

SALLY FORTH

Western District Newsletter
January & February 2015



A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all!



Diary of Events

January

Friday 2 nd	Basic 8 Bell Practice	Felpham	7.30pm
Saturday 3 rd	Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Wednesday 7 th	Codgers	To be arranged	11am - 12.15pm 2pm - 3.30pm
Saturday 10 th	Ringling Practice Quiz and Hot Supper (see page 5)	Storrington Pulborough	3pm 5pm
Friday 16 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Westbourne (tbc)	7.30pm
Saturday 24 th	Surprise Minor Practice	Walberton	10.30am
Saturday 24 th - 31 st	SCACR Quarter Peal Week		
Saturday 31 st	Morning Practice of Raising & Lowering	Funtington	10am - noon

February

Wednesday 4 th	Codgers	To be arranged	11am - 12.15pm 2pm - 3.30pm
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	Ringling Practice and ADM	Aldwick	3pm
Friday 20 th	General 8 Bell Practice	Westbourne (tbc)	7.30pm
Saturday 28 th	Surprise Minor Practice	Walberton	10.30am



St Richard's, Aldwick

RINGING PRACTICE & ADM

St Richard's Church, ALDWICK

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2015

Ringling 3pm, Service 4.30pm

Tea 5.30pm, followed by the ADM

Names for tea please to Jack Burton
tel 01243 374937 or sec-west@scacr.org
by 12th February 2015

Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received

Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for Sally Forth. Your input is greatly appreciated.
Please send your contributions for the next newsletter to news-west@scacr.org by 13th February 2014. Thank you

Regular Practices

Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first	1 st Saturday of every month	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623
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
Surprise Minor Practice	4 th Saturday of every month	Graham Hills	01903 266980
Codgers Practice	1 st Wednesday of every month	Mike Foster codgers@scacr.org	01903 741664

Looking Ahead

14 th March 2015	Method and Call Change Striking Competitions, with running tea, at Pagham (tbc)
11 th April 2015	Morning practice and get-together at Pulborough (tbc)
9 th May 2015	Ringling and SCACR Annual General Meeting at Hastings

Master's Mutterings - *Graham Hills*

This year, it was our turn to host the Annual Association Social Event, which took the form of a Shuffleboard Tournament at Pulborough Village Hall, with a hot supper included in the price. Although the hall could have taken more people, there were 46 of us playing and eating, and we managed to break even with the costings, so that was good. Talking of eating, the main course was a tasty selection of hot dishes with a baked potato, all prepared and cooked by the Steyning Ringers. The array of puddings was to die for. Moya had done an excellent job of organising all the people who had volunteered to provide the different puds, so a very big 'thank you' to all who had anything to do with providing the food for the event. Before the evening, there was open ringing at Steyning and Washington, and Christine Butterfield provided teas at Washington.

Thank you to all those who e-mailed me their appreciation, here is a sample:-

"Many thanks for a really enjoyable evening. Our friends enjoyed it as much as us - especially as between us we secured 2nd and 3rd places! And, of course, the refreshments were excellent! Such a pity more people didn't take the trouble to find out what it was all about - they missed a great evening."

For our Practice and get-together in January, we will be having a quiz at Pulborough Village Hall, with ringing at Storrington first, and once again, there will be a hot supper included in the price of £5. So, don't forget to contact either myself or Jack Burton to put your name down and get a ticket.

Now, I know this is going to create a lot of controversy, but here goes. This year I ran the Association's Plain Hunting Course; and I know that when one gets on a bit, then you have to know which place you, or perhaps more correctly, your bell, is in. But, I'm afraid that I totally disagree with teaching people to hunt a bell by only telling them to count places – they do not always know what it means, or which bell they should be following. Being able to "see" which rope to follow should come first. Rope sight is the name of the game, and then, yes, you can tell the learner what place they are in, once they have seen which bell to strike over.

I certainly never learnt by counting places, and I would be surprised if a lot of people who learnt in the 1960's, 70's or possibly even the 80's ever learnt by counting places. Anyone can count up to 5, 6 or 7 and back, consequently those who ring by only counting places can invariably get back to lead at the right time, but have no idea which bell is the right one to strike over on the way. The resulting clash of bells is not good for the public to hear.

A couple of months ago, I was asked if I would give a talk on Bell Ringing to Worthing Rotary Club after their meeting meal. Before I knew it, early November was here, and I had to give the talk, which thankfully went well, or at least, I thought so.

By the time this issue of Sally Forth is published, the Carol Service will have taken place at Petworth, so I hope a lot of you attended. Unfortunately, I couldn't be with you, but I look forward to the quiz in January.

Just a reminder that our Annual Divisional Meeting will be at Aldwick on February 14th, and myself and our publicity team are looking to be able to step down. So, please offer your services. Also at the ADM, we will have to nominate people to be on the General Association Committee. All positions are up for election, but I believe the main ones are: the Publicity Officer, a position that has now been vacant for a year, and for the Association Master, as at the recent General Committee Meeting, Christine Baldock, announced that she would not be standing again. If you intend to nominate anyone for a position, please don't forget to ask their permission first.

I will end by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Scratchings from the Secretary – *Jack Burton*

The New Year is about to start and hopefully it will be a more routine and successful one in respect of ringing in the district and attendance at our practices and meetings. Membership numbers have returned to our more normal level after the very large increase last year. Some 29 new members have joined with a total of 11 lapsing. So a moderate but

steady increase of membership. Joining is so much quicker now that a candidate does not have to wait for a meeting to be elected.

At the last District Committee Meeting, a programme for the next year was proposed and agreed and I shall be working through it during the first few weeks of the New Year. Items in it are much the same as last year with perhaps an extra morning meeting and also including a couple of evening meetings. The idea is to give me a plan to work to, but nothing is set in stone yet past the AGM. If any of you have any ideas of how we should conduct the year's meetings and practices, please do get in touch with me or a member of the committee.

It is subscription time again, so Tower Secretaries, please send the completed yellow forms and your cheques to me in the first place. I can then keep my records up to date. It is expected that district secretaries will be able to update the main database directly in the not too distant future. I know this is a continuing annual subject that I have talked about before but it is the time of the renewal of membership and the completion of the forms. Please do look at the one for your tower and make sure that all the information listed for you is correct. It is so important if you are to be kept in the picture of events and where we are ringing, and this is especially so if there has to be a late change of venue due to circumstances we had not seen earlier. It does happen.

As for the management of the district into the future; it will remain as it is at present. We are still looking for a new District Master and also a Publicity Officer and we have nobody in view for either of these posts. To that end, the Committee is investigating how these two jobs can have their work eased and reduced, but we still need to replace these officers. Perhaps one way of decreasing the work of the Master and Secretary is to ask our local leaders and teachers to arrange a particular practice. After all, the new rules call for us to be more local in our management. It would be nice to know how members feel about the way we are doing our business.

The general plan for the coming year is therefore 'steady as we go', with no distracting new policies to adopt, a steadily increasing membership, more practices as ringers would like, with the aim of increasing all our ringing skills. All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Help required for Arundel's repairs to their bells – *Teresa Kendall*

Arundel will be closed from 1st January 2015 until the repairs are complete, which we are hoping will be 1st March 2015.

We are looking for helpers to work with Whitechapel, and also for the rubbing down and repainting of the bell frame.

Work parties for the frame begin on Monday 5th January and Saturday 10th January for 4 weeks. We will be working from 10am, and all gear will be supplied. David Hall will be supervising the project.

Please contact David, tel 01903 884724 if you can help.



The Sussex County Association of Change Ringers was founded on 24th January 1885. Celebrate the Anniversary by taking part in

QUARTER PEAL WEEK

24th January 2015 - 31st January 2015

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

for the roles of Ringing Master and Publicity Officer

Graham Hills has been doing a marvellous job as Ringing Master for the Western Division, but as he will have been in the position for 4 years at the ADM in February, would like to step down, and is looking for a volunteer to take over the role.

We are also looking for someone to take on the role of Publicity Officer to produce the newsletter and notices. The newsletter, which is produced every two months, can be set out in any layout you choose. It could just be done as a list of events. Of course, we would be on hand to help you with the first few editions, if needed.

You do not need to be a whiz kid ringer or computer expert for these roles, just enthusiastic about ringing, and you would not be dropped in at the deep end, as there is always someone willing to help!

If you feel you would like to take on either of these roles (maybe as a joint team, as we have done) and would like to know more about them, or if you know someone who needs a little encouragement to come forward, please contact either Jack or Graham, who will be very pleased to hear from you.



Either Graham had become very pious or the stress of organising another outing had become too much for his back as he shuffled down the aisle of the coach on his knees. We were on a sort of pilgrimage, but it was bells we were after, not blessings, and to save his legs he handed out details of the itinerary and a map of Canterbury from a recumbent position.

This eagerly awaited trip on 11 October had come about due to the kindness of Phil Simmonds, a ringer from Heene, as well as the Cathedral. He had arranged for the 40 or so ringers of mixed abilities to have the privilege of ringing at “the big one” as well as 5 other local towers.

An early start at Chichester and Worthing and 36 of us were quickly chattering away as the comfy coach drove up the M23 and the M25 on the way to Kent. Thunderstorms and rainbows, and mist rising off of the fields, then a stop for comfort, followed by a diversion along the M20 to avoid roadworks on the A2, and soon our first tower beckoned.

At Thanington, St Nicholas, 6 bells, 4cwt tenor, a small group from Westbourne joined us. A relay system for ringing, with half waiting below, was required, so some admired the Cooper memorials and the statue of St Nicholas with the two Enid Blyton style figures of children, while light bells and new ropes proved a challenge for the others ringing above.

Into Canterbury we said goodbye to the coach and found St Dunstan's, 6 bells, 13cwt tenor, with a first floor ring. This church was where Henry II stopped to change out of his regal finery to put on sackcloth and shuffle the ¼ mile into town to pay penance for the murder of Thomas A' Becket. The church also held the skull of Sir Thomas Moore, who was beheaded on the order of Henry VIII after disagreeing with him over his ideas on the control of the English Church. The old church chest looked as if it had been attacked by 100 woodpeckers, but thankfully the bells were easy to ring and in good order. Here we had one of the oldest bells in England to ring as the 5 was cast in 1325 and still going strong. There was a window which gave access out onto the roof of the side aisle so we were able to have an early view of the Cathedral, as well as a double mattress laying under a churchyard tree (perhaps for struggling pilgrims)!

For our walk into town we lined up behind Phil, who had made a paddle with a bell symbol on it, so that our crocodile of 40 ringers could find our way through the crowds of tourists. Past 'Sally Salon Services' and the ducking stool, and then the dramatic approach to the Cathedral, where we passed through the gate house as a pre-arranged group, and into the open surrounds. Peregrine falcons were screaming high up above, and the sun shone down as we entered by the side door and tackled the 75 steps up to ringing level. A short walk above the side aisle vaults with its huge timbers and stonework, and then we reached the ante-room with chairs and a table before we entered the ringing chamber itself. There are 21 bells all together in the 3 towers, not all for full circle ringing, though the 63cwt St Dunstan is swung for Sunday matins. We had 12 to keep us occupied, with a tenor of 35 cwt and an impressive display of floor boxes, which did nothing to ease the butterflies which many were having. One of the peal boards stated “Nothing impossible to the willing mind”, so we gathered ourselves for the task ahead. Phil emphasised that the first 3 and the last 3 bells were best avoided by the less experienced, and eventually all who wanted to ring were able to say that they had 'rung at Canterbury'. Finally our brave helpers showed us how it was done and gave us a fine course of Grandsire Cinques – marvellous!

There is so much history on this site, from the first Roman church, St Augustin's building in 597, the various re-buildings, the murder of Thomas A' Becket in 1170, the tomb of The Black Prince, the stripping of the Becket Shrine by Henry VIII in 1538 which produced 26 cartloads and two coffers of treasure, then the installation of bells and their re-casting in 1981 by the Whitechapel Foundry, and then our little visit which meant so much to many of us.



An hour for lunch with the skies still sunny made ideal picnic weather, while others explored the abundance of eating places close by, before gathering at St Alphege, 6 bells, 7cwt tenor, a short walk away. This building is used as a drama studio, so those waiting to ring had a pleasant diversion watching two young dancers going through their routines. To ring, we had to climb a short spiral stair, then a vertical ladder, to a dusty room with a tiny treble sally and rather high sallies for the 5 and 6 bells. They went quite well if you worked them, but the ringing chamber was rather like being in a forest of timber posts, braces, struts, ties and bolts, that you wondered how they got it all in!

A short walk again brought us to our coach and then a drive out to St Stephen, Hackington with 8 lovely bells, 10cwt tenor. This was the best ring of the day for many, and the first floor ring were enjoyed all round with some good methods achieved. Colin gave Graham and Moya a presentation of some wine in gratitude for organising the trip. A pity that we could not get in to the main church to see the amazing monument with its carved wooden skeleton (try Googling this one), so we had to wait outside while others rung, and passed our time by criticising the restoration work to the west door.



Sturry, St Nicholas, 6 bells, 9cwt tenor, was our last tower located to the north-east of Canterbury. The bells here needed working a lot to stop them dropping, but were fun to ring, and some doubles methods finished off our ringing well. There was an amazing huge brick tithe barn opposite the church, and the nave of St Nicholas was once the chapel of the monastery. We admired the lovely upswept timber cross-beams in the nave, with king posts and a roof like an upturned boat. Here we all gathered for a group photo, to general amusement, as we watched the struggles with modern technology!

Back on the coach and glad not to be driving, we found our seats and finished off any remaining food and drink. Huge orange clouds and jet plane vapour trails gave us a spectacular farewell to Kent. Back onto the motorways, our trip was slowed for 30 minutes by a crash on the M23 so we didn't arrive back at Worthing until 9pm.

We had to pinch ourselves again to realise that we had actually rung at Canterbury Cathedral and enjoyed ourselves so much due to the sterling efforts of Graham, Moya, Phil, and others who had helped, not forgetting Alan our driver. After such a pilgrimage, even Graham, who must have been exhausted by now, was able to walk normally down the aisle of the coach again!



Western District's Social Event for 2015

QUIZ NIGHT

at PULBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL
on Saturday 10th January

Ringling at St Mary's, **Storrington** from 3pm to 4.30pm

followed by the Quiz at 5pm, with a break during the evening for supper of filled jacket potatoes, and a raffle, at the Village Hall, Swan View, Lower Street, **Pulborough** RH20 2BF

Please bring your own cutlery, glasses, drinks & nibbles

All are welcome. Don't forget to invite other friends and family along for the Quiz and Supper, as it's not limited to ringers.

Cost £5 For tickets please contact:
Jack Burton tel 01243 374937, email sec-west@scacr.org
or Graham Hills tel 01903 266980, email rm-west@scacr.org
by **7th January 2015**

Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received





A new Olympic Sport – Shuffleboard?

The old English game of Shovelboard used to be played by the English upper classes on long tables residing in country houses. Shovelboard is no longer played, but the derivative game of Sjoelbak is popular in The Netherlands, while a second descendant called Shuffleboard is popular in North America and the UK.

So for the Association's Annual Social this year, 46 players of the second descendants of the game met at Pulborough Village Hall on the 25th October for a very challenging but enjoyable evening, sliding small circular discs along a highly polished 2 metre length board. The aim of the game was to get the discs through four small archways at the end, to try and obtain a maximum score. Does that sound easy? Well let me tell you, it's quite difficult and somewhat frustrating when your disc doesn't quite make it to where you intended it to go.

We were put into teams of three and were asked to give ourselves a team name (the more obscure the better). Alan (from the Shuffleboard Company in Hove), who is commonly known as "King of Shuffleboard", set out a score sheet and kept a careful track of the total as each team completed their game. We managed to play 8 rounds in all, and the triumphant winners, with a score of 654 were the "Wrong Direction".

A huge thank you – To Graham and Moya Hills for organising a great evening – To the Steyning ringers who put on a very tasty supper of jacket potatoes, with either a vegetarian, bolognese or chilli filling, with plenty of cheese to top it off! – And to everyone in the division who provided puddings in the form of cheesecakes, banoffee pie, tiramisu, trifles, gateaux and a fruit flan. Shuffleboarding must be very hungry work as nearly the whole lot disappeared as the players came back for seconds and thirds!

It was a really enjoyable evening, which I am sure will be repeated at some time in the future. However, you do not have to wait until then for a fun night out as the Western Division "Quiz Night" is on the 10th January 2015, once again at Pulborough village hall. Last year the Beetle Drive was a complete sell out so do please get your tickets as soon as they are available. Details are on the previous page.

In the meantime, please do start your training early to be fit and ready for the next Shuffleboard evening!!



Dewsbury Minster's 'Devil's Knell' - Back in 1986, Royal Mail issued a Christmas first day cover with stamp designs that were inspired by present day survivals or historical accounts of five different traditional British Customs and Festivities.

A 31p stamp featured a 600-year old bell-ringing custom in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, still carried on today. Starting at around 9.45pm on Christmas Eve the bell-ringers toll the tenor bell, nick named 'Black Tom', once for every year since Christ was born. This takes over two hours and is timed so that the last stroke is rung exactly at midnight.



According to legend, Sir Thomas de Soothill, a local landowner, gave the tenor bell to the church as a penance for murdering a servant boy, requiring it to be tolled at his own funeral. It was rung on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Christ and the death of the Devil. An alternative theory suggests that people were very superstitious in medieval times, and it was originally rung to ward off evil spirits for the coming year.

A present day view is that it is not rung on Christmas Eve to defeat evil, as this is superstitious, but to proclaim Christ's victory over evil.

MORE FIRSTS FOR STEYNING – David Kirkcaldy

During the recent half term holiday, the opportunity was taken to arrange some quarters for members of the Steyning band to stretch their ringing by achieving a first in something they have been learning recently. There were three quarters for Steyning ringers, plus a fourth at Hurstpierpoint for one of their ringers to complete her first on eight.



Margaret Oram, Bill Wilson, Arthur Wright, Emma, David Kirkcaldy and Mike Peate outside West Tarring church

St Andrew and St Cuthman, Steyning

29th October 2014

1260 PB Triples

- 1 Marion Pickup*
- 2 Margaret Oram
- 3 Ian Vaughan
- 4 Arthur Wright
- 5 Graham Hills
- 6 Mike Peate
- 7 David Kirkcaldy (C)
- 8 Ronnie Stillwell

**First on eight*

St John the Baptist, Findon

30th October 2014

1440 PB Minor

- 1 Arthur Wright
- 2 Sue Gadd*
- 3 Emma Gadd
- 4 Margaret Oram
- 5 Mike Peate
- 6 David Kirkcaldy (C)

**First of minor*

St Andrew, West Tarring

30th October 2014

1320 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 Mike Peate
- 2 Margaret Oram
- 3 Emma Gadd*
- 4 William Wilson
- 5 Arthur Wright
- 6 David Kirkcaldy (C)

**First of surprise*

Quarter Peals

St Mary's, Pulborough

2nd November 2014

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Daniel Rose*
- 2 Brenda Etherington
- 3 Ian Cockburn
- 4 Bill Avenell
- 5 Mike Etherington (C)
- 6 Connor Rowe*

**First quarter peal*

Rung for the evening service for All Souls

St Thomas a' Becket, Pagham

3rd November 2014

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Melissa Peirce*
- 2 Thomas Raggett
- 3 Ewan Grant-Richardson
- 4 Brian Vickers
- 5 Michael Wake (C)
- 6 Margaret Sherwood

**First quarter peal*

St Mary's, Goring-by-Sea

9th November 2014

1260 Winchendon Place Bob

- 1 Margaret Grundy
- 2 Elizabeth Potter
- 3 Moya Hills
- 4 Jane Winter
- 5 Graham Hills (C)
- 6 Irene Batchelor

Rung half-muffled for Evensong Service on Remembrance Sunday

St Mary's Storrington

30th November 2014

1260 Mixed Doubles - St Simons, St Martins, Plain Bob, Grandsire

- 1 Ian Wadey
- 2 Sheila R Foster
- 3 A John Taylor
- 4 Michael G Foster
- 5 Nigel Boorman (C)
- 6 Steve M C Swyer

Rung for the Advent Service of Darkness & Light, and to celebrate a significant birthday for Steve M C Swyer.

St Andrew's, West Tarring

30th November 2014

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Harry Bickers*
- 2 Jo Cheng
- 3 Brenda Cox
- 4 Caroline Jones
- 5 Graham Hills (C)
- 6 Peter Rebbeck

**First Quarter Peal*

Rung for the Advent Carol Service and for St Andrew's Patronal Festival

Chichester Cathedral

6th December 2014

1280 Spliced S Major, 4 methods – Rutland, Cambridge, Yorkshire and Superlative

- 1 Peter Watson
- 2 Susan Spencer
- 3 Jane Deadman
- 4 Gill Roberts
- 5 Keith Game
- 6 Hamish McNaughton
- 7 Colin Spencer (C)
- 8 David Roberts

In memory of Arthur Spencer, father of 7, who died on 1st November.

Rung on the day before his 97th birthday.



Ed Twitters

It seems there is nothing much left for me to say at the end of the Ed Twitters year 2014 except for a very big "Thank You" to everyone for their contributions to Sally Forth. There have been so many good articles and Liz and I are grateful that you keep sending them.

I thought, however, that I would leave you with a little **Christmas Dingbat Quiz** as a starter for the quiz in January (*you will find the answers at the bottom of this page*), and you could also see how many words you can make out of 'MERRY CHRISTMAS'. I know there are over 120, but I have only managed to find a fraction of them so far.

Happy Christmas everyone!

Margo

<h1>Nigmassht</h1>	<h1>STUN</h1>	<h1>TURKEY</h1> <h1>SSSSSSSSSS</h1>
Hello Spring! Hi Summer! Howdey Autumn! Yo! Winter	<h1>Pres ents</h1>	ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTUVWXYZ ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O PQRSTUVWXYZ



WESTERN DIVISION CONTACTS

Ringing Master	Graham Hills	01903 266980	rm-west@scacr.org
	311 South Farm Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7TL		
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	4 Highland Close, Emsworth, West Sussex PO10 7JP		
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Committee Members	Sue Gadd	01903 813174	suegadd99@gmail.com
	Moya Hills	01903 266980	mchills@talktalk.net
	John Taylor	01903 745477	alansuetaylor@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) (*please note Arundel will be out of action from 1st January 2015 to 1st March 2015 while repairs are carried out on the bells*) & 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, Steyning & Walberton

Friday: Amberley, Rogate & Storrington

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

Dingbat answers, from top left to right: Midnight Mass, Mixed Nuts, Turkey Leftovers, Season's Greetings, Opening presents, Noel Noel