

# LOOK To!



## SCACR Eastern Division Newsletter

August 2017

Welcome to your Summer 2017 Edition of Look To! Thank to everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in this edition. Remember we are always delighted to receive articles for inclusion in Look To! We love hearing about your ringing and sharing your news. So, whether you have just started ringing or can count places in your sleep, please tell us about your ringing experiences. We aim to publish 4 editions of Look To! Each year. Articles can be emailed to the Look To! Editor, [news-east@scacr.org](mailto:news-east@scacr.org). Please submit articles in Word Docx format if possible

### Proposed dates for practice

The practices have been organised by Nick Cant

### Surprise Major (Joint with Southern District):

Monday Sept 4th at Southover,  
 Wednesday 4th October - proposed tower Christ Church, Eastbourne again if that's ok,  
 Monday Nov 6th in Southern District,  
 Wednesday 13th December tower **t.b.c.**

### Progressing in minor:

Wednesday Aug 30th at Alfriston (Plain minor method t.b.a.), then probably  
 Sept 27th, Oct 25th, Nov 29th, all at Alfriston.  
 All of the above practices will start at 7.30 pm.

Please check our dedicate Facebook page to confirm dates etc. nearer the time of each practice.

### Ringling outing July 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

This year's walk and ring took us right up close to the Kent border. We met at Northiam 10.30 am, ready to walk some wore warm clothes and others shorts as it was difficult to predict the weather.



Once everyone had arrived we set out for Beckley, this was a pleasant stroll of about 30 mins and we all comfortably made the pace arriving in good time for our 11.15 am ring. Following our ring some people rushed off to the local pub for a swift pint and the remainder of us sat in the churchyard eating our packed lunches, the weather was mild but we encountered a few spots of rain over this period. Once lunch was over we hiked off to Peasmarsh which was a longer walk and took us through some beautiful countryside, through dense woods and open fields, we were also able to spot some butterflies on the way, (I believe it was national spot a butterfly day). On arrival, we had a short time to wander round the church and those who had not previously eaten their lunch were able to do so.

At Peasmarsh ringing was from 2.15pm until 3pm, we were joined by Harry and Graham from Hampshire who heard the bells and took the opportunity to "Grab" the tower.

After the ringing at Peasmarsch the group split up some Walking on to Rye before bussing or training it home others walked back to Northiam and others left from Peasmarsch in cars.

Altogether it was a great day out and our thanks go to Nick Cant for taking the time to organise the walk and towers.

## **Here is a report from Stella Bianco who attended the Central Council Meeting in as the Eastern District representative.**

To: Eastern District ringers

I promised to let you have a report on my attendance, on your behalf, at the Central Council Meeting held in Edinburgh.

### **WHAT WAS THE BIG RINGING MEETING IN EDINBURGH ABOUT?**

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is a National enabling organisation and provides Affiliated Societies and grassroots ringers with resources many of us take for granted. I recommend visiting the website:

[www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk) <<http://www.cccbr.org.uk>>

The business of the Central Council weekend began on Sunday morning (28 May) with an update on the work of the Council Review Action Group presented by its chairman, Dr Philip Barnes.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IZlZF2WSzg&feature=youtu.be>

Several members of the Group were present to answer individual questions afterwards and to lobby delegates as to how they might vote for Motions A, B & C the following morning. The CRAG Report has been widely circulated and its findings reported within the one year deadline given at the last Central Council Meeting.

Link: <https://cccbr.org.uk/review/>

After a 'bring your own' sandwich break, the jovial chairman of the Church Buildings Council, Sir Tony Baldry, told us how his network from being an MP enabled him to lobby the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) for three grants (about £96M in total) to enable many church roofs to be saved/repaired.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWktAkty5wc>

One important message I came home with concerns Festival Churches, which is the title to be given to Closed Churches (except for Christmas, Easter and other important church days) following the large consultation exercise carried out by the CofE a couple of years ago. The idea is for communities to set up a trust to care for their local church and that this should involve the bellringers, if there are any. NB The next regular meeting will take place on 25 July and the main topic for discussion will be the fate of bells in closed or closing churches. The CCCBR PR committee has produced an attractive new leaflet for incumbents and churchwardens entitled "Bells in Your Care" I recommend that you download a copy: <https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Bells-in-Your-Care.pdf>

After delicious homemade cakes and hot drinks, many delegates attended Choral Evensong in St Mary's Cathedral next door to the meeting venue.

The Meeting began promptly the next day and was streamed via a link:

Link: morning session <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DLmwbVMkVg>

Link: afternoon session <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gw1hhdENkTU>

Under the Election of Officers, I hope you know by now that David Kirkcaldy (Steyning) was elected after a ballot, as Vice-President of the Central Council. At the meeting, Christopher Mew stood down as President and Christopher O'Mahony took his place and David will become President in 2020. David was also re-elected to the Tower and Belfries Committee.

MOTIONS A, B AND C concerned the Central Council Action Group's proposals for the future of the CC. An Amendment was tabled to Motion B seeking a delay of one year to enable Affiliated Societies to consult fully with their members. A counter argument was tabled to the effect that the CC has historically put things off and sufficient consultation had taken place among those who were interested, so the Amendment was lost. The five Sussex Reps voted For Motions A, B and C, which were agreed. Motion D concerned the subscription be increased to £40 per Representative and was agreed (ie £200 for SCACR). Motions E, F and G concerned winding up the Bells Rescue Fund, Terms of Reference for the Methods Committee and Decisions about Methods.

The Ringing World Ltd AGM:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCt5kH2bjkU>

Thanks to the generosity of donors, it has been possible to employ a part-time assistant to the Editor, Will Bosworth. BellBoard provides a growing record of ringing and the Board is alert to changes proposed in the CRAG report that may affect the newspaper. Circulation remains the major concern for the continuation of our beloved RW. Does your tower subscribe? Thank you for letting me represent the Eastern District this year and I hope you will find a Representative to attend the 2018 CC Meeting next year when the changes recommenced in Motions A, B and C from the CRAG Report will begin to be implemented. Stella Bianco.

## **Bells as a symbol of Church and Community**

*Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical is launching a campaign to raise awareness of the contribution of churches to the local community, beyond their religious duties alone. The sound of church bells is synonymous with a feeling of community spirit and togetherness, so the campaign would like to include bell ringing in its plans, to remind the public of the role that churches play in their local area. Churches provide vital community services free of charge such as food banks, mother and toddler groups, shelter services for the homeless, activities for the elderly and simply a place to go if you need a chat and some company.*

*The campaign coincides appropriately with the 2017 Heritage Open Days, and therefore they are asking that as many of us as possible ring our church bells during the period from 7 – 10 September 2017. Please consider helping them keep the role of churches alive this September, and ring your bells to remind your local community of **your church's presence!***

*To let the public know that church bells will be ringing in unison across the country, Ecclesiastical will be engaging with the media to promote the event and the important message behind it.*

*Have a look on the Heritage Open Days website to find out more about the wider concept of the open days, including a nice spotlight on bells and ringing: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk/news/spotlight-barrow-bells>*

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## **Hastings Quiz Evening**

Christ Church, Blacklands and St Andrews, Hastings are hosting a quiz evening to raise funds to replace a clapper for one of our bells and for the church (possibly for a new flagpole or any other necessary work). The quiz will be held on Friday 25th August 7.30pm start in the church hall. Teams should be up to six people, cost is £5 per person, which includes a cheese or ham ploughmans supper. There will also be a grand raffle with a number of prizes. To book your team or if you want any more information, contact Pam on 01424 423120.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

The association now has a membership secretary, so any new members, change of address etc please send to Jonathan Spencer his address is: 44 Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1HW, Email [membership@scacr.org](mailto:membership@scacr.org).

## **Eastbourne and District Change Ringers logo onto a garment of your choice**

To Eastbourne and District Ringers (and anyone else who would like one)

Christ Church Eastbourne has a bell restoration fund. It benefits by a fiver every time Hazel Mottram embroiders the new, highly acclaimed Eastbourne and District Change Ringers logo onto a garment of your choice.

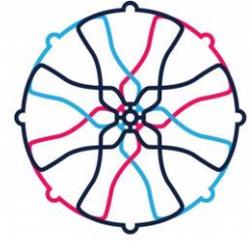


It works like this: You purchase or unearth your item of choice, e.g. t shirt, polo shirt, sweat shirt etc. and give it to Hazel at Christ Church with £5.

Please wash it first to allow for any shrinkage as otherwise it could distort the embroidery later. The embroidery colour will complement the base garment colour. Any queries to [Hazel](#) please.

Now wear your Sussex Martlets with pride! How simple and worthwhile is that?

# Bells in Your Care



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH  
BELL RINGERS

Some notes for incumbents and churchwardens who find themselves responsible for a ring of church bells

## Bell Ringing

**The sound of church bells ringing out can provide very loud evidence of the existence of an active church with an active congregation and you are fortunate to have bells in your care. Ringers and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers can help with anything you need to know.** This is a brief summary.



The very English art of full circle ringing has been practised in this country for over 400 years, and more recently in other countries around the world. The skill, which takes several months to acquire, lies in controlling the bell as it swings full circle so that it can be made to sound at a precise point - like, indeed, any other musical instrument. Younger people generally learn more quickly, but most people between the ages of 11 and 70, or more, can learn to ring.

Because ringing is by definition a group activity (one ringer for each bell being rung), each tower with a ring of bells usually has a local band, led by its chosen tower captain, and usually belonging to the local bellringers' guild or association. These in turn are affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell

Ringers (CCCBR), which through its committees seeks to provide help and information about all bell matters, including maintenance of towers and belfries, fundraising, redundant bells, publications, public relations and much more.

The Central Council website ([www.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.cccbr.org.uk)) has some very useful advice about tower management, health and safety and fire risk assessment for bell towers, among much more information. Look for Stewardship Leaflets. Alternatively, contact your local ringing society, or DAC bells adviser.

## The Mechanics

Nearly all Church of England churches have at least one bell, and a substantial minority (6000 in England, 500 in other English-speaking countries) have rings of five or more bells hung in the English style, so that the bells can be swung through a full circle by means of a rope and wheel, with one ringer for each bell. Sets of bells which can be sounded in other ways, by means of hammers of some kind, or by swinging each bell through just a small arc by means of a lever or an incomplete wheel, are called 'chimes' rather than 'rings'. If your bells are hung together in a frame, each with a full wheel, they will probably have been intended for full-circle ringing (although if they are





## September 7 -10

The heritage **open** days give the general public the opportunity to visit places and see things not normally available to them.

This year The Dewbys Bells Mini Ring is open to visitors with a view to educating people about church bell ringing and to find potential new ringers.

**Location** Dewbys Barn, Denbigh Road, Hooe, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9EU

Dewbys Bells are a set of 8 small church bells held within a portable metal frame. They are rung in exactly the same ways as full sized church bells but being much lighter they are more suitable to be used to demonstrate how church bells are rung.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see the bells in action and be able to try their hand at ringing a bell in the traditional English manner. Being so much lighter than church bells these bells can be handled with minimal risks to both experienced or new/ novice/ ringers

In 2016 Dewbys Bells were rung to over 115 quarter peals. This was a far greater number of quarter peals than any other ring of bells world wide.

### Opening Times

- Thursday 7 September: 1400 - 1900
- Friday 8 September: 1400 - 1900
- Saturday 9 September: 1000 - 1900
- Sunday 10 September: 1200 - 1900

### Booking Details

No booking required

### Additional information

Max 8 people per tour/session.

### Directions

The bells are located in Dewbys Barn, Denbigh Road, Hooe. There are only 2 roads in the village, Denbigh road is the one with the pub. Dewbys Barn has a London street lamp at the front of the house.

### Organised by

Sussex County Association of Change Ringers

### Helpers Needed

It is anticipated that local ringers will attend, especially on the Saturday and Sunday to assist with demonstrations of bell ringing and to seek new recruits for their local tower.

## York Outing May 2017

Before leaving Lewes for a week in York, I had to plant out my remaining veggies. At this point the heavens opened and it felt more like working in a paddy field than in an English garden. Thoughts of heavy spray on the M25 and A1 did not make the prospect of the following day's drive very appealing. In the event, the drive to York was reasonably dry; there were a few traffic jams, but we arrived at our destination in time to make dinner.

On a sunny morning 15 Sussex ringers met at tower number one (Stockton on the forest), a few miles from York: we had an easy-going light 6 to get warmed up on. Next there was a pretty drive to Norton, though traffic in the town itself was congested. This one started as a lock out, but we were rescued, and then had a long climb up the spiral staircase to a very good 14 cwt 8. Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman were all rung, but our first attempt at Yorkshire was not very successful. A claim was made that these were the best bells in Yorkshire, and for us, I think they were certainly the best of the day.

The next three towers proved a problem for me. I am not keen on heights, and access via long, near-vertical ladders leaves me keen to stay at ground level. At Hovingham, this is what I did. Reports came back that the bells were hard work, and I often head the ringing stop for a fresh start to be made.

Our lunch break was planned so that we could visit Nunnington Hall en route to the next tower. Picnic spots needed careful choice, because it soon started to rain.

The next tower (Kirkby Moorside), approached in the pouring rain, had an even longer staircase. I was going to opt out, but after some gentle persuasion, I was offered an escort in the shape of Tony Mottram. He followed me up (and later downwards). We both reached the top (and bottom) in one piece. Stories of the necessity for a fireman's lift were fortunately exaggerated. The final tower of the day (Middleton) was also, in my book, rather scary. Once again, Tony guided me up and down. Both towers were 6 bells and we rang a mixture of doubles and minor methods, including London, Cambridge and Norwich.

Sunday this year was almost a day off; just a single tower after lunch. It was in the centre of York in a redundant church (St Michael Spurriergate). A complete mezzanine floor had been built around the inside of the church, with a very easy flight of stairs. The bells were in effect a first floor ring, in an area marked as a prayer space. The light 6, despite rather thin old ropes, went well and sounded good. Various doubles and minor methods were rung, and I was very pleased to ring London successfully.

Since the Minster bells were no longer available to us, a few of us went to choral evensong instead. The singing was fine, and the organ splendid. However, we did not warm to a certain Lady Dean who presided over the service. Although there was an opportunity, we did not engage her in conversation at the end of the service!

Monday was planned as a walking day around York. The first tower (St Olave) was a ground floor ring just 5 minutes from where we were staying. This was a nice 6, though the ringing circle rather crushed the two. I was put in charge and so selected a group of doubles, call changes, and Norwich. The Norwich was not a great success, and I miscalled Plain Bob minor! The following 10 bell tower (St Wilfred) was only a few minutes away, so several of us sat on a bench enjoying the nice warm day. As we sat, the minster clock chimed the hour with a beautiful full low note from the 11 tonne clock bell. We thought wistfully of the silenced Minster bells

We had a steady climb to the reasonably sized ringing chamber where the bells were already up. Grandsire caters was rung, followed by plain hunt, rounds and call changes. I rang the tenor, 18cwt, but unlike other ringers, found it difficult to set. Having our town centre apartment meant we could go home for lunch afterwards.



The afternoon began with a walk to the south of the city (St Lawrence) with a very nice 8, followed by another ground floor ring of 8 (All Saints North Street), where the above group photo was taken.

The planned final tower of the day was no longer available, but Marion (ever resourceful) managed to obtain a replacement (Clifton SS Philip & James). Clifton is a suburb of York, and the best route seemed to be a goodly walk along the river path. The day was growing hotter....so first we found a park by the river, and many of us enjoyed an ice cream or a cuppa (and some had both).

When we reached Clifton, we found a 3cwt 6 with a small ringing chamber. It was suggested we limited the number of ringers up the tower. I am not sure if I have rung bells as light as this before (apart from the occasional mini-ring), and they took some handling. The pace was fast, but there no concerns about struggling with the tenor.

At the end of a good day's walking (8-9 miles), we headed down the river again and found a restaurant in York, The Slug and Lettuce, which did a very acceptable half price Monday night meal, glass of beer included. After a total of 17,000 footsteps (on my pedometer) we reached our apartment feeling quite exhausted.

Tuesday started sunny, and remained largely so, and the team rang at towers to the north and northwest of York. The first (Stensal St Mary) was another 3cwt 6, with cosy ringing chamber; some nice ringing followed. Being a mainly 6 bell day, the commonest methods included Stedman, Cambridge, York and Norwich, as well as call changes and Grandsire.

The second tower (Easingwold) was the only 8 of the day. On paper, a 9 cwt tenor is much like my home tower of Chiddingly, but I think Yorkshire scales must have different calibration; the bells felt much heavier, and I found them hard work.

Brafferton, the last tower before lunch, took a bit of finding. GPS took us to a small road with no sign of a church. After some investigation, we discovered that a wooden gate led to a graveyard, and then to the church, well out of sight. I was met by the church warden, who told me that the bells were not an easy ring; she was correct. There was a long draft with no guides, and the bells required a lot of work. I did manage to take in a 120 of grandsire, but most ringing was rounds and call changes. A small consolation was the location: on a hillside with beautiful views over the countryside, so we had our picnic lunch there.

After lunch there were three more 6 bell towers. Unfortunately, the first one (Kirby Hill) had a 'ladder staircase' that for me was too long, and too vertical. The prospect of sitting outside in the sun won, and so I missed the ringing. The final two towers (Boroughbridge and Aldborough) were both mid weight sixes and I enjoyed them. They were easy going bells that one could hear well, and allow ringers to concentrate on striking well. I rang a course of Cambridge, which was successful, despite some errors from other ringers. The weather got warmer throughout the day, with plenty of sunshine.

On the last day of the tour (and the last tower) we visited Huntington, a 5cwt 8, in another suburb of York. A peal board there displayed a triple peal, 21 Surprise Minor methods (15,120 changes) in 1983, which was a record at the time. It turned out that our host actually called the peal, but said that he could not do the same now! The light bells sounded very good, but with a peal time of about 2 hours 20 minutes I found them fast, and not very easy to place my bell correctly. However, it was a very nice way to end our ringing trip.

If I was allowed to take bells home with me, I would probably choose the 8 from Norton, and the 6 from Aldborough. The very light bells I found too difficult to really enjoy.

On our final, non-ringing days in York (we stayed a week) we visited some museums, including the very well-known York Railway Museum. On the Bank Holiday Friday, no surprise that we had a rather slow, busy drive back to Sussex. This time, the weather was extremely hot, in contrast to the very wet start.

We would like to thank Marion Hollands for her all hard work in organising the trip (no mean feat!) and we look forward already to next year's trip.

**Michael Cotgrove, with help from Sheila Wood**  
**May 2017**

- **Next Year's Outing** will be from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - further details will follow in due course

*Stella has kindly sent us A roundup of recent News stories on the Central Council website*

[New Book – Manual of Belfry Maintenance](#)

*By admin on Aug 18, 2017 01:26 pm*

The Central Council has just published a new book – Manual of Belfry Maintenance. For[\[...\]](#)

[Read more »](#)

[A Peal for Pudsey! Children in Need needs you!](#)

*By Caroline Stockmann on Aug 16, 2017 06:33 pm*

The Central Council Public Relations Committee has been working with the BBC's Children In Need[\[...\]](#)

[Read more »](#)

[Big Ben replacement – Christopher O'Mahony speaks to media](#)

*By Caroline Stockmann on Aug 16, 2017 06:15 pm*

A flurry of activity last two days as media getting in touch with the CCCBR[\[...\]](#)

[Read more »](#)

[Bells as a symbol of Church and community](#)

*By Caroline Stockmann on Aug 14, 2017 11:17 am*

Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical is launching a campaign to raise awareness of the contribution of[\[...\]](#)

[Read more »](#)

## Eastern District Committee Members

Position	Member	Email Address
Secretary	Marion Hollands.	<a href="mailto:sec-east@scacr.org">sec-east@scacr.org</a>
Ringling Co-ordinator	Nick Cant	<a href="mailto:nickcantbells@outlook.com">nickcantbells@outlook.com</a>
Look To! Editor	Nick Rees	<a href="mailto:news-east@scacr.org">news-east@scacr.org</a>
BRF Rep	Pip Pawley	<a href="mailto:brf-east@scacr.org">brf-east@scacr.org</a>
Saturday practice coordinator	Frances Bradford	<a href="mailto:francesbradford@scacr.org">francesbradford@scacr.org</a>
Committee Member.	Peter Bradford	<a href="mailto:francesbradford@scacr.org">francesbradford@scacr.org</a>
Committee Member.	Mary Hallett	<a href="mailto:mary.hallett@scacr.org">mary.hallett@scacr.org</a>

Finally, remember there is a lot of very useful information on the dedicated SCACR Facebook page. Also, it is worth checking the <http://scacr.org> website for up-to-date news and a calendar of what is happening with Change Ringing in Sussex.

The deadline for the next edition of Look To! will be 30<sup>th</sup> November



# SCACR BARN DANCE AND SUPPER

Rawson Hall, Bolney RH17 5PF  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
6.30pm for 7pm start until 10.30pm

*Music and calling by Touchstone  
Barn Dance Band*

<http://www.allwoodmusic.co.uk/touchstone>

£11 adults, under 18's £6 (includes hot  
supper)

*Please bring your own cutlery wine glasses and drinks*

Tickets from your District Secretary or  
[publicity@scaacr.org](mailto:publicity@scaacr.org) Alison Everett 01243 775366