

**Subject:** SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**From:** Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>  
**Date:** 19/01/2023, 13:16  
**To:** Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

### Upcoming events

**Sun 22 Jan, 4pm, online :: SACR Committee Meeting ::** An invitation has been sent to tower correspondents so that each tower can have a representative at the meeting. Further details from [secretary@sacr.org](mailto:secretary@sacr.org)

**Sat 28 Jan, January Meeting :: Balnaferry and Inverness ::** Details of the day are below. Agenda and papers for the general meeting will be circulated by email shortly. *Please send names for tea to [inverness@sacr.org](mailto:inverness@sacr.org) by Sat 21 Jan.*

- Ringing at **Balnaferry Campanile from 10.00–12.00** :: Anthony Cole is delighted if anyone would like to start the day by ringing on the mini ring at Balnaferry House Campanile in Forres. Parking is available at the house
- Please make your **own arrangements for lunch**
- General ringing **Inverness Cathedral from 13.00–15.00**. Parking is available at the Cathedral car park, Highland Council car park, Rose Street car park or Eastgate Centre car park
- **Short service in the cathedral 15.00–15.15**
- **Tea and general meeting 15.30–17.00**
- General ringing **Inverness Cathedral from 17.00–19.00**

**Mon 13 Mar :: Commonwealth Day ::** Please arrange ringing as desired. Suggested time for ringing is 8pm with a minimum of 10 whole pulls of Queens to mark each year since the Commonwealth Charter was signed on 13 March 2013.

**Sat 18 Mar :: Training Day at Tulloch.** More details in due course (*note date: not 11 Mar*)

**Sat 6 May :: Coronation** of King Charles III

**Sat 20 May :: Dumfries** will be hosting the **AGM and Striking Competition**

**Sat 28 Oct :: October meeting ::** Tower and other details to be confirmed

### News

**ART Bell Handling Course ::** SACR plans to hold another Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) Module 1 course – Teaching Bell Handling

The course is 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. It will provide 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.

The last course was in Inverness (click [here for details](#)), so this one will be held further South, probably in the spring. If you would be interested in attending (or would like further information), please let Judith

Frye ([training@sacr.org](mailto:training@sacr.org)) know as soon as possible. We aim to find a date to suit those who have expressed interest.

*Judith Frye*

**Haddington Ringing Course** :: In December we completed our second successful ringing course with a further seven people enjoying six weeks of focused bell handling tuition. We didn't need to do any advertising for the course. All the participants were either on the waiting list from the first course in 2022, or had contacted us direct having heard about the earlier course.

With five recruits from the first course now ringing with us regularly, and a further four who are keen to continue after the second course, we are doing a lot of teaching at Haddington! We now have an hour of teaching on a Friday evening prior to the main practice starting at 7.30pm.

*Sally Thomas*

**50:50 Club Draws** :: Congratulations to the 12 winners from 2022 who shared £331.50 in prizes; thank you so much to you (and all the non-winners!) for donating to our draw and therefore to the Bell Restoration Fund.

The New Year means that for many of you your donation to the SACR BRF 50-50 Club has expired! If you are not sure, please [ask me](#) and I can let you know. We have been able to get back to draws happening at SACR meetings – other than the Nov/Dec draws which were carried out at a December Aberdeen Practice night, and I have just been able to pay £350 into the Bell Restoration Fund.

I am again hoping everyone who usually pays me in January will send their donation direct to the 50-50 club account. Since there is a January meeting I will be carrying out a draw then so you had better get your donation in quick and I can re-allocate your numbers!! Alternatively as I will be at the January meeting you can pay me cash there.

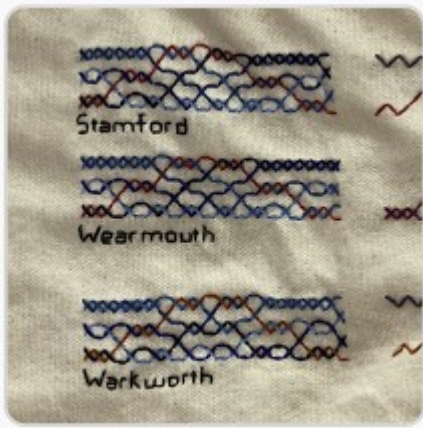
If you would like to contribute towards the SACR Bell Restoration Fund, and have the opportunity of winning cash prizes, please email [50-50club@sacr.org](mailto:50-50club@sacr.org) for details.

*Ruth Ogilvie*

**St Machar's Aberdeen on Radio Scotland** :: A festive take on bells from Aberdeen just before Christmas... Rachel Stewart from BBC Radio Scotland *Out of Doors* programme visited St Machar's. She recorded the bells and an interview with Eli Farquharson and Ian Talboys. Available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001ghmr>, starting at about 12mins 30s.



**Ringing embroidery** :: See Alison's Etsy shop for embroidered method bookmarks: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/RingingEmbroidery>



**Devon calling** :: News in from Rachel Milner: I was thrilled to ring a QP before Christmas with my 83-year-old dad who is a Devon call change ringer. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1569251>

**Radio Bells** :: There was some good “mainstream media coverage” of bells and ringing (if you call Radio 3 and Radio 4 mainstream!) in the last few weeks with:

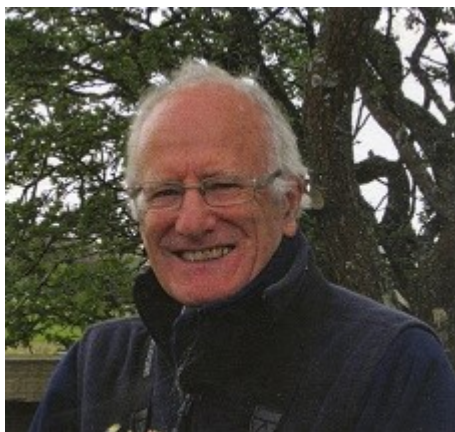
- *Bells that Still Can Ring*: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001fwcz>
- *The Listening Service: The Bells, The Bells, The Bells*: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0858zp1>
- *Laura Barton's Notes on Music: Part 2: Bells*: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001g8rt>
- While we're on Radio 4, here's another bell programme, from 2017: *Russian Bells*: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0978ndz>
- And, finally, not forgetting *Bells on Sunday* each week: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006sgsh>
- Plus the *Out of Doors* programme on Radio Scotland mentioned above

**Ring for the King** :: <https://ringforthe king.org>



### *In memoriam*

**Kenmure (Ken) Russell**, 22 Sep 1937 – 19 Oct 2022  
*Dumfries*



As a family they were bombed out of London in 1944 and settled eventually in Glasgow where Ken went to Giffnock School and Hutchesons Grammar. After, in his own words, a totally undistinguished academic career, he left home and school at sixteen to become a nursery boy in the Forestry Commission. After two years there, five years in the RAF and two years at college in Argyle, his first posting was Wittering near Peterborough.

They had bells, three (now 6 bells, 5-3-12) and only two ringers. His boss was much involved with the church, which was the centre of village life, where he was recruited. He didn't know at the time that it was a plot: one of the other ringers was a teacher at the village school and at twenty-five the village thought it was high time she was married. Two years later there was the wedding of the year between the village teacher and the assistant forester, and two days after that Ken and Thelma arrived at Patshull & Pattingham in Staffordshire.

He had got a job as Head Forester with the Crown in Shropshire, so they moved to Patshull, where the estate church had six bells (10-0-21) but no ringers. He also joined nearby Pattingham which had eight bells (12-3-6) and a band. With a lot of help from Pattingham ringers and many others they got a band together at Patshull. Three of that band were grandsons of the Earl of Dartmouth: a blue blooded band! They continued to ring at both churches until the children came along, then they took it in turns.

Ken got involved with bands from Shropshire and Staffordshire resulting in ringing sixty-eight peals in the next few years from Essex to Wales, all over the Midlands, and Rutland to Edinburgh. They were lucky enough to ring peals of everything from doubles to maximus, including spliced surprise. He also rang eleven minor quarters in a day (they went for twelve) and ten major quarters in a day. The rule was different methods and different towers for each quarter. They had back-up bands going ahead to put the bells up, and another to get them down. Ken became the Tower Captain at Pattingham until July 1975 when work took him and the family to London. It was in that year that I first met Ken when I joined the Pattingham band in February 1975.

Ken and Thelma continued to take turns going on ringing tours and child minding until Ken re-joined the Commission and was sent to Ae Village, Dumfries Office and Castle Douglas. Despite an industrial injury that left him without a thumb, he just adapted by holding the rope between index and second finger.

In 2014 Ken was able to resume his ringing career when he joined the new band at Dumfries. He became at once a greatly valued member of the team, and his wise words and sensible advice will be much missed. He played a key role in starting the new band from scratch where his expert and seemingly effortless style of ringing, and his patience for teaching newcomers, was invaluable.

On 12th November members of the Dumfries band [rang for 45 minutes in his memory](#): the bells were half muffled and his daughters and other members of his family came to listen.

*Tony McIlwrick*

As always, articles, photos and comments are welcome: please send to [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org)

### **Social media**

For up to date info on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing>  
<https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing>  
<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>  
<https://www.sacr.org>  
@scottishbellringing  
@SBellringing  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bellringers>

The SACR Committee