

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 04/02/2024, 19:32
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

January has been a busy month for SACR as can be seen from the reports in this newsletter... thank you to all the contributors... and the whole of 2024 is shaping up well too, with a full list of events below. A broad range of choice and opportunities!

Upcoming Events

Fri 23 Feb :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Edinburgh, St Cuthbert, 7.30pm–9pm (master@sacr.org)

Sat 16 March :: Training Day :: Tulloch (details below; training@sacr.org)

Sun 17 March :: Twelve-Bell Starter Ringing Session :: Tulloch (details below; training@sacr.org)

Fri 19 Apr :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm (master@sacr.org)

Sat 11 May :: Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow (simon.gay@ed.ac.uk)

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



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

Fri 31 May :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Edinburgh, St Cuthbert, 7.30pm–9pm

Sat 15 / Sun 16 Jun :: Scottish Quarter Peal Weekend

Sat 22 Jun :: ART Module 2 course :: Teaching Change Ringing :: Dunblane (training@sacr.org)

Fri 28 Jun :: Advanced Eight-Bell Practice :: Dundee, 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 26 – Sun 28 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

Fri 30 Aug :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 27 Sep :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Edinburgh, St Cuthbert, 7.30pm–9pm

Sat 19 Oct :: Autumn Meeting :: Advanced Eight-Bell Practice, followed by General Ringing, Meeting and Social :: Haddington

Fri 29 Nov :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

News

Sign-up details for Training Days :: Tulloch :: Sat 16 – Sun 17 March

- This year the training will run over a weekend, and you can attend either or both days.
- **Sat 16 Mar, 10am–5pm: Training Day.** There will be three groups:
 - **Early Change Ringing** (plain hunt, plain bob etc.)
 - **Minor Stepping Stones** (simple plain methods based on the ART Minor Stepping Stones scheme)
 - **Surprise Major**
- **Sun 17 Mar, 9.30am–2pm: Twelve-Bell Starter Session**
 - This is for those wishing to develop 12-bell skills.
 - Methods covered will be Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge and Yorkshire.
- Some accommodation is available to book at Tulloch Farm, for those wishing to stay over between these events.
- **Booking by Wed 6 March:** If you wish to book a place as a student at either of these events, please provide the information requested below by Wed 6 March at the very latest.
- The success of training events is dependent on the support of more able ringers. If you are willing to help at either or both of these events, again please provide the information requested below by Wed 6 March at the very latest.
 - NAME:
 - TOWER:
 - SATURDAY GROUP: Early Change Ringing / Minor Stepping Stones / Surprise Major / Helper
 - SUNDAY GROUP: 12-bell / Helper
 - CURRENT RINGING LEVEL:
 - RINGING GOALS:

Judith Frye, SACR Training Officer, training@sacr.org

Winter Meeting :: Glasgow :: Sat 27 Jan

There were big bells and medium bells and small bells on offer at the Glasgow meeting at the end of January, with a full day of ringing, chatting, eating and more ringing. An advanced 10-bell practice in the morning, followed by [mini-ring](#) (hired from Durham and Newcastle Guild) in the Cathedral and hand-bellringing in the Hall. The mini-ring was also used to demonstrate ringing during the Sunday. Thanks to Glasgow Ringers and Cathedral for hosting!

Impressions from Ian Brown, Edinburgh:

Being a recent arrival in Scotland, I've been asked to write a few words about my first SACR meeting. It was good.

Not being an advanced ringer I decided that arriving for the general ringing in the afternoon would be best. I ended up arriving just in time to see the end of the mini-ring session – that looked like a fun challenge. Maybe next time.

Joining the throng up in the tower ringing room I was invited to catch hold for some rounds – once Ruth had rightly checked my experience and where I could fit in. During the session I got to hear/see some impressive ringing on the ten. I have to say there were plenty of chances offered to everybody present at all levels, which I know isn't easy to achieve. During the session I got four rings (rounds and plain hunt on nine) which is more than I was expecting and great practice for me.

The bells at St. Mary's Glasgow sound lovely and I found the two I rang went well without any surprises. I hope I did them justice! Thanks to everyone at the meeting for being friendly and welcoming.

Impressions from Zoe Bennett, Glasgow:

Our SACR January meeting in Glasgow was a great day with lots of ringing and lots of stairs! As a Glasgow ringer it was great to see new and different people ringing our bells and getting a taste for them. All ringing was on 10 which was fantastic to see, with an advanced practice in the morning focusing on Yorkshire and Bristol Royal with a foray into Sgùrr a'Chaorachain towards the end.

After lunch, general ringing ranged from rounds on 10 (a first for one learner which must have been nerve-wracking) to Treble Dodging Royal, with everyone ably led by Ruth to ring to their abilities. With three ringing sessions up the tower I'm sure everyone got their steps in up and down the stairs!

We also had access to an eight-bell mini-ring in the back of the cathedral – a massive difference in weight between them and Glasgow's bells but good attempts were made (well I certainly made an attempt, whether it was good or bad is for someone else to decide) to get to grips with the speed and the lack of stay. We attempted Cambridge Major with little success but it kept going for at least half a lead!

The tea was also a fantastic opportunity to catch up with people we don't necessarily see at practice every week, and an infinite spread of sandwiches and cakes provided by the Glasgow ringers.

Impressions from Alex Davies, Edinburgh:

Saturday was the SACR meeting in Glasgow. We began with an advanced ringing practice consisting of a few touches of Caters but mostly Royal with Yorkshire, Bristol, and Sgùrr a'Chaorachain Surprise being rung at least once.

After lunch, we had general ringing for everyone to get a few chances to practice various things on 10 with a stable band around them.

The mini-ring was set up in the cathedral downstairs and provided an extra challenge bringing even plain hunt back to aspirational status. It's a new challenge to ring and a reason to go to future SACR meetings.



February Training Day :: Dunblane :: Sat 3 Feb

Great day at Dunblane with SACR Training Officer, Judith Frye running ART Module 1 for 8 students learning how to teach bell handling 😊

Ruth Marshall



Hand bells :: A bit of handbell ringing in Dundee on twitter... [click here](#).



Matthew Bellhouse Moran
@MrMatthewMoran

Find a niche hobby. It will make you happy. #handbells



News from St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

That one extra ringer... What a difference one person makes! This Sunday morning we had the good fortune to have a visitor to St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. He was the extra person needed to ring on eight bells: Grandsire Triples, Cloisters... and he was willing(!) to ring our 41 cwt tenor to rounds and call changes on the back bells.

So often we meet just one short of being able to ring these methods, so if you are undecided whether to turn up to your own tower — or are in reach of another tower to visit — remember you may be that one extra person needed. It may be that you make up the numbers to ring rounds on 6, or the eighth person for a Major method — and the other ringers will be delighted to see you!

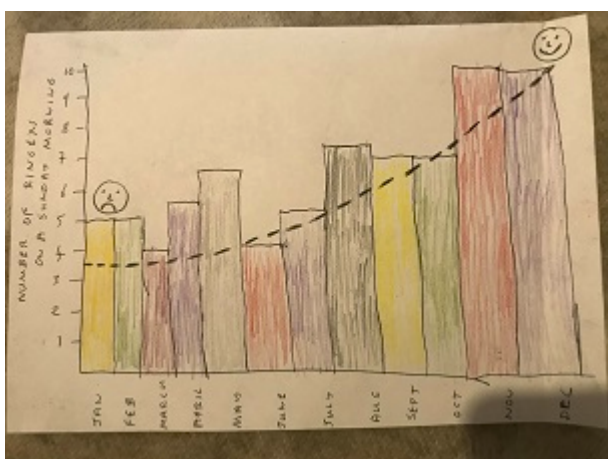
Barbara Bell

A good steady increase in number of ringers: In early 2023 Sunday morning service ringing at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh typically consisted of 4–5 ringers and a variety of minimus methods! Over the year attendance gradually increased and we now reliably have 10.

This is due to ringers moving to Edinburgh and joining our band, as well as our learners progressing to independent bell-handling and to Sunday service ringing.

Since numbers have doubled I thought it was worthy of a graph! Thanks to everyone who has made this happen – 2 more ringers on a Sunday and we can ring all 12 of our bells for the morning service!

Susannah Ewens



Storm ringing at St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh in January

A wet and blustering evening last night didn't put ringers off gathering at St Cuthbert's for a ten-bell practice. There was lots of call changes on 10 and plain hunt on 9 so that everyone could develop the ten-bell rhythm, plus Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters, Little Bob Royal and Yorkshire Royal. A regular practice rather than an advanced practice so that all regular ringers could join in.



Welcome to new SACR members!

- Jenny Dearie – Dunblane
- Derry Kelleher – Inverness
- Brian Lockett – Stirling
- Nuala Nevill – Dumfries
- Michael Nott – Edinburgh St Cuthbert

A series of peal and quarter peal firsts:

- First in method for the Association: Sgùrr a'Chaorachain Surprise Royal, 16 Dec
- First Treble Bob: Siobhan Kewley, 17 Dec
- First on 8 bells: Molly Holmes, 24 Dec
- First Royal as conductor on hand bells: Anthony Cole, 6 Jan
- First Grandsire Triples: Bridget Taylor, 7 Jan
- First Peal on handbells: Rachel Milner and Anthony Cole, 7 Jan
- First Stedman: Judith Stark, 7 Jan
- First on 10 bells: Ian Stark, 7 Jan
- First as conductor on handbells: Susannah Ewens, 7 Jan
- First Single Oxford Bob Minor: all ringers on 8 Jan
- First Surprise as conductor: Judith Frye, 8 Jan
- First Quarter Peal: Irina Dudina, 23 Jan
- First Bristol on its own: Alex Davies, 31 Jan

For a list of all SACR performances since the last newsletter, [click here](#).

Plus, completion of level 5 of the ART 'Learning the Ropes' programme for Siobhan Kewley and Molly Holmes... congratulations.

50-50 Club Draw and Subscriptions

- The January 50:50 club was drawn by Isabel Crane at the January meeting. The winner was Margaret Williams.
- Congratulations to the 12 winners from 2023 who shared a record £400.50 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. I was able to pay £500 into the Bell Restoration Fund at the end of 2023, another record I believe!
- If you would like to contribute towards the SACR Bell Restoration Fund, and have the opportunity of winning monthly cash prizes, please email me at 50-50club@sacr.org for details.

Ruth Ogilvie

Rep for Central Council of Church Bell Ringers :: As mentioned at the January meeting, we are keen to nominate a second SACR representative to the Central Council. Tina has given some information on what this entails below – and would be very happy to chat to anyone who might be interested. Please let Colin or Sue know if you would like to consider this role. More info from secretary@sacr.org

The role of the SACR Central Council Rep

An SACR CC rep is expected to represent SACR views to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, and to assist SACR members in making contact with or knowing about support and information provided by the Central Council. The formal role of the CC rep is to hold the Council leadership to account.

What this typically involves is attending the annual meeting held on or around the first Saturday in September, and reporting back to the SACR.

The SACR also strongly encourages CC reps to be involved in Council activities and initiatives, as this gives us more voice and influence. What this involves in reality is different for every person, and many SACR members who are not reps are also involved with the Council. So this is very much a personal decision.

Sue Bryce

Young Change Ringers Association :: If you're 30 or under, here are some more 2024 dates for the diary! Good opportunities to experience other towers, bells, etc around the UK

- Sat 6 Apr: Outing to Nottingham
- Sat 6 Jul: RWNYC After Party
- Sat 21 Sep: Outing to Leeds
- St 23 Nov: Training weekend in Oxford
- <https://www.facebook.com/YCRA.official>
- <https://www.instagram.com/ycra.official>



Bellringing as Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO

- Please see the invite below to a discussion forum regarding the inclusion of bellringing as a protected heritage activity under UNESCO.
- There are two sessions available [one has already taken place], and you are welcome to attend on 11 Feb if you are able to.
- Please use the Eventbrite link to book your free place.
- **Sun 11 Feb, 3pm–4pm:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bellringing-as-intangible-cultural-heritage-11-feb-tickets-803311655787>
- <https://ccbr.org.uk/2024/01/18/what-is-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-why-does-it-matter-to-bellringing>

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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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bellringers>

The SACR Committee