

## Southern News

### January 2021

#### Message from the Secretary

Happy New Year.

There is very little news to share in this edition of Southern News. This year there was a quiz night at Ringmer in January and the Annual District Meeting (ADM) took place at Henfield in February 2020, both before the March lockdown.

The Association's young ringers have met virtually during the year but their national striking competition was cancelled. They are in need of a new co-ordinator, if you're interested in taking on that role do let me know.

I planned, when I took over as Secretary, to visit and ring at most of the towers in the District this year. Obviously this was not possible and neither was I able to organise something for the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020. For a variety of reasons, including my lack of technical ability, I have not tried to organise any virtual events. As you will be aware the Association has organised a range of Sussex wide virtual activities for members.

I will be organising a virtual ADM for 4pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

I have represented the Southern District at a number of County Association General Committee meetings, the first in person before lock down, the remainder now taking place on a monthly basis by Zoom. I have also been part of a group involved in writing generic risk assessments that will be needed for association insurance purposes when we next meet in person.

It would be great to get some more volunteers on the committee and in particular to have a Newsletter editor.

Richard Neal  
Southern District Secretary

#### News from Towers

##### Southover

Southover tower has maintained two evenings of ringing activity since March.

On a Monday night a novices practice is organised. Ringing room is being used and our novice ringers are making good progress. The worry is that progress in the virtual environment will be difficult to replicate on open bells when good handling is required.

On Tuesday evenings there is a group Zoom meeting that does not involve any virtual ringing. There have been a variety of quiz style events and Tuesday evenings are perhaps best described as a social event.

We managed some service ringing in the late summer and early autumn on five bells.

One ringing family in the Southover team tested positive for Covid, thankfully symptoms were relatively slight and a full recovery has been made.

In the summer a socially distanced picnic meeting was held on a Lewes recreation field and a walking outing around some local towers took place in August. Southover ringers and some non-ringing partners have used WhatsApp to organise a walking group and a group that comments on Strictly Come Dancing.

Richard Neal

### **Ringmer**

Ringmer Bellringers have held weekly practices online since the 8th April. A new carpet has been fitted in the ringing room and we have taken advantage of this upheaval by having a huge clear up and change around. We've managed to meet up socially, taking part in the Association Quiz in August and for two group meals at the Anchor pub. We have rung on eight occasions in the church and nine of our ringers participated. We also had four practises ringing carols on handbells before the second lockdown. We are looking forward to ringing in church again. But most importantly, we are very thankful that none of our members have contracted covid!

Sue Hemington

### **Keymer**

Despite checking/servicing the bells and thorough cleaning of the three floors of the Tower by a small team, we were unable to return to ringing in July. The distance between ropes, no matter how we configured it (!) was less than the 2m guidance. Our band is comprised of individuals, many in single households, so no family group ringing either.

We have concentrated on supporting the individuals in our band through coffee mornings and, a Pimms evening in members' gardens and gatherings in our local pub under the gazebo for pizza & pints.

We had hoped to return when the proposed reduction to 1m came into force, but lockdown got in the way.

In the meantime five members have participated in Northern Divisions' Novices sessions in Ringing Room, ably organised by Steph Pendlebury. We are finding these challenging, but hopefully they are keeping some 'bell' part of our brains active!

Diana Webley Ward

### **Brighton**

Since a final 'physical' practice in March, Brighton ringers have held weekly virtual practices using Zoom and Ringing Room. We have managed to ring a variety of methods including some Surprise Major. A recent attempt on 12 bells proved slightly too much for our internet speed.

During August and September we rang for services at St Nicks on 3 bells (the most permitted under the distancing rules) for 15 minutes. This included Stedman front work and plenty of 'three

blind mice'. The church have been very good at getting us back in a 'COVID secure' manner, which has included leaving the tower doors wide open. During some of the stormier Sundays this brought a new meaning to the term 'ventilation', and on one morning in particular the treble ringer would have done better to keep their raincoat on.

The band looks forward to resuming normal ringing as soon as safely possible. The next round of works to St Peters Church have begun and, as before, this means the bells cannot be used. There is not yet an end date set for the works (much like the pandemic).

Tom Neal

### **Bell Restoration**

Thought I would send you all some festive cheer and the promising news of bells near to Lewes...

Rodmell bells are currently being re-tuned and work to rebuild and strengthen the bellframes has now started. The ringing room has now been opened up to the church and decorated, ready for the bells' return. We are on schedule to hang them in February/March and hope that restrictions may have eased enough to ring them for Easter.

Iford has an ancient set of three bells cast in 1441, which I have had stays and sliders fitted to by the bellhangers, who also re-hung two bells in their pits as they previously hit the frames as they swung. They are now ringable, but the longer-term plan is for conservation work to the frame (parts of which date to 1225!) and to add more supporting timbers to make them fit for the long term.

Piddinghoe's three bells are to be rehung in a new steel frame beneath the existing and we are hoping to augment with a second (top) frame which will sit within the existing timber frame, so that they can be made into a five or even a six - watch this space! We are hoping to at least rehang the existing three during 2021.

Michael Royaltton-Kisch

# Quarter Peals

Ringling Room UK

Ringmer

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

1260 Doubles (5m)

300 Grandsire, 240 Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bod, 360 St Simon's, 120 St Martin's

1 Sue Donbroski

2 Pat Aylward

3 John Stamper

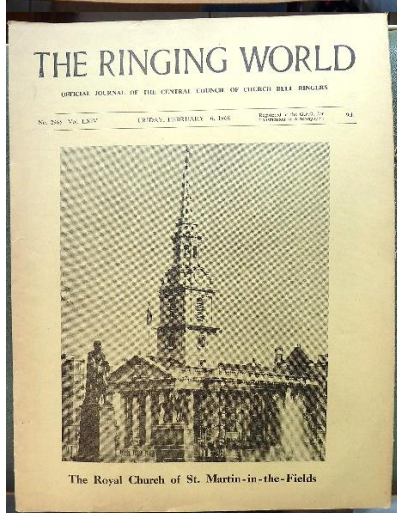
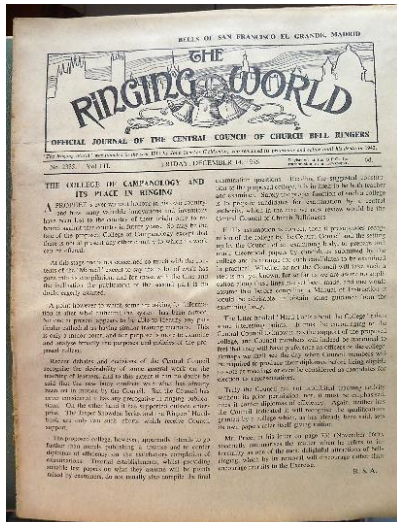
4 Jonathan Franklin

5 Anne Franklin ( C )

6 Sue Hemington

First on ringing room; 1,2,3,6

## Advertisements



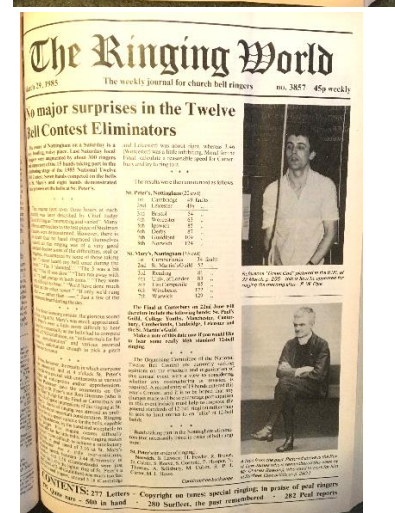
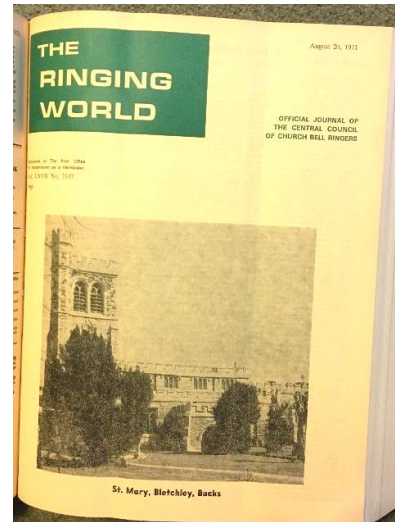
**FREE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS THEM!**

Ringling Worlds from mid 1956 to the end of the 1988 are going for free!

If anyone is interested in having some or all of them please telephone 01903 813653, or email [Soundbow99@gmail.com](mailto:Soundbow99@gmail.com)

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Otherwise they will be recycled.



## Future events

### Weekly Online Ringing Practices - "Novices' Practice" and "Moving on to Minor"

**Novices' Practices** - these will restart on **Saturday 9th January, 15.00-16.30**, covering rounds & call changes up to ringing Plain Minor methods inside. All welcome! We are looking for a few more helpers, as well as new learners. [Register here](#) (by 5 pm on Friday).

**Moving on to Minor** - starting from **Saturday 16th January, 16.30-17.45**. Would you like to progress your knowledge and skills on doubles and minor methods? As well as the Saturday afternoon sessions, there will be some homework (writing methods out and/or using Mobil/Abel). We are also looking for helpers. [Register in advance here](#).  
More details on the [website calendar](#).

### Change Ringing Handbell Morning

#### Next Handbell Morning - Saturday 30 January, 9.45 am to 12.30 pm

All welcome at the online handbell morning! This event is open to beginners, those who enjoy handbell ringing but don't have a regular group to ring with, and existing handbell groups in Sussex and nearby. If you're not familiar with Ringing Room or Zoom, there's a technology familiarisation session beforehand. Full details on the [website calendar](#), including how to register.

If you would like to join in please email Hamish McNaughton at [hamish@wandleys.uk](mailto:hamish@wandleys.uk) stating which of the focus groups you would like to join and whether you would like to take advantage of the familiarization session. Information regarding logging into Zoom and the Ringing Rooms will be supplied to those wishing to attend.

### Annual District Meetings (ADMs) - Saturdays in February

These will take place on Saturday afternoons in February, via Zoom. Northern District - 6th February; West - 13th; South - 20th; East - 27th (details on the website calendar contact your District Secretary to register). Join in to contribute to plans for the coming months, and to nominate Association Officers and elect your District committee. If you'd like to stand as an Association Officer at the AGM in May, you'll need to get proposed and seconded at an ADM first. We're also looking for volunteers to get involved with Young Ringers, Training (and Recruitment), and Comms & Events. Could you help?

### Reserve the date for the Southern District Annual District Meeting

**4pm 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

If there is anything you want to be put on the agenda for the meeting please contact Richard Neal Southern District Secretary [sec-south@scacr.org](mailto:sec-south@scacr.org) who will shortly be able to register your application to attend and issue the Zoom link.

### Could you be a Survival & Recovery Champion?

Do you have great ideas about how to keep ringers engaged during the current restrictions, or perhaps you're looking for ideas? We are looking for one or more ringers in each District to join a [global network of Recovery Champions](#) - to share and develop ideas for how to keep ringers interested and engaged. You don't need to be an experienced ringer! **If you could help, please contact Hamish ([secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org)).**

### **Subscriptions and keeping your details up-to-date**

Plans are in progress to enable members to update their own membership details via the website - please do encourage all the ringers in your band to do this. It is hoped that 2021 subscriptions will be collected by Tower Correspondents and paid to the SCACR via BACS.

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Please pass on any news for future editions of Southern News to Richard Neal (District Secretary) 01273 473603 [sec-south@scacr.org](mailto:sec-south@scacr.org)

### **Committee**

- Richard Neal (District Secretary) 01273 473603 [sec-south@scacr.org](mailto:sec-south@scacr.org)
- Rob Lane [master@scacr.org](mailto:master@scacr.org)
- Anne Franklin [annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk)
- Nick Cullen [brf-south@scacr.org](mailto:brf-south@scacr.org)

See [SCACR website](#) for more information