

'Look To' - Summer 2020.

Welcome to this edition of 'Look To'. It has been a little while since the last copy. This edition advises about the ADM, the new committee, new members elected for the East and updates you on what has been happening in the East during these more difficult times.

Risk Assessments.

Some towers are beginning to start ringing or tolling a bell again. Please remember that before starting to ring tower bells again you must check the bells are ok, maybe clean the tower, and complete a COVID-19 risk assessment for ringing. This needs to be discussed with your vicar, or church wardens and receive the vicar's permission to ring. This should be placed on your notice board along with the general risk assessment for your tower. If you need help with your risk assessments, there is help on the Central Council website, or contact a member of the SCACR General or district committee.

Practice Meeting 25th January 2020.

The first practice meeting of the year took place on the 25th of January a somewhat dull and overcast day and whilst not actually raining it felt Damp and cold. We met at Laughton 10.30 am sharp, I arrived in good time (so I thought) and found the tower already full of people waiting!

It was a good turnout with 27 people attending during the day from an assortment of towers including Rotherfield, Alfriston, Seaford, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Buxted, Willingdon and Brighton.

Francis Bradford organised the ringing at Laughton and we rang a range of methods to suit all abilities from Rounds and call changes up to and including a course of London Surprise Minor.

At 12.00 noon we adjourned and people sorted out their own venues for lunch, from picnics to Pubs The afternoon saw us meeting up at Ripe for the afternoon session, some people left after the morning and a few more joined us. Christine Baldock organised the ringing this afternoon. The bells at Ripe (an anti-clockwise 5) proved challenging for some until they got their bearings, looking in the wrong direction and not having a tenor to lead from in the doubles was a new experience for some ringers and took a bit of getting used to. We were however able to ring from rounds up to Orpheus including a touch of Steadman

It was lovely to see so many people at the event and the overall impression was that it was a useful practice.

We were ably hosted by Steven Beckingham and his daughter and we wish to extend our thanks to them both.

Hazel Mottram.

Eastern Division Annual District Meeting at Ticehurst 2.30pm February 22nd

The annual district meeting this year was hosted by Ticehurst and took place on a cold windy day that was thankfully dry.

This year was very well attended with a total of 50 ringers coming from towers all over the Eastern division and beyond, these included Bexhill, Battle, Rotherfield, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Steyning, Brighton, Alfriston, Warbleton, Willingdon, Laughton, Bosham, and of course Ticehurst.

The ringing was ably managed by Mark Dawkins and ranged from rounds up to Cambridge minor by way of call changes various doubles, including plain bob and Grandsire and a range of minor methods including plain bob and Norwich. (This list is not exhaustive but just to demonstrate the range) Ticehurst who hosted then provided a wonderful tea which was served in the toasty warm hall next to the church, this consisted of massive amounts of cakes and biscuits, a huge range of sandwiches, cocktail sausages, crisps and fresh fruit, accompanied by a cup or two of hot tea. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to the catering team for a job well done.

There were so many people that we had to adjourn to the church for the meeting.

The raffle was drawn and prizes distributed raising in excess of £50 for the bell restoration fund. The meeting chaired by the Association Master Rob Lane then followed and various officers were elected/re-elected for the district, these included

- Mark Dawkins, Ringing Master
- Marion Hollands, Secretary
- *Look To* editor, Matthew Jones
- Education Officer (unofficially for some of the role only) Nick Cant
- BRF rep, Pip Pawley
- Central council Rep, Alison Everett
- Committee members, Francis Bradford, Nick Cant, Hazel Mottram, Pip Pawley, Matthew Jones.

New Members were welcomed into the association and they were presented with their certificates by Rob Lane, our association Master.



New Members being presented with their certificates.

Welcome to New Members, February 2020.

Anita Helene Spiers - Willingdon.

Colin Goodsell, Amanda Jakes and Alan Braysheer - Westham.

Evie Emmerson - Pevensey.

Alfred Charles Poland, Caroline Holly Bethel-Motagalli - Mayfield.

Christopher John Langridge, Richard and Denise Best, Tony Shaw, Paul Garside - Rotherfield.

Bryn Watkins - Salehurst.

Jackie Beale - Ticehurst.

Brian Parker - Alison Parker - Battle.

Mark W Barker - Bexhill on Sea.

Simon Cowley - Warbleton.

Mark Wilmer - All Saints, Eastbourne.

All new members at the meeting were presented with their certificates.

Returning Members.

Maggie Burt - Hellingly, Janet Potipher and Linda Dennett-Thorpe from Willingdon.

Learning to Ring before and during Covid 19. By Isla Age 8

Before lockdown: I was learning to ring at Laughton. I needed 2 boxes to help me reach the treble. I could do hand stroke and back stroke. I put them together in my last lesson before we were told to stay at home. In Christmas Holidays I had a go on a mini ring with friends, it was easier than tower bells and lots of fun with my friends. We used to ring handbells at home on a Sunday evening, I learnt to ring Plain Bob Minor on 1-2.

During lockdown: I have been ringing on the computer in Ringing Room. I like Bob Doubles. I have been ringing with Mummy, Daddy and others in a Saturday afternoon practice. I can do Bob Doubles, Plain Hunt, Call Changes, Bob Triples, Treble Bob Hunt, Grandsire Doubles and Triples. I think that learning them separately is easier because you don't have to travel. No long car journeys to places like Winchcombe to ring with Wilf. I have been to two young ringers practices, they are a practice for young ringers across the county. They held an online striking competition with cake. I was in the winning team and won the cake contest. Cake and Lemonade makes ringing better. I have even managed to do ringing in my pajamas!

Return to Tower Bell ringing at Laughton: On Sunday we went back to Laughton to ring for a service. We discovered that I had grown, I only needed 1 box. Daddy said I also pull too hard, so maybe I will move to a different bell next time. Sadly there was no cake after ringing.

Return to Tower Bell ringing at Ripe:

When I went to Ripe I started ringing both strokes together. It went well until the rope broke! I might need to learn to splice or I will get Daddy to do it.

Honorary Life Member of the Association

Alan Collings has been a very active and supportive member of SCACR since moving to Sussex 18 years ago. He was nominated to be an Honorary Life Member of the association. The mini-ring "Dewbys Bells," which Alan built has been made available for many events. He is also involved with handbells, including repairing and restoring them. 230 votes were cast online, 39 postal votes, and we're delighted to tell you that Alan Collings was elected Honorary Life Member of the Association. handbells!

LOOK TO - WHEN WILL WE HEAR THESE WORDS AGAIN?

By Roy Cox

With the exception of a few who are ringing handbells or ringing online using Ringing Room etc I am sure that the majority of us are missing our ringing and the company of other ringers during this pandemic.

We are fortunate that most of us have access to the internet and so we are able to keep in touch with each other, and for those most at risk can order their food for home delivery. Others, who are not online, hopefully have friends to help them.

It is clear that we all have to take care and follow the rules that the government have been advised to put in place. Most churches are still not having their bells rung because the local incumbent has yet to give permission to ring, to put it simply the guidelines on ringing are being interpreted in different ways.

This is hardly surprising when the rules keep changing e.g. only a few weeks ago church services were allowed to recommence with no choir or singing and no bells, (now as an afterthought?) the additional rule is face masks must be worn in church.

Perhaps we will be allowed to ring if we wear face masks as well as adhering to the existing guidelines regarding ringing as published in The Ringing World (RW) see below.

Some of the Recommendations regarding ringing as published in The Ringing World Undertake a proper assessment before the resumption of ringing in your tower to see if ringing is possible especially within the safe distancing guidelines:

We could select a set of bells/ropes that are each more than 2m from any other ringer. This probably would not be musical but would be safer than ignoring safe distancing.

A reasonable musical combination of bells that could be rung at a safe distance could be

1, 3, 5 or 1,3,5,7. Where there are two ropes that are closer together than the safe distance 2 meters, these two bells could be rung by two ringers who were from the same household, so long as they remained at all times 2 metres or more away from anyone else. A ringer must only ring the one bell/rope in a ringing session.

All rules as published in the Ringing World remain the same, sanitize your hands and also the emphasis is do not touch your face or lick your hands/fingers.

We should limit the duration of all ringing sessions, as the risk increases the longer the ringing session, and certainly quarters, peals etc must be considered high risk.

We must suspend teaching of bell handling for the time being since it requires teacher and student to stand in close proximity.

Public Health England confirmed to the **Church of England Recovery Group** on Saturday 11th July that they approved the **Central Council of Church Bell Ringers** (CCCBR) suggested guidance on a limited return to ringing.

With the agreement of their incumbents, some churches in England have begun ringing again.

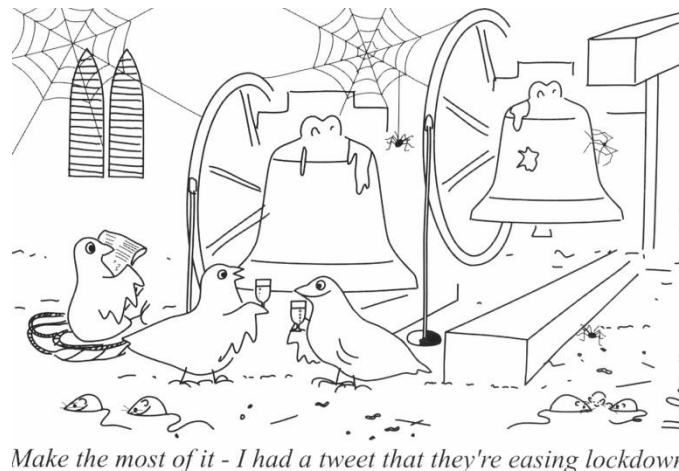
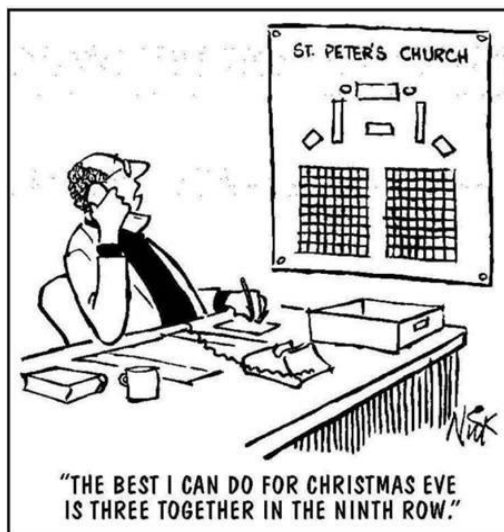
The CCCBR's guidance (based on those published in the RW) can be found at www.cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus.

WHERE RINGING HAS STARTED AGAIN

The feedback from congregations and residents nearby was delight at hearing bells again after such a long period of silence. This start to ringing has frustrated many, with some thinking the guidance is over-cautious and some thinking it is reckless. Writers have voiced many such concerns in the Ringing World.

In an effort to cheer ringers up there have been quite a few cartoons in circulation

I include two of them here



WE LOOK FORWARD TO 'LOOKING TO' AGAIN SOON

What's been happening from Lockdown to now?

I have had some contact from towers in the East and mainly around the East people are keeping in contact using WhatsApp, Zoom, emails and texts. A few towers are having weekly Zoom meetings, a few are also trying ringing room at the same time. Things being shared on these groups are jokes, videos, news. One tower have been having a Quiz amongst their ringers. The smaller villages see each other at a distance when walking around. One tower captain on a Sunday is sending a pre-recording of bells ringing through WhatsApp. A steeple keeper in the area is going into the bell tower once a week to move the bells a bit (with permission from the church) as he said that's what his father done in the Second World War and the bells rung well after. One tower holds virtual practice using Ringing Room and Skype - the towers report this helps keep ringers spirits up. Since people have been able to meet in their gardens, there has been some handbell practice going on.

I received the following from one tower and she asked me to include it when I sent you what is going on in the East.

'So admit it who has done any bell ringing homework? Somehow it always seems to be on the back burner doesn't it as there are so many other little jobs to do and sunshine to enjoy? Aren't we lucky in that respect? I finally got my act together and wrote numbers on a set of glasses and moved them around saying 5 to 3 etc trying to teach myself some changes but I don't remember which way we are supposed to call! Another exercise for those wanting to learn places is to use your stairs. As you say the bell you are going after you move up or down the stairs eg if you're plain hunting from the 3 bell you move up to the steps to

4th and 5th staying in 5th for a second step before going back down to lead and two steps hear. Your right leg is your hand stroke and left leg back stroke. Does this make sense? Hopefully as you say the bell you are ringing after your brain is also registering that you are going up to the back or down to the front and you inadvertently learn this at the same time or at least that's the theory. It's good exercise in these troubled times anyway.'

Christ Church Eastbourne.

During Lockdown we started meeting weekly on Zoom for a chat, although I had tried to go onto ringing room I didn't find it that easy and after discussing on one of our Zoom meetings we decided to carry on with having a chat with each other. '

For the last month we have been able to meet up at a safe distance and so far we have had a walk to one of the ice cream parlours, had Fish and Chips on the beach, a walk and picnic along the sea front and gone into one of the hotels for coffee.

While we have been on the beach a few of our members have been going in for a swim. This makes a change from ringing but at least we can all meet up out in the fresh air.

A few of our members have been busy cleaning the ringing room and checking the bells. On Sunday one member was able to toll the bell for the Sunday service, which was appreciated by the church, but at the moment we are unable to ring three or four for the service as we do not have enough space between the bells, hopefully new guidance will come out soon and we will be able to.

CONDUCTING PLAIN BOB

Plain Bob Minor

The initial advice to a conductor is "keep it simple", but at the same time, don't be afraid to experiment, of which more later. Ideally you should aim to have either the 5th or 6th as observation (ie not affected by the calls) bells as this will keep the tenors "the right way". If the tenors get reversed, you are likely to end up with rows of the form xxxx65 at backstroke, which is musically unsatisfactory.

Basic touches with 6th observation are to call Wrong, Home and repeat. Wrong is 5-6 up, home is 5-6 down, these are abbreviated in textbooks as W & H, touches are usually laid out in the form:

120 Plain Bob Minor

<u>23456</u>	W	H
4523	-	-
<u>23456</u>	-	-

A dash (-) indicates a bob, S would indicate a single. The underlined 23456 at the beginning is the final backstroke in rounds before starting into changes. The second row starts with 4523, indicating that the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th are in the positions shown at the end of the first course (the backstroke lead), called Wrong & Home. The treble is never shown as it's always first, of course. Bells not

shown, in this case the 6th, are always taken to be in the same place as before. This is particularly the case on higher numbers of bells, such as Stedman & Grandsire Caters.

The final row, starting 23456, is underlined all the way, indicating that this is the end of the touch.

Touches involving repetition can be indicated thus:

360 Plain Bob Minor

<u>23456</u>	W	H
4523	-	-
<u>34256</u>	-	-

Repeat twice

This indicates that each section is rung three times altogether. Further instructions might be of the form:

720 Plain Bob Minor

<u>23456</u>	W	H
4523	-	-
<u>34256</u>	-	*

Repeat 5 times, S at * in the third and sixth parts

This means that, instead of a plain lead at the end of the third and sixth parts (indicated with an asterisk *), a Single is to be called.

It should be noted that the 5th comes back to its home position every other course. The 5th, in this case, is often referred to as the “half-hunt” bell. The 5th will do the same work throughout the touch, at the first bob, it will make the bob, at the next two bobs it will run out, after which it will be back in its normal position, coursing after the 6th.

The concept of “coursing” is a vital one, particularly on 8 bells and above. Once you get the two biggest bells together it adds much stability to the ringing, providing a useful anchor for the less experienced ringers.

The above touch provides the basic 720 of Plain Bob Minor, it can be called from the 5th in exactly the same manner, except that the first two bobs come at the end of the first course. The half-hunt bell is then the 6th, which will run in at the first two bobs and make the bob at the third one. You should also note that in both of these 720s there is never a bob when the 5 and 6 are dodging together, only a Single at the half way and end points.

Plain Bob Major

In Plain Bob Major (and higher numbers), there are four basic calling positions, Wrong, Before, Middle and Home. These are abbreviated W B M & H and all relate to the tenor: Wrong in Major is 7-8 up, Before is to run out at a bob, Middle is 5-6 down and Home is 7-8 down.

The advantage of these calling positions is that the 7 & 8 are never affected relative to one another. The concept of coursing order is particularly important here: coursing order is essentially the order in which the bells are passed going up and down, starting after the 7. Touches are almost always set out from the point of view of the tenor, so that, after the tenor leads, the first bell that he passes

is always the 7th. After that, in the plain course, the bells are 5 3 2 4 6, after which it's the 7th again. The treble will appear in the sequence, but is ignored, it will be in a different place each lead, of course.

If the coursing order (after the 7th) is ABCDE, then a bob W will change this to BCADE, a bob Before will change it to EABCD, a Bob Middle will change it to ABDEC and a Bob Home will change it to ACDBE. Knowing these transposition rules will enable a competent conductor to check the correct progress of a touch.

It is fortuitous that, on the higher numbers, there are fewer calls, not only enabling the ringing to settle down, but making the conductor's task easier.

The above 720 of Plain Bob Minor transfers neatly to be a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major:

1344 Plain Bob Major

<u>2345678</u>	W	H
4523	-	-
<u>3425678</u>	-	*

Repeat 5 times, S at * at the end of the third and sixth parts.

This quarter may be reduced to 1280 by calling any one part W 3B M (in other words Wrong, 3 times before and Middle). Don't forget that if you call it in the third or sixth part, you will need to add the Single. Personally, I always call it first, to get it out of the way.

How to get Plain Bob Minor round from any position

If the bells get really badly mixed up and you aren't short of time, you can easily bring them round, as follows:

Assuming that you are ringing the tenor, check to see where the fifth is, relative to you. If it's coursing directly in front of you, then the tenors are reversed (in other words you will end up with the dreaded xxxx65 at backstroke sooner or later, which is considered bad form and to be avoided. If this is the case, the easy fix is to call a single before, which will immediately put the 5th where you want it, coursing after you.

If the fifth is in any other position, call the tenor to run in at a bob (you won't need to do this more than twice), until the 5th makes the bob, after which it is coursing after you, which is where you want it.

Then, note the coursing order of the other bells (in other words the sequence after the 5th): if they are 3-2-4, then cheer, because you are in the plain course. If they are 4-3-2 then a bob home will bring it round, if 2-4-3 the keep calling bobs home until it comes round.

Any other combination (2-3-4, 3-4-2 or 4-2-3) means that the bells are "out of course" and you will need to call a Single Home, after which follow the system in the previous paragraph (if the single doesn't bring it round immediately, of course).

It is a good exercise, during a practice, to get one of the other ringers to put in a few random calls to mix the bells up, after which the "conductor" can then sort it out. I found this to be an invaluable activity in my early days of conducting.

From your Central Council Representative.

The Central Council has been working with the Church of England Recovery Group and Public Health England to ensure bellringing is taken into account with a return to worship during Coronavirus, the latest guidance can be found on the website <https://ccabr.org.uk/coronavirus/>.

This year the CC AGM will be held virtually, details are being added to the website where you will find papers for the meeting <https://ccabr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2020-meeting/>



Simon Linford, President of the CCCBR, publishes a lively and fortnightly blog which, as it is published on the 'Latest News' section of the Central Council website, appears on a feed on our own website <https://www.scacr.org/>.

If you have any views or comments for your District's Council Representative, or would like to know more about the Central Council, please contact Alison at publicity@scacr.org – you can find all the Sussex Reps here: <https://www.scacr.org/about-us/committees-teams/general-committee/258-central-council-representatives>

Quarter Peal Dedication.

Bellboard records a successful hand bell peal rung at Fairwarp, East Sussex and dedicated to Les Baldock who was a loyal member at St. Mary Eastbourne and a long service member of the Sussex Association.

Fairwarp, Christ Church (Churchyard) on Friday, 31 July 2020 in 1h 59 (15 in C) 5040 Spliced Doubles (126m)

40 Abbey Place, All Hallows Place, Armitage New Bob, Armston Place, Bampton Place, Barnwell Place, Bedfont Bob, Bedingham Bob, Bilborough Place, Blackburn Place, Blaisdon Bob, Blatherwycke Place, Blisworth Bob, Boveney Place, Braunston Place, Braywood Bob, Brecon Place, Broughton Place, Caernarvonshire Bob, Callender Bob, Cardiganshire Bob, Casthorpe Place, Caunton Bob, Chesham Bob, Chevasse Place, Chipstead Bob, Clopton Bob, Coxwell Place, Crick Place, Deenethorpe Bob, Denbighshire Place, Dragon Place, Dudley Bob, Eaglethorpe Bob, Ellingham Bob, Eton Place, Eynesbury Bob, Fifield Bob, Flintshire Place, Forncett Bob, Fundenhall Bob, Glamorgan Place, Haddiscoe Place, Harecastle Place, Harpley Bob, Hascombe Place, Herefordshire Bob, Hertfordshire Bob, Huntingdonshire Slow Bob, Huntley Place, Huntspill Bob, Husbands Bosworth Bob, Intwood Bob, Itchingfield Slow Bob, Kent Bob, Knapton Bob, Lancashire Bob, Leicestershire Slow Bob, Lincolnshire Bob, Londonthorpe Bob, Longford Bob, Longworth Bob, Luddington in the Brook Bob, Lyng Place, Maltby Bob, Manthorpe Bob, Merionethshire Bob, Merton Bob, Monmouthshire Place, Montgomeryshire Place, Netherton Place, New Bob, North Cerney Place, Northamptonshire Bob, Northumberland Bob, Norwell Place, Nottinghamshire Bob, Nunthorpe Place, Oakley Bob, Ockham Place, Ossington Place, Oxfordshire Slow Bob, Pembrokeshire Place, Radnorshire Place, Rugby Bob, Rutland Bob, Saddington Place, Screveton Bob, Shelford Bob, Shortwood Place, Shrewley Bob, Shropshire Bob, Somerset Slow Bob, Southwick Place, St Bartholomew's Bob, St Botolph Place, St Hilary Bob, St Martin's Bob, St Nicholas Bob, St Osmund Bob, St Ouen Place, St Remigius Bob, St Sebastian Bob, St Simon's Bob, St Vedast Bob, Staffordshire Bob, Stedman Bob, Strelley Place, Suffolk Place, Surrey Place, Sussex Place, Sutton-upon-Trent Bob, Tardebigge Place, Thornborough Place, Thorpe Waterville Place, Thurning Place, Twineham Bob, Warwickshire Bob, Welford Bob, Westminster II Bob, Westmorland Place, Wigsthorpe Bob, Wiltshire Bob, Winchendon Place, Worcestershire Place, Yorkshire Place; 503 com; atw.

[Composed by S J Beckingham](#)

1–2 Michael R A Shaw

3–4 Stephen J Beckingham (C)

5–6 Chris M Shaw

The greatest number of methods rung to a standard length atw peal of Doubles.

Most methods for all and for the Association.

First peal on the bells.

Rung in affectionate memory of Les Baldock, of St Mary's Eastbourne, who passed away yesterday.

Honorary Life Member of the Association.

Alan Collings has been a very active and supportive member of SCACR since moving to Sussex 18 years ago. He was nominated to be an Honorary Life Member of the association. The mini-ring “Dewbys Bells,” which Alan built has been made available for many events. He is also involved with handbells, including repairing and restoring them. 230 votes were cast online, 39 postal votes, and we’re delighted to tell you that Alan Collings was elected Honorary Life Member of the Association. handbells! Read the full citation.

Weird and Wonderful Towers.

By the Fun with Bells podcast.

Why don’t you have a look at the fun with bells podcast if you haven’t already, this makes some interesting reading.

These tales of weird and wonderful towers are definitely not for the faint-hearted ringers among you. Podshow host, Cathy Booth, invites us behind the scenes of 15 of the most outlandish ringing environments from across the world, featuring trap doors, vaults, ventilator shafts, crawl ways and external ladders. Clock cases also play a starring role, along with gas lamps and one particularly chilling occupant!

[Read more of this post - The Fun with Bells podcast](#)

Committee 2020 – 2021

Secretary Marion Hollands sec-east@scacr.org

Ringing Master Mark Dawkins

BRF Rep Pip Pawley brf-east@scacr.org

Newsletter editor - Matthew Jones

Committee Members – Frances Bradford, Hazel Mottram and Nick Cant.

CCCBR Rep - Alison Everett

Could articles for the next edition of ‘Look To’ be sent to me at sec-east@scacr.org by 30th November 2020 please and I will pass on accordingly. Our thanks at this time go to the contributors for all their work to provide the articles in this newsletter. Please let us know what is happening in your tower and what you have been doing during ringing and if you have started ringing again.