of the ringing. Congratulations to all, especially Rachel who expertly put in the bobs (her first as Conductor on 10).

The ladies enjoyed it so much that there is talk of a peal later on in the year once the weather has cooled down! Another first for the Association

Codgers Ringing Group - thanks to Mike Foster



(Ed's note: the photo shows some of the group at the August Codgers Outing)

The Codgers Ringing Group was started in the 1990's by George Francis from Warnham. This very friendly group is open to all ringers who can handle a bell confidently on their own and caters for all levels from Call Changes to Surprise Major.

Although predominately Sussex ringers, there are also ringers from Surrey, Hampshire and North of the Thames on the circulation list. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month unless there is a Bank Holiday such as New Year's Day in which case we will meet the following week. Two towers are visited, an eight bell tower in the morning and a six bell in the afternoon with a pre-ordered lunch at a suitable pub in between. The towers can be anywhere in Sussex and the surrounding counties and we try to cover all areas over the year.

Details for each month are circulated by email on the Wednesday before along with a pub menu so that members can pre-order beforehand, hopefully reducing the time taken for lunch. At present the circulation list holds almost a hundred ringers although typically on the day maybe 20 to 30 ringers will attend. If you would like to join us, please send your email address to Mike and Sheila Foster at codgers@scacr.org

Introduction to Listening Skills Morning - Saturday 6th July, Warnham

Many thanks to Kate Nye (ART accredited teacher and Horsham Ringer) for running a recent Listening skills course. Being able to hear your bell and listen to your striking are really important skills for good ringing - but it's easier said than done! The course was attended by 6 ringers from around the District and as many or more helpers. There was theory, followed by practise on both hand and tower bells, not to mention an iPad and analysis of striking using the tower bell simulator. It is designed for all levels of skills and experience, including beginners and more experienced ringers and Kate would be happy to run it again if asked. Highly recommended!

Ringing Remembers update from our recruits

Congratulations to Adrian Foulser from Rusper who rang his first Quarter Peal at Shipley on Monday 5th August.

Calling all new ringers and their tower captains - please let us know what you are up to for future newsletters! Submit your stories, viewpoints and/or achievements to news@scacr.org.



SCACR Ringers Smash Difficult Peal - By Sandra Alford (Warnham)

Mytholmroyd, Londonthorpe - ????

Deva - an outstanding talented opera singer spelt wrong?

Gemini, Aquarius, Scorpio - signs of the Zodiac.

Belfast, Glasgow, Chertsey - place names.

What do they all have in common? Well, they are part of a group of 23 methods which are known for being really difficult to ring when spliced (muddled up) together. Impressively, a Sussex band managed to ring these successfully to a peal in June but not without some hard work and practice.

This is the wonderful thing about our hobby, it doesn't matter whether you are a beginner or have been ringing for longer than one cares to remember, there is always something new to learn. You may be struggling with bell control (why won't this rope do what I want it to?), call changes, embarking on method ringing (wow, bells all over the place) but rest assured, it doesn't matter who you are, we are all in the same boat.

It took months of practice for the 23-spliced to be achieved, starting with a quarter peal of 4 of them first, then 12, then consolidating those with a peal, building up to another peal of 20 of them, finally achieving all 23. There had been disappointments and lost attempts along the way but with perseverance and determination a good final peal was scored.

Ringing is great fun but can be so frustrating and easy to think you are the only one struggling. If you find yourself in this position, talk to your Tower Captain or a friend and I'm sure they'd reassure you it's perfectly normal to feel this way sometimes and can perhaps suggest different ways/techniques to overcome particular hurdles.

Congratulations to Jeremy Alford, Simon Alford, Stephen Beckingham, Jonathan Franklin, Simon Meyer, Alan Pink and David Smith on completing their challenge and to all those who are achieving firsts/conquering obstacles whatever they may be.

Sussex County Association

Fairwarp, East Sussex

Christ Church

Tuesday, 25 June 2019 in 3h 5 (15-2-0 in F#)

5152 Spliced Surprise Major (23m)

224 each : Lyme, Devon, Buckfastleigh, Gemini, Londonthorpe, Thurston, Eire, Mytholmroyd, Scorpio, Hardham, Flint, Deva, Saddleworth, Belfast, Quantock, Glasgow, Otley, Orwell, Whalley, Delrow, Aquarius, Chertsey, Dunwich, 160 com, atw, eld

Composed by John R Leary

- 1 Sandra Y Alford
- 2 David D Smith
- 3 P Jonathan Franklin
- 4 Alan D Pink
- 5 Simon M Alford
- 6 Stephen J Beckingham
- 7 Jeremy D Alford (C)
- 8 Simon S Meyer

First of this composition for all.

With thanks to all the towers who supported this series.

Lindfield Bells are up and ringing- 'Finally' I hear you say! Sarah Beeston updates us



We celebrated the arrival of our new "Queen Elizabeth Bells" at All Saints on Friday May 3rd and they are beautiful! They were on display in the church over an extended weekend during which we welcomed lots of visitors, including a number of ringers, which was great.

During the following week Whites of Appleton and most of our band set about installing these bells, juggling the hours of work due to other activities in the church, including an organ recital and two funerals. You may have caught a glimpse of the bells rising to their new home and being put in place within a new frame if you were watching BBC South East News in early May. It was hard work and a tight fit, but the result is wonderful.

Owing to other work being done in the tower, such as access stairs and ladders, and the return and installation of the refurbished church clock - there was a further wait before ringing could begin. In fact, our first practice took place on Tuesday July 16th and our first Sunday ring on the 28th.

We really appreciate the interest that has been shown in our new ring and we are happy to welcome visitors to our practices or service ringing, just not for a separate event as yet.

Ed's note: The Northern District 2020 ADM (ringing and meeting) will be held at Lindfield on Saturday 1st February.



Upcoming Events

Northern District Short Courses

Introduction to Plain Hunt - Saturday 7th September, 9.30-11.30 am, Danehill

Waiting list only

Can you ring rounds and call changes confidently on at least 5 bells (without bumping the stay too much)? Are you working towards ringing Plain Hunt? Then this course could be for you! The course will be run by Elaine Farrow (Rusper Tower Captain).

However, at the time of going to print, the course is full. If enough are interested, Elaine is willing to run another course at some point. Contact Steph via sec-north@scacr.org to register your interest.

Introduction to Bell Maintenance - afternoon of Saturday 5th October, Cowfold

This course will be run by Simon Alford, Northern District Bell Restoration Rep. The afternoon will cover an introduction to the regular checks and maintenance that should be done.

Places are limited; Northern District members will be given priority. Please contact sec-north@scacr.org to register your interest. NB Exact timings TBC.

London Mini Ringing Roadshow - 6-8 September

Interesting and entertaining talks, trade and retail stands, training bells to try, mini-rings to have a go on, real ale, and the opportunity to ring at iconic City of London churches - what more could you wish for from a day out?!

Whether you've been ringing for six months or sixty years, you'll find something new at the Roadshow! You need to register in advance - just £12, and **FREE for under-18s**:

events.cccbr.org.uk/product/annual-meeting-2019/

The **programme** (events.cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/190602-Initial-Programme.pdf) of **21 talks and interactive discussion sessions** brings together expert speakers on subjects as diverse as the science of bell tuning, the story behind Ringing Remembers, making bells (by Tom Westley), ART and teaching ringing, Project Pickled Egg, and how to make the most of social media for recruiting and engaging with the public. Speakers and exhibitors include Sussex's very own Alison Everett, Josh Hutchinson, Steph Pendlebury, John Norris and Alan Collings. The astonishing and entertaining story of **ringing during the Second World War** will be brought to life in the tale "When Ringing Had to Stop".

Seventeen **stands** feature a wide range of trade suppliers and ringing organisations; you can make a mini-bell rope and print a 3-D bell! There will also be four different **training bells and simulators** from Matthew Higby and Saxilby - find out how they could help to train new recruits in your tower.

The 2019 London Mini-roadshow
Goldsmiths College, London SE14 6NW

FOR ALL RINGERS - SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
9.30AM TO 4.30PM

Start the day by taking the opportunity to ring for service at one or more of **15** City and nearby churches.

21 TALKS – by expert speakers including :

- Youth Ringing (with a panel of young ringers)
- Project Pickled Egg (Simon Linford)
- ART and Teaching Ringing (Lesley Belcher)
- Building a bell sound (Bill Hibbert)
- Making Bells (Tom Westley),
- Bell restoration (Peter Tottman and Michael Royalton-Kisch)
- Steve Coleman on "When Ringing Had To Stop".

17 STANDS

- See the unique Carter Ringing Machine, take a browse at the Central Council's library on tour, print a model bell, or try your skills at simple rope making on the Avon Ropes stand.

4 TRAINING BELLS AND 3 MINI-RINGS

- Try out a Training Bell to see what it could do for your tower or try out one of our three mini-rings.

View the programme and register - Google "CCCB London 2019" or scan the QR code

Organised for ringers everywhere by the Central Council of Church Bellringers, Registered Charity 270036

Three **mini-rings** will be available to have a go on, including Sussex's very own Dewby's Bells. **Alan Collings**, owner of Dewby's Bells, is very keen that some Sussex ringers ring his bells; if you are interested in volunteering on the Dewby's Bells, please get in touch (sec-north@scacr.org)!

You are invited to join **service ringing** at fifteen churches on Sunday morning, many of whose bells are not often rung for Sunday services. Several other towers are open on Friday afternoon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE MINI-RINGS (including Dewbys Bells) - volunteers get in for free! Please get in touch (sec-north@scacr.org) ASAP if you're interested in helping.

Full details of the event on the website: cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2019-meeting/mini-roadshow/

Sussex Quarter Peal Week - 13-22 September 2019

The Association QP 'week' is extended to include extra ordinary challenges (in addition to quarter peals) to encourage achievements by our Ringing Remembers recruits. The dates are chosen to include Heritage Open Days, which are a great way to engage with your local community. The ringing of bells can be very much an audible part of what is already going on locally even if the tower itself is not open. However, if you register to open your tower as part of the official events you will be provided with publicity material by HOD.

In other news...

The WWHIRLSS hub has been busy this year with a Treasure Hunt round Horsham with fish & chip supper, a jolly to London which involved grabbing towers and interesting pubs, a walk from Itchingfield to Slinfold and back (with cake stop), a Games afternoon at Lower Beeding and a ring on the new mini ring in Warnham. Most recently, the summer outing.

32 ringers and guests went by coach to five towns in Berkshire starting at Stoke Poges (of Grey's famous Elogy) and then the Victorian All Saints church at Maidenhead where the non-ringers were treated to a presentation about the church and its history by the very enthusiastic Church Warden.



After lunch at The Bear PH in Maidenhead the coach took us to Windsor to St John's Church right in the middle of the town, close to the castle. A somewhat unusual church with bells which were very difficult even for our most experienced ringers. Wrasbury was our next call before Horton village church where the bells took some getting used to. An excellent outing with enough time to ring at each church without feeling rushed. Thank you Graham. And thanks to Nigel Friswell for this report.

Contributions for the next What's On by Friday 27th September to news-north@scacr.org