

**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

**Fun With Bells Podcast** :: 9 September. Watch out for the next edition of the Fun With Bells podcast, which this month comes from Glasgow! ... It'll be out on 9 September... <https://youtu.be/7O3PKGSRWX0>



Here are the show notes:

Just as change ringing on handbells requires each ringer to have two bells, this perfectly formed podcast on the subject has two guests. Host Cathy Booth chats with Tina and Simon, authors of the latest must-have handbell manual.

As always, this podcast asks all the right questions. What is best, tower or hand bells? Will online ringing last post lock-down? Is bell ringing music? And should you start with hand bells and then move onto tower bells, or vice versa?

As well as addressing the big issues Cathy also finds out the fascinating process behind writing and publishing their book, discovers the joy of e-bells and gets insider information on the progress of Volume 2 and likely publication date.

Think handbells aren't for you? Then listen to this podcast and think again.

**Advanced Practices**:: Next date to be

announced in due course, and very likely with "real ringing" following the August meeting in Glasgow.

**October Meeting** :: Sat 23 October (and possibly also Fri 22). There will be a separate email shortly about this.

**COP26 in Glasgow** :: Sat 30 October. There has been a general suggestion to ring church bells on 30 October at 6pm, on the eve of the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which, as you no doubt know, takes place in Glasgow from 1-12 November.

**Courses Online ART Workshops (Module 1 and Module 2F)** :: These are suitable for both new and experienced teachers – after all, it has been a long time since most of us have taught anyone to ring and it is easy to forget some

of the finer details. The online workshops break down the course content into bite-sized chunks so you can choose whether to dip in and out between teaching lessons or do the whole course before you start. They each take about one and a half hours to complete, and are available to anyone who has attended the relevant day course. Whether you are still working towards your ART accreditation or you have already achieved it, these courses are an excellent way to get back up to speed. In the words of a ringing teacher who has already completed the Module 1 Online Refresher: "Thank you and all those involved in putting so much hard work into this series of videos and reminders. I found them very watchable and clear, just enough and not too much at this stage! The timing of it is impeccable and will stand a lot of teachers in good stead when teaching can start again." You can enrol on either workshop here:

[Bellringing Online Learning Portal](#)

*Judith Frye (ART Tutor)*

## News

**Covid guidance** :: The guidance page was updated in August: see [details via this link](#).

- If you have questions, or need support with risk assessments or frameworks, or just to share how you are doing don't hesitate to reach out to [advisor@sacr.org](mailto:advisor@sacr.org). Please email with any questions.
- At the end of the webpage there are examples where some ringing has resumed; please email [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org) as and when examples of ringing at your tower need to be updated.

**St Andrews dumbbell up and running** :: Our bells at St Salvator's, St Andrews have been in for about 10 years now. They have been well used over that time for practice, services and graduation ringing, as well as a good number of quarters and peals. We have taught a lot of new ringers from scratch, but because of the limitations of term-time (and recently Covid-19!), a learner is only with us for perhaps half of the year.

Inspired by the set-up at Tulloch, we started to explore the idea of a dumbbell and simulator. A generous gift from Michael Buchannan (the original donor of the bells) and an SACR grant enabled the project to go ahead and was achieved under-budget thanks to the donation of a rope (Dundee), laptop (St Andrews medical school) and volunteer labour.

The dumbbell is now fully installed ready for the lifting of ringing restrictions and is available for teaching of bell-handling and method-ringing at any level. The software gives an overall accuracy score and percentage early or late for back- and hand-stroke changes. The video shows our initial try-out of a course of Plain Bob Minor, leaving scope for progression up the learning curve! The turning speed of the bell is a little slower than might be expected from the "feel" of the weight, but it is perhaps no bad thing for a learner to have slightly more time to acquire new skills.

See the short video clips [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

*Peter Williamson*



**Inveraray:** A shame not to have been able to have the Inveraray Ringing Festival at the end of July... fingers crossed for 2022... Rachel managed to get a great shot of the bell tower though (oh, and some hills too!).



**Photo competition** :: The CCCBR's ongoing photo competition has a different theme every few weeks. The current category in the competition is **Bells in Art**, and this runs until 15 September. Details are available [here](#).

Here's an article about the winners of the previous category, **Bells and Installations**: [click here](#).

**Dundee walking tours** :: Calling all visitors to Dundee... Here are some great offers of tours, and an opportunity to help augment the bells at St Paul's Dundee.

Are you planning a day trip or perhaps an overnight stay to Dundee this summer to see the exciting V&A Museum and take in the sights along the Riverside development including The RRS Discovery?

*Dundee city centre:* Our resident local history expert and Dundee ringer Christina is happy to offer guided walking tours of the city centre offering an insight into the rich history of Dundee and showing a few of the more unusual and hidden gems in the city that might otherwise pass you by!

Tours are suitable for all ages and families and will be about an hour in duration. The tours will be free of charge but a donation to the St Paul's Dundee Bells appeal will be gratefully received.

*Bridge to Bridge:* For any runners/joggers/walkers, how about a flat Riverside "Bridge to Bridge" (approx. 5km) along the Tay Estuary with Dundee ringer Margaret. The route is away from the road using the walking/cycle path passing through The V&A, The Discovery and along to The Tay Railway Bridge. It offers wonderful views across the Tay to Fife. Easy paced and lots of stops for photos! Again, donations for the bells appeal gratefully received.

If you would like to take part in either of these tours, please email [mcgamble01@gmail.com](mailto:mcgamble01@gmail.com)  
*Margaret Gamble*



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

<https://www.sacr.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

@SBellringing

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

As usual, please send in any items or articles that you would like included in the newsletter to Martin at [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org).

The SACR Committee