



Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

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The year so far – a summary from the Chairman

Guild Ringing Events

I'm pleased to say that Guild ringing events have been pretty well attended:

- The 12-bell Southwell practices have attracted good numbers and the ringing is improving steadily as everyone gets more used to 12 bells.
- The weekday daytime practices have had a good cross-section of attendees – there have always been rounds and call changes, plain hunt, plain bob and so on – usually getting a bit of Stedman and Surprise as well.
- The Newark organised ladies' meetings continue to attract ringers from across the guild and, I'm told, ringing standards and range of methods develop all the time.

It was also heartening to have so many go up to ring after the AGM, at Southwell, back in May.

We haven't forgotten that we said we would look into 10 bell practices!

Safeguarding

Andrew Wignell, our Safeguarding Officer, is working on a draft policy for the Guild. He is basing this on other guilds' policies and Central Council (CCCB) guidelines. We hope to have something for review soon. The policy will only cover Guild organised events and ringing activity in your tower should be in line with your individual church policy. If you have any questions about safeguarding in your tower or district Andy will probably be able to point you in the right direction.

Bells and the Bell Fund

It is good to hear that there are projects, small and large, happening or brewing. The largest of these is at Hawton where the church and its band of new ringers are fundraising for the restoration of the tower and to make the old unringable four into a fine ring of eight. Other activity around the Guild includes installation of a new first floor ringing room, an overhaul of fittings, and repairs to clappers.

No matter what size your scheme, it is worth getting in touch with your District BRC rep or Ian Hasman (BRC secretary) early on, as advice and labour may be available. If a grant would help with any work please contact the Bell Fund trustees at the outset – this will help you, as you will know what grant may be available, and it will also assist the trustees with budgeting.

Our sister charity (all Guild members are also members of the Bell Fund) has made offers of financial support for some of the projects mentioned above. The trustees would like to help more with the work that goes on across the Diocese keeping our bells in good ringing order. More income could mean more and possibly larger grants. Why not support the Bell Fund in its work by:

- Joining the "100 Club". For a £10 a year subscription you get a number. Four times a year your number goes into the draw and you might win £50, £25 or £12.50(x2). If we were to be oversubscribed the prize pot would go up - let's see if we can do that before Christmas. Please contact Christine Langton if you would like to join or for more information (0115 877 9439 or christine@nuscr.org).
- Offering to arrange a district, guild or other ringing open day. These have proved very successful fundraisers in the past, but require a volunteer or volunteers to organise it. Please contact me if you would like to help out.
- Having a collection in your tower; holding a coffee Morning, a quiz or other event.
- Sending a donation from your left-over wedding fees.
- Giving a personal donation – we can claim an extra 25% if the donation is Gift Aided.
- Asking your PCC to include us in its annual charity giving – think of it as insurance or a savings policy, for £20 a year you could get more back when you need the frame painting, clappers re-bushing or bearings replacing for example.
- Making an annual gift using our promise and Gift Aid form.

What could you do to help the Fund to help our towers when needed?

Training

Our education group is still young but with Susan Dawson pulling things together we are starting to deliver. A plain bob workshop was fully subscribed and went well; another, already full, takes place this week. The half-yearly day sees us try to help with progression from 6 to 8 – do get involved, to learn or to help.

Districts continue to run successful training mornings etc, these can be an enormous help. Don't worry if you haven't been to guild events before, these could be just what you and your tower needs. We also continue to look at other things such as mini rings and youth ringing. Let your district reps know what you want and you never know it might just happen.

Insurance

I have to admit I keep forgetting to put the promised summary of our insurance cover onto the website. Here is a shot at that now:

- The Trustees and Officers (Guild (including District Officers) and Bell Fund) are now covered for their responsibilities for money and management responsibilities, etc.
- There is employer's liability in case of an accident to our volunteers (who are classed for these purposes as employees) whilst doing Guild work. This could be whilst undertaking work on bells (you need to be "approved/registered" with the BRC secretary before doing guild work

on bells to be covered) or maybe helping with the Wombel at an open day, or teaching on a Guild course.

- We have Public Liability cover in case we cause injury to anyone else or damage to third-party property by our actions whilst undertaking Guild activities.
- We have personal accident cover just in case you have an accident on your way to or from a Guild event or whilst ringing at a Guild organised event.
- "Guild activities" include activities of the Districts

It is important to also realise what is not covered – activities on behalf of yourself, your church or your tower are not (for example a tower outing and teaching a pupil). You should check your own church's insurance or your personal insurance for cover when ringing for your own tower activities.

If you would like to see the policies or have more details then contact me.

Around and About

This year there are some vacancies on the district committees which is a shame. None of the jobs are too onerous if the load is shared – could you step up and do your bit? As we go into next year there are several post holders at Guild level who have served for many years who would like to step down and join in from the back benches. What could you do? You may get some inspiration from the presentation in the meeting pack which floats ideas about the Guild's future structure – please tell us what you think.

Don't forget the Guild is run by ringers for ringers. There is a lot arranged but it only works if ringers turn up and ring. Almost everything we do is aimed at everyone and the more experienced ringers usually remember that someone helped them and it's their turn now.

The meetings (/practices) organised by the Districts and the Guild provide an excellent opportunity to learn something new or to get ringers together to ring something that is not rung at their own practices. If something is being rung that is beyond where you are currently, don't feel intimidated – everyone learnt sometime and we all make mistakes (and most of us still do). Instead, watch and listen – it's all good experience.

I would encourage everybody to come along and try ringing at meetings and not to give up, after just one. It takes a while for ringing masters to get to know what people can do and what they would like to try.

Central Council

Following on from the meeting in CCCBR meeting in May there has been much progress on reforming itself. The new website contains lots of useful information on training, tower captains, safeguarding, bell repair, insurance, etc. Take a look.

There is a very good new leaflet "Bells in Your Care", share it with your vicar and churchwardens.

<https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Bells-in-Your-Care.pdf>

That's plenty for now. I look forward to seeing you at the half yearly in East Leake.

Jim Crabtree