

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

Upcoming events

Sat 3 Sept :: Steeple Keeping Course, Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral :: Jonathan is running a Steeple Keeping course for all those interested in working in the belfry at their tower. Full details via [this link](#) and you can contact Jonathan via advisor@sacr.org

Fri 2 to Sun 4 Sept :: Central Council 2022 Annual Meeting and Roadshow, Nottingham :: Details of the meeting and surrounding events are [here](#), and on Sunday there is a roadshow from 10am–5pm with speaker sessions, exhibitors and other attractions; details [here](#).

Sat 17 Sept :: Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) Course: Teaching Bell Handling :: Inverness, Cathedral Church of St Andrew :: Suitable for those who already teach bell handling and want to update their skills *AND* for those who have never taught anyone to handle a bell. This course provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to take a ringer from their first lesson to having competent bell control. You will learn through a mixture of practical and classroom sessions; the practical sessions will give you plenty of time to practise your new skills in a safe environment.

Watch out for an email in the next few days, which will have details of how to book.

September :: Doors Open Days take place in Scotland in September. The national theme is following VisitScotland's "Year of Stories" and the European Heritage Days theme is "sustainability". Here's a link to show dates for your area: <https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/2022-weekends>

- 3-4 Sept Dumfries & Galloway; Inverness & surrounding area
- 10-11 Sept Aberdeen
- 17-18 Sept Glasgow
- 24-25 Sept Dundee, Edinburgh, Stirling & Clackmannanshire

Advanced practices :: Currently taking a summer break and will be back again in September. Dates to be announced in due course.

Sat 22 Oct :: October meeting :: A full day of activities! There will be ringing and a meeting in **Dunblane** plus a meal and social in the evening. Before that there will be ringing at **Stirling** and hopefully also at **Alloa**. Times and other details to be announced nearer the event.



Young Change Ringers Association (YCRA) Autumn Tour: Nottingham :: this webpage will be updated shortly with date and other details: <https://www.ycra.org.uk/events.php>

Sat 28 Jan 2023 :: January meeting :: Hold the date! Location and other details to be confirmed.

News

48th Inveraray Ringing Festival :: A beautiful sunny weekend for lots of ringing both on the tower bells and on hand bells (in the ringing chamber... and also in [Inveraray Jail!](#)).



What's the connection between 1974 and 2022? It's when these two chaps experienced their first Inveraray Ringing Festival... the most frequent reveller and the least frequent reveller!



Dumfries BearRingers :: If you go up to the tower today... you're in for a big surprise...

... Recently St John's Church in Dumfries held a charity fund raiser by inviting groups – both within and outside the church – to participate in a “Bear Fest”. Linda Scott, one of our band of ringers at Dumfries, entered this exhibit, assisted by her husband who did the joinery. A yellow jacketed bear is about to climb the circular wooden staircase up to the ringing room where 6 more bears are about to raise the bells in peal before ringing a touch of Grandsire Doubles.

Tony McIlwrick, ringer at Dumfries



First all women's handbell peal for SACR :: 5088 Yorkshire S Major rung by Barbara Bell, Angela Deakin, Susannah Ewens and Tina Stoecklin. Link to the bellboard entry is [here](#).



**Scottish Association
Edinburgh**
27 House o'Hill Crescent
Saturday, 9 July 2022 in 2h 40 (12 in F)
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Simon Humphrey
1-2 Barbara J Bell
3-4 Angela H Deakin
5-6 Susannah Ewens
7-8 Tina R Stoecklin (C)
1st as C in hand
First all women's handbell peal for the Association.

A landmark peal at Alloa :: 100th peal on the bells ::

The peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major rung at St John the Evangelist, Alloa on 27th July was the 100th to be rung in the tower. Alloa is only the third Scottish tower, after Inveraray and St Cutbert, Edinburgh to reach this landmark. Having been unable to mark the 150th anniversary of the installation of the first bells due to the pandemic, members of the Scottish Association resolved to make an occasion of the 100th peal, falling 95 years after the first in June 1927. The most appropriate manner of doing this seemed to be to ring the same method and composition as the first peal, and to invite those who have rung most peals in the tower to take part. The band was made up of 8 from the 10 ringers who have rung most at Alloa.

There were no peals rung on the original 6 installed in 1871 so the first peal was some 2 years after the new Taylor's 8 went in. There have been 85 peals of major, 9 of triples and 6 of minor. In contrast to Inveraray where there are large numbers of peals by visiting bands, Alloa and St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh have been mainly SACR. This underlines the utility of these bells for developing and encouraging ringers based in Scotland. All but twenty of the 100 peals have been rung in the last forty years, mainly by an east of Scotland peal band with ringers from Edinburgh, Dundee, Dunblane and Fife. During 2019, when the band completed a peal of each of the 'method of the month', seven were rung at Alloa.

Standing in what was once the private estate of the Earl of Mar but is now over given to low-rise industrial units, the church has few residential neighbours to be disturbed by midweek peals. The ringing chamber has been described as 'intimate' or 'somewhat cramped' at less than 100 square feet (9m²), the ventilation is minimal, and the sandstone walls have a tendency to crumble and deposit copious amounts of dust on the ringers. For some years now Alloa has had only a handful of ringers of its own, but the

church authorities have been extraordinarily encouraging of peal ringing there – especially in the recent past. A previous minister, Rev Eleanor Forgan, learned to ring and celebrated the major restoration of the building by ringing the treble to a peal of Plain Bob Major in 2001. In 2022, the new minister and his son have expressed an interest in learning to ring at Stirling.

The first peal was rung by the Lancashire Association by a touring band that included Edwin Barnett, William Fussell and George Pye. Before setting off for Scotland they announced in the Ringing World that they planned to be the first band to ring a peal in kilts, but there is no evidence that they carried out the threat. They did ring seven peals in five days however, including the first at Leith, St Paul's Dundee and Alloa, and returned home with only one complaint – that they could not buy a drink on a Sunday.

Working out which composition was used in 1927 proved to be harder than hoped. The 1927 composition used at Alloa was a 5024 by Henry W Wilde. However, research by Peter Williamson and Mike Clay couldn't finally determine which of two such compositions that were potentially in existence on the relevant date was the one chosen by James Riding to conduct.

Simon Aves and Peter Williamson



Scottish Association

Alloa, Clackmannanshire

St John the Evangelist

Wednesday, 27 July 2022 in 2h 53 (13–0–20 in F#)

5024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Composed by Henry W Wilde

- 1 Sally L Thomas
- 2 Christopher W Thomas
- 3 Peter G Kirtton
- 4 Edmund G N Smith
- 5 Susan E Bryce
- 6 Simon H Aves
- 7 Peter J Williamson
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

100th peal on the bells. Using the same method and believed to be the same composition as the first peal on June 28th 1927.

The band was made up from those who have rung most peals on these bells. We would like to associate Robin Churchill, Matt Edwards and Colin North with this performance.

Lancashire Association

Alloa, Clackmannanshire

St John the Evangelist

Tuesday, 28 June 1927 in 3h 10 (13–0–20 in F#)

5024 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

H W Wilde

- 1 Edwin Barnett Snr
- 2 George R Pye
- 3 William J Nevard
- 4 William H Fussell
- 5 James H Shepherd
- 6 George Williams
- 7 Edward Jenkins
- 8 James H Riding (C)

First peal on the bells

Bellboard links are [here](#) and [here](#).

TowerTalk :: The newsletter for ringers using the ART Learning the Ropes scheme. Here's a [link to the July 2022 edition](#).

Social media

For up to date info on social media:

<https://www.sacr.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

@SBellringing

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

The SACR Committee

