

Northern News



The Northern District Newsletter - March 2021

Roadmap to Ringing Resumption

The Central Council is working with the Church of England to plan when and how we will be allowed to ring tower bells again. More details on the webpage:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/02/26/roadmap-to-ringing-resumption/>

Summary of proposed dates (subject to change):

- ✓ 29th March, small-group outdoor handbell ringing
- ✓ 12th April, young ringers groups possible
- ✓ 17th May, tower bell ringing with social distancing
- ✓ 21st June, all legal restrictions lifted (with possible restrictions, e.g. facemasks)

What's On

Virtual Saturday Gathering with RingingRoom practice continues

Join the Association online practices - all welcome!

Every Saturday, from 3 pm

- ✓ Are you missing ringing, or missing chatting with your ringing friends from other towers?
- ✓ Perhaps you're worried that you've forgotten everything you'd learned..?

Why not give the fun and supportive weekly online practices a go? The great thing about online ringing is that you don't have to think about bell handling, so you can focus on the theory and practising the method without worrying about the length of your tail end, or how high up to catch the sally. Learners join small groups to concentrate on specific things, supported by super, friendly helpers.

Our learners are making great progress, and many of them are now ringing things well beyond their ability in the tower - so they will have all that knowledge under their collective belts once they get back into the belfry. From intro to Plain Hunt, to "different Doubles" and moving on to Minor, we're got something for everyone. More experienced ringers are wanted as helpers!



3.00-3.30 pm - online chat via Zoom (don't forget your cuppa!)

3.30-4.30 pm - Novices' Practice (please join the Zoom call by 3.20 pm) - rounds & call changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles...

4.30-4.45 pm - break (join the Zoom meeting if not already in the Novices' session)

4.45-5.45 pm - Moving on to Minor Practice - Plain Bob and Little Bob Minor, Kent Treble Bob Minor...

To sign up for either or both the Novices and Minor sessions, or if you are unsure about the technology and want to chat about it first, contact Steph via sec-north@scacr.org.

Handbell morning - Saturday 27 March, 9.45-12.30



All welcome at the online handbell morning! This event is open to beginners, those who enjoy handbell ringing but don't have a regular group to ring with, and existing handbell groups. Support is available for those not familiar with Ringing Room or Zoom.

On the day, there will be three focus groups:

- Plain hunting to Plain Bob
- Plain Bob to Treble Bob
- Beyond Treble Bob

If you are not used to the technology, please contact Hamish and he will arrange a familiarization session. If you would like to join in please email Hamish McNaughton at hamish@wandleys.uk stating which of the focus groups you would like to join. Information regarding logging into Zoom and the Ringing Rooms will be supplied to those wishing to attend. Full details on the website calendar: www.scacr.org/calendar

SCACR AGM - Saturday 8th May - Save the date!

The Annual General Meeting will take place via Zoom at 10 am on Saturday 8th May. More details to follow.

Updates from around the District

Summary of the Northern Annual District Meeting, February 2021

by Steph Pendlebury, District Secretary



What a difference a year makes! In February 2020, we enjoyed ringing on the fabulous new Westley bells at Lindfield, followed by an excellent ringers' tea and plenty of opportunity to chat with friends from across the District. And of course, the meeting, which was almost a minor detail!

Sadly, the 2021 Annual District Meeting didn't involve ringing on actual bells, or ringers' tea (although I was impressed that some attendees had made valiant efforts to mark the occasion with cake), or seeing one another in-person. But we were able to meet online, have a chat, and hold a meeting to elect the District committee, nominate Association officers (to be elected at the AGM in May), and hear updates on District activities.

Twenty-three Association members joined the meeting, including a few from outside the District. A moment's silence was held in respect for those who had passed away over the previous year: Tony Jones (Horsham), Peter Dewar (Coleman's Hatch), John Howard (East Grinstead), Valarie Howard (Fairwarp), Betty Stoner (previously a member at Worth).

The following people had joined the Association in the last year, and were welcomed in their absence as new members: Karen Prowse (East Grinstead), Susan Spurling (Cowfold), William Martin-Lawrence (Hartfield), George Grant (Horsham), Richard Brock (West Hoathly). We look forward to welcoming them to the Association in person, and presenting membership certificates, once restrictions are lifted.

Reports on 2020 activities were made by myself as Secretary (which you can read [here](https://www.scacr.org/media/com_acymailing/upload/secretary_report_for_2020_northern_district.pdf): https://www.scacr.org/media/com_acymailing/upload/secretary_report_for_2020_northern_district.pdf) and by Simon Alford as BRF Rep (which you can read [here](https://www.scacr.org/media/com_acymailing/upload/brf_report_for_2020_northern_district.pdf): https://www.scacr.org/media/com_acymailing/upload/brf_report_for_2020_northern_district.pdf).

I'd like to thank Simon, the committee members (Rosie Gregory, Chris Westwood, Susie Bowen, Richard Pendlebury), Ringing Master Elaine Farrow, and Newsletter Editor Katherine Potter, for all their hard work behind the scenes. Elaine has now stood down as Ringing Master and from the committee.

The following people were duly elected to the District Committee: Steph Pendlebury (Secretary; currently also Central Council Rep), Simon Alford (BRF Rep), Susie Bowen, Rosie Gregory, Richard Pendlebury, Chris Westwood (committee members). No nominations were received for Ringing Master, so this post is vacant - get in touch if you might be interested!

Nominations for Association Officers were made as follows: Master - Rob Lane; Secretary - Hamish McNaughton; Treasurer - Sue Gadd; Trustee - Margaret Sherwood; BRF Secretary - Graham Hills.

A discussion was had about possible events and practices that could be organised as restrictions are lifted; the following suggestions were made:

- socially-distanced handbell practices in-person in e.g. small groups of 6 could be practical
- Mike Cattell suggested starting to plan some kind of ringing celebration of the end of lockdown/restrictions
- also a suggestion to organise some memorial quarter peals for those who have passed away, and also to thank the NHS

If anyone has any other ideas, or could help organise any of the above, please do get in touch with me via sec-north@scacr.org (my phone number is in the Handbook).

Finally, a representative from each tower was asked to provide a short update to the meeting about how ringers are keeping in touch, how many ringers they think will return once restrictions are lifted, and whether they would have a viable band or would need some support to resume ringing. Eight towers (out of 26) had no-one present to represent them, but of the remainder most were confident that they would have a viable band. A few towers will need support.

I would urge anyone who thinks their tower might need support (either to check over the bells before resuming ringing, for assistance with risk assessments, or for help with practices or training new recruits) to get in touch.

Many thanks to Rob Lane for chairing the meeting so efficiently, and to Hamish MacNaughton for managing all the technical aspects. The full minutes are available [here](https://www.scacr.org/resources/documents/meeting-minutes):
<https://www.scacr.org/resources/documents/meeting-minutes>.

Why, When, Where and How? Interviews with ...

This series of interviews by Stephanie Pendlebury turns the spotlight on individual ringers. This time she focuses on Kye and George Francis.

Kye



Kye is 16 and likes photography and mending clocks in his spare time. This is his story:

I started ringing at half past seven, on Thursday 15th November 2018, Crawley. My usual towers are Crawley and Horsham (when not in lockdown!)

When I was younger, my nan always used to take me down to the church to hear 12 o'clock struck on Saturdays. We were on holiday in Weymouth a couple of years ago, and I went to see St Andrew's church; I heard the bells on Sunday morning and went to see how they were rung. The bellringers asked me if I was a ringer, and when I said no they gave me a go on one of the bells. They took me up the belltower and showed me one of the bells being rung. Then on Remembrance Sunday that year, we heard the bells in Crawley ringing and I went

into the church afterwards and asked the vicar if I could learn to ring.

One year later I rang half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

What do I like best? First of all it's the sound of the bells; it goes all around the room and makes me feel happy. It's also a massive social event, and all the ringers are happy to have you with them. And I like going round the country with the Young Ringers.

What do I find most challenging? Learning new methods - trying to get the pattern in your head and remembering the circle of work.

The person I get inspiration from, and have done from the beginning, is Crawley ringer Iain Davey. I love watching his technique, which is really smooth and he pulls all the way down and flicks his hands over at the bottom.

George Francis

George recently turned 90, but sadly wasn't able to celebrate due to lockdown, so he reckons he's going to be 89 for a while longer...! This is his, slightly longer story!:

I started ringing at Itchingfield in 1944. At the moment, I ring in the Ringing Room!, but usually at my mini-ring "Bell Meadow" in Warnham.

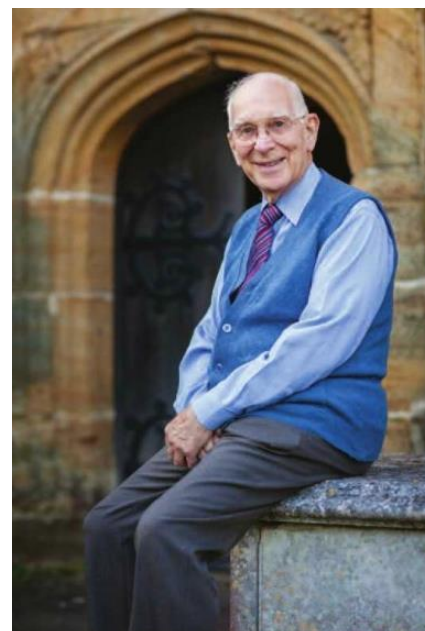
My initial interest in ringing was when I was 9 years old, sitting at the table having breakfast with the family, and the conversation turned to a peal that had been rung at Billingshurst, which I now know was a peal by Scouts, and this really intrigued me. But I couldn't learn to ring straight away as first of all I wasn't old enough, and when I was old enough there was the

wartime ban on ringing. When I was confirmed aged 14, the vicar at Itchingfield was very keen to get a band going again, so that's when I learnt to ring.

I think I enjoy the social side of ringing and travelling - ringing around at so many different towers. I also like challenges, like new methods. And I like teaching handling - I've taught a couple of hundred people!

I have done a lot of different activities during my ringing career; organising peals and events, and fundraising. But the most challenging thing is keeping a band together!

The biggest thrill I get in ringing is when a beginner is doing well - when they first ring in rounds well, and when they get their first quarter.



Other News from around and about

Young Ringers - get a pair of e-bells for £25



Are you under-25? Do you like ringing handbells, or would you like to give it a go? SCACR is offering young ringers a grant of £65 to buy a pair of [electronic handbells](#) for just £25 (usually £90).

Contact Hamish McNaughton for details: secretary@scacr.org.

More info about e-bells here: <https://ebells.co.uk/>

SCACR CLOTHING – WINTER 2020

CHECK OUT WWW.SCACR.ORG/RESOURCES/CLOTHING FOR ALL YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE LAYERS, FROM T-SHIRTS TO FLEECES TO OUTDOOR GILETS – WE HAVE YOU COVERED.

A FULL RANGE OF COLOURS AT REASONABLE PRICES AVAILABLE.

EMAIL SANDRA AT CLOTHING@SCACR.ORG FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



And lastly...

Keep well, keep safe and let's hope we are all ringing and socialising again soon! Don't forget to send updates, photos, anecdotes and jokes to news-north@scacr.org for the next issue of Northern News.