

# SallyForth

Western District Newsletter  
November/December 2023



## Diary of Events

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

### November

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>General Ringing 8 bell practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b> If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly Get Together: General Ringing (<a href="#">link</a>)</b> Half muffled Remembrance ringing Refreshments provided so names to Janice at <a href="mailto:sec-west@scacr.org">sec-west@scacr.org</a>	Aldwick <i>provisional time, check SCACR website</i>	2.30am - 5.30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners' 8 bell practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Barn Dance (<a href="#">link</a>)</b> To raise money for Sussex Young Ringers. Bring guests! For more detail see advert on page 7	Hurstpierpoint	7.00pm - 10.00pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Surprise Minor Practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00

### December

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	The Arundel 8 bell practice is cancelled as there are other events at the church		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b> If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly Get Together: General Ringing (<a href="#">link</a>)</b> Carol service Refreshments provided so names to Janice at <a href="mailto:sec-west@scacr.org">sec-west@scacr.org</a>	Pulboroughk <i>provisional time, check SCACR website</i>	2.45pm - 6.00pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners' 8 bell practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Surprise Minor Practice (<a href="#">link</a>)</b>	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00

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.

# Janice's Jottings

It doesn't seem possible it is that time again and - by the time you read this - the clocks will imminently be changing!! (enjoy that extra one hour sleep!). I do hope you have had a great Summer and took advantage when the sun was out!

The first piece of great news is that Vicky Chase, Team Leader for Training for SCACR, has been awarded The Order of St Richard! Well done and Congratulations Vicky. Read all about this lovely event on page 3.

Quite a number of events have taken place since my last jottings The Ring, Walk and Ring in July from Upper Beeding to Steyning was very enjoyable and well attended but turned into a Walk, Ring, Wring and Ring!! Read all about it too!

The sun did shine for the two tower event in September at Stoughton and South Harting. Luca has written a lovely account of the afternoon – also in this edition of SF!

In July – Billingshurst kindly facilitated an Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) module 1 – Teaching Bell Handling course. I'm hoping to get some feedback to share for the next issue.

Due to the train strikes – the Croydon mini-outing had to be postponed much to our disappointment. The plan is to rearrange so keep your eyes open for the details!

Events coming up – Ringing at Aldwick in November (hopefully half-muffled) and a Ringing, Service and Tea at Pulborough in December which will be sure to get you into the Christmas spirit!! Final details are yet to be confirmed so please watch the website!!!

The postponed striking competition has not been forgotten! – details to follow so plenty of opportunity to practice in the meantime!

By the time you read this – the Ringing, Fish and Chips and Quiz event at Angmering will have taken place – read all about it in the next edition of SF!

A committee meeting is coming up and future events will be discussed. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas of what **YOU** would like to be happening within our District however bizarre it may seem to you – any ideas are more than welcome! Don't be hesitant in coming forward.

Plans are afoot to open up a Saturday morning practice that currently takes place at Storrington into a District event. It is hoped that this may commence in November. A few details still need to be finalised and will be published in all the usual places once confirmed. Exciting!

As always - thank you to everyone who help in all sorts of ways – you know who you are and it is very much appreciated!

I do hope it is not too early to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2024.

With very best wishes

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



## Welcome to our New Members

**Chichester**  
**Graffham**

Sam Coopey

John Edge

John Pescott

**Slindon**

Jonathan Froud

**South Harting**

Patricia James

Claire Morrison

**Thakeham**

Nigel Spiers

**Funtington**

John Bentley

Nicola Petry

**Kirdford**

Stephen Fuller

Janice Hannington

Suzy MacSorley

Deborah Thompson

**Westbourne**

Martin Foakes

Jenny Foakes

---

---

## The Order of St Richard is awarded to Vicky Chase

The Order of St Richard is awarded to lay people to recognise exceptional service to the parish, local community and the Diocese. This is an annual event with people from each Archdeaconry selected and awarded. The certificate is signed by the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner and a badge bearing the episcopal coat of arms of St Richard, is mounted on a blue ribbon

As a result, a lovely afternoon was spent at Chichester Cathedral on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, being part of the service of evensong for the investiture of our own Vicky Chase, into the Order of St Richard. Congratulations to Vicky who was nominated by Reverend Vivien from St Giles church Graffham, and seconded by Alison Davidson, who are both ringers at St Giles. They were both impressed with Vicky's enthusiasm, determination, motivation of others and effectiveness within her role of Training Team Leader for SCACR. To quote: 'she is an inspiration' and has put ringing 'on the map' especially during her '50 towers in 50 days' event. 'She continues to give great support and training'. The award also 'represents all bell ringers within the county and the input they all provide'.

Following the lovely service, the bells rang out! Thank you to Mike Smith and all the ringers for ensuring this happened and so giving Vicky the opportunity to also have a ring to mark her special occasion! It was also very fortunate that the Peace Doves exhibition was also taking place which added to the ambience of the whole occasion! (and well worth a visit!)

Thank you for inviting me Vicky to be part of your event. Apologies that the very rare wearing of a dress prevented me from joining you in the ringing!

The pictures below show Vicky with Bishop Ruth in the Cathedral, a view of the Peace Dove exhibition and Vicky with her award up in the bell tower.

**Janice Crawford**



# Monthly Get-together 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Stoughton and South Harting

On a sunny September afternoon was the monthly ringing for the district. This time was to the lovely South Downs countryside near the Hampshire border.

The first church was St Mary's at **Stoughton**. The picturesque village is nestled in the Ems Valley, and the church is above the village, itself being a mainly 11<sup>th</sup> century church. The tower has 6 bells, the oldest being cast in c1393! The bells are very easy going, and provided a good start to the afternoon! Ringing here consisted of Rounds, Call Changes, Bob Doubles, Grandsire, Stedman and Cambridge. Thanks to Tim Wright for running the ringing here!



*The church itself, with its South-East facing tower*



*Ringing underway at Stoughton*

Next we headed over the downs to the village of South Harting, where the ringers provided us with a splendid afternoon Tea in the church hall. A big thank you to Pru, Sharron, Jenny and Luke for providing an excellent tea and for being so accommodating!

The bells of St Mary & St Gabriels Church at South Harting can be seen as a challenge for some. The tower is at the chancel crossing, and the 6 bells are rung from the ground floor, in the middle of the church. This means there is a long and unguided rope draught, meaning the ropes can move and behave unexpectedly. However this is overcome with a long straight pull, and unnoticed when you get used to it! Everyone had a go and we had some Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt and Bob Minor here. It was a great afternoon with a good turnout!



*Moya showing off the tea venue.*



*South Harting Church, locally known as The "Cathedral of the downs" for its size and Copper spire.*

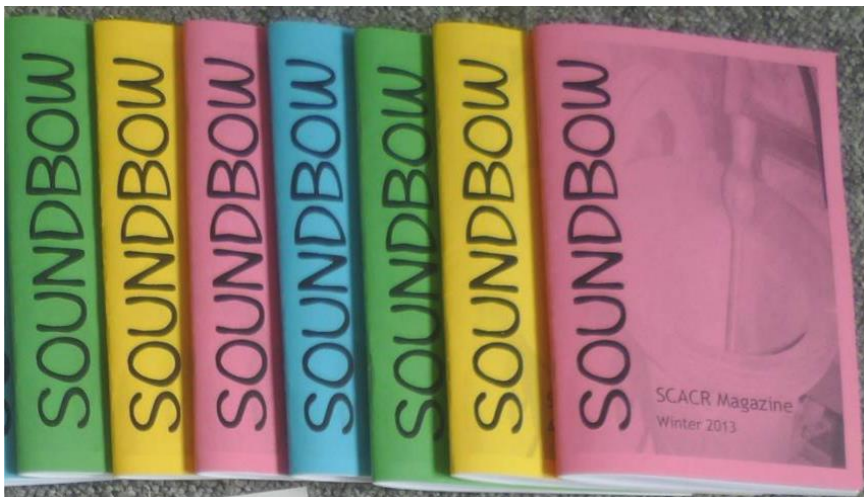


South Harting: Ringing underway



South Harting bells in the belfry, all looking very smart, having been rehung by Nicholsons in 2011.

Luca



## SOUNDBOW

Single copies are £1.20 or make life easier and take out a subscription for just **£8 per year**.

This will guarantee four editions of Soundbow delivered straight to your door as soon as they are printed. No more waiting for someone to come along with some for sale - they may never come and then you have missed out!

Soundbow reports on Association events, contains ringing themed articles and gives an insight into what is happening right across the county. Hopefully something of interest for everyone to enjoy!

To take out a subscription contact Kathy Howard at [soundbow99@gmail.com](mailto:soundbow99@gmail.com), or phone 01903 813653. There is also an application form on the SCACR website for you to download.

# Ringin' Downunder!

It was third time lucky for my husband Tony and I to be fortunate to go on our 'once in a lifetime' trip to Australia with the dreaded covid the reason for the delay. However, it was well worth the wait! One of the many highlights for me, was the opportunity to ring at 'The Swan Bell Tower' in Perth. How fortunate that one of our 'freedom days' coincided with the tower being open.

Situated by and overlooking the 'Swan River', the copper and glass tower has been custom built at 82.5 metres tall (217 feet) and has a quite a majestic aura! There are 16 bells with two extra chromatic note bells and makes them the second largest set of change ringing bells in the world! 12 of the bells are from St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London as a donation to celebrate the 1988 bicentenary celebrations. Five of the other six were presented to the people of Western Australia (WA) by the City of London and Westminster and a number of British and Western Australian mining companies. They were cast by the Whitechapel Foundry in recent years with donation of metals mined in WA. One of the bells was commissioned by the WA Government,

With a combined weight of about 9 tonnes, the tower, fortunately, is composed of reinforced concrete! In 2018, to commemorate the centenary of World War 1, another 6.5 tonne bell was cast which is swung electronically each day at midday. Known as the 'Great ANAZAC Bell'. this is spectacular to watch.



Following a very prompt e mail response from the Tower Captain, I was encouraged to come and join the ringing with the band which happens only twice a week – how fortunate was I. I did as instructed and went straight to the reception area and amid some very strange looks from the waiting tourists, (my husband even came with me!) we made our way via the stairs with the knowledge that soon, those tourists will be able to watch the ringing from the viewing tower. No pressure! Fortunately, the tourists are not visible to the ringers! (They also have the opportunity to chime a bell as part of their tour!)



What a welcoming band the ringers were and I was soon given a rope. My pleas of 'let me in gently' was responded with 'we've been told differently' and it turned out that two of my ringing buddies, the Bickers family, had been there the previous week and pre-empted them! I couldn't get away with that even all those miles away!!! The band kept me busy for the hour until I asked for a rest! I managed to ring some rounds and call changes and sometimes on 10. The bells were lovely with a long draft. The height of some of the boxes needed for the heavier bells were impressive but not for me I'm afraid! One of the ringers encouraged my hubby to have a chime once the bells were down and he did rather well. I did explain that there were some things I need to be able to do that he can't and so requested that they don't encourage him too much!!!! I think he quietly quite enjoyed himself.

There is the privilege to purchase a polo shirt with an embroidered Swan Tower logo for anyone who has rung at the tower which I duly did! Here are Helen and Harry showing off theirs!!!

I would recommend any ringer who is fortunate to go to Perth, to take the opportunity to ring at the Swan Bell Tower. It is a great experience!

**Janice Crawford**



---

## Barn Dance at Hurstpierpoint 7pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Join us for a traditional Barn Dance and **raise funds for the Sussex Young Ringers** with fun for the whole family.

Saturday 18 November 2023, The Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

Doors open 7pm; dancing until 10.30pm.

**Members from all Districts and Guests welcome.**

Bring your own drinks and refreshments (cutlery / crockery available) or take advantage of the local takeaway establishments in Hurstpierpoint. Tea, coffee and squash provided. The band and caller are excellent. They played to a sell-out crowd in Ringmer for the Coronation. It promises to be a fun evening!

Contact **Marisa Hayes** - get in touch on **01273 812790** or text **07796 145464**

### Don't delay - Book Today

Tickets **£8 in advance** (book online via membermojo)

<https://membermojo.co.uk/sussexbellringers/store>

or **£10 on the door** (CASH only)

Under 18s free (donation welcome)



## 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](mailto:clothing@scacr.org).

# The Ring, Walk and Ring event in July 2023 *which became.....*

## The Ring, Walk, Wring and Ring event!!!!

A group gathered on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July, at St Peter's Church, Upper Beeding and enjoyed some ringing at this six bell tower which was rather 'compact', making it necessary for ringers to rotate up into the ringing room. The bells were lovely and everyone had the opportunity to have a ring and all levels of ability were catered for! Practice night is once a month and, since this event, one or two have been inspired to come along to subsequent practices. It was a great opportunity for the bells to be rung on this day. The church is in a beautiful rural location and many were looking forward to a lovely approximately two hour walk, across country to Steyning after ringing. When not in the ringing room – there were heads to the sky peering at some grey clouds and voices uttered – “Will it or won't it? – it'll be fine!”

After a very satisfying hour of ringing, everyone prepared themselves for the walk – the weather seemed reasonable and it was looking hopeful and so the walk began northwards along the Adur Valley and back round to Steyning and very picturesque it was. There was lots of chatting and 'catching up' with some speedier at walking than others. However, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way round – the heavens opened! And my goodness – they did! Many were duly prepared with appropriate attire with some of us, not quite so! With an umbrella malfunction – unfortunately – 2 of us from Angmering got soaked!! We kept going and were still happy and were very pleased, as were many, to see Steyning in our grasp and that lunch was looming! Even the cows were drenched!

The walk then became a wring as many of us had to wring some of our drenched clothing! Lunch was next with some frequenting the local cafes/pub with the opportunity to dry off! Miraculously, the weather took a distinctive turn for the better and out came the sun! After lunch, ringing was at St Andrew & St Cuthman which was enjoyed by all. Geoff impressed us all with his 'rope management@ to ensure the bell can be chimed from down in the church!



It was just a 30 minute walk back to Upper Beeding for those who had left their car there at the start or the opportunity to catch the bus! The rain managed to keep away!

A great afternoon was enjoyed by all!! Many thanks to David Kirkcaldy and Kathy Howard for organising and all your input! (it was noted that you were able to pop home at the wringing part!!!)

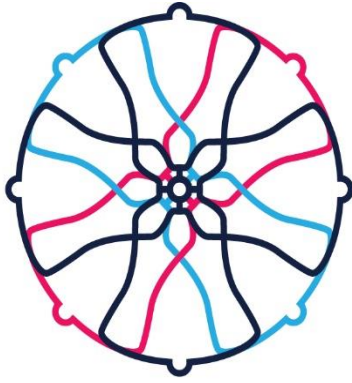


Janice Crawford



# CCCBR UPDATE

## October 2023



### THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

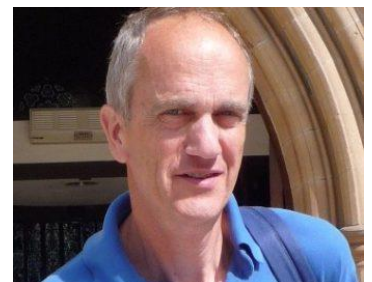
This is written following the 2023 annual meeting weekend held during the first few days of September in Ipswich. The weather was warm and sunny with many activities available over three days. For me it was marked by having completed six years as Deputy President, this meant that I had finished my term of office. Being Deputy President has been a great honour and privilege; especially during a time when the Central Council has been modernising the way it works, hopefully to better serve ringers across the world.

Most of the business discussed at the actual meeting was fairly routine and without incident. A new President (Tina Stoecklin) was elected along with a new Deputy (Vicki Chapman) and also an ordinary trustee. For this last post there were two candidates and a very close vote with Ian Roulstone getting one more vote than Alison Hodge.

One major item on the agenda was whether there should be a reduction in the number of representatives elected to the Central Council. The suggestion would have meant that rather than the current five representatives Sussex would have been entitled to three. On the lead up to the meeting there had been strong views expressed on the subject, these included a possible amendment that would have resulted in every Association and Guild being entitled to just one representative. From the outset it became clear the feeling of the meeting was to retain the status quo. Many of those present voiced the opinion that they felt as if they belonged to something that was important and assisted those ringers they represented. When put to the vote it was obvious that the proposal did not have enough support and therefore the current formula for working out the number of representatives each Association or Guild is entitled remains. It is hoped that ALL representatives will get involved in the work of the Central Council and report back to the people who have elected them, this is sometimes sadly not the case. It would appear that some still see being a Central Council representative as more a 'badge of honour' than anything else.

Along with social events in the evenings there were ringing development sessions all day on Friday and Sunday afternoon. On Sunday there was an open meeting to discuss the Ringing 2030 initiative which many found useful with ideas they wanted to take back to their own Associations.

What of the future? I am still remaining as the Central Council representative for the Western District and will still continue to update what is happening, it is hoped that this is a two way street with any ideas from the grass roots being fed in to the system. Please do remember that anyone can get involved with the Central Council and join one of the workgroups. In 2024 the annual meeting weekend is being arranged in Devon, for me I hope that it won't be quite as stressful as the last few years when I was in charge of all the arrangements for the weekend!



**David Kirkcaldy**  
our Central Council Rep!



The new Deputy President  
Vicki Chapman  
You will know her as Ringing Remembers Co-ordinator

The new President  
Tina Stoecklin hails from Glasgow  
You may have seen her books on handbell ringing



---

## WESTERN DISTRICT CONTACTS

<b>Secretary</b>	Janice Crawford		<a href="mailto:sec-west@scacr.org">sec-west@scacr.org</a>
<b>Ringling Master</b>	David Kirkcaldy		
<b>Central Council Rep</b>	David Kirkcaldy		
<b>Education Contact</b>	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623	<a href="mailto:ed-west@scacr.org">ed-west@scacr.org</a>
<b>West BRF Rep</b>	Rik Clay		<a href="mailto:brf@scacr.org">brf@scacr.org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mandy Rodgers	01243 574074	<a href="mailto:news-west@scacr.org">news-west@scacr.org</a>
<b>Committee Members</b>	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 (7.30pm), Arundel (now every Monday) & Lyminster (practice temporarily suspended), 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: 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](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://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](mailto: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](mailto:news-west@scacr.org)*

*by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024*