

Look To!



The Eastern District Newsletter December 2022

Words from your editor

I've now been editing *Look To!* for over a year and how time has flown! Since then, we've had a new master and a new monarch. While tragic, the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and proclamation of the new king has really put ringing in the public eye.

With muffles coming on and off and flags going up and down, it has been a busy time for ringers, and hopefully the 'Ring for the King' campaign in the new year will attract a number of new recruits. Never be afraid to plug ringing in conversation with friends.

This edition is coming out a little early to account for postal strikes, but should be out around the start of Advent, so I'll wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Samuel Canning

Look To! Editor

Words from Marion – Your District Secretary

Our monthly meetings continue to be well supported. The walk between Chiddingly and Hellingly in September was almost cancelled due to some fairly heavy rain but in the end the skies cleared the walk went ahead. Thanks to Nick Cant for arranging and running this. In October we had the day outing to towers in Berkshire. This was the first outing 'outside' our patch since covid. We visited five towers. Rachel Moss, a former Sussex ringer now living in the

area arranged this for us. Local knowledge is always helpful. It was good to see some Sussex young ringers come along.

The SCACR is in the process of changing the process for the annual renewal of membership for 2023. Details will be forwarded centrally in the New Year. To help this, if you have new members now but are waiting to enrol them with the annual renewal it would be helpful if you could join them now and not wait. There will be no membership fee payable until the formal renewal in the New Year.

Whilst thinking of next year we have our AGM in February at Hailsham. This is your opportunity to become involved in planning etc. for the East Division. New ideas are always welcome.

Finally, on behalf of the East Division committee would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Marion Hollands

Contributions to Meetings

The other Districts in the SCACR have for some time now asked for a £1.00 donation from ringers when attending practice meetings, both midweek and also the monthly Saturday practises. These funds are used to help the host towers. In current times where heating costs etc. are high profile your committee propose that the Eastern District follow suit. Therefore, in the New Year we will ask for a contribution at these events.

This is a modest sum and we hope you feel this is an acceptable decision.



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

Upcoming events – Check the website at <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar> for the latest info

January 28th – Surprise Major practice at Chiddingly 10:30. Pub meal afterwards.

February 25th – ADM Hailsham. Ringing at 2:30 followed by service and meetings

March 18th – Ringing at Buxted 10:00 start

News in Brief

On September 22nd a quarter peal of St Clement's College Bob Minor, conducted by Pauline Kennard, was rung at Chiddingly to mark the beginning of the Chiddingly Festival.

October 1st saw the first quarter peal of Hector TP Minor rung in hand at Hailsham.

The 150th quarter on the Forewood Ring was rung on October 16th, being Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Congratulations to Susan Wells for ringing her first quarter of Surprise Major on October 23rd, also at the Forewood Ring.

Ralph Collins marked a significant birthday with a quarter peal at Pevensey on November 17th.

An Extent of Call Changes

Perhaps ringing an extent of Call Changes is something you've never considered. An extent means ringing every possible change, which is generally something associated with method ringing. But it can be done with Call Changes too, and regularly is in the South-West. Whether you only ever ring Call Changes or you're a veteran method ringer, it's a challenge worth trying.

An extent on five is a great target to aim for, but try calling one on four first to get to grips with the basic principles that will help you when you get there. (It's also a good trick to have if you meet short on a Sunday morning.) You'll need to choose a bell to be the hunt bell – the treble is easiest, so let's use it for this example, going through it step by step. The instruction 'hunt the treble' means to call the treble up to the back or down to lead, whichever is appropriate.

1. Hunt the treble.
2. Call the bell in seconds place to lead.
3. Hunt the treble.
4. Call the bell in fourths place to thirds place.
5. Repeat the above steps twice for the extent of 24 changes.

Now let's try it on five bells. The following calling is known as 'The Plain Changes'. If you make the calls fairly frequently it should take somewhere between 8 and 15 minutes to ring.

1. Hunt the treble, then call the 2 to move up one place.
2. Repeat the above step until the treble is leading and the 2 is in fifths place.
3. Call the bell in seconds place to move up one place.
4. Hunt the treble, then call the 2 to move down one place.
5. Repeat the above step until the treble is leading and the 2 is in second's place.
6. Call the bell in fourths place to move up one place. (This will be the same bell as in step 3).
7. Repeat the above twice for 120.

There are many possibilities for calling 120s of Call Changes, many of which don't have much to make them easy to remember; this is just one of the simplest ones. If you're interested the book *Ringling Down 'Ere* by John Purdey and Owen Borlase goes into great detail on the subject.

For those who seriously want to challenge themselves it is possible to ring extents on higher numbers. The extent on seven was rung in 1990 at Buckland in the Moor. It took over six and a half hours, though, so absolutely not an undertaking for the faint hearted! It just goes to show that method ringing is not the only measure of success for a ringer.

Oddstruckness Meter Available to Borrow

The Association owns an oddstruckness meter, which can be used to measure and quantify how oddstruck bells are. This is very useful for adjusting bells to minimise oddstruckness. The meter can be borrowed for a donation to the Bell Restoration Fund (£5 suggested donation); please email Graham Hills via

brf@scacr.org. More information here:

<http://www.bagleybells.co.uk/osm/osm.htm>

St Leonards Peal

On Monday the 19th of September, a peal of 5040 St Martin's Bob Triples was rung at Christ Church, St Leonards on Sea in 3hr10m. These bells are difficult, compounded by fully muffled ringing making them harder to strike well. But the band rose to the challenge and pulled through (despite a minor interruption caused by the Angelus trying to join in) to succeed.



The band in order clockwise from front right: Louise G Pink 1, Catherine S Finn 2, Samuel P R Canning 3, Ralph H G Collins 4, Richard R Kennard 5, Alan D Pink 6, Stephen J Beckingham (C) 7, Christopher J Cooper 8.

Sussex Memorial Weekend

The Sussex County Association Memorial Weekend was an event held to remember those who had died in the past few years. The ringers of the Eastern District stepped up to the plate.

Friday 2nd saw a day of ringing in the Eastbourne area. Five quarter peals were rung: 11 Doubles methods at Westham, Bob Minor at Pevensey, Bob Major and Bob Triples at Christ Church, and Grandsire Triples at All Saints. The latter was the first quarter peal rung on these bells following their restoration. Congratulations to Mark Brittle for ringing his first quarter of Bob Minor and his first of Triples.

On Saturday 3rd, a quarter of Oxford Bob Triples was rung at Hailsham, particularly remembering Alan Baldock on what would have been his birthday.

On the morning of Sunday 4th, the Bexhill band rung a touch of Grandsire Doubles in memory of several who passed away during the Covid pandemic. The band at Christ Church, Eastbourne also performed some general ringing dedicated to the event. Two more quarters were rung in the evening – Clewer Slow Bob Minor at Hailsham, at Yorkshire Surprise Major at the Forewood Ring, Crowhurst.

You can view all performances, from the Eastern District and other parts of Sussex, linked to the event on Bellboard here: [Ringing World BellBoard](#)



Above left: The Saturday quarter peal band at Hailsham. Left to right – Alan D Pink, Stephen J Beckingham, Rachel Moss, Christine M Baldock, Samuel P R Canning, Louise G Pink, Ann F Wright, Sandra M Titherly

Above right: The All Saints band. Clockwise from front right – Louise G Pink, Christine M Baldock, Sandra M Titherly, Ann F Wright, Alan D Pink, Mark Brittle, Samuel P R Canning, Rachel Moss

Ringling and Rambling

Saturday 24th September saw a walk scheduled between Chiddingly and Hellingly. The weather forecast threatened that the event would be a washout, so many elected to drive between the towers instead.

Chiddingly was the first tower, but we had to wait to start ringing as a piano tuner was at work in the church, in preparation for a concert that evening. Once he was done, we rang Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Fortunately, the forecast was wrong, and those of us who did walk were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Low Weald (albeit while taking a wrong

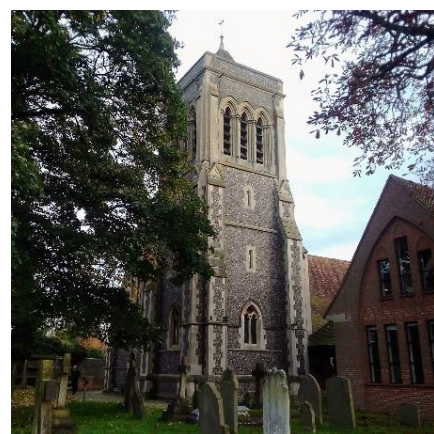
turn at one point). We were a little late, though, and by the time we arrived the bells were already up.

The bells at Hellingly are challenging thanks to the unguided draft, but with the support of the locals we were able to produce good ringing including Call Changes, Reverse Canterbury and Bob Minor. This was followed by a pub lunch - and a walk back to Chiddingly for some!

Bracknell Area Outing

Saturday 29th October saw a mix of ringers from all four districts of Sussex venture into the Bracknell area for a fantastic ringing outing hosted by the East District.

We met at St Mary's Church in Twyford, a tower that is popular for visiting bands, and peal attempts thanks to the effective sound control. In the tower hangs a 12cwt octave, cast by Mears & Stainbank of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, in London in 1913. Once up in the cosy ringing room, we started the day with Call Changes, through to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and a half course of Cambridge.



Our next stop of the day was Waltham St Lawrence, where Samuel, John and Kye joined us. The tower here has a lovely open ringing gallery overlooking the church, and houses six bells, with the tenor also weighing 12cwt. Four of the bells were cast by Thomas Mears, again of Whitechapel, and two by Gillet & Johnston, presumably these were recastings. We were pleasantly surprised to find the bells half-muffled, which provided a completely different atmosphere. I love the sound of half-muffled ringing and I spent a lot of time outside listening as opposed to ringing. The ringing here was run by Marisa Hayes, and a variety of Methods were rung including Norwich Surprise and Kent Treble Bob for Samuel.

We ventured south to Binfield, where we found another similar sounding ring of six, only weighing 9cwt this time. The ground floor ringing chamber meant people could wait comfortably in the church to ring. Ringing throughout the day catered for all different abilities – here we rang Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, a touch of Stedman and a course of Cambridge. The keenest of us ‘tower grabbers’ also discovered a tiny chiming bell, unusually hung on the top of the spiral staircase!



At lunch time, a small group of us explored ‘Moss End Garden Village’ to find some food. It’s an easy place to get lost, but most of us were able to stick together. We found an Italian Deli that made us some delicious sandwiches, and Marisa came prepared with the Young Ringers’ set of Handbells, so we were able to ring a few touches in this unusual location.

The group reunited at Warfield, a lovely church with a 13cwt ring of ten! These bells were again cast by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel – the back eight in 1913 and augmented with two trebles cast in 1968. The way up to the tower means walking through what looks like a broom cupboard, which actually leads to the spiral staircase! The ringing here was expertly run by Stephen Beckingham, and once all the bells were up, we rang a few lots of Call Changes, and a bob course of Grandsire Caters.





Our final stop was the church of St Mary Magdalene and St Michael the Archangel in Easthampstead, a suburb of Bracknell. This impressive church, houses a very light Mears & Stainbank octave, cast in 1966 and only weighing 6cwt. Ringing here ranged from Call Changes right up to Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, and Cambridge. We finished off the day with Tea and Cake down in the Church – a perfect way to finish a ringing outing.

A massive thanks of course must go to Rachel, Christine, Marion, and everyone else who helped to organise this trip – and my personal thanks to Marisa for transport.



Captions for photographs in order

- 1. St Mary's Twyford*
- 2. Waltham St Lawrence*
- 3. Binfield*
- 4. Kye, Francesco, Luca and Samuel ringing handbells at Moss End*
- 5. Taking a break from ringing at Warfield for some Tunisian crochet*
- 6. Easthampstead*
- 7. The ringers at Easthampstead*

BELLS OF SUSSEX

Crawley ringer Kye Leaver is working on a database featuring all of Sussex's 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/>

Practice in Rye

On 26th of November a ringing meeting was held in the 'antient' town of Rye, one of the more easterly locations in Sussex. Ringers came from as far away as Ashford and Portsmouth to grab the tower! The bells pose some challenges, the 7 is quite late at both strokes and the clock mechanism is very loud at times. Despite this we enjoyed ringing that included Call Changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Major. Thanks are due to the local ringers provided a delicious tea and supported our ringing.

Spiced Apple and or pear juice (non-alcoholic)

Ingredients

2 litres Apple or pear juice 4oz Sugar

Cinnamon Stick cloves to taste – approx. 6

¼ pint water Coriander seeds – optional

Lemon rind

Method

Simmer all ingredients together over a low heat, until sugar has dissolved, but do not allow to boil.

Strain and serve with slices of lemon and or orange.

Parsnip Parcels

Ingredients

1 packet of jus-roll puff pastry 2-3 parsnips

Dash of white wine, cider or Apple juice

Grated Cheese Pinch of nutmeg

Salt and Pepper

Method

Preheat Oven to 180C

Cook and mash parsnips. Add grated cheese, nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste and wine – optional. Roll out the pastry as thin as you can, cut into four inch squares (approx.). Place a teaspoon of the parsnip mixture into the centre of the square. Brush the edges with milk or beaten egg, then bring the points together over the parsnip mixture to meet at the centre. Pinch the sides together to form the parcel. Brush with beaten egg. Place on a baking sheet lined with non-stick paper and bake in the oven until well risen and golden brown, approx. fifteen to twenty minutes.

SERIAL

The Island – Part 2

Previously: Stefan has discovered that the number of services at his church will be greatly reduced, causing him to fear for the future of the band. He's just received a mysterious letter from 'Mr. X'.

Dear sir/madam,

You are receiving this letter as one of the country's most eminent bellringers. You and seven other similarly talented individuals are cordially invited to Doncaster Island. The purpose of your visit will be revealed upon arrival. Please prepare to stay for six nights, arriving on March 3rd. Meals and accommodation will be provided.

The letter went on to give details of transportation and an address to RSVP.

"This is nonsense!" exclaimed Stefan and explained what the letter had said. "I'm not an eminent ringer. I haven't rung a peal since 2008, and I can just about manage Bob Minor."

"You are well respected in the local area," Bianca said. "And there's more to being a good ringer than ringing lots of peals in fancy methods."

"That's true but why would somebody who lives on a private island in the North Sea have heard of me?" Doncaster Island was owned by the reclusive Lord Patcham and was home to a small community of the super-rich.

Bianca shrugged. "Why don't you go," she suggested, "and find out. You could use a holiday to take your mind off the situation. It is all paid for."

Stefan considered. "I hope they aren't expecting a ringer who can ring surprise and suchlike. But on the other hand, it could be refreshing..."

FQC

What is the real reason for Stefan being invited to the island? Who and what will he find when he gets there? Find out in the next thrilling instalment of The Island!

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

Visit www.scacr.org

Don't yet have a subscription to Soundbow, the Association Newsletter? Contact Kathy Howard at Soundbow99@gmail.com or by telephone at 01903 813653. Yearly postal subscription for four fat issues is only £7! Why not set up a tower subscription if you haven't already?

Find the SCACR on Facebook - search for 'SCACR' - the Association has a page and our members have a secure, closed group for their posts about ringing in Sussex.

Find SCACR on Twitter. Use [@scacr_bells](https://twitter.com/scacr_bells) and [@sussexbells](https://twitter.com/sussexbells).

Contact Vicky Chase, your Communication and Events Team Leader, at publicity@scacr.org if you want to know more about publicity or social media.



The next edition of Look To! will be December 2022.

The deadline for write ups, events and relevant material is the end of November.

Send it all to news-east@scacr.org

Many thanks to everyone who contributed

