



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

**Committee
Information
Leaflet
2017**

Foreword

Welcome to the new edition of this leaflet with information on the Council's committees and their planned activities for the next few years.

The work of the Council is primarily carried out by its committees and the main qualifications for membership are interest, enthusiasm and spare time!

To save time at the annual meeting, the Council voted overwhelmingly last year to introduce a new system of advance nominations for committee membership, coupled with removing restrictions on the size of committees (with the exception of the Administrative Committee).

So do read up about the committees, explore their web pages and contact the Chairman to express your interest – you'll need to be proposed and seconded by Council members and send your nomination to secretary@cccbr.org.uk.

The deadline is **Wednesday 29 March**.

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Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee organises meetings of the Council, co-ordinates the activities of other committees, and deals with urgent matters between Council meetings.

It is the Council's senior committee and is chaired by the President. Its members are the Officers of the Council, the Chairmen of the other committees, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Ringing World Limited and 12 elected members. The 12 elected members are usually nominated to bring a specific skill to the Committee, and usually hold (or have held) leadership positions in certain aspects of ringing. The Committee meets in March and October each year. It provides a degree of governance for Council's other committees, regularly reviewing their work. Matters considered by the Administrative Committee are often at a "strategic" level, setting the direction for major initiatives that enable ringing to thrive. Among other duties, the Administrative Committee has the task of planning and organising the CCCBR Annual Meeting.

There are four vacancies. If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Vice-President, Christopher O'Mahony: vicepresident@cccbr.org.uk

Bell Restoration Committee

This Committee works to help parishes and others thinking about bell restoration projects to raise money and to work with their local ringing associations and the bell restoration trade to get the best possible result from their project. The Committee is responsible for the Central Council booklet *Organising a Bell Restoration Project* and a new edition of that booklet was published last year.

Committee members have direct contact with many parishes, providing advice and assistance – there were contacts with at least 61 parishes during 2016. Contacts from parishes can be from those with active bands of ringers to those whose bells haven't been rung for many years; from parishes with a single bell to those contemplating a new ring of 12; from parishes wanting to install bells for the first time, those augmenting an existing ring or those simply restoring the bells they have. The Committee is also responsible for administering various bell funds, particularly the Central Council fund and the F E Dukes International Bell Fund.

In addition to the booklet, the Committee produces a series of Guidance Notes ranging from *A Glossary of Ringing Terms* to advice about Gift Aid and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. These are kept under constant review to ensure they are up-to-date and the latest versions are always available on the website.

In 2015 the Committee organised a one-day seminar in Somerset for parishes intending to restore their bells. This was very successful and we are currently arranging another seminar later this year based in Yorkshire.

The Committee usually meets three times each year (in February, June and October) although email communication amongst members between meetings is also important in progressing our work. Each member of the Committee takes Lead Responsibility for particular aspects of the Committee's work and reports on their areas of responsibility at each meeting.

We also liaise with other committees of the Central Council, in particular the Towers and Belfries Committee, the Rescue Fund and the Committee for Redundant Bells. The Keltek Trust is also an important partner when additional bells are required.

The Committee will continue its present work and is always seeking new sources of funding and better ways of helping parishes. We are also updating our advice in the areas of charity registration, VAT and Gift Aid. There will be vacancies at the new Council meeting: experience in these areas would be useful but the main qualification is time and enthusiasm.

If any Council members would like more information then please contact:
Peter Wilkinson (Chairman): 01606 853643 or brcchairman@cccbr.org.uk
Jay Bunyan (Secretary): 01749 812797 or brcsecretary@cccbr.org.uk

Biographies Committee

*To maintain an account of the work and general ringing activities of past and present ringers,
to make the information created available to ringers and the wider public,
and to foster an interest in the history of ringing.*

Services

The Committee contributes towards three of the Council's objects:

- **Information for ringers** – Relevant when societies (approaching centenaries/anniversaries) or bands (contemplating a restoration project) want to focus on their historical roots. Researchers can use our on-line biographies as a resource for ringers and/or approach the Committee for assistance.
- **Public awareness** – Helping to promote greater public awareness of ringing, by portraying ringing as a living heritage, whose social history is an important part of that heritage, alongside the technical and musical complexity. The biographical records (approaching 1000) on the Council's website are accessible to non-ringers researching family or local history.
- **Bringing ringers together** – The Exercise is a "community", and by encouraging ringers to take an interest in their predecessors we can help to foster awareness of how we came to be where we are now.

Work

Our "bread & butter" work is writing biographic records (up to one or two A4 pages with picture) as a coherent story of the subject's life. This may require significant research where little is on record. We update records if significant new information comes to light, especially historic ones with relatively little information.

We are working on complementary aspects of ringing including the history of ringing societies and of Central Council committees. In due course both will be linked to records of ringers associated with them, to provide alternative "ways in". In future we might add other themes (composers, authors, conductors, engineers, ...).

Our remit includes any ringer who made a significant contribution to ringing (which is more demanding than pre-2009 when it was only Council members). To help make the transition we plan to use on-line facilities on the Council web server to streamline submission of information, which will alter the balance of our work.

We have begun extending the time span of the records to the period before the Council was formed, and we sponsored Bill Butler's series *Prolific Peal Ringers*, published in *The Ringing World* and then on the CC website.

Other activities

We ran (jointly with Library Committee) a seminar on "Ringing History and Future Challenges", and we hope to run similar events in future, as well as short workshops during Council weekends. We have begun work on advice for ringers doing historical research and we hope to build bridges with related communities outside ringing, notably family history.

Skills and interests

If you have one or more of the following you might wish to contribute to the Committee's work: interest in ringing history, family history research, writing, information research (web or archive), use of databases, moderation and management of on-line information.

More information

The biographic records: ccbr.org.uk/services/biographies/records/

About the Committee: ccbr.org.uk/services/biographies/

Contact the chairman: chairman@biographies.ccbr.org.uk or 0118 978 5520

Compositions Committee

The Committee is charged by the Council “to promote the art of composition: to maintain a representative collection of quarter peal and peal compositions and prepare for publication such collections as the Council shall direct; to select, check and prepare compositions for publication in *The Ringing World* and to encourage the use of aids to composition.”

The Committee currently has 5 members and holds no face-to-face meetings, being in regular e-mail contact. Our most visible work is maintaining and adding to the online peal collection (<http://ringing.org/main/pages/peals>) and quarter peal collection <http://ringing.org/main/pages/quarters>.

We have previously supplied articles and reviews of composers and compositions for the *RW* and would like to provide some more reviews of suitable and innovative new compositions. We also produce collections for publication by the Council, most recently a collection of compositions of Stedman on 10 and more bells.

We also correspond with members of the ringing fraternity on any number of questions and issues relating to composition, and are very keen to open the subject of composition up to many more people by training seminars and articles. Please do contact me if you are interested and able to make a contribution to our Committee.

Richard Allton chairman@pcc.cccbr.org.uk

Education Committee

We should promote the training and teaching of ringers at all levels of skill and ability. We want to devise and organise and run courses; commission and produce training materials of all kinds; and work in partnership with others to ensure this happens.

We are not complacent and wish to redefine our activities sharply during 2017-18.

Our work is varied: courses, mainly for tower leaders and teachers of ringing, and publications are the major themes. Some members have specific projects: others also perform long-term roles.

We'd welcome new members with the skills, attitudes and experience who could:

- act as tutors on our courses and help create new ones;
- write course material, create videos etc;
- identify interesting or newsworthy items and write copy or update the web;
- play a part in helping us understand what is happening and what service or product is needed;
- undertake generic roles such as chair, secretary, treasurer;
- see a task through to completion (Project management skills);
- think corporately inside the Council and work with other committees;
- work in partnership with people and service providers outside the council.

Communication: inward channels: To be effective, we have to establish needs across the Exercise. We keep in touch with our partner organisations (ART, Whiting society etc.).

Communication: outward facing channels: We publicise our activities and raise the profile of education in *The Ringing World*, on the web and elsewhere.

People: The Committee needs a total of 8-12 positions.

Sessions: We meet about 9 times a year, usually on a Sunday afternoon. This is about 4 times a year at a physical venue and 5/6 times by conference on Skype or by phone conference. We have our own mailing list to discuss items, report actions and sound out opinions.

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Chairman, Tim Hine: chairman@education.cccbr.org.uk

Information and Communications Technology Committee

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Committee has both an internal and external role. The internal role is focused on the provision and maintenance of IT services for the Council, most notably the Council website. The external role is to encourage and assist affiliated societies in the exploitation of ICT resources.

The programme of work for the next three years will include

- continued development of the new website which will include providing additional content and services in support of the work of the Council;
- migration from the current hosting provider for ccabr.org.uk and felstead.org.uk;
- investigating and developing other IT services that could be of benefit to the Council & its members; examples include Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Azure;
- offering protection to digital resources/software so that they are not lost when development stops for any reason;
- improving quality of information on ICT resources available for towers.

The ICT needs a wide skill-base to complete its objectives – in particular, you don't need to be a programmer to make a successful contribution. Hopefully the goals above give an idea of the breadth of skills which are useful:

- design flair is useful to help website users achieve their aims;
- system architecture and administration skills will help with our migration work and future service provision;
- writing good copy will be necessary for briefings on ICT resources available to towers;
- the protection for digital resources programme would benefit from someone interested in contract management.

For further details, please check our Committee page at <https://ccabr.org.uk/services/ict/> or contact chairman@ictc.ccabr.org.uk or any of the ICT Committee members.

Library Committee

The Central Council Library is both an extensive archive of ringing related material, and a resource for anyone carrying out research at any level on ringing, either historic or current. It is very comprehensive on church bells and change ringing and also includes sections on handbells and carillons. Every effort is made to obtain a copy of any relevant book that is published, either by donation or purchase, and to obtain any earlier books, or editions of books, that the Library does not hold.

It is also our aim to hold complete sets of annual reports for ringing associations, and great strides have been made in recent years, not only in filling gaps but also with binding up runs of these in order to conserve them. Newsletters too are of interest, but our collection is not as good as it might be.

The Library also holds a collection of ephemera – material that is not designed to be kept but is nonetheless very interesting, such as broadsheets, peal cards, badges, etc. Clearly there is a mass of such material and what is kept in the Library is very selective.

The “Friends of the Central Council Library” scheme helps to preserve part of our ringing heritage. There is an Annual Newsletter keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in the Library. The Newsletter lists recent acquisitions to the Library and is accompanied by original articles on associated topics written specially for the Friends. CC Friends can be either individuals, Life members or Corporate Friends who subscribe each year.

During the next triennium the Committee plans to continue with current projects, including:

- sales of the *Ringling World* and *Bell News* DVDs produced by the Committee;
- sales of John Eisel's collections of newspaper extracts published by the Committee;
- developing the search facility for the online catalogue;
- making more material from the library available as publications or online;
- extending the involvement of the “Friends of the CC Library”.

Skills required: A passion for material on bells and ringing is essential and computer skills would be useful. Most communication throughout the year is by email. We hold a committee meeting at the Library in October each year, and a second meeting, if required, in February/March or at the CC weekend.

Linda Foddering, CC Library Chairman, chairman@library.cccbr.org.uk

Methods Committee

The Methods Committee's terms of reference are "To consider and advise on all questions arising from the interpretation of the Council's Decisions relating to methods, calls, and peal ringing" and as such it is currently engaged in the work of revising these Decisions.

This is not the only work that the Committee is involved in. Since 1907, when it produced its first printed method collection, it has been one of the major producers of reference information for ringers, and was the first committee to distribute its work in machine-readable form. Today our electronic method collections on the Internet contain nearly 20,000 methods and we continue to provide an active information and advice service to the Exercise. In addition, the Committee also produces hardcopy method collections. We also see a role for the Committee in stimulating interest in the technical aspects of ringing and in bringing them to a wider audience.

The Committee's involvement with the CC Decisions means that it is often at the centre of controversy, but I should emphasise that its role in this respect is not to dictate what ringers can and can't ring, rather it is to provide a consistent framework of definitions so that method collections and peal records can be maintained.

We are looking for people who are excited about the theoretical aspects of ringing and have a passionate interest in methods, but we also need people who enjoy explaining technical concepts and who can represent a broad range of opinions. Much of the work of the Committee takes place using on-line tools and via conference calls, so it doesn't matter where you are located.

For more information please contact Peter Niblett at peter.niblett@btinternet.com

Peal Records Committee

The main work of the Peal Records Committee is, as the title implies, maintaining a record of all peals and preparing an annual report and analysis of all peals published in *The Ringing World*, including details of first peals in new methods and record length peals as well as highlighting year on year changes, most popular methods rung, most pealed towers, and providing a detailed breakdown of the peals rung for each society.

The Committee is also involved in maintaining various peal databases, e.g. Felstead, collecting compositions used for first peals in methods, ratifying record length peals, checking for peals complying with Central Council Decisions, and preparing an abstract of interesting first and record peals for *The Ringing World Diary*. One important aspect of this work is comparing the various databases for anomalies in reporting: mainly, at present, BellBoard, Peals.co.uk and Campanophile. A list of amendments based on these comparisons is published regularly in *The Ringing World*.

For anyone interested in the maintenance of accurate peal records, whether from the historical or statistical side, the Committee would welcome your contribution. We are looking for willing volunteers to help with the Committee's activities, and are open to suggestions for other projects which we could undertake. We would particularly value the assistance of anyone with access to peal records of first peals in method, whether Guild/Association records or those of individual ringers.

The work of this Committee is not particularly onerous, but is interesting and valuable. Since meetings are normally conducted by telephone conference, and information exchanged via email, you should not be put off joining because of location, although face-to-face meetings may also happen, should the need arise.

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Chairman, Richard Allton: chairman@records.cccbr.org.uk

Public Relations Committee

This Committee seeks to foster goodwill and mutual understanding between ringers and non-ringers (notably church authorities, the media and the general public) and between the Central Council and ringers.

The Committee's work includes responding to media requests for information or interviews about ringing, BBC Bells on Sunday liaison, responding to Learn-to-Ring enquiries, distributing publicity leaflets, university liaison, overseas liaison, managing the Council's Facebook and Twitter presence and maintaining the Things-To-Ring-For lists on the website. We are always seeking to identify new ways to raise the profile of ringing and to help ringers everywhere to do that too, so anyone with current or previous PR experience would be particularly welcome to join us.

Over the years, the Committee has provided advice and assistance in various forms to help ringers who organise public-facing events or run PR campaigns. This has included display boards, posters, videos, presentation material and publicity leaflets. We have also organised Ringing Roadshows and the liaison with Heritage Open Days, to encourage towers to open up for tours as part of this annual heritage event.

Current aspirations include upgrading our presentation and publicity material to be more comprehensive, easier to integrate with local material and easier to download; consideration of more ways to help towers and associations recruit and retain new ringers; and developing longer-term planning, in terms of a discrete number of significant events coming up where we can make a strategic impact.

We are looking for Committee members who have

- time to commit to the Committee's work;
- enthusiasm for raising the image of ringing and ringers;
- new ideas, insights or innovations we could develop;
- ideally some skills in writing, design or organisation.

More information is available on our website <http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/>

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Chairman, Kate Flavell:
chairman@prc.cccbr.org.uk

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee runs a small business on a charitable basis in response to broad terms of reference which require us to take overall responsibility for the form, content and layout of CC publications and for marketing, sales and distribution. Annual income from sales varies depending, in particular, on the number of new titles offered. We aim to generate a surplus sufficient to fund new projects. Most of our work is done for other CC committees but we occasionally commission work or publish books sent to us from sources outside the Council.

We usually deal with around 10 projects in a year, almost all reprints in the recent past. In addition, during 2016 we assumed responsibility, on behalf of the Council, for the marketing, sales and distribution of Pam Copson's *Sherbourne Teaching Aids* series, all rights to which have been generously transferred to the Council. Most of our publications are small soft-cover books which are now quite simple to produce and which are relatively inexpensive. However, a few like *Dove 10* are much more complicated and expensive, and very careful project management is needed to produce them successfully. In all cases, when deciding how many books to print and how much we should charge for them we have to take careful account of likely total sales and likely rates of sale. Sales of some publications are reasonably predictable, but those of others are far more uncertain. We try to avoid tying up money in stock for long periods.

In the past three years we have made significant changes to the business. We have reduced the hard copy stocklist, and made many titles, particularly those with low sales, available on-line for free download. With the help of other committees we have arranged to deal with orders and payments using PayPal in addition to BACS transfers and cash sales. The PayPal facility has been trouble free and has proved to be very popular with customers. The "print on demand" facility is now a viable option for the production of some of our

titles and we intend to use it when considered necessary. Likewise the new CC website should enable us to charge for downloads and when the occasion arises we intend to pursue this option.

The Committee receives a constant stream of orders and the work of responding to these is a major activity. This is presently done by Barbara Wheeler from her home in Morpeth, where much of the stock is stored. Other significant ongoing activities involve liaison with authors and other CC committees, dealing with printers, managing major projects, and dealing with the finances.

The Committee is responsible for the day to day management and expenditure of large sums of money belonging to the Council so that we have to be rigorous in allocating and carrying out the range of tasks involved in our work. The Committee currently has 6 members, all of whom are very actively involved, and experience has demonstrated that 6 is about the optimum number of members. All major decisions are made collectively, never by any one individual, although individual members often take general responsibility for particular aspects of the business. We meet formally three times a year and liaise extensively between meetings. In addition we run a bookstall at each CC meeting and at Ringing Roadshows.

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Chairman, John Couperthwaite:
chairman@pubs.cccbr.org.uk

Committee for Redundant Bells

The Committee for Redundant Bells is tasked with protecting the interests of ringers when buildings, normally churches, are being made redundant from their previous uses.

The Committee prefers to see rings of bells stay in their towers after redundancy and to be available for ringing whatever the new use of the building. In many cases this is possible, but when it is not, consideration is given to supporting re-location of the bells to another tower, preferably in the same general area.

Over the years the number of churches being made redundant has been fairly constant; however the recent report from the Church of England suggests that church closures are likely to accelerate in the future. This will mean more rings of bells becoming redundant and more demand for long-term sustainable futures for them to be identified.

To this end the Committee is developing a prioritisation process to identify cases which require more effort compared with others. This will be based on a number of factors including quality of the bells, historic significant, ringability etc..

The Committee cannot intervene directly to maintain access to bells in redundant buildings nor to identify new homes for those which need to be relocated. It can and does provide assistance and advice to local associations as and when they are required.

The Committee is also seeking to establish working arrangements with other bodies which may own rings of bells, including the Churches Conservation Trust and English Heritage.

The Committee works closely with the Keltex Trust which works to relocate bells.

The Committee would welcome new members. There are no specific skills required but people with detailed knowledge of many rings of bells or legal skills, especially knowledge of church law, would be particularly welcome.

The Committee usually meets twice per year and one of those meetings is normally at the Council meeting weekend. Other business is dealt with by email or via the Committee's Facebook group.

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Chairman, Robert Wood:
chairman@cfrb.cccbr.org.uk

Ringling Centres Committee

The Ringling Centres Committee seeks to promote the setting up of ringling centres with the aim that most ringers should have a centre within reasonable travelling distance. It also tries to support and promote the use of existing centres and other groupings of ringers which provide opportunities for ringling development beyond the confines of one tower.

The Committee believes that ringling centres can play an important role in offering good teaching for less experienced ringers and in supporting new ringers in their early learning, thereby leading to better retention of recent recruits.

Main Activities

We seek to achieve these aims by:

- maintaining an up-to-date directory of ringling centres;
- conducting a regular survey of the activities of centres;
- publishing a newsletter, *Training Times*, about ringling centres and ringling education;
- maintaining a *Bellringing Centres* Facebook Group to promote communication between centres and others interested in ringling education;
- offering guidelines for setting up and running centres;
- providing case studies of good practice in ringling training and recruitment;
- offering Central Council recognition to centres meeting our guidelines;
- promoting ringling centres, their potential use and value, to the wider ringling community.

Future Plans

We are a small Committee and much of the Committee's work is currently of a care and maintenance nature. However additional members would allow us to be more pro-active in promoting the work of ringling centres and we are especially seeking a good geographical spread of members to improve our links in each locality. We are also planning to work in closer co-operation with the Education Committee going forward.

Les Boyce, Chairman
chairman@rcc.cccbr.org.uk

Ringling Trends Committee

Terms of reference

To identify, evaluate and record trends of relevance to church bell ringling for the purposes of guiding Council policy.

Contact

If you are interested in joining this Committee, please contact the Vice-President, Christopher O'Mahony:
vicepresident@cccbr.org.uk

Tower Stewardship Committee

It has been increasingly obvious in recent years that bell ringers cannot exist "in isolation". There are a number of external factors that now impinge on the activities of ringers. As responsible bell ringers, we must be aware of these factors, be able to effectively communicate with the relevant authorities and be able to manage these factors to the benefit of ringers.

The Tower Stewardship Committee has identified a number of areas where external factors can affect how bell towers are used and managed. For example: child protection, insurance, health and safety, fire risk, data protection, etc. We monitor and advise ringers on these factors. We have set up liaison with several outside

bodies that have interests in some of these factors, such as the church insurance company, the Church Buildings Council and the CofE Child Protection Advisor.

We offer advice to churches, and ringing bands. Our main vehicle for doing this is via a series of leaflets published on the Council's website. Although these have now been published, we have an ongoing duty to monitor the constantly changing world for anything that may affect the management of a bell tower. We operate the Complaints Helpline on behalf of the Central Council. Advice is also available by request to the chairman of the Committee.

We are also aware we are in a changing world, with more towers moving into redundancy, or the secular world. The Tower Stewardship Committee, in association with other committees and outside bodies, is looking to provide advice on how these towers could be managed.

So if you are now a Central Council member and are wondering how you will be able to contribute in the future, the answer is that we need you if you have some time to give for this work. Technical knowledge is not a requirement, if you have a skill in one of the relevant areas, it would help.

The majority of meetings are held remotely, the favoured method being teleconference. Please do get in touch with me, or come and meet some of the current Committee at the Welcome Meeting in Edinburgh to find out more.

You can find more information on our page on the Central Council's website:

cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship

Ernie Runciman

Chairman

07624 426654

chairman@tsc.cccbr.org.uk

Towers and Belfries Committee

Our terms of reference are set out as: "To make available advice and assistance on and about the installation, maintenance and security of rings of bells, the maintenance of towers and related matters".

This may sound a little technical but we are always on the lookout for anyone interested in joining us to carry out our work. No experience is needed as there are other members who would be able to assist you if required. What we do falls into one of two categories. Firstly, we provide a number of articles and publications that can be accessed via the Internet or in hard copy about different aspects of bells, their fittings and the towers which house them. The second part of our work is carrying out tower inspections when requested and hosting bell maintenance seminars for local Guilds and Associations.

In addition to this we are currently in the final stages of producing a Tower Maintenance Handbook. At present we are also involved in arranging a seminar to introduce the subject of bell frame recording thereby raising awareness of the importance of their historical significance and technical performance; although this is a specialised field it is something that can be required in restoration projects.

At present we are fortunate to have one consultant member on our Committee who has an interest in tower movement technology. This will hopefully help with future inspections where movement impacts adversely on the ringing of bells.

If our Committee sounds like one that you would like to get involved in, whether or not you have any experience, then please do contact me, or any other member of the Committee to discover more.

David Kirkcaldy

chairman@tbc.cccbr.org.uk

