

Subject: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 07/11/2025, 20:38
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter.

[Upcoming Events](#)

[2025](#)

Fri 28 Nov :: Advanced 10-bell practice, Glasgow, 7pm–9pm. Please let Zoe (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend. Focus methods: Stedman, Yorkshire, Bristol, Sgùrr a' Chaorachain and London No.3

[2026](#)

Sun 18 Jan 3pm :: SACR committee meeting, to be held online. It is always good to have at least one representative from each tower so please check with your tower rep so that each tower has someone attending. Sue will send reminders and papers ahead of the meeting, and please email secretary@sacr.org for the Teams meeting link

Sat 31 Jan :: Alloa and Dunblane :: Winter meeting with the meeting and ringing at Alloa and an advanced practice in Dunblane that morning. More details in due course

Sat 14 Mar and Sun 15 Mar :: Tulloch :: Training weekend at Tulloch. Email training@sacr.org if interested

Sat 16 May :: Edinburgh :: AGM and striking competition :: 12-bell practice at St Mary's in the morning and striking competition on the front 6 at St Cuthbert's followed by AGM

Fri 24 – Sun 26 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

Sat 17 Oct :: Autumn meeting :: Tower to be confirmed

[News](#)

Welcome to new members of SACR:

- Edinburgh New Town: William (Will) Stafford
- Edinburgh St Mary: Hilary Smith, Felix Charlton

Ringling World Calendar :: The 2026 Ringling World calendar features Inveraray (photo by Nick Sturgess). It's available (along with ringing Christmas cards) in the Ringling World online shop: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/rw-shop.php>



Aberdeen in Edinburgh :: “Super day trip to Edinburgh on Saturday with the Aberdeen bellringers,” writes @margaret.gamble.9, “and the chance to ring on the big ring of 12 bells St Mary's Cathedral (42cwt), also the 10 bells at St. Cuthbert, Edinburgh City Centre, and the 8 at Edinburgh New Town Church of Scotland. Thanks to a few Edinburgh ringers for helping out and ringing with us.”



Edinburgh St Mary's Cathedral outing :: Ringing in the rain ... St Mary's Edinburgh's September outing to Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria is reported in [The Ringing World](https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issueno/5975) (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issueno/5975>). Thanks to Jane Rutherford for the report (incorrectly attributed in the RW to Eli Farquharson)

Ringing in the rain

The St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral ringers left Edinburgh, on Friday 19th September, in beautiful sunshine. This was to be a first outing for the novices, charitably supported by a stalwart band of very experienced ringers and ART teachers. This of course did not stop the chatter of fear and trepidation at being in new towers with unfamiliar bells.

By the time we arrived in Hornby and Gressingham the skies had opened, and the rain was relentless. Did this dampen our enthusiasm? Not one bit. Arrangements were in place for our first tower on Saturday – Hornby, St Margaret – a beautiful Norman church in the Lancashire countryside, with eight bells (10–1–7). The weekend had been carefully coordinated to ensure that the novice ringers had the opportunity to ring rounds and to do call changes while the experienced ringers were able to relax their ringing muscles with change ringing.

The experienced ringers ring a number of sequences including Bristol, which was greatly enjoyed by all and perfectly suited to the eight bell towers we visited. While moving on to our next tower we were all delighted that the ‘new’ bells had not posed any significant difficulties and our confidence was boosted for Melling, St Wilfred. This six-bell tower had lighter bells and a beautiful ringing space. Still somewhat wary, everyone enjoyed these bells hugely and were ready for the next rain-soaked trip to our third tower of the day: Clapham, St James. We continued onward to visit Giggleswick, St Alkelda and Settle, Hely Association. We were exhausted but joyful at our achievements. The day ended with a fabulous meal at a local bar and restaurant and thankfully we all managed to return to our respective accommodation, despite riverbanks breaching and possible road closures (we all now appreciate why Lancashire and Yorkshire are so rainy!).

On Sunday the sun came out and we enjoyed returning to Hornby for Sunday Service; we had also been asked to ring again at Melling, St Wilfred and Barben, St Bartholomew. After admiring the local countryside without the clouds and rain we headed to our final tower of our outing, Whitting, St Michael.

Anchored. It was our first ground floor ringing chamber and had longer rope lengths which felt more familiar to us all, given the rope lengths of St Mary's. Our final stop was lunch outside in the beautiful churchyard of St Mary's in Kirkby Lonsdale with sandwiches and coffee in the sun. All that remained was to enjoy the sunshine on the drive home.

The novices are very proud to announce that all stays were left intact. A huge thank to our Society secretary, Sarah-Jane Evers, for an unparalleled level of organisation.

ELI FARQUHARSON





(click on link for larger version)

Inverness and Balnaferry ::

SACR's October meeting was hosted by Inverness Cathedral Bellringers and Balnaferry Campanile. The weekend saw 25+ ringers — including Hampshire and Somerset visitors from the “southern division” — enjoy the large 10 at the cathedral and the Anthony Cole's mini 8, with ringing ranging from call changes and plain hunt via Grandsire and Stedman and Little Bob to Yorkshire and a couple of attempts at Bristol and London. Talon had the opportunity to ring Yorkshire Royal for the first time. And two young lads had their first goes at bell-handling at Balnaferry.

After three hours of general ringing on Saturday afternoon there was a short service in Inverness Cathedral, watched over by a cute bellringing knitted mouse (one of a series around the cathedral... see photo), followed by a short meeting, the ringers tea and a couple of halloween and ringing themed quizzes.

Big thanks to the Inverness Cathedral Ringers for all the behind-the-scenes preparations and delicious tea





Inverness Sunday ringing

Much of the Inverness Cathedral band were busy on the Saturday preparing haggis, neaps and tatties plus cranachan and cakes for the SACR meeting, but on Sunday morning they were out in force to ring for Inverness Cathedral morning service with excellent rounds and call changes plus a couple of courses of Grandsire Triples



Balnaferri peal

Meanwhile in Balnaferri the first SACR peal on the bells was scored. Anthony Cole wrote " 😊
Dead chuffed, but still shaking 2 hours later.. an exhausting weekend but well worth it 🤔 🌟 🍕 "



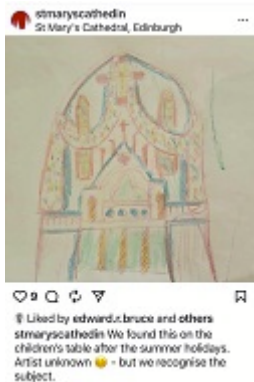
St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

In August in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Jo Clifford's show "Ringing Out the Changes" was performed weekly during the Fringe, and the show featured ringers from St Mary's band. [Jo Clifford wrote](#): "Ian Bell, Barbara Bell, Susannah Ewens and me -- four proud and happy people

after our performance of *Ring Out the Changes* in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh yesterday. I think working with the Cathedral bellringers has been one of the happiest collaborations in my career, and I am so proud of what we achieved."



And behind the performers you can see Ed Bruce's woven banners, which have been up in St Mary's through the summer and autumn months... the banners inspired other artists, as seen on [instagram.com/scottishbellringing](https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing):



CCCBR Recruitment and Development Ringing 2030 :: Sun 16 Nov 8pm-9pm :: CCCBR are holding an online briefing: The first in a series of workgroup briefings for CCCBR Reps and other interested ringers in our work towards the Ringing 2030 aim to create a sustainable future for change ringing.

- Hot off the press! The South West Ringing Course & Where Next?
- Free Handling Posters & Distribution of Model Bells

Details at: <https://cccb.org.uk/2025/10/30/recruitment-development-ringing-2030-briefing>
Request the Teams link from: Paul Wotton vlead@cccb.org.uk

RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

RINGING 2030

Sunday 16th November 20:00-21:00 UK time
The first in a series of workgroup briefings for CCCBR Reps and other interested ringers in our work towards the Ringing 2030 aim to create a sustainable future for change ringing.

The South West Ringing Course
24th - 27th October 2025
Millfield School, Street

Hot off the press! The South West Ringing Course & Where Next?

Free Handling Posters & Distribution of Model Bells

Request the Teams link from: Paul Wotton vlead@cccb.org.uk

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

of peals and quarters, in tower and in hand, and also an array of performances from Tulloch (for various associations) during the annual Reading and Channel Islands fortnight

- Peal firsts:
 - First of Major as conductor for Anthony Cole
 - First in Scotland for William Stafford
 - First of Lincolnshire for Ian B Turner
 - First of spliced surprise for David B Wilson
 - 250th in Scotland for Simon Aves
- Quarter Peal firsts:
 - 100th for Rachel Milner
 - 1st quarter for Catriona James
 - 1st quarter at first attempt for Alison Stevens (not Alison N Stevens!)
 - 1st surprise as conductor for Susannah Ewens
 - 1st on 10 for Talon Ashryver
 - 1st handbell quarter at Clachan Lodge, Isle of North Uist
 - 1st of Stedman Cinques for Donny Brock
 - 1st of Stedman Cinques as conductor for Paul Wells
 - 1st treble bobbing, and 1st of minor inside, for Gail Norwood
 - 1st Grandsire, and 1st Major, for Gillian Blair
 - 1st Grandsire as conductor for Jenny Page
 - 1st Plain Bob Major for Sue Turner
- Special performances:
 - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in Inverness in loving memory of Rosalind Andrews, Aunt of Rachel Milner
 - 282 Spliced Maximus in Ross and Cromarty, to celebrate Simon's completion of the 282 Munros
 - 1298 Grandsire Cinques at St Mary's Edinburgh, to mark the retirement of The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh
 - 720 Mixed Doubles at St Mary's Edinburgh, to thank the Revd Janet Spence for her support of the bell ringers during her time as Chaplain at the cathedral, especially leading Sunday morning prayers in the tower
 - 1260 Grandsire Doubles in Dumfries to celebrate the birth of twins, Roland and Joseph, grandchildren of Judith and David Horne
 - 5024 Bristol Major at Edinburgh New Town Church to celebrate the safe arrival of Finn William Linton, grandson of Simon Aves
 - 1250 Yorkshire Major in hand to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the first railway in the world to operate freight and passenger services with steam locomotives
 - General Ringing at St Mary's Edinburgh to recognise the huge contribution made by Ian Bell to the tower as Ringing Master from 2014 to 2025
 - 1320 Plain Bob Minor in Dumfries to celebrate the marriage of Benjamin Beaumont to Jess Nicholson
 - And happy birthday to Anthony Cole

If you have anything going on at your local tower or if you encourage your local newspaper to

include an article about bellringing, etc., please send photos and text to publicity@sacr.org.

Social media

See Scottish Bellringing's facebook and instagram pages for more photos and items

For up to date info on social media:

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

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

<https://x.com/SBellringing>

<https://www.sacr.org>

@scottishbellringing

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

The SACR Committee
