

Subject: Fwd: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 17/09/2024, 12:13
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter.

Upcoming Events

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

Sat 5 October :: Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow

- The next Scottish Handbell Day will be on Saturday 5th October at 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow, starting at 11am
- Please let me know as soon as possible if you are going to come – also what you would like to ring (and what you are already confident of ringing, if you think I don't already know). And if you can bring bells, that would be useful (and please confirm).
- Lunch will be provided; contributions of cakes, biscuits, salads etc are welcome as always. If you have any dietary restrictions beyond vegetarian/vegan, please give details.

Simon (Simon.Gay@glasgow.ac.uk)

Sat 19 Oct :: Autumn Meeting :: Haddington :: General ringing in the afternoon, preceded by a morning advanced eight-bell practice. Plus meeting and social

The next meeting will be held in Haddington on Saturday 19th October. It is the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the bells in Haddington so it is great that we will be able to celebrate this. It would be lovely to see as many as possible come along. The bells are lovely to ring so do not be nervous – even if you have little experience it would be great to see you!

Details of the meeting are below but please note if you wish tea then do send names and any dietary requirements to Rose on haddington@sacr.org by Friday 11th October

The Haddington ringers will provide tea, coffee and home baking from 10.00–15.00. This will be on a donation basis with money raised going to charity.

- 10.30–12.00 – Advanced 8-bell practice (Ruth will send details nearer the time)
- 12.00–13.00 – Lunch (bring your own - People are very welcome to eat their lunch in the Church. Alternatively there are a number of nearby cafes)
- 13.00–14.30 – General ringing
- 14.30–15.00 – Break
- 15.00–16.30 – General ringing
- 16.30–16.45 – Service
- 16.45–17.00 – Short business meeting (new members and significant updates only)
- 17.00–19.00 – Tea and social event



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

Sat 1 Feb :: Winter Meeting :: Aberdeen

2025

Sat 17 May :: AGM and striking competition :: Glasgow

Sun 18 May 2025 :: Bell Sunday

News

Open Doors Days :: St Machar's, Aberdeen :: Sat 7 Sep



Saturday 7th September was Doors Open Day in Aberdeen with many building around the city opening their doors to the public to visit places not usually accessible.

St Machar's Cathedral was one of these, even though the Cathedral is open to the public seven days a week. On Doors Open Day, some areas of the Cathedral not usually open to visitors are opened. This includes the Chapter Room, which houses all the archives and records of the history of the church, and the bell tower.

In the ringing chamber, we talk to visitors about the history of bells in St Machar's dating back to the original bells from the 15th century when there were “14 tuneable and costly bells” installed by Bishop Elphinstone in a central tower. We also explain why we ring bells and how we ring them.

At the end of the sessions we gave visitors the chance to chime a bell and to try ringing backstrokes under close supervision. This year we welcomed 59 visitors up the tower; this is down on previous years' numbers but easier to manage. We were therefore able to give a better experience to visitors.

<https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/regions/aberdeen-city/st-machars-cathedral>

Ian Talboys

Steeplekeepers! The Westley award celebrates steeplekeepers, and **Dunblane Cathedral's Molly Holmes** is highly commended for her work as Assistant Steeplekeeper and now Steeplekeeper. There's a report in *The Ringing World*, 5916 p. 866: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issues/2024/866>
https://www.sacr.org/images/media/RW5916_p866_240913_Westley_Steeplekeeper_award.pdf

environment in the tower. He has helped with various other projects including doing all the hard and dirty jobs. Tower work in the city of London is not that easy – it is not possible to pack some tools into the car and simply park outside!

Molly Holmes – Scottish Association of Change Ringers

Nominated by Judith Frye

Molly has had a steep learning curve in ringing and steeplekeeping, in only the last couple of years. She first went on a steeplekeeping course held by her Association and started helping with routine maintenance at Dunblane Cathedral, where she rings. She was subsequently appointed as Assistant Steeplekeeper and more recently as Steeplekeeper and is already completing all the routine maintenance to keep the bells in good order.

Reflections by the judges on the applications

The judges were so impressed by the enthusiasm and accomplishments of all the applicants, especially two young ringers just moving from school to university, who do not yet have life-long experience from which to draw. Some of the applicants are new

For those inspired by steeplekeeping, here's a useful website from the Central Council about belfry upkeep... you can navigate the document via the menu on the top left of the page:

<https://belfryupkeep.cccb.org.uk>

You can also get in touch with SACR's Bells and Towers Advisor with any questions... email Jonathan Frye via advisor@sacr.org



Belfry Upkeep

Fri 26 – Sun 28 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

Inveraray Ringing Festival and memories of the 1970s are reported on in [*The Ringing World*, 5915, p. 842.](#)

Warboys and an impressive team of group leaders, tutors and helpers in Birmingham.

There were 20 delegates attending, and we were all given a personal tutor for the day. We started the day in a big group doing some listening skills exercises. We then split into four groups, and my group headed St Laurence, Northfield, a 10-bell ring. With some excellent guidance and advice on handling we all had a chance to ring with a band of amazing ringers filling in. I rang some Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Caters and Plain Bob Major.

We then went back to St Martin's in the Bull Ring and had the opportunity to ring rounds and call changes on the ring of 16: An amazing experience. We then went for a lovely pub meal at The Bull.

The next day I was up early to ring for service at St Phillip's Cathedral, and then went to St Martin's in the Bull Ring to ring some handbells. After that I sat in the sunshine listening to the amazing quality of the service ringing outside.

There were many highlights from the trip, but especially it was really uplifting to see so many young, enthusiastic, talented ringers. The quality of the ringing achieved by the tutors, helpers, and even some of the delegates was virtually flawless, and a huge inspiration to me. I was also humbled by the amount of time that everyone involved in the Masterclass gave to the delegates, and would like to especially thank Margaret Whiteley, my tutor for the day.

If any of you get invited to go to the Masterclass, please jump at the opportunity – you will not be disappointed!



Bellboard :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#).

- Firsts include:
 - First Quarter Peal for Erin Scratcherd
 - First Minor for Katie Abraham
 - First Spliced in hand for Estella Haynes
 - First as conductor in hand for Peter Kirton
 - First Surprise Royal for Nikki Tompkinson (and first S Royal inside for Steph Pendlebury)
 - First Lessness for most of the band on 4 Aug
 - Completion of the Surprise Major alphabet (and first to do so entirely in Scotland) for Simon Aves and Ed Smith
 - And, the City of Perth's first peal
- There was cause for celebration with Peter Jupp's 80th birthday, a 40th "pealiversary" peal for Simon Gay, Rachel Milner's daughter's wedding, and the wedding of Lillian Halewood & Alex Fishburn.

- And peals and quarters in memory of Riz Ahmed, Paul and Olive Burbridge, Jim Foster, Norman Mattingley and John Russell

Handbell ringing :: Simon Gay reports on SACR handbell records for 2024 here:

<https://www.handbellringing.co.uk/blog/setting-records>

In memoriam

Eleanor Blake (1942–2024)

Eleanor learnt to ring at St James Church, Paisley in 1992. She was taught by Alex Scott and Iain Peacock. She became a regular ringer of rounds and simple methods at St James Church. She continued until she suffered a severe arm/shoulder pain which made ringing very difficult. Despite this problem she still attended practice meetings and could be relied upon to bring the milk for our mid-session refreshments. Following the church closure in 2016 she strongly supported the idea of removing the bells for use in another tower. She was very pleased to hear that a tower in Cornwall had been found for their new home.

Eleanor's husband Jim predeceased her by two years after a long illness. She is survived by her daughter, Emma.

Terry Williams

Donald Trumpler (1930–2024)

Donald Trumpler was born in Vancouver, Canada, to Swiss and German immigrant parents. He grew up as a musically and mathematically gifted child. After studies at the University of British Columbia and a doctorate at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he embarked on a three-month trip to Europe, during which he met his future wife, Elisabeth, the youngest daughter of a school friend of his mother. They were married in Vancouver in December 1958, and had two children, Eric and Mark.

In his early career, Donald taught mathematics at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, Smith College, and the University of Hartford in Connecticut. Later on he was employed by Combustion Engineering and its successors, now part of the engineering consortium under technology company ABB. He became a troubleshooting and installation expert on training simulators for nuclear reactor operators, including extended assignments in remote locations.

During his eight years employment at Smith, Donald was introduced to change ringing by his colleague Alice Dickenson. Together with the student Joan Hutchinson, they taught themselves the basics of change ringing on handbells. When the construction of a new performing arts centre came into planning, they were able to convince the authorities of the College to include a ring of English bells in a tower that was part of the plan for the complex. A 9cwt ring of Whitechapel bells was installed there in 1968.

Don and Elisabeth were regular ringers at Smith, at Brewster, NY, and in Philadelphia later in life. They were founder members of the North American Guild of Change Ringers, for which Donald served on the executive committee as Peal Secretary for many years. He became one of the leading North American peal ringers, totalling 729 peals in his lifetime. His records include many firsts for the North American Guild, and he always encouraged ringing talents, conducting first peals for many of them. He regularly travelled to the UK for peal tours, some with visiting North American bands, and often rang with a band including Barry Fry, Roy LeMarechal, John Dodd, and John Colliss of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. In the 1990s he was sent on an

assignment to Scotland by his employer, where he was able to ring regularly in Edinburgh. Donald was elected member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1990, and twice joined the Society on peal tours to Australia.

Unfortunately, due to the onset of Parkinson's disease, he was not able to ring for the last ten years of his life but continued pursuing his interest in classical music and opera, visiting concerts for as long as his mobility permitted. He is survived by his wife Elisabeth, his two sons Eric and Mark, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Eric Trumpler

From [*The Ringing World*](#), 5908, p.674, with permission

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/81-obituary-donald-trumpler>

If you have anything going on at your local tower or if you encourage your local newspaper to include an article about bellringing, etc., please send photos and text to 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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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bellringers>

The SACR Committee
