

**Subject:** SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**From:** Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>  
**Date:** 08/11/2023, 21:02  
**To:** Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

### Upcoming Events

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

**Sat 27 Jan :: Winter Meeting :: Glasgow**

**Sat 16 March :: Training Day :: Tulloch**

**Sun 12 May :: Bell Sunday :: <https://bellsunday.org>**

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

### News

#### **SACR October meeting :: Edinburgh**

The SACR October meeting in Edinburgh was a good day with lots of ringing, from rounds on 8 to Sgùrr A'Chaoarachain Surprise Royal, ably led by Ruth Marshall. There was ringing at St Cuthbert's, St Mary's Cathedral, and St Andrew and St George's West. Evening entertainment was organised by Simon Aves who got us racing through a lead of Cambridge and London with a table-top game, and then leaping around on the floor to plain hunt played on squeaky dog toys. Anne Leigh-Brown and team worked hard behind the scenes preparing the ringers' tea. Thanks to everyone for their input!

*Judith Stark, Edinburgh*

My SACR weekend! :: Thursday – practice at St Mary's, a very good place to hone bell handling technique and bell placement: You can't "get away with it" here! Ian and his team are working hard with learners and a small band. Friday – practice night with the flourishing band at Haddington, to reconnect with Sally, whom I got to know on the "Recruitment/Retention" working group and who took those ideas forward. Chris led a snappy, wide-ranging practice. Saturday – the SACR day: After ringing in all towers, all abilities, there was the business meeting and a delicious tea full of buzzing chatter... followed by more fun with dice and squeaky-toy games. Sunday – service ringing at St Mary's where, having rung on twelve and had thirty people sitting out, it was sadly back to the few! Then up to STAGs on George Street for their post-service ringing and, after waiting for the organist to change his shoes and belatedly exit behind the congregation across the ringing circle, the band was able to continue! Thanks to Ian and Barbara who put me up (and put up with me). Thanks to all involved in the organisation of the day. Three cheers for the SACR.

*Lynne Sydes, Dumfries/Carlisle*



**SACR Bell Restoration Fund 50-50 Club draw** :: The winners of the draws made at the SACR Meeting in Edinburgh are as follows:

- June – Judith Frye (Dunblane)
- July – Stephen Elwell-Sutton (Dundee)
- August – Kerry Graham (Dumfries)
- September – Isabel Crane (Aberdeen)
- October – Fiona Wheeler (Dunblane)

Each winner won over £33. Thank you everyone for your continuing support. November and December draws will be carried out at Aberdeen practices. So you still have a chance of winning this year. If you don't have a draw number and wish to join in, please email Ruth Ogilvie on [50-50club@sacr.org](mailto:50-50club@sacr.org) for details.

### Welcome to new SACR Members

- Inverness – Catherine McLaren, Michael Pearce
- Dundee – Andy McKenzie
- Edinburgh St Mary – Fiona Bridge, Ian Brown, Annabel Bruce, Louise Stanford, Kenton Wilson
- Haddington – Ed Dee, Arthur Kidner, John Lawrence
- Edinburgh StAGW – Irina Dudina, Erin Scratcherd

**Annual report for 2023** :: Simon Aves is the new Report Editor ([report@sacr.org](mailto:report@sacr.org)). Simon will be in touch shortly for tower reports and other information for the annual report.

### Belfry Sunday :: St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh

Photos from belfry Sunday at St Cuthbert's on 22 October. Plain hunting with volunteers. We each had a handbell and physically swapped places then rang in order. It worked a treat. Sue explained what we were doing to the congregation. We did a demo and then asked for a couple of volunteers to join us and have a go. The minister really liked the way we were inclusive — but that's ringing all over!



**Peal of "firsts" ::** A great range of “firsts” in this Glasgow peal

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1662540>



**Scottish Association**  
**Glasgow**, Glasgow  
 Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin  
 Saturday, 14 October 2023 in 3h 38 (32-1-6)  
**5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal**  
 Robin O Hall and Robert W Lee

- 1 Susannah M Ewens
- 2 Jennifer Tomkinson
- 3 Angela H Deakin
- 4 Zoe A Bennett
- 5 Julia R Cater
- 6 Alison N Stevens
- 7 Estella J Haynes (C)
- 8 G Jessica Durham
- 9 Ruth M Marshall
- 10 Tina R Stoecklin

First peal on 10: 4, 6  
 First tower bell peal on 10: 1  
 First on 10 as conductor

**Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow**

Notes ahead of the day: <https://www.handbellringing.co.uk/blog/planning-a-handbell-day>

*Simon Gay, Glasgow*

A facebook report about the day: Had a challenging and very successful Scottish Association Handbell day in Glasgow... courses of Cambridge Surprise Minor, Yorkshire Surprise Major and, icing on the cake, my first quarter peal of Maximus in hand. Huge thanks to my amazing friends Rachel Milner, Ian Brampton Turner, Sue Turner, Jenny Holden, Tina Stoecklin and many others not on facebook for a fabby day.

*Anthony Cole, Inverness/Balnaferry*



**Scottish Association Glasgow**  
1 Albany Quadrant  
Saturday, 7 October 2023 in 55m (13 in E)  
**1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus**

1-2	Tina R Stoecklin
3-4	Jennifer A Holden
5-6	Nicholas W Jones (C)
7-8	Anthony C Cole
9-10	Jonathan S Frye
11-12	Susannah M Ewens

First on 12 in hand: 7-8  
First blows of maximus: 11-12  
First quarter peal on these bells as a twelve.

... And a mention in the CCCBR's President's Blog!: <https://ccbr.org.uk/2023/10/13/presidents-blog-85>

**Inveraray** :: There were a couple of follow-up letters in the *Ringing World* to the Inveraray [Festival at Fifty article](#). One ([RW No.5864, p.902](#)) from Rick Dirksen with reminiscences about Norman and Elsie Chaddock, Inveraray bell tower maintenance back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, etc. And another ([RW No.5865, p.926](#)) from Roddy Horton with a link to interesting Inveraray photos from the late 1960s and 1970s: [https://bnd-online.co.uk/Pics/Inveraray\\_pics.php](https://bnd-online.co.uk/Pics/Inveraray_pics.php). Great to get this sense of history.

#### Memories of Inveraray

SIR, – The recent article on the 50th Anniversary of Inverary Ringing Festival and Anne Noble's 1973 letter brought back very fond memories. Norman Chaddock was a member of the band which dedicated the bells of Washington Cathedral in May of 1964, and he personally guided me through my first 720 of Bob Minor – first for a Washington ringer. In April of 1966, I visited him and Elsie in Rotherham where he called my first peal, Grandsire Caters. Then, in August 1969, he and Elsie escorted my wife, Libby, and me to Inveraray, to join others in cleaning out the bell tower and to attempt a peal. The tower was in truly desperate condition and I recall ringing the seventh starting down to the ground through a gaping hole in the floor. It was three days of hard work, but we left the tower in somewhat better shape and with my first peal of Royal, conducted by Roddy Pipe. (A plaque marking the 20th anniversary of that peal was installed in the ringing chamber in 1989.)

A few years later we visited Norman and Elsie in St. Catherine's and Anne Noble (Lady Glenkinglas) in London, and were delighted by the progress of the renovation and to learn of the new Festival. Over the ensuing years we maintained regular contact with Norman and Elsie and last saw Norman at his daughter Susan's home in Carlforth shortly before his passing. Norman was truly an extraordinary man, gifted with boundless enthusiasm and exceptional teaching abilities. I remain ever grateful to him for inspiring my early ringing career and still treasure the prolific correspondence we shared over the years.

RICK DIRKSEN

Harrodsburg, KY USA

# LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be sent to the Editor, Scottish Bellringing, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

My goal is to see the future of bellringing in Scotland as a vibrant and growing activity, one that is open to all and that is a source of pride and joy for all who participate in it. I am sure that you will agree that this is a noble and worthy goal, and I am confident that you will do everything in your power to see it achieved.

**Legitimate Members' Comments?**  
I am writing to you regarding the comments made by some members of the SACR at the AGM. I am sure that you will be aware of the fact that some members have expressed their concerns about the way in which the SACR has been run in the past. I am sure that you will also be aware of the fact that some members have expressed their support for the way in which the SACR has been run in the past. I am sure that you will be able to find a way to address the concerns of all members in a fair and equitable manner.

**Stella Back: What's in a name?**  
I am writing to you regarding the comments made by Stella Back at the AGM. I am sure that you will be aware of the fact that Stella Back has expressed her concerns about the way in which the SACR has been run in the past. I am sure that you will also be aware of the fact that Stella Back has expressed her support for the way in which the SACR has been run in the past. I am sure that you will be able to find a way to address the concerns of all members in a fair and equitable manner.

**Big Bell's Bell Ringers**  
We are now looking for more bell ringers. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact us at [www.bigbells.org.uk](http://www.bigbells.org.uk).

**SCOTTISH BELLRINGING**  
The national association for bellringing in Scotland. For more information, visit [www.scottishbellringing.org.uk](http://www.scottishbellringing.org.uk).

## CCCBR Videos :: At the Central Council AGM in September, 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](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.



### 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