

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 25/04/2023, 14:09
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

*The main upcoming SACR event is of course the **AGM and Striking Competition**, hosted by **Dumfries on Sat 20 May**... details below and – along with other events in May – it's going to be a busy month!*

Please let Ruth (master@sacr.org) know by the end of April if your tower is planning to enter a band for the competition. Please nominate a team captain to respond to Ruth for your tower. It would be great to get as many of our active towers entering teams as possible.

Upcoming events

Fri 28 Apr :: Advanced Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm. Methods will include London No.3 S Royal and Double Norwich Court Bob Caters. Please let Ruth (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend.

Sat 6 May :: Coronation of King Charles III



- Peals, quarter peals and general ringing are being planned around Scotland. Please check with your local tower about arrangements.
- The official CCCBR page (<https://ccbr.org.uk/bellringing/ring-for-the-king>) gives some ringing suggestions for call changes, etc.
- The CCCBR page states: "It has been announced the Coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey at 11am on 6th May. Many bands will have already made their arrangements and many ringers may be involved in ringing at more than one tower. For this reason, the CCCBR are not suggesting a specific time to ring, although the morning would be preferable, preceding the Service time. Ringing is encouraged at any time convenient to the ringers and church authorities, and should be recorded on Bellboard."
- See also [ringforthe king.org](https://www.channel5.com/news/ring-for-the-king), which includes a Channel 5 news report from St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh.
- Coronation Enamel Badges :: These badges are available at £5 each including postage, packaging, etc. Email bellbadges@gmail.com for more details and to order.



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 an 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**

- Details of competition teams to Ruth (master@sacr.org) by the end of April please
- Striking competition 1pm to 4pm held on the simulator
- Please bring your own lunch
- 4pm – 4.15pm short service
- 4.15pm – 5pm AGM
- 5pm: Tea
- General ringing on the open bells for a maximum of 90 minutes after tea
- We will finish by 7.30pm at the latest for those planning travel
- Papers to follow



Fri 26 May :: Advanced Practice :: Dundee (St Paul's or possibly Old Steeple), 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 30 Jun :: Advanced Practice :: St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, 7.30pm–9pm

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

- Friday 6pm–8pm
- Saturday 2pm–4.30pm and 6pm–7.30pm
- Sunday 12noon–12.30pm and 1.30pm–3.30pm

Thu 17 – Sun 20 Aug :: see comment below about the **Bradfield Ringing Course**, near Reading

Fri 25 Aug :: Advanced Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 29 Sep :: Advanced Practice :: St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, 7.30pm–9pm

Sat 28 Oct :: October meeting :: Edinburgh :: Towers and other details to be confirmed

Fri 24 Nov :: Advanced Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

News

Three firsts... congratulations! Great steps forward! <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1611214>



Handbell ringing on Arran :: *Simon Gay* writes at <https://www.handbellringing.co.uk/blog/visiting-bands-3-arran>: In April we took a holiday on the island of Arran, staying in the lovely village of Lamash. Arran doesn't have any tower bells, but Timothy Billings, who comes to the mainland from time to time for tower-bell or handbell ringing, has started a handbell group. Yesterday we joined their weekly session.

The group consists of four other ringers besides Timothy. Brian and Amanda are also tower-bell ringers, while Helen and Jill only ring handbells. Timothy has taught all of them from scratch, and they have made impressive progress, especially considering that he is the only experienced ringer. Yesterday we met all of them except Amanda, and we rang plain courses of Plain Bob Minor, tried some Little Bob, and finished with some plain hunting on eight. We hope that some of the group will be able to come to our next handbell day, in October.

Although Tina and I didn't bring a set of bells with us, we were able to split into two groups because both Timothy and Brian/Amanda have bells. Brian told us how he had bought a set of 13 (12 plus a semitone) at an auction, for the amazing price of £420. They had been refurbished by Whitechapel, and close inspection of the original leather caps revealed "Warner, London" as the founder's stamp. They're lovely and he really got a bargain.

I think this must be the closest to home that we've ever booked a holiday house. The distance is 43 miles as the crow flies. Being on an island makes it seem further away, partly because of the journey time. Apart from handbell ringing we have been walking, kayaking, swimming (Tina), and while out for dinner we were persuaded to enter the local pub quiz, which we won thanks to the musical knowledge of the young members of our group.

Tim Billings comments: This was the first time that we had welcomed visiting ringers to our handbell group. There was a certain trepidation in the group about ringing with 'expert' ringers, but of course Simon and Tina were their usual friendly, open and welcoming selves that it was a hugely enjoyable time for all involved. If there are any handbell ringers visiting Arran and fancy a ring with the Arran ringers we would love to hear from you.



Lamlash Bay and Holy Island

Happy Easter Ringing from Alex in Edinburgh :: Great reel at <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cq0HNdDqJNW>



The Hereford Ringing Course

Hereford Ringing Course :: "I would walk drive 500 miles"

Ian Turner (Inverness/Tulloch) writes: I have enjoyed and benefited from several week-long training courses at the Tulloch Ringing Centre, both as a learner and a helper. So I thought it would be useful to expand my horizons to one of the four larger courses that run annually in England. I picked the [Hereford Ringing Course](#), currently in its 59th year and organised extremely well by a very experienced team, many of whom are family of the original founder Wilf Moreton. It is residential, based at the Royal National College for the Blind, where accommodation, meals and lectures take place. Driving 500 miles from Inverness, I had expected to be the furthest travelled... but this was not to be, with one student from Toronto and two from Honolulu, Hawaii!

This year, the course offered 12 groups (12 tutors supported by over 90 helpers) for around 60 students, with groups ranging from Rounds & Call Changes up to Surprise Major. Each group ring in 6 different towers: on Thursday evening, twice on Friday and Saturday – either side of a local pub lunch – plus Sunday afternoon. On top of this there are optional sessions, some of which involve theory but others with practical ringing too. So, across the four days there are over 90 ringing sessions organised in 60-odd local churches, which is a major logistical exercise to plan and arrange.

The group I chose covered Stedman: Doubles, Triples and Caters. I learnt about the theory of Stedman in the classroom and practised Triples at six different 8- and 10-bell towers. To add some variety, there were also six slots for other activities which included lectures, handbells, tower maintenance and rope splicing. Here, I chose a couple of lectures, some Grandsire Doubles calling, and tune ringing on handbells, all of which I really enjoyed.

The excellent tutors, their helpers, and my fellow trainees made it a fun few days... and good progress was clearly evident by all the students over the four days. I would thoroughly recommend such a course

to other learners. Indeed, next year (early April) is the 60th Hereford course, and the organisers are promising a few special treats to celebrate the anniversary.



Bradfield Ringing Course :: 17-20 August 2023 ([booking open](#)) :: *Alison Stevens writes, in an instagram comment at the Hereford course post: I've just been thinking I ought to recommend the Bradfield Ringing Course to some other ringers in Scotland! It's got the same overall schedule and structure as what Ian describes and takes place near Reading. <http://www.bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk>*

Echos of the past :: Not quite the same as modern change-ringing handbells, but here's an interesting video about recreating Medieval handbells from National Museums Scotland at the foot of this webpage: [click here](#).



Please send any notes about your activities, or any articles, photos and comments to publicity@sacr.org

Social media

For up to date info on social media:

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The SACR Committee