

Look To!

The Eastern District Newsletter. June 2021.



I am sure that like me, you are all looking forward to being back in your Towers and ringing again. Provided the next and hopefully, final stage of the easing of restrictions happens, we have planned a few events to ease us back in. Alan and Louise Pink have kindly agreed for us all to meet in their garden and to use the mini-ring built by Alan Collings. Nick Cant has also agreed to lead a walk along the seafront at Eastbourne. Our first planned ringing will be in September at Alfriston. There is plenty of space and the ropes hang in the open Church and so a good place for our first practice meeting.

Much to look forward to!

Meanwhile, we all need to carry out checks in our belfries to make sure that the Jackdaws have not invaded and all is in safe working order ready to re-start. If you need advice or help in doing this then please ask.

We are all busy people but ringers are getting rarer. Many will have given up over the last year and so we need to do our best to support each other and look out for new recruits. Do come and support the Association meetings if you can to keep in contact and pool our resources.

Mark Dawkins.

Words from Marion Your District Secretary

I think some of you have started ringing again, hope it's going well. We are hoping that we will be able to go ahead with a few meetings this year and I hope that some of you will be able to join us in one of our meeting. Please look at the website for latest information or contact a committee member. If any of you have any ideas you would like us to look into don't hesitate to contact me.

Marion Hollands

Join the Association online practices - all welcome!

Every Saturday, from 3.30 pm

Are you missing ringing, or missing chatting with your ringing friends from other towers? Perhaps you're worried that you've forgotten everything you'd to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Saturday, June 26th

Meet at the Sea Cadet centre at 10.30 a.m. (BN227LA), where there is parking by the Fishermen's Club (pay and display) or along Royal Parade, in Beach Road or adjacent roads. Then walk along the (Lower) Promenade all the way to Holywell (about 4Km or 2.5 miles).

Along the way we are following part of the "Frankish Woman" trail, (a Towner Gallery event, including several sculptures of items found buried in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery).

At Holywell there is a tea chalet/cafe, either the Italian Gardens or beach (for a possible picnic), and you can walk along the beach a short way to see the recently restored "Holy Well".

If anyone is interested, and would like to walk further, there is another artwork in Whitbread Hollow, about 1K further on along Downland tracks on the slopes towards Beachy Head.

Non-walkers are welcome to meet up at Holywell, and parking should be possible nearby. There is also a frequent bus service back to town and (a little less frequent), to the Royal Parade starting point. Or, of course, there is the option of walking back.

Timings (estimated after the start!): Sea Cadet centre leave at 10:30, Holywell arrive 11.30-12.0. We would arrange (if wanted) the walk further on at the time, but would likely be at 1.0, returning to Holywell by about 2.00p.m. ready to walk back to our cars.

This would all be subject to amendment or curtailment due to the weather!!!

Upcoming Events

Saturday Practices.

June 26th walk and picnic

Eastbourne sea front. Meet at 10.30

Details in the newsletter for this event.

July 24th 2021

Forewood Ring from 2.30 **TBC**

Please check the website to see if this event is still happening as due to covid we may have to postpone this event

I will be collecting names for this event as if restrictions are not lifted we will only be able to have thirty people attending.

There is also a walk that could be done around the RSPB nature reserve if people would like to.

Going forward we would like to arrange further meetings when restrictions are eased.

Please keep the following dates free

September 25th 2021

October 23rd 2021

November 27th 2021

Sussex County Association of Change Ringers

Eastern Division BRF Report – June 2021

The BRF committee recently met, via Zoom, to consider an application from Hooe for a BRF grant. Their situation is tricky as the expected source of funds for their bell restoration project has not materialised. Further details of the scheme are awaited.

The amount available in the BRF Fund for bell restoration, after taking into account current grant commitments of £35,300, is £8,935. There is now an urgent need to fund raise for the BRF, otherwise it will not be possible to help other towers within the association.

Pip Pawley

Eastern Division BRF Rep

Young Ringers - get a pair of e-bells for £25

Are you under-25? Do you like ringing hand bells, or would you like to give it a go? SCACR is offering young ringers a grant of £65 to buy a pair of **electronic handbells** for just £25 (usually £90). Contact Hamish McNaughton for details: [**secretary@scacr.org**](mailto:secretary@scacr.org).

Midweek Practices on Zoom

Please contact Pauline or Nick if you are interested in attending a mid-week practice on Zoom

SUSSEX CLOTHING IS BACK

Loose polo shirts, fitted t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops, fleeces – all embroidered with the Sussex logo.

Many colours, styles and sizes (including children) to suit all.



Please visit the Clothing page (can be found under Resources) on the SCACR website for full details and order form. Orders will be placed on the last day of every month, delivery time is approx. 4 weeks from the order being placed with the supplier.

Any questions, please get in touch with Sandra Alford at clothing@scacr.org

FEEDBACK SO FAR

I am really pleased with my rugby shirt – it is a great length for ringing!

I love my polo shirt, it's a really nice fit and colour.

Fleece and rugby shirt are lovely and fit very well, thank you!

I shall wear my t-shirt with pride!

Good price, good quality and good fit – thank you.

Love curling up in my hoodie!

Shortbread

Ingredients

250g Softened butter

300g Flour

Pinch of salt

100g caster sugar

50g cornflour

Method.

Heat the oven to 160 centigrade

Grease and line an 8 X 10 inch or 9 inch round tin.

Cream the butter and sugar together. Add the flour, cornflower and salt mixing until a soft dough is formed.

Press into tin, when even prick all over with a fork.

Bake for 25 to 40 minutes until shortbread is dried out and light golden brown in colour. Sprinkle with caster sugar when baked.



All Saints' Church, Eastbourne – Bell Restoration Project

The long-awaited restoration of the ring of eight bells at All Saints' has begun with the removal of the bells at the end of April 2021.

The project began with the removal of the redundant clock weight shaft in the ringing chamber which will provide a little more room, together with the enlargement of the hatch in the ceiling. This was followed by the dismantling and removal of the church clock by Smith of Derby and taken to their workshops for a complete overhaul – the first in their 134-year history.

The work of dismantling of all stays and wheels was started by the small local team of Ian Clark (Pevensey), Pip Pawley (All Saints') and Dick Portnall (a friend of David Leworthy) before being joined by Tim Whitehead and Simon Westman from Nicholson's. By the end of the first day, the dismantling of all sliders, stays, slider boards, clappers, wheels and Ellacombe hammers, together with the opening up of the hatch in the floor of the bell chamber - the latter being 'floorboards' two and a half inch thick – had been completed, ready for the lowering of the bells to commence the following day.

Three chain hoists, two manual and one powered, were used to manoeuvre the bells around the bell chamber before they were lowered to the ground floor, where headstocks were removed. The six lighter bells were on display in the church by the Thursday morning ready for viewing by the mid-week communion service congregation. This caused some excitement as many had not appreciated the size of the bells. That afternoon, the bells were loaded onto a 7.5-ton truck ready for transport to Bridport – watching the tenor on the tail lift was nail-biting as it struggled with the weight!

The bells are due back at the church in the week of the 5th July and the whole installation is expected to be completed by Friday 23rd July. A service of celebration for the restored bells will be held on Sunday 8th August 2021, three days before the 138th anniversary of the first ringing of the bells in 1883.





Central Council Rep update Eastern District June 2021.



It's a two-way street.

Central Council Representatives report back to their Association's ringers what's going on in the Central Council ([CCCBR](https://www.cccbr.org)) – but we'd like to hear from you too, we are after all, your representatives.

It might seem a little odd that I'm a ringer living at the other side of the county to the Eastern District, but I was interested in taking on the role, and a vacancy came up. My nomination was uncontested (I kid you not), and prior to the recent unforeseen developments prohibiting our normal ringing activities, I was to be found at a good number of Eastern District events (always the 4th Saturday of the month, but you know that already), organised by your volunteer committee and even helped organised an outing once too, ringing in Brighton, Aldrington and Shoreham.

The Central Council has been working with the House of Bishops Covid Recovery Group, chaired by the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally throughout the Covid 19 pandemic, you will find links to the latest guidance on the SCACR website <https://www.scacr.org/> under latest news. I hope you've managed to get back to ringing somewhere, or will do soon.

We are supporting Pageant master Bruno Peek's 'NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day' <https://www.nhsfrontlineday.org/> – ringing at 8pm on July 5th, the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the NHS, register your 'Ringing of Church Bells 8:00 pm'. It seems we've been missed, our local communities on hearing the bells, realise they've been absent for some time.

I look forward to seeing some of you soon, ringing online in Ringing Room, or face to face. If you don't know what I look like, the mugshot is here: <https://www.scacr.org/about-us/committees-teams/general-committee> and if you'd like to know more about the Central Council, or pass on your thoughts and ideas we are planning for the 2021 AGM (virtual in 2021, not a buzzing road-show event like 2019 but fingers crossed for 2022, please don't hesitate to contact me at ali-son.everett@cccbr.org.uk

LOOK TO EDITOR.

COULD YOU ALL CONSIDER THIS POSITION?

IT ENTAILS CREATING FOUR OF FIVE EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER
A YEAR



Val Clay has advised us that the CCCBR have updated its safeguarding guidance for online ringing and that this should be circulated to all towers.

The link is <https://cccbr.org.uk/safeguarding/>

Keep up to date with the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers

Visit **www.scacr.org**



- Don't have a 'Soundbow' subscription? Contact Kathy Howard at Soundbow99@gmail.com 01903 813653. Yearly postal subscription for four fat issues is still only £6! Why not set up a tower subscription if you don't have one already...
- Find SCACR on Facebook - search for 'SCACR' – the Association has a page and our members have a secure closed group for their posts about ringing in Sussex.
- Find SCACR on Twitter. Use @scacr_bells and @sussexbells
- Contact Alison Everett, your Communications and Events Team leader, at publicity@scacr.org if you want to know more about publicity or social media

Eastern District Committee

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Frances Bradford, Hazel Mottram, Tony Shaw

Alison Everett Central Council Rep



The next edition of Look To! Will be in September 2021.

The deadline for relevant content will be the 31st August 2021.

Send it to sec-east@scacr.org. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!



Update on the latest guidance.

<https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/06/17/continuation-of-step-3-covid-guidance-england/>

Please can you make your members aware that the current ringing guidance is continuing for a further four weeks. If you don't want to circulate a link, the story is posted below.

Best wishes

Simon Linford

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers President

Registered Charity Number: 270036

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/>

Continuation of Step 3 Covid guidance – England

Following discussion with the House of Bishops Recovery Group, there is not going to be any change to the published guidance for England for the four week extension to Step 3 conditions. They were of the opinion that given the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant, any relaxation would be foolish and contrary to all messages being given by the Government and its scientific advisers. We only face a four week extension, and the majority of bands have shown that it is possible to get service and practice ringing going again under the current constraints, and even ring quarter peals.

Risks are not the same for all bands or all ringing environments. Although those who have had two vaccinations may feel that the risk to them is very low, which of course it is, to give guidance that is different for one set of ringers as opposed to another would go against the inclusiveness of ringing.

There are two elements of the mitigation of virus spread that are not guidance but are mandatory – the Rule of Six indoors and the requirement to wear face coverings in a Place of Worship. Those two elements are not open to interpretation. All the rest is guidance, and guidance is there to enable individuals and bands to make informed decisions as to what is right for them.

An update to the one page summary guidance can be found [here](#). The only changes to this from version 1.02 is that the word 'around' has been added before '45 minutes' to emphasise that this has a bit of flexibility based on your tower's characteristics and ventilation (see the footnote). Also a bit of clarification on the 'or two households' alternative to the Rule of Six. Two households means for instance a household of four and a household of three could meet together, but not five unconnected ringers plus a household of another two. It's probably quite unlikely in ringing context.

Finally, when we draw comparison between what we can do in church towers with what we might be able to do in our own homes, in the pub, or in crowded sports stadia, remember that we are not ringing in those environments but in churches. We need to respect the right of the Church to want to protect its volunteers. If, on the other hand, who have someone wanting to impose greater restriction than current guidance suggests, we will be happy to support you in your attempts to open up your ringing, within the current guidance and what your band is comfortable to do.

Simon Linford

President, CCCBR