

Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers



News Update – March 2024



It is with great sadness we must let you know of the death of Andy Harris on Thursday 15th February, a longstanding ringer at Oswestry. His father, mother and sister rang here too. Andy was just 57.

Seven of us rang a half muffled QP of Plain Bob Triples with his sister on Sunday 18th February at Oswestry (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1701028>), and three of our ringers rang a handbell QP of Plain Bob Minor on Monday 19th in his memory, (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1701545>). A quarter peal of 4 Spliced Surprise Major was also rung remembering Andy at St Chad's Shrewsbury on the 18th February, (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1701290>). Tony Freemont

Events in March

New Members' Meeting

Saturday, 9th March 10 – 12 noon St Peter's church, Edgmond

Calling all new members who have joined in 2023 or 2024.

You are warmly invited.

**Come and meet some of the Committee, have tea or coffee and cake,
and ring the bells!**

The Committee would very much like to get to know you, and find out what sort of events you would like us to organise, so do come if you can on 9th March. The gathering is at St Peter's church, Edgmond, TF10 8JY. If you are a newish ringer and haven't yet visited other towers, you may like to bring a mentor or friend from your home tower. We will have new members' packs to present, a small book stall for browsing and Association badges for sale. Please let Gill know if you are planning to come – librarian@sacbr.org.uk.

Wednesday Morning Practice

Meole Brace, 20th March, 10 – 12.30

An open practice for members of all ringing abilities.

News from the Towers

A **Wednesday morning practice** was held at **Lilleshall** on the 14th. As usual, this popular practice was well attended. We rang rounds and call changes, and methods ranging from Plain Bob to Cambridge. Our thanks go to Matt Lawrence for making these practices so effective and enjoyable. Next month, Matt's work commitments prevent him from running the practice. Michael Carding and Andy Digby have kindly arranged for us to practise, instead, on 20th March, at Holy Trinity church, Meole Brace, SY3 9HF. Gill and Alan Glover will lead the ringing, which is open to all SACBR members.

Shrewsbury towers held a group learners' practice at **Meole Brace** at the end of January. Learners from Bicton, Meole and St Chad's worked hard at Plain Hunt. They enjoyed the easy-going bells, and as the tenor is light everyone was able to have a go at covering.

Cordelia Warr of **Oswestry** has just finished conducting an alphabet of Surprise Major methods: she has called different Surprise Major methods starting with the letters A-Z inclusive.

In addition to Cordelia herself, twenty-six people rang in one or more of the quarters, including the following who rang in thirteen or more: Tony Freemont, Pete Neil, Sue Perry, Nik Galton, Chris Hoare and Bill Deason.

The methods were: Ashtead, Berwyn, Cambridge, Darius, Easingwold, Fordcombe, Guernsey, Havant, Islay, Johannesburg, Kimmeridge, Lessness, Morrocosialatydolychachacha, New Cambridge, Oxney, Painswick, Quex Park, Rutland, Superlative, Thanet, Unrung (yes this is the name of a method), Vyrnwy, Westray, Xit (pronounced exit not zit), Yorkshire and Zeus.

Bellboard is a wonderful tool. If you haven't used it before, give it a try. When I put the method name into Bellboard and filtered for Tower Bells and Quarter Peals some surprising results came out. Cordelia's calling of Morrocosialatydolychachacha was the first recorded QP of the method on Tower bells, Darius the second and Quex Park, Unrung and Xit, all thirds.

Twenty-five of the methods were rung on SACBR towers, sixteen at High Ercall (thanks to Chris Yates who made this possible), two each at Oswestry, Hodnet and Wem, and one each at Edgmond, Market Drayton and Kemberton. The twenty-sixth was rung at Berriew, just across the border in the Montgomery Branch of the North Wales Association.

Congratulations to Cordelia. Send us news of your tower, or ringers' achievements, if you would like us to publish them.

GG

100 Club

Last year, the 100 Club raised £444.00 for the Association Bell Restoration Fund. Many thanks to all supporters who helped us reach this total. We have recently paid grants to Lilleshall, for improvements to their simulator, and to Norton-in-Hales. Two more projects are in the pipeline, so I hope even more of you will want to support the Club this year – and maybe win a small cash treat!

The first draw of the 24-25 100 Club will be at the April Quarterly Meeting. The cost of membership is £12. There are four draws in the year and membership is open to all adult SACBR members. First prize is £50. The amounts of other prizes depend on the number of members in the draw.

You can join by online transfer. The bank details are as follows:

Account name: Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers BRF
Sort code: 77-27-19 (TSB)
Account number: 22204968

Note that this is not the Association General Fund account, which is with Santander Bank. This TSB account is for the 100 Club only.

Please give a reference that will clearly identify you, e.g. 'GloverGShrews', or for a tower group 'Shrewsx8'. If you wish for a receipt, please send a confirming e-mail to me, librarian@sacbr.org.uk

If you prefer to send a cheque, please print the form attached to this Newsletter and send to: Six Bells House, Worthen, Shropshire, SY5 9HT. Or you can pay me in cash at a meeting..

Gill Glover, Promoter

Quarterly Meeting, 13th April 2024

The next Quarterly Meeting will take place at HInstock, on Saturday 13th April. Ringing from 7.30 pm, followed by the Business Meeting.

Since the AGM several members have volunteered to help cover the vacant Officers' posts. The Committee therefore proposes to co-opt these people to the Committee for the remainder of the year. This arrangement will be formalised at the next Quarterly Meeting.

The **Handbook for 2024 with Reports for 2022 and 2023** will be available for collection. Please can towers try to send a representative or ask someone from a neighbouring tower to pick them up.

Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers – 100+ Club

Registered charity Number 515824

Please complete and send with your payment of £12 to:

Gill Glover, Six Bells House, Worthen, Shropshire SY5 9HT

Cheques payable to: SACBR Bell Restoration Fund

Name:

Tower (if any):

Address:

N.B. To minimise work and cost it would be helpful if forms were dealt with collectively via your tower correspondent. Only members of SACBR aged 18 years or older may join the 100+ Club.

The information provided on this form will be stored on the organiser's personal computer for the purpose of distributing prizes. It will not be shared with any other person or organisation.