



SACBR 1926 – 2026 Newsletter - May

**Dinner month! We look forward to seeing you at
Hawkstone Park Hotel on Friday 15th!**

I'm writing this just after the St Chad's Spring outing – a group of us went to six towers in mid Cheshire, quite a strenuous day, but very enjoyable. I hope lots of you managed to 'Visit another tower' in April. About 50 people turned up to St Chad's on 11th April, and ringing on 12 was a step into the unknown for many. A full report follows.

We also held a well-attended Quarterly meeting and practice at Shifnal, where the local band made us very welcome.

In May we have our celebratory dinner to look forward to, but of course we will all still be ringing: hopefully a lot of bands will be practising for the Striking Competition in June. Happy Ringing!

Ed.

Rodger Baylis

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Rodger Baylis of Beckbury and nearby towers, who died following an accident, on the night of Monday 20th April. He was 81. Details of funeral arrangements will follow, on the website.



Training Morning, Saturday 11th April, St Chad's Shrewsbury

This training morning was something of an adventure for one and all. I wasn't sure if members would respond to the idea of coming to ring on a heavy 12, and I'm sure a lot of the participants were nervous about how they would get on. In the event, the response was brilliant: about 50 people, with a good balance between novice 12 bell ringers and more experienced helpers. At five past ten you could hardly get through the ringing room door! Happily, Jacqui Barden and Biff Patterson were busy organising coffees, teas and baked treats down in the parish hall. After the first couple of rings people started to go off in groups for refreshments, and the crowd thinned out.

We started each group of visitors off on the middle six, and when they had settled, we added the back four 'heavies', and finally the front two. I 'borrowed' this approach from Eleanor and Simon Linford, who brought a large group last year from Birmingham. It certainly helps to calm nerves and boost confidence: to our great satisfaction, everyone managed respectable rounds on 12. Apart from visiting a new tower, there were probably quite a few 'firsts on 12' to add to the table of New Achievements: do let me know.



Later in the morning some tried Call Changes, some tried Plain Hunt Caters, and some (successfully!) tried ringing bells 11 and 12. We finished the morning with a touch of Grandsire Cinques for the helpers, which started well, but alas came apart before the end. More practice needed!

Huge thanks to everyone who came along and had a go, and especially to the experienced ringers who helped to advise learners, rang the back bells tirelessly, or beavered away in the kitchen.

Gill Glover, Training Officer

Training Morning, Saturday 27th June, Moreton Corbet

Our **next Training Morning** will be an altogether more normal affair, on the good six at Moreton Corbet. This will be restricted to six students: bookings to Gill Glover: gill.glover407@outlook.com We will aim to cater for whatever you want to learn or practise, but do let us know, so that we can ensure a suitable band of helpers.

Additions to Centenary '100 Ringing Things' Challenge

11 th April	120	Kathy Fitchew		Shrewsbury, S Chad	Ringing on 12
	121	Geoff Lowe			
13 th April	122	Claire Unsworth			Kennington Doubles
15 th April	123	Simon Myatt			Plain Hunt to
	124	Julie Platzer			Grandsire
18 th April	125	Kathy Fitchew		Shifnal	Ringing at St Andrew's
25 th April	126	Michael Carding		Hereford cathedral	Ringing for a wedding at the cathedral

Quarterly Meeting and Ringing Practice, Saturday 17th April, at Shifnal

On a lovely warm evening we arrived at Shifnal to a splendid Association church set in extensive grounds. We parked on all sides and entered through a large churchyard on one side or a memorial garden on the other. The welcome was superb and we had a great meeting room with refreshments already in progress.

The bell chamber was accessed via a steep and winding stone spiral staircase leading to a large and comfortable ringing room. We were hosted by the Shifnal team who warned us of the tricky nature of the back bells - they were not wrong. We had the delight of many new ringers and at times, we struggled to keep our rhythm as we dropped the back bells and clipped the front ones! We settled down under Tony's guidance and mastered some

well struck rounds and call changes, delved into Bob triples and retreated to some plain hunting and further call changes on 8. With well over 20 people in the ringing room at any one time - it was great to get such a positive atmosphere with everyone who mastered the stairwell having a go. Many congratulations to those ringing for the first time on 8, or on the slightly heavier bells.

Ringing was followed by the **Quarterly Meeting**, at which five new members were welcomed, from Beckbury, Dawley and Shifnal. In addition to the usual reports, we discussed **moving the AGM date** to avoid the winter months as churches are often very difficult to heat and the roads in our rural county have often become difficult in winter conditions. It was considered advantageous to move it to April, which would also allow enough time for the annual accounts to have been checked by the independent examiner. Tony asked that the membership trust the committee to enable this to happen in 2027. This was proposed by Sue Dancey, seconded by Tony Freemont. and unanimously accepted.

On **Safeguarding**, Tony Freemont reported back to the membership that he has had a productive and helpful meeting with Sarah Fullard, the Lichfield Diocese Safeguarding Training Officer. Tony is now part of a small group ensuring that the diocese have the right information on how bellringing groups are managed in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. This is the responsibility of the Parish safeguarding leads, NOT the Tower Captains. There is a collaboration on the implementation of safeguarding policy across the three Associations in the Diocese (North Staffs, Lichfield and Shropshire) and Tony accepted that there were differing interpretations of the guidance.

Tony emphasised that checking whether other ringers have completed Basic Awareness safeguarding training is NOT the role of the Tower Captain, and added that he would assist any captain having an issue. He hopes to continue to influence the development of the Safeguarding policy and is pleased that we have permission to go ahead with our Open Towers Plan later in the centenary year. As part of our ongoing good relations with the Safeguarding team, two of them have been invited to be our guests at the centenary Dinner.

The Annual Report for 2025 was distributed to tower representatives, and editor, Madeline Harris, was thanked for her work on this.

The evening finished with the draw for raffle prizes, run by Andrew Davies. The raffle raised £76 for the Bell Restoration Fund, and winners were Neil Brice, Michael Aspley, Jane Hughes, Vicki Sivess, Tim Mear, Tony Freemont, John Burton, and Geoff Lowe.

Sue Dancey and Madeline Harris

Upcoming challenge - The SACBR Centenary Striking Competition Saturday, 13th June, at Upton Magna

Having had a resounding success with Challenge 100 - perhaps some of you might consider entering your first striking competition. This year it is in the lovely church at Upton Magna and will be in the summer - on June 13th. The aim is to hope for good weather so we can relax in between our performances and partake of a fabulous tea.

The aim is to encourage, in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry, good striking in Sunday service bands, and in doing so to encourage Sunday service ringing in general. The rules are on the website at <http://www.sacbr.org.uk/StrikingCompetitionRules.html> where you will also find the previous winners listed.

Please come and support this event. Talk to your ringers and raise a band and choose something you know you can strike well. This might be a method or call changes. There are a selection of trophies to win which will grace any ringing chamber! There will be an expert judge with feedback for us all to learn, and the chance to witness the scores on the doors as they are recorded - and you thought Eurovision was exciting! There will be opportunities for all, with places available for 'scratch teams' if there aren't enough people from one tower. It is also great to have support - so please consider coming along to listen, learn, drink tea and eat cake even if you do not intend to ring.

This event brings us all together about half way through our year and is a great chance to talk to others as we listen to our Shropshire bands. The Committee are already making plans for catering and it will help enormously if you could please let us know your plans. Please let Sue Dancey know how many of you might be coming, if you are entering a band (and how many bands?!) And how many supporters. There will be a small charge for a traditional tea. The event will begin at around 16:00, tbc dependant on the number of entries. Sue will let you know the start time by the end of May so get in quick - this year it could be YOU.

Sue Dancey secretary@sacbr.org.uk

Centenary Celebration
Quarterly, Ringing, Service and Tea
Saturday, 25th July, at St Chad's, Shrewsbury

THE CENTRE PIECE OF OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Shropshire Association was born, at St Chad's, on 24th July, 1926, so this Saturday 25th is as close as can be to celebrating the actual anniversary. The programme for the day is:-

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| 13.45 | Quarterly Meeting | We will keep this to essential business only. |
| 14.15 | Open Ringing practice | |
| 15.15 | Service touch | |
| 15.30 | Service, led by Bishop Michael and Revd Sam Mann | |
| 16.30 | Tea | After tea we will hold the Raffle and 100 Club draw. |

TICKETS FOR TEA

We plan to have a 'special' tea for the occasion. The charge will be £10 per head, and we will sell tickets in advance. **Numbers are limited to 80.** Please apply by email to gill.glover407@outlook.com I will issue numbered 'e tickets', and request your payment at a later date. A group booking for your tower is fine, but I would like names. Also let me know of any dietary requirements.

100 Club

The SACBR 100 Club is back. We plan to hold the first draw at the July tea party at St Chad's. 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 June Newsletter.



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

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>



BELLRINGING
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELLRINGERS

Recruitment & Development Ringing 2030

Join us for a workgroup briefing
Sunday 17th May 20:00 – 21:00 (UK time)

The third in a series of workgroup briefings for CCCBR Reps and other interested ringers in our work towards the Ringing 2030 aim to create a sustainable future for change ringing.

Focusing on:

Leadership in Ringing and the ways we can encourage and support ringers to volunteer for responsibility with confidence

Join the mailing list at:
<https://cccbr.info/rdbriefings>



SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026 : SACBR CENTENARY 1926 STYLE OUTING

Four towers south of Shifnal plus the Lichfield Mobile Belfry.

This is yet another unique event to mark the Centenary of SACBR. The idea is to replicate the sort of thing that happened 100 years ago in the ringing community.

When I first started, the young men were so keen to ring that they would be lucky to get five minutes' practice each - so many of them wanted to have a go. We would think nothing of walking six or more miles just to have a five-minute practice ring in a good tower. And I have walked between twenty and thirty miles in a day to ring a peal of 5,000 changes. All the ringers were great walkers and you would meet them in bands strolling across Suffolk from tower to tower.

(Akenfield; portrait of a Suffolk Village. Ronald Blythe)

It was much the same in Shropshire when our association was founded. On 15th August there will be four towers open for ringing and you are invited to ring and walk between. The distances are 4, 3, 4 miles respectively, footpaths and lanes, and of course it is OK to do as many or as few of these on foot as you wish. Also to use cars, bikes, horses etc for all or part of the day. We hope lots of SACBR ringers and friends will join (already I have indications of intent from ringers in neighbouring societies); book the date and start to think about how to blend walking with not walking if needed. We will start at Beckbury and finish at Shifnal where the mobile belfry will be installed.

More detail in future newsletters!

Michael Carding.

Coconut biscuits

At the recent training morning at St Chad's, several people asked for this recipe, which is vegan but I'm afraid not gluten-free, although I think you could substitute GF flour successfully (maybe increase the xanthan gum). I'm afraid all my baking is Imperial!

2½ oz soft vegan spread

½ tsp xanthan gum

2 tbsp oat milk

2½ oz caster sugar

2 oz desiccated coconut

About 12 glacé cherries

Put the oven to heat to 150C fan. Mark 3. Cover two baking sheets with either silicone mats or baking parchment. Stir all the ingredients together and then knead gently with your fingers to bring the mixture to a soft dough. Roll out on a surface dusted with GF flour (it doesn't stick) and cut out rounds with a 2" fluted cutter, re-kneading and rolling until all the mix is used. It should make about 2 dozen biscuits. Put half a cherry on top of each and bake for 25 minutes until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

Good luck!

Biff