

# SallyForth

## Western District Newsletter November/December 2022



### Diary of Events

#### November

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>General 8 Bell Practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> )	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am-12.00
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly Get Together: Ringing and Coffee</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) Names for coffee to wilkinsonhjp@btinternet.com	Westbourne	10.30am 12.30pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners' 8 bell practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> )	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Surprise Minor Practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> )	Walberton	10.15am-12.00

#### December

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>General 8 Bell Practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> )	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am-12.00
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ringing, Carol Service and Tea</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) Names for tea to Janice at sec-west@scacr.org	Angmering	2.30pm 5.30pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners' 8 bell practice</b> ( <a href="#">link</a> )	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm

#### Coming next for Sussex Young Ringers!

**Monday 24 October** Young ringers of all abilities are welcome to join us in **Brighton**  
**10am** at Good Shepherd, Dyke Road and **12.30** at St Nicholas in the city centre

**Saturday 5 November** A visit to the Forewood Ring, at **Crowhurst**. A mini ring so ideal for non ringing siblings and parents too! **2pm meet**.

**Monday 19 December** Advance notice Christmas Jumper Day at **Warnham** **save the date**.  
Contact Marisa to find out more & register for these events.

[Marisa@happymouflon.com](mailto:Marisa@happymouflon.com) 07796 145464

You can find out about nation-wide ringing events by looking at [www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for)

Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for the newsletter. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Please send your contributions for the next edition of **SallyForth** to  
[news-west@scacr.org](mailto:news-west@scacr.org) by **15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.

# Janice's Jottings

What a summer it has been in more ways than one!! The time has flown by and it does not seem possible that it is already time for more of my 'jottings'! I do hope you have all had a Good Summer!

It has been a busy time for all of us with some poignant ringing during the past months to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the subsequent implementation of 'Operation London Bridge' following our Queen's demise on September 8<sup>th</sup>. No doubt it has been very moving for many of those who participated with such a short time between celebratory and mournful ringing. For most of us, it was a 'first time' for fully muffled ringing and quite an experience! Everyone who took part is to be congratulated, especially those responsible for 'muffles on' and 'muffles off' – the busiest time for steeple keepers with keeping track of the timings of when muffle change should happen, quite a challenge!! It was no doubt an honour to be involved and 'Well Done' and thanks to everyone who participated!

I am still enjoying my role (but continue to appreciate the support of Moya and others – you know who you are and thank you!) It has been great meeting some of you at the various events/practices. The walk and ring at Wisborough Green in July was a great success – David Hall has captured the event within his recollection of the afternoon. The London Outing in July also went extremely well and included, unexpectedly, meeting Alan Regin MBE in his home tower! Read the articles within this newsletter to find out more about both events!

It was unfortunate that the event for September had to be cancelled but we look forward to rearranging for next Spring/Summer. South Harting and Stoughton ringers – you have not been forgotten!!

Some exciting news – Vicky Chase who is the Team Leader on the SCACR Training and Recruitment Team, has organised and run a 'Learners' practice session on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning of the month. This is a new venture with the potential of becoming a regular district event. Two sessions have been extremely successful with excellent feedback. Well done and thank you Vicky. Keep an eye out on the SCACR website for more information!

Not long now until the clocks change – brrrr!! I am in Australia until the 15<sup>th</sup> November – so any queries – please contact Moya Hills.

Happy Ringing!!

Janice Crawford  
[sec-west@scacr.org](mailto:sec-west@scacr.org)



## Belfry Upkeep News Item

The Stewardship & Management Workgroup is pleased to announce **Belfry Upkeep**, an online document aimed at the Steeple Keeper – the person responsible for keeping the bells in order. The aims of the document are:

- To help you understand the installation in your tower
- To describe the checks you should carry out to identify any problems
- To advise you on the maintenance tasks that you should be able to carry out, possibly with expert advice or assistance
- Most importantly, to help you recognise the tasks that require specialist knowledge from a Bell Hanger or other expert

The document can be found at <https://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk>

# London Outing 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022

15 enthusiastic ringers pounded the streets of London on that Saturday in July - even a rail strike did not deter them with Thames link trains obligingly enabling the day to go ahead!

There was an interesting start to the day when the organiser of the event, David Kirkcaldy was seen to be behaving in what can only be described as in a suspicious way! However, it transpires he was 'dealing' with obtaining keys for entry to the towers and not for any other purpose!

Six towers were visited, starting at St Katherine Cree, in Leadenhall Street. An interesting cupboard was access for the ropes to be let down to the ground floor ring. There was a 'no show' for access to this tower on the outing in 2019, so it was a great start to the day for those that were disappointed then.

An 8 bell tower at St Botolph Without, at Aldgate was next where the opportunity was taken to photograph the attendees but also to view the oversized spanner hanging in the belfry!!!



Next was Christ Church, Spitafields, where Alan Regin, MBE, was present in his home tower, and joined in the ringing. This lovely man was the founder of the 'Ringing Remembers' campaign. (NB There is a fascinating video on the CCCBR website telling the story!). He made us all extremely welcome!



Following a much needed lunch, three more towers were visited, a 12 bell at St. Leonard, High Street, Shoreditch where it could be said – how many ringers does it take to ring up a tenor?!! It was





only about 25cwt!! Attempts were made by a number of ringers. Exhausting to watch but was achieved and well done!

An 8 ring at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate followed along with some amazing views from the rooftop! A stunning bride and groom were spotted in the grounds and were thrilled to think that the bells were being rung for them! Finally, another 8 ring at St James Garlickhythe, Garlick Hill ended the day!

Everyone then made their way home following a lovely day with some great ringing for all levels! No doubt some 'snoozing' took place on the train journey home! Thank you to David Kirkcaldy for arranging and running the day and for 'Thames Link' for saving the day!

We look forward to the next one!

**Janice Crawford**

## Walk & Ring Wisborough Green 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022

I wonder by my troth, what thou, and I  
did, till we loved? Were we not weaned till then?  
But sucked on country pleasures, childishly?

**John Donne**

There was rather a lot of competition for people's attention on a hot afternoon on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The Wimbledon ladies final, the England versus India cricket match, the international rugby and the Tour de France were viable excuses for not coming along but those who did make the effort were rewarded by another enjoyable SCACR event organised by Geoff.



The church of St Peter ad Vincula stands on the top of a small hill just to the east of the village centre and was established in the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century. It has an impressive Horsham slab roof, 12<sup>th</sup> Century wall paintings and a ground floor ring of 6 bells with a tenor bell of 14cwt. Due to COVID risk we all had to wear masks in the rather cosy ringing area, which led to some confusion trying to understand the calling above the sound of the bells!

About 12 people came along and under the guidance of Graham, were soon ringing rounds, changes, Grandsire and Bob Doubles. An attempt at Cambridge got about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through before we decided not to annoy the locals any more. I didn't envy Emma who had to turn in the heavy tenor. Vicki has been making splendid efforts to get these bells ringing again by

organising a Sunday service ring every 4<sup>th</sup> week (we all know how difficult it has been to get our towers ringing again after the epidemic)

For the walk, Geoff had organised a circular route south to the Wey and Arun canal so, after crossing the A272, we set off into the heat, south to Harsfold Hanger. Clear blue skies and the abundance of beautiful Sussex countryside had us chattering away and shedding all our cares and anxieties. Pip came along for the walk and soon we found the canal (a bit short of water!) Further on were big reed beds, Lordings Lock, and the baby Arun river. A lot of work had been done by the Trust to improve the canal and paths and a very impressive brick bridge allowed us to watch the black damsel flies on the water.



Gabriel headed off to scout out the path with Pip and myself, confidently “mooving through” a herd of cows, scaring away a fox and then taking the wrong path which would have led us to Billingshurst if Geoff had not spotted our mistake and waved us back.

Turning north, we gained the A272 and after a discussion over the route shown on the map (yes there was one!) we dribbled back to the church again eyeing the buzzards circling overhead. A cooling breeze helped to relieve the heat during the hour and a half walk and we got back at about 6.30 just time for some to go to the pub in this picture postcard village.

Thanks to Graham, Janice and Geoff for their efforts and to Henrietta to allow us to use her bells for a happy afternoon of ringing and walking in this very beautiful part of Sussex.

**David Hall**



# A Happy Birthday at Arundel

David Hall

This August our longest serving bell ringer turned 90 years of age. Marguerite East is a loyal member of our band at St Nicholas' Church, Arundel and despite having to climb 54 stone steps up to the ringing chamber, can always be relied upon to help with Sunday ringing and practices.

She learned to ring for the Millennium in 2000 and was taught by Geoff Lee. Ann Shepherd was a good friend from those days and she regularly keeps in touch. Marguerite has rung at Hailsham, Felpham, Stoughton and West Tarring where she trebled to a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles in November 2004, conducted by Roy Cox.

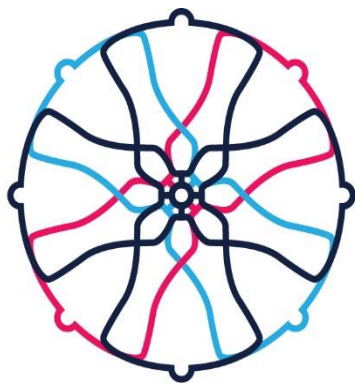
A very active lady still, she is keen on wildlife and nature and has even been down to the Antarctic to see the penguins about 8 years ago which included riding aboard an inflatable boat to get near to the birds. She is also a keen swimmer so had no trouble when her guide accidentally pulled her into the icy water, just shaking off the snow and warming up in the sun!

She finds old age frustrating as she is limited to ringing the treble for a maximum of 15 minutes but her sartorial episodes keep us all amused at times. We can always rely on her to bring us local news of relevant ecclesiastical events. If Marguerite doesn't know about it hasn't happened!

We had a gathering in the tower to celebrate her special day beneath the tower clock which by a happy coincidence has been brought back to life after 14 years of silence.

May Marguerite keep coming along to St. Nicholas' to ring and attend services and we look forward to further celebrations when the next milestone is achieved!





## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Networks" then "Ringing Forums" and for responses to the President's Blog choose "General" or to go straight to this particular discussion use this link:

<https://www.ringingforums.org/discussion/189/presidents-blog>

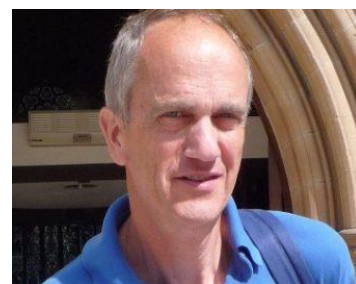
Please have your say too.

# CCCBR UPDATE

## October 2022

This time, instead of reporting on what has happened at CCCBR, I want to draw attention to what will be happening and how you can contribute. CCCBR is trying to address the future of ringing as described in Simon Linford's recent article reproduced below. In November, at the Executive and Work Group Leaders meeting, the process will start with a discussion around introducing a Direct Membership Organisation. Ringers have already posted views on Simon's article in the Forum section of the CCCBR website - from the drop down menu choose "Bells & Ringing" then "Groups &

"Ringing Forums" and for responses to the President's Blog choose "General" or to go straight



**David Kirkcaldy**  
Deputy President, CCCBR.  
and our Central Council Rep!

## RINGING 2030 – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF RINGING

Simon Linford, President CCCBR

*This is the text of part of the Forward Plan I delivered to the Central Council AGM on behalf of the Executive.*

"Last year I talked about a lot of detailed strategies and actions. This year I want to talk more about the bigger picture of where we need to be going.

Last year we were talking about Covid recovery, but while we have largely moved on, the pandemic exposed the fragility of ringing, the effect of losing critical mass, and how that starts to make people do things differently. While there are pockets of great progress, there are many towers, districts, branches, or even associations struggling with numbers, and not seeing young ringers come through.

It is not as though we didn't see this coming. We have been ignoring trends for years and now the demographic time bomb of ringing is ticking loudly. The current ringing population grew from a base of young ringers that was probably five times what we have now. The pipeline needs strengthening.

So we're going to embark on a project tentatively called 'Ringing 2030'. It's a working title, but sometimes working titles just catch on.

### Ringing 2030

We need to start thinking about what we want ringing to be like in 2030 and how we get there. If you roll forward the current demographic profile of ringing 20 years, keeping recruitment as it is, there won't be that many active ringers – many ringers now are over 60, and too few are under 25.

What will members of the Young Change Ringers Association want ringing to be like when they are in charge of it? Will they want to be members of our associations in their current form or will they have developed something different?

The CRAG reforms asked us to consider a Direct Membership Organisation or 'DMO', but it's not clear how we get there. But we've been told that's no excuse not to try. Maybe it will just take quite a while to achieve. There does need to be something that delivers local organisation but what we have now is not working for everyone. We are going to be discussing this at our Executive and Workgroup Leaders meeting in November after which we will come up with more of a project plan, guided by much consultation. It will probably need a large team –

maybe as many as 30 people looking at multiple strands of what might change. I have spoken to two people this morning who I think will be on that team. It will also need buy in from all societies. And for those of you with long memories who are yawning at this point and saying “we’ve been here before” – yes, we have. That’s the problem! Elva Ainsworth and Alison Hodge circulated a paper in 2013 called “A glimpse of ringing in 2024”. It was good. What happened? Nothing. This time we need to do it. We REALLY need to do it.”

*I went on to talk about branding and marketing of ringing as one of a number of projects which are all broadly to do with the development of ringing and which will form part of ‘Ringing 2030’. The rest of this article is developed from my words at the Council meeting.*

## **Branding and Marketing**

We will not recruit the next generation of ringers with what we have now. Whether you describe ringing as a hobby, pastime, service, or performing art, ringing is in competition with other activities and attractions. We do not get the ringing message to very many of the people who would make good ringers. Since I was recruited to the belfry from the choir stalls, ringing has served me well, and vice versa. However, if I was a 13 year old now I don’t think I would have heard about ringing, which would have been a great shame.

How ringing is described and marketed needs to change and we have already started that part of the project by getting a team together with experience in marketing. There is a lot of professional expertise in our ranks! However, we think the project also needs external branding and marketing expertise, and after a competitive tendering and assessment process we have appointed a marketing agency called Yellowyoyo, paid for by the Central Council. (Don’t dismiss marketing agencies because they have silly names!)

The team spent quite some time writing a brief for the agencies, which was quite a challenge in itself. As part of their preparation for interview the agencies researched ringing and it was interesting to hear their first impressions: “It’s very disjointed isn’t it?”

The Council’s Strategic Priorities talk of developing pipelines of potential recruits, which comes from ongoing marketing. One-off recruitment campaigns, for instance calls to use the King’s Coronation next year as a focus, are great, but they are sticking plasters really because we need that sort of level of recruitment every year, and to do that there needs to be a steady supply of people wanting to learn to ring without us searching for them. Then those potential recruits need to find a place to learn to ring where they will be taught well, and then not have their aspirations dampened by a poor ringing experience which does not deliver what was promised. To do that will need a lot of things to be less “disjointed”.

## **Other aspects**

Ringing 2030 is not just about how we grow the number of ringers and continue ringing’s development, although that is an important starting point. There are lots of other things about ringing which many ringers realise are outdated or sub-optimal, but inertia prevents change.

Towards the end of lockdown the Council ran a series of about 15 consultation sessions with a dozen or so attendees in each. Ostensibly these were to help us deal with three outstanding CRAG matters – a DMO, the size of the Council, and the branding of the Council, but unsurprisingly they all diverged into wider ranging discussions on the state of ringing, the effectiveness of territorial associations, and branding and marketing of ringing generally. A couple of those sessions were with young ringers and directly led to the formation of the YCRA.

Those were very useful discussions and we will go back over all these notes we made as they are all relevant to what we are starting to discuss now. For instance I introduced an alternative model for financing ringing via a direct membership organisation including at least a digital *Ringing World* that was part of the package for every ringer, something that has been discussed recently on the old change ringers email list.

If you have not already subscribed to the Ringing Forums I encourage you to do so. The posting of my last Blog led to an extensive and fascinating discussion on the prospect of Ringing 2030, including a debate on what people get out of ringing, whether a sense of duty is ebbing away, and whether Victorian Belfry Reform was a good or bad thing. There will be many ways to contribute to this debate, through the pages of the Ringing World, the Ringing Forums, or other focus groups that will no doubt be established to debate all the different facets of Ringing 2030.

If we are successful in improving the marketing of ringing, teaching more teachers, and training more ringers, then my ‘back of the envelope’ calculation shows that by 2030 more than half of the ringing population could be people we are yet to teach. There is the opportunity to recruit all these ringers into something different, or at least into something that clearly wants to change and has a plan to do so.



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## WESTERN DISTRICT CONTACTS

Secretary	Janice Crawford		<a href="mailto:sec-west@scacr.org">sec-west@scacr.org</a>
Events	Moya Hills		<a href="mailto:events-west@scacr.org">events-west@scacr.org</a>
Ringling Master	David Kirkcaldy		
Central Council Rep	David Kirkcaldy		
Education Contact	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623	<a href="mailto:ed-west@scacr.org">ed-west@scacr.org</a>
West BRF Rep	Rik Clay		<a href="mailto:brf@scacr.org">brf@scacr.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Mandy Rodgers	01243 574074	<a href="mailto:news-west@scacr.org">news-west@scacr.org</a>
Committee Members	Sue Gadd		
	Geoff Goodman		

### WESTERN DISTRICT PRACTICE NIGHTS

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other towers in the division, but it might be an idea to check before you get there!

**Monday:** Aldingbourne, Amberley (7pm), Arundel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) & Lyminster (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

**Tuesday:** Aldwick, Findon (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>), Fittleworth, Funtington, Goring-by-Sea, Graffham, South Harting, Washington

**Wednesday:** Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Kirdford (7.45pm), Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham, Tillington (7.45pm - 1<sup>st</sup> only), Wisborough Green (7.30pm)

**Thursday:** Angmering (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>), Bosham, Easebourne (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Findon (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Midhurst (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>), Milland, Petworth, Steyning & Walberton

**Friday:** Rogate & Storrington Upper Beeding (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Other Towers:** Fernhurst (3), Lodsworth & Trotton (4)

**NB: As practices begin to start up again it is essential to check with the tower first before making a visit**

### Regular District Practices

While ringing is being re-established please check the Diary and the Calendar

### Ways to keep in touch with what the Sussex Association of Change Ringers is doing

Take a look at the SCACR calendar at [www.scacr.org/calendar](http://www.scacr.org/calendar)

Subscribe to Soundbow. SCACR quarterly magazine. £1 each if purchased at a District/Association event or £7pa for a postal subscription. Contact Soundbow Editor Kathy Howard 01903 813653

You can register and keep in touch via Facebook – just search for SCACR

If you use Twitter then look for @scacr and @sussexbells

If you need to know more about social media please email Vicky Chase, our Communications and Events Team leader, at [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org)

### Membership - changes to your details

View and update your own record in the membership database using the following link: <https://membership.scacr.org/edit-your-details> or write to The Membership Secretary at 44 Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1HW

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*Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for the newsletter. Your input is greatly appreciated.*

*Please send your contributions for the next edition of **SallyForth** to [news-west@scacr.org](mailto:news-west@scacr.org)*

*by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023*