

**Communications and Events update - Friday 17 March 2017 7pm  
Sportsman Pub, Goddards Green**

**Present:**

Mary Burr Sec South,  
Steph Pendlebury Sec North & CC Rep from end May 2017,  
Richard Pendlebury SCACR website,  
Sandra Alford secretary till May 2017  
Hamish Wandleys West newsletter diary sheet  
Alison Everett Communications and Events TL  
Not present (due to Alison messing up) Sue Gadd SCACR Treasurer

**Setting:**

The meeting was set up as 'not a committee meeting', more of a much needed informal get together of a few rather than many, to agree the current state of Communications and Events affairs in SCACR with the aim of ensuring we all know who is doing what when and with whom, what help we could do with or offer each other and where we would like to be going. AE trying not to be prescriptive and welcomes suggestions.' We had a kitchen timer for 15 mins on each topic – good to have a goal!

**Newsletters**

**North** - *Katherine Potter* produces the newsletter it is 6 pages and this is what northern district sticks to. Also has a one page diary of events.

**South** - Mary advised that *Joshua Hutchinson* Young Ringer and Tower Captain at Burgess Hill has taken on the Southern District Newsletter, (previously Jo Worsley). At present in the South there is her, Josh and William. Debbie Evans and Jonathan Franklin also on the Southern District Committee.

**East** - Nick Rees is continuing as East newsletter editor for the time being and Marion carrying on as District Secretary, Events organiser – Nick Cant, Committee Members – Frances and Peter Bradford, Mary Hallett.

**West** - Sally Forth produced every four months by *Mandy Rogers*. The one page diary of western district events newsheet produced by *Hamish* with Sally Forth and as a stand alone every two months. He will add training and other association events if there is room but sticks to one page so it can be put up in towers.

A few years ago newsletters were only posted to tower correspondents to display in towers (because email not available). Since 2011/2012 the newsletters were emailing out to everyone so no longer specially posted to TC's. Discussed the proposal of sending out newsletters once again so copies in towers as **tower correspondents are not printing them out and taking them in so often there are no newsletters in towers.**

There are approx 1000 email addresses across Association, currently we post newsletters out to the 300 without email addresses. We could include in the budget stamps to post out district newsletters to towers in that district ie in the north it would be 140 towers x cost of stamp x 4 times a year. Sandra confirmed that currently we only send 146 newsletters out by post. E – 46, N – 24, S – 25, W – 51. There are many couples/families who request only one newsletter to be sent either by email or post, hence the numbers not adding up neatly.

West is more pages but includes QP's which it always has done, obituaries too. Mandy is being sent plenty of material which is great. Don't want to put people off writing but if it was produced more frequently to reduce size of the publication this would increase postal costings and it depends too if Mandy would be happy to produce 4 a year instead of 3.

Agreed it would be helpful for each district newsletter to commit to schedules and copy deadlines  
AE/ RP to take forward and add to website eventually

Kathy Howard produces Soundbow for Association News, District news goes in district newsletters, so where does other bellringing/national news go? Dilemma as newsletters are now less frequent and there is only the diary of events in the gap.

### **Website**

RP advised new website launch hopefully late May early June and new blog for AE which will cover the 'other news'. He is working on it with Matthew and Steph.

On the new website every article will have a picture so Richard looking to build a database of Photos, people enjoying themselves and abstract ones too he asked people to send him photos, any format welcomed min resolution or size 450x450 pixels but larger is better.

Sandra has some from the Warnham calendar she will send him these. Any videos need to be of a reasonable standard and snappy/short. Sandra has an idea of short shots different age range, why they took up ringing. Hamish suggested we could contact the media group Chichester College maybe they could do this as a project. If anyone has any contacts please follow up.

Richard will look at who has access to what areas of website and after we have launched the website will give details of accounts, Steph will give guidance on posting.

### **Emails**

Tower correspondents are not printing them out, agreed perhaps they do not know we would like them too. Agreed from now on specifically ask them to 'dear tower correspondent pls print out' RP can track who has pictures on their account and if they open/display the emails, about half are opened (but this is not an indicator of whether they read the content!). Links in emails can be tracked – currently few emails have links, and of those, on average <5% of readers click a link.

How often to emails go out and what is in them? Ideally if you are organising an event you would have a plan which would include when to publicise by email. Steph suggested an email master to send to all but Sandra said it's not one size fits all as things crop up. Agreed it would be a good idea if we had a defined approximate outline schedule as we could have messages queued up in a system action Steph

Content should be limited and if it's longer then it could have an accompanying link to an article on the/a website

### **Events**

South

BBQ 3/6 Burgess Hill

Outing Guildford 23/9 – William to organise

Ringing Picnic 22/4 – clashes with another event?

SCACR annual social – all agreed Barn Dance went well we could reproduce, with aim to speed up food distribution, bring forward, possibly 30/9 which is also Sussex Handbell Day Burgess Hill Manor

Park Primary School 10-4 so will not clash and AE will look at Rawsons Hall Bolney again and any options nearer to Handbell Day to encourage participation/volunteers both events. Could ask another group to assist with catering, the Steyning ladies did a brilliant job last year! We need suggestions/feedback from people for an event if they want something other than a Barn Dance again, we could hold it every other year otherwise it gets a bit same old. All to please keep asking around for ideas on what we could do.

AE to ask each district sec to send their events in to her as we are aiming to create a calendar (like a wall planner) so anyone can view and see at a glance what is on where when which all agreed it would be good to have.

5th Sat July 29/6 Sandra has been thinking about a day -time open air event like the one held at Dial Post some years but this was a special occasion and not a get together as such, it would be a nice idea however to look at another event to suit more tastes perhaps?

**Open Day 22/4 Chichester** - Hamish – to raise awareness of bellringing and aimed at non-ringers mini ring Bell Meadow, guided tower, small talk 15 persons at a time, to see ringing taking place, looking for helpers please, it is not open ringing.

July Treasure Hunt Mandie Merlin 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday - tba

June 10 Southover 10 bell practice 10am  
August Evening ring and walk

Sussex County Association — **Quarter Peal Week 1 – 8 April 2017** event on BellBoard:

<http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=6012>

1st quarter peal, 1st in method, 1st at another tower, 1st for Sussex Quarter Peal week, 1st Julie McDonnell? SA suggested we send out a snappy poster for towers, it might jog someone into arranging one for someone else

### **Social media**

Alison will provide details of who has admin rights to SCACR facebook group and has created a Facebook page (organisation) but not publicised it yet, needs a good copy of the map to head the page, will provide access details to others for assistance. You can only create a facebook page if you have an account but others will not access your personal account – said Steph

Proposed fortnightly blog for Alison on new website RP looking at subscription options, need to start getting ideas together. Names suggested shortlist to

1. belfry babble
2. clapper chatter

with the former most favoured

Meeting finished at 8:40.