

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - December 2019

Dates for Your Diary

January

Saturday 4 th	Ringling with Brunch	Lower Beeding	10:00 - 12:00
Monday 6 th	Treble Bob Minor (special methods Kent and Beverley)	Worth	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 8 th	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Monday 13 th	Advanced (Stedman and above)	Lower Beeding	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 20 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 27 th	General 12 Bell Practice (rounds upward)	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

February

Saturday 1 st	Northern District ADM with Ringing	Lindfield	15:00 - 18:00
Monday 3 rd	Treble Bob Minor Methods	Worth	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 5 th	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Monday 10 th	Advanced (Stedman and above)	Crawley TBC	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 17 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 24 th	11/12 bell Methods Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

March

Monday 2 nd	Treble Bob Minor Methods	Worth	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 4 th	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Saturday 7 th	New Members' Welcome Event	TBC	14:30 - 17:00
Monday 9 th	Advanced (Stedman and above)	Bolney TBC	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 16 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00

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

New for 2020 - Monday Evening Practices - the Plan

The **first** Monday will be at Worth every month. It is designed as a Minor methods practice but we will welcome those who are learning Treble bob hunting. Each month there will be a very basic and slightly more advanced "method of the month".

The **second** Monday will be an Advanced practice on 8 bells alternating between towers.

The **third** Monday is the 10-bell methods practice using the Warnham simulator.

The **fourth** Mondays are usually Method practices 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. We will review this at the next ADM.

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

Contact [Steph](#) or [Elaine](#) to check which are suitable for you (practice-north@scacr.org).

What's been happening in the District?

Northern District Wraps Up 2019 Events with a Festive Practice

Thanks to Steph Pendlebury

As has become traditional, the last Northern District Saturday Gathering of the year was ringing with mulled wine (or mulled juice!) and mince pies. Held on Saturday 7th December, we received a warm welcome at Hartfield, and made the most of the new kitchen area and loo there, not to mention the lovely ring of 6 easy-going bells. By the end of the afternoon there were 16 ringers, from 9 different towers. Ringing was rounds onwards and included rounds and call changes, Cambridge (both a plain course and a touch), Kent, Beverley and Surfleet.

The committee is currently putting together the programme of Saturday events for 2020. Do get in touch (sec-north@scacr.org) if you have any requests or suggestions, or if your tower would like to host an event. Maybe you would like a practice focused on a particular method, or have an idea for a social event, or you'd like to host a Pickled Egg session at your tower... Let us know!

The first Saturday Gathering of 2020 will be ringing and brunch on 4th January. The Northern District Committee is a very friendly bunch of people who plan and organise the Monday practices and Saturday events. We're always happy to be joined by new members who'd like to support the District! It's really helpful to have members at all stages in their ringing career, whether just starting to learn or already very experienced. If you're interested in getting involved, please do get in touch - sec-north@scacr.org (or grab me to have a chat about it next time you see me).



SCACR Webmaster Richard in charge of the mulled wine - with Northern District Ringing Master

Hartfield church.



Chris Small in his FABulous Christmas jumper!



Chatting in the church over mulled wine and mince pies





Ringling!

50 years of Ringing - Slinfold celebrate with Prue Duncan

Thanks to Val Farley for article and photos

On Sunday 1st September 2019 bellringing friends of Prue Duncan gathered for a cream tea to celebrate her wonderful achievement of ringing the church bells at Slinfold for 50 consecutive years. In Prue's honour a quarter peal of Stedman Doubles was rung before the gathering and during the afternoon Prue was presented with an achievement certificate.

Prue started ringing in September 1969, she quickly became an active and dedicated member of the band. Over the years she has served as Tower Captain, secretary and treasurer, trained and encouraged new members, and organised many tower outings to other areas.

Prue is a very important member of the band and long may she continue to ring the bells here at Slinfold.



First quarter congratulations

Congratulations to Elliott HJ and Ross S. from Worth for their first quarters this autumn. They both rang 1260 Doubles (2m) with 780 Grandsire and 480 Plain Bob.

Congratulations also to Kye L. of Crawley who rang his first quarter at Balcombe on 3rd November. Kye, Ross and Elliott all attend the same school in Crawley. It is so good to see the youngsters coming on, the future is looking bright for the Northern District!



The photo shows Ross S. after ringing his first quarter on Saturday 9th November. Even more special is that both his mother, Carolyn, and grandfather, Gerald, rang with him!

(Clockwise from left: Gerald Sandwell, Martin Gibbs, Neil Dobson, Carolyn Sandwell, Lucy Laing, Ross S.)

Celebrations at Horsham

On 30th August Keith and Val Burgess of Horsham celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They met as bell ringers and have lived in Horsham for many years where Val is the tower Captain. The following Sunday a local band rang a quarter of Grandsire Caters as a 50th wedding anniversary compliment.



The Quarter peal band (with Val and Keith). L to R: Tom White, Stephanie Pendlebury, Ian Wiltshire, Elaine Farrow, Ed Woodward, Keith Burgess, Mike Cattell, Val Burgess, Dave Capewell, Kate Nye, Richard Pendlebury, Simon Alford.

Once upon a time, in the days when the sun shone, the earth was dry and heat was all around ... WWHIRLSS enjoyed their summer outing to Berkshire

Thanks to Nigel Friswell for article and photos

For the Whirls summer outing last August, 32 ringers and guests went by coach to five towns in Berkshire starting at Stoke Poges (of Grey's famous Elegy) 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, for organising this.



L-R: Stoke Poges, The Bear PH, Maidenhead, All Saints, Maidenhead, Wraysbury, Horton

Ringers' Roll of Honour

Thanks to Mike Cattell

On Saturday 23rd November Simon Meyer organised a peal at Shipley followed by a talk by Alan Regin MBE on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' Rolls of Honour. Alan is the current steward of these rolls of honour and gave us a fascinating talk about his research into all the ringers who died in battle during the First World War. The second part of his talk focussed on individual local ringers and the connections to the parishes round and about pointing out a name on the Shipley War Memorial. He told us about the installation of the ring of bells at Ypres with pictures of the work that was involved.

After the talk we were invited to look at the books and admire the stunning craftsmanship and look at the entries for those ringers who had rung at our home towers and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Alan displayed an amazing depth and breadth of knowledge. His dedication was rewarded with an MBE "For services to Campanology and its Heritage" in 2018. We will remember them.



An update from Balcombe

Many thanks to John Moore for this update

We're pleased to say that our practice is well supported by local towers every Tuesday evening, and we never miss a week, but we do struggle a bit on Sundays. However, we're training new ringers, with one recruit from Handcross, who is now ringing rounds and call changes unaided and a teenager whose getting on well but is unable at present to get here on Sunday. We are also helping a new ringer at Slaugham, who came to Balcombe to see what a bell looks like in the belfry, when it's actually being rung (easier to see here than at Slaugham). Lastly, Ollie, one of our newest recruits, has organised a couple of quarter peals here recently for evensong, the second one for the Advent Service, which he conducted himself.

Thanks very much to Simon Alford (Northern District BRF rep) & Edward Woodward who helped us when we had a strange problem with the third bell. The wheel had worked loose from the headstock, and was repaired by tightening the fixings.

News from Outside the District

Nottingham 2020 Save the Date! 4-6 September 2020

It's time to make a note of the date of the 2020 Central Council weekend, which is being held in Nottingham. A range of engaging events are being organised for ringers at all levels and will include :

- tower based workshops;
- bell ringing seminars;
- topical debates;
- guest speakers;
- open towers;
- social activities;
- roadshow exhibition;
- Central Council AGM;
- Ringing World AGM and much more

The event will be held at the Conference Centre on the University of Nottingham's Jubilee Campus, just a mile from the city centre. Hotel accommodation is available onsite. Look out for further information in The Ringing World, the CC website and social media.

<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2020-meeting/>

Upcoming District Events

Northern District ADM, Sat 1 Feb 2020, Lindfield



Please all join us for our Northern District ADM this year.

3.00pm	Open ringing
4.30pm	Short service
5.00pm	Ringers' tea
5.30pm	ADM
6.00pm	Finish

Please note - Lindfield Practice Night Change in January

Lindfield's practice night will change from Tuesday 14th January to **Monday 13th January** 2020. This is a one-off change due to an event in the church on the 14th.

How to Train Your Bell

Do you often find that our naughty bell won't do quite what you want it to?

Other ringers around you look perfectly serene; beatific smiles on their faces, even managing the odd conversation or giggle between themselves whilst appearing to put in no effort at all, but they are ringing their bells (apparently) at precisely the right moment! "Darn it! Why doesn't my bell behave like that?" You think.

Well; we were all beginners once and most of us remember how it was, but that creates problems too. You take yourself off to a learners' practise and seemingly every "expert" in the room rushes over to tell you exactly what you are doing wrong. You're pulling too hard, you're not pulling hard enough, your rope is too long, your rope is too short, you're standing in the wrong place, wearing the wrong trousers, blah blah blah they are only trying to help but you don't feel inclined to put yourself through THAT again!

Starting in January, on the third Saturday morning of every month from 10.00 until 12.00 there is going to be a special practice at Rusper just for you!

We will have some helpers available (I hope) but we will be **concentrating purely on handling techniques and bell control** using silenced bells and our simulator. Rounds and simple bell control exercises will be the order of the day, as well as ringing up and down if required. We are going to ask for donation of £3 per learner towards running costs.

So, if you are finding yourself frustrated at not quite being able to do what your Tower Captain asks of you and you want an extra bit of practise in a relaxed atmosphere with others who feel just the same, **contact Elaine** on 01403 257788 (leave your details) or email elaine.farrow@btinternet.com to let me know you want to join in.

There will be sweets, there might even be cake..... . This is **an ideal opportunity for recently ART trained teachers to practise their skills. Offers of help from experienced teachers welcome**, we won't expect you to commit to every month.

In other news...

Updated Safeguarding guidance

Safeguarding (of children and vulnerable adults) is an important issue for all towers - even if you don't have any young ringers at the moment, you never know when you might get visitors to your tower, or youngsters wanting to learn to ring. There is updated helpful [safeguarding guidance](#) available from the Central Council to make sure that your tower provides a safe environment.

More info here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2019/10/24/safeguarding-guidance-june-2019-update/>

Applications open for the 2020 ART Awards

The ART Awards continue to grow every year - with over £3,000 in prize money and seven awards waiting to be won. Now is your chance to apply for the 2020 ART Awards!

The teaching awards are open to everyone - not just ART Members or those using 'Learning the Ropes' scheme - the aim is to encourage and recognise the people and groups leading best practice and innovation in the teaching and development of ringing. The individual ringing awards are open to those who have completed one of the Learning the Ropes programmes (on tower or hand bells) or participated in the Learning the Ropes Plus scheme. Click here to find out more and to apply - www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards

Worried about applying?

The judges aren't looking for the most professional application; what they are looking for is ideas, commitment and results. So if you're looking at new ways of recruiting it's not just the idea, but the number of people you recruited and whether they stayed. Easy ways to show that - number retained a year or two later, new recruits coming in (success breeds success), quarter peals, striking competition results, practice attendance, or ringing progress (LtR Levels) ... and don't forget photos and quotes. There's no magic formula; think why what you're doing has been successful and put it down on paper. Please don't be modest!

How do I enter?

Further information and application forms are available at www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards The closing date for applications is 31 December 2019 - so now is the time to make sure that those doing great work don't miss out!

Please send any news, photos or notices from your tower for the next edition of Northern News to the Editor, Katherine Potter: news-north@scacr.org

*And finally, I hope you have a **Merry Christmas** with much ringing and wish you a **Happy New Year***

