

**Notes of a meeting held between English Heritage, the Church Buildings Council and
the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
at Church House, London , SW1 on Monday 17th June , 2013**

Present:	Kate Flavell (Chair)	CCCBR President
	David Knight	Church Buildings Council
	Diana Evans	English Heritage
	Chris Mew	CCCBR Vice President
	Mary Bone	CCCBR Secretary
	Bob Cooles	CCCBR Redundant Bells
	Alan Frost	CCCBR Towers & Belfries

1. Matters arising from previous meeting notes

(a) Metal Thefts

It was advised that legislation would be effective from the autumn of this year. It was reported that there was some concern that, whilst petty crime would probably be reduced, there could be an increase in the involvement of organised crime syndicates, which might result in an increased risk of violence.

(b) Bell Frame Recording Guidance and training

There was nothing further to report regarding training. It was possible that this could become an SPAB initiative using knowledge within the ringing fraternity. Towers and Belfries Committee would also be involved.

(c) ARCH

A poster regarding ARCH had been circulated to all CCCBR affiliated societies for onward transmission to towers and a copy was tabled. The opportunity of a talk to next year's DAC conference would be useful as would perhaps a presence at the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury on 6th September, 2014. It was suggested that sponsorship might be available in this case. Chris Mew agreed to follow up the Roadshow opportunity with ARCH and to mention Smartwater to the organisers.

2. DAC Bell Advisers Conference

The 2013 Conference in York had been very useful particularly the presentations by the Heritage Lottery Fund and on clocks and bells, the latter clearly demonstrating the need for cooperation with bell hangers and advisers. A research paper had been prepared by student Tamsin Cooke regarding the positive public perception of bell-ringing; Kate Flavell had circulated a copy to relevant CCCBR committees.

It was hoped that the 2014 DAC Conference would be held in St Albans on 8th July with ringing and a meal on the previous evening. The status of rings of 1, 2 and 3 bells, and the increasing tendency for these rings to be rehung "dead", might be a topic for the 2014 DAC conference.

English Heritage drew attention to a tourism initiative in 2014 to link in with WW1 commemoration and it was questioned as to whether bells might be rung at the “Thankful Villages” which had lost no persons in arms. Similarly, there might be churches with rings of bells specifically installed as memorials after the war that could be rung especially. Chris Mew would approach Alan Regin regarding knowledge of rings in this category.

3. Heritage Lottery Fund Guidance

The Bell Restoration Committee already had a hand-out giving advice on applications and this was to be revised and made available on the CCCBR website. There are recent examples of grants from the HLF for bell projects on the ChurchCare website which will be of assistance (http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/HLF_grants_for_conservation.pdf).

English Heritage emphasised the importance of identifying early in discussions any need for dendro-chronology of wooden frames/structures. The cost of such investigations needed to be taken into account early on in project costs if these were to be included in HLF's assessment of the full cost of the project.

4. Bells in closed or closing churches.

An outline report of the January Church House Conference had appeared in *The Ringing World* issue of 22nd February, 2013. Most of the presentations are available on the ChurchCare website. A more detailed summary of the position would be made available to the relevant organisations.

CCCBR's Committee for Redundant Bells is in contact with the Statutory Advisory Committee of the CBC and with the Church Commissioners to work on the prospects of simplifying procedures regarding bells. Draft guidelines will go out for consultation once prepared.

5. Cases of Difficulty

There had been no significant cases since the last meeting but some possible future cases were flagged up as being possible topics for a future agenda.

6. Updates

The CBC had produced revised Guidelines on Statements of Significance and Need and these were now available on the website (http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Statements_Guidance_-_new_format_May_2013.pdf). It was suggested that an article be prepared by the Bell Restoration Committee.

The question of consultation with English Heritage was raised and Diana Evans reiterated that the presence on diocesan advisory committees of a person appointed after consultation with English Heritage did not replace the need for formal consultation with English Heritage through the appropriate regional office. DAC members appointed after consultation with English Heritage, the amenity societies and local authorities are there to provide DACs with expertise from those particular perspectives to inform discussions of specific cases; the statutory requirement to contact the relevant bodies remains.

7. AOB

- (1) The identification of buildings of significance in relation to WW1 to be explored.
- (2) Open churches policy including ringing demonstrations to be encouraged, perhaps as part of “ride and stride” weekends.
- (3) CCCBR mentioned the forthcoming Magna Carta 800 commemorative events.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17th June, 2014 in Church House, commencing at 2.00pm. A conference call will be held earlier if necessary.

The Church Buildings Council was thanked for making the arrangements and for their hospitality.

CFM, MB 13.08.2013

Post meeting notes:

1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has confirmed in a letter to the Bishop of London that following the Comprehensive Spending Review the £42 million per annum available for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be maintained for 2015-6. Previously the sum set aside for the scheme was only guaranteed until the May 2015 General Election.
2. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has awarded a one-off lump sum of £80 million for repairs and enhancements to the National Heritage Collection – the sites presently managed on behalf of the nation by English Heritage.. At the same time the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has given approval for a plan to devolve the management of the Collection to a charity, licensed by the Commission, which will take on the name English Heritage. The charity will be able to generate greater commercial, charitable and philanthropic income to safeguard and present to the public the sites and monuments which will remain in public ownership.
3. The planning, heritage protection, archive and conservation work will continue as now but under a new name, yet to be announced. However, the Chancellor also announced a 10% cut in funding for the financial year 2015-16, in addition to the cuts already implemented.