

NORTHERN NEWS

September 2023



KYE L LEAVER

Editor

Contents

	Page
Dates For Your Diary	1
 <u>Northern District News</u>	
Cells and Bells	3
Ten Again!!	6
Central Council AGM news	12
Quarter Peals	14
 <u>Association News</u>	
SCACR Newsletters	15
Contacts	15

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



District Events

OCTOBER

Saturday 9th

Turners Hill, St Leonard

10:30 - 12:00

Ringling with Coffee & Cake

(Timings are currently TBC) Join us for ringing on the newly refurbished bells at Turners Hill. Ringing will be rounds onwards, all welcome! Followed by tea / coffee and cake!!

Please remember to bring some cash for the tower donation and refreshments.

Due to the long draft, you may want to come with your ringing teacher if you're a novice ringer.

Monday 9th

TBC

19:30 - 21:00

Advanced 8-Bell Practice

This practice will include Stedman Triples / Surprise & Delight Major methods. The minimum competency is to be able to ring touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Triples without assistance.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th

Lower Beeding, Holy Trinity

10:00 - 12:00

Ringling with a Coffee & Cake

Join us for a relaxing and friendly morning of ringing with tea / coffee and cake!! Ringing will be rounds onwards, all welcome. Come along to have a go at something new; or something you wouldn't usually ring at your home tower; or something just to get the practice in. Meet ringers from around the district, and catch up with friends over a cuppa.

There will also be hand bells! If you're a novice ringer, you may want to come with you teacher. Please bring some cash for refreshments and a tower donation.

Monday 13th

TBC

19:30 - 21:00

Advanced 8 Bell Practice

This practice will include Stedman Triples / Surprise & Delight Major methods. The minimum competency is to be able to ring touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Triples without assistance.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

- Saturday 2nd: **Slaugham, St Mary** Ringing with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine
- Monday 11th: **TBC** Advanced 8 Bell Practice

JANUARY

- Saturday 6th: **Rusper, St Mary Magdalene** Ringing with Pub Lunch

FEBRUARY

- Saturday 3rd: **Horsham, St Mary the Virgin (TBC)**
Ringing, ADM, Ringers' dinner

Directions

TURNERS HILL, St Leonards - **Church Road, Turners Hill, RH10 4PB**

LOWER BEEDING, Holy Trinity - **Sandygate Lane, Lower Beeding, RH13 6NU**

SLAUGHAM, St Mary - **Staplefield Land, Slaugham, RH17 6AQ**

RUSPER, St Mary Magdalene - **High Street, Rusper, RH12 4PX**

HORSHAM, St Mary the Virgin - **The Causeway, Horsham, RH12 1HF**

Association Events

For information on practices throughout the Association, go to the SCACR events calendar at <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/calendar>. Updates can also be found on the [SCACR Facebook group](#)!

Please note that all under-16s must be accompanied by parent/guardian or other nominated adult, and have a completed “permission to ring church bells” form (available to download from the Safeguarding page on the SCACR website).



SUSSEX COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF
CHANGE RINGERS

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

Cells and Bells

Horsham, Town Hall

Bell	Weight	Diameter	Note	Founder	Date	Canon	Hanging
1	0-2-11	14.00"	C#	Gillett & Co	1889	Doncaster	Dead
2	1-0-6	17.25"	B	Gillett & Co	1889	Doncaster	Dead
3	c1-3-0	22.13"	G	Thomas II Mears	1820	Yes	Dead

On August 7th, Mike Cattell and I carried out a bell inspection at the old town hall in Horsham, now a restaurant called Bill's.

In 1812, it fell into disrepair, and was substantially rebuilt with funding from the 11th Duke of Norfolk, Charles Howard.

The 12th Duke of Norfolk donated a clock complete with a bell to strike the hours. The original clock made by John Moore of Clerkenwell hasn't survived, but a new one by W. H. Bailey & Co Ltd of Manchester now calls the tower home. It was once wound manually, but Gillett & Johnston Clocks Ltd upgraded it to automatic winding in 1990. It was then set in action by councillor Barbara Palmer on Wednesday 23rd May 1990. On inspection the quarters were not working due to an issue with the electronics.

Now, let's turn our attention to the bells.

Fortunately, the original bell has survived and serves as the hour bell. It has a lengthy inscription, allowing no room for the maker's name. It is inscribed:

Underlined text is around the inscription band

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORFOLK. PRESENTED A NEW TOWN HALL:
CLOCK ANNO DOMINI 1820 R. H. HURST ESQ.^{RE} & J. TURNER^R GEN.^T ##
BAILIFFS D. STEDMAN GEN.^T TOWN CLERK. S.^R JOHN AUDREY BAR.^T
& R.^T HURST ESQ.^{RE} MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH. WHOSE PRAISE & FAME
I'LL SPEAK & TELL AS LONG AS I REMAIN A. BELL AND AFTER DEATH:
I HOPE & TRUST THEY'D ALL BE NUMBERD WITH THE JUST.

So you may be wondering who cast this bell?

Due to the absence of a maker's name, we must focus on the canons, font, and ornamentation. The canons are of a Whitechapel pattern; the letters are a mixture of Thomas I Mears & Thomas II Mears'; and the ornaments are those used on Whitechapel

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

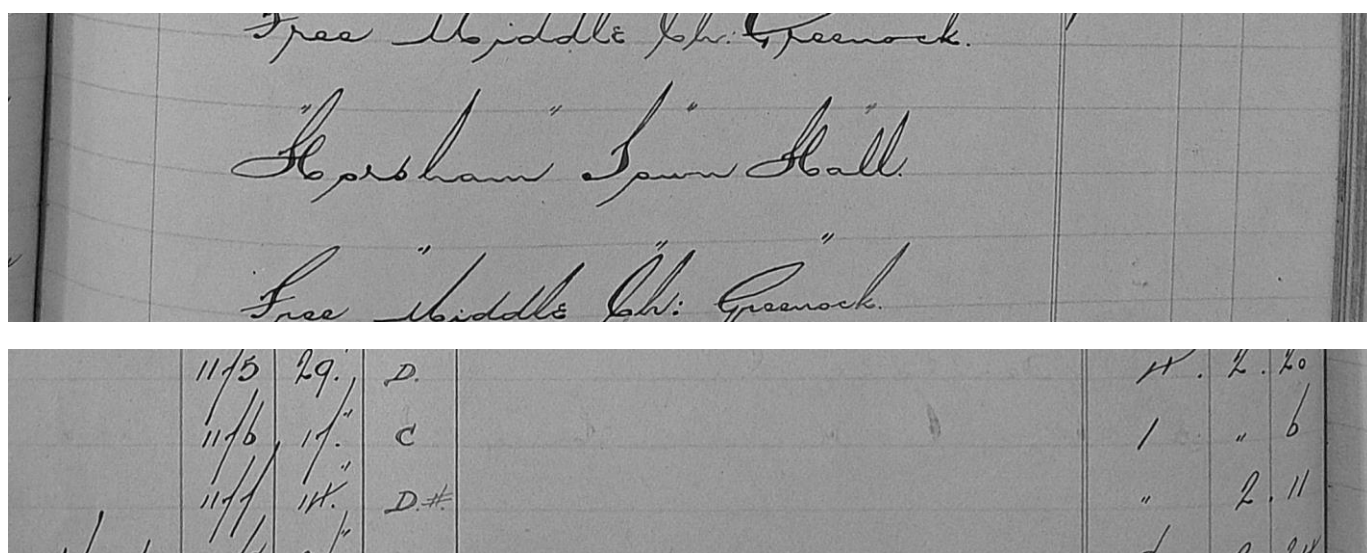
bells. As the date is 1820, we can therefore attribute it to Thomas II Mears. It is strapped to an iron bracket by the means of a conventional 6-looped canon.

Inside the bell is a crown staple, but there are no patches of wear to suggest that it's been swung.

On the other side of the tower are the two quarter bells, each cast by Gillett & Co, Croydon.

On the crown are the serial numbers 1177 (treble) and 1176 (tenor).

These bells are listed on page 69 of the first Gillett & Johnston tuning book.



They were cast in April 1889, and installed around June.

We can also see that they were tuned to the old concert pitch.

Each bell is inscribed:

1	GILLET & Co CROYDON 1889
2	<u>GILLET & Co CROYDON 1889</u>

The inscription on the treble is inscribed on the waist.

The treble is hung above the tenor, both strapped to iron brackets by the means of a squat doncaster canon.

In 1987, the clock may have had a restoration as an engraving on the wall reads J.B 1987.

Around the same time, a newspaper article shows the bells at the Horsham Museum.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

All in all, the clock and bells are in great condition, although the quarters weren't working on inspection.

Access to the belfry is by one of the tightest spiral staircases I've ascended!

Afterwards, Mike & I went down to the cells where the famous Acid Bath Murderer from Crawley was locked up, and it was great to see them in such good condition.

Most people should be familiar with the photograph of him going up the stairs along the west wall.



For more information, go to: <https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/horsham-town-hall.html>

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

[Ten Again!!](#)

On August 17th, the Horsham ringers took a trip up to Loughborough to watch the casting of our new 4th, with the added bonus of a tour around the foundry!

The metal was poured at 14:45, crowning itself the newest bell in the county.



SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



Photos by Kye L Leaver & Richard Pendlebury.

The following week, the bell was broken out of the mould and sent to Whites of Appleton for tuning. It was tuned on August 22nd, and the bell shows evidence of a substantial amount of metal removed from the soundbow.

John Taylor & Co cast the bell 1" larger than the original, meaning that Whites had to skirt the bell by a large amount to raise the pitch.

Metal removed from the waist shows how they flattened the Hum and quint, and metal removed below the lip shows how they flattened the nominal.

No metal was taken out the crown to flatten the prime. In fact, the crown hasn't been touched at all, showing the cracks that formed in the mould.



SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

The bell returned to Horsham on September 12th, and a dedication service was held at 10am.

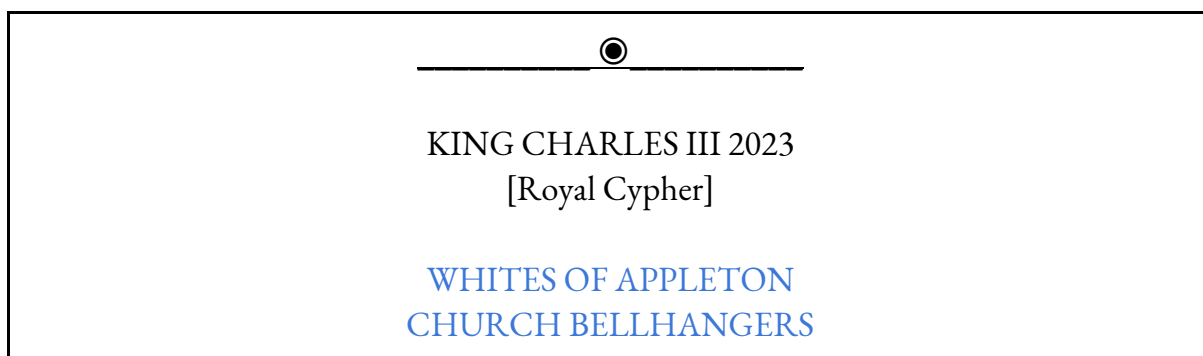
It was hung on the same day, and the other bells were serviced the following day.

We now have an idea to replace the current clapper in the tenor with a wooden shafted one with a counter-balance, but this is yet to be confirmed.

Our new forth was cast with a flat top, to a Whitechapel profile. It is ever so slightly flatter than the previous 4th, and a lot thicker too. Because of this, it produces a very mellow tone. It is inscribed:

Underlined text is around the inscription band

Text is blue is on the opposite side of the bell



● = Taylor Medallion



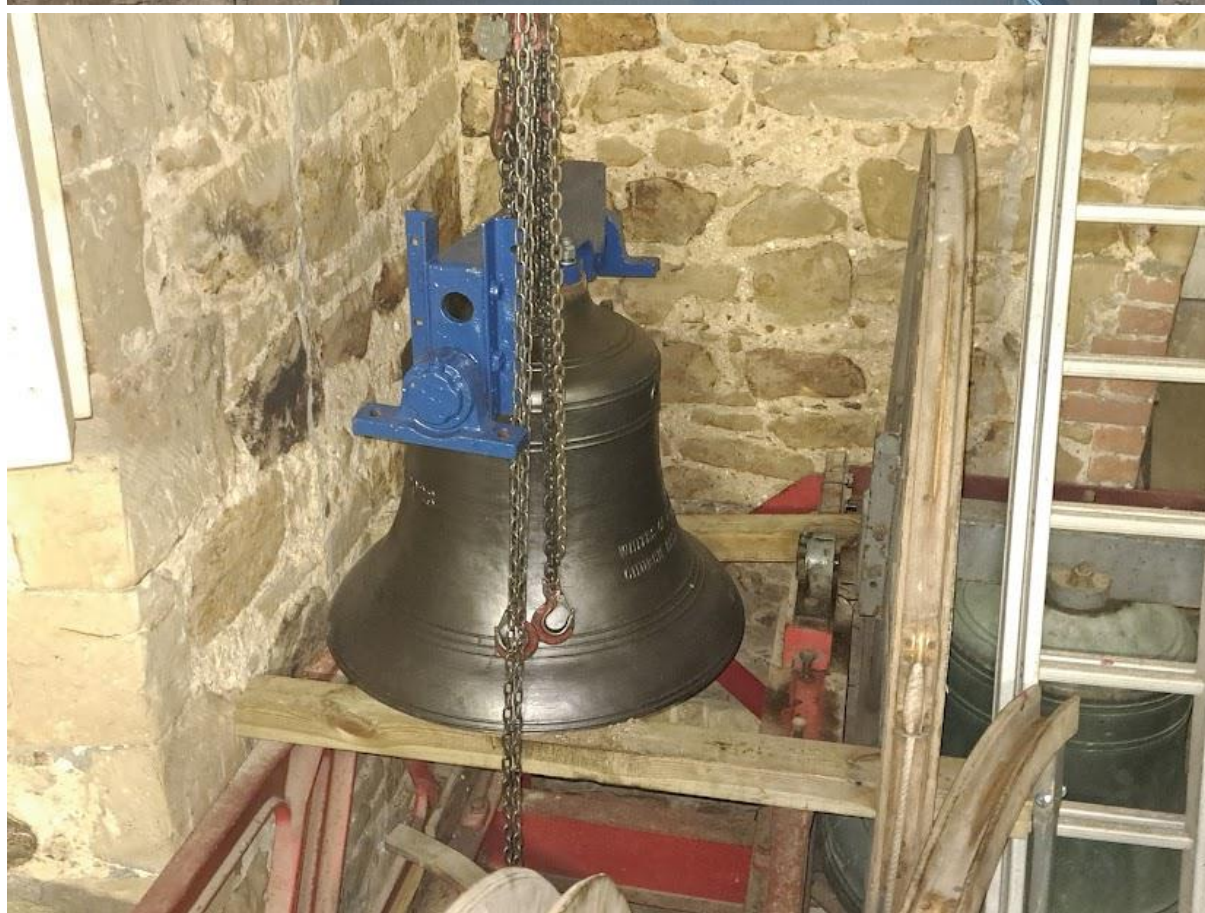
King Charles III 2023 is inscribed using Taylor's 1¼" letters, making them the larger letters in the tower. Whereas Whites of Appleton church bellhangers was inscribed using their much smaller ¾" sized letters.

The Taylor medallion is 1⅝" in diameter, and the Royal Cypher is 4½" high.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



For more information on the bells of Horsham and the new fourth, go to:

<https://thebellsofsussex.weebly.com/horsham-st-mary-the-virgin.html>

Practice continued as normal on Tuesday, and we were able to ring 10 for the first time since February!



SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Central Council AGM update

The annual meeting of the Central Council of Church Bellringers (the representative body for change ringing associations) took place in Ipswich on Saturday 2nd September. Four out of five of the SCACR representatives were present. The meeting included updates about many useful and exciting projects.

The project to create a **National Ringing Centre** at the site of the old Black Lion pub and church next door in Northampton is ongoing. This is a joint project with the Churches Conservation Trust. The aim is to create a site with church bells, meeting rooms, and accommodation.

Electronic guides for various aspects of running a tower have been created and are available online, with photos and videos. These will be kept up-to-date as processes and best practice change:

- [Belfry upkeep](#) (Tower maintenance)
- [Running a tower](#) (particularly aimed at tower captains and ringing masters)
- [Belfry projects](#) (e.g. augmentation)

Several projects to **support ringing for schools and youth groups** have been completed or are ongoing:

- An updated [Bluebells Challenge Badge](#) for Guides has been created
- Updated [guidance for Duke of Edinburgh Award](#)
- Lesson plans (linking to National Curriculum at various Stages) have been developed & tested ahead of wider roll-out
- There are plans to create a central online hub to support universities & colleges - *volunteers needed! Contact uclead@cccbr.org.uk*

Safeguarding updates:

- Looking for people to contribute to CC collation of CofE safeguarding practices across different Diocese, so that Associations can use this to help inform conversations with CofE - *contact your CC Rep to get involved*
- A new publication, [From practice to perfect](#), has been produced, as guidance for clergy, PCCs, and Safeguarding advisors
- NB CofE Safeguarding Advisors will soon have Safeguarding *Officers*; will be independent of Bishop.
- New ringing-focused safeguarding training being produced, with CofE (but each Diocese decides their own Safeguarding training requirements).
- The Central Council is working on a template safeguarding agreement for Associations to use (with their local Diocese).

A one-page **code of conduct for ringers** has been developed, for towers/Associations to make use of if they wish. It will soon be available from the [Central Council website](#).

The Central Council's **Library** will be moved on-loan to the new Loughborough Bellfoundry visitor centre, which is currently under construction. The Library will be freely accessible and open to ringers to use.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Various projects related to ringing **history and archives** are underway:

- A website dedicated to the history of change ringing is under production; a short version is available [here](#).
- New peal board database being created: aiming to create a central record of all peal boards; *looking for volunteers to help gather info - contact richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk*
- *Volunteers needed to make bell recordings and record verbal histories - contact biographies@cccbr.org.uk.*

A **Forward Plan** for “Ringing 2030” is currently being developed. This is a strategy based on three pillars:

1. More people wanting to learn to ring (smarter marketing, and addressing the demographic imbalance)
2. Recruitment & teaching well
3. Quality environment (teachers, bell installations, finance conference for Associations...)

As part of this project, a national ringing survey will be sent out; the results will also be helpful for Associations & branches. The questions have been designed to identify medium & long-term trends (the survey has already been piloted in 3 regions). Upcoming activities and outputs include: Insurance scenarios; guidance relating to churches at risk of closure; and a National Call Change Competition.

Simon Linford (outgoing CC President) is taking on the **Senior Stakeholder Liaison** role.

A **new President and Deputy President** were elected:

- President - Tina Stoecklin (Scottish Association)
- Deputy President - Vicky Chapman (Essex Association; ran Ringing Remembers campaign and was previously CC Public Relations Officer)

Finally, a motion to **reduce the size of the Council** by reducing the number of representatives per association was defeated. It was felt that reducing the number of representatives would adversely affect the number of volunteers and communication with other ringers, and reduce the visibility and impact of the CC’s work.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

QUARTER PEALS

Since the last Northern News, we have had a few Quarter Peals rung in the Northern district.

In alphabetical order:

HORSHAM, St Mary the Virgin:

30 July 2023 - 1250 Cambridge S Major [Link](#)

13 August 2023 - 1264 Plain Bob Major [Link](#)

FAIRWARP, Christ Church:

21 July 2023 - 1568 Spliced S Major (7m) [Link](#)

SLINFOLD, St Peter:

15 August 2023 - 1296 Ipswich S Minor [Link](#)

WARNHAM, St Margaret:

10 September 2023 - 1250 Superlative S Major [Link](#)

WITHYHAM, St Michael & All Angels:

31 July 2023 - 1344 Whitminster S Major [Link](#)

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

SCACR NEWSLETTERS

East

Look To! July 2023

The latest addition of Look To! can be accessed here: <https://www.scacr.org/news-events/newsletters/look-to/531-look-to-july-2023>
news-east@scacr.org Samuel Canning

West

Sally Forth July 2023

The latest addition of Sally Forth! can be viewed here:
<https://www.scacr.org/news-events/newsletters/sally-forth/529-sally-forth-july-2023>
news-west@scacr.org Mandy Rodgers

South

This position is currently vacant and no Newsletters are currently available
news-south@scacr.org

CONTACTS

Northern District Committee

Committee Members: Rosie Gregory, Kye Leaver, Richard Pendlebury, Julie Quinn, Chris Westwood

Bell Restoration Rep: Simon Alford

Secretary and Central Council Rep: Stephanie Pendlebury (sec-north@scacr.org)

Newsletter Editor: Kye L Leaver (news-north@scacr.org)

Association Key Contacts

Master: Gareth Higgs (master@scacr.org)

General Secretary: David Kirkcaldy (secretary@scacr.org)

Treasurer: Sue Gadd (treasurer@scacr.org)

Bell Restoration Fund Secretary: Rob Lane (brf@scacr.org)

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



SUSSEX COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF
CHANGE RINGERS