

SCACR Northern District Annual Meeting Saturday 3rd February 2018

Secretary's Report – Steph Pendlebury

2017 was another busy and successful year for the Northern District. As usual, I'd like to thank the District committee for all their help over the past year: Sandra Alford (who is also General Secretary!), Rosie Gregory, Richard Pendlebury, and Jon Spencer (who is now Association membership secretary too). Many thanks also to Jeremy Alford for organising the outing, Neil Dobson for organising the Monday night practices, and Katherine Potter for doing such an excellent job with the newsletter. The North has a newsletter every two months, alternating between a full *Northern News* (6 pages packed with news, photos, events, and information; thanks to everyone who has contributed!) and a 1-2 page *What's On* summary of upcoming events.

We've held a Saturday Gathering every month except one, either ringing with a social element (e.g. mulled wine and mince pies), or courses/quarter peal day. Thanks to all the people who made cakes and sandwiches, helped on courses and generally got involved! Most of the events are very well attended, often with over 20 people; we held courses and quarter peal days during the months that typically attract fewer attendees – this has worked well and we intend to increase the number of courses in 2018.

Neil reviewed the Monday evening District practices after discussion at the District meeting November, and we are trialling a new combination. The first Monday of the month is now a 6-bell practice (elementary or Surprise), second Monday is 7/8-bell methods, 3rd Monday is 9/10-bell methods, and 4th Monday is a general 10/12 bell practice (rounds onwards). Many thanks to Neil for all his hard work and commitment! Neil has indicated that he'd like to hand on this role next year (2019 ADM), so please do have a think about whether you could help.

We've got some new ideas for the 2018 programme, and will continue with the popular events. Some of the new Gatherings we're planning are a New Members Event, and an outing by bike (or car) down the Downs Link. We aim to make ringing as inclusive and supportive as possible – hopefully the programme has something for everyone! As ever, if you have any requests for training courses, or suggestions for other things we could do, please do get in touch. **The Association is for you, the members, so please do let the committee know if you have any requests!**