

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - December 2017

Dates for Your Diary

December

Saturday 2 nd	Ringling with mulled wine & mince pies	Slaugham	15:30 - 17:30
Wednesday 6 th	Codgers	Keymer & Ditchling	11:00 - 15:30
Monday 11 th	General 8 Bell Practice - rounds up	Rusper	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 18 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00

January

Wednesday 3 rd	Codgers - contact Mike Foster for details: codgers@scacr.org		
Saturday 6 th	Ringling with brunch (bacon sarnies)	Horsham	10:00 - 12:00
Monday 8 th	7/8 Bell Methods Practice	Slaugham (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 15 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 22 nd	General 10/12 Bell Practice - rounds up	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

February

Saturday 3 rd	Annual District Meeting	Ardingly	14:00 - 16:30
Wednesday 7 th	Codgers - contact Mike Foster for details: codgers@scacr.org		
Monday 5 th	Elementary Practice	West Hoathly	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 12 th	7/8 Bell Methods Practice	Balcombe (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 19 th	9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 26 th	General 10 Bell Practice - rounds up	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00

2018 Saturday Events Programme

After some feedback, comments and suggestions at the meeting at Turners Hill on 4th November, the following programme of Saturday events was agreed -

6th January: Ringing with brunch (bacon sarnies & veggie option) - **Horsham**

3rd February: ADM - Ardingly ringing, afternoon tea and meeting

3rd March: New Members Event - 14:30-16:30 rounds and call changes, with coffee and cake, bookstall etc

7th April: Course (venue and course title TBC)

19th May: Inter-district outing by bike (or car) down the Downs Link (note: not 1st Saturday)

2nd June: Quiz with fish & chips supper

7th July: Mini-ring with coffee and cake - Bell Meadow

4th August: Morning course/ringing "with an emphasis on..." followed by pub lunch

1st September: Kaleidoscope course with coffee and cake

6th October: Outing - thanks to Jeremy Alford for agreeing to organise

3rd November: SCACR course follow up and Business Meeting

1st December: Ringing with mulled wine/juice & mince pies

5th January 2019: Ringing with brunch

2nd February 2019: ADM

Plus inter-district sporting match with BBQ in the summer of 2018

The programme is subject to change depending on availability of towers etc - keep an eye on *What's On/Northern News* and the website calendar: www.scacr.org/calendar If you have any requests for courses, please get in touch: sec-north@scacr.org

3rd Monday 9/10 Bell Methods at Warnham

Come along to practise methods (including plain hunting/treble bob hunting on the treble) on 9 and 10 bells. There will also be a suggested method to look up, for those who wish to try. These practices make use of the simulator.

New Monday Evening Practices - Trial

The meeting at the beginning of November is an opportunity to have your say on what goes on in the Northern District, and several options for the Monday night practices were discussed. These practices used to be held every Monday, but for the past year the number of practices has been cut and the advertised range of ringing extended to appeal, hopefully, to a larger number of people.

The *General 10 or 12 Bell Practices* at either Horsham, Warnham or East Grinstead are generally well attended, but the *General 7/8 Bell Practices* much less so - even to the extent of sometimes not having enough people to ring. Six-bell practices have been more popular than eight-bell practices. Therefore, looking forward to the first few months of 2018, we are trialling the following arrangement -

First Monday: A six-bell practice, either an elementary practice (once every three months) or an "advanced" Minor practice (twice every three months). "Advanced" does not necessarily mean Surprise but would at least be based on methods which develop ringing towards Surprise.

Second Monday: An eight-bell methods practice including (but not necessarily restricted to) Surprise Major. These will be intended for those wishing to develop their method ringing.

Third Monday: A continuation of the more advanced ten-bell methods practice held on the simulator at Warnham, excellently run by Jeremy Alford.

Fourth Monday: A continuation of the current *General 10/12-bell practices* at Horsham, Warnham and East Grinstead.

Mondays in August and Fifth Monday: Quarter peals, by request. If you want help to ring a quarter peal, this is your opportunity - let us know!

Having a practice every Monday (with limited exceptions) means that no-one can say that they didn't think there was one that particular week! As far as the host towers are concerned, we hope to keep these fairly central in order to encourage better attendance. It would also be helpful to have a regular "ringing master" - not necessarily for all the practices, but rather as Jeremy runs the third Monday practice, someone could run the first Monday practice and someone else, say, the second Monday practice and so on. This would ensure an element of continuity, and would hopefully help people progress better. But it requires volunteers to take this on - please do let me know if you would be interested in helping with this!

If you have any comments on these proposals, please let Steph or me know. Remember, these are your practices - let us know what you'd like!

Neil Dobson (practice-north@scacr.org)

Full details for all District and Association events are on the SCACR website calendar: www.scacr.org/calendar

District Notices

By popular demand ... SCACR clothing is back!

Never have the right top to go ringing in? We have the answer - brighten up your wardrobe with our new range of t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops and more, all available now. A whole range of colours on offer with the iconic SCACR logo embroidered on the left-hand chest.



Visit the [Clothing page](#) (can be found under Resources) on the SCACR website for full details and instructions on how to order. Orders will be placed on the last day of the month, delivery time is approx. 4 weeks from the order being placed with the supplier.

Any questions, please get in touch with Sandra at clothing@scacr.org



ADM - Saturday 3rd February, Ardingly



14:00-15:15 open ringing - all welcome!

15:15-15:45 tea/coffee & cake in the village hall

15:45-16:30 meeting

Come along to have a ring and get together with other people from the District, followed by a short meeting to elect the District Secretary and committee, and nominate Association Officers.

Steph Pendlebury is willing to stand as District Secretary again. The Northern District is very lucky to have a small team of enthusiastic volunteers on the committee - and we're looking for more people to join us! We're a very relaxed and friendly bunch, and our main aim is to make ringing as fun and inclusive as possible, and to support the development of ringers in the District. We have very few committee meetings - most things are organised via email or at ringing events.

If you're interested in helping to organise one or two of the Saturday events, or have ideas about other training/events/recruitment to organise, we'd love to hear from you! Please have a chat with a current committee member (Steph, Richard Pendlebury, Sandra Alford, Jon Spencer), or get in touch: sec-north@scacr.org

Your District Needs You!



I mentioned in my last [Master's Mutterings](#) (in Soundbow and on the website) about the forthcoming Annual District Meetings in February, where committee members are elected and people are proposed as Association Officers. I for one will be stepping down as Association Master at the AGM in May because I will have completed my 3 years in office by then, so we need to nominate a new Master at the ADMs. David Kirkcaldy is also stepping down as BRF secretary at the AGM. If you are interested in taking on either of these roles, please do get in touch.

Graham Hills, Association Master

master@scacr.org

Tony Jones Turns 90!

Congratulations to long-serving Horsham ringer Tony Jones, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on **Friday 15th December**.



What's Happened Around the District?

Northern District Train, Tram, Bus & Tube Outing to London on October 7th

Not being regular users of public transport, Guy and I set off by car with some trepidation. Arriving at Three Bridges it was chaos, with buses replacing trains to the south, the car park was inaccessible.



Still we found a parking space and a train and despite coming out of the wrong station entrance at East Croydon we found the correct tram and bus to reach the first tower, St John the Baptist, West Wickham, in good time. Surprise, surprise it stands proud on a hill with fields around, not London at all! Others soon turned up and we ascended round the back of the church to a 13cwt 6. There were now about 20 of us.

On the bus again we returned to Addington, St Mary a light 6.75cwt 6 with some more varied ringing. Back on the Tram again and into Croydon proper. Most people headed for the craft ale pub, discovered and tested by Jeremy, for lunch and refreshment. Never having been to Croydon, Guy and I decided to explore the street stalls; there was food available from all over the world, India, Japan, Spain, Italy, Indonesia, Afro/Caribbean, great fun.



Everyone made the tram to Mitcham, and our only 8 of the day, the 14cwt 8 of SS Peter and Paul, a more modern church which was in use when we arrived, but we managed to sneak in round the side (with a local) and up a very tall wrought iron spiral staircase. We managed everything from rounds to surprise, some bits better than others.

Several of us now decided to eschew our official transport instructions to Colliers Wood and walk, we all arrived at similar times to another light six (6cwt) with each sally bearing a different colour of the rainbow, very cheerful.



Not listening to verbal instructions meant we missed group tea but luckily, we still had Jeremy's excellent journey notes, so we found the tube and reached Clapham Common in time. An impressive looking church without a real tower. Nearly a lock out here but with help from an unlikely looking gentleman of the congregation, we gained access to the church, climbed to the gallery and finally located the hidden key to climb down again to a smaller belfry, a 6cwt 6 they were worth waiting to access.

The London buses lived up to expectations on the way back to Clapham Junction - none for ages then 2 together! However, the train back was there for us all ending a very enjoyable and tiring day. Thanks to Jeremy and Sandra for such good organisation.

Anne Ekins (West Grinstead)



Warnham & Horsham WWI Commemorative Ringing

Bands from Warnham and Horsham rang half-muffled quarter peals at each church while another band rang a mini-ring peal to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of two SCACR members who rang at both towers:

Lance Corporal James William Miles. Killed in action 6th November 1917 aged 25.

Corporal Alfred Charles Comper Yates (pictured right). Killed in action 6th November 1917 aged 28.



It is sad to note that both of our ringers died on the same date fighting in the Third Battle of Gaza during the campaign in Palestine and are buried in Beersheba War Cemetery. They had almost certainly joined the 1st/4th Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment on the same day in Horsham as their Army numbers were only one number apart. (A third Warnham ringer, John Charman, joined at the same time and was killed in action 21st August 1915 fighting in Gallipoli). The Warnham vicar wrote in the Parish Magazine: *Alfred Yates and William Miles, had lived all their lives among us. They were of us; bright, warm-hearted lads who were good to know. We shall miss their cheery faces. We are proud of them, for we feel that they died as they had lived - ready and anxious to do their best.* A memorial service was held on 6th December that year.



Their names are recorded in the *Central Council Memorial Book of Change Ringers who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918* as Horsham ringers but although they rang at both churches they were members of the Warnham band and their names are recorded on the Warnham War Memorial. This apparent error cannot be fully explained but it made our joint commemoration that much more special.

The composition used for both quarters was by a ringer from Burton, Sgt Albert P Wakely, and was composed by him in the trenches during his time serving in the First World War. He was badly wounded at the battle of Loos and although he survived the war he died in the influenza pandemic three months later.

On the same day ringers from nearby Slinfold rang two quarter peals to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of two of their parishioners killed in the same battle. The Horsham War Memorial records three more casualties. In all this Sussex Regiment suffered losses of 3 officers and 55 other ranks either killed, dying from wounds or missing fighting in a little remembered campaign.

In the evening ringers from all three towers gathered in the Sussex Oak at Warnham for some well-earned refreshments. We were able to reflect that our three former fellow ringers must have visited this same hostelry.



We will remember them.

Footnote: The Shipley ringers rang a half-muffled quarter peal on 29th October to commemorate Private Thomas Henry King, a member of their parish who was killed in the same battle.

Mike Cattell (Horsham)

Congratulations to Sandra Alford - Three "1sts" in One Go

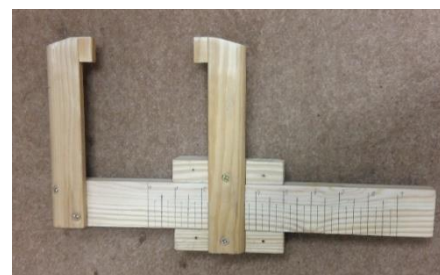
Sussex County Association - East Grinstead, St Swithun (28-0-6 in D)
Sunday, 5 November 2017 in 56 mins **1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus**
1 David Smith 2 Sandra Alford (C) 3 David Perkins
4 Jeremy Alford 5 Ian Wiltshire 6 Louise Pink
7 Paul Wells 8 Jonathon M Spencer 9 Stephen Pocock
10 Edward Woodward 11 Simon Meyer 12 Alan Pink
First of max (10). First as Conductor on 12 (2). Believed to be the 1st quarter on 12 conducted by a Sussex lady at a Sussex tower.



Horsham Mystery

A recent tidy-up in the Horsham belfry has revealed this very strange object. Obviously, it has been made by a highly skilled craftsman perhaps as his Masterpiece.

With no knowledge of where this person is now and no instructions we cannot make out how to use it or what the intended use was.



If anyone has got a similar object or has any suggestions on what it might be used for please contact us.



1st Place for Sussex Team in 10 Bell Essex Trophy Striking Competition

Congratulations to the Sussex team who came first in the 10 bell Essex Trophy Striking competition held in Hertford on Saturday 9th September! This competition has been running since 1979 and has been won by Sussex on no fewer than 8 occasions now (the last time being in 2007).

Superlative Surprise Royal was the chosen test piece, not the easiest method to strike and the

standard was high. Six teams took part: Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex.

The winning team hosts the competition the following year, so we look forward to welcoming teams to Sussex in 2018. The competition will take place in Horsham on Saturday 8th September and the test piece will be Yorkshire Surprise Royal. Thanks to Jeremy Alford who organised the band and practices this year.



The Essex Trophy band comprised:

Jeremy Alford, Warnham (C)
Sandra Alford, Warnham
David Perkins, East Grinstead
Jonathan Spencer, Lindfield
Alan Pink, St Leonards on Sea

Simon Alford, Warnham
Caroline House, Brighton
David Kirkcaldy, Steyning
Stephen Beckingham, Laughton
Simon Meyer, Shipley