



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD... AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF THE SCACR

Hello and welcome to a rather later than expected edition of Look To! It seems to have been a hectic time for the committee and the weather, ill health – (drat those colds!), and much ringing has made for a delayed issue.

We're feeling distinctly international in this edition with stories of ringing in America and requests for ringing from Australia. Although our hobby is a distinctly British invention, it's a reminder that the art is practiced in some far-flung places. Maybe it's a good excuse to escape the dark winter nights and while traveling - keep those ears open for the sound of bells.

Please do send us notes on any news you want to share in Look To. We especially welcome writeups of any ringing, practices, training or events attended.

Remember to take a look at the programme of events on the back page and try and come along to a practice or two – either as a learner or a helper.

Please send your thoughts, comments and submissions to me on the usual email address:

[news-east@scacr.org](mailto:news-east@scacr.org)

Matthew Jones

**Editor** ([news-east@scacr.org](mailto:news-east@scacr.org))

### KEY DATES

More on the back page...

**BOB DOUBLES / MINOR PRACTICES**

Dates on the back page!

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

9<sup>th</sup> November

**MAIDSTONE OUTING**

23<sup>rd</sup> November

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## More Fun with Bells

AFTER 40 YEARS AT THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY: AN INTERVIEW WITH NIGEL TAYLOR

We've covered the fun with bells podcasts before, but this one may be of more interest than most. Having worked at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry for 40 years, Nigel Taylor is the perfect guide to how to tune a bell, talking to podcast host Cathy Booth through the whole process from design to casting and tuning. It's a good listen while waiting for the rain to clear! <https://funwithbells.com/nigel-taylor/>



# Practice and Training Report

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## REPORT ON MIDWEEK PRACTICE AND TRAINING SESSIONS ARRANGED IN 2019

Since Alfriston bells have been unavailable for evening practice, there have been several Plain Bob Doubles training sessions, with a theory session for those who want it, and then practice on the bells. These have mainly been arranged by supplementing a local practice, either at Westham or Ashburnham, giving assistance to the local band and being available for ringers from other towers, both in this district and beyond.

Again, since Alfriston bells have been unavailable, the progressing in minor practices have continued. We had some sessions at Pevensey, with special methods, either plain or surprise/ treble bob, to give ringers the opportunity to commit time to learning a particular method, and also give the chance of plain hunting or treble bobbing to those whose progression has reached that stage. More recently, however, we have again joined a local practice at Westham, giving assistance to the local band in doubles and minor, and again giving ringers from other towers the chance to plain hunt or ring a minor method inside. Unfortunately, we have not had the chance to commit to learning new surprise/ treble bob methods recently, due to the unavailability of some of the regulars, but hopefully we can recommence in the New Year.

Otherwise, organised practices have tended to become more localised. The Eastbourne towers regularly meet for joint practices on up to 8 bells at St Mary's and Christ Church on 2 Tuesdays each month, while maintaining individual practices on the remaining weeks. This has enabled ringers to practise more advanced methods (up to Surprise Major) than each tower could manage individually, and ringers from other District towers are more than welcome to join these practices. Similarly, once every 3 months there is an Eastbourne practice (again on a Tuesday) at St Saviour's on up to 10 bells, and these have been well-attended, with ringers from many towers attending.

The more basic handling and method learning continues mostly within individual towers. It is difficult to put on District practices for this that many people are able or willing to attend.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to arrange any further Surprise Major practices, which had been held jointly with Southern District, generally alternate months in each district. Despite encouragement to continue these practices, the turnout on a number of occasions was disappointing.

I do still hope that Surprise practices can continue in some form. Local practices in Eastbourne and also at Battle do at times manage Surprise methods (minor or major).

There has been a suggestion for having a 10-bell practice at Bexhill on occasion, but nothing has been arranged as yet.

Nick Cant

**Roving Reporter and Education / Events Organiser**

## U.S. SURPRISE

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### RINGING ALL OVER THE WORLD

You never know when you can come across a new tower and find they have just started their weekly practice where you can join and enjoy a ring with them.

Recently on holiday in Boston USA just that happened. We were following the Boston historical trail then gradually realised bells were being raised some way ahead. Before long we came to the tower. We were made very welcome and enjoyed an hour or so with the local ringers. It was a good ring made more so as it was totally unexpected.

The welcome we all give to visitors and the welcome we receive when visiting ourselves and the ability to join in at all levels of expertise is the part of our hobby that makes it almost unique.

When out and about why not visit a new tower?

David Hollands

**Roving Reporter**

## Committee Contacts

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FRANCES BRADFORD AND HAZEL MOTTRAM

# PRACTICE NIGHTS

## EASTERN DISTRICT TOWER PRACTICE NIGHTS



Visiting local practice nights is a great way to improve your ringing and meet new people. You may be surprised by how many ringers will return the favour and give your home tower a visit too!

Perhaps it's time you got back into going to practice nights... Below, we've included a list of the Eastern District Towers and their practice nights, so you can find the one that suits you best.

We suggest you always phone to confirm there have been no changes on the night you are going to attend.

- **MONDAY:** BREDE, DALLINGTON, ALL SAINTS EASTBOURNE, HAILSHAM, ROTHERFIELD, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA, TICEHURST, WALDRON, WARBLETON (JOIN THE PRACTICE AT DALLINGTON).
- **TUESDAY:** ALFRISTON, BATTLE, BEXHILL, BURWASH, CHRIST CHURCH EASTBOURNE, ST MARYS EASTBOURNE, FRANT, MAYFIELD, NORTHIAM.
- **WEDNESDAY:** BECKLEY, BECKLEY, HEATHFIELD, HELLINGLY, SALEHURST, SEDLESCOMBE, WADHURST, WESTHAM.
- **THURSDAY:** ASHBURNHAM, BODIAM, BRIGHTLING, EWHURST GREEN, LAUGHTON, RYE, WILLINGDON.
- **FRIDAY:** BLACKLANDS HASTINGS.
- **SATURDAY:** ALL SAINTS HASTINGS, ST. CLEMENTS HASTINGS, HOOE, PEVENSEY.

Contact details and more practice night information, including other districts, is always available at [www.scacr.org/towers](http://www.scacr.org/towers) and in the SCACR handbook.

# BRIGHTON BELLS

## EASTERN DISTRICT OUTING TO BRIGHTON

Saturday the 28th of September 2019 brought the Eastern District's outing to Brighton - however, it attracted several ringers from other districts and even a couple from Ashford, Kent. However, the event was still quite under-attended and ringing all the bells in some of the towers was sadly not possible.

Tower number one was Aldrington (6, 9-3-14 in G), a ground floor ring of average weight and fairly easy going. Most ringers did not attend the ringing here as it was too far out of the way, but thanks to a few local band members call changes were rung and tea was enjoyed.

Tower number two was St Peter's (10, 25-2-0 in D), and while the second heaviest ring of bells in Sussex were very easy to ring. The interior of the church is more akin to a concert hall than a traditional place of worship and care must be taken to avoid triggering alarms! Only nine ringers attended and rounds, call changes and doubles were rung on the front six and back eight. This was the first ringing by visitors after work on the tower had prevented ringing for some time. The ringing chamber was very comfortable since it doubles as a Sunday school room. Time for lunch, methinks!

St Nicholas of Myra (10, 18-0-20 in E), a spectacular building, was tower number three and it looked as though the same fate that befell the ringing at St Peter's would come - until Rob Lane appeared to great cheers, and we were able to ring on all ten bells. What are masters for? Good old Rob Lane!

The Good Shepherd (8, 13-2-16 in B) was next on the agenda and a crowded bus caused us to lose a ringer and only the back six were rung, to Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. They sounded very clunky from inside thanks to the brick tower, but are beautiful from outside as I discovered by, ahem, locking myself out of the church temporarily.

The final tower was Shoreham-by-Sea (8, 14-0-16 in F). With the band back up to eight, call changes were rung followed by Plain Bob Doubles on the back six and, finally, a lower.

Phew, what a day! Five towers, 22 performances (if I didn't miss any completely) and never more than ten ringers. I strongly encourage more of you to attend district outings in the future. It's quite the experience, and the more the merrier!

Samuel Canning

**Ringer at Hailsham, Eastern District**

# FAR FLUNG REQUEST

## IT ALL STARTED WITH A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

I received an email from a ringer Robert who rings in Perth, Australia, asking if I could arrange a quarter for their oldest and most long-term ringer Laura Ivey nee Beeney who rung at Hailsham and Hellingly before going to Australia. Her father George taught her to ring at the age of nine. Laura still attends the ringing practices in Perth, she is unable to ring quarters but regularly reads the ringing world seeing what quarter peals have been rung.

Since ringing this quarter I have heard from Robert, he has spoken to Laura and he said "she was over the moon with us ringing the quarter especially as its a tower she has fond memories of. She has told us all, how she lost a peal there after 2hrs 40 minutes of Grandsire which is her favourite method as she feels that it has a nice sound to it." I have sent a certificate to Robert for her to present to her.

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Sussex County Association

Eastbourne, East Sussex

Christ Church

Monday, 21 October 2019 in 43m (8¾ in G#)

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Marion C Hollands
2. Christine M Baldock
3. Sandra M Titherly
4. Janet M Wilson
5. Pauline M Kennard
6. Jennifer A Dearie
7. Alan R Baldock (C)
8. David J Hollands

Rung to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Laura Ivey (nee Beeney) who learnt to ring in Hailsham and Hellingly and has been ringing in Perth, Australia for many years.

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Marion Hollands

Eastern District Secretary ([sec-east@scacr.org](mailto:sec-east@scacr.org))

# COMMITTEE MEETING

## CAN YOU SPARE A LITTLE TIME? - COME AND JOIN US!

There is a committee meeting being held on Friday 8th November at 7.00 p.m. if anyone would like to come along and offer ideas, suggestions for next year's program or help please contact a committee member for details of the meeting. It would be lovely to see some new people come along.

# PRACTICE, PRACTICE

## EASTERN DISTRICT DOUBLES AND MINOR PRACTICES

There are regular district doubles and minor practices held each month. If you are looking to practice plain hunting the treble to bob doubles, or want to practice ringing the method inside, then do come along.

The two recent practices at Ashburnham had ringers come from a variety of towers and there was a range of abilities. Everyone was very welcoming and happy to ring rounds and plain hunt so learners could get the feel of the bells before starting on some bob doubles practice. Everyone understands ringing on new bells at a new tower can be daunting, so don't let that put you off! You can find the next practice dates on the back page, so take a look and come along!



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH  
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

## VISIT SCACR.ORG

Don't have a 'Soundbow' subscription? Four fat issues is only £6!  
Why not set up a tower subscription? Contact Kathy Howard at [Soundbow99@gmail.com](mailto:Soundbow99@gmail.com), 01903 813653.

Find SCACR on Facebook - search for 'SCACR' - the Association has a page and our members have a secure closed group for their posts about ringing in Sussex.

Find SCACR on Twitter. Use [@scacr\\_bells](https://twitter.com/scacr_bells) and [@sussexbells](https://twitter.com/sussexbells)

Contact Alison Everett, your Communications and Events Team leader, at [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org) if you want to know more about publicity or social media.

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2019/20

PLENTY OF EVENTS ARE COMING UP, SO BE SURE TO COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE COMMUNITY AND THE RINGING!

We'd love to see more of you at our events. They are organized for you, the SCACR membership and are a great way to meet new people, visit new towers and enjoy your ringing! For more information or to book your place email Marion Hollands ([sec-east@scacr.org](mailto:sec-east@scacr.org))

## PRACTICE DATES

**Plain Bob Doubles Practice** - Thursdays November 7th And December 5<sup>th</sup> at Ashburnham (including covering and plain hunting the treble)

**Basic Doubles and Minor Practice** – Wednesday, November 20th

This will be a basic doubles and minor practice joining the Westham practice at 7.30, doubles/ minor practice from 8.0 - 9.0. All welcome - learners and experienced - look forward to seeing you.

## Surprise Major Practice

Nick hopes to arrange another Saturday morning session, in the new year, dependant on availability. Watch out for an e-mail and a note on the SCACR website and Facebook.

## 10-bell Triples / Caters practice

We hope to start a 10-bell Triples / Caters practice at Bexhill soon.

## SCACR Clothing

Loose polo shirts, fitted t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops and fleeces – all embroidered with the SCACR logo are available now!!



Many colours and sizes are available.  
(including childrens sizes)

Please visit [scacr.org/resources/clothing](http://scacr.org/resources/clothing) for more information and to place your order.

Orders will be placed on the last day of every month and delivery time is approximately 4 weeks from the order being placed with the supplier. **So order yours now!**

Please contact Sandra Alford with any questions.  
([clothing@scacr.org](mailto:clothing@scacr.org))

# OUTINGS IN 2019/20

**Day Outing to The Maidstone area** - 23rd November.

Please come and join in on our mini outing. All welcome and we will ring from rounds and up.

The cost of the day will be no more then £7.00. Towers are listed below.

9.45	East Peckham. 6 Bells 14 Cwt.	TN12 5NG	3.30	Barming. 6 Bells 9 Cwt.	ME16 9HA
10.45	Mereworth. 6 Bells 9 Cwt.	ME18 5LS	4.30	East Farleigh. 8 Bells 7 Cwt.	ME15 0JL
11.45	Wateringbury. 6 Bells 7 Cwt.	ME18 5PD	5.30	St. Michael, Maidstone. 8 Bells 6 Cwt.	ME16 8JG
2.30	Nettlestead 6 Bells 5 Cwt.	ME18 5ET			

## 2020 OUTINGS

**Laughton and Ripe** - 25th January 2020 - 10.30 to 12.00 Laughton, Lunch then Ripe from 13.30 to 14.30

**ADM Ticehurst** - 22nd February 2020

Ringling from 2.30 p.m., tea at 4.00 p.m. followed by the ADM. Please come and support this meeting, we will be electing the committee members at this meeting and it would be nice to have some new faces to bring in some new ideas.

## Advance Notice - Mini Outing

Our mini outing next year will be from Thursday May 14th around the Bournemouth area, we are also looking into going down to Okehampton for a few days craft and leisure for those that would like to.

The next edition of Look To! is Jan - Mar 2020 - The deadline for write ups, events and relevant material is 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Please send all items for inclusion to [news-east@scacr.org](mailto:news-east@scacr.org) - **Many thanks to everyone who contributed!**