

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers

From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>

Date: 25/01/2026, 22:57

To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter. This edition remembers and celebrates the life of **Peter J Shipton 1938–2025**, former Inverness cathedral ringer and former President of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers. An obituary will follow shortly.

Upcoming Events

Sat 31 Jan :: Alloa and Dunblane :: Winter meeting: morning in Dunblane and afternoon/evening in Alloa:

Morning advanced practice in Dunblane

This month's Advanced Practice will be held in Dunblane, from 10:30–12:30 on Saturday the 31 January. It will precede the winter meeting, which will be held in the afternoon in Alloa.

Dunblane has 8 bells so the practice will have a focus on Surprise Major. I'd like to follow up on some of the methods we were ringing in Dundee, so please have a go at revising London and Lincolnshire, along with the usual Yorkshire, Bristol, and Cambridge. Anyone learning Surprise Major is more than welcome.

There will be opportunities to ring other 7/8 bell methods (i.e. Stedman, Plain Bob Major, Treble Bob, Little Bob, etc) at Alloa, but don't let that dissuade you from coming to Dunblane too!

Please let me know if you'll be attending/not attending along with which of the methods you're comfortable ringing/learning so that I can plan the morning accordingly.

Zoe (master@sacr.org)

Alloa ringing and meeting in the afternoon

Names for tea and dietary requirements to Tim Gatland asap please: tg@gatcons.co.uk (the deadline for names has already passed so please check with Tim that you're not too late with your request). We are using outside caterers so numbers are very helpful.

Timings as follows:

10.30–12.30	Advanced practice in Dunblane Cathedral (details above from Zoe)
13.00–14.00	Lunch – please either bring your own lunch or find a nice coffee shop
	in Dunblane or Alloa. There is space at the back of the church to eat
14.00–16.00	General Ringing (Handbells may be rung in the church??)
16.00–17.30	Tea and business meeting
17.30–19.00	General Ringing

Fri 27 Feb, 7pm–9pm :: Advanced Practice :: location to be confirmed soon. Details from master@sacr.org

Sat 28 Feb, 12:15pm–2.15pm :: Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral

We'd like to invite SACR members to join us for a **one-off 12-bell practice** at St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh. If there's enough interest the plan is for Grandsire Cinques and Little Bob Maximus, as well as plain hunt on 11 and rounds and call changes, so something for various levels.

It would be helpful to email me if you're able to attend. Please let me know by 18th Feb: susannahmewens@hotmail.com We hope you can join us to ring changes on 12!

Susannah

Sat 14 Mar and Sun 15 Mar :: Tulloch :: Training weekend at Tulloch. Please email Judith via training@sacr.org if interested.

Saturday 14th March (10 am to 5 pm) – Training at different levels, depending on requirements

Sunday 15th March (9.30 am to 2 pm) – For those wishing to develop their 12-bell skills
If you would like to attend either or both days, please get in touch to book **by Wed 25 Feb**

See Judith's 18 Jan email for full details including booking form and accommodation information (details also from training@sacr.org)

Fri 27 Mar, 7pm–9pm :: Glasgow, St Mary's Cathedral :: Advanced Practice :: Details from master@sacr.org

Fri 24 Apr, 7pm–9pm :: Advanced Practice :: location to be confirmed soon. Details from master@sacr.org

Sat 16 May :: Edinburgh :: AGM and striking competition :: 12-bell practice at St Mary's in the morning and striking competition on the front 6 at St Cuthbert's followed by AGM

Fri 24 to Sun 26 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

Fri 4 to Sun 6 Sep :: CCCBR AGM in Rugby. Open to all ringers. More info below

Sat 17 Oct :: Autumn meeting :: Dundee

News

Bell Restoration Fund 50-50 Club :: *Ruth Ogilvie writes:* The 50-50 Club raises money for the SACR Bell Restoration Fund. To take part you simply choose a number between 1 and 80 and enter it in up to 12 monthly draws. You could win half of the money raised that month (up to £40) with the rest going to the BRF. The more people who enter numbers, the greater the prize fund *and* the more money raised for the BRF!

I have been sending reminders out to all those who contribute regularly (if you haven't had one you probably have a few more months to run!), but for those who are new to the SACR, here is your opportunity to join the SACR BRF 50-50 club. The first draw will be made in Alloa at the SACR Meeting on 31 January.

Please join us and help raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund – and get yourself in with a chance of winning up to £40 each month! More details from 50-50club@sacr.org

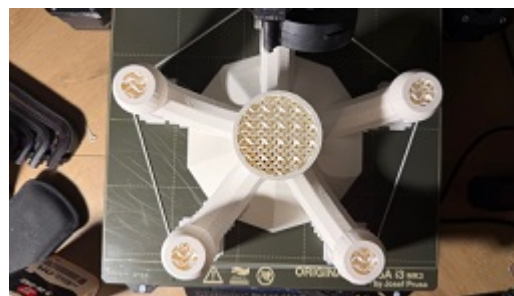
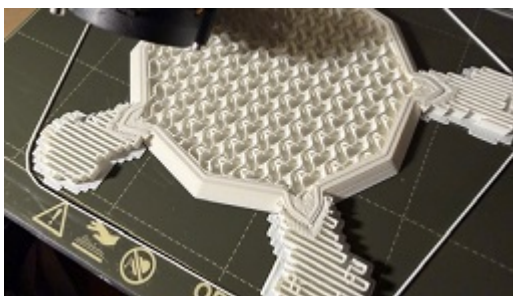
Ruth Ogilvie

Annual Report :: Simon Aves is compiling and editing this. If you're preparing info for the report Simon would like to receive your contribution by the end of January; email: report@sacr.org

St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh :: This pentapus has a new job as spider ... Alex Hunsley has designed and 3D-printed this spider for St Cuthbert's:



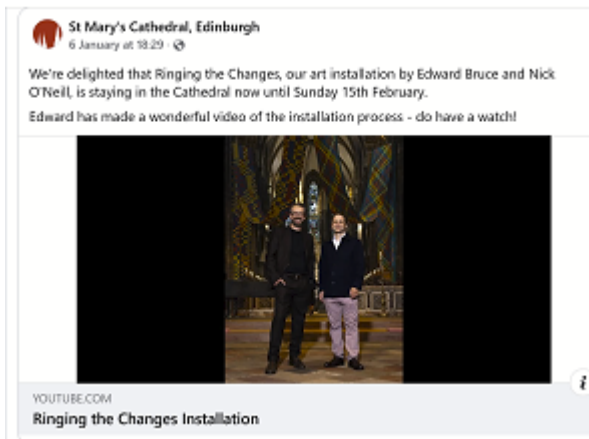
And here are a few images of the construction process:



St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh :: Fascinating film about the Ringing the Changes hangings that are in the main body of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh... some technical terminology may be slightly out but change-ringers are always interested (& forgiving!) to hear how the art and science is described and understood by others:

St Mary's Cathedral instagram writes: We're delighted that Ringing the Changes, our art installation by Edward Bruce and Nick O'Neill, is staying in the Cathedral now until Sunday 15th February. Edward has made a wonderful video of the installation process – do have a watch!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fUoevjCPWE>



More from St Mary's, Edinburgh :: *Judith Stark* writes: Lovely to see this gorgeous embroidered peal board in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Designed and sewn by the very talented Alison Stevens who also conducted the peal.



Is your tower on facebook or instagram or threads, etc.? See instagram and facebook posts from around Scottish towers for photos, videos, and updates:

- <https://www.facebook.com/InvernessCathedralBellringers>
- <https://www.facebook.com/BalnaferriCampanile>
- <https://www.facebook.com/inveraraybelltower>
- <http://instagram.com/inveraraybelltower>
- Any other social media links from Scottish towers? Email your links to publicity@sacr.org

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List ::

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has asked all affiliated societies to consider signing the petition to UNESCO for bellringing to be considered in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Project. Tina explained that the project essentially is looking at things that people do rather than things that people have. The CCCBR feel that this is worthwhile, that the first step is to evidence support from the ringing community, and that the CCCBR is the right body to take this forward. The plan is to submit a single application for the whole of the UK.

We will discuss this at the general meeting on 31st Jan and propose to sign up to show support as an Association unless there are any objections.

It is also possible to show support as an individual. Should you wish to do this, the link is <https://ccbr.org.uk/heritage>

CCCBR AGM :: 4–6 September :: Rugby :: The CCCBR AGM is open to all ... there will be ringing, a social event and of course the business meeting. SACR has two voting reps in Tina Stoecklin and Zoe Bennett. If you have anything you would like them to raise or have any questions to ask. Email ccrep@sacr.org

The full programme will be published in due course. Keep an eye on the CCCBR website and social media for updates. Booking for all elements of the weekend will open nearer the time.

Friday 4th Sept	Saturday 5th Sept	Sunday 6th Sept
<p>General ringing will be available at towers en route to Rugby. Routes will follow the main roads into Rugby.</p> <p>Evening ringing will be at St Andrew's, Rugby with a social event at the Benn Hall.</p>	<p>Welcome desk and registration.</p> <p>Ringing World AGM.</p> <p>CCCBR AGM.</p> <p>Social event at the nearby Arnold House.</p>	<p>Service ringing at local churches, including a special bell themed service at Coventry Cathedral.</p> <p>Opportunities to support locals with ringing workshops in the early afternoon.</p>

Bellboard :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#). As usual, a mixture of peals and quarters, in tower and in hand, with a wide range of firsts

- **Peal firsts:**
 - First women's peal by the St Mary's Cathedral Society, Edinburgh
 - First peal on handbells for Elinor Farquharson
 - First peal as conductor for Susannah Ewens
 - First Bristol Major as conductor for Susannah Ewens
 - First on eight for Matthew Andrews
- **Half Peal firsts:**
 - First of surprise and longest length to date for Talon Ashryver
- **Quarter Peal firsts:**
 - First Quarter Peal for Felix Charlton
 - First Quarter Peal for Olivia Clark
 - First Quarter Peal for Max Coady
 - First Treble Bob for Lyra Burgess
 - First on eight inside for Geoff Farquharson
 - First on eight for Andrew Cumming
 - First on eight for Gerda Grase
 - First away from cover for Catriona James
 - First on more than six for Samuel Cole
 - First St Simon's Bob Doubles for Gail Norwood
 - First Cornwall Surprise Major for Judith Stark and Elinor Farquharson
 - 100th Quarter at St Cuthbert's for Simon Aves

- Extents on six:
 - First extended ring of treble bobbing for Geoff Farquharson
 - Inaugural outing of the 6060s parts 1 and 2
- Remembrance Tide:
 - A half-muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh
 - A handbell quarter of Plain Bob Major at Tulloch
 - Half-muffled general ringing at Inveraray immediately prior to the Memorial of All Souls for Remembrance Tide held in All Saints Church
- Special performances:
 - Celebrating the life of Peter J Shipton 1938–2025, former Inverness cathedral ringer and former President of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers
 - In memory of the Right Reverend Dr Gregor Duthie Duncan, former Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway
 - For Advent Sunday and St Andrew's Day
 - Best wishes to Mike and Sandra Clay on their move to Chesterfield
 - Celebrating the marriage of Helen Cross to Ian Brown
 - Celebrating the marriage of Andrew and Jyoti
 - Celebrating the birth of Harris Finlay Anderson, grandson to Elinor and Geoff Farquharson
 - For all those graduating from the University of St Andrews
 - For the Inveraray Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service held in All Saints Church, Inveraray
 - Celebrating the New Year
 - Birthday compliments to Lyra Burgess

Please send in photos, articles, your social media posts and other updates about your local ringing to publicity@sacr.org

Social media

See Scottish Bellringing's facebook and instagram pages for more photos and items

For up to date info on social media:

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

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

<https://x.com/SBellringing>

<https://www.sacr.org>

@scottishbellringing

@SBellringing

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

The SACR Committee

