

# SallyForth

## Western District Newsletter April and May 2017



### Diary of Events

#### April 2017

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice</b> Contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>* Quiz with Fish &amp; Chips Supper</b> ( <a href="#">link to details</a> ) <b>7.10pm</b> at Poundhill Junior School Hall RH10 7ES		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Quarter Peal week</b>		
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Codgers</b>	for towers see SCACR calendar	11.00am–12.15pm 2.00pm–3.30pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Basic 8 Bell Practice</b>	Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monthly Get Together: Ringing and Tea</b>	Kirdford	10.00am-12.00noon
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Songs of Praise service to Commemorate those lost in WW1</b>	East Grinstead ringing from	4.30pm 3.30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Advanced 8 Bell Practice</b>	Arundel	7.30pm
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Surprise Minor Practice</b>	Walberton	10.30am
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Chichester Cathedral Bell Tower Open Day</b>	Chichester	10.30am-5.00pm

\* Northern District events but all welcome; contact Steph Pendlebury [sec-north@scacr.org](mailto:sec-north@scacr.org)

#### May 2017

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Codgers</b>	for towers see SCACR calendar	11.00am–12.15pm 2.00pm–3.30pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Basic 8 Bell Practice</b>	Arundel	7.30pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beginners &amp; Improvers Practice -</b> Contact Christine first on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>* Ringing, Walk &amp; Pub Lunch</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SCACR AGM</b> (see below for details)	Billingshurst	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Advanced 8 Bell Practice</b>	Westbourne	7.30pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Surprise Minor Practice</b>	Walberton	10.30am

#### SCACR AGM Billingshurst 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

10.30am	12.00pm	ringing
12.00pm	12.30pm	short ringers service
12.30pm	12.45pm	walk to St Gabriel's Hall, at the catholic church
12.45pm	1.30pm	ploughman's lunch
1.30pm	3.00pm	AGM
Names for lunch to Sandra <a href="mailto:secretary@scacr.org">secretary@scacr.org</a>		

#### A Songs of Praise Service 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Remembering Sussex Bellringers of WW1

At St Swithun's, East Grinstead  
Ringing from 3.30-4.30pm, Service 4.30pm; then  
more ringing. Bring and Share Picnic Tea in the  
church room. Ringers and non-ingers all welcome. A  
collection to cover church costs, any profit to BRF.  
For info: [marisa@happymouflon.com](mailto:marisa@happymouflon.com) / 07796 45464

*See page 13 for contacts, links and regular practice details*

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)

# Looking Ahead

June 2017

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

10 bell practice at Southover.

*Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for the newsletter. Your input is greatly appreciated.*

*Please send dates of forthcoming events for the next **Diary update** to Mandy and Hamish via [news-west@scacr.org](mailto:news-west@scacr.org) by **15<sup>th</sup> May 2017** and your contributions for the next edition of **Sally Forth** by **15<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. Thank you*

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## Quarter Peals

### Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

#### 2016 Jersey Surprise Major

- 1 Mike Wake
- 2 Hamish McNaughton
- 3 Alison Hunt
- 4 Gill Roberts
- 5 Ian Hunt
- 6 David Roberts
- 7 Colin Spencer (C)
- 8 Ewan Grant-Richardson

### St Mary, Funtington

4<sup>th</sup> December 2016

#### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Margaret F Webb
- 2 Jane Wilkinson
- 3 Susan E La Hive
- 4 Andrew M Rose (C)
- 5 Peter M Wilkinson
- 6 John E Kitchener

In affectionate memory of Bill Maddock, member of the Funtington band since the bells were installed.

### Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

7<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Hamish McNaughton
  - 2 Colin Spencer (C)
  - 3 Jane Deadman
  - 4 Gill Roberts
  - 5 Peter Watson
  - 6 Chris Dart
  - 7 Nick Deadman
  - 8 David Roberts
- First of Surprise inside for Chris Dart

### St John the Baptist, Westbourne

8<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### 1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Cyril Shutler
- 2 Barbara Salmons
- 3 Jane Wilkinson
- 4 Geoffrey Anthony
- 5 Jack Burton
- 6 John Letheren
- 7 Peter M Wilkinson (C)
- 8 Anthony Shutler

### St John the Baptist, Findon

21<sup>st</sup> January 2017

#### 1260 Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Cheryl Kidd
  - 2 Moya Hails
  - 3 Graham Hills
  - 4 Caroline Jones
  - 5 Alan J Taylor (C)
  - 6 Janice Crawford
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt for Cheryl Kidd on Treble  
1<sup>st</sup> quarter on Tenor for Janice Crawford

### Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

29<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Keith Game
  - 2 Colin Spencer (C)
  - 3 Peter Watson
  - 4 Jane Deadman
  - 5 Phil Down
  - 6 Mike Wake
  - 7 Mike Smith
  - 8 Nick Deadman
- Rung in memory of Andrew Reeves, former Ringing Master and Tower Master of the Cathedral band, who died on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at home in Cornwall.

### St Mary the Virgin, Buriton, Hampshire

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

#### 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Susan Spencer
- 2 Keith Game
- 3 Hamish McNaughton
- 4 Chris Renyard
- 5 Nick Deadman
- 6 Colin Spencer (C)

Rung by members of the Chichester Cathedral Guild of Bellringers prior to the memorial service at this church for Andrew Reeves, a former Ringing Master and Tower Master of the Guild.

### Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

#### 1376 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

- 1 Keith Game
  - 2 Colin Spencer (C)
  - 3 Susan Spencer
  - 4 Peter Watson
  - 5 Phil Down
  - 6 Mike Wake
  - 7 Mike Smith
  - 8 Ewan Grant-Richardson
- Rung in celebration of Keith's birthday today.

# Your District Secretary's Scribblings (Moya)



Hello to everyone. I have taken on the post of West's District Secretary for this year. Hopefully someone will feel able to step into the post next year with fresh ideas. Many thanks to Mandie Merlin for her hard work as our District Secretary during the past year.

We had our first committee meeting last Saturday to arrange our Diary for the rest of the year up to December. Hopefully there will be something for everyone with morning and afternoon 'Get-Togethers' with either coffee or wonderful teas depending on the time of day. There is to be a couple of training mornings or possibly days – one for minor and one for triples – watch out for the dates in Sally Forth and on the website. We also have included a walk and ring, 10 bell practice, ring with treasure hunt, ring with Service and tea on Remembrance weekend, and a Carol Service with readings and carols in December. Also don't forget the "Songs of

Praise Service on 8<sup>th</sup> April at arranged by Marisa Hayes at East Grinstead in memory of those killed in the First World War, especially ringers. Marisa has organised this informal Service and hopefully it will be well attended. There is ringing from 3pm on the lovely 12 bells (lots of rounds) at East Grinstead and then the Service at 4.30pm followed by further ringing and a 'Bring and Share' Picnic Tea.

David Hall has taken on the task of arranging our monthly 'Get Togethers' each month on the Second Saturday. Do look at your wonderful Sally Forth or Diary (edited by Mandy and Hamish) to see what has happened and what is going to happen and where, so you can join in with other ringers and make new likeminded friends. This is the way to improve, by ringing on different bells and having more practice of a method you are trying to learn with someone to help. You can then take your improvement back to your home Tower.

Janice Crawford, a new ringer herself at Angmering, has offered to join the committee and was co-opted on at the last meeting. If anyone else feels they would like to contribute to the running of our District or joining an Association Team, either the Training and Recruitment Team or Communication and Events Team please contact me and I can give you further details.

I look forward to meeting you all and seeing new faces at our practices and 'Get Togethers' during the next year. Bring a friend or another ringer from your Tower. Do come up and make yourself known to either me or whoever is running the practice. We're quite friendly, really.

**Moya Hills**  
**Sec West**  
[sec-west@scacr.org](mailto:sec-west@scacr.org)  
01903-266980

## **SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS** **West District**

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**David Bent, Robert Beasley, Christopher Scawen, Matthew Tunnell,  
Jean-Ann Calvert, Sam Brown, Clare Palmer, Terry Sparrow, Ali Morgan,  
Jamie Morgan, Sarah Palmer, Hazel Morgan, Rachael Garrick,  
Steven Northam, Stephanie Stevens, Janice Crawford, Maggie Williams**

## Tales from the City



**Mandie Merlin**  
Sec West retired

My final tale comes from the great City of London. I had business in Blackfriars and visited the church of St Andrew By The Wardrobe. In the entrance foyer of the church sits 'Gabriel', a 15th Century bell weighing 7cwt. Above him a note telling us that he is one of three bells transferred from St Mary's church in Avenbury in 1933. Sadly St Andrew's was bombed in World War II and the bells damaged. The other two were recast but Gabriel was not. He is, apparently, a fine example of early bells despite a crack, and may well be the oldest bell in the City of London. Gabriel has a Latin inscription that translates to 'I have the name Gabriel, sent from heaven'.

As to the oddly named church, it came by this name in the 14th Century, being nearby to the 'Great Wardrobe', a house where Edward III stored ceremonial robes and armour. Prior to this, it was called 'St Andrew juxta Baynard' being nearby to the royal residence of Baynard's Castle dating from Norman times. Not having much good fortune, the church, Baynard Castle and the 'wardrobe' all perished in the Great Fire in 1666. It is the last parish church that Wren built and was restored using Wren's original plans in 1961.



### CHICHESTER BELL TOWER OPEN DAY

**Saturday 22nd April 2017 – 10.30am to 5.00pm**

A rare opportunity to visit the Cathedral's medieval bell tower  
Guided tours to ringing room and demonstration of bell ringing  
Come and try The Bell Meadow Belfry Mini Ring  
Exhibition and CCTV showing bells ringing in the Cathedral Bell Tower

There will not be open ringing on the Cathedral bells but if you would like to help please contact Hamish McNaughton at  
[hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk](mailto:hamish@wandleys.demon.co.uk)

For Health and Safety there is an age restriction, participants must be fit and healthy and wear suitable clothing and footwear.

## YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!!

The post of **SCACR General Secretary** is up for grabs and we need to find someone before the AGM on 13th May. Details of what the role involves can be found here:

[http://www.scacr.org/images/idoblog/upload/95/SCACR\\_Gen\\_Sec\\_Job\\_Description.pdf](http://www.scacr.org/images/idoblog/upload/95/SCACR_Gen_Sec_Job_Description.pdf).

We all lead busy lives so if you're interested but think it looks too much, a job share may be possible or some of the tasks could be divided up – we are open to ideas.

If you'd like to discuss further or are interested, please let me know.

I read in a magazine that 'Volunteering kindles happiness. It's been proven in many different studies by many different organisations'. I have found it interesting, made new friends and tea and cake almost always seem to be involved!

**Sandra Alford**

[secretary@scacr.org](mailto:secretary@scacr.org)

## MICHAEL PALMER AWARD 2017

Jamie joined the Funtington team of bellringers, at the age of 12, in September 2015 along with his mother and younger sister. All three learnt to ring together but from the outset it was apparent that Jamie was learning quickly and soon mastered the handling of a bell and ringing in rounds. From that time he has gone from strength to strength and has now rung a successful quarter peal on the treble to Bob Doubles. He can competently raise and lower in peal, call Call Changes and has become a regular member of the Funtington team. He is very keen to take part in all the tower activities, and regularly attends practices and Sunday service ringing.

***Jamie being presented with his award by Graham Hills, SCACR Master, at the Western District ADM in February 2017***



## Arundel St Nicholas Social 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Most of us have enjoyed one of the SCACR monthly social gatherings at some time, whether it was a full afternoon of ringing, a meeting, service and tea or just a get-together. But when it comes to be the one to organise the event, you realise how much goes into the occasion. This year, I have volunteered to be the event support contact and my in-box has been working over-time.

In addition, one of the first of these socials, took place at Arundel on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, where I am tower captain so it was down to me to see that it went well. It was the first also for St Nicholas' church since the new vicar, Rev. David Twingley, had taken over from Father David Farrer, and who had expressed a wish for more social use of the church, so we had no opposition there. However, firsts do come with some stress attached and although it was to be a simple ringing session from 10.00 am until 12.00 with light refreshments afterwards, there was lots to sort out.



How many people were expected, who would provide the cakes, what about coffee, tea and drinks, crockery, cutlery and table clothes? Fortunately, Sherian one of our ringers was used to the set-up and other ringers and their wives were able to bake for us or bring in refreshments. The meeting room was available but we set up tables in the west nave to be near the serving hatch to the kitchen.

The ringing got under way far above us organised by Graham Hills and people trickled in gradually as we sorted out plates, knives and napkins, eventually leaving Tony to guard the goodies before I had a chance to join the ringers.

It was good to see that we had over 25 ringers of all abilities and even some visiting members of the public and friends who braved the 55 steps up. Marguerite had brought along a young American couple and there were two young ladies from Venezuela as well as two English couples who enjoyed a guided tour of the bells and watched the ringing for some time.

At mid-day we wandered down to see what was left of the food and coffee then enjoyed a leisurely sit down and chat

before clearing away, washing up, removing the tables and chairs and dishing out what was left of the goodies. Many thanks to Sherian, Anna and Tony, Colin and Sue, Ann and Peter Bush, Marguerite and to Graham and Moya for making it all such a success and to Rev David Twingley and Fiona for letting us use the facilities. For those who didn't manage to get along, there will be similar social gatherings every month so do try to come and support them. You will find new friends, extend your ringing experience in friendly company and try those tasty cakes!



**David Hall**  
**Western District Events Co-ordinator**

## **HOW DID I BECOME A BELLRINGER?!**

**John Taylor, Caroline Jones and Barbara Harbut (in order of appearance) received their certificates to mark 50 years of ringing at the ADM in February**



### **Barbara Harbut, Findon**

Back in the 1950s I was being prepared for confirmation at St Andrews Church at Tarring over an 8 week period, and each week towards the end of the session there were always mutterings and movements at the back of the church. One of these evenings together with a friend we decided to see what was going on only to find people going through a small arch door and up steps to what I learned was a ringing chamber.

Having spoken to a couple of the lads we were encouraged to join them one evening and watch people pulling on ropes making the bells ring.

Being the person I am I decided to have a go and so began my career as a Church Bellringer.

I was taught to ring by a lady named Dorothy Saunders but I also remember a couple of other ringers, June Clements and Barry Cowper.

I still communicate with Dorothy at Christmas time, although she doesn't ring now, she lives in Brentwood in Essex but I have lost touch with June. However, a couple of years ago I met up with Barry again when he visited Findon church with a ringing team.

I joined Findon Tower after a short break in the early 80s where I have been Tower Captain since February 1983

## Caroline Jones, Angmering

As a 10 year old, I was out playing with my friend and we had ended up going through Goring Churchyard. We heard the bells ringing, and I remember saying to my friend I wonder how they ring the bells?

With that we entered the Church, found the entrance to the belfry and sat in the corner and watched the ringing.

I wanted to have a go and was told that I could attend on practice nights which were Tuesdays; obviously I would need to get my parents agreement first.

It so happened that I had just joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Goring Guide Company and they met in the Church Hall on a Tuesday, so I would attend Guides, then leave at 8.30 to dash up to the tower to catch the last 30 minutes of practice.

Michael Palmer taught me to handle a bell, and I was usually given a few pulls at the end of practice.

Once I was able to ring unaided, I would cycle on a Sunday from Goring to Tarring and to Heene to help at services, and would do the same during the week. How lucky was I to be learning to ring with the likes of Colin Champion, Colin Chappell, Peter Wood and Len Stilwell.

We also rang quarter peals at West Tarring every Sunday evening, which helped my progress enormously.

I rang my first peal in 1969 at Henfield with Albert Bond and Ken Knight etc., and the peal was a 21st birthday compliment to Graham Hills!

I joined the Angmering band in 1995, and we share our practices etc. with Findon.

## John Taylor, Storrington

I started to ring at Storrington in 1957 as a boy. I was singing in the choir at that time. There were not many ringers and I was asked whether I would like to become a bellringer.

So I decided to give it a go. Unfortunately it coincided with choir commitments so I left the choir and became a bellringer.

I rang with Jean Horton, Ben Farrall, both long-serving bellringers.

When I could handle a bell and ring call changes I went on to learn Grandsire Doubles. Everybody at that time had their own bell when ringing Grandsire, they told me to ring No.3 bell to which I learnt all the numbers. After a lot of homework I worked out an easier way to ring methods.

I really caught the 'bug' and went ringing around other Towers, Washington, Findon, Pulborough and Thakeham and made quite good progress thanks to a lot of help from many people and for this I am eternally grateful.

In March 1967 I was made Captain – 50 years this year.

I have rung about 40 peals to date, conducting 6, and rung 800 quarter peals, conducting about 500.

In 1999 I was made a College Youth.

## QUIZ NIGHT Pulborough 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017



45 of us turned up at the Village Hall in Pulborough with our thinking caps on, Some of us having been ringing first at Storrington where a welcome cup of tea was also provided. The Fish and Chips supper arrived promptly, hot and delicious, with profiteroles to



follow. Liz Beadle had worked hard over the past two or three months compiling the questions of a very varied nature and then Alan, her husband, became the compere for the evening, taking the flack when there was controversy over an answer. All handled with great aplomb.

At the end of the evening, there was only 10 points between the first and last teams, so every one went home having had a a very enjoyable evening with a great deal of laughter.

An added bonus was that during the evening the BRF raffle raised £100 from the many donated prizes. Many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

*Brenda Etherington with a winning raffle ticket*

Moya Hills

# Ipswichy Tour 2016

Driving through the dark and cold at 5.30 a.m. to our pick-up point at Thakeham, I tried to convince myself I was off to catch a flight to somewhere warm and sunny. Unfortunately it was another Darren Woodyer special to Ipswich in a mini-bus on 5<sup>th</sup> November to ring at six local churches and finish with a special visit to East Bergholt on the way back.

Familiar faces greeted us as we climbed aboard and with Mike driving we were soon on our way to join the other bus from Rogate, driven by Darren, at the Clackets Lane service station. After a short wait for the Costa Coffee shop to open and a briefing and map issue, we greeted the rising sun and climbed aboard for the M25, Dartford Tunnel and the road to Chelmsford, Colchester and our destination.

Ipswich is a large town and port on the Suffolk coast with a mix of development. We arrived at 9.15 and parked opposite the “Free-Style Jumping and Imax” facility, faced into the bracing wind and walked through the town to **St Nicholas Church**, set amongst towering blocks and offices and used as a welcome and reception centre. All of our churches had been in the care of the **Churches Conservation Trust** and most now have alternative uses. It is good to keep the bells being rung especially as some have historic significance. There were 5 bells for us here (10cwt tenor) and rung from a small first floor gallery, so most of us waited in the church and admired the Saxon carvings and used the very welcome facilities! We managed a touch of Bob Doubles but mostly it was call changes as we had to work hard to find our rhythm. The peal boards of 1908 to 10 listed rings by Arthur, Sydney and Percy Boar which was a neat link to the Saxon carved lintel displayed in the nave and showing a very Nordic looking boar! Ipswich was one of the first places to be settled by the Vikings and Sutton Hoo burial is not far away. Thomas Wolsey, a very important local, had worshipped here and his name would re-appear throughout our tour.

Our next tower was a real treat as **St Mary le Tower** had 12 bells with a 34 cwt tenor and well-worn boxes for the last 4 bells. The first peal on 12 bells in Suffolk was rung here and the walls were hung with over 55 peal boards going back to 1814. The church itself dates from 1177 as an Augustinian Priory but 3 rebuildings since has resulted in the present building dating from 1853. There is a clip of the local band ringing Stedman Cinques and ringing down half muffled on line – well worth a look. This ring, all by Taylors of 1865, had back bells which were a bit tricky to set, but we managed Bob Triples on the front 8 and Bob Minor on the back 6 as well as changes involving everyone. A great experience for all to remember!



A short walk through the delightful pedestrianised part of the old town brought us to **St Lawrence's** the **oldest ring of 5 bells in the World**. The square tower of stone and flint was a joy to view as we approached having been re-built in 1882 by Barnes and Gaye. The bells (15cwt tenor) were rung from a glass fronted balcony overlooking the cafe and reception centre in the church. Called the Wolsey Bells, they were all pre-reformation and dated from 1450 with a fifth bell added in 1480. The original clappers and bells were overhauled by Whitechapel Foundry in 2009 with a steel frame added. Big wheels and heavy bells made for slow ringing (the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary appeal in 1950 took over 3 ¼ hours) but we achieved Stedman Minimus (well done Harry on the treble) and touches of Grandsire in the very snug ringing chamber.

With a generous break for refreshments we dispersed to find packed lunches or to explore the many options for eating out in the old part of town. There were plenty of pubs and restaurants to suit all appetites as well as coffee and pastry shops. A local market was in full swing and some of us sampled the speciality sausages – you could have had elk, beaver, venison or anything on 4 legs! The local kippers and fresh fish tempted us but would not have been popular on the bus back!

With our energy levels topped up we walked to the top of the town to **St Margaret's of Scotland** in Christchurch Park to find the bells already ringing as Darren decided to tighten up the program times. There was a hammer beam roof of national importance to see but we rushed up to the ropes and all squeezed in to try the 8 bells (14cwt tenor). These were hard work for some and sight lines not easy but we managed a touch Grandsire Triples and call changes before it was all too soon time to leave.

**St Clements** was a rather unattractive Victorian building and shut to our first attempts to gain entry. Someone was inside but we were not and the cold was telling. Eventually the door opened and we had another 5 bell ring (15 cwt tenor) in a gallery. The church was in a sorry state with fittings removed, no heating or lighting and a tricky spiral stair. The 2 and 4 bells tended to drop but we battled on, the lights came on in the church and we rang Cambridge and St Clements in the gathering gloom.



Enthusiasm was waning a bit as we regained our mini-buses and climbed the hill to **St Matthews**, a six bell ring (10 cwt tenor). Another pretty stone and flint tower with an unusual pierced parapet and this time we had heating and light. Shame that the tenor was out of action giving us another 5 bell ring but they went well and we rang Bob Doubles, Reverse Canterbury and call changes. Darren was keen to get an earlier leaving than programmed to get to our final venue of East Bergholt but this was frustrated by the vans getting confused in the town's traffic system before they could pick us up waiting by the roadside!



Eventually, all packed into the buses, we travelled south to Constable Country with road signs to Flatford Mill, Dedham and East Bergholt, wondering what the great man would have been painting if he were alive today. We had a tour of the village before finding the church and the unique **East Bergholt bell cage**, set in the churchyard. It is truly a special place to visit and we were very lucky to have the local ringers available to show us the arrangement which is a ring without a tower, ropes or any wheels. Due to a collapse in the price of wool in the 1500s and the fall from favour of Cardinal Wolsey, there was no money available to finish a tower started in 1525 so the

5 bells were set on a temporary frame at ground level in the churchyard and swung direct by hand. The local big-wig objected to the noise and the whole set-up was rebuilt on the opposite side of the church in 17<sup>th</sup> century. The present layout with oak bell frame and deep pits for the bells is enclosed in an oak framed "cage" with timber square latticed infill panels. A tiled, pitched roof helps to keep the weather out and the total weight of the bells at 4.25 tons is listed as the heaviest 5 rung in England. The bells were renovated and refurbished by Taylors in 1972 and ball races added. They are normally left up because of the supreme effort needed to raise them by hand (I shall never complain about my bells again!). After we had all stood outside, the locals put on gloves and ear protectors and gave a demonstration of rounds and call changes activated by hand signals. We stood in the dark and watched the ringers, brightly lit and moving the huge bells by hand, pushing the headstocks on alternative sides like gladiators – a very dramatic scene heightened by the site of an occasional firework soaring above us!

A very welcome tea was waiting for us in the church which was the birth place of John Constable and worth another visit in itself. Cake and tea were soon being distributed while Darren organised a quiz for us which we had been warned of earlier. Congratulations to "Harrys Game" who came out top and collected the chocolates while Roger and Mike had their own chocolaty rewards. Old sallies were the consolation prize for the lowest score! The drive home watching the various firework displays went smoothly and by 9.00pm we were back at Thakeham and our cars. Many, many thanks to Darren, Roger and Mike for giving so much to make a memorable day out for everyone. Well done for all of our gallant ringers as well for joining in and taking part in a special trip. You don't know just what you can do unless you try so for all of you who couldn't come this time, Darren has already made plans for another trip early next year!

David Hall

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## **ANDREW REEVES (26.3.1946 – 10.1.2017)**

### **Former Ringing Master and Tower Master of the Chichester Cathedral Guild of Bellringers**

Andrew Reeves died suddenly on 10 January 2017 and all those who knew him as a ringer, friend and gentleman are shocked and saddened by his passing, he will be sorely missed. Ruth, his wife, has been overwhelmed by the support and sympathy she has received from so many friends and would like to thank them all, and also for the donations in Andrew's memory to The Labrador Rescue Trust.

A packed funeral service was held at Glynn Valley Crematorium, Bodmin on Monday 30th January 2017 with many ringers from throughout Cornwall and Devon attending to say their farewell. Lay Reader Claire Salzmann led the service

and celebration of Andrew's life during which his talented nephew Darren sang and played "The Show must go on" by Queen. A beautiful arrangement of fruit, vegetables and flowers adorned the coffin. It was greatly admired and such a fitting farewell to Andrew and his love of gardening.

On Thursday 2nd February another packed thanksgiving service was held at Buriton in Hampshire, attended by members of Andrew's family, colleagues, former staff and many friends including ringers from Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Oxfordshire. A very well struck quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung by the Chichester bellringers before the service, which was conducted by the Revd Judith Bee.



Andrew was born and grew up in Petersfield, Hampshire. He returned from college in London to help his brother and mother with the family removals and storage business after the sudden death of his father. The family business's reputation steadily grew, and Andrew became Chairman of BAR (British Association of Removals). The firm was recommended by a friend of Andrew's to assist the National Trust in their removal and storage requirements, Andrew overseeing the storage of items from many National Trust properties throughout the UK when restoration work was undertaken. This work came to the attention of English Heritage and Andrew was asked to work at Woolmer Castle and Osborne House.

During the time at Osborne House, Andrew attracted the attention of The Royal Collection, (set up to oversee the moving of the Queen's effects) and he was soon involved in moving items for them, including re-instating the rooms at Windsor Castle after the devastating fire in 1992 and clearing the Royal Yacht Britannia after decommissioning. It was a proud moment for the Company when Andrew received a signed letter from the Queen thanking him and his staff for all their specialised work at Windsor Castle.

While at Petersfield Andrew was an active member of Round Table, and he spent many years helping backstage with the local drama group, Winton Players. He had played rugby since school and played for both Petersfield and Chichester clubs, until injuries told him to stop and he became a highly respected rugby referee. Andrew's greatest and longest lasting interest, though, was bellringing. He learnt to ring at Buriton church near Petersfield. It was bellringing that brought Andrew and Ruth together meeting up Chichester bell tower, where he was Tower Master for many

years. They married in 1973 at Aldwick near Bognor.

In 1998 Andrew decided that running the business in modern times did not have the same appeal and with no immediate family ties Andrew and Ruth moved to Cornwall where they had owned a cottage at St Tudy since 1986. They purchased a five acre smallholding near Camelford where Andrew developed his passion for growing soft fruit and vegetables, sold from his garden gate. Andrew enjoyed reading and became a part time mobile Library van driver, enjoying going around the countryside and chatting to his "readers" who looked forward to his visits. He also helped the local funeral directors, and their friendship and kindness have been a great support to Ruth during the past few weeks. Andrew also helped Ruth with her voluntary work for The Labrador Rescue Trust, they have fostered over 30 Labradors; he was always there to help at fund raising events and chat to people about dogs.

Andrew and Ruth joined the bellringers at the local churches of Advent and Lanteglos where they have continued to ring and help teach others. They also joined up with other bellringing groups in Devon & Cornwall and have made many good friends throughout the ringing fraternity. Andrew helped in the rehangings of Advent bells in 2004 and when the bells at Otterham were augmented to six in 2007 he had already trained the band over at Lanteglos. He was a very practical man and maintained the local bells along with advising and helping many towers throughout North Cornwall.

Andrew and Ruth together have contributed immensely to ringing in the Northern District of the Truro DG, their encouragement and example as ringers and simply good friends has been immense. Andrew didn't hold any formal office, but nevertheless at improvers' practices was happy to carry on working with someone who'd just started ringing while everyone else was drinking coffee!

Andrew rang a total of fourteen peals, all during his time in the South East between 1966 and 1985. Since the Millennium he has rung 140 quarter peals, roughly half each for the Truro Diocesan Guild and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers; many of the latter were Surprise Major with the St Brannock's Society at Tawstock. On St Andrew's Day, 30th November, together with Ruth and other friends he rang in a well-struck quarter of St Andrew Bob Triples on the glorious octave at St Andrew's, Stratton for the Patronal Festival. How poignant that this was his final quarter.

Phil Tremain

# SCACR UPDATE

**Sussex quarter peal week** this year is 1 - 8 April, leading up to the “songs of praise service” at St Swithuns Church East Grinstead Saturday 8th April from 3.30pm, remembering Sussex Bellringers of the First World War. Quarter Peal

week serves to raise the profile of ringing and gives ringers opportunities to progress. Aim for as many ‘firsts’ as possible - first quarter, first inside, first to cover, first on x number bells, first as conductor etc and link your performance to the event on BellBoard, preferably with a photo of the band.

## Our featured performance

Sussex County Association

Keymer, West Sussex

St Cosmas and St Damian

Monday, 13 March 2017 in 40 mins (7-0-4 in A)

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Millie Wilkinson
- 2 Joshua Hutchinson
- 3 William Stafford
- 4 Alex Martin
- 5 Rachel Mahoney (C)
- 6 Molly Smith

First QP: 1.

Rung by an all young ringers band who all attend the local secondary school, five ringers in year 10 and one in year 11.

Average age of 15.



The band.

Joshua Hutchinson SCACR's youngest Tower Captain (aged 15 – Burgess Hill) writes

'Go onto the performance, click the small edit button at the top. Select the drop down bar 'link to event' and select 'Sussex County Association – Quarter Peal Week' on the recommended list. Then press 'link'.

Josh and five friends rang a Quarter Peal at Keymer on their way home from school Tuesday 13 March, it quickly became the Bellboard featured performance!

**BBC Music Day** is returning for its third year on Friday 9 June 2017, celebrating the power of music across the UK and the Channel Islands. Bellringers across the land will be ringing out together to open the weekend at 7pm. The BBC is interested in bellringing stories about spanning the generations, ringing around the world and any famous faces ringing bells. Put it in the diary – more news to follow!



Julie spoke to the Daily Telegraph last month about her campaign. Find out more at [www.telegraph.co.uk/.../one-terminally-woman-raising-million.../](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/.../one-terminally-woman-raising-million.../)



### How one terminally ill woman is raising millions ringing church bells

Last December, Julie McDonnell received a knock at the door of her Hastings home.

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

**Julie McDonnell and Strike Back Against Blood Cancer** I met with Julie a couple of weeks ago after she had been on BBC Sussex Radio, for an exclusive article which will be in Soundbow, the SCACR quarterly magazine, so if you don't subscribe (only £6 for 4 copies posted to you) then don't forget to order your copy from [soundbow99@gmail.com](mailto:soundbow99@gmail.com) to see an exclusive article on her story, from a fellow bellringers point of view!

On Tuesday 14th March BBC1 "Songs of Praise" went to St George's Brede to film Julie and her core band ringing "Julie McDonnell" and to interview her for a programme on "Inspirational people". The Reverend Kate Bottley (Goggle Box) interviewed her and core members of SBABC as presenter. Julie says "You can't get more inspirational than bellringers and it's through their support that SBABC has managed to raise so much money and the awareness of blood cancer. Thank you! It is a year since we formed SBABC and in June 2016 the bells rang across the world in unity and in support of blood cancer sufferers and for our sponsored walk. A first in bell

ringing. "Songs of Praise" will then come to Westminster Abbey next Friday, March 17th to film and record the Bell Ringers ringing "Julie McDonnell Alliance Royal". Radio 4 will also come to Westminster Abbey to interview and record. On 18th March Julie will be ringing in a Peal of "Julie McDonnell Major" to celebrate the life of Fr John Lee at Chiddingstone. Julie adds: "Fr John made SBABC possible and I am so honoured to ring for him and at his family's wish, also raise more money for SBABC in John's memory."

Julie wrote 13<sup>th</sup> March 'I am pleased to say that apart from "Mr Pink" (130 Qtrs) I have rung the most "Julie McDonnell" at 124 Quarters. Our core band of "SBABC" [Pauline Kennard](#) has rung 121, [Louise Pink](#) 116 Qtrs, [Sandra Titherly](#) 82, [Jennifer Dearie](#) 61.



**Heritage Open Days 2017** is 7-10 September this year. Last year many of our towers opened their doors for Open Days over the weekend, in conjunction with the church so if you can do so again it's a great opportunity to show people what we do hidden away in the tower. I'll post more news as it comes in but here is the link

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/how-to-get-involved>

Registration is now OPEN! So who will be first to sign up their event this year?

All the things you need for registration are in the Organiser Area. You can access this through the website with your login. Your username will be your email address, and if you've forgotten your password there's a link to reset it on the login page.

- **Deadlines:** 1 May – full promotional support / 1 August – final deadline for events requiring HODs insurance. Remember the sooner you register your event the more support Heritage Open Days can offer you - particularly for press coverage. The event directory will go live on the website in mid-July.
- **Taken part before?** Then you can just update and re-submit the details of your previous entry. You'll find them in the Archive section of My Events in the Organiser Area.
- **Registration tips:** For an overview of the process see our [registration tips with a handy flowchart for reference](#).

**Take action!** Login to the [Organiser area](#) now to register, search the database and get chatting!

Don't forget you can search the wider database for inspiration in the [HODs Community](#) section of the Organiser area. And there's a discussion forum where you can discuss issues big and small, and share tips directly with others getting involved.



**PR Matters Day** The Central Council PR Committee held an open day in Wellesbourne on Saturday 25 February which was for anyone interested in promoting bellringing and getting local or national publicity for their ringing activities. It was an excellent networking opportunity and five bellringers from Sussex attended. There's a full account in Ringing World - issue 5525 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017- or see BellBoard or the Central Council website.

We have an active SCACR facebook group that anyone can post to, so please continue to share news and information with everyone. The @scacr\_bells twitter feed is for anything SCACR bellringing-related - news views activities and events, so please send anything you would like to go on there. @sussexbells is my bellringing twitter account and covers issues of a wider nature, mainly bellringing and definitely national and international, check it out and please follow me for updates!

[Alison Everett](#)

SCACR Events and Communications Team Leader

Find me on facebook

follow on twitter @scacr @sussexbells

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### WESTERN DISTRICT PRACTICE NIGHTS

You'll always be welcome on practice nights at other towers in the division, but it might be an idea to check before you get there!

**Monday:** Aldingbourne, Arundel (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) & Lyminster (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

**Tuesday:** Aldwick, Findon (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>), Fittleworth, Funtington, Goring-by-Sea, Graffham, South Harting, Washington & Wisborough Green (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Wednesday:** Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Kirdford (7.45pm), Milland, Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham, Tillington (7.45pm - 1<sup>st</sup> only) & Upper Beeding

**Thursday:** Angmering (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>), Bosham, Easebourne (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Findon (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>), Midhurst (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>), Petworth, Steyning & Walberton

**Friday:** Amberley, Rogate & Storrington

**Other Towers:** Fernhurst (3), Lodsworth & Trotton (4)

### Regular Practices

Beginners & Improvers Practice - contact Christine first	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month	Christine Butterfield	01903 872623
Basic 8 Bell Practice	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
Advanced 8 Bell Practice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month	Colin Spencer	01243 824952
Surprise Minor Practice	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month	Graham Hills	01903 266980
Codgers Practice	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month	Mike Foster <a href="mailto:codgers@scacr.org">codgers@scacr.org</a>	01903 741664

### Ways to keep in touch with what the Sussex Association of Change Ringers is doing

Take a look at the SCACR calendar at [www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar](http://www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar)

Subscribe to Soundbow. SCACR quarterly magazine. £1 each or £6 pa for a postal subscription. Contact Soundbow Editor Kathy Howard 01903 813653

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 Communications and Events Team leader, at [publicity@scacr.org](mailto:publicity@scacr.org)

*Many thanks to everyone who sent in items for the newsletter. Your input is greatly appreciated.*

*Please send dates of forthcoming events for the next **Diary update** to Mandy and Hamish via [news-west@scacr.org](mailto:news-west@scacr.org) by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2017** and your contributions for the next edition of **Sally Forth** by **15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**. Thank you*