

# Northern News



The Northern Division Newsletter  
January/February 2013

  **HAPPY NEW YEAR**  

## Dates for Your Diary

### JANUARY 2013

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	General Ringing	Balcombe	6pm
<i>Followed by social get-together at The Cowdray from approx. 7.30pm</i>			
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Elementary Practice	Hartfield	7.30pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Practice	Crawley	7.30pm
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Special Practice	Lower Beeding	7.30pm
	Method - Triples and Plain Major		
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Birthday Service, Tea and Ringing	Eastbourne	3pm
<i>Numbers for refreshments to sec-east@scacr.org</i>			
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10-Bell Practice	East Grinstead	7.30pm

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ringling, Service, ADM & Tea	Slaugham	3pm
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins <a href="mailto:ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net">ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net</a> by 30<sup>th</sup> January please</i>			
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Elementary Practice	Ardingly	7.30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Practice	Rusper	7.30pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10-Bell Practice	Warnham (tbc)	7.30pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Special Practice - Treble Bob Minor	Cowfold	7.30pm

### MARCH

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ringling (organised by Young Ringers)	Rusper	3pm
<i>Nos. for refreshments to Anne Ekins <a href="mailto:ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net">ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net</a> by 27<sup>th</sup> February please</i>			
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Elementary Practice	Hammerwood	7.30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Practice	Fairwarp	7.30pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Special Practice - Triples and Major	Bolney (tbc)	7.30pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	HOLY WEEK - NO PRACTICE		

### APRIL

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> EASTER MONDAY - NO PRACTICE



## CODGERS

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Chailey (tbc) & Uckfield (tbc)	11am and 2pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>st</sup> February	Stedham (tbc) & Easebourne (tbc)	11am and 2pm
<i>Please note earlier start times for ringing (with lunch slightly earlier at 12.45pm)</i>		
For details of Codgers please contact Mike Foster: <a href="mailto:mgfoster@btopenworld.com">mgfoster@btopenworld.com</a>		





*Annual Divisional Meeting  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013  
Ringing from 3pm at Slaughtam*



General ringing followed by Service (4.30pm), tea (5pm) and the ADM (6pm). Here is your chance to nominate and vote for someone to any post on the committee - especially Education Officer which is currently vacant. Please make every effort to attend as the whole afternoon is open to all SCACR members regardless of their ringing ability.

If your tower has any ringers to propose for membership, it would be appreciated if the duly completed forms could be sent to Anne Ekins in good time for the meeting. Where possible, it is always good to see the nominee and proposer at the meeting so the new members can be presented with their certificates and welcomed to Northern Division.

**\*\* NB: Please note change of venue from that previously advertised \*\***



*Association Birthday Service  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
at St Saviour & St Peter's, Eastbourne.*

Service 3pm followed by tea with open ringing after, if required.  
Names for tea to [sec-east@scacr.org](mailto:sec-east@scacr.org)

Join us for a celebration of the SCACR at this historic city centre tower. All welcome! It is hoped the bells at Christ Church and St Mary's will be available for ringing earlier in the afternoon.



*SCA LIBRARY OPEN MORNING  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 10.30am  
plus Homemade Soup and Ploughman's lunches*

Come and enjoy dipping into our wonderful books, magazines and ephemera (eg Ringing for the Millennium, 125 Anniversary peals/quarter peals and HMQ's Diamond Jubilee ringing). You can also look up your own tower's references in the Bell News, The Ringing World including peals and quarter peals. The Quiz is back, too!

... and then go onto the Western Division meeting at Storrington perhaps?

Names for lunch to Stella Bianco: Tel 01403 740010 or Email [scb@biancoteam.com](mailto:scb@biancoteam.com)





## *The Meadow Minis by Mandy Higgs*



*From bottom left, moving clockwise:-*

*William, Jonathan, Thea, Alex, Bella, Lou, Emily and Sophie.*

*Missing on the day were Emma, Benedict, Aidan and Finlay.*

*Charlotte helps with the group if she's home, otherwise Will fills in for her.*

It all started in February, with an invitation to a Young Ringers' Half Term event at Bell Meadow. After some discussion with Sandra Alford, I didn't take Jonathan (8) and Emily (6) because they would have been **too** young, but Sandra and George knew that there were others of a similar age desperate to get started! Thus the 'Meadow Minis' were created!

Warnham's Emma, Alex, Benedict and Madeleine were joined by Jonathan, Emily, Aidan, Finlay, Sophie, William and Lauren from Slinfold. Some had never touched a bell rope, others knew exactly what to do from previous visits, but all were enthusiastic and desperate to get started. George, Sandra and Charlotte Alford and Louise Woodward were very patient with all the youngsters (and the parents who found it difficult not to join in!) Other than a shortage of boxes - some of our Meadow Minis are very mini - all had a brilliant time and had to be persuaded to stop! The lure of squash and cake eventually persuaded them out of the garage and up towards the house. A date for the next session was set and that was it - the new generation of ringers were on their way!

We meet once a month on a Saturday and ring for about an hour before stopping for cake! Sandra has created special 'award cards' for the MMs - there are a series of graded challenges for the youngsters to master on their way to completing their first award. George has started to teach the basics of handbell ringing, and also has the computers available at each session so the MMs can practise their striking on Abel.

Jonathan and Emily always have a brilliant time and spend the following four weeks counting down to the next session. My thanks to George and Sandra for all their hard work and patience - this is a perfect way to bring on the next generation of ringers who are not yet big enough for church bells.

*Mandy Higgs*





**SCACR Young People's Event Take 7**  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013**  
**Will be visiting Brighton this Winter**



10.30 - 12 noon St Nicholas, Brighton (10 bells)  
 Picnic and Playtime on the Pier  
 2.00 - 3.30 pm St Peter, Brighton (10 bells)

**Cakes will be provided of course! Wrap up warm!**

Look forward to seeing you there.

As usual, please let either Anne or Sandra know if you are coming and if you need help with transport.

Anne Franklin 01273 813189 [education@scacr.org](mailto:education@scacr.org)  
 or Sandra Alford 01403 251240 [thealfords@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:thealfords@dsl.pipex.com)



*South of England Show - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013*

Volunteers are needed to help at the South of England Show next year. It is hoped that SCACR will have the opportunity to join the Chichester Diocese tent with Dewbys Bells and a display. A few willing volunteers are therefore needed in advance to form a working party - the invitation is open to anyone. If you are willing and able to help out on any of the above dates, please contact the General Secretary, Marisa Hayes on 01273-812790 or email her on [secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org).

There will also be plenty of opportunity to take part on the open days of the show itself, as we shall be organising a rota of people to get active and encourage participation.



**COULD YOU BE THE NEXT EDUCATION OFFICER?**

The post of Education Officer is really what you make it. There is no "Job Description" as such because all the committee tasks are voluntary, so if you wanted to go out to different towers every night of the week helping people you would undoubtedly receive a very warm welcome. You will be expected to attend the Northern Committee Meetings (about 3 per year) and, in addition, represent the North at (again, about 3) General Education Meetings at Ringmer.

The main activity in the North is planning and arranging the weekly Monday practices. There is an established pattern for these but you and the committee may want to change the format from time to time. However, it is always held on a Monday as there are no towers with Monday practices in our Division.

Towers are contacted by email and the towers' secretaries are usually most helpful in making the arrangements. Any other events, practices, quarter peals, etc. that you care to arrange are on your own initiative.

Perhaps you are looking for a new challenge or a way in which to take your ringing career forward. If you are interested, please get in touch with Anne Ekins before February's ADM. In the meantime, any education queries should be directed to Rachel Edwards on Tel: 01342-810210





## *Ringling Course - A View from the Other Side of the Fence*



*Left-right: Christine Baldock, Stella Shell, Mike Foster, John Norris, Michael Cotgrove, Sue Elrick, Sonia Harriyott, Nick Rees, Alison McFarlane, Marion Pickup, Deli Davidson, Phil Holland, Fiona Gasson and Sheila Foster (kneeling).*

When the 2012 Ringing Course was first advertised, I submitted my application in the hopes of enrolling for Stedman triples which I'd been studying, then kept my fingers crossed waiting for a reply. When it came I was disappointed to read there wasn't to be a Stedman course and there was no other suitable course for me BUT my name had been added to the list of helpers! What? Me? A helper? But I'm a learner!! So it was that I ended up on "the other side of the fence" so to speak as a helper on the Ringing Rounds and Improving Striking course run by Christine Baldock.

The first tower was at Hailsham on Friday morning and I was in good time with half an hour to spare until I reached Hailsham itself - then the traffic ground to a halt. First a dustcart was on its rounds and no-one could get past, then there were roadworks with a 3-way traffic light control system. By the time I had found somewhere to park and reached the ringing room, all the introductions had been made and the course was about to get underway. Not a good start.

Before ringing got underway, Christine Baldock, the course tutor, explained some of the "dos and don'ts" but, most importantly, the correct way to check whether the bell is up or down before attempting any ringing. The students were at various stages on their learning curve and many times my heart was in my mouth as some of the bellropes seemed to have a mind of their own. I certainly sympathised with the ringers as it doesn't seem that long ago I was on a level with them and I couldn't help thinking "I used to do that". On the simulators at Hailsham and Southover, Lewes all the students had plenty of opportunity to ring on their own and with their own standers so their ringing came on in leaps and bounds. There was certainly a marked improvement in everyone's ringing on the second day of the course.

Although I was officially a helper, I had lots of practice myself but the whole time I was trying to make sure my bellhandling was as good as it could be so I could set a good example to the students. It was an extremely enjoyable course with the addition of meeting ringers from other towers all over Sussex and making new friends along the way. Thank you Christine for an enjoyable and interesting course.

May Littleton - Rusper



### Hartfield Ringers have gone up in the world!

At St Mary's the Virgin Hartfield the PCC, as part of their on-going renovation work, have for some time wanted to use the west door as the main entrance to the church. However, this was where the Belfry was situated. To achieve their aim the PCC have moved the ringers up one floor to the clock room above. This has given an excellent new ringing room - a domain with which the bell ringers are well pleased. To keep contact with the Church Services there has been a 3 way camera installed to link the bell chamber and the new Ringing room to the Church. This has created interest for those below in what is going on up above. The new Ringing room is approached via a steep spiral staircase - so not only have the Ringers gone up in the world, they are expecting to be fitter too!



View of the new Ringing Room at Hartfield.

Visitors are welcome on any Thursday evening. If you cannot make Thursdays then Northern Division will be visiting Hartfield for an Elementary Practice on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Why not go along then?





## *Business Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012*

The Northern Division Business Meeting was held at Lindfield on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 with the bells being rung half muffled as they had been set up ready for the Remembrance Day service the following morning. There was good attendance for the ringing and the following meeting where one new member, Toby Wood from Itchingfield, was elected.

Thanks were expressed to Ian Harris as retiring Education Officer and also to Rachel Edwards for taking over until the forthcoming ADM in February next year.

A splendid tea was laid on by Lindfield and thanks go to all the ladies (sorry! I've mislaid my note of your names!!) for ensuring there were enough sandwiches and cake to keep everyone satisfied. Delicious - especially the coffee & walnut cake! Mmmmm.....



## *New Tower Correspondent*

Pulborough has a new tower correspondent: Brenda Etherington. Her email address is:- [bmetherington46@gmail.com](mailto:bmetherington46@gmail.com).



## *Calling all Young Ringers!!*



Following on from our success in Birmingham of this year, we are looking to enter a Sussex team in the Ringing World National Youth Competition next year. The competition is being held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in the City of York.

Would you be interested? Are you competent ringing call changes on 8 bells? Will you be aged 19 or under on the day of the contest and able to commit to around 4 practices prior to the event? If so, come and have a go, this really is a great event.

We will be holding the first practice at Fairwarp on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013 between 2.30 and 4.00 pm for anyone who would like to take part. After this, we will select the team to go to York and arrange more practices.

Please let either Anne 01273 813189 [education@scacr.org](mailto:education@scacr.org) or Sandra 01403 251240 [TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com) know if you'd be interested to come along.





## SCACR Education Event

Ringling Workshops on a "Getting Better" theme

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013

9.30am to 12 noon

1. Getting better at ringing call changes (Ringmer)
2. Getting better at plain hunting (Hailsham)
3. Getting better at Bob Doubles (Alfriston)
4. Getting better at Triples and Major (Chiddingly)
5. Getting better at ringing down (Laughton)

Interested?

Want to know more?

Want to book a place?

Want to be a helper?

Contact Anne Franklin 01273 -813189 [education@scacr.org](mailto:education@scacr.org)

Afternoon ringing in Eastbourne  
prior to the Birthday Service at 3pm.







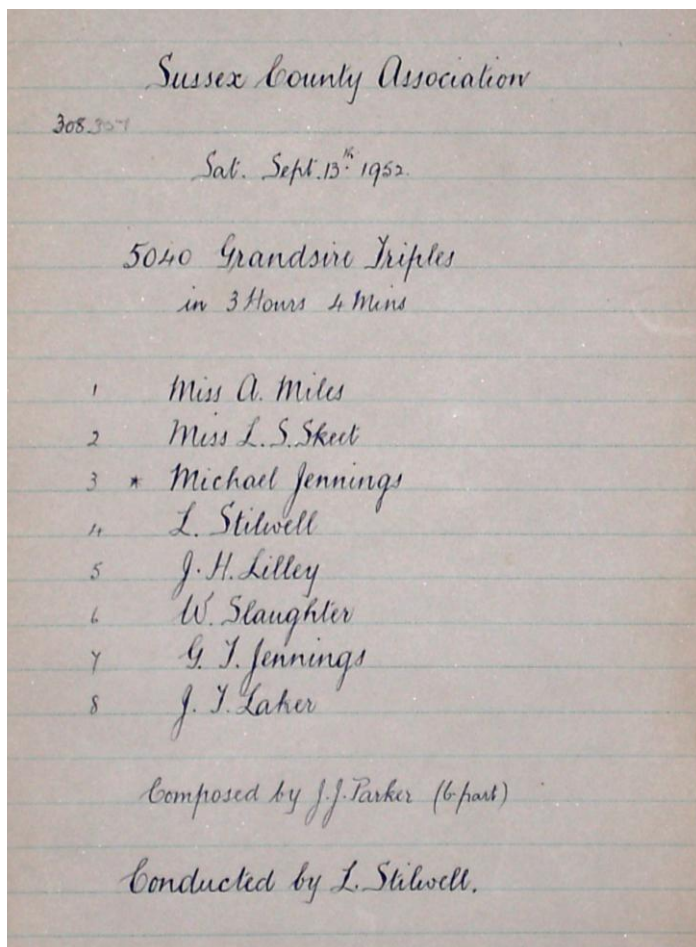
## Michael Jennings (A diamond celebration of our own)

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012 a group of past and present Crawley ringers and their friends is not a particularly remarkable achievement, but in this specific case the peal was to commemorate an identical peal rung 60 years earlier which was also Michael Jennings' first peal. On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Michael rang the same bell as in 1952 and the same composition by J.J. Parker (6 part) was used.



Michael fit and well after the peal

Born on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1936 Michael's early involvement with the church was as a choirboy. He particularly remembers being taken by the Rector with other members of the choir to the wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth. (She also has had a diamond celebration this year) He points out that they didn't actually get inside the Abbey but nevertheless enjoyed standing outside. By this time he was head choirboy but inevitably his voice broke at which point his father said that he "*might as well learn to ring*". His father, George rang in Crawley for 64 years. There is a plaque located at the bottom of the tower stairs which commemorates this. (See below).



The 1952 peal as entered in the Crawley records (peal book) compiled by Oliver Sippetts

Michael points out that he has now been ringing in Crawley for longer than his father did. It was approximately four years after he started ringing that he rang his first peal. In the Crawley tower records there is no footnote, just an asterisk by his name. (A copy of the relevant entry appears on the left).

Michael initially attended the local primary school in Robinson Road and later transferred to Collyers Grammar School in Horsham. On leaving he then went to agricultural college. This was interrupted by his army service. He served for two years in the 4<sup>th</sup> RHA (Royal Horse Artillery), although he admits that he never rode a horse and was more involved with tanks. He was stationed in Hohne barracks in Germany where he was a TARA (Technical Assistant Class I) On being discharged he was offered a job in engineering and continued to do this until his retirement in 2002.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1962 he married Doris. They have hence just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Unfortunately Doris is now in need of nursing care and lives in Cuckfield. Michael visits her every day.



Although he rang his first peal in 1952, it was 45 years before he rang another. In 1997 he rang Grandsire Triples again, at Cuckfield. This was followed by Plain Bob Major at Crawley in September of the same year. Early the following year he was at it again with a peal of Stedman Triples in Crawley. The full list is below from which it might be assumed that he only rings peals in January and September.

*The plaque located at the bottom of the tower stairs in Crawley which commemorates George Jennings' service to the church and ringing*

September	1952	Grandsire Triples	Crawley
January	1997	Grandsire Triples	Cuckfield
September	1997	Plain Bob Major	Crawley
January	1998	Stedman Triples	Crawley
September	2012	Grandsire Triples	Crawley

We are currently speculating about when the next one will be but Michael is non-committal.



*Members of the 2012 peal band. l/r Iain Davey 2, David Smith (C) 7, Judy Howard 4, Michael Jennings 3, Nicholas Barrett 8, David Cloake 6, Roger Clarke 1, Neil Dobson 5.*





A Reminder of the:

## Annual Divisional Meeting

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013  
Ringing from 3pm at Slaughtam



General ringing followed by Service (4.30pm), tea (5pm) and the ADM (6pm). Here is your chance to nominate and vote for someone to any post on the committee - especially Education Officer which is currently vacant. Please make every effort to attend as the whole afternoon is open to all SCACR members regardless of their ringing ability.

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Northern News by May Littleton

Do you like Northern News - the layout & articles, etc? Is there anything you don't like about Northern News which could be changed? If so, what would you change? Is there anything new or different you would like to see included? If so, please let me know.





## Divisional Practice Nights

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other Towers in the Division but it would be an idea to check before you set off.....

Monday:- Northern Division practice evenings. See Diary Dates on front page for full details

Tuesday:- Balcombe : Cowfold : Horsham : Lindfield : Rudgwick (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) : Turner's Hill (phone first)

Wednesday:- Ardingly : Danehill : East Grinstead : Slinfold : Withyham (not regular evening - phone first)

Thursday:- Crawley : Fairwarp : Hartfield : Lower Beeding : Rusper : Warnham : West Grinstead : West Hoathly : Worth

Friday:- Bolney : Coleman's Hatch : Cuckfield : Fletching : Itchingfield : Slaugham



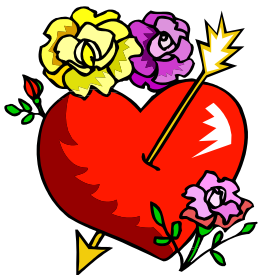
## Certificate for Martin Creed Project

It's some months now since we rang for the Martin Creed project but you may be interested to know that a certificate can be found on [www.allthebells.com/info](http://www.allthebells.com/info). This can be downloaded for printing by anyone who took part in ringing for "allthebells".



### Contact details for the Northern Division Committee

Ringling Master	David Perkins	07776 082404	<a href="mailto:davidperkins2010@hotmail.co.uk">davidperkins2010@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Anne Ekins	01403-864291	<a href="mailto:ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net">ndivsecscacr@uwclub.net</a>
Education Officer	Post Vacant		
Publicity Officer	May Littleton	01403-268528	<a href="mailto:maylitleton@tiscali.co.uk">maylitleton@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Bell Restoration	Terence McGinn	01293-519665	<a href="mailto:terence@mcginnbuilders.com">terence@mcginnbuilders.com</a>
Committee Members:	Val Atkins	01403-217639	<a href="mailto:val.downton@pgen.net">val.downton@pgen.net</a>
	Jo Faircloth		<a href="mailto:jo@jofaircloth.co.uk">jo@jofaircloth.co.uk</a>
	Rachel Edwards	01342-311100	<a href="mailto:racheledwards@scacr.org">racheledwards@scacr.org</a>
	Richard Hutchings		<a href="mailto:richardhutchings@scacr.org">richardhutchings@scacr.org</a>
	Sandra Alford		<a href="mailto:TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com">TheAlfords@dsl.pipex.com</a>



Very many thanks to all those people who have submitted articles and photographs. Your input is really appreciated. Thank you!!

Please send items for the next newsletter to me at: [maylitleton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:maylitleton@tiscali.co.uk) before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013

