

Northern News

SCACR Northern District – August 2022



Dates for Your Diary

September

Friday 2nd - Monday 5th **Sussex Memorial Weekend** (see below for details)

Saturday 3rd, 9.35-12.40 - **Handbell morning**, Barcombe (see below for details)

Monday 12th **Advanced Practice** - Stedman Triples to Surprise Major, 19:30-21:00, Fletching (TBC)

October

Saturday 1st **Saturday Gathering** - ringing with a social element; details TBC

Monday 10th **Advanced Practice** - Stedman Triples to Surprise Major, 19:30-21:00,
Balcombe (TBC)

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.

Sussex Memorial Weekend - Friday 2nd to Monday 5th September

The aim of this event is to commemorate the lives of those who have been lost over the past few years - this may be specific individuals (e.g. ringers, or those who supported ringing), or more general performances in memory of those lost to COVID.

We are encouraging ringers to "ring a first" - this could be a first performance of call changes registered on Bellboard, first quarter peal, first quarter inside, first in method, first peal, etc; on handbells or tower bells... Please get in touch with your District Secretary if you would like help to find a band or a venue.

A Bellboard event, "Sussex Memorial Weekend" has been created - please link your performances to this event.

Change ringing handbell morning - 9.45-12.40, Saturday 3rd September

St Mary's Church Barcombe BN5 8TS

Following-on from the previously successful Handbell mornings, another event will be held on 3rd September 2022 at St Mary's Church, Barcombe BN8 5TS. There is a large car park at the church.

This event is open to all, especially: handbell groups in Sussex and nearby; 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



Coffee/tea and biscuits/cake will be provided and there will be an optional visit to the pub afterwards! We will be asking for a small donation to cover the cost of refreshments and to leave a donation for the church.

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.

Northern District practice details

- **Advanced (usually 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.
- **Focused practices:** if you (or your learner) have a request for a series of focused practices on Monday evenings, please contact Steph (sec-north@scacr.org). There has been a request for Plain Bob - get in touch if you are interested in joining as a learner or a helper.
- **Making use of Monday evenings:** the committee encourages towers to make use of the Monday evening practice slot - e.g. you could get together with ringers from other towers to focus on more advanced things that you wouldn't usually have enough ringers for, or run a novices' practice.

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

District News

Elsie Feltwell's 100th Birthday 2022

We celebrated Elsie's centenary in Hartfield church in May with an afternoon of cakes tea champagne and hand bell ringing. She thoroughly enjoyed it as did we. Elsie started to ring at East Grinstead then Hammerwood in 1952 then at Hartfield in 1953, she retired from ringing in 2014 only because the stairs to the belfry were too steep. She is an inspiration to us all and a really lovely lady, may she continue to be in good health for a long time to come.



- Photo and words from Janice Smith.

£20 per rope for weddings?

I started to conduct another mini-survey in April on this recurring topic. Since then there has been a discussion on the Sussex Bellringers Facebook page and Ringing Forums.com

I focused on the towers around Cowfold, as we are very conscious that we don't want to discourage couples from having wedding bells.

Out of sixteen towers: five ring Before & After, five ring After the ceremony, two offer a choice of After and Before & After at different rates to influence the booking towards After.

The survey included 2 x 5 bell towers, 6 x 6 bell, 8 x 8 bell, including Horsham where they ring 8 out of 10 bells.

The fee paid per ringer varies between £10 (1 No.) and £20 (2 No.), the majority being £15 (14 No.).

Ringling after the ceremony requires someone to ring the bells up in advance. Two towers practice on Fridays and leave their bells up overnight, if there is a wedding and Horsham leave their bells up. Otherwise, someone rings the bells up on their own and no payment is awarded for this. NB The Cowfold Risk Assessment dictates that two ringers be present whilst the bells are rung up, so this won't be easy when we change to setting two fees: £110 for After only and £140 for Before & After.

The total fees charged range from £80 to £240, the average being c£114.

Cuckfield and Horsham seem to ring for the most weddings.

In conclusion, this is a varied result and no one size suits every tower. No tower mentioned an extra payment for travelling expenses, but this question wasn't asked.

I hope readers find this simple analysis useful.

Stella Bianco

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).

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

Ardingly bell overhaul 2010 by The Whitechapel Bell Foundry DVD

In 2010, the 6 bells of Ardingly, St Peter were overhauled by The Whitechapel Foundry. They were hung on new fittings and the canon retained. DVD of the restoration project to restore our bells

This remarkable DVD narrates the history of our bells, leading up to their restoration in 2008-2009 with footage of their removal from inside the bell tower, the work inside the now-closed Whitechapel Ball Foundry and the bells' eventual return and re-installation. As a backdrop, the DVD is a unique video and still photograph record of the village of Ardingly and the surrounding countryside, including the South of England Showground and Wakehurst Place resplendent in glorious autumn colours.

The DVD is available for £11.00 (incl. P&P) with all proceeds going to St. Peter's Church, Ardingly.

To order, simply email lynn@ardingly.clara.co.uk or call/text Lynn on Mobile **07713 324610**.



The Bells of Ardingly, St Peter

What is happening to the SCACR library

The Library contains around 500 items and has been little used for many years, largely due to ringers buying their own books and new learning materials such as the Sherborne Teaching Aids, Steve Coleman's books and the ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) scheme.

A review of the value of the library led to the proposal put to the AGM in May by the Trustees to dispose of the collection, subject to the retention of a Sussex Archive containing paper versions of Association and Division/District minutes, newsletters, Soundbow magazines and Annual Reports and handwritten peal books, plus a few pertinent books such as **David Kirkcaldy's History of the SCACR 1885-2010**, George Elphick's *Sussex Bells and Belfries* and *Sussex Bells* by Amherst-Tyssen, also, records of Association anniversaries such as the Centenary in 1985 and the millennium.

The emphasis for the future will be towards compatible and searchable digitised records and the creation of a Timeline of historical events on the website, such as the Expo belfry built by Whitechapel in 1968, and the controversial/abortive attempt to install bells at Littlehampton in 1929.

The books will be individually valued so that offers can be sought from interested SCACR members. The remaining books will then be publicised more widely. Please email library@scacr.org so that I can forward the list when it is ready in the autumn.

Stella Bianco, Librarian

Sussex Young Ringers

This year, a team of Sussex Young ringers travelled to Exeter for the annual Ringing World National Youth Contest. Sussex won the method ringing category scoring 9 points out of 10!!!



Sussex rang their contest piece at Exeter, St Mark's, a 12-1-19cwt ring of 10.

They rang Grandsire Doubles on the back 6. The band placement was:

1: Katharine (Billingshurst); 2: Jonathan (Hurstpierpoint); 3: Samuel (Hailsham); 4: Francesco (Midhurst); 5: Michael (C) (Fairwarp); 6: Kye (Crawley).

The beautiful Whitechapel Trophy was awarded to Sussex!!



More information about the trophy can be found at: <https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/rwnyc-trophy.html>

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

Alfriston bells return!

The Alfriston bells are expected to be returned on Thursday 18th August. They will be on display in the church until Monday 22nd when they will be raised up into the tower.

We don't yet have a date when they will be ringable again as we need to arrange scaffold in the church to fit a new rope guide and to get the ceiling painted. Hopefully this will all be done by mid to late September.

If anyone would like to have a look at our seven bells (yes seven) before they are re-hung (and inaccessible to anyone who has an aversion to climbing ladders up the outside of the church), then please come along at any time over the weekend of 20-21 August and have a close-up look. The church will be open from at least 9 am until 5 pm each day and probably longer.

If anyone is available anytime from Friday to Sunday to ring handbells, talk to tourists, persuade visitors that they really do need a new hobby ... etc, and on Monday to help with raising the bells into the tower- then please get in touch.. We do have some help but it is always useful to have more.

Obviously, we are hoping to use this weekend to help raise the final funds for the project, so please spread the word to as many people as possible (ringers and non-ringings). We have a collecting box, contactless payment machine and a Just Giving account: [Donate to St Andrew's Alfriston](#)

Pauline Kennard, Alfriston

Other ringing news

Ringing Roadshow - Sunday 4th September, 10-5 pm, Nottingham

- A seminar programme with interesting and informative talks on a range of ringing topics
- All manner of ringing trade stands including Bell founders, bell hangers, rope makers
- Expert handbell ringing demonstrations
- Historical ringing artefacts
- Mini rings to try
- Ringing accessories and ringing books to peruse and buy
- Your ringing questions answered by Council Workgroup experts

You don't want to miss out on things to see, things to do, things to learn, things to try, things to buy, a mix of speakers covering students, teaching, using simulators, bell tuning and more. There'll be several mini rings to try out, including the new CCCBR Mobile Belfry 2.0.

£10 for adults and FREE for under-18s.

Venue: Clifton Campus, Nottingham Trent University, NG11 8NS.

Full details and book your ticket here: <https://roadshow.cccbr.org.uk/>



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)