

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: "Martin Mellor, SACR Publicity" <Publicity@sacr.org>
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To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest edition of the newsletter.

Upcoming events

Covid Remembrance day: Tue 23 Mar :: St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh, will be tolling the tenor half muffled. Are any other towers planning to toll on Covid Remembrance day?

Advanced practice: Sat 27 March, 11am :: via zoom and in ringingroom.com, with a focus on the "old" standard eight, and Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Cambridge and Bristol in particular. As usual, please let Ruth Marshall know (master@sacr.org) if you're attending so she can plan how many ringing room towers to set up, etc. Other advanced practices for your diary: *Sat 24 April at 11am, Fri 28 May at 7.30pm.*

Good Friday and Easter Sunday :: St A & St GW will be tolling the tenor half muffled on Good Friday at 3pm. The band is also planning some socially distanced ringing for the service on Easter Sunday.

AGM: Saturday 15 May, 2pm-4pm, via zoom :: Details to be circulated in due course. If you'd be interested in joining the committee, have a word with any of the committee members. All posts are re-elected each year, and two will become vacant so a new Treasurer and a new Bells & Towers Advisor are being sought. If you think you might be interested in a post in the future, you're welcome to join the committee and shadow a post, or dive straight in!

News

Recovery :: Recruitment :: Training :: Three groups were set up after the January meeting... more news from these groups shortly.

The Association of Ringing Teachers Awards :: Scotland was well represented in the ART online awards on 6 March:

- Huge congratulations to Ruth Marshall for winning the ART Award for Inspiring Leadership in Ringing. A well deserved award. (Joint winner with Birmingham's St Martin's Guild.) <https://www.facebook.com/206179429825651/posts/1137190770057841>.
- eBells — a collaboration including Glasgow's Simon Gay — were runners-up last night in the ART Award for Excellence in the Development of Technology in Teaching. Congratulations one and all: Simon Gay, Tim Hart, Graham John and Ben Johnson <https://youtu.be/oMgPdkwyiK4>.

Training! :: "Now I'm reinvigorated to do more" :: February and March were busy months for training, with a two-weekend conducting course attended by six SACR students, followed by a full training day with about 34 students, helpers and tutors... This is one of the most heart-warming comments: "Best day of my lockdown!" ... Here are some reports from participants.

The "Roving Ringer's" enjoyment of Surprise Minor and brand new methods:

I am progressing to Surprise methods and today has enthused me at just the stage when I was getting weary of memory learning and worrying that similar patterns with small variations would just muddle my brain and in any case it probably wouldn't transfer to the tower!

Jonathan was honest, that we must commit Cambridge to memory, but then gave us a range of helpful tips to make it easier both to learn and to keep accurate. I made notes and I now intend to focus on each of his points as I ring on Abel so that when I go back to the tower they will be the signposts that lead me to accurate ringing. I now realise that being able to ring from memory on Abel is just not enough. I must work at recognising these extra elements and actually I think it will make it more interesting for me too.

But the best thing about all this effort I intend to expend is that it will pay dividends (I will hold you to that Jonathan!). As I progress to other Surprise methods the learning will not be so intense.

The breakout ringing sessions were great with steady helpers and Ian ensuring each of us had the practice we wanted. I didn't need to have learnt Norwich and Primrose but I tried to and I always get a thrill when the conductor shouts "Go" and it is a new method for me. I managed them with help and even had a go at a touch of Norwich. Best day of my lockdown!

Lynne Sydes, Roving Ringer, Dumfries

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Miranda doubles down with Double Bob:

The day started off well for me. Ruth had made it foolproof to login to zoom meet and to group ringing rooms (essential for me), and there were no technical difficulties. We were all made to feel very welcome, and it was nice to see lots of new faces as well as familiar ones.

The day was extremely well organised into groups wanting to learn different things. Initially after being flung right out of my comfort zone with Double Bob, I was given the encouragement and support I needed to have a go, with success! Despite the range of skills in our group of learners, Tina had no difficulty tailoring the day to challenge and support each of us. I learned a lot and really enjoyed myself. It was nice not to have to worry about handling a bell as well as learning a new method.

Thank you for organising this terrific day of virtual ringing. Thank you teachers and

helpers: it was a great way to learn.

Miranda Jones, Dunblane

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Irene moves on to methods:

I am fairly new to bell ringing and prior to 2020 lockdown measures I had been making steady progress; this was due to the experience of the Glasgow band and the high standard of teaching. Although practice has continued via ringing room, my employment has impacted on my attendance and progress to the extent that I thought I would really struggle with Saturday's course. However, due to Ruth Marshall's style of teaching (and patience), by the end of the training day I had advanced from ringing "call changes" to ringing Plain Hunt Doubles, Bristow Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Doubles.

I thoroughly enjoyed the training day and would like to send my appreciation to all of the organisers/trainers and helpers. I look forward to any further training opportunities.

Irene, Glasgow

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Clyde orders his report well with all types of "courses" in this piece on intermediate conducting:

A small group of averagely competent SACR ringers recently signed up for Simon Gay's Intermediate Conducting course. I was one of them and the course really was excellent.

Over the course of a couple of afternoons (8 hours in total), Simon gently introduces you to coursing orders – where and how to spot them, how to transpose them and a whole host of other useful info locked away in them. The key to the course's success is of course Simon's gentle coercion into realms unknown for the participants. Each theoretical part of the course is reinforced by a practical session using just a couple of methods – Plain and Little Bob – as illustrations of the theory and to give us all the opportunity to try out what we'd learned. Simon was his usual patient and tolerant self, allowing time for information to soak in and effortlessly fielding tangential questions without letting us stray too far from the essence of the coursework.

It's an ill wind... and the pandemic-driven online resource Ringing Room turned out to be the ideal training space. Plenty of opportunity to consult helpful scribbles of relevant coursing orders, which the physicality of tower bells would perhaps not allow. For anyone vaguely familiar with the superb "On Conducting" by Wilfred G. Wilson, Simon's course fulfils an invaluable role by filling in the interim rungs of the learning ladder. My only word of caution is that an effortless command of Plain Bob Doubles, Minor, Major and Little Bob Major using Ringing Room is essential for steering a steady

course since relentlessly lumpy ringing greatly detracts from being able to observe what you're supposed to!

Everyone came away from the course with a fistful of extra tools to use on virtual practice nights and hopefully, in the near future, in the tower. Huge thanks to Simon for structuring and delivering a brilliantly eye-opening course, and to the rest of the Gay family for allowing him the time to do it!

Clyde Wallbanks, Glasgow

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And from other snippets heard over the weekend: Aside from all the learning and enjoyment with virtual bells, in Inge's words, "it's just nice to see lots of familiar faces" during these weeks of lockdown. And Iain said "Now I'm reinvigorated to do more!" It was good fun and there was a great sense of community from across Scotland.

Bell Restoration Fund 50-50 Club :: The last couple of draws were done at the Training Day on 6 March. Here are the recent winners:

*January – Christina Howie (Dundee)
February – Martin Mellor (Inveraray)
March – Jane Farquharson (Dunblane)*

If anyone wishes to join the 50-50 draws, please contact Ruth Ogilvie on 50-50club@sacr.org. Please also contact Ruth if you are not sure and wish to check if you still have a monthly ticket!

SACR on BellBoard :: There have been quite a lot of virtual SACR quarter peals in the last few weeks, which can be viewed with this customised search on bell board: https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/search.php?association_id=35. It includes a quarter marking 12 months to the day since a number of SACR members rang their last tower-bell peal. Surely in 12 months time towers bells will be ringing out again with 3-hour performances... watch this space!

Media coverage :: We have created a webpage with links to newspaper articles, TV/radio programmes, etc. See <https://sacr.org/index.php/association/media>. If you have any historical articles about ringing in Scotland, please let Martin know at publicity@sacr.org.

Social media: For up to date info on social media:

<https://www.sacr.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

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

The SACR Committee

