

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers

From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>

Date: 01/09/2022, 13:17

To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Upcoming events

Sat 3 Sept :: Steeple Keeping Course, Edinburgh, St Mary's Cathedral :: Jonathan is running a Steeple Keeping course for all those interested in working in the belfry at their tower. Full details via [this link](#) and you can contact Jonathan via advisor@sacr.org

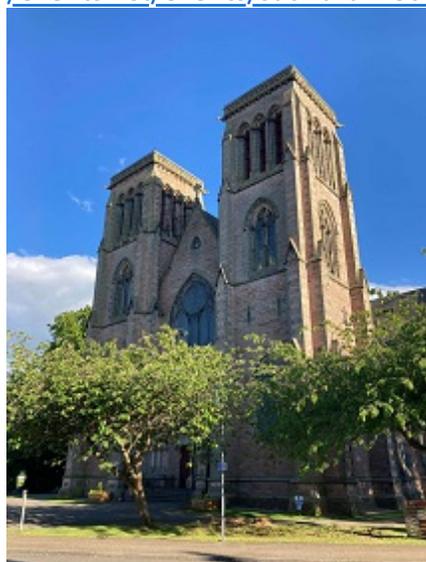


Sat 3 Sept :: Dumfries, St John's bell tower :: Doors open day, 1pm-4pm. "A wonderful Church in the center of Dumfries. On Saturday there will be a special exhibition on the history of bell ringing and the story of the bells plus demonstrations of bell ringing in the ringing room."

<https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/places/dumfries-and-galloway/st-john-s-episcopal-church>

Fri 2 to Sun 4 Sept :: Central Council 2022 Annual Meeting and Roadshow, Nottingham :: Details of the meeting and surrounding events are [here](#), and on Sunday there is a roadshow from 10am–5pm with speaker sessions, exhibitors and other attractions; details [here](#).

Sat 17 Sept :: Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) Course: Teaching Bell Handling :: Inverness, Cathedral Church of St Andrew :: Suitable for those who already teach bell handling and want to update their skills *AND* for those who have never taught anyone to handle a bell. This course provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to take a ringer from their first lesson to having competent bell control. You will learn through a mixture of practical and classroom sessions; the practical sessions will give you plenty of time to practise your new skills in a safe environment. <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/events-list/events/sacr-art-module-1-teaching-bell-handling-2209>



Fri 30 Sept :: Advanced Practice :: St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, 7.30pm-9pm. As usual, please let Ruth (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend

Sat 8 Oct :: Scottish Handbell Day :: The next Scottish Handbell Day will be on Saturday 8 October at 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow. The format will be a mixture of practice sessions and quarter peals, as we have done in the past.

Please feel free to pass the invitation on to anyone who you think might be interested, especially if you are doing any regular handbell ringing with people who have started recently. The only condition is that we are not planning to cater for complete beginners, so anyone who comes needs to be able to ring Plain Bob Minor already.

So, please could you do the following:

1. Tell me whether or not you are going to come.
If you are coming:
2. Tell me what you would like to ring a quarter of.
3. Tell me what you would like to practise.
4. If you think I don't already know, tell me what you can ring confidently.
5. Tell me whether you can bring a set of bells.

All of that goes for conducting too; maybe some people would like to try calling new things.

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

Sat 22 Oct :: October meeting :: A full day of activities! There will be ringing and a meeting in **Dunblane** plus a meal and social in the evening. Before that there will be ringing at **Stirling** and hopefully also at **Alloa**. Times and other details to be announced nearer to the event.



Fri 28 Oct :: Advanced Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm-9pm. As usual, please let Ruth (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend.

Fri 25 Nov :: Advanced Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm-9pm. As usual, please let Ruth (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend.

Sat 28 Jan 2023 :: January meeting :: Hold the date! Location and other details to be confirmed.

News

Studying Stedman for three days and living with ninety other ringers: In praise of the North West Ringing Course :: My idea of heaven: dawn to dusk bell talk, sitting with different people at every opportunity; asking questions about their ringing, towers and training; enjoying telling and hearing funny anecdotes; and making connections and finding mutual friends.

Being on campus for three days adds an easy intimacy and large-print first-name badges were indispensable! Being on campus adds purpose too: seek out fellow hand-bellringers to have a go at Kent,

or get their take on this mythical word "rhythm", or show up and join in ad-hoc ringing on the mini ring and portable belfry, or just rub shoulders in the bar with the "notables" of our ringing community. We created a whatsapp Stedman group, and I made friends with two others and we are now arranging our first virtual hand-bell practice together. I left my room for 7.45am breakfast and didn't see the room again until I tumbled into bed ... and if you don't believe me then look at the programme on the website!

Oh, and I might add that I also learnt all about the theory of Stedman in the classroom and practised Triples at five different towers, even calling an easy touch. Thanks of course to the excellent tutor Eleanor Linford, my stand-behinder Stephanie Warboys, the helpers, and five fellow participants. I will gladly travel to any Stedman ringing opportunities please!

In total there were 10 tutors, 41 helpers, 1 admin and 51 participants: What a mammoth organisational feat and a better ratio than a cruise!

North West Ringing Course: <https://nwringingcourse.uk/programme>

Lynne Sydes, Dumfries



A bellringing bonanza at Balnaferry :: We had a full-on bellringing fest day on 21 August! First of all we hosted a handbell day for 7 handbell ringers from across the north of Scotland (the Inverness handbell ringers plus our fabulous conductor Nick Jones from near Fort William). We scored [3 quarter peals](#) in total.

We had just 5 of us in the morning. We started with a "warm up" attempting some Plain Bob Royal and after a few goes Nick proposed we tried a bob course which took a few attempts, but we got through it just about.

Next was our first quarter peal of the day which was of Kent TB Major for Catherine Pellemounter. Bellboard details in the comments (as I can only put one link per post/comment).

After a quick break our second quarter peal was Plain Bob Major for Dawn McAleer.

We broke for lunch as Nicky Hughes arrived and had a good blether before breaking into two groups. Group 1 (Dawn, Nicky and Nick) went through some handbell ringing theory and exercises whilst Group 2 (Rachel, Cath and I) attempted a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor (sadly not to be, but we got lots of practice in).

Hugh arrived at this point so we broke again, this time with Dawn, Hugh, Nick and Cath scoring a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major whilst Rachel, Nicky and I rang some plain courses and a simple touch of Plain Bob Minor.

Our final bit of ringing was some bob courses of Kent TB Royal, each time getting better.

So... that was the daytime.. but we weren't finished yet!

In the evening we hosted the Inverness tower BBQ and social, something that had been mooted a few years ago but was put off by covid. 20 ringers, friends and family attended and after lots of chatter and food (a huge thanks to all the food contributions) we had a quick go on the mini-ring to show the two Ukrainian families what their mad hosts get up to ringing bells! The evening was then finished off nicely by James playing tunes on his accordion.

Thank you so much for a fabulous, fun and ringing filled day and for all our amazing friends for joining us.

Anthony Cole

Change-Ringing on Handbells, Volume 2: Advanced Techniques :: Exciting news for handbell ringers: Vol.2 of Tina and Simon's series is now out (& Vol.1 is highly recommended to non-handbell ringers!)... available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle editions. <https://www.handbellringing.co.uk/blog/volume-2-published>



Festival Fun :: A bumper Edinburgh festival turnout at St Mary's Cathedral on 11 August, with visitors from Leatherhead, York, Carrickfergus, Inveraray and Aberdeen ... lots of Stedman and Grandsire Triples... and call-changes on twelve.



As always, articles, photos and comments are welcome: please send to publicity@sacr.org

Social media

For up to date info on social media:

<https://www.sacr.org>

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

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The SACR Committee
