

Northern News



Northern District - December 2021

Dates for Your Diary

December

Saturday 4 th	Ringling with Mince Pies & Mulled Wine - rounds onwards sign up here	Balcombe	15:00-17:00
Monday 6 th	Advanced Practice - Stedman Triples & Surprise Major sign up here	Slaugham	19:30-21:00
Monday 13 th	Moving on to Methods Practice sign up here	Worth	19:30-21:00
Monday 20 th	Minor Methods Practice - Plain Bob Minor onwards sign up here	Ardingly	19:30-21:00

Come along to have a go at something you wouldn't get to ring at your home tower, try something new, or just get some extra practise in! Friendly helpers will support you. Full details plus other Districts' events on the website calendar: scacr.org/calendar

Under-18s are welcome but **children under 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent** - please contact Steph (sec-north@scacr.org) in advance.

Sign up using the links above (or contact Steph, the District Secretary) at least 24 hours in advance. Practices and events will be cancelled if there's not enough interest.

Practice details

Some practices are open to all, and some have a minimum competency - here's a summary:

- **Moving on to methods:** concentrating on developing the skills needed for ringing methods - counting places, listening, ropesight. So long as you can ring rounds unassisted (without someone standing by you), you are very welcome to attend! Practices usually include rounds and call changes, "Kaleidoscope" exercises (making places, dodging etc), intro to Plain Hunt, and possibly Grandsire or Plain Bob Doubles. Great for those who are just starting to Plain Hunt.
- **Minor methods:** does what it says on the tin! Anything from plain courses of Plain Bob Minor onwards, including Plain methods, Treble Bob and Surprise. If you're a reasonably competent treble bell ringer and you'd like more practise on the treble, you could also come along to these.
- **Rounds-onwards 10-bell:** you need to be able to ring rounds and call changes competently on 5 or 6 bells before you attend these. It takes a lot of bell control to ring on higher numbers.
- **Advanced 8-bell:** Stedman Triples and Surprise Major, including Pickled Egg methods. You must already be able to ring touches of Triples methods (e.g. Grandsire or Plain Bob) to join these practices.

COVID safety

The government has recently updated guidance on testing - you should take a lateral flow test at home before attending a social event or gathering. At the moment, guidance for ringing at District events is as follows - this may be changed according to changes in government guidance or restrictions (in which case the website calendar will be updated):

- don't attend if you feel unwell
- take a lateral flow test beforehand - don't attend if you test positive
- ventilation is extremely important - don't close open windows or doors
- numbers in the ringing room will be limited - you might be asked to wait outside the ringing room
- use hand sanitiser before ringing
- face masks are optional

Ringling with mince pies & mulled wine (or juice!) at St Mary's, Balcombe - Sat 4th Dec, 3-5 pm

All welcome at the next District Saturday Gathering! Join us at Balcombe (where the heating will be on) for ringing with mince pies and mulled wine - or mulled juice as a non-alcoholic option. Ringing will be rounds onwards. Come along to meet friends old and new from around the District, have a go ringing somewhere different, and maybe try ringing something new. There is parking in the two lay-bys on the B2036, on the same side as the church.

[Sign up here.](#)



News from around the Northern District

Saturday 6th November - ringing with coffee & cake and new members' welcome

Fifteen ringers came to Cowfold from 8 towers across the Northern District (and one from outside the District) to enjoy ringing and refreshments. We were delighted to welcome **Sue Spurling (Cowfold)** as a new member of the Association. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to a touch of Stedman Triples, via Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles and Minor. Many thanks to the Cowfold ringers for the wonderful spread of cake and plentiful supply of hot drinks!



Ardingly and West Hoathly join forces!

Local ringers will be aware that, for some years now, our two towers have combined our practice nights by arranging to ring at each tower on alternate Thursdays. This has had a very positive effect on established and new ringers by ensuring **we always have sufficient ringers to bring on new members and also to satisfy those who want to try new methods.**

This has also been useful in that we can **more effectively help each other** out with weddings and other commitments at a time when ringers are sometimes scarce, busy elsewhere or on holidays.



St Peter's Ardingly

With winter fast approaching, accompanied by dark nights and colder, wet weather we have been considering how best to continue. As most of us are no longer working, we feel that we should change to **Friday morning practices, again alternating between our towers, commencing at**



St Margaret's, West Hoathly

10.00 am and, with a break for coffee, ending at 12.00. These arrangements have been agreed with the respective Rectors and may only be affected should some other church event prevent us ringing on any one date.

This new arrangement started on Friday, 5th November, at West Hoathly, followed by 12th November at Ardingly and so on. Our usual ringers will of course routinely be kept informed by email but it would be wise for any visitors (**and you will be more than welcome**) to **check with either Rachel or myself before coming**, just to avoid a wasted journey.

May I remind visitors to Ardingly not to park in Church Lane but, instead, to park in the lay-bys outside the Church Centre, 100 yards before the church itself.

Lynn Wilson

Tower Captain, Ardingly

Tel: 01444 892113

Mob: 07713 324610

Rachel Edwards,

Tower Captain, West Hoathly

Tel: 01342 810210

Could you help stop Turner's Hill bells falling silent?

After many years as dedicated Tower Captain at St Leonard's, Turner's Hill, Jo Barnes is stepping down after Christmas. We'd like to thank Jo for her years of service to the ringers and the church. There are not many local ringers left, and none of them wishes to be Tower Captain. If you think you might be able to help in some way, please contact Steph (District Secretary) via sec-north@scacr.org.



Obituary: Margaret Thomas (17th February 1935 - 5th September 2021)

I am sorry to report the death of Margaret Thomas who rang at St Mary's Horsham for many years. Her funeral on 7th October was attended by her ringing friends and a half-muffled quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung after the service.

Margaret learnt to ring as a teenager in Dorking and rang her first peal of Grandsire Triples when she was 17 years old. During the 1950's she rang several peals and quarter peals in the Dorking area and in 1954 she rang a peal of 9-spliced in 2 hours 23minutes.

Margaret and husband Michael moved to Horsham in 1958 and raised their two daughters. In 1990 she joined the Horsham band and from then onwards she was a loyal and conscientious member of the band, serving on the tower committee, serving as tower secretary, then serving as vice-captain followed by a year as captain.

On Monday evenings Margaret would go to Northern Division practices, as long as she could get a lift, on Tuesday evenings she would be at Horsham practice night and on Thursday evenings she would help out at Lower Beeding practice night. After ringing she would always enjoy her pint at the local pub.

Margaret rang six peals at Horsham and five at Lower Beeding and she also rang more than 40 quarter peals at Horsham. Margaret was very good at teaching learners and was always helping others to learn new methods. Sadly, Margaret had to give up ringing a few years ago due to ill health but she was one of the first to get in touch if one of us or our family were ill.

Margaret supported many charities, collecting and organising. Twice a year she cajoled us to take part in her MS charity quiz. The tower did win a couple of times!

We will remember her as an amazing, kind and selfless lady.

Mike Cattell (Horsham)



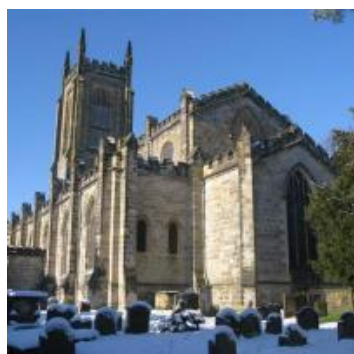
First quarter peal congratulations - Denise Herrington

Many congratulations to Denise Herrington, who rang her first quarter peal on Sunday 28th November. She rang the tenor behind to a quarter of Plain Bob Doubles, called by Richard Pendlebury, at Horsham. Denise joined the Horsham band as a Ringing Remembers recruit. Hopefully this will be the first of many enjoyable quarters!

[Bellboard entry](#)



12-bell practices and quarter peals (East Grinstead)



The Association and Northern District Committees are keen for 12-bell practices to restart. Are you interested in having a go at ringing on 12? Are you an experienced 10-bell ringer who'd like more opportunities to practice 11/12 bell methods? Or perhaps you're an experienced 12-bell ringer who would like to help pass on your expertise. **Do you have suggestions about what kind of practices should be run, when and how often?** Would you be able to help run these? Please get in touch via Steph (sec-north@scacr.org).

East Grinstead are also looking for a volunteer to organise monthly quarter peals for evensong. Please contact Jackie Hunter, East Grinstead Tower Captain, if you could help (jackiehunter040@gmail.com).

Katharine Potter

Please keep Katherine Potter, Northern District newsletter editor, in your thoughts and prayers. Katharine was taken ill whilst on holiday in September and is still in hospital.

Association news

Young Ringers events

SCACR has a very active Young Ringers group. If you're a young ringer (under 25 years old), or have a young ringer in your tower, please do contact Marisa to find out how to get involved! Marisa Hayes: 07796 145464; Marisa@happymouflon.com



Change Ringing Handbell Morning - Saturday 29th January

Following our most enjoyable gathering at Barcombe last month, we are meeting again on the morning of 29th January - online this time. Do join and have a go. Contact Hamish in advance if you'd like to take part (hamish@wandleys.uk).

Association online practices continue after Christams

There will not be a Saturday practice in December, but if anyone would like to practice online during the month please let Jonathan know and he will arrange it (jonathan.fr@nklin.myzen.co.uk).

The next Saturday practice will be on the morning of 15th January, all welcome - put it in your diary now.



Fundraising for Sussex Bell Restoration Fund

Several Sussex towers have been awarded BRF grants recently - but this means that the funds are running low! Could you help with fundraising? Perhaps you could organise a raffle, or a cake sale, or some sponsored quarter peals? Contact Graham (brf@scacr.org) for more information.

Situations vacant...

Rob Lane will come to the end of his term of office as Master of the Association at the AGM in May 2022. If you would like to propose someone (or be proposed!) for this office, please contact Rob (master@scacr.org).

Graham Hills will also be standing down as Bell Restoration Fund Secretary at the AGM. We are looking for a volunteer to take on this role - please contact Graham (brf@scacr.org) to find out more.

We are also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the SCACR clothing. All the procedures and the supplier are already set up! Please contact Sue Gadd if you might be able to help (treasurer@scacr.org).

Please send any news, photos, jokes or updates from your tower for the next edition of Northern News to: news-north@scacr.org.

District Committee

Secretary and Central Council rep: Steph Pendlebury (sec-north@scacr.org)

Committee members: Susie Bowen, Rosie Gregory, Richard Pendlebury, Chris Westwood

Bell Restoration Rep: Simon Alford

Newsletter Editor: Katherine Potter (news-north@scacr.org)

Association key contacts

General Secretary: Hamish McNaughton (secretary@scacr.org) Master: Rob Lane (master@scacr.org)

Safeguarding Officer: Val Clay (safeguarding@scacr.org)

Treasurer: Sue Gadd (treasurer@scacr.org)

Bell Restoration Fund Secretary: Graham Hills (brf@scacr.org)

Trustees: Mark Dawkins, Jonathan Franklin, Margaret Sherwood, (trustees@scacr.org)