

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - December 2020

Return to Ringing or Not? Updated guidance from the Central Council (30th November, by Simon Linford, CCCBR President)

From the [CCCBR news story](#):

First the good news and perhaps the light at the end of the tunnel for other areas. Just before we went into lockdown for the second time a month ago, we had reached agreement with the House of Bishops Recovery Group to drop down to 1m+ distancing, and then introduce local risk assessment based on the characteristics of the ringing environment and also risk assessment based on personal circumstances. Our guidance is that in Tier 1 this can now happen, although at first we only recommend ringing for 15 minutes until ventilation in towers is better understood. However, look to the end of this statement for our plans in that regard.

In Tiers 2 [East and West Sussex are both Tier 2] and 3 we are still recommending that we stick to the government's guidance that is the same for both Tiers, and that is that "No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles." As was discussed when the lockdown started, one can argue the definitions of mixing, interacting and mingling, some might even try and argue that ringing is an act of worship or even employment, but the clear intention of the public health experts is to reduce interactions as much as possible so that we get through the winter without another wave of infection. That **restricts ringing in Tiers 2 and 3 to families that live together and other households, or the ringing of single bells as currently.**

Handbells

In Tier 1 we revert to the 'Rule of 6' which allows six people to meet indoors or outdoors, so handbell ringing is possible (but stay distanced and ventilate well). In Tier 2 a maximum of six people can meet in any outdoor setting only, including a domestic garden, so socially distanced handbell ringing is viable. Tier 3: mixing of households outdoors needs to be in a public space, e.g. parks, public gardens or churchyards. This give the opportunity to meet perhaps outside the church and ring handbells. You should not travel from a higher tier to a lower tier for ringing.

More info about ventilation and increasing ringing time (for Tier 1 areas) one the CC news story: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/11/30/covid-winter-plan-updated-guidance-for-england-wales-and-scotland/> and the COVID info pages <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Places of worship

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Open, but cannot interact with more than six people.	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.

Ringling guidance

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Can ring up to six bells, maintaining social distance of 1m+ mitigations of face coverings and hand hygiene, provided tower affords good ventilation and subject to specific risk assessment. Limit ringing to 15 minutes pending results of ventilation research. Rule of 6 applies to handbell ringing indoors and outdoors but stay distanced and ventilate well.	No tower bell ringing other than by members of the same household, or single bells (which would be unlimited in duration). Handbell ringing in any outdoor space including gardens for up to six people, socially distanced.	No tower bell ringing other than by members of the same household, or single bells (which would be unlimited in duration). Handbell ringing in any public outdoor space (could be a churchyard) for up to six people, socially distanced.

There is also **updated guidance on the CCCBR COVID webpage**, including a helpful summary of the standing guidance in general, and what this means for places of worship and ringing in particular, see above screenshot. The CC COVID webpage is updated every Friday.

What's On

Mulled wine & mince pies virtual Saturday Gathering with RingingRoom practice Saturday 5 December 2020, 15:30 - 17:00



Location: via Zoom & Ringing Room
No direct link to Tower information provided
Contact: sec-north@scacr.org

Event Description:

Join us for a relaxed & friendly online video chat, followed by an attempt at ringing Christmas carols using Ringing Room. All welcome (not just Northern

District people)! Bring your own mulled wine & mince pies!

- 3:30 - 4:00 pm: Chat with refreshments
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm: Ringing Room - Christmas carol tunes!

If you don't already have one, you will need to [create a Ringing Room account](#) beforehand (no need to create a tower!). Please read the [quick start guide to Ringing Room](#) in advance, if you haven't used RR before. Everyone must register in advance to receive the joining information - contact Steph via sec-north@scacr.org

Online Novices Practice

Saturday 12 December 2020, 16:00 - 17:30



Location: Ringing Room and Zoom
No direct link to Tower information provided
Contact: sec-north@scacr.org

Event Description:

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 Plain

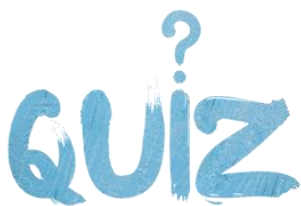
Hunt and simple methods., or those who haven't had much experience of Ringing Room. Helpers also welcome!!

Contact Steph to get the joining instructions (sec-north@scacr.org).

- 4.00-4.30 pm - online social (bring your own coffee & cake!)
- 4.30-5.30 pm - practice

If you haven't used Ringing Room before, you will need to [register for an account](#) (no need to create a tower ID) in advance. Please also read the [quick start guide to Ringing Room](#) beforehand. It would be a good idea to have a short familiarisation session before the practice - contact Steph in advance and we'll find a friendly helper to show you the ropes, so to speak. You will also need to have a Zoom account - [register for free here](#).

Association Christmas Quiz - Saturday 19 December 2020



Location: via Zoom

Contact: sec-north@scacr.org

Event Description:

Save the date! All welcome, including friends & family for this fun quiz. Details to follow.

Save the Date! Next Association Handbell Morning

Saturday 30 January 2021 - more details to follow...

Bellboard Virtual Hub - now open!

The Ringing World has launched a new, free service for ringers to use to find out about events happening across the world of ringing: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/virtual-hub.php>

The 'Virtual Hub' will collect together different resources, updates and details of future events relating to virtual ringing and online ringing-related activities. To start with it has four sections. **News** will include recent ... news. **Useful links** is a list of some of the new ringing resources available from across the internet, including links to the main Central Council and Association of Ringing Teachers resource collections. **Featured video** is a selected YouTube video. Finally, **Upcoming virtual events** lists online talks and online ringing practices that have been entered in the diary.

The diary itself has now been improved with two new event categories: online talk and online ringing. If you organise online presentations or are planning a Ringing Room practice that you'd like to open to visitors, please put them in the Diary! If your online talk is recorded and placed on

YouTube, there's a special field for 'online talk' events to add a YouTube link - this will embed the video in the event details so it can be watched through BellBoard. Your talk might be the next featured hub video!

There are a few smaller enhancements to the Diary. Events can now be listed with start and end times (optional) as well as dates. There is also a 'cancellation' option to mark events as cancelled with just a checkbox. This will play a part in a large new set of features we very much hope to launch in a few months' time.

We encourage

- All groups with online talk series to consider using the BellBoard diary to organise and promote them
- Organisers of online ringing sessions to list them in the diary if you would welcome visitors
- Finally, please email the Editor with any suggestions for resource links, news or future features.

By Will Bosworth, Ringing World Editor

Upcoming virtual events

[Add an event](#) or go to the [diary](#).

Online Talks

Tuesday	12:00	Association of Ringing Teachers — Ringing Room Workshop
	19:30	Association of Ringing Teachers — Ringing Room Workshop
Wednesday	19:00	St Martin's Guild — Exploring Treble Dodging Minor
Thursday	12:00	Association of Ringing Teachers — Ringing Room Workshop
	19:30	Ely Diocesan Association — Methodoku Mayhem
Saturday	11:30	Association of Ringing Teachers — Ringing Room Workshop

Online Ringing

Friday	20:30	Handbell Stadium Open Practice
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Updates from around the District

Successful first Association online course: Intro to Plain Hunt on Ringing Room



Great fun was had by all, and excellent progress made by the learners, on the SCACR's first ever online ringing course. Seven learners and ten helpers assembled on Zoom on the morning of Saturday 14th November, ready to tackle Plain Hunt Doubles. The learners had varying degrees of tower bell experience, ranging from just starting out on Plain Hunt to being able to call simple touches of Doubles methods.

The session started with everyone introducing themselves. Anne Franklin then explained the basic theory, after which we split into two groups to practise on Ringing Room (many of the helpers were strangely delighted at the opportunity to "bag" a new virtual tower!).

After lots of laughter, and more than a couple of instances of some of the "helpers" going wrong (particularly yours truly!), the learners had mastered ringing an inside bell to Plain Hunt Doubles. Some paused for a coffee break and a chat at half-way, others were super-keen and continued ringing. By the end of the session, all the learners had successfully rung the treble to Grandsire Doubles. Many thanks to all the helpers, and congratulations to all the learners on their fantastic progress!

The Association is now running weekly Novices' Practices on Ringing Room - more details on the website calendar.

If you have a suggestion or request for a mini online course, please do get in touch with the Master, Rob Lane, via master@scacr.org

by Steph Pendlebury

Highlights from the November SCACR General Committee meeting

The first word that springs to mind when you hear the phrase "committee meeting" may well be "boooooorrrring!", but hopefully you'll find several things of interest in this quick summary!

- Key updates:
The pilot online mini-course ("Intro to Ringing Room" on 28th October) was a success, so we're planning to run a series of online courses using Ringing Room and Zoom, starting with Plain Hunt (14th November).
- We will hold an online Young Ringers' Forum for all SCACR members aged under-25. This is an opportunity for the Young Ringers to tell us what they would like in terms of events and training (in addition to that for the RWNYC). We'll be in touch with Young Ringers with more details soon - in the meantime, if you're a Sussex Young Ringer and have ideas and suggestions, please get in touch via master@scacr.org!



- Hamish is organising another Handbell Morning on [Saturday 28th November](#) (see the website calendar for more details).
- Save the date! SCACR Christmas Quiz (online) on [Saturday 19th December](#).
- Steph and Hamish have written an "Events Organisers' Guidance" document. This is to help people with events planning, including advertising, risk assessment, and safeguarding. Although originally intended for in-person events, a lot of it also applies to online events. The guidance document can be found in our Resources area: [Other Documents](#)

Of course we're all concerned about keeping in touch with ringers across the Association, and doing our best to ensure that as many as possible return to ringing once restrictions are lifted. So a lot of the meeting discussions focus on this. The other admin (insurance, safeguarding, finances, etc) continues even while we're not ringing.

Since the first lockdown, the Committee has been meeting on the first Saturday of each month (rather than twice per year). If you have questions or suggestions for the Committee, please do get in touch with the Secretary, Hamish McNaughton, via secretary@scacr.org.

By Steph Pendlebury, Northern District Secretary

SOUNDBOW, the SCACR quarterly magazine



Single copies still only £1 or make life easier and take out a subscription for just £6 per year.

This will guarantee four editions of Soundbow delivered straight to your door as soon as they are printed. No more waiting for someone to come along with some for sale - they may never come and then you have missed out!

Soundbow reports on Association events, contains ringing themed articles and gives an insight into what is happening right across the county. Hopefully something of interest for everyone to enjoy!

To take out a subscription contact Kathy Howard at soundbow99@gmail.com, phone 01903 813653 or there is an application form on the SCACR website for you to download.

Why, When, Where and How? Interviews with ...

This series of interviews by Stephanie Pendlebury turns the spotlight on individual ringers. This time she shines a light on Gerald Sandwell and Karen and Stephen Prowse.



Gerald Sandwell, Worth

Gerald Sandwell is a past Master (1989-92 - and he still blames Peter Hurcombe for that!) and Honorary Life Member of the Association

When and where did you start ringing?

I started ringing at Thorpe Bay in Essex. They had a brand-new Taylors' ring of 8 when we moved there in 1947. I started ringing there in 1948.

Where do you ring now?

Worth

How did you get into ringing?

In the middle of the war, we lived in a little village in Norfolk. I was sent off to boarding school aged 7 or 8. My father learned to ring for VE day, and never rang again afterwards! We were always moving, and I was often in the church choir. My voice broke when we were in Thorpe Bay, and my father suggested that I took up ringing.

There was a very nice band, with quite a few young people. While I was learning there, Frank Lufkin (the tower captain at the nearby 10-bell tower, Prittlewell) took me to one side one day and told me he wanted to see me at the Prittlewell practice - he took me under his wing. We formed a group called the Southend and District Guild, with about 12 churches and a lot of youngsters - as a lad, I was Master of that guild for a year. I moved to Sussex in 1972.

What do you like most about ringing?

One of the things that I enjoy is actually listening to the music of good striking - I can stand for hours listening to good ringing. It's very nice to be part of it, but I also admire listening to it. I like the music of triples; I used to ring a lot of spliced triples. I also enjoy it because it's a service to the church, and all my life I have been involved in serving the church, one way or another. And wherever you go, worldwide, you can meet up with other ringers.

What do you find most challenging?

Learning and retaining advanced or intricate methods. I have found over the years that you have to make time to do this, and you have to get out and practise elsewhere, not just at your own tower.

Who do you get inspiration from/What inspires you?

I have done an awful lot of teaching - I do enjoy teaching ringing. I was Education Officer for the Association for some time; during that time, I helped to develop the Association Ringing Course. I get a tremendous kick out of seeing any learner, but youngsters particularly, making progress, and having had something to do with helping that.

Karen & Stephen Prowse, East Grinstead



When and where did you start ringing?

Karen & Stephen - July 2015, Caterham St Mary's in Surrey

Where do you ring now?

We will ring at East Grinstead, when we're allowed to, but also ring at Coleman's Hatch and some of our old Surrey haunts. We haven't had the chance to ring at many Sussex towers because as soon as we moved here the lockdown started.

How did you get into ringing?

We went to a churchyard for a cup of tea and cake, which had a sign up for an open day and we went up the belltower to watch a demonstration. Stephen asked to have a go, but they wouldn't let him! We thought it would be really easy and you'd just pull a rope. But they told us to come back on Friday night for practice night, which we did, and the rest is history. We became more and more obsessed with it, and it took over our lives somewhat.

What do you like most about ringing?

Stephen - I like learning a new method and then ringing a quarter peal of it, and also going on outings with several towers and a pub lunch.

Karen - the fun and the chat and meeting people, and also the outings - I love to go to pretty villages and look round the church buildings.

What do you find most challenging?

Stephen - striking, and ringers' attitudes to striking. The emphasis on perfect or near-perfect striking; some people can be a bit rude about this, and the obsession with perfection can take the fun out of ringing.

Karen - I can get stressed and feel out of my depth very easily, so feeling like being put on the spot, for example when ringing new methods is challenging.

Who do you get inspiration from/What inspires you?

Stephen - I'm very competitive, so I'm inspired by doing things before someone else can!

Karen - I look forward to visiting and ringing at other towers in Sussex.



SCACR CLOTHING – WINTER 2020

CHECK OUT 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.

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News from the wider world of ringing...

Women in Ringing

Those of you with [Ringing World subscriptions](#) will have noticed that last week's issue focuses on Women in Ringing. A new [Workgroup](#) is researching the question: "Why is it that there is an even gender balance among ringers in the early stages of ringing, but the gender distribution changes at more 'advanced' levels?". The aim of this project is to determine possible barriers to women, and causes for this imbalance. Ringers of any gender are invited to share their views and experiences [here](#) to help: <https://www.womeninringing.info/>

Keep well, keep safe and let's hope we are all ringing and socialising again soon! Don't forget to send updates, photos, anecdotes and jokes to news-north@scacr.org for the next issue of Northern News. And in the meantime, a bit early, but never mind,

***We wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year***