



## SACBR 1926 – 2026 Newsletter - April

Some of you will have seen the brilliant article in *My Shrewsbury*, describing a first bell-ringing lesson. Michael Carding organised this at Meole Brace. You can find the feature at

<https://www.myshrewsbury.co.uk/blog/trying-bellringing-at-holy-trinity-church-meole-brace/>

Paul Shuttleworth, from Shropshire Radio, interviewed Sue Dancey, Ryan Hayes and Harvey Jones at our February Young Ringers' Practice. This was broadcast on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. You can find this, about 1 hour 37 into the programme, at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002smdw?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>



Happy Ringing!

*Ed.*

**April is 'Visit another tower' month, and we hope lots of you will do just that. We have two Association events to fit the theme: a training morning at Shrewsbury, and a quarterly meeting at Shifnal.**

## **Training Morning, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, St Chad's Shrewsbury**

This **training morning** is open to all members who can ring steady rounds on 6 or more bells. We are not taking bookings, but it will be helpful if you can let me have an idea of numbers from your tower: [gill.glover407@outlook.com](mailto:gill.glover407@outlook.com) . This will help us to plan the ringing and the refreshments.

When we hold our Centenary Service and tea party in July we want all our members to feel confident that they can join in. On 11<sup>th</sup> April, 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 will be Plain Hunt, and method ringing for more experienced ringers. And there will be refreshments downstairs in the church meeting room.

*Gill Glover, Training Officer*

## **April Quarterly Meeting Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at Shifnal**

This **Quarterly Meeting** is a week later than normal. It will start with ringing from 7 pm and finish, after a short business meeting, at about 9 pm. Ringers of all levels of experience are very welcome to attend.

The **Report/Handbook** for 2025/26 should be ready for collection at this meeting. If possible, towers should send a representative to the meeting to collect their reports.

## **Centenary Challenge: do a new ringing thing**

What began as a challenge for February has morphed into a continuing Centenary Challenge. I am delighted to report that the firsts keep coming in, evidence of some lively and imaginative practices going on round our patch. Congratulations to all on their progress. We are comfortably past our target of 100 achievements. A quick count suggests 66 individual ringers have been involved so far. Wouldn't it be great to get to 100 ringers!

*Gill Glover*

|                           |    |                      |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|---------------------------|----|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb      | 53 | Karen Turner         | Albrighton                                        | First quarter peal                           |                                  |
|                           | 54 | Steve Hayes          | St Martin's                                       | Plain Hunt on 3, 4 and 5                     |                                  |
|                           | 55 | Julia Baldwin        |                                                   | Plain Hunt on 3, 4 and 5                     |                                  |
|                           | 56 | Jane Boulton         |                                                   | Plain Hunt on 3, 4 and 7                     |                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March     | 57 | Jane Boulton         | Chirk                                             | Named on Bellboard                           |                                  |
|                           | 58 | St Martin's band     |                                                   | Mexican Wave                                 |                                  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March     | 59 | Meole Brace band     | Meole Brace                                       | Rang Little Bistow Doubles                   |                                  |
|                           | 60 | Andrew Davies        | Oswestry                                          | Rang Reverse Canterbury Minimus              |                                  |
|                           | 61 | Andrew Davies        |                                                   | Treble to Little Bob Major                   |                                  |
|                           | 62 | Stella Doyle         |                                                   | Treble to Grandsire Doubles                  |                                  |
|                           | 63 | Andrew Davies        |                                                   | Treble to Grandsire Doubles                  |                                  |
|                           | 64 | Pippa Tucker         |                                                   | Inside to Cambridge Minor                    |                                  |
|                           | 65 | Pippa Tucker         |                                                   | Inside to Little Bob Major                   |                                  |
|                           | 66 | Ann Peacock          |                                                   | Treble to Plain Bob Triples                  |                                  |
|                           | 67 | Isla Rothera         |                                                   | Ist plain course of Plain Bob Major          |                                  |
|                           | 68 | Alan McKeown         |                                                   | Newport                                      | Called Plain Bob Doubles         |
|                           | 69 | Kevin Ottaway        |                                                   |                                              | Rang treble to Plain Bob Doubles |
|                           | 70 | Kevin Ottaway        | Rang up and rang down                             |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 71 | Eva Roberts          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter on tenor                  |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 72 | Martin Roberts       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter on treble                 |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 73 | Kathryn Steele       | Called garden path from Queens on 6               |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 74 | Chris Ollivier       | Led ringing down on 6                             |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 75 | Fiona McKeown        | Rang up and down in peal                          |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 76 | Kathryn Greaves      | Rang 7 <sup>th</sup> bell at Newport for a method |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 77 | Fae Stokes           | Rang Plain Hunt starting at a backstroke          |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 78 | John Stokes          |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 79 | Paul Lewis           |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 80 | Eva Roberts          |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 81 | Fiona McKeown        |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 82 | Alan McKeown         |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 83 | Kathryn Steele       |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 84 | Rob Davis            |                                                   |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 85 | Sarah Sydra          | Rang treble to Plain Bob Doubles                  |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 86 | Duncan Davis         | Called touch of Grandsire Doubles                 |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 87 | Martin Roberts       | Called call changes                               |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 88 | Eva Roberts          | Called call changes                               |                                              |                                  |
|                           | 89 | Liz Holloway         | Worthen                                           | Rang 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, on the treble  |                                  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February | 90 | Judith Bennet        | Market Drayton                                    | Rang away from home tower for the first time |                                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March    | 91 | Victoria Mackworth   |                                                   | Rang with other ringers for the first time   |                                  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March    | 92 | Paul Partridge       | Shrewsbury, S Chad                                | Rang treble to Quarter of triples            |                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | 93 | Patrick Braven-Giles |                                                   | Rang Plain Hunt Cinques                      |                                  |
|                           | 94 | Jet Pariera-Jenks    |                                                   | Rang Plain Hunt Cinques                      |                                  |

|                        |     |                 |                                      |                                                                       |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        | 95  | Paul Partridge  |                                      | Rang bells 10 and 11 to Call Changes, and rang down tenor             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March | 96  | Ann Peppiatt    | St David's Cathedral                 | Rang at the cathedral practice                                        |
|                        | 97  | John Peppiatt   |                                      | Rang at the cathedral practice                                        |
|                        | 98  | Ann Peacock     | Oswestry                             | Rang treble to Grandsire Triples                                      |
|                        | 99  | Ben Rothera     |                                      | Double Oxford Bob Minor                                               |
|                        | 100 | Stella Doyle    |                                      | Rang treble to Grandsire Doubles                                      |
|                        | 101 | Brian Rothera   |                                      | Rang a bob course of Cambridge Surprise Minor, silent and uncondacted |
|                        | 102 | Richard Major   |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 103 | Tony Freemont   |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 104 | Cordelia Warr   |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 105 | Pete Neill      |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 106 | Chris Hoare     |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 107 | Ann Peacock     |                                      | Rang Plain Hunt Caters (9)                                            |
|                        | 108 | Stella Doyle    |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 109 | Jeanne Peake    |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 110 | John Hobley     |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 111 | Matt Leak       |                                      | Rang treble to Quarter Peal of Doubles                                |
|                        | 112 | Matt Leak       | Rang treble to Quarter Peal of Minor |                                                                       |
|                        | 113 | Ann Peacock     | Wrexham                              | Rang the tenor (24 cwt)                                               |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March | 114 | Jan Darby       | Baschurch                            | Winchendon Place Doubles                                              |
|                        | 115 | Jad Bienek      |                                      | Shipway Place Doubles                                                 |
|                        | 116 | Sue Dancey      |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 117 | Madeline Harris |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 118 | Paul Smart      |                                      |                                                                       |
|                        | 119 | Edwina Smart    |                                      |                                                                       |

## March Challenge – Youth month

Louise Millward sent this inspiring report from **Lilleshall**.

‘To coincide with Youth Month Lilleshall Bell Ringers welcomed 1st Lilleshall and Muxton Explorers from the Scouting Movement to an evening practice. With support they tried ringing handstroke and backstroke as separate movements and ringing a few rounds with support.

They used Lilleshall Handbells to ring Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and experience some call changes.’

It sounds like a great time was had by all. At Worthen, we also had a tower visit, from our village church youth group. Most of them made it up the ladder to inspect the bells, and they all enjoyed chiming the bells: one boy chimed all round the circle. We have also been teaching two boys at St Chad’s. They are both ringing a bell independently now, with

obvious enjoyment, and beginning to find the balance consistently and set their bell unaided. Well done, Felix and Rowan!

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, a small group of young ringers went on a mini outing. We visited Whittington, Chirk – the first Welsh tower for several people, and St Martin's, where we had afternoon tea and were made very welcome by Dai Cartwright and Jane Boulton. Our thanks go to all those who made their bells available, and met us on the day.

We rang Plain Bob, from Doubles to Triples, Plain Hunt Doubles and Triples, and lots of rounds and call changes, some called by Ryan.

Sadly, two of our regulars, Anya and Lily, were unwell and had to miss the outing. We hope they will be fighting fit for our next meet, which will be in May.

*Gill Glover*

## **Further Ahead**

### **Association Striking Competition**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, at Upton Magna**

This year, we have moved the Striking Competition from September to June. As usual, the draw will be at 4 pm, and there will, of course, be a scrumptious buffet tea during the competition. Upton Magna are a very pleasant, ground floor 6, with the village hall next door to the church. We hope for picnicking weather, so you will be able to assess the competition while enjoying your tea and cake. Reserve the date, and start practising!

### **Anniversary Service and Party Tea**

**Saturday, 25th July, St Chad's Shrewsbury**

This is the climax to our celebration year, so do please come along and join the party. It should be a joyous afternoon of ringing, worship, catching up with ringing friends, looking back and looking forward. It will also be an opportunity to say farewell to Bishop Michael of Lichfield, who retires in September.

Further details to follow in future Newsletters.



### **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 (Edgmond) 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>

### **Heritage Open Days (HOD) - Registration now OPEN!**

This year, HODs are teaming up with leading family history website Findmypast for this year's festival theme, Everyday Histories. What a great opportunity to add bellringing to the Everyday Histories stories, past and present, and to hold tower open days over the HODs between 11-20 September 2026.

### **CCCBR Recruitment Network**

Are you involved in recruiting new - or returning - ringers? Or perhaps your tower is thinking about a recruitment campaign but you don't know where to start or would like some advice? You can still join us online in May. Anyone with an interest in recruitment is welcome to attend.

## **SACBR Membership Now and Then**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to get membership returns (and subs) to me by the end of January: the best year ever since I have been doing the job. Now that I've had time to do some number crunching I thought I would share with you the state of membership in 2026 compared with 25 years ago (I would like to have looked at 1976 and 1951 but the data is thin). As the table below shows, we are in a very healthy position and just a few more new members would get us past the magic 300... Until recently, the annual Association affiliation to CCCBR was charged per hundred members so staying in the 200s was desirable, but now we pay per member so a few more won't make much difference.

| <b>Category</b>               | <b>2026</b> | <b>2001</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Resident member               | 263         | 193         |
| Resident member under 18      | 22          | 8           |
| Non-resident south Shropshire | 2           | 2           |
| Out-of-county                 | 7           | 0           |
| Honorary Life Member          | 3           | 2           |
| <b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>       | <b>297</b>  | <b>205</b>  |

It's particularly pleasing to see how our young ringers have increased: they are the future of ringing even if they move away from our area. Only 1 of the 2001 8 is still with us and still a ringing member but I hope the other 7 are ringing somewhere... I also looked at each tower with ringable bells. Some towers had strong membership in 2001 and remain so today, some have dwindled (highlighting the importance of ongoing recruitment and teaching), and some have sprung back to life.

It's worth pointing out that the number of SACBR members does NOT necessarily reflect the number of ringers at a tower since people may choose not to join the Association. Even in 2001, some ringers saw SACBR as a society for only the most advanced practitioners, interested in ringing complex methods and peals. We hope we have become more inclusive, with more emphasis on each tower maintaining a band to ring for Sunday service, while endeavouring to advance at their own pace.

I shall be hounding you all again for subs, in December. Happy Ringing!

*Biff Patterson, Membership Secretary*