

# Northern News

The Northern District Newsletter - April 2017



## Dates for Your Diary

### April

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>      General 10 Bell Practice      Horsham      19:30 - 21:00

### May

† Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>      Ringing with Walk & Pub Lunch      Fairwarp      *see details below*  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup>      General Triples/Major Practice      Coleman's Hatch      19:30 - 21:00  
\* Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>      Ringing, Service, Lunch & SCACR AGM      Billingshurst      10:30 - 15:00  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup>      9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)      Warnham      19:30 - 21:00  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>      General 10/12 Bell Practice      East Grinstead      19:30 - 21:00

### June

‡ Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>      Fun Striking Competition & Pub      Hartfield (TBC)      10:00  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup>      General Triples/Major Practice      Fairwarp (TBC)      19:30 - 21:00  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup>      9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)      Warnham      19:30 - 21:00  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup>      General 10 Bell Practice      Warnham      19:30 - 21:00

### July

\*\* Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>      Northern District Training Courses      TBC      10.00 - 16.00  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup>      General 8 Bell Practice      TBC      19:30 - 21:00  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup>      9/10 Bell Methods Practice (Simulator)      Warnham      19:30 - 21:00  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup>      General 10 Bell Practice      Horsham (TBC)      19:30 - 21:00

### \* Annual General Meeting at Billingshurst - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Do come along to the AGM for ringing, lunch and a catch-up with friends from around the county - plus the important business of hearing what's been going on in the Association over the last year, and electing Association Officers. **We're looking for a new General Secretary (or Secretaries - the role can be split!);** please do get in touch with the outgoing Secretary, Sandra Alford ([secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org)) if you'd like to find out more.

10.30 am - 12 noon Open ringing (St Mary's, Billingshurst)

12 noon - 12.30 pm Ringers' service (St Mary's)

12.45 pm - 1.30pm Ploughman's lunch (St Gabriel's Hall)

1.30 pm - 3.00 pm AGM (St Gabriel's Hall)

### \*\*Northern District Training Courses - Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July

The Northern District Committee wants to know what courses you'd like us to run for you! *Is there a particular aspect of ringing that you'd like to have a course on?* For example: plain hunt, ringing up/down, kaleidoscope ringing, different doubles, Stedman...? Perhaps your tower would benefit from a course? **Let us know what you'd like (by 1<sup>st</sup> June):** [sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org) 01403 268512.

### **†Walk with Ringing & Pub Lunch Around Fairwarp – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Join us for a gentle stroll in the beautiful Ashdown Forrest – all welcome (including children and non-ringers)! You can do the whole walk or part of it, or just join us for ringing and lunch.

10.45 am: meet in Hollies car park (Crowborough Rd; TQ 462 286, <https://goo.gl/maps/61PVNEv4VaP2>) – walk to Fairwarp (1.5 miles)

12.00-13.30: lunch at the [Forester's Arms](#) or picnic on the village green opposite

13.30-14.30: ringing at Fairwarp (8, 15 cwt)

14.30: walk around Fairwarp via Wealden Way; arrive back at Hollies car park 4.30-5 pm (4 miles)



Optional extension further north on Wealden Way to Four

Counties viewpoint and back, between Fairwarp and Hollies car park (2.5 miles).

More details including map on SCACR website calendar. Parking also available in pub and church car parks (free). **Names for lunch to [sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org) by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May please.**

### **\*Fun Striking Competition (with Pub) – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Ringers of **all abilities** from **all Districts** are invited to come along for a fun striking competition! Feel free to enter a complete team from your tower or come along on your own or with a friend or two and we will team you up with some fellow friendly folk!

Dependent on demand, we plan to have a call changes section and a method section. The main aim of the day is to have fun (and maybe help everyone improve their ringing along the way!). There are no plans to take things too seriously and the judges will be some super friendly people from outside the Northern District who will aim to offer some kind and constructive feedback to the bands generally without focusing on individual bells. Sit and listen to the ringing in the lovely church yard with some tea and cake, or in the pub nearby.

We plan to meet in the church at 10am – dependent on how many people wish to take part, hopefully we will all be in the pub by lunchtime!

Please put the date in your diaries now and let **Jon Spencer** know if you want to take part: email [spencer.jonathan@gmail.com](mailto:spencer.jonathan@gmail.com) by **26<sup>th</sup> May** at the latest.

### **Northern District General Practices – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Evenings**

These are general practices from rounds & call changes upwards, but with an advanced element as well. All welcome! Any feedback or suggestions to Neil Dobson [practice-north@scacr.org](mailto:practice-north@scacr.org).

### **9/10 Bell Methods at Warnham – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Evenings**

Come along to practise methods (including plain hunting/treble bob hunting on the treble to methods) on 9 and 10 bells. There will also be a suggested method to look up, for those who wish to expand their repertoire! These practices make use of the simulator.

### **Sussex Young Ringers Practices**

*All ringers are welcome to come along to these monthly practices. Cake provided!* Contact [education@scacr.org](mailto:education@scacr.org) for more dates and details.

*Full details for all District and Association events are on the SCACR website calendar:*

[www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar](http://www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar)

## What's happened around the District?

### Sussex Quarter Peal week: facts & figures for the North - by Sandra Alford

April 1-8 saw lots of people busy in their gardens, either cutting the grass or drinking Pimms, due to the warmer weather arriving. It also saw the Northern District joining in with Sussex Quarter Peal week. As of lunchtime Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April (to make the Northern News deadline), our stats look like this -

1. 12 quarter peals were scored in the District, including one handbell quarter
2. 8 towers and 1 venue were involved - Ardingly, 15 Bell Road (Warnham), Bell Meadow (Warnham) - 4 quarters here, East Grinstead, Horsham, Rusper, Slinfold, Warnham (St Margaret's) and West Hoathly
3. Methods rung - Doubles (3m), Doubles (1P, 9m, 9v), Grandsire Caters, Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob Maximus, London Surprise Major, Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Plain Bob Triples, St Clements College Bob Minor, Stedman Triples and Yorkshire Surprise Maximus
4. **37** Northern District ringers were involved - Sandra Alford rang in 6 (a ladies  $\frac{1}{4}$  peal day helped with that), Simon Alford in 5, Jeremy Alford, Rachel Edwards, George Francis, Margaret Oram and Stephen Pocock rang in 3 each, Andrew Alford, Mike Cattell, Richard Pendlebury, Stephanie Pendlebury and Ian Wiltshire rang in 2 each.
5. **Firsts scored** - huge congratulations to Julie Quinn (from Cuckfield) and James White (from West Hoathly) on ringing their first quarter peals (hope you enjoyed them!), Andrew Alford on his first of Treble Bob Major, Steph Pendlebury on her first of Stedman and to Hilary Smith (from Hailsham) for her first quarter in Plain Bob Triples as Conductor rung at Bell Meadow.

Ringers from other Districts also took part in some of these quarter peals. Two of these quarter peals were rung just outside of the dates but were linked to the event. I am aware of at least one other quarter peal attempt that unfortunately wasn't successful.

### A picture (or four) tells a thousand words - Northern District Quiz

A very successful quiz with fish & chips supper was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at Pound Hill Junior School (Crawley). All were welcome from any district, with invitations also extended to friends and family. 45 people from 7 towers, plus quiz-masters, took part. Many thanks to the Woodward clan for putting together the quiz!



Congratulations to the Winners:  
"Warnham Fools", comprising Simon, Judith,  
Sandra, Jeremy, Abi and David!



## Congratulations to our Sussex Young Ringers AND Young Sussex Ringers! By Catherine Bleach



Saturday the first of April 2017, midmorning, and the second South East Youth Striking Competition was well underway. The order in which the teams would ring had been chosen (Sussex Young Ringers fitting in first, with Young Sussex Ringers being the final team to ring), and after a fairly groggy start, we eventually made our way up to the tower- with the other team staying downstairs to listen (and eat more cake, of course).

Overall, both teams found that the bells were a decent

ring, although the front two bells were noted as being 'rather flighty,' and the fifth was slightly odd struck. However, many members of the two Sussex teams said they handled well, and I'm sure the other teams had very few qualms with the bells. After each team had made use of their twenty-minute slot, there was more ringing to be done as we all eagerly awaited the results, but of course made time for more cake and quirky photos too!



Finally, the results were in and both Sussex Young Ringers and Young Sussex Ringers were delighted to hear that we came **First (86%)** and **Second (73%)** respectively (an enormous thanks to Anne and Sandra for all their help and encouragement!). Young@Herts came in with a respectable total of 72%, with Kent being awarded 66%, Essex with 56%, and Guildford with 52%- all of which are results to be proud of, as everyone rang very well!

However, the day didn't stop there, as many of the team members went on to grab two new towers (Apsley End (S Mary) and Hemel Hempstead (S Mary)), both of which were very enjoyable rings, and rather heavier than the competition bells. Both Apsley End and Hemel Hempstead were- to repeat the point- great to ring at, and this extra ringing gave all young ringers an opportunity to mingle with others of our age and capability, which is of course what days such as these are all about!

So, great job team, and onwards to the Ringing World National Youth Contest!

### New Northern District CCCBR Representative: Steph Pendlebury

After around a decade of representing the Northern District of the SCACR at the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Margaret Oram has stepped down - many thanks to Margaret for all her hard work over the years! As no-one else seemed keen to take this on, I have agreed to do so. Please do let me know if you have anything you'd like me to raise at the CCCBR meetings (29<sup>th</sup> May), or anything you'd like me to find out for you!

Steph Pendlebury

[sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org) 01403 268 512

## WHIRLS - Beetle Drive Back at Lower Beeding

WHIRLS took a little break over the winter months, we're a bit like hedgehogs really - hunker down during the cold weather. However, we were back with a bang in March starting off this year's programme with a Beetle Drive, ricing, tea and cake (courtesy of Val Burgess) at Lower Beeding.



This was back by popular demand, back to where it all started two years ago. Tables of 4 were rolling a dice trying to be the first to complete a beetle - shouts of 'I only need an antenna' or 'I've only got 4 legs' were heard, must have sounded very odd to anyone outside.

Congratulations to Val Atkins and Margaret Dancy for winning prizes - one for the most points, one being the booby

prize - I won't say who won which! Val also win a bag of wine gums for the most artistic beetle.

We will be holding a calling call changes practice at Rusper in April designed for the 'Over 21s' - thanks to Elaine Farrow for running this.



## The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths visits Warnham - by Ian Oram

If you were passing Warnham church on the afternoon of 11th March you might have noticed many bell ringers around the Parish Room enjoying tea and cake. No, they were not all youngsters: in fact, the Society has members from age 14 to over 90 and the membership is not only in the U.K. but across the world.

Tradition has it that the bells of Shoreditch were being rung during the return of the Duke of Cumberland from the Battle of Culloden in 1746, hence the name. The Society was formed the following year and has its current headquarters at the church of St Martin in the Fields in London.



The Society promotes a high standard of ringing as well as being friendly and sociable. The latter aspect was much to the fore on this occasion. A business meeting was held in the early evening, followed by an excellent meal prepared and served in the Village Hall by the Warnham Ringers. Almost everyone in the Warnham band had a part to play in hosting this event and the visitors left, noting that the cooking was as good as the bells!

In case you are wondering the photo shows the Warnham Ringers being faced by 58 hungry Cumberland Youths.

## Other News

### Farewell to Derek Slater, Former Tower Captain at West Hoathly - by Roger James

Derek Slater, a former tower captain at West Hoathly, has died at the age of 85. At his funeral, there on 21<sup>st</sup> February a quarter peal of Bob Minor was rung half-muffled during and after the interment by Lynn Wilson (Ardingly captain), Sandra Alford, Rachel Edwards (the present West Hoathly tower captain), David Kirkcaldy, Jeremy Alford and David Smith (conductor).



Derek came from the West Midlands, but he moved south to further his career. The peak of his ringing years at West Hoathly was in the 1960s. In later years, ill health compelled him to give up ringing over a period of time. He was an engineer by profession and this spilled over into many mechanical projects in his spare time. He was closely involved in the rehanging of the West Hoathly bells in a steel frame in 1962. The West Hoathly ringers, led by Derek, formed a good minor band in the 1960s though he recalled in later years how this changed almost overnight as ringers left or were unable to continue. He was also involved with the Surprise band at East Grinstead in those years.

### PR Matters Day at Wellesbourne - by Steph Pendlebury

In February, myself, Richard Pendlebury, Alison Everett (SCACR Communication & Events Team Leader), Mandie Merlin and Jason Crouch went on an excellent Public Relations conference run by the Central Council. Very engaging and helpful talks were interspersed with discussion sessions. Topics covered included: How to engage the press and get press releases noticed; The effective PR Officer; Dealing with the media - do's and don'ts. It was an excellent opportunity to hear from experts (magazine editors, people from the BBC etc.), and to learn from other ringers' experiences.

A lot of ground was covered but we all felt that we could start putting what we'd learned into practice straight away. *If you'd like to find out more about what was covered, please do get in touch with any one of us.*

### Updates and Requests from Alison Everett SCACR Communications and Events Team Leader

Does anyone have any good ideas for the annual SCACR event? Last year we held the Barn Dance at Bolney at the end October and we are hoping to do something on Saturday 29 September. This is the same as the Handbell Day East Grinstead, but we are doing something in the evening and wondered what people would like to do - another Barn Dance or something different? Suggestions to [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org) please!

BBC Music Day is coming up on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Heritage Open Days on 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Please send items for the next newsletter while they are fresh in your mind to: [news-north@scacr.org](mailto:news-north@scacr.org)**