

Dates for your diary

MARCH

Monday 2nd	Bolney – Surprise Major
Monday 9th	Cowfold – General practice
Monday 16th	Crawley – General practice
Monday 23rd	Warnham – 10 bell practice
Monday 30th	No practice (Holy Week)

APRIL

Monday 6th	No practice (Easter Monday)
Monday 13th	Danehill – Elementary
Monday 20th	Turners Hill – Surprise Major
Monday 27th	East Grinstead – 10/12 bell practice

MAY

Monday 4th	No practice (Bank Holiday)
------------	----------------------------

Monday Practices

We have a new organiser of the Monday evening practice in Neil Dobson of Worth who has taken over their organisation from Rachel Edwards. Rachel has run these events for some years now and hands over the post with our grateful thanks. I hope that people will not only continue to support these evenings with Neil but that some of you who have not been lately, or at all, might come along and try them out. This is especially true of the elementary practice nights (usually once a month) for those of you who would like to try ringing with others as there are usually enough helpers to ensure that you can ring with a full set of experienced ringers to help you. Also try the 10 or 12 bell meetings as not just complicated methods are rung but call changes and plain hunt are usually available for the less experienced.

Michael Peace – Lindfield



GEORGE FRANCIS SEVENTY YEARS ON



George is a well known figure across Sussex ringing and he has just celebrated another milestone, seventy years since he started ringing.

He was born at The Bax Castle just south west of Horsham and was taught to ring at Itchingfield. At this time only call changes were rung with the occasional attempt at a plain course of Grandsire Doubles. Other youngsters were taught to ring there and this has provided George with life long ringing friends. In the early days of his ringing George arranged cycling holidays as far as Pembrokeshire and back in two weeks. He also started peal ringing and was in a number of first peals for the SCACR through the 1950s and 60s. He conducted many peals and would often be ringing round the heavy end. His connection then started with Warnham when he was asked to go and teach a new band there.

Handbell ringing was introduced to his repertoire and the Warnham Handbell Team was legendary in tune ringing circles. George also rings changes on hand bells; and as many will know is the owner of the Bell Meadow Peal which are a mini ring of ten bells hung in his garage, the largest bell weighing 21lbs.

George is always generous with his time and hospitality, and is very keen on teaching and the progress of ringers. Over the last few years he has been supportive of Association events with young ringers, even giving a base for the Meadow Minis.

To mark his seventy years of ringing he took part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at Warnham on Sunday, 7 December 2014. Each of those taking part have rung with George for over thirty years. Although he did not conduct the peal one of his compositions was used; composing is another of his ringing talents!



George Francis is standing second from the left, and Les Weller is second from the right, both with bell rope around their necks



HANDBELLS FOR SALE

A fine set of 8 diatonic Whitechapel Hand Bells.
Sizes no.15C up to no.8C (no case);
Pitch A = 440 Hz.

Purchased with enthusiasm 25 years ago by tower bell ringers, but never actually used. They have been stored in a domestic environment (ie not somewhere cold and damp!). They all strike well and should need no adjustment. The bells have never been polished. They can be seen and trialled in Lewes.

The cost then was just over £1,000. The original receipt can be produced. The current price is just under £2,500. Guide price today £1,000.

Contact Sheila Wood: flutewood@aol.com

Contact details for the Northern Division Committee

Secretary:

Stephanie Pendlebury sec-north@scacr.org

Training and Recruitment:

Neil Dobson ed-north@scacr.org

Publicity and Events:

Patsy Whiteside news-north@scacr.org

Bell Restoration:

Terence McGinn brf-north@scacr.org

Committee Members:

Richard Hutchings richard.a.hutchings@btinternet.com

Rachel Edwards

Angela Cash

Richard Pendlebury

Rosie Gregory

Michael Peace

na444@btinternet.com

michaelj.peace@virgin.net

