

**Subject:** CORRECTION: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**From:** Martin Mellor <publicity@sacr.org>  
**Date:** 06/04/2023, 11:06  
**To:** Members <Members@sacr.org>  
**BCC:** publicity@sacr.org

Dear All

The locations for the Advanced Practices are now confirmed, and please note that the practice on **Friday 28 April will be at Glasgow** (*not* Edinburgh). Here's the full list:

- **April:** Fri 28th – Glasgow, 7.30pm-9pm. Methods will include London No.3 S Royal and Double Norwich Court Bob Caters
- **May:** Fri 26th – Dundee (St Paul's or possibly Old Steeple)
- **June:** Fri 30th – St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh
- **July:** Inveraray Festival
- **Aug:** Fri 25th – Glasgow
- **Sept:** Fri 29th – St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh
- **Oct:** Sat 28th from 11am–12noon at St Cuthbert's as part of SACR Meeting in Edinburgh
- **Nov:** Fri 24th – Glasgow

As usual, please let Ruth ([master@sacr.org](mailto:master@sacr.org)) know if you plan to attend  
Best wishes  
Martin

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

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
Date: Wed, 5 Apr 2023  
From: [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org)  
To: Members <[Members@sacr.org](mailto:Members@sacr.org)>

Dear Members

### **Upcoming events**

**corrected to be Glasgow on 28 April:** Fri 28 Apr :: Advanced Practice :: St Mary's, Glasgow, 7.30pm-9pm. Methods will include London S Royal (No.3) and Double Norwich Court Bob Caters. Please let Ruth ([master@sacr.org](mailto:master@sacr.org)) know if you plan to attend.

**Sat 6 May :: Coronation** of King Charles III. The official CCCBR page (<https://cccb.org.uk/bellringing/ring-for-the-king>) states that service details for Westminster Abbey are not yet confirmed. The suggestion is to “ring at a time convenient to the ringers and Church”. [ringforthe-king.org](http://ringforthe-king.org). There are also some peals and quarter peals being planned around Scotland.



**Sun 14 May :: Bell Sunday ::** This is the Sunday before St Dunstan's Day, the Patron Saint of Bell Ringers, and is an opportunity for ringers to encourage churches and congregations to be more aware of and interested in their bells and ringers. It's also a time when church congregations can acknowledge the contribution of bell ringers to the life of the church community. Info here <https://cccbr.org.uk/2023/03/23/bell-sunday-on-14th-may-2023> and an article here in [Church Times](#).



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

- There will be general ringing either before or after the meeting
- Please bring your own lunch
- Striking competition 1.00pm to 4.00pm held on the simulator
- 4.00pm – 4.15pm short service
- 4.15pm – 5.00pm AGM
- 5.00pm – tea
- Further reminders and papers to follow

**Fri 26 May :: Advanced Practice ::** Location to be confirmed, 7.30pm-9pm

**Fri 30 Jun :: Advanced Practice ::** Location to be confirmed, 7.30pm-9pm

**Fri 28 – Sun 30 Jul :: Inveraray Festival ::** Ringing times are:

- Friday 18:00–20:00;
- Saturday 14:00–16:30 and 18:00–19:30;
- Sunday 12:00–12:30 and 13:30–15:30

**Fri 25 Aug :: Advanced Practice ::** Location to be confirmed, 7.30pm-9pm

**Fri 29 Sep :: Advanced Practice ::** Location to be confirmed, 7.30pm-9pm

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

**Fri 24 Nov :: Advanced Practice ::** Location to be confirmed, 7.30pm-9pm

**News**

**Training Day at Tulloch ::** *Here are a couple of reports from the training day, highlighting how much teachers and mentors are appreciated at a day of intensive learning.*

**Geoffrey Farquharson, Aberdeen:** I had never been to an SACR training day before, or indeed to the Tulloch Ringing Centre either, so I was not sure what to expect. It turned out to be a very enjoyable but – more importantly – useful day. To start with everybody participated in a listening exercise designed to emphasise the importance of a good steady ringing rhythm and consistent handstroke gap. I hadn't done such an exercise before and found it very helpful. We then split into our various groups.

I was in the 'Simple Method Ringing' group comprising four learners under the experienced and friendly eye of Barbara Bell. The bulk of the day consisted of alternating practical and theory sessions. During the practical sessions there would only be one learner ringing at a time who would be surrounded by an experienced band with another expert standing behind giving advice as needed. It was the perfect setup. As a learner you couldn't ask for more. In this way I was given multiple chances to ring a touch of plain bob minor with no excuses for not improving.

The theory sessions gave us the chance to discuss the structure of the simpler minor methods and the various ways in which to keep yourself correct within the cycle of work. The last theory session, however, was given over to a spot of handbell ringing, introducing those who hadn't tried it before to its delights.

So it was a great day. But, of course, it was only possible because lots of experienced ringers were willing to drive many miles and give up their time to help the students progress. Thank you very much indeed.

**Ruth Ellis, Haddington:** Having heard about Tulloch from fellow ringers, I was looking forward to ringing bells on a farm in the middle of nowhere!

The course was extremely well thought out and allowed for all levels of capability. The six sessions flew by so quickly. Our tutors and helpers were enthusiastic, organised and always positive.

I knew that I wanted to try ringing things that were within my reach, but that would also take me out of my comfort zone. Ian and Barbara Bell encouraged us to challenge ourselves. I rang on different bells and attempted (deep breath...) bobs in both Bob Doubles and Bob Minor. Success was inevitably varied, but I felt delighted that I'd had a go, and that maybe the 'mystery' of bobs was, at last, starting to make some sense.

Watching my fellow students try out new skills was equally helpful. There was general agreement that the practical sessions whizzed past!

We were also given the opportunity to ring handbells. It was so difficult! Serious concentration was required (a challenge at 2.30 pm). The tutors were so patient and we had a lot of laughs attempting to ring in the right places!

Everyone joined together for the final session of the day. Students were given the chance to try rounds on all twelve bells – a first for me – and we heard some impressive, complex ringing on twelve bells by the tutors and helpers. It was a real highlight. I felt very privileged.

Holding the course at Tulloch allowed for the meeting up of bellringers from throughout Scotland. There was a lovely atmosphere of good friends getting together willing to share with the student ringers their time and experience, at whatever level. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits were on tap to keep us all going through what was undoubtedly an intense day.

My head was spinning by the end, but I definitely benefited from the generosity and expertise of the people who made the course so successful.

**Bell Restoration Fund :: 50-50 Club ::** *Ruth Ogilvie* writes: The draws for January, February and March were carried out at the Training Weekend in Tulloch. We had three winners all winning £32 each. They were:

- Jane Farquharson, Dunblane
- Cathy Pelleymounter, Inverness
- Lynne Sydes, Dumfries

**SACR links in Cumbria :: News from Lynne Sydes:** I recently went on my first ringing outing visiting the Cumbrian towers of Orton, Shap and Wigton. At the tea stop I snubbed my tower mates to meet some new people and got talking to John and Deborah Preston. John worked in Ayrshire for a time and was Ringing Master of SACR from 1968 to 1970 and he conducted a Peal of Grandsire Caters at St Mary's Glasgow with his wife, whom he taught to ring, on the 2nd bell. I saw Simon at the Tulloch Training Day and asked him to take a photo of the Peal Board so I could forward it to them and here it is:



**International Women's Day ringing ...** and success for Scotland's Ladies Carp Team: A quarter peal at Glasgow. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1602110>

**Happy Birthdays and Anniversaries ::** There were quite a few celebratory SACR performances on BellBoard in March. Happy Birthday to Rachel Milner, Mike Neale, and Iain Milne. Happy Pearl Anniversary to Rachel and Mike Milner. And Happy "Tinth" Anniversary to Mike and Sandra Clay. [Link here.](#)



**Inveraray Icicles head south ::** Article in *The Ringing World* of 10 March: [link here.](#) The trip included a visit to ring at the campanile at the Loughborough Bell Foundry, where the Inveraray bells were cast just over a hundred years ago before being transported to Loch Fyne.



**Inveraray annual maintenance weekend ::** It was “all hands on deck” at Inveraray to prepare the bell tower for this season’s ringing. Here’s an article in the [Argyllshire Advertiser](#).

**Inveraray bell-ringers’ annual spring clean**

The Friends of Inveraray Bell Tower are about to undertake their annual maintenance weekend, writes Ewan Halley.

On Saturday March 25 and Sunday March 26 the caretakers of the bells (the second heaviest set of bells in the world used for change-ringing) will be hard at work painting, oiling, scrubbing and polishing to make the tower and the bells ready for a new season of ringing.

The pure sound of the bells, combined with the unique location of the bell tower in such stunning scenery, make the royal burgh a Mecca for bell-ringers, who come from far and wide to put the bells through their paces.

The Inveraray Ringing Festival takes place this year from Friday July 28 to Sunday July 30, when campanologists from across the UK – and sometimes further afield – come to ring.

The tower is also usually open seasonally (in July, August and September) to the public, as well as the impressive sight of the bells themselves, the battlements give spectacular views over the town up and down Loch Fyne and beyond.

It’s not all hard work, though, despite the ongoing maintenance, and the Inveraray group have recently had their annual bell-ringing outing.

This year’s trip was to tour bell towers in Leicestershire, including a visit to the UK’s last working bell foundry, John Taylor and Co of Loughborough, who manufactured the

parks under the same family’s ownership.

**The Inveraray bell-ringers took a tour to bell crafters John Taylor and Co of Loughborough.**

Inveraray bells just more than a century ago. Since 1859, the grade II-listed foundry has cast more than 25,000 bells, which are hung in more than 100 countries around the world.

The foundry houses a campanile of 12 bells, which the visitors were excited to ring, although the heaviest bell there at just 305 kg (six cwt) is no match for the mighty tenor bell at Inveraray, which weighs in at more than two tonnes, or 41 cwt.

**Young Change Ringers Association ::** If you’re under 30, the Young Change Ringers Association is running two events in April... on 22 April there's one in **Leeds** and one in **Reading**. You can sign up using these forms: Leeds - <https://forms.office.com/e/5G4pT4A2qF>. Reading - <https://forms.office.com/e/HpzpPmtsyM>. See post at [ycra.official](#) on instagram



**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*

Please send any notes about your activities, or any articles, photos and comments 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>

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The SACR Committee