

Look To!



The Eastern District Newsletter June 2022

Words from your editor

Hello everyone! Summer is here, and many of us will be getting away. We'd love to hear all about your exciting adventures, especially those involving bells. On the other hand, when you are in Sussex, look out for some exciting events in this District and others.

In this issue, read all about a ringing meeting in Bexhill, a milestone at the Forewood Ring and meet Chris Taylor, who oversees music at St Mary's Hailsham.

The next edition will be a special Jubilee edition, featuring all the ringing from the Eastern District. Send in details of the ringing festivities at your tower by the end of July.

Samuel Canning

Look To Editor

Words from Marion – Your District Secretary

As I write this on June 2nd, I expect many of you will be ringing for the Jubilee now and over coming days.

The Eastern District would like to say a big thank you to Rob Lane, our outgoing ringing master, and to welcome Gareth Higgs who is taking over the position.

We would also like to thank Alison Everett for her work involving publicity and training and recruitment. We welcome Vicky Chase who is taking over from

Alison. It was good to meet all of these when they joined us for our May meeting in Eastbourne.

In addition, we also thank Alison Everett who has been our central council rep for the last few years, we welcome Pip Pawley who has taken on this role and will be attending his first meeting in September.

The last two monthly meetings have been well supported and very successful. April was a practice meeting at Bexhill where it was good to see ringers ringing on 10 bells for the first time. In May we had a walk between the four ringing towers in Eastbourne. We were able to ring at three, but All Saints was a tour to the ringing room and the clock tower floor to see the 'work in progress' where Pip Pawley provided details to us on the reinstallation of the bells following their renovation by Nicholsons. I walked nearly eight miles during the day, but it was good to be able to get back ringing and to meet friends both old and new.

See below our plans for the next few months and feel free to join in any or all of them. We ring from rounds and upwards so even if you are new to ringing come along and have a go.

Marion Hollands

SUSSEX CLOTHING IS BACK	
<p>Loose polo shirts, fitted t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops, fleeces – all embroidered with the Sussex logo.</p> <p><u>Many colours, styles and sizes (including children) to suit all.</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any questions, please get in touch with Sandra Alford at clothing@scacr.org</p>	 <p>FEEDBACK SO FAR</p> <p>I am really pleased with my rugby shirt – it is a great length for ringing!</p> <p>I love my polo shirt, it's a really nice fit and colour.</p> <p>Fleece and rugby shirt are lovely and fit very well, thank you!</p> <p>I shall wear my t-shirt with pride!</p> <p>Good price, good quality and good fit – thank you.</p> <p>Love curling up in my hoodie!</p>

Corrections

In the previous edition it was stated that several new members were elected to the association. The term 'elected' is slightly misleading – the term should refer to the election of officers. It should more accurately read, “the new members were *welcomed* to the association.” Thanks to Richard Pendlebury for pointing this out.

Upcoming events – Check the website at <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar> for the latest info

June 25th – Ringing at the Forewood Ring, Crowhurst from 3pm, names for tea to Marion.

Southrise
Forewood Lane
Crowhurst
Battle
TN33 9AB

There is parking for only a very few cars at Southrise; Forewood Lane is really too narrow to leave cars. The best plan is to drive to the top of Station Road to park, either in the station car park (£2.20), or at the top of the road. When you have parked the car, walk to the station and cross the railway line by the footbridge. Follow the path; after a couple of minutes, you come to Forewood Lane. Turn left and walk downhill, and you will see Southrise on your right. Walk up the straight drive on the right to the bells.

July 23rd – Ringing at Salehurst from 2.30 pm

Some people will be meeting at Bodiam Castle from midday if anyone would like to join in, either bring a picnic or there is a cafe there. There is also a pub in the village of Salehurst.

September 24th – Walk between two towers starting at Chiddingly at 10am

October 22nd – Day outing to the Bracknell area

November 26th – Ringing at Rye (TBC)

Meet the New Officers



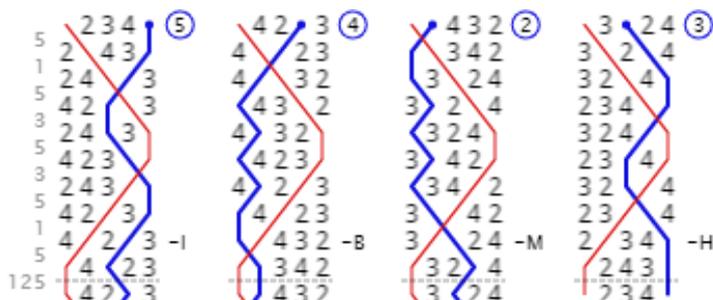
Gareth Higgs was elected master by secret ballot at the AGM in East Grinstead on the 14th of May, taking over from Rob Lane. Gareth has been as Sussex ringer since 1974 and is the tower captain at Saint Margaret’s Warnham. He has rung an impressive number of peals but is equally a staunch supporter of his local band. Gareth has said that he is keen to focus on recruitment and making the association relevant to all its members. You can read a statement him here ([Welcome to Gareth, our new Association Master! \(scacr.org\)](http://www.scacr.org)) and in the next edition of *Soundbow*.

Vicky Chase takes over from Alison Everett as Communication and Events Team Leader. Vicky received the Michael Palmer award for her role in getting Kirdford bells ringing and is tower captain there and at Billingshurst. The exemplary organisational skills she has displayed in teaching a band from scratch make her well suited for this role. She hopes to recruit new ringers and develop existing ones in her role. Read what she has to say here: [Welcome to Vicky, our new Communication & Events Team leader! \(scacr.org\)](http://www.scacr.org)



Variety is the Splice of Life

If you’re relatively new to ringing, you probably think that spliced is extremely complicated and only for experts. And while some spliced is like that, this article is intended to introduce you to some of the simplest touches of spliced that you can ring – and perhaps call – with a basic doubles repertoire.



Hopefully you’ll be familiar with the St Simon’s type methods – St Simon’s, St Martin’s, St Osmund and Eynesbury. St Simon’s has only fifths place made at the half lead (when the treble is at the back).

on their travelling rig outside our house, we rang the first quarter on them under the name of The Forewood Ring as a memorial to their creator:

THE 1066 YOUTHS

Crowhurst, East Sussex

The Forewood Ring (formerly Dewbys Bells)

Wednesday, 16 December 2020 in 39m (21lb 6³/₈oz in B)

1260 Adieu Doubles

1 Helen M Green

2 Alan D Pink (C)

3 Louise G Pink

4 Julie D Harrison

5 Sandra M Titherly

6 Susan Wells

In memory of Alan J Collings, the maker of this ring.

First quarter as the Forewood Ring, set up outdoors.

First on a mini ring - Tenor

First in the variation: Devon Place with a Cotwall Single.

Then the shutters came down again and nothing further happened for over three months. On 29 March 2021 it became legally permissible to meet up to six outside again, and we celebrated with the second quarter, of St Firmin Doubles, on that same day. From then on, we settled down to a regular routine of quarters of the sort familiar from the old days of Dewbys, at first on six or fewer bells and outside, then on up to eight and inside the garage, as the legal restrictions were gradually lifted.

The hundredth quarter was rung just over a year after the second:

Crowhurst, East Sussex

The Forewood Ring

Sunday, 17 April 2022 in 45m (21lb 6³/₈oz in B)

1344 Little Bob Major

1 Alan D Pink

2 Louise G Pink

3 Hilary F Smith

4 Sandra M Titherly

5 Ralph H G Collins

6 Samuel P R Canning

7 Susan Wells

8 Rev Dr Edward F P Bryant (C)

100th on the bells as The Forewood Ring.

For Easter



The first hundred quarter peals were made up of 2 of Minimus, 23 of Doubles, 41 of Minor, 12 of Triples and 22 of Major. Notable quarters were a 1299 of Grandsire Doubles rung in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh on the day of his death, 9 April 2021; Isla Beckingham's first tower bell quarter, aged 9, on 19 September 2021; Samuel

Canning's first of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, respectively on 7 November 2021 and 6 February 2022; and a whole host of

other firsts. Sue Wells has climbed rapidly up the change ringing ladder in quarters on the Forewood Ring.

Alan Pink

Interview with Chris Taylor

Tell us about yourself Chris.

My name's Chris. I am 39, married with four children. I grew up in Surrey, have lived in Birmingham, where I worked as a secondary school music teacher, and now live in East Sussex. I enjoy walking – as a family we visited the Lake District in the Autumn, but it's lovely to have the South Downs on our doorstep. I've enjoyed music since I was a child and play piano, recorder and cello. I have a particular interest in pre-classical music (up to about 1750). I enjoyed the opportunity at university to study early instruments such as the viol (similar to a violin) and the shawm (a predecessor to the oboe and bassoon).



So, Chris, what does your job involve?

The job title is 'Assistant Minister with Responsibility for Music' and I work at Hailsham Parish Church. It involves leading the church's music ministry and a range of other ministry tasks. The music typically accounts for 60% of my time in a given week. We have a large music team including a choir and a group of instrumentalists who play in bands on a rota. There are youth and junior bands for the youngsters in the church as well as a music club in a local school. I'm also involved in other youth and children's ministry and occasionally preaching.

How do you select which songs to use?

Our vicar, David Bourne, meets with me roughly once a month; we work together to choose the hymns and songs for the services coming up. The most important thing we consider is how well the songs will support the sermon's Bible passage or theme. We also consider the season of the Church year, and we aim for a blend of traditional hymns and more modern songs.

What impact does your faith have on your work?

It has a huge impact. I'm passionate about serving Jesus, making him known with the gifts that he's given me. I believe the Bible teaches that Christians should be people who sing, including when they meet together, in response to all that God has done in saving them. Music in church, therefore, has an important role not only in helping the congregation to sing praises to God but also in helping them to encourage one another in their faith as they sing the truths of the Bible.

You're also a member of the Hailsham Choral Society; tell us about that.

I'm very fortunate to have a great choir who meet so near to where I live. I've enjoyed singing as part of choirs since I was at school and found out about Hailsham Choral Society from someone who used to lead the church choir soon after I moved to Hailsham. I think there's something special about creating a beautiful choral sound. It's been wonderful to get back to singing together after months of Zoom rehearsals.

The Society recently celebrated a significant anniversary. How did you mark the occasion?

Our 60th anniversary concert actually took place in our 61st year, delayed because of the pandemic. We put on a special performance of Handel's *Messiah* at All Saints Eastbourne; this included professional soloists and an orchestra as well. I was singing bass as part of the choir.

What can people look forward to from the Society?

We have a performance at Hailsham Parish Church on Saturday 2nd of July, to mark the Queen's Jubilee. We'll be singing some of the music performed at the Queen's coronation, including *Zadok the Priest*. We'll be performing at the Lord Mayor's Concert at the Hailsham Arts festival on 10th September, and on 12th November, there will be a performance of Haydn's *Nelson Mass* at All Saints Eastbourne.

If any of our readers wanted to join a choral society, how would they go about it?

I can point out the Eastbourne and District Choirs Association website ([Choirs | EADCA](#)), where you can find a list of choirs in the Eastbourne area. You can

always ask someone you know who is a member of one to recommend a local choir.

You've done musical performances in many places. Do you have a favourite location to perform?

A particularly memorable occasion was when a choir I used to sing with, the English Arts Chorale, sang in Arundel Cathedral. It may not have a ring of bells, but it has excellent acoustics for Renaissance polyphonic music. We performed Thomas Tallis' remarkable 40-part motet *Spem In Alium*.

A lot of ringers are interested in statistics, and I know you keep records of which songs you've used for services at Hailsham.

The song that we've sung the most since I arrived (September 2014) is *O Come All Ye Faithful* (42 times). The most popular song that isn't a Christmas carol is *Creation Sings the Father's Song* (30 times), a modern hymn by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. The most popular traditional hymn is *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (26 times). There are around 130 songs that we have only sung once, some of which have been recently introduced but many of which have a text for a specific theme, which we will usually pair with a familiar tune; for example, the hymn *A King on High is Reigning*, focusing on Jesus' Ascension, Reign and Return, written by Timoth Dudley-Smith, sung to the tune Ellacombe (ringing connection coincidental!).

Thanks to Chris Taylor for agreeing to be interviewed.

An Amble in Eastbourne

The 28th of May saw an Eastern District walk and ring in Eastbourne. There was ringing at three towers throughout the day. It was very well attended with up to thirty-two ringers taking part and the weather was pleasantly warm and sunny

The first tower was St Mary's in the Old Town. Here we rung Grandsire, Plain Bob as well as some rounds and call changes, enjoying the spacious ringing chamber of the large Norman tower.



After a stroll through the Gildredge Park, we arrived at St Saviour's. These are difficult and challenging bells, but that just makes it all the more rewarding if you can ring them well. Ringing here ranged from rounds to Cambridge Surprise Major and Grandsire Caters.

Next some of us went to All Saints where we were met by Pip Pawley, who showed us the work that has been done rehangng the bells. He is hoping to get the bells ringing in time for the jubilee celebrations and hopefully the next edition of *Look To!* will feature an article about the work done on the bells.

After lunch (and, in the case of Nick, a quick dip in the sea) it was time for the final tower, Christ Church on Seaside. These are much easier bells, but the long ropes present quite a challenge. Fortunately, one of the ringers was able to teach us a clever way to tie double knots easily,



helping us to ring plenty of things from call changes to Cambridge. Incidentally, the Christ Church ringers evidently have good taste in literature – they have the previous edition of *Look To!* pinned to their wall.

An enjoyable, if tiring, day was enjoyed by all, and we all look forward to the next meeting at Crowhurst on the 25th of June.

A New Development

Crawley ringer, and my counterpart in the Northern District as editor of their newsletter, Kye Leaver is working on a database featuring all of Sussex's bells – data on weights, diameters, and inscriptions with sound recordings and photographs. This is a fast-growing resource and can be found here: [THE BELLS OF SUSSEX - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://www.thebells ofsussex.com)

Ringng Meeting at Bexhill



Above left: St Peter's Bexhill. ([Tower details \(cccbr.org.uk\)](http://cccbr.org.uk))

Above right: A band ringing Plain Bob Triples.

On the 23rd of April, a district practice was held at the picturesque church of St Peter's Bexhill. We were able to take advantage of the spring sunshine with ringers coming from as far away as Billingshurst to enjoy the bells. Since many of us don't get the chance to ring on ten too often, it was a most rewarding experience. Indeed, I was able to ring Caters for the first time. Ringing included rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt, Bob Triples, Cambridge Surprise Major and Grandsire Caters. Thanks to the Bexhill ringers for their hospitality and to Frances Bradford for running the ringing and making sure everyone got to ring what they wanted to.

Raspberry Muffins.

Ingredients.

200g Self Raising Flour

1tsp baking powder

50g Wholemeal Flour

100g Golden caster sugar

2 Eggs

125ml Milk

4tbsp Sunflower oil

Flavour of your Choice – Raspberries / Blueberries

Method.

Preheat the oven to 160°C. Sift the self-raising flour and baking powder into a large bowl, add the wholemeal flour (do not sift) and golden caster sugar, then mix until combined. In a separate bowl add eggs, milk and sunflower oil, mixing well until combined. Combine the wet and dry ingredients, mixing until you have a smooth batter. Gently stir in your raspberries or preferred ingredients until evenly distributed through the batter. Evenly distribute the batter between the muffin cases and bake in the oven until well risen, golden brown and when you insert a skewer it comes out clean. These are best eaten within twenty-four hours of being made.



Ringling Practice Computer System

In October 2019 Ringable started out as an idea for practising using one or more silenced bells in a tower with sensors on the wheel and frame, like a simulator but with a real bell on the end of the rope. With the advent of the first COVID lock-down I re-tasked the bits and pieces that I had into making a system that could be used to practice ringling using push buttons attached to a small computer, preferably a Raspberry Pi.

The idea was to allow the learning of the theory behind the structure of methods and practice the methods without disturbing the whole neighbourhood when it went wrong. There is no way that rope-sight, bell handling or anything else associated with real ringling can or would be learnt from this system.

The first version of the system was called 'Ringable Ensemble' which allowed up to 8 people to ring together but really it is meant for from 2 to 4 people ringling with the computer running the other bells to give a solid structure, i.e., the computer would always ring its bells in the right place.

Based on the Ensemble system I then developed 'Chimes' to practice playing an Ellacombe Chimes and also 'Solo' so that a single person could practice methods running one bell with the computer running all of the others.

There are a lot of similarities to Ringing Room/Wheatley in Ringable, but also a lot of big differences.

- Ringable is totally 'off-line'; no internet connection is required, no account names, no tower IDs.
- Wheatley in Ringing Room needs to be told what bells to run; in Ringable, the computer implicitly runs the bells, and you select which ones will be rung by real people.
- Ringable was designed to help new ringers learn theory, methods, places and listening. Ringing Room is largely about letting people that are not physically together ring as if they were together.

If you would like more information about Ringable, contact Tony Shaw at tony@adshaw.uk

Tony Shaw

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Visit www.scacr.org

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- 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





The next edition of Look To! will be a special edition focusing on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The deadline for write ups, events and relevant material is the end of July.

Send it all to news-east@scacr.org

Many thanks to everyone who contributed

