

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 12/09/2023, 10:24
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Upcoming Events

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

Sat 7 October :: Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow

The next Scottish Handbell Day will be on Saturday 7th October at 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow. The format will be a mixture of practice sessions and quarter peals, as we have done in the past.

Please feel free to pass the invitation on to anyone who you think might be interested, especially if you are doing any regular handbell ringing with people who have started recently. The only condition is that we are not planning to cater for complete beginners, so anyone who comes needs to be able to ring Plain Bob Minor already.

So, please could you do the following:

1. Tell me whether or not you are going to come.

If you are coming:

2. Tell me what you would like to ring a quarter of.

3. Tell me what you would like to practise.

4. If you think I don't already know, tell me what you can ring confidently.

5. Tell me whether you can bring a set of bells.

All of that goes for conducting too; maybe some people would like to try calling new things.

Best wishes, Simon (Simon.Gay@glasgow.ac.uk)

Sat 28 Oct :: October meeting :: Edinburgh :: A rough outline for the day is as follows:

- 10.30–12.00 – Advanced practice St Cuthbert's
- 12.00–13.00 – Lunch (bring your own)
- 13.00–14.30 – General ringing St Mary's
- 15.00–16.30 – General ringing StAGW
- 16.30–16.45 – Service StAGW
- 16.45–17.00 – Short business meeting (new members and significant updates only)
- 17.00–19.00 – Tea and social event: St Andrews and St Georges West (Undercroft cafe)

There is parking at both Castle Terrace car park and Greenside car park but do be aware that all parking in Edinburgh is very expensive. There are several park and ride options available: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parkandride>

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

2024

Sat 27 Jan :: Winter Meeting :: Glasgow

Sat 16 March :: Training Day :: Tulloch

Sun 12 May :: Bell Sunday :: <https://bellsunday.org> :: St Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his experimentation in early forging of bells in the 900s CE. Bell Sunday is on a Sunday near to his feast day, a day where the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life of the Church is recognised.



Sat 18 May :: AGM and Striking Competition :: St Andrews

News

Golden Wedding :: Congratulations to Terry and Margaret Williams on their golden wedding anniversary :: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1656127>



Central Council of Church Bell Ringers :: Congratulations to Tina Stoecklin on being elected President of the CCCBR.

Aberdeen Open Doors Day :: St Machar's Cathedral

It was Aberdeen Doors Open Day on 2 September across the City with many buildings open to visitors to see places they cannot normally get to see. St Machar's Cathedral was part of this with music throughout the day in the church and we had the tower open to visitors to learn about the history of our bells, bell ringing in general and even have a go at chiming a bell and ringing a backstroke under supervision.

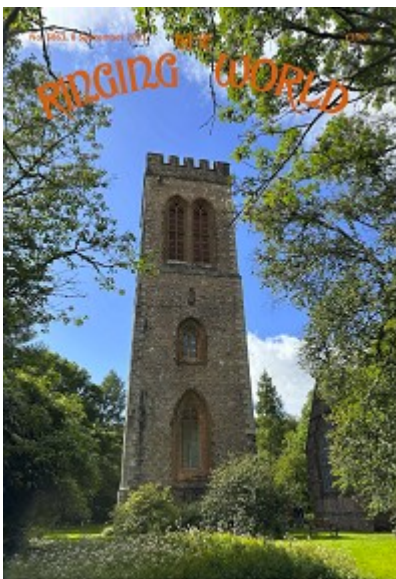
We had a great Open Day with 99 people up the tower to see what we do. There might be a couple of new learners from the day, and one lapsed ringer might be joining us soon. We all had a surprise when one visitor brought along a black-headed cape parrot called 'Boo', on a lead, up the tower. He was well behaved! Thanks to Susan, Sarah, Freddie, Isabel, Ross, and Shona for joining me up the tower for the day; a tiring but hopefully rewarding time.

Ian Talboys

Tower Captain, St Machar's Cathedral



Inveraray Ringing Festival :: This week *The Ringing World* ([No. 5863](#)) reports on the Inveraray Ringing Festival in 2023 (pp. 874 and 875), and includes a letter about ringing fifty years ago during the Inveraray Week in 1973 (p. 877)... interesting that the selection of methods and splicing is pretty much the same. All ringing was on 10 in 2023, with some Major (as well as Caters and Royal) in 1973.



SACR rings Pipe's Classic Cyclic Six Maximus at Tulloch :: Two very impressive peals at Tulloch by SACR members: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1657361> and

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1657477>

A little over ten years ago the first bell peal was rung on these bells, by SACR members, and it was Yorkshire Surprise Maximus... no one probably thought then that SACR would ever have been able to ring something like Pipe's Classic Cyclic Six Maximus – anywhere – let alone on its own patch!

Pandemic aside, there have been a good number of SACR 12-bell training weekends at Tulloch, and three of the methods rung – Zanussi, Phobos and Maypole (or Bristol with a couple of dodges removed) – have been the subject of these weekends. So clearly someone got some benefit out of them.

The Tulloch Ringing Centre has had a phenomenal impact on ringing in Scotland. Of course, Jack Page's conducting skills (and David Hull's before that) made a massive contribution to bring these peals to life and to make them possible.

Two-hundredth handbell peal in Scotland :: 5200 Cambridge Surprise Royal at Albany Quadrant :: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1654560>. Simon has a blog about this peal and the research into the number of handbell peals in Scotland [at this link](#).

CCCBR Videos :: At the Central Council AGM this month, Vicki Chapman launched two new films produced to support publicity, recruitment and general awareness about bellringing.

"Discovering Bellringing" is approx 9 mins long and shows how its done, how the local communities enjoy it and the multi-faceted aspects of ringing: https://youtu.be/IGuJxuCH8xw?si=4iix_xyo0z3EfdjD

"Enjoyment" is a short 2 min film with excerpts on what ringers of all ages find enjoyable about ringing: <https://youtu.be/RjQCmBYKea8?si=W-nNzJnXdL5yyb-a>

These videos are free to use and would be great as part of a talk or general awareness information. So please use them at your tower, for any social media announcements, etc. as and when you need them.



St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney :: There was a spotlight on Orkney in the Ringing World ([No.5861](#)) in August ... not the change-ringing we're used to but an ancient Norse style with one ringer using hands and feet. [Link here](#).



Obituary

Andrew A. Scobbie

With the passing of Andrew Scobbie, Scottish ringing has lost one of its great 'characters'.

Andrew was born in Scotland, but grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne and never lost his Geordie accent despite living at times in Somerset, Gloucestershire, Cyprus and eventually back in Scotland. He also learnt to ring in Newcastle and fell in love with its football team. After school he took a degree in librarianship at Loughborough University, and worked in several librarian positions across the country before settling back in Edinburgh and running a mobile children's library. For several years he sat on Edinburgh Council as Labour member for Oxfords in the south of the city, chairing the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, working on the Transport committee, and serving on Heriot Watt University Court.

Andrew was a regular member of the St Mary's band in Edinburgh and later attended practices at both St Cuthbert's and St Andrew & St George's. He rang a single peal – [Grandsire Triples at Alloa in 1988](#). In his late fifties he started suffering from occasional trips and falls and general muscle weakness, which made climbing the steps to St Mary's ringing chamber difficult, but this didn't deter him from ringing elsewhere – always optimistically believing the exercise would help build his strength. The diagnosis, when it came, was that he had a rare autoimmune condition called myositis, in which the body's immune system gradually destroys muscles tissue.

Andrew's condition worsened over several years to the point where he was confined to a wheelchair, but he still liked to get 'the wife – Hazel, Hazel – the wife' to bring him to the pub for after-ringing drinks. Above all, Andrew loved chatting about all sorts of trivia he had picked up over the years. At his funeral, Hazel commented that she was first drawn to him because he could – and would – talk to anybody about anything. Never boring, indeed always entertaining, Andrew had a conversational style akin to origami; with him, barely connected subjects would keep unfolding and folding through a couple of white-wine-and-sodas, following every possible diversion, until eventually what he was explaining or remembering would take shape. Over time the pub visits gradually became more difficult for him, but were replaced by occasional visits to StA&G's sanctuary during practices. But the cheery optimism (even in the face of adversity) and enjoyment of life remained, and his last evening was spent watching his beloved Newcastle beating Rangers in a pre-season friendly.

A [quarter peal](#) was rung on 3 September at StA&G in celebration of Andrew's life.

Simon Aves

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/75-obituary-andrew-scobbie>

Social media

For up to date info on social media:

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

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

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

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The SACR Committee