

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - May 2021

Roadmap to Ringing Resumption

The remaining proposed dates are:

- ✓ 17th May, tower bell ringing with social distancing including services and practises
- ✓ 21st June, all legal restrictions likely to be lifted (but with possible restrictions, e.g. facemasks, social distancing)

Guidelines for May 17th to June 21st

The following guidance from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers was given on 3rd May 2021:

The Rule of Six applies indoors. This means that only six people from different families can meet at one time. (However, if only two families are meeting together, the total can exceed 6 persons). In practice this means that ringing sessions should be pre-arranged for 6 people, rather than drop-in.

Hands - Face - Space rules apply. Hand sanitisation should take place before ringing and before changing ropes. Face coverings should be worn at all times inside. Social distancing in the tower should be 2 metres at all non-ringing times. But whilst ringing, "1 metre plus mitigations" will be acceptable.

Consider **Lateral Flow Tests**. If you have a band with a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated ringers and wish for additional information on whether you are carrying the virus, a lateral flow test performed during the previous 48 hours may be helpful (data from Oxford University and Public Health England reports that over 75% of those with COVID test positive with these tests and over 95% of those with high viral loads).

Restrict ringing time to 45 minutes, whilst maintaining good tower ventilation. During these weeks, longer periods of ringing should be restricted to planned episodes undertaken by low risk individuals, whilst researching the effectiveness of ventilation in a particular tower, using high-quality CO₂ monitoring equipment (some guidance is being developed for this, including example monitors to use and what to do with them).

Restricting the time of ringing during the period is not a statutory requirement, but a recommendation for this transition period based on an average well-ventilated ringing chamber.

Survive & Recover

- Stay connected Virtual Hub
- Identify Local Recovery Champions
- Communicate with Grass Roots ringers in your area

What's On

Recovery Convention - 8-16 May

With the hope that we will soon all be able to meet up in larger groups and start ringing together, we have put together a series of presentations to illustrate examples of good practice. These presentations are being hosted online during the week commencing

Saturday 8th May and are aimed at anyone who is wanting to make the ringing recovery a success. The final session will be "Ringing Schools - town and country" 4 pm, Sun 16th May (book in advance here: ringingteachers.org/news/articles/book-your-place-recovery-convention).

Recordings of all the previous talks are available on YouTube here:

youtube.com/c/ringingteachers/videos, including "Developing a Ringing Cluster", "Holding a

Successful Practice", "Attracting and Retaining New Ringers", "Managing Expectations" (of lockdown learners), and "Getting bells and towers in order".

There is a survival & recovery toolbox, with lots of resources: ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox

The latest survival & recovery newsletter is available to read here: cccbr.org.uk/2021/04/22/survival-recovery-news-sheet-issue-5/.

Novices' and "Moving On" Practice (Ringing Room)

Join the Association online practices - all welcome! Every Saturday, from 3 pm



Join the friendly and supportive **Novices' Practice** to have a go at Ringing Room, and progress your skills from rounds and call changes up to ringing inside to Plain Doubles methods, including Plain Bob, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, St Simon's and beyond...

The Novices' Practice is followed by the **Moving On Practice** - covering an introduction to and development of skills for ringing Minor, Triples and Major methods, e.g. St Clement's/Oxford/Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Stedman Doubles/Triples.

Please do encourage your friends to join as learners or helpers!

You do not need to commit to attend every week.

You'll need to fill in the Google forms for each practice in advance (deadline 5 pm the Thursday before) to join - contact Steph via sec-north@scacr.org for details. Joining instructions will be sent a few hours in advance to those who have registered.

Note that the timings are slightly later than previously:

- Meet for a chat from 3.30 pm (please join by 3.50 pm at the latest for the Novices' Practice)
- 4.00-4.55 pm - Novices' Practice
- 4.55-5.05 pm - break
- 5.05-6.00 pm - Moving On Practice

To sign up for either or both the Novices and Minor sessions, or if you are unsure about the technology and want to chat about it first, contact Jonathan via jonathan.fr@nklin.myzen.co.uk.

Young ringers' meet up: Sunday 16 May 2021, 14:00 - 15:30

Worth Park, Pound Hill, Crawley



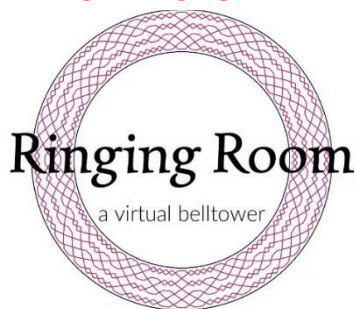
Open to all ringers aged under 25, we'd like to get to know you and start to plan our ringing activities for the rest of the year. There will be handbells, boomwhackers, games and cake, of course! No church bells just yet, but it won't be long - we have plans!

Come along to one of our meet ups if you can. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

- Sunday 9th May at Ashburnham Place nr Battle <https://goo.gl/maps/Jnjgmbk2SC5ANofY8>
- Sunday 16th May at Worth Park, Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 Off the B2036 near Poundhill (please allow time for parking) <https://goo.gl/maps/wxivmCErxUfTWnr7>
- Sunday 23rd May at Priory Park, Chichester (please park at Northgate car park) <https://goo.gl/maps/8iuYJcGcUTJhnp3X6>

Contact marisa@happymouflon.com for more details and to register as we shall need to meet within Covid guidance. If you're unable to make it and would like to stay in touch, then please email me and provide your consent to be the young ringers' list which will remain confidential. Don't forget to keep an eye on the SCACR Facebook pages for updates too.

Change Ringing Handbell morning - Saturday 22 May, 9.45-12.40



Following-on from the previously successful Handbell mornings, Hamish is organising another online event.

This event is open to all, especially:

- Handbell groups in Sussex and near by
- Those who enjoy change ringing on handbells but do not have a regular practice
- Those who want to have a go

On the day, there will be three focus groups:

- Plain Hunting to Plain Bob
- Plain Bob to Treble Bob
- Beyond Treble Bob

If you are not used to the technology, please contact Hamish and he will arrange a familiarization session.

If you would like to join in please email Hamish McNaughton at hamish@wandleys.uk stating which of the focus groups you would like to join. Information regarding logging into Zoom and the Ringing Rooms will be supplied to those wishing to attend.

[Full details of all events on the SCACR website calendar: scacr.org/calendar](https://scacr.org/calendar)

Updates from around the District

Brenda Jones of Horsham 90th Birthday Party



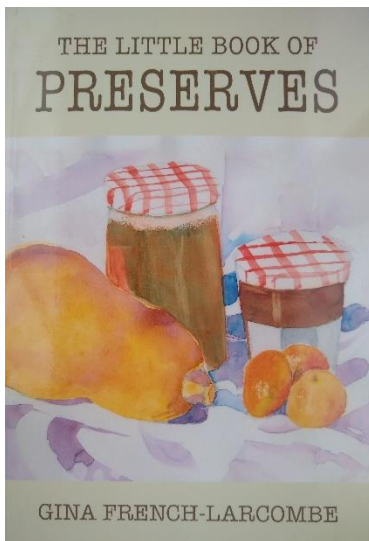
On Monday 12th April the Government ordered that the country should celebrate Brenda's 90th birthday by opening all pubs, clubs and bars - although only to drink outside. Even the hairdressers of Horsham had to pay Brenda a visit to tidy up those silvery lockdown locks.

Brenda's family and friends organised a two hour Zoom meeting to which some twenty current and former Horsham ringers were able to join in and sing a rather disjointed "Happy Birthday". We were part of some sixty family and friends from across the globe to take part in a quiz and view a collage of photos covering many events in Brenda's life. We all watched as the candles were lit and the cake cut - what a shame Zoom does not allow you to download a slice to try!

Many congratulations Brenda from all your ringing friends and we look forward to having a pint of beer with you again with or without a slice of cake.



Little Book of Preserves Review



You have to search hard to find connections between the two towers I run. One is a 9cwt six in a Norman church surrounded by one of the country's leading rewilding projects, the other a 42cwt 12 in a magnificent Wren church in the City of London. But it seems preserving is common to both!

The Rector of St Mary-le-Bow is one of the patrons of the Dalemmain Marmalade Festival and my predecessor as steeplekeeper is a renowned marmalade maker. And now one of our band at Shipley has produced the most delightful book on preserving.

I do not find much time to read (I have to confess I am still working my way through the Christmas edition of the RW!) but I skipped through this book within a couple of days. The author has taken a topic that many would be reticent to tackle and shown how simple it can be. The different techniques are described in an uncomplicated way with many practical tips: "If you don't have the time to make jam when the fruit is at its peak, freeze ready for later as it doesn't spoil."

There are recipes for all sorts of jams & jellies, bottled pears, bottled tomatoes, sloe and apple butter and many more. I have certainly got my eye on one of the chutney recipes! There is also a section on different herbs, from which I learnt a lot.

The author has produced everything in this book: The words, the pictures and the artwork. Apparently this one of the first books the printers have produced on their new printing press which has just arrived from Japan and the quality is stunning.

I thoroughly recommend the book to anyone who likes food! It is on sale for £12.00 including postage and packing and all profits will go to the Shipley tower fund. Order from:

Gina French-Larcombe, Green Gates, Hooklands Lane, Shipley, RH13 8PX or ginafrench@gfrs.co.uk. Payment by bank transfer or if paying by cheque, please make payable to Gina Larcombe.

Many thanks to Simon Meyer

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

This series of interviews by Stephanie Pendlebury turns the spotlight on individual ringers. This time she focuses on Mother and Daughter Ringers, Heather Jordan and Susie Bowman.

(If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer for future interviews, please do contact Steph at sec-north@scacr.org).

Heather Jordan & Susie Bowman



Heather lives in the Southern District but rings in the Northern District; she's been ringing at Bolney for a long time and still really enjoys it. Susie is a member of the Northern District Committee, and now lives in the house that Heather, her mum, grew up in! While Heather started ringing in the mid-1960s and Susie in the late '80s, both at Bolney. They now both ring at Bolney.

So how did they get into ringing? Heather says "there wasn't a great youth club, and my parents were church-goers but I didn't want to join the choir, so I got co-opted into ringing. Then I went to university and stopped ringing, during which time Bolney ringing stopped, and I didn't start again until we moved to Hurstpierpoint in the late '70s. The Northern Division was instrumental in getting ringing restarted at Bolney." Susie tells us that she got into ringing "because of Mum! It was either that or playing in the brass band. I also stopped for years, and only got back into it about 6 or 7 years ago."

While Susie likes the mental challenge of learning and ringing new methods, and also the social side, for Heather its "having a drink after ringing! And ringing call changes on a Sunday morning that sound really, really nice."

In terms of what they find most challenging, for Heather it is ringing a method on 10 bells. While for Susie, it is "finding time! With work and family, it can be hard to find time for ringing as well. I also find ropesight challenging!"

Lastly they were asked who inspired them. For Susie it was "Mum! I wouldn't be ringing now if it wasn't for Mum." While for Heather it was the Browns (Stan and Harry) at Hurstpierpoint, "especially when I had to take over as tower captain."

Many thanks to Heather and Susie

Other news from around and about Safeguarding advice for online ringing



Even as lockdowns wane, online ringing is probably here to stay. This new platform has afforded many opportunities for ringing, learning, and meeting up, but obviously raises some concerns about the ways it can make younger ringers vulnerable.

The CCCBR safeguarding officers have been offering advice to people with concerns about specific cases that have occurred in online ringing settings, and there has been at least one case where a serious concern was raised which had to be followed up with the appropriate diocesan authorities and the police. We would therefore encourage everyone in the ringing community to look out for youngsters in online ringing.

After an appeal on Facebook for volunteers, a small working party came together to put together experience-based guidance on the organisation and running of safe online ringing activities plus some short and snappy advice for youngsters. We were very pleased that this group included young ringers, association safeguarding officers, someone from the international ringing community and people who work within safeguarding young people both in and out of ringing.

The document produced and accompanying summary, highlighted on our main safeguarding page [here](#), are a compilation of best practices for safe online ringing activities. We encourage all organisers of online ringing to familiarise themselves with these and to publicise them to all involved in online ringing. We suggest that it would be best practice for associations and societies to build this guidance into both their practice and policies.

Safeguarding advice for young ringers online

In general bellringers are lovely people but very rarely things can go wrong. To help you stay safe when ringing online:

- **When you are going to a practice make sure there is someone you know and trust there.**
- **If someone says something inappropriate use the "Report Behaviour" link on Ringing Room and tell an adult you trust (mum or dad, tower captain or another family member).**
- **You can take screenshots to keep a record of conversations.**
- **If you need more help or don't know who to talk to, go to cccbr.org.uk/safeguarding.**