

# Look To!



## SCACR Eastern Division Newsletter December 2016

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

### Saturday Meetings

26th February 2017 - ADM at Hailsham

3.00 pm Open Ringing  
4.30 Service  
5.00 Tea followed by ADM

### January 28th 2017

#### Practice Meeting at Ashburnham

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm  
Followed by tea and cakes please let Matthew from Ashburnham know if you are coming at  
ashburnham@scacr

### The proposed dates / venues for Surprise Major are:

Southern District	9 <sup>th</sup> January (Provisional)
Chiddingly	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Southern District	March
Hailsham	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Southern District	May
Eastbourne (Christ Church)	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June

Please note all of the above dates are provisional and yet to be confirmed.

### Young Ringers Saturday Practices

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm - 4pm at	Ditchling
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2pm to 4pm	Venue to be confirmed
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 10am to 12 noon at	Fairwarp
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2pm to 4pm	Venue to be decided.

All your ringers are welcome to come along. Cake provided! We hope you can come

### York outing May 2017

Our regular outing in 2017 will be To York from Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be two full days of ringing and two half days around York this is to enable people to do some sightseeing as well.

Please make own accommodation arrangements and look at the website for up to date information or contact me for a list of towers

Marion

## **Cbeebies at Chichester**

Discovering the Great Fire of London part of a series called "My Story", aimed at pre-school children, where a child goes on an adventure with his grandparent into the past to explore a significant part of history was transmitted on 27th of October @ 5pm and was filmed in Chichester Cathedral in August and featured in the Chichester Observer. David Hall Tower Captain Lyminster and Arundel has written an article for Soundbow - if you don't subscribe yet have a look at your tower copy or contact Kathy Howard on [soundbow@scacr.org](mailto:soundbow@scacr.org) to find out how to lay your hands on one! Chichester ringers "fired" the bells to simulate the warning call to the citizens of London

## **Association Barn Dance (29 October 2016)**



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This year's annual social event was a Barn Dance, held at Rawson Hall Bolney (RH17 1PF), featuring music and calling by Touchstone. The tickets were £10 for adults/£5 under-18s and included a fantastic hot supper organised by the Steyning bell-ringers and some wonderful desserts by Moya Hills and helpers. We sold 80 tickets, it was BYOB and we made almost £300 and had just loads of fun. The band said how wonderful it was to play to a packed hall full of dancers - at one point there were only a few sat down! If you have ideas for an event, you would like next year then please let me know. If you can't attend, then still you can offer assistance behind the scenes with the organisation -

many hands make light work! The Sussex Association is very large, has 143 towers and 1300 members, we need to cater for them all, young and old, South, East, North and West.

## **SCACR General Committee Meeting November 2016**

These meetings take place twice a year, in March and November. We discussed rules, finance, safeguarding and other essentials; but also the new website Richard Pendlebury our webmaster and Matthew Jones IT specialist and Ashburnham Tower Captain have been working hard on, is due out soon - A phenomenal amount of work has been spent on this! We also discussed the new members event 28 Jan to be held in Shipley, the Songs of Praise Service commemorating those from Sussex who died in WW1 8 April, mini ring on tour, Sussex quarter peal week challenge, reports of planned fun events in all Districts, feedback from the excellent Horsham Festival of Bells and the hugely enjoyable Barn Dance.

Keep an eye open for future events being advertised soon, if you want 2017 could be a fun one! If you can offer your help in any way small or large, please let someone know, we are all volunteers and though we can claim expenses for travelling on Association business, we are a charity and gladly give of our time to keep bell-ringing fun and inclusive. The AGM is held mid-May - we ring bells and enjoy the usual high standard of tea as well as deal with Association business, recognise achievements etc. Please come along and meet everyone, buy a raffle ticket or a Soundbow, take some photos, join a team or just learn a bit more about who we are, why we love bell-ringing and help us keep this unique part of our heritage alive and thriving.

## **Secretary's Report for 2016**

2016 was a different year in terms of activities in the Eastern District. With a general lack of support previously for the usual monthly meetings we decided not to hold a meeting each month with some variations to the usual Saturday afternoon practice format. Generally, the events put on have in the main been sufficiently supported.

The ADM was held at Chiddingly this year.

Our best attended event was again the quiz and supper. This year we were unable to hold the quiz during Holy Week but holding it a few weeks later was clearly a success. A team from Heathfield won the Quiz against some other stiff competition. There was the usual raffle, again this was well supported with proceeds of the raffle to be used for work by the BRF.

The District held a three-day outing over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. The weekend was based in the Charlbury, Oxfordshire area. We rang Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and two towers on Monday morning. We had range of towers in terms of size and weight and the 20 or so ringers rang a wide variety of methods.

Rather than approach towers directly to ask if the District could hold practice meeting at their tower we offered an open invitation to towers who wanted to host a meeting to come forward. Regretfully only one tower took us up on the offer. However, we had an extremely well attended meeting at Ashburnham followed by tea and cakes - the cakes provided by the chef who cooks for the Orangery cafe that is situated in the grounds of the Ashburnham Estate. For those who have not visited this venue it comes well recommended for both a walk and the cakes.

The 'Walk between Towers' was between Hooe, Pevensey and Westham with lunch at The Star Inn at Normans Bay. We were blessed with glorious weather for this mid-October event.

In this year when we remembered the battle of the Somme Member of the Royal Sussex Veterans came to the Redoubt Fortress in Eastbourne to present the Mayor of Richebourg in France with a piece of the church bell from St. Vaast. Church, Richebourg. This remnant was brought back to the UK in 1916'.

The group then proceeded to Christ Church in Eastbourne where the group were given a demonstration of the 'English' way of ringing - with commentary translated into French.

Our mini outing in November was to Five Towers around the Ashford area in Kent. We visited 4 six bell towers and an eight. We had good attendance with a wide range of experience. Again, we had excellent weather on the drive out but coming home saw very heavy rain with some high winds. To round the day off some of the group joined the Kent Ringers from the Ashfield District at their monthly meeting at Smarden.

I would also like to mention Julie McDonnell who through her bell ringing has raised a considerable sum of money for blood cancer research with the added benefit of high profile to bell ringing in Sussex.

I would like to thank Nick Cant for arranging the surprise Minor and Major evenings, Nick Rees for producing Look To! over the last few years, Nick will not be standing for election at the ADM - thank you Nick for what you have achieved. As advised at the last ADM I will not be seeking re-election as secretary in 2017 - after 17 years we need some new blood.

People are needed to go onto the committee and on the teams in February 2017 please consider what you can do to help the District, if there were a few more people on the committee it would mean people could do less.

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Alison Everett  
SCACR Events and Communications Team Leader

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### **Eastern District Autumn Outing**

Saturday the 19 November was an early start for ringers from the Eastern District in order to get to the first of five towers for the district day outing to Kent. First stop was the 8 cwt six at Waltham. Ringers came from more than half a dozen different towers in the district. We were also joined by a couple of visitors from Kent for the day. Weather wise, the day started off really well - It was a chilly but bright drive in the November sunshine. The remaining towers for the day were all designed to be close by, nothing more than 5 miles away from the last. We next went to another 6 at Petham and prior to lunch rang at the 13 cwt 6 at Chartham. There were 19 people on the day and we split for lunch with some staying at Chartham with others moving on to Chilham. The lunch was well received by all and gave all a good chance to get warmed up. The only eight of the day was next at Chilham followed by Godmersham, again a 6 at 12Cwt.

Ringling was varied over the day ranging from call changes to a burst of Yorkshire Surprise at the eight. The Ashford district were holding their monthly meeting on this day and there was an open invitation for the Sussex ringers to join them. By now the weather had set in with very heavy rain and high winds. Some, more determined souls did go on to Smarden for a ring and tea with others heading for home after what was a most enjoyable day.

These day outings do seem to be popular – in some cases more so than more local monthly meetings. It's a good chance to see some other towers, ring with friends and have a chance to ring something you may not be able to ring at your own tower. The almost obligatory pub lunch is also an attraction. Please look out for further outings and consider joining in.



**Petham**



**Chartham**



**Chilham**



**Ringing Group at Chilham**



**Godmersham**



## Muffle Menders

Are your bells' muffles in need of attention or repair? We have been advised of an excellent cobbler in Battle. It is called:

**The Shoe Menders,  
High Street,  
Battle.**

**TN33 0AH,**

We are told his prices are very reasonable; he is located on the corner of High Street and Old Ladies Court.

## **Julie McDonnell and Strike Back Against Blood Cancer #SBABC**

Bell ringing and the bell ringing community has an amazing ability to change lives for the positive. Coming up to Christmas it is a nice time to reflect on how we are such a close-knit and caring group, as witnessed by the support Julie McDonnell has received from bell ringers around the world. Here in the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers you have probably read about or been involved in some of the bell ringing activities inspired by Julie McDonnell and her Bell ringers Strike Back Against Cancer campaign. However, Central Council have publicised on their website and emailed out to all us as they have been made aware that many ringers around the country are not yet in the know, and when they do hear about it, of course they want to get involved! Here is a link to the article on the Central Council website:

<http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/news/julie-mcdonnell/>.

Julie McDonnell, a Sussex ringer of only two years, has had three leukaemia's and now brain cancer. In amongst her various treatments she initiated a bell ringing campaign which began with a walking and ringing event June 25th 2016 and now has its own method variations (eg Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles), and huge sponsorship from celebrities and businessmen, as well as families affected by blood cancer. The more quarter peals rung of Julie McDonnell methods, the more money is raised to help save the lives of children who need a second stem cell transplant, currently unavailable on the NHS in England. The sponsors have really taken to this initiative, which is in turn also raising the awareness of bell ringing in a positive way in the public sphere.

Links to the methods and charities involved are at <http://juliedmcdonnell.wixsite.com/sbabc>

So, for those interested, all you need to do is a) learn a new method, b) organise and ring a QP with or without Julie, and c) link the QP on Bellboard to the event Bellringers Strike Back Against Cancer. It's a great way for bell ringers to do their thing and at the same time save lives, while raising awareness of the positive power of bell ringing and bell ringers.

This is a picture of Julie was taken by Andrew Corby (Tower captain at Canterbury) It shows the bell that was dedicated to Fr John Lee who made SBABC possible, he died at the beginning of October. His name is on the bell, at Chiddingstone, Kent where he was Rector before he went to work for the Archbishops John Setamu and Justin Welby.



If ringing Quarter Peals is not your thing then help raise funds for SBAC by ordering Phoenix Greeting Cards products (Christmas cards, wrapping paper, Advent Calendars, other non-seasonal items) online at [www.jenthomascards.co.uk](http://www.jenthomascards.co.uk) and put in the reference box Julie MCDonnell or SBABC, Jen has generously offered to give her profits (20-25% of price) to Julie McDonnell's Striking Back Against Cancer campaign.

Look for #SBABC on twitter, and always retweet using the hashtag #bellringing!

We wish all our ringer and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. May you enjoyed your ringing in 2017. Do keep an eye open for the many ringing events that occur throughout the year and give them your support, if you are able.

**And finally**, as you will have read earlier, this my final Look To! I have enjoyed producing each edition and I thank all of you who have sent me articles for publication. But I feel I should now hand over to someone with fresh ideas. If you are interested and feel it is something you would like to do, please do come forward.