



## S A C B R 1926 – 2026 Newsletter - March

This month we have the first results of the February challenge to do something new. Towers such as Wellington, Oswestry and Meole Brace paint a picture of progressive and varied practices which it's good to read about. We also have a detailed report on their activities from Bicton tower captain, Sue Dancey.

We also report on meetings in February, and look forward to another busy month in March.

Our Centenary is reported in this month's 'In and Around Shropshire' (p.58)!

Happy Ringing!

*Ed.*



### **Ken Brice, 1928 – 2024**

We have obtained confirmation that Ken Brice, formerly of Malinslee and Wellington, died in January 2024, aged 95. He served the Association in various roles during the 1980s and 90s, including two years as Ringing Master and more as Treasurer and Trustee. In appreciation for his services he was made an Honorary Life member. Ken was tower captain at Wellington for many years; he last rang there for the Millennium. A full obituary will appear in the Annual Report this year.

## February Challenge: do a new ringing thing

A steady trickle of 'firsts' has been arriving in my inbox during the month. The table so far records 52 achievements, with our less experienced ringers far outstripping the old hands in their attempts at something new. We even have several whole bands ringing something new together. Congratulations to everyone! Several towers have requested more time. We certainly will keep recording your progress, so do keep sending in the new targets met. We'll go on adding to the table on the website, and in future newsletters.

When		Who	Where	What
2 Feb 26	1	All of Wellington band	Wellington	Plain Hunt Minor
	2	Mark Howlett		Treble to Plain Bob Doubles
	3	David Grivell		Treble to Plain Bob Doubles
	4	David Plimmer		Treble to Plain Bob doubles
	5	Marion Lake		Conducted Plain Bob Doubles
	6	Sharon Collins		Conducted Victor
	7	Sharon Collins		Conducted Grandsire Doubles from 4 <sup>th</sup> bell
9 Feb 26	8	Mark Howlett		Treble to touch of Grandsire Doubles
	9	David Plimmer		Treble to touch of Grandsire Doubles
	10	Marion Lake		Called Plain Hunt Doubles
14 Feb 26	11	Gillian Glover	Lilleshall	Rang plain course of St Valentine's Delight Minor
	12	Nik Galton		Rang plain course of St Valentine's Delight Minor
	13	Biff Patterson		Rang plain course of St Valentine's Delight Minor
	14	Paul Lewis		Rang plain course of St Valentine's Delight Minor
17 Feb	15	Paul Partridge	Shrewsbury	Touch of Plain Bob Minor
	16	Jet Pariera-Jenks		Touch of Plain Bob Minor with singles
22 Feb	17	Liz Holloway	Worthen	Whole pull Plain Hunt Singles and Minimus
	18	Liz Holloway	Worthen	Led 4 bells up and down in peal
	19	Stella Doyle	Oswestry	Plain Hunt on 8
	20	Ann Peacock		Plain Hunt on 8
	21	Peter Eves		Rang down in peal
	22	Oswestry band		Rang Double Bob Minor
	23	Ann Peacock		Called Call Changes from 6 <sup>th</sup>
	24	Richard Major		Rang 540 Plain Bob Minor in hand
	25	Frances Major		Rang 540 Plain Bob Minor in hand
	26	Ann Peacock		Plain Hunt on back 6

	27	Ann Peacock		Rang down on back 6
	28	Peter Eves		Rang up in peal unaided
	29	Matt Leak		First Quarter Peal at first attempt
	30	Stella Doyle		Called Queens and back on 8 bells
	31	Oswestry band		Six bell practice in complete silence (the simulator malfunctioned!)
15 Feb 26	32	Tom Derrington	Meole Brace	Ran Sunday service ringing
	33	Lisa Grimmett		Ran Sunday service ringing
	34	Tom Derrington		Called call changes
	35	Lisa Grimmett		Called call changes
	36	David Powell	Bicton	Rang Plain Hunt on 2 different bells
	37	Ryan Hayes		Rang down on 6
	38	Ryan Hayes		Rang up on 3
	39	Ryan Hayes		Rang treble to Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles
	40	Ryan Hayes		Called changes to Queens and back, Tittums and back
24 Feb	41	Jet Pariera-Jenks	Shrewsbury	Rang plain course of Plain Bob Triples
	42	Paul Partridge	Shrewsbury	Rang plain course of Plain Bob Triples
	43	Julie Platzer	Market Drayton	Rang tenor behind
	44	Judith Bennet		Rang on 8 bells
	45	Victoria Mackworth		Put handstroke and backstroke together for the first time
26 Feb	46	Harvey Jones	Meole Brace	Rang tenor to rounds and call changes
	47	Josephine Wrin		Rang treble to Plain Bob Doubles
	48	Laura Burrows		Rang treble to Plain Hunt
	49	Lisa Grimmett		Rang treble to Cloisters
	50	Meole band		All rang Plain Hunt Triples in different formations
	51	Vicki Sivess		Led down in peal on 8
28 Feb	52	Patrick Braven-Giles	Dawley	Called changes to Queens and back

### **Association 100 new things: with at least 6 in Bicton.**

When you're learning - there is always something new to learn and some of us at Bicton managed a few more things than others. Most of us rather failed to try anything completely new. Kathy Fitchew and Mandie Lee improved their Bob Doubles, David Powell plain hunted from 2 different bells, so it really depends what counts. Our star was Ryan Hayes.



Ryan has just been elected into the Association having rung with us and is a regular attendee at the Young Ringers' Practices run by Gill Glover. His home bells here at Bicton have something of a reputation with some SACBR members finding them a little tricky to strike well. Ryan is overcoming this with enthusiasm. His striking is improving and he has tried new things both here and at towers he has visited. This February he managed:

Ringling Down on 6 (not striking well yet!)

Ringling up on 3 (well struck)

Plain hunting on the treble to two new methods (Bob Doubles and Grandsire)

Calling two lots of changes for us all - to Queens and to Tittums and back

He has also learnt and takes responsibility for taking the hammers off and even more importantly - offering around the half time toffee tin. Bicton ringers are grateful for his participation and commitment. THANK YOU RYAN.

*Sue Dancey*

## **New Members' Morning** **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, at Lilleshall**

About forty people turned out for our new members' get together, on a bright but chilly Saturday morning. It was great to welcome some new faces, and to see the progress of new members we have met during the last twelve months. Ringing included rounds and lots of call changes. We rang Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, and several people tried covering to these. Some of the experienced helpers had a go at St Valentine's Delight minor, a method invented at Oswestry which was very appropriate to the day! After a couple of goes several of us had scored a 'first' for the February challenge.

Thanks go to the bakers who provided various treats to go with our teas and coffees, and to Lilleshall ringers for hosting the event.

It was a very enjoyable morning, but there were noticeably fewer of the very recent joiners this time. Perhaps this get together comes too early in the year, if our new members are also new ringers still learning to handle a bell. We hope to see them next time!

*Gill Glover, Training Officer*

## **Young Ringers' Practices**

### **Ellesmere, 31<sup>st</sup> January and Dawley, 28<sup>th</sup> February**

We have held two practices for our young ringers already this year, at Ellesmere and Dawley. At Ellesmere four local teenagers, plus two from Shrewsbury, practised Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles, as well as Call Changes and Plain Hunt Triples. The young people all worked hard to improve their handling and listening skills.

A different group met at Dawley, where the mix included Rounds and Call Changes on various bells, covering, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. Paul Shuttleworth from Radio Shropshire dropped in to learn about ringing, and to record interviews with some of the young ringers.

Many thanks to the adult Dawley ringers who provided tea and cakes, and to all the helpers who offered instruction, and filled in to steady the bands.

*Gill Glover*

## **March Challenge – Youth month**

Next Friday evening we are hosting members of the church youth group at Worthen, the village where I live, for a visit to the tower. It takes some organising, with risk assessment, permission forms and adult volunteers to supervise the climb and explain how the bells work. But we all know the importance of spreading the word about what a brilliant hobby bell ringing is. A lot of the public have no idea what ringing the bells involves. So even if these teenagers don't decide they want to learn, we will at least have a few more people who understand how complicated and challenging it is to ring. And I'm sure we'll all have fun!

We hope some of our Association towers will also respond to the challenge of Youth Month, and spread the word in one way or another. Do let us know how you get on.

On the last Saturday of the month, 28<sup>th</sup> March, we have a half day outing for Shropshire Association young ringers. We have 21 junior members, and have now met 15 of them at one or more of our young ringers' practices. It will be great if as many as possible come along on the outing. We will send details of times and places to all the towers where we have young members.

*Gill Glover*

## Further Ahead

### A Different Sort of Training Morning, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, St Chad's Shrewsbury

This is a training morning for everyone. When we hold our Centenary Service and tea party in July we want all our members to feel confident that they can join in. We will practise rounds and call changes, starting on 6 bells and working up to 10 or 12. To do this effectively we will need lots of help from our more experienced members. Do, please come along and lend your support. There's room for over 40 people in the ringing room. There will be Plain Hunt, and method ringing for more experienced ringers. And there will be refreshments downstairs in the church meeting room. So keep the date free!

### SACBR Centenary Year

#### Centenary Dinner

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

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

**ABOUT 20 TICKETS REMAIN**

**Last call for dinner tickets! There has been a really good response for this event and we look forward to meeting up with friends to celebrate the achievements of the Association over the last hundred years. The keynote speaker is Simon Linford who, I am certain, will keep us entertained.**

**Tickets are £36 per head. It is vital that individuals contact me directly ([socsec@sacbr.org.uk](mailto: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*

## 100 Club

The SACBR 100 Club is back. We plan to hold the first draw at the June Quarterly. We hope as many of you as possible will support this valuable fund-raiser for the Bell Restoration Fund. At least 6 projects are currently in the pipeline, so it is vital to keep the fund topped up.

Membership is for adult members of the Shropshire Association only, and costs £12 for the year. There are usually four draws a year, at the Quarterly Meetings, with four or five cash prizes, depending on how many people are participating.

How to apply, online or by paper application form, will be in the May Newsletter.



### About the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers

The CCCBR is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English tradition. Founded in 1891, the Council today represents 65 affiliated societies, which cover all parts of the British Isles and further afield.

The object of the Central Council is to advance the practice, heritage and appreciation of bell ringing as an enjoyable mental and physical exercise and unique performing art for the public benefit of both church and community.

Our Central Council representatives are Paul Lewis (Edmond) and Nik Galton (Shrewsbury). They receive regular news updates from the CCCBR, and by using the link below, it will enable members to read them too.

Find out more at <https://cccbr.org.uk>

Click on the following link for full stories:  
<https://cccbr.org.uk/news>

**Now Hiring: CCCBR Youth Development Officer | Ringing 2030** - We're recruiting a Youth Development Officer to help build the next generation of ringers and support the international Ringing 2030 strategy. Also a **Marketing and Admin Officer** to support the Ringing 2030 strategy.

**2026 Westley Award for Belfry Maintenance and Improvement:** The Ringing 2030 Environments Workgroup of the Central Council is launching the 2026 award for people who have recently become involved in belfry maintenance and improvement, developing their own skills and helping others to do so. The award will be presented at the CCCBR AGM in Rugby in September 2026. The winner will receive £100.

**University and Young Ringers Website:** the first of a suite of websites being developed by the Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 Workgroup, part of the Young Ringers Hub initiative. The Young Ringers Hub will be a one stop shop for ringers from school age to age 30 and consists of University Ringing, Under 18s, Resources for Leaders and a Development pathways site that aims to promote the development of young ringers. See [universityringers.org.uk](http://universityringers.org.uk)

