

Look To!



The Eastern District Newsletter *March 2023*

Words from your editor

Hello all,

Apologies for the slightly late publication; welcome to *Look To!*. Since the last edition, we've had several meetings and notably, the Annual District Meeting.

Look out for the events coming up in the calendar – your attendance is bound to be appreciated. Look out particularly for the Doubles and Triples practices at Westham and Christ Church Eastbourne – perhaps you will benefit from them, or you can come to support the practices and help out others. Part of the joy of ringing is helping each other to grow.

Samuel Canning

Look To! Editor

Words from Marion – Your District Secretary

2023 has started off well. We have recommenced the midweek doubles practice, the first one a well-attended meeting at Westham and also the Triples practice where again there was good support at Christchurch Eastbourne.

In addition to these practices, we have also jointly with the Southern District held surprise major practices. The first was held at Chiddingly with the next one later in March at the Southern tower of Buxted.

Recently there has been increased interest in learning to ring. There has been some good national and also local publicity, some with reference to 'Ring for the King'. Towers may well have had approaches directly in respect to teaching

new ringers. A few contacts have been made directly to the District Secretary who has directed prospective ringers to their local towers. Hopefully many of these new ringers will continue and become part of our association.

As District Secretary I have been approached recently by a few ringers who are advising they were not aware of events in the East and also requests for duplicate membership certificates. It would appear that in some cases, a tower correspondent upon receipt of information or a certificate has not passed on the details to the other towers members' or in some cases not presented certificates to new members. To ensure all ringers have the opportunity to become involved in all aspect of the SCACR can I please make a plea that any information received by a tower correspondent in made known to their tower members.

Please do made a note of the dates of local events both ringing and non-ringing to ensure the good start to the years continues with well supported events.

Marion Hollands



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

April

Wednesday 5th – Quiz – Hailsham Civic Centre

Wednesday 12th - Doubles at Westham 7.00 p.m.

Sat 22nd – Burwash, 10.30 start

Tuesday 25th - Triples at Christ Church Eastbourne 7.30 p.m.

May

Wednesday 10th - Doubles at Westham 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday 23rd Triples - at Christ Church Eastbourne 7.30 p.m.

June

Wednesday 10th - Doubles at Westham 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday 23rd - Triples at Christ Church Eastbourne 7.30 p.m.

News in Brief

A quarter peal of Christmas Day Doubles was rung at the Forewood Ring on December 25th, followed by Christmas cake!

Laughton ringer Stephen Beckingham celebrated a significant birthday on January 4th, celebrating with a peal of Stedman Triples at Fairwarp and a quarter peal of Spliced Minor at the Forewood Ring.

A peal at All Saints, Hastings on 27th January marked the 50th anniversary of Ralph Collins' first peal.

On February 5th, a new principle, Forewood Major, was named at the Forewood Ring.

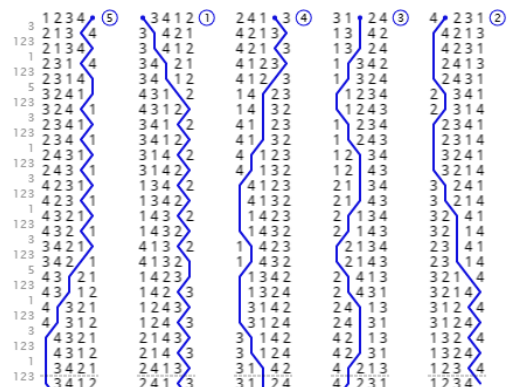
Also on February 5th, a quarter of Doubles at All Saints Hastings marked the 40th anniversary of the Guild of St Agatha.

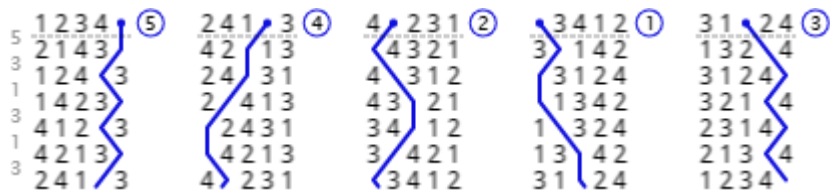
Several towers rung for Ash Wednesday services on February 22nd, including a quarter of Grandsire Doubles at Bexhill.

Stedman-alikes

In the September 2022 edition, we talked about working towards Stedman. As Stedman is such a classic, it's no surprise that it has its share of imitators. One is **Orpheus**, which is the same as Stedman except every blow of the frontwork is doubled, and 5 dodges at the back. If you think that sounds trivial and would be easy for anyone who knows Stedman, you are in for a shock. The frontwork lasts so long that without extreme concentration, it is very easy to forget where you are, and counting blows is essential.

Erin is another. Stedman is made up of quick and slow sixes with forward and reverse hunting respectively on the front three. Erin contains only the slow

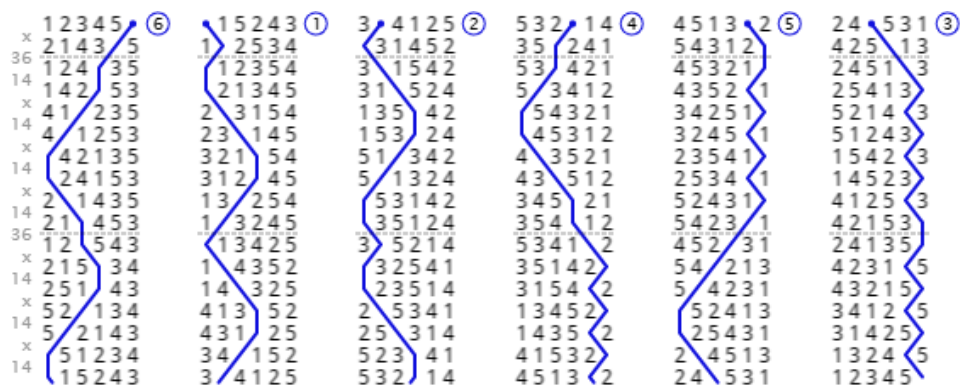




sixes. The singles are the same as Stedman, but as there is only one type of frontwork, there's no

pressure to remember which way to go in. As such, it might be worth ringing first. It extends to higher numbers in the same manner as Stedman. Be warned if you want to call Erin Doubles: there are no true 120s so multi extent blocks will be needed for a quarter peal – far from straightforward.

Shipway is a lot like Stedman; it is a minor method consisting of quick and slow frontwork and dodging behind. The blocks of forward and reverse hunting are quick and slow eights The odd thirds during the slow are definitely the thing to watch out for. The bobs and singles also need careful study.

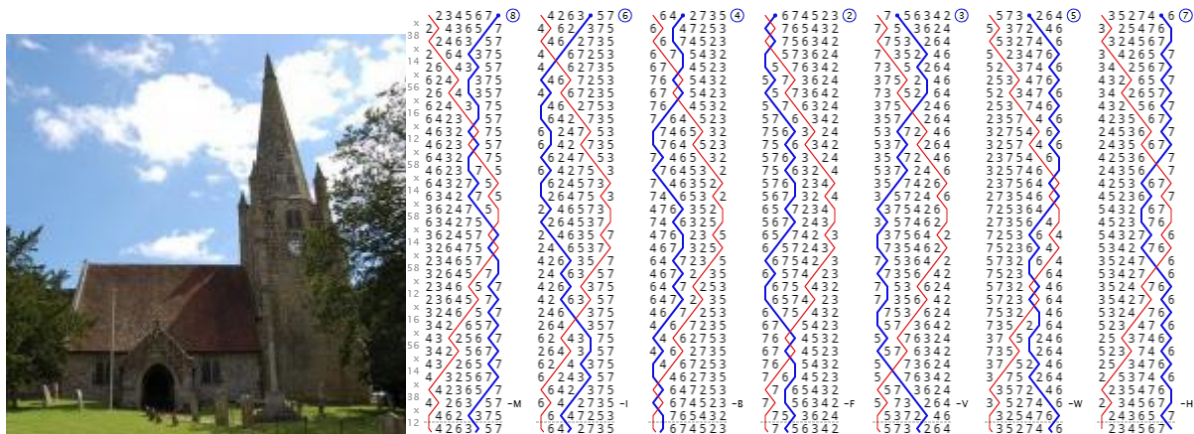


The aptly named **Stedmonster Triples** is a similar principle, with forward and reverse hunting on the front five in quick and slow tens! I'll leave you to figure out that one.

Credit to the Blueline method printer for the diagrams.

Surprise Surprise

Ringers from as far as Horsham came to attend a joint Surprise Major practice with the Southern District at Chiddingly on 28th January. Cambridge, Yorkshire, Bristol, Lessness and Superlative were rung, providing attendees with useful opportunities to practise methods which they might not otherwise be able to. This was followed by an excellent pub lunch. Look out for more joint practises in the future.



Bexhill Anniversary



Above: The band. Left to right: 3 Pauline M Kennard, 5 Sandra M Titherly, 6 Richard R Kennard, 1 Louise G Pink, 2 Ralph H G Collins, 7 Catherine S Finn, 8 Alan D Pink (C), 4 Samuel P R Canning

2022 was the 1250th anniversary of the founding of St Peter's, Bexhill-on-Sea. To mark the end of a year of celebrations, an appropriate length quarter peal of 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung on the back 8 on 23rd December, conducted by Alan Pink.

[Ringing World BellBoard](#)

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>

Annual District Meeting

The Eastern District annual meeting was held in Hailsham this year at the end of February. It was a well-attended event with the afternoon in the more traditional format of ringing, service, tea and meeting. The meeting heard the various district officers reports with the secretaries' report approved for inclusion in the annual SCACR report at the AGM in May. Many of the officers at the general committee had already received nominations at other district meetings (the East traditionally hold their meeting on the fourth Saturday in February with the others districts on the previous Saturdays in the month). There was a proposal for General Secretary with David Kirkcaldy being proposed. At the district level however we do have vacancies for a master, education officer and for a further member on the district committee. It is likely that there will be some officers not seeking re-election at the next ADM so please consider if you could become involved.

- Ringing Master - vacant

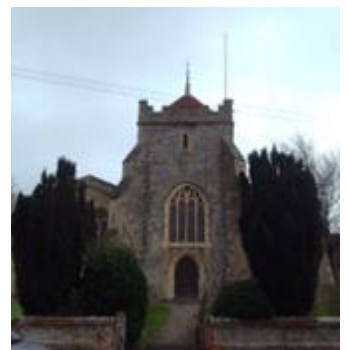
- Secretary – Marion Hollands, sec-east@scacr.org
- Programme organiser – Vacant
- “Look To” Editor – Samuel Canning
- Education Officer – vacant
- BRF Representative – Pip Pawley, brf@pawley.org
- Central Council Representative - Pip Pawley
- Committee Members (3) – Frances Bradford, Nick Cant and one position vacant

Minutes can be found here: [Minutes](#)

Marion Hollands

Sussex Young Ringers Come East

On Friday 17th February, during the half-term break, the Sussex Young Ringers met for an outing in the far east, around Hastings. We met at St Peters in **Bexhill on Sea**, and ringing started with Rounds and Plain Hunt on six, eight and ten. We discovered the semitone bell (part of the original ring of eight bells in this tower) which allowed us to ring rounds on eleven! All good laughs, but some serious ringing was achieved too, Cambridge Minor and Stedman Caters.



After finding ourselves some lunch, we met up again at St Mary's in **Battle** – this heavy octave certainly posed a challenge, but not one we were not willing to face. Once up the tower in the lovely old fashioned ringing room, we grabbed hold for Call Changes, followed by Grandsire Triples and a touch of Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major! Not all young ringers' bands have a band capable of such ringing, so well done to all particularly on these tough bells. One to return to.

Finally, we ventured up to **Ashburnham**, the church being located in 'Ashburnham Place' rather than in the village. This was a tower I'd always been interested in, so we were lucky to be able to visit. The bells are a delightful 9cwt six, rung from the ground floor – however the church being built on a hill, means the ground floor of the tower is actually below the floor of the church! Inside the tower is also a wooden staircase leading to the organ platform, with some of the ropes actually passing through. Certainly, an unusual setup! We took advantage of these easy ringing bells to try some new methods – Original Minor and Yorkshire Block Delight Minor – as well as ringing the usual methods so as to include the entire band.



We all thoroughly enjoyed the day out, with three unique towers and some good laughs. Thanks as always to Marisa, our co-ordinator, for organising these trips. We are always looking for new people to join us, so if you have any Young Ringers in your tower, please get in touch!

Francesco Greenslade (Midhurst / Stedham – West District)



Fifty Towers in Fifty Days for Fifty-Year-Old Vicky

Vicky Chase, our SCACR Training and Recruitment Team Leader has been instrumental in promoting bellringing and supporting new and novice bellringers throughout Sussex. Her commitment and enthusiasm for bellringing

will now be put to the test as she undertakes an ambitious challenge to celebrate her 50th birthday on the 27th of April.

Her plan is to ring bells in 50 Sussex bell towers in 50 days in the run up to and including the Saturday after her birthday. Along the way she will be collecting donations for the SCACR Bell Restoration Fund.

Vicky will kick off her challenge on Saturday 11th March when she will join the Graffham ringers at St Giles church for a morning practice session. This will be followed by her home tower of St John the Baptist at Kirdford on the same afternoon. Thereafter she will tour the many towers of Sussex in a carefully planned journey over the subsequent weeks. The presence of Holy Week during her challenge has hindered her schedule somewhat. Because there is no ringing during this week, she will double up on some towers to compensate.

Bellringers always welcome visitors into their towers and so Vicky will slot into regular practice nights, Saturday practices and Sunday service ringing. She will undoubtedly be challenged by some of the methods she will be expected to ring. "St Nicholas" and other "Saint" methods are Vicky's favourite and on these she prefers to ring the treble or the tenor. She is hoping that at some of the venues there will be enough fellow method ringers to give her the chance to ring these methods. The whole process should also allow her to perfect "Bob Doubles" and "Grandsire" that she has been learning. Vicky is also relishing ringing in some of the bigger towers in Sussex and she is particularly looking forward to one of the ten bell towers that exist in Brighton.

If you would like to support Vicky in her unique challenge and in doing so help preserve bells and bellringing in Sussex, you can go to her Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers> or meet her when she visits your tower. The towers she will be visiting are listed on the Just Giving page. Alternatively you can go to the SCACR website (www.scacr.org/about-us/charitable-funds/bell-restoration-fund) and follow the 'Donate' links to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Alison Box



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/>

Fruity Simnel Squares.

Ingredients.

340g / 12oz mixed dried fruit 85g / 3oz cherries

200g / 7oz butter 4 large eggs 200g / 7oz light muscovado sugar 200g / 7oz S/R flour

50g / 2oz ground almonds 2tsp mixed spice

1tsp ground cinnamon ½ tsp ground nutmeg

500g / 1lb marzipan zest of 2 oranges & juice of 1

Topping

50g / 2oz light muscovado sugar 50g / 2oz butter

100g / 4oz plain flour 100g / 4oz flaked almonds

3tbsp golden syrup 85g / 3oz icing sugar

2-3 tsp orange juice Marzipan taken from above

Method

Soak the dried fruit in the orange juice for a short while. Or overnight. Butter and line a 20cm / 30cm tin with baking parchment. Cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs, flour, ground almonds and spices, beating well. Chop just under half the marzipan add to the mixture with the dried fruit, zest and any juice left in the bowl, mixing well. Tip the cake mix into prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes at 160C / 140C. Make 11 small balls with some of the marzipan and grate the rest. Make the topping by rubbing the butter into the sugar and flour stir in the marzipan, flaked almonds and golden syrup, keeping the mixture crumbly. Sprinkle over the cake and return to the oven for 12 – 15 minutes. Arrange the marzipan balls on top and when cool mix the orange juice and icing sugar together then drizzle over the cake.

SERIAL

The Island – Part 3

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 received a mysterious letter from 'Mr. X' inviting him to a private island in the North Sea.

"Refreshing, I said this would be," Stefan muttered to himself as the ferry rocked back and forth in the storm, clinging for dear life to his seat. Up and

down he went as rain lashed viciously against the porthole next to him. The cabin had already been a tight squeeze and somehow the tempest outside made him feel all the more claustrophobic. Stefan peered through the porthole, but saw at first nothing but pitch black. Then, a bright white flash of lightning illuminated the porthole and Stefan saw it; the silhouette of Doncaster Island.

He saw at once the island's most distinctive feature – the four perpendicular stone arches arranged in a cross shape and connected to a central column. It really did resemble the Doncaster canon for which the island was named. Lit against the cold dark night, it seemed terribly harsh and imposing. Stefan hoped it wouldn't be a bad omen.

The captain's voice rang out over the tannoy. "Hello, we have arrived at Doncaster Island."

Stefan grinned, pleased that the ordeal was over.

"But due to the storm, we will have to wait another half hour before entering the harbour."

His heart sank. His disappointment was clearly visible, because a crew member came to speak to him. "Never mind sir," she said. "It's quite normal. The passage into the harbour is narrow and we can't handle it in a gale like this."

"Nor can my stomach," he muttered. Stefan looked through the window, again seeing the rock formation illuminated by the lightning. But this time, he could have sworn he saw a human shape, starkly illuminated against the midnight blue sky. "It's the weather and the illness playing tricks on me," said to himself.

The attendant looked at him quizzically, and he explained what he saw.

"Ah, that," she said. "That must be the Ghost of Old Dennis. He was a servant to the island's first owner – a demanding and cruel master. Once, the owner sent him out onto the rock formation during a storm, to rescue his hat which had blown away, but then, a lightning bolt struck him. He plunged over the side, into the ocean below. He was never seen again, but they say his ghost can still be seen on stormy nights, climbing across the rocks, but never reaching the other side..."

"Utter tish tosh," Stefan muttered. But he didn't sound sure...

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 June 2023.

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

Send it all to news-east@scacr.org

Many thanks to everyone who contributed

