

Northern News

Northern District – April 2022



Dates for Your Diary

March

Monday 28th **Rounds-onwards 10-bell** East Grinstead 19:30-21:00

April

Saturday 2nd **Building confidence Practice - Rounds onwards** 09:30-12:00
(Western District Event) Washington

Saturday 2nd **Ringling with Coffee & Cake** Slaugham 14:30-16:30
[sign up here](#)

Monday 4th **Advanced Practice - Stedman Triples to Surprise Major** 19:30-21:00
[sign up here](#) Bolney

Saturday 9th **Six bell Practice - Rounds onwards** Rodmell 19:30-21:00
(Southern District Event)

May

SCACR AGM - save the date: Saturday 14th May, at St Swithun's, East Grinstead. More details coming soon...

Come along to have a go at something you wouldn't get to ring at your home tower, try something new, or just get some extra practise in! Friendly helpers will support you. Full details plus other Districts' events on the website calendar: scacr.org/calendar

Under-18s are welcome but **children under 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent** - please contact Steph (sec-north@scacr.org) in advance.

Sign up using the links above (or contact Steph, the District Secretary) at least 24 hours in advance. Practices and events will be cancelled if there's not enough interest.

Practice details

- **Rounds-onwards 10-bell:** you need to be able to ring rounds and call changes competently on 5 or 6 bells before you attend these. It takes a lot of bell control to ring on higher numbers.
- **Advanced 8-bell:** Stedman Triples and Surprise Major, including Pickled Egg methods. You must already be able to ring touches of Triples methods (e.g. Grandsire or Plain Bob) to join these practices.

COVID safety

- don't attend if you feel unwell, and take a lateral flow test beforehand - don't attend if you test positive
- ventilation is extremely important - don't close open windows or doors
- numbers in the ringing room will be limited - you might be asked to wait outside the ringing room
- use hand sanitiser before ringing; face masks are optional

District News

Commander Richard Alan Preston Cossins 1943 - 2022

The funeral for Richard Cossins, ringer at Lower Beeding, Holy Trinity (and previously at Horsham, St Mary the Virgin) took place at Horsham, St Mary the Virgin on Wednesday 16th March. Ringers in the band were: David Capewell, Margaret Oram, Ian Oram, Stephen Pocock, Rosemary Cattell, Mike Cattell, Steph Pendlebury, Ian Wiltshire, Graham Burling, Ian Smith, Graham Burling and Val Burgess. The tenor was tolled by Mike Cattell before the service.



St Mary's Church Horsham was packed for the funeral this week of Richard Cossins, sometime ringer at Horsham and Lower Beeding. The Horsham bells were rung half-muffled for the service with a plain course of Grandsire Caters to greet the hearse and the tenor then tolled while the coffin was carried into the church. It was poignant that these bells had also been rung for Richard and Mary's wedding.



Richard was a Royal Navy man and in 1972 as a young Lieutenant met Mary, then a WREN. They spoke several times before meeting as they were arranging the programme for the Royal Yacht at Cowes Week involving his ship, HMS Andromeda (the guardship for the Royal Yacht that year) and Mary's boss, the Commander in Chief Naval Home Command in Portsmouth.

It turned out that Mary could not resist the smooth-talking, charming, good-looking, smart Lieutenant and on 23 June 1973 they were married at St Mary's Horsham. Richard and Mary were amongst the very first to have the bells rung then shortly after their rehanging and augmentation to ten and indeed even before their dedication on 29 July. Six people from that happy day were at the funeral service including Captain Christopher Cobley, pictured front right in the guard of honour, who read Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem 'Crossing the Bar'.

Several tours of duty around the world included command of a Kenyan ship, two years in Gibraltar and some time in the Falklands. There were also several house moves around the country. Their children Alistair and Elizabeth were born during all this excitement and in 1983 the family moved to Liss. Richard started work at HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth, as part of the training staff. His Captain gave him a glowing report when he left.

"Richard has almost single-handedly brought Operational Intelligence to the forefront of Naval Warfare training and, with his wide experience



in Communications, Electronic Warfare and Intelligence he is now one of the leading experts in his field".

In 1989 Richard was appointed to head up the Electronic Warfare Unit at RAF Wyton, which meant another house move, this time to one very close to the parish church in St Ives, near Huntingdon, where they both took up a new hobby of bellringing. Richard rang 8 quarter peals during his time in Cambridgeshire at Great Gransden, Over, Brampton, Holywell, St Ives and Hilton between July 91 and July 95 one as tenor cover and seven inside to the following methods: Plain Bob Minor, Plain Bob Triples, Kent Treble Bob Minor and St. Simon/Grandsire/Plain Bob Doubles spliced. He then rang 8 quarter peals, all in St. Mary's Horsham between July 96 and July 2001 all as Tenor cover on Triples except one when in Nov 96 he rang the 6 to Grandsire Triples.

The time teaching inspired Richard to take an OU degree in Maths with a view to a career beyond the Navy. He completed his degree in 1990 and retired from the Navy in 1993. Although life outside the Navy was a difficult adjustment, he threw himself into his new role as a Maths teacher in Crawley and the family followed him back down south, this time settling in Horsham and joining the local band in 1996. After teaching, Richard became a Bursar then for ten years volunteered as Secretary for the Sussex Branch of the armed forces charity SSAFA.

Richard's love of the sea never left him, and his retirement meant he and Mary could enjoy many wonderful cruises visiting many places around the world. The last one to Portugal and Guernsey in April 2019 was particularly memorable as they were joined by Elizabeth and her family.

Very much a family man, his two children and six grandchildren [who called him Bumpa] were a source of great pride and joy to Richard and they enjoyed many good times together.

Richard and Mary had stopped ringing at Horsham by 2009 but happily I was able to persuade them to help us out at Lower Beeding. Richard last rang with us in October 2018, but sadly by then we could begin to see the early signs of memory problems. He was able to join us for coffee after Sunday ringing until the pandemic struck. Tragically he continued to deteriorate quite rapidly with Alzheimer's, one of the cruellest of illnesses, and died on 12th February.

It is impossible to go into more detail here about a life that has been lived to the full. It is only as we have looked back that we have begun to appreciate how much Richard did, how much he achieved and to appreciate the legacy he has left behind. Rest in peace Richard your duty done.

Graham Burling and Mary Cossins (Lower Beeding), and Mike Cattell (Horsham).

Overhaul of bells at Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch

The 8 bells of Coleman's Hatch were restored by Tom Blyth and Co last year. The front five were rehung on ball bearings; all the clappers were refurbished and the frame was repainted. The ceiling bosses and Ellacombe apparatus fittings were also replaced. New ropes of red, white and blue sallies have been fitted.

Ringer needed for Wedding at Turners Hill – Thursday 21st April

Message from Jo Barnes at Turners Hill:

Calling all keen ringers who love ringing at weddings. St Leonard's Turners Hill only ring for weddings now and we are short of one ringer for a wedding on Thursday 21st April (1 pm ringing AFTER the 12.30 service only). We only manage calling rounds & changes but the wedding crowd always loves it!

If you could help, please let Steph know (sec-north@scacr.org) – she will put you in touch with Jo.

12-bell practices and quarter peals (East Grinstead)

The Association and Northern District Committees are keen for 12-bell practices to restart. Are you interested in having a go at ringing on 12? Are you an experienced 10-bell ringer who'd like more opportunities to practice 11/12 bell methods? Or perhaps you're an experienced 12-bell ringer who would like to help pass on your expertise. **Do you have suggestions about what kind of practices should be run, when and how often?** Would you be able to help run these? Please get in touch via Steph (sec-north@scacr.org).



East Grinstead are also looking for a volunteer to organise monthly quarter peals for evensong. Please contact Jackie Hunter, East Grinstead Tower Captain, if you could help (jackiehunter040@gmail.com).

Muffles

Several towers have requested information recently about where to get muffles. Here are some recommendations from other SCACR towers:

- "Big Wilf's" muffles: from Avon Ropes, <https://www.avonropes.co.uk/contact-us.html>
- Ian Hastilow makes muffles - recommended by Ringmer and Chichester Cathedral towers

Association news

Young Ringers events

SCACR has a very active Young Ringers group. If you're a young ringer (under 25 years old), or have a young ringer in your tower, please do contact Marisa to find out how to get involved! Marisa Hayes: 07796 145464; Marisa@happymouflon.com



New Directory for Church bells of Sussex.

Kye, a ringer from Crawley, St John the Baptist, is taking up for what will be a long and exciting journey around every church, RC church, chapels, Town hall and more to gather as much information on every single bell there is.

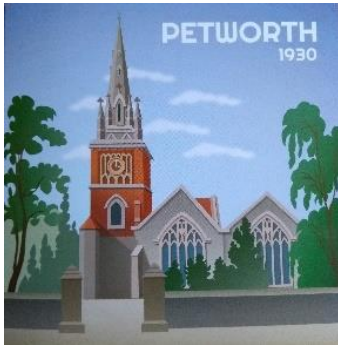
By doing this he is piecing together a website called "The Bells of Sussex" which can be viewed by going to <https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com> so far he's done most of the ones local to him but as soon as he can he'll be going further out. The website will contain: The data on each bell; the inscriptions; a sound recording of the bells and also photographs too.

Rehang of St Peter's Rodmell bells

The 6 Bells of Rodmell, St Peter were beautifully overhauled by Tom Blyth & Co last year by the generosity of Michael Royalton-Kisch. The bells had a complete rehang, the 5th was welded and the bell frame was rebuilt and strengthened. The bells were also returned to be a true Diatonic ring of 6 in the key of Bb. The overhaul was completed and a test ring undertaken on the 24th March 2021.

Fundraising for Sussex Bell Restoration Fund

Several Sussex towers have been awarded BRF grants recently - but this means that the funds are running low! Could you help with fundraising? Perhaps you could organise a raffle, or a cake sale, or some sponsored quarter peals? Contact Graham (brf@scacr.org) for more information.



GREETING CARDS FEATURING PETWORTH CHURCH IN 1930 WHEN IT HAD A SPIRE

DESIGNED BY CHRIS FYNES TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE SUSSEX CHURCHES BELL RESTORATION FUND

The cards are 5 in square, plain inside and supplied with an envelope - 80p each (plus postage if required).

Contact Graham: gr.hills@yahoo.com or 01903-266980

Situations vacant...

Graham Hills will be standing down as Bell Restoration Fund Secretary at the AGM. We are looking for a volunteer to take on this role - please contact Graham (brf@scacr.org) to find out more.

And finally...

New North-West Ringing Course - August 2022

A new **residential ringing course** will be held for the first time in August 2022 and annually thereafter. The residential centre is located in the North West of England, but the course is **open to all ringers**, wherever they are based. We are aiming at ringers in the middle ground - those who are no longer at the early stages of learning, but are not yet experts. So students will typically be comfortable ringing touches of a few methods, and now want to extend their skills to the next level. As well as being educational, the course will, we hope, be informal, relaxed, friendly, fun and entertaining. The course will be based at Myerscough College, near Preston, and is expect to cost around £350 for students and £200 for helpers.



See the [flyer](#) for details and keep up to date via the website at <https://nwringingcourse.uk>. You can now sign up for the mailing list to find out when registration opens.

Please send any news, first peal/quarter peal congratulations, photos, jokes or updates from your tower, etc, for the next edition of Northern News to: news-north@scacr.org.

District Committee

Secretary and Central Council rep: Steph Pendlebury (sec-north@scacr.org)

Committee members: Rosie Gregory, Kye, Richard Pendlebury, Julie Quinn Chris Westwood

Bell Restoration Rep: Simon Alford

Newsletter Editor: Kye (news-north@scacr.org)

Association key contacts

General Secretary: Hamish McNaughton (secretary@scacr.org) Master: Rob Lane (master@scacr.org)

Safeguarding Officer: Val Clay (safeguarding@scacr.org) Treasurer: Sue Gadd (treasurer@scacr.org)

Bell Restoration Fund Secretary: Graham Hills (brf@scacr.org)

Trustees: Mark Dawkins, Jonathan Franklin, Margaret Sherwood, (trustees@scacr.org)