

Southern News



The Southern District Newsletter *July and August 2017*

Words from your editor.

Hello! Here you will find the July and August edition of SCACR Southern District News. Please enjoy taking in the contents of this issue I have put together for you - perhaps, while enjoying the summer sun, which has once again been bestowed upon us!

I hope towers across the Southern Division are enjoying their ringing as ever and are perhaps soon off on a summer outing. If you have exciting stories to be told from your travels to faraway lands, do send them too me! (More details on the back page.)

I enjoyed seeing lots Southern District ringers at the SCACR AGM on the 13th of May. There was good ringing, lunch and AGM discussions to be had.

There is a busy SCACR summer of ringing ahead, starting with BBC music day on June 15th did you join in the celebration?

Take a note of those upcoming events, and make sure you're enjoying the light warm evenings and getting out to practice night! No doubt I'll see plenty of you up a tower soon... Or more likely, in the pub after ;-) *Josh*

Upcoming Events

www.scacr.org/scacr-calendar

Saturday 1st July – Training Day – Bob Doubles at Findon/Washington,

Please phone Christine Butterfield **01903-872623** or e-mail ed-west@scacr.org to put your name down as a student.

Thursday 6rd July – Surprise Major Practice at Ringmer. 19:30.

These practices are suitable for all wishing to ring treble bob on 8 and progress through the Standard Eight. Recent practices have seen us ring Yorkshire, Superlative, Rutland and London. nickcantbells@outlook.com.

Saturday 15th July – Ring and Walk (In the East).

Ringing has been arranged at Beckley and Peasmarsh. Suggested walk starts at Northiam at 10.30, ringing at Beckley 11.15 - 12.0, lunch to be arranged (or own picnic etc.), Peasmarsh 2.15 to 3.0. We can then walk on to Rye and bus back to Northiam, or return to Beckley or Northiam to pick up transport home. Contact nickcantbells@outlook.com for more details.

Wednesday 2rd August – Surprise Major Practice 19:30, Location t.b.a.

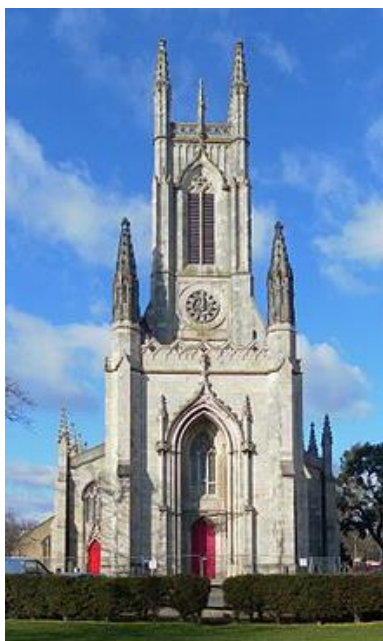
Saturday 19th August – Southern District 8 bell practice at Seaford,

10:00 – 12am. Ringing will be Rounds onwards. Refreshments available in the church.

Words from Mary – Your district secretary

Suddenly Josh tells me it's time for the newsletter. I'm not sure I know where the last three months have gone!

You may remember that I had challenged myself to visit every tower practice night in the district this year. Well, it got to last weekend and I realized that Wednesday was midsummer day - half the year gone - and I had only visited two towers! I would need to get my skates on so I visited St Peter's in Brighton on Monday and had a wonderful time



St. Peter's, Brighton

despite the heat. To begin with I wasn't sure how to get in because the tower is shrouded in scaffolding and Herries fencing but someone soon showed me the way. As you may know the standard of ringing at Brighton is very high indeed but they make those of us who are not so skilled very welcome. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and even managed to ring the treble to Plain Bob Royal - a first for me.

Though I may not have been visiting towers in our district I did join the Eastern District on their trip to Yorkshire last month. We visited some very interesting churches in York and the surrounding area and I enjoyed getting to know some of their ringers a little better. I'm definitely hoping to join them again next year.

This week we had a very successful ringing up and down course at Chailey and Danehill. I plan to arrange another one on a Saturday later in the year so that those of you who work can come along. Please let me know if there is a course that you would like me to put on and I will see what I can do. Alternatively if you would like help in your own tower I will try to arrange something for you.

Enjoy your ringing! *Mary*



More Upcoming Events...

Friday 25th August – Young Ringers outing to Eastbourne. More details soon. Contact AnneFranklin@hotmail.co.uk if you'd like to come. More details on page 3.

Looking Ahead...

Saturday 30th September – Handbell Day. An ideal opportunity to learn about, or polish your skills at, change ringing on handbells. More details to follow, keep an eye on your inbox or visit www.scacr.org.

Sussex Young Ringers News

Good luck to 8 of the Sussex Young Ringers! Off to Birmingham on July 1st for the 2017 Ringing World National Youth Contest! The contest has been held every year since the Ringing World Centenary in 2011. This year 21 teams are fighting it out for the Whitechapel Trophy! Sussex is hoping to produce 168 beautiful changes of Grandsire Triples, struck to perfection. Wish our young ringers luck! Be sure to keep an eye on social media for updates and the results! A full report will also be published in 'Soundbow'.



Apart from competition preparation, so far this year we have enjoyed many Young Ringers practices. We've rung at Burgess Hill, Billingshurst, Lower Beeding, Slaugham, Southover and Fairwarp. However no practice is complete without cake! Highly rated bakes so far this year include: Anne's 'Mince Pie cake' (when Tesco permits) and Lysbeth's Mums's Cookies!

Our next young ringers' event is the annual **outing on Friday 25th August**. This year we are set to be heading over to Eastbourne. If you'd like to come or know any young ringers who would like to, just send **AnneFranklin@hotmail.co.uk** an email.



See you there!

Tucking into some more cake. Back row L-R: Emma, Andrew, Josh, Harry, Andrew. Front row: Catherine, Molly, Rachel, Alex and William.

Wisdom from the South... Ever had trouble writing a report for an outing or event? Here is some help. Thanks to John Norris for this extract from 'The Elephants Child' by Rudyard Kipling.

*"I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who."*

Happy writing!

Heritage Open Days 2017



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. Here is the link:

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

HODs have retained the bell theme and logo and you can record that there is a ringing event if you are doing that this year. Many towers found last year that this was a great opportunity to raise the profile of ringing within their area and some even recruited new ringers!

Let's open the doors of the Southern District towers. Good luck!

A Tale of Two Cities (with apologies to Charles Dickens)

By Paul Wells

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness ... but that's the beginning of a different tale of two cities. The story I am to relate to you tells of an outing to ring the bells in steeples in Hampshire and Sussex and, specifically, the cathedral churches of the two cities of which I will speak.

It was a Saturday in the middle of June, a day that the portents of meteorology had foretold would be hot. Carriages departed from various points in mid Sussex heading for the naval city of Portsmouth. In our carriage was the genial Sir Simon and Squire Norris, Captain of the Bell ringers of Hurstpierpoint. As we traversed the countryside, preferring to avoid the busy towns it was good to admire the green countryside and partake in conversation ranging in topics from the cost of an education to the chequered past of Squire Norris' ancient forebears. The journey to Portsmouth was without incident, save for the passing mistress Sue and master William proceeding sedately in their open topped carriage along the bypass of Chichester.

The party of ringers comprised of regular attendees of the Thursday night practices at Hurstpierpoint was bolstered by the attendance of friends from across Mid Sussex and from as far afield as the fair garden county of Kent from whence the hops that make good ale come.

As the group gathered to enjoy the sunshine and exchange greetings and pleasantries of the day, our reverie was soon enlivened by the arrival of Governess Janice and her exuberant urchins who had spent the trip attempting to capture the musical wonderment of melodies by Queen!



St. Mary Portsea

And so it was that this delightful party of ringers assembled in the city of the great author Dickens' birth, at the church of St Mary on the isle of Portsea. This splendid steeple rises to a considerable height and is a notable local landmark. The tower contains a fine peal of eight bells cast by Messrs Taylors. Under the good Squire's leadership, ringing ranged from rounds and called changes to touches of Stedman Triples – including a first touch of the said principle for the young miss Molly and a pleasing half course of Cambridge Surprise.

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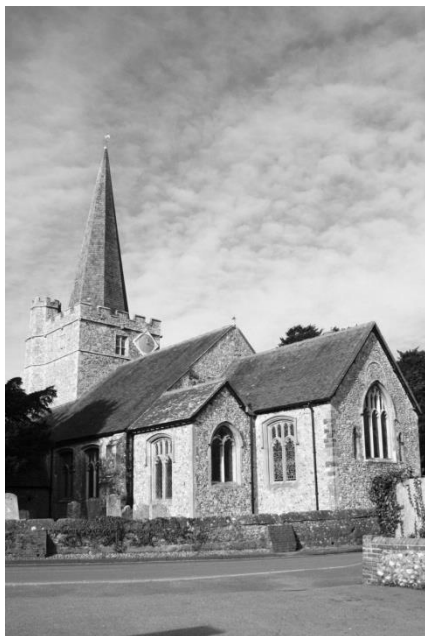
From thence, the party departed for the Cathedral Church of St Thomas in Old Portsmouth City. The parish church of St Thomas was elevated to a Cathedral in 1927 upon the establishment of the Diocese of Portsmouth. An extension was started in 1935 but due to the outbreak of hostilities, building ceased in 1940 and was not completed for another 50 years, thus making it the last completed Cathedral in England. The cupola topped tower contains a fine ring of 12 bells. For many of our company, this was a rare opportunity to practice our art on such a number and so, under the parental guidance of Fr. Paul we limited ourselves to some rounds and called changes and plain hunting on 11 bells. The ringing was of a good standard and finished in fine style with a bobbed course of Grandsire Caters under the watchful eye of Alderman Kirkcaldy. It must be mentioned that so keen was miss Rachel to show her finesse with the 25cwt tenor bell of the Cathedral that I dare not mention the need for some gentlemanly assistance to pull the bell from its rest, particularly given the events at Steyning the following evening.

Luncheon was taken in Portsmouth. Some took advantage of sampling the seafood on offer in the Cathedral grounds whilst others took a picnic to the seafront and took in the wonderful views across the Solent of the Isle of Wight and of the gargantuan ferry boats arriving and departing to lands afar. There was sufficient time to take the sea air and, for some, to enjoy the coolness of the ocean (although Matron Helen was heard to exclaim about the chilliness of the water). Governess Janice and the urchins equally enjoyed a playful time in the surf although some, I fear, ended somewhat wetter than they had planned (pleased we were that they were not travelling in our carriage!).



Master Joshua, miss Rachel, miss Molly, master Alex, Governess Janice and Matron Helen.

We departed Portsmouth suitably refreshed although the heat of the day did limit our energies. We travelled east to the bustling market town of Havant to ring at the unusually dedicated church of St Faith. The entrance to the ringing chamber was through a small door in the side, which could easily have been missed were it not for the insightful enquiry of the Squire. These rural sounding bells were hung just above the ringing chamber and were thus very loud. Nevertheless, under miss Rachel's captaincy (and whilst her grace the Duchess Ann diligently collected the tower taxes) the ringing ranged from rounds and called changes to Yorkshire Surprise (giving the local tower captain a rare opportunity to ring such a complex method).



St. John the Baptist, Westbourne

Our next church was that of St John the Baptist in the village of Westbourne, the home of some of Matron Helen's forebears. The church resides in a delightful setting surrounded by yew trees. The bells were a nice easy ring and under Lady Catherine's guidance we rang some Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major – a welcome opportunity for master Joshua to learn the wonders of triple dodging at a bob (perhaps henceforth he should be referred to as the Artful Dodger!). It was also a joy to see the youngest

member of our party, Charley, having the courage to join us for a few rounds as well.

And so, to our second city of the day and an opportunity to ring the bells of the mother church of our Diocese – the Cathedral of Chichester. These mournful sounding bells are hung in a separate bell tower and the ringing chamber reached by a climb of some 100 steps. For some the long draught of rope was a concern but all coped extremely well. Squire Norris organised the ringing with Grandsire and Stedman triples amidst sessions of rounds. The ringing was completed with an impromptu striking competition between the experienced members of our troupe and the

youth. Needless to say, experience won the day although I am certain that master Joshua will rue the difficulty with which he brought the tenor bell into play (lest we forget to mention the incident in passing).

Some also took the opportunity to enjoy the late afternoon sunshine and observe the peregrines that habitually nest around the Cathedral's roof and spire – a fascinating sight indeed.

After words of thanks were expressed, the tired but contented party retraced their steps to the middle of Sussex and there retired to the Inn of the Sportsman at Goddards Green where supper was taken by some. A good and convivial evening was enjoyed by all who partook of supper. And so dear friends, this is the end of my tale. It is not said oft enough that it takes a great deal of planning and diligence to organise an outing and those who attended all agreed what a fine day it turned out to be. A great deal of thanks is owed to mistresses Ann and Sue and master William for their hard work and it is hoped that there will be similar trips in the not too distant future.

PW

SCACR Barn Dance

Saturday 30th September

Tickets on sale soon!

- Music and calling by the Touchstone Dance Band.
- Includes Supper and Dance.
- Free Parking.

Location: **Rawson Hall, The Street, Bolney, RH17 5PF**

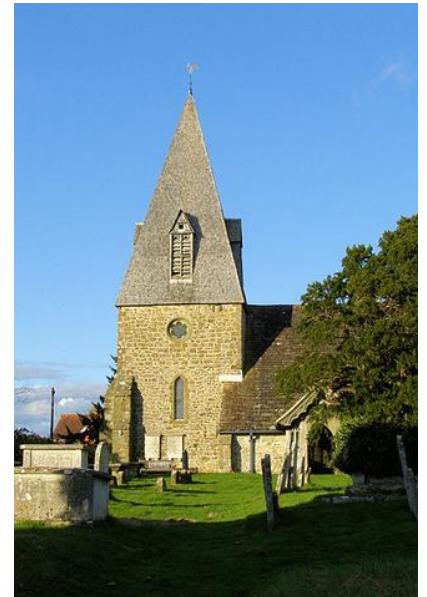
For more information, please contact publicity@scacr.org

Views from Your District

This edition we hear from Jacky Elliot. Jacky rings regularly at Keymer. I asked Jacky about her day on the recent Ringing Up and Down Course at Chailey and Danehill.

Although I have been ringing at Keymer for just short of three years, I have always felt that there was something about ringing up and down that I didn't get, though I wasn't sure what that was. I'd start in rounds in the right place, and end in rounds in the right place, but in the middle, me and my bell would sort of do our own thing, which I knew wasn't right, but didn't know what to do to correct it. So, when Mary Burr advertised a "Ringing Up and Down in Peal" course on 21st June, I signed up, especially as there was promise of cake!

I arrived at our morning venue, St Peters at Chailey, to meet the other five students from towers around the region, the helpers and our tutor Graham Hills. Chailey has six bells, which we started to ring up, in threes, odds then evens, a student flanked by two helpers, so that we could hear what our bells were doing clearly. Then in the same way, we rang them down, all the time being very helpfully guided by Graham, not just in what we were doing, but also in our ringing technique. Then the bells were rung up, and down, up and down, everyone taking a turn and me getting confused several times as to whether I was going up or down!



St. Peter's, Chailey

After a lovely lunch in the "Coach and Horses" we moved on to All Saints Church at Danehill, which again had six bells, but this time we had to climb up to a first floor ringing chamber. As in the morning, we continued our practice, ringing up and down in threes, slotted in between our lovely helpers, receiving helpful hints as we went. It was a lovely summer day, one of the hottest in June, but up in the ringing chamber it was very warm, so at the end of the course it was lovely to go down to the cool of the church kitchen and the coffee cake and flapjacks!

It was an excellent course which I would recommend to anyone wishing to improve their ringing. Thank you to all of you who made it possible. I have been given useful guidance, and it is now up to me to take this to my home tower and practice, like all things in ringing, and if there is another such course... Count me in!

Jacky Elliot

Strike Back Express!



SBABC

**Join us on the "Strike Back"
Express, 29th July 2017.**

**From 1066 county, Hastings to
historic Bath.**



www.hastingsdiesels.co.uk

Join us for a heritage train ride over the mainline in a unique preserved train, to the beautiful city of Bath, and help us raise money to fight blood cancer at the same time! Just over a year on from our Bell Ringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer sponsored walk and ring to Canterbury Cathedral, bell ringing, travelling and fundraising are being combined again. Hastings Diesels Limited, whose motto is Preservation in Action, are kindly allowing us to charter their train at favorable rates and are also manning the train with volunteers (Including your driver: Rob Lane, from the SCACR Southern District!). All profits will go to SBABC (Strike Back Against Blood Cancer).

When we get to Bath, ringing is organized in the city: details to follow. But there's also time to relax and enjoy this UNESCO World Heritage site, with its Roman Baths, Abbey, Royal Crescent and Georgian streets and squares. (There will be a well-stocked buffet car serving a selection of drinks and hot and cold food throughout the day!)



For timings and a booking form, visit :
<http://sbabc2017.weebly.com/strike-back-express.html>

See you there!

Obituary

ANTHONY (TONY) BALCHIN 1932 – 2017



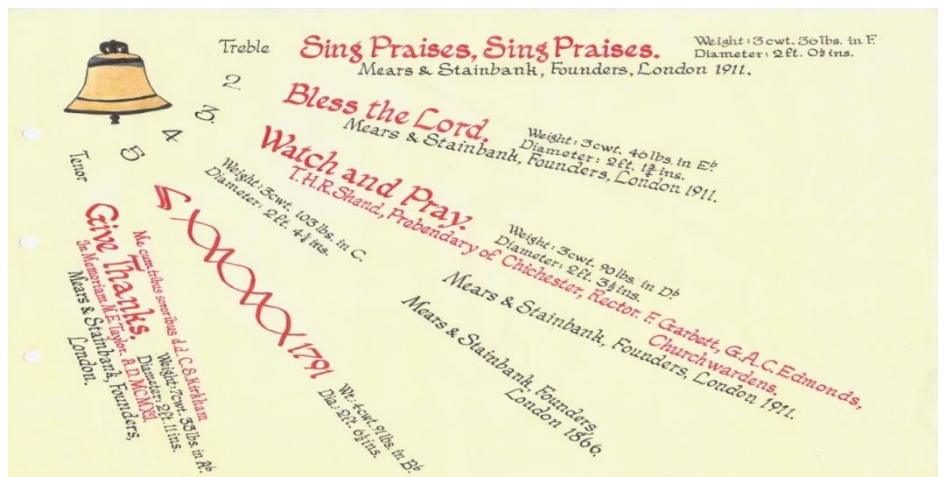
Tony became a bellringer at St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer in 1964, following the christening of his middle son, Patrick. At the service the Tower Captain, Chris Robinson, asked if Tony would like to toll the bell. This was the start of Tony's interest in bellringing. He learned to ring under Chris' direction and soon became a valued member of the band. He achieved his 50 year membership certificate of SCACR in 2016. He was always a reliable tenor and treble ringer for many methods, and an inside ringer for some methods.

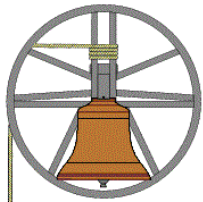
Tony thoroughly enjoyed the annual outings to different towers and he was interested in church architecture. He was one of the official photographers for the trip! He often rang at other towers when on holiday in the UK. Tony was the Treasurer for the tower and kept the accounts in meticulous order. Tony was ringing up to about 2 weeks before his death on April 4th, although he was having some difficulty. A quarter peal was rung in his memory on Sunday 9th April.

His Service of Thanksgiving took place on 25th April with half muffled bells rung. The Master of SCACR and ringers from local towers were present to join in the ringing before and after the service. One of the members of the band read the prayers during the service. Tony will be sorely missed by his friends in the band and by the congregation in the church of St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer.

Tony taught himself calligraphy in retirement and produced this page with the inscriptions on the bells as the front sheet for our Tower Peal and Visitors Book.

'For our art of bellringing, for our fellowship together in the band and for our opportunity of service as the loud voice of the church, O Lord we thank you'





Southern District Committee Contact Details

Mary Burr (*District Secretary*) sec-south@scacr.org

01323 325941

Joshua Hutchinson (Newsletter Editor) news-south@scacr.org

07845754713

- **Debbie Evans** evansent4u@hotmail.co.uk
- **Jonathan Franklin** jonathan.fr@nklin.myzen.co.uk
- **William Stafford** will@jamiestaffordbathrooms.co.uk
- **Nick Cullen** (BRF Rep) brf-south@scacr.org

Southern District Tower Practice Nights

These are always available at www.scacr.org/towers and in the SCACR handbook. Visiting local practice nights is a great way to improve your ringing and meet new people. You may also be surprised by how many ringers will return the favour and give your home tower a visit too! ***Enjoy your summer evenings in the company of some lovely Southern District Ringers and even a Pint...***

Monday: Burgess Hill 7:45, Brighton; St Nicholas (2nd and 4th), St Peter (1st, 3rd and 5th) both 7:45, Chailey 8:00, Maresfield 8:00 (infrequent – please check), Newick 7:00 (*note new day and time*).

Tuesday: Aldrington 7:45, Brighton; Good Shepherd 7:00, Ditching 7:30, Southover (Lewes) 7:30, Little Horsted 7:30 (please check), Seaford 7:30, Shoreham-by-sea 7:45, Uckfield 7:30.

Wednesday: Buxted 8:00 (please check), Henfield 7:45, Keymer 7:30, Ringmer 7:30.

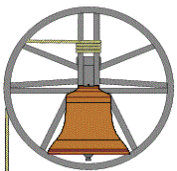
Thursday: Barcombe 7:30 (infrequent – please check), Brighton, St Mark 7:15 (best to check before travel), Hurstpierpoint 7:00, Wivelsfield 8:00.

Friday: Twineham 7:30 (1st, 3rd and 5th).

Keep up to date with the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers

Visit www.scacr.org

- Don't have a 'Soundbow' subscription? Contact Kathy Howard at Soundbow99@gmail.com, 01903 813653. Yearly subscription for post is just £6! Why not make a tower subscription if you don't have one already...
- Find SCACR on Facebook. Search 'SCACR'.
- Find SCACR on Twitter. Use @scacr and @sussexbells.
- Contact Alison Everett, your Communications and Events Team leader, at publicity@scacr.org if you want to know more about social media.



The next edition of Southern News is for

September and October 2017

The deadline for write up's, events and relevant material is

Sunday 20th August

Send it all to [**news-south@scacr.org**](mailto:news-south@scacr.org)

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

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