

CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup – Annual Report for 2019

Introduction

The Workgroup completed its first full year of operation in 2019. Many of our activities are “behind the scenes” providing advice and guidance in support of ringing and ringers. The Workgroup does not meet regularly but completes its work using whatever methods are appropriate – phone, email, skype, etc. This year we have established a system such that enquiries are “triaged” by one of our “theme leaders” who then respond directly or refer the request on to other specialists in the Workgroup and elsewhere. We have updated several Guidance Notes during the year and these are made available on the CCCBR website. We hope to expand these by using other formats, such as webinars and on-line videos to supplement traditional text formats. We also publish brief topical advice in the Ringing World every month or so.

Activities

Workgroup activities are grouped under 3 themes –

- Tower infrastructure – *essential equipment and installations used for ringing*
- Tower operation – *management and organisation of ringing and ringers*
- Major projects – *bell restoration, fund raising, church and community engagement*

The highlight of the year was the first Westley Award for Church bell maintenance, at the CCCBR conference in September 2019.



David Smith (Member of CCCBR Executive) presenting Simon Burren with his highly commended certificate in Middleham, North Yorkshire.



Tom Westley, Chairman of Westley Group, presenting Ron East from Carlisle, with his winner's certificate at Goldsmiths College

This new award aims to recognise people who have become involved in the maintenance of tower bells in the last 5 years, and show the most commitment to developing and using their own skills and those of others. The judges received 17 nominations and were pleased to see the enthusiasm and scope of the projects with which applicants were involved. We thank the Westley group for their sponsorship of this award, especially since they have already agreed to sponsor a similar award in 2020.

Several questions about tower management are received every week across all the topics that ringers now have to consider – safeguarding, data management, tower funds, insurance, health and safety, and risk assessments.

Enquiries about tower infrastructure have covered a broad range of topics. Several questions have been asked about sound management, inside and outside towers. These questions are often arising from developments around churches that bring more people within the audible range of the bells. Other enquiries have focused on louvres and bird control, lightning conductors, radio mast installation in towers, and appropriate methods of cleaning up significant accumulations of dirt and debris in towers.

Potential sources of funds dominate the enquiries in relation to bell restoration projects. Other questions have been about the faculty process. It is noted that changes were agreed to the Faculty Rules Lists A and B, taking effect from April 2020. Some of the changes do affect works related to bell installations.

Members of the Workgroup maintain links with other relevant organisations such as major insurers, Churches Conservation Trust, Church Buildings Council, and represent the CCCBR at events such as the Diocesan Bells Advisers Conference, the ART conference (Worcester March 2019), and a consultation meeting at Taylors Bell Foundry. At the CCCBR Conference at Goldsmiths College in September 2019, the Workgroup led sessions on safeguarding, sound control, insurance, restoration projects, tower environments, as well as answering questions on the Workgroup display stand.

The Workgroup also oversees the administration of the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund and Fred E Dukes International Bell Fund. The latter fund makes grants only from interest on the capital, approximately £770-800pa at present with the low interest rates prevailing. In 2019, the grants from 3 previous schemes were lapsed, due to the schemes having been cancelled for the foreseeable future, so that more money was available for distribution. Four towers benefitted as summarised in The Ringing World, Issue 5633, 12th April 2019, page 367, as follows:

- Christ Church, Bundaberg, Queensland - grant £250
- The Trinity Tower of the Transitional Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand - grant £2,000
- Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow, New South Wales - grant £1,000
- St George, Vernet-les-Bains, France - grant £750

There were no grants awarded from the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund during 2019.

Future plans

Our overall aims are to encourage and offer advice to help ringers create and maintain good environments in the towers where we ring. As well as the bells and their installations, maintenance and restoration projects, we include the organisation and operation of the tower.

We intend to hold occasional seminars and workshops on topics within the scope of the Workgroup. As part of this, we hope to work more 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 will continue to liaise and maintain links with other organisations that have related interests – church groups, heritage bodies, and specialist professionals.

Members of Stewardship & Management Workgroup during 2019

Patrick Albon

Roland Backhurst

John Barnes (deceased 19th October 2019)

Jay Bunyan – Major Projects Theme Leader smPro@cccbr.org.uk

Tony Crabtree

Ken Davenport

George Dawson (resigned September 2019)

Alan Frost

David Hibbert (resigned June 2019)

Alison Hodge – Workgroup Lead smLead@cccbr.org.uk

Peter Kirby

David Mattingley

Chris Mew

Julian Newman

Allen Nunley

Aveline Perez de Vera (joined September 2019)

Chris Povey

Ernie de Legh-Runciman (resigned September 2019)

David Roskelly – Tower Infrastructure Theme Leader smlnf@cccbr.org.uk

Chris Sharp

Robin Shipp – Workgroup Secretary smSec@cccbr.org.uk
Peter Wilkinson
Peter Woollam (joined September 2019)
Allan Yalden
Vacant – Tower Operation Theme Leader smPro@cccbr.org.uk

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 and numbers are not limited. Please contact the Secretary, Robin Shipp. In particular, we would like assistance with the following specific interests –

- Social media, video compilation, event organisation
- Financial matters - such as fund raising, grants, VAT, gift aid, charity accounts etc
- Restoration projects – bid writing, project management, community engagement, faculties
- Belfry installations – maintenance, inspections, advice (especially in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, northern England)

We take this opportunity to thank all members of the Workgroup for their significant contributions during 2019. In particular we note the passing of John Barnes. Numerous bell restoration projects had benefitted from his personal advice and guidance over many years. We must also thank others who are not full members of the group but who provide specialist advice from their knowledge as professionals and / or voluntary activities.

Alison Hodge

CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup Leader

April 2020