

SallyForth

Western District Newsletter
March/April 2024



Diary of Events

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

March

Saturday 2 nd	Beyond Plain Hunt Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 9 th	Monthly Get Together: General Ringing (link) Full details on page 10 Ring or email Janice before 5 th March if you would like Lunch at The Flying Bull at Rake	Rogate Milland	10.45am - 12.00 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Saturday 16 th	Rounds to Plain Hunt Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Storrington	10.00am - 12.00
Friday 22 nd	General Ringing 8 bell practice (link) <i>Rescheduled from Friday 1st March</i>	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 23 rd	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00

April

Friday 5 th	General Ringing 8 bell practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 6 th	Beyond Plain Hunt Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am - 12.00
Saturday 13 th	Monthly Get Together: Call Change Experience (link) Findon TBC Refreshments provided so names to Janice at sec-west@scacr.org		10.30am - 12.00
Saturday 20 th	Rounds to Plain Hunt Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Storrington	10.00am - 12.00
Saturday 27 th	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am - 12.00
Saturday 27 th	Keep checking SCACR website - Vicky is hoping to organise another 8 bell practice at Billingshurst		

Young Ringers see box on page 10 for upcoming events

Looking Ahead

May

Saturday 18 th	Bell Maintenance	Kirdford.	2.00 – 5.00pm
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If you wish to attend, contact Janice beforehand at sec-west@scacr.org

June

Saturday 29 th	Croydon Outing on Public Transport, Take #2		
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You can find out about nation-wide ringing events by looking at www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for

Janice's Jottings

Whilst writing this – the sun is trying to shine despite the amount of rain there has been. The best thought is that the clock changes next month and the lighter evenings will commence!! Something very much to look forward to!

It is always nice to look back on ringing events that have been held since my last jottings and shows how much has been going on!

The plan to hold a new Storrington monthly event on a Saturday morning has come to fruition and is proving to be extremely popular! Numbers are limited to ensure everyone has a good chance of ringing rounds to plain hunt. The established monthly Washington practice has a new title of Plain Hunt and Beyond which is the stepping stone from the Storrington practice allowing ringers to progress.

The quiz and fish and chip supper at Angmering in October was popular and very competitive and Pulborough got us into the Christmas spirit in December (see page 8).

Another new practice is a monthly 8 bell on a Saturday afternoon at Billingshurst. Initially this is for 3 months pending a review. Keep an eye on the website for the latest - this applies to all events!

A 'splicing' course was held at Heene in January and the intention is to run another later in the year. Some interesting skills were learnt along with the rescue of a very grateful seagull who, after the ordeal – became fussy about which cake crumbs to eat – not keen on lemon drizzle!!! Thankfully, he flew away safely!! ('he' is an assumption on my part!)

The Annual Divisional Meeting held at Angmering has taken place – find out all about it on page 3. The Michael Palmer Achievement Award 2024 was presented at the meeting – see who received it on page 4.

Events coming up – Ringing, Pub Lunch and Ringing in March - a two tower opportunity – details are on the website – be sure to choose your menu in advance and let me know!!!

A call-change experience is scheduled for April – this is for fun and for ringers, who may not have rung together before, to have the chance to be part of the same band - so just turn up!!

Kirdford is the tower in May for a maintenance course. Fingers crossed the trains will allow the postponed Croydon outing in June to go ahead.



A Committee meeting is coming up and future events will be discussed. Please feel free to contact me or any of the committee members 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!
As always – thank you to all of you who help in all sorts of ways!! It is very much appreciated!!

With very best wishes

Janice Crawford
sec-west@scacr.org

Welcome to our New Members

Aldingbourne	Julian Buxton	Northchapel	Florence Southerden
Aldwick	Ellie Green	Shipley	Brian Wright
	Alexie Keijser-Petch	Steining	Rosamund Mynard
	Janet Rawnsley		Peter Geering
Angmering	Sue Monkman	West Tarring	Beverley Barnes
Findon	Adrian Riches	Westbourne	Oliver Davey
Northchapel	Chris Hendry		Sarah Jones

Annual District Meeting 10th February 2024

The bells rang out at Angmering for the annual meeting. The ringing chamber was full of enthusiastic ringers spilling down the stairs and into the church as they waited for their opportunity to ring. It was lovely to see so many people - 46 recorded as having attended the meeting. All levels of ringing took place under the watchful eye of David Kirkcaldy; his last meeting as District Ringing Master. Before we knew it, it was time for tea - a delicious spread put on by the Angmering crew who never fail to deliver!



The raffle was next and some lovely prizes were won, many of which were donated by members who were present. A sum of £100 was raised for the Bell Restoration Fund.

Before the serious part of the day commenced, Gareth Higgs, the Master, presented certificates to new members who were present. Suzy McSorley – Kirdford, Adrian Riches – Findon, Sue Monkman – Angmering, Rosamund Mynard – Steyning and Nigel Spiers – Thakeham. They were given a big welcome!

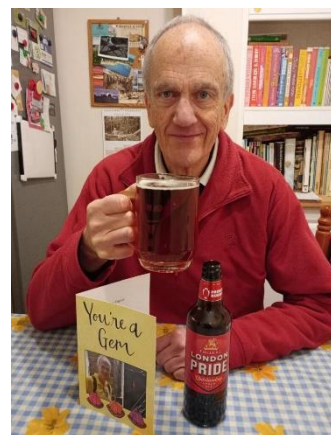
The serious part of the day came and the Agenda of the meeting was worked through. The four members who had passed away since the last meeting were remembered and the 26 new members who joined in the year were welcomed.

The presentation of the Michael Palmer award was made to a very surprised Alison Box from Billingshurst - see page 4 of Sally Forth (SF).

Reports were read, votes were made and there were a lot of thanks! Nigel Spiers was welcomed onto the District Committee. David Kirkcaldy stood down from his District Ringing Master duties with Rik Clay taking his place, and Tim Wright being a helping hand. Within the General Officers roles at SCACR Margaret Sherwood would be standing down as Trustee at the Annual General Meeting along with David Kirkcaldy as General Secretary. If you are interested in either of these roles please get in touch with Gareth Higgs.

The final part of the meeting entailed everyone doing some work and despite having eaten plentifully many were enthusiastic to take part! Three posters were laid out, each with a different task. Participants were asked for their thoughts on what the goals and vision of the organisation are, what may hinder the organisation achieving them and what might help. They were also asked for suggestions for training and other activities that should be taking place and if these should be at local or association level. A lot of discussion took place and much use of marker pens and sticky notes!!! Very interactive! Next step is for the secretary to analyse those thoughts and suggestions. More detail will be included within the minutes of the meeting which will, ultimately, be available on the website.

It would appear it was a successful afternoon with lots of enjoyable ringing, good food and 'catching up' as well as dealing with the serious aspects!!



Janice Crawford – Secretary

Michael Palmer Achievement Award 2024

This annual award is for any ringer deserving of recognition for their ringing, contribution to ringing, loyalty, effectiveness and enthusiasm! Nominations are put forward to the District Secretary and reviewed by the District Committee who decide the recipient of the award.

It is with great pleasure to announce that the person receiving the award for 2024 is ALISON BOX from Billingshurst.

There were two nominations for Alison and these are the reasons for her receiving the award:

Alison started ringing in 2021 and has overcome confidence issues resulting in her becoming a competent ringer, ringing Call Changes and Plain Hunt and is now progressing to learning methods on the Treble. This has taken considerable courage and determination!



Other qualities that Alison excels at and which she continually demonstrates, are her pro-activeness, organisational skills, reliability and encouragement of others. She has already taken on the role of 'Tower Secretary' for Billingshurst, supporting and marketing local events and practices. She was 'pivotal' in organising the publicity for the '50 Towers in 50 Days' challenge that Vicky Chase undertook early in 2023. She dealt with all aspects of the publicity including the media as well as providing physical presence at many of the Towers. To quote from Vicky: 'Alison's input was key and successful in raising awareness of the event' .

Alison continues to help and support in all aspects of ringing in a very quiet and efficient way and is most deserving of this award.

Congratulations!

Presented by:

Gareth Higgs – Master. ADM 10th February 2024. Western District.

Nominated by:

Vicky Chase – Tower Captain, Billingshurst.
Suzy MacSorley - Fellow Ringer, Kirdford.

We are very sad to record the death of our members

Chichester	Hamish McNaughton	20 th March 2023
Funtington	Andrew Rose	1 st February 2024
Goring	Tony Marrett	25 th October 2023
Milland	Eric Headland	7 th June 2023

Castle Christmas Ringing 2023

David Hall

It is unusual for a ringing session to take place in a castle but at Arundel, it had been the custom for the three bells inside their mini-tower, to have their dust shaken off with a pre-Christmas ring. That is until 2019 when I had a chance to inspect them and condemn them as unsafe. They were always a difficult set, cast in 1898, which tended to drop on you (debris as well as ropes!) and the sallies were positioned close into each of the corners of an eight foot square chamber.

With the intervention of the covid pandemic it has taken a while for any action but happily they have now been much improved with a new steel frame, headstocks, sliders, bearings and floor. We were then asked if we could provide ringers for this year's Mass to take place in the castle private chapel for 2023.

It was a chilly evening on 13th December as Colin and Sue Spencer and myself waited outside the huge castle gates for Sylvia Hartigan to make up our band (always have a spare just in case!). The gates opened and inside was a motorised buggy to run us through the grounds. Deciding not to wait for Sylvia as time was getting on, we climbed aboard and chugged off following the low-level lighting posts. A winding route brought us out into the internal court of the castle, all lit up, and we were dropped by the door where a "footman" showed us into the hall. It was strangely devoid of the festive decorations usually draped over the stuffed bulls' heads and armour but a warming fire in the grate was welcoming. Eventually Sylvia arrived (she had a long walk!) and we made our way up the stone stair and corridor towards the old keep. From this corridor another short stair brought us to the ringing chamber.

We were glad to see a small electric heater but puzzled by the batch of large, yellow ear defenders! Ringing up the treble soon showed us why. The sound was deafening as there was no hatch between us and the bells just above us! Following a minor struggle fitting our ears with muffles, we started on rounds, looking like cartoon characters. Calling was impossible as nobody could hear so we stood the bells and agreed to try plain hunt with commands actuated by stamping one foot or the other!

It didn't sound too bad and the ropes were a huge improvement on the old layout. We swapped bells and tried again then finished with rounds so that we all had a try of each. After ringing down we took photos, turned off the heater and lights and quietly made our way out to the waiting buggy. It was a little disappointing this year as we would have normally been directed after ringing to the great hall where, in times before, a huge Christmas tree, roaring log fire and mulled wine with vol-au-vents would have greeted us but perhaps so much was spent on the bells even castles have had to tighten their belts.

Sylvia and I had a standby however as the vicar of St Nicholas Church had invited us to drop in to his Advent Party only about 100 yards away! Another eventful evening for all four of us which had only happened because of bell-ringing. You never know where it may lead you!



Remembrance Ringing 11th November 2023

Aldwick

The monthly get together coincided with Remembrance Day so we were able to ring half-muffled on the 8 bells at Aldwick. There was a very good turnout – 30 ringers aged between 11 and 85+ arrived at St Richard's but no problem as this church has all the accoutrements a district ring might need – large car-park, well behaved bells, meeting hall with full facilities and just about enough room in the ringing chamber to fit us all in.



The church was built in 1933-4 to serve the newly developed Aldwick Estate and was the last stone-built church in Sussex. It seems to have been a Mosse family project: the Rev CH Mosse was appointed minister in 1931 when there was only a temporary chapel. His father HR Mosse, a retired doctor from South London and historian of Sussex church monuments, sponsored the building of a new church at a cost of £15,000 and happily FG Troup, HR Mosse's son-in-law, was available to be employed as architect.

Apparently the church tower was designed to take 8 bells but only the current no. 6 was installed in 1933. After Rev Mosse retired two more bells were installed in 1958 in memory of

his wife and father. More bells were added over the years and the last two needed to complete the project in September 2007. The local paper reported

Earlier this month the two extra bells for St Richard's Church were finally brought to the church and blessed in a service led by Bishop Roger Jupp.

As is traditional, incense was burned inside both to make them sound sweeter. After the service, the bells were raised into the bell tower for hanging with the other six, and for the new ropes to be fitted to all eight.

They will be rung for the first time on Sunday, September 23, with a hopeful first quarter peal rung on Thursday

I haven't been able to find evidence of this quarter peal (can anyone remember?) but Bellboard does record the first Peal on the 8 bells: Yorkshire Surprise Major, 2nd February 2008 and the band comprised: Alan Martin, Keith Game, Ruth Reeves, Hamish McNaughton, Philip Stevens, Mike Wake, Ian Hastilow and Colin Spencer.

David Kirkcaldy was responsible for crowd control and he did a great job keeping the ringing moving incorporating everything from rounds & call changes to Cambridge Major and making sure that everyone got several gos.



Unusual staircases in and out of the ringing room, which is open to the church on one side



After that we retired to the Mosse Memorial Hall where there was a warm welcome from tower captain Jonathon Harris, and partner Liz Robjant who, despite not being a ringer herself (yet!), was very kindly dispensing hot drinks.

And of course, there was cake - lots of it 😊

The hall can accommodate 200 so there was plenty of room to spread out and set up the raffle.

We all had a very enjoyable afternoon. The Bell Restoration Fund had a good time too gaining £108 from both the teas collection and raffle. Many thanks to Liz and Jonathon and to all those who baked.

Mandy Rodgers

Not saying 'GOOD BYE' to MOYA and GRAHAM HILLS!!



The 'Hills' were encouraged to go to the local Public for nice *quiet* drink with their fellow Goring ringers after practice on a December Tuesday evening. However, that was not to be and when they were finally enticed to a particular area of the pub – they were greeted by many of their SCACR friends!!

It has been known for some time that they were due to move home and a potential date was looming and so the opportunity was taken!!! The spontaneous evening included lots of chatting and reminiscing. The Master presented them with a monetary gift and card from their SCACR friends, for them both to enjoy a meal in their new village or as they choose.

Graham and Moya have been tremendous with all their input and involvement with the Association over the years including Moya as District Secretary, Graham as Ringing Master and BRF rep, to name but a few, but most importantly, their support and presence.

We all wish them well in their new home. It is not 'Good bye' but 'Good Luck' and we look forward to seeing them at future events!

Janice Crawford – Secretary

Carols & Ringing 9th December 2023 Pulborough

On the evening of Saturday the 9th of December, the district got back together for the annual “Ring and Carol Service”, at St Mary’s Church at Pulborough, which is home to a very nice easy-going ring of eight. The ringing consisted of Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and a half course of

Cambridge Surprise Major. After we finished ringing, we descended into the church where The Reverend Canon Paul Seaman led the carol service, including a competition of which side of the church could sing the loudest! After that, we were provided with an excellent tea inside the church. Thanks to everyone who prepared it! The event was nice for me as I learnt to ring at Pulborough back in 2016, and that same year the carol service was also at Pulborough. The event was largely the same but made me realise how far the district has come as it was great to see many new faces!

Luca



The tower after dark, with its iconic star



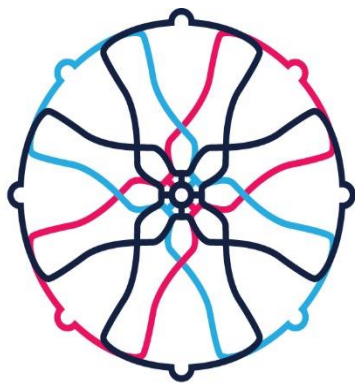
Ringling Underway



The Tea



Pulborough Church



CCCBR UPDATE

February 2024

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

The largest section of work is surrounding the 'Ringling 2030' project; this is looking at trying to ensure that ringing has a viable future. One point is that given current trends the ringing population is becoming more mature; on the other hand, it is worth bearing in mind a large proportion of those who will be ringing in 2030 have yet to start ringing.

Ringling 2030 has three pillars on which it is based:

Publicity and marketing: Raise awareness of the art of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity. Drive new recruits to us with better targeted marketing initiatives.

Recruitment and development: Encourage the development of local and regional structures to recruit potential new ringers and attract lapsed ringers back to ringing, then ensure their expectations are met as they progress

Quality environment: Teachers, teaching structures, leadership, bell installations, ringing environments, safeguarding, etc. We have to create a quality environment that makes people enjoy ringing and want to stay doing it.

The Sussex County Association supports this project going forward and we have already commenced seeking the view of members as to what is required at a local level.

In addition, there is other work going on in the main to support the 'Ringling 2030' project. What was initially called the mobile belfry, now The Touring Tower, will hopefully be completed later this year and it will be operated from a trust that will also manage two other mobile belfries.

A ringing centre is being developed in Northampton. This was initially hoped to be a national ringing centre but due to changing demands from the Churches Conservation Trust, who own the land, it may end up being scaled back to more of a regional centre.

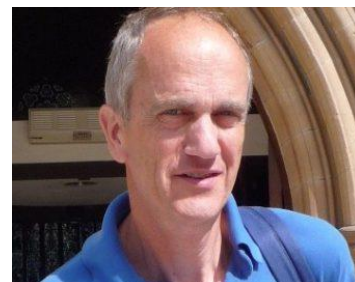
The organisation of Central Council publications is being reviewed.

New publicity material has been produced and this is available free to use via a link on the CCCBR website. <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/>

Consideration is being given to the question should bell ringing be an intangible cultural heritage. A consultation is being carried out, and you can find out more by using this link. <https://cccbr.org.uk/2024/01/18/what-is-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-why-does-it-matter-to-bellringing/>

Bell ringers are being encouraged to join in the 'Ring out for Peace' project to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June. Also, this year there is a national push to encourage individual churches to get involved on 'Bell Sunday'; this is scheduled to take place on Sunday 12 May.

Lastly, there are concerns about volunteer burnout, too few people taking on too much work. This is as true in Sussex as anywhere else in the country. So do please get involved with ringing at whatever level: tower, district or county. Don't worry if you are a new recruit you will bring with you skills to help. Hopefully you enjoy your ringing so help spread the message and encourage those who may be a few steps behind you in their progress.



David Kirkcaldy
our Central Council Rep!

Ring Pub Ring

Saturday 9th March 2024

TWO Towers and a Pub Lunch (or bring a picnic if you prefer)

St Bartholomew, **Rogate** GU31 5AE

Lunch at **The Flying Bull** at Rake, near Liss, GU33 7JB

St Luke, **Milland** GU30 7LU

10.45am - Midday

12.30pm – 1.45pm

2pm - 3pm

The pub requires our group lunch order in advance of the event. The menu is available on the pub website at www.theflyingbull.com. There is main menu, a sandwich menu and a gluten free menu to choose from.

**YOU MUST RING OR EMAIL YOUR ORDER TO JANICE BY CLOSE OF PLAY ON
TUESDAY 5TH MARCH**

Email: to sec-west@scacr

or Phone: 07890 804339.

Coming next for Sussex Young Ringers!



IMPORTANT - Sussex Young Ringers is open to everyone - we ring anything from rounds to Stedman.

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:

Sunday 17 March - 2 - 4pm - general ringing for everyone in the group ([Link](#))

Friday 5 April - 12 - 2pm - practice ahead of South East Striking Contest ([Link](#))

Saturday 13 April - 10am - 5pm - South East Counties Striking Contest at Bushey ([Link](#))

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

Marisa - Mobile: 07796 145464 - Landline: 01273 812790

WESTERN DISTRICT CONTACTS

Secretary	Janice Crawford		sec-west@scacr.org
Ringling Master	Rik Clay		
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		
	Nigel Spiers		

WESTERN DISTRICT PRACTICE NIGHTS

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other towers in the division; **7.30pm start unless otherwise indicated.**

Monday: Aldingbourne, Amberley, Arundel (now every Monday), Kirdford (5.45pm 1st), Lyminster (practice temporarily suspended), Northchapel,(check), Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon (7pm), Stedham (7pm but check), Westbourne, West Tarring, Wisborough Green (5.45pm 2nd) Yapton (2pm)

Tuesday: Aldwick, Findon (2nd & 4th), Funtington (2.30pm during GMT, 7pm during BST), Goring-by-Sea, Graffham, South Harting, Washington (8pm)

Wednesday: Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham,

Thursday: Angmering (7.45pm 2nd, 4th & 5th), Bosham, Easebourne (1st, 3rd & 5th), Findon (1st & 3rd), Midhurst (2nd & 4th), Milland (check), Petworth (7.45pm but check), Steyning (7.45pm), Walberton

Friday: Storrington (7.45pm), Upper Beeding (1st but check))

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 2024