

Northern News



The Northern District - April 2019

Dates for Your Diary

April

Monday 1 st	Elementary Practice - Rounds & Changes	Cowfold	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 3 rd	Codgers - Ditchling & Wivelsfield		
Saturday 6 th	Ringing with Egg Hunt*	Balcombe	14:00 - 16:00
Monday 8 th	Improvers' Practice (Plain Hunt onwards)	Slaugham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 15 th	No practice - Holy Week		
Monday 22 nd	No practice - Easter Monday		
Monday 29 th	General 9/10 Bell Practice - rounds up	Horsham	19:30 - 21:00

May

Wednesday 1 st	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Saturday 4 th	Pickled Egg methods day	Details to be confirmed	
Monday 6 th	No Practice - Bank Holiday		
Monday 13 th	Surprise Major	Turners Hill	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 20 th	10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 27 th	No Practice - Bank Holiday		

June

Saturday 1 st	Hampshire outing organised by Jeremy Alford*		
Monday 3 rd	Elementary Practice (rounds onwards)	Danehill (TBC)	19:30 - 21:00
Wednesday 5 th	Codgers - check website calendar for details		
Monday 10 th	Surprise Major Practice	Withyham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 17 th	10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)	Warnham	19:30 - 21:00
Monday 24 th	12 Bell Methods Practice	East Grinstead	19:30 - 21:00

* More details on next page

The programme is subject to change depending on availability of towers - keep an eye on the website calendar for full and latest details: www.scacr.org/calendar

Monday Evening Practices - the Plan

- The **first** Monday in the month will be a six-bell practice and the **second** Monday an eight-bell practice, varying between elementary level and advanced methods.
- The **third** Monday is the 10-bell methods practise using the Warnham simulator.
- Note on **fourth** Mondays: while January is for Rounds up, the rest are meant for 12 bell ringers and competent 10 bell ringers wishing to progress (from all districts), so we will only ring methods on 12 bells and not rounds or call changes. Keep your eye on the Facebook page, the website or contact [Steph](#) or [Elaine](#) to check which are suitable for you.
- Any **fifth** Mondays will be a general practice, mainly on 9 or 10 bells at Horsham.
- We look forward to welcoming **newer ringers** to the elementary level evenings. When you can handle a bell safely (without bumping the stay too often) and are ringing rounds and call changes at your home tower, come out and meet your fellow "improvers".

Upcoming Events

Ringling and Easter Egg Hunt - Balcombe - Bring your youngsters! Saturday 6th April 2-4pm

Ringling will be rounds onwards - all welcome!
Meet other Young Ringers, enjoy juice and biscuits (or tea/coffee) and hunt down the Easter eggs. Grown-ups are also welcome for

RSVP to Steph at sec-north@scacr.org by Wednesday 3rd April.

St Mary's Balcombe (8), ground floor, 9 cwt.
Haywards Heath Road, Balcombe, RH17 6PY - free parking by the church

Northern District Outing to Hampshire - Saturday 1st June

The plan is to go to Hampshire's newest 6 - **Northington**. The bells are being blessed next month, after their first practice a fortnight ago, so everyone should get at least one new tower!

The rest of the towers will be in the mid-Hampshire area (lots of variety planned - two 5s, two 6s, an 8 and a 10). The full programme will be announced in due course. In the meantime, please let Jeremy know if you plan to go: thealfords@dsl.pipex.com.

Many thanks to Jeremy for organising!

Future Saturday Events Programme

Subject to change - please keep an eye on the website calendar:

www.scacr.org/events-calendar

-  6th July: Pickled Egg methods mini-outing - ringing at two towers, focussing on Surprise Major methods including Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative, Cornwall and Cooktown Orchid.
-  3rd August: 12.00-14.00 - Ringing with Lunch
-  5th October - Young Ringers' Outing
-  2nd November: 15.00-17.30 - Ringing with Coffee, Cake and Meeting
-  7th December: 15.30-17.30 - Ringing with mulled wine/juice & mince pies

SCACR Annual General Meeting Day - Saturday 11th May, Eastbourne

Open ringing: 12.30 pm - Christ Church; 13.30 - St Mary's; 14.15 - St Saviour's; 15.30 - All Saints'.

16.30 - Service, tea and AGM at All Saints'.

Details will be circulated beforehand, including the meeting details and contact for booking tea.

District Updates

District ADM and Committee - Including a New Ringing Master!

There was a great turn-out for ringing at Horsham and the Annual District Meeting in February! Several new members received their membership certificates. The ADM itself was kept short and sweet by chair Rob Lane (SCACR Acting Master). The Northern District committee was voted in, as follows:

District Ringing Master - Elaine Farrow

District Secretary and Central Council Rep - Steph Pendlebury

District Bell Maintenance Contact & BRF Rep - Simon Alford

Committee Members: Sandra Alford, Rosie Gregory, Richard Pendlebury



Before We Forget... Recording Armistice 100 Ringing in Sussex

We keep a record in the Sussex Library of significant bellringing in the county for e.g. SCACR Centenary and 125th anniversary, and HMQ's Golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries. "Ringing Remembers" performances of peals, quarter peals and call changes to commemorate the centenary of the First World War Armistice were submitted nationally to BellBoard and printed in a special edition of The Ringing World.

If your band rang on 11th November 2018 but the performance **was not** submitted to BellBoard, **please would you let me know so that we can have a more complete record?** Details could include: time of ringing, half-muffled or open, and how many "Ringing Remembers" recruits and ringers took part and what you rang. Please send details to: scb@biancoteam.com



You can also download an official certificate to record the occasion and display in your tower at <https://cccbr.org.uk/2018/11/09/ringing-remembers-tower-certificates/>

Stella Bianco

Lindfield Bells Update

The old bells and their frame and the sub-frame for the new bells are to be delivered and installed April 23rd-26th. The newly cast ring of 8 bells will be returned to the church on Friday 3rd May.

On Saturday 4th May these "Queen Elizabeth Bells" will be on display in the church from 10 am to 5 pm - all ringers are warmly invited to join. At 2 pm there will be a Service of Dedication, followed by Tea and Cakes in the Tiger Building, adjacent to the church. Visitors will be invited to return to the church after the service where a group of handbell ringers will play while they take a closer look at the new bells.

For those unable to come on 4th May, there will be opportunity to visit on Sunday 5th May between 2 and 5 pm, and on Monday 6th May between 10 am and 5 pm. All are welcome!

Richard Hutchings and Sarah Beeston

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Slinfold Completes WW1 'Ringing Remembers' Challenge - by Val Farley

Between 2014 and 2019 Slinfold rang a quarter peal on the centenary of the date of death of all 31 men from the village who fell during the war: one in 1914, six in 1915, six in 1916, seven in 1917, ten in 1918 and one in 1919.

To say thank you, we invited all those who helped us to complete this challenge to an afternoon cream tea on Sunday 24th March 2019. Unfortunately, two ringers, Bill Avenell and Hannah Musgrove, were unable to attend, but we were pleased to receive a video message from Hannah in Australia.

Many thanks to the 'ringing friends' of Slinfold; we could not have achieved our goal without your support.



Northern District Quiz & Supper - Saturday 2nd February

The recent Quiz and supper, following ringing and the Annual District Meeting was a great success. The winners pictured here were one of the Horsham teams: Mike Cattell, Brenda Jones, Kim and Peter Sugden, and Steph and Tom White - congratulations! Many thanks to Quizmasters Isabel and Ed Woodward, to Val and Keith Burgess for organising the supper, and to all those who brought puddings.



Bob Newton Retires from Ringing

"That's all" at the end of a faultless touch of Bob Doubles at Worth on Sunday, 9th December 2018 had a rather different meaning as Bob Newton then announced that he was retiring from ringing at the age of 90. Bob has been a regular Sunday service ringer at Worth for many years. Neil Dobson asked him to put together some notes about his ringing career and this is what he said:

"My Bell-ring Career" by Robert Newton

I am not a natural bell ringer. It took me twenty years to learn Bob Doubles and another twenty years to learn Stedman. In between I learnt Bob Minor and Grandsire. At one point, a young, raw beginner, after 6 months, was conducting Bob Minor! This shocked me into giving up bell-ringing. But I happened to meet tower captain Neil Dobson who said that if I ever wanted to come back to the tower I would be welcome.



So I came back, and I am glad I did. I love the rhythm of the bells. I like the combination of the physical action of handling the rope, the mental concentration on the method, and the sense of working as a team and listening to the music of the bells.

I rang a peal (the only one) early in my career, just covering on the tenor for two and a half hours! But I was not bored - I enjoyed observing the pattern of the bells coming to me. I have seen many ringers come and go including my first tower captain Jimmy Laker, the milkman. Remember him? I doubt it. Well before your time I should think. Then I have known inspiring ringer Gerald Sandwell since ever I can remember!

I have enjoyed visiting other towers, exploring their different ways to the ringing chamber, and the different feel of the bells. Some towers have long ropes, which is a challenge. Makes the ringers look more statuesque than usual - calm, relaxed, no panic. But one's home tower is best. I have looked forward to coming to the tower every week for practice and Sunday ringing. Sadly, at 90 years old, I am having to accept that I cannot cope any more. But I leave with happy memories. I would like to thank Neil for his patient understanding of my diminishing faculties which helped me to enjoy bell ringing in my declining years.

Bob was a part of the Worth band that rang for the Millennium and wrote then that for many years he was content to cover on the tenor and had dismissed method ringing as a complete mystery, but eventually curiosity got the better of him as he wondered "how do they do that?" and so he persevered until he had learnt Bob Doubles, followed by Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor. His ambition then was to learn Stedman Doubles, having read Steven Coleman's comment that, after ringing Stedman "you can sit down again afterwards with that comfortably self-satisfied feeling of having arrived". Well Bob did arrive and did manage to ring touches of Stedman Doubles!

Bob's first recorded quarter at Worth was on 7th July 1973 covering Grandsire, followed six months later by his only peal, on 8th December covering Plain Bob and Grandsire. This was at Worth by the Sunday Service band. Tower records show that he rang six more quarters up to October 1975 when there is a break until 31st December 1992.

In all he rang 48 quarters at Worth, 45 of them covering to Doubles but also one on the treble, one inside to Bob Doubles and one inside to Bob Minor. His last quarter was on 6th January 2000. Although Bob has given up ringing, he has other interests to keep him occupied being an accomplished artist and sculptor among other things. We wish him well.

In Other News...

New Ropes?

Here is a reminder that ropes are part of the Church Fabric and should be purchased through your PCC in order to reclaim the VAT.

**CCCBR 2019 Annual Meeting - Goldsmith's College, London:
Weekend Programme of Events and Activities - Open to All!**

All ringers are invited to attend the Council's weekend on 6th-8th September and take part in the activities on offer! Throughout the weekend there will be a ringing roadshow of stands and demonstrations from various ringing organisations and suppliers, and several mini-rings.

Friday 6th September: ringing at various London towers, followed by hot supper and Quiz at Goldsmith's College.

Saturday 7th September: seminars, service and concert (also the 2019 Central Council Meeting, and the Annual Dinner).

Saturday 8th September: service ringing at local churches, and conference programme of seminars open to all ringers.

Do you have suggestions for what the weekend should include? Would you like to help with the organisation? Get in touch! London2019Events@cccbr.org.uk

You can book accommodation at Goldsmiths College now - more details here:
<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/meetings/2019-meeting/accommodation/>

**Extracts from THE BELLRINGER, PLAIN GUIDES TO LAY WORK. No. 8
Published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge 1927 price 3d.**

Kindly provided by Mike Cattell - make of it what you will ...

The Old Style

Ringing chambers which used to be receptacles of any church lumber, and which not infrequently harboured a cask of beer in a dark corner, have been cleansed and made bright and attractive. In fact, they are as a part of God's house should be. But in places here and there, though the beer and dirt have disappeared, there still lurk vestiges of the old spirit of autocracy and insubordination.

Lady Ringers

Before concluding we should like to allude for a moment to a comparatively recent development. It is a great pleasure to chronicle the fact that of late years ringing has not been confined wholly to the male sex. A good few ladies have learnt the art, and most of those who have done so have turned into excellent change-ringers, some of them being in the very first rank. As will be seen in the list of Guilds affiliated to the Central Council there is a Ladies' Guild. Long may it flourish.

From what has been said of the ringing fraternity - i.e., the Exercise as a whole - its organisation, its general tone, and its ideals, it will readily be seen that ringers have many opportunities, and where they are encouraged by the clergy and church authorities, have every incitement to become exemplary Churchmen. First and foremost they should make it a principle and a law to themselves to be present at the service to which they have helped to summon their brethren. This may not always be possible, but in nine cases out of ten, where there is a will there is a way. Above all should they pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead them to see the blessing, if they have not been so before, of becoming regular communicants. Let them remember that in their ringing God has brought them nearer to holy things and has thereby given them the help of His grace, of which He will expect them to avail themselves.

Contributions for the next What's On by Friday 17th May to news-north@scacr.org