

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 15/03/2024, 16:10
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter. The headline news is that the **Annual Report for 2023** is now available on the SACR website – many thanks to Simon for his new look production! The report can be accessed at sacr.org/index.php/resources/annual-reports. A paper copy will be available for each tower. If any member would like to request a personal paper copy, please contact Simon on report@sacr.org

Upcoming Events

Fri 19 Apr :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm (master@sacr.org)

Sat 11 May :: Scottish Handbell Day :: Glasgow (simon.gay@ed.ac.uk)

Sun 12 May :: Bell Sunday :: bellsunday.org



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

Fri 31 May :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Edinburgh, St Cuthbert, 7.30pm–9pm

Sat 15 / Sun 16 Jun :: Scottish Quarter Peal Weekend

Sat 22 Jun :: ART Module 2 course :: Teaching Change Ringing :: Dunblane (training@sacr.org)

Fri 28 Jun :: Advanced Eight-Bell Practice :: Dundee, 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 26 – Sun 28 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

Fri 30 Aug :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

Fri 27 Sep :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Edinburgh, St Cuthbert, 7.30pm–9pm

Sat 19 Oct :: Autumn Meeting :: Advanced Eight-Bell Practice, followed by General Ringing, Meeting and Social :: Haddington


Fri 29 Nov :: Advanced Ten-Bell Practice :: Glasgow, 7.30pm–9pm

News

TowerTalk latest edition :: Minor Stepping Stones at Tulloch (pp. 15 & 16), Christmas ringing around Scotland (pp. 2 & 3) and Coronation ringing in Inverness (p. 4). Three Scotland-focused articles in the latest edition of TowerTalk... and much more besides. It seems that Scottish ringers are quite friendly and welcoming! Ceud mile fàilte!

<https://bellringing.org/tower-talk-28>

Tower Talk

The newsletter for ringers using  Learning the Ropes™

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

Dunblane: Teaching bell handling (ART Module 1) :: Developing and expanding a teaching tool box: bellringing.org/2024/02/03/m1-dunblane-scotland

Report by *Alison Stevens*



International Women's Day :: [Two quarters](#) were rung in Edinburgh, including the first women's quarter at St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh. See also this week's *Ringing World* (No. 5890) for more on ringing on IWD around the UK.



Bellboard :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#).

St Nicholas Kirk, Aberdeen



An article from *The Press & Journal* (28 Feb 24) about the future of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, and some background details on the bells: [link](#). Today's bells at St Nicholas are not about change-ringing – although the heaviest of the 48-bell carillon in Aberdeen would make an impressive tenor, heavier than Liverpool Cathedral's, if it were rung for full-circle ringing! – but the earlier eight change-ringing bells' claim to fame is that they were the sound of the first peal to be rung in Scotland, back in 1859.

Here's a brief history of the bells by Richard Smith (from [bellringers' facebook page](#), with permission): 'Until 1858 there was a ring of five bells in F minor, I think mostly Mears but with a seventeenth century tenor cast by Michael Burgerhuys of Middelbourg in the Netherlands. In 1858, Warners augmented them to produce a 32 cwt eight in Eb by topping and tailing. They also added a flat second seemingly only for the chime. The newspaper report at the time said they were the "finest peal of bells, of their weight, in the United Kingdom", a statement surpassed in its improbability only by the subsequent remark that they possessed "as good a set of change-ringers as any other town in the Kingdom". They were pealed only once – Plain Bob Triples in 1859 – before being destroyed by fire in 1874. Warners quoted for a replacement ten, 30 cwt in C, and Severin van Aerschodt of Leuven in Belgium quoted for a 36-bell carillon with a 58 cwt bass bell, Eeles and Clouston says in D (which seems improbable to me). They went with the van Aerschodt carillon, with the bass bell hung for swing chiming (apparent needing four people). The carillon was found to have a poor tone, so in 1952 they got Gillett and Johnston to replace it with a 48 bell carillon, with a 89 cwt bass bell in G#.' (Mainly from Eeles FC & Clouston RWM (1963) *The Church and other bells of Aberdeenshire. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 94, 272–300.)

Simon Aves also writes about change-ringing on the pre-fire bells in the chapter 'No Regular Tunes, and a Langnibbet Word' of his book *A History of Change Ringing in Scotland*, 2017 (<https://www.amazon.co.uk/History-Change-Ringing-Scotland-ebook/dp/B09VQV9SKM>).

Open Doors Days in September :: September can be a good month to showcase bellringing in your tower. To check dates, see doorsopendays.org.uk/2024-weekends

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2024

Fun with Bells podcast :: All episodes of this podcast are available at <http://funwithbells.com>



In memoriam

Duncan K. Malloch 1942–2024, St Andrews



Duncan was born in Greater Manchester in 1942, the second of five siblings. In the late 1950s, ringing at Ashton-under-Lyne was at a low ebb. Several youngsters were recruited from the congregation including Duncan and his older brother. They were all taught by Joan Carter, herself not much older than the recruits. They made steady progress such that they formed the basis of a new band ringing regularly for service and practice. Duncan's first peal was in May 1958 with it being a first peal for five of the recent recruits and first as conductor for Joan: A great achievement for the band.

After leaving school, Duncan studied medicine in Edinburgh but did not ring there. He worked as a GP in Exeter and, while waiting to collect his son from a bagpipe lesson, he heard bells being rung at a practice. He returned to ringing including at Heavitree and Exeter Cathedral. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1988 which then led to his retirement from medicine in 1990. He moved to Scotland and for many years was involved with ringing at the two towers in Dundee including many quarters and one peal: Plain Bob Triples for the SACR 75th anniversary celebrations. He hosted one memorable pizza party and enlisted neighbour's ovens to ensure that all the offerings were ready at the same time!

With the installation of a ring of six at St Andrews in 2011, Duncan became involved in ringing there for service, practice, weddings and graduations. Health issues occurred frequently but each time he was determined to return to ringing – as well as return to other interests including dance and art – as soon as possible. One of the last times that he rang was at St Andrews following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. His health deteriorated further and he was well cared for by his wife at their home where he died on 21 February 2024.

We will remember his determination to not let serious health issues interfere with the rest of life and his encouragement of others as they made progress with ringing.

A [quarter peal](#) was rung on 13 March at St Andrews following the funeral of Duncan earlier that

day. The band was made up of ringers from St Andrews and Dundee where Duncan rang.

Peter Williamson

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/obituaries/77-obituary-duncan-malloch>

Andrew Johnson

Simon Gay wrote this piece in memory of Andrew Johnson, who is best known for composing bobs-only peals of Stedman Triples: <https://www.handbellringing.co.uk/blog/ringing-in-memory-of-andrew-johnson>.

[1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal](#) and [1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor](#) were rung in Scotland in Andrew's memory.

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>

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The SACR Committee