

Peal Report for 2017

The total number of peals rung during 2017 was 64, being a decrease of 14 from the 2016 total. With 36 being rung, the number of handbell peals has, for the first time in the Association's history (except for the World War II years), exceeded the number of tower bell peals rung. The 28 peals rung on tower bells were rung in 20 Sussex towers, four fewer than the previous year, and one outside the County. The leading towers were Bell Meadow, Warnham with six, followed by Fairwarp and Shipley each with two. The handbell peals were rung at ten different venues, the leading ones being the Parish Room, Warnham with 25 followed by Wandleys Drive, Eastergate and Delves Close, Ringmer each with two.

On tower bells there were 2 peals of Doubles, 7 of Minor, 5 of Triples, 12 of Major, 1 of Caters and 1 of Royal. Of the peals of Major, 11 were of Surprise, including one first in the method in the method for the Association. 30, 31 and 35-Spliced Surprise Minor were rung for the Association for the first time. The first peal of Nicholson Treble Place Caters was also rung. On handbells there were 3 peals of Minor, 17 of Major, 15 of Royal and 1 of Maximus. Firsts on handbells for the Association were Cambridge Surprise Minor, Ashbourne College Bob Major, 3-Spliced Plain Major, Superlative and 5-Spliced Surprise Major.

83 ringers participated in the peals, 26 fewer than the previous year. Congratulations to Harry E Cane, Colin F King, Andrew D Meyer and Edward J Underwood, on achieving their first peal.

The leading ringers, with 20 or more peals, were Jonathan Franklin (40), Margaret Sherwood (38), Karen White (31), Hamish McNaughton (28) and Simon Alford (25).

The conducting was shared by 16 ringers, ten fewer than in 2016. The leaders were Simon Alford (20), Stephen Beckingham (12) and Jonathan Franklin (9). There were no new conductors.

21 ringers participated in the handbell peals, the leaders being Margaret Sherwood (29), Hamish McNaughton (28), Jonathan Franklin (24), Karen White (23) and Simon Alford (21). There were 7 handbell conductors, the leaders being Simon Alford (20) and Jonathan Franklin and Stephen Mitchell (4 each).

The following personal records have been noted:

Margaret Sherwood	700 th peal	Peter R King	150 th peal in hand
Marisa Hayes	100 th peal	Benjamin J Carey	100 th peal in hand
Stephen J Beckingham	100 th peal as conductor	Stephen J F Mitchell	1,100 th peal

A celebratory peal was rung at Waldron to mark the 55th wedding anniversary of Ron and Pat Diserens and another at Eastergate to welcome the birth of Jasper Franklin. Birthday celebratory peals were at Warnham for Ian Oram (80th), Salehurst for Julie McDonnell (50th) and Colin King (70th), and at Milland for Barry Wateridge (60th). A peal was rung at SS Saviour and Peter, Eastbourne to mark the 150th anniversary of the consecration of that church and another at Pagham to mark the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the bells. Peals remembering the centenary of those who died in the First World War were rung at Bell Meadow, Warnham and Henfield. Peals were also rung in memory of Andrew Barnsdale at Stedham and of Colin Nicholson at Warnham.

The county's quarter peal record has once again been compiled by Stephen Beckingham, for which I am most grateful.

Alan R Baldock