

NORTHERN NEWS

November 2022



KYE L LEAVER

Editor

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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Thank you for sending in all your stories and pictures! These past months have been rather eventful, starting with the nights drawing in for a start. At the beginning of September, we mourned the loss of HM Queen Elizabeth II and Operation London Bridge was put into action.



I was given the role as Newsletter Editor in mid 2022 and along with that, the addition of producing the Dates For Your Diary. DFYD will carry on being published monthly and Northern News will be 3 months. This addition brings you an update on the new Alfriston bells as well as a new feature I've added called What's Up There? Being the founder of The Bells of Sussex, I'd like to share my inspections with you which can always be found on the penultimate page of each future Northern News, starting with Lowfield Heath. One other thing I wanted to change was the layout of the Newsletter itself. I hope to give it a fresh new look and I have thought that having a Content page at the front would also be helpful too.

Please continue to send things in that you wish to be included in Northern News and my greatest thanks go to everyone who has sent thing in for this issue! Happy ringing everyone!

Best wishes,

KYE L LEAVER.

Please send your Northern News stories and photos to (news-north@scacr.org)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Northern District Events

November:

Saturday 5th **Rudgwick, Holy Trinity** - 8 Bells 14-0-5 in F
10:30 - 12:00 Ringing and Pub Lunch

Join us for open ringing on the lovely bells at Rudgwick and boggle you mind on one of Sussex' anti-clockwise rings Ringing will be rounds onwards. This is going to be followed by lunch at the King's Head pub, next door to the church. Please book you own table at:

kingsheadrudgwick@yahoo.co.uk or

01403 822200. There is free parking on the street and at the pub.

Saturday 5th **East Grinstead, St Swithun** - 12 Bells 28-0-6 in D
14:00 - 17:00 Novices' 12 Bell Practice (Helpers Needed)

Vicky Chase is looking for helpers for a Novices' 12 bell session at East Grinstead from 2-5pm. There will be a break for coffee & cake! Helpers who are experienced 12-bell ringers who can form a steady band around learners who have no or little experience on 12 (for Rounds & Call Changes) are needed- if you could help, please contact Vicky on

training@scacr.org

Please note that all spaces for learners for this session have been filled.

Monday 14th **Rusper, St Mary Magdalene** - 8 Bells 12 in F
19:30 - 21:00 Advanced 8 Bell Practice

This practice will include Stedman Triples and Surprise & Delight Major methods. The minimum competency is to be able to ring touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Triples without assistance.

Association Events

For information on practices throughout the Association, go to the SCACR events calendar at <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar>. Updates can also be found on the [SCACR Facebook group](#)!

Please note that all under-16s must be accompanied by parent/guardian or other nominated adult, and have a completed "permission to ring church bells" form (available to download from the Safeguarding page on the SCACR website).



THE NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

Operation London Bridge

On Thursday 8th September, we heard the devastating news that our beloved late monarch Queen Elizabeth II passed away peacefully. Not only was she the Queen, but she was the nation's grandmother and our longest reigning monarch. The editor heard about this shortly after a quarter peal at Petworth that evening. Operation London Bridge soon went into action and muffles were



put on. Where possible, towers nation wide fully muffled their bells with the tenor open at backstroke. This has not long been performed at Kirdford for the passing of their late vicar.

As the announcement of her passing was after 18:00, towers rang at noon the following day, 9th September. In the Northern the ringing for each tower is listed below:

ARDINGLY, St Peter: Forewarned of the requirements of 'Operation London Bridge' and, like many other towers, either already ill-prepared with another set of muffles or too parsimonious to purchase another set, I set about creating a set from old carpet and cable ties. These I placed with our original set and duly awaited 'the call'. When that sad occasion arose, I realised with trepidation that I had not tried my bodged set in anger and was somewhat alarmed when the cable ties were too short for very secure fitting, but fit they did and all I could do was hope they'd stay the course. I am very pleased to report that St. Peter's ringers, assisted by some of our ringing friends from neighbouring districts, rang our bells, fully muffled, on Friday morning, 9th September after which we proceeded to West Hoathly and rung half muffled there. On the day of the funeral, having tolled the tenor the requisite 96 times in the morning, we rang a Quarter Peal of Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, again assisted by local ringing friends to supplement our three available members. It was a strange, but evocative sound ringing bells this way – something I suspect very few ringers who are active today have ever done before, and quite possibly none have done so with the assistance of bits of carpet and cable ties! Lynn Wilson, Tower Captain

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BALCOMBE, St Mary: 24/9/2022 A Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung half muffled

COLEMAN'S HATCH, Holy Trinity: 9/9/2022 A single bell was tolled fully muffled from 12:00 - 13:00. 10/9/2022 Bell rung open from 4pm - 5pm. 3 local members joined in with the ringers participating in the Ospringe outing. 11/9/2022 A single bell was tolled fully muffled for Sunday service. 16/9/2022 Practice night was rung half muffled. 18/9/2022 A single bell was tolled fully muffled for Sunday service. 19/9/2022 Finally, a single bells was tolled fully muffled from 10:00 - 11:00 prior to the Queen's funeral.

COWFOLD, St Peter: 9/9/2022 Rang fully muffled at midday. 11/9/2022 Rang open. 17/9/2022 Rang half muffled for HM Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral followed by 96 blows of the tenor. 18/9/2022 Rang Half muffled. 19/9/2022 Rang half muffled and finished with 96 strokes of the tenor

CRAWLEY, St John the Baptist: 9/9/2022 Told tenor 96 times; Continental ringing on back 2 and God Save the Queen on Ellacombe. 10/9/2022 Jump Changes rung open on Ellacombe. 11/9/2022 Rang open using Ellacombe by the ringers. 18/9/2022 Rounds & Call Changes for the Civic service followed by Tolling to call the 1 minute silence. 19/9/2022 Rounds and call changes fully muffled on 1,2,3,4,6,8.

CUCKFIELD, Holy Trinity: 19/9/2022 Half muffled before Queen Elizabeth II funeral. Tolling 96 strokes. Treble (20 strokes) - Jennifer Constable; 2 (18 strokes) Tessa Brown; 4 (20 strokes) - Libby Shead; 5 (18 strokes) - Linda Chapman; 6 (20 strokes) James Brenchley.

DANEHILL, All Saints: 9/9/2022 Rounds & Call Changes, rung half muffled. 19/9/2022 Rounds & Call Changes and Tolling.

EAST GRINSTEAD, St Swithun: 9/9/2022 96 Tolls rung half muffled. First stroke rung by the Mayor of East Grinstead. 11/9/2022 30 mins of Rounds & Call Change rung on open bells to commemorate the proclamation of King Charles III at 3pm; 30 mins of Rounds & Call Changes rung fully muffled from the civic service; Rounds of 10 and Call Changes on 8. 19/9/2022 Fully muffled Rounds & Call Changes.

HAMMERWOOD, St Stephen: Nil.

HORSHAM, St Mary the Virgin: 18/9/2022 Rounds & Call Changes on 10 rung fully muffled for the civic service. 19/9/2022 At 3pm, 1260 Grandsire Triples rung fully muffled. Two of the ten bells in the church date from 1752 and will now have been rung to mark the death of nine Kings and Queens of this country.

HORSTED KEYNES, St Giles: 8/9/2022 Rung from 18:45 to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Long live King Charles III.

ITCHINGFIELD, St Nicolas: 9/9/2022 Bells rung half muffled for practice night. 11/9/2022 Rang half muffled bells rounds and call changes before the 6pm service (which we do not usually ring at). 16/9/2022 half muffled bells at our Friday

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practice. **19/9/2022** Rang half muffled rounds and call changes 10.00 - 10.30am prior to the late Queen's funeral.

FAIRWARP, Christ Church: **9/9/2022** Tenor tolled 96 blows **19/9/2022** 60 on thirds
Call Change

LINDFIELD, All Saints: **9/9/2022** 3 touches of Grandsire Triples half muffled by: Jacqui Allen, Clare Clark, Richard Hutchings, Robert Huxley, Elizabeth Lancaster, Ness Mitchell, Michael Peace, Gordon Upton & Ollie Watson. **10/9/2022** 10 touches of Stedman Doubles; Grandsire Doubles and Triples rung open by Jacqui Allen, Clare Boyling, Clare Clark, Jill Garraway, Pippa Garraway, Richard Hutchings, Robert Huxley, Michael Peace, Julie Quinn & Gordon Upton. **11/9/2022** Rung half muffled for 2 services. **13/9/2022** Practice night rung half muffled. **18/9/2022** Rung half muffled for 2 services. **19/9/2022** 1260 Grandsire Triples rung half muffled before the Queen's funeral by: 1. Gordon Upton; 2. Elizabeth Lancaster; 3. Robert Huxley; 4. Ollie Watson; 5. Michael Peace; 6. Ness Mitchell; 7. Richard Hutchings (C); 8. Julie Quinn. Muffled removed before Tuesday practice.

RUDGWICK, Holy Trinity: **9/9/2022** Bells were rung half muffled from noon - 13:00. This included Rounds & Call changes and plain hunt both with 6 bells. **11/9/2022** Rang for a service. **13/9/2022** Rang for Practice night. **18/9/2022** A thanksgiving service for the Queen was rung for. **19/9/2022** Rung from 10:00 - 11:00, prior to the funeral service. All dates above were rung half muffled.

RUSPER, St Mary Magdalene: **10/9/2022** General ringing including Plain Bob Doubles for the proclamation of King Charles III. **19/9/2022** Rounds rung fully muffled ending with diminishing rounds.

SLINFOLD, St Peter: **10/9/2022** Rounds and Call Changes, rung for the proclamation of King Charles III.

TILGATE, Holy Trinity: **9/9/2022** Tolled 96 times by Maurine Mwangali at noon.

TURNERS HILL: Every day from **9/9/2022** to **19/9/2022**, the tenor was tolled for an hour at noon with each member of the band taking turns each day.

WARNHAM, St Margaret: **10/9/2022** General Ringing including Rounds & Call Changes, Grandsire Triples and Yorkshire S Major. Rung for the proclamation of King Charles III. **19/9/2022** Rung fully muffled - Grandsire Caters, Call Changes and Tolling.

WEST HOATHLY, St Margaret: **9/9/2022** Fully Muffled Ringing

WORTH, St Nicholas: **8/9/2022** Practice was cancelled. Bells were fully muffled with tenor open at backstroke and a few short touches were rung. **9/9/2022** Tenor was tolled for an hour continuously by Gerald and Carolyn Sandwell & Neil Dobson.

11/9/2022 Nil. **15/9/2022** Practice night took place fully muffled and clapper on the 4th fell out - this was replaced prior to the following Sunday. **18/9/2022** Service

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ringing fully muffled **19/9/2022** Fully muffled ringing from 10:15 - 10:45 followed by Martin. G tolling the tenor 96 times finishing at 11:00 exactly.

From Gareth Higgs your Association Ringing Master

I would like to thank everyone who took part in ringing over the past couple of weeks to mark the death and state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II. I know your efforts were greatly appreciated across the county. Particular thanks go to steeple keepers and their assistants for putting muffles on, off, on, off... and in several cases showing great ingenuity with carpet and tyres!

On a personal note, I was diagnosed with a torn retina in my left eye late on Wednesday afternoon and within 24 hours I had it repaired. Who says the NHS has long waiting lists! Unfortunately I am unlikely to be on the end of a bell rope much before Christmas but hope to continue travelling around the county to meet as many of you as possible as soon as I'm allowed to drive again.

Best wishes to you all,

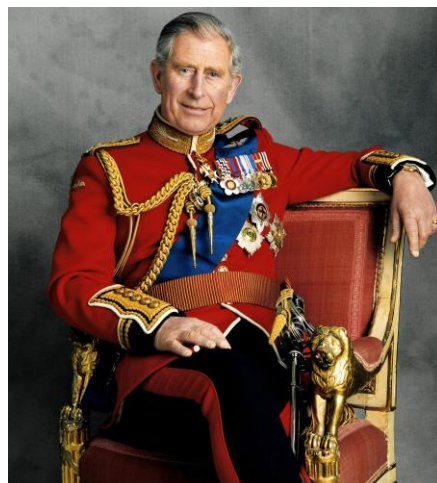
Gareth Higgs.

[Coronation of King Charles III](#)

King Charles III's coronation will be held on **May 6th 2023**. Many towers have sent out notices about this event asking if new people would like to pick up the art of ringing to commemorate this event. There is still time to teach new ringers to get them to a confident level of handling to mark this event.

This could also be a great opportunity for towers to ring a Quarter Peal or even a Peal!

Following the Proclamation of the King, many towers rang for this as shown above - Rang open on the day if possible.



Seage's Apparatus week at Crawley

Crawley, St John the Baptist holds what is believed to be the last remaining fully working Seage's Apparatus in the world! In case you are wondering what one actually is, it is an installation in the tower which enables us to silence the bells but still manage to hear what you are ringing by small hang bells on the wall. In short, it is a mechanical simulator.



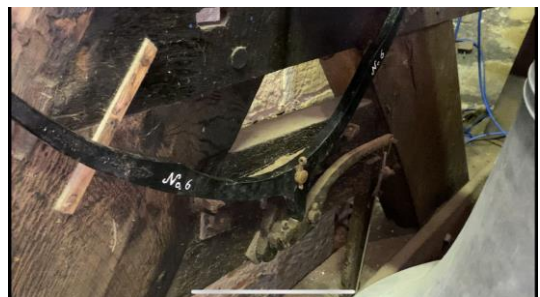
How does it work?

Once you have silenced the bell, you need to slot the Seage's rocking arm on to the receiver. A roller fixed to the side of the headstock comes in contact with the rocking arm and it triggers the receiver, this pulls a cable. At the other end of this cable is a handbell on the wall with a clapper.

The handbells ring in the key of C and are cast by Mears & Stainbank except for the 3rd which is Gillett, Bland & Co.

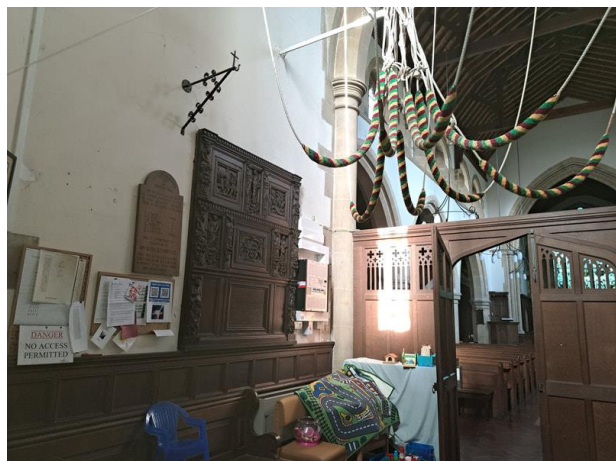
We are planning on getting this apparatus ringing again and are thinking of holding a Seage's apparatus week once or maybe a few times each year. In the week, some days will be general ringing on them and then the others will allow you to ring a quarter on them ranging from Doubles to Major.

Please let Kye know if you're interested at kye.leaver14@gmail.com



Turners Hill, St Leonard fall silent

The band at Turners Hill stopped ringing in March 2022. But during the mourning period of our late Queen Elizabeth II, they had the opportunity to ring! Each day at 12:00 noon from Friday 9th to Monday 19th, the tenor was tolled by Suzi Burns, Sarah O'Neil, Sarah Hamilton, Penny Furner, Jo Barnes, Helen Jones, Archie O'Neil. The bells are a complete Mears 8. The back 6 were hung in 1924 in an 8 bell frame leaving 2 empty for the 2 trebles to come. A peal was rung before the augmentation of Minor containing 7 methods. In 1926, two trebles were added and a peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung to commemorate the augmentation.



To date, 172 peals have been rung on then, the last in August 2019 of Double Norwich court bob Major. The bells are ground floor ring and with a long but guided draft.



The Vicar and wardens love and miss the bells but they cannot be rung for the safety inspector has not assessed the bells.

So far, Turners Hill has a small group of ringers but no one to look after the ringing and tower.

It would be fantastic for these bells to end their silence and be rung regularly again!

Golden Wedding Anniversary at Ardingly

Sunday Service ringing on Sunday 9th October was a special occasion as the weekend marked the Golden Wedding Anniversary of the Tower Captain, Lynn Wilson and his wife, Pat who were married on 7th October, 1972 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Burstow, Surrey where they were both ringers. On that occasion, following local tradition (helped by it being a ground floor ring!) they began the post-service ringing before processing out of the church. Pictured are the service band, featuring three of Lynn and Pat's children. L-R, Ross Wilson, Lynn Wilson, Margaret Dale, Stephen Brown, Jenny Stonard (Nee Wilson) and Scott Wilson. Margaret and Stephen are both local Ardingly ringers. In her role of Midwife at the PRH Hospital, Haywards Heath, Margaret delivered Scott 29 years ago!



- LYNN WILSON -



QUARTER PEALS

Since the last Northern News, we have had a few Quarter Peals rung in the Northern district. It seems appropriate to also add first Quarter Pealers in the association as well.

In alphabetical order:

ARDINGLY, St Peter:

19th September 2022 - 1260 Doubles (3p/m)

180 Stedman; 600 Grandsire; 480 Plain Bob

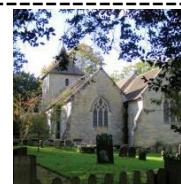
<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1546821>



BALCOMBE, St Mary:

24th September 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Doubles

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1550226>



CRAWLEY, St John the Baptist:

24th August 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Doubles

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1536719>

2nd October 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Doubles

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1551741>



HARTFIELD, St Mary:

22nd August 2022 - 1272 Cambridge S Minor

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1536398>



HORSHAM, St Mary the Virgin:

19th September 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Triples

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1546404>

2nd October 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Triples

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1551927>



LINDFIELD, All Saints:

19th September 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Triples

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1546404>

6th October 2022 - 1260 Grandsire Triples

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1552549>



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RUSPER, St Mary Magdalene:

17th October 2022 - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1554114>



WARNHAM, St Margaret:

29th August 2022 - 1280 Yorkshire S Royal

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1537116>



WEST HOATHLY, St Margaret:

10th October 2022 - 1260 Doubles (3m)

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1553027>



WORTH, St Nicholas:

28th August 2022 - 1260 Doubles (4m)

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1537056>



Congratulations to the below for scoring their first Quarter Peal!!

.Sunday 4th September, Sabina from Eastbourne, St Mary's rang her first Quarter! This was a 1260 of Plain Bob Doubles in 46 mins.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1538169>

.Tuesday 13th September, Christopher from South Harting covered to his first quarter peal. 1260 of Grandsire Doubles in 47 mins.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1544602>

.Saturday 17th September, Monty from Hastings, St Clement covered to Doubles with a 768 cover 1260 Doubles (4m)

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1547324>

PEALS

Since the previous Northern News, one peal has been rung in the Northern District. This was rung at Horsham, St Mary's on Wednesday 5th October in 3h 14mins.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1552462>

Looking across the association, this is followed by two peals in the Eastern District and one on a mini ring in Warnham.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Sussex Memorial Weekend

From Friday 2nd - Monday 5th September, The Sussex County Association held Sussex Memorial Weekend. This event aimed for ringers to commemorate the lives of those who have been lost over the past years whether these are ringers or members who supported ringing. This could have even been people lost to COVID-19. It was encouraged that ringers were to “ring a first”, either being first in method; first quarter; first as conductor; first in hand etc. The list is endless. A BellBoard event was also created and can be accessed here: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=15185>



There are no Northern district towers that are linked to this event on Bell Board.

We Remember

Alan Baldock
Alan Collings
Angela Long
Joyce Philpott
Les Baldock
Linda Moores

Chris Hopkins
Clare Lees
Derek Oakley
Margaret Pink
Melvina Youngs
Moyner Faulkner

Frank Beeney
George Francis
John Roberts
Mary Rice

Sussex Young Ringers

The SCACR has a group of young ringers who are under the age of 25. The Sussex Young Ringers meet up regularly throughout the year and each year there is the Ringing World National Youth Contest to always look forward to. Being a member of the Sussex Young Ringers myself, I highly recommend anyone interested to join. Not only is it just ringing, it's a great chance to make new friends and ring with new people, but most importantly there is always cake!!!! This year is also very special to us as we came first in the Methods category in the National Youth Competition in Exeter and the well deserved Trophy came home to Sussex. More info on this trophy can be found at:



<https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/rwnyc-trophy.html>.

If you or any young ringers in your tower would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Marisa Hayes: 07796 145464;

Marisa@happymouflon.com



Michael holding the Whitechapel Trophy in Exeter 2022 - RWNYC

There are a few events coming up for young ringers to get involved in!

Monday 19th December Warnham, St Margaret - 10 Bells 14-2-11 in F
10:30 - 15:00 Christmas Jumper Day at Warnham

SUSSEX YOUNG RINGERS

Young ringers of ALL abilities are welcome at the start of the Christmas holidays! We'll be donning our festive jumpers, head gear, elf costume (?) to ring at this marvellous 10, followed by a picnic lunch in the parish hall and a chance to ring at the Newdenne Bells (Mini Ring).

Exact timings tbc as we may start with a quarter peal on this day and invite other to join slightly later in the morning. Let Marisa (marisa@happymouflon.com) know if you are Available.

Alfriston, St Andrew

In January, the 6 bells at Alfriston, St Andrew's were lowered and taken away by Whites of Appleton Church Bell Hangers for restoration. They returned in August this year. They were painted with graphite to protect the bells, new fittings were given and the canon on the 3rd was removed. Also a new rope guide was installed. Throughout the 20th century, Mears & Stainbank recast the front 5. The 3rd in 1908; 2, 4 & 5 in 1928 and the treble in 1955. The old inscriptions were made in facsimile. The tenor remains original dating back to around 1400. In 1928, the 5th was stepped down and preserved in the church and Mears cast them a new one. The old 5th was restored by Whites of Appleton and is now the service bell. The bell is surprisingly light weight for its size, weighing just 3¾! The inscriptions of the bells read:

Underlined text is within the inscription band.

*A coin = **

Fig. 1 = ○

Fig. 2 = ●

Fig. 3 = ■

Fig. 4 = ❁

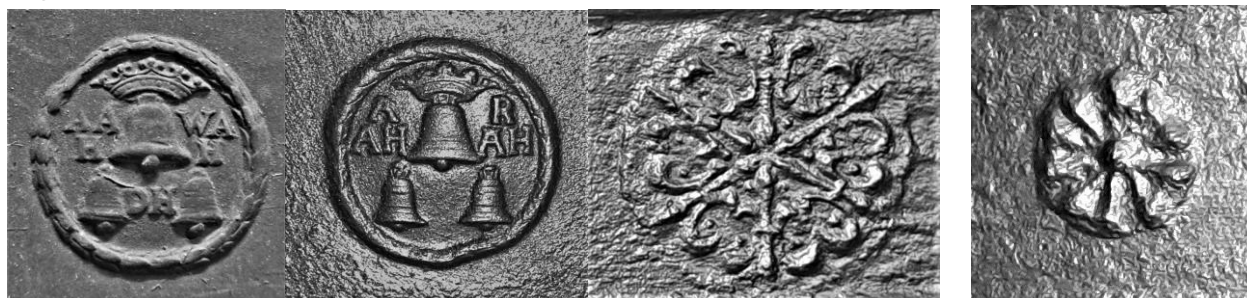


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

The ornaments

Fig. 1 was used by Mears & Stainbank in their last years before it was changed to The Whitechapel Bell foundry. The initials stand for Albert Arthur Hughes, William Arthur Hughes and Douglas Hughes. Fig. 2 was used earlier than Fig. 1 and RA/H stands for Robert Arthur Hughes who left the business and his brother William became a partner in the business.

Fig. 3 & 4 were both used by William Wodeward. 3 is a 6-pointed cross with a fleur-de-lis at the end of each and 4 is a 10-spoked wheel.

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Inscriptions

1	<p><u>T MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1819</u> I ADE</p> <p>RECAST 19 ○ 55</p>
2	<p><u>:: DEO :: QUEMADMODUM :: 1698 ::</u> RECAST A.D. 1928. ●</p>
3	<p><u>MEARS & STAINBANK LONDON ****</u> THOS: MEARS FECIT 1811 REFUSIT 1908. IN . OMN . TERR . EXIIT . SONUS .</p>
4	<p><u>MEARS & STAINBANK LONDON ****</u> † SEMPER AD COELESTIA. THIS BELL REPLACES THE ORIGINAL, CAST IN 1587, AND PRESERVED IN THE CHURCH</p>
5	<p><u>20JI : DEO : Θ JORJA : 9AX : HOMENIBU2 : II : IOH : ACIOH : W 1696</u> * ΘW * * * † SEMPER AD COELESTIA MARCHANT PEARSON, VICAR EDWARD CHENEVIX AUSTIN - LEIGH } CHURCHWARDENS HUGH JOHN WOODHAMS } HARRY WOOD, CAPT: OF RINGERS EXCHURCHWARDEN RECAST A.D. 1928 MEARS & STAINBANK FOUNDERS LONDON ●</p>
6	<p>☒ <u>WOX ☼ AVGVSTINI ☼ SONAT ☼ IN ☼ AVRO ☼ DEI</u></p>
Service	<p>+ anno ♦ dñi ♦ 1587</p>

The tenor has quite beautiful letters used and the words WOX and AVRO are spelling mistakes of VOX and AVRE. The Latin phrase means The voice of Augustine sounds in the ears of God. Aside from the tenor, the 5th has the most interesting inscription being that the majority of the letters are reversed and some are upside down. The B in HOMENBUS is upside down.



[A new online guide for Steeple Keepers!](#)

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has released a new website called **Belfry Upkeep**. This handy document is aimed at the Steeple Keeper - the one responsible for keeping the bells in order.



You may be an established Steeple Keeper, a beginner or someone wondering whether you should take it on. Along with easy to understand descriptions of the fittings and installations in the tower, it also contains photographs and videos to show you what they are explaining.

Their aim in this document are:

- ❖ The help understand the installation in your tower
- ❖ Describe the checks to be carried out to identify a problem
- ❖ To advice you on maintenance tasks that you should be able to carry out
- ❖ To help you recognise the tasks that require specialist knowledge from a bell hanger or other expert

Belfry Upkeep can be accessed here:

<https://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk/>



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Codgers

PRESENT SITUATION — POST COVID

There are no monthly meetings at present as a replacement organiser has not so far come forward. There are 60 ringers in the Codgers address list so it should be possible for a volunteer (or volunteers) to step forward!

It would certainly be a shame if Codgers ceased, as it has been running since the early 1990's. The organiser's duties are fairly minimal and could easily be shared by more than one person. In the present format, for each month the two towers need choosing, (and a suitable local pub selected) then approached to confirm availability. Usually the pub menu is circulated to members and forwarded to the pub on the Monday before the meeting.

A Risk Assessment must be generated for each meeting which although it may seem an onerous task being 5 pages long, only the first two pages change each month. The organiser(s) also need to nominate a ringer to run the ringing at each tower.

Perhaps the present format of the meetings requires change, eg only one tower per meeting and a pub lunch so the afternoons are free? Anything is possible depending on what is required by the members.

Please get in touch with Mike Foster at codgers@scacr.org to volunteer or for more information.

Codgers; is a group of ringers across Sussex of all ages who get together to for a mini-outing once a month. Although members are predominantly from Sussex there are several from other counties. The group will happily ring rounds and call changes as well as more difficult methods. Ringers of all ages and skills are welcome as long as they can handle a bell safely by themselves with reasonable striking.

The Codgers meet once a month, usually on the first Wednesday. The usual arrangement is to ring at two towers with a pub lunch between towers. The group also have a longer summer outing, usually in June each year.

The venue for the month is published in the calendar. Details are also circulated to the Codgers mailing list about one week beforehand. Anyone interested in coming along can get more details from the calendar.

KEYMER, St Cosmas & St Damian

There is currently NO ringing at Keymer due to works being carried out on the church walls. This includes both service and practice ringing.



WHAT'S UP THERE?

Lowfield Heath, St Michael & All Angels

Lowfield Heath is what remains of the last surviving building of a former village situated within the borough of Crawley. When the church was first built, it was under the parish of Charlwood and can be found in Stahlschmidt's book Surrey bells and London bell founders on page 140. It says: LOWFIELD HEATH, St. Michael. Modern church and modern bell.

At the time he visited, there was only one bell cast by Warners.

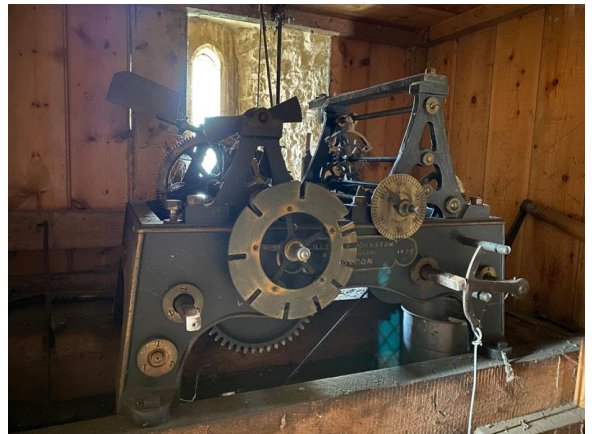
The foundation of the stone was laid 15th July 1867. Both bells were rung from the ground floor by red sallied ropes. The ringing room has since been converted into a kitchen and the church is now owned by the Seventh Day Adventists. The tower is accessed by a tight staircase which first comes to a clock room. The clock date 1895 and was made by Gillett & Johnston. At the time of the installation of the clock, they also supplied them with a clock bell which can also be chimes from the ground floor.

The clock no longer runs due to the suspension spring breaking and the weights are also fully wound!

From the clock room, a 19 rung ladder takes you up to the belfry platform where both bells hang.

When the tower was built, a single bell cast by John Warner & Sons was hung for full circle in Pickford 6.A / Elphick Z trussed frame on plain bearing. The

CHARLWOOD. ST. NICHOLAS.
 1. HENRY BLACKET RECTOR EDW° FLINT & JN° TYLOR
 CH. WARDENS 1764
 2. THO° JANAWAY OF LONDON FECIT
 3. GVLIELMVS ELDRIDGE ME FECIT 1697
 TE
 4. WILLIAM ELDRIDGE MADE MEE 1668
 5. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FOUNDER.
 REV° HENRY WISE RECTOR
 REV° STANIER PORTER CURATE
 JOHN MARCH } CH. WARDENS 1835
 W° BROWN }
 6. WILLIAM ELDRIDGE MADE MEE 1662 IE. RW. CHVRCH.
 WARDENS.
 (Diameter of treble 29 in., of tenor 43½ in.)
 T. R. E. In the steeple iij belles and ij hand belles.
 District church in this parish :
 LOWFIELD HEATH, St. Michael.
 Modern church and modern bell.



NORTHERN NEWS

bell measures 22.00" in diameter and rings in the key of F# at 1481Hz. It is strapped to a wooden headstock with a Conventional canon. The shrouding on the wheel has all come off leaving this bell unringable.

Hung dead on a wooden beam is a clock bell by Gillett & Johnston. It weighs 7-2-4 cwt and measures 33.50" in diameter. This bell sounds a lot more mellow in tone chiming in the key of C at 1057.5Hz. Gillett's used the then modern form of canon called a Doncaster to strap it to the beam. Inside the bell is a clapper which a hook a rope is connected to. This allows for both bells to be chimed together. Their equivalent is bells 1 & 5 of a ring of 8.

Each bell is inscribed as:

Underlined text is within the inscription band

Fig. 5 = 🕌



Fig. 5



1	<u>J WARNER & SONS 1868</u> 🕌
Clock	<u>GILLET & JOHNSTON CROYDON 1893</u>

Most of the belfry floor has fallen away leaving a large drop underneath the bells. Ladders also go up higher into the spire.

Visited by Kye L Leaver & Ollie Watson May 2022

NORTHERN NEWS

SCACR NEWSLETTERS

East

Look To! September 2022

The latest addition of Look To! can be accessed here:

https://www.scacr.org/newsletters/2022-09_look_to.pdf

news-east@scacr.org Samuel Canning

West

Sally Forth November 2022

The latest addition of Sally Forth! can be viewed here:

https://www.scacr.org/newsletters/2022-11_sally_forth.pdf

news-west@scacr.org Mandy Rodgers

South

This position is currently vacant and no Newsletters are currently available

news-south@scacr.org

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SUSSEX COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF
CHANGE RINGERS