

August

Saturday 1st August 10-12 Rudgewick – Ringing with optional pub lunch at Kings Head

August will be quarter peals which Neil Dobson will organise, but he will be happy to try and accommodate anyone who wants to ring.

September

Saturday 5th 3-4:30pm Ardingly Ringing with coffee and cake

7th Cuckfield General Practice

14th Crawley Surprise Major

21st Cowfold Surprise Minor

28th Horsham

Hello from the District Secretary

I thought it might be nice to introduce myself, since I've not served on the committee before so probably a lot of people have never heard of me! My name is Steph Pendlebury, and I live (and ring!) in Horsham, and also ring regularly at Ruser. I'm a research scientist in the chemistry department at Imperial College, and as well as ringing I also play violin in Horsham Symphony Orchestra. The District Secretary role is actually shared between me and my husband, Richard. Please do get in touch with us (sec-north@scacr.org) if you have any comments or suggestions!

Since I've not served on the committee before, I've had my work cut out for learning how the SCACR is organised, and what the District Secretary's duties and responsibilities are. Luckily, I'm very well supported by a great committee! The article below lists the committee members and outlines their responsibilities; there are also email addresses for those people you might need to contact.

There's certainly a lot going on in the Northern District! You can check the calendar on the website (www.scacr.org) to see what's coming up. On Saturday 6th June we had a picnic in the sunshine at Whithyham, probably the most easterly tower in the Association. I'd never rung here before but the bells are lovely, so I'd encourage you all to try to make it over there at some point!



Neil Dobson is doing an excellent job organising Monday evening practices – more about these in a separate article. Warnham, Horsham, Itchingfield, Rusper, Slinfold and Lower Beeding – WHIRLS – have got together as a “hub” to organise joint social events (and some ringing!); I’m looking forward to the upcoming BBQ on the beach. And another thing to look forward to is the Two Towers Walk on Saturday 4th July – Sonia Harriyott’s “The Tantalising Walk” between Ditchling and Keemer. I hope to see many of you there!

Steph Pendlebury, June 2015

SCACR AGM Report by Steph Pendlebury

The AGM was rather more popular than I was expecting it to be – we had difficulty squeezing enough chairs into the meeting room at St Clement Hastings! I won’t bore you with the details of the usual adoption of reports and election of officers (minutes should be circulated in due course), so here are a few edited highlights. Firstly, congratulations to Ian Oram of Warnham on election as life member, clearly to his surprise! Ian was proposed by Val Burgess, who also managed to keep everything under wraps so that Ian had no idea what was being planned. Unfortunately Val wasn’t able to attend the meeting, but David Kirkcaldy did an excellent job of presenting Val’s proposal. Congratulations are also due to Graham Hills (Goring), who is now SCACR Ringing Master – and many thanks to Christine Baldock for all her hard work in this role previously. (While I’m thanking people, I’ll take the opportunity to thank the local ringers for putting on an excellent tea!)

The Training and Recruitment Team (led by Stephen Beckingham) is planning a series of Saturday workshops. The first of these will be on Saturday 20th June, 10am to 12 noon: Minor Methods at Hailsham and Ringing Up and Down at Shipley. The annual Ringing Course will be on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st October (at the end of Half Term). The Ringing Course will include on course on teaching bell handling.

There are several other events being planned for the coming year, including a Fun Day at Horsham on Saturday 9th April 2016, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the first peal in Sussex by a Sussex band. Mike Cattell is the main organiser of this event, plans for which include: handbells in the band stand, miniring



in the “amphitheatre” on the Carfax, open ringing at St Mary’s, an evening buffet supper and social, and a bell ringing exhibition in the church. If you have any other suggestions, or would like to help with the organisation, please get in touch with Mike.

Monday Evening Practices

The Northern District Practices are on Monday evenings (7.30-9.00 pm), except for Bank Holidays. These are organised by Neil Dobson; please get in touch with Neil (neil@dobson.freeserve.co.uk) if you have any questions or requests! These practices follow the pattern:

1st Monday of the month – Elementary: rounds, plain hunting and Bob Doubles

2nd Monday – Surprise Major

3rd Monday – Minor Methods: including Surprise (treble bob hunting)

4th Monday – 10/12 Bell: rounds upwards

5th Monday – Quarter Peal by request

Saturday Gatherings

Everyone is welcome at these! The Northern District Gatherings are held on the first Saturday of each month. There is almost always a social element (as well as ringing!), e.g. coffee and cake, or pub lunch. The ringing is rounds upwards; just let the person who’s running the ringing know what you’d like to ring. Here’s the programme for the next few months:

4th July – Two Towers Walk: “The Tantalising Walk” from Ditchling to KeymerMeet at Ditchling Pond at 9.45 am, then walk to Keymer (approx 2¾ miles). Ringing at Keymer 11.30-12.15, then lunch at the Greyhound Pub in Keymer. After lunch, walk back to Ditchling for ringing (4.00-4.45 pm), followed by tea. Numbers to Sonia (sonia@harryott.co.uk) by Saturday 22nd June, please.

1st August – Ringing and Pub Lunch at Rudgwick

Ringing at Rudgwick 10 am to 12 noon, followed by pub lunch at the King’s Head. More information on the website and by email nearer the time.

5th September – Ringing with Coffee & Cake at Ardingly, 3.00-4.30 pm



Northern District Committee Members and Contact Details

At the moment the Northern District does not have a Ringing Master, as nobody volunteered for the role. Instead, various people are asked to run the ringing for different events. Please let the Secretary know (sec-north@scacr.org) if you would be interested in running the ringing at any events! Thanks to everyone on the committee for their help!

Secretary: Steph (and Richard) Pendlebury sec-north@scacr.org

Bell Maintenance and Restoration Team member: Terence McGinn brf-north@scacr.org Please get in touch with Terence if you have any questions about bell maintenance.

Communication & Events Team (publicity) members: Steph Pendlebury & Angela Cash

Training & Recruitment Team member: Richard Pendlebury

Central Council Representative: Margaret Oram

Monday evening practice organiser: Neil Dobson
neil@dobson.freeseve.co.uk

Saturday gathering organisers: Steph & Richard Pendlebury and Rosie Gregory

Northern News – commissioning editor: Michael Peace
michaelj.peace@virgin.net (please send articles, photos etc to Michael)– editor: Patsy Whiteside

General Members: Rachel Edwards, Richard Hutchings

And thanks to Sonia Harriyott for organising the Two Towers Walk!



Ringling and Picnic at Withyham

On a sunny but windy day, ten ringers met at the church at Withyham. We were joined by the new Association Master, Graham Hills and his wife Moya. The bells were raised and the ringing was very ably organised by Richard Pendlebury.

There was something for everyone, from rounds and call changes to Surprise Major and lots in between. Local ringer Linda was able to practice Grandsire Triples with a minder. The striking all afternoon was of a high standard on the lovely bells. Later Gen Sec, Marisa, appeared on a mission to give South of England Show tickets to those who needed them and joined us for some ringing.

As tea was a picnic, we had all brought something to eat and Tower Captain, Rosemary, very kindly made us cups of tea. We sat out in the churchyard in a sheltered spot admiring the view and as usual there was a lot of chat. Tea was rounded off with some scrummy blueberry muffins made by Steph Pendlebury.

There was no more ringing after tea as a few people had to leave, but it was a lovely way to spend an early summer afternoon. Those not there missed a treat!

Sonia



Codgers outing June 3rd 2015

It was a beautiful sunny June day and a total of 23 codgers from as far afield as Eastbourne in the East and Westbourne in the West, turned up at our first tower. Most managed to find Merstham church without too much trouble, although I heard of a few u turns in transit. Confusingly the church is on the opposite side of the M25 to Merstham. Impressively, Richard Pendlebury cycled - though he had wisely caught the train for part of the way because of the rush hour traffic - and for the rest of the day he usually reached the next tower before or at least with the majority of us and then cycled home! Merstham are an easy 8 bells on the ground floor which together with tea/coffee and biscuits made an excellent start with a variety of methods being rung.

From there we had a short drive, to our next tower at Nutfield where I believe we made Codgers history by ringing the method of the month twice with different bands and no false starts. The method was Nutfield Treble Bob minor so maybe the 'bells' knew it and kept us on course!

Lunch followed, our numbers by now were up to 30. The White Harte Hotel at Bletchingly did us proud seating us all in very close proximity and serving us with massive platters and boards. Luckily the next tower was just across the road and a ground floor ring but the 10 bells still proved a challenge for some (because of the number not the bells). A band did manage Candlesby Slow Course caters, the other method of this and last month.

Our final tower was Lingfield, with an interesting entry right through the small ground floor belfry into the Priory. There was no room to stand with the ringers so everyone explored the interior and admired the medieval tombs with the lord and his lady laying their heads on armour helmets (inset with another head) and their feet against not faithful hounds but dragons - not very restful! However most of us soon spotted the tea, not just the "light" refreshments expected, but a full ringers' tea, so ringing became suddenly unimportant.

A superb end to a lovely day; many thanks to all involved in the organisation of towers, travel, and refreshments.

Anne Ekins



WHIRLS - Designed to refresh the parts other events don't reach

It was Sandra Alford from Warnham who first suggested that a small group of towers in the Horsham area should try to organise a range of social events to have some fun and help our ringers get to know one another better.

And so it was that at Sandra's house Elaine Farrow of Rusper, Val Burgess from Horsham, Val Atkins for Itchingfield, Val Farley from Slinfold and from Lower Beeding a token man, not called Val, met to talk over a range of ideas.

Then it was Elaine Farrow who coined the acronym obtained from the six towers' names, WHIRLS, which we readily adopted.

We came up with a range of different dates, times and events realising that not everybody would be able to attend all of them. We hoped that there would be something for everyone with no pressure on having to ring. It can be quite intimidating for mere mortals ringing with the great and good.

The first of our events was held on Monday 27th April at Lower Beeding and took the form of a Beetle Drive, another inspired Elaine idea. This turned out to be a wonderful ice breaker as people moved around from table to table trying to create their beetles with varying degrees of success. There followed tea and cake, then more tea and more cake and finally some ringing of rounds and call changes mostly for those who had not rung there before.

There were prizes too. Oh yes. The champion beetler was Ann Lloyd from Warnham who won a box of chocolates. At the other end of the scale came Tony Jones from Horsham who won a Poundland special beetling pencil. The lucky winners are pictured below.

A special mention must also go to Nigel Gale from Horsham. Just a couple of weeks after he was found to need a triple heart bypass operation. I am delighted to report that it all went well and Nigel is home now recovering. We wish him all the very best.



As event organisers there is always a slight concern beforehand wondering if anyone will appear. Happily thirty one people came and we think it went very well. Certainly there were smiling faces and a great deal of laughter.

The challenge of course was to repeat the success, a phenomenon sometimes known as second album syndrome.

The next thing we had planned was on Saturday morning 23rd May starting at Itchingfield church and walking to Barns Green for Sumners Ponds. (which probably ought to have an apostrophe but doesn't seem to).

It was a beautiful day and twenty seven of us set off for the steady two mile stroll through the woods along footpaths and bridleways.

Sumners Ponds, as the name suggests, has some rather large ponds, plus fishing, camping and most importantly a cafe. We were joined there by another six people who couldn't walk for a variety of reasons. We had reserved tables outside the cafe and were soon tucking in to tea, coffee and a range of cakes and buns.

One of our party even managed a huge fry up. (Val Atkins, a growing girl!)

Suitably refreshed and after a photo call we set off back to Itchingfield for some ringing where more folks joined us whilst others opted to sit outside in the sunshine. One needs to be something of a contortionist to get into the ringing room there but it was worthwhile. Val Atkins was in charge and there were some call changes, kaleidoscope and an Itchingfield speciality, Banana Doubles.

Our next events are a barbecue by the seaside in June then a stoolball day in July. An outing and various other things are on the drawing board. Exciting times. Watch this space.

Graham Burling Lower Beeding



Open Day to raise funds for Lindfield Bells Project Monday 31 August 2015

As a fundraiser for the Lindfield works, a towers open day is being planned for Monday 31st August (bank holiday). 25 Towers in the surrounding area will be open for 1 hour each; £1 per tower or £15 for the day.

10:00	Warnham, St Margaret
10:10	Warnham, The Bell Meadow Belfry
10:35	Itchingfield, St Nicholas
11:00	Shipley, St Mary the Virgin
11:20	West Grinstead, St George
11:40	Cowfold, St Peter
12:00	Lower Beeding, Holy Trinity
12:20	Slaugham, St Mary
12:40	Bolney, St Mary Magdalene
13:00	Twineham, St Peter
13:20	Hurstpierpoint, Holy Trinity
13:40	Keymer, SS Cosmas & Damian
14:00	Ditchling, St Margaret
14:20	Wivelsfield, St John the Baptist
14:40	Chailey, St Peter
15:00	Newick, St Mary
15:20	Maresfield, St Bartholomew
15:40	Fairwarp, Christ Church
16:00	Fletching, SS Andrew & Mary the Virgin
16:20	Danehill, All Saints
16:40	Lindfield, All Saints
17:00	Ardingly, St Peter
17:20	West Hoathly, St Margaret
17:40	Turners Hill, St Leonard
18:00	East Grinstead, St Swithun



NEW WOODEN JIGSAW

"Bell Ringers" (Lavenham) by Reginald Brill

The 2015 puzzle was suggested by Ros Codling. She discovered the painting on the BBC website that displays the Public Catalogue ie paintings that are in Public Ownership, but may not be on display. See: www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/paintings/bell-ringers - there are a few other bell related paintings, too. This painting is owned by the Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service and was purchased from the Fine Art Society with the assistance of the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, the Museums and Galleries Commission, The Pilgrim Trust and the Friends of Ipswich Museum.

Reginald Brill (1902-1974)

RB is easy to research online and I found a photograph of him smoking a pipe. He painted in oil and watercolour and was a fine draughtsman of landscapes, figure studies and portraits. His career in art led him to Kingston upon Thames, where he became a popular and successful principal of the School of Art for many years. Brill was also highly respected as an artist and a teacher. Upon retirement he went to live in Lavenham as Warden of The Little Hall, a hostel for art students. His paintings attract four figure sums and I found the copyright holders through the Tate Gallery, which own one of his paintings.

George Pipe has kindly supplied some background information. It had been a tradition since the 19C to hold the Lavenham Great Ringing Day on the Saturday nearest Mid Summers Day. He recalls accompanying his parents in the 1940s after the wartime ban on ringing had been lifted. Two hundred or so ringers would turn up from East Anglia, London and further afield. Starved of ringing for six years (since 1939), such meetings were well attended.

The ringers portrayed in the oil painting c1963 would have been attending the Lavenham Ringing Day (left to right):

Richard Chambers (Preston St Mary)	6
Richard Rose (Rougham)	5
Ronald Steward (Sproughton)	4
Harold Leather (in orange jumper – Monk Soham)	3
Wilfred Jarvis (Lavenham)	2
Stedman Symonds (Lavenham)	treble

The ropes of the 7th and tenor do not feature and there was quite a bit of artistic licence used in the appearance of the ringing chamber; notice the anti clockwise ring at that time..



Northern news

The Northern District Newsletter

This is the 14th in the series of Wentworth puzzles and they make excellent gifts. Beware - there are straight edges inside the puzzle and a set of book-related “whimsies” (so-called because Victorian puzzle cutters included them ‘on a whim’).

The proceeds will go to the CC Bell Restoration Fund, whose income comes entirely from legacies, donations, the sale of items such as these jigsaws and interest; the amount available varies significantly from year to year.

When funds are available, applications for grants are invited by notices in *The Ringing World* and on the CCCBR website. All available money is allocated in accordance with the criteria and priorities established by the Central Council see www.cccbr.org.uk/bellrestoration/

This wooden puzzle contains 250 pieces and measures: c360 x 250mm (c14” x 10”). See photo: www.cccbr.org.uk

It is available by cheque payable to: **CCCBR** at £23, plus £3 p+p (within the UK) from Stella Bianco, Oaklands, West Chilmington Lane, Broadford Bridge, Billingshurst RH14 9EA Email: scb@biancoteam.com



Graham John Stenning

Sadly, Graham Stenning, a Lindfield ringer of nearly 30 years passed away on the 30th of June this year after a long battle with leukaemia.

A local man, he followed his father as a ringer here and was the steeplekeeper for over 20 years. He took on the role as he was a trained engineer learning his trade on the railway at Brighton and Selhurst where he worked from leaving school.

Those who knew him will remember him for his great sense of humour. Also for his love of canals (an annual boating holiday was a must) model railways and vintage transport.

He will be missed by his family, mother, sister, brother and nieces and nephews. Also by his friends from the tower and elsewhere, who managed to fill the church at the funeral which was standing room only even in the entrance.

Michael Peace



In addition

On the third Wednesday of each month, the ringers of East Grinstead welcome ringers from other towers to join them for their regular practice night, so that they may have the opportunity to extend their experience of ringing on greater numbers of bells and more advanced methods. Practice times are 19.45 - 21.30. For security reasons, the door at the base of the tower is locked at 20.00 but there is a bell high on the left of the door frame for late comers.

Dates for the next two months: 15 July, 19 August

Betty

Other Notices & News

You may wish to see what the other districts get up to! You are welcome to attend any events in all districts and the best way to find out more is to request other notices and newsletters via email.

Send your request to database@scacr.org

