

## **Look To.**

### **December 2020.**

#### **Note from the Secretary.**

The last newsletter of the year, a year many of us had to stay in to keep safe, keep our distance and see less of our families and friends. Let's hope next year we can get back to more of a normal life. Most ringing that has been done remotely this year on Ringing Room. Some people have been ringing with fellow ringers all over the country and have managed to learn some new methods. Hand bell ringing has also been happening in some areas, ringers have been able to concentrate on places, rhythm and new methods. A few towers have been able to meet up socially on Zoom and other similar groups.

The East are going to try a couple of zoom social events over the next couple of months and we would like to see as many of you there as possible join in. These will be hosted by Pauline Kennard, captain at Alfriston. My thanks go to her for doing this for our district.

Hopefully ringing will start again next year and it would be lovely to see some new members come on to the committee. We also need an editor for Look To and any expertise any of you are able to bring along. We would love to receive some further articles for our next newsletter.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and happy new year

Marion

#### **Forthcoming Dates.**

December 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30 Zoom meeting, bring along mulled wine, mince pie or alternative and have a chat with your fellow ringers.

January 16<sup>th</sup> 2.30. bring along your own refreshments.

February 28<sup>th</sup> Eastern District ADM

#### **Association Christmas Quiz - Saturday 19 December**

All welcome, including friends & family for this fun quiz. Details to follow.

## **Coronavirus restrictions from 2nd December 2020.**

East and West Sussex are being placed under Tier 2 'High Alert' restrictions.

Under Tier 2 restrictions it is not possible to socialise with anyone you don't live with (support bubbles are permitted) in an indoor environment. This includes while in a place of worship.

Unfortunately this means that ringing in towers can't resume for the time being. (It may be possible to ring within a family unit, the Central Council will hopefully advise later on in the week).

However, the rule of six is reintroduced for meeting outside. Therefore it is possible for socially distanced hand bell ringing or other social activities to take place (weather permitting!).

There is a review of these restrictions on Wednesday 16th December, we can only hope that there is an easing into Tier 1 to allow ringing to resume once more.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

### **Hailsham Bells and Ringers.**

As many of you will know, there has been extensive re-ordering work being carried out at Hailsham church and this has meant that we were unable to have access to the tower to ring. Prior to the work commencing, the last time that we were able to ring was at Easter 2019. Special arrangements were made for us to ring at Christmas but it was another six weeks before we could resume regular ringing both on Sundays and Monday evening practices. In order to keep the band together we were fortunate in being able to continue to meet on a Monday for practice at several other churches in the area and we are grateful to Brightling, Chiddingly, Christ Church, Eastbourne, East Hoathly, Laughton, Ripe, Seaford, Warbleton and Westham for giving us permission to do this. This was valuable experience for our band – in particular for our newer ringers - and progress has been made.

Samuel Canning is to be congratulated on ringing several quarter peals since our return to Hailsham. His first was the treble to Doubles for the Christmas Carol service followed by inside to Bob Doubles on New Year's Eve. He also rang another of Bob Doubles at Westham and Grandsire Triples at Chiddingly then Grandsire Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles, Oxford Bob Triples and treble to Cambridge Minor at Hailsham for the evening services leading up to the lockdown after 15<sup>th</sup> March. Samuel has also started attending the gatherings of the Sussex young ringers, with whom he rang a couple of quarter peals – one at Cowfold and the other at Shipley and we are pleased to have him as a member of our band. Regrettably, the plan to ring 1414 Grandsire Triples for his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on 20<sup>th</sup> March had to be cancelled.

By careful placing of members of the same household on adjacent bells, which would otherwise be too close to each other, we have been able to resume ringing on the back six for the Sunday morning 9.30am services starting on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Despite not having handled a bell for five months and with no opportunity to practice, some very respectable call changes have been rung for our allotted 15 minutes and a number of appreciative comments have been received from those hearing the bells again.

Having been in need of more recruits for some time, we had just started teaching four at the beginning of March so it is most unfortunate that, due to social distancing regulations, we are unable to carry on teaching them. How long before we I can I wonder?

Alan Baldock

## **2020 – The Year When Tower Bell Ringing Ground to a Halt.**

What does it mean when you can't go ringing? No practices, no service ringing, no weddings, no physical or mental activity, no socialising with other ringers, no outings to different towers, no pub lunches and after ringing (and in some cases before ringing) pub sessions, no coffee or tea breaks in cafes or al fresco in Churchyards, no quarter peal days, no ringing holidays, no goals to achieve, nothing!

This was what we faced in March and along came Ringing Room.

Wow! What a difference that made to so many ringers Lockdown days. Developed by two ringers in America and run very simply over the internet. We now had a reason to meet together virtually as bands to try to get to grips with this virtual world of ringing. Using it alongside of Zoom or any video or voice group conferencing we were able to meet up and ring again! Many towers set up weekly practices and some met on a Sunday morning to replace Sunday service ringing.

Ringing has always been sociable. You can travel anywhere in the country – anywhere in the world where English change ringing is practiced, and you will be made welcome (generally). And so we found with Ringing Room; we were ringing with people from other parts of the country and other parts of the world. Ringers who you might have met up with once or twice a year now became regular ringing companions. Ringers who you had never met also became your ringing friends. And it's not all about the ringing because we chat, sometimes for longer than we ring. Just like in a tower!

Technology often causes problems – and we tend to laugh it off. No point getting annoyed. There are far worse things in the world than if a bell is double clapping because of internet lag! If all is going well great things can be achieved but don't expect to master it on the first session. Generally, we find that the more experienced the ringer is in a tower the longer they take to get to grips with it - probably because their expectations are too high. Learners tend to do really well. Andy and Trish who ring at Alfriston had not started plain hunting in the tower but have scored their first Quarter Peal in Ringing Room. Trish on the treble and Andy

inside to Plain Bob Doubles. They 'rang' really well with no method mistakes. They weren't convinced they would ever do it again ... but who knows?

So, Ringing Room is not for everyone and it is not a replacement for real tower bell ringing BUT it is a good alternative when we can't do what we love most we make do with second best; and this is a really good second best. An opportunity to keep our brains active learning methods and keeping up with ringing friends – all from the comfort of your own home with a coffee (or beer) to hand.

If you haven't tried it before please contact me and I will arrange an introductory session. Ideally you need a laptop or PC. Some people have got it to work on an ipad/tablet/smartphone. SCACR are also arranging some training sessions and you can find out more by contacting the Master, Rob Lane.

Pauline Kennard [pauline.kennard@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.kennard@gmail.com)

### **New online Association novices' practices - Saturdays from 4 pm**

Join us for a friendly and supportive practice using Ringing Room and Zoom! This practice is aimed at ringers who would like to have a go at call changes, Plain Hunt and simple methods, or those who haven't had much experience of Ringing Room. Helpers also welcome!! Contact Steph to get the joining instructions ([sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org)).

### **Alan Collings.**

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of our friend, and life member of the association, Alan Collings.

Sadly Alan passed away on Thursday 26th November following a short illness.

Alan will be remembered with great affection for the work he did with Dewby's Bells and his love of hand bell restoration.

Our thoughts are with Elizabeth, Alison and Helen at this difficult time.

May he rest in peace?

### **SCACR CLOTHING – Winter 2020**

Check out [www.scacr.org/resources/clothing](http://www.scacr.org/resources/clothing) for all your winter adventure layers, from t-shirts to fleeces to outdoor gilets – we have you covered.

A full range of colours at reasonable prices available.

Email Sandra at [clothing@scacr.org](mailto:clothing@scacr.org) for further details.

Date for articles to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021