

SallyForth

Western District Newsletter
July/August 2022



Diary of Events

July

Saturday 2 nd	Beginners & Improvers Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am-12.00
Wednesday 6 th	Codgers	for towers and timing please see SCACR calendar	
Saturday 9 th	Ring and Walk then the Pub (link) Names for pub meal to Janice at sec-west@scacr.org	Wisborough Green	3.30pm 6.30pm
Friday 15 th	Beginners' 8 bell practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 23 rd	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am-12.00
Thursday 28 th	Young Ringers Outing	For details see advertisement on page 4	
Saturday 30 th	Outing to London (link) Please contact David Kirkcaldy at david.kirky@gmail.com	For details see advertisement on page 4	

August

Wednesday 3 rd	Codgers	for towers and timing please see SCACR calendar	
Friday 5 th	General 8 Bell Practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 6 th	Beginners & Improvers Practice (link) If you wish to attend, contact Christine beforehand on 01903 872623	Washington	9.30am-12.00
Saturday 13 th	Ringling with Tea and Cake (link) Names for tea to Janice at sec-west@scacr.org	Amberley	10.00am-12.00
Friday 19 th	Beginners' 8 bell practice (link)	Arundel	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 27 th	Surprise Minor Practice (link)	Walberton	10.15am-12.00

Looking Ahead

Saturday 3rd September Change Ringing on Handbells Venue tba Please reserve the date

You can find out about nation-wide ringing events by looking at www.cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for

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

Please send your contributions for the next edition of **SallyForth** to
news-west@scacr.org by **15th October 2022**.

Janice's Jottings

This is the first Sally Forth for me! No doubt the word has got round that after a number of years of being a very efficient and dedicated secretary for the Western District, Moya has handed over 'the ropes' to myself (pardon the pun!). However, she is not going to 'stand' down completely as I am and will be benefitting from her wealth of knowledge and support to ensure I don't make any 'clangers'!!! We are going to work together on many aspects of the role. Many thanks Moya for all your hard work and dedication over the years and look forward to us working together with you remaining on the committee!

Let me introduce myself – I am Janice Crawford and a ringer at Angmering and Findon and have been on the District committee. I am enjoying the role very much indeed and hope to live up to expectations! I have learnt a lot already including chairing a zoom meeting (terrifying!), organising events, updating the web page (challenging but getting the hang of it!) and even some extra ringing thrown in by attending some of those events! Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive!

The programme for the year is coming along nicely with a couple of highlights – a London outing in July and a mini outing in October. There is also a ring and walk at Wisborough Green in July (with a pub visit to follow!!) and ringing at Amberley in August. Keep an eye on the SCACR website for updates!!

Events already taken place include ringing, fish and chips and a quiz at Goring, ringing at Graffham and ringing at Washington. All were very well attended and how lovely it is to see everyone back ringing again and of course, also enjoying the lovely cakes and refreshments kindly provided by the individual towers!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the future. Happy Ringing!! And have a great Summer!

Janice Crawford
sec-west@scacr.org



Meet the New SCACR Officers

Gareth Higgs was elected master at the AGM in East Grinstead on the 14th of May, taking over from Rob Lane. Gareth has been as Sussex ringer since 1974 and is the tower captain at Saint Margaret's Warnham. He has rung an impressive number of peals but is equally a staunch supporter of his local band. Gareth has said that he is keen to focus on recruitment and making the association relevant to all its members. You can read a statement him in the next edition of *Soundbow* or by going to SCACR website <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/noticeboard/500-welcome-to-gareth-our-new-association-master>



Vicky Chase takes over from Alison Everett as Communication and Events Team Leader. Vicky received the Michael Palmer award for her role in getting Kirdford bells ringing and is tower captain there and at Billingshurst. The exemplary organisational skills she has displayed in teaching a band from scratch make her well suited for this role. She hopes to recruit new ringers and develop existing ones in her role. Read what she has to say here: <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/noticeboard/499-welcome-to-vicky-our-new-communication-events-team-leader>

District Meeting at St Giles, Graffham

12th March 2022

In a slight departure from a “normal” district meeting, the March meeting was held in the morning rather than the afternoon. This was to join the monthly practice at Graffham where a keen band of learners has been making steady progress under the watchful eye of Vicky and Nigel.

The morning started cold but sunny, and the advice on the church noticeboard to “wear a Sunday vest under your Sunday best” was definitely wise. Nevertheless, it was a pleasant drive along the Downs with signs of spring everywhere, including a pair of Red Kites.

Approximately 20 ringers gathered, including the vicar of Graffham who revealed that she was a lapsed ringer – a situation that didn’t last long and she rang very competently.



David Kirkcaldy organised the ringing which ranged from rounds to the finale of Cambridge Surprise Minor via plain hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman.

Graffham is a ground floor ring which is perfect for the all-important ventilation, but does make it difficult to run a practice as ringers tend to slope off into corners making the organiser’s task challenging at times (there is none so deaf as a group of ringers in deep conversation).

Fuelled by coffee and cake at half time, the ringing was of a good standard with David making sure that all learners had a strong band around them plus a “stander behind”. The “strong band” did prove to be a bit rusty when it came to Stedman and Cambridge, showing that the pandemic has affected ringing at all levels. We hope that those for whom this was a first District Meeting enjoyed themselves and will feel encouraged to join us at future meetings.



Rik and Val Clay

Coming next for Sussex Young Ringers!



The next Young Ringers Outing proposed date is

Thursday 28 July

Around Ashdown Forest. Ringing will be suitable for all abilities so please come along and join this group and encourage your young ringers to sign up. Bring your own picnic, etc.

Please register with Marisa for details

Marisa@happymouflon.com

07796 145464

LONDON OUTING Saturday 30 JULY 2022

10.20 – 11.00 **St Katharine Cree**, Leadenhall Street 6, 9.3.18

11.20 – 12.10 **St Botolph Without**, Aldgate 8, 25.0.7

12.30 – 1.20 **Christ Church**, Commercial Street, Spitalfields 8, 17.1.10

LUNCH

3.00 – 3.50 **St Leonard**, High Street, Shoreditch 12, 25.1.11

4.10 – 4.55 **St Botolph**, Bishopsgate 8, 17.1.6

5.20 – 6.10 **St James Garlickhythe**, Garlick Hill 8, 9.1.25

Following on from the popular, successful outing walking and ringing in the City of London held in 2019 a return visit has been arranged for Saturday, 30 July 2022. This time the route will focus on the east side of the city and cross the border to take in two towers including Shoreditch; for those who are fans of the TV series *Rev* this is where it was based and filmed.

We will, hopefully, be starting at St Katharine Cree, the one church we encountered a lock out last time! We end up at St James Garlickhythe to ring on the Royal Jubilee Bells, cast to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee and originally hung on the barge which led the Thames Pageant in 2012.

The towers have been arranged in order to walk between them all, there is a Thameslink train from Brighton that is scheduled to arrive at London Bridge station at 9.45am which is the most convenient arrival point to walk to the first tower.

All are welcome but do let me (David Kirkcaldy) know if you intend to join us in order that we can keep an eye out for you, at some churches the door needs to be locked when we are inside; my email is david.kirky@gmail.com

Western District Quizzers!!



What a lovely afternoon at Goring in April for the monthly 'get together! Following the masked ringing, where there was the opportunity for a couple of 'non ringers' to 'have a go' - 6 teams were gathered in the hall for a very tasty fish and chip supper. Little was known then on how important this 'brain food' was going to be as what followed next was a very challenging quiz!! Expertly led by quiz masters Alan and Liz Beadle – the 'grey matter' was definitely exercised!! The competitiveness was surprising and plenty of 'sssh - don't say that too loud' was to be heard. Ultimately, there was a tie-breaker between 'The Campanologists' and 'Bemused' with 'Bemused' taking away the prize of an easter egg for each member!!! A surprise of some delightful desserts also appeared which were home made and definitely helped stimulate our brains!! (well, that was the reason heard for 'helping ourselves'). A raffle also took place in aid of the Bell Restoraton Fund. The evening ended with everyone chipping in with clearing the up with a 'Past Master' seen to be sweeping up!! (and what a good job he did too!)

A very well run event and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Moya for organisng and to Alan and Liz for their quiz mastering skills. Definitely a 'must' for next year, especially for the makers of the scrumptious desserts!!

And of course, Congratulations to 'Bemused'!!

Janice Crawford



Wedding Ring

With the Covid restrictions now reduced, a host of deferred weddings have descended and once again tower captains are hustling around to draw in local bands of ringers.

Spare a thought for the work that they must undertake to ensure that the big day goes with a swing (or more accurately a ring). Firstly, the exact date and time has to be established. Do they really want bells? Which day of the week and do they mean 4.00pm? Will it be a long service with unusual dedications? It will be up to you of course to make sure the bells are all up and in good order well before the big day and not at the last minute in a clumsy panic.

First requests for ringers can often be negative. It may be holiday time, there may be weddings at other churches that day, an Association meeting or friends visiting. (or even "I'm not sure so can't commit at this time.") All reasonable to the individual but a frustration for your tower captain.

Once a band has been sorted, the problems still continue. We only ring now after the ceremony to save people having to sit through the proceedings after the sometimes late arrival of the bride. She may then have a photographic session around the lych gate followed by a slow procession towards the church. At earlier times I had a small colour camera mounted high in the tower to monitor her progress which had variable success in sunny weather in deciding between the white of the bride and the seagulls and pigeons roosting on the roof!

Hopefully your ringers will have arrived on time allowing for traffic conditions, level crossings, diversions and local events. "Oh I thought the wedding started at the time that you said and so I've come a half hour later", is little compensation when you arrive at the church to find only two other ringers present. (time to get on the mobile and try to rustle up some local assistance which may backfire when you are faced with surplus ringers after everyone arrives five minutes later!

Once in the ringing chamber, and hopefully with a copy of the service program, ropes have to be allocated and some form of contact established with the proceedings below. Originally we had to use a little helper (prone to running off or if older forgetting altogether or falling asleep.), to give us the signal to ring as we are remote from the altar. Now a black and white cctv system helps provided the bride is in white and there is a helpful hymn to finish. We usually ring for about 15 to 20 minutes depending on how late the bride was, and then it is time to ring down and divide out the remuneration. This is another duty of the captain. He must have the money beforehand so that each ringer can walk away without debt or favour to be redeemed at a later date. (Vicars can be a little forgetful or when it comes it can be in the form of an envelope of £20 notes not divisible into 6).



It is always a relief and a pleasure to find that on leaving the church, the gathering by the gate of bride and groom, friends and relatives are still enjoying their special day. A lot of hard work, planning and hope goes into the wedding and I still get a buzz from feeling that we have played our part in launching the happy couple on the seas of matrimony.

David Hall

June Get Together

What better way to spend a sunny June afternoon than in the beautiful West Sussex countryside ringing at two of our six bell towers. Saturday, 11 June, saw a select group at Stedham for an hour's ringing; it was good to see some of our newer ringers present along with some more familiar faces. There was the opportunity for concentration on practice of recently learnt methods before refreshments sitting and chatting in the sunshine.

We then moved onto Midhurst for further ringing, after some grappling with the parking ticket machine everyone made it to the ringing chamber for further ringing to cater for those present. It was really good to see, in addition to some new faces, our new Association Master; Gareth Higgs and his wife present. Also we had a comment that we were at towers on the far west of the District.

A very enjoyable afternoon and Janice even made a Victoria sponge, delicious!

David Kirkcaldy

Everyone too busy ringing to take photos but editor found these snippets on the internet:



St James is the main church in the parish of Stedham with Iping. It is situated on an ancient site, which is believed to have been a place of worship from pre-Christian times. There is a yew tree in the churchyard that is approximately two thousand five hundred years old. There has been a Christian church in Stedham for well over a thousand years. The present building is largely Victorian - with the exception of the tower which is on Saxon foundations and was restored in the seventeenth century. There is a fine peal of six bells, and the oldest bells date from 1618.

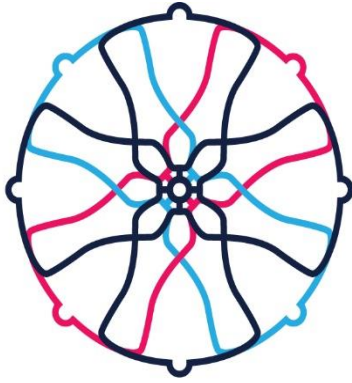
St Mary Magdalene and St Denys, Midhurst. Until the Reformation, the church was a chapelry to Easebourne Priory, with the chaplain appointed by the Prioress of the Benedictine nuns. Records show that in 1390 the Prioress, Margery Pygon, gave leave for Nicholas, Chaplain of Midhurst, to be buried beneath the bell tower, before the altar of the Blessed Mary, in the Chapel of St Mary Magdalene of Midhurst.

The name St Denys was added sometime in the sixteenth century and is likely to have some connection with the de Bohum family (owners of Cowdray Castle). Little is known of St Denys, traditionally acknowledged to be patron saint of France, except that he was the first Bishop of Paris and suffered martyrdom in the third century.



CCCBR UPDATE

June 2022



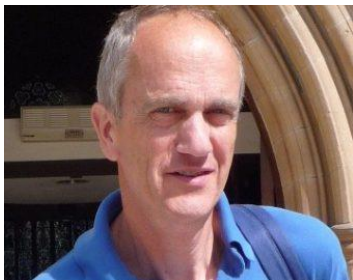
THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELL RINGERS

Back at the beginning of April this year I was asked to speak at a bell ringing event in Yorkshire; the subject was the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. This was in my role as Deputy President of that organisation. For those of a certain age who remember the Monty Python film *The Life of Brian* I based what I said on, 'What has the Central Council done for us?'; rather than the Romans.

One of the services offered by the Central Council that I covered was with regards to publications. There is a whole range of books on many ringing topics; *One Per Learner* books, *Manual of Belfry Maintenance* and the *New Ringer's Handbook* to mention a few of the most popular. Where would be without *Dove's Guide* to tick off all those new towers in?

Titles are regularly updated and revised where necessary, one of the latest to undergo a revision is *WILL YOU CALL A TOUCH PLEASE BOB*. This was originally written by Sussex ringer Peter Hurcombe and is described as a beginner's guide to conducting. Does your tower lack a ringer who can call touches, let alone put others right when they go wrong? Have you wished that you could call touches, quarters or peals? This may be the book to set you on the path to putting the bobs in. It is priced at £3.50 and the following link will take you to the Central Council shop where you can purchase a copy <https://shop.cccbr.org.uk/product-category/new/>



David Kirkcaldy
Deputy President, CCCBR.
and our Central Council Rep!

a new development

The Bells of Sussex -

Crawley ringer and editor of the Northern District newsletter, Kye Leaver, is working on a database featuring all of Sussex bells – data on weights, diameters, and inscriptions with sound recordings and photographs. This is a fast-growing resource and can be found here:

<https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/>

Michael Palmer Award Winner 2022 James from Heene



Association Clothing

It is now possible to order Association clothing and other items direct from a supplier rather than going through a third party. There is an extensive range of clothing available (many different styles/colours/sizes) and also other items, such as headwear, ties, bags.



To make your selection please visit wearyourlogo.co.uk where you can order on-line, or having visited the site you can contact the company to order by emailing sales@wearyourlogo.co.uk or by phone 01903 766228.

When ordering on-line please insert SCACR in the notes section when you 'check out' to identify your choice of logo. You do not need to set up an account to place an order but if you choose to do so, the logo will then be saved to your account for future orders.

There are delivery costs involved so it might be a good idea to get an order together with other members of your tower/Association or you can collect from the company at 91a South Street, Lancing BN15 8AP (see opening hours on their website). VAT is added to orders.

So get ordering to spoil yourself and advertise your passion for ringing at the same time.

Any queries please contact Sue Gotham via clothing@scacr.org

WESTERN DISTRICT CONTACTS

Secretary	Janice Crawford		sec-west@scacr.org
Events	Moya Hills		events-west@scacr.org
Ringling Master	David Kirkcaldy		
Central Council Rep	David Kirkcaldy		
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Newsletter Editors	Mandy Rodgers	01243 574074	news-west@scacr.org
	Hamish McNaughton	01243 543410	hamish@wandleys.uk
Committee Members	Sue Gadd		
	Geoff Goodman		

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, Amberley (7pm), Arundel (2nd & 4th) & Lyminster (1st & 3rd), Northchapel, Pagham, Pulborough, Slindon, Stedham, Westbourne, West Tarring & Yapton

Tuesday: Aldwick, Findon (2nd & 4th), Fittleworth, Funtington, Goring-by-Sea, Graffham, South Harting, Washington

Wednesday: Billingshurst, Chichester, Felpham, Heene, Kirdford (7.45pm), Shipley, Stoughton, Thakeham, Tillington (7.45pm - 1st only), Wisborough Green (7.30pm)

Thursday: Angmering (2nd, 4th & 5th), Bosham, Easebourne (1st & 3rd), Findon (1st & 3rd), Midhurst (2nd & 4th), Milland, Petworth, Steyning & Walberton

Friday: Rogate & Storrington Upper Beeding (2nd & 4th)

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

NB: As practices begin to start up again it is essential to check with the tower first before making a visit

Regular District Practices

While ringing is being re-established please check the Diary and the Calendar

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/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 Vicky Chase, our Communications and Events Team leader, at publicity@scacr.org

Membership - changes to your details

View and update your own record in the membership database using the following link: <https://membership.scacr.org/edit-your-details> or write to The Membership Secretary at 44 Paddockhall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1HW

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

*Please send your contributions for the next edition of **SallyForth** to news-west@scacr.org by **15th October 2022**.*