

Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers



News Update – August 2024



August Events

**6 Bell Training and Practice Morning
Meole Brace, Saturday 31st August
9.30 – 12 noon**

This is an extra event, not in our published calendar. Do come along to ring anything from call changes to Cambridge. Please let us know if you plan to attend, at training@sacbr.org.uk

Training morning, 6th July

On Saturday 6th July, some slightly nervous learners and an array of helpers congregated at Holy Trinity, Meole, to focus on Bob Doubles. After getting to grips with this relatively light ring, in some cases for the first time, the learners had plenty of opportunity to practise the method on different bells with steady bands around them. Everyone was keen to share a bewildering variety of tips and pieces of advice to those new to the method! Sustained by generous refreshments of tea and biscuits, and with breaks to ring Cambridge Minor and Plain Hunt on 6 by way of a change, the learners rang either plain courses or 120s of Plain Bob successfully by the end of the morning. Thanks to everyone who so cheerfully gave up a Saturday morning to help, and to Meole for refreshments and for the use of the bells.

Ruth Partridge

Quarterly Meeting, 13th July

This was held at Oswestry, where the general ringing was preceded by a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples, rung by past and present members of the Association Committee, and the co-ordinator of ringing, Richard Major, for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the restoration of St Oswald's Church.

It was great to welcome a large attendance from many towers for the ringing practice. Nik Galton took on the considerable challenge of making sure that people had plenty of rings, and that their requests were met, wherever possible. Ringing on the eight bells included rounds and call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Cambridge, Yorkshire and Stedman.

We moved to the next-door church hall for welcome refreshments before a short business meeting, chaired by Tony Freemont. We welcomed new members from Meole Brace and Oswestry. (Oswestry seem to have had a very successful recruitment drive.) Winners of the 100 Club draw were Mark Adams (Edgmond), Adrian Roberts (Atcham) and Peter Hampton (Meole Brace). A good variety of prizes were donated for the raffle, run by Nik Galton, which raised £45 for the bell restoration fund. Winners were Geoff Harding (Baschurch), Tony Freemont (Oswestry), Jad Bienek, Alan Glover (Shrewsbury), Josephine Wrin (Meole Brace), and Karen Compton (Baschurch).

Grateful thanks go to the Oswestry ringers for hosting this event.

Gill Glover

Surprise Plus Practice Wem on Friday, 19th July

We had 14 ringers to the surprise major practice at Wem. We had a few new faces to surprise major and it is so nice to see this. We rang 5 spliced, plain courses of Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Lessness and finished the night off with a touch of Stedman. Then of course a trip to The Castle.

The next Wem Surprise practice will be on 20th September at 7.30.

Gareth Jones

Further Ahead – Dates for your Diary

Association Striking Competition

Calverhall on Saturday, 14th September, draw at 4 o'clock

We will provide a rolling tea. We have struggled to get this traditional annual gathering started again after the Covid interlude. So this year we're making a push – do get a team together and come and join in. This is a light-hearted affair, not intense competition. If you only have three or four we can make up a band from our pool of helpers. We have three trophies to award, including one for call change ringing.

Please let us know numbers for tea: training@sacbr.org.uk

Autumn Social – Ceilidh

At Meole Brace Memorial Hall on Saturday 19th October.
IMPORTANT, note the change from the published date.

The Devil's Chair Ceilidh band, with caller Hilary Evans, will once again be providing an evening of fun and dancing. The event will be held in the newly-redecorated Meole Brace Memorial Hall. Two course supper and a licensed bar will be provided. Tickets are £15 per head from socsec@sacbr.org.uk.

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Meole Brace Memorial Hall, Upper Road,
Shrewsbury, SY3 9JP

Tickets £15 from SACBR committee members

Communications

As you know, we have been thinking hard this year about how we communicate in the Shropshire Association. This Newsletter is a part of that thinking and we hope you find it helpful. Now, here's an update on other ways of keeping in touch.

Email

The SACBR committee is concerned that members may not be getting all the information they should, and are therefore missing out on opportunities for training, having their say at business meetings, socialising and so on.

At the recent July quarterly meeting the use of a commercial e-mailing system was outlined but, after discussion, members agreed this was not a sensible use of SACBR funds at the present time. However, as the person responsible for sending out e-mailing, I am keen that members should receive information such as the monthly news sheets as efficiently as possible, and that tower correspondents and tower captains should not be snowed under with the extra chore of mailing onward or printing and pinning to notice boards.

Therefore, if any members would like to trust the membership secretary with their personal email address (which will be stored and used in line with Data Protection protocols), please send this to membership@sacbr.org.uk when it will be added to the existing membership records. In future, I will endeavour to send items such as the news sheet to every individual for whom I have an address. If you have received this current mailing indirectly but thought I had your address, please get in touch.

Thank you, Biff

Biff Patterson

Facebook

A while ago, when I was Ringing Master of the Wrexham & East Clwyd Branch, I experimented with a Facebook page. The idea was basically two-fold; somewhere outsiders could see what we were up to, showing bare details about the branch, and secondly, a place where Association members could post messages, photos, Bellboard entries etc., strictly ringing-related of course!

It was a very simple affair with two 'administrators' (Facebook speak for people looking after the page who also sanction who has access to post on the page). It relied on people being sensible about what they posted and that people were nice to each other.

I put a suitable banner heading photograph using a snap of some ancient heraldry of the area, the odd local bell/tower pictures and a description of who we were and how to contact us online.

It took half an hour to do and I'm thrilled to see it's still being maintained and used by my old mates over the border.

Which brings me on to our association. Some time ago Shaun kindly did a similar job for SACBR. I've now got admin rights for this page but don't really know what members would like to see here.

Like it or loathe it, Facebook is a good way of staying in touch by your own terms. Some may already use it; some may have never seen it. I think it's a positive platform - as long as it's used in a *constructive* way.

So, I *could* kick it off by simply adding the links to Bellboard showing weekly Association achievements. I could post places I've been ringing and tag other locals in the band, encouraging others to comment. I could even link to the newsletters and other external information - it's pretty flexible as many of you may know. Then as people 'join' the group, they might start adding their own news, tips, achievements and so on.

I won't know how you all feel about it unless you tell me though, so I'm looking for feedback, but am particularly keen to hear from learners, improvers and our younger members. This group particularly benefitted from my old W&EC page as (I hoped) it wasn't too high-brow and that it was friendly and inclusive.

Do get in touch and tell me how you'd like us to proceed, and especially if you'd like an admin role!

Nik Galton

Sacbr.org.uk

Don't forget we also have a website, which provides details of recent and forthcoming events. So if you lose your Newsletter – there's no excuse, it's also carried on the website.