

**Subject:** Fwd: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**From:** Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>  
**Date:** 29/03/2026, 22:45  
**To:** Members <Members@sacr.org>

And of course another date that is probably already in your diary is the **AGM and striking competition in Edinburgh on 16 May**, inadvertently omitted from the "Upcoming events":

### **Sat 16 May :: Edinburgh :: AGM and striking competition**

- 12-bell practice at St Mary's in the morning and
- striking competition on the front 6 at St Cuthbert's followed by
- AGM at St Mary's Walpole Hall.
- Enter a band and have some fun!

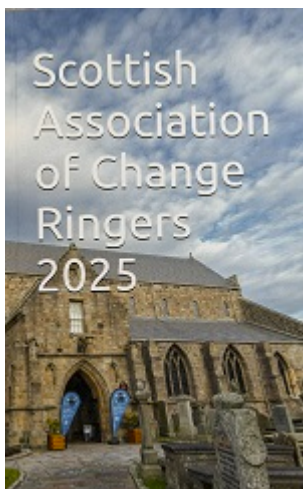
----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**Date:** Sun, 29 Mar 2026 15:10  
**From:** [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org)

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter, and also a link to the **2025 SACR Annual Report**, which is packed with news from all the towers and articles on everything from cathedral banners to the naming of Edinburgh Surprise Major. Many thanks to Report Editor Simon Aves.

- Your tower should have a copy coming soon, or
- You can read the report online at [sacr.org/index.php/resources/annual-reports](http://sacr.org/index.php/resources/annual-reports)



### **Upcoming Events**

**Fri 24 Apr, 7pm–9pm (*still to be fully confirmed*) :: Dunblane :: Advanced Practice**

- Zoe plans to work on more of the **Standard 8 Surprise Major**, so please revise:
- Yorkshire, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Superlative, Bristol, London, Pudsey, Rutland ...
- or as many of the standard 8 as you feel comfortable with
- Zoe will email out further info ahead of the practice
- As usual, please let Zoe ([master@sacr.org](mailto:master@sacr.org)) know if you plan to attend

**Sun 17 May :: Bell Sunday** :: Tips and ideas are given in *The Ringing World* No.5995, 20 March 2026, pp. 256-257



**Fri 26 June (tbc) :: Advanced Practice** :: location and date to be confirmed soon. Details from [master@sacr.org](mailto:master@sacr.org)

**Fri 24 to Sun 26 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend**

- Friday 24th July 6pm – 8pm
- Saturday 25th July 2pm – 4.30pm and 6pm – 7.30pm
- Sunday 26th July 1.30pm – 3.30pm



**Fri 4 to Sun 6 Sep :: CCCBR AGM in Rugby**. Open to all ringers. More info below

**Sat 17 Oct :: Autumn meeting :: Dundee**

## [News](#)

### **Welcome to new members of SACR:**

- Hilary Winstanley – Aberdeen
- Kirsty Hassard and Caroline Taylor – Dundee
- Mark Forsyth and Tim Blythe (junior) – St Mary, Edinburgh
- Julia Forsyth – New Town, Edinburgh
- Olivia Clark, Maya Kruger, Gail Reid and Diane Williamson – St Andrews
- Bear Kenchington and Liz Lockett – Stirling

New members were elected at the January meeting. There was ringing at Dunblane and at Alloa. Thanks to Alloa for hosting the meeting and for providing a great tea.

There's ringing at Alloa on the third Saturday of each month from 3pm to 5pm (please check ahead of attending to [dunkeld@sacr.org](mailto:dunkeld@sacr.org)); all are welcome.



## Young Ringers

- The Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 have launched a new University Ringing website: <https://universityringing.org>
- If you have any young ringers in your tower who may be heading for university, please make them aware of this.

## Tulloch Ringing Centre

- **ART Minor Stepping Stones week at Tulloch in February** and
- **SACR Training weekend at Tulloch in March**

Here are two reports from these sessions at Tulloch. *Jenny Dearie* was at both events:

### ***Two Courses of London at Tulloch***

When we relocated from Sussex to Scotland in 2023 and I joined the band at Dunblane, it didn't take Judith Frye long to realise that I avoid ringing London like the plague. There's nothing wrong with London: I spent three very happy years at university there but the method, well I think it's all the wrong hunting and changes of direction that confuse and perplex me. It's certainly completely different!

Therefore, when Judith asked me to join the ART Minor Stepping Stones Course I felt I had to see if I could get more comfortable ringing **London Surprise Minor**. The structured, progressive approach in the design of the course really helped. Whilst I learn Surprise Major Methods by studying the place bells, how they start and finish, it had never occurred to me that applying the same strategy to Minor was just as important.

We learned how to turn a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor into Primrose by hunting at the lead end, Ipswich by hunting at the half lead, and Norfolk by doing both. We then explored the concept of ringing one method above the treble and another below. We tried to splice several methods together.

Each student was allowed two-hour-long focus sessions during the week. The student selected topics of their choice to support what they had learnt in the practice sessions and needed to develop. I chose to ring quarter peals of Norfolk and London. Both were successful and well struck with a band of experienced ringers around me: a real confidence booster.

The Ringing Centre in the Highlands was used again two weeks later for the SACR Training Course. This was an opportunity to extend my skills to **London Surprise Major**. Much more complex with even more wrong hunting and triple the number of fishtails. On the second day we rang on all twelve bells which was great fun.

I can thoroughly recommend the courses and the ringing centre as an ideal location for the

intensive hands-on rope practice and theory sessions. No neighbours to upset with hours of ringing. The horses didn't seem to mind and the chickens were definitely keen to get into the tower and join in!

My thanks go to all the tutors and helpers who enabled both courses to run smoothly. I will try to take my enthusiasm back to Dunblane and catch hold to ring London whenever the opportunity arises.

*Jenny Dearie*

The March training weekend offered a great variety of ringing for a range of levels: on the Saturday there was plain hunting for one group, Grandsire and Stedman Triples for another group, and London Surprise Major for a third group... followed by general ringing on 12 in the evening. And on the Sunday there was a 12-bell day, focusing on cinques and maximus.

*Eli Farquharson writes:*

### ***Twelve-bell ringing at Tulloch***

Even though I regularly ring at St Mary's In Edinburgh, on our beautiful 12 bells, it was a great opportunity to ring on the lighter bells at Tulloch this weekend.

Ian Bell built our confidence with all sorts of exercises, ringing Plain Hunt Minor on two sets of six, giving us the chance to feel the 12-bell rhythm whilst doing something very accessible.

There were useful contributions from a number of people, allowing us to focus on one skill at a time. Once we had become used to ringing in rounds we all had a go at leading (for 50 seconds) and then moving one bell to the right to ring the next bell. This was a focused practice on leading, but also the rapid move round the bells gave us all the opportunity to try every bell as we moved round the circle of bells. Nobody got caught on the front, or the back, which was important for confidence-building.

We did not rest in our comfort zone of rounds for long, and quickly moved onto Plain Hunt on 12 (with our improved leading skills/awareness), Grandsire Cinques, Treble Bob Hunt, Stedman Cinques, Kent Maximus.

There was something for everyone. The main take away points were:

- Everyone present should have gained confidence from some excellent ringing.
- Everyone present had something to learn about ringing on 12 bells.
- We need to focus on listening and rhythm, whilst counting positions, and knowing our place, and smiling!
- Leading carefully and accurately is important for maintaining the rhythm and the sound of the bells. The rhythm is so important not only for the sound but also to help the whole team ring well.
- In addition to listening, striking as well as we can, and counting, we also need to think about our course and after bells, and how we interact with all the bells we pass.
- Good bell ringing techniques – particularly aiming for straight arms at the top of hand strokes and back strokes – are essential for accurate striking.

We ended the session by ringing down on 12 – brilliant. The very positive thing is that we don't have to ring on 12 bells to practise each of these skills: we can easily incorporate them into our normal practices.

Many thanks to Ian and to all the others who offered really useful advice.

*Eli Farquharson*

## Glasgow at Westminster for the New Year

- “Inspires” is the online newsletter of the Scottish Episcopal Church... the January 2026 edition includes an article by Ruth Marshall about the Glasgow bellringers’ opportunity to ring in the New Year at Westminster Abbey: <https://mailchi.mp/scotland/inspires-online-for-jan-2026>



## St Paul's, Dundee: Augmentation to 10

- Work is starting at St Paul's, Dundee, to provide an easier 6 for learners as well as a ring of 10. There's no ringing until further notice, but the SACR Autumn meeting is slated for 17 October when it's hoped that the new 10 will be ringing out over the city.
- SACR have donated up to £20,000 towards the project.

## St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh



- St Mary's is **fundraising for essential maintenance work** which includes rebushing the clappers, re-aligning the eleventh, and checking the bearings.
  - You can read more via this fundraising link, where over £10,000 (including gift aid) has already been raised: [https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/st\\_marys\\_cathedral\\_bells](https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/st_marys_cathedral_bells)
  - SACR Bell Restoration Fund has pledged a contribution, and further individual contributions, however small or large, will be gratefully received.
- "**Ring Out for Climate Justice**" marked two years of monthly chiming at St Mary's on 28 February: [bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1943261](http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1943261)
- In other news from the cathedral, the installation "**Ring the Changes**" by artist Edward Bruce and architect Nick O'Neill of aaltspace has been selected as one of four finalists in the Temporary Art Installation category of the UK's national Art and Christianity Awards.
  - Here's a link to an article about the project in "The Scoop": <https://www.scottishdesignawards.com/the-scoop/billowing-banners-raise-the-standard-for-public-art/>
  - This 10-minute **highly-recommended youtube film** gives a great insight into the

installation: [youtu.be/9fUoevjCPWE?si=8wWrhYnZ6Ou\\_khfA](https://youtu.be/9fUoevjCPWE?si=8wWrhYnZ6Ou_khfA)

- More info about the award nomination is available via instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/p/DV83Gq0jAzu/?img\\_index=1&igsh=cnZxZGQxZWfobjc0](https://www.instagram.com/p/DV83Gq0jAzu/?img_index=1&igsh=cnZxZGQxZWfobjc0):

The finalists for the UK's national Art and Christianity Awards have been announced. Artist Edward Bruce + Architect Nick O'Neill of aalospace are delighted that their installation 'Ringing the Changes' for St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, has been selected as one of four finalists in the Temporary Art Installation category:

"Inaugurated in 2003, the awards aim to foster & explore dialogue between art & all faiths by celebrating the UK's exceptional quality & scholarship in religious art & design. Finalists demonstrate their artwork has met the judges' criteria of 'being exemplary in its relationship to its context & its capacity to engage in the activities and worship of its environment'.

" 'Ringing the Changes' celebrates the ancient culture of bellringing, drawing on the Cathedral's own 150-year tradition. We worked with St Mary's Cathedral Society of Change Ringers who rang the methods woven into our banners on hand bells to audiences and to the Capital using traditional peals.

"Using woven textile & Bruce's colour coding, the work transforms traditional bellringing notation into a dazzling, modern interpretation. It celebrates & makes manifest the hidden art of bell ringing by revealing its inherent musical complexity through colourful shifting patterns, sequenced along the banners' length.

"Suspended 20m above the cathedral's alter, they swoop from the bell chamber's oculus, arcing & folding like the bell ringers' ropes that pull the massive cast iron bells of the central spire.

"To install/demount without permanent fixings – prohibited in a historic A-Listed cathedral – we devised ingenious systems of ropes, pulleys & counterweights, inspired by bell ringing mechanisms. It was engineered by Narro Associates, installed by Hi-Solution Ltd.

"The woven fabric is reminiscent of traditional church textiles, vestments & religious stoles, long depicted in religious liturgy, art and sculpture. We continue tradition, but with our own contemporary interpretation.

"We are pleased that we can share our nomination with such a diverse and strong group of projects. The winners will be announced in London, on 23rd April."

**Inveraray Bell Tower has been busy with:**

- **an outing to Beverley and Hull in February and**
- **the annual Inveraray Bell Tower Maintenance weekend in March**

The **maintenance weekend** saw the renovation of the path to the tower, some pruning and shredding around the tower, cleaning of leaking gutters, the building of a workbench, and annual general maintenance. There's a range of progress photos at [facebook.com/inveraraybelltower](https://facebook.com/inveraraybelltower) and at [instagram.com/inveraraybelltower](https://instagram.com/inveraraybelltower) and a reel at [facebook.com/share/v/16pEdZ1rLX](https://facebook.com/share/v/16pEdZ1rLX) and at [instagram.com/reel/DWZJanuDWnm](https://instagram.com/reel/DWZJanuDWnm)



And here are a couple of reports from the Beverley and Hull outing:

*David Baker writes:*

I was privileged to join the Inveraray outing to Beverley and Hull on Friday 27 February to Sunday 1 March 2026. I am writing this as a newcomer to the group on what turned out to be a great weekend of ringing and camaraderie that reminded me of why I was previously an avid ringer. My invitation was “arranged” by my brother Clyde (Wallbanks) – a long-time group member.

To those who were there, I promise this will be the last time I bore you with the details of my time as a lapsed ringer. As far as I recall, it was at least 10 years since I rang a bell (which is now no longer true!), and over 40 years since I did any serious ringing.

Unfortunately, Clyde and several other regulars were unable to attend due to various health and personal circumstances. So, it was with some trepidation that I approached the weekend, particularly considering the two 12-bell rings on the itinerary and the reduced ringer numbers. I need not have been the slightest concerned and thank everyone for their welcome, encouragement and forbearance.

We rang at an eclectic selection of 6, 8, 10 and 12 bell towers, each with their own unique character, which provided a well-balanced and varied ringing experience which I, for one, enjoyed immensely.

The choice of Saturday dinner venue was inspired – drinks before at a real pub followed by great food and even better company. It’s rumoured that some resorted to taking a “wee dram” (or several) back at the hotel into the early hours of Sunday – clearly the responsibility of the Dog and Duck landlord for calling time rather prematurely (11pm).

So, all too soon, came Sunday morning service ringing, with a chance to ring with some of the locals, at Beverley St Mary and, finally, at Beverley Minster.

Again, many thanks to those who organised the weekend and to the local ringers who made us so very welcome and made up the numbers when needed.

*Rachel Milner writes:*

I was a little apprehensive joining the Inveraray Bell Tower ringing outing to Beverley and Hull. The two special methods were of course Hull Surprise Minor and Beverley Surprise Minor. I spent some of the journey down from Inverness to East Yorkshire frantically trying to learn the blue line

to Hull, having decided that to try and learn Beverley as well was out of my reach!

Over the weekend we rang in seven different towers, starting on Friday evening at Walkington – a ground floor light ring of six. The rope circle was around the font, which took a bit of getting used to. On the Saturday we started at Hedon which was a nice ring of eight bells in a huge church, and we then went to Hull Minster. The twelve ropes were in a very large ringing chamber. I tried ringing a bob course of Grandsire Cinques but found ringing there a bit tricky. Hull Minster itself is very beautiful, and some of us enjoyed lunch in the Minster Café. I couldn't resist buying a wee wooden mouse in the shop too!

In the afternoon we started at an anticlockwise ring of six at Lowgate, where I got to try the Hull Surprise Minor. Having thought I had learnt the blue line, I struggled ringing it on the bells. I could not even blame the anticlockwise circle, as you soon forgot that when you were ringing. Next, we went to another six-bell tower at Sutton, and this was the most difficult staircase to navigate (although Lowgate was a close second). I had another go at ringing the Hull and was a little more successful.

Our final tower on the Saturday was St Mary's in Beverley, and the 12 bells there are beautiful. It was easier to ring in a smaller ringing circle and – with Angela kindly standing behind and keeping me right – I managed to ring my first bob course of Grandsire Cinques, which was a highlight of the weekend for me. As we were in the tower the sun was setting outside, and the view was beautiful through the lovely shaped stone window. We had a fantastic meal at Maa's Indian in Beverley in the evening.

The next day we joined Sunday service ringing back at St Mary's, and I enjoyed ringing rounds and call changes on them again. The others rang some Grandsire Caters on the back ten, which was a joy to listen to. We also joined service ringing at Beverley Minster with the sun shining brightly outside. The bells are a similar weight to the Inveraray bells, but the bells at Inveraray are far superior, and I preferred ringing the bells at St Mary's (but don't tell the Minster ringers!).

I'd like to thank everyone for such an enjoyable weekend, and in particular Zoe M for driving me between the towers, and the ringers who stood behind me and encouraged me when I rang.



## 2026 Westley Award for Belfry Maintenance and Improvement

- The Ringing 2030 Environments Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has launched the 2026 award for people who have recently become involved in belfry maintenance and improvement, developing their own skills, and helping others to do so.
- The award will be presented at the CCCBR AGM in Rugby in September 2026.
- The winner will receive £100, kindly donated by Westley Group, and a certificate.
- Details of the award, and how to enter, can be found here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/workgroups/ringing-2030-environments/westley-award-2026/>

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List ::



- The CCCBR has asked all affiliated societies to consider signing the petition to UNESCO for bellringing to be considered in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Project. Tina explained that the project essentially is looking at things that people do rather than things that people have.
- The CCCBR feel that this is worthwhile, that the first step is to evidence support from the ringing community, and that the CCCBR is the right body to take this forward. The plan is to submit a single application for the whole of the UK.
- At the January meeting it was agreed that SACR should sign this to show support as an Association.
- In addition individuals can sign the petition if they wish; the link is <https://cccbr.org.uk/heritage>
- See also article in *The Ringing World* No.5992, 27 Feb 2026, pp 171 & 173

## CCCBR AGM :: 4–6 September :: Rugby



- The CCCBR AGM is open to all ... there will be ringing, a social event and of course the business meeting. SACR has two voting reps in Tina Stoecklin and Zoe Bennett. If you have anything you would like them to raise or have any questions to ask, email [cprep@sacr.org](mailto:cprep@sacr.org)
- The full programme will be published in due course. Keep an eye on the CCCBR website and social media for updates. Booking for all elements of the weekend will open nearer the time.

Friday 4th Sept	Saturday 5th Sept	Sunday 6th Sept
General ringing will be available at towers en route to Rugby. Routes will follow the main roads into Rugby.  Evening ringing will be at St Andrew's, Rugby with a social event at the Benn Hall.	Welcome desk and registration.  Ringing World AGM.  CCCBR AGM.  Social event at the nearby Arnold House.	Service ringing at local churches, including a special bell themed service at Coventry Cathedral.  Opportunities to support locals with ringing workshops in the early afternoon.

**Bellboard** :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#).

- Peal firsts:
  - First peal for Geoffrey Farquharson
  - First peal of eight spliced for Susannah Ewens
  - First peal of eight spliced in hand for Barbara Bell and Ian Bell
  - First peal of Unausgeglichen Surprise Major
  
- Quarter Peal firsts:
  - First inside for Irina Dudina and for Fiona Bridge
  - First on 10 in hand for Brian Heys
  - First on 12 for Elinor Farquharson
  - First on 12 in hand for Jenny Page
  - First surprise for Geoffrey Farquharson
  - First surprise major for Alistair Benford
  - First Primrose and first Ipswich for Penelope Bellis
  - First Primrose for Bridget Taylor
  - First Ipswich for Julia Lee
  - First Bourne for Sue Turner
  - First Norwich for Eric McNally
  - First London for Elspeth Craig
  - First London as conductor for Peter Bevis
  - First Hexham for Helen Wells, Helen McGregor and Barbara Busby
  - First spliced for Penelope Bellis and for Aileen Wilson
  - First treble bob for Geoffrey Farquharson
  - First spliced surprise as conductor for Anthony Cole and for Jenny Page
  - First Norfolk for Lynne Sydes
  - First inside on 10 for Harry Bickers
  - First quarter of the 6060s
  - First quarter at Black's Land, Inveraray
  - 100th together for Helen McGregor and Paul Wells
  - Most surprise minor in one quarter for Andrew Craig
  
- Special performances:
  - In memory of Malcolm Loveday
  - Commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Consecration of Bishop Robert Eden
  - By women of St Mary's Edinburgh Sunday band, on International Women's Day
  - Congratulations to Scotland Women's cricket team on qualifying for the World T20 Cup
  - Happy birthday to Ruth Marshall, Jonathan Frye, Will Stafford and Rachel Milner
  - Birthday compliments to Gordon Thynne, grandfather of Ed Smith

### **In memoriam**

**Karin Farnworth (1954-2025)** was a valued member of the band at St Mary's Edinburgh: <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/84-obituary-karin-farnworth>

**Peter Shipton (1938-2025)** was involved in ringing in Scotland in various locations, and this obituary is compiled from memories of Peter's life from a number of fellow ringers: <https://>

[www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/85-obituary-peter-shipton](http://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/85-obituary-peter-shipton)



### **Social media**

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

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