

Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers



News Update – April 2024



Events in April

Quarterly Meeting, 13th April 2024

The next **Quarterly Meeting** will take place at **Hinstock, on Saturday 13th April**. Ringing from 7.00 pm, followed by the Business Meeting, starting at 8.30 pm.

Association Report and Handbook

The SACBR Report and Handbook for 2022-24 will be ready for collection at this meeting. Please try to arrange for someone to collect your members' Reports.

100 Club

The first 100 Club Draw of the new year will take place at Hinstock. You can buy your lottery number at the meeting, if not before!

Managing the Association

The SACBR Committee meets four times a year, usually by zoom. At our March meeting we welcomed Sue Dancey, who has kindly volunteered to chair meetings this year as we don't have an elected Ringing Master. Julie Bowen has stepped into the role of General Secretary. We are fortunate to have many experienced teachers and leaders of practices among our members. This year, Tony Freemont and Gill Glover will organise training, ably assisted by Matt Lawrence, Nik Galton and Michael Carding.

At the March meeting, **grants were awarded** to Albrighton and Ryton towers, for work recently carried out to improve their bells.

The Association Rules were last reviewed over twenty years ago. We have made several alterations since, most recently to change the definition of our President, but we have now set up a small working group to consider all the Rules. If you would like to comment on these, please get in touch with Gill Glover, Biff Patterson or Madeline Harris. No changes can be made without the votes of the membership at the AGM.

News from the Towers

Following on from the success of St Chad, Shrewsbury's recruitment of new ringers, **Oswestry** ringers, led by Tower Captain, Brian Rothera, have started a recruitment drive of their own.

Two "taster mornings" were held in mid-January and early February which attracted 25 people. The tasters included an introduction to bells and bellringing, watching ringers in action, a go at chiming with the bells down, a tower tour including seeing the bells, and a trip to the roof of the tower, the highest accessible place in the town.

The taster days had been advertised through flyers, the Church web site, by word of mouth and social media. Since then, the ringers including Brian, Peter Woollam, Richard Major, Chris Hoare and Tony Freemont have laid on two hour long, one-to-one training sessions for those interested in taking ringing forward. These have been laid on at various times during the day and evenings on Mondays-Saturdays timed to fit in with the learners' requirements. Ten learners have taken up these training sessions, some have attended as many as 4 times, the youngest 9 and the oldest freely admitting she is 70 (in fact she had a training session on her birthday).

Eight of the ten are still coming to training sessions. All are progressing well and three can now ring in rounds independently and are joining in our Thursday evening practices. Two even bit the bullet and joined the AGM!

Our impression is that there is a lot of interest in traditional activities and a keenness to learn and join in with community events. Thanks to Jenny Hoare we also had a three page spread in the Shropshire Magazine, which we hope might inspire others to ring and not just in Oswestry.

Tony Freemont

All new (and newish) members of the Association were invited to get together at **Edgmond** to meet other new members and the Association committee. The meeting/practice was directed by Gill Glover, with a lot of help from our hosts, Paul Lewis, Mark Adams and Rob Davis. The towers represented at the practice included Bicton, Dawley, High Ercall, Market Drayton, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, and Wellington.

Ringers came with a variety of ringing experiences, from having started to learn recently to being able to ring Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell. Those who needed a bit of extra assistance were helped by experienced ringers. Several of the learners remarked how nice the bells are, and how well they were able to manage them. The ringing included rounds and call changes on six and eight bells, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, and Grandsire Triples (for the helpers).

Members who had been elected at the 2024 AGM were able to collect their New Member packs. Tea, coffee and delightful baked goods were available throughout the morning. Jad Bienek kindly brought the Association's box of Books for Ringers, for perusal, and some books were available for purchase.

It was great to hear a lot of happy chatter and laughter, not to mention happy eating! Thanks go to all those who helped make this event so enjoyable.

Madeline Harris

Sixteen members took part in a lively Wednesday morning practice on 20th March, at **Meole Brace**. We rang call changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, Stedman Doubles,

and a course each of Cambridge and Norwich Surprise Minor. Many thanks to Andy Digby and Michael Carding for setting up the simulator, providing refreshments and helping to lead the practice.
Gill Glover

Looking Ahead

Training Morning – Saturday 11th May, Edgmond – Beyond Plain Bob

There will be an Association Training Morning on 11th May, from 10 am to 12.30 pm, at St Peter's church, Edgmond, TF10 8JY. This will be an opportunity for competent Plain Bob ringers to expand their repertoire. You can choose a method you would like to learn, or improve: in doubles, minor, triples or major. There are six student places. Contact Gill Glover, training@sacbr.org.uk to book your place or discuss what you would like to try.

Bell Sunday – Sunday 12th May

The second 'Bell Sunday' will be held this year on Sunday 12th May. The aim of this initiative is to celebrate and promote the part bells and their ringers play in the life of the church, and in linking church and community. See bellsunday.org for ideas and information.

Summer Social – Saturday 8th June

Our summer social event this year will be a Treasure Hunt, at Meole Brace, followed by ringing and a meal. Do print the **attached poster** for your tower.

2026 SACBR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS : ADVANCE NOTICE

A CENTENARY CELEBRATION DINNER IN MAY 2026

Our association, SACBR, was founded in July 1926. To celebrate this in style we have to plan some of the events early. A small group (on behalf of the committee) propose to organise a dinner one Friday evening in July 2026. This will be 8th, 15th or 22nd. The favourite venue is the Waterloo Room at Hawkstone Park Hotel with 2024 price at £35 for three courses. We want it to be inclusive, memorable but not too expensive. Simon Linford, former President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, will be the main speaker, saying he was honoured to be asked.

The room has a capacity of 120 and will need to be booked in September 2024. SACBR will need to make this commitment backed by a deposit.

We need an indication of interest please. We hope that towers will encourage their own members and other towers and that there will be a great feeling of fellowship and celebration at the event. Please let us have by 30th June a reasonable estimate of how many places your tower is likely to require. Estimates please to michaelcarding@btinternet.co.uk



SACBR TREASURE HUNT

FOLLOWED BY
RINGING AND FOOD

MEET 3:30 PM SAT JUN 8, 2024
HOLY TRINITY, MEOLE BRACE, SY3 9HF

£10 PER HEAD
PLEASE BOOK WITH VICKI

SOCSEC@SACBR.ORG.UK