



S A C B R 1926 – 2026 Newsletter - January

A Happy New Year to all our members.

And what an exciting year we have in prospect, with a programme of events and challenges for every month.

This month Dinner Tickets go on sale – see Vicki's instructions below. And we kick off the year with our AGM at Meole Brace.

Thank you to Amanda Phillipson for her article on the ART course held at the end of November, and to Paul Lewis for the accompanying photos.

Happy Ringing!

Ed.



ART Bell Ringing Teacher Course November 2025

On a day where the inside of Edgmond Church was colder than outside, 11 keen learners attended the ART Module One course on teaching bell handling, delivered by Paul Lewis. Paul's experience as a teacher was evident, as he took us through a combination of practical and theory sessions throughout the day, keeping the pace at the needs of the

group and ensuring that everyone was engaged in the learning. And of course, fitting in some very important opportunities to warm up with a hot drink.

We were taught how to introduce a complete beginning to the basics of bell ringing, from ringing up and down and hand and back strokes. We worked in pairs during the practical



sessions, each taking a turn at being either the learner or the teacher. Being a pretend learner is quite different from working with an actual newcomer, and you would be surprised at how hard it is to 'ring wrong' when your head is telling you to do what you have been taught to do when ringing. Some of us managed this better than others though: when working with my husband, David, he didn't explain what he was trying to get me to do so I didn't do anything! In answer to his question of "What are you doing?" (as the rope was flapping around us) I replied, "I don't know because you haven't told me!". A good lesson learnt!

I think the highlight of the day was what must be Paul's party piece of casually talking about something as he was ringing a bell down, and then unexpectedly (to us students) letting go of the rope. There was a collective gasp in the ringing room, but of course this was another learning opportunity, and Paul collected the rope and brought the bell back under control. Only one of the group was game to give that a go themselves though!

Not only did we learn lots about how to teach others to ring, but I know that I personally learned lots about my own ringing and bell handling, which I am now trying to put into practice. I had come to the course not entirely sure how I felt about teaching someone to ring, but I left it feeling confident that I could and very keen to find a willing victim, sorry, student as soon as possible.



Amanda Phillipson



Paul Lewis and students at Edgmond

In January

More Than an Annual General Meeting Saturday 10th January, at Meole Brace

Our programme for the year begins with our **AGM**. This year we are meeting at Meole Brace. In fact, this occasion is much more than a meeting: we have Open Ringing from 11 am, a Ringers' Service led by our new President, the Ven Nick Watson, Lunch in the Trinity Centre at 12.30, and from 13.30 the two meetings, Quarterly and Annual, which run concurrently.

The main business of the Quarterly Meeting will be to elect new members. These can be proposed at the meeting, but, if possible, please send names in advance, with proposer and seconder, to our membership sec, Biff Patterson memsec@sacbr.org.uk

The AGM receives short Reports from the Officers, including the financial Report. We elect the Officers for 2026: all the present Officers are willing to stay in post. Any further nominations should be sent to Sue Dancey, please: gensec@sacbr.org.uk

We have a vacancy for one Central Council Representative. The Central Council meets annually, over a long weekend. This year's meeting is at Rugby, from 4th – 6th September. You can attend just for the meeting on 5th, or for more of the ringing and social activities, as you choose. We are entitled to two reps. Paul Lewis, who has been our other rep for several years, can explain what is involved to anyone who is interested.

Other business includes voting on proposed amendments to the Rules for the Bell Restoration Fund. Then, we will introduce the Centenary Programme, and we'll give out card programmes for all members.

We hope for a bumper turn-out on this occasion, with as many towers represented as possible..

Please let Ann Peppiatt (peppiatts@yahoo.co.uk) know by January 5th if you will be having lunch.

Training Morning

Saturday, 24th January, at Oswestry

An opportunity for some intensive learning and practice. Student numbers are limited.

This training morning is now fully booked: waiting list only available.

In February

Challenge for the month: do a new ringing thing

For the whole of February we are challenging all members to attempt something new. This can be a ringing achievement, a calling achievement, or something else linked to ringing, such as changing a rope or planning an outing.

This will be an easy one for all our recent beginners: you are trying new things all the time. It may be your first rounds, first Sunday service ringing, or first time joining in an Association activity (see below). For improvers with a bit more experience, how about calling your first call changes, or covering for the first time, or even your first quarter peal. Those of us who have been ringing for many years are going to have to think a bit harder to come up with something different!

If 100 members all do one new thing, that will be a great way to mark 100 years. We may even beat the target – we have about 300 members, and there's nothing to stop you submitting more than one achievement! We would like you to send all your 'firsts' to Gill newseditor@sacbr.org.uk We will make sure they are published asap on the website, on our facebook page, and of course, in the March Newsletter.

New Members' Morning

Saturday 14th February, at Edgmond

This informal event runs from 10.00 to 12.30. All new members are warmly invited to come along and meet the Association Officers, and other members. Have a chat over coffee and cakes, have a go on the bells. Bring a friend or teacher from your tower if you would like to. We look forward to getting to know you.

SACBR Centenary Year

Centenary Dinner

Friday, 15 May 2026, 6:30pm for 7:15

Hawkstone Park Hotel, Weston-under-Redcastle, Shrewsbury, SY4 5UY

The Centenary Dinner at Hawkstone Park Hotel promises to be a joyful occasion where we will meet up with friends to celebrate the achievements of the Association over the last hundred years and to look forward to the future. The keynote speaker is Simon Linford who, I am certain, will keep us entertained.

The following menu will be provided.

One starter from:

Tomato, red onion & basil soup (gf) (df) (vg)

Chicken liver parfait, red onion marmalade, toasted brioche (gfa)

One main course from:

Chicken stuffed with garlic cream cheese wrapped in smoked bacon, potato fondant, seasonal vegetables, cream sauce (gf) (dfa)

Silverside of beef, horseradish mash, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, gravy (gfa) (dfa)

Mushroom, butternut squash & leek pie, spring onion mash, seasonal vegetables, mushroom & thyme gravy (vg) (gf)

One dessert from:

Sticky toffee pudding, toffee sauce, vanilla ice cream (gf)

Baked gingerbread cheesecake, rhubarb compote, honeycomb ice cream

Caramel Tart, Chocolate Vegan Ice Cream (V)

Tickets will be £36 per head. At the end of December, we will be contacting all towers who responded to our initial survey and offering them the chance to buy tickets from January 3rd. Ticket sales will then open to everybody from January 10th.

It will be vital that individuals contact me directly (socsec@sacbr.org.uk) to order tickets for themselves or for themselves and a partner, rather than tower correspondents sending in a group order. This is to help me organise individual place settings, with menu requirements, on the night. When you contact me, I will allocate you a ticket number and let you have payment information. Once you have paid, I will issue you with a ticket.

Vicki Sivess