

# Look To!



## SCACR Eastern Division Newsletter July to September 2016

Welcome to your Summer 2016 Edition of Look To! Thank to everyone who submitted articles for inclusion in this edition.

Dates for your diary - please make note of the following dates.

### Surprise Major Practices

Please keep in touch with Nick Cant for final confirmation of these events

**Monday 8th August 7.30** Christ Church Eastbourne

From treble bobbing practice to major methods depending on the capability of those attending. It has been suggested we have a "special method" to concentrate on - has anyone any suggestion or a method they would like to be included? It will depend on responses from possible attendees - if enough can come. Please let me know whether you can make it.

**Thurs 9th Sept -** Southover (to be confirmed by the tower)

**Monday 3rd October -** Christ Church, Eastbourne

**Monday 14th November -** Ringmer

**Thursday 8th December -** Christ Church, Eastbourne

**Saturday Oct 22nd –** Ringers Walk with proposed ringing at Pevensey, Hooe & Westham

The route is yet to be finalized, please keep in contact with Nick Cant for details

### 20th August Ashburnham

Anyone is welcome of any ability, so, rounds onwards - from 1 till 3 pm, followed by Tea and Cake in the Church Hall. Visitors are welcome to come early or stay afterwards to enjoy the grounds and tea rooms of Ashburnham Place. Further information here: <http://www.ashburnham.org.uk/grounds-and-gardens> I've finally got all the permissions in place regarding 20th of August, so we are happy to invite all ringers from the SCACR to join us at Ashburnham on the 20th of August for open ringing. Anyone is welcome of any ability, so, rounds onwards - from 1 till 3 pm, followed by Tea and Cake in the Church Hall. Visitors are welcome to come early or stay afterwards to enjoy the grounds and tea rooms of Ashburnham Place. Further information here: <http://www.ashburnham.org.uk/grounds-and-gardens>

### May 2017 Outing to Yorkshire.

I am now starting to look into our outing for next year, as it has been suggested we go to Yorkshire I was thinking about one day walking round York then stay somewhere on the outskirts and doing some towers in the county. Could you let me know if you are interested please the date we would be starting is Saturday 20th May this is slightly later than normal as we are going further it would be nice to miss the bank holiday traffic. I'm thinking for about five days until the Thursday but the days will not be all ringing so people can have some free time or you can come for part of the tour.

## **Thursday 11th August Kaleidoscope Ringing Course - Hailsham 10 am. to 4 p.m**

**Have you booked for the Kaleidoscope Ringing Course yet?** There are still some places available. The course will take place at Hailsham Ringing Centre (on Thursday 11 August from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The cost is just £10 for the day.

Kaleidoscope ringing is a series of exercises made within two places. It helps to understand “making places” and “dodging”. Once the basic manoeuvres have been mastered then they can be combined to form more advanced and complicated exercises. To get the most from the course the student will need to be able to handle a bell competently in rounds. If you are just beginning to plain hunt or learn a basic method, these exercises can be most helpful. If all goes well the session will end with a Mexican Wave!

## **Heritage Open Days 8th – 11th September 2016**

Thousands of buildings and places across England will be throwing their doors open to the public for four days again in September, for an annual celebration of architecture, history and culture. For this year’s festival, Heritage Open Days have joined forces with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers to open up the heritage treasure hidden inside England’s bell towers and bring to life the 400-year-old tradition of English-style bell ringing.

The added challenge is to open up 500 bell towers across the country to the public, offering special bell ringing demonstrations at some point during the week-end. In addition, Heritage Open Days are hoping to create a collective bell ringing moment during the festival on Thursday 8th September 6.00 – 7.00pm.

If you haven’t already heard about this then it’s probably too late to take part officially this year as bell towers need to register with Heritage Open Days by 1st August 2016. However there’s no reason why you shouldn’t join in unofficially and/or ring with everyone else on Thursday 8th September or visit some of the towers that are participating. They’ll be listed on the Heritage Open Days website (Visiting) and can be searched by town, county or local authority.

For more information, please visit the website [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) <<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>> or [www.cccbr.org.uk/events/challenge500](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/events/challenge500) <<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/events/challenge500>>

## **Saturday 15th October 2016 10am to 4pm Change Ringing Handbell Day**

Manor Field School, Junction Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0PZ

Adjacent to Wivelsfield Railway Station

This event is open to all, especially:

- \* Handbell groups in Sussex and near by
- \* Those who enjoy change ringing on handbells but do not have a regular practice

- \* Those who want to have a go

There will be a charge of £6 to cover refreshments and lunch.

There will be three focus groups:

- \* Plain hunting to Plain Bob
- \* Plain Bob to Treble Bob
- \* Beyond Treble Bob

If you would like to attend this event please email Hamish McNaughton at [hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk](mailto:hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk) <<mailto:hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk>> stating which of the focus groups you would like to join and whether you are able to bring handbells.

## Saturday 29th October 2016

SCACR Barn Dance and Supper

Rawsons Hall, Bolney RH17 1PF

6:30 for 7pm – until 10:30                      Adults £10; Under 18 £5

Tickets from Alison Everett [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org) <<mailto:publicity@scacr.org>> or 01243 775366

Music and calling by Touchstone

Fiddle, flute and guitar see [www.allwoodmusic.co.uk/touchstone](http://www.allwoodmusic.co.uk/touchstone) <<http://www.allwoodmusic.co.uk/touchstone>>

Hot supper is included in the price: baked potatoes with chilli (or vegetarian alternative) and dessert

! Please bring your own drink, wine glasses (if required) and cutlery!

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## Ways to keep in touch with what the SCACR is doing

You can register and keep in touch via **Facebook** – just search for SCACR

If you use **Twitter** then look for @scacr and @sussexbells

If you need to know more about social media please email Alison Everett, our new Communications and Events Team Leader, at [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org) <<mailto:publicity@scacr.org>>

You can find out about nation-wide ringing events by looking at [www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for) <<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for>>

## Note from Secretary

We have had very few meetings this year, if any tower would like to host one please contact me. I am looking for a tower to host the ADM on Saturday February 25th would someone like to volunteer please. The plan would be ringing, short service followed by a business meeting.

Please support our next meeting on August 20th at Ashburnham, the church is in lovely surroundings and we are now also able to enjoy the grounds. We have nothing planned for September but on October 22nd we are holding our annual walk, if you don't want to walk you are more than welcome to come and ring at the towers

## Ringling weekend - Oxford

We chose to repeat our normal pattern and make a weeks' holiday out of the ringling weekend. A cottage in Kingham (near Stow on the Wold) was booked. Unfortunately, the relaxed journey we had planned was thwarted by a very delayed hospital appointment, getting us a parking ticket, and then a very slow start to the journey due to a long queue to pass an accident on the A 27. We did eventually arrive in Kingham just at the end of the Archers (Radio 4 - 7pm) to find a very nice cottage. All was good except that the internet was on the blink (very unfortunate as it is essential for my business). After a pizza, and a glass of wine, we were ready for bed.

On Saturday morning we set off to see who else was on the trip. There were no new faces, but plenty of old friends. In all there were nearly 20 ringers – a goodly number for a weekend tour such as this one. Tower number one, Steeple Aston, had 8 bells, and the second method was Lincolnshire – a bit early in the morning? The bells were very nice, and for us, a very good start to the weekend. The next tower, Rousham was a big surprise. Firstly, my GPS working with post code took us to the wrong location: as it turned out, the tower was part of a very grand country estate. Car parking and toilets all provided. As we had missed the Friday evening, we were also unaware of the suggested method of Bourne Surprise minor. This was attempted a few times in the day, but I stuck to the more straight forward methods. We did even pass a sign relating- just to remind us!



Tower no.3 - Tackley, a 13cwt 6, had a slightly challenging access. The first approach was deceptively easy, but quickly followed by two very steep ladders, up to the ringling chamber. There were some moveable planks of wood in the middle of the floor. When our host removed these planks, there was a

hole directly above the chancel. Apparently, the ringers use this to drop rose petals on the happy couple, at the end of a wedding. I found the bells quite hard work. At this point, Alan Baldock asked us all to look at Union Triples for the afternoon.

We arrived at Kidlington (no.4) at the end of a wedding, and the bride & groom were just leaving. I found these bells hard work, but Union Triples was rung, reasonably well, although help was required at times. The drives between the towers did take us all through some very beautiful Oxfordshire countryside; much of the day was dry and sunny, but rather cold for the time of the year. Cassington was tower no.5.

South Leigh (no.6) was the final tower of the day, and we all decided that, as some ringers were leaving already, this it would be a good time for the usual group photo. I grabbed my camera and, as the group assembled just inside the church, I realised that the interior was decorated with many late medieval wall paintings.

These formed the backdrop to the group photo.



My Sunday mornings normally start with a 10-mile drive, a few steps up to Chiddingly ringing chamber, and rounds and call changes on 6 or 8. This Sunday morning also had a 10 mile drive, but then came a long climb up a very steep spiral stair case to the Hook Norton ringing chamber. The 8 were rung up in peal, with hardly a glitch, carefully spaced all of the way; that was very satisfying. The first call was for Cambridge Major; again it was of an extremely high standard, largely rung by our Sussex band, with a few local helpers. I then had my turn at Stedman Triples, not something I do very often before coffee time! That was an impressive start to Sunday morning. Due to church service

times, the next tower, Churchill, almost overlapped with Hook Norton, so several ringers went on ahead. We stayed, helped lower the bells, and then went on to the second tower of the day. We walked into the church (Churchill) and were greeted with "bells are up the stairs, where you will also find tea and (real) coffee".

Here was another ring of 8, with rather springy ropes. Our third tower was Kingham, in the same village as our holiday cottage. We stopped off at our cottage, a useful place to park, and an easy walk to the church. It was sad to hear that they have no regular ringers in Kingham, and Great Tew, where we rang later in the day, was in the same predicament. Kingham was the tower that Sheila's younger son learnt to ring at many years ago, when he was at boarding school. Very sorry to say that Danile has not kept up his ringing.

Next we rang at Chipping Norton after Sunday service; another long climb up to the tower, where a nice selection of 8 bell methods was rung.

Next came a well-deserved lunch break, and we thought it would be good to visit the Rollright Stones nearby. But also, half of Oxfordshire seemed to have had the same idea, and the very limited parking was full. We decided to come back later in the week, when things were quieter.

Great Tew has a heavy 8, and no local bell ringers. As usual, we received a warm welcome, but I did not have the confidence to ring too far round the ringing circle. The church was in a beautiful setting at the end of a long driveway. The final tower of the day was Deddington. Ringing was meant to start at 5:10pm, but we were just finishing off a cup of coffee at 5pm when we heard the tenor being raised. A quick climb up another long stairwell to reach the ringing chamber, where, rather interestingly the clock pendulum swung in a box in the middle of the rope circle (bright yellow sallies). Deddington were fairly heavy going 8, but easier than the previous tower. This session included half a course of Yorkshire.

Monday morning started with 'Jacobs ladder' at Charlbury: an open wooden spiral staircase, with three twists, up to the ringing chamber. Several members of the group were not happy when they reached the top! and this was made worse by a tower with lots of 'wobble'. The six bells needed careful handling, but several methods were rung before we all re-navigated the stairway. All the survivors headed off to Coombe, via a very twisty route: GPS does have some big advantages when driving through these pretty lanes.

At Coombe we were greeted by our old Lewes lodger, Julia, who has always lived in Coombe (except for some years when she used to spend a few nights a week with us in Lewes). Coombe was a ground floor ring, which was very welcome after the perils of Charlbury. We found 6 extremely nice bells, easy to ring, and very clear. Bourne was rung a few more times, and I myself was very happy with a well struck plain course of Cambridge minor. Then we were all invited back to Julia's house for coffee. And not just coffee! But a

wonderful spread of sausage rolls and yummy cakes. This was a very enjoyable way to end the long weekend, before most people started their journey back to Sussex. We had all also enjoyed a dry Bank Holiday weekend, though by Monday afternoon I doubt whether anyone arrived home without some rain.

After everyone had gone home, we stayed on in Kingham for the rest of the week. This allowed us to go to a divisional practice at Kingham on Tuesday night; have lunch with Keith and Isobel Murphy at the end of the week (they had been on the Southover outing in Norwich the previous weekend) and we duly visited the Rollright stones mid-week. We also had dinner with a cousin who lived locally. The cousin knew nothing about bell ringing, but had heard press stories about making it into an Olympic sport. I said I thought a more relevant sport might be to time ringers between the tower and the bar at the end of practice night. Within 30 seconds of saying this we were greeted in the pub by two ringers whom we had met the night before, again fresh from practice night!

I would like to thank Marion for another very enjoyable and well organised weekend outing.

We are all looking forward to next years' outing: Yorkshire for 2017 was mooted.

Michael Cotgrove and Sheila Wood

## **STRIKE BACK AGAINST BLOOD CANCER (SBABC)**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 over a hundred walkers and Bell Ringers mainly from East Sussex and Kent walked the historic Pilgrims Way from Wye in Kent to Canterbury Cathedral for SBABC. SBABC is an initiative to highlight the awareness of the 137 blood cancers that exist and also to raise the awareness of Bloodwise, the Anthony Nolan and associated registers.

The walkers and ringers rang at Wye and walked along the 14 miles down the historic Pilgrims Way to Chilham, St Dunstan's and St Stephens in Canterbury. At the same time Louise Pink and her band of ringers rang Quarter Peals at Wye, Chilham and Chartham. To start the event off a special touch of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Wye with ringers to have been so supportive in my ringing. This band were, Alan and Louise Pink, Colin King (Who I am so grateful to for his patience, kindness in teaching me change ringing) Frank Wenham, Alan Turner, Daniel Morgan, Jenny Parker, John Harding and Rosie Smith.

When I arrived at Canterbury, I was greeted officially by the Sheriff of Canterbury, Rosemary Doyle and the Reverend Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos, Treasurer of Canterbury of Cathedral. The walkers and ringers were still walking or ringing at St Dunstan's. I rang the treble to a Quarter of Grandsire Cinques at Canterbury with, Alan Corby (C) Stephen Beckingham, Louise Pink, Alan Pink, Jane Huxley, Cathryn Hills, Philip Elderton, Philip Larter, Philip Hills, Andrew Hills and Malcom Smith. Thank you to all the band and Andrew Corby, it was a baptism of fire for me and I won't forget your kindness.

The Sheriff was taken to a sumptuous reception put together by Beckett WI at St Dunstan's Hall whilst the Quarter Peal at Canterbury was rung. The Sheriff greeted and thanked all the walkers as they arrived. Finally all the walkers, ringers, Sheriff and the Reverend Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos had official photographs taken to mark the occasion. The Sheriff gave a speech and acknowledged the work of Bloodwise, the Anthony Nolan Trust and congratulated all involved with SBABC.





The day finished with ringing at St Stephens and an Awards and Celebration evening at "Ye Olde Beverlie". Awards were given out by Louise Pink for the "Best Artistic Interpretation of bell handling". My long suffering Husband, Andrew was awarded that for learning to ring in four weeks (Thanks to Colin King) and raising £450. An Award for the "Most Impressive injury" on the walk was given to Jamie Burchett by John Harding. The "Most Interesting Item found" on the walk was awarded by Colin King and went to Verity Languish. Prizes were also

awarded to all those that had successfully found all the items on the Treasure Hunt. We also had a "Boris Johnson award for Buffoonery to which I and fellow Brede Ringers dressed up as Choristers (with Colin Mitchell in a dress) and sang to raise £600.

However what was so unique about our event was the ringers, towers and Cathedrals that joined in around the world. I never dreamed such fruit could be harvested from the hundreds of emails and calls that I made to Tower Captains, Vicars, Deans, Bishops, Societies and Associations. I appreciate that there are so many events to which ringers are asked to ring and I am beyond saying thank you as I was so overwhelmed by the response that thank you isn't simply enough. For those that have met me you will know I am not usually stuck for words but over that weekend and to this day I have been so silenced by all of your compassion and generosity. Bell Board displays proudly all the Quarters and associated ringing against our event <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=4067> Cathedrals and Towers from all continents rang out. We had the Blessing from their Holinesses Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama and meditation bells rang out in honour in India and St Peters at the Vatican. We had hand bells over Greenland and the North Pole on a flight to Canada from fellow Bell Ringer David Oliver. The unity of Bell Ringers is so wonderful.

We had hand bells in the shadow of the Pyramids, down the Nile on the Aswan, in the Valley of the Valley of the Kings and the Great Wall of China. Alan Collings rang in Barbados for us whilst on holiday. Rabbi Alex Goldberg blew his Shofar in Salzburg. The Arch Bishop of Brazil gave permission for his bells to toll out in Brasilia. The National 12 Bell Striking Competition also donated to our cause and raised the awareness of SBABC.

I organised this event due to the fact that I have CML (Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia) with secondary cancer of a brain tumour. I benefited from a stem cell transplant from the Anthony Nolan Trust when I was told I was terminally ill last Christmas. I wanted to raise the awareness of the 137 blood cancers and of course the Anthony Nolan Register and Bloodwise. I pledged 1000 more donors for the Anthony Register and associated registers and 100k by the 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016. We are halfway to our financial goal. I really want to achieve all our goals.

Last Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, I received a letter from Tim Attride. He and his fellow ringers at Birchington had raised £130 and had dedicated a variation to Anthony Nolan. Equally they had dedicated a variation to myself "Julie McDonnell" for the work I had done for SBABC. I looked on Bell Board and was amazed to see that not only had Birchington rung it but also it had been rung at Eastbourne (courtesy of Pauline Kennard) and at Wainfleet (courtesy of Alan and Louise Pink) you can imagine how I felt. Proud.

Four Days later on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016, a series of Quarters Peals were rung and dedicated to sponsors who have paid for the Quarters for their loved ones. We raised £2250 for SBABC. Thank you to Alan Pink, Louise Pink, and Sandra Titherly who rang in all five. What was special is I rang the "Julie McDonnell" doubles at Brede. I

was very honoured and touched to have a variation dedicated to me. We continue to ring sponsored Quarters to raise money for SBABC and this weekend we have a Peal at Brede to raise £600.

So the fund raising carries on and on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 we will be having a Country Fayre at Brede with the theme "Everything great about East Sussex and Kent" with "Proms in the Paddock" in the evening. On the 25<sup>th</sup> October we have been given part of Hasting Pier to raise money and awareness of SBABC at Hastings Bonfire Week. We will have Teddies Zip Wiring off the pier onto the beach. We will be holding a fun bell ringing challenge too.

What I would ask is if you do ring the "Julie McDonnell" variation could you please link it to our event because I have a pledge of 10K if we top 100 associated Quarters by the 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016. If possible could you also consider ringing this variation so that we can get to our total of 100 Quarters it would be brilliant. It's a 120 of Callender Bob with a Lichfield Single.

So a final thank you to everyone who participated in SBABC, it superseded my expectations thanks to you all.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 - Redoubt Fortress, Eastbourne

**On the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, members of the Royal Sussex Veterans Association, looking very smart in their uniforms gathered together with Gary Baines from the Royal Sussex Living History Group, dressed in his WW1 Soldier's Uniform. They were at Redoubt Fortress in Eastbourne to present the Mayor of Richebourg, who was accompanied by members of the Richebourg Cycling Club, with a piece of the church bell from St. Vaast Church, Richebourg, which his grandfather had brought back to England in 1916 after the church had been blown up during the Battle of the Boar's Head. The Mayor would then hand this over to the Richebourg Museum in a ceremony on the 30<sup>th</sup> June in Richebourg, which Peter Whistler together with members of his family attended, and Peter was made an honorary citizen of Richebourg.

The group then proceeded to Christ Church in Eastbourne where Peter very ably translated into French what happens when we ring the English way, although some words such as 'Sally' and 'Stay' had to stay in English. Graham as Sussex Association Master and Moya together with the Master of the Middlesex Ringers Association and husband, attended the ceremony. We were then joined by Hazel Horobin, Christine and Alan Baldock to give a quick demonstration of English Church bell ringing which they all seemed to enjoy very much, even asking us to ring a second time. We then attempted a Quarter Peal before joining them all for lunch at the pub. The cyclists returned the next day via Newhaven to complete their round trip of 384km hopefully not getting too wet as it was the day after the night of thunder storms and torrential rain.

In Richebourg many more events took place in the days following the presentation, including an historical tour of the site of the trenches and a re-enactment by the French local historical society at various points. This is all to commemorate the centenary of the 'Battle of the Boar's Head', so called because of the shape of the trenches resembling this. It was a strategy aimed to distract the Germans and make them believe that the Great Offensive would be launched here and not in the Somme. 3 Battalions of men recruited from Sussex and known as 'Lowther's Lambs', were involved in this, and although the Battle only lasted 5 hours, over 500 soldiers were killed and as many wounded. Nearly all were from Sussex and had enlisted together as pals or brothers and so 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 became known as "The Day Sussex Died" as many families lost more than one son.

Many Sussex churches will have rung their bells on the 30<sup>th</sup> June in commemoration of this day.





The relic of the bell from St. Vaast Church Richebourg



Gary Baines (Soldier), Geraldine Forster, (Master, Middx. Assoc.) Graham Hills (Master, SCACR Assoc.)



Members of Richebourg Cycling Club Watching presentation



Peter Whisker, Mayor of Richebourg and Mayor of Eastbourne



Trisha & Peter Whisker with gift of Richebourg Cycle Club Lycra top!!



Gary Baines (WW1 Soldier) & Royal Sussex Veteran Association

Don't forget that you can join the SCACR Facebook group for regular updates and news of what is happening around the county. For those who have smart phones, there is also an excellent Dove Guide App that has details of all the ringing towers in the UK and around the World. You can even keep and record of the towers you visit.

If you are able to receive your Look To! Via email rather than post then please let us know via [database@scacr.org](mailto:database@scacr.org). It helps cut down postage costs.