

# Southern News



## *The Southern District Newsletter* *May 2019*

### **Words from your editor**

It's AGM time! Sussex is built up by its ringers so we need you there, not to take on a job in the association (although I couldn't encourage you enough) but to show that **you** support change ringing in Sussex. It's as simple as that! Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May in Eastbourne – don't miss it.

Take a note of the upcoming events. It would be lovely to see you at our joint event with the Western District, at East Grinstead on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Ringing on 12 is a challenge but is a lot of fun, so if you haven't tried it before this is an excellent opportunity.

It has been a good first half of 2019 for the Southern District. We have enjoyed a surprise major morning, welcoming new members at Burgess Hill, a surprise major 'Pickled Egg' outing and a hand bell day. The aim of your district committee is to put on ringing events which are enjoyable, worthwhile and which take you beyond your home tower. We are also here for any advice, help or support with your local band.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Southern News. My very best wishes for a summer of successful ringing.

*Josh*



### **Upcoming Events**

[www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar](http://www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar)

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – SCACR Annual General Meeting at Eastbourne.** Full Details inside.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Stedman and Beyond practice at Heene, Worthing, 19:30 – 21:00.**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Southern and Western District get together. 12 Bell ringing at East Grinstead, 10:00 – 12:00.** Tea, Coffee and Cake with a chance to ring on the only 12 in Sussex. Anyone who'd like to have a go on 12 is welcome. Rounds and call changes will be rung, but those wishing to ring methods/plain hunt are encouraged. Contact Josh: [news-south@scacr.org](mailto:news-south@scacr.org)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Surprise Major Practice at Chiddingly, 10:00 – 12:00.**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – 12 Bell Practice at East Grinstead, 19:30 – 21:00.** This practice is open to all.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Half term Young Ringer's Outing.** Full Details inside. Contact Anne: [annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk)

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June – SCACR at the South of England Show. Helpers needed.** Full details inside.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Southern District ringing up and down course at Barcombe** Contact Anne: [annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June – 12 Bell Practice at East Grinstead, 19:30 – 21:00.**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Southern District Surprise Minor training practice at Barcombe, 10:00 – 12:00.** Contact Paul: [paulj.wells@sky.com](mailto:paulj.wells@sky.com)

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## Words from Mary – Your district secretary

Dear Southern District ringers.

I hope you have all been enjoying your ringing and are making the most of the light nights to get to practices!

I broke my arm at the end of February and haven't been able to ring so it has been very strange. Instead of being out three or four nights a week I have become knowledgeable about all the latest dramas on the television and my car has stayed in exactly the same place outside my house. It has made me realise that going to practice nights isn't just about the ringing. It's also about getting out of the house; it's about keeping active and fit, but perhaps most of all it's a very social activity. It's an excellent way of making friends and acquaintances from all walks of life and keeping touch.

I hope you all have a very successful spring and summer of ringing.

*Mary Burr*



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*'Ringing Remembers' recruits at Henfield on the 'SCACR Says Thank You' event in March.*



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# Annual General Meeting

Saturday 11th May 2019 at Eastbourne



You are warmly invited to attend the 134th AGM of the Sussex County Association on Saturday 11th May. The Eastern District has organised the following:

Ringling at:

- 12.30pm Christ Church, Eastbourne
- 1.30pm St Mary's, Eastbourne
- 2.15pm St. Saviours, Eastbourne
- 3.30pm All Saints Eastbourne

Followed by 4.30pm Service, tea and AGM at All Saints Eastbourne

Names for those wishing to have tea to Marion Hollands [sec-east@scacr.org](mailto:sec-east@scacr.org) by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Please do get in touch with me at [secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org) if you would like any further details on the positions vacant, any issues you would like addressed at the AGM or with apologies for absence.

Kind regards  
Hamish McNaughton  
Acting SCACR General Secretary

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## SUSSEX CLOTHING IS BACK

Loose polo shirts, fitted t-shirts, hoodies, rugby tops, fleeces – all embroidered with the Sussex logo.

Many colours, styles and sizes (including children) to suit all.



Please visit the Clothing page (can be found under Resources) on the SCACR website for full details and order form. Orders will be placed on the last day of every month, delivery time is approx. 4 weeks from the order being placed with the supplier.

Any questions, please get in touch with Sandra Alford at [clothing@scacr.org](mailto:clothing@scacr.org)

### FEEDBACK SO FAR

I am really pleased with my rugby shirt – it is a great length for ringing!

I love my polo shirt, it's a really nice fit and colour.

Fleece and rugby shirt are lovely and fit very well, thank you!

I shall wear my t-shirt with pride!

Good price, good quality and good fit – thank you.

Love curling up in my hoodie!

## Come along to our May third Saturday Practice with the Western District!

**SATURDAY, 18th MAY. ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, EAST GRINSTEAD, RH19 3AU**

**Ringing 10.00 -12:00am**

- Coffee available from 10am in the Church Hall (behind the church by the small car park)
- Experienced ringers and novice ringers welcome. If you don't do much 12 bell ringing, but would like to improve, then this is ideal. Ringing will cover rounds and call changes, but ringers wishing to improve their change ringing, plain hunt and methods, on 12 bells are encouraged.

*Our only 12 bell tower in Sussex!*

Contact Josh with any questions: [sec-south@scacr.org](mailto:sec-south@scacr.org)

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## New Members of the Southern District Committee – Meet Josephine.

Hi, my name is Josephine. I ring at Ditchling, however I seem to spend most evenings begging my mum for a lift to one tower or another!

In the summer of 2016 Ditchling had its biennial fair where one of the attractions was the open tower. My friends, who were already ringers, dragged me along to have a look around the tower and after a hectic summer holiday I started ringing weekly and haven't stopped since. By the time this is sent out I will have been ringing for around two and a half years (not bad for a 16-year-old in my opinion).

I wanted to join the committee because I wanted to give back to an organisation that has given so much to me. Not only with having a new and interesting skill, but also



improving my communication and concentration and opening up whole groups of people that I would never have met was it not for the Southern District practices and events like SEECON. Many of my friends don't understand why I dedicate so much of my time to "standing in a church and pulling a rope", but they don't understand that feeling when you ring a new method for the first time or you hear "that's all" after a particularly difficult quarter peal. The quiet focus that fills the chamber when we're ringing is something impossible to emulate in a way that non-ringers understand.

I don't count myself as an extremely accomplished ringer as I have never rung a peal and even a whisper of the word "surprise" sends a shiver down my spine! However, thanks to the patience of Josh, and several other young ringers that have the patience to sit down with me and explain things, I am slowly but surely improving.

I look forward to helping on the committee and seeing as many of you as possible at Southern District events in the forthcoming year!

*Josephine*

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## The Southern District ADM at Burgess Hill – Welcome to our New Members!

Welcome to all **24** new Southern District Members of SCACR! It was fantastic to meet some of you at the Southern District ADM at Burgess Hill in February.

**Buxted:** Valerie Parker, David Skinner, Karin Freer, Jane Gornall.

**Aldrington:** Cyndy Abdullah, Susan Mulvoy, Sarah Miller.

**Burgess Hill:** Claire Carter, Wendy Argent.

**Hurstpierpoint:** Hannah Cree.

**Keymer:** John Hamilton

**Henfield:** Les Cheeseman, Peter Hartley.

**Newick:** Sara Fuller

**Seaford:** Rita Goodey, Own Goodey, Vandra Manners, Patrick Goff, Gretta Harvey, Richard Harvey, Peter Bush.

**Brighton:** Gabrielle Bignell

**Ringmer:** Victoria Vincent



We had just over 30 people come along to our district ADM. A good session of ringing was followed by a spread of lunch, tea and cake provided by the Burgess Hill ringers and some additional willing cake bakers!

New members were handed their certificates and welcomed by Rob Lane, SCACR Master and Southern District ringer.

Congratulations to you all!



*Janice, Debbie and Frances helping out in the kitchen after the ringer's tea.*



*The meeting followed lunch.*



# Come and ring the bells at the South of England Show 2019!

<https://www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/>

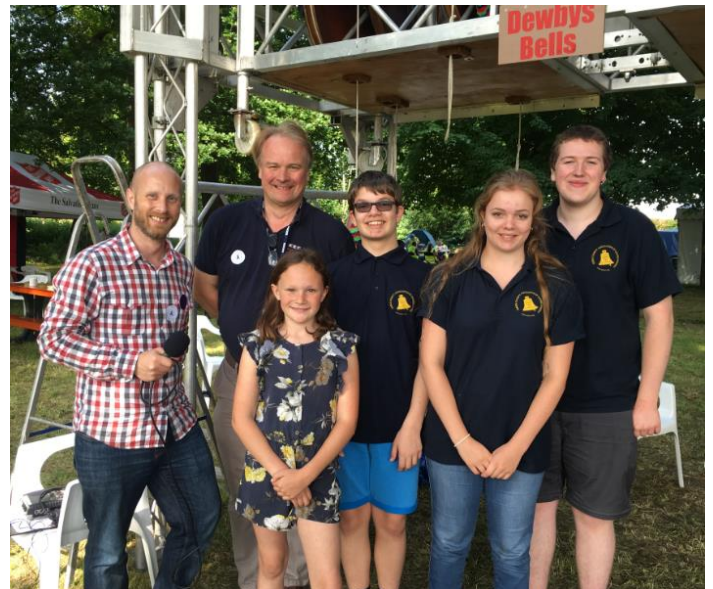


Thursday-Friday-Saturday

6-8 June 2019 at  
Ardingly Showground



Spaces are still available for ringers of all abilities to ring & talk about ringing at Dewbys Bells mini-ring as part of the SCACR representation alongside the Diocese of Chichester again this year.



No prior experience necessary – just an enthusiasm about bell ringing and ability to chat!

Free admission for helpers - a few of hours ringing (10-1 and 1-4) and the rest of the time available to visit the show. Under 16s gain free admission with an accompanying adult so we are pleased to provide admission for families able to bring their young ringers on the Saturday. Find out more and save your place – email Alison on [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org)

Twitter follow @scacr\_bells @chichesterDio @seas\_org - use hashtags #southofenglandshow and #bellringing

Facebook follow [@SussexBellringers](https://www.facebook.com/SussexBellringers) [@DioceseofChichester](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofChichester) [@SouthEngShow](https://www.facebook.com/SouthEngShow)



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## Sussex Young Ringers News – Sussex are South East Champions again!

Why striking? Of all things to base youth ringing around, striking is a bit of a strange one. It takes practice, resilience and teamwork to produce good striking, but it takes sheer determination to produce perfect striking. It's not something you achieve at your first attempt, but when you succeed, it's definitely worth it. What better thing to strive for than something which seems at first so far out of reach.

So, you can probably guess what we needed to do to win SEECOM for the fourth year running? Practice! And practise we did. Since the beginning of 2019 we have held several practices open to all young ringers across Sussex. They are great fun, but one thing we strive for, whether representing Sussex on the team or not, is good (even excellent) striking.

Grandsire Triples was the chosen tune for this year's competition – 168 changes of it. The aim is to strike each change to perfection: no clips, a steady and consistent pace, perfect leading, well established rhythm, and a real and prominent sense of direction. I don't know if you often ring Grandsire Triples (I certainly do!), but I do wonder who feels that once the blue line is known, the bobs mastered and the singles embedded in your brain, that that is all to know - you're an expert in Grandsire Triples! Striking it well is a completely different task.

On the Thursday before the competition we (the 8 ringers representing Sussex) met for the final time at Lower Beeding, who kindly welcomed us at their Thursday evening practice. It's always nice to know the future of change ringing is supported – thank you Lower Beeding! This was our final chance to work together as a team to craft a competitive piece of ringing, so we certainly made the most of it. Leaving after practice that evening we knew we had prepared all we could and we looked forward to Saturday when we would descend on Horton Kirby in Kent to compete against teams from Surrey,

Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent and Guildford.

Horton Kirby is a fairly small village just south of Dartford. The church houses a pleasant ring of 8. It seemed like a good place to hold a striking competition. As we arrived, we got a good chance to meet and catch up with ringers from other counties,



Michael, Molly, Rachel, Andrew, Lysbeth, William, Josh, Alex and Katherine.

associations and guilds, some of whom we had not seen since the National Youth Contest in July. I like to think that these friendships made outside of the boundaries of Sussex will one day become very beneficial for the development of the future of ringing; a time when the national community of ringers will become bound strongly together and geographical distance, guild/association boundaries and geographically based ringing traditions will become a minor focal point in the art of ringing.

A mountain of cake ('mountain' might be an understatement) was on offer all day – big thumbs up from team Sussex. We are fuelled by cake. Handbell ringing was exercised, a miniring was set up at the church hall and a treasure hunt was also on offer. Winning the treasure hunt soon became some team member's top priority for the day! (Spoiler alert – we did)

Sussex was drawn to ring first, so up the tower we went. As usual, we are given 20 minutes during which we can practice our ringing, adjust ropes and then announce, and perform, our 'test piece' which is marked by the judges. Our practice was very promising and we made 'friends' with the bells quickly. No one on the team had ever rung at Horton Kirby before. After giving the signal of two whole pulls on the trebles (which ended up being three whole pulls on my part – whoops) we were ready to go. Our test piece started with a good pace and rhythm, but our faces remained focused on the ringing, so you wouldn't be able to tell without hearing it. The odd clips were minimal, and we managed to push the bells along in a very consistent and sprightly manner. As last few leads roll on, you begin to feel the anticipation bed in. Any major striking errors towards the end of the piece can have a negative impact, so you've got to keep your cool and treat every change with equal dexterity and placement. We achieved this rather well. Our conductor, Rachel called "that's all" and soon followed with "stand". For the fourth year in a row we had given it our all.

The rest of the day was enjoyed very much. With the competition ringing behind us, we enjoyed all the aspects of the competition I have already addressed. Our time in Horton Kirby came to an end inside the village hall eating a fish and chip lunch together: young ringers, older ringers, even older ringers, non-ringers and supporters. The judges soon arrived with the results. Each team was given feedback on their ringing. I found the feedback we received this year was some of the most useful in the last four years. It was constructive, but honest. It must be a skill to create a positive impact with some very frank feedback about tenor scowering speeds!

As the results were drawn out we had our fingers double crossed, but with a definite sense of acceptance that we gave it our all and that Kent (playing at home) had produced some very competitive ringing. To our joy, we were announced to have won with a percentage score of 76% 'clean' blows. Kent came in a very close second with 72%. Sussex, the only team of the day to ring a method, had won it again! Four years on the trot under our belt – bring on the RWNYS in July. An even bigger challenge waits.



Team	Score	Placing
Bucks and Berks	53%	4th
Essex	64%	3rd
Guildford	48%	5th
Kent	72%	2nd
Surrey	40%	6th
Sussex	76%	1st

**Want to get involved in young ringers activities? We do a lot more than just striking competitions. Contact Anne Franklin: [annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk)**

# All Sussex Young Ringers...

## Ringing Outing

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Ringing at Ditchling (8 bells) 10am to 11am

Cake and coffee

Walk to Keymer

Ringing at Keymer (6 bells) 11.30am to 12.30pm

Picnic in the park at Hassocks (bring your own)

Walk to Hurstpierpoint

Ringing at The Wickham Ring 2.30pm to 3.30pm

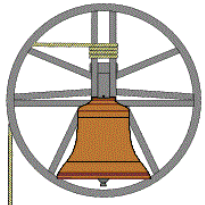
Eat cake

Ringing at Hurstpierpoint (8 bells) 4pm to 5pm

Eat cake if there is any left!



Please let me know if you would like to come [gnee-franklin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gnee-franklin@hotmail.co.uk)



## Southern District Committee Contact Details

- **Mary Burr** (*District Secretary*)  
01323 325914      [sec-south@scacr.org](mailto:sec-south@scacr.org)
- **Joshua Hutchinson**      news-south@scacr.org
- **Debbie Evans**      evansent4u@hotmail.co.uk
- **Rob Lane**      rob@rjlane.co.uk
- **Richard Neal**      rcgpjneal@talktalk.net
- **Anne Franklin**      annefranklin@hotmail.co.uk
- **Josephine Leggett**      josephineleggett80@gmail.com
- **Nick Cullen**      brf-south@scacr.org

### Southern District Tower Practice Nights

These are always available at [www.scacr.org/towers](http://www.scacr.org/towers) and in the SCACR handbook. Visiting local practice nights is a great way to improve your ringing and meet new people. You may also be surprised by how many ringers will return the favour and give your home tower a visit too!

**Monday:** Burgess Hill 7:45, Brighton; St Nicholas 7:45, **(There is currently no ringing at Brighton St Peter. All practices are being held at Brighton; St Nicholas, instead)**, Chailey 8:00, Maresfield 8:00 (infrequent – please check), Newick 7:00.

**Tuesday:** Aldrington 7:45, Brighton; Good Shepherd 7:00, Ditching 7:30, Southover (Lewes) 7:30, Little Horsted 7:30 (please check), Seaford 7:30, Shoreham-by-sea 7:45, Uckfield 7:30.

**Wednesday:** Buxted 8:00 (please check), Henfield 7:45, Keymer 7:30, Ringmer 7:30.

**Thursday:** Barcombe 7:30 (infrequent – please check), Brighton, St Mark 7:15 (best to check before travel), Hurstpierpoint 7:00, Wivelsfield 8:00.

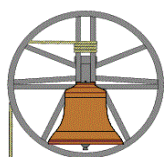
**Friday:** Twineham 7:30 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>).

Keep up to date with the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers

Visit [www.scacr.org](http://www.scacr.org)



- Don't have a 'Soundbow' subscription? Contact Kathy Howard at [Soundbow99@gmail.com](mailto:Soundbow99@gmail.com), 01903 813653. Yearly subscription for post is just £6! Why not make a tower subscription if you don't have one already...
- Find SCACR on Facebook. Search 'SCACR'.
- Find SCACR on Twitter. Use @scacr and @sussex bells.
- Contact Alison Everett, your Communications and Events Team leader, at [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org) if you want to know more about social media.



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Have something you would like in the next issue of Southern News?

Send it all to [news-south@scacr.org](mailto:news-south@scacr.org)

*Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.*

**Southern News – May 2019.**