

Stewardship & Management Workgroup – Annual Report for 2018

The formation of the Workgroup was formally agreed at the CCCBR meeting held in Lancaster in May 2018. The Workgroup brings together the work of four former CCCBR Committees:

- Tower Stewardship
- Towers & Belfries
- Bell Restoration Committee
- Redundant Bells Committee

This report is therefore in two parts – first, reports for the activities in each of the committees (until end of May 2018), plus a report from the new Workgroup (from June 2018).

Committee Reports

Towers & Belfries Committee

In the first few months of the year, members of the committee advised on enquiries from towers on topics ranging from lightning conductors and their bonding to metal bell frames, to earthquake resistance for towers (Christchurch, New Zealand). Committee members also prepared and updated advice on telecoms equipment installations in towers.

Following the launch of the *Manual of Belfry Maintenance* in 2017, sales continued well and the book is proving to be a valuable resource. Work has continued with a major piece of theoretical work on tower movement.

At the CCCBR meeting in Lancaster, members of the committee presented a “hands on” guide on practical belfry maintenance at St John’s church Pilling. This 2 hour session included both theory then a practical inspection in the bell chamber. This event was attended by a small group of people and was well received.

The Committee held one meeting during the period and most committee members agreed to join the Stewardship & Management Workgroup.

Tower Stewardship

In the first half of the year, committee members continued to provide advice in response to enquiries on topics such as safeguarding, insurance, data protection, sound control and complaints about noise. Members of the committee are monitoring the progress of the pilot studies launched in Manchester and Suffolk as part of the Taylor Review of the “Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals”.

Bell Restoration Committee

The Committee continued to provide advice and help to churches involved in restoration projects. Several enquiries are received every month and many projects continue over a period of a few years.

The Committee took on responsibility for sales of the BRF fund-raising jigsaws but this responsibility is now passing to the Communications & Marketing Workgroup. In 2018 the jigsaw picture was especially topical showing the bells of Ypres Memorial Chapel prior to their installation in the tower. 52 have been sold.

The Committee now administers the allocation of grant awards from two funds. The awards made in the period up to end May 2018 were as follows:

CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund

New grants - None.

Awards paid - 2, total value £1,700, awarded in March 2015 and 3, total value £1,250, awarded in March 2017.

Fred Dukes International Bell Fund

New grant - 1, value £700.

Awards paid - 1, value £900, awarded in March 2017 and 1, value £700 awarded in March 2018.



Local ringers with clappers old and new, at St Mary Magdalene, Taunton. The CCCBR Bell restoration Fund supported the new installation of the new ring of 12.



The new bells arriving in Taunton. The first peal on the new bells was on 11th November 2018

The Committee intended to present a session on Bell Restoration projects at the Lancaster CCCBR meeting in May. This was regrettably cancelled due to lack of registrations for the session.

Redundant Bells Committee

The transfer of the residual sum of money in the Bells rescue Fund to the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund was completed.

Contact with the Churches Conservation Trust has continued at a low level. It is still hoped that a protocol for management of bells in their churches will be developed. This may also be appropriate for bells in other towers that are not owned and / or managed by the Church.

Stewardship & Management Workgroup

Organisational structure

Provisional preparations for the new Workgroup were underway during the first part of 2018, with implementation from June 2018 after the CCCBR decision to go ahead at the meeting in Lancaster. The Workgroup is led by Alison Hodge, with Robin Shipp as Secretary. Including the Leader and Secretary, there are 22 members (as at end of January 2019), all but three of whom are Central Council members. In addition, the Workgroup has identified “specialists” who are available to advise on specific topics as required, but do not participate in the Workgroup routinely. In view of the size and geographical spread of the members of the group, work is progressed by email, teleconferences and occasional face-to-face meetings. Four teleconferences and one physical meeting have been held in the half year.

Recalling the Terms of Reference for the Workgroup, we are addressing topics that relate to the care of bells and their installations, ringers and others in and around bell towers. We are therefore structuring our activities under **3 main themes**. Topics covered include: –

- **Tower infrastructure** – bells, frames, fittings, tower structures, access and security, acoustics and noise, other tower users
- **Tower operation** – safeguarding, data protection, health & safety, insurance, equality and diversity, conflicts of interest, ringer and tower captain responsibilities, church liaison

- **Major projects** – all aspects of installations and restorations, tower structures and bells, managing projects, bidding for grants and raising funds, stakeholder and community engagement

Activities

Many of the activities of the Workgroup, like those of the former committees, are invisible to all but the few people involved. We typically respond to about 10 enquiries from ringers, towers, parishes and other stakeholders every month on topics relating to ringers, bells, towers and ringing. Responses may be relatively straightforward for members of the Group but in other instances members of the Group work for long periods with an extended network of specialists and other contacts in order to optimise information and advice. Replies may be needed in very short timescales and some may be in circumstances that require sensitivity and discretion. Enquiries are wide-ranging and demonstrate the scope of the issues faced by ringers during their ringing activities. They come from throughout Britain, Ireland and overseas. Examples have included:

- Visible cracking in a headstock, is it serious?
- Acoustics inside towers
- Bell noise external to towers
- Smoke alarms and fire protection
- Corrosion of a bell frame
- Structural integrity of towers
- “Rehoming” an old bell
- Lightning protection
- Installing a complete new ring of bells
- Replacement bells following a fire
- Requests for financial support
- Advice on fund raising
- Managing bell restoration projects
- Engaging the community in bells projects
- Risk management and insurance for ringers
- Data protection and GDPR
- Safeguarding formalities
- Tower constitution
- Terms of reference for tower captains
- Roles and responsibilities of ringers

Members of the Workgroup participate in meetings and events to share their expertise more widely and to keep up to date with their own knowledge. For example, several members spoke at and participated in the Diocesan Advisory Committee Bells Advisers Conference in June 2018, and Diocesan events on volunteers working with local communities. We have contributed to and reviewed documents being prepared by other organisations such as the Churches Conservation Trust and Historic England.

The CCCBR provides advice and information in the form of Guidance Notes, freely available on the website. With the formation of the Workgroup, a major activity is the revision and expansion of the set of Guidance notes. Priorities have been assigned and this is underway. Note that since the respective committees each had their own numbering scheme which now overlap each other in the

Workgroup, the whole set will be renumbered. The first few will be available early in 2019 on the revised CCCBR website. They will be announced in the Ringing World.

The occasional notes in the Ringing World giving topical advice (*"When did you last do it"*) are being extended from those offered by the Towers and Belfries Committee to encompass activities of the whole Workgroup. They will also be added to the CCCBR website for reference.

The administration of the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund and Fred Dukes International Fund is a responsibility of this Workgroup and 4 Stewards are appointed by the Executive to undertake this role; Ian Oram is continuing his involvement as a Steward. Since June 2018, the following awards have been made:

CCBRF

New grants awarded - 32, total value £27,200 ; these concern 5 rings of 3, 5 of 5, 5 of 6, 12 of 8, 4 of 10 and 1 of 12. Of particular interest is the scheme to rehouse the long unringable 10 from Hanley, Staffs and the first award to a European church at Vernet-les-Bains.

Awards paid - 9, total value £6,750, awarded in March 2017 and 1, value £750 awarded in June 2018.

Fred Dukes International Bell Fund

New grants are due to be awarded in the early part of 2019. There are no outstanding awards to be paid.

Towards the end of 2018, members of the Workgroup spent a few days at Wingrave tower undertaking experimental measurements on the tower, the bells and bell installation to complement the theoretical work that has been underway for some while. The results are now being analysed and will be published when complete. From a bell ringing perspective, bell tower motion affects bell handling. The ultimate aim of this work is to be able to predict theoretically, within practical engineering accuracy, the tower motion that results from ringing bells.

For all the work of the Workgroup, acknowledgement is due for the immense contributions made by members of the Workgroup and specialists. Their expertise is invaluable and it is gratifying when we receive thanks from appreciative recipients. Much of this expertise has been accumulated over many years through both professional and voluntary work.

Plans for next 3 years

The Workgroup will continue its advice, guidance and training in response to enquiries. Arrangements are being put in place to ensure that requests for assistance are efficiently routed to a suitable adviser. Meanwhile comments or questions can be directed to the Workgroup Lead. Revision and addition of Guidance Notes is a major undertaking and we will aim to provide information in new formats, such as webinars and on-line videos as well as traditional text formats.

We will be holding occasional seminars and workshops on topics within the scope of the Workgroup. As part of this, we would like to get to know and work more closely with Guild and Association representatives, officers and members who share the same interests. We are collaborating with the other Workgroups and organisations such as ART wherever our interests converge. We also liaise

and maintain links with other organisations that have related interests – church groups, heritage bodies, and specialist professionals.

We welcome new members to the Workgroup – it is no longer a requirement to be a member of the CCCBR to be a Workgroup member! Please contact the Secretary, Robin Shipp.

Members of CCCBR Committees (until May 2018)

- Tower Stewardship
Ernie de Legh-Runciman (Lancashire Association) Chairman
Michael Hansford (Bath and Wells Diocesan Association)
Julian Hemper (Salisbury Diocesan Guild)
David Mattingley (Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild)
Chris Mew (Coventry Diocesan Guild)
Chris Sharp (Lincoln Diocesan Guild)

- Towers & Belfries
Roland Backhurst BSc Dip Sys Eng (Bath and Wells Diocesan Association)
George Dawson BSc (Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild)
Alan Frost LVO AADip RIBA DCHM (Life Member)
Alison Hodge (Worcestershire and Districts Association)
David Kirkcaldy (Sussex County Association) Chairman
Christopher Povey BSc CEng MICE MCIWEM (Four Shires Guild)
David Roskelly BEng (Veronese, Associazione Suonatori di Campane a Sistema)
Allan R Yalden (Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild)

- Bell Restoration Committee
Patrick Albon (Bedfordshire Association)
John Barnes (Life Member)
Jay Bunyan (Bath and Wells Diocesan Association) Secretary
Ken Davenport (Oxford Diocesan Guild)
Graham Hills (Sussex County Association)
Peter Kirby (Yorkshire Association)
Ian Oram (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths)
Peter Wilkinson (Chester Diocesan Guild) Chairman

- Redundant Bells Committee
Helen Webb
Ian Hastilow (St David's Diocesan Guild)
Tim Jackson (Ex-officio Member)
Julian Newman (Salisbury Diocesan Guild)
Helen Webb (Ladies' Guild)
David Westerman (Peterborough Diocesan Guild)
Robert Wood (University of Bristol Society)

Members of Stewardship & Management Workgroup (joined since June 2018)

Patrick Albon

Roland Backhurst

John Barnes

Jay Bunyan

Tony Crabtree

Ken Davenport

George Dawson

Alan Frost

Tony Goodman (Resigned)

Ian Hastilow (Resigned)

David Hibbert

Graham Hills (Resigned)

Alison Hodge

Peter Kirby

David Mattingley

Chris Mew

Julian Newman

Allen Nunley

Ian Oram (Resigned)

Chris Povey

Ernie de Legh-Runciman

David Roskelly

Chris Sharp

Robin Shipp

Allan Yalden

Peter Wilkinson