

Communication and Events Team Report 2017

SCACR Great War Commemorative Ringing 2017 - During 1917, a total of 15 known SCACR bellringers lost their lives in the war. A list of the names was included on the SCACR Rolls of Honour

https://www.scacr.org/documents/rolls/Roll_of_Honour.pdf and commemorative ringing took place by most of those Towers affected on or close to the Centenary of their death.

A New Members' Event was held 28 Jan in Shipley for those new to Ringing or just new to Sussex, to get-together and meet with others at a similar stage. There were plenty of experienced ringers to ring around learners on rounds and call changes on the 6 bells at Shipley, with the chance for 121 experience on the single dumbbell too. Everyone who wanted to or was able had the opportunity to have a look at the bells in the belfry. John Norris took his mobile dumbbell for demonstration so anyone could have a go ringing and see how the clever software works as a learning tool. There was a ringers tea and a demonstration of handbell ringing too. David Kirkcaldy and Kathy Howard organised the event and welcomed everyone to bellringing in Sussex and explained what membership of SCACR had to offer them, around the county and within their Districts. Publicity boards with ringing information, District Newsletters and the association magazine Soundbow were on display as well as ringing books for sale to help new ringers understand and make progress with their ringing.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers held an event 'PR Matters' at Wellesbourne, 25th Feb 2017 which was attended by five SCACR ringers. The event was for anyone interested in getting local or national publicity for their ringing activities, not just officers. It was an excellent networking opportunity and good to meet ringers from around the country at an event organised by the Council.

A number of SCACR members were sponsored by Dewbys Bells to attend The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) Conference 2017 held at Old Basing, Hampshire 10/11 March, an event open to all ringers with talks and workshops.

Sussex Quarter Peal week was held 1 - 9 April, leading up to the service at East Grinstead remembering Sussex Bellringers of the First World War and including Palm Sunday too. Quarter Peal weeks serve to raise the profile of ringing and gives ringers opportunities to progress. The aim was to have as many quarter peals as possible rung in the Association during the week, with as many 'firsts' as possible, 1st quarter peal, 1st in method, 1st at another tower, 1st for Sussex Quarter Peal week, 1st Julie McDonnell etc. Linked performances on Bellboard totalled 36.

A special Songs of Praise service was held at St Swithuns Church East Grinstead on 8th April to mark the 100 years since World War One. The ringers of Sussex who died in the war were especially remembered after open ringing on the 12 bells beforehand. This event was organised by Marisa Hayes.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Billingshurst on Saturday 13 May, with ringing from 10:30 at St Mary's; service 12 midday followed by a ploughman's lunch St Gabriel's Hall provided by the local ringers. We held another Barn Dance at Rawson Hall Bolney in September, with the accomplished Touchstone Dance Band, mainly because it was so successful in 2016 and also because although people had said they wanted something else no-one came forward with ideas or offers of help. The ringers from (Keymer and Ringmer) arranged the catering with assistance from other stalwarts too numerous to mention and we are very grateful for their assistance and enthusiasm. It was most enjoyed by everyone who attended and although it is not meant to be a profit-making event we felt it was just too onerous a task to arrange association wide social events when the Districts arrange their own very successfully that everyone is welcome to attend, unless it is taken in turns, like the AGM for example.

Each District continues to organise their own events, planned at Committee and Business Meetings by a dedicated team (who are always looking for helpers!). Some towers have formed 'Hubs' to work together, to increase numbers and share the load. The WHIRLS (Warnham, Horsham, Itchingfield, Rusper, Lower Beeding and Slinfold) are particularly active!

A few towers participated in Heritage Open Days 2017 though there was less publicity than the previous year.

2017 saw the launch of the website, many thanks to Matthew Jones, Richard Pendlebury and Steph Pendlebury for the hard work that they had put in. The facebook page and twitter feed are linked to the

website and appear at the foot of the home page. The SCACR facebook group has 263 members and is an open group but moderators scrutinise responses to potential member selection questions.

The Association quarterly magazine Soundbow produced by Kathy Howard with the assistance of David Kirkcaldy is a valuable resource and record. In 2017 the number printed was reduced from 275 to 260 due to a lack of helpers selling individual copies around the county; but postal subs remained around the 185.

Thank you to the District newsletter editors whose newsletters (North and West with separate events sheets for tower notice boards) containing reports of events and details of what's on next are most appreciated. SCACR members are reminded they can subscribe to as many of these newsletters as they want by emailing database@scacr.org and everyone is welcome at all Association Events.

The New Members' Pocket Guides which have been out of print for a number of years were gratefully received by the District Secretaries having been painstakingly updated and formatted by Sandra Alford, Kathy Howard and David Kirkcaldy.

Jonathan Spencer, the new Membership Secretary, oversaw the implementation of a new online membership renewals system making the process much easier and cost effective.

Alison Everett