

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 13/12/2023, 12:13
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>
BCC: publicity@sacr.org

Dear Members

Upcoming Events

Sat 27 Jan :: Winter Meeting :: Glasgow

An outline of the day is below, and further information will follow. It promises to be an excellent and varied day of ringing so please do come along. As a reminder everyone is welcome for all of the sessions after lunch including the handbell and mini-ring options. The advanced practice in the morning will focus as usual on more advanced 10-bell ringing with methods to be advised by Ruth nearer the time.

1100 – 1230 advanced practice
1230 – 1300 lunch (own arrangements)
1300 – 1400 handbells and mini-ring
1400 – 1600 general ringing (with handbells and mini-ring still available & perhaps a theory session to sign up to)
1600 – 1630 short service
1630 – 1700 meeting
1700 – 1800 tea
1800 – 1900 general ringing

Sat 3 Feb :: Association of Ringing Teachers' Module 1 course :: Dunblane (*full details and booking info below*)

Sat 16 March :: Training Day :: Tulloch

Sun 12 May :: Bell Sunday :: <https://bellsunday.org>

Sat 18 May :: AGM and Striking Competition :: St Andrews

News

Teaching Bell Ringing :: Sat 3 Feb, 09:30 until 17:00 :: Dunblane

Association of Ringing Teachers' Module 1 course

- *Have you considered becoming a teacher to help train more ringers in your tower?*
- *Are you already teaching but would like to brush up your skills or learn some new techniques?*
- *Would you like to mentor a new teacher so that they can become skilled and contribute to the teaching in your tower?*

If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you may be interested in attending the next Association of Ringing Teachers' Module 1 course to be held on Saturday 3rd February 2024 from

09:30 until 17:00 in Dunblane.

The 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:

- How to teach a skill
- How to break down bell handling into easy stages that the new ringer can master
- About different learning types and how to adapt your teaching for them
- The benefits of intensive teaching

The emphasis is on practical sessions that will give you plenty of time to practise your new skills in a safe environment.

You can book your place on the course here: <https://events.bellringing.org/en/events/courses/teaching-course-module-1-dunblane-cathedral-scotland>

You will need to create an account to use this site. SACR will cover the cost of the course but you need to pay yourself (£25) and reclaim this from the treasurer, Rachel Milner treasurer@sacr.org. Bookings close on 19th January and places are limited.

If you have questions about the course or whether it is suitable, please get in touch with me, Judith, at training@sacr.org; if you would like to do the course but are unavailable on this date, please let me know; we could run another course if there is sufficient interest.

Judith Frye, SACR Training Officer, training@sacr.org

50-50 Club Draws :: We completed the last two 50-50 club draws of 2023 on Monday at our Aberdeen practice. The winners were:

- Nov 23 – Terry Williams – won £33
- Dec 23 – Jonathan Frye – won £33

I will be emailing in the New Year to encourage everyone to donate again for next year. Keep an eye out for it!!

Ruth Ogilvie

Dumfries :: Contribution to the charity tree festival at St John's, Dumfries – over 70 trees sponsored!




TowerTalk :: The latest edition of [TowerTalk](#) is out. Loads of interesting articles, including an article

about ringing when on holiday by Inverness and Tulloch's Ian Turner, and an article about the Central Council from CCCBR President, Glasgow's Tina Stoecklin.

Link here: <https://bellringing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Tower-Talk-27.pdf>

Tower Talk

The newsletter for ringers using  Learning the Ropes™

Association of Ringing Teachers / Learning the Ropes - www.learningtheropes.org

Holiday Opportunities

Ian Turner, Inverness



I originally wrote for Tower Talk back in April 2017 when I had been ringing for only 6 months. My home tower back then was Tulloch in the Highlands of Scotland, and I now mainly ring at Inverness, having moved house last year. Both towers are two towers' drive from the next closest site, so over 95% of my ringing has been done in these two locations and I had only managed to ring in about 25 towers in total up to the start of this year. However, attending the Hereford and North West ringing courses this year has added 50% to this number and given me much needed experience on different types or rings, weights of bells and length of draught.



Over the years, to try to get a more varied ringing experience, I have taken various opportunities to ring whilst on holiday. The most memorable of which was in Vancouver, British Columbia. My daughter lived there for 5 years and when visiting her in 2019, my wife and I were very lucky to discover that our trip coincided with the annual weekend visit from the Seattle ringers, so tower sessions were available Saturday and Sunday. We chose to ring on both the Saturday morning and afternoon, shared a ceremonial lunch with everyone and then joined them all for a very well organised dinner in the evening at Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club, including speeches, handbell ringing and awards. The locals didn't mind that we had only been ringing for a couple of years. They made us very welcome and gave us plenty of opportunities to practise and socialise with like-minded folk. Since then we've even managed to meet up in Scotland to ring with one of the people we originally met in Canada!



Moly Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver and below the North West and Ireland topics

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What Was I Thinking?

Marion Jones, Dudding, Midlothian

Looking at the Big Picture

Tina Stoecklin, Glasgow



Tina Stoecklin has just been elected as President of the Central Council of Church Bellringers. Here, she introduces the Council, and a few of the many services that they ringers can use.



I learned to ring in Galenway, Michigan, which was a long way from my home, and unfortunately some of the ringing that happens here in the UK. The big publication for us was The Clapper, the newsletter for the North American Guild of Church Bellringers. I don't know about The Ringing World or the Central Council, and ART and Learning the Ropes didn't exist then. Why should I have known? It was all very remote to me, mainly because I was an Inverness ringer. Or was I though? It took quite a few years for it to sink in that some of these ringers out there are still remote to many ringers in middle where they live, and it wasn't just because I had learned to ring in a remote location. This is partly normal. When I started to go to a course class, I just went to my local club for a long time, there were not a local job competition or how, and then I gradually became aware of national and international organisations, and something you know, there I was getting a teaching qualification and taking young people to an international competition. It sounds like an odd journey to me.

But back to the Central Council. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has representatives from more than 600 ringing societies (including the North American Guild), and at last week there were a further 85 societies working to provide services for those associations and the ringers they represent. These include a very large library and archive, some useful software libraries and websites, some living but minority quarters and templates, and help on things like fundraising, capacity and bell maintenance. We just have put together a list of really everything our volunteers do, and it is a list.

That, however, is just a list of stuff. Here is how I imagine you might encounter the Central Council. Say you have done enough learning to feel confident visiting a neighbouring tower, and then you might go on holiday and try to visit another tower. You might see Owen's online (www.ccbbr.org.uk) to find out what towers and practices are nearby.

Or perhaps you have been to see your bells and maybe even found replace a broken bell or replace an old rope. Helping to look after these magnificent objects is appealing - and you can learn more in our online publication *Bell's Update*. <https://bellringing.org.uk>

Or maybe you have completed your ART Level 3 and super well done if you have! and would like to try doing some more calling and conducting. Then you might have a look at *Calling & Ropes*, an excellent guide to learning the basics and which is found online here: callingandropes.org.uk

Finally, you might see me at an AGM event, in which case, come and introduce yourself! What the Central Council is or what is most important than what we can become. What I hope we can become is a more accessible and inclusive organisation that can support all ringers no matter where they live. Can we be better? Oh yes. But I'm probably going to wait to add some of you to my list of volunteers.



The newly elected President of the Central Council of Church Bellringers

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Remembrance Ringing :: Half-muffled bells marked Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday in November

A Quarter Peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major was rung at **St Andrew's and St George's West Edinburgh** (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1668334>). **Dunkeld Cathedral** rang a mixture of methods and call changes, as did **St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness**. At Inverness ringing down ended with chiming in diminishing rounds and then tolling the tenor for 5 mins up to 11am.

At **St Machar's Cathedral Aberdeen** there were touches of Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. There was also half-muffled ringing at the **Church of the Holy Rude Stirling**, **St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Glasgow**, **St Marys Church Haddington**, **St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Edinburgh**, and elsewhere across Scotland.

The ringing in **All Saints Inveraray** was on Sat 11th. The bell tower at Inveraray was built in memory of those who died in the First World War and in all previous wars. At the service, Fr Simon reminded us that by the time the bell-tower was completed in 1938, the horrors of war were about to begin anew. And that they stand today as an emblem of our prayer for peace. The tenor was tolled up to 11am and then all ten rang out half muffled after the two-minute silence. A mixture of rounds on ten, plain hunt on nine, Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples were rung ahead of a Eucharist of Requiem with The St Maura Singers.

At **St Salvator's Chapel in St Andrews** there was half-muffled ringing for the morning service. There were seven ringers, including two Chinese students who have only recently learnt to ring. We had a discussion about Remembrance in different countries, 13 Dec being the main day of remembrance in China. The service itself included the laying of wreaths for those in the University who had died during the World Wars, and also a commemoration of local martyrs persecuted because of their faith (Patrick Hamilton: burnt at the stake outside the chapel 1528; John Ogilvie: hanged for his faith at Glasgow Cross 1615).

At **Dumfries: St John's** there was ringing of rounds and call changes, with five local ringers and a visitor.



St John's, Dumfries



All Saints, Inveraray



St Machar's, Aberdeen

Annual report for 2023 :: Simon Aves (report@sacr.org), the new Report Editor, will be in touch shortly for tower reports and other information for the annual report.

Nominate someone for an ART Award :: Do you know someone who's making a difference and making things happen? Then don't be shy. Say thank-you by nominating them for an award and, if they win, they'll receive a substantial cash prize to spend on a ringing related activity or product.

It doesn't matter if they are an ART Member or have never even heard of ART, anyone can apply, anyone can be nominated and anyone can win. For more details of the awards, prizes and application form, go to <https://bellringing.org/art-awards-2024>; you have until 31 December 2023 to get your nomination in, so now is the right time to start collecting quotes, photos, statistics and testimonials, to show just how good your ringing here is.

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