

**Subject:** SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers  
**From:** Martin Mellor <publicity@sacr.org>  
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**To:** Members <Members@sacr.org>  
**BCC:** publicity@sacr.org

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **2024**

**Fri 29 Nov :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice ::** Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm. As usual, please let Ruth ([master@sacr.org](mailto:master@sacr.org)) know if you plan to attend.

#### **2025**

**Sat 1 Feb :: Winter Meeting :: Aberdeen**

**Sat 8 / Sun 9 Mar :: Training Weekend :: Tulloch**

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

**Sun 18 May :: Bell Sunday**

**Fri 25 – Sun 27 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend**

### **News**

#### **Welcome to new members of SACR:**

- **Inverness:** Brian Heys, Matthew Hubbard, Rev Richard Pratt
- **St Cuthbert Edinburgh:** Lyra Burgess, Abbie Englund

#### **50:50 Club for the SACR Bell Restoration Fund**

Here are the latest results:

- June 2024 – Cathy Pellymounter, Inverness won £36 – drawn at Aberdeen practice 14 Oct
- July 2024 – Eli Farquharson, Edinburgh won £35 – drawn at Aberdeen practice 14 Oct
- Aug 2024 – Zoe Martin, Glasgow won £35 – drawn at Aberdeen practice 14 Oct
- Sept 2024 – Karen Ewing, Glasgow won £34.50 – drawn at Aberdeen practice 14 Oct
- Oct 2024 – Susan Talboys, Aberdeen won £34.50 – drawn at Haddington meeting 19 Oct

We will complete the last two draws of the year at an Aberdeen Practice in December so if you want a ticket to be in with a chance of winning over £30 before Christmas, please get in touch with Ruth Ogilvie at [50-50club@sacr.org](mailto:50-50club@sacr.org). Obviously you will also be helping to support the SACR Bell Restoration Fund if you do purchase a ticket!

## St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness

150 years since the consecration of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, celebrated with:

- a [peal of Grandsire Caters](#) and
- a [quarter peal of St Andrew Bob Triples](#).
- [Bellboard link](#).



### Autumn Meeting :: Haddington (19 Oct)

*Ian Stark reports on the October meeting:*

Haddington ringers hosted this year's SACR Autumn meeting, celebrating 25 years since the installation of the bells at St Mary's. The 25-year theme ran throughout the day: from decorated bell-shaped biscuits and numerical cakes to the service address after ringing. This was from the Very Reverend Dr John Cairns who had consecrated the bells on their installation in his year as Moderator — and who expressed his joy at coming back 25 years later, long into his retirement, to see a crowd of enthusiastic ringers making the most of them.

The morning was given over to an advanced practice, with Ruth Marshall ably directing bands to attempt the day's surprise major methods Lessness and London. Both were rung with success and for several ringers their first courses in the methods. Building on this, the next advanced practice is to include London No.3 Royal.

Two sessions of general ringing in the afternoon brought together ringers from across the association, with nearly all towers represented and a wide range of ringing: from rounds and call-changes to spliced surprise, but mostly a strong showing of everything in between. There was also a short business meeting to confirm new members and for news updates.

Hosting by the St Mary's ringers included generous tea, coffee and cakes between ringing sessions, and a great supply of pie and mash for dinner, followed by ample dessert. The tea, coffee and baking raised over £160 for Medicine sans Frontiers in donations.

Ringers still wanting more were treated to a pair of bell-themed quizzes: one musical, one lexical. Who knew that Abba's Mamma Mia references the ringing of a bell, or the bell-holding link between carrots and celery?

Many thanks to the Haddington Society of Change Ringers for tremendous work hosting the day, to John Cairns for leading the service, to Matt Edwards on the organ, and to Ruth Marshall for organising all the ringing.

“You have come to celebrate your own art.” Very Reverend Dr John Cairns



### Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow (5 Oct)

*Stephen Elwell-Sutton reports on the handbell day:*

Another satisfying day, well away from the humdrum realities of life. A fun day organised by Simon Gay; for a few of us the only chance we get to ring with more experienced ringers, and for all of us the chance to hone our widely varying skills. Sadly, a couple of the more experienced ringers were ill so Simon, as ever, did a last-minute rearrange. Fortunately this helped me evade frazzling my brain with Yorkshire. As I thought. However, I was then plunged into unfamiliar Cambridge Minor, so there was still an unfortunate element of brain strain. And I wasn't the only one whose brain turned increasingly to mush during the day...

Despite varying degrees of pain (or because of?), the fifteen of us all made good progress, practising a variety of methods including various sizes of Kent and Cambridge. We rang five quarter peals – Plain Bob, Lincolnshire, Spliced Surprise Major and Kent Royal and Maximus.

We were all spoilt rotten with Simon and Tina's food throughout the day, supplemented by plenty of caffeine. It says a lot for how much we appreciate their hospitality by the distance some travelled – from Forres, Inverness and Fort William to mention a few.

Many thanks to them both for organising and hosting such an enjoyable and instructive day.

### Glasgow Cathedral outing to Cumbria (13 Oct)

*Zoe Martin reports on Glasgow outing:*

When "Zoe, I'm thinking of having an outing to Cumbria, do you know some contacts?" gradually evolved into "Zoe, can you organise the outing?", it's safe to say there was more than a slight hint of trepidation. After attending many successful tower outings in my relatively short ringing career it was hard to see where to begin in an attempt to create an outing as enjoyable as I remember.

Choosing a route and the towers had been more difficult than I'd anticipated. Being my home county and having spent many a weekend traipsing around towers on training days, there was an overwhelming "why would anyone want to ring here?" Likely because I'm well versed in the local area, I was blinkered to the variety of ringing opportunities available and I settled for 5 towers virtually on the same road along the west coast.

Our day started in Cockermouth, scaling the roof on the way up to the ringing room in a way that could only rival St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. The 8-bell tower, which had a significant sway when all 8 were ringing, gave us an opportunity to ease into day with some triples and surprise major methods.

After a seamless start to the day, all of that was about the change with an almost lock-out in Moresby. The weather had completed a U-turn in typical form for an outing. The beautiful blue skies turned into a torrential downpour whilst we stood exposed on cliffs looking over the Irish sea, waiting for the elusive keys to arrive.

A quick few phone calls of the "it's not what you know, but who" variety soon had us ringing Cumbria's newest peal of bells. The 5cwt set of 8, each with their own name displayed along the tower walls, were a far cry from the bells of Glasgow that members of the band are used to. It didn't take too long for everyone to settle in and pick up where we'd left off in the first tower. N.B. apologies to the stays, though all were left intact.

Break for Lunch, where we all moved on to Whitehaven ready to ring in our third tower of the day. After a quick bite to eat and an opportunity to dry out our socks we were all refreshed and ready to ring at St. James' Church. For a few, this was their first opportunity to ring in a 12-bell tower. Without a doubt if anyone had been feeling the cold, we'd all warmed up by the end of the session. We made the most of the 12 bells in front of us, ringing all 12 for the majority of the session. That left very few opportunities for us to try out the couch. (We're still not entirely sure how they got it up the staircase!)

Only a few minutes drive to the fourth tower, Hensingham. Another 8-bell tower where yet again many of us did not get much of a chance to sit down, though this time it's because the seats were damp. This did not deter us from continuing with the progress that had been made throughout the day.

By the time we arrived at the fifth and final tower of the day in Workington we were ready for the pick-me-up that the tea and home-baking could provide. Many of the band have since said that factoring a tea break into an outing should be a priority.

Back to the ringing... Now fuelled by cake, and with our dinner reservation at a pub on the horizon, the band showed just how much progress had been made through the day. Whether it was learning new methods, ringing a different bell to methods, or even 3-spliced, the easy-going 12.5cwt 8 let us round up our day before moving onto our sixth tower... AKA the pub.



### **Dumfries: A lesson learned**

*Tony McIlwrick* highlighted an incident recently in Dumfries when a member of the public tried to gain access to the locked church on a practice night. Two ringers went down in response to the knocking but because of the individual's behaviour the police had to be called.

Late arriving ringers are of course welcome to the practice at St John's, but in reviewing this

alarming event the ringers have decided (1) that in future they will interrogate visitors from a small opening window in the ringing room that overlooks the entrance before unlocking the door and (2) that two people will always go down to open the door at least one of whom must be male.

Hopefully such events remain a rarity but it's certainly important to be vigilant.

### Ringling at Alloa

There is now ringing at Alloa on the **first Saturday morning of every month, 10am–12noon**. More information from [dunkeld@sacr.org](mailto:dunkeld@sacr.org) (Dunkeld bells currently cannot be rung, and Dunkeld ringers are organising these monthly practices).

from [@alex\\_andthe\\_churches](https://www.instagram.com/p/DAwSVwYuzFu): Always enjoy ringing on the delightful Taylor's 8 here in Alloa – though that has got to be the smallest ringing room anywhere! Especially for a 13cwt octave!

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/DAwSVwYuzFu>)



### St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh (17 Oct)

Six down in peal, but also rounds on 12 thanks to Al visiting from St Andrews, Marion visiting from Aberdeen (Marion's first time ringing 12 bells together) and Martin visiting from Inveraray. Plus Grandsire Triples on the back 8 and lots more besides. And Carla — who is currently artist in residence at St Mary's Cathedral — was also in the ringing chamber. Will be interesting to see how Carla's eco-and-art project around the cathedral develops over the coming months.



### Requests:

- *Inveraray over the years*: Isabel North requests that if members have any photos from Inveraray, please send them to [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org) to add to the collection. The exhibition in the tower is currently being reviewed and enhanced.
- *Dunkeld* are aiming to have an article in Historic Environment Scotland newsletter to highlight bellringing activities. HES are keen to have a podcast and Elizabeth Gatland asked for any help or ideas. Please email: [dunkeld@sacr.org](mailto:dunkeld@sacr.org)

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

- **Firsts include:**
  - First Quarter for Annabel
  - First inside for Geoffrey
  - First as conductor for Eli
  - First of Royal for Al
  - First inside on handbells for Geoffrey
  - First surprise for Eli
  - Most spliced in hand for Barbara, Susannah and Ian
  - Naming of three methods: [Albany Little Treble Place Major](#), [Oxford Differential Little Bob Major](#), and [Springboig Surprise Major](#)
  - 1100th peal for Peter W
  - 150th quarter as conductor for Anthony
  - 300th quarter at Albany Quadrant
- **Celebrations:**
  - 150 years since the consecration of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness
  - The ordination as deacon of Eilidh Proudfoot, Fiona Reynolds and Simon Schofield at St Mary's, Edinburgh
  - Happy 90th to Alex Linton's grandad, Robert Johnston

The quarter peal band at St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh:



**Young Change Ringers Association ::**

- Leicester training weekend: 23 November 2024
- YCRA is also organising a series of webinars, which are advertised on their facebook and instagram pages: <https://www.facebook.com/YCRA.official> and <https://www.instagram.com/ycra.official/>



**ART Awards**

The ART Awards are open for nominations

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/HEGnmGtCpn7r6DZY>

If you know of a band, cluster or person doing good, then there will be an award appropriate for them. Note that the ART Awards are open to anyone, not just ART Members. More information and nomination forms are available here: <https://bellringing.org/art-awards>



*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](mailto: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>

@scottishbellringing

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

The SACR Committee

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