

Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers



News Update – May 2024



Events in May

Training Morning – Saturday 11th May, Edmond – 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, Edmond, 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. **Only two student places left.** Contact Gill Glover, librarian@sacbr.org.uk to book your place or discuss what you would like to try.

IMPORTANT If you applied last month using the above link, and you haven't had a reply, please email again to the librarian address, giving the date of your original application. If the event is over-subscribed, we will run it again.

Practice and Quarterly Meeting at Hinstock

About thirty-five Association members came to Hinstock for the April meeting, representing at least fifteen towers. Biff Patterson gave out the new Report and Handbook, as well as New Member Packs for members at several towers. Nik Galton organised the ringing, which ranged from rounds and call changes to Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge and Norwich Surprise. Keith Swinnerton and friends laid on lavish and very welcome refreshments in church, which were enjoyed throughout the evening as people went upstairs to the ringing room for a while, and then came down to socialize for a bit. The usual raffle was held, raising £45 for the Bell Restoration Fund. Thanks go to those who contributed prizes, and to Ann Williams who ran the raffle. Mary Lucas from Meole Brace, Tim Mear from Albrighton and Mandy Lee from Bicton won cash prizes in the first 100 Club draw of the new year.

The evening finished with a short Quarterly Meeting, chaired by Sue Dancey. We elected and welcomed new members who ring at Norton-in-Hales, Dawley and High Ercall. Ann Williams outlined the exciting plans for our Centenary, in 2026, which include a formal dinner, and a service and tea. Sue Dancey reminded us that 12th May is Bell Sunday, when some towers may like to celebrate with their local church congregations.

The meeting closed with warm thanks to our hosts, and to all who contributed to making the evening such a success.

Wednesday morning practice at Lilleshall

Matt Lawrence held a much-appreciated practice at Lilleshall on Wednesday 17th April, when the ringing ranged widely. It included Norwich Surprise, Double Oxford Minor, Plain Bob Doubles, rounds and call changes and several touches of Stedman Doubles. Some very pleasant and well struck ringing was enjoyed by a gathering of about sixteen people. We also enjoyed delicious refreshments served from the church kitchen – a great opportunity to sit and catch up over a coffee.

A Source for New Stays

I have found a supplier for stay blanks.

At the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust in Coalbrookdale. The Contact is Kate the Office manager, or Nathan the tree officer: 01952 433880.

They would like cash if possible as they are part of a grant scheme, 'Big Give Green Match Funding'. The cost is £10 per stay length and the timber has been cut to two stay lengths, so £20 a piece.

I think this is very good value considering Taylors Bell foundry charge £67.00 + vat.

Andrew Gordon

Meole and Friends Ringing Outing - 23rd March 2024.

I had offered to arrange a local ringing outing for Meole Tower, something I had not done for many years. To make up numbers I had asked some ringing friends from Coalbrookdale, Wellington. I was amazed as 20 turned up at 10am, the first tower of five, at Cound! Some had not been on an outing for a while and for some it was their first. We had ringers of all levels and we were in for a happy, social day out together. A few couldn't make all five towers planned but were glad they came. I explained that with so many I would, hopefully, fit them in at each tower for at least two short rings.

So we made a quick start as we were due at the next tower, Atcham at 11.15. It was lovely for me to be able to ring the bells at Cound and Atcham again, and the first time for others. We were lucky to be able to ring at Atcham, as when we finished there at 12 noon, the bell ropes were being removed to go away for repair. Michael had kindly brought some cakes, surplus from the food hub, a lovely surprise treat for us all.

Our next tower was Upton Magna before breaking for lunch. Everyone by now seemed to be enjoying themselves which was pleasing to see. The weather had turned out sunny by now, it was cold, but at least not raining. I had suggested everyone do their own thing for lunch. There is a pub and cafe attached in the village, a cafe at Haughmond Hill and a cafe at Roden gardening centre, so plenty of choice if required.

After lunch we were reunited at High Ercall, the only ring of eight planned. Apart from rounds, calls and plain courses of Bob Doubles and Grandsire in the morning, we could now try something a little more adventurous! So some were able to ring call changes on eight for the first time and others plain hunt on seven. Some of us also made a brave attempt at Grandsire Triples. I was pleased to meet Rachel and John Rose there, he having retired as Conover Rector some 10 plus years ago. Rachel also was able to join in and ring with us, as was Chris Yates, Tower captain of High Ercall. Again everyone enjoyed themselves, some pushing their comfort zone with heavier and different bells.

Our last tower was Shawbury and I was looking forward to it as I had not rung there. Unfortunately it will have to stay on my list as no one turned up to let us in! Michael reminded us that no outing was complete without a lockout! A sad end to the day but everyone said they had really enjoyed themselves. Early bath for us all !

Geoff Lowe (Tower captain Condover)



Meole ringers and friends on their outing

Towards Better Communications

Thinking of ways to improve our contacts with our members, we are looking into the use of a secure app, such as membermojo. Several ringing Associations use this for their communications. The Association pays an annual fee, and the service is free to its members, who join themselves up if they wish to receive direct communications through a secure site. We could then send this Newsletter, and any other notices, directly to members. It would also provide an optional method of paying subscriptions through Paypal or other secured site. Let us know what you think, at librarian@sacbr.org.uk

Gill Glover, on behalf of SACBR Committee

Looking Ahead

Ringling for Peace on D Day Anniversary

Ringers are asked to mark the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on Thursday, 6th June, by ringing for peace, ideally at 6.30 pm, or at any time on that day which is convenient. You can find out more at this link:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/2024/02/03/ringing-out-for-peace/>



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