

Subject: Addendum: SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers
From: Martin Mellor <Publicity@sacr.org>
Date: 17/07/2026, 10:01
To: Members <Members@sacr.org>

Dear All

Here are a couple of extra items and info following on from the recent SACR newsletter:

Tower Open Days

Unsure whether any towers have any open days planned, but the CCCBR provides some marketing/advice if anyone wants it. (In Scotland, the equivalent to England Heritage Open Days is Doors Open Days.)

Can you please make your towers, branches and your publicity officers aware of the recent news item about the Heritage Open Days Publicity Toolkit. You can find this news item at: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2026/07/09/introducing-the-heritage-open-days-publicity-toolkit/>

Heritage Open Days provide a fantastic opportunity for churches across the country to open their doors, welcome their communities, and share the remarkable story of church bellringing. Every year, thousands of visitors discover the history, heritage and people behind our towers, many stepping inside a ringing chamber for the very first time.

To help Associations, Guilds and individual towers make the most of this opportunity, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has created the Heritage Open Days Publicity Toolkit.

Designed to be practical, inspiring and easy to use, the toolkit brings together a wide range of ready-made resources to help you promote your event with confidence. From press release templates and newsletter articles to social media graphics, photography guidance, media invitations and activity ideas, the toolkit has been developed to save volunteers time while helping create a consistent and engaging message across the country.

Whether you're opening your tower for the first time or building on a successful Heritage Open Days event, we hope these resources will help you inspire curiosity, welcome new visitors and celebrate everything that makes church bellringing so special.

If you have any questions about the toolkit, or require additional publicity materials, please get in touch with Gemma at gemma.groom@cccbr.org.uk

Together, let's open our towers, share our stories, and invite people to discover what happens Behind the Bells.

Download the Heritage Open Days Publicity Toolkit (.zip file): <https://cccbr.org.uk/wp->



Doors Open Days in Scotland

Here's a link to give dates of Door Open Days weekends across Scotland in case you'd like to tie in an open day with one of these weekends: <https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/2026-weekends>

In previous years, St Machar's in Aberdeen and St John's in Dumfries, amongst other Scottish towers, have had very successful tower open days



2027 Tour de France in Scotland

- The Tour de France will start in Edinburgh on Friday 2 July 2027
- There will likely be events in Edinburgh during the days leading up to the Grand Départ on 2nd July, e.g. an opening ceremony and a processional event around the city with slow cycling through the city centre
- There could be a range of opportunities to celebrate the cycling and to offer a back-drop soundscape of bells during some of the events!
- Rod Ismay of "Bells and Bikes" fame, has added information here: <https://bellsandbikes.com/tdf-2027-mens-race>, and he'll add updates as more info becomes available

St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh

- There was special Sunday Service ringing on 12 July "To celebrate a return to Sunday service ringing, as we approach the end of the bell refurbishment project": <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1988591>
- Over £15,000* including Gift Aid has been raised for the project: https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/st_marys_cathedral_bells [* an earlier typo of the amount, which inflated this by 10 times, has been corrected!]

James Hutton's Tercentenary: Siccar Point Surprise Major

- The latest edition of *Down to Earth*, a geology magazine, has a short article about the ringing for Hutton's tercentenary. See page 6: <https://www.wgcg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/DtoE-extra-July-2026.pdf>

- Plus an article in *The Ringing World*: p.618 of issue 6010 (3 July 2026)

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:SACR Newsletter :: Scottish Association of Change Ringers

Date:Wed, 1 Jul 2026 16:56:18 +0000

From:Publicity@sacr.org

To:Members@sacr.org

Dear Members

Here's the latest SACR newsletter. Reports are about the Striking Competition, a new method to celebrate geology, and Italian ringers in Edinburgh (with links about "Italian call changes"). There's a wide range of special performances on bell board, including an 80th birthday, 90th birthdays, a 100th birthday, and even a 300th birthday. Plus a good number of firsts in quarter peals.

[Upcoming Events](#)

Fri 24 to Sun 26 Jul :: Inveraray Festival Weekend

- Friday 24th July 6pm – 8pm
- Saturday 25th July 2pm – 4.30pm and 6pm – 7.30pm
- Sunday 26th July 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Ringing will range from rounds on 10 to Bristol & Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal, and all ringers are very welcome
- *Bookings for dinner:* If you wish to be included in the general ringers booking for dinner in the George on Friday (8pm 24 July) and/or Saturday night (7:45pm 25 July), please send your name and which nights to inveraray@sacr.org *by Sunday 5 July*. Please note the George is under new ownership and pre-booking is now essential, it will not be possible to include people on the night.



Sat 15 Aug, 3pm-5pm :: Alloa :: Monthly practice (third Saturday of most months). More info from tg@gatcons.co.uk

Fri 4 to Sun 6 Sep :: CCCBR AGM in Rugby. Open to all ringers. More info below

Sat 19 Sep, 3pm-5pm :: Alloa :: Monthly practice

Fri 25 Sep, 7pm–9pm :: Glasgow :: Advanced Practice :: Please let Zoe (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend

Zoe writes: Focused methods will be Bristol, Yorkshire, Cambridge, London or general methods and treble bobbing on 10, depending on who is coming along. Much like earlier in the year (but more formally), I want to build up the number of people who can ring competently on 10, so if anyone wants to improve their 10 bell ringing or has aspirations for turning the tenor in (for example) they should let me know what they would like to ring and I'll look at arranging some progressive practices.

Sat 17 Oct :: Autumn Meeting and Social :: Glasgow (note change of location). General ringing from rounds and call changes to surprise

Fri 30 Oct, 7pm–9pm :: St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh (to be confirmed) :: Advanced Practice :: As usual, please let Zoe (master@sacr.org) know if you plan to attend

Fri 27 Nov, 7pm–9pm :: Advanced Practice :: location to be confirmed. Details from master@sacr.org

Sat 28 Nov :: 20th Anniversary of the re-hanging of the bells at Edinburgh New Town Church (previously St Andrew's and St George's Church) :: Various events in November will mark this occasion, including ringing all day on 28 Nov

2027

Sat 23 Jan :: Winter meeting :: Dunblane

Sat 6 – Sun 7 Mar :: Training weekend at Tulloch

Training weekend at Tulloch on Sat 6 March and Sun 7 March 2027. Judith will be in touch nearer the time about numbers and options, etc but if you know you want to come – or are happy to help – please put the date in the diary.

The format of the weekend will be roughly the same as previous years:

Saturday will focus on all stages of training – typically, for example, Plain Hunt / Plain Bob, Grandsire or Stedman Triples, Surprise Minor, Surprise Major, depending on who is keen to come. It will run from roughly 10:00 to 17:00.

Sunday will be focused on 12-bell ringing for those who have some experience ringing on 10 – for example, Grandsire or Stedman Caters or Surprise Royal.

If you are just coming for the Saturday then a day trip is entirely possible.

Further information from Judith Frye via training@sacr.org or from Sue Bryce via secretary@sacr.org.

Sat 8 May :: AGM and Striking Competition :: Haddington

News

Welcome to a new member of SACR:

- Alison Smedley, Edinburgh, New Town Church

SACR Edinburgh AGM and striking competition, May 2026

Ringers travelled from all over Scotland for SACR's Striking Competition and AGM and 12-bell ringing day on 16 May. It was a busy day for judges Esme, Harvey, and Jorja – from the Bangor Student Society of Change Ringers – with 3 bands of call-change ringers and 8 bands of method ringers competing for the St Andrew Shield and the Inveraray Trophy, respectively.

Big congratulations to the winners: Edinburgh St Mary's Cathedral team of Alison, Barbara, Felix, Iain, Mark and Susannah took the St Andrew Shield — and St Cuthbert's Edinburgh team of Alex, Irene, Judith, Sue, Talon and Will took the Inveraray Trophy.

Many thanks to Esme, Harvey and Jorja for coming all the way from Wales. And to St Cuthbert's and St Mary's ringers for hosting the AGM, the ringing, and the ringers' tea.



The winning teams, and ringers milling around.

See facebook for some great photos of St Cuthbert's by Ian Talboys.

James Hutton's 300th birthday and how the Earth works

Martin Whiteley and Peter Ellis realised a while back that this year was the 300th

birthday of James Hutton, a person very important in the development of understanding about how the Earth works, and how old it is. In the mid to late 1700s, it was taken that the Earth formed exactly as in the bible – effectively instantaneously and all rocks are the product of the “Great Flood”. Archbishop Ussher reckoned, from counting up generations in the bible, that the Earth formed in 4096 BC. Hutton realised there is much more time required than this. Also some rocks were melted when emplaced and forced their way into pre-existing layers of sediment. See this website for more info: <https://james-hutton.org/>

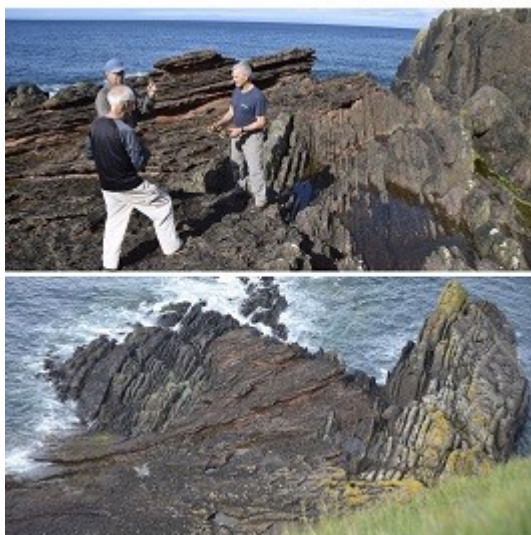
Siccar Point is one of the locations that provided the evidence to support Hutton’s theories. See this page on that website <https://james-hutton.org/locations/siccar-point/>

Martin had the idea to ring a peal (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1977440>) on the birthday itself (3rd June), with a band of geologists and others representing the areas that Hutton influenced, and as near as possible to Siccar Point: St Mary's Church Haddington is the nearest in Scotland for sure, and maybe Berwick Town Hall is a little closer, but we probably couldn't have rung a peal in the week daytime as it's in the shopping area. Hutton trained as a medic initially, made money as a chemist from smelling salts production, had a profound impact on the science of geology, and was a farmer trying out new ideas.

A new method was rung and it was named Siccar Point Surprise Major: x3x4x2x236x2x45x2x7(2nds). We rang the peal in the morning. After a good lunch nearby, most of the band then went to Siccar Point itself to pay homage, and to look at the new Deep Time Trail recently created there: <https://james-hutton.org/deep-time-trail>

It's a steep and slippery climb down to the rocks themselves, but we all made it intact. See the photo of the view from the top of the cliff. Three of the band then rang a touch of 300 Plain Bob Minor on handbells standing on the important rock contact (the unconformity), which showed to Hutton that a great deal of time was needed to form the relationships seen, and which led him to write: “We find no vestige of a beginning and no prospect of an end.”

Colin North



Italian Ringers in Edinburgh, June 2026

Three Edinburgh towers were visited by the ringers of Montegaldella, Italy. It was a very interesting cultural exchange ...

- Click for *Elinor Farquharson's report and photos*: http://sacr.org/images/media/2606_Italian_Ringers_in_Edinburgh.pdf
- Three Edinburgh towers were visited by the ringers of Montegaldella, Italy. It was a very interesting cultural exchange. The group comprised three ringers and their families.
- At St Cuthbert's they introduced us to some Italian call changes – this required very good bell control and the ability to stand at hand and backstroke after one pull. They rang backstrokes in rounds and called some changes – to queens and back. We rang various methods to illustrate the possibilities of ringing our style. They were shown the bells and taken on a tour of the roof, where there were spectacular views of the castle.
- The visit to St Mary's was a bit different as the bells are out of action while the clappers are being rebushed. Here they rang the handbells. The whole group rang rounds and the bell ringers demonstrated their call changes. They each rang the training bell very successfully.
- The New Town church provided another opportunity to ring and to test us on our Italian calls. We were able to demonstrate ringing Grandsire, Stedman and ringing up and down in peal.
- If you'd like to find out more about ringing in Italy, have a look at the YouTube videos that are linked in the report (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIYjt9Jfa2o> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDTcB_E-LYA)

Bell Restoration Fund 50-50 Club (50-50club@sacr.org)

- Winner for April: Eli Farquharson
- Winner for May: Ian and Sue Turner

St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh



- St Mary's is fundraising for essential maintenance work which includes rebushing the clappers, re-aligning the eleventh, and checking the bearings ... work that's currently in progress.
 - You can read more via this fundraising link, where over £15,000 (including gift aid) [an earlier typo of the amount, which inflated this by 10 times, has been corrected!] has now been raised: https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/st_marys_cathedral_bells
 - SACR Bell Restoration Fund has pledged a contribution, and further individual contributions, however small or large, will be gratefully received.

ART training courses :: Judith Frye noted that she will be organising some ART training courses and if anyone else is interested to contact training@sacr.org as soon as possible.

SACR polo shirts and fleeces :: These continue to be available and can be ordered from Judith Frye.

Young Ringers

- The Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 have launched a new University Ringing website: <https://universityringing.org>
- If you have any young ringers in your tower who may be heading for university, please make them aware of this.

Safeguarding policy

- For information, the SACR safeguarding policy has recently been updated and can be found on the SACR website: <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/association/policies/59-safeguarding-policy-protection-of-vulnerable-groups>
- As ever, if you have any queries relating to safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact Isabel Crane who is our safeguarding officer on pvg@sacr.org

CCCBR AGM :: 4–6 September :: Rugby



- The CCCBR AGM is open to all ... there will be ringing, a social event and, of course, the business meeting. SACR has two voting reps in Tina Stoecklin and Zoe Bennett. If you have anything you would like them to raise or have any questions to ask, email ccrep@sacr.org

- The full programme will be published in due course. Keep an eye on the CCCBR website and social media for updates. Booking for all elements of the weekend will open nearer the time.

Friday 4th Sept	Saturday 5th Sept	Sunday 6th Sept
General ringing will be available at towers en route to Rugby. Routes will follow the main roads into Rugby. Evening ringing will be at St Andrew's, Rugby with a social event at the Benn Hall.	Welcome desk and registration. Ringing World AGM. CCCBR AGM. Social event at the nearby Arnold House.	Service ringing at local churches, including a special bell themed service at Coventry Cathedral. Opportunities to support locals with ringing workshops in the early afternoon.

Bellboard :: Here's a link to SACR performances since the last newsletter: [link](#). Many of the bellboard records have photos attached. There's a wide range of special performances, including an 80th birthday, 90th birthdays, a 100th birthday, and even a 300th birthday. Plus a good number of firsts in quarter peals.

Special Peals:

- At Dunkeld: An acrostic selection of methods for a peal by a band of Scottish residents who have completed the Munros – the Scottish mountains over 3000 feet in height.
- At Haddington, a peal to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of James Hutton, a leading figure of the Scottish Enlightenment and the founder of modern geology (see article earlier in the newsletter).
- At St Andrews: Rung to celebrate the graduation ceremonies at the University of St Andrews, especially those of Charles R H Macbeth (School of History), Aubrey C McCance (School of Classics), Cadence W Mak (School of International Relations) and George W K Stevens (School of Divinity).
- And 50th peal together for Margaret Gamble and Peter Williams.
- At House o' Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 100th peal for Barbara Bell.

Quarter Peal Firsts:

- First quarter peal for Eleanor Hayman
- First in hand in a Treble Dodging method for Brian Heys
- First Stedman Triples for Talon Ashryver and Ian Stark
- First Stedman Triples as conductor for William Stafford
- First Treble Bob for Michael Pearce and for Gerda Grase
- First Kent on tower bells for Brian Heys
- First Kent for Kathryn Darley
- First London for Judith Stark
- First on 12 for Elinor Farquharson and Zoe Bennett
- First Cinques inside for Susannah Ewens
- First on 12 as conductor for Ian Bell

- First mixed doubles for Geoffrey Farquharson
- First in Scotland for Rupert Cheeseman
- 100th quarter for George Stevens

Special performances:

- At Stirling, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Magnus Peterson
- At Dumfries, in Celebration of Tony McIlwrick's 80th Birthday and official retirement from the art of Peal ringing.
- At Edinburgh New Town Church
 - In celebration of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday
 - A 90th birthday compliment to James (Jimmy) Carson, long standing elder of the church.
- At St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh:
 - Ringing for Suzie Stark's last Sunday as locum minister.
 - Celebrating Pride month, the day after Edinburgh Pride.
 - Congratulating goalscorer John McGinn and the rest of the Scottish Men's National Team on a hard-fought victory at the World Cup!
- At St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh:
 - For the service of installation for Rt Rev Dagmar Winter, the new Bishop of Edinburgh.
 - As part of Sunday service ringing, a band representing 7 different decades who all learnt to ring at St Mary's.
 - Sunday Service ringing dedicated to the memory of William Cuthbert and Caroline Cuthbert (née Mitchell) who were married at the Cathedral on 23rd April 1960. Thank you very much to the Caram Charitable Trust for donating (to St Mary's bell repair fund) in their name.
 - Ringing to mark the end of a 24 hour relay around the perimeter of the Cathedral (part of the 'Active Travel, Active Hope' event).
 - Sunday morning ringing dedicated to Michael and Frances Mulvey, former ringers at the Cathedral. They taught many people to ring and Michael (who passed away in 2024) was the Tower Captain. Frances continues to ring in Gloucestershire.
 - For Dr Esther Elliot, who has been a Lay Reader and latterly an Ordinand on placement at the Cathedral, as she moves on to join the team at St John's Princes Street.
 - For Lana Woolford and Emma Herd, who were ordained Deacons in the Cathedral. Rung by members of the Cathedral band before the service.
- At Alnwick by Dunblane Cathedral Society of Change Ringers, to mark the ordination to the Priesthood of Fran Bell, curate at St Michael's, Alnwick. Fran is a one-time resident of Dunblane.
- At St Andrews, for those graduating from St Andrews University. And to say farewell to Peter Jupp before his move to Devon.

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

@SBellringing

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

Please send in photos, articles, your social media posts and other updates about your local ringing to publicity@sacr.org

The SACR Committee
