



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH  
**BELL RINGERS**

Registered in England and Wales as a Charity. No. 270036

# Annual Meeting 2024

## Exeter

7th September 2024

## Papers

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Exeter Cathedral  
Photo - John Martin

## From the President

At the last AGM in September, we presented some stark figures of the demographic timebomb that we face. Our current ringing population of about 30,000 grew from a base of young ringers five times larger than what we have now. Of that population, about 60% are over the age of 60, and only about 15% are under the age of 40 (which is not quite 5,000 ringers).

Even if we assume a steady rate of recruitment, if we age that current population, what we are left with is a ringing population cut in half. As importantly, that smaller population will not be spread evenly throughout our ringing areas. Some areas will already be unable to sustain any ringing, because there will not be enough ringers to recruit or train new ringers, and there will not be a base for progressing ringers in that region.



It is fundamental that we put in place fresh sources of recruitment, have a national ongoing campaign to support local efforts, and to have structures in place to train new recruits effectively (so we keep them).

We know from the Ring for the King initiative, that targeted campaigns do work. The scale of effort and teamwork that went into that was large and quite short notice, and there were impacts on some towers who were overwhelmed with new recruits. There are lessons to be learned from this, from what resource it takes to organise this, to how to manage the intakes in a more sustainable way.

The benefits were real; however, we believe that the boost in recruitment from Ring for the King only just compensated for significant reductions in membership through other means.

If we are successful, by 2030 more than half of the ringing population will be people whom we have yet to recruit and teach. Some of them will already be in leadership roles. We need to put in the work now to ensure that these ringers are recruited, trained, and motivated to stay.

We need to increase awareness of bellringing, and pitch it as cultural heritage, and help people to recognise the value that ringers can add to a community. Not everyone who learns about ringing will become bellringers, but we need awareness of ringing to be normalised and be seen as a viable, interesting and fun activity.

Finally, we need to solve the problem of how to sustain our physical environment – the bells we need in order to practice our art – in the face of church closures.

The past year has been spent laying the groundwork for getting these projects underway, and we are pleased to be able to show you the new branding that will be the visual aspect of a sustained marketing and public awareness campaign. This, however, is only a small piece of the research and thinking done with YellowYoYo, and our new Workgroup Leads are working this thinking into their plans. Trials using school lessons in conjunction with the newly launched Touring Tower, and the International Scout and Guide Jamboree are giving us insights and outreach figures to use in planning future events.

The key to this is sustainable recruitment activity, and a dedicated international recruitment portal. While we build the people network that backs this, we must make use of existing networks where we can.

Money is always a thorny issue in ringing because we have a habit of parsimony, and this habit has created a powerful volunteering ethos and quite incredible accomplishments – over time. We are asked to do more and to do it quickly. Being able to invest in professional resource would allow us to accomplish that, and so we are bringing a motion to you to increase the Council affiliation fees. The type of Council that you want is your choice, and I look forward to seeing and discussing that with you soon.

Tina Stoecklin  
President  
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS**  
**Registered Charity No 270036**

The 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Saturday 7th September 2024  
 at West Exe School, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 9JU  
 starting at 2.00 pm.

Will members please sign the roll and be in their seats by 1.50 pm.

**AGENDA**

**Welcome and introduction**

**Opening prayer**

**1. Election of Fellow to the Council**

Christopher Mew  
 Barbara Wheeler

Supporting statements are given on page 7 of the meeting papers

**2. Application to affiliate**

**3. Other changes to affiliation**

**4. Welcome to new members**

**5. Apologies for absence – must be provided in advance.**

**6. In Memoriam.** Page 6 of the meeting papers

**7. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting.** Page 8 of the meeting papers

**8. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**  
 (Please notify the secretary in advance, if possible)

**9. Trustees Annual Report for 2023.** Page 12 of the meeting papers

**10. Accounts for 2023.** Page 17 of the meeting papers

**11. Annual Report of the Executive and Workgroups for 2023 – May 2024.**  
 Page 20 of the meeting papers

**12. Forward Plan for 2025.**

**13. Financial update for 2024 and outline General Fund budget for 2025.**  
 Page 24 of the meeting papers

**14. Election of Trustees: the following nominations have been received.**

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Treasurer:	Fergus Stracey	Alena Wardle	James Kirkcaldy
Ordinary Trustee:	Peter Harrison	David Smith	James Blackburn

I certify that the above are valid nominations. Ernie de Legh-Runciman - Secretary  
 Supporting statements are given on page 7 of the meeting papers

**15. Election of Independent Examiners (2)**

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

**16. Motions.**

Motion A.

That with effect from the close of the 127<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, all Council Stewards shall retire no later than at the end of the ninth Annual Council Meeting after their appointment or election (instead of the sixth Annual Council Meeting), but otherwise in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order W2.2.

That the Council approves the future amendment of Standing Order W2.2 by the Executive to reflect the above change.

Proposed by: E de Legh-Runciman – Secretary

Seconded by: C Whittaker – Ordinary Trustee

Explanatory note:

Each of the Council's Officer roles is subject to a maximum term of service (normally six years) in the interests of good governance. The effect of this motion is to extend the maximum term of service for the Council's Stewards from six years (as applies to other roles) to nine years.

In contrast with other Officers, Stewards act principally as curators of the Council's assets, in some cases taking care of them in their own homes, and do not have significant financial or management responsibilities. A longer maximum term of service is therefore felt appropriate. Extending the maximum term will not prevent the appointment of new Stewards as up to 3 or 4 Stewards can be appointed for each role.

In all cases, the Council can extend the maximum term of any Officer or Steward in a particular case by resolution at a Council meeting and this power remains unchanged.

Motion (B)

1. Change Standing Order F1.1 to: The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £0.40 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership. This change to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
2. Change Standing Order F1.1 to: The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £1.00 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership. This change to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.
3. The Executive are requested to create a new Standing Order aimed at ensuring visibility in the statement of accounts of the Council for the year ended 31st December previous, required at the ACM by Rule 6.1 b) (2), of how the Council has performed as a charity.
4. The Executive are requested to create a new Standing Order aimed at ensuring visibility in the Executive's forward plan and budget for the next year, required at the ACM by Rule 6.1 b) (3), of how sustainable the finances of Council are, and how it plans to use funds to further its objects.

Proposed by: Paul Wotton (Bath & Wells Association of Change Ringers)

Seconded by: Ian Roulstone (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths)

Explanatory note:

Ringling 2030 – the flagship project of the Central Council – is important, because the cost of doing nothing is not just high. The cost of doing nothing will be all current ringers witnessing our unique art blighted by fewer and fewer ringers, a public that doesn't comprehend what we do and is indifferent to the cultural value we add, and a physical environment disappearing through financial pressures. The cost of doing nothing is the end of ringling as we know it. In the future, if ringling is to flourish it must have a solid financial basis.

While much of the work involved in delivering Ringing 2030 will be done by volunteers, some projects will require engagement with professionals, particularly in the three pillar areas of marketing, recruitment, and the ringing environment. Going forward, third parties will be needed to drive key components (branding, unified recruitment platform, marketing campaigns, hosted services). Some of these are things we already pay for to a certain degree and we have to accept that to fulfil our ambitions we will need more of this. Failing to invest in these areas could render projects ineffective and unsuccessful. Therefore, we must ensure that the Council is a sustainable organisation, able to meet its operating costs through affiliation fees, including insurance, key meetings, volunteer expenses, fees and licenses, and at least one part time administrator manage significant project costs from a combination of revenue, donations, sponsorship, and grant funding.

To achieve a solid financial basis, we propose to raise funds through an increase in the affiliation fee, starting this year with an increase to 40p per member, rising to £1 per member from 2026. This will allow associations time for their own financial planning. With these increases, we will achieve a stable income that will allow us to sustain our projects in support of the future of ringing and meet our charitable objectives.

#### 17. Future meetings.

2025: An invitation has been received from the Yorkshire Association  
2026:

#### 18. Any other business.

To be taken if time permits. Items must be notified in advance to the secretary

#### 19. Vote of Thanks

#### 20. Meeting attendance

**Ernie De Legh-Runciman**  
Secretary  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2024



# BELLRINGING

# In Memoriam

The following Council Members died after the report for 2023 was compiled:

**Brynley Alfred Richards**, Southwell  
Diocesan Guild 1978 – 1981, 1984 – 2002,  
East Derbyshire & West Nottinghamshire  
Association 2014 – 2017, attended 24  
meetings, died 7th May 2023

**Roland Ferguson Eccles**, Australia & New  
Zealand Association 1979 – 1990, attended  
10 meetings, died 12 June 2023

**Alan Paul Standley Berry**, Honorary  
Member 1982 – 2000, 2004 – 2007, 2008 –  
2010, Ex-officio Member 2010 – 2014,  
attended 21 meetings, died 11 July 2023

**Jeanne Elizabeth Bottomley**, Honorary  
member 1966 – 1971, attended 4 meetings,  
died 27 May 2023

**David Oliver Knewstub**, Australian & New  
Zealand Association 2002 – 2004, attended  
one meeting, died 10 August 2023

The following Council Members died after the 2023 Council meeting:

**James Linnell**, Peterborough Diocesan  
Guild 1966 – 1972, attended 5 meetings,  
died 15 September 2023

**Giancarlo Tommasi**, Veronese Society 1988  
– 1990, 1996 – 1999, attended 6 meetings,  
died 16 September 2023

**Wendy Piercy (néé Philips)**, Bedfordshire  
Association 1999 – 2011, attended 11  
meetings, died 20 September 2023

**Peter Appleby Trotman**, North American  
Guild alternate 1994 – 1996, member 1996  
– 2008, Honorary member 2008 – 2010,  
Additional member 2010 – 2018, attended  
20 meetings, died 27 January 2024

**Rev. David Lewis Cawley**, Gloucester &  
Bristol Diocesan Association 1993 – 1996,  
attended 3 meetings, died 6 February 2024

**Andrew Johnson**, Winchester & Portsmouth  
Diocesan Guild 2017 – 2019, attended 1  
meeting, died 20 February 2024

**Joseph Edward George (Joe) Roast**, Essex  
Association 1963 – 1972, attended 7  
meetings, died 29 February 2024

**Alan John Smith**, Guildford Guild, 1981 –  
1984, attended 3 meetings, died 11 March  
2024

**Rev. Giles Christopher Galley**, Yorkshire  
Association 1989 – 1999, attended 10  
meetings, died 9 April 2024

**Garry Stephen Barr**, University of London  
Society 1993 – 1999, London County  
Association 1999 – 2007, attended 14  
meetings, died 27 May 2024

**Donald A Trumpler**, North American Guild  
(Alternate member) 1989 – 1992, attended  
1 meeting, died 10 June 2024

**John Robert Mayne**, Middlesex County  
Association and London Diocesan Guild  
1957 – 1966, Honorary member 1968 –  
1989, Hertford County Association 1990 –  
2002, attended 32 meetings, died 23 Jun  
2024

**Hans Rashbrook**, Middlesex County Association  
and London Diocesan Guild, 2023 – 2024,  
attended no meetings, died 8 July 2024

**Alan Robert Bentley**, Honorary member 2008 –  
2010, Additional member 2010 – 2012, Oxford  
Diocesan Guild 2012 – 2015, attended 2  
meetings, died 10 July 2024

**Robert Christopher (Chris) Kippin**, Ancient  
Society of College Youths 1981 – 1990,  
attended 9 meetings, died 18 July 2024

# Supporting Statements

## Fellowship - Barbara Wheeler

When I joined the CC Publications Committee in 1984 (becoming Chairman in 1987) the stock was held at, and distributed from, the Ringing World Office at Seven Corners Press in Guildford. By 1989 the accommodation for the stock allocated by Seven Corners was becoming unacceptable for a number of reasons and we decided that a new home for it must be found. An "invitation to tender" for storage and distribution of the stock was duly published in the Ringing World. This attracted several responses but only one of these, from Barbara Wheeler who was already a Council member, offered everything needed. Barbara was therefore co-opted onto the Committee and after a short transition period the stock was moved to Barbara's house in Morpeth in early 1991. Ever since then Barbara has stored almost all of the stock, and has dealt with all orders and distribution.

There have always been many important, and sometimes time consuming, tasks to be undertaken in order to run a successful CC Publications business. These cover project management, financial management, production, pricing, advertising, sales, marketing and distribution. Many of these have changed very markedly over the years as the printing industry has developed and as new payment methods have become available and most have been carried out "behind the scenes". However, the "public face" of the business centres around advertising, taking orders and payments, and dispatching books, and Barbara has done these things to a very high standard for nearly 35 years. She has devoted a room in her house to storage and has always provided an exceptionally swift, informed, and efficient service to our customers. Dealing with money, packing and dispatching, and keeping track of stock levels and postage charges are all time consuming activities and have been carried out by Barbara to a professional standard and on a daily basis for all of that time. In addition, dealing with sometimes difficult customers, managing bookstalls at CC meetings and at Roadshows, keeping the other Committee members informed, supporting the Committee Chairman and Treasurer, and attending our meetings have all been done consistently well.

Barbara has done exceptional work and will be a very hard act to follow. She is thoroughly deserving of any honour which the Council decides to bestow on her.

John Couperthwaite

## Fellowship - Chris Mew

Since the CRAG reforms were implemented the Council has not seen fit to appoint any new Fellows – the category of membership designed to replace the previous honorific of Life Member. Fellowship is not an honour to be conferred lightly, but rather a recognition of truly exceptional service to the Exercise and also where an individual's expertise continues to be a valuable resource. No ringer is more worthy of consideration than Christopher F. Mew.

Chris was the first President of the Council in the modern era to act upon the need for serious organizational reform. His efforts to bring about change laid firm foundations for the process carried forward by CRAG.

In a distinguished ringing career spanning seven decades Chris excelled in many offices at tower, association and national level – often working quietly behind the scenes to achieve outstanding results. I have personal experience of this during the years that

he was involved with The Ringing World as a director and unpaid helper with numerous projects. His professional management skills helped resolve many tricky situations. He was a key member of the organizing squad for the RW Centenary celebrations in 2011 and a stalwart supporter of The Ringing World National Youth Contest from inception.

Arguably Chris's greatest single contribution at a national level has been his sixteen-year stint as the Central Council's pioneering Safeguarding Expert, during an era when public awareness of safeguarding issues has been greatly magnified. He did a first-rate job of working with the Church, Government and other agencies to make sure that 'best practice' for keeping young and vulnerable people safe was applied effectively in the unique environment of church bell ringing.

For all his many achievements Chris is a genuinely modest person and a true Christian Gentleman. Devoted to his family, kind, loyal and supportive to his friends and colleagues and a real "worker" for all the causes that he believes in. He is also possessed of a wicked sense of humour, which has relieved the tension in many an awkward business meeting. It is my honour to commend him to you now as a candidate for Fellowship of The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Robert Lewis

## Treasurer - Fergus Stracey

Since January 1997 I have run my own General Accountancy Practice, first as a sole trader and incorporated the practice in April 2013. Currently there are two members of staff & myself working in the practice. The practice handles the affairs of approximately 300 small businesses which are a mixture of trades and are a mix of sole traders, partnerships and limited companies. In the past we have acted as Accountants for a few charities. I am a member of ICPA (The Institute of Certified Practising Accountants).

On the ringing front I am Tower Captain & Ringing Master of Plymouth Minster and have been since the death of my predecessor in 2006. I have been a member of Council for ten years, six of which representing The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and four as Treasurer.

## Ordinary Trustee - Peter Harrison

I take great pleasure in nominating Peter for this role. The Executive needs new blood to continue the development started by CRAG a few years ago, and to assist with the formulation and implementation of the further initiatives, notably Ringing 2030.

While excellence in ringing is a bonus rather than a requirement, Peter is certainly an expert ringer with experience both in UK (he is a former Master of the SRCY) and Australia (where he rings all over the place, but is particularly involved in everything from 12-bell ringing to teaching beginners at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney).

He also has the necessary experience in administration, as a recent past President of ANZAB and a member of the committee that has oversight of ANZAB's finances. ANZAB's experience in running numerous training courses for its members at all levels is also likely to be a useful input for the Central Council with its planning for the future of ringing around the world.

Central Council has a huge task ahead of it and needs all the help it can get, and I feel strongly that appointing Peter as a Trustee will prove a big step in the right direction.

David Smith



## Minutes of the 126th Annual Meeting held in The Hold, Ipswich on Saturday 2nd September 2023.

The Chair was taken by The President, Simon Linford.

The President called on the Rev Max Drinkwater to say an opening prayer.

The President advised members that one Society was late in providing payment. As this payment had now been received, he asked the meeting, by a show of hands, if they now had permission to speak and vote at this meeting. This was approved by the meeting.

**Application to Affiliate.** An application to affiliate had been received from The Central European Association, who confirmed that they met the criteria, and had 30 members. The President confirmed that the membership criteria for societies operating outside the British Isles was 25. Peter Scott (Yorkshire Association) mentioned that small societies are subject to a review of their procedures, including a safeguarding policy. Has the Council carried out such reviews of the Central European association. The President stated that such a review was not required, but from his knowledge, the CEA does have such policies. The application was approved by the Council.

**Welcome to new members.** The President gave a welcome to new and returning members (who are indicated in the list at the end of these minutes).

**Apologies for absence.** A number were received and are listed at the end of these minutes.

**In Memoriam.** The Secretary read the names of the following members and former members who have died since the last meeting,

**Bryan John Robert Gross,** Peterborough Diocesan Guild 1993 – 1999, attended 4 meetings, died 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.

**Anthony James Thomas (Tony) Evans,** Peterborough Diocesan Guild 1999 – 2005, attended 5 meetings, Died 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Member of the Towers & Belfries Committee 1999 - 2002

**Frank Thomas Blagrove,** Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild 1957 – 2016, attended 55 meetings, Died 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Member of the Methods Committee 1960 - 2002 (chairman 1975 - 1978). Member of the Records Committee 1960 - 1990 and 1993 - 2008 (chairman 1963 - 1975)

**Jean Jeffery (née Stewart),** Irish Association 1953 – 1960, attended 7 meetings, Died 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Albert Victor Sheppard,** Sussex County Association 1963 – 1969, attended 6 meetings, Died in October 2022

**Lionel Stanley Woods,** Essex Association 1959 – 1960, attended 1 meeting, died 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Eric George Henry Godfrey,** Surrey Association 1978 – 1993, Honorary member 1993 – 2010,

Additional member 2010 – 2011, attended 32 meetings died 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022. He held the posts of Auditor (1979-1997) and as an officer held the post of Treasurer (1997-2005). He was a member of the Administrative Committee (1997- 2005), member of the Ringing Centres Committee 1999 - 2000, and a Director of the Millennium Grants Company which arranged lottery-funded grants for towers ahead of the Millennium.

**Eric J Hitchens,** Salisbury Diocesan Guild 1969 – 1993, attended 24 meetings, died 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Peter Kemp,** Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, 2012 – 2016, attended 3 meetings, died 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Member of the Tower Stewardship Committee 2013 - 2016

**Donald Richard Marshall,** North Wales Guild 1987 – 1993 and 1997 – 2005, attended 14 meetings, died 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Ronald Keith Russ,** Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild 1987 – 1993, attended 6 meetings, died 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Robert Bevis Smith,** Honorary member 1969 – 1993 and 1994 – 2000, attended 28 meetings, died 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. He served on the Education Committee 1972-1978 and 1981-1984.

**Denis Noel Layton,** University of London Society 1956 – 1966, attended 7 meetings, died 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Member of the Education Committee 1959 - 1963

**Harry Poyner,** Shropshire Association 1960 – 1963. Southwell Diocesan Guild 1967 – 1972, attended 7 meetings, died 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Michael John Pomeroy,** Irish Association 1990 – 2002 and 2021 – 2023, attended 9 meetings, died 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Brynley Alfred Richards,** Southwell Diocesan Guild 1978 – 1981 and 1984 – 2002, East Derbyshire & West Nottinghamshire Association 2014 – 2017, attended 24 meetings, died 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Roland Ferguson Eccles,** Australia & New Zealand Association 1979 – 1990, attended 10 meetings, died 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Alan Paul Standley Berry,** Honorary Member 1982 – 2000, 2004 – 2007 and 2008 – 2010, Ex-officio Member 2010 – 2014, attended 21 meetings, died 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Jeanne Elizabeth Bottomley,** Honorary member 1966 – 1971, attended 4 meetings, died 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**David Oliver Knewstub,** Australian & New Zealand Association 2002 - 2004, attended one meeting, died 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

We also remember the following member, whose death has come to light recently:

**John Scott,** Chester Diocesan Guild 1963 – 1966, attended 2 meetings, died 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

*Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.* There were no corrections noted. The meeting approved the minutes, and they were signed by The President.

### Matters arising.

John Harrison (Oxford DG) asked if there was any progress on the recognition of ringing as a performing art by the Arts Council. The President replied that this was no longer being progressed as it was not considered likely to succeed.

Governance Review. Phillip Barnes (Kent County Assn) reported that the final Governance Assessment had now been completed and approved by the Executive. This is to be placed on the Council Website. The impact of the Small Societies has also been reviewed. It was felt that their admission had had a positive impact on the governance process, especially in the area of safeguarding. Jane Wilkinson (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) asked if Council members would have sight of the review before it was published. Mr Barnes thought that this may

delay the process of publication. Robert Perry (Truro DG) advised the Council that Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors have been replaced by Diocesan Safeguarding Officers, where some slightly different safeguarding processes apply.

The President thanked Phillip Barnes and Clyde Whittaker for their work on the Governance Review.

**Trustee Annual Report.** The President introduced the Trustees Annual Report (TAR). Mary Bone (Essex Ass) asked if Section 5.6 (Safeguarding) should be updated considering all the additional work that has been completed since the paragraph was first written. The President would refer this to the Executive.

The Secretary reported on changes to the membership figures in paragraph 7. As of the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, there were 66 affiliated societies and 2 small societies. There was a membership of 2 fellows, 14 ex-officio members, 177 representative members and 22 vacancies. There were 2 representatives from small societies.

The meeting approved the adoption of the Trustees Annual Report

**Accounts.** These were approved by the Executive on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Fergus Stracey presented the accounts. He noted that Caroline Stockman had resigned as an Independent Examiner, leaving Duncan Walker as the sole Independent Examiner. The Treasurer thanked Caroline for the work she had done in the past. Mr Walker has submitted an unqualified report to the Council, which is available on the Council website. The Treasurer also thanked Beryl Norris of Publications and Ian Self of the Friends of the Library for their contribution and thanked John Harrison for his work in distributing the leaflets.

The Treasurer reported that as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the total assets of the Council were £441,667. The General Fund made a loss of £5,583, primarily as a cost of the AGM at Nottingham Trent University. Publications has returned to profit following the pandemic, and has transferred £10,000 into the General Fund for un-restricted use. No grants were paid from the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund, 15 grants were paid from the Bell Restoration fund totalling £11,450 and a grant of £2,500 was paid to the North West Ringing Course. There is no proposal to vary the affiliation fees for 2024.

Fred Bone (Essex Ass) pointed out a small discrepancy between the accounts and notes for the bell restoration fund. The Treasurer acknowledged this as a typo.

Anthony Lovell-Wood (Sailsbury DG) asked about the figures for recent AGMs, and whether they were comparable with previous years. The Treasurer explained that recent figures were affected by the pandemic but felt last year's figures were comparable. Mary Bone (Essex Ass) expanded on the Treasurers comments that recent meeting had included extra events, such as road shows and training, so it was difficult to compare with previous AGMs. It was also felt that the 2023 meeting in Ipswich was a cost-efficient event.

The Treasurer proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Kate Flavell (Surrey Ass). They were accepted by the meeting. The President thanked the Treasurer for his work during the year.



**Executive Report for 2022/2023.** The President introduced the report as printed in the meeting papers. He particularly highlighted the work of the Safeguarding team, who were now working on ringing case studies to be used in the CofE's safeguarding training.

Neal Dodge (Suffolk Guild), asked about progress on the National Ringing Centre. The President responded to say that the project had become more complicated with the decision of the Churches Conservation Trust to move their offices there, and there were complex negotiations with the proposed operator of the pub. There was still a risk that the operator would want to use 'our' barn for a brewery, but the ringing centre was important for the CCT's heritage outcomes.

Mary Bone (Essex Assn) asked about the development of a business plan for the use of the mobile belfry. The President replied that the business plan had not changed but was actually now part of the business plan of the Mobile Belfries Trust, and was a plan that was financially robust. The President added that in his opinion the biggest problem would be towing, especially with the future use of electric vehicles. Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG) reported that their local Diocesan Safeguarding Officer was imposing a certification and training scheme for bell ringers over and above national guidelines. He asked what help was available from the Council in dealing with these proposals. Clyde Whittaker (Middlesex CA and London DG) replied on behalf of the Executive. He gave an update on the Council's safeguarding team. He explained that the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team has circulated the Council's leaflet "From Practice to Perfect" to all Diocesan Safeguarding Officers. Individual dioceses do however have considerable latitude and in 2022 the Council asked for feedback from associations on the stance taken locally. It has published a table summarising this feedback, which associations can use to inform their discussions with their own DSA/DSOs.

Robert Lewis (Middlesex CA and London DG) asked if the Council had looked at policy advice in managing ringers convicted of serious sexual offences. Clyde Whittaker replied that the Council are producing a set of templates for towers/associations who feel that a safeguarding agreement may be needed. Responsibility for developing safeguarding agreements rests with the parish or diocese, and the purpose of the templates is not to supplant this role, but to assist towers in engaging with their PSO or DSA/DSO so that the content of any agreement is appropriate.

Jackie Roberts (Guildford DG) said she thought that the "From Practice to Perfect" leaflet was excellent but felt it would have been helpful if it had been available to ringers before it was sent to DSA/DSOs.

The President mentioned that a template "Code for Ringing" had been produced in consultation with a small number of societies and will be available in the near future for use by associations and towers wishing to develop their own codes.

**Workgroup reports.** Reports were available in the meeting papers.

**Senior Stakeholders Liaison.** The President reported that whilst this Workgroup had now been wound up, the President has offered to continue this role initially on a reactive basis. Jane Wilkinson (SRCY) asked if this role was more effective if the contacts were concentrated through one person. The President agreed that it was not necessarily always the case, but felt that it was working well at present, and would keep a watching brief. The Council is also compiling a contacts list. John Harrison (Oxford

DG) felt that the Senior Stakeholder Liaison function should still continue and should be placed somewhere in the Council's structure. The President assured him that this was in hand.

**Historical and Archive Workgroup.** John Harrison (Oxford DG) presented the report on behalf of Workgroup Leader Chris Ridley. Cath Colman (Suffolk DG) had joined the group. The new ringing history website is now live at: [history.cccbr.org.uk](http://history.cccbr.org.uk). Work will continue in 2024 on the three major areas of work over the past year: relocating the CCCBR Library (see later motion) continuing development of the ringing history website, and capturing images for the pealboard database currently in pilot form. Several vacancies, including that of Library Steward, need to be filled to progress work in some areas. Michael Church (Winchester and Portsmouth DG) pointed out in the past that there had been a Peal Boards Committee of the Council and had this Committee's records been looked at? John Harrison confirmed that he would check. Tristan Lockheart (Leeds University) asked whether vacant posts were being listed on the 'Situations Vacant' page on the Councils website. The President thought they were not but would investigate. Annie Hall (Coventry DG) mentioned that Chris Mew had offered to help with the peal board database. Will Bosworth (Editor, Ringing World) asked if there were any plans to digitise more content of the library. John replied that there are no plans yet.

**Publications.** This was presented by Phillip Green (Lincoln DG). There were no questions.

**Public Relations.** Vicki Chapman (Essex Assn) gave a summary of the recent events surrounding the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III. The Ring for the King campaign was the biggest campaign the Council had ever had, with the biggest media uptake. George Perrins' Discovering Bellringing videos were now available on the Council's YouTube channel and freely available to use for public relations purposes by societies and towers. Alison Devine (Ladies Guild) has been nominated (subject to Executive approval) as the next Public Relations Officer. Jane Wilkinson (SRCY) congratulated Vicki Chapman and her team for all the hard work done over the past year. She asked if details of Operation London Bridge had leaked out via bell ringing. Vicki Chapman assured her that this was not the case.

**Safeguarding.** There were no further questions.

**Stewardship and Management.** Alison Hodge (The Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association) gave an update since May 2023. She mentioned the new online documents and asked Council members to spread the word about them. The Westley Awards are to be reviewed having been running for 5 years. Regrettably there were no applications this year for the award. Alison mentioned that the Workgroup will need a new Lead within the next year and also some new Workgroup members. Mary Bone (Essex Assn) thanked Alison for the amount of work done by the Workgroup. Tim Jones (Devon Assn) felt that there was not really a need for the Westley Award, as people "just got on with it". Alison replied that the purpose of the Award was to encourage younger people in particular. Phillip Green (Lincoln Diocesan Guild) first declared an interest as a printer of CCCBR publications, then noted that printed copies of documents were still requested by ringers. Alison replied that copies may be printed from the online information and the Group was investigating

how online documents could be viewed using electronic readers and / or made available using 'print on demand'. The Group is concerned about holding stocks of pre-printed documents that may become out of date or not provide all the information now necessary. Philip Green replied that he felt that the 'Manual of Belfry Maintenance' was not out of date and was an extremely valuable printed publication.

**Technical & Taxonomy.** Tina Stoecklin presented an update, including a document (runbook) to record software, minor improvements to the website, online to print options for publications, and a market scan of association websites. First priority is to move the server that contains the CCCBR website (and other websites) to a new hosting provider, as the current one is now too expensive. Also ongoing is a task to fill out the runbook for all CCCBR-controlled software. As part of the Ringing2030 objectives, there is a need to recruit and onboard project teams for the digital projects. Tina mentioned that they would like to recruit people such as association webmaster or similar as well as other skills. Graham Jenkins (Chester DG) asked if there was a drive to push harmonisation amongst association websites. Tina explained that it was not a drive to force associations to do anything but to see what can be offered centrally to make website management easier and more consistent.

**Volunteering and Leadership.** Paul Wotton presented the Workgroup update. The ringing survey is in progress. Momentum is also being maintained on posters, promoting decent striking and the courses (inc. the proposed new South West Course). Also, they are looking to develop a leadership course. Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG) mentioned that there was a shortage of helpers on the North West Course, possibly due to it being a week before the Bradfield course, and urged the organisers of new courses to steer clear of other events. Simon Dixon (Peterborough DG) asked about leadership training at a level above tower captains (e.g. at Branch and Association level). Paul replied that this would be discussed. John Harrison (Oxford DG) suggested the old Education Committee publication 'Getting it Right' may be consulted. Elaine Scott (Yorkshire Assn) asked if thought had been given to train helpers. Paul mentioned that there was a document available.

**Schools and Youth Groups.** Universities and Colleges Group. Ian Roulstone presented the update and discussed the creation of the University ringers' website hub, as described in the report. The intention is to have a working site by summer 2024. They are looking for volunteers to support the creation of the hub.

The adoption of the reports was carried.

**Forward Plan.** The President presented the Forward Plan on behalf of the Executive, referring to the documents in the meeting papers. The new 'Three Pillars' strategy was outlined (Publicity and Marketing, Recruitment and Development and Quality Environment). Each pillar was described in further detail. The Three Pillars in turn drive the Forward Plan, with the President-elect Tina Stoecklin having been involved in the development of the Forward Plan, including using new project management software to plan the various projects and interdependencies. There was likely to be a realignment of the structure of the Workgroups to match the Pillars, with a need for more recruitment of personnel into specific projects. A ringer with professional experience of strategic planning for Dioceses and Cathedrals had given input into this strategy development and had stressed the importance of being able to measure

progress. Tristan Lockheart (Leeds Univ) then presented details of the Ringing Survey being developed by the V&L Workgroup, including preliminary results of some beta testing with three Districts. The key themes from the survey were the need for mutual support, to provide opportunities, to work around time constraints and to be an active ringer. The President then outlined the "Business as Usual" ongoing work, which includes developing the ringing case studies for CofE safeguarding training, publishing a series of articles to explain different ringing insurance scenario series, Guidance on churches and bells at risk and the second year of the National Call Change Competition. Anthony Lovell-Wood (Sailsbury DG) pointed out that in relation to the proposed conference for association Treasurers some guilds have separate Treasurers for their Bell Restoration Funds so these should also be invited. The President was aware of this. Nick Elks (Peterborough DG) felt that the Council should not be afraid to spend money to advance ringing. The President agreed with this sentiment. Mary Bone (Essex Ass) asked if the slides would be available on the website. This will be arranged. Dickon Love (Dove Steward) suggested an annual survey with a net promoter score. Will Bosworth (RW Editor) suggested that, as per a CRAG recommendation, that the Council should employ paid staff. The Forward Plan was adopted by the Council on a show of hands.

**Financial Update.** The Treasurer presented this item. There are currently two small societies, whose subs will be reduced to £10/annum. £8,613 has been paid to YellowYoYo over the past two years, with some more expenditure in the future. £4,370 was paid for the production of the Discovering Bellringing videos, paid from the unspent Ringing Remembers grant, leaving a balance of £11,236 of those monies. The Council is holding £8,013 in donations to the Mobile Belfry, and a request had been received to transfer a further tranche to the Mobile Belfries Trust. This will be discussed at the next Executive meeting. £900 was paid to ART for admin support for the Ring for the King project. Amazon Smile have discontinued their charity donations and 31:8 safeguarding support is now available to affiliated societies (access information via the Councils website. Microsoft did offer £2600/annum support for website hosting, which has now been withdrawn. An alternative has been identified at a cost of £660/annum. The outline of the 2024 budget is in the meeting papers.

It was anticipated that there will be some spending from reserves required, which will include for Ringing 2030, the move of the library, new Rolls of Honour book, printing of publications, Autumn 2024. The Council holds at present cash reserves of £199,889. The reserves policy is to hold £75,000, which leaves an available reserve of approximately £125,000 available. There were no questions.

#### Elections of Trustees.

**President.** Tina Stoecklin, proposed by Linda Garton (Bedfordshire Ass), seconded by Dorothy Hall (Oxford Soc). Tina was elected unopposed.

**Deputy President.** Vicki Chapman, proposed by David Smith (ANZAB), seconded by Mary Bone (Essex Ass). Vicki was elected unopposed.

**Ordinary Trustee.** Alison Hodge, proposed by Rhona McEune (Barrow & District Soc), seconded by Chris Povey (Four Shires Guild) and Ian Roulstone, proposed by Paul Flavell (Surrey Ass), seconded by Phillip Barnes (Kent County Ass) were nominated. The voting, after

a paper ballot, was Ian Roulstone 60 votes, Alison Hodge 59 votes, with 8 abstentions/spoil papers. Ian was declared elected.

**Election of Independent Examiners.** Two candidates were proposed. Duncan Walker, nominated by Mary Bone (Essex Ass), seconded by Jackie Roberts (Guildford DG) and Tim Payne, nominated by James Kirkcaldy (Devonshire Guild), seconded by Charlotte Boyce (Devonshire Guild). As there were no further nominations, Duncan and Tim were declared elected.

#### Motions

**Motion A.** Jim Benner (Guild of Railway Ringers) proposed, seconded by Ernie de Legh-Runciman (Ex-Officio):

The Annual Subscription of each registered Small Society shall be £10.

Tristan Lockheart (Leeds Uni) asked if we were setting this fee too low? Jim Benner pointed out that this was in line with the change of the affiliation fees in 2022. The motion was carried, with one vote against and two abstentions.

**Motion B.** David Kirkcaldy (Sussex County Assn) proposed, seconded by Kate Flavell (Surrey Assn):

The number of Representative Members to which each Affiliated Society is entitled under Rule 5.4 shall be based on its Society Membership as follows:

- a) Society Membership up to 200 members = one Representative Member
- b) Society Membership 201 – 400 members = two Representative Members
- c) Society Membership over 400 members = three Representative Members

David Kirkcaldy (Sussex Ass) introduced the motion, which was in line with the CRAG reform process. The President outlined the process he would follow for proceeding with the motion to allow fair debate, which might include some indicative votes. The President then asked for a show of hands for all those who needed to hear the arguments for and against reduction before being able to make up their minds. The show of hands indicated a considerable number.

David Smith (ANZAB) felt that the reasons that CRAG proposed a reduction may not be valid now. He suggested proxy voting to reduce the need for all reps to attend. But he thought the Council needs more ambassadors to spread the word of the Council. He also pointed out that Council Members were a rich source of talent and noted that the number of people needed to implement our forward plans would increase.

Peter Scott (Yorkshire Ass) endorsed David Smith's comments. He noted that a CRAG theme was to increase the Council's relationship with ringers across the country.

Phillip Barnes (Kent County Ass) gave a resume of the CRAG vision. He felt that the modern Council had reinvented itself, but still felt that the main purpose of the Council to scrutinise the work of the Executive was not being fully done. However, he felt that Council Representatives were not doing a good job in representing the Council to their members. He also would like to see suggestions of some form of ringing festival, incorporating the Council meeting, re-investigated.

Tristan Lockheart (Leeds Uni) had not yet seen a plan as to how we will recruit Workgroup members with a reduction in the number of

Reps. He also felt that a reduction in Reps would cut down the opportunities for younger ringers to get involved with the Council.

David Parfrey (Bath and Wells DA) liked the idea of a ringing festival. He thought that the reduction of members may be in danger of setting up a closed society. He suggested changing the term 'Representative Members' to 'Representatives'.

Annie Hall (Coventry DG) felt that during covid the Council was absolutely invaluable to ringing. She is delighted to see the number of newer younger representative members. To reduce the membership numbers would be a mistake.

Geoff Horritt (Hertfordshire County Ass) felt that all the CRAG changes made so far has been beneficial to the Council. But he felt that a reduction of Reps would not be of benefit. He felt that a reduction of Reps would cause difficulties in communication with grass roots ringers.

Peter Harrison (ANZAB) liked the idea of a ringing festival. He felt that a reduction of representative members would cause problems of representation of overseas societies.

Nick Elks (Peterborough DG) asked if reduced representative meeting would be open to non rep observers.

Clyde Whittaker (Middlesex CA and London DG) pointed out that attendance at Council meetings had dropped by about 30% over the past 20 years, together with a reduction of the length of the meeting. He pointed out that this motion was not being put forward by the Executive, but as something the Executive felt the Council should vote on. He pointed out that CRAG did not ask for a reduction of size, but suggested the Council look at it. He added that the Council needed to decide what sort of Council meeting we need, and whether a reduction of the number of Reps risked cutting off the green shoots of new members.

Phillip Green (Lincoln DG) was against the proposal, due the geographical size of some associations.

Jane Wilkinson (SRCY) thought that the reduction of Reps was a retrograde step.

John Harrison (Oxford DG) felt that opting for the status quo missed the opportunity to rethink how the Council operated and its relationship with other ringers. He felt that the Executive needed scrutiny, but a membership of 200 cannot do this job well.

The President put the motion to the vote. 35 voted in favour of the motion, a larger majority against the motion and 8 abstentions. The President concluded that as a two thirds majority was needed to pass a rule change, this had not been met and the motion had been defeated.

**Motion C** Phillip Barnes (Kent County Ass) proposed, and Beverly Faber (NAGCR) seconded:

The Council endorses the paper from the Workgroup Leader of the Historical & Archive Workgroup exploring the options for future siting of the Council Library and supports the migration of the Library to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust on such commercial terms as the Council Trustees may negotiate and agree.

In proposing the motion, Phillip Barnes (Kent County Ass) explained why the Executive came to the decision to support the motion. Enid Roberts (ANZAB) spoke in favour of the motion.

Robert Perry (Truro DG) asked about security of tenure and legal advice, He was assured this was in hand. Andrew Wilby (ASCY) declared he was a Trustee of the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust. He then said the Loughborough building was in a period of major restoration (supported by the National Lottery). They are expanding their collections, and the Council's library is very welcome.

The Council voted in favour of the motion, with none against and no abstentions.

**Future Meeting.** The 2024 meeting will be hosted by The Devonshire Guild on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024, and an invitation has been received from the Yorkshire Association for 2025.

**Any Other Business**

Linda Garton (Bedfordshire Ass) said that her association was undertaking a review of their structure and asked whether it might be possible for next year's meeting weekend to include some form of networking/brainstorming event on association structures.

Mary Bone (Essex Ass) thanked the Executive for all their work in the past year.

The President thanked the team for organising the event, and declared the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

**Attendance:**

The attendance figures for the meeting are shown at the end of these minutes

The following members of The Council were present at the meeting, having indicated their attendance by signing the role:

- Fellows:** Alan Frost, David Kelly.
- Ex-officio (non-voting):** Ernie de Legh-Runciman\*\*, Alan Glover, Paul Jopp, Catherine Lane\*, Simon Linford, Dickon Love\*\*, Alan Regin, Fergus Stracey, Paul Wotton.
- Ancient Society of College Youths:** Richard Allton, Andrew Wilby.
- Australian & New Zealand Association:** Peter Harrison, David Smith, Enid Roberts\*
- Bath & Wells Diocesan Association:** Matthew Higby, David Parfrey,
- Bedfordshire Association:** Patrick Albon, Linda Garton, Richard Horne.
- Beverley & District Society:** Rosina Baxter, James Blackburn.
- Cambridge University Guild:** David Richards, Richard Smith.
- Carlisle Diocesan Guild:** Jayden Milby\*
- Chester Diocesan Guild:** Carole Hallam, Graham Jenkins#, Peter Wilkinson.
- Coventry Diocesan Guild:** Annie Hall, John Newbold, Tracey Newbold, Joy Pluckrose.
- Derby Diocesan Association:** Andrew Hall, Susan Hall,
- Devon Association:** Tim Jones.
- Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association:** Howard Smith, Barbara Wheeler.
- Durham University Society:** Phil Hughes.
- Ely Diocesan Association:** Philip Bailey, Lynne Hughes\*\*, Sue Marsden, Daniel Stevens.
- Essex Association:** Fred Bone, Mary Bone\*\*, Vicki Chapman, Martin Jones.
- Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association:** Bob Blanden\*,
- Guild of Clerical Ringers:** Revd Max Drinkwater\*.
- Guild of Devonshire Ringers:** Charlotte Boyce\*, Barbara Hemsley\*, James Kirkcaldy, Alena Wardle.
- Guildford Diocesan Guild:** Jackie Roberts,

**Hereford Diocesan Guild:** Revd Anthony Ellis, Abi Pugh.

**Hertford County Association:** Stuart Brant, Tony Crowther, Geoff Horritt, Margaret Horritt.

**Irish Association:** Niamh Hickey\*, Don McLean.

**Kent County Association:** Phillip Barnes, Neil Jones\*, Alexander Runting\*, Stephanie Runting\*.

**Ladies Guild:** Allison Devine, Rhiannon Pugh, Elizabeth Smith.

**Lancashire Association:** Beth Ingham, Andrew Kayll, Simon Percy\*

**Leeds University Society:** Tristan Lockheart.

**Leicester Diocesan Guild:** Sally Brown\*, Carol Franklin, Steve Millington.

**Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconry Society:** Stephen Askew, David Towell.

**Lincoln Diocesan Guild:** Philip Green, Chris Turner.

**Liverpool University Society:** Martyn Bristow.

**Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association:** Andrew Phillips\*, Helen Phillips

**Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild:** Sonia Field, Robert Lewis, Clyde Whittaker.

**North American Guild:** Eileen Butler, Beverly Faber, Christian Haller.

**North Wales Association:** Harvey Plows\*

**Norwich Diocesan Association:** Raymond Harwood, Mary Jones\*

**Oxford Diocesan Guild:** John Harrison, Lucy Hopkins Till, Graham John, Alan Marchbank, Tim Pett.

**Oxford Society:** Dorothy Hall.

**Oxford University Society:** Craig Robertson.

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild:** Simon Dixon, Alistair Donaldson\*, Nick Elks,

**St Agatha Guild:** Anne Bray.

**St Martin's Guild:** Richard Andrew, James Ramsbottom.

**Salisbury Diocesan Guild:** Robert Crighton, Anthony Lovell-Wood,

**Scottish Association:** Tina Stoecklin.

**Shropshire Association:** Paul Lewis, Ann Williams.

**Society of Royal Cumberland Youths:** Ian Roulstone, Jane Wilkinson.

**South African Guild:** James Champion.

**Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild:** Jim Crabtree, Chris Glenton,

**Suffolk Guild:** Chris Birkby, Cath Colman, Neal Dodge.

**Surrey Association:** Kate Flavell, Paul Flavell, Noel Gibbin, Jason Hughes.

**Sussex County Association:** Sue Gadd, David Kirkcaldy, Rob Lane, Stephanie Pendlebury.

**Truro Diocesan Guild:** Robert Perry, Ian Self,

**University of Bristol Society:** Elva Ainsworth\*\*

**Veronese Association:** David Roskelly.

**Welsh Colleges Society:** Rhiannon Meredith\*

**Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild:** Rachael Barber\*, Michael Church, Mike Hopkins Till, Nick James\*

**Worcestershire & Districts Association:** Alison Hodge, James Mort, Chris Tennant, Elizabeth Tennant\*

**Yorkshire Association:** Barrie Dove, Simon Plows, Elaine Scott, Peter Scott, Andrew Slade\*

**Guild of Railway Ringers:** Jim Benner.

**Apologies were received from:**

**Ex-officio (non-voting):** Tim Jackson, David Mattingley, Allen Nunley, Ian Oram, Christopher Ridley,

**Ancient Society of College Youths:** Colin Newman,

**Barrow & District Society:** Rhona McEune.

**Bath & Wells Diocesan Association:** Michael Hansford, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan.

**Carlisle Diocesan Guild:** Duncan Walker.

**Chester Diocesan Guild:** Tom Nestor,

**Derby Diocesan Association:** Glen Fiddy, Gill Hughes.

**East Derby & West Nottinghamshire Association:** Edward Sterland.

**Four Shires Guild:** Chris Povey.

**Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association:** Simon Edwards, Derek Harbottle, Richard While.

**Guildford Diocesan Guild:** John Couperthwaite, Deb Margason-Baker.

**Kent County Association:** Caroline Stockmann.

**Lancashire Association:** Sam Brook, Cate Gardner,

**Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconry Society:** Stuart Hutchieson,

**Lincoln Diocesan Guild:** Chris Sharp,

**Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association:** Matthew Turner.

**Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild:** Hans Rashbrook\*,

**North Wales Association:** Beverley Furniss,

**Norwich Diocesan Association:** Jo Belsten\*

**Society of Royal Cumberland Youths:** Joseph Waters\*

**Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild:** Graham Hayward,

**Sussex County Association:** Philip Pawley,

**Veronese Association:** Michele Giovanni Cambareri,

The following societies were not represented, and no apologies were presented:

Central European Association, Dorset County Association, National Police Guild, North Staffordshire Association, St David's Diocesan Guild, Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Guild, University of London Society, Lilliputters Guild

KEY \* - New member, # - returning member, \*\* - Existing member transferring to new role

Attendance Figures	
Voting Societies:	
Represented	57
Not represented	9
Total	66
Small Societies:	
Represented	1
Not represented	1
Total	2
Total Societies	68
Members in attendance:	
Fellows	2
Ex-Officio	8
Voting Representatives	133
Small Societies	1
Total Attendance	144

# Trustees' Annual Report for 2023

## 1. Legal and Administrative Information

### 1.1 Charity

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers ("the Council") was founded in 1891 and is a registered charity, no.270036. Its address is that of its Treasurer for the time being, currently 136 Milehouse Road, Plymouth, PL4 0EA. The constitution and conduct of the Council is governed by its Rules, last revised in May 2018, amended September 2022.

### 1.2 Trustees

The Council's Trustees during 2023 were as follows:

President	Mr S Linford (Until 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023) Dr T Stoecklin (From 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023)
Deputy President	Mr D Kirkcaldy (Until 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023) Mrs V Chapman (From 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023)
Secretary	Mr E de Legh-Runciman
Treasurer	Mr F M S Stracey
Ordinary Trustee	Mr P Barnes (Until 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023) Prof I Roulstone (From 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023)
Ordinary Trustee	Mr C R Whittaker
Ordinary Trustee	Ms B Faber
Ordinary Trustee	Mrs C M A Lane

### 1.3 Principal Agents and Advisors

The Council's bankers are Lloyds Bank plc, Butler Place Branch, 1 Butler Place, Westminster, London, SW1H 0PR. Its Independent Examiners are Mr D Walker & Mr T Payne. Its insurers are Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW.

## 2. Objectives and Activities

### 2.1 Charitable Objects (as defined in Rule 3.2):

To advance the practice, heritage and appreciation of bell ringing as an enjoyable mental and physical exercise and unique performing art for the public benefit of both church and community, in particular but not exclusively by:

#### *Communications and Relationships*

- encouraging the growth and public appreciation of bell ringing;
- representing the interests of bell ringing and ringers through promoting the development of strong relationships with the church, stakeholders, the media and others outside the bell ringing community;
- facilitating communication and cohesion amongst ringers and bell ringing societies to assist ringers in supporting each other and achieving their bell ringing objectives;
- using its efforts to foster the continuing recruitment and retention of ringers;

#### *Learning and Development*

- promoting excellence in ringing by encouraging relevant technical and leadership training;

#### *Stewardship and Management*

- encouraging sources of funding, products, expertise and facilities to support ringing and the availability of bell installations;
- sharing, promoting, and advising on best practice relating to the maintenance and improvement of bell installations and training facilities;
- promoting best practice relating to statutory compliance, safety and governance in relation to ringing;

#### *Technical and Taxonomy*

- defining and publishing technical standards in bell ringing;
- encouraging research and innovation in the advancement of bell ringing, its methodologies, tools and technologies;

#### *Historical and Archive*

- promoting the availability and appreciation of historic resources, publications and artefacts relating to the heritage of bell ringing and the role of individual ringers.

### 2.2 Public Benefit

The public benefits from the following areas of activity of the Council:

- the promotion of public worship by the ringing of church bells;
- the preservation of the tradition and heritage of change ringing;
- the encouragement and promotion of high standards of ringing;
- the provision of financial and specialist knowledge in the support of belfry repairs and maintenance;
- the provision of guidance and specialist knowledge with regard to health and safety, safeguarding, noise control, data protection, fire risk assessment and insurance matters, as they relate to ringers and ringing;
- the preparation and publication of educational and training materials.

## 3. Structure, Governance and Management

### 3.1 Executive

The Executive is responsible to the members, through the annual meeting, for the general running of the Council. It holds regular meetings during the year and is in contact by electronic means between meetings. Executive members, who are also the Trustees, are directly elected by the members. They retire in rotation and are limited to a maximum of six years on the Executive unless the members resolve otherwise at an annual meeting. The

Executive appoints the workgroup leaders and individual Executive members act as sponsors for workgroups.

### 3.2 Workgroups

The Council has seven Workgroups: (1) Volunteer and Leadership; (2) Historical and Archive; (3) Public Relations; (4) Stewardship and Management; (5) Technical and Taxonomy; (6) Young Ringers – Schools and Youth Groups; (7) Young Ringers – Universities and Colleges. Most of the work of the Council is carried out by these Workgroups. Other activities are carried out by Stewards and other volunteers who look after, inter alia, safeguarding, performance recording, equality and diversity monitoring and advice, and publications.

The role and duties of the seven workgroups were analysed during a consultation exercise in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023, with a new workgroup structure proposed for approval via a change to Standing Orders. This was taken to the first Executive Meeting in 2024. The purpose of this was to better deliver on the Ringing 2030 Programme and establish clearer lines of reporting for Stewards and other volunteers.

### 3.3 Membership

The Council's membership comprises Representative Members (elected or appointed by affiliated societies); Small Society Representatives (elected or appointed by Registered Small Societies); the trustees, stewards and workgroup leaders who shall be ex-officio members if not otherwise members; and Fellows. Only Representative Members and those Fellows who were elected prior to 28 May 2018, may vote at an annual meeting. Applications by societies to affiliate are approved at an annual meeting. Applications to become a Registered Small Society are approved in accordance with the Rules and Standing Orders.

## 4. Progress and Achievements in 2023

2023 was a year which saw the leadership of the Central Council change, with Simon Linford standing down after four years as President, and Tina Stoecklin stepping into the role. It is testament to the clarity of the Council strategy and strength of the Workgroups that the Council can go through such a transition without much effect on day-to-day activities. Vicki Chapman, the Council's PR Officer who has been closely involved in many of the initiatives of the previous few years has become the Deputy President, reinforcing that continuity.

The year saw one of the greatest publicity and recruitment opportunities that ringing has had in recent times, and although it was not of our own making, the ringing community supported the Coronation of King Charles very well and the Council played a major role in coordinating the media coverage and supportive PR and recruitment efforts. A campaign called "Ring for the King" was launched in 2022, and the media enthusiastically picked up on it as the Coronation approached.

The Council's PR Workgroup worked with the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) to create a single website for

media and individual interest in Ring for the King which then became a portal through which those interested in learning to ring could enquire. Around 2000 enquiries were sent through to towers, branches and associations, but this was probably just a small part of the total number of people who were attracted to ringing as part of the campaign. Likewise; although the Council's leaders, and Vicki Chapman in particular, did countless interviews with local and national media, many other bellringers got coverage in their local areas.

The process of sending central enquiries to local teachers exposed weaknesses and inconsistencies of how ringing training operates. In particular the fragmented 'journey' someone interested in learning to ring may find in different places. This is something that the Council intends to address in its *Ringing 2030* programme, which is discussed more fully below.

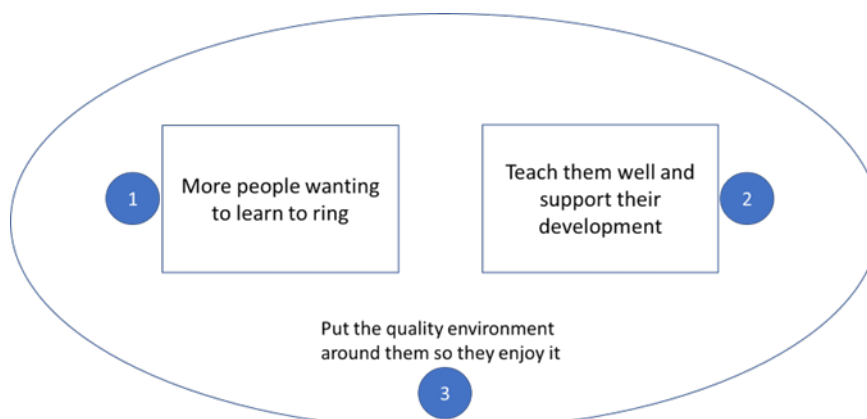
The relationship with The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) remains strong, recognising ART's strategic focus on training ringing teachers and ringers. ART's objectives are strategically aligned with the Council's charitable objects and further collaboration can be expected in future years to support delivery of the Ringing 2030 project.

The Council holds a regular tri-partite meeting with the Association of Ringing Teachers and the board of The Ringing World. Matters of mutual interest are discussed and the parties look for opportunities to work together and promote each other's activities. This is in addition to frequent, less formal, meetings and discussions around defined project where closer working brings mutual benefit.

Another strategic partner is the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), which sees bells as an important part of attracting visitors to its heritage assets. Just before the suspension of ringing, due to Covid, the Council was about to launch a major recruitment campaign in association with the CCT. That relationship is getting stronger at a time when an increasing number of churches with bells are heading into their care. Unfortunately, a project to create a new national ringing centre as part of the CCT's development of the Old Black Lion in Northampton has not proved to be viable, but the CCT is on notice that a national ringing centre in one of their churches could be a possibility at some point in the future.

At the Nottingham AGM in 2022, the Trustees announced the aforementioned "Ringing 2030" programme - a major set of projects to create a sustainable future for change ringing, reversing negative trends and building on many positive initiatives. Ringing 2030 is about considering what ringing needs to be like in 2030, what needs to change in order to get there, and then making sure that change is effected. This led to a strategic review undertaken by the Council's Executive through 2023, culminating with presentation of the new "Three Pillars Strategy" at the Council AGM in September. The three pillars of the strategy are:

The Trustees and Executive delegate much of the work of delivering Ringing 2030 to the Workgroups, with regular progress reports from those Workgroups. Each Workgroup has an Executive Sponsor from the Trustees whose role is to ensure that activities are aligned with the Objects of the



The Three Pillars Strategy

charity and that any issues and difficulties can be resolved quickly. One of Tina Stoecklin's first actions on becoming President was to launch an extensive consultation about the strategic focus of each Workgroup and align them either with the Ringing 2030 pillars, or to focus on supporting ongoing obligations and services that the Council already provides (maintenance of digital and physical archives, advice services, safeguarding and so on).

Recruitment of new volunteers towards Ringing 2030 projects occupied much of the latter part of the 2023, and continues. Emphasis has been placed on recruiting younger volunteers into the projects, with appropriate levels of mentorship and support. This will help ensure sustainability of Workgroup activities, but also help train future leaders within ringing.

The Trustees and Executive are held to account by the members, who in turn are elected from the Affiliated Societies. All Affiliated Societies are involved in promoting ringing to the general public broadly in line with the Objects of the charity. This process of 'holding the Executive to account' is considered to be a principal purpose of the Council's AGM.

At the 2022 AGM it was noted that with the delegation of virtually all executive responsibilities to the Executive and Workgroups, there was not actually much work to be done by the AGM, which had become approximately four hours of listening to reports without any votes on policy. Consultations on potentially reducing the size of the Council, i.e. reducing the number of members representing Affiliated Societies, had been undertaken in advance of the 2022 meeting and showed a range of opinions, which were debated at the 2023 meeting.

The conclusion of a relatively long debate was the Council should not reduce the number of members, with arguments such as the value of meeting to exchange views, and the opportunity that having more members gives to younger ringers to be on the Council, carrying much sway. (Note that by a vote in 2022 the affiliation fees to the Council is no longer based on the number of Representatives, but on the membership of each Affiliated Society.)

The Council continues to make progress on projects which are intended to expand the reaches of the charity and increase engagement with the public.

- Mobile Belfry**

The new mobile belfry will make it easier to take ringing demonstration to schools and large events was completed and demonstrated at the AGM in Nottingham. It has been going through a process of refinement and a specialist trailer manufacturer was engaged to design the trailer and erection mechanism that is critical to its success. It is expected to be completed and commence public engagements in the spring of 2024. The Trustees decided that the ownership and management of the Mobile Belfry was best combined with two other existing mobile belfries, so the project will be completed in the Mobile Belfries Trust (formerly the Charmborough Trust).
- Rebranding of ringing**

As an early part of the Ringing 2030 programme, the Council has engaged a branding and marketing agency, Yellowyoyo, to help understand how bellringing should be described and positioned with the general public in order to increase awareness and appreciation of the skill involved and to attract new ringers from a diverse range of backgrounds. This is including a rebranding which the Council expects to launch in 2024. This will then be supported by various targeted marketing campaigns on which Yellowyoyo is advising. The Council Executive is anticipating considerable expenditure on this programme, but it is critical to the future development of ringing.
- International Scout and Guide Jamboree**

Planning began, with close cooperation with the Essex Association of Change Ringers, for bringing the Mobile Belfry to the Jamboree, along with promotional material about bellringing. It is intended that the Jamboree, scheduled for July 2024 will be a trial of the new rebranding, as well as an early outing for the Mobile Belfry. It is also

expected to provide a “playbook” to assist with replicating such an event elsewhere in the future.

The President’s Blog, published regularly, continues to be a valuable and popular channel for connecting the activities of the Council with the wider ringing population. It exploits all the media channels the Council has available to it and has done much to raise the profile of the Council. The Council makes good use of its media channels, with regular news stories promoted by its Workgroups. The Council uses X and Facebook in particular to spread messages beyond the ringing community and engage with other partners and groups.

Safeguarding is critical to public participation in ringing and is something that the Church also considers to be of paramount importance. Through 2023 Church of England dioceses continued to implement the new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework along with strengthened safer recruitment procedures. Whilst the new Framework is designed to support the needs of believers, who comprise the vast majority of those who take part in church activities, the Church recognises that bellringers come from diverse backgrounds and that the future of ringing as a performing art depends on it being an open and inclusive activity, which welcomes all regardless of faith.

The Council therefore continued its engagement with individual dioceses and with the Church of England’s National Safeguarding Training and Development team, who plan to include specific scenarios related to bell ringing, submitted to it by the Council, in the next edition of its “Basic Awareness” training course to help ensure that training offered to ringers is both relevant and inclusive.

To help promote a better understanding of ringing among diocesan safeguarding advisers, the National Safeguarding Team has continued to promote the Council’s booklet “From Practice to Perfect – How Church bell Ringers are trained, safeguarded and organised”.

During 2022 and 2023 the Council developed a template code of conduct for ringing, the “Code for Ringing”, which was reviewed by a number of ringing organisations and dioceses over the summer of 2023. The final code was formally adopted by the Council in January 2024 and has been issued by the National Safeguarding Team to all Church of England dioceses. The Code is an accessible, checklist-style template that sets out in plain English, the values of the ringing community on matters of safeguarding and behaviour. It is designed to be used by towers, parishes and dioceses who wish to develop their own codes of conduct.

In developing resources on safeguarding policy the Council received valuable advice from Thirtyone:Eight, the Safeguarding charity and from the stakeholder engagement team at the Disclosure and Barring Service for England and Wales.

The Trustees of the Central Council are confident that progress and achievements will continue to be made across all the Council’s stated Objects. This is assuming that the level of volunteering continues to be at least what it is now, with ringers stepping forward to lead

Workgroups, be working members of Workgroups, and undertake other roles that support the Council’s work.

## 5. Statement of Policies

### 5.1 Reserves

(i) General Fund – the balance on the General Fund is invested to produce income which, together with member societies’ affiliation fees, provides sufficient funds to support the work and activities of the Council. The balance also facilitates cash flow and enables the development of new projects and initiatives. The Trustees have agreed that a minimum of £75,000 needs to be kept as a reserve in the general fund. This is in order to cover three years of overheads, provide adequate cash flow and give a reasonable level of contingency against any unforeseen financial risks. This fund is unrestricted.

(ii) Education Courses Fund – the balance provides cash flow to enable the Volunteer and Leadership Workgroup to run various training courses; in general the costs are recouped from attendees. This is an unrestricted designated fund.

(iii) Bell Restoration Fund – the balance is fully allocated to bell restoration projects and paid on satisfactory completion of the work. Grants are made in proportion to the types of applications received and in accordance with priorities agreed by the Council and reviewed annually. Members approved an increase in the maximum possible grant to £2,000 in May 2018. This is a restricted fund.

(iv) Fred E Dukes International Bell Fund – Grants from the Fred E Dukes International Bell Fund are made in accordance with the terms of Mr Dukes’ legacy. Grants are awarded from the interest on the legacy and reviewed annually. This is a restricted fund.

(v) Publications Fund – the balance represents the stock of publications held and a cash balance to facilitate the production of new titles and the reprinting of existing publications. This is an unrestricted designated fund.

(vi) Library Fund – this fund represents the value of the library as well as sundry income items and is restricted to use for the benefit of the library, which is maintained for use by council members and affiliated societies.

### 5.2 Investment

Funds are invested in low-risk investments and bank accounts. The need for regular income from investments is considered important to support the work of the Council.

### 5.3 Investment and Borrowing Powers

The Trustees have the power to invest money and adopt such measures as seem to them necessary in the interest of the Council. They do not have any power to borrow money, except by Council resolution.

### 5.4 Risk Assessment

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which they believe the Council may be exposed and have taken steps to minimise and manage those risks.



The Council's banking deposits are fully protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Expenditure is only incurred on receipt of relevant supporting documentation and proof of service delivery. Bank statements are electronically available to the Treasurer. The Treasurer provides a financial update to each Executive meeting, highlighting financial issues that need to be brought to the Executive's attention.

### 5.5 Expenses

Updated guidance on expenses was approved by the Executive in November 2019.

### 5.6 Safeguarding

The Council's guidance on safeguarding was revised in June 2019 and issued to societies and members. A safeguarding policy applicable to the Council and its own activities and events was prepared in January 2020 and placed on the website.

### 5.7 Conflicts of Interest

Members of the Executive are required to complete an annual declaration of Conflicts of Interest which is available to the members.

### 5.8 Data Protection (GDPR)

The guidance note on data protection was last reviewed in January 2018. A privacy notice is available on the website.

## 6. Review of Financial Activities

The accounts for 2023 show total funds at the year-end of £419,257, of which £233,873 is in restricted funds. Income for the year totalled £43,968 (including publications and library sales of £17,306 and £60 on behalf of YCRA). It is pleasing to note that publication sales continue to increase.

Interest received from investments increased by £6,838 compared with the previous year due to increases in bank base rate.

The 2023 figures include further donations for the Kilifi project totalling £120.

There has been no significant fundraising during the year.

Expenditure for bell restoration grants totalled £11,550, and publication cost of sales was £6,155. Other items of expenditure include 'Discover Bellringing' (£4,370), support of ART in the administration of Ring For The King enquires (£900) and Ringing 2030 (£16,613). The total expenditure for Ringing 2030 over the last two years was £20,813.

The Council had no employees during the year. All of its work is carried out on a voluntary basis, for which grateful thanks.

It is confirmed that the Council's assets, together with the expected income for 2024, are available and will be adequate to fulfil the objects of the Council in that year.

The 2024 financial estimates were approved by the Executive in December 2023 and they support the fact that the Trustees consider that the CCCBR is a going concern, i.e. that the Central Council can meet its commitments for the foreseeable future.

The change of affiliation fee calculation from a representative base to a per capita base resulted in a reduction of income for 2023 of £851.

Of the unrestricted funds £75,000 is held in abeyance under our Reserve Policy, which leaves a balance of £63,327 available project expenditure. The majority of these funds are held in interest bearing accounts and as they are drawn down the amount of interest received will be correspondingly reduced.

On reviewing the financial controls, aside from changes already mentioned, they are consistent with prior years.

## 7. Membership

At the close of the Annual General Meeting on 3rd September 2023 the Council's membership comprised 2 Fellows, 14 Ex-officio Members and 204 Representative Members representing 67 affiliated societies and 2 small societies. Of the 204 Representative Members, there are 28 vacancies.

### Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees  
on 28th July 2024.

T Stoecklin  
President



# CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

Registered Charity Number 270036

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	General Fund	Education Courses	Bell Restoration Fund	F Dukes International Bell Fund	Publications Fund	Library Fund	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>									
<b>Incoming Resources</b>									
Affiliation fees		7,118						7,118	7,969
AGM Weekend		6,902						6,902	10,563
Interest receivable	7	5,346		1,076	2,381	375	493	9,671	2,833
Donations to Kilifi, Kenya	8.1			120				120	120
Mobile Belfry	8.4							-	16,013
Other donations	8.5	1,000		210			18	1,228	1,247
Sales of publications, books and CDs						16,511	795	17,306	13,415
Stock written back						398		398	1,033
Subscriptions from friends of Library							1,165	1,165	1,029
Young Change Ringers Association		60						60	853
		20,426		1,406	2,381	17,284	2,471	43,968	55,075
<b>Resources expended</b>									
Advertising						1,254	91	1,345	1,294
AGM Weekend		5,197						5,197	18,705
Bank Charges							69	69	69
Cost of publications sold						6,118	37	6,155	7,975
Council and other committee costs								-	76
Workgroup expenses	9.1	4,260				14	20	4,294	4,629
Mobile Belfry	9.2	2,940						2,940	10,000
Film 'Discover Bellringing'	9.2	4,370						4,370	-
Ring For the King	9.2	900						900	-
Ringling 2030	9.2	16,613						16,613	4,200
Grants for bell restoration	10			9,150	2,400			11,550	11,450
Insurance		3,171						3,171	2,909
Library maintenance							93	93	607
New Website Hosting		1,554						1,554	-
NW Course Grant								-	2,500
Paypal charges		55				327		382	436
Recruitment leaflets		78						78	706
Stationery, postage and telephone						3,364	581	3,945	589
Stock written off and disposed of								-	541
Storage and distribution	12					2,000	-	2,000	2,091
Young Change Ringers Association								-	31
Depreciation - Library Collection							1,616	1,616	1,649
Depreciation - shelving							106	106	106
		39,138		9,150	2,400	13,077	2,613	66,378	70,563
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		(18,712)		(7,744)	(19)	4,207	(142)	(22,410)	(15,488)
Revaluation of Library Collection								-	-
Transfers between funds									(1,950)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(18,712)		(7,744)	(19)	4,207	(142)	(22,410)	(17,438)
Balances at 31 December 2022		179,152		43,455	80,401	20,737	117,922	441,667	459,105
Balances at 31 December 2023		160,440		35,711	80,382	24,944	117,780	419,257	441,667

# CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

Registered Charity Number 270036

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	General Fund	Education Courses	Bell Restoration Fund	F Dukés International Bell Fund	Publications Fund	Library Fund	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>									
<b>Tangible assets</b>									
Investments at cost		162,092		30,777	79,131			272,000	272,000
Library Collection							79,199	79,199	80,815
Library shelving								-	106
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>162,092</b>		<b>30,777</b>	<b>79,131</b>		<b>79,199</b>	<b>351,199</b>	<b>352,921</b>
<b>Current assets</b>									
Stock						6,449		6,449	3,469
Debtors and prepayments		407		116	202		200	925	712
Cash on short term deposit and at bank		947		4,818	1,049	18,618	38,381	63,813	87,415
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,354</b>		<b>4,934</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>25,067</b>	<b>38,581</b>	<b>71,187</b>	<b>91,596</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>									
Creditors - amounts due within one year		(3,006)				(123)		(3,129)	(2,850)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>(1,652)</b>		<b>4,934</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>24,944</b>	<b>38,581</b>	<b>68,058</b>	<b>88,746</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>160,440</b>		<b>35,711</b>	<b>80,382</b>	<b>24,944</b>	<b>117,780</b>	<b>419,257</b>	<b>441,667</b>
<b>Funds</b>									
Unrestricted		138,327						138,327	170,730
Unrestricted - designated	13	22,113				24,944		47,057	29,159
Restricted				35,711	80,382		117,780	233,873	241,778
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>160,440</b>		<b>35,711</b>	<b>80,382</b>	<b>24,944</b>	<b>117,780</b>	<b>419,257</b>	<b>441,667</b>

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities.

### 2. Accounting policies

The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the going concern, accruals, consistency and prudence concepts.

#### 2.1 Incoming resources

Interest is accounted for when receivable. Donations, grants and legacies are accounted for as soon as the Council is notified of the legal entitlement and the amount due.

#### 2.2 Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Grants are accounted for when paid over.

### 3. Consistency

The accounts are prepared on a consistent basis with the previous year and in accordance with the accounting policies.

### 4. Funds

The General Fund is unrestricted and includes designated funds raised and held for a particular purpose. The Education Courses Fund and Publications Fund are unrestricted designated funds.

The Bell Restoration Fund, the Fred Dukés International Bell Fund and the Library Fund are maintained for restricted purposes.

### 5. Transfers between funds

No amounts have been transferred between funds.

## 6. Tangible assets and intangible assets

The major tangible assets of the Council are the Investments in National Savings Income Bonds and the Library Collection. The Library Collection was valued at a replacement cost of £95,000 by Roger Barnes of Church Green Books in 2014. The policy now is to revalue the collection every twenty years, but keeping the policy under review. It is being depreciated for accounting purposes at 2% on the reducing balance per annum. An asset register is maintained for other tangible assets. The policy is to treat assets of an individual cost up to £1,000 as fully depreciated in the year of purchase.

The major intangible asset of the Council is the copyright of Dove's Guide.

The long term loan of £8,500 to the Keltex Trust was repaid by the Trust during 2019 and is now included in the assets of the Bell Restoration Fund.

## 7. Interest receivable

Interest was received from -

National Savings Bonds	£8,660
Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit account	£889
Other	£122

Amounts received were significantly higher than 2022 as a result of increases to the bank base rate.

## 8. Donations and grants received

### 8.1 Kilifi, Kenya

Donations have been received in respect of Kilifi, Kenya, for ropes and a training project. These are included in the Bell Restoration Fund as a restricted item and, together with any related gift aid, amounted to £120 in 2023, bringing the total now available to £1,257.

### 8.2 Ringing Remembers

The remaining balance, at 31 December 2023, of the Ringing Remembers Grant of £11,236 is held within general balances for future related work. £4,370 of the brought forward balance was used to produce 'Discover Bellringing' film.

### 8.3 Other Donations - Bell Restoration

During the year The Bell Restoration Fund received two donations from Amazon Smile totaling £49.34, & £3 from Paypal. A donation of £100.00 was received from CAF. A donation of £58.43 was received from F/Flow Associazione. These were allocated to Bell Restoration at the Treasurer's discretion.

### 8.4 Other Donations - Mobile Belfry

The balance of donations held for the Mobile Belfry is £8013.02.

### 8.5 Other Donations

£1,000 was received from the Post Office Ringers following the disolution of their association. £500 of which was for The Young Change Ringers Association.

## 9. Workgroup & Other Exceptional Expenditure

### 9.1 Workgroup Expenses

Total workgroup expenses amounted to £4,294 across all activities, a reduction from 2022. Of these expenses the Executive accounted for £2,695.

### 9.2 Other Exceptional Expenditure

£2,940 was paid to The Mobile Belfry Trust as a deposit towards the trailer. £4,370 to produce 'Discover Bellringing' film. £900 to support ART in the administration of Ring For The King enquiries. £16,613 was paid towards Ringing 2030.

## 10. Grants paid

During the year, the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund paid three grants totalling £2,400 to Darwin, Australia (£300), Raleigh, USA (£1,100), Palmerston, New Zealand (£1,000). There are two outstanding grant commitments, totalling £2,100, with £5,141 available for new schemes.

During the year, the Bell Restoration Fund awarded no new grants. Nine grants totalling £9,150 were paid to Calne (£1,500), Bishop Stortford (£2,000), Ecchinswell (£300), Stafford (£1,100), Twyford (£550), East Pennard (£100), South Wraxall (£1,500), Stranton (£2,000), Abbotsbury (£100). Outstanding commitments total £33,200, with £2,511 available for new schemes.

## 11. Charitable commitments

There are two grants of £2,100 awarded but not yet paid by the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund, and twenty seven grants totalling £33,200 awarded but not yet paid by the Bell Restoration Fund. There is also a charitable commitment to Kilifi bell restoration (for ropes & training) in respect of the balance of donations received but not yet paid amounting to £1,257.

## 12. Publications fund

Storage and distribution costs of £2,000 was paid to a Council member.

## 13. Designated Funds

These comprise:

- Mobile Belfry Donations £8,015
- Ringing Remembers Grant £11,236 For Recruitment
- Rolle Legacy £2,362
- Post Office Ringers £500 For Young Ringers

## 14. Payments to trustees

There were no payments to Trustees, except for the reimbursement of expenses in the course of their duties as members of the Executive.

## 15. Emoluments of employees

The Council had no employees during the year.

# Report of the Executive

This report forms part of the formal Executive Report to the Council, which is required, together with the detailed workgroup reports, in accordance with Rule 6.1 (b). The Executive has met monthly online and has arranged additional ad hoc meetings to cover key projects in depth. In addition, there were quarterly meetings, held online, with Workgroup Leads.

## People and organisation changes

This year a new President, Tina Stoecklin, and Deputy President, Vicki Chapman were elected, and we welcomed Ian Roulstone as a Trustee to the Executive. With Tina and Vicki's elections, this is the first time that these two roles were held by two women at the same time. This also makes the Executive gender-balanced for the first time in its short history.

As all three new Trustees were formerly Workgroup Leads the first and continuing activity by the new Executive was recruitment. This involved much more than simply replacing existing roles. It was clear that the Council's existing workgroup structure would not easily support the planned activities for Ringing 2030. Also, the Council has a lot of standing commitments and activities, as well as the care and maintenance to our ringing assets, both physical (the library and the rolls of honour), and digital (methods libraries, Dove's and other databases, digital archives). While we want to focus our attention and bandwidth on Ringing 2030, we still need to meet our existing obligations.

So we set about, with a lot of consultation, the first fundamental reorganisation of workgroups, with subsequent recruitment of new volunteers in the post-CRAG era:

- Workgroups with a lot of standing commitments were left largely intact (Technology & Taxonomy and History & Archive).
- Other workgroups were fundamentally repositioned to be 100% devoted to Ringing 2030 (Public Relations became Marketing, Volunteering & Leadership became Recruitment and Development).
- One workgroup (Stewardship & Management) was split so to focus either on standing commitments (the existing workgroup) or Ringing 2030 (Environments for Ringing 2030 Workgroup).
- Two new cross-cutting workgroups were created: Young Ringers (merging the two youth workgroups and repositioning to focus on Ringing 2030), and Technology for Ringing 2030 (for specific Ringing 2030 digital projects, such as the new recruitment portal).

Other groups and Stewards were realigned, so that Executive sponsorship and reporting lines were clearer. For example, the Stakeholder Liaison Workgroup was simplified to a single role reporting directly to the Executive, and the ICT was moved out of the Technology and Taxonomy Workgroup to reflect the support role to the entire council.

With that we welcome the following:

- \* Andrea Haynes, Workgroup Lead for Young Ringers for Ringing 2030
- \* Martyn Bristow, Workgroup Lead for Technology for Ringing 2030
- \* Mark Ogden, Workgroup Lead for Ringing 2030 Environments
- \* John Lagdon, Workgroup Lead for Marketing for Ringing 2030
- \* Yolande Hasselo, Internal Communications Coordinator
- \* Angela Elliott, Public Relations Officer

Former President Simon Linford has continued involvement via the Stakeholder Liaison role and continues to project manage the YellowYoYo projects throughout the year. Former Deputy President David Kirkaldy returns to head up a new Publications Team. These new workgroups come into formal existence on 1<sup>st</sup> July and therefore will be reporting to the 2025 Council.

We remain a few leaders short: having agreed to stay in role for another year, Alison Hodge retires as Workgroup Lead for the Stewardship and Management Workgroup, and we need a new person to organise the vital advice and support from this group. The Technology and Taxonomy Workgroup Lead remains unfilled. It is important for continuity and succession planning to keep recruiting into existing workgroups, and to get a wide range of age and experience into all of them. This is an exciting time to be involved and to help change ringing for the better.

We are nearing the end of a recruitment process for new Stewards of the Library, and with a succession planning hat on, our plan is to have multiple librarians (as we have for Dove and for other Stewards).

Finally, the entire Publications team retired this year, including Barbara Wheeler, who has been sending out publications orders for more than 35 years on behalf of the Council. Moving fulfilment to a more sustainable model and creating a new publications team that will look at all forms of publication has been the work of many months.

## Ongoing projects

The main focus of the Executive has been about laying the ground for Ringing 2030 projects, and supporting those projects that are underway. This features in a separate update.

Safeguarding remains an important ongoing activity and the actions of the safeguarding team in continuing to lobby dioceses on the nature of bellringing means that we have strong positive relationships, and we are seen as a trusted partner in this area.

We launched a new Ringers Code of Practice, which is short, sweet and to the point. It has been well-received by many stakeholder groups.

Plans for the National Ringing Centre were finally and formally shelved, due to the gradual weakening of the original proposition and a lack of local support to run and

maintain a ringing centre over the long term. The original plan, in coordination with the Conservation Churches Trust and the Peterborough Guild, involved rehusing the Council Library, resource and training space as well as a restored ring of bells and a dedicated mini-ring. However, the space available in the project for ringing activities became limited to the space required for a mini-ring and it became impossible to justify spending limited Council resources on such a reduced scope. We remain open to another proposition and collaboration with the CCT when the right opportunity occurs.

We have continued regular meetings with our partner and stakeholder organisations such as the Church Buildings Council, Historic England, and Ecclesiastical Insurance. We also have regular meetings with ART and The Ringing World Ltd and look to collaborate closely with them on Ringing 2030 and other projects in a way that is mutually beneficial.

As part of planning for Ringing 2030, the Executive has been examining its own financial model and working on a multiyear forecast in order to both afford the ambitions of Ringing 2030 and to put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. The current rate of 20p per affiliated association member is not sufficient to support existing activities, much less to sustain projects still under development. And thus we are bringing a motion to increase the affiliation fee, the first such increase since 2018. To lay the ground for this increase we hosted a series of Zoom consultations, from which we received very valuable feedback. We are grateful to everyone who took part.

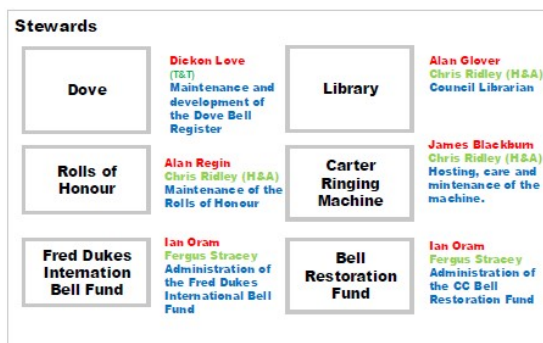
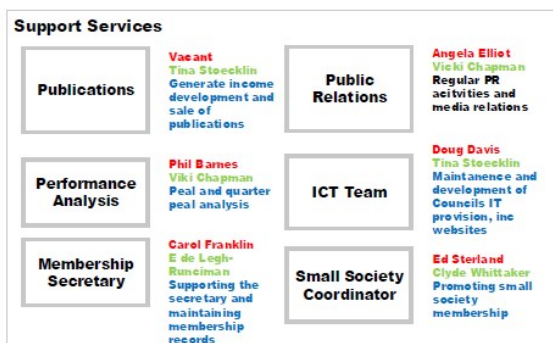
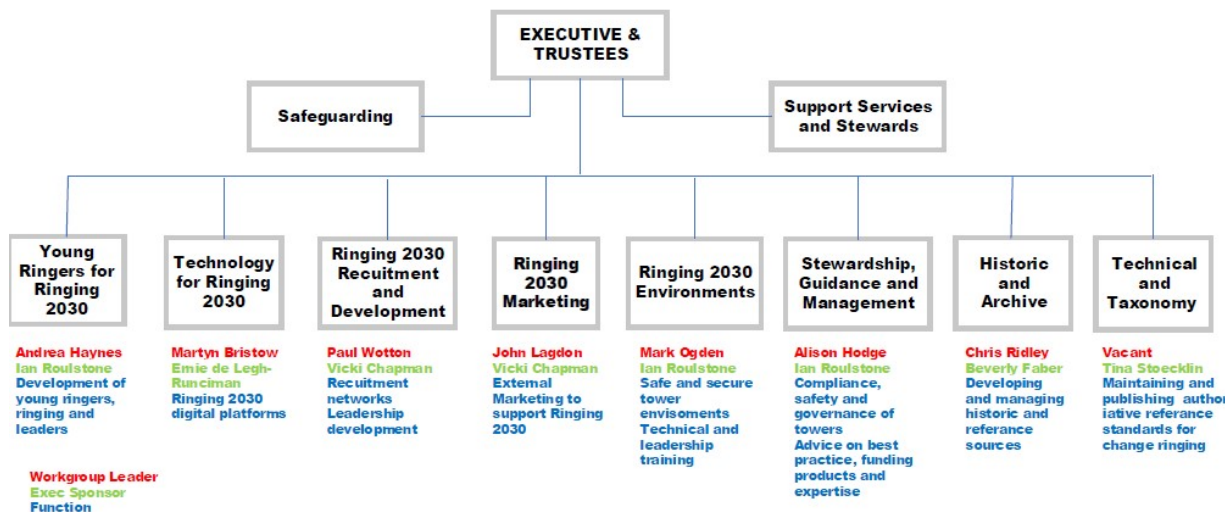
Another part of the CRAG reforms was to introduce terms limits to all defined roles, and this includes the Stewards who look after some of our most valuable assets. The

Stewards are also experts on these assets, and a rotation of personnel as a principle risks us losing that expertise. Quite a few terms come to an end all at once this year, and after discussion and consultation with the current Stewards, we are also proposing an amendment to allow us to extend their terms. As exemplified with the appointment of a new Library Steward, our aim is also to ensure that we have multiple Stewards to ensure better succession and knowledge transfer.

The majority of the work of the Council is undertaken by Workgroups and the more than 90 volunteers who support them. The work of the existing workgroups are in separate reports and members will be able to hear about both new and existing workgroup activity at the AGM in September. A dedicated presentation and Q&A session will happen before the main AGM, to allow sufficient time for this.

As a group we would like to thank those volunteers for their significant contributions, not only to the operation of the Central Council but to the benefit of all ringers.

- Tina Stoecklin (President)
- Vicki Chapman (Deputy President)
- Ernie de Leigh Runciman (Secretary)
- Fergus Stracey (Treasurer)
- Clyde Whittaker (Trustee)
- Catherine Lane (Trustee)
- Beverly Faber (Trustee)
- Ian Roulstone (Trustee)



# Ringling 2030 Update

The strategic planning for Ringling 2030, which took well over a year, gathered ideas, turned them into concrete things we could do, and prioritised them. We organised that strategic thinking into three pillars:

**Marketing** – Raise awareness of the art of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity. Use targeted marketing to drive new recruits

**Recruiting and development** – encourage and support the development of local and regional structures and new online technologies to support the recruitment of new ringers, attract lapsed ringers, and give them a route to progress.

**Environment** – a quality environment that makes ringers want to stay and feel safe and welcome doing so. This includes our physical environment where we ring, but also includes the leadership, training and governance structure that sustain ringling.

Underlying those three pillars are specific projects that are within the Central Council's ability to accomplish or promote, creating tangible outcomes.

The focus of the Executive in 2024 was creating the right structure for implementation of these projects. To get the Council itself ready to implement Ringling 2030 has required some fundamental changes in the way we think about doing things.

But the changes required are still more fundamental. Previously, each Workgroup (or Committee before that), had a huge amount of autonomy over what projects they wanted to do or not do, and largely worked independently from other workgroups. Some great projects came of this. But what they weren't was joined up.

To group our priorities within our three pillars requires more interdependence and communication between workgroups and between the Executive and workgroups. This is still a work in progress. However, our new Workgroup Leaders have begun creating cross-cutting steering groups as part of their planning.

Here is our progress thus far.

## Pillar One. Marketing

The branding project with the YellowYoYo agency entered its second phase in October of 2023, with additional work to create a new logo and other visual assets for our bellringing brand. These were finalised in January 2024 and specific assets (pull up banners, recruitment and open day posters) were designed, including a customisable version. These are being trialled in some recruitment campaigns, and the branding will be placed onto the new Touring Tower. The current stage is the website design for the new recruitment portal using the new branding, as

well as an online portal for ringers and ringling groups to order branded items.

The physical assets are only a small piece of the YellowYoYo recommendations, and we continue to work with Workgroup Leads and other ringling partners to prioritise those activities.

The first major outing of the branding occurred at the end of July for the International Scout and Guide Jamboree, in partnership with the Essex Association, the Association of Ringling Teachers and the Mobile Belfry Trust. We will use this event to create a playbook for similar events and look to create an events team to support it.

The new Touring Tower had its first outing as part of a trial of school lesson plans in Romford, Essex in May 2024. Embedding bellringing into the school enrichment programme has game-changing potential for ringling recruitment and awareness, and maturing of this project is a great thing to see.

## Projects

- Recruitment of new teams – Initial phase completed with the creation of a new workgroup, recruitment of a new workgroup lead, social media director. As with all recruitment, this will be a continuous process.
- YellowYoYo branding exercise – Completed. Phase 1 included the marketing research and ideation, and Phase 2 (Marketing Collateral) included specific branding designs, assets, guidelines and specimens, including new feather banners, pull-up banner designs, post designs, logos and graphics, colours and fonts.
- Mobile Belfry – Completed. The Touring Tower was officially completed in May 2024, and turned over to the Mobile Belfry Trust, and is now available for hire for events.
- School lesson plans – In Progress. The lesson plans were trialed in June 2024 for a week in a school, supported by the Touring Tower. This is now being evaluated and the feedback incorporated into the plans. The next phase of this project is finalise the plans and turn them into a professional package that is marketed to schools. This will use the new bellringing branding.
- Recruitment and Marketing Portal – In progress. Work has begun on creating [wearebellringing.org](http://wearebellringing.org), the web-based portal which will contain general information about bellringing, and be a front to the recruitment network. The aim is to be a single destination for marketing activities and to collect and quantify expressions of interest/interactions to help us measure our activities' impact.
- HLF funding bid – Paused. This is paused while we evaluate and mature the school lesson plans and



the new Touring Tower. Having grant support will accelerate penetration of bellringing into schools and young persons' awareness.

- Establish PR support budget – Planning. This is still in planning in order to articulate the exact requirements and how to budget for this.

### **Pillar Two. Recruitment and Development**

In conjunction with the YellowYoYo branding work, work on an online recruitment portal has begun, with a proof of concept site being developed, and an incremental plan for delivery. The recruitment hub team is being built based on the playbook from the Recovery Champion project.

The planning group has been launched for the second regional summer school, the South West Ringing Course, which is due to have its first course in October 2025.

Lucy Chandhial has taken a role to lead on Leadership development, and has launched a ringers campaign for Volunteering Week.

The ringing survey was paused due to exam and work pressures, and we have now added more members to the Survey team.

Projects:

- Recruit project teams – In progress. Teams leads are in place for key projects; however, as this is a key piece of the Ringing 2030 strategy, more volunteers are required in order to move projects along.
- Recruitment hub – In Progress. Work is underway to pull together existing recruitment networks, leverage the Recovery Champions network, and identify gaps. More volunteers are required in order to progress this at pace.
- Regional summer schools – In progress. The North West course is now entirely self-sustaining and is entering its third year of operation. Development for a South West course is well underway with the first delivery scheduled for Oct 2025.
- University ringing network – In progress. Plans are to build on and refresh universityringing.org, using new branding. Work being done to establish collateral requirements to assist university societies in recruiting.
- Ringing Survey – Paused. Progress on this project has been hampered by a need for more volunteers to chase survey responses, and other commitments by the team leader.
- Ringing Finance – In progress. The executive has led on the analysis and planning for how to support Ringing 2030 financially, and are planning a financial conference later this year.
- Network of good practice leadership and leadership course – In progress. Initial work has focused on identifying and collating existing resource,

promoting ringing volunteers in Volunteer Week.

- ART recognition – Completed. This is not exactly a project but a clear acknowledgement of ARTs strategic role in developing teaching resource and that working together will benefit both organisations and ringing as a whole.

### **Pillar Three. Environments**

Two key projects are underway, and recruitment begun. The first is to organise a knowledge transfer of key engineering, structural and other environmental expertise to a new generation of ringers so that this is not lost (and not just lost to ringers, but as advice conduits for other stakeholders).

The second project is newly added to Ringing 2030, and this is to understand and have mitigation plans in place for closure of churches which have rings of bells. The first part of this project has completed, which is to evidence the scale of the problem and identify the next steps forward. The project team of Simon Linford and Alison Hodge will be presenting on this topic at September's AGM in a special session.

Plans have begun for organising the Ringing Finance conference which will happen in the latter part of the year.

Projects:

- Recruit project teams. Completed. With the creation of a dedicated workgroup, new workgroup lead and some project team leaders, the initial phase of this task is complete. However, recruitment will remain a continuous process.
- Church Closure impacts – Completed. This piece of research was designed to help us understand the scale and impact of church closures on bellringing. The research will be presented at the AGM, and a second phase project initiated to move on key recommendations.
- Knowledge capture of ringing-related engineering expertise – In Planning. A young team has been recruited to move this forward in the next year, supported by the new Workgroup Lead.
- Diversity Review – Not started. The aim of this first step was to consider where we were in terms of inclusion and define a specific project or projects to address this. Some thought has been given to this but specific plans are still not yet formed.
- Best Kept Tower Competition – Dropped. After feedback, it was decided that this was not going to be an effective way to promote better tower environments
- Association website support – Paused. After a period of research and requirements setting, this project was paused in favour of progressing the recruitment portal first.

# Financial Update 2024

## and Outline General Fund Budget for 2025

**Purpose of the report** - To inform Members of the current financial position for 2024 and to give an outline to the 2025 General Fund budget.

### Introduction

This report gives Members -

- a) A summary of the current financial position across all funds for 2024 and
- b) Gives an outline to the 2025 General Fund budget, prior to formal and more detailed consideration by the Executive in the autumn of 2024.
- c) The presentation of the report has been changed from previous years to show the statutory obligations of the Charity's expenditure and a summary of the other

expenditure which brings it more in to line with parts 3 and 4 of motion B of the Agenda.

This type of report is presented as part of the enhanced governance arrangements now being followed by the Council. The accounts for 2023 are shown elsewhere in the meeting papers.

### Financial Update 2024

At the time of writing, the Council is about halfway through its 2024 financial year with ringing activities having returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Executive approved the following General Fund budget for 2024 in autumn 2023 and it is set alongside the current projection of actual income and expenditure for 2024 below

### CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS General Fund – Budget agreed by Executive and Current Projection for 2024

The actual General Fund balance brought forward of £160,440 was lower than previously estimated when the budget was set. The budget was set on the assumption that expenditure would exceed income for the year.

Actual income and expenditure for our statutory obligations is currently projected to underspend the budget by approximately £2,917 due, principally by the lower than predicted cost of the AGM venue hire. Exceptional expenditure this year has been Yellowyoyo (£4,260), Bobcat Distribution (£2,487) both part of Ringing 2030.

The Council also operates a number of other funds, namely –

**The Bell Restoration Fund** where grants are awarded within available funds to local restoration schemes.

**The Fred Dukes International Bell Fund** where grants are awarded within available funds and in accordance with the wishes of the Will of the late Fred Dukes.

**The Education Fund** where designated finds are available for suitable education courses.

**The Library Fund** which is expected to make a modest surplus for the year.

**The Publications Fund** which is expected to make a surplus for the year

	2024 Budget Agreed 12/2023	2024 Budget Revised 30/06/2024
<b>Income</b>	£	£
Affiliation Fees	7,120	6,905
Small Societies	20	20
Interest Receivable	3,000	5,000
Donations & Other Income	1,550	250
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,690</b>	<b>12,175</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Statutory Obligations</b>		
AGM Costs	5,500	3,000
Insurance	3,000	2,988
Executive	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	250	250
Technical & Taxonomy	1,410	1,250
<b>Total Statutory Obligations</b>	<b>12,160</b>	<b>9,488</b>
<b>Workgroup &amp; Ringing 2030 Expenditure</b>		
Historical & Archive	6,000	6,000
Stewardship & Management	2,650	1,000
Senior Stakeholder Liaison	500	100
Young Ringers	1,000	500
<b>Ringing 2030</b>		
Pillar One – Marketing	7,000	9,790
Pillar Two – Recruitment & Development	2,500	2,500
Pillar Three – Environment	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Workgroup &amp; Ringing 2030 Expenditure</b>	<b>20,650</b>	<b>20,890</b>
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>(21,120)</b>	<b>(18,203)</b>
<b>Balance of General Fund as at 01/01/2024</b>	<b>160,440</b>	<b>160,440</b>
<b>Estimated Balance of General Fund as at 31/12/2024</b>	<b>139,320</b>	<b>142,237</b>

## Outline 2025 General Fund Budget

### Notes on the 2025 Outline General Budget (right)

Whilst the anticipated budget for 2025 shows an excess expenditure over income due mainly to the anticipated expenditure on Ringing 2030. The budget shows that, when taking into consideration the statutory obligations only, a small surplus is achieved if the affiliation fees were increased to 0.40p per capita. The estimates provided for Ringing 2030 will be more detailed when the budget is set by the Executive in the autumn of 2024. Additionally, some of that expenditure may be carried forward to the following years.

The budget for the 2025 Council meeting, which will include a roadshow, has yet to be finalized & the Executive will endeavour to ensure that the roadshow events are self-financing.

The overall assumption is that for 2024 & 2025 expenditure will exceed income leaving the Council a balance of £142,237 at 31 December 2024 to carry forward to future years. Taking into consideration the reserves policy, of £75,000, this leaves £67,237 available for project spending at the end of that year and either £40,717 or £47,617 depending on the outcome of motion B on the Agenda will be available at 31st December 2025.

Prior to formal consideration, amendment and approval by the Executive in autumn 2024 the following is presented to Members for information.

### Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

#### General Fund - Outline Budget 2025

	2025	2025
<b>Income</b>		
Affiliation Fees		
@ 0.20p per capita	6,900	
@ 0.40p per capita		13,800
Small Societies	30	30
Interest receivable	3,000	3,000
Donations & Other Income	500	500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,430</b>	<b>17,330</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Statutory Obligations</b>		
AGM Costs	6,000	6,000
Insurance	3,200	3,200
Executive	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	250	250
Technical & Taxonomy	3,000	3,000
<b>Total Statutory Obligations</b>	<b>14,450</b>	<b>14,450</b>
<b>Workgroup &amp; Ringing 2030</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Historical & Archive	2,000	2,000
Stewardship & Management	2,500	2,500
Senior Stakeholder Liaison	500	500
Young Ringers	1,000	1,000
<b>Ringing 2030</b>		
Pillar One – Marketing	5,000	5,000
Pillar Two – Recruitment & Development	6,500	6,500
Pillar Three – Environment	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Workgroup &amp; other Expenditure</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>22,500</b>
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>(26,520)</b>	<b>(19,620)</b>
<b>Estimated Balance of</b>		
<b>General Fund as at 01/01/2025</b>	<b>142,237</b>	<b>142,237</b>
<b>Estimated Balance of</b>		
<b>General Fund as at 31/12/2025</b>	<b>115,717</b>	<b>122,617</b>



# Historical & Archive

The Work Group (WG) has held 4 virtual meetings in the last 12 months to review progress against agreed work plans as well as to discuss other emerging issues. A major activity has been the move of the Library Collection to Loughborough which involved two site visits in the reporting period.

Both the Library Steward and Lead for the WG are standing down at the CCCBR AGM and other current WG members have indicated they may be standing back from their current roles. It is therefore important to attract additional individuals, both Council members and external volunteers, if the WG is to continue to be active in taking forward projects. We have been fortunate to gain two new WG members this year - Cath Colman and Jacqueline Hazell to assist with the Peal Board project and Library Friends scheme respectively. Expressions of interest in the Library Steward role have also been received - following an article in the *Ringing World* (15 September 2023, page 899) together with publicity through social media channels - and are being followed up.

## Library collection and Friends

<b>Main areas of research</b>	
Books and archives	Alan Glover (Library Steward)
Friends of the Library	Linda Georgiades Jacqueline Hazell Ian Self
Contact Details	<a href="mailto:librarian@cccbr.org.uk">librarian@cccbr.org.uk</a>

### **(i) Library Collection**

Arrangements for the Library move to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust (LBT) have been progressed following endorsement at last year's Council's AGM. A 10-year service level agreement (SLA) has been signed by both parties. This covers the loan of the Library Collection with appropriate arrangements to exit the arrangement if required at a future point. It further includes a nominal rental payment from the Council and contribution from the Friends of the Library towards the cost of new roller bookcases. It is anticipated the building work at Loughborough to create new facilities will be completed by the end of June 2024 allowing transfer of the Library Collection over the summer period. The new facilities will include a reception area and reading room with supporting IT facilities, to allow visitors to undertake their own research. Some of the more valuable items in the Collection will be stored in a secure fire-proof safe – access to these items will require additional clearance through the Library Steward. Regular updates have been published in the *Ringing World* (for example, see Christmas issue, pages 1218-1219).

The Library Collection is not insured against loss or damage and the intention is to continue this practice. This

reflects the uniqueness of many items in the Collection which are not replaceable and as such difficult to attach any value to. Paying an insurance premium would not therefore be a practical use of Council resources.

It is hoped that individuals wishing to undertake further historical research will make use of these new facilities together with the growing volume of digitised historical information being made available on-line.

The Library Steward will continue to provide advice and support to enquiries where necessary, in addition to managing the Library Collection as the primary source of historical information on bells and bellringing.

### **(ii) Ringing Machines**

Both the Carter and Cummins ringing machines have been stored at Loughborough for many years. The Carter machine is a potential display item for the new Bell Museum and we are in discussion with them over these arrangements.

The Cummins machines represent development prototypes some of which are in pieces. Bill Purvis (former Carter Ringing Machine Steward who was involved with early electronic ringing machine development) has been reviewing which items are worth salvaging as historical artefacts before they are documented and photographed for the record. Appropriate examples will be found new homes.

### **(iii) Library Collection**

The 2023 calendar year saw the existing Library facilities used at levels consistent with recent years. Three ringers made personal visits, 29 items were sent out on loan and 75 enquiries were answered by email or phone. 41 new items were added to the Collection these included historical as well as new publications.

Many societies still produce a paper based Annual Report, generally now with a limited print run, and we are grateful for copies provided in recent years to add to our existing comprehensive bound runs of reports. We are further exploring links to complete digital sets of Annual Reports produced by some societies, in addition to collating digital based copies for those societies that no longer provide a paper copy to their members. Sets of Annual Reports are a valuable source of historical information which it is important to maintain.

### **(iv) Friends of the Library**

Current membership stands at 4 Honorary Life Members, 35 Life Members, 84 Members and 27 Corporate Members. These figures represent the loss of 3 Life Members on the previous year. Contributions from the Friends' subscriptions help maintain the Library Collection and support any WG projects that require funding. The



45<sup>th</sup> Friends of the Library Newsletter (February 2024) and Essay Number 31 (*Huddersfield Surprise* by John Eisel) were compiled and distributed. [Online Historical Information](#)

### **Belfry artefacts**

<p><b>Main areas of research</b></p> <p>Peal Board database Historic photographs Richard Andrew (Co-ordinator) Cath Coleman Gareth Davies</p> <p>Contact Details</p> <p><a href="mailto:richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk">richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk</a></p>
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<p><b>Main areas of research</b></p> <p><b>Ringling in wider historical perspective</b> <b>Engaging/supporting new researchers</b> <b>Website et al as source of information</b> <b>Promotion of ringling through use of historical data</b></p> <p>Gareth Davies (Co-ordinator)</p> <p>John Harrison Doug Hird David Underdown</p> <p>Contact Details</p> <p><a href="mailto:richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk">richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk</a></p>
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Over the past year we have been building on the achievements of the previous year in which a viable method of loading peal board photographs to the H&A Workgroup's Historical Database had been set up and tested, progressing to the point where a substantial number of photographs have been received from a wide range of sources, and a good number have now been loaded to the database, where they can be viewed.

An article launching the new project with a request for volunteers and contacts to supply peal board photographs was published in the *Ringling World* (25 August 2023, pages 830 to 831). The *Ringling World* Editor and BellBoard team had further made enhancements to BellBoard to introduce a facility to allow peal board photographs loaded there to be made available for loading to the database. In general, there was a good response to the *Ringling World* article, with replies and peal board photographs being received from a wide range of locations across the UK, and from further afield places such as New Zealand, USA and Canada.

A recent check has indicated that so far (as of early May 2024) at least 450 examples have been received and around 380 further photographs have been made available on BellBoard for loading to the database.

While progress on loading photographs to the database was good for the first few months after the *Ringling World* article appeared, resources undertaking this work within the Belfry Artefacts Sub-Group have been limited for several months. This has led to a delay in loading recently received examples. Looking forward to the next period, we are planning to make greater inroads to the outstanding number of peal board photographs waiting to be loaded.

It is also worth noting that throughout this period our IT specialist Doug Hird has been making refinements and improvements to the input process and appearance of the peal boards section on the historical database, and thanks are due to him for this. No doubt these improvements will continue as the need arises.

### **(i) Online historical resource**

Work has continued with developing the ringling history website at [www.history.cccbr.org.uk](http://www.history.cccbr.org.uk) which went live before the 2023 meeting. Effort has focused on adding content, refining the structure, improving user interaction and to reduce dependence on a key person.

At the end of the reporting period the website held references to nearly 14,500 people from the history of ringling, including CCCBR biographies, prolific peal ringer articles, published obituaries, ringers killed in war, tributes (courtesy of ASCY) and author biographies (courtesy Whiting Society) and some online society obituaries.

Other resources include indexes to the Library Collection, bellringing society badges, society membership certificates, historical ringling prints, information about ringling machines, as well as information about early peal boards.

A major addition has been newspaper extracts by John Eisel covering the period 1647 to 1845. This is significantly larger collection of extracts than the material already published (around 40% more than previously published in the 5 volumes of *Order and Disorder*) and has the added advantage of being searchable. The intention is to add further years beyond 1845 as well as providing additional material for the earlier years when new details are found (although the current records are thought to be reasonably complete). We are grateful to John for allowing this material to be added.

### **(ii) Other activities**

There are currently three projects in development:

- The viability and mechanics of setting up and maintaining a list of speakers prepared to offer in-person and/or online talks on all aspects of bell ringling is being investigated, with the aim of making this available on the CCCBR website.
- We have been offered scans of all Ranald Clouston's notes on Suffolk bells, with the possibility of making those available on the CCCBR History website. The originals are held by Suffolk Archives and permission is being sought to make the scanned documents available online.

- Work had continued with the early stages of one or more 'I-Spy' type books aimed at encouraging (mainly) young ringers to take notice of the historic environment in which they are ringing. Working title - 'Spy Ring'.

### Biographies

<p><b>Main areas of research</b></p> <p>Rolls of Honour Alan Regin (Rolls of Honour Steward)</p> <p><a href="mailto:rollsofhonour@cccbr.org.uk">rollsofhonour@cccbr.org.uk</a></p> <p>Ringer biographies Obituary Index History CC Committees/WGs History ringing societies John Harrison (Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Richard Andrew Ian Self David Underdown</p> <p><a href="mailto:biographies@cccbr.org.uk">biographies@cccbr.org.uk</a></p>
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#### **(i) Rolls of Honour**

There are now 1,689 known casualties from the Great War and 386 from World War 2, a total of 2,075. These include some new finds in the last year, mostly from newspaper searches. A large number still need to be added to the CCCBR database and written into the Rolls of Honour. There are currently 89 World War II casualties to be included in the new WWII Roll of Honour book.

It was agreed a direct crowd funding initiative should be undertaken to raise the £4,500 required to purchase and then write up in an appropriate style the new Rolls of Honour volume. A small amount had been donated at the end of May 2024. Further publicity was linked to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day commemoration ringing to help reach the total required.

#### **(ii) Biographies**

There are 966 biographic summaries and researched accounts on the history website. None have been added during the year, but as noted above we are now providing access to biographic information about far more ringers through obituaries, and other sources. Instead of aiming to research and write up all Council members and as many other ringers as possible – a task we have failed to achieve for quite some time – our policy is now to focus available effort on those for whom there is no other published obituary or tribute, with at least a basic record for all Council members.

We would welcome volunteer authors/researchers interested in biographies generally or in particular individuals. We would also welcome offers from societies or individuals with online collections of biographic interest to allow us to link to them from the history site. If you can help then please contact John Harrison ([biographies@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:biographies@cccbr.org.uk)) for more information.

### Recordings

<p><b>Main areas of research</b></p> <p>Bells Oral histories Volunteers sought</p> <p>Contact Details <a href="mailto:chris.ridley@cccbr.org.uk">chris.ridley@cccbr.org.uk</a></p>
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A lack of volunteers has continued to prevent further

work being undertaken on developing this area of activity during the past year.

### Ringling artefacts

<p><b>Main areas of research</b></p> <p>Ringing machines James Blackburn (Ringing Machines Steward) Bill Purvis</p> <p>Contact Details <a href="mailto:james.blackburn@cccbr.org.uk">james.blackburn@cccbr.org.uk</a></p> <p>Library collection of Society Badges Alan Glover (Library Steward)</p> <p>Contact Details <a href="mailto:librarian@cccbr.org.uk">librarian@cccbr.org.uk</a></p> <p>Membership certificates Society Logos Historical prints Illuminated peal books Chris Ridley (Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Contact Details <a href="mailto:Chris.ridley@cccbr.org.uk">Chris.ridley@cccbr.org.uk</a></p>
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The future of the ringing machines owned by the Central Council are linked to discussions on a new home for the Library Collection already mentioned.

Work on adding details, and copies where available, of new society badges, society membership certificates and historic prints has continued. Updates on the history website are done periodically rather than piecemeal. Launch articles in the *Ringling World* for the recently added Society Membership Certificates (3 November 2023, pages 1084-1085), Historic Ringling Prints (2 February 2024, page 119) and Newspaper Extracts courtesy of John Eisel (15 December 2024, page 1240; 22 March 2024, page 258) were published.

### Conclusion

This will be my last report and I would like to thank everybody on the Work Group for their help and support in taking forward activities during my tenure.

**Chris Ridley**  
**Lead, Historical & Archive WG**





*Copy of an original Essex Association membership certificate donated during the year.*



Three examples of society badges produced to celebrate significant anniversaries

## Bell Restoration Fund

Until new income is received by the Fund, there is no work required of the Panel as a whole.

In the meantime the Fund Administrator continues to deal with enquiries for assistance and progresses payment of approved grants.

CHRIS BIRKBY  
KEITH BROWN  
PETER KIRBY  
IAN ORAM (Fund Administrator)

## Publications

2024 has seen a fundamental change to the publications team. The longstanding team (and committee before that) of John Couperthwaite, Philip Green, Michael Hansford, Beryl Norris, Barbara Wheeler, and Jan Wyatt decided to retire and work has been ongoing to build a fresh team and process for continuing to deliver publications.

The publications fund has been brought under the control of the Central Council Treasurer, although it remains separate from the Council's general fund. Jim and Sarah Bence will take

over from Barbara Wheeler for shipping of publications, and David Kirkaldy is taking on the role of team leader, continuing his close involvement with this function.

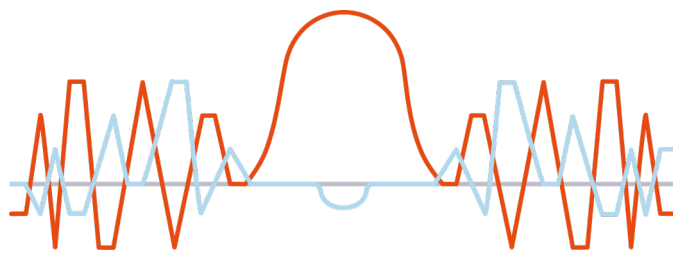
Sales increased in 2023 by £3,790 which shows how essential it is for the Council to provide the facility for the exercise. Thank you to all those who have brought items during the year.

Also new to the team are Simon Aves, Phil Ramsbottom, Laura Kang Ward, and Charles Blummers who bring enthusiasm, experience in



digital publications, and copy-editing and proofreading to the team. Philip Green continues in an advisory capacity.

It remains to thank the outgoing publications team for their many years of dedicated service to the Council and to the wider ringing community, with special thanks to Barbara Wheeler for providing a top notch and selfless delivery service out of her spare room.



## Publications Stock

Title	Price	Stock	Deliveries	Sales to	Stock	Sales to
		01/01/23	2023/24	31/12/23	31/12/23	30/04/2024
New Ringers Book	£10.50	120	750	490	383	117
Beginners Handbook	£4.00	96	100	91	5	17
Towards Better Striking	£3.00	35		12	23	9
Raising and Lowering	£3.00	50 (+5f)	59	53	56	21
Beginners Stedman	£3.00	148	280	148	280	26
Beginners Grandsire	£3.00	90		45	45	18
Beginners Plain Bob	£3.00	26	108	55	80	21
Ringing Circles	£4.00	502	500	526	476	158
Learning Curve Vol 2: 2002-2003	£3.00	110		7	103	0
Learning Curve Vol 3: 2004-2005	£3.00	102		6	95	1
Learning Curve Vol 4: 2006-2007	£3.00	132		7	125	0
Beginners Guide to C R on Handbells	£2.50	14		12	2	1
Listen to RingingCD2	£9.00	6 (+2f)		5	1	0
Standard Eight Surprise Major	£7.00	28		12	16	7
Service Touches	£3.00	68	13	38	43	15
Will You Call a Touch Please Bob	£3.50	166		62	104	26
A Tutor's Handbook	£4.50	87		9	78	3
Kaleidoscope Ringing	£3.00	88		27	61	8
Teaching Tips"	£4.00	23		23	0	0
Manual of Belfry Maintenance	£12.00	60	201	139	22	62
Towers and Bells Handbook	£10.00	16		14	2	2
Splicing Bell Ropes	£4.00	91	200	67	23	31
* On This Day	£15.00	12		11	1	1
Change Ringing History Vol 1 (Vol 3)	£5.00	83(108)		7 (9)	76 (99)	6 (7)
Giants of the Exercise Vol 1 ("Vol 2)	£5.00	126(8)		5(3)	121 (5)	1 (0)
Pitman"	£5.00	86		3	85	1
* Dove's Guide	£15.00	16(+2f)	500	123	393	54
Belfry Offices	£3.00	11		3	8	2
Judging Striking Competitions	£3.50	4	8	12	0	0
* One-per-Learner	5 for £6.00	2787	3000	2846	2941	720
* Follow-on-Book	5 for £6.00	1001		439	560	95
* Exercise Book	5 for £6.00	232		118	114	40
* Method Leaflets	10 for £3.00	143	189	204	128	110
* Bell Club Cards	each £0.75	lots		259	lots	60
* Badges	each £0.75	253	420 +260	614	131	174
* 20 Questions and 19 Answers	20 for £4.00	257	223	361	119	80

# Volunteer and Leadership

## 1. Name Change and Planning

The renaming of what was formally the Volunteering and Leadership Workgroup to Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development Workgroup provides a clear focus to our work. This is enhanced by our new, concise and challenging terms of reference which are to:

- Coordinate an international recruitment network
- Support excellence in ringing through relevant leadership training

These changes, and particularly the 'Ringing 2030' prefix, give the workgroup a target timescale in which to realise its terms of reference. To achieve this and to monitor progress, the first action was to develop an outline plan for the 7-year timescale and a more detailed plan for the initial three years. Progress is reviewed quarterly with annual replanning for the three years ahead. The plan is available from the Reports tab of the Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development web-page on the CCCBR website; the current status of each strand is clearly recorded.

## 2. Work Stream Summaries

### a. Survey

There has been a hiatus in progressing the survey due to the volunteer team lead being focussed on completing university exams and their associated dissertation.

### b. Recruit, Retain, Regain

The current team lead feels that he is unable to give this area the attention it deserves to fulfil the Ringing 2030 objectives. Stephanie Pendlebury has agreed to become joint team lead to share the workload. However, she has also recently become the Sussex County Association General Secretary which will demand much of her time. The revised Recruitment & Development Terms of Reference 'To coordinate an international recruitment network' will require focussed leadership. The need to find a replacement team lead remains.

It is intended to meet the ambition of developing a Recruitment Hub with assistance from the Technical and Taxonomy WG. To enable implementation, a requirements statement for such a hub must first be developed. This will be the immediate focus of the Recruit, Retain, Regain team.

### c. Leadership Education

Lucy Chandhial has been working to use the Annual National Volunteering Week in June to promote volunteering and leadership in ringing. 2024 will be our first go at this. National Volunteering Week is an event which we can use to our advantage, building on

positive engagement strategies in successive years, much as we are doing with Bell Sunday.

### c. Development

Providing an environment for ringers to develop in the way they are able and would wish is essential if recruitment and handling teaching effort are to be worthwhile. Currently the support to development that the CCCBR provides is insufficient. Whilst we continue to look after the handling of promotional leaflets, and Model Bells sale and distribution; more is needed. The R&D Ringing 2030 Plan identifies development work streams that need to be progressed vigorously.

### d. Regional Courses

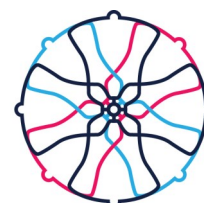
The North West Course 2024 has changed venue but otherwise it's business as usual. No issues requiring CCCBR support have been communicated.

The South West Course planning and associated investigations continue. Millfield School in Somerset has been identified as the probable venue. The proposed dates for an inaugural course are October half-term 2025.

## 3. Volunteer Overload

When I became what was the Volunteering and Leadership Workgroup Leader in 2022, I undertook a review of the workgroup's purposes and the way it functioned. One of my conclusions was that: 'A number of ringers are doing too many volunteer jobs and many more are not doing any. This risks creating a vicious circle where the many carp at the efforts of the overburdened few, causing the number willing to become, and remain engaged, as volunteers to decline.' I think this remain the case. It is clear that my main task is to find and encourage ringers with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes (KSA) both to lead teams and to execute the workgroup plan. These need not be especially advanced ringers. Indeed, to progress the Central Council's purposes a good mix of ringing experience is preferable. It is important that volunteers have the time to focus on getting things done, which means not having too wide a range of other commitments. This is particularly true for the team leads.

Paul Wotton



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH  
**BELL RINGERS**



# Young Ringers

The merger of the Schools & Youth with the Universities & Colleges workgroups

May 2023 – May 2024

A significant development over the past 12 months has been the merger of the Schools & Youth (S&Y) and the Universities and Colleges (U&C) workgroups. Although this merger will formally take effect in the summer of 2024, much of the effort in each group during the year has contributed to, and has been influenced by, the impending unification. For that, and other reasons, it is appropriate to present this joint report.

For some time, it has been acknowledged that combining these two workgroups makes sense: after all, one of the main purposes of both groups is to nurture and develop the ringing environment for young people, with a particular focus on that critical stage between school and higher education, when so many early career ringers are lost to the Exercise. As will be reviewed below, very useful initial progress has been made under the umbrellas of the separate groups. However, to ensure that those who start ringing before transitioning to higher education or apprenticeships are able to see a future for their hobby, even if they relocate to new domiciles, it is prudent to have a unified approach to supporting the development of young ringers.

Early in the year, the leader of the S&Y group, Colin Newman, decided to step back from that role, having led the group since its formation. The CC owes Colin a debt of gratitude for the effort he devoted to this role, and for the resounding successes of the group during this time. Over the past year, material supporting those coaching students undertaking a Duke of Edinburgh award has been developed further and is available via the CC website. A section on handbell ringing remains to be completed, and Colin has kindly offered to do this. As reported last year, material supporting the

Guides' Blue Bell Challenge is now available, and it is being used! Further work is required on the Scouts Hobby Badge, and on school lesson plans (for Years 5 and 7), which are being created by Jason Hughes (more on this below). Looking to the future, it would be beneficial to create a network that links the numerous youth groups that have come into being, not least as a consequence of The Ringing World National Youth Contest.

At the CC AGM in 2023, Ian Roulstone was elected to the Executive and therefore had to relinquish the role of leader of the U&C group. Discussions with several individuals culminated with Andrea Haynes stepping forward, not only to take on this particular role, but also the wider role of leading a unified S&Y with U&C workgroup. Andrea has since 'hit the ground running' and will be updating the CC on progress with several projects from the former groups at this year's AGM. The main on-going project within the former U&C group is the creation of a virtual hub – a one-stop-shop for individuals and societies interested and/or active in 'university ringing'. This work is progressing, with a website hosted by the CC under construction and the current website [UniversityRinging.org](http://UniversityRinging.org) (created and maintained by Jacqui Brown) will be integrated as part of the hub.

Andrea is also liaising with Jason Hughes on school lesson plans, and a trial was carried out in May 2024 at St Edward's Church of England School in Romford. Further details on this exciting project, along with others, will be presented at the CC AGM in September.

Ian Roulstone



# Stewardship & Management

This year has been a period of change with the election of Tina Stoecklin to succeed Simon Linford as CCCBR President, and her planning to establish Workgroups that will be appropriate to deliver the ambitions set in the CCCBR 2030 strategy along with taking on advice from the YellowYoYo marketing consultants.

As part of this, the CCCBR Executive has decided that the Stewardship & Management Workgroup (SMWG) will split into 2 parts – one to consider specifically 'Ringing Environments for 2030' and a second part that will continue to respond to enquiries, maintain documentation and provide advice. 'Ringing environments' were highlighted as a key concern by SMWG from the time of its formation. The practical implementation of this split are still being planned and implemented.

The creation of the new workgroups coincides with Alison Hodge completing the maximum term of office for a Workgroup Leader i.e. 6 years. Having been invited to lead the formation of the new group in late 2017 before taking office formally in 2018, she will have completed closer to 7 years setting up the Workgroup and as its Leader.

During the year, we have continued to provide advice for ringers, clergy and church authorities. We have updated and added to our trilogy of documents and receive positive comments. However, we hear that many ringers have never seen or heard that this information is freely available for all to use. The number of enquiries received by the Group has reduced slightly this year, possibly because people find information from the online documents. Enquiries received have been on a broad range of topics – several related to health and safety in towers and during ringing, others to safeguarding, insurance, ropes and rope driers, tower funds and grants, sound reduction or improvement of acoustics for ringers in a tower, or noise reduction for neighbours, tower movement and structural analysis, timber for stays, and swift boxes in towers. For the majority of enquiries, we are able to respond with a direct link to relevant information in the online documents so this is proving to be a quick and efficient way of providing information.

We do ask all societies to help share the links to the information as widely as possible. (As an aside, it is not unusual for us to receive an enquiry from a ringer or church that is also unaware of their local ringing society!) This poster is available from the CCCBR Noticeboard toolkit here:

<https://cccb.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/noticeboard-toolkit/>

and ideally should be displayed in all towers!

We have also prepared occasional articles for *The Ringing World*, including a set on insurance issues compiled by Simon Linford, Alison Hodge and Mary Jones.

Alison Hodge and Simon Linford have started an important piece of work on the impact on ringing of '*changes in churches*'. This is a concern that SMWG raised a few years ago as we became aware of church closures or changes of use, and the consequential impacts on ringing and ringers. The closure of St Mary, Aberavon, Port Talbot in April 2024, is an example at the time of writing this report, but they are not alone. Initial findings have been presented to the Executive and an initial letter on the topic has been included in *The Ringing World* (Issue 5897). We estimate that about 10-15% of rings may be affected in some way in the foreseeable future. We will be compiling advice for ringers and churches to alert them to challenges that they may face in relation to bells and ringing, sometimes with relatively little notice, and what they can do in such circumstances.

A long-running re-examination of the fundamentals of tower movement when bells are rung has been in abeyance for some while. However, Ian Roulstone, our Executive Sponsor, is now using his knowledge as a professional mathematician to 'peer review' a substantial set of theoretical papers written by Gordon Breeze during the last few years. This is with a view to making the work openly available in a form that may be used by structural engineers, bell hangers and others with a need, or interest in tower dynamics.

In our experience fewer people seem to be undertaking maintenance of bell installations. Some societies have well established teams that will offer basic maintenance of bell installations, but an informal review showed that some do not have a belfry advice team or similar, and some do not hold any training events for such people. Alison Hodge was invited to the Diocesan Bells Advisers' Conference in Liverpool in March to speak about succession for Diocesan Advisory Committee Bells Advisers. Several of those present are planning or wanting to hand over but finding it difficult to find successors. This is consistent with our findings. As a consequence, we have been compiling a draft role description for a DAC Bells Adviser with current bell advisers.

Members of the CCCBR Executive and Alison Hodge held their annual meeting with Ecclesiastical



Insurance in May. Insurance claims relating to bells and ringing remain low, but metal thefts are still of concern with high metal prices. Changes of use in churches will affect insurance cover but each case has to be considered individually. Our annual meeting with The Church Buildings Council and Heritage England is to be held in early July.

We announced the 2024 Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance with the closing date at the end of May. Applications are being received and the award is scheduled as part of the CCCBR AGM weekend in September.

Robert Wood is standing down from his role assisting with complaints about bells. We are looking for someone who is willing to succeed Robert, ideally someone who has had formal involvement in Environmental Health Legislation cases.

I would like to thank all the members of the Workgroup during the last 6 years for their contributions, along with others who have provided specialist advice from their knowledge as professionals and / or voluntary activities.

Please contact the Secretary, Robin Shipp, if you may be interested in helping the Workgroup in any way.

## Members of Stewardship & Management Workgroup during 2023 - 2024

John Beresford - Tower projects Theme Leader  
[smPro@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:smPro@cccbr.org.uk)

Chris Birkby (resigned November 2023)  
Tony Crabtree

Alan Frost  
Alison Hodge – Workgroup Lead  
[smLead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:smLead@cccbr.org.uk)

Peter Kirby  
James Kirkcaldy - Tower Operation Theme Leader  
[smOps@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:smOps@cccbr.org.uk)

Allen Nunley  
Aveline Perez de Vera  
Philip Pratt  
David Roskelly – Tower Infrastructure Theme Leader  
[smInf@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:smInf@cccbr.org.uk)


Robin Shipp – Workgroup Secretary  
[smSec@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:smSec@cccbr.org.uk)

Peter Woollam (resigned November 2023)


Alison Hodge (Workgroup Leader) and members of the CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup

## Tower & Belfry

### Stewardship & Management Information




### Running a Tower




For anyone running a tower:

- statutory and legal requirements
- advice to make a safe and pleasant place
- hints on running a tower




[runningatower.cccbr.org.uk](http://runningatower.cccbr.org.uk)

### Belfry Upkeep




Keeping a bell installation in good order:

- regular checks & maintenance tasks
- identifying problems
- when to call for expert assistance



[belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk](http://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk)

### Belfry Projects



Running a bell project:

- planning the project
- specialist advice
- building a project team
- fund raising
- formal requirements



[belfryprojects.cccbr.org.uk](http://belfryprojects.cccbr.org.uk)



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# Taxonomy and Technology

The technology and taxonomy working group has been operating to keep existing projects and collections updated with incremental improvements. Focus on Ringing 2030 and a lack of a workgroup lead to take over from Tina Stoecklin have prevented work on any new strategic projects.

The workgroup reorganisation has left his workgroup largely intact, except for moving the ICT team to report direct to the Executive as a support service. This means that the remaining teams – Methods, Compositions, and Dove's database create a sharper focus on the maintenance of digital reference collections that offer essential services to ringers.

## ICT team

The major task of the ICT team was the migration to a new server host A1, which was accomplished successfully in October 2023. This includes hosting for the main Central Council website, the publications online shop, the new history website, the Felsted database and other smaller websites. The migration was caused by our previous host, Microsoft Azure, severely cutting its allowance for charitable hosting, effectively ending the nearly free hosting we had enjoyed.

Otherwise, the team have assisted operations from several workgroups, and continued with maintenance operations on the Microsoft365 estate. This includes setting up new email, teams and distribution lists for new workgroups and volunteers, as well as the provision of microsites for specific events, and the updating of news items and other pages in the main council website.

## Compositions

It's business as usual for the Compositions team recently; largely due to the well run Composition Library, which is now in excess of 67,400 compositions. Run by Graham John, he continues to develop and deploy upgrades and user interface improvements, including the Request for Compositions functionality, which you may have seen on the home page. Peter Hinton also continues to support varlib.org, the Central Council's Library for Variations and Calls, which has grown to over 5,800 Doubles Variations. The Compositions email [compositions@cccb.org.uk](mailto:compositions@cccb.org.uk) has not seen any requests this year, but is always available so please do reach out with any enquiries or advice as needed!

## Methods

### Methods Library

At the end of 2023, there were 23,933 methods recorded in the CCCBR Methods Library, an increase of 365 from

the previous year. Additionally, there are four Dynamic methods defined descriptively (no change). Twelve new methods rung in 2023 did not qualify for inclusion in the CCCBR Methods Library: Two were not rung to a qualifying length (Framework 5.E.1.a); one was not rung to a true touch (5.E.1.d); and nine methods were not rung by an all-human band (5.E.1.g). Bands are requested to take particular care regarding truth when ringing new methods and to include the composition with the performance report so this can be verified.

The team has responded to a number of queries raised about methods through social media and by email.

## Method Extension Review

A draft report of Accepted Method Extensions is now available at <https://complib.org/report?name=extensionreport>.

This shows all the extension paths that have been established to date, the methods that have been named in each path, and the extension constructions for the paths.

As part of the Method Extension Review that is currently in progress by the Methods team, a new extension process, EP4, is in development that we hope will provide a more generic and flexible way of extending methods. The draft report above also shows the equivalent EP4 extension constructions where applicable.

This report also shows historic anomalies where methods having the same name at different stages are not related by any of the existing extension processes (i.e. EP1, EP2 and EP3) in the Framework for Method Ringing. We expect that EP4, with its more generic approach to extension, will resolve a number of these anomalies. Graham John has led the development of EP4 to date, including building software tools to test and visualize its operation. In the second half of 2024 we plan to draft the language that would define EP4 in the Framework for Method Ringing, and have the wider Methods Team review, test and refine it, ahead of an expected broader consultation on EP4 with the ringing community in 2025.

## Other Initiatives

Various other work is pending for the Methods Team. One item is to participate in a review of Record Length procedures with The Ringing World and the Central Council's Ringing Records team, with the goal of assessing whether procedures are working efficiently, and determining if there are any opportunities for improvements and/or streamlining.

## Methods Team Members

Team lead: Tim Barnes

Graham John runs the process to extract newly rung methods from BellBoard, validate them, and then add

them to the Methods Library.

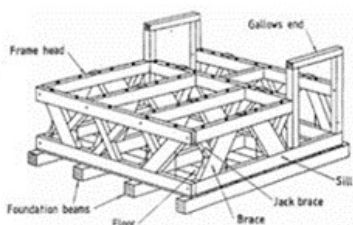
The other Methods Team members are: Adam Beer, Mark Davies, John Harrison, Don Morrison, Philip Saddleton, Natasha Williams and Robin Woolley.

### Stewards of the Dove Database

The past year has been one of further consolidation in the quality of data in the database as well as an increase in the number of places and bells captured within the existing scope. There was also a modest expansion in that scope. We have continued to drive quality using development to minimise inconsistencies and running projects to pick out inaccuracies. The team has expanded to include new and younger members as we encourage best practice and passion about getting our dataset right.

### Key achievements

#### Bellframes



We finished entering the backlog of frames data that arose from submissions received while the new development took place in 2022. We are pleased that the new

structure we designed is coping with all the examples directed at it. There is still more to be done in this area, both in terms of the quality of the data already present and with gaps in coverage. The highest quality submissions are those following physical inspections, rather than viewing photographs and videos, so we remain cautious with updates we accept.

#### Mapping functionality



Dove now has improved mapping functionality, allowing tenor weights and BellBoard performance totals to be presented on maps using colour.

#### Great Bells of the British Isles



The scope of Dove has been extended to include the Great Bells of the British Isles (replicating the lists featured in the appendix of the paper book detailing all such bells over 40 cwt). We also, for the first time, detail other bells in the same tower to give a sense of context.

A few coverage statistics (as at June 2024)

	Bell Collections	(last year)	(latest)
	Full circle rings (at least 3 bells)	7,946 (7,153)	7,942 (7,144)
	Carillons	15	21
	Chimes	7,083	7,336
	Display sets	63	56
	Ancillary sets	1,700	1,722
	<b>Bell Frames</b>		
	Frames	8,775	9,354

	Bells	(last year)	(latest)
	Standard	60,569	61,516
	Hemispherical	248	249
	Tubular	1,118	1,118
	Fragments	26	48
	There were <b>12,896</b> separate updates to Dove between Jun 2022 and Jun 2023 (with bulk updates counting as 1 update)		

#### Future work to begin in the next year

- Continue our focus on the quality and input of data on bellframes.
- Extend the scope of Dove to include lightweight rings and portable rings due for release summer 2024.
- Develop the means to record **events** against individual bell collections and bells themselves, i.e.



when a ring turned into a chime, when a bell was tuned or had its canons removed, when and where a ring was transferred from one place to another.

- A project on **dates**, how we store and display them and note uncertainties and attributions.

Plus target work carried over from last year:

- Prepare for users to log in, register preferences and ultimately record tower grabs and related data.
- Improve the way information on bells is displayed on the website (some work has already been released on tubular bell lengths, and the way bells are hung).
- Lost rings

Finally, Dickon Love has been using his position on the Bells Committee of the Church Buildings Council to initiate a complete review of bells listed for preservation,

methodology and governance, with a view to agreeing a new framework in the course of the next 12 months.

### **The Dove Team**

The team continues to be led by Dickon Love, with Tim Jackson and Tim Pett as Dove Stewards and Richard Smith as the Lead Developer. They are assisted by Dove Clerks: Neal Dodge and new joiner in the year, Kye Leaver. Doug Davis maintains the *DoveTickets* software that organises the practicalities of passing updates to the team. Chris Pickford acts as a consultant on bellframes and many items historical, and Scott Orr (Secretary of the Carillon Society of Great Britain and Ireland) leads on carillons. With sadness we note the passing of The Rev'd David Cawley in February 2024. Over the years he helped with the compilation of many of the lists in the printed editions and wrote a number of the articles. He has been a key source of guidance to those in the current and wider Dove Teams.

## **Safeguarding**

2023 saw further development of the safeguarding resources offered by the Council and to further work to improve awareness of ringing within the church community. The Safeguarding section of the Council's website was enhanced and Simon Ridley continued to provide advice and support to individual members, associations and other stakeholders (including clergy) on safeguarding matters and conduct in ringing.

Acting on a recommendation from the Social Care Institute for Excellence in 2021, the Council continued the work started by Ann White to develop a recommended code of conduct for ringers. A draft "Code for Ringing" was kindly reviewed by a number of affiliated societies during the summer of 2023 and the final version, adopted by the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, has since been shared by the Church of England with its dioceses. The Code, which is published on the Council's website, takes the form of a recommended template, which towers, associations and churches may freely use or adapt as they require.

A meeting was held with the Disclosure and Barring Service in August 2023 to clarify aspects of the barring rules affecting England and the Safeguarding Officers attended further DBS workshops in October and December dealing with DBS eligibility and the duty to refer.

Following further dialogue on ways to make the Church of England's safeguarding training more relevant to ringers, facilitated by Canterbury diocese, a set of 12 training case studies of specific relevance to bell ringing were prepared for the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team, who will use them in future enhancements to the Church's basic awareness, foundation and leadership training modules.

A number of conversations took place with Chester diocese, who are developing a safeguarding leadership course that meets the training requirements of the Church of England, whilst also being designed to support ringing

masters, guild officers and those in positions of ringing leadership. This work will be progressed during 2024. A meeting also took place in February with the Safeguarding Training Lead for the Methodist Church to understand more about its learning framework, which is recognised by the Church of England under a reciprocal arrangement.

A priority in 2024 is to complete a library of template safeguarding policies for use by new societies and those associations seeking to strengthen their existing safeguarding frameworks.

The Council's a pamphlet on safeguarding for church officers, "From Practice to Perfect" remains current, but will need to be refreshed in 2025. It is designed to improve awareness of the place of ringing in the church, the way ringing is organised and how ringers are safeguarded. It can be downloaded from the Council's website and we would ask you to check whether your diocese has promoted it and if not encourage them to do so.

Following Helen Fuller-Whelan's retirement, the Council appointed Emma Jarvis of Kent CA as its second Safeguarding Officer in July 2023, joining Simon Ridley. It is keen to recruit an additional Safeguarding Officer to lead on a number of the projects mentioned above, preferably who is aware of the regulatory framework and has helped another organisation implement good safeguarding practice.

Following the strategy established for the Council by Chris Mew and then progressed by Dave Bassford and Ann White, work will continue to improve awareness of bell ringing among church safeguarding professionals and to promote the development of training and recruitment procedures, recognising that Bell ringers come from diverse backgrounds and that the future of ringing as a performing art depends on it being an open and inclusive activity, which welcomes all regardless of faith.

Simon Ridley, Emma Jarvis



## Public Relations

Unfortunately, Alli Devine was unable to take on the role of Public Relations Officer, so this has primarily remained with the Deputy President. It has taken a long while to find someone to take on this role, and we are hopeful a suitable person has now been found. Further announcement on that to come.

Thankfully though, this last year has been much quieter on the PR front, which in some ways makes it more difficult to keep bellringing in the public consciousness.

The major piece of work carried out by members of



the PR Workgroup was the launch of two promotional films: Discovering Bellringing and What do you enjoy about Bellringing? The first film, approx., 9 minutes long, shows ringers from various towers and the Kent Young Ringers, talking about and demonstrating ringing in a variety of settings. The second film, approx. 2 minutes long, talks about what ringers of all ages find enjoyable about ringing. Both films are available on the CCCBR You Tube channel, as well as being available to download, free, from the CCCBR PR Resources page on the website. I am particularly grateful to Steph Pendlebury, and the ringers at the various locations for their support with this project.

There has been significant work with YellowYoYo, the branding company the CCCBR recruited to help with repositioning ringing in the public domain. This activity was slightly separate from the workgroup activities and is documented elsewhere.

The CCCBR hosted some discussions on how bellringing could fit into a UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, what this means for bellringing, what steps we could take about it and all the other doing things and volunteering that has to happen from that.



Ringers were once again invited to Ring out for Peace by Bruno Peek as part of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Associated ringing was logged on Bellboard.

Without the clash of Coronations and other events this year, we were able to focus more on promoting Bell Sunday on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Bell Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of bell ringers to the life of the church, and to acknowledge the part that bells play in worship and community life all the year round. Details for next year can be found at <https://bellsunday.org/>

Other work continues quietly in the background. I am grateful to John Harrison who continues to distribute posters and leaflets, and to Phillip Orme who continues to supply Bells on Sunday snippets to BBC Radio 4 for our listening pleasure.

The PR Workgroup will change its structure going forward and form part of the new Ringing 2030 Marketing Workgroup, so I'd like to end by thanking those members of the PR Workgroup, past and present for their support and action.

Vicki Chapman  
Former Public Relations Officer  
Deputy President

# The Touring Tower

The Touring Tower, first seen at the Council weekend in Nottingham, has had its first summer of engagements ranging from tower open days, fetes, a school visit and even a Scout and Guide Jamboree. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people have now been exposed to ringing as a result. This early success bodes well for the future and is repaying not only the Council's confidence in the project, but also the hard work of the team which made it a reality.

The Touring Tower was originally known as 'Mobile Belfry 2.0', a Council project aimed at creating a new mobile belfry that addressed some of the drawbacks of existing mobile rings, particularly in the ease and speed of setting up and taking down, overall transportability, and giving a ringing experience closer to a small ring of bells than a mini-ring. Key to the transportability was keeping the overall weight down, achieved by making the tower and frame out of aluminium and transporting the ring in a complete state rather than in parts. Then key to the quick set up is integration of the tower with a custom made trailer which uses hydraulics to push the tower into a vertical position. Taylors cast the bells and did the hanging, as well as designing the frame and tower.



As the project neared completion, the decision was taken to transfer the Touring Tower to the Mobile Belfries Trust (MBT). The MBT was formerly the Charmborough Trust, which now provides co-ordinated management and booking for three mobile belfries – Charmborough, Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry (LDMB), and the new Touring Tower. New trustees were added, including former Council Executive members Simon Linford and Alison Everett, and Phil Gay representing the LDMB.



The balance of donations received by the Council through direct appeal and a crowdfunding campaign was donated to the Mobile Belfries Trust, which used those funds to complete the manufacture of the trailer. There was and still is a shortfall in funding - the balance of the cost of the trailer came from the MBT's reserves, depleting those reserves almost completely. There is also still an amount owing to Taylors before the MBT has full ownership

The Council and MBT are particularly grateful to the Lancashire and Essex Associations, both of which donated £2,000, and the G&B which contributed £1,000. Five other associations made smaller contributions which were also well received. The balance came from individual donors, and £7,000 of the Council's own funds.

An article in *The Ringing World* in advance of the Jamboree explained how mobile belfries can be used to good effect not only in the general promotion of ringing, but also in specific local recruitment campaigns. The combination of a visit to a school with the Touring Tower and the use of the cross-curricular lesson plans developed by Jason Hughes, is a particularly exciting opportunity, especially if the interest can be followed up by a local young ringers group.

The Touring Tower is available for ringing on this weekend, and the Trustees are hoping that it will spur Council members and others into booking it and the other mobile belfries for events and campaigns over the next year. More information on the belfries, as well as hire rates and the forward bookings programme, is available on the website <https://www.mobilebelfries.org/>

Simon Linford  
Trustee, Mobile Belfries Trust



# External Liaison

As reported at last year's meeting, I have retained the liaison role with the organisations we could call our "strategic partners"- church and heritage organisations with interests in the buildings we use and what we do. This hasn't always been, and doesn't necessarily need to be, a job vested in one person, however I am happy to do it on behalf of the Council especially as I meet some of the contacts in the course of my other activities. The role is by its nature focused on the United Kingdom (with one exception).

We have an annual meeting with Historic England (Diana Evans, HE's lead for Cathedral and Church buildings) and David Knight of the Church Buildings Council to discuss areas of mutual interest and any 'problem cases'. There weren't any particular issues this year, although much more of our discussion is now focusing on strategy for dealing with bells in closed and closing churches.

We also worked closely with David Knight on organising the DAC Bell Advisers conference (shout out to Ernie who really made it happen). This conference in Liverpool was very useful for the 40-50 who attended (not all Bell Advisers) but we were concerned that it did not reach as many DAC Bell Advisers as might want to come. We are pressing for a firm date for the next one so that it can be advertised to the ringing community.

The Council is a member of the Heritage Religious Buildings Alliance. Its meetings, and the annual meeting in particular, are useful not least for meeting all our usual contacts, and generally being "seen" as a relevant party in the religious buildings world. Our new ringing video for instance was shown at this year's annual gathering, and I spoke at the previous one. The last meeting particularly useful for finding Trevor Cooper who has written a very good analysis of why churches are at risk and how many might close. He agreed with my suggestion that it could be 10-15% over the next ten years.

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) is the second largest custodian of churches with bells in England after the CofE, with about 40 ringable peals. The number of churches being vested in the CCT is only going to increase, provided increased funding comes from somewhere. I expect the CCT will become increasingly commercial as it needs to fund its activities and this may change how they view ringing, or what they expect from us.

There are currently two issues with the CCT. Firstly, they are disappointed that we are no longer pursuing the NaRC at Northampton, but the project had become a shadow of what was originally envisaged. The door is still open with the CCT to put such a facility in another building of theirs when the opportunity presents itself.

Of more immediate impact to us is a new Code of Practice for ringing that has been issued by the CCT to some of their towers (and potentially all of them). Such a code had been in negotiation for a considerable amount of time, but now a 'final non-negotiable' version has been issued in some areas that goes beyond what any of those voluntarily looking after bells and ringing in CCT churches are likely to sign. Representations are being made.

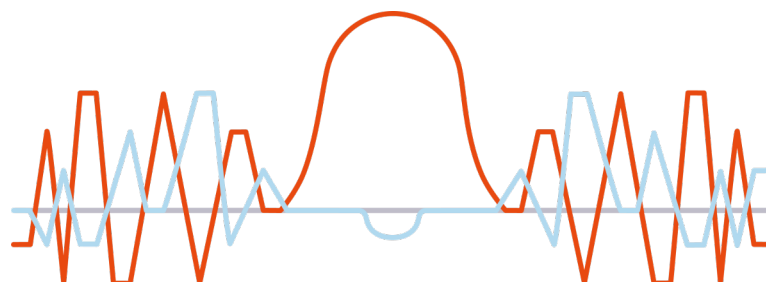
I have also now established a relationship with the Association of Festival Churches, which has appointed Nigel Mills as its first Festival Church Development Officer. Hundreds of churches with bells could potentially become Festival Churches, meaning they would only be holding a few services a year. (Wales has a similar concept with 'Pilgrim Churches') This does not mean they are going to close though, and regular bellringing could be an important part of their future. I have written an article for the Ringing World and look forward to working with the Association.

I keep a watching brief on the 'Save the Parish' campaign. I still think it's right for us not to support Save the Parish too overtly given that they will often be at odds with the Dioceses we serve, but they are campaigning for something that is in our interests, i.e. the survival of the individual parish church with its own incumbent. They have an active campaign for instance in Cornwall, where they consider a proposed Diocesan reorganisation to be a threat to small rural parishes. They are also very nervous about the Diocesan reorganisation in Leicester.

Finally, I am keeping in touch with Paul Ashe of the National Bell Festival (Bells.org). Although not a ringer himself, Paul sees the promotion of all things bell related in the United States as his personal mission. Although his plans are of much more interest to the North American Guild (with whom he is engaged), he values contact with and advice from the Central Council, and some of his plans are very exciting.

Contact with the Church and these organisations is not my sole preserve! A close link with between the Church, from Diocese down to Benefice and Parish level should be maintained, whether it is the Guild or Association having contacts at the Diocese, or ringers being on their own PCC. The closer we get, the better placed we are to find out what is going on, and reinforce the value of what we do.

Simon Linford



# Performance Analysis

## The Peals Analysis

We have recorded a total of 3629 peals rung in 2023 and published by The Ringing World via Bellboard up to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, of which 2990 were on tower bells and 637 on handbells. There were two peals recorded using a simulator but none using distributed technology. Full details are included in the methods table that accompanies this report. The figures for the last few years are shown in the table below and in Figure 1 from which it can be seen that whilst 2021 total was dramatically affected by the COVID pandemic and the lockdown ban on ringing, recovery has continued and numbers are now higher, albeit still not to the levels from before COVID. If we ignore those peals rung around the time of the Coronation, numbers have largely plateaued.

	Tower bell	Hand bell	Simulated/ Distributed	Total
2023	2990	637	2 + 0	3629
2022	2645	732	1+0	3378
2021	826	740	0+10	1576
2020	791	626	1+10	1428
2019	3750	780	3+0	4533
2018	3895	758		4653
2017	3890	846		4737
2016	4033	880		4913

The Yorkshire Association is the leading affiliated society with 251 peals, closely followed by the Ancient Society of College Youths with 250 peals, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild with 166. The leading society for handbell peals in 2022 was the Oxford Diocesan Guild with 70, followed by the Chester Diocesan Guild with 66 and the Ancient Society of College Youths with 45. Please see separate tables for details of peals rung for each society and by method / method type.

Once again the base data has been taken from Bellboard and then some further data normalisation takes place. This does allow some analysis to be performed on Quarter Peals, which can be seen after the peals.

## Record peals

There was one record peal rung in 2023.

## Leading Towers

This year the report returns to showing the towers where 10 or more peals were rung in the year.

- 48 Sproxtton
- 42 Huntsham
- 41 Leeds, Cath S Anne
- 26 Birmingham, Cath S Philip
- 24 Dordrecht, Grote Kerk
- 22 Milton
- 21 Dore
- 20 Dordrecht, 't Klockhuys
- 19 Lundy Island
- 17 Bishopstoke; City of London, S James Garlickhythe; City of London, S Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge
- 15 East Huntspill, Little Orchard Tower; Rotherham

- 14 Belper; Holcombe, Potters Yard; Inworth; Keele, Woodlands; Ston Easton
- 13 Church Lawford, Plantagenet Ring
- 12 Accrington; Birmingham, S Paul; Cambridge, GSM; Edgbaston; Marston Bigot; Thirkleby; Worcester, Cath
- 11 Basingstoke, All Saints; Bishopsteignton, Bishops-Ting-Tong; Bristol, Cath; Burghill; Burnley; City of London, S Michael, Cornhill; Honiley; Middleton; Rothwell, Northants; Saltby; Uffculme, Piglet Ring
- 10 Awbridge, Clock House; Bovey Tracey, Wobbly Bob's Campanile; Burton Latimer; Coseley; Hawkesbury; High Wycombe; Knottingley; Meldreth; Peterborough, S Mary; Portsmouth, S Agatha; Strensall; West Bridgford; Worcester, S Stephen

Handbell peals have had a small decline compared to 2022, and these are the locations where 10 or more have been rung:

- 57 Reading, 26 Redlands Road
- 39 Hitchin, 2 Orchard Road
- 31 Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End
- 28 Poynton, 2 Adlington Close
- 18 Whimble, 17 Bramley Gardens
- 17 Yatton, 89 Wheatear Road
- 16 Aston Rowant, The White House
- 15 Northallerton, 19 The Green, Romanby
- 14 Portsmouth, 53 Fearon Road; Wilmslow, 9 Hawthorn Lane
- 12 Bosham, Little Creed Cottage
- 11 Fleet, 20, Burnside; Peterborough, 5 Woodfield Road; Willaston, 14 Park Road; Wokingham, 217 Reading Road
- 10 Bromley, 19b College Road; Macclesfield, 33 Sandringham Road

## First pealers and firsts as conductor

185 ringers rang their first peal in 2023. This is much higher than was seen on average before COVID. However, 68 of the first peals were rung for the Coronation and the background rate of first peals during the rest of the year was very similar to 2019 and 2022.

There were 25 new conductors in 2023, ranging from Minimus in hand to Cinques. It is interesting to see that most of these were not Plain Bob, and were often Surprise on higher numbers. Most impressive was Myles Louis Dakan who called 41 Surprise Minor all the work in hand.

## Gender Balance in peal ringing

The balance of male and female ringers and conductors in peals has been analysed using the excellent data from PealBase and are shown below.

	Female peal ringers	Female peal conductors	Male peal ringers	Male peal conductors
2023	698	38	1569	406
2022	608	27	1446	361
2021	312	12	902	228
2019	702	41	1639	435

Overall, women comprised 31% of peal ringers and only 9% of peal conductors in 2023 and the mean number of peals rung by women was 8.2 compared to 13.5 per male. The proportion of the 185 first pealers that was female was 35%, little different to the status quo but 7 of the 25 new conductors were female (28%) and it is to be hoped that they remain active conductors and improve the gender balance in conducting, but there is a long way to go.

The overall trends since 2007 are shown in Figures 2 and 3

## The Felstead Project

Richard Pullin took over the reins of the pre-1990 'old' peals on the Felstead site and writes: *Work has resumed apace correcting existing peals and adding newly discovered ones. Since September 2023, 92 historic peals have been amended and 34 newly discovered peals added. A very few other peals have been found to be duplicates, or invalid in some other way. While there was something of a backlog of work, fortunately it was not too arduous to get on top of this, particularly as Drew Craddock had been doing some of the work during the vacancy left by my predecessor, the late Alan Baldock.*

*Particular mention should go to Jane Boden, Colin Turner, John Eisel and Drew Craddock for their careful research and drawing my attention to errors and omissions. Drew has been particularly helpful and supportive, especially when I was first starting out in the role. Other ringers have sent in information over the year, including Richard Hobbs who found that a number of old peals in the Cumberland Youths' peal book were not on Felstead.*

*Notable spheres of discovery include a batch of peals at Glossop in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and three peals at Talaton less than a hundred years old. Following research published by Richard Smith in the Ringing World, the famous 1715 peal at St Peter Mancroft is now described as 'Grandsire Bob Triples,' and early peals of 'Bob Major Triples' previously assumed to be Plain Bob Triples have been re-described with their original method name (Bob Major Triples and Plain Bob Triples are not the same). The Mortlake peal of 1721 has also been changed to the more likely year of 1761, making it less significant in the chronology of very early peals. The 1690 peal at St Sepulchre's, Snow Hill remains on Felstead despite newly felt doubts about the truth of the composition.*

RBP  
Felstead Curator

## First peals in methods on Tower Bells.

January		
7	5120 Tarcutta S Major	ANZAB
10	5184 Widcombe Fair S Major	Devonshire G
10	5040 Otterham S Minor	Peterboro DG
11	5184 Daisy D Major	Yorks A
11	5184 Metro A Major	Lincoln DG
11	5088 Sawyer D Major	Devonshire G
13	5088 Quirkiness S Major	ASCY
14	5070 Lysander A Major	Trent Valley A
16	5040 Quaffed D Royal	Yorks A

16	5088 Pembroke TB Major	Coventry DG	27	5000 Irby S Royal	Trent Valley A	20	5024 Golden Guinea D Major	Yorks A
18	5024 Elmley Castle D Major	Bath & Wells DA	28	5184 Nocton A Major	Lincoln DG	30	5040 St Martin's Bob Caters	Worcs & Dists
20	5152 Casnewydd S Major	Llan & Mon DA	30	5040 Collydean S Royal	Devonshire G	<b>First peals in methods on Handbells</b>		
25	5184 King Edward A Major	Lincoln DG	July			January		
25	5120 Crocus D Major	Yorks A	4	5120 Juniper Green D Major	Peterboro DG	3	5152 Xenoposeidon S Major	G St Cuileain
28	5040 Butcombe D Royal	G&B DA	5	5088 404 Not Found S Major	BUSCR	10	5088 Ugrosaurus S Major	G St Cuileain
February			7	5152 Eggplant S Major	Yorks A	28	5600 Wankie S Major	BUSCR
1	5152 Farleigh Castle D Major	Bath & Wells DA	9	5088 Alderbourne D Major	Yorks A	February		
8	5152 High Level D Major	Lincoln DG	18	5088 Welford on Avon S Major	V Evesham S	25	5152 Giotto S Major	G St Cuileain
10	5088 Glienicke Bridge D Major	W&P DG	19	5040 Friskney A Major	Lincoln DG	April		
10	5088 Ballam D Major	Bath & Wells DA	23	5040 Kirkby Underwood TP Minimus	Lincoln DG	6	5088 Tritonian S Maximus	Oxford DG
15	5152 Gedling D Major	S&N DG	25	5080 Kirkby S Royal	Trent Valley A	May		
15	5024 Violet D Major	Yorks A	26	5040 Quarter Wall A Major	Lundy IS	8	5120 King Charles III D Major	Devonshire G
15	5184 Devil's Water A Major	Lincoln DG	August			June		
18	5152 Dawlish D Major	Devonshire G	4	5024 Bassaleg S Major	Around R	22	5184 Krakatoa D Maximus	G St Cuileain
19	5040 Grampian S Royal	NUSCR	4	5000 Triquetra D Royal	Peterboro DG	July		
21	5120 Peter Davy D Major	Devonshire G	9	5040 Heckington A Major	Lincoln DG	2	5000 Rufus D Royal	G St Cuileain
28	5080 Ingthorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A	16	5152 Ilchester Castle S Major	Bath & Wells DA	27	5152 David's D Major	G St Cuileain
March			16	5124 Consett A Major	Lincoln DG	27	5040 Quesnard S Royal	G St Cuileain
1	5152 Daffodil D Major	Yorks A	16	5152 The Call S Major	Yorks A	August		
2	5024 Wraxall D Major	Bath & Wells DA	17	5120 Queue S Major	Trent Valley A	24	5090 Invasion S Maximus	G St Cuileain
3	5040 Scaldwell S Royal	Peterboro DG	20	5040 Upper Dean Bob Doubles	Peterboro DG	September		
4	5088 Bulkington D Major	Coventry DG	23	5040 Harmston A Major	Lincoln DG	26	5000 Remus S Royal	G St Cuileain
8	5152 Great Hale D Major	Lincoln DG	29	5184 Great Grogley Downs D Major	Devonshire G	29	5040 Fishers Pond S Royal	Oxford DG
11	5000 Katsman D Royal	Dordrect S	30	5184 Helpringham A Major	Lincoln DG	October		
13	5040 Dordrecht Little S Royal	Dordrect S	September			12	5090 Mildmay S Maximus	Oxford DG
14	5056 Bill Brewer S Major	Devonshire G	6	5152 Gedney D Major	Lincoln DG	December		
16	5152 Phillip Andreas D Major	Hereford DG	11	5070 LXX A Major	Coventry DG	14	5090 Colston S Maximus	Oxford DG
17	5100 Century Little Bob Caters	Suffolk G	16	5184 Super Galena TP Major	Hertford CA	28	5040 Vintry S Royal	Oxford DG
17	5088 Maewyn Succat D Major	W&P DG	20	5040 Stamford A Major	Lincoln DG	<b>Records peals on Handbells</b>		
22	5152 Quaking Houses S Major	Lincoln DG	20	5088 Somerset TB Major	Bath & Wells DA	December		
23	5088 Idden A Major	Dorset CA	20	5152 Wigeon S Major	Yorks A	10	12000 Plain B Minimus	York Colleges G
28	5040 Quarmby S Royal	Trent Valley A	22	5040 Maltby S Royal	Trent Valley A	October		
29	5024 Blyth D Major	Lincoln DG	26	5040 Jovium TP Royal	Trent Valley A	2	5040 Roaring Meg S Maximus	St Martins G
29	5152 Brambling S Major	Yorks A	27	5096 Newton A Major	Lincoln DG	4	5120 Newbold Astbury S Major	Derby DA
30	5152 Turkey D Major	Trent Valley A	28	5040 Colonel Riggall TP Minimus	Lincoln DG	4	5184 Horbling A Major	Lincoln DG
31	5152 Ocelot S Major	Bath & Wells DA	28	5056 Toby D Major	Peterboro DG	11	5152 Raven S Major	Yorks A
April			October			11	5040 Morton A Major	Lincoln DG
1	5088 Quadrivium D Major	W&P DG	2	5040 Roaring Meg S Maximus	St Martins G	21	5152 Bennelong S Major	ANZAB
10	5040 Pembrokeshire D Royal	Trent Valley A	4	5120 Newbold Astbury S Major	Derby DA	24	5080 Althorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A
13	5056 Quinton Green D Major	Dorset CA	4	5184 Horbling A Major	Lincoln DG	31	5056 Qipro D Major	Peterboro DG
21	5040 Sandon A Major	Lincoln DG	11	5152 Raven S Major	Yorks A	November		
26	5152 Ring Ouzel S Major	Yorks A	11	5040 Morton A Major	Lincoln DG	1	5184 Barrowby A Major	Lincoln DG
May			21	5152 Bennelong S Major	ANZAB	5	5184 Whiz Bang D Major	Devonshire G
3	5152 Fellside S Major	Lincoln DG	24	5080 Althorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A	5	5120 Greenway S Major	ANZAB
4	5040 Coronation A Major	S Blaise S	31	5056 Qipro D Major	Peterboro DG	8	5152 Sibsey D Major	Lincoln DG
5	5056 King Charles III S Major	Bath & Wells DA	October			9	5000 Hawton S Royal	Trent Valley A
6	5040 King Charles III D Royal	Devonshire G	2	5040 Roaring Meg S Maximus	St Martins G	14	5088 Zastava S Major	Yorks A
6	5042 Koning Charles III A Royal	Dordrect S	4	5120 Newbold Astbury S Major	Derby DA	14	5152 St Stephen's S Major	Worcs & Dists
12	5040 HM King Charles III B Doubles	Peterboro DG	4	5184 Horbling A Major	Lincoln DG	17	5120 Oakenshaw S Major	SRCY
13	5090 Townsend S Major	Lincoln DG	11	5152 Raven S Major	Yorks A	21	5056 Angood S Major	Devonshire G
14	5080 Dragon A Royal	Peterboro DG	11	5040 Morton A Major	Lincoln DG	22	5040 Brant Broughton A Major	Lincoln DG
17	5152 North Rauceby D Major	Lincoln DG	21	5152 Bennelong S Major	ANZAB	22	5120 Heron S Major	Yorks A
17	5024 Gwrych Castle S Major	Bath & Wells DA	24	5080 Althorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A	24	5004 Jura B Caters	Non
20	5082 HM King Charles III S Royal	Peterboro DG	31	5056 Qipro D Major	Peterboro DG	30	5040 Movember D Minor	Peterboro DG
21	5184 Carolus Tertius S Major	Yorks A	November			December		
23	5080 Queensthorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A	1	5184 Barrowby A Major	Lincoln DG	2	5040 Bacoile S Royal	Bath & Wells DA
24	5152 Comfrey D Major	Yorks A	5	5184 Whiz Bang D Major	Devonshire G	6	5096 Aslackby A Major	Lincoln DG
25	5040 Vaught A Major	Devonshire G	5	5120 Greenway S Major	ANZAB	12	5050 Hartley D Major	Lancs A
27	5040 Queen Camilla B Doubles	Peterboro DG	8	5152 Sibsey D Major	Lincoln DG	13	5184 Kirton A Major	Lincoln DG
27	5056 Ringwood D Major	W&P DG	9	5000 Hawton S Royal	Trent Valley A	15	5040 Angel Festival D Royal	Peterboro DG
29	5184 Highweek Village D Major	Devonshire G	14	5088 Zastava S Major	Yorks A	18	5088 Tchaikovsky D Major	W&P DG
31	5152 Deeping St James D Major	Lincoln DG	14	5152 St Stephen's S Major	Worcs & Dists	19	5040 Christmas Cracker TP Minimus	Lincoln DG
June			17	5120 Oakenshaw S Major	SRCY	December		
6	5088 Quadring D Major	S&N DG	21	5056 Angood S Major	Devonshire G	2	5040 Bacoile S Royal	Bath & Wells DA
7	5012 Knowl Hill A Major	Lancs A	22	5040 Brant Broughton A Major	Lincoln DG	6	5096 Aslackby A Major	Lincoln DG
10	5056 Kemberton S Major	Worcs & Dists	22	5120 Heron S Major	Yorks A	12	5050 Hartley D Major	Lancs A
21	5120 Three Bishops S Major	Yorks A	24	5004 Jura B Caters	Non	13	5184 Kirton A Major	Lincoln DG
21	5040 Boston Stump A Major	Lincoln DG	30	5040 Movember D Minor	Peterboro DG	15	5040 Angel Festival D Royal	Peterboro DG
23	5152 Michael Harvey D Major	Bath & Wells DA	December			18	5088 Tchaikovsky D Major	W&P DG
			2	5040 Bacoile S Royal	Bath & Wells DA	19	5040 Christmas Cracker TP Minimus	Lincoln DG
			6	5096 Aslackby A Major	Lincoln DG	20	5056 Old Down S Major	Bath & Wells DA
			12	5050 Hartley D Major	Lancs A			
			13	5184 Kirton A Major	Lincoln DG			
			15	5040 Angel Festival D Royal	Peterboro DG			
			18	5088 Tchaikovsky D Major	W&P DG			
			19	5040 Christmas Cracker TP Minimus	Lincoln DG			
			20	5056 Old Down S Major	Bath & Wells DA			

# Analysis of Peals by Method and Change on Year

## Analysis of Peals by Method and Change on Year

	TOWER			HAND			SIMULATED			DISTRIBUTED			TOTAL		
	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/-	2023	2022	+/
<b>Sixteen</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Septuples</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fourteen</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sextuples and Fourteen</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Maximus</i>															
Bristol Surprise	46	28	18	18	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	45	19
Cambridge Surprise	38	30	8	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	31	7
Spliced	26	19	7	3	5	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	24	5
Spliced Surprise	21	15	6	5	11	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	26	0
Yorkshire Surprise	18	7	11	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	8	10
Spliced Treble Dodging	15	13	2	2	6	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	19	-2
Avon Delight	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2
Zanussi Surprise	2	5	-3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	-2
Orion Surprise	3	2	1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Lincolnshire Surprise	2	2	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	-1
Other	9	5	4	9	16	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	21	-3
<b>Maximus</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Cinques and Maximus</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Cinques</i>															
Grandsire	14	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	9
Stedman	70	69	1	11	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	78	3
<b>Cinques</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Royal</i>															
Cambridge Surprise	69	61	8	17	23	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	84	2
Yorkshire Surprise	62	43	19	10	11	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	54	18
Bristol Surprise	44	43	1	17	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	57	4
Spliced Surprise	25	16	9	4	14	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	30	-1
London No. 3 Surprise	24	20	4	1	6	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	26	-1
Kent Treble Bob	1	1	0	22	23	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	24	-1
Lincolnshire Surprise	5	10	-5	10	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	19	-4
Swindon Surprise	12	7	5	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	8	4
Plain Bob	7	3	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	5
Spliced Treble Dodging	6	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	4
Other	84	97	-13	18	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	94	8
<b>Royal</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Caters and Royal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>Caters</i>															
Grandsire	50	55	-5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	55	-4
Stedman	51	58	-7	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	60	-1
Plain Bob	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
Other	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	4
<b>Caters</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-1</b>
<i>Major</i>															
Spliced Surprise	201	159	42	68	77	-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	269	236	33
Yorkshire Surprise	125	116	9	46	58	-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	174	-3
Bristol Surprise	135	135	0	23	34	-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	169	-11
Cambridge Surprise	102	78	24	25	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	127	100	27
Plain Bob	26	26	0	31	36	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	62	-5
Lincolnshire Surprise	30	22	8	14	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	35	9
Lessness Surprise	35	30	5	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	36	6
Superlative Surprise	30	27	3	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	34	5
London Surprise	32	21	11	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	26	11
Kent Treble Bob	0	0	0	37	48	-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	48	-11
Other	616	584	32	52	64	-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	668	648	20
<b>Major</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>1568</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Triples and Major</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Triples</i>															
Grandsire	35	56	-21	1	3	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	59	-23
Stedman	37	34	3	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	38	7
Plain Bob	25	17	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	17	8
Other	4	7	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	-3
<b>Triples</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-11</b>
<i>Minor</i>															
Surprise (2+m)	292	272	20	36	24	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	296	32
Other multi-method (2+m)	114	109	5	30	50	-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	144	159	-15
Spliced Surprise	102	87	15	17	12	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	120	99	21
Treble Dodging (2+m)	59	58	1	15	30	-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	88	-14
Cambridge Surprise	42	23	19	2	6	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	29	15
Plain Bob	21	17	4	21	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	28	14
Spliced Treble Dodging	19	15	4	8	11	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	26	1
Other	10	7	3	2	4	-2	1	0	1	0	0	0	13	11	2
Spliced Delight	9	14	-5	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	17	-5
Spliced Treble Bob	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1
Treble Bob (2+m)	0	1	-1	2	3	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	-2
<b>Minor</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Doubles and Minor</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>
<i>Doubles</i>															
Grandsire	10	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	8
Stedman	1	7	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	-6
Plain Bob	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Other	103	87	16	0	1	-1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	103	88	15
<b>Doubles</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Minimus</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Singles and Minimus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Singles</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>2990</b>	<b>2646</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>-95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3629</b>	<b>3378</b>	<b>251</b>



Analysis of Peals by Society 2023

Society	Tower (Inc Sim Sound)																Hand																Grand Totals		
	3	3/4	4	5	5/6	6	7	7/8	8	9/10	10	11	11/12	12	14	15	16	Total	4	6	7	7/8	8	9	10	11	11/12	12	13/14	14	Total				
Ancient Soc of College Youths	0	0	0	2	0	23	7	0	76	12	2	31	12	1	37	0	2	205	0	10	0	0	21	4	1	6	0	3	0	0	45				
Australian & New Zealand Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	16	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	26	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27			
Barrow & District Soc	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
Bath & Wells DA	0	0	0	11	0	33	2	2	57	2	0	7	3	0	3	0	0	118	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	123		
Bedfordshire Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14		
Beverley & District Soc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2		
Cambridge Univ Guild	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	21		
Canislie DG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Central European Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Chester DG	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	5	2	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	20	0	23	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	86	
Coventry DG	0	0	0	2	0	8	1	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44		
Derby DA	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	32	0	0	9	2	0	5	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	58		
Devonshire Guild	0	0	0	5	0	36	0	0	66	1	0	13	0	0	3	0	0	124	0	2	0	0	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	143		
Dorset County Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	24	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31		
Durham & Newcastle DA	0	0	0	3	0	7	3	0	17	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36		
Durham Univ Soc	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
Ely DA	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	25	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	39		
Essex Assoc	0	0	0	1	0	24	1	0	13	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	54		
Four Shires G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5		
Goucester & Bristol DA	1	0	0	6	0	12	9	0	26	2	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64		
Guildford DG	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	1	22	2	0	8	3	0	3	0	0	45	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	59		
Hereford DG	0	0	0	15	0	12	1	0	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	42		
Hertford CA	1	0	0	1	0	22	1	1	41	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	74	0	21	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	111		
Irish Assoc	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3		
Kent CA	0	0	0	2	0	32	2	0	35	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	78	0	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	86	
Lancashire Assoc	0	0	1	1	0	11	3	0	38	5	0	20	1	0	3	0	0	83	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	84		
Leeds Univ Soc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Leicester DG	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	12	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	30		
Lichfield & Walsall Archd Soc	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	16	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	18		
Lincoln DG	0	0	3	3	0	24	2	0	50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	95	
Liverpool Univ Soc	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	11	
Llandaff & Monmouth DA	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	11	
Middlesex CA & London DG	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	
National Police Guild	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North American Guild	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	3	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	31	
North Staffordshire Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
North Wales Assoc	0	1	0	3	1	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
Norwich DA	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	23	
Oxford DG	0	0	0	3	0	23	8	0	47	0	0	7	3	0	5	0	0	96	0	0	1	0	39	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	70	166	
Oxford Soc	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	4	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	17	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	24	
Oxford Univ Soc	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
Peterborough DG	0	0	1	16	0	46	0	0	47	2	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	128	0	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128		
Salisbury DG	0	0	0	1	0	16	2	0	5	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	38	
Scottish Assoc	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	14	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	38		
Shropshire Assoc	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	
Soc of Royal Cumberland Youths	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	34	3	1	22	2	6	15	0	0	87	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	95	
Southwell & Nottingham DG	0	0	0	1	0	16	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	
St Davids DG	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
St Martin's G	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	0	21	0	0	4	8	1	18	0	1	67	5	0	7	0	4	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	20	87		
Suffolk G	0	0	0	4	0	23	3	0	53	2	0	10	6	0	9	0	0	110	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	118	
Surrey Assoc	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Sussex CA	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	21	
Swansea & Brecon DG	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Turro DG	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
Univ of Bristol Soc	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	3												

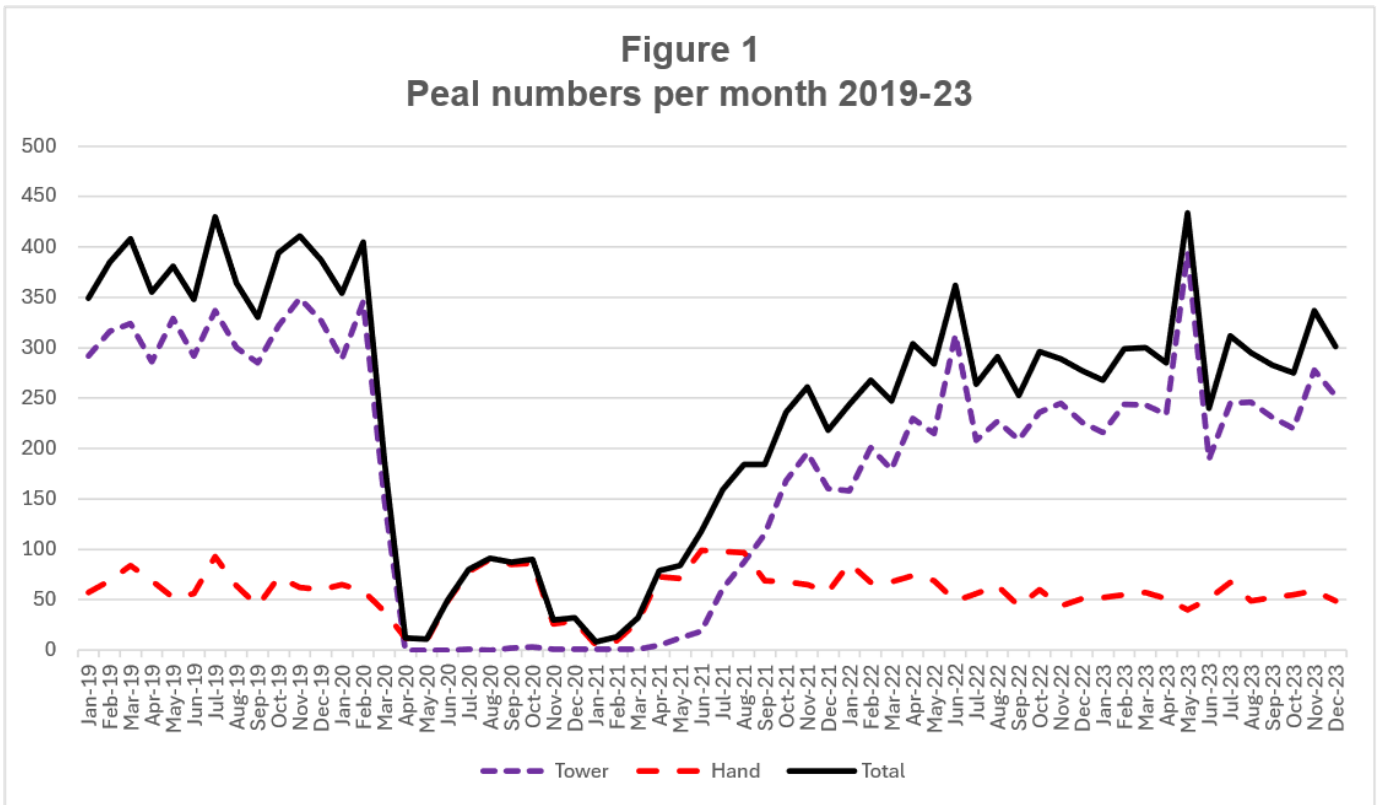


Figure 1. Recovery of peal ringing following the COVID-19 pandemic (Original BellBoard data accessed 1/6/2024)

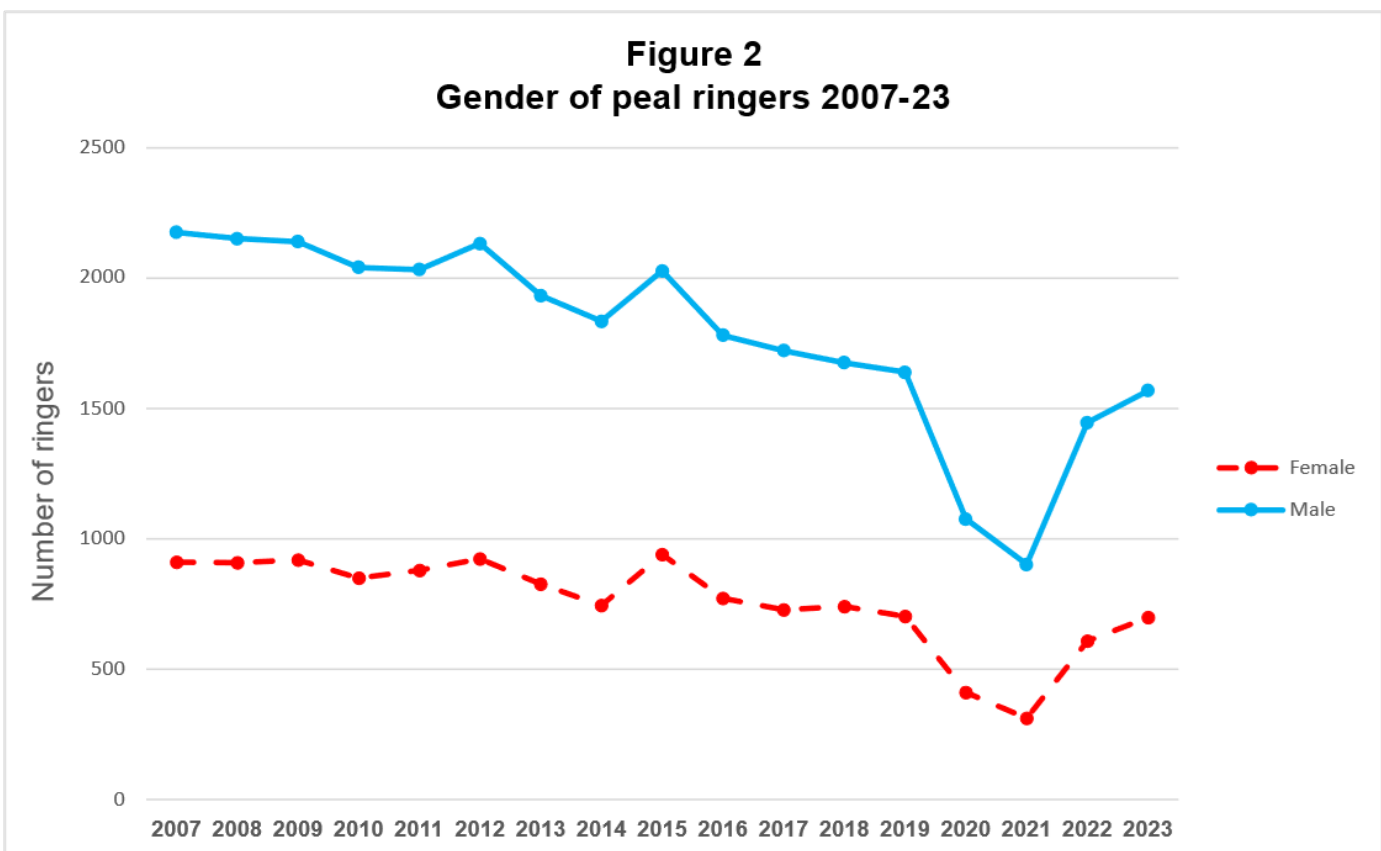


Figure 2. Gender of peal ringers 2007-23 (Data source: www.pealbase.co.uk Accessed 1/7/2024)

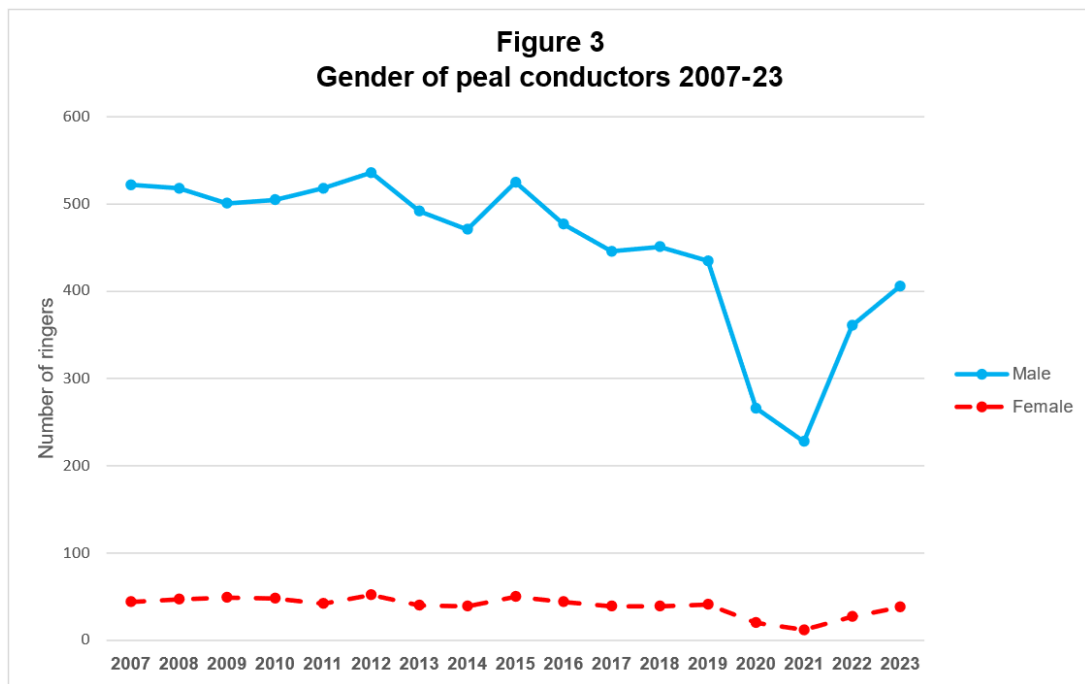


Figure 3. Gender of peal conductors 2007-23 (Data source: www.pealbase.co.uk Accessed 1/7/2024)

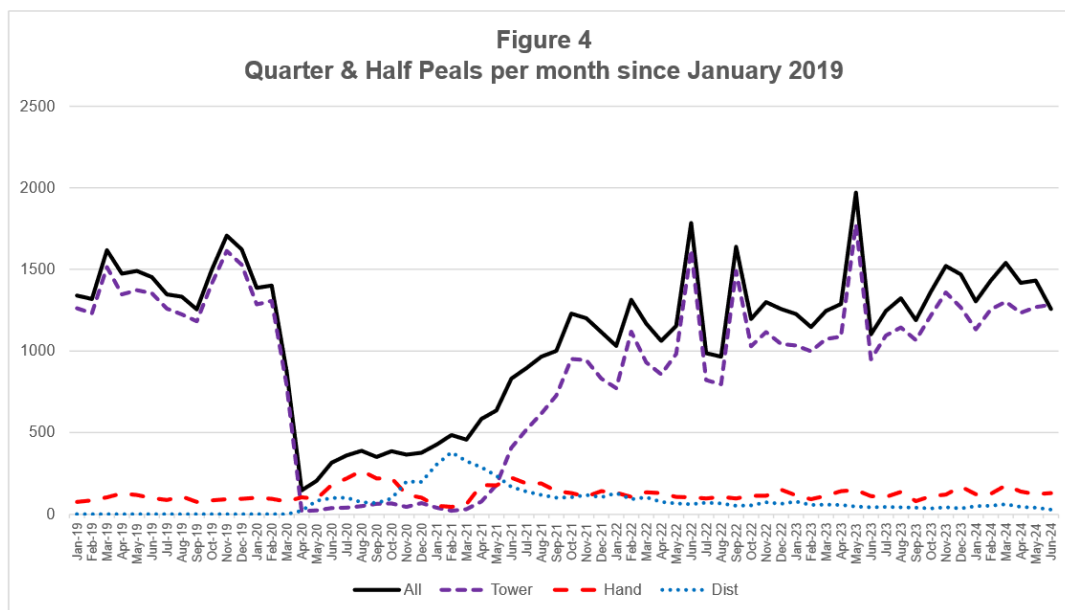


Figure 4. The return to quarter peal ringing since 2021. Note the impact of major national events on 2022 and 2023. (Original BellBoard data accessed 21/6/2023)

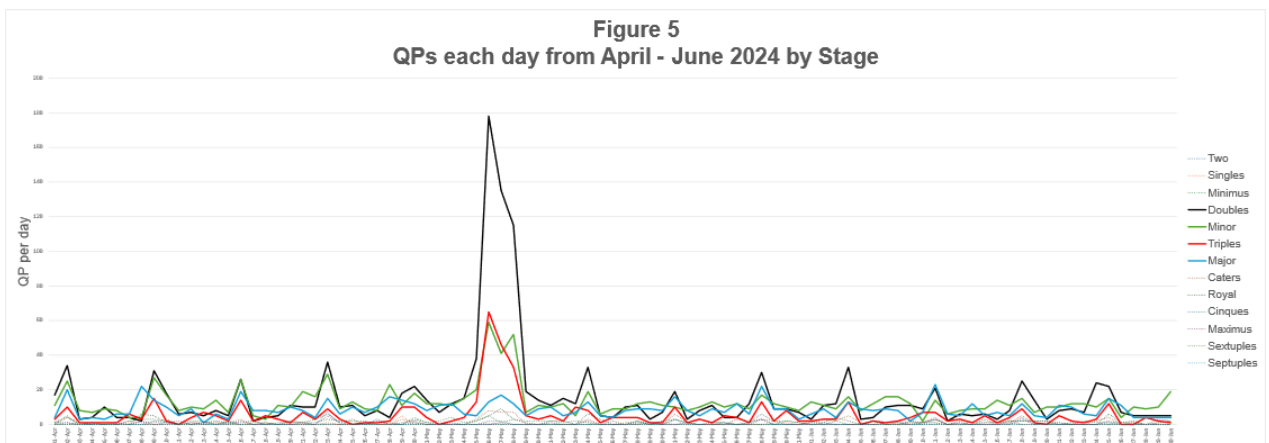


Figure 5. The large spike in quarter peals associated with the Coronation weekend is largely due to Doubles, Minor and Triples. (Original BellBoard data accessed 21/6/2023)

### Quarter and Half Peals Analysis

The available data from BellBoard have been used to make an analysis of Quarter Peals and Half Peals, using the same basis for classification in our analyses as before. Please see the 2021 and 2022 Performance Analysis for details of our approach.

The data presented relate only to method ringing performances and exclude those where at least one “bell” was rung by a computer rather than a human, those which were tolled or chimed and also call-change performances of quarter peal length. While these are feats of physical endurance for which we congratulate the participants, they not covered by the Framework for Method Ringing and are also not included in this analysis.

Of those analysed, there were 16090 performances published of between 1250 and 4999 changes, including 33 over 2500 changes (27 of which were on tower bells and 6 in hand). This is 8% greater than the total for 2022 and 92% of the total for the last pre-pandemic year (2019). The data in Figure 4 show that there was an underlying slow rise in quarter peal numbers through the year with a large peak in May and a smaller peak in November. These were entirely due to the Coronation and Remembrance Sunday weekends. However, since then, and continuing into 2024, the data show an average of around 1400 quarters per month which is very close to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2022 we commented that the increase in QP numbers was greatest for quarters of Doubles, perhaps due to the various UK National events that year. This trend was particularly evident in 2023, where the peak in quarters rung for the Coronation weekend was disproportionately accounted for by quarters of Doubles and, to a lesser degree, of Minor and Triples. (Figure 5).

We have repeated the analysis of the gender of those ringing quarter peals during 2023. The background is in previous reports and is not repeated here other than to stress that the limitations of the data mean that numbers are approximate. Given these caveats, it would be wrong to over-analyse the data.

In terms of proportion of the 106,008 Bells / handbell pairs rung, 63% were rung by males and 37% by females, the same proportion as 2022 and 2021.

The number of ringers claiming their first quarter peal in 2023 was 771 (vs 536 in 2022). Of those 393 (51%) were male and 377 female (49%) (in one case there was no first name given in the performance report). The equivalent figures for 2022 were 286 (54%) male and 249 (46%) female.

A total of 2153 different conductor names were involved in calling quarter and half peals in 2023 with the following gender split:

Gender	2023	2022	2023 Perfs*	2022 Perfs*
Male	1690 (78%)	1783 (81%)	14074 (87%)	88%
Female	463 (22%)	431 (19%)	2239 (14%)	12%

\*NB Some quarters had more than one conductor

While the overall proportion of women ringing quarters has remained unchanged there is at least a hint of a small increase in female conductors.

We thank all those who assist us with our work and in particular the Editor of *The Ringing World*, for alerting us to issues he becomes aware of, and Drew Craddock whose PealBase data assist us in identifying those ringing their first peal and for his excellent data on individual ringing achievements.

PHILLIP BARNES  
RICHARD ALLTON  
RICHARD PULLIN

### Analysis of Quarter and Half Peals by Stage

	Tower		Hand		Sim Sound		Dist.		Grand Totals	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
<b>Two</b>	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	3
<b>Singles</b>	61	29	3	0	0	0	0	0	64	29
<b>Singles &amp; Minimus</b>	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
<b>Minimus</b>	152	142	93	64	3	0	107	78	355	284
<b>Minimus &amp; Doubles</b>	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
<b>Doubles</b>	4566	4110	21	5	51	6	3	13	4641	4134
<b>Doubles and Minor</b>	20	24	1	1	0	0	0	1	21	26
<b>Minor</b>	3643	3131	482	514	42	10	220	387	4387	4042
<b>Triples</b>	1703	1698	21	18	0	1	8	13	1732	1730
<b>Triples &amp; Major</b>	6	13	1	3	0	0	2	2	9	18
<b>Major</b>	2591	2221	646	615	26	3	216	362	3479	3201
<b>Caters</b>	445	517	13	11	3	0	1	0	462	528
<b>Caters &amp; Royal</b>	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
<b>Royal</b>	358	347	133	127	4	0	22	38	517	512
<b>Cinques</b>	175	171	4	3	1	0	0	0	180	174
<b>Cinques &amp; Maximus</b>	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
<b>Maximus</b>	202	145	20	20	0	0	2	8	224	173
<b>Sextuples</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Septuples</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Multistage*</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1393</b> <b>7</b>	<b>1255</b> <b>7</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>16090</b>	<b>14862</b>

### Analysis of Quarter and Half Peals by County / Country 2023

	Tower		Hand		Sim Sound		Dist.		Grand Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Asia	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	0	1
Aust & NZ	301	265	11	24	10	0	-	-	322	289
Bedfordshire	109	110	2	1	1	2	-	-	112	113
Berkshire	230	200	123	114	0	0	-	-	353	314
Buckinghamshire	136	112	9	8	0	0	-	-	145	120
Cambridgeshire	533	451	74	72	0	0	-	-	607	523
Channel Is	151	127	32	33	33	0	-	-	216	160
Cheshire	263	235	50	15	0	0	-	-	313	250
City & Greater London	576	546	12	15	1	0	-	-	589	561
Cornwall & Is of Scilly	120	124	4	13	0	0	-	-	124	137
County Durham	153	118	31	35	0	0	-	-	184	153
Cumbria	96	58	8	3	6	0	-	-	110	61
Derbyshire	345	328	29	28	19	0	-	-	393	356
Devon	362	323	37	41	0	0	-	-	399	364
Dorset	341	210	42	27	0	0	-	-	383	236
East Riding of Yorks	85	133	44	36	0	0	-	-	129	169
East Sussex	286	254	14	11	0	0	-	-	300	265
Essex	351	376	29	7	0	0	-	-	380	383
Europe	46	54	11	7	0	0	-	-	57	61
Gloucester & Bristol	703	634	8	6	0	0	-	-	711	640
Greater Manchester	78	69	6	7	2	0	-	-	86	74
Hampshire & I of Wight	513	467	56	71	1	0	-	-	570	538
Herefordshire	262	210	0	3	0	0	-	-	262	213
Hertfordshire	397	320	52	79	0	0	-	-	449	399
Ireland	17	9	0	0	0	0	-	-	17	9
Kent	739	769	27	50	0	0	-	-	766	819
Lancashire & I of Man	136	124	12	9	0	0	-	-	148	135
Leicestershire	162	180	34	12	0	0	-	-	196	192
Lincolnshire	417	382	13	6	0	0	-	-	430	388
Merseyside	104	100	0	2	0	0	-	-	104	102
Mid and W Wales	104	90	1	7	0	0	-	-	105	97
Middlesex	51	38	5	6	0	0	-	-	56	44
North America & Caribn	118	111	55	51	0	0	-	-	173	162
North Wales	69	58	0	0	10	0	-	-	79	58
North Yorkshire	347	310	48	13	1	0	-	-	396	322
Norfolk	405	359	52	21	41	18	-	-	498	398
Northamptonshire	220	177	3	1	0	0	-	-	223	178
Northumberland, T & W	64	99	3	5	0	0	-	-	67	104
Nottinghamshire	237	216	76	72	0	0	-	-	313	288
Oxfordshire	447	377	167	199	0	0	-	-	614	576
Rutland	11	10	0	1	0	0	-	-	11	11
Scotland	141	106	68	88	0	0	-	-	209	194
Shropshire	234	251	8	9	0	0	-	-	242	260
Somerset	803	722	24	25	3	0	-	-	830	747
South Wales	153	112	9	32	1	0	-	-	163	144
South Yorkshire	153	169	11	12	0	0	-	-	164	181
Staffordshire	199	214	17	18	1	0	-	-	217	232
Suffolk	431	347	28	28	0	0	-	-	459	375
Surrey	213	224	7	26	0	0	-	-	220	250
Warwickshire	259	215	55	1	0	0	-	-	314	216
West Midlands	238	215	9	5	0	0	-	-	247	220
West Sussex	171	175	1	10	0	0	-	-	172	185
West Yorkshire	214	155	12	9	0	0	-	-	226	165
Wiltshire	293	222	6	2	0	0	-	-	299	225
Worcestershire	350	297	5	6	0	0	-	-	355	303
"In transit"	0	0	2	0	0	0	-	-	2	0
Multisite	-	-	-	-	-	-	581	902	581	902
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>13937</b>	<b>12557</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>16090</b>	<b>14862</b>

## Robert Kilby Memorial Peal

In 2017 the Central Council received a legacy from Robert M Kilby to support the ringing of Stedman Caters – specifically the Council organises a peal of Stedman Caters each year with the band containing at least one ringer for whom it is the first peal of Stedman Caters. The first peal was rung for the Leicester Diocesan Guild at St Mary de Castro, Leicester on Saturday 27 October 2018 (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1252159>)

Peals were also rung in 2019 for the Coventry Diocesan Guild, in 2021 for the Yorkshire Association, and in 2022 for the Peterborough Diocesan Guild.

Applications are invited from societies for future peals (mail to [secretary@ccbr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ccbr.org.uk)).

# Affiliated Society Membership Numbers - August 2024

Society	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change from 2023	2024 No of Reps	2024 Vacancies
Ancient Society of College Youths	567	549	582	548	523	498	523	522	683	678	672	-0.88%	4	0
Australian & New Zealand Association	576	576	576	453	532	480	482	435	442	393	344	-12.47%	3	0
Barrow & District Society				110	121	116	127		130	130	139	6.92%	1	0
Bath & Wells Diocesan Association	1873	1836	1889	1896	1870	1723	1718	1709	1712	1708	1654	-3.16%	4	1
Bedfordshire Association	375	375	391	390	367	359	353	347	306	315	318	0.95%	3	0
Beverley & District	185	190	175			236	251	252	253	237	223	-5.91%	2	0
Cambridge University Guild	165	160	150	252		220	225	300	275	250	225	-10.00%	2	0
Carlisle Diocesan Guild	193	184	195	207	212	229	249	237	218	213	213	0.00%	2	0
Central European Association										30	31	3.33%	1	0
Chester Diocesan Guild	821	864	864		884	910	823	793	821	830	810	-2.41%	4	0
Clerical Guild							102	102	101	101	100	-0.99%	1	0
Coventry Diocesan Guild	600	616	644	621	511	480	515	487	478	452	451	-0.22%	4	0
Derby Diocesan Association	590	593	583	583	644	693	694	664	627	565	629	11.33%	4	0
Devon Association	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	500	500	600	20.00%	1	3
Devonshire Guild	635	617	624	650	684	626	661	676	588	531	543	2.26%	4	0
Dorset County Association	450	399	60	281	222	121	101	109	113	119	144	21.01%	1	0
Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association	464	464	512	550		537	480	466	504	506	527	4.15%	2	2
Durham University Society	80	60	110	50		100	100	100	110	110	110	0.00%	1	0
East Derby & West Notts Association	104	93	98	80		89	96	92	95	96	90	-6.25%	1	0
Ely Diocesan Association	605	614	674	696		717	717	749	735	649	695	7.09%	4	0
Essex Association	1082	1106	1212	1151	1080	1107	1137	1089	1020	1009	1069	5.95%	4	1
Four Shires Guild			195	179	214	220	207	180	163	167	187	11.98%	1	1
Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association	1405	1386	1374	1379		1253	1300	1282	1187	1091	1154	5.77%	5	0
Guildford Diocesan Guild	624	610	637		639	641	666	649	620	589	626	6.28%	3	1
Hereford Diocesan Guild	816	800	800	776		771	765	765	659	665	709	6.62%	2	2
Hertford County Association	766	729	747	742	755	744	709	709	695	665	630	-5.26%	4	0
Irish Association	333	333	333	295		328	355	350	345	338	372	10.06%	3	0
Kent County Association	1494	1389	1403	1547	1497	1470	1363	1372	1191	1385	1100	-20.58%	4	1
Ladies Guild	350	362	397	420	400	407	419	426	421	363	442	21.76%	3	0
Lancashire Association	1128	1090	1062	1044		1073	1096	1105	1092	1077	715	-33.61%	3	1
Leeds University Society	65	65	65	80		80	90	90	88	92	134	45.65%	1	0
Leicester Diocesan Guild	720	720	632	650	660	707	716	694	638	586	581	-0.85%	3	1
Lichfield & Walsall Archdeacons Society	351	355	368	360	377	350	380	380	350	350	358	2.29%	3	0
Lincoln Diocesan Guild	709	691	691	646		657	689	671	658	600	664	10.67%	4	0
Liverpool University Society	157	157	161	75				87	75	71	74	4.23%	1	0
Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association	394	381	443	447	411	419	391		360	346	378	9.25%	3	0
Middlesex Diocesan Guild and London County Association	461	423	495	540	574	547	577		555	509	522	2.55%	1	3
National Police Guild	70	88	86	68		62	85	78	82	81	85	4.94%	1	0
North American Guild	521	543	586	556	580	572	536	536	442	439	454	3.42%	3	1
North Staffordshire Association	328	353	398	410	372	401	399	394	354	350	370	5.71%	0	3
North Wales Association	211	246	253	253		267	247	281	225	255	249	-2.35%	2	0

Society	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 No of Reps	2024 Vacancies
Norwich Diocesan Association	770	850	779	765		651	663	663	654	625	508	3	1
Oxford Diocesan Guild	2560	2500	2586	2498		2433	2614	2542	2423	2156	2200	5	1
Oxford Society	286	275	332	71	70	100	100	100	78	79	75	1	0
Oxford University Society	110	130	100	100	100	120	130	130	120	120	120	1	0
Peterborough Diocesan Guild	926	888	888			914	916	919	894	874	942	4	0
St David's Diocesan Guild	106	97	97			96	98	98	93	104	118	1	0
St Martin's Guild	208	142	215	242		275	259	268	297	256	271	1	1
Salisbury Diocesan Guild	1391	1416	1416	1437	1496	1550	1663	1473	1400	1515	1749	5	0
Scottish Association	184	201	220	233		225	224	229	203	222	231	2	0
Shropshire Association	194	244	250			284	288	274	251	250	260	2	0
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths#	583	599	599	489	425	844	844	853	876	894	886	4	0
South African Guild	35	34	34	42		33	33	37	36	36	32	1	0
Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Guild	646	645	664	651	635	650	657	657	650	650	540	4	0
Suffolk Guild	674	718	837	774	700	756	776	720	611	650	628	4	0
Surrey Association	585	573	605	603	604	605	598	598	577	598	578	4	0
Sussex County Association	1294	1295	1326	1312		1300	1294	1280	1211	1160	1045	5	0
Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Guild	164	152	152	157		153	133	132	132	119	106	0	1
Truro Diocesan Guild	967	972	988	1096	1022	765	725	543	630	713	714	3	1
University of Bristol Society	200	200	153	241		290	289	230	240	240	240	2	0
University of London Society	51	57	57	80		150	150	150	150	150	150	1	0
Veronese Association	2000	2000	1700	1700		1700	1700	1700	1700	300	300	2	0
Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild	1499	1410	1441	1335	1419	1326	1329	1400	1260	1285	1129	5	0
Worcestershire & Districts Association	698	712	641	638		620	669	637	663	622	614	4	0
Yorkshire Association	1866	1875	1860	1800		1700	1718	1750	1700	1498	1489	3	2
Welsh Colleges Society									96	96	84	1	0

% change from 2023
-18.72%
2.04%
-5.06%
0.00%
7.78%
13.46%
5.86%
15.45%
4.05%
4.00%
-0.89%
-11.11%
-16.92%
-3.38%
-3.34%
-9.91%
-10.92%
0.14%
0.00%
0.00%
-100.00%
-12.14%
-1.29%
-0.60%
-12.50%

171	28
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1	0
1	0

-1.51%
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10.67%
-2.22%

Society	2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Norwich Diocesan Association	770	850	779	765		651	663	663	654	625	508
Oxford Diocesan Guild	2560	2500	2586	2498		2433	2614	2542	2423	2156	2200
Oxford Society	286	275	332	71	70	100	100	100	78	79	75
Oxford University Society	110	130	100	100	100	120	130	130	120	120	120
Peterborough Diocesan Guild	926	888	888			914	916	919	894	874	942
St David's Diocesan Guild	106	97	97			96	98	98	93	104	118
St Martin's Guild	208	142	215	242		275	259	268	297	256	271
Salisbury Diocesan Guild	1391	1416	1416	1437	1496	1550	1663	1473	1400	1515	1749
Scottish Association	184	201	220	233		225	224	229	203	222	231
Shropshire Association	194	244	250			284	288	274	251	250	260
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths#	583	599	599	489	425	844	844	853	876	894	886
South African Guild	35	34	34	42		33	33	37	36	36	32
Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Guild	646	645	664	651	635	650	657	657	650	650	540
Suffolk Guild	674	718	837	774	700	756	776	720	611	650	628
Surrey Association	585	573	605	603	604	605	598	598	577	598	578
Sussex County Association	1294	1295	1326	1312		1300	1294	1280	1211	1160	1045
Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Guild	164	152	152	157		153	133	132	132	119	106
Truro Diocesan Guild	967	972	988	1096	1022	765	725	543	630	713	714
University of Bristol Society	200	200	153	241		290	289	230	240	240	240
University of London Society	51	57	57	80		150	150	150	150	150	150
Veronese Association	2000	2000	1700	1700		1700	1700	1700	1700	300	300
Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild	1499	1410	1441	1335	1419	1326	1329	1400	1260	1285	1129
Worcestershire & Districts Association	698	712	641	638		620	669	637	663	622	614
Yorkshire Association	1866	1875	1860	1800		1700	1718	1750	1700	1498	1489
Welsh Colleges Society									96	96	84

40870	40610	41016	37863	23217	40369	40834	39182	38878	36676	36124
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Smal Societies	2024	2023
Guild of Railway Ringers	83	75
Liliputters Guild	44	45
Open University Society		

Previously affiliated	2024	2023
Birmingham University Society		
London County Association	564	
Society of Sherwood Youths	72	56
Zimbabwe Guild	28	28
East Grinstead & District Guild	56	54
St Agatha Guild		



# Notes