



Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter – September 2025

Hello,

August has been a quiet month for the Association, but we finished with a happy young ringers' meet on Saturday 30th, of which more below.

In September we have the striking competition to look forward to, which combines friendly competition, and constructive criticism, with the all-important tea and social! An occasion that represents what the Association is all about.

Happy ringing,

Gill Glover, Editor



St Michael & All Angels, Lilleshall

SACBR Striking Competition

St Martin's, Saturday 13th September

The event is for six bell ringing. It starts at 4 pm, with the draw for the order in which teams will ring. While the competition ringing is proceeding, we enjoy tea and the chance to catch up with ringing friends from across the Association.

There are three trophies. The Ernest Willcox Cup is awarded for the best performance in method or call change ringing. The Call Change Trophy is – obviously! – given to the best band ringing call changes. The Charles Allmand Shield is for the best-placed team which has not won any award in the last two years.

This is intended to be a competition for Sunday service bands. If you have four or five people who would like to ring, your band can be made up on the day from a pool of experienced ringers. If you have more than six eager volunteers, you can make up a second team, including one or two from your first team. The full Rules are on the website.

In the words of our Master, Tony Freemont: *'There will be a tea, good ringing, and the tension as the judge announces the winner is like watching the Lionesses in a penalty shoot out.'*

So do come along and enjoy the occasion. Most important of all, SEND NUMBERS FOR TEA to Sue Dancey sec@sacbr.org.uk

Gill Glover

In August

VJ Day

It was good to see Bellboard records for five performances to commemorate Victory in Japan Day, on the 15th August. This includes two quarter peals in our Association. We are also aware of other performances not necessarily on Bellboard, including a short session at All Saints in Baschurch where a service was held at the war memorial led by both clergy and RAF representatives along with the British Legion. Some of our ringers also rang with neighbouring associations to remember this highly significant day in world history, so often overlooked by the larger events surrounding VE day anniversaries over the past 80 years.

Sue Dancey

Young Ringers' Practice

We held a practice at Lilleshall on Saturday, 30th August, in the afternoon. With several families still on holiday, it was a select group that met in this welcoming church. Everyone worked hard and was keen to catch hold whenever possible, despite the rival attractions of a little sister and a well-stocked toybox!

It was great to see the recent beginners all having a go in rounds, a call change ringer having a first go at plain hunt, and a Bob Doubles ringer getting to grips with Bob Minor and Treble Bob Hunt. Biff Patterson provided tea and biscuits, very welcome: thank you Biff. Many thanks to Louise Millward and the Lilleshall ringers for letting us use their bells, and to all the raffle players who enabled us to give the church a donation.

We hope to hold another practice in the late autumn – full details in the next Newsletter.

Further Ahead

We have a very busy autumn schedule coming up!

Quarterly Ringing Practice and Meeting – Saturday, 11th October

Our next quarterly practice is at **High Ercall** on the **11th October**, from 7 pm till about 9 pm. Ringing will be followed by a short business meeting. All welcome.

Tower Leaders' Get Together

This event will be on **Saturday, 18th October**, at **Edgmond**, from 10 – 12.30. This is for all tower leaders, and anyone who is involved with promoting bell ringing, or training ringers. You are warmly invited to join us for a morning of discussion. Do please let me know of any topics you would particularly like to explore during the morning. We will aim to mix ideas with some ringing practice. To help with catering, we would like to know if you intend to come.

Topics may include recruitment, and the all-important retention of learners, how to improve learners' bell control, listening skills, progressing from call changes to the basics of method ringing ... We will put together a programme according to what you want to discuss, so do please give me some input.

Gill Glover, training@sacbr.org.uk

Training Morning

Our last training morning this year will be held at **Edgmond, on Saturday 1st November**, from 10 to 12.30. Only one place remains.

Quiz Night

We hope to see you for a fun evening of quizzing on **Saturday, November 8th** at **Meole Brace Memorial Hall**, where teams will compete for fabulous prizes such as chocolate frogs and seashells. Please put the date in your diary. Tickets will be on sale from early October, and there will be further details in the October Newsletter.

Vicki Sivess

Association of Ringing Teachers

Module 1 Course, for ringers wishing to explore the teaching of bell handling

The ART course will be **on Sat 29th November**, also at **Edgmond**. This will be the Module 1 course, which is on teaching bell handling. The cost is £30 per person payable on registration. This fee goes to the Association of Ringing Teachers, not our Association. All attendees will receive a pack of ART's teaching books and literature and be given access to SmART Ringer, ART's online teaching portal.

Paul Lewis, who is an experienced ART teacher, will run the course, so to book a place, contact him: ccrep1@sacbr.org.uk There is a maximum of six places remaining.

There will also be a £5 cash payment on the day to cover heating, morning and afternoon refreshments and donation to the church. This fee does not include lunch so please bring something packed to go with the tea, coffee and cakes which will be provided.

Gill Glover, SACBR Training Officer, training@sacbr.org.uk