

SallyForth

Western District Newsletter
March/April 2023



Diary of Events

Remember to check the Events Listing on SCACR website in case of last minute changes

March

Saturday 4 th	Beginners & Improvers Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 11 th	Monthly Get Together: General Ringing (link) Refreshments provided so names to Janice at sec-west@scacr.org	Kirdford	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday 17 th	Beginners' 8 bell practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 25 th	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00

April

Saturday 1 st	Beginners & Improvers Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 15 th	Monthly Get Together: This one will be geared towards new ringers. The location & timing is being arranged - keep an eye on the SCACR Events Listing (link) Refreshments provided so names Janice at sec-west@scacr.org		
Friday 21 st	Beginners' 8 bell practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 22 nd	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00
Saturday 29 th	Novices 12 Bell Practice (link) If you wish to attend contact Vicky at training@scacr.org	East Grinstead	2.00pm - 5.00pm

NB: The 1st Friday practices at Arundel are temporarily suspended. The plan is to reintroduce them on 5th May

Young Ringers see box on page 8 for upcoming events

You can find out about nation-wide ringing events by looking at 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 by **15th June 2023**.

Janice's Jottings

I do hope it is not too late to wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2023! It doesn't seem possible that it will soon be time to change the clocks for summertime – not long now! How the time flies!!

Since my last jottings – we have enjoyed a number of events including a mini outing in October and included the towers of Lodsworth, Tillington and Northchapel. It was a great opportunity to ring at towers in the 'north' of the District and all the host ringers were very welcoming and pleased to be visited. Westbourne was our November tower which I am informed was also a great success. (Incidentally my holiday in Oz was incredible and I was very fortunate to ring at the 'Swan Tower' in Perth and highly recommend it!!). Angmering put us into the Christmas spirit in December – read all about it on page 6. Shipley cheered us all up in January – 12 of us battled the puddles, floods and torrential rain to be greeted by the resident sheep in the grave yard who seemed oblivious of the weather. Once again – we were made most welcome by the host ringers and some enjoyable ringing took place (and cake eating!).

There is other ringing over and above the regular monthly meeting – these are all listed on the SCACR website. But just as a reminder – these include two practices at Arundel each month – the general 8 bell practice on the 1st Friday and the beginner's 8 bell practice on the 3rd Friday. This is a great opportunity to ring on 8 bells with the 3rd Friday practice especially helpful for those who are new to ringing on 8. There are some very experienced and supportive ringers so take the opportunity! Full details are on the website but are held in the evening. The diary ahead is coming along nicely with plans for a striking competition, a joint event with the Southern District, an outing around Croydon using public transport and an event for new members. Keep an eye on the website!!

The Annual District Meeting at Chichester will have taken place by the time this is published – read all about it in a separate article on page 5.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Committee members with your ideas, thoughts on what kind of events you would like to happen – it is your association and so please have your say and if you have any ideas to encourage more members to attend the monthly meetings.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Goring this year. Details are on the website.

Look forward to hearing and/or meeting you all!

Thank you to all those who help in many ways – you know who you are and it is very much appreciated!

Happy Ringing!!
Very Best Wishes

Janice Crawford
sec-west@scacr.org



We are very sad to record the death of our members

Aldwick	Richard Jeffery 3 rd February 2023
Chichester	Shaun Spillane on 28 th May 2022
Petworth	Chris Fynes on 5 th January 2023
Shoreham/Heene	Pam and Arthur Wright on 3 rd and 29 th respectively November 2022

MICHAEL PALMER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2023

This annual award is for any ringer deserving of recognition for their ringing, contribution to ringing, loyalty, effectiveness and enthusiasm!



This year, Gareth Higgs, Master, presented the shield to **FRANCESCO** for whom 3 nominations had been made by the Towers Captains/Leads of Midhurst/Easebourne, Chichester Cathedral and The Young Ringers.

Francesco's brother Luca, also an avid ringer with his brother, has written the following:

Francesco and I both started ringing in 2016 at Pulborough, taught by Mike Etherington. We both regularly attended other local practices and district events to gain experience. We moved to Easebourne in September 2021 and we both started attending ringing at Midhurst and Easebourne. Francesco and I went on to help with ringing at Stedham, where he now runs the ringing and teaches. Before this, Stedham bells had been virtually silent, with not much ringing happening since before the Lockdown. Now Stedham has an active band, and they practice regularly and good progress is made, thanks to Francesco's enthusiasm. He also teaches new recruits at Midhurst. We both regularly help at neighbouring towers, such as South Harting and Petersfield, where more experienced ringers are required to ring around beginners. He has a big passion for ringing Quarter Peals, and also conducts them in different methods. To this date he has rung 52 quarters. He has conducted 29 of them, including our [first Quarter](#) Peal at Fittleworth. He arranges regular quarter peals, mostly in the Midhurst area, as well as in neighbouring Hampshire, where he tries to involve other young

ringers and local ringers too. As well as helping others, he regularly attends the Wednesday practice at Chichester.

I am very proud of him to have been awarded the Michael Palmer award, and to see him recognised for all his hard work

Luca

Luca has summarised all that the nominees wrote about Francesco. All 3 also said:

'He is worthy recipient of this award' Congratulations and Well done Francesco!

Fifty Towers in Fifty Days for Fifty-Year-Old Vicky

Vicky Chase, our SCACR Training and Recruitment Team Leader has been instrumental in promoting



bellringing and supporting new and novice bellringers throughout Sussex. Her commitment and enthusiasm for bellringing will now be put to the test as she undertakes an ambitious challenge to celebrate her 50th birthday on the 27th of April.

Her plan is to ring bells in 50 Sussex bell towers in 50 days in the run up to and including the Saturday after her birthday. Along the way she will be collecting donations for the SCACR Bell Restoration Fund.

Vicky will kick off her challenge on Saturday 11th March when she will join the Graffham ringers at St Giles church for a morning practice session. This will be followed by her home tower of St John the Baptist at Kirdford on the same

afternoon. Thereafter she will tour the many towers of Sussex in a carefully planned journey over the subsequent weeks. The presence of Holy Week during her challenge has hindered her schedule somewhat. Because there is no ringing during this week, she will double up on some towers to compensate.

Bellringers always welcome visitors into their towers and so Vicky will slot into regular practice nights, Saturday practices and Sunday service ringing. She will undoubtedly be challenged by some of the methods she will be expected to ring. "St Nicholas" and other "Saint" methods are Vicky's favourite and on these she prefers to ring the treble or the tenor. She is hoping that at some of the venues there will be enough fellow method ringers to give her the chance to ring these methods. The whole process should also allow her to perfect "Bob Doubles" and "Grandsire" that she has been learning.

Vicky is also relishing ringing in some of the bigger towers in Sussex and she is particularly looking forward to one of the ten bell towers that exist in Brighton.

If you would like to support Vicky in her unique challenge and in doing so help preserve bells and bellringing in Sussex, you can go to her Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers> or meet her when she visits your tower. The towers she will be visiting are listed on the Just Giving page.

Alternatively you can go to the SCACR website (www.scacr.org/about-us/charitable-funds/bell-restoration-fund) and follow the 'Donate' links to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Odd-struckness meter available to borrow

The Association owns an odd-struckness meter, which can be used to measure and quantify how odd-struck bells are. This is very useful for adjusting bells to minimise odd-struckness. The meter can be borrowed for a donation to the Bell Restoration Fund (£5 suggested donation); please email Graham Hills via brf@scacr.org. More information here: <http://www.bagleybells.co.uk/osm/osm.htm>

WEST DISTRICT ANNUAL DIVISIONAL MEETING 2023!

Chichester was the venue for this annual event on Saturday 11th February and what a super afternoon it was! 49 campanologists descended on Chichester with a considerable number taking the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral.



Following an 82 steps ascent, the words 'what a draught' were heard from a number of ringers once they reached the ringing room! Feeling chilly from a breeze was clearly not what was meant but as Campanologists, we all knew how the bells needed to be rung – properly!! A lovely ringing room steeped in history with plenty of space – at one point there were 35 people present. Expertly lead by David Kirkcaldy, ringing ranged from Rounds/Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 7 to Grandsire Triples, touches of Stedman and a half course of Cambridge, demonstrating the calibre of the bands! A 'first' for many of us - ringing on 8 bells, ringing at Chichester and ringing at a Cathedral!

Everyone then made their way to the Old Court Room at the Council Offices to be greeted by an abundance of tea, sandwiches, cakes and other delicious goodies provided by Susan Spencer and her helpers. Opportunities were seized for members to 'catch up' in a nice warm atmosphere and with no fear of being 'thrown into jail' - no punishment was required for not eating the food – it was just all too good!! A raffle was held in aid of BRF and some lovely prizes had been donated. £116 was raised!

The time then came for the more serious part of the day and the ADM commenced at 5 pm. Gareth Higgs, Master, led us through the agenda with reports read, and votes and thanks made. Key points included the new membership system, a national call change competition to be held in 2023, Ring for the King initiative and the 2030 project! Look out for the minutes for more information!



Moya Hills was presented with some flowers for her hard work as secretary over the years now that she has finally 'given the ropes' over to myself!



Another very important and pleasurable part of the meeting was the presentation of the Michael Palmer Award for 2023 to Francesco by Gareth Higgs. (See separate article written by Francesco's brother Luca on page 3).

The meeting closed at 18.03 with still lots of chattering taking place as people made their way home!

A BIG thank you to Gareth Higgs for chairing the meeting, to Jane Deadman, Colin Spencer and David Kirkcaldy for hosting and arranging the ringing. Also to Susan Spencer and her helpers for the delicious tea, and Margaret Sherwood, Moya Hills, and Audrey Higgs for Selling and folding raffle tickets and to all those who donated prizes.

A 'first' for myself as secretary for the meeting and a 'first' attendance for a number of members present. A lovely day was had by all with an afternoon of many 'firsts' and which will most certainly not be the last!

Janice Crawford West Secretary

The Bells Ring Out at Angmering for Christmas!

St Margaret's Church, Angmering saw 26 of our Western District members determined to 'get into the Christmas Spirit' at the monthly event in December. With the church beautifully festively decorated and many ringers donning Christmas jumpers and hats, the afternoon began with some lovely and varied ringing on the six bells. Our resident Ringing Master, David Kirkcaldy, ensured everyone had the opportunity to enjoy a good ring!

The ringing time soon flew by and everyone trundled down the stairs into the church to be greeted by the organist playing some lovely music but who was also accompanied by a very talented descant recorder player. This left many with thoughts of – 'we didn't know the recorder could be played soo nicely!' and was very much enjoyed by many.



The service then took place led by Canon Mark Standen (Rector) of the Church. The Christmas story was told through a number of readings and the singing of carols. Talents of the congregation of campanologists 'rang' through with five members conducting those readings, (and which for one, was a first so well done and we would never have known!), and the enthusiastic and harmonious singing from us all!!

All this being thirsty work, it was then time for tea, sandwiches and cake just a few steps away in the church hall and what a great spread the Angmering ringers laid on! A raffle was held in aid of BRF, lots of 'catching up' went on and 'thanks' was given to many by our Master. With tummies full, following a lovely afternoon, everyone went home in the Christmas spirit!!

Some lovely feedback from a ringer : 'Many thanks to Mark Standen who led the service and made us all feel very welcome. It was a thoroughly enjoyable introduction to the Christmas season. The bell ringing, organ playing and refreshments all contributed to a very festive afternoon. Thank you to everyone for the kindness shown to me'.

So, all in all – a good time was had by all!!



Janice Crawford and Bridget Stacey
photos by Janice Crawford and Kathy Howard



Now, I have it on good authority (Dorothy L Sayers) that it's very difficult to disguise your back – how many ringers can you recognise?

Arundel Tower Captain Duties

David Hall

When taking on the role of tower captain you could never imagine the scope of duties and rewards which come along attached to position. There will be organising the service ringing and practices, bell maintenance, health and safety, safeguarding, coping with visiting ringers and liaising with the vicar and church office. Also, in the case of Arundel, being aware of the adjacent Priory Theatre production dates and the castle summer festivities which would trump any ringing arrangements.

There are of course, the benefits of seeing your learners progress to Sunday service ringing and your regulars improving and enjoying a sociable evening with the bells. When one moves over to you in a quiet period with head declined, you may hope that they wish to try a touch of something or a new method they have been learning. Of course it could just be a request for the loan of your drain rods or help with a potential domestic flooding incident, but it is all part of the job!

In late autumn our vicar decided that all resources would be assembled to have a clean of the church, both inside and out. This included the bell and ringing chamber of course. On the day, the church was busy with youngsters and adults vacuuming, dusting, polishing inside and weeding, trimming and litter picking outside. Upstairs it appeared to be just myself and Ken, the Works Committee chairman and the wrong side of 80, to tackle the 53 steps plus 24 steps to the bells to operate the vacuum and broom, bag up and drag everything down the spiral stair to the outside gates.

Years of dust, cobwebs, flies and grime had settled on the redundant wooden planks, boards and ringing accessories, some of which had been lodged up in the roof structure (out of site out of mind). In the ringing chamber was a collection of heavy, redundant electrical components destined for a ringing simulator that never was reinstated. Broken chairs, old rope ends, timber shutters, creosote cans and heavy sacks of debris all had to be gingerly collected, dragged down the spiral stairs and slid across the newly polished floors of the nave.

We also had a set of old iron clappers, so heavy that I could barely lift the tenor, but deserving of attention for the years of service given. I decided to clean them up, paint them and mount them on the wall. Two scaffold boards, 16 expanding wall bolts and 8 joist hangers, specially drilled, did the trick and I can now say to visitors "come up and see my clappers some time"! The old clapper wooden yokes have been rubbed down, fitted with new bolts, decorated and secured in a tin trunk. I have not yet decided what to do with the old pulley blocks, sliders and stays but one thing at a time!



The tower clock, silent for over 14 years, has now been repaired thanks to Vicki Chase and her boss Kevin. The hours are struck and soon the chimes will be activated once a ground floor control is installed. Initially concerns were raised about local objections to the bell sounding but now we get comments if it doesn't strike so the sound of the clock has become an integral part of Arundel life.

A tower captain relies on the loyalty and support of the local band of course as ringing is a group activity. During these long, cold and damp evenings at this time of year, if you are hesitating before considering an evening's ring, just remember that your captain. He or she has probably already put in extra time to ensure that the practice can go ahead and the bells are just waiting for willing hands and the call of "look to, trebles going"!

Welcome to our

New Members February 2022 to 2023

Billingshurst	Clare Hagen Alison Box Stuart Box Petra-Maria Knight	Slindon	Tim Loveless
Chichester	Sam Coopley	South Harting	Rafi Aliprosser Glen Robinson
Easebourne	Francesco Luca	Stedham	William Perry
Graffham	Brian Lanaghan Philippa Sanders	Stoughton	Philipa Kerr Fiona Mullett
Heene	James Rampton Joanna Clay	Thakeham	Amanda Norton Susan Belgrave Holly Raval
		Washington	Christine Young Robert Addy

Coming next for Sussex Young Ringers!



IMPORTANT -this is open to everyone:

If you are able to ring Call Changes independently and would like to be considered for the South East Competition, please get in touch. We would very much like some of our younger ringers to join us for this day on **1 April** as it's a great experience, but we need to know now to arrange any extra practices.

Details of all the outings / practices will all be available on the SCACR website and also via the Sussex Young Ringers Facebook page.

Here is what is currently planned for March and April:

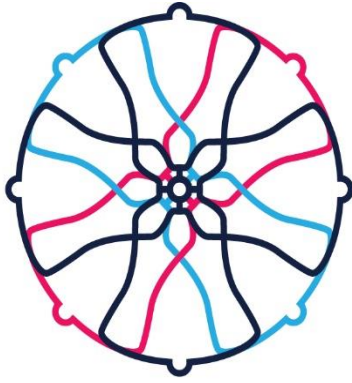
- Saturday 11 March - practice and quarter peal for some
- Sunday 26 March - practice for South East Competition
- Saturday 1 April - South East Competition in Surrey
- Friday 14 April - Young Ringers outing

Please contact me if you would like to join in any of these events

Marisa - Mobile: 07796 145464 - Landline: 01273 812790

CCCBR UPDATE

February 2023



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

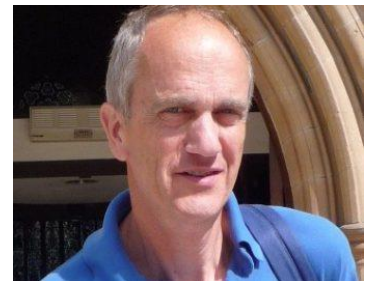
At the present time, other than the day to day work, we are concentrating on the Ringing 2030 project. We are having three discussion sessions to ensure that our strategic priorities are supporting what we see as a very important piece of work.

It is hoped that, if successful, Ringing 2030 will have ensured that ringing is in a better position in seven years' time than at the present time. We need to build on areas of good practice and also consider how we can do things differently to improve the experience of ringers; this is from basic bell handling and on to call changes and method ringing. In Sussex there seems to already be some work moving in a similar direction - one particular problem that has already been highlighted is how do we get those who are interested in learning to ring connected to a tower where they are going to receive good tuition? This is a challenge that has been encountered at the present time with those who would like to learn for the 'Ring for the King' initiative.

There are a number of other projects that are quietly progressing in the background; e.g. the new mobile belfry charity and the National Ringing Centre. We are going to support the first national call change competition, to be held in Birmingham on Saturday, 3rd June. Support is also ongoing to some fledgling residential ringing courses being arranged in different parts of the country.

One piece of work that has now been completed is the production of a booklet on how ringing and safeguarding operate; this is aimed at clergy, PCCs and Diocesan safeguarding advisors. At a national level the Church of England had concerns how ringing would fit in with their policies and procedures, this explains how ringing is organised and what measures are in place to protect everyone. It has been very well received by its target audience.

Going forward again I am in overall charge of arrangements for the Central Council annual meeting, this is being held in Ipswich over the first weekend in September. Whilst this year we are not holding a roadshow there will be a lot of offer for ringers in general by way of seminars and workshops. If you are interested make a note of the event in your diary; full details will be circulated in due course.



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



The right top to go ringing in!

We have everything – t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops and more! All are embroidered on left chest with the iconic Sussex bell logo.

Go to SCACR website, choose Resources then Clothing where you will find everything you need to choose your garment and place an order. Any queries - ask Sue Gotham via clothing@scacr.org.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONTACTS

Secretary	Janice Crawford		sec-west@scacr.org
Ringling Master	David Kirkcaldy		
Central Council Rep	David Kirkcaldy		
Education Contact	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623	ed-west@scacr.org
West BRF Rep	Rik Clay		brf@scacr.org
Newsletter Editor	Mandy Rodgers	01243 574074	news-west@scacr.org
Committee Members	Vicky Chase		
	Sue Gadd		
	Moya Hills		

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 (now every Monday) & Lyminster (practice temporarily suspended), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

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

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

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

Friday: Rogate & Storrington Upper Beeding (2nd & 4th)

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

NB: You are advised to check with the tower first before making a visit

Regular District Practices

Please check the SCACR Calendar (see link below)

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

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

Membership - changes to your details

View and update your own record in the membership database using the following link:

<https://membermojo.co.uk/sussexbellringers/yourmembership> or write to The Membership Secretary at 14 Howard Road, Horsham, RH13 6AB. You can contact the membership secretary with any queries using membership@scacr.org

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*

by 15th June 2023