



# Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

## Newsletter – August 2025

Hello,

Welcome to our August Newsletter, and thank you to Sue Dancey for the entertaining graphic alongside. I'm sure we have all heard these terms – some of them only too often during the early stages of learning!

Whether you are a beginner or a ringer of many years' standing, there is something for everyone in our upcoming programme of activities.

Happy ringing,

*Gill Glover, Editor*



## 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on 15th August



On 15th August, the UK marks VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day), commemorating the end of World War II in 1945. As part of the nationwide remembrance, bellringers are encouraged to ring at their local tower, beginning at 6:30pm, to honour those who served and sacrificed in the Far East. This symbolic act of bell ringing echoes the celebrations that swept the nation 80 years ago and offers a moment of reflection and gratitude for peace restored. Further information on VJ day and other celebrations planned can be found on the website <https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk>

*Angela Elliott*

*PRO for Central Council of Church Bell Ringers*

## Young Ringers' Practice

The next practice for our young ringers to get together will be at **Lilleshall**, on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August**, from 2 pm to 3.45 pm. All our young people, and their parents or tower leader, are warmly invited to join us.

## SACBR Striking Competition

***September the 13<sup>th</sup> is a date for everyone's diary.***

***This year's striking competition is to be held at St Martin's in the West of the Association Area. It starts at 4pm and will end by about 7pm.***

***There used to be a saying credited to Gary Lineker about the World Cup Final. "Football is simple. 22 men chase a ball around for 90 minutes and Germany wins".***

***Not so our Striking Competition. There are no pre-ordained winners and 3 teams are guaranteed to take away a trophy.***

***But it is much more than a competition.***

***In a large mainly rural area such as North Shropshire, it is where the Association members meet up, often for the first time since the last striking competition, and friendships are renewed.***

***So please come along, bring a team (or maybe 2). If you're not ringing come to support.***

***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.***

**Tony Freemont**

## In July

### Quarterly Meeting, Baschurch, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Twenty-four members attended the quarterly practice and meeting, on one of the warmest evenings of the year. Thankfully, the church and ringing room remained at a pleasant temperature. It was good to welcome back our Master, Tony Freemont, following his hip surgery. He shared the running of the ringing with Gareth Jones, and later chaired a short meeting.

Ringing was of a pleasing standard throughout, and ranged from rounds and call changes to Cambridge Surprise, as well as less familiar methods such as St Martin's doubles. At about 8.15 we all went downstairs to the church, where there is a spacious kitchen and meeting area. Our hosts had laid on delicious treats to go with our welcome cups of tea.

The meeting remembered David Coleman of Wellington, who has died recently. We elected three new members: Geoff Soul from Wem, Julia Dunncliffe from Prees, and Peter Eves of Oswestry. Sue Dancey, on behalf of Treasurer David Beckwith, summarised the financial status of the Association, which is healthy, thanks in part to a good price obtained for this year's Report and Handbook.

Gill Glover outlined recent training events and looked forward to future planned opportunities. Vicki Sivess spoke about our successful recent outing to Leicestershire. Future social events include a quiz at Meole Brace in November, and several celebratory occasions planned for next year's Centenary.

Nik Galton organised a raffle, which raised £78. It is intended to use this money to support young ringers' practices. Winners of chocolates, bottles of wine, a splendid book on Shropshire churches donated by Ann Williams, and a punnet of gooseberries, were Vicki Sivess, Josephine Wrin, Paul Smart, Jeanne Spinks, Gill Glover and Liz Holloway. Our grateful thanks to the givers of prizes; we are always pleased to receive more donations for the raffle.

The meeting closed with warm thanks to the Baschurch ringers for their hospitality. The next quarterly will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October, at High Ercall.

*Gill Glover*

## **Association Learner's Practice, Moreton Corbet, Saturday 19th July**

What better thing to do with your Saturday than join in with your Association's training morning? This event was arranged specifically for those who had progressed beyond just rounds and were entering the world of simple call changes and beginning to understand method ringing.

Learning to ring, as we all know, is not easy - or everyone would be doing it! It takes time to master those handling skills, concentration to figure out the call changes, and a bit of memory training (both muscle and brain) to progress in method ringing. All were demonstrated by the 18 people in rural Shropshire today who had fun whether they were coaching, calling, leading or perhaps practising, practising and more practising. The neighbours had been warned and those bells were continuous from 10 till 12:30, maximising the time on the end of a rope for those needing a steady band around them to hone their skills. Sadly, the message didn't get through to the lovely volunteer cleaning team who vacuumed the nave to the dulcet accompaniment of several sessions of Bob Doubles! Thank you to the congregation and coordinators at the lovely church. It was a pleasure to wander in the churchyard and adjacent grounds and a real privilege to be able to ring in this tower, which was the focus of a restoration project partially funded by the Association last year.



*Some of the group at Moreton Corbet*

All of us 'helpers' were learning something, whether it was a different approach, what to pop in the refreshments bag, how to explain plain hunting to someone struggling. If you're one of the people who counted yourself as a 'Learner' then please remember that we all have something to learn in ringing and I hope you enjoyed the morning as much as the helpers. I am sure that the folk who registered all showed some improvement and I could hear the standard being raised as the morning progressed. Gill ran the event so well, barely drawing breath so people were able to come downstairs between their chosen practical sessions for a cuppa or a slice of delicious home-made cake (including gluten free and vegetarian of course - sorry we forgot the oat milk and sugar/sweeteners) - I will get better!

You are all warmly invited to register for the next event which will be held at **Edgmond on Saturday 1st November at 10:00** till 12:30. Yes I know it is November and not all our churches have heating, but this one has a kitchenette, an indoor loo *and* heating - and the ground floor ring makes it even more accessible. If you are interested - please let Gill know as she needs to make sure there are enough helpers to make your practice worthwhile.

*Sue Dancey*

## Further Ahead

### Extra Training Opportunities

Very many thanks to those of you who responded to my proposals last month. It seems there is certainly some interest in both a tower leaders' morning and an ART teachers' training day. We now have dates for both of these.

Our Tower Leaders' Get Together will be on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10 – 12.30 pm, at Edgmond. This will include both discussion and opportunities to try out practical ideas and exercises. Topics may include recruitment, and the all-important retention, 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 tackle.

The ART course will be on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> 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. Paul Lewis, who is an experienced ART teacher, will run the course, so to book a place, contact him: [ccrep1@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:ccrep1@sacbr.org.uk)

There would then 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.

Further details of both these days to follow next month.

*Gill Glover, SACBR Training Officer, [training@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:training@sacbr.org.uk)*