

SALLY FORTH

Western Division Newsletter November & December 2013



Diary of Events

November

Friday 1 st	Basic 8 Bell Practice	Felpham	7.30pm
Friday 1 st - 2 nd	SCACR Ringing Course		
Saturday 2 nd	Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Wednesday 6 th	Codgers	Alfriston Seaford	11.00am-12.15pm 2.00pm-3.30pm
Saturday 9 th	Ringing Practice	Easebourne	3pm
Friday 15 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 23 rd	Surprise Minor Practice	Walberton	10.30am

December

Wednesday 4 th	Codgers	To be arranged	
Friday 6 th	Basic 8 Bell Practice	Felpham	7.30pm
Saturday 7 th	Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Saturday 14 th	Ringing Practice & Carol Service	Goring-by-Sea	3pm
Friday 20 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 27 th	Surprise Minor Practice	Walberton	10.30am

Ringling & informal Carol Service

St Mary's Church, Goring-by-Sea
Saturday 14th December 2013



Ringling 3pm Service 4.30pm Tea 5.15pm
Names for tea please to Jack Burton tel 01243 374937
or sec-west@scacr.org

Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received



Ringers of all abilities are welcome to all practices, so please do come along

Regular Practices

Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first	1 st Saturday of every month	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623
Surprise Minor Practice	4 th Saturday of every month	John Taylor	01903 745477
Basic 8 Bell Practice	1 st Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
General 8 Bell Practice	3 rd Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
Codgers Practice	1 st Wednesday of every month	Mike Foster codgers@scacr.org	01903 741664

Looking Ahead

11 th January 2014	Western Division Annual Social – a ‘Ring and Beetle Drive’ at Pulborough
18 th January - 26 th January 2014	Quarter Peal Week – to coincide with the Association’s Birthday on 24 th January
8 th February 2014	ADM at Felpham (tbc)
8 th March 2014	Call Change Competition at Funtington (tbc)
12 th April 2014	Morning practice at Findon (tbc)
10 th May 2014	SCACR AGM in the Southern Division
6 th September 2014	Ringing Roadshow at Newbury Racecourse – see http://ccabr.org.uk/pr/roadshow/

Master’s Mutterings - *Graham Hills*

I think everyone in the Western Division of the SCACR must have had something happening over the second weekend in September. This was supposed to be the date for our annual method striking contest, but we only had one team enter, and after phoning or e-mailing goodness knows how many people, I was unable to find a judge. Strangely enough, we were not the only division that had to cancel their competition. However, we still met at Graffham, and had a good afternoon of ringing, with a superb tea laid on by the local ringers.

Staying on the subject of striking contests, earlier on in the year I had contacted several of you to ask if you were able to be in one of our bands for the Inter Divisional Striking Contest, which was supposed to be held in the summer. Again, all divisions experienced problems in getting bands together, either because of holidays or having to ring for weddings. The contest was initially postponed until October, but then at an Education Committee Meeting, it was decided to cancel it altogether.

Talking of “meetings”, the list of dates and towers on the front of Sally Forth are intended for all ringers as a social time to get together with other ringers for some ringing practice, which you are all welcome to, and don’t forget especially the second Saturday of the month for our Division practice. Evidently some ringers were led to believe that these dates were all committee meetings; they are not, and if you haven’t come to a Saturday practice you do not know the extent of the delightful ringers’ teas you have missed. All ringers of all abilities are welcome; ringing is from call changes up to surprise methods, depending on who is there. We are however obliged by the SCACR rules to have at least 3 business meetings a year. One of these is the Annual Divisional Meeting in February, and then 2 others in the year, all of which follow ringing and tea.

The practice and tea at Chichester last Saturday was followed by a short business meeting, when 8 new members were elected to the Association. Many thanks must go to all those who helped with getting the Cathedral authorities to give us permission to ring, organising the hall in the United Reformed Church down the road, and for organising the tea. On this occasion, the tea was followed by a presentation of the “Vision for the SCACR”, which sparked a lively debate, come question and answer session. Please look at the proposals on the SCACR website, and let either Jack or myself know your views so that we can take them forward to the next General Committee Meeting on 9th November. Jack has also written about it in his “Scratchings”, so I will say no more.

Please do not forget that if your tower is struggling to get on in a method, or even with plain hunting, do contact either Christine Butterfield or myself, and we will try to arrange help for you.

By the time the next issue of Sally Forth comes out, it will be Christmas – don’t panic, you still have a few days to buy all those presents, and in the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at Easebourne on 9th November, for ringing and at Goring-by-Sea on 14th December for ringing and an informal Carol Service.

Scratchings from the Secretary – *Jack Burton*

We are now well into autumn with all our normal and routine ringing activities settled down to what should be a regular programme. This is also the last issue of Sally Forth for the year which means that before the next one the yellow subscription renewal forms will have been distributed again. Please make sure you check your entry on the form for your tower and check that it is correct. Please indicate by ticking the correct column if you wish to receive a Report and Hand Book. Also make sure that your current email address is known and on the database as we are using email more and more to publish messages and notices of meetings etc. If you still receive Sally Forth by post, do you have a friendly ringer who will tell you of any news published by email? Many towers have a means by which notices are printed off and displayed in the tower. Most tower correspondents or tower captains have email addresses and should be able to do this task.

It is now time for a reminder for towers who have any junior members who are planning to go to the next Hereford course and are considering applying for a grant from the Reg Johnson Fund. Applications must be submitted in plenty of time for the next meeting of the General Committee which is on 9th November 2013. Applications should be sent to the General Secretary.

It is also time to remind towers to make their submissions for any ringer they wish to be considered for the Michael Palmer Award. This award is made at the Annual Divisional Meeting, which is on 8th February 2014, so applications should be with me or the Divisional Master in plenty of time for proper consideration by the committee.

The current biggest single item of news and interest must be the progress and details of discussions which are taking place to reform the way we do our business in the Sussex Association. As you should all now know, a group was formed at the last AGM to investigate and propose changes to our organisation to improve the way we manage our ringing in the county. This group has toured the Association and held many meetings to gather opinions and ideas and has now almost completed a plan. At a recent extraordinary General Committee Meeting they were directed to continue with their work in order to lay a firm proposal before the next General Committee Meeting in November. The more or less complete ideas of this group are now being reported and explained in short presentations being given at the current series of divisional business meetings, which were held in October in the Western Division and will be in November for the remaining divisions. Details of this proposed reorganisation are also on the Association website where they can be downloaded. This download takes the form of the PowerPoint slides used at the extraordinary meeting. It is for all of us to make ourselves familiar with these proposals, ask questions if necessary, and generally prepare ourselves for the inevitable informed discussion which will take place, I guess, at the next AGM, where a vote will be taken. Do we want to lose our current divisional system of management? Will the new grouping work and improve the general state of ringing in the county? I suppose the fundamental question we must ask ourselves is "are we changing to something better"? If we are not, then the way ahead is clear. By the way we would lose "Sally Forth".

Back to more routine matters, and following on from the last Publicity Meeting, the Secretary and Master of the Division are now able to place notices on the website. This will make things a lot quicker and make it possible for us to email you about changes to the programme, etc. The next AGM will be in the Southern Division on 10th May 2014 and thoughts are being given as to whether an external speaker should be invited to attend. The quarter peal week has been reprogrammed to coincide with the Association's Birthday (24th January) and will therefore be the week from Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th January 2014.

At the Publicity Committee meeting it was agreed that the First World War was something we did not want to promote by ringing and that it would be more appropriate for individual towers, who were associated with a special service, to choose to ring half-muffled.

That should have now brought you all up to date with the business of the Division. Please do give this reorganisation of the Association serious thought and make your views known to a member of the group or any other officer of the Association.

Welcome to new members

Viviane Hill - Goring-by-Sea : Matthew Knight, Patricia Knight & Luke Trewin – South Harting
Suzanne Thompson – Tillington : Harry Bickers – West Tarring
Mandie Merlin & Wendy Shutler - Westbourne

St Mary's Church, Billingshurst – Brian Nulty

Cosmetic work begun on the external stone-work of the tower at the end of August 2013 and will continue until mid-November 2013. During this period minor structural work will be necessary to a support beam located in the "deadening chamber", which will affect our ringing arrangements at St Mary's for two or three weeks. The work in question is about to commence (hopefully next week), so please contact our secretary, Kathy Fitzpatrick regarding our ringing arrangements over the next two or three weeks.

Ringling for Stedman - from the SCACR website

Ringers of Sussex are invited to mark the Tercentenary of the burial of Fabian Stedman.

Fabian Stedman is probably the most famous ringer and he had an enormous influence on the development of change ringing by publishing the first books on the subject. He was buried on 16th November 1713.

The Central Council is encouraging all ringers to mark this anniversary by ringing on, or as close as possible to, Saturday 16th November 2013, and to use the event to seek as much publicity as possible for your ringing, local bands and for ringing in general. John Harrison (CCCB PR Committee)

Take a look at the Central Council website for touches of Stedman (300 changes), peal and quarter peal compositions and find yourself a band for Stedman - what better excuse do you need?

Angmering and Findon Bellringers' "Four Days in Worcestershire" - *Raymond Bivand*

Day 1 - Friday 24th May - It was an early start as we set off in the minibus from Angmering on our bank holiday weekend bell ringing tour of Worcestershire. Our first stop was in Tewkesbury where we enjoyed lunch at a pub aptly named 'The Bell'. Suitably refreshed, we set off for the Abbey, where we ascended some 200 winding steps to a spacious ringing chamber with 12 bells. Naturally, most of our group are used to ringing on 6 bells, so it was quite a test and an ordeal for some to join in the ringing on 12. After all, this was Tewkesbury Abbey and the sound of our 'rounds and call changes' would be heard by the whole city!

After that, we quickly departed for the city of Worcester where we were due to book in at the Travelodge opposite the cathedral. This was to be our base for the next 3 nights. We all had rooms on the 4th floor, and from my room I had a panoramic view of the city, counting ten churches or bell towers including the cathedral. During the course of the afternoon we had a tour round the cathedral, ending up in the library and archive where we examined many old books, parchments and medieval manuscripts dating back to the 10th century. It was very much a case of look and don't touch! Worcester Cathedral now has the second largest collection of medieval manuscripts in the United Kingdom, with only Durham having more.

In the early evening our group of twenty had dinner and refreshments at the unappetising sounding 'Slug and Lettuce' in the City. However, it did set us up nicely for some ringing at Old St Martin in the Cornmarket. The tower contains a ring of six original bells, the oldest bell of 1320 dedicated to St Martin, and a sanctus bell in its original frame. The bells are now hung dead except to provide the chimes for the clock, which are situated above a new ring of ten bells installed in 2011. After rounds and call changes we were able to ring a few methods.

With the time fast approaching 8.30pm, we walked to All Saints in Deansway where the bells were ringing to herald our arrival! Actually, it was their practice night and, after ascending the winding stone steps into a large ringing chamber containing 12 bell ropes and some very welcoming ringers, we joined in. At this tower there is also a semitone bell and a disused sanctus bell. After we finished our 'practice' ringing here, we retired to our hotel rooms for a well-earned rest - most of us having been up since 6am.

Day 2 - Saturday 25th May - After clambering aboard the minibus at 9.30am, we set off for the Church of St John the Baptist in Crowle, where there was a small ringing chamber of eight bells renowned for being the worst in the county. Some of our group bought stickers commemorating this fact before departing for our next venue at St Kenelm in Upton Snodsbury. This was a ground floor ring of six bells with a lengthy draft of some 17 metres. Having got the bells up, we were able to ring a few methods including the well-known Bob Doubles.

The final tower before lunch was in Pershore, at St. Andrew's Parish Church. Here there were eight bells, the heaviest being only 9cwt.

After lunch, we went on to ring at Pershore Abbey. Here there were lots of winding stone steps to a wooden walkway, then more steps to a very narrow passageway leading to metal steps up to a ringing platform or cage suspended high up over the chancel. There were eight bell ropes up there (25.5cwt tenor), and when we were ringing we could feel the

platform moving or swaying beneath our feet! Ringing here was quite an experience to say the least and very memorable!



Once we had got our feet back on to the much firmer ground floor, we returned to the minibus and headed for St John the Baptist, Strensham. A door outside the foot of the tower led us to an inside short vertical ladder and through a hatch to the ringing room where there was a ring of six bells with 11cwt tenor.

Our final destination for the day was St Nicholas', Earls Croome. Another ring of 6 bells, the heaviest being just 8cwt. Here we followed our usual pattern of ringing up all together, followed by rounds and call changes. After that it was Bob Doubles followed by Grandsire, and other methods were performed by the more experienced ringers in our party. It was then back to the city of Worcester where we all enjoyed dinner at The Toby Carvery.

Day 3 - Sunday 26th May - In the morning, some of our group were given an opportunity to ring for the normal Sunday service at Worcester Cathedral, where there is a circle of fifteen bell ropes, the tenor being just 49cwt! There were no takers from our group for that one! It usually takes two expert ringers to get it going. After the ringing finished, we were shown around and given a talk about the Cathedral's Teaching Centre and some of us tried the simulator linked to a computer - a real test of ringing ability, skill and timing.

Next, was St Swithuns in Church Street, which became redundant in 1977 and is maintained by The Churches Conservation Trust. The 6 bells comprise one of the oldest sets of ringing bells in the world and can still be rung, so most of us took the opportunity.

After lunch, we set off once again in our minibus heading for Kempsey, St Mary the Virgin. Here there is an anti-clockwise ring of 6 bells, the heaviest being a more modest 15cwt.

On next to Croome D'Abitot, St Mary Magdalene, within a National Trust park, and a ring of six bells, the oldest dating back to 1651. Again, the church has been redundant since 1975 and cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. The bells required little effort as the heaviest was only 10cwt.



Our group at Great Malvern

Our last port of call today was the spa town of Great Malvern and having sampled the natural water from the spring we were able to ring pre-evensong at the St Mary and St Michael Priory (8 bells, 21cwt tenor). After the usual rounds and call changes and a few methods, the bells were rung down together before evensong began. It was then back to Worcester to find dinner at a local inn, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Day 4 – Bank Holiday Monday 27th May – We said our final goodbyes to The Travelodge, then were back on the minibus to leave at 9am sharp for the short trip to St Peter's church in Powick. Just 40 steps later, we found the small ringing chamber and six bell ropes.

After that, we set off to Ledbury for, alas, the final ring of our tour. This was at St Michael and All Angels, where the tower is separate from the church, and has a ring of 8, with a 22cwt tenor. Here, someone mentioned something about a dragon but, without doubt, Ledbury is a lovely market town, rich in history, with a seemingly timeless and unhurried feel about it.

Having visited 16 towers over an extended Bank Holiday weekend, everyone agreed that it was all worthwhile, an excellent experience and above all very enjoyable. We were so lucky with the weather and can't wait until our next outing.

To round this one off though, we spent the afternoon at Eastnor, where we toured the Castle and grounds. Our visit coincided with a special steam event where we all had the opportunity of being taken for a ride in a steam car. Some of us got lost for a while in the Maze, and others pushed the boat out and went rowing on the lake. This all proved to be a rather special, worthy and again enjoyable conclusion to our tour.

“THE RINGERS’ ARMS” Pub Sign Jigsaw Puzzle

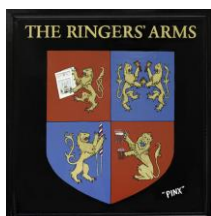
NEW!! Wentworth wooden jigsaw puzzle of an image commissioned by the Editor of The Ringing World for its beer tent at the 2001 Ringing Roadshow and kindly loaned by the artist for the RW Centenary Art Exhibition “Inspired by Bells” in March 2011.

See photo: www.cccbr.org.uk
and RW calendar (June)

Copyright: Maggie Willans

Size: c250mm x 250mm

200 pieces with Rural cut shapes
called “whimsies”



AN IDEAL GIFT

Price £22 (plus £3 p+p in UK), Cheques payable to CCCBR

Proceeds to the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund

From: Stella Bianco, “Oaklands”, West Chilmington Lane,
Broadford Bridge, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9EA

Tel: 01403 740010 Email: scb@biancoteam.com

Online payment available.

Please supply email address, if possible.



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

SCACR has a budget

SCACR has some ideas

SCACR has no one to help

SCACR wants to find a team of people with
an interest in, or work in graphic design and
exhibitions.

SCACR would like to revamp its exhibition
material ready for the Ringing Roadshow in
September 2014.

HELP

To find out more drop an e-mail to
publicity@scacr.org

Western Division Walk and Ring – David Hall



St Andrew and St Cuthman, Steyning

With a weather forecast of temperatures rising to 30 Centigrade, 18 or so ringers gathered at St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church in Steyning for the start of our eagerly anticipated annual Walk and Ring. Henfield was our final destination, so we well prepared for a long, hot walk between rings.

St Cuthman was recorded as being of royal blood and eager to spread Christianity eastwards, so he put his mother in a wheelbarrow and pushed away from Bosham or Chidham in the 8th Century. The wheel on the barrow broke at Steyning, so he took it as a sign and established a new church, possibly a timber building based on the stave type buildings of Norway. I am sure his mother was equally thankful - no bus passes then! Steyning became very

important with Alfred the Great's father, Ethelwulf, being buried there (later transferred to Winchester) and a mint established just pre-conquest. The present church dates from 1080 and is very impressive, and so are the bells!

Always a delight to ring at Steyning of course and the eight bells had us quickly into changes, hunting, Grandsire and Cambridge. It was good to see some new faces as well as the regulars who make these trips so much fun, and a chance to see old friends again. Coffee and biscuits fuelled us up for the next stage and outside we assembled, donned sun hats, sun cream and sun-glasses (what a novelty!) Ruth had the route mapped out and Barry had brought along the faithful Bella to show us how a good dog can keep up with anyone.

Off through the back ways, little tracks and outskirts of town and soon we had terrific views of the Sussex Downs, woods, fields and the river all looking their best before the drought set in and dried it all up! Cyclists were in abundance on this Downs Link path, as well as the occasional car, so we had to set up a warning system to avoid being clipped into the verges or worse! A cooling breeze and thin high cloud gave perfect conditions for walking and Henfield, seeming so far away on the map, was easily reached after about 2 hours, even without the use of a wheelbarrow!

Our group split up on the approach to travel, either the sunny path or the shade, but re-grouped again in Henfield at The White Hart pub. Food orders had been phoned through, so it was not long before we were sat down with grub and a cool drink and wondering how the first Test Match was going. Some elected to picnic in the churchyard and missed the chance to taste the excellent Pan Haggerty, a mixture of onion, potato, cheese and cream. Diet, what diet?

Walking back to St Peters, we passed the Cat House, a black and white timber framed cottage with pictures of cats painted on the walls. Apparently, it used to be close to Pinch Nose Green, where there was a smelly tannery, hence the name. It was also lived in by George Ward whose canary was killed by the cat belonging to the Anglican Canon, Nathaniel Woodard, so he painted the pictures of a black cat holding a canary all around the walls of the house to remind the canon every time he walked past on his way to church!

Pushing our way past the 100 yew bushes shaped like huge marshmallows, we climbed up to the ringing chamber to enjoy our second lovely ring of eight bells. Well done David K for ringing up the tenor, which was a bit of a trial, then it was into our changes, hunting and touches of Grandsire, Bob Triples and Cambridge. We were watched over by the magnificent stained glass angels in the west window by C.E.Kempe dating from 1896, to keep us in order. A short touch of Grandsire was followed by an enjoyable, extended ringing down, followed by short applause - a good way to finish off the day. Well done to our ringers, from those just started to our faithful veterans - didn't you all do well!

Many thanks once more to Ruth Brown and Christine Butterfield for the planning, the drinks and organisation which really helped to made the day such a success, and to Graham who organised the ringing. I can't remember seeing Bella after leaving the pub at Henfield, so perhaps she is still chasing the cats at Cat Cottage!



Ringling practice at St Mary's, Easebourne

Saturday 9th November 2013 at 3pm

Please send names for tea to Jack Burton
tel 01243 374937 or
sec-west@scacr.org



Ringers of all abilities are welcome

SLINFOLD HAND-BELL RINGERS and EUKELE BAND CONCERT

Saturday 23rd November 2013

Midhurst Parish Church at 7.30pm

Tickets, which include mince pies and
mulled wine are: Adults £10, Children under 16 £5

To book tickets phone the Parish Office 01730 815356
or sold at the door.

Proceeds in aid of Church Funds

Quarter Peals.

St John the Baptist, Findon

29th July 2013

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Barbara Harbut, 2 Sheila Foster

3 Erica Pritchard, 4 Mike Foster,

5 Caroline Jones, 6 Alan J Taylor (C)

Rung to welcome the Royal baby, George

St John the Baptist, Findon

20th August 2013

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Michael Nott, 2 Barbara Harbut

3 Caroline Jones, 4 David Bowerman*

5 Alan J Taylor (C), 6 Ken Black

*First quarter inside

Dedicated to Julia

St Mary's, Walberton

27th August 2013

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Hamish McNaughton, 2 Marjorie Murphy

3 Colin Spencer (C), 4 Chris Dart,

5 Peter Watson, 6 Bob Holman

Rung in memory of Jenny Morris of Wyke

Regis, who used to ring here and at

Chichester Cathedral. This day would have

been her birthday.

St Mary's, Fittleworth

30th August 2013

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Carole Burne*, 2 Susan Spencer

3 Hamish McNaughton, 4 Colin Spencer (C)

5 Rupert Burne*, 6 Ruth Brown

*First quarter

Rung to celebrate the 50th birthdays of Rupert
and Carole, which both happened this year.

Chichester Cathedral

7th September 2013

1280 Rutland S Major

1 Peter Watson, 2 Susan Spencer

3 Phil Down, 4 Jane Deadman

5 Keith Game, 6 Mike Wake

7 Colin Spencer (C), 8 Mike Smith

With congratulations to Georgina Coomber on

successfully obtaining a degree in midwifery.

St Mary's, Goring-by-Sea

8th September 2013

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Jack Walker, 2 Jo Cheng

3 Elizabeth Potter, 4 Moya Hills

5 Graham Hills (C), 6 Irene Batchelor

Rung for Patronal Festival Evensong and as a

21st Birthday compliment to Jack Walker

St John Baptist, Findon

16th September 2013

1260 St Clements and Plain Bob Minor

1 Erica Pritchard, 2 Barbara Harbut,

3 Sheila Foster, 4 Alan J Taylor,

5 Mike Foster (C), 6 Caroline Jones

To mark the retirement of Rev. Bob Whittle,

Rector of Findon, Clapham and Patching

Parishes, 15th September 2013.

*Apologies for the typo in the last issue of Sally Forth – the quarter peal
named "Stedman", rung at Stedham on 14th August 2013 should have read
"CCC No. 1102" not "CCC No. 1103"*

"Ringing in 1896"

*The following is from the website of Olney Parish Church, one of the towers visited on the Western
Division ringing outing to Bucks and Beds earlier this year:*

The fifth is rung daily at 1pm as "Dinner Bell".

The Gleaning Bell was rung during harvest for some 30 or 40 years, at 7am and pm, the 5th bell being probably the one
used. This practice ceased about 1885 or 1886.

The Pancake Bell is rung at noon on Shrove Tuesday; the 4th and 6th are used to imitate the sound "Pan-cake".

The Death Knell: Tenor used for adults, the 7th for children under 14. Tellers: 3 blows on each = a male, 2 on each = a
female. The age of the deceased is tolled in scores; that is, a pause is made at the end of each score completed; and if
the odd number over exceed 10, another pause is made at the completion of the last 10 (eg 73 = 20, 20, 20, 10, 3).

On Sundays, the 4th and 5th are rung at 8am. Half an hour before the Morning Service the 3rd is chimed for a few
seconds, and 4th and 5th before the Afternoon and Evening Services, after which all the bells are chimed for 15 minutes;
then, while chiming is continued on the other bells, the tenor is raised as Sermon Bell, and rung with the others for
10 minutes; for the last 5 minutes the 3rd is rung alone.

Ringing at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide; also at Harvest Thanksgiving, Choral Festival, and Queen's Birthday;
midnight ringing on New Year's Eve. Also ringing after weddings, if allowed, and paid for.

Essex Trophy

The annual Essex Trophy 10 bell striking competition was held at Beddington, Surrey on Saturday 14th September 2013. Five bands competed, representing Essex, Guildford, Surrey, Sussex and Kent. The results in order of ringing were: Essex Assn 59%, Guildford DG 58%, Sussex CA 62%, Kent CA 69%. Surrey Assn 64%.



It's that time of year again where we are thinking about Halloween, Bonfire Night and dare I mention it, Christmas. No doubt you will have a good supply of sweets for trick or treat, explosives stored safely away ready for a grand display for Guy Fawkes night, and endless lists of potential Christmas gifts.

Another thing that is always close to my mind at this time of year is Armistice Day in November, a time of year when we always ring a half-muffled quarter peal at Goring. I have no doubt that there is someone you know that can recall a story or two of how they "won the war" so I thought I would share my own little story with you.

It's about my father-in-law who joined the Sussex Regiment as a boy soldier before the Second World War had even started. When the war broke out, he was dispatched to fight in France, and eventually ended up on the beaches of Dunkirk waiting to be rescued by one of the many boats sent from the Kent coast. After many days on the beach, he was picked up to begin his perilous journey back to England squashed into a boat with many other soldiers. Unfortunately for him, the boat was only a few hundred yards off the beach when it took a direct hit and all of the men were thrown into the chilly water. Tom (my father-in-law) managed to cling onto a sizeable piece of wood floating in the sea and stayed that way for many hours fearing all the time that he would be either swept away or blown up. Eventually, when the bombing had died down again and the boats resumed their rescue attempts, Tom was relieved to be pulled on board a small fishing boat. Can you imagine his surprise to find that his rescuer was none other than his own cousin from Hastings!! He eventually arrived back in England only to find that after a speedy recovery, he was marched from Dover all the way to Plymouth (goodness knows how long that must have taken) to be sent to Burma to fight there. He received many medals for his courage and bravery which we keep with pride.

So when we are doing goulish things, twirling sparklers or preparing to celebrate Christmas, please try and spare a thought for all those who have put their lives at risk for their country.

Margo

WESTERN DIVISION CONTACTS

Ringling Master	Graham Hills 311 South Farm Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7TL	01903 266980	rm-west@scacr.org
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Central Council Rep	Andrew Barnsdale	01428 652624	adbarnsdale@aol.com
Committee Members	Sue Gadd Moya Hills John Taylor Roger Watts	01903 813174 01903 266980 01903 745477 01798 813775	suegadd99@gmail.com mchills@talktalk.net alansuetaylor@btinternet.com working.cap@btinternet.com

DIVISIONAL 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, Arundel (2nd & 4th) (*no ringing at present due to work on the tower*) & Lyminster (1st & 3rd), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

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

Wednesday: Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Kirdford (7.45pm), Milland, Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham, Tillington (7.45pm - 1st only) & Upper Beeding

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

Friday: Amberley & Storrington

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

Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for Sally Forth. Please send your contributions for the next newsletter to us at our gmail address, as before, or via news-west@scacr.org by **7th December 2013**