



SACBR 1926 – 2026 Newsletter - August

Our Centenary was celebrated in style on 25th July, when our usual summer Quarterly meeting was augmented by a splendid service and party tea. A full report follows.

The Ringing World of 24th July did us proud, with a fine cover photograph of Tong church by John Mobberley, and articles on SACBR by Paul Lewis and myself.

We have more celebratory events to look forward to in the coming months. This edition also has details of the next Training Morning.

Meanwhile, normal ringing activities carry on. Do let us know if you have had a summer outing, barbecue or any other local event.

Happy Ringing.

Ed.



The SACBR Centenary Zine

This is a miniature magazine combining art (Si Rice) and poetry (Michael Carding). There are two versions : full size at 20 guineas (£21) or the smaller one at £10. All profits to SACBR to support the mobile belfry.

This is a limited edition of 100 and each copy is personalised. Sales have already raised about £550 and they will be on display and sale at all centenary events throughout the year.

For more information and to place an order: michaelcarding@btinternet.com

Si Rice, Michael Carding

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

THE CENTRE PIECE OF OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

After our successful dinner in May, and the popular striking competition in June, I wondered if we could possibly pull off another event so soon. However, the Shropshire Association was born on 24th July, 1926, so Saturday 25th July had to be the date for our actual Centenary meeting. I need not have worried: more than fifty members came for part, or all, of the celebration, and everything went swimmingly.

We began with a short Quarterly business meeting, in the ringing room at St Chad's. The Master, Tony Freemont, kept a lid on the exuberant mood, and moved business on briskly. We welcomed four new members: William Barter and Jacob Davies from Oswestry, John Ellis-Tipton of Meole Brace, and Lucy Youngman from High Ercall. There were short updates from the Treasurer and the Training Officer.

It was confirmed that the AGM, next year, will be moved to the April Quarter. This has the advantages that the Annual Report should be available, and the Treasurer will be able to present audited accounts. However, it means that the present Officers will serve an extra three months.

Tony provided an update on Safeguarding, in which he reiterated that the diocese confirms it is not the business of tower captains to check the status of visiting ringers. These are regarded as visitors, not volunteers. However, final decisions regarding procedure in a given parish rest with the incumbent of that parish.

Open ringing followed the meeting. This was challenging to organise, with a wide range of experience catered for, from rounds on the middle 6 to Grandsire Caters. We finished with a second touch of Grandsire for the service.

An unusual prequel to our service was a group photograph of members, taken with the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner, in front of the altar in church. There followed an uplifting and very enjoyable service, largely devised by Sam, the vicar of St Chad's, with input from Michael Carding, and Bishop Michael. Readings were given by Michael Carding, Tony Freemont and Paul Lewis. Bishop Michael preached, offering both deeply thought-provoking ideas about the meaning of bells in religious experience, and some very funny anecdotes of his own experiences of bells and ringing. Members of the regular St Chad's congregation joined us, making all feel welcome, and swelling the volume of singing some grand hymns. The organ thundered gloriously: at the end, the organist treated us to Louis Vierne's demanding 'Carillon de Westminster' as an appropriate conclusion.

Then we moved over to the church hall for a special party tea, complete with bunting, decorated tables and a cake iced to mark the centenary. Revd Sam said Grace, the Lord-Lieutenant cut the cake, and we all tucked in enthusiastically.



Ryan Hayes serving teas

Finally, the Lord-Lieutenant drew the raffle, which raised £137. Winners were: the Lord-Lieutenant herself, Lisa Grimmett, Vicki Sivess, Jad Bienek, Louise Hughes, Paul Lewis, Jacqui Barden, Andrew Gordon.

Association fund raisers, such as this raffle, are critical to the health of the Bell Restoration Fund. Tony mentioned that, since 2001, the fund has paid out no less than £58,380.46 in grants. Twenty-nine different Association towers have benefited. Currently, a further £12,000 in grant aid is either promised or in the pipe-line. We are very grateful to everyone who supports the raffles, donates prizes, and to Nik Galton for running it.



Association Members enjoying tea

News from Wellington

Nicky Adams writes: 'This morning we had an extended period of ringing at All Saints, Wellington to mark the first anniversary of the funeral of David Coleman.

We rang the Devon Short Peal, Call Changes and a sequence that we have developed specifically in memory of David . It is called Victor and reflects on his service as part of the V force.

It is the first time that this particular band has rung the Devon Short Peal.

The band were: Nicky Adams (C), Neil Bragg, Sharon Collins, Ella Grainger, Marion Lake, John Maclean, David Plimmer, Susan Turnbull.'

We love to hear what members are achieving in their home towers, so do keep in touch. This reminds me that there are probably lots more 'firsts' out there for the Centenary Challenge table. Send them in, and I will update the table for next month's Newsletter.

Next Training Morning – Saturday 26th September

Our next Training Morning will be held at **Kemberton** on **Saturday 26th September**, from 10.00 to 12.30. This is a very pleasant, ground floor, modern ring of 8. Some of you will no doubt get to ring there on the walking tour in August.

The intention of our Training Mornings is to provide an intensive opportunity to work on one aspect of your ringing: more time than you would have in a normal practice. This can be anything, from better bell control to Stedman Doubles. Six student places are available, to book your place please email Gill: training@sacbr.org.uk Do let me know what you would like to learn, or improve, so that I can make sure we have enough helpers.

Looking further ahead, here are **two new dates for your diary**. On **Saturday 24th October** we plan to hold a **half day meeting for tower leaders**. Last year a group of us met at Hodnet to discuss recruitment and retention, ideas for building a band, and safeguarding. Representatives came from Oswestry, St Martins, Baschurch, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, High Ercall, Market Drayton, Hodnet, Newport, Edgmond, Lilleshall and Dawley.

Some of these members are regular attenders at SACBR practices or training, some not. It would be very interesting to hear how they have got on this year. This time I would like to focus on training, but, no doubt, some of last year's topics need a more thorough airing! Let me know what subjects you want to discuss, and I will put together a programme.

On **Saturday, 28th November**, we will hold an **ART M1 day course** at Edgmond. This is an introduction to teaching bell handling. It combines theory and advice with plenty of hands-on practice, in which students work in pairs. There are 12 student places available. Priority will be given to Association towers where there is currently no-one able to teach, or only one teacher. Details of how to book, cost, etc. will follow nearer the date.

Gill Glover, Training Officer

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026
SACBR CENTENARY 1926 STYLE OUTING
(walk, bike, horse, car?)

Overview : Four towers will be open : Beckbury, Sutton Maddock, Kemberton, Shifnal.

Ringers can do the whole trip, ringing at all four towers and walking between them (total 11 miles). Or cycle or ride or use 21st century transport. Some may do part of the route walking and part by another means. It will end at Shifnal where the Lichfield Mobile Belfry will be available as well as the bells of St Andrew.

The event starts at Beckbury with ringing from 10am and we leave for Sutton Maddock at 10.30. Expect to arrive at Shifnal at 4.30pm where the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry will be available as well as the bells of St Andrew.

NOW is the LAST TIME to register! Please e-mail me on michaelcarding@btinternet.com

Please tell me how many in your party, ringers or just walkers, total or partial route. Then I will send you a REQUEST form. This will tell me whether you require logistics/transport from Shifnal to Beckbury at the start or finish. I am not offering to do this for non-ringers or those doing just part of the route.

I will also send you a map and narrative of the route although the expectation is that we will “stick together” between the towers. Cyclists, horse riders etc will be able to plan their own route using this.

This is intended to be great fun and a reminder of how dedicated our forebears were in pursuing the exercise. Do you want to dress in the style of the era? Or make some gesture in that direction?

Others can use cars or elect to do just part of the walk and arrange transport to fit. We hope that lots of SACBR members will ring at these towers on this day even if they decline to walk between them.

CONTRIBUTION (in support of the four towers and SACBR)	Total Package
£10	

Per tower £3	Non-ringers £5	Young ringers free	Cash on the day
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Michael Carding. 07814 567363 michaelcarding@btinternet.com

Open Towers, Saturday 12th September

An Open Towers day is an opportunity for you to ring at a number of Association towers you may not have previously visited. This day will offer most of the towers along the M54-A5 corridor, from the east of the county to Shrewsbury. The route, and the times of opening, will be published next month. Get a group of friends together, perhaps a carful, and plan your own chosen route, for a great day out.! There will be SACBR members in each tower to meet you and help to make up your band if necessary. We hope as many of our members as possible will join in. A whole day ticket will cost £10.

Autumn Ceilidh, Saturday October 17th

This year, the ceilidh will be held at Mereside Community Centre, Mereside, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LH, with music from the wonderful Devil's Chair Ceilidh Band.

We are looking for someone to run the bar. If you would be interested in doing this, please contact Vicki, socsec@sacbr.org.uk.

New YouTube Video: *Growing Your Social Media Presence*

Social media [used sensibly] offers a fantastic opportunity to share the story of bellringing, celebrate your local tower, and inspire new people to discover our tradition. Whether you're already posting regularly or wondering where to begin, our latest YouTube video is here to help.

Watch the video on the CCCBR YouTube channel, and if you find it helpful, please share it with your fellow ringers and your local tower. Together, we can help more people discover the wonderful world of bellringing!

Central Council Marketing Workgroup — Who We Are and How You Can Help: *Getting Ringers Back*



The CCCBR has reformed its Marketing Workgroup to help deliver the Ringing 2030 goals of growing and diversifying our community. Our specific focus is the 20–40 age group: the “missing generation” identified in national surveys as the demographic least represented in bell ringing today. Engaging this group is our primary mission, so if you're trying to get someone back into ringing after they've dropped out, please contact gemma.groom@cccbr.org.uk or go to the CCCBR website, news section.

