

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
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To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Fri 27 June :: Advanced 8-bell practice, St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, 7pm–9pm. Please let Zoe (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend. Focus methods: Stedman, Yorkshire, Bristol, London, and possibly Lincolnshire.

Sat 28 Jun :: Alloa :: 3pm–5pm. All welcome. *No practices in June and July*, resuming again on 30 Aug. More information from dunkeld@sacr.org

Fri 25 – Sun 27 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

- General ringing sessions are:
 - Friday 25th July 6pm – 8pm
 - Saturday 26th July 2pm – 4.30pm and 6pm – 7.30pm
 - Sunday 27th July 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Ringing will range from rounds on 10 to Bristol & Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal and all ringers are very welcome.
- If you wish to be included in the general ringers booking for dinner in the George on Friday and/or Saturday night please send your name and which nights to inveraray@sacr.org by Friday 13 June (pre-booking is now necessary due to reduced capacity at the George so please do not just turn up expecting to be included as would have been possible in the past).

Sat 30 Aug :: Alloa :: 3pm–5pm. All welcome. More information from dunkeld@sacr.org

Fri 5 – Sun 7 Sep :: Central Council AGM in Sheffield
<https://cccbr.org.uk/2025/01/24/save-the-date-5-7-september-2025>

Sat 25 Oct :: Inverness and Forres :: Autumn meeting

In memoriam

Bill Cussons

We are sorry to pass on the sad news that Bill Cussons died on Easter Monday. He was greatly involved with the installation of the bells at St John's, Dumfries. Bill learned to ring with the others in 2013 and rang for two or three years before deciding that he had probably progressed as far as he was going to, and withdrew from being an active ringer. Despite this he was still very interested in the bells.

Bill developed dementia a few years ago and spent the last two or three years in a care home,

where he stayed up until the end. Many of us will remember his involvement with the bell project. He was always professional and very enthusiastic and brought his considerable experience to bear on this new area.

A quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles was rung in Bill's memory at St John's, Dumfries on 25 May: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1855817>



News

AGM and striking competition :: Glasgow

It was a glorious sunny day for the SACR striking competition and AGM on 17 May. Congratulations to Glasgow who won the Inveraray Trophy, and to Edinburgh St Mary's who won the St Andrew's Shield. Alex Fishburn and Lilian Halewood from Liverpool judged the competition. They were impressed that SACR had 8 bands ringing changes. Thanks to St Mary's Glasgow ringers for hosting.



Welcome to new members of SACR:

- Gerda Grase (Edinburgh, St Cuthbert)
- Chloe Haynes (Edinburgh, New Town)
- Evelyn Atter (Edinburgh, New Town)

Welcome the new SACR Master:

The baton (or is that “the rope”) is passed ... past Master of SACR on the right and current Master of SACR on the left. Good luck Zoe keeping the rabble in order. And thank you Ruth for the last few years of leadership #10bellpraticce #edinburghstcuthberts



Bell Sunday at St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness

Tower bells and hand bells:

There were 9 ringers for service ringing. We rang call changes on 8 (including Whittingtons, King's, Queens, Tittums, and back to rounds). That was followed by two courses of Plain Bob Triples, and then more call changes. At the end of the service, the organ voluntary was replaced by 3 of the band ringing two courses of Plain Bob Minor on handbells, which was appreciated by the congregation. Later in the day, a [quarter of Plain Bob Triples](#) was rung for evensong.

Bell Sunday at St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews

New learners ringing, and hymns and poems at a special service:

Bell Sunday at St Andrews this year included a new hymn written to the tune of 'Ding Dong Merrily On High', and a sermon to match, by University Chaplain Rev Dr Donald MacEwan. Plus a lovely poem about St Salvator's bells by Anna Crowe. There were ten ringers in total, including four who have been learning since January ringing good rounds and call changes. Some snippets from the order of service are at <https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing/posts/pfbidOTuy4z8PYGA4aRikPPJxRi9sJcsfqgd4uN2QB2FMeRZBDigZQJdJP5fahYEocrLPil>

The Bell Ringers
Anna Crowe, 2018

*They stand in a ring of six, feet planted,
facing each other. Arms raised
to the great ropes with their sallies, they wait
like a still tree, their branches spread
to catch the quickening wind.*

*Which comes, as clapper hits bronze,
and the ringers let the pattern go hunting: Annie,
the treble, changes places with Agnes, with
Elizabeth, Katherine, Margaret, George:*

*Each bell sings out in turn, gives tongue
as the branches thresh, their music taking flight –
clamouring, tumbling, ecstatic – flung
from the top of the tower and out, out
over the roofs and spires of the town.*

(With thanks to Peter Jupp for introducing me to the St Salvator's Society of Bell Ringers, and to the bells: Annie, Agnes, Elizabeth, Katherine, Margaret, George)

Association of Ringing Teachers

Here are St Mary's Edinburgh ART accredited teachers! Alison, Eli and Susannah were recently accredited by ART for teaching bell-handling, and Ian was already accredited (since 2017). An inspiring bunch!



An here's a full list of recent ART accolades:

- **ART Accreditation for Teaching Bell Handling:**
 - Anthony Cole (Inverness)
 - Alison Stevens (Edinburgh, St Mary)
 - Eli Farquharson (Edinburgh, St Mary)
 - Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh, St Mary)
- **ART Accreditation for Teaching Change Ringing:**
 - Anthony Cole (Inverness)
- **ART Learning the Ropes Level 5:** This is the highest level and offers the opportunity to attend a masterclass weekend, usually at the Birmingham School of Bellringing:
 - Molly Holmes (Dunblane)
 - Siobhan Kewley (Dunblane)
 - Miranda Jones (Dunblane)

Website: ART's website is <https://bellringing.org>, with info for both budding ringing teachers and aspiring bellringers.

Next courses: An ART bell handling course will be held in Dunblane this month (June 2025). Towers should contact Judith for further training requests (training@sacr.org).

Tower Talk: Tower Talk is ART's newsletter by new ringers for new ringers. The latest edition is available here: <https://bellringing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Tower-Talk-32.pdf>

Tower Talk

The newsletter for ringers using  Learning the Ropes™

Association of Ringing Teachers / Learning the Ropes - www.learningtheropes.org

Edinburgh St Mary's

An exciting installation is in the making at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh by @edward.r.bruce and @aaltspace. It will be an installation of colourful banners depicting change-ringing beneath the cathedral's bell tower, incorporating bellringing, weaving and architecture in one magnificent art installation ... on display in August, September and October ... <https://www.cathedral.net/event-details-registration/ringing-the-changes> ... see the Instagram link for more details: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKG_9JOCEQQ



Inverness

The joys of visiting ringers... both for the tower visited and for the touring visitors ...

<https://www.facebook.com/InvernessCathedralBellringers>

There were ten of us for service ringing on Sun 15 June, our number being boosted by three visiting experienced ringers (and an observer). We rang the back four up in pairs, then bells 3-6 in peal, and then the front two once we realised we needed all ten! Nick conducted some rounds and call changes to rollercoaster and back on all ten bells to begin with. We then made the most of our visiting ringers and rang a touch of Grandsire Triples on the back eight. We rang some more call changes on all ten bells to queens and back, rang down the front six in peal, and then the back four in peal.

With a few local ringers away, it was great to have the visiting ringers. Well done everyone 🍕🔔



Inveraray

March Maintenance Weekend: Lots of greasing and painting and repairing at the annual Inveraray Bell Tower maintenance weekend ... getting the bells ready for the season



Inveraray young ringers: Inspiring sounds in Inveraray Bell Tower ... starting young with a short video on how to ring rounds at this link: <https://fb.watch/z-bkiuHLGe> (with parents' permission)

Inveraray summer opening: Inveraray Bell Tower is about to open for the summer season ... with enhanced exhibition info boards and artefacts and great views over Inveraray, Loch Fyne and surrounding hills, it's a great stopping off point for visitors and tourists ... opening dates for 2025 are 16th June – 25th August, 10.30am to 4.30pm.

More details are available on the revamped website <https://www.inveraraybelltower.co.uk>, and via social media at <http://facebook.com/inveraraybelltower>, <https://www.instagram.com/inveraraybelltower>, https://x.com/inveraray_bells and <https://www.threads.com/@inveraraybelltower>

Thanks to a whole raft of ringers who've been bringing all the details together with new exhibition info boards, artefacts, publicity leaflets, website, alongside the admin for the SCIO.

If you have any friends or family touring Scotland over the summer, be sure to encourage them to visit Inveraray Bell Tower if they are passing through the town.



50:50 Club for the SACR Bell Restoration Fund

Ian Tallboys (St Machar's, Aberdeen) won both the April and May draws. He won £36.50 for each month and so is very happy! If you'd like to have the chance of a double win, and to support the SACR BRF each month, please email Ruth Ogilvie on 50-50club@sacr.org

Bellboard :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#). Quite a lot of quarter peal firsts both on hand bells (at the Scottish Handbell Day) and in the tower

- Quarter Peal firsts:
 - First Grandsire and first Plain Bob Minor for Michael Pearce
 - First Surprise in hand for Rachel Milner
 - First Plain Bob Major on tower bells for Sue Turner and Rachel Milner
 - First on twelve for Alison Stevens

- First on twelve in hand for Estella Haynes
 - First Cambridge Royal in hand for Barbara Bell and Ian Bell
 - First blows of Surprise Royal on handbells for Alison Stevens
 - Most spliced in hand for Jennifer Holden
 - First Surprise Royal for Ian Turner
 - First on eight for Talon Ashryver
 - First quarter in hand for Brian Heys
 - First change ringing performance in Kilfinnan
 - First quarter for Gerda Grase
 - First on eight and away from cover for Lyra Burgess
 - Peal firsts:
 - First on twelve for George Stevens
 - 50th at Alloa for Peter Williamson
 - Circled Alloa tower for Estella Haynes
 - Celebrations:
 - VE Day 80th Anniversary ringing at Inverness, St Mary's Edinburgh, and Dumfries
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- Welcome to Rev Canon Sarah Shaw, newly installed Vice Provost of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow
 - Stirling 900th Anniversary Weekend Finale with a quarter of doubles at Stirling
 - Pride Month with a quarter of Grandsire Triples at St Cuthbert's
 - Birth of Imogen Irene Saunders, niece of Ed Smith with a peal of Imogen Delight Major
 - PhD viva celebration for Al Rossin (congratulations Dr Rossin!) with a quarter of doubles & minor
 - Happy birthday to Barbara Bell, Annie Brechin and James Holdsworth
 - Commemorations:
 - In memory of Bill Cussons, who was greatly involved with the installation of the bells at St John's Dumfries in 2012.
 - In memory of Gareth Thom
 - Plus a quarter peal for Christian Aid Week at New Town Church Edinburgh, and for Bell Sunday at St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness

Not a Scottish story... but a feel-good ringing story!:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2025/jun/09/a-new-start-after-60-my-voice-went-and-suddenly-part-of-me-was-missing-then-i-discovered-bellringing>

CCCBR AGM in Sheffield :: Fri 5 – Sun 7 Sep :: The weekend programme is open to all ringers and the full programme will be published in due course. This year it includes a roadshow on the Sunday, supported by trades and exhibitors, speakers and ringing opportunities on both Friday and Sunday. <https://cccb.org.uk/2025/01/24/save-the-date-5-7-september-2025>.



If you have anything going on at your local tower or if you encourage your local newspaper to include an article about bellringing, etc., please send photos and text to publicity@sacr.org.

Please send in photos, articles, your social media posts and other updates about your local ringing to publicity@sacr.org.

Social media

See Scottish Bellringing's facebook and instagram pages for more photos and items

For up to date info on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://x.com/SBellringing>

<https://www.sacr.org>

@scottishbellringing

@SBellringing

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bellringers>

The SACR Committee
