

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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



Annual Council Meeting 2025 Sheffield 6th September 2025 Papers

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Sheffield Cathedral
from the tram stop



From The President

I hope, like me, you are looking forward to the upcoming meeting and roadshow in Sheffield, and this year's meeting papers give you a lot to absorb in advance of that meeting. Please read over the reports thoroughly and feel free to ask questions in advance. The engagement and interest is appreciated, and it has been especially worthwhile this year meeting with university representatives and association officers to find ways of working together more effectively.

We have some interesting things to debate on themes very important not only to Council members but to all ringers.



At the last meeting we were asked for more detail on plans around Ringing 2030, and by now you will be able to access the Business plan for 2025, the forward plan for 2026 and the overarching Ringing 2030 business plan. Included in these papers is also a high level status overview of each individual project within Ringing 2030, as well as detailed reports from WorkGroup leads.

A question I have heard from many people over the past year, is 'How does Ringing 2030 benefit me and my tower?'. If we achieve the goals of Ringing 2030, the benefit will be more ringers and more opportunities to ring instead of less of both. However, this isn't the right question. The right question is 'what do we need ringing to be in order to flourish in the future?', and 'what is my role in ensuring this happens?'. It is important that we move our thinking away from a narrow, transactional point of view and towards a more collaborative model.

You will see from the progress reports a theme of progress being impeded by lack of people to help out. The meeting weekend is an ideal opportunity to find a project you would be interested in helping to move forward.

The other item on everyone's minds is the upcoming increase in the affiliation fee (very much related to Ringing 2030 projects), and how this discussion has exposed quite a lot of inconsistencies in our membership rules and policies. Before you are a set of motions to create a clearer and more inclusive membership and affiliation process. My grateful thanks go to the team who spend the last year analysing and roadtesting these proposals. I think it is a positive step and I hope you do too.

Tina Stoecklin
President
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
Registered Charity No 270036

The 128th Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on SATURDAY 6th September 2025 at
The Niagara Conference Centre, Niagara Road, Sheffield, S6 1LU at 1.00pm

Will members please sign the roll and be in their seats by 12.50pm.

AGENDA

Welcome and introduction

Opening prayer

1. Application to affiliate and other changes to affiliation
2. Welcome to new members
3. Apologies for absence – must be provided in advance.
4. In Memoriam. *Page 5 of the meeting papers*
5. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting. *Page 6 of the meeting papers*
6. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda
(Please notify the secretary in advance, if possible)
7. Trustees Annual Report for 2024. *Page 16 of the meeting papers*
8. Accounts for 2024. *Page 24 of the meeting papers*
9. Workgroup Reports for 2024 – May 2025. *See meeting papers*
(Please notify the secretary of questions in advance, if possible)
10. Ringing 2030 and Forward Plan for 2026 – *Page 33 of the meeting papers*
11. Financial update for 2025 and outline General Fund budget for 2026.
Page 31 of the meeting papers
12. Governance Review. *Page 22 of the meeting papers*
13. Motions.

Motion A

That the existing Rules of the Council as amended by the changes indicated in The Schedule be adopted as the Rules of the Council in lieu of the existing Rules, and that the Executive be requested to amend the Standing Orders as recommended by the Review.

Proposed: Peter Harrison
Seconded: David Smith

The Schedule can be found on the Council's Website at
<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2025-annual-meeting/2025-agm-meeting-papers/>

Motion B

- Creation of a new Associate category of membership to manage Council membership for those groups of ringers who do not collect a regular membership fee from all their members
- For Affiliated Societies, the lower membership limit being fixed at 50, removing the lower limit of 25 for overseas societies. This removes a conflict with Small Societies membership thresholds.
- Allow Small Societies to send one voting member to Council meetings.
- Societies wishing to apply for membership of the Council in any of the three categories of membership will have to satisfy the Council on the criteria set out in Standing Order S2.
- Added an Appeal process where an application for membership is rejected.
- Remove the Rules requiring an annual or triennial election of Council representatives by Societies.
- Annual Subscriptions (Standing Order F1) will be £1 per Affiliated Member, £0.40 per declared Associate member (negotiable); and £10 for a Small Society.
- Amendment of the Rules and Standing Orders of The Council as listed in Addendum 2 of this agenda.

Page 12 of the meeting papers

Proposed by Ernie de Legh–Runciman – Ex-Officio Member

Seconded by Alistair Donaldson – Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Notes on Motion B

1. The class of Associate membership will be open to smaller societies such as University and “themed” Societies such as Doctors, Firemen, Bankers, University Societies, etc.
2. Each Associate Society will be able to send one voting member to Council Meetings. Societies wishing to transfer to the Associate category of membership will have to apply to the Secretary and negotiate their fees at intervals.
3. Annual Subscriptions (Standing Order F1) will be £0.40 per declared Associate member. While this is negotiable the minimum Subscription for an Associated Society shall be £30 – minimum membership of 75 @ £0.40 each
4. There will be no change to Societies present membership category if this motion is passed.
5. Small Societies already have to satisfy the Council on application regarding safeguarding arrangements. New applications to affiliate in all categories will be required to meet the requirements of Standing Order S2. Note that while this is not retrospective, it is recommended that current Affiliated Societies review how they would meet these requirements.
6. The removal of the rule requiring an annual or triennial election of Council representatives by Societies allows Societies to decide how best to elect their representatives.

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

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Secretary	Ernie de Legh–Runciman	Allison Devine	Eileen Butler
Trustee	Beverly Faber	Jane Wilkinson	Eileen Butler
Trustee	Alison Edmonds	Elva Ainsworth	Zoe Bennett

Supporting statements are given in the Addendum 1 of this agenda. *Page 11 of the meeting papers*

15. Appointment of Independent Examiners (2)

16. Future meetings.

2026: An invitation has been received from the Coventry Diocesan Guild
2027:

17. Any other business.

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

18. Vote of Thanks

19. Meeting attendance

Ernie De Legh–Runciman – Secretary
9th August 2025

In Memoriam

The following Council Members died after the report for 2024 was compiled:

Malcolm John Lodwick, St David's Diocesan Guild 1981 – 1982, Kent County Association 1984 – 1990, attended 5 meetings, died 17 July 2024

David Roger McLean, Norwich Diocesan Association 1987 – 1990, 1993 – 1996, 2002 – 2005, 2008 – 2011, attended 11 meetings, died 20 August 2024

Norman Richard Mattingley, Hereford Diocesan Guild 1981 – 1994, Truro Diocesan Guild 1996 – 2019, attended 34 meetings, died 25 August 2024

John Weaver, Peterborough Diocesan Guild 1990 – 1997, attended 6 meetings, died 24 August 2024.

The following Council members died after the 2024 Council Meeting:

Prof Micheal Bailey Davies, Ely Diocesan Association 1987 – 2011, attended 24 meetings, died 20 September 2024

Derek Edmund Sibson, Society of Royal Cumberland Youths 1963 – 2025, President of The Council 2005 – 2008, attended 58 meetings, died 22 March 2025

Derek Charles Jackson, Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild 1980 – 1999, attended 17 meetings, died 1 October 2024

Elizabeth Ann Williams (Neé Sadler), Shropshire Association 2021 – 2025, attended 4 meetings, died 22 April 2025

Michael John Mulvey, Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association 1996 – 2002 attended 6 meetings, died 3 October 2024

Rev Dr Peter Newing, Durham University Society 1984 – 2005, attended 19 meetings, died 16 May 2025

David Chambers Manger, Kent County Association 1984 – 2008, attended 24 meetings, died 16 November 2024

Paul Nichol Mounsey, Oxford University Society 1978 – 1984, attended 6 meetings, died 29 May 2025

Theodora Fairfax (Theo) Crowder, Ladies' Guild 1993 – 1999, Norwich Diocesan Association 2005 – 2011, attended 12 meetings, died 31 December 2024

Dr Donald Henry Niblett, Oxford University Society 1957 – 1960, Kent County Association 1978 – 1999, attended 19 meetings, died 14 July 2025

Brian Norman Trowbridge, Derby Diocesan Association 1990 – 1996, attended 4 meetings, died 29 January 2025

Dennis Bernard Clive, Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaonaries Society 1999 – 2005, attended 5 meetings, died 10 July 2025

Lucy Smith (née Allen), Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaonries Society 1996 – 2002, attended 6 meetings, died 6 March 2025

Rev. Canon Michael Stuart Hart, Hereford Diocesan Guild 1967 – 1969, Lancashire Association 1987 – 1992, attended 5 meetings,

Minutes of the 127th Annual General Meeting, held in West Exe School,
Exeter, EX2 9JU on Saturday 7th September 2024, at 2.00pm

The Chair was taken by The President, Tina Stoecklin.

The President asked everyone to sign in for the meeting

The President welcomed members of the Council to Exeter. She reminded the meeting only Fellows and representative members may vote. All membership returns and subscriptions had been submitted.

The Rev Jon Rose (Clerical Guild) opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Election of Fellows to the Council

Following a unanimous resolution of the Executive under Standing Order M2.2a on 28th July 2024, the following were proposed for membership of the Council as Fellows:

Christopher Mew
Barbara Wheeler

These nominations were accepted by the Council, with no votes against and 3 abstentions.

Certificates were presented to Christopher and Barbara. Chris thanked the Council for the nominations.

2. Application to affiliate

No applications for affiliation had been received. An application to join the Council as a small society had been received from the Open University Society. This had been approved by the Executive and would be applicable from 2nd October 2024.

3. Other changes to affiliation

A disaffiliation notice has been received from The Guild of St Agatha, signed by two of their officers, under rule 4.4e.

4. Welcome to new members

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

5. Apologies for absence

A number of apologies were received and are listed at the end of these minutes.

6. In Memoriam

The Secretary read the names of the following members and former members who had died since the last meeting.

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 Knewstubb, 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 (née 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

The following Council Members died after the 2024 report went to print.

Malcolm John Lodwick, St David's Diocesan Guild 1981 – 1982, Kent County Association 1984 – 1990, attended 5 meetings, died 17 July 2024

Norman Richard Mattingley, Hereford Diocesan Guild 1981 – 1994, Truro Diocesan Guild 1996 – 2019, attended 34 meetings, died 25 August 2024

David R McLean, Norwich Diocesan Association 1987–1990, 1993–1996, 2002–2005 and 2008–2024. Attended 11 meetings.

The Rev Anthony Ellis (Hereford Guild) led the meeting in prayer.

7. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

There were no corrections noted. The meeting approved the minutes and they were signed by the President.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

9. Trustees Annual Report for 2023

The President introduced the Trustees Annual Report (TAR). The President introduced the current trustees.

The Secretary reported on changes to the membership figures in paragraph 7. As of the 26th August 2024 there were 66 affiliated societies and 2 small societies. There was a membership of 2 fellows, 17 ex-officio members, 172 representative members and 27 vacancies. There were 2 representatives from small societies.

There were no questions.

The President proposed the report be accepted, seconded by Alan Frost (Fellow). This was accepted, with 2 abstentions.

10. Accounts for 2023

These were approved by the Executive on the 28th of July 2024. Fergus Stracey presented the accounts. Duncan Walker, as Independent Examiner, had submitted an unqualified report to the Council, which was made 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 31st December 2023, the total assets of the Council were £419,257. The General Fund made a loss of £18,712, primarily as a result of spending for Ringing 2030. Publications had returned to profit and The Friends of the Library had a deficit of £142. Two grants were paid from the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund, leaving £2,100 in unpaid grants. Nine grants were paid from the Bell Restoration Fund leaving a total of £33,200 in outstanding commitments.

There were no questions. The Treasurer proposed that the accounts be received and adopted. Seconded by James Kirkcaldy (Guild of Devonshire Ringers). This was accepted with no votes against or abstentions.

11. Annual Report of the Executive and Workgroups for 2023 – May 2024

The President introduced the reports as printed in the meeting papers. She pointed out that these reports were based on the Workgroup structure pre-May 2024. She introduced the current Workgroup leads. Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG) asked for the sentence “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” to read “Plans for the National Ringing Centre were finally and formally shelved, due to the gradual weakening of the original proposition”. The President was happy for this modification to be made.

Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG) expressed concern as to how the National Ringing Centre project was managed, the way in which the project was cancelled and how this cancellation was communicated to the affected parties involved. He asked how the Council would ensure that appropriate project management is in place so that future projects, such as Ringing 2030, did not suffer a similar fate. Mr Donaldson felt that the project should have been subject to independent review (i.e. by a Trustee not involved with the project).

Will Bosworth (Ringing World) asked if the meeting could be given a summary of the

events leading to the cancellation of the project. The President asked for Council's permission for Simon Linford to address the meeting. Mr Linford gave the meeting a summary of how the project started, who was involved and what the plans entailed. Due to charges in the Churches Conservation Trust, there were major changes to the project, which vastly reduced the size and scope of it. It was eventually realised that what was going to emerge could not be called a National Ringing Centre. It was conceded that there was a lack of communication towards the end of the project.

Ian Roulstone (SRCY) was one of three trustees asked to review the project. He agreed that what was going to eventually emerge could not be called a National Ringing Centre. He did agree that the Executive needs to take into account the messages about project management.

Simon Dixon (Peterborough DG) agreed that the project had changed, but stated that we need to look forward, and ensure that communication issues do not occur again. The President said that she would take personal responsibility to ensure this would not happen in the future.

Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG) said he did not disagree with the decision, but needed much better communication, and asked again how the Executive are going to manage long term projects in the future. The President said the Executive will take action on this.

Alison Hodge (Worcester & District) asked about the headings on the Publications stock lists. Barbara Wheeler (Fellow) clarified that the 2024 figures were included in the list, but the report was only for 2023.

The President proposed that the report be adopted. This was approved with one abstention.

12. Forward Plan for 2025

The President introduced the forward plans for 2025, based on the published information regarding the 3 Pillars.

For 2025, the plans included:

Pillar 1: Bring bell ringing to more events, a targeted marketing campaign and to rollout school lesson plans.

Pillar 2: Targeted recruitment campaigns, launch the marketing and recruitment portal, grow the young ringers' hub, plan one more regional course and bite-size leadership and diversity training.

Pillar 3: Bite sized technical knowledge, changing churches, central overhead provision, financial conference and professional engagement.

Josephine Leggett (University of Bristol) asked about making information about personal safeguarding issues (autism, etc) available to other ringing organisations. Andrea Haynes (Ex-Officio) is looking at a project on neurodiversity for the Young Ringers Hub.

Peter Harrison (ANZAB) reminded Council that jurisdictions outside England will have different requirements for safeguarding, insurance, etc. While the President agreed, it was pointed out that most of the 3 Pillars work can be applied internationally.

Nick Elks (Peterborough DG) asked about the financial conference. The President gave a summary of the vision for the conference, as a chance to review bell ringing finance in general.

Alison Hodge (Worcester and District) felt that the plans presented needed much more detail. She felt that the Workgroups lacked resources and volunteers.

Clyde Whittaker (Ex-Officio) pointed out that the Council's Safeguarding Officers had produced a number of tools for society safeguarding officers.

13. Financial update for 2024 and outline General Fund budget for 2025

The Treasurer presented this item. There are currently two small societies, but this would increase to three in October. The General Fund would be in surplus when The Council's legal obligations were considered, but when expenses for Workgroups and Ringing 2030 are considered, it was anticipated there will be a deficit of about £2,000. Receivable interest was estimated to be about £5,000. The library move had been completed, and the Council had made a payment of £1,528 for the move. Thirty-one: eight safeguarding support was available to affiliated societies, who were encouraged to use them. Payment to YellowYoYo this year amounted to £4,260, making a total spend with them of £25,075. Banners and flags had been purchased. The Essex Scout & Guide Jamboree was supported at a cost of £350.

For the outline budget for 2025 the expenditure has been split to show statutory obligations and concessionary spending for Workgroups and Ringing 2030. A website hosting budget of approximately £1,750 is due in 2025. There would be some spending from reserves in 2025, including Ringing 2030, purchase of a new Rolls of Honour Book (with thanks to those who had already contributed), reprinting of various publications and spending on the South West Course. A budget for these items was being compiled. The Executive is conscious of the need to spend wisely and would look carefully at the funding requests.

There were several questions:

Nick Elks (Peterborough DG) Will there be any further spending on YellowYoYo, and have we had value for money? The President confirmed that there is no further spending. The spending was in three phases, on research, developing branding and collateral, and the deliverables (including logos, banners, etc) and the website design for the recruitment portal. The President considered the spending excellent value for money.

Alistair Donaldson (Peterborough DG). How does the Executive authorise spending on high value and long-term commitments projects? The Treasurer stated that he was authorised to spend up to £500. Anything above that had to be approved by the Executive. There is no upper limit under the current rules on the value the Executive can authorise.

John Harrison (Oxford DG) made the point that the purpose of the CRAG report was to give the Executive powers, but it was the responsibility of the Council members to scrutinise the Executive. He felt this should be a constant process, not just at the ACM. He encouraged Council members to read the monthly reports from Executive meetings and feedback responses to the Executive.

David Kirkcaldy (Sussex CA) agreed with John Harrison regarding holding the Executive to account, but recommended that, if possible, questions could be submitted in advance, so the Executive have time to consider a complete answer, rather than being "put on the spot".

14. Election of Trustees

Treasurer: Fergus Stracey, proposed by Alena Wardle (Devonshire Guild), seconded by James Kirkcaldy (Devonshire Guild). Fergus was elected unopposed.

Ordinary Trustee: Peter Harrison, proposed by David Smith (ANZAB), seconded by James Blackburn (Beverley and District). Peter was elected unopposed.

15. Election of Independent Examiners (2)
Duncan Walker was proposed by Fred Bone (Essex), seconded by John Harrison (Oxford DG). Duncan was elected unopposed.

16. Motions

Motion (A)

E de Legh-Runciman (Ex-Officio) proposed, C Whittaker (Ex-Officio) seconded:

That with effect from the close of the 127th Council Meeting on 7th 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.

Clyde Whittaker spoke to the Motion. He mentioned that current standing orders limited officers and stewards' roles to six years. However, stewards do not have an executive management role, but often there is an extended period of time to get into to the role. This extends the maximum term of office for stewards to nine years. But it was noted that the Council could further extend the term if needed.

Graham John (Oxford DG) asked, if it is recognised that stewards are often the country's leading experts in their field, why is there a nine-year limit? Clyde Whittaker replied that it is to allow new stewards to come forward, but pointed out that the Council can extend the time limit.

The Council approved the motion, with 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Motion (B)

Paul Wootton (Bath & Wells Association) proposed, and Ian Roulstone (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths) seconded:

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 1st January 2025.

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 1st January 2026.

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.

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.

Paul Wootton (Bath & Wells) spoke to the

Motion. He explained about being able to justify the spending to implement the aims of the Council as a charity. This meant spending money. Paul summarised what the Council already did but recognised we do have some communication issues. He said that we are not doing the job we have been mandated to do. To do the job properly, we needed money. We needed to spend it on facilities, better documentation creation and possibly paid staff to take the load off the volunteers. He proposed the Motion.

Ian Roulstone (SRCY) put forward several points. The Council needed sustainable working capital. New opportunities and horizons were opening up, but would need more financial planning. The new Council structure was designed to seek opportunities but did need resources. He explained there were ample procedures in the rules and standing orders for the Executive to declare what and how things were happening, and how the money was being spent. From a personal background, he thought there were ways and means for societies to provide the funds, but societies (especially university societies) did need an excellent return for their investment. He pointed out that if accepting this Motion, it could be modified in future if the Executive had not implemented their plans. He seconded the Motion.

Josephine Leggett (University of Bristol): Agreed that university societies are valuable in ringing. It was noted that alumni do not pay towards their society, and any increase would fall on the student body. She asked if there could be any scope for a reduction for student societies. The President said that this may be possible under standing orders.

David Kirkcaldy (Sussex Association): Strongly supported the Motion. Sussex Association members felt the increase to £1.00 subscription should come into effect immediately. He asked the members in attendance when did they last talk to the members of their societies about the Council and what services it provided?

Robert Perry (Truro Guild): This comes down to a question of trust with the Executive to use the money wisely and transparently.

Jim Crabtree (Southwell and Notts) was concerned that if this motion was passed, that there would be an inference that there would not be a need to increase subscriptions in the future.

Annie Hall (Coventry DG): Concerned that we are going to get value for money

David Smith (ANZAB): Could the Executive

ask societies if they wanted to start paying £1.00 straight away. He suggested that university societies, to avoid complicated rule changes, be charged the full amount, and the increased proportion be returned to them in the form of a grant. The President indicated that this is one of the options being considered.

Jane Wilkinson (SRCY): Spoke of the Council being an umbrella, and people underneath the umbrella do not really need to know the full structure above them but do need to know they are protected. However, the territorial associations were very important. The CRAG report was now set in stone, but the stone was weathering well. She felt the Executive was doing wise things, but hoped that we could put the £1.00 on hold for a few years until we have some identifiable progress.

Jon Rose (Clerical Guild): The Clerical Guild was very supportive of the Council, and recognised the need for additional resources, but they had an ageing membership, with no subscriptions.

Tristan Lockheart (Leeds University): They accepted the proposal but said they do not have the resources from their active membership. He pointed out that £1.00 a member is not a lot of money. He also commented that some of the information Council members are requesting would put an extra workload on the existing volunteers of the Council.

Peter Scott (Yorkshire Association): All ringers know that £1.00 is good value when given to the Council, but societies need to convince members to supply the money. He suggested that societies only pay for members who are in active affiliation with the society.

Andrew Slade (Yorkshire Association): We have to think about employing people to pick up the gaps where the volunteer work is falling down. He felt we needed to improve communications, in both directions.

Richard Smith (Cambridge University Guild): His Guild would struggle to find the funds for the £1.00 subscription, as they do not have the infrastructure to collect such funds from members, but did support the concept of increased funding for the Council. They felt that there was not enough information in the forward plans as to where the funds would be spent. However, the Council cannot run at a deficit.

An amendment was proposed:

That the paragraph numbered 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 1st January 2026." be removed from Motion (B).

Proposed by Richard Smith (Cambridge University Guild). Seconded by Andrew Wilby (ASCY)

Andrew Wilby (ASCY) felt it was unprofessional to not produce a business plan to support the proposal.

Nick Elks (Peterborough DG) felt we should trust the Council but urged the Executive to publish a robust business plan.

Linda Garton (Bedfordshire Association): Should the word Territorial be added? She withdrew her comments on the response of the meeting.

The President put the amendment to Motion (B) to the vote.

That the paragraph numbered 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 1st January 2026." be removed from Motion (B).

For the amendment: 50 Against: 55 Abstentions: 10 The amendment failed.

Kate Flavell (Surrey Association) then asked that the Motion now be put.

The President put Motion (B) to the vote:

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 1st January 2025.

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 1st January 2026.

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

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.

For the motion: 87 Against: 26 Abstentions: 5 The motion was carried.

Mary Bone (Essex Association) urged the Executive to supply more information, especially when it came to changes to Standing Orders, and would like to see affiliated societies treated equally.

The President added it would be beneficial to have help with financial planning and asked for experienced and informed volunteers to contact her.

Paul Wootton (Bath and Wells) added that assistance with project planning should be considered.

17. Future meetings

Andrew Slade (Yorkshire Association) gave brief details about the 2025 Council meeting in Sheffield, to be held over the weekend on 5th–7th Sept 2025.

Annie Hall (Coventry DG) invited the Council to Rugby in 2026.

18. Any other business

Will Bosworth (Ringing World): This is the third time that discussion on a major topic has been limited due to time constraints and asked if the meeting structure could be reviewed.

Anthony Ellis (Hereford Guild): Expressed his concern that the Church had not been mentioned in the discussion and asked if there were still links between the Executive and senior figures of the Church of England. He was directed to the report in the meeting papers.

The President thanked Carol Franklin and Clyde Whittaker for their work for the Council. Certificates and gifts were presented.

The appointment of the new library stewards, Andrew Aspland and Sue Marsden was noted.

19. Vote of Thanks

Elizabeth Tennant (Worcester and District) proposed a vote of thanks. She thanked Doug Davis (booking form and data collection), Colin Chapman (programme booklets), Phillip Green (printing), Dave Richards (technical), Tim Bayton, Charlotte Boyce and John Martin of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, to all the towers for accommodating ringing, the CCCBR Executive and to the staff of West Exe School.

20. Meeting attendance

The attendance figures are shown at the end of these minutes.

The President declared the meeting closed.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Ian Oram – Ex-Officio
 Steph Runting – Kent CA
 Alexander Runting – Kent CA
 Rosina Baxter – Beverley and District
 Rhona McEune – Barrow and District
 Tim Jackson – Ex-Officio
 Sue Marsden – Ely DA
 Bob Crighton – Salsbury DA
 Glen Fiddy – Derby DA
 Enid Robers – ANZAB
 Chris Povey – Four Shires Guild
 John Allison – Hertfordshire
 Edward Sterland – East Derbyshire & West Nottinghamshire
 Toby Hibbert – University of London
 Jayden Milby – Carlisle DG
 Giovanni Camberari – ASCSV
 Chris Hughes – St Davids Guild
 John Couperthwaite – Guildford DG
 Rob Lane – Sussex
 Phil Bailey – Ely DA
 Cath Coleman – Suffolk Guild
 David Westerman – Peterborough DG
 Duncan Walker – Carlisle DG
 Derek Sibson – SRCY

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

Fellows: Alan Frost LVO, David Kelly, Ex-officio: Alan Glover, Andrea Haynes*, Catherine Lane,
 Ernie de Legh-Runciman, Dickon Love, Chris Ridley, Fergus Stracey, Clyde Whitaker, John Lagdon,
 Ancient Society of College Youths: Richard Allton, Colin Newman, Euan Thomas*, Andrew Wilby
 Australian & New Zealand Association: Peter Harrison, David Smith
 Bath & Wells Diocesan Association: Michael Hansford, Matthew Higby, David Parfrey, Paul Wotton,
 Bedfordshire Association: Patrick Albon, Linda Garton, Richard Horne
 Beverley & District Society: James Blackburn
 Cambridge University Guild: David Richards, Richard Smith,
 Central European Society: Brian Diserens
 Chester Diocesan Guild: Carole Hallam, Graham Jenkins, Peter Wilkinson
 Coventry Diocesan Guild: Annie Hall, Tracey Newbold, John Newbold, Joy Pluckrose
 Derby Diocesan Association: Andrew Hall, Susan Hall, Gill Hughes
 Devon Association: Jo Tucker;
 Dorset County Association: Cathy Neyland*

Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association: Howard Smith
 Durham University Society: Phil Hughes
 Ely Diocesan Association: Lynne Hughes, Daniel Stevens
 Essex Association: Fred Bone, Mary Bone, Vicki Chapman, Martin Jones
 Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association: Bob Blanden, Ian Bucknell*, Jason Carter*, Roger Haynes*, Richard White
 Guildford Diocesan Guild: Jackie Roberts
 Guild of Clerical Ringers: Rev. Jon Rose
 Guild of Devonshire Ringers: Harry Andrews*, Charlotte Boyce, James Kirkcaldy, Alena Wardle
 Hereford Diocesan Guild: Rev Anthony Ellis, Abigail Pugh
 Hertford County Association: Stuart Brant, Geoffrey Horritt, Margaret Horritt
 Irish Association: Niamh Hickey, Lesley Hayes*, Alex Nelson*
 Kent County Association: Neil Jones, Sue Bassett*
 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. Stuart Hutchieson,
 Lincoln Diocesan Guild: Keith Butter*, Judith Rogers*, Chris Sharp, Chris Turner
 Liverpool Universities Society: Martyn Bristow
 Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association: Harriet Moncrieff*, Helen Phillips, Matthew Turner
 Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild: Adrian Sweeting*
 North American Guild: Eileen Butler, Beverly Faber, Christian Haller
 North Wales Association: Esme Anstice*
 Norwich Diocesan Association: Jo Belsten, 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 Martin's Guild: Richard Andrew
 Salisbury Diocesan Guild: Anthony Lovell-Wood, Julian Newman, Vicki Rowse
 Scottish Association: Zoe Bennett*, Tina Stoecklin
 Shropshire Association: Paul Lewis, Ann Williams
 Society of Royal Cumberland Youths: Ian Roulstone, Joseph Waters, Jane Wilkinson
 South African Guild: James Champion
 Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Guild: Jim Crabtree, Chris Glenton
 Suffolk Guild: Neal Dodge, Marion Knight-Dixon, Mark Ogden

Surrey Association: Paul Flavell, Kate Flavell, Noel Gibbin, Jason Hughes
 Sussex County Association: Sue Gadd, David Kirkcaldy, Philip Pawley, Stephanie Pendlebury
 Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Guild: Grace Dooley*
 Truro Diocesan Guild: Robert Perry, Ian Self, Hayley Young
 University of Bristol Society: Elva Ainsworth, Josephine Leggett*
 Veronese Association: David Roskelly
 Welsh Colleges Society: Fiona Hartley
 Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild: Rachael Barber, Michael Church, Mike Hopkins Till, Nick James, Margaret Smith*
 Worcestershire & Districts Association: Alison Hodge, James Mort, Elizabeth Tennant, Chris Tennant
 Yorkshire Association: Elaine Scott, Peter Scott. Andrew Slade. Simon Plows
 Guild of Railway Ringers: Tony Manktelow

*New or returning member

The following societies were not represented: Barrow & District Society, Carlisle Diocesan Guild, East Derbyshire & West Nottinghamshire Association, Four Shires Guild, National Police Guild, North Staffordshire Association, St David's Diocesan Guild, University of London Society, Lilliputters Guild.

Attendance Figures

Voting Associations	
Fully Represented	28
Partial Represented	29
Not Represented	9
Total	66

Small Societies	
Fully Represented	1
Partial Represented	1
Total	2

Members attending

Fellows	2
Ex-officio	9
Voting Societies	
Fully represented	43
Voting Societies	
Partial represented	97
Small Societies	
Fully represented	1
Total	152

Addendum 1– Supporting Statements

Ernie de Legh–Runciman

Ernie learnt to ring in Bootle in 1975 and rang in the Liverpool area until he “emigrated” to the Isle of Man in 2007, where he is Church Warden and Tower Captain at St Georges, Douglas.

A trained electronic engineer, he worked for the Marconi Company for 24 years, on large telecommunication systems. In a change of career when moving to the Isle of Man, he became the senior structural inspector for the islands Department of Infrastructure, specialising in bridges and harbour walls. He retired from paid employment in 2020.

Ernie first joined the Council in 2002, as a representative for the Lancashire Association. He was a member (and Chairman) of the Tower Stewardship Committee for a number of years. He also served on the Ringing Centres, Education and Public Relations Committees. He was a member for one year on the post CRAG interim Executive. He has played a major role in the organisation of at least two (Liverpool and Lancaster) Council meetings. This work gave him a sound knowledge of the workings of the Council.

He was appointed Secretary of the Council at the Nottingham ACM in 2022 and has held the post since then. As well as performing the secretarial duties for the Council, he manages the membership database and is involved in many other aspects of the work of the Executive.

Ernie is an active member of both the Liverpool and the Sodor and Man DAC's, and is a member of the Sodor and Man Diocesan Synod.

Alison Edmonds

Alison learned to ring as a pre-teen in York in the 1980s, spent five years in London as a young adult, and returned to York in 1992 where she has rung ever since.

Equality and diversity is a particular passion and Alison has spent a lot of time in the last eight years breaking down barriers in terms of making ringing and ringers more approachable and inclusive, particularly at York Minster where she rings regularly. She firmly believes that even flagship rings of bells should be accessible to all ringers to experience and enjoy.

In 2022, Alison debuted a women's heavy bell workshop weekend, which started a fabulous online wom-

en's community, and which has encouraged many female ringers to consistently step out of their comfort zones, to realise their potential and encourage and mentor each other on the way.

Alison is an experienced leader and organiser, most recently leading the local organising teams for the RWNKYC York in 2023, and the 2025 ART Conference which was based at the University of York where she works, and is pastorally and financially accountable for the whole student lifecycle (admissions to graduation) for around 1750 students across two science departments.

By becoming a Trustee of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, Alison would bring wide practical bellringing and teaching experience, sound customer service, commercial and financial skills, leadership and organisational skills.

Beverly Faber

I am a member of the Central Council as a representation from the North American Guild and have been an Ordinary Trustee on the Executive for the past three years. As the Council represents all the Guilds and Associations, the current Exec currently has a very good representation. This is not only over the larger groups of ringers, mostly the British Isles, but now includes both the Australia and New Zealand Association of Bellringers and also the North American Guild of Change Ringers, which allows the wider range of communication and ideas from overseas ringers.

In the last three years, I have been the Executive Sponsor to the History and Archive Work Group, helped on the Annual Meetings, and worked with several other projects with others on the Exec. I would hope to continue in this group for another three years.

Addendum 2– Rules and Standing Order Changes as Proposed in Motion B

Proposed Changes

In the Extracts from the Rules and Standing Orders below:

- Rules and Orders un-highlighted are provided for context
- Changes are UNDERLINED
- Significant words or phrases are highlighted in Green text
- ~~Deletions~~ are in Red, crossed through

Rules

INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

In these Rules, the following terms have the meanings shown below unless the Rule in which the term appears states otherwise :-

<i>Affiliated Society</i>	A bell ringing society <u>which appears on the Council's Register of Affiliated Societies</u> in accordance with Rule 4.
<u><i>Associated Society</i></u>	<u>A bell ringing society which appears on the Council's Register of Associated Societies in accordance with Rule 4</u>
<i>Representative Member</i>	A voting member appointed to represent a Registered Society in accordance with Rules 5.4, 5.5, <u>5.7 and 5.9</u>
<i>Registered Small Society</i>	A bell ringing society which appears on the Council's Register of Small Societies in accordance with Rule 4.
<u>Small Society Representative</u>	<u>A non-voting member appointed to represent a Registered Small Society in accordance with Rules 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8</u>
<i>Society Membership</i>	The number of members of a bell ringing society as may be determined by the Standing Orders

4 AFFILIATION TO THE COUNCIL

Affiliated Societies

4.1 Subject to Rule 4.4 the following bell ringing societies shall be affiliated to the Council:

- bell ringing societies affiliated to the Council at the date on which these Rules were adopted;
- any society whose application for affiliation has been approved under Rules 4.2 and 4.3.

4.2 An Application from a bell ringing society to become an Affiliated Society shall be made to the Secretary not less than six weeks before the Council Meeting at which the application is to be considered and shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by at least two of the society's officers confirming that:

- its Society Membership is not less than 75 ~~(25 in the case of societies operating wholly outside the British Isles);~~
- its purpose is to promote the ringing of bells by a group or association of bell ringers; and
- it undertakes to abide by the Council's Rules and Decisions.

4.3 a) A bell ringing society making an application under Rule 4.2 shall become an Affiliated Society when its application has been approved at a Council Meeting.
b) Where that application has not been approved at a Council Meeting the Applicants shall be advised of the reason their application has not been approved by Council
c) The Applicants can either withdraw their application or request that their application is considered at the next full Annual Council Meeting.

4.4 A society shall cease to be an Affiliated Society if:

- its Society Membership falls below 50 ~~(25 in the case of societies operating wholly outside the British Isles);~~ or
- it becomes an Associated or Small Society; or
- its Annual Subscription under Rule 4.15 is more than 12 months in arrears; or
- a Motion for disaffiliation is agreed by not less than two-thirds of Representative Members present and voting at a Council Meeting; or
- notice of disaffiliation is given to the Secretary by at least two of the society's officers.

Associated Societies

4.5 Subject to Rule 4.8 any bell ringing society whose application has been approved under Rules 4.6 and 4.7 shall be listed on the Council's Register of Associated Societies.

4.6 Applications from smaller bell ringing societies that do not collect a regular subscription from all of its members to become a Registered Associated Society shall be

made to the Secretary accompanied by a certificate signed by at least two of the society's officers confirming that:

- a) its Society Membership is not less than 75;
- b) its purpose is to promote the ringing of bells by a group or association of bell ringers; and
- c) it undertakes to abide by the Council's Rules and Decisions.

4.7 A bell ringing society making an application under Rule 4.6 shall become a Registered Associated Society and shall be entered on the Register of Associated Societies when its application has been approved by decision at an Executive Meeting provided that:

- a) the Executive is satisfied that the application meets such requirements as may be stated in the Standing Orders;
- b) the Executive is satisfied that an appropriate annual subscription has been agreed with the Applicant;
- c) notice of such a decision including details of the society's objects, membership and activities shall have been given to Representative Members;
- d) such notice shall indicate the date from which the decision shall take effect;
- e) the decision shall take effect no earlier than two months from the date on which such notice was served; and
- f) the decision shall not take effect until such time as it has been approved by Resolution at a Council Meeting if, within two months of such notice, the Secretary receives a request (or requests) from 10 or more Representative Members for such a Resolution to be considered by the Council.
- g) Where that application has not been approved at an Executive Meeting the Applicants shall be advised of the reason their application has not been approved by Council
- h) The Applicants can either withdraw their application or request that their application is considered at the next full Annual Council Meeting.

4.8 A society shall be removed from the Register of Associated Societies if:

- a) it becomes an Affiliated Society or a Small Society; or
- b) its Society Membership falls below 50; or
- c) any Annual Subscription due under Rule 4.16 is more than 12 months in arrears; or
- d) a Motion to remove the society's registration is agreed by a majority of Representative Members present and voting at a Council Meeting; or
- e) a decision to remove the society's registration is made by the Executive in accordance with the Standing Orders; or
- f) a request to remove the society's registration is given to the Secretary by at least two of the society's officers.

4.9 An Executive Decision made in accordance with Rule 4.8e) shall cease to have effect unless ratified by Reso-

lution at the first Council Meeting thereafter.

Registered Small Societies

4.10 Subject to Rule 4.13 any bell ringing society whose application has been approved under Rules 4.11 and 4.12 shall be listed on the Council's Register of Small Societies.

4.11 Applications from smaller bell ringing societies to become Registered Small Societies shall be made to the Secretary accompanied by a certificate signed by at least two of the society's officers confirming that:

- a) its Society Membership is less than 75 ~~(25 in the case of societies operating wholly outside the British Isles);~~
- b) its purpose is to promote the ringing of bells by a group or association of bell ringers; and
- c) it undertakes to abide by the Council's Rules and Decisions.

4.12 A bell ringing society making an application under Rule 4.11 shall become a Registered Small Society and shall be entered on the Register of Small Societies when its application has been approved by decision at an Executive Meeting provided that:

- a) the Executive is satisfied that the application meets such requirements as may be stated in the Standing Orders;
- b) notice of such a decision including details of the society's objects, membership and activities shall have been given to Representative Members;
- c) such notice shall indicate the date from which the decision shall take effect;
- d) the decision shall take effect no earlier than two months from the date on which such notice was served; and
- e) the decision shall not take effect until such time as it has been approved by Resolution at a Council Meeting if, within two months of such notice, the Secretary receives a request (or requests) from 10 or more Representative Members for such a Resolution to be considered by the Council.
- f) Where that application has not been approved at an Executive Meeting the Applicants shall be advised of the reason their application has not been approved by Council
- g) The Applicants can either withdraw their application or request that their application is considered at the next full Annual Council Meeting.

4.13 A society shall be removed from the Register of Small Societies if:

- a) it becomes an Affiliated or Associated Society; or
- b) its Society Membership rises above 100; or
- c) any Annual Subscription due under Rule 4.17 is more than 12 months in arrears; or
- d) a Motion to remove the society's registration is agreed by a majority of Representative Members present and voting at a Council Meeting; or
- e) a decision to remove the society's registration is made by the Executive in accordance with the Standing Orders; or

f) a request to remove the society's registration is given to the Secretary by at least two of the society's officers.

4.14 An Executive Decision made in accordance with Rule 4.13e) shall cease to have effect unless ratified by Resolution at the first Council Meeting thereafter.

Annual Subscription

4.15 Each Registered Affiliated Society shall pay an annual subscription. Each year's subscription shall become due on 1st January, of such sum as may be determined by the Standing Orders in relation to its affiliation.

4.16 Each Registered Associated Society shall pay an annual subscription as determined by the Standing Orders. Each year's subscription shall become due on 1st January, of such sum as may be determined by the Standing Orders in relation to that Society's registration or as agreed with the Executive.

4.17 Each Registered Small Society shall pay an annual subscription as determined by the Standing Orders. Each year's subscription shall become due on 1st January and shall be of such sum as may be stated by the Standing Orders in relation to that society's registration.

5 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Membership Types

5.1 The Council shall consist of the following members:

- a) Representative Members;
- b) Individual Members enrolled or appointed as may be determined by the Standing Orders; and
- c) the Council's Trustees, Stewards and Workgroup Leaders, who shall be ex-officio members.

5.2 At Council Meetings, all members shall be entitled to speak and to move motions, but only Representative Members shall be entitled to vote.

5.3 A single individual may act in the capacity of both a Representative Member and one or more other types of member.

Representative Members

5.4 Each Affiliated Society shall be entitled to send one or more Representative Members to attend each Council Meeting provided that no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:

- a) its Annual Subscription for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place has been received by the Treasurer; and
- b) its Society Membership has been received by the Secretary.

5.5 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 150 members = one Representative Member;
- b) Society Membership 151–300 members = two Representative Members;
- c) Society Membership 301–450 members = three Representative Members;
- d) Society Membership 451–1000 members = four Representative Members;
- e) Society Membership 1001–2000 member = five Representative Members;
- f) Society Membership over 2000 members = six Representative Members.

5.6 Subject to Rule 5.5 :

- a) an Affiliated Society may register or amend the names and contact details of its Representative Members at any time by giving notice to the Secretary;
- b) each Representative Member shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Affiliated Society notifies the Secretary of a change. ~~and~~
- ~~c) unless otherwise stated in that society's constitution, the election of Representative Members by Affiliated Societies shall take place triennially.~~

Associated Society Representatives

5.7 Each Associated Society shall be entitled to send one Representative to attend each Council Meeting provided that no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:

- a) where determined by the Standing Orders or as agreed with the Secretary, that society's Annual Subscription for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place has been received by the Treasurer; and
- b) its Society Membership has been notified to and agreed with the Secretary.

5.8 Subject to Rule 5.7:

- a) a Registered Associated Society may register or amend the name and contact details of its Associated Society Representative at any time by giving notice to the Secretary;
- b) each Associated Society Representative shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Registered Society notifies the Secretary of a change.

Small Society Representatives

5.9 Each Small Society shall be entitled to send one Representative to attend each Council Meeting provided that no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:

- a) where determined by the Standing Orders, that society's Annual Subscription for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place has been received by the Treasurer; and
- b) its Society Membership has been notified to the

Secretary.

5.10 Subject to Rule 5.9:

- a) a Registered Small Society may register or amend the name and contact details of its Small Society Representative at any time by giving notice to the Secretary;
- b) each Small Society Representative shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Registered Society notifies the Secretary of a change.
- ~~c) unless otherwise stated in that society's constitution, the election of a Small Society Representative by a Small Society shall take place annually.~~

ings, practices, peal attempts, dinners and other gatherings of members) organised by that Society; or

- (3) as declared by their Officers and approved by the Secretary.

~~c) In the case of the Veronese Association, its Society Membership shall be such number as shall have been proposed by that Society and approved by the Secretary.~~

S2 Registered Societies

A Registered Society includes Affiliated, Associated, and Small Societies.

S2.1 The Executive may approve an application from a bell ringing society to become a Registered Society where such a society satisfies the following conditions to the Executive's reasonable satisfaction:

- a) it has a written constitution and duly appointed officers;
- b) it has safeguarding arrangements (dealing with the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults) that reflect local best practice for the jurisdiction(s) where that society operates;
- c) it has supplied details to the Secretary of its objects, membership and activities together with contact details for at least two of its officers;
- d) its actions will not unreasonably frustrate the activities of any other Registered Society; and
- e) it satisfies such other conditions as may be stated in the Council's Standing Orders and Policies.

S2.2 Subject to Standing Order S2.3, the Executive at its absolute discretion may determine that a bell ringing society shall be removed from the Register of Societies where (in the Executive's opinion) such a society:

- a) no longer meets the conditions set out in Standing Order S2.1; or
- b) by virtue of its actions, or the actions of its members or its officers, could directly or indirectly bring the Council into disrepute.

S2.3 In exercising its powers under Standing Order S2.2, the Executive shall ensure that a bell ringing society shall be removed from the Register of Societies only when:

- a) that society has been given notice of the reasons for its removal; and
- b) one or more of that society's representatives have had reasonable opportunity to state its case in writing to the Executive.

S2.4 The Executive shall report their decision to the next full Annual Council Meeting

Standing Orders

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers – Standing Orders of the Council – Edition 16 9

FINANCIAL AND AUDIT

F1 Annual Subscription

F1.1 The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £1.00 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership.

F1.2 The Annual Subscription for each Associated Society shall be £0.40 per member of that Society based on its declared Society Membership. This subscription may be varied on application to, and at the discretion of, the Executive; but shall not be less than £30.

F1.3 The Annual Subscription of each Registered Small Society shall be £10.

SOCIETIES

S1 Society Membership

S1.1 For the purposes of the Rules the membership of a bell ringing society at any time (its "Society Membership") shall be defined with reference to the preceding calendar year (or that society's equivalent membership year) as follows:-

- a) where a society has a membership subscription, its Society Membership shall be the number of its members paying (or exempted from paying) membership subscriptions;
- or
- b) where a society has no membership subscription, its Society Membership shall be the number of its members who either:-
 - (1) appeared on that Society's membership list, received one or more member notices from the Society and are considered by that Society to be participating members; or
 - (2) attended at least one event (including meet-

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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

Annual Trustees' Report for 2024 (Issued in 2025)

1. Legal and Administrative Information

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, PL3 4DE. The constitution and conduct of the Council is governed by its Rules, last revised in May 2018, amended September 2022.

Trustees

The Council’s Trustees during 2024 were as follows:

President	Dr T Stoecklin
Deputy President	Mrs V Chapman
Secretary	Mr E de Legh–Runciman
Treasurer	Mr F M S Stracey
Ordinary Trustee	Prof I Roulstone
Ordinary Trustee	Mr C R Whittaker
	(until 7 th September 2024)
	Mr P Harrison
	(from 7 th September 2024)
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

- a) encouraging the growth and public appreciation of bell ringing;
- b) 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;
- c) facilitating communication and cohesion amongst ringers and bell ringing societies to assist ringers in supporting each other and achieving their bell ringing objectives;
- d) using its efforts to foster the continuing recruitment and retention of ringers;

Learning and Development

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

Stewardship and Management

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

Technical and Taxonomy

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

History and Archive

- k) 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:

- (i) the promotion of public worship by the ringing of church bells;

- (ii) the preservation of the tradition and heritage of change ringing;
- (iii) the encouragement and promotion of high standards of ringing;
- (iv) the provision of financial and specialist knowledge in the support of belfry repairs and maintenance;
- (v) 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;
- (vi) 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 eight Workgroups: (1) Young Ringers for Ringing 2030, (2) Technology for Ringing 2030, (3) Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development, (4) Ringing 2030 Marketing, (5) Ringing 2030 Environments, (6) Historical and Archive (to be renamed History and Archive in 2025), (7) Technical and Taxonomy, (8) Stewardship, Guidance and Management. 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 eight workgroups were analysed during a consultation exercise in the 4th quarter of 2024, with a new workgroup structure proposed for approval via a change to Standing Orders. This was taken to the first Executive Meeting in 2025. 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 2024

2024 has been a transformative year for the Central Council, marked by a fundamental reform of Working Groups, the laying of foundations for Ringing 2030, a focus on volunteer recruitment and a look at our long term financial sustainability.

Key achievements:

- Launch of new workgroups specifically targeted at Ringing 2030
- All Workgroup Lead vacancies filled
- Completion of the move of the Library to a new home at the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust
- Completion of the Touring Tower and transfer of assets to the Mobile Belfries Trust
- Relaunch of new publications team
- Successful trial of new Bellringing branding at the Essex International Jamboree
- Recruitment of new Library Stewards
- Launch of the Ringers Code of Conduct
- Initial launch of the Young Ringers Hub

Changes in personnel

At the AGM in September 2024, Clyde Whittaker retired as an Ordinary Trustee. Clyde has been a hard-working and influential Trustee, being one of the original team that ushered in the new governance and organisational structure of the Central Council. He has also sponsored the Council Safeguarding Team, including the creation and launch of the Ringers' Code of Conduct. His efforts at outreach and negotiation with many Dioceses has helped to bring an awareness of bellringing and how safeguarding can effectively operate.

The vacancy was filled by Peter Harrison. Peter is a past President of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Bellringers, and remains involved in the oversight of the association's finances. With the election of Peter to the Executive, there is a more than 30% representation from ringers outside of England, further enforcing our role as an internationally representative body. Peter continues to advocate for en-

surings the broad accessibility of Ringing 2030 to all ringers.

2024 saw the retirement of the entire Central Council Publications team, as well as the retirement Alan Glover as Library Steward. Both have modestly and effectively been at the service of ringers for many years. Fulfillment activities were taken over by Jim and Sara Bence in September, and David Kirkaldy is leading the construction of a new commissioning team. We welcomed Andrew Aspland and Sue Marsden as new Library Stewards.

Early in 2024 our new Public Relations Officer retired and Angela Elliott was appointed later in 2024.

The following Workgroup Leads were appointed or confirmed in 2024:

Dickon Love – History and Archive

Kira Chase – Technology and Taxonomy

Andrea Haynes – Young Ringers for Ringing 2030

John Lagdon – Marketing for Ringing 2030

Mark Ogden – Ringing 2030 Environments

Paul Wotton and Martyn Bristow retained their positions while the focus and terms of the workgroups were re-aligned to Ringing 2030.

With all these new volunteers, many of them new the Central Council, it became clear that more internal guidance and structure was needed in order to allow them to do their work and make the best use of the tools the Council can provide. The Executive produced a Ways of Working document, which outlined the responsibilities and resources available to a workgroup lead. We have a lot of tools to support volunteers, including a Microsoft license, free hosting space, a professional Zoom account as well as policies in place for claiming expenses, or managing payments. While all this information existed in various corners of the Council's digital estate, it has now been drawn together into a single document.

Although the ambitions of Ringing 2030 have increased the need for involvement of more volunteers, the scale of recruitment necessary for key roles was also driven by timing. Under the reorganised governance structure set in place in 2018, workgroup leads have a five-year term of office. While there is a rolling rotation of elections in the executive, this was not in place for appointed roles, and a large number of key volunteer roles reached their term limit at the same time.

The balance between encouraging new talent and preserving existing expertise has also been exposed. A longstanding group that works well together is key to keeping our existing systems and services available, as well as good stewardship of the Council's assets on be-

half of all ringers. To this end we proposed and successfully carried a motion to alter the term limits on appointed Stewards. Within those successful teams it is also important to consider succession planning and long term sustainability, so that we avoid replacing a key team all at once. The Executive is now pursuing an active policy to ensure that multiple Stewards are in place for a Stewardships to help with this balance.

Finances

The size of the long term cash reserves of the Central Council is larger than needed for controlled disaster recovery/termination/emergencies, and we should be using that excess money for supporting projects. Previous executives have committed significant funds in support of Ringing 2030, including marketing research and the production of professional branding assets, support for the construction of the Touring Tower. We continued that major project support with loan instruments for the new SouthWest Ringing Course. The Council also approved additional funding to support the move of the Library Collection, and the production of a new Roll of Honor book.

Due to the cessation of ringing and in-person activities during the COVID pandemic, the Council had been operating with a general surplus, and by 2024 this surplus had been exhausted. It was clear that we would need to tap into cash reserves in order to meet our basic running costs. It was also clear that we could not achieve the full ambition of Ringing 2030 without continuing to commit significant financial resource. While the Council has more than adequate fund to meet its current needs, it was necessary to explore the long term financial stability of the Council. We held multiple open consultation meetings on this with other Treasurers, Council members and members of the wider ringing community.

Finally we proposed a radical increase in affiliation fees, in two stages, the first of which would come into effect at the end of 2024, and the second a year later, which was approved at the AGM in September.

Nevertheless, with the increase in funding available it was clear that we needed stronger financial controls and forecasting, as well as improved communications on project plans. This work was began immediately following the AGM and continues into 2025.

Ringing 2030

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 charity and that any issues and difficulties can be resolved quickly.

Recruitment of new volunteers towards Ringing 2030 projects occupied much of 2024, and new Workgroup Leads required time to absorb the projects underway and begin to plan for the larger projects. Many of these projects, such as the Young Ringers Hub, School lesson plans and the recruitment network are multi-year projects that will require time to bear fruit. However, some key accomplishments and milestones in 2024 included:

- Bellringing branding – assets created in consultation with YellowYoYo, including the original marketing research, original graphics, editable pdf posters, website designs and style guide are available free of charge to all affiliated societies and other ringing groups. A portal for ordering t-shirts and customisable pull-up banners was launched in November.
- School lesson plans – trial lessons at a secondary school in Romford, using curriculum material written by Jason Hughes and supported by volunteers from the Essex Association. Since then a steering committee has been put together to identify educational partners and drive the initial rollout.
- Essex Jamboree – John Lagdon with Beth Johnson from the Essex coordinated the first major outing for the Touring Tower, featuring the new Bellringing branding. Volunteers from around the country supported the event, and looked professional in their coordinated, branded t-shirts. It was estimated that about 1000 scouts came to the stand and had a go at bellringing, establishing that this type of activity is key to the Ringing 2030 aim of improving general awareness of bellringing.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage – with the announcement that the UK government has agreed to participate in the UNESCO scheme, the Executive held an open public consultation on how to ensure bellringing is considered, and whether such a listing was worth pursuing. The overwhelming consensus was that this would benefit the profile of bellringing, and influence other stakeholders as to the importance of bellringing. The outcomes of the meeting showed several potential approaches and a liveing conversation on Ringing Forums. Currently the UK Government is still in very early consultation stages, and we are a long way from being able to apply.

- Changing Churches – A substantial piece of research by Simon Linford and Alison Hodge gave us a national picture of the impact on ringing through the change of use or closing of church buildings. This included interviews with key stakeholders in the Church of England, other church denominations, the CCT and other heritage organisations, as well as collating research done by ringing associations (most notably by the Lincoln DG). The research concluded with a checklist of danger signs, and a list of things that ringing groups could do. This piece was presented to the DAC Bell Advisors conference in April and to the Council AGM in September, and continues to be developed through 2025.

Communications

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 key publicity outlets continue to be the news feeds from the Central Council website and placed articles in The Ringing World. Workgroup leads have been effective at attracting new volunteers through appeals in social media.

The Ringing Forums platform continues to be utilised by a core of ringers, and is used to discuss areas of policy, training, finance and recruitment.

The Executive has held open consultation meetings throughout the year to increase engagement with ringers. These are held on Zoom to allow broad participation. Topics have included Intangible Cultural Heritage, introduction to the new Bellringing branding, finances in ringing, and discussions with university societies.

Regular communication continues with key ringing partners as well as other stakeholders.

Challenges

Volunteers. Ringing has been led by volunteers and accomplished amazing things from a few very dedicated people. However, along with every ringing organisation, the recruitment of volunteers is increasingly challenging. Most of the executive time in 2024 was spent in recruiting volunteers and then giving sufficient support, which was not always possible. We have long recognised that being entirely reliant on volunteers causes projects to evolve slowly and this has in the past been an acceptable exchange. However, we are reaching the point where if we want projects to happen at all, we will need to have paid support in place. The

success and agility of other ringing charities which have used paid support offers further evidence for this. For this reason, the 2025 budget, published at the end of the year, included a part time support role for recruitment activities.

Membership and inclusion. The fee rises have underlined the inconsistencies in our affiliation requirements and that these present barriers to participation, especially for younger ringers and their smaller societies. Initial discussions with university-based organisations and other stakeholder ringing organisations underlined that a 'sticking plaster' approach risks entangling us in bureaucracy and taking attention away from Ringing 2030 efforts. At the end of 2024 an independent and broadly representative membership review group was tasked with evaluation membership requirements and impacts. Work on this continues in 2025.

Internal communication continues to be as challenging in 2024 as it has been in past years. At attempt to put an internal communications coordinator was trialled but it was clear it would require better terms of reference. While the Central Council website remains a key source of information, the information architecture is unweildly and the content uneven. As the readership of the Ringing World continues to age, this becomes a less effective tool for promoting the Council, and for encouraging thoughtful conversations.

The year ahead

2025 will see the continuing of projects started for Ringing 2030. The core project work with YellowYoYo is now completed; however, the relationship continues, and they remain available for small projects to help work progress. After the creation of the brand vision and assets, 2025 brings opportunities for putting this work to use in real contexts, including local recruitment and marketing campaigns, and the launch of the marketing and recruitment website. Outreach to young ringers continues to be a high priority and the Young Ringers Hub, and School Lesson plans projects will progress.

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 2024 show total funds at the year-end of £397,802, less than in 2013 the total then was £419,257. Restricted funds accounted for £223,837 of the total funds. Income for the year totalled £39,698 (including publications and library sales of £17,223 and £12 on behalf of YCRA). Publication sales dipped slightly as result of the change over to the new team, but have subsequently picked up.

Interest received from investments increased by £1,147 compared with the previous year despite the withdrawal of some of the investment funds.

There was a reduction in affiliation fees of £183 which was, after investigation, attributed to the way societies count their members.

The 2024 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 £12,550, and publication cost of sales was £3,473.

Other items of expenditure include Ringing 2030 of £7,138. The total expenditure for Ringing 2030 over the last three years was £27,951. It should be noted that for Ringing 2030 to be a success the Executive is reliant of the efforts of ringers at society and tower level using the resources which are being put in place by the Central Council, otherwise the monies spent will have been wasted.

The loan to the Young Change Ringers Association (£3,000) has been repaid and £1,284 is held on their behalf.

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 2025, are available and will be adequate to fulfil the objects of the Council in that year. The 2025 financial estimates were approved by the Executive in December 2024 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.

Of the unrestricted funds £75,000 is held in abeyance under our Reserve Policy, which leaves a balance of £45,011 available project expenditure, a reduction of £18,316. 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 7th September 2024 the Council's membership comprised 4 Fellows, 15 Ex-officio Members and 199 Representative Members representing 66 affiliated societies and 2 small societies. Of the 199 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 27th July 2025.

T Stoecklin
President



Governance Review 2025

Introduction

This Review is required by the Executive under Standing Order G1.1 of the Central Council as “an independent review of the Council’s Rules, Standing Orders and governance to assess whether they continue to be effective and aligned with best practice”. It has been conducted by Mr Peter Harrison, a member of the Executive, and The Hon. David Bleby SC, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia and a member of ANZAB, who also assisted in the 2022 Governance Review.

The context of the Review

This is the second Review since the new Rules and Standing Orders were adopted in 2018. The first Review in 2022 resulted in a number of amendments of substance which, not surprisingly, had arisen in the course of experience of the major changes made to the governance of the Council which had occurred in 2018. For the purposes of the present Review the Executive was not aware of any suggestions which might require changes of substance. Indeed, it was only aware of one request for a minor change of name to one of the Work Groups. The Executive has, however, set up a small task group to review the categories of Council membership, with any changes recommended to be the subject of a motion before the Annual Council Meeting in September 2025. Proposals for what could be significant changes would require careful drafting and would necessarily have to be considered at a future Council meeting. In that regard, Standing Order G1.2 has some relevance:

G1.2 If eligibility to vote at Council Meetings remains vested wholly or partially with Representative Members, each review shall include an assessment as to whether it would be appropriate to transfer some or all of the powers of Representative Members to one or more classes of individual members.

The reviewers are not aware of any changes in UK legislation which would require a review of the Rules and Standing Orders.

The process of the Review

Although no changes of substance have arisen, the Review must also consider whether the Rules and Standing Orders “continue to be effective and aligned with best practice”. To that end the Review has

concentrated on identifying and recommending for amendment Rules and Standing Orders which are unclear, leave room for argument or are very clumsily expressed. Some proposed alterations speak for themselves and no commentary is needed, e.g. Rules 3.2 and 3.6. Some are merely errors in grammar, syntax, input or layout where opportunity has been taken to make corrections without commentary.

Procedural matters

As a result of that process there are numerous suggested alterations. For that reason the form of the relevant motion to amend the Rules incorporates a Schedule comprising the existing Rules showing track changes for every proposed amendment, thereby simplifying the process of amendment to one single motion. In case there are objections or proposed amendments to any of the proposals the reviewers suggest that the proponents should be asked to identify the relevant Rule number and proposed amendment (if any) in writing prior to the Annual Council Meeting so that any necessary amendments to the Schedule can be resolved before a vote on the motion is taken.

Any alterations to the Standing Orders need to be made by the Executive (Rule 10). Some of the recommended changes in this Review require amendments to both the Rules and the Standing Orders. A Schedule of proposed amendments to the Standing Orders in similar format to that required for the Rules should also be circulated to Council Members. Both Schedules are appended to this Report.

Where explanations are required for particular amendments, in the case of the Rules they are contained in Table 1, and in the case of the Standing Orders they are contained in Table 2. Both Tables are annexed to this Report and should be made available to Council Members. For ease of comparison, clean copies of the existing Rules and Standing Orders will be made alongside clean copies of both documents containing all proposed amendments.

Peter Harrison
David Bleby
23 July 2025



Council Organisation

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Organisational Structure

Executive and Trustees

President: Tina Stoecklin

Deputy President: Vicki Chapman

Secretary: Ernie de Legh-Runciman

Treasurer: Fergus Tracey

Ordinary Trustees:

Catherine Lane

Beverly Faber

Ian Roulstone

Peter Harrison

Workgroups

Young Ringers for Ringing 2030

Andrea Haynes
Ian Roulstone

Development of young ringers, ringing and leaders

Technology for Ringing 2030

Martyn Bristow
Tina Stoecklin

Ringling 2030 digital platform

Ringling 2030 Recruitment and Development

Paul Wotton
Vicki Chapman

Recruitment networks
Leadership development

Ringling 2030 Marketing

Angela Elliott
Vicki Chapman

External Marketing to support Ringling 2030

Ringling 2030 Environments

Mark Ogden
Ian Roulstone

Safe and secure tower environments
Technical and leadership training
Compliance, safety and governance of towers
Advice on best practice, funding products and expertise

History and Archive

Dickon Love
Beverly Faber

Developing and managing historic and reference sources

Technical and Taxonomy

Kira Chase
Tina Stoecklin

Maintaining and publishing authoritative reference standards for change ringing

Workgroup Leader Executive Sponsor

Stewards of the Council

Dove Database

Dickon Love
Tim Jackson
Tim Pett
Richard Smith

Historic and Archive WG

Maintenance and development of the Dove Bell Register

Bell Restoration Fund

Ian Oram
Executive/Fergus Tracey

Administration of the CCCBR Bell Restoration Fund

Fred Dukes International Bell Fund

Ian Oram
Allen Nunley
David Mattingley

Executive/Fergus Tracey

Administration of the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund

Carter Ringing Machine

James Blackburn
Historic and Archive WG

Hosting, care and maintenance of the machine

Rolls of Honour

Alan Regin
Historic and Archive WG

Maintenance of the Rolls of Honour

Library

Andrew Aspland
Sue Marsden

Historic and Archive WG

Council Librarians

Stewards Functional Responsibility

Support Services

Public Relations:
Angela Elliott/Vicki Chapman

Performance Analysis:
Phil Barnes/T&T WG

Membership: Secretary

ICT: Doug Davis/Tina Stoecklin

Small Societies:
Ed Sterland/Secretary

Safeguarding:
Emma Jarvis, June Wells
Chris Enzor/ Ian Roulstone

External Liaison:
Simon Linford/Secretary

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS -Registered Charity Number 270036
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	General Fund	Education Courses	Bell Restoration Fund	F Dukes International Bell Fund	Publications Fund	Library Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure									
Incoming Resources									
Affiliation fees		6,935						6,935	7,118
Legacies									
Subscriptions from friends of Library							1,160	1,160	1,165
Interest receivable	7	5,634		1,086	2,986	510	602	10,818	9,671
Sales of publications, books and CDs						14,910		14,910	17,306
Sales of T Shirts	9.3	805						805	
Stock written back						41		41	398
Donations to Kilifi, Kenya	8.1			120				120	120
Donations to new Roll of Honours Ledger	8.4	730						730	
Other donations	8.3			1,100				1,100	1,228
AGM Weekend		3,067						3,067	6,902
Young Change Ringers Association		12						12	60
		17,183	-	2,306	2,986	15,461	1,762	39,698	43,968
Resources expended									
AGM Weekend		6,114						6,114	5,197
Workgroup expenses	9.1	3,265						3,265	4,294
Council and other committee costs									
Recruitment leaflets		78						78	78
Cost of publications sold						3,473		3,473	6,155
Library maintenance							131	131	93
Grants for bell restoration	10			11,450	1,100			12,550	11,550
Advertising						574	96	670	1,345
Storage and distribution	12					1,666		1,666	2,000
Stationery, postage and telephone						2,807	508	3,315	3,945
Insurance		2,989						2,989	3,171
Stock written off and disposed of						1,941		1,941	
Depreciation – Library Collection							1,584	1,584	1,616
Depreciation – Library Shelving									106
Depreciation – Bookcases (2024)							2,000	2,000	
Bank Charges							62	62	69
Paypal charges		43				374		417	382
New Website Hosting									
SW Course Grant		5,000						5,000	
NW Course Grant									4,370
Young Change Ringers Association									
Mobile Belfry		8,013						8,013	2,940
T Shirts for resale	9.3	498						498	900
Wearebellringing Shopify Website	9.3	248						248	
Ringing 2030	9.2	7,138						7,138	16,613
New Website Hosting – 2 years									1,554
Sundry expenses									
		33,386	-	11,450	1,100	10,835	4,381	61,152	66,378
Net incoming resources before transfers		(16,203)	-	(9,144)	1,886	4,626	(2,620)	(21,455)	(22,410)
Revaluation of Library Collection									
Transfers between funds									
Net movement in funds		(16,203)	-	(9,144)	1,886	4,626	(2,620)	(21,455)	(22,410)
Balances at 31 December 2023		160,440		35,711	80,382	24,944	117,780	419,257	441,667
Balances at 31 December 2024		144,237	-	26,567	82,268	29,570	115,160	397,802	419,257

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS - Registered Charity Number 270036
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	General Fund	Education Courses	Bell Restoration Fund	F Dukes International Bell Fund	Publications Fund	Library Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets									
Tangible assets									
Investments at cost		135,092		17,777	79,131			232,000	272,000
Library Collection							77,615	77,615	79,199
Library Bookcases (2024)	13						8,000	8,000	
Total fixed assets		135,092	-	17,777	79,131	-	85,615	317,615	351,199
Current assets									
Stock	9.3	6,450				4,825		11,275	6,449
Debtors and prepayments		3,213		84	204		145	3,646	925
Cash on short term deposit and at bank		1,354		7,821	2,930	26,518	29,401	68,024	63,813
Total current assets		11,017	-	7,905	3,134	31,343	29,546	82,945	71,187
Current liabilities									
Creditors – amounts due within one year		(984)				(1,773)		(2,757)	(3,129)
Net current assets		10,033	-	7,905	3,134	29,570	29,546	80,188	68,058
Total assets less current liabilities		145,125	-	25,682	82,265	29,570	115,160	397,802	419,257
Funds									
Unrestricted		120,011						120,011	138,327
Unrestricted – designated	14	24,384				29,570		53,954	47,057
Restricted	15	730		25,682	82,265		115,160	223,837	233,873
Total funds		145,125	-	25,682	82,265	29,570	115,160	397,802	419,257

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 Dukes 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 Library Collection. The Library Collection was valued at a replacement cost of £95,000 in 2014 by Roger Barnes of the Church Green Books. 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 a reducing balance basis 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 Keltek Trust was repaid by the Trust during 2019 and is now included in the assets of the Bell Restoration Fund.

7. Interest receivable

Interest, in a continued climate of low interest rates, was received from –

National Savings Bonds	£ 9,670
Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit account	£ 1,063
Other	£ 85

Amounts received were slightly higher than 2023.

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 2024, bringing the total now available to £1,377. Gift Aid is still to be claimed

8.2 Ringing Remembers

The remaining balance, at 31 December 2024, of the Ringing Remembers Grant of £11,236 is held

within general balances for future related work. None of this grant was used in 2024.

8.3 Other Donations – Bell Restoration

During the year The Bell Restoration Fund received a donation from Geoffrey Woods of £1,000 in memory of his late brother Gregory. A donation of £100.00 was received from CAF, which was allocated at the Treasurer's discretion.

8.4 Other Donations – New Roll of Honour Ledger

During the year donations totalling £730 were received towards the purchase of another ledger. Included in these was a £100 donation from Rocket Consulting Ltd which was allocated at the Treasurer's discretion.

9. Workgroup Expenses & Other Exceptional Expenditure

9.1 Workgroup Expenses

Total workgroup expenses amounted to £3,265 across all activities, a reduction from 2024. Of these expenses the Executive accounted for £1,170.

9.2 Ringing 2030 Expenses

The total Ringing 2030 expenses during the year was £7,138 of which Yellowyoyo accounted for £4,260 and Bobcat Distribution accounted for £1,939. £350 was paid for the Mobile Belfry to attend the Essex Scout Jaboree

9.3 Wearebellringing.co.uk T Shirts & Banners

A bulk purchase of T Shirts was made costing £6,948 of which there was a remaining stock of £6,450 at the year end.

A Shopify website has been set up for sales

10. Grants paid

During the year, the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund paid one grant totalling £1,100 to Raleigh, USA. There are one outstanding grant commitment, with £6,027 available for new schemes.

During the year, the Bell Restoration Fund awarded no new grants. Eleven grants totalling £11,450 were paid to Netley (£700), Slapton (£2,000), Bolsterstone (£1,500), Northington (£200), Pattishall (£2000),

Audlem (£750), Rochdale (£2,000), Stoke Prior (£200), Lanteglos by Camelford (£1,550), Barnoldswick (£150), Compton Dando (£400). Outstanding commitments total £21,750, with £4,787 available for new schemes.

11. Charitable commitments

There is one grant awarded but not yet paid by the Fred Dukes International Bell Fund, and sixteen grants totalling £21,750 awarded but not yet paid by the Bell Restoration Fund.

There is also a charitable commitment to Kilifi bell restoration in respect of the balance of donations received but not yet paid amounting to £1377.

12. Publications fund

Storage and distribution cost totalled £1,666 which were paid to two Council members.

13. Library fund

£10,000 from the Library fund was used to purchase new bookcases at the Loughborough Bell Museum Library relocation costs were £1,591 was was part of the History & Archive Workgroup expenditure

14. Designated Funds

These comprise:

Ringling Remembers Grant	£11,236
	For recruitment
Rolle Legacy	£2,362
Young Ringers	£1,284
	For use by YCRA
Robert Kilby legacy	£9,502
	For 1st peal in Stedman Caters

15. Restricted Funds

These comprise:

Roll of Honours Ledger £730

16. 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.

17. Emoluments of employees

The Council had no employees during the year.

Additional Notes not comprising part of the accounts

Investment Account – NS&I

	Interest Received Monthly
General Fund	£135,091.97
Bell Restoration Fund	£17,777.07
Fred Dukes Bell Fund	£79,130.96

CCLA Short Term Deposit Account

	Interest received quarterly
General Fund	£884.99
Bell Restoration Fund	£2,584.46

Lloyds Bank Account (No 1)	£7,351
Comprising	
General Fund	(£8,544.53)
Bell Restoration Fund	£5,233.44
Fred Dukes Bell Fund	£2,932.89
Robert Kilby Legacy	£9,502.20
Publications	(£1,773.00)

Lloyds Bank Account (No 2)	£1,284.16
Comprising	
Young Ringers (YCRA)	£1,284.16

Reserve Policy (To close the Charity) £75,000



BELLRINGING



Ringling 2030 Progress Report

Ringling 2030 is a major strategy, initiated by the Central Council, to create a sustainable future for bellringing, raising wider public awareness of bellringing, establishing new sources of recruitment that will create a steady and sustainable growth pipeline, and creating a culture of inclusiveness and progression that will keep people ringing.

Ringling 2030 objectives

The specific objectives identified as deliverable by the Central Council are divided into three pillars as follows:

- **Pillar 1: Publicity and Marketing:** Raise awareness of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity through targeted marketing initiatives.
- **Pillar 2: Recruitment and Development:** Develop local and regional structures to recruit new ringers and attract lapsed ringers,
- **Pillar 3: Quality Environment:** Create a quality environment with effective teaching, leadership, and well-maintained ringing facilities to make bellringing enjoyable and sustainable.

Initiatives

Each pillar has three high-level initiatives to which all Central Council projects align:

Pillar One: Marketing

- **Support for Campaigns:** Provide support for national and local campaigns and events, including social media campaigns, and work with scouting and guiding groups.
- **Brand Development:** Develop a brand identity and associated assets for bellringing that are available for use by all bellringers. Creation of branding portals to make using assets easy and accessible. Association website templates.
- **School Outreach:** Use mobile belfries and specially developed enrichment curriculum to create awareness of bellringing in young people.

Pillar Two: Recruitment and Development

- **Recruitment Network:** Establish an international recruitment network and a universal marketing and recruitment portal, so that potential new ringers can reach the person who might teach them quickly, and so that we can track the progress of new ringers. Surveys and other tools to understand gaps and how to address them.
- **Regional Courses:** Develop regional ringing courses to train new ringers and advance progress for existing ringers.
- **Young Ringers Networks and support:** Create and support regional, national and international networks specifically for young ringers, including supporting the Young Change Ringers Association, and networking support to university and early career young people.

Pillar Three: Environments

- **Support for Associations:** Provide research and planning support for associations dealing with church closures, advice and guidance, coordination with other ringing organisations for a shared ringing portal.
- **Professional engagement and training:** Expand knowledge in engineering and basic bell maintenance to increase the number of steeplekeepers and advisors in this specialist area, collaborations with field experts for knowledge capture and research.
- **Leadership and Diversity Training:** Bitesize training and awareness to ensure that bellringing is welcoming to everyone.

Delivering the ambitious roadmap laid out in 2023 is still very much the key focus of the Council, and much time has been devoted to laying out long term plans for our multi-year projects. These plans include ensuring that key initiatives have a sustainable future once the initial phase is completed.

Having completed the major branding work, the assets (logos, graphics and style guides) are available to any ringing organisation, through multiple channels – the CCCBR website, direct download of assets, and completed banners and t-shirts via the branding portal. By the time of the meeting we will have another channel that will make branded social media posts much easier to put together. In the meantime, work is underway to refresh or replace our existing assets.

The first ever South West Ringing Course was oversubscribed with applications, as was the North West Ringing Course, which is now firmly established. This only shows the appetite and need for more of these.

The changing churches project moves into its next phase of creating detailed guidance to help associations navigate this particular challenge.

The majority of this work has been accomplished by project teams within WorkGroups, and each workgroup report contains details of the accomplishments, challenges and future plans. The busy volunteers in these groups have accomplished a great deal with limited time and deserve the thanks of the entire Council membership.

That hard work notwithstanding, the key challenge across all workgroups is getting enough committed resource to move this work along. It is clear that the key project expenditure will be on short term contracted resource (such as YelloYoYo) or sustained ongoing work (maintenance of the recruitment network or youth development).

What follows is a high level summary of the projects by Pillar, showing each currently defined project, which Work Group is responsible for it, and how it aligns to the above Pillars and Initiatives.

The Status column shows the following:

Status	What it means
Not Started	Detailed planning for this project has not begun, usually because it is not due to start until a later date.
Planning	A plan is being produced and team/resource being recruited. Any costs are outlined and justified at this stage
In Progress	The project is in flight, meaning at least one task is actively being worked on
Done	The work planned for this project has been completed
Paused	The project is on hold, either because of lack of resource or in order to replan it pending other work.
Cancelled	A project that was stopped because no longer suitable.

Against this we also have an RAGB status, which tells us how well a project is doing, and which ones require attention:

RAGB	What it means
Red	Progress is materially impeded to the point where timely completion may not be possible. In this case, the lack of or turnover of volunteers has turned to projects RED
Amber	There are impediments to a project that will likely impact timely completion and actions are being taken to remove them. This may be a lack of a concrete plan, budget or resource.
Green	The project is progressing according to plan and budget and resource is in place to complete it
Blue	The project has completed.

Pillar 1 Marketing				
P1 Brand Development				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
Create initial Marketing Collateral		Done	BLUE	Marketing for Ringing 2030
Branding research and vision	100%	Done	BLUE	Marketing for Ringing 2030
Refreshing existing marketing assets	0%	In Progress	GREEN	Marketing for Ringing 2030
P1 School Outreach				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
School lesson plans for bellringing	0	In Progress	AMBER	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
Scouts and Guides outreach	0	Planning	GREEN	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
HLF or other funding bid	0	Planning	AMBER	Executive
P1 Support for Campaigns				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
Establish PR support budget		Done	BLUE	Executive
Mobile belfry		Done	BLUE	Executive
Recruitment and marketing portal	50%	In Progress	AMBER	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
Support regional Marketing campaigns	25%	In Progress	GREEN	Marketing for Ringing 2030
Phase 2 recruitment and marketing portal	0	Planning	AMBER	Technology for Ringing 2030
Major marketing campaign		Not started		Marketing for Ringing 2030
Pillar 2 Recruitment and Development				
P2 Recruitment Network				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
ART recognition		Done	BLUE	Executive
Ringing Survey		Paused	RED	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
Identify and increase regional teaching facilities	0	Planning	AMBER	
Enabling recruitment network	0	Planning	RED	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
P2 Regional Courses				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
NW Ringing course	0%	Done	BLUE	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
SW Ringing Course	40%	In Progress	GREEN	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
Identify new regional course	0%	Not started		Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
P2 Young Ringers networks and support				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
Facilitate and suport YRCA events	0%	Paused	AMBER	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
University Ringing Website	0%	In Progress	GREEN	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
University ringing support	25%	In Progress	GREEN	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
Supporting Young Ringers		Planning	GREEN	Young ringers for Ringing 2030
Pillar 3 Environments				
P3 Leadership and Diversity				
Project name	Completion	Status	RAGB Statu	Workgroup
Leadership training	0	Planning	AMBER	Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
Identify network of good practice leaders		Not started		Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
Diversity review	0	Not started		Recruitment and Development for Ringing 2030
P3 Professional engagement and training				
Knowledge capture of tower engineering expertise		Planning	GREEN	Environments for Ringing 2030
Pillar 3 Environments				
P3 Support for Associations				
Best kept tower competition		Canceled		Environments for Ringing 2030
Young Ringers Hub	25%	In Progress	AMBER	
Changing Churches	25%	In Progress	GREEN	Environments for Ringing 2030
Ringing Finance	0%	In Progress	GREEN	Executive
Unified ringing platform		Not started		Technology for Ringing 2030
Association website template	0%	Not started		Technology for Ringing 2030



Financial Update 2025 and indicative General Fund Budget for 2026

Purpose of the report – To inform Members of the current financial position for 2025 and to give an outline to the 2026 General Fund budget.

1. Introduction

This report gives Members –

- A summary of the current financial position across all funds for 2025 and
- Gives an indication of the 2026 General Fund budget, prior to formal and more detailed consideration by the Executive in the autumn of 2025.
- The report shows the statutory obligations of the Charity's expenditure and a summary of the other expenditure.

This type of report is presented as part of the enhanced governance arrangements now being followed by the Council. The accounts for 2024 are shown elsewhere in the meeting papers.

2. Financial Update 2025

At the time of writing, the Council is halfway through its 2025 financial year. The Executive approved the following General Fund budget for 2025 in autumn 2024 and it is set alongside the current projection of actual income and expenditure for 2025 to the right.

The actual General Fund balance brought forward of £144,125 was approximately £2,000 high 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 £20,010 accounted for, in the main, by the legacy received from Wendy Piercy (£12,200) and the lower than expected costs of the Annual Council Meeting.

A loan of £12,000 has been advanced to The South West Course, with an agreed additional amount of £7,500 falling due during August. This loan, totaling £19,500 is to be repaid from receipts from students & helpers attending the course in October 2025.

A grant of £5,000 was given to The Mobile Belfries Trust to complete the previously agreed commitment, together with a new line

General Fund – Budget agreed by Executive and Current Projection for 2025

	2025 Budget Agreed 12/2024	2025 Budget Revised 30/6/2025
Income	£	£
Affiliation Fees	13,800	13,820
Small Societies	30	40
Interest Receivable	3,125	3,500
Donations & Other Income	250	250
Legacies		12,200
Merchandising Income	1,000	2,000
Total Income	18,205	31,810
Expenditure		
Statutory Obligations		
AGM Costs	6,000	3,500
Insurance	3,050	3,050
Executive	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	250	250
Technical & Taxonomy	3,000	3,000
Total Statutory Obligations	14,300	11,800
Workgroup & Ringing 2030		
Expenditure		
History & Archive	2,000	2,000
Senior Stakeholder Liaison	500	500
Ringing 2030		
Pillar One – Marketing	11,700	18,200
Pillar Two – Recruitment		
& Development	9,185	5,000
Pillar Three – Environment	2,300	4,200
Technology	3,000	2,000
Young Ringers	1,400	1,000
Total Workgroup & Ringing		
Expenditure	30,085	32,900
Excess Expenditure over		
Income	(26,180)	(1,090)
Balance of General		
Fund as at 01/01/2025	144,125	144,125
Estimated Balance of		
General Fund as at 31/12/2025	118,945	140,035

of credit to a maximum of £7,000 of which £5,000 has been taken up, and £1,200 towards the costs of branding the gazebo with the Central Council logo. The loan is to repaid within three years from receipts. The Mobile Belfries Trust are providing the Executive with up to date information on a regular basis.

The Shopify website is currently costing money as sales have been disappointing but hopefully with some online marketing sales will increase & put it into profitability.

Interest from The Publications Bank Account has been assumed into the General Fund as per the Executive meeting notes of 26 March 2025.

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. Currently, there are no funds available for new 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. No new grants have been awarded this year.

The Education Fund where designated funds 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 has been amalgamated into the Lloyds Bank Account and the Nat West Account is being closed.

Indicative 2026 General Fund Budget
Prior to formal consideration, amendment and approval by the Executive in autumn 2025 the following is presented to Members for information.

Whilst the anticipated budget for 2026 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 surplus is achieved. The estimates provided for Ringing 2030 will be more detailed when the budget is set by the Executive in the autumn of 2025. Additionally, some of that expenditure may be carried forward to the following years.

The overall assumption is that for 2025 & 2026 expenditure will exceed income leaving the Council a balance of £140,875 at 31 December 2026 to carry forward to future years. Taking into consideration the reserves policy, of £75,000, this leaves either £67,525 or £65,875 available for project spending depending on the outcome of the motion on the Agenda as at 31 December 2026.

General Fund – Outline Budget 2026

	Note A	Note B
	2026	2026
	£	£
Income		
Affiliation Fees		
@ £1.00p per capita	34,400	32,400
Associated Societies		850
Small Societies	40	40
Interest receivable	1,500	1,500
Donations & Other Income	500	500
Total Income	36,440	34,790
Expenditure		
Statutory Obligations		
AGM Costs	6,500	6,500
Insurance	3,200	3,200
Executive	2,000	2,000
Public Relations	250	250
Technical & Taxonomy	1,250	1,250
Total Statutory Obligations	13,200	13,200
Workgroup & Ringing 2030		
Expenditure		
History & Archive	500	500
Senior Stakeholder Liaison	500	500
Ringing 2030		
Pillar One – Marketing	11,500	11,500
Pillar Two – Recruitment & Development	7,250	7,250
Pillar Three – Environment	5,000	5,000
Total Workgroup & other Expenditure	24,750	24,750
Excess Expenditure over Income	(1,510)	(3,160)
Estimated Balance of General Fund as at 01/01/2026	144,035	144,035
Estimated Balance of General Fund as at 31/12/2026	142,525	140,875

Note A – This column assumes that Motion B is not passed by The Council

Note B – This column assumes that Motion B is passed by The Council



Ringling 2030 Business Plan Progress Report

Overview

Ringling 2030 is a major strategy, initiated by the Central Council of Church Bellringers to create a sustainable future for change ringing:

We want to work in collaboration with ringing organisations to put in place a growth pipeline, creating a steady and sustainable recruitment stream:

- 10,000 more active ringers by 2030 (new or returned)
- Half of them under the age of 30
- 30,000 people under the age of 20 have heard about or had a go at bellringing.
- A retention rate of 50% of new recruits
- Double the number of teachers and trainers of ringing.

Previous recruitment campaign shows can recruit large numbers of ringers – Ringling Remembers brought over 5k new enquiries, resulting in 3332 ringers on the day. There were 3k enquiries for Ring for the King, and around 50% of those are still ringing.

These “big bang” campaigns tied to a specific event also raise awareness of bellringing, and we have anecdotal evidence that people continue to express interest in learning to ring because of these campaigns.

We also have evidence that taking a mini-ring to a public event, such as a festival or scouting event can give up to 1,200 people a chance to try and learn about bellringing, laying the ground for future recruitment and public understanding of what we do.

With this evidence and with all ringers working together, we know we can achieve these goals. More importantly, this work will lay the foundation for how we continue to recruit people into ringing far beyond 2030.

The challenges we face

Bellringing is a remarkable activity with many areas of growth. Until the pandemic lockdowns in 2020–2022, the number of peals rung each continued to

increase. The complexity of methods, ground-breaking compositions and other theoretical and musical innovations continue. The number of bands able to put a team into national competitions, and the explosion in the number of youth bands in the RW National Youth Competition – all these point to a thriving art.

Our key challenge is demographic. In the ringing survey of 1988, the number of ringers was estimated at 41,000 ringers. We now think that there are 25% fewer ringers and the biggest loss is in the recruitment of younger ringers.

Age	Percentage in 1988	Est percentage now	Est numbers now	Numbers in 25 years
Under 40	49%	15%	4,500	4,500*
40–60	38%	25%	7,500	4500
Over 60	13%	60%	18,000	7,500

**Assumes same rate of recruitment*
*** The under-40s turn into the 40–60 in 25 years’ time*
**** the over 60s are the 40–60 of 25 years ago*
There are other challenges:

Church Buildings: The financial pressure of maintaining church buildings and falling congregations pose a threat to the easy access ringers are accustomed to having.

Funding Issues: Large amounts of money are locked in Bell Restoration Funds while other aspects of ringing operate on minimal budgets.

Skill Shortages: To be able to teach all the ringers we need, we need about 10 times more teachers than we have.

Recruitment Challenges: Traditional recruitment via church congregations and choirs is no longer viable as the only route. We need to explore new ways to promote bellringing.

Resource challenge: We have always relied on volunteers, but ringing is struggling to find volunteers for key posts, much less the additional effort to support national initiatives, and to do them at pace.

Objectives

This section outlines the specific objectives identified as deliverable by the Central Council, divided into three pillars:

Pillar 1: Publicity and Marketing: Raise awareness of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity through targeted marketing initiatives.

Pillar 2: Recruitment and Development: Develop local and regional structures to recruit new ringers and attract lapsed ringers.

Pillar 3: Quality Environment: Create a quality environment with effective teaching, leadership, and well-maintained ringing facilities to make bellringing enjoyable and sustainable.

Initiatives

This section details key high-level initiatives under each pillar:

Pillar One: Marketing

Support for Campaigns: Provide support for national and local campaigns and events, including social media campaigns, and work with scouting and guiding groups.

Brand Development: Develop a brand identity and associated assets for bellringing that are available for use by all bellringers. Creation of branding portals to make using assets easy and accessible. Association website templates.

School Outreach: Use mobile belfries and specially developed enrichment curriculum to create awareness of bellringing in young people.

Pillar Two: Recruitment and Development

Recruitment Network: Establish an international recruitment network and a universal marketing and recruitment portal, so that potential new ringers can reach the person who might teach them quickly, and so that we can track the progress of new ringers. Surveys and other tools to understand gaps and how to address them.

Regional Courses: Develop regional ringing courses to train new ringers and advance progress for existing ringers.

Young Ringers Networks and support: Create and support regional, national, and international networks specifically for young ringers, including supporting the Young Change Ringers Association, and networking support to university and early career young people.

Pillar Three: Environments

Support for Associations: Take the lead in research, guidance and outreach for associations dealing with changes of use in churches with bells, advice and guidance, coordination with other ringing organisations for a shared ringing portal.

Professional engagement and training: Expand knowledge in engineering and basic bell maintenance to increase the number of steeplekeepers and advisors in this specialist area, collaborations with field experts for knowledge capture and research.

Leadership and Diversity Training: Bitesize training and awareness to ensure that bellringing is welcoming to everyone.

Business Model

The success of Ringing 2030 can only be achieved through collaboration and cooperation between all ringing organisations. The key to our business model is to develop projects and structures that can be sustained well past 2030.

Collaboration: Collaborate with ringing organizations and stakeholders. Affiliated ringing associations are a key partner, as well as the Association of Ringing Teachers, the Ringing World, the Mobile Belfry Trust, and regional teaching hubs. In addition, we need to reinforce and expand collaboration with external governing bodies, schools, universities and scouting and guiding associations.

Enablement: Much of the work identified by the Central Council has a focus on enabling ringers to become ambassadors, teachers, and leaders.

Project Teams: The Council's projects will be organised through specific project teams within Workgroups that are primarily focussed on Ringing 2030. In addition to Workgroups that support each pillar, there are two additional Workgroups for Young People and for Technology support.

Volunteer Model: As with most ringing projects, most planning and delivery work needs to be done through volunteers.

Contracted out projects: To improve pace of delivery and to leverage skillsets we don't have; certain projects have been outsourced to professional agencies. These are agreed on a per project basis and the results shared with all bellringers.

Paid support roles: To improve sustainability and continuity of critical projects and to achieve the service levels expected by many ringers, some long- and short-term fee-based work is planned. Key areas are in recruitment support, youth development, and marketing support.

Finances

This section outlines the forecast and proposed expenditure by the Central Council relating to Ringing 2030. It does not include projects or spending initiated by partner organisations, or localised projects and spending by ringing associations.

This is not a budget; however, this forecast will inform the specific budget for each year, and the forecast will be reviewed and adjusted in light of current budget and actual spending.

Income Assumptions

Since 2023, affiliation fees have been tied to the declared membership of affiliated societies, replacing a flat fee structure based on approximated size of the affiliated society. This is currently .40p per member of an affiliated society.

Other income sources are interest rates (decreasing as cash reserves are spent), grants and bequests, transfers from sales of publications, and repayments of previous loans or lines of credit.

- An increase to £1 per member of an affiliated society has been assumed for 2026.
- The model assumes a constant rate of members and does not incorporate increases due to recruitment or decreases due to retirement.
- A modest amount of grant income has been assumed from 2027 onwards.

The Council has a reserves policy of 75k to allow for an ordered closure, cash holdings in excess of this

amount should be used for promoting the charitable objectives of the Central Council.

Expenditure Assumptions

Ringing 2030 projects which have costs are detailed to the extent that they are known and are based on roadmaps and project plans produced by WorkGroup leads and the Executive. This is not a complete list of projects, but the items that have a known or predicted cost attached to them.

These costs are set within the context of the overall spending commitment and income expectations of the Central Council.

- Statutory obligations are the spending required by the Council to minimally function, including the cost of the Annual Meeting, software licenses and hosting costs of our digital estate, insurance, bank charges and other expenses related to 'keeping the lights on'.
- Workgroup expenditure not related to Ringing 2030 includes project work committed or required for preserving and improving on existing Council physical assets, such as the Rolls of Honour.
- No assumptions for inflation have been made.
- No assumptions have been made for cost reduction due to competitive tendering.

Metrics

The Central Council has limited metrics available to count ringers and their progress, and none of them are perfect. Projects like the recruitment portal will help to improve this, as reporting is built into the design. However, we would also rely on reporting from affiliated ringing organisations to help create a picture of progress.

- Association Membership Numbers: Track association membership numbers as an indirect way of monitoring new ringers.
- Teaching Course Completions: Work with ART to track the number of ringers completing ART's M1 course or Learn to Ring levels.
- Recruitment Portal: Tracking queries, where they go and how they are followed up.
- Self-reporting by ringing organisations.
- Demand for ringing courses.
- Positive News Stories: Highlight positive news stories about bellringing.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Income	21,558	20,150	11,900	52,705	55,730	80,230	59,230	58,230	33,230
Expenditure									
Statutory Obligations	25,822	13,332	12,530	13,940	14,485	18,135	16,300	19,800	17,580
Workgroup Expenditure not Ringing 2030	411	688	6,500	500	2,500	2,500	500	500	500
Ringing 2030									
Pillar One – Marketing – unallocated			5,740		750	750	750	750	750
Branded marketing assets	4,200	16,613	4,260	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1000
Banners & Flags – Bobcat			1,478						
Blue Pine Films – Discover Bellringing		4,370							
Unified Marketing & Recruitment Platform				4,000	2,000				
School lesson plans					250	250	250	250	250
Banners and other pub materials for different groups				3,000					
Event support				6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6000
Branding for Touring Tower				1,200					
Virtual Tower Tour				2,000	2,000	2,000			
Youth group badge sponsorship				1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advertisements & social media				1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1000
MBT Trust Grant				5,000					
MBT Loan				3,000	2,000	2,000			
Pillar Two – Recruitment – unallocated			1,500		4,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
NW Course	2,500								
Ring for the King – ART support		900							
SW Course – Starter Grant			5,000						
SW Course – Line of credit				19,500	19,500	19,500			
New ringing course – Starter Grant							5,000		
New ringing course – line of credit							19,500	19,500	19,500
Ringing Survey			1,000						
Unified Ringing Platform						2,000	2,000	2,000	
Facilitation of YCRA Events					500	500	500	500	500
Recruitment admin contract fee				5,000	11,650	12,500	13,325	14,150	15,000
Pillar Three – Environment – Unallocated			1,000						
Leadership Course					1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1000
Face to face meetings				2,000					
New Banner				200					
Association website template					300	300	300	300	300
Student ringing support				2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2000
Total Ringing 2030 Expenditure	4,200	20,983	11,478	57,900	55,450	53,300	55,125	50,950	49,800
Total Expenditure	30,433	35,003	30,508	72,340	72,435	73,935	71,925	71,250	67,880
Surplus/(Loss) Income over Expenditure	(8,875)	(14,853)	(18,608)	(19,635)	(16,705)	6,295	(12,695)	(13,020)	(34,650)
General Fund B/Fwd 1 January			160,440	144,327	132,192	115,487	121,782	109,087	96,067
Transfer from Publications	10,000			7,500	3,000			3,000	
General Fund C/Fwd 31 December		160,440	144,327	132,192	115,487	121,782	109,087	96,067	61,417
Less Reserves Policy (to close Charity)		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Available Reserves		85,440	69,327	57,192	40,487	46,782	34,087	21,067	(13,583)



Ringling 2030 Marketing

In 2023 the marketing company Yellow YoYo were tasked with brand and marketing oversight. Most of these points were explored from 2023 to the present with the development of the 2030 3-pillar approach. Pillar 1 is the Marketing Workgroups area of interest and as such is expected to raise awareness of the art of bellringing, promote it as a social and voluntary activity in order to drive new recruits to bellringing, with better targeted marketing initiatives.

John Lagdon was the Marketing Workgroup lead up until the end of June 2025. He reports:

We started out the year by supporting Beth Johnson and the Essex Association with attendance to the Essex International Jamboree. The Mobile Belfry 2.0 was on site for the full duration and featured in the 'Motion' section of the jamboree. A large number of volunteers were sourced from across the country, some camping on site while others attended for the day. This turned out to be a great success with over 1200 young people and a large group of their leaders as well visiting the stand, with leaders being given cards that had a QR code on them allowing them to register interest with a tower local to them about having a visit. There have been multiple enquiries to date using this, and there have been a number of requests since for support in other scouting events in the UK for support with attending with one of the mobile belfries. Further support was provided to the event with the distribution of t-shirts with the Bellringing branding on them.

One of the main projects that we have started is updating the recruitment leaflet, with a number of initial discussion having taken place. Andrew Howell has agreed to take on the organisation of creating the new leaflet, working together with the other workgroups that are relevant and have a vested interest in them. At least two versions will be produced, a generic and one aimed specifically at younger people to encourage them to take up ringing or just find a bit more about ringing. The current aim is

to have them ready to be distributed at the CC meeting in September.

Later this year the first South West Ringing Course will be taking place based at Millfield School in Street, Somerset. Located nearby is a large shopping outlet centre, Clark's Village. We have been in contact with the owners of Clark's Village who have been very receptive to the attendance of a mobile belfry/mini ring to be placed in the shopping centre on the Saturday of the course. While this will take place at the same time as the course, it will be run separately with an educative stance as to why people visiting are likely to hear lots of bells ringing at that time.

Looking forward, while very much in its infancy, it's hoped to hold a large scale brand activation event in 2026 to launch the Bellringing branding. Location and dates to be confirmed but a rough outline so far will be the attendance of a mobile belfry, mini ring, simulator, handbells plus any other ringing related items and activities within a city/large town centre. Aiming to take place in Q3 2026, this will be a large event with multiple opportunities to carry out community and public engagement.

John Lagdon – Outgoing Marketing Workgroup Lead

Angela Elliott was appointed Public Relations Officer in mid-2024 and will take over as Marketing Workgroup Lead from the end of June 2025.

Angela writes:

As the incoming Marketing Workgroup Lead I'd like to offer my thanks to John's sterling work, particularly in the area of events management, where he excels. Thanks also to members of the Marketing Workgroup, who have offered their support, encouragement and knowledge in this difficult field of operation. Marketing has its fingers in every pie. There isn't a single thing that the Central Council does that doesn't need marketing at one stage or another. This is never

more obvious than in the use of PR, which sits at the heart of marketing. When mainstream PR is combined with social media it becomes a potent driver of, what marketing professionals like to call, 'brand awareness'.

Bellringing hit both the local and national press this year with a particular focus on young role models. Plans are afoot to develop an 18 – 25 years of age 'cast list', to brain storm ideas for media awareness and provide case studies for the press. Working hand-in-hand with the Youth Workgroup, this will provide a solid base for future development.

Two national opportunities for coordinating bellringing occurred in 2025, being VE day and VJ day, when ringers were encouraged to ring in celebration of the cessation of the war in Europe and then in Japan, the latter, thus signalling the end of WW2. Bell Sunday and the Heritage Open Days were likewise promoted.

And so to the future. The Marketing Workgroup needs

new blood. We cannot do it alone. Perhaps you are one of our younger ringers with a finger on the pulse of social media. Perhaps you're studying marketing, or have some knowledge of publicity, graphics, social media platforms, etc... Perhaps you're a gifted amateur podcaster, or TikTok media slayer. Perhaps you're an older person with years of experience and wisdom we can tap into. Either way, what you need to have is an abundance of 'get up and go'. Marketing needs people who will action the things we discuss in our meetings in a timely fashion, knowing that we do it to ensure a brighter future for bellringing.

Feel free to get in touch: angela.elliott@cccbr.org.uk

Workgroup members:

Vicki Chapman – Exec Sponsor

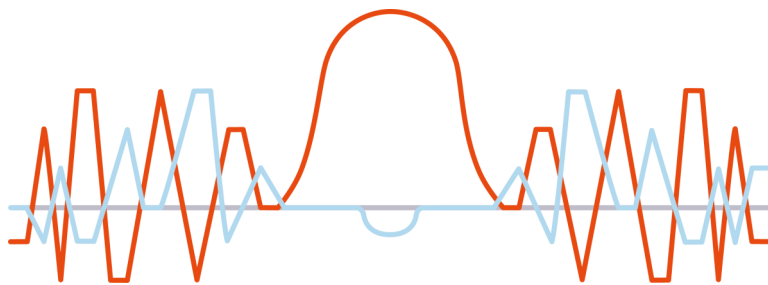
John Lagdon – Events

Jayden Milby – Social Media

Cate Gardner – Lancashire

Eileen Butler – US & International

Philip Orme – Bells on Sunday



Robert Kilby Memorial Peal

In 2017 the Central Council received a legacy from Robert M Kilby to support the ringing of Stedman Caters – specifically for the Council to organise 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@cccbr.org.uk).



Publications

The last year has seen major changes in the Publications Group. It was long understood that the old team wanted to stand down from their roles, and this happened during 2024 after they had given sterling service over many years. We were fortunate that Barbara Wheeler and Philip Green agreed to continue until a new system of sales and distribution could be put in place. A number of options were investigated but in the end the view was that it would be best to keep this group ‘in-house’.

Philip and Barbara helped to take this forward, and they found Sarah and Jim Bence who were willing to take over. Their appointment was agreed by the CCCBR Executive and just after the annual meeting in Exeter last year they took delivery of the stock from Barbara. New systems had to be put in place, not least dealing with the finances, and unfortunately these took a little longer to arrange than anticipated. Sarah and Jim built on the existing format but have also introduced some new ideas which are working well. They are here in Sheffield manning our bookstall so hopefully you have, or will have, the opportunity to meet them.

Now that the admin work is in place we are now going to meet with others who have expressed an interest in helping with various roles including producing new titles, and there are a number in the pipeline. As titles have needed to be reprinted they have also been reviewed and in some cases updated along with the addition of new content. Cover prices have had to be increased to keep up with rising costs of postage, again other options were investigated but it was decided to stay with the Royal Mail for delivery of items.

In some ways Sarah and Jim have been running to stand still as the level of sales has been extremely high during 2025. To this end the Executive took the decision that the retainer they receive has been increased to £2,500 this year.

DAVID KIRKCALDY

Current Stock

Title	Total sales	Remaining stock	Prices as at May 25 £
A Tutor's Handbook	9	51	4.50
Badges	276	230	0.75
Beginners Grandsire	76	50	4.50
Beginners Handbook	17	54	5.25
Beginners Plain Bob	67	77	4.50
Beginners Stedman	78	210	4.50
Bell Club inc badges	41	96	12.00
Bell Club Cards	72	438	7.50
Belfry Offices NLA	4	0	4.50
Change Ringing History Vol 1	14	6	5.00
Change Ringing History Vol 3	5	15	5.00
Dove's Guide	101	30	17.00
Easy stages plain bob grandsire Leaflets	170	148	5.00
Exercise Book NLA	8	0	1.50
Follow-on-Book	179	215	7.50
Giants of the Exercise Vol 1	0	20	5.00
Giants of the Exercise Vol 2	0	5	5.00
Kaleidoscope Ringing	18	28	4.50
Learning Curve Vol 2: 2002-2003	11	9	4.50
Learning Curve Vol 3: 2004-2005	12	8	4.50
Learning Curve Vol 4: 2006-2007	12	8	4.50
Manual of Belfry Maintenance	85	39	14.00
New Ringers Book	205	195	12.00
One-per-Learner	1022	798	7.50
Pitman"	0	19	7.50
Raising and Lowering	78	31	5.50
Ringing Circles	377	218	5.75
Service Touches	45	68	4.75
Splicing Bell Ropes	69	119	5.75
Standard Eight Surprise Major NLA	4	0	7.00
Towards Better Striking NLA	8	0	4.50
Will You Call a Touch Please Bob	51	116	5.50
20 Questions	40	80	7.50

Total	3114	3301
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Young Ringers for Ringing 2030

1 Introduction

This is the first full year report since the Schools & Youth and Universities workgroups merged. It's proved to be the right thing to do as there is so much crossover between all things youth ringing and also with other workgroups. The structure of the workgroup has further evolved since the merger in response to feedback and experience, into an interdependent programme of 5 projects.

Each project will work through the development, delivery and business as usual stages and will consider the funding requirements for each stage as the

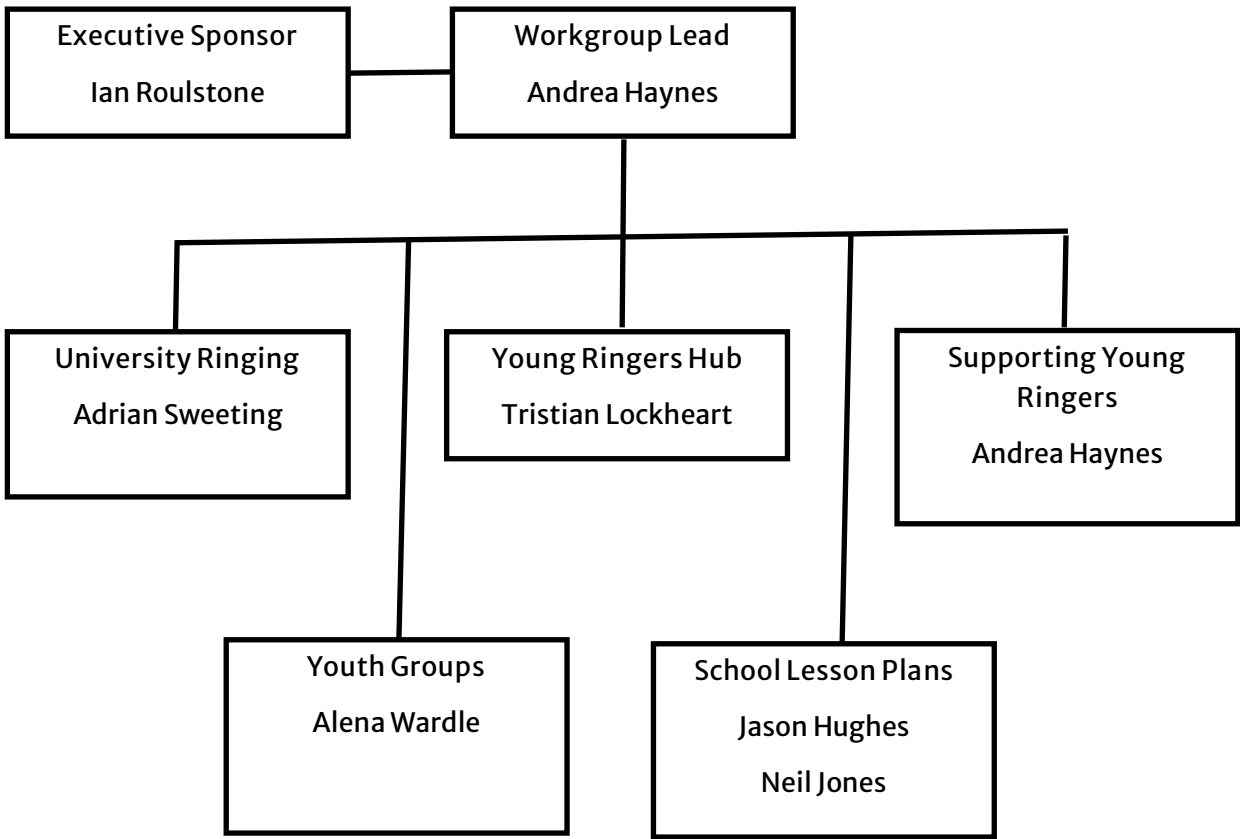
projects develop. Authority for expenditure will be sought from the CCCBR Executive at the appropriate time.

2 Programme Structure

The programme structure is flexible and there are elements of the projects that are relevant to more than one project.

Andrea Haynes is overseeing all of the projects, focussing on delivering the project benefits and making sure that what we create is sustainable.

Young Ringers for Ringing 2030—Programme Structure



3 The Projects

The project updates below set out a brief description of the projects, what has been achieved in the last year and what is planned to achieve the project benefits. A project plan setting out key deliverables and aspirational timescales is appended to this report.

3.1 Young Ringers Hub – Tristan Lockheart

The Young Ringers Hub (YRH) is a “one stop shop” website for young ringers from school age to age 30. The YRH will include existing guidance and information, plus will host the outputs of the other projects. The objective of the website is to enable young ringers to find the information they need to find somewhere to ring and provide relevant guidance, wherever they are in their ringing journey. We will be working with the Recruitment & Development workstream to dovetail with their recruitment activities.

User requirements have been agreed and work is now underway on proof of concept. Once this is completed, the new website will be populated and a Beta website launched in the Autumn.

An interim YRH is currently in place, hosted by the CCCBR. Information and guidance is being posted on here as it becomes available, pending the launch of the new YRH website.

Young Ringers Hub – The home of under-30s ringing

The new YRH will be hosted on the CCCBR servers and accessible via the CCCBR website and discoverable via search engines. A PR campaign will accompany the launch.

The YRH will be dynamic and part of the project is to create a steering group and processes to make sure that the website is kept up to date.

Tristan is leading this project with technical support from Martyn Bristow.

3.2 University Ringing – Adrian Sweeting and Tristan Lockheart

The University Ringing project is aimed at creating resources to attract young people to ringing at university and keeping them ringing. It will create a sustainable University Ringing website and guidance

for University societies based on best practice.

University Ringing website

Tristan is leading the website build in collaboration with Jacqui Brown, the owner of the current website, with technical support from Martyn Bristow. Tristan is also populating the new website with the latest details from university societies.

Part of the project is to create a steering group and processes to keep the website up to date, plus the university societies guidance (see below). This is quite a challenge, given the dynamic nature of university societies!

The website will be linked to the YRH and there will be a PR campaign to accompany the launch along with new branded banners.

University Societies

The structure of this project has been changed, as the young people who stepped forward to lead on various elements struggled with leading their respective areas and in hindsight it was a big ask of them. They also found that most of the people who said they would volunteer failed to engage. Thankfully, Adrian Sweeting stepped forward to help and is now leading a piece of work to collate information from university societies about what they do well. The objective is to capture this best practice information in templates and put these on the YRH for university societies to access.

A survey is being carried out to coincide with the end of exams in June 2025, with the intention of having the guidance available for societies in the autumn. There will be a PR campaign to make university societies aware of this.

The information will include things such as setting up a society, reviving a society, running a society how to manage finances and recruitment with / without SU affiliation, CCCBR affiliation and much more and will be hosted on the YRH.

This information will also be valuable as an input in to the “Supporting Young Ringers” project below.

When				Q2/25	Q3/25	Q4/25	2026	Q1/26	Q2/26	Q3/26	Q4
Team	Task / deliverable	Responsible	Status								
YOUNG RINGERS HUB											
Website design	Proof of concept	Tristan	In Progress								
	Populate new website with available information	Tristan	In Progress								
	Beta website launch / PR campaign	Tristan / Andrea	Not yet due								
	Order YRH banners to support launch	Andrea	Not yet due								
	Establish steering group to update and maintain site	Tristan	Not yet due								
	Identify funding requirements for website - development and BAU	Tristan / Andrea	Not yet due								
UNIVERSITY RINGING											
Website design	Create new University Ringing site and populate	Tristan	In Progress								
	Create process for updating site as officers etc change	Tristan	Not yet due								
	Link to Young Ringers Hub	Tristan	Not yet due								
	Launch new website / PR campaign	Tristan / Andrea	Not yet due								
	Order University Ringing banners to support launch	Andrea	Not yet due								
University societies	Survey for societies to capture what they do well	Adrian	In Progress								
	Create templated guidance from feedback	Andrea / Tristan / Adrian	Not yet due								
	Publish guidance on Young Ringers Hub / PR campaign	Tristan / Andrea	Not yet due								
	Identify review process and costs of keeping guidance up to date	Tristan	Not yet due								
	Use survey outputs / guidance to inform "Supporting Young Ringers" project	Andrea	Not yet due								
YOUTH GROUPS (UNDER 18)											
Scouts blueprint	Derbyshire scouts / diocese developing proposal	Carole Hallam	In Progress								
	Project team to review Derbyshire proposal and propose blueprint	Andrea / Alena	Not yet due								
Badge syllabus	CCCBR and Derbyshire team to collaborate on badge syllabus proposal	Andrea / Carole	Not yet due								
Youth group guidance	Create stand alone guidance for youth group / school tower visits incl pathways into ring	Andrea / Alena	Not yet due								
	Guidance on how to work with neurodivergent young people	Jos Leggett	In Progress								
	Cross reference to School lesson plans to capture relevant info	Andrea	Not yet due								
Youth group marketing	Create marketing strategy to support project and events e.g Scout jamborees	Andrea / Vicky	Not yet due								
DofE marketing	Marketing of ringing for DofE	Andrea / Vicky	Not yet due								
Handbells for young people	Steph Pendlebury secretary@scacr.org leading group to produce guidance	Steph	In Progress								
SCHOOL LESSON PLANS											
Plans	Primary lesson plans complete	Jason	In Progress								
	Secondary lesson plans complete	Jason	In Progress								
	PowerPoint resources in place	Jason	In Progress								
	Training materials for teachers	Jason	In Progress								
	Lesson plans aligned with mobile belfries	Jason	In Progress								
	"what next" information for schools	Jason	In Progress								
	Annual refresh process	Jason	In Progress								
Roll out	Delivery model in place	Neil Jones	Not yet due								
	Prioritised incremental delivery plan in place	Neil Jones	Not yet due								
	Marketing and branding strategy in place for roll out and BAU	Neil Jones	Not yet due								
	Resource plan for roll out	Neil Jones	Not yet due								
	Funding package for roll out in place	Andrea	Not yet due								
BAU	Resource plan for BAU	Helen Allton	Not yet due								
	Lesson plans available for use	Helen Allton	Not yet due								
	Quality control / peer review process in place for roll out and BAU	Helen Allton	Not yet due								
	Operating model established on CCCBR website	Helen Allton	Not yet due								
	Protocols in place around Safeguarding, H&S, insurance etc	Helen Allton	Not yet due								
	Funding package in place to support BAU	Andrea	Not yet due								
RINGERS											
	Create proposal for Supporting Young Ringers project and seek stakeholder support	Andrea	In Progress								
	Create and share database of youth ringing contacts	Andrea	Not yet due								
	Set up communications forum for youth ringing leaders	Andrea	Not yet due								
	Recruit regional YCRA leaders	TBC	Not yet due								

3.3 Youth Groups (under 18) – Alena Wardle

This project is aimed at creating opportunities for youth groups to hear about ringing, learn to ring and creating resources to support young ringers and leaders.

This group is only just getting going, as it's taken time to get the right people on board and work out how best to approach this challenge. However, we now have a really good group of volunteers who will be developing different elements of the project as follows.

There is some excellent partnership work currently underway between Derby Diocese and Derbyshire Scouting, led by Carole Hallam and Andy Austin. They are looking to create a "Scout Active Service Unit" that will be the focal point for organising ringing activities / recruitment within Derbyshire and they are currently working with interested towers to create a ringing experience suitable for Scouts. Once the Derbyshire trial is complete, the CCCBR project team will pick up the proposal and look at how this can be used as blueprint to be adapted by youth groups e.g. Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade etc.

In parallel, a staged badge syllabus is being considered by the Derbyshire team. A number of people have expressed an interest in re-introducing Scout / Guide badges, but given the regular reviews of badge syllabuses and the need for sponsorship, we need to find an approach that isn't at risk of being discontinued. We will be exploring the possibility of a CCCBR led staged youth badge syllabus, probably linked to ART Learning the Ropes that could be used by all youth groups. This will be worked up in to a proposal and presented to the CCCBR Executive in due course.

Another part of this project is to create stand alone guidance on how to entertain a group of young people when they visit a tower. We will build on the Derbyshire project work, as well as the tower visit guidance that Colin Newman drafted. This guidance will be appropriate for all young people, including school and youth group visits and will include taster sessions and pathways into local towers or teaching hubs. This has been the subject of a number of requests from ringers who are seeking guidance on how best to arrange visits to towers.

Josephine Leggett is also putting together guidance for leaders on how to work with young people and is carrying out a study on neurodivergence in ringing supported by an anthropologist!

This project is also looking at developing some materials for using handbells for schools / youth groups and ideas for after school clubs.

Alena will also be working with John Lagdon to create a marketing strategy to dovetail into the work we are doing and target key events. We will also look at how we can market ringing as a positive thing to do for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

This is very much a work in progress, but there is huge potential here to create something really useful and sustainable. As the strands of this project are delivered, they will be hosted on the YRH and accompanied by a PR campaign.

3.4 School lesson plans – Jason Hughes, Helen Allton, Neil Jones

The School Lesson Plans Project is a PR tool to raise awareness of ringing in schools. It will increase the visibility of ringing in schools, by integrating the lessons to the national curriculum, potentially delivering a sustainable pipeline of young ringers. The lesson plans will complement the national curriculum and support a school's coverage of the teaching of British Values. The aim is that teachers will be able to deliver the lessons plans and use them instead of or supplementary to their planned lessons.

We have split the project into 3 workstreams, each focussing on a key element of the project to enable the lesson plans to be developed, rolled out and sustained. The project teams have been established and the project outcomes are as follows.

Lesson plan development – Jason Hughes

- Lesson plans across the primary and secondary curriculum are technically complete – 14 Primary and 14 Secondary, across the curriculum
- Lesson plans are linked to and referenced in the National Curriculum
- Lesson plans are sequenced and referenced
- PowerPoint resources in place to support teaching
- Lesson plans are aligned with Mobile Belfies and other ringing organisations
- Lesson plans include clear “what next” information to signpost next steps
- Target demographic defined

Marketing and roll-out – Neil Jones

- Delivery model is in place that can be handed to the BAU workstream to roll out in line with the delivery plan
- Incremental, prioritised delivery plan is in place, taking into account the capability of local towers to support any new recruits
- Marketing and branding strategy in place linked to the BAU workstream

Business as usual operating model – Helen Allton

- Resources are identified that are needed to support the project once in business as usual e.g. paid admin support, quality assurance, updating materials, sales and fulfilment etc
- Pricing strategy in place
- School lesson plans are branded using the new Bellringing branding, marketed, sustainable, quality assured and available for use across various platforms

We have made some assumptions that will be tested as the project develops as follows:

- Central Council to carry out central admin for lesson plans, sales, updating materials etc
- A proportion of a paid admin resource is available to support the project in Business As Usual (BAU)
- Schools to do admin associated with packages acquired e.g. contacting local ringers, church, doing research etc. The packages will provide guidance / framework on how to do this.
- The plans are intended to stand alone and be delivered independently by teachers
- This project is aimed at raising awareness with recruitment and development of any new recruits carried out locally
- The lesson plans will signpost schools to “what next” information on opportunities to learn to ring etc
- Use local tower to support plans in preference to mobile belfries if suitable

We will work closely with the Recruitment & Development workstream to align objectives and avoid overlaps.

3.5 Supporting Young Ringers – Andrea Haynes and Brooks Hayes

Last year's report mentioned that “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.”

This is required as there are many school age to age 30 youth ringing organisations, but they are not joined up. The gaps between these organisations surely contribute to the loss of young ringers e.g. between school / university after university moving area, post RWNYS age etc. As a result, there is no clear pathway through ringing for young people, especially those from non-ringing families who don't have contacts and some young ringers get lost because they don't attach themselves to a youth group.

The “Supporting Young Ringers” project is currently in the forming stage and the intention is to create a network of youth teams and also establish groups of 18–30 ringers to follow in from the youth teams. The broad principle is that this will be regionally based and

include youth teams, universities and other young ringers in the region. The aim is to help with retention of ringers by making it easy for young people to find somewhere to ring, whether they be changing location or become “too old” for the youth team! It is also a good opportunity to get young people to take on leadership and mentoring roles in their region.

There are already 2 regional groupings of youth teams in the Midlands and the South East (SEECON) and it makes sense to use one of these as a trial for establishing a wider network to include 18–30 ringers.

I have linked up with the Young Change Ringers Association (YCRA – Emily Hall, Josephine Leggett and Charlie Linford) who have been struggling to gain traction as a national organisation. By creating a regional focus, it enables a YCRA regional lead to build relationships with the youth team members and leaders, ART hubs and universities, creating pathways for young ringers as well as reducing the barriers of travel.

Regional youth teams and leaders will also get to know one another and may decide to hold events as per Midlands Young Ringers and SEECON. The YCRA regional leads could facilitate regional events where there are not any currently and support the Midlands and SEECON leadership.

Regional YCRA leads could lead relationships with youth team leaders to create pathways for young ringers in their area when they graduate from the youth teams and will be a contact for young ringers when they move areas. YCRA leads can help manage the transition from the under 18 to over 18 groups and encourage over 18s to support youth groups wherever they end up.

Parents and children will get to know YCRA members, which will help build trust and develop networks and YCRA leads can also reach out to children and parents of young ringers who are not part of youth groups.

The youth team leaders and YCRA have been consulted on the principles of the project and are broadly supportive. The intention is to clarify the remit and seek volunteers after the RWNYS in July and update the CCCBR in September.

Note the RWNYP will remain a stand alone competition with its own rules, website etc. The RWNYP will continue to deal directly with youth team leaders as now.

Guidance will also be developed and hosted on the YRH, including that already developed by the YCRA.

In addition to the above, a recent ringing recruit, Brooks Hayes (who's a CC rep for Middlesex CA) is looking at how to attract young professionals to ringing in major centres of employment. We will incorporate Brooks's thinking into the overall project.

4 Challenges

By far the biggest challenge for the Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 workstream is the availability of volunteers, which determines what we can do. It would be really helpful if there was a volunteer leader within the CCCBR to co-ordinate the volunteer resource for the Workgroups.

Andrea Haynes
Workgroup Lead



Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team has seen a change of members over the last year following the standing down of Clyde Whittaker as CCCBR Trustee and Simon Ridley as team member. The Safeguarding Team is now headed by Ian Roulstone as CCCBR Trustee with team members June Wells, Chris Enzor and Emma Jarvis. The safeguarding email account will now be monitored by June Wells. The Team has continued to look at the area of safeguarding training, specifically in relation to the Leadership requirement and its relevance to ringing. In November, Simon Ridley attended a bespoke Leadership course offered by Chester Diocese for tower captains and it is the intention of the Team to pursue this as an alternative course with other Dioceses.

The Team is currently in the process of looking at all the Safeguarding documentation on the website with the intention of removing and/or updating out of date information and documents and making access to documentation easier via a drop down tab on the CCCBR home page. A set of safeguarding questions and answers has been prepared and will appear in The Ringing World as and when space allows. A link has been made with the Church in Wales and a sharing of documentation is taking place. The Team is looking into the feasibility of a forum for Association and Guild Safeguarding Officers to share relevant documentation.



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)



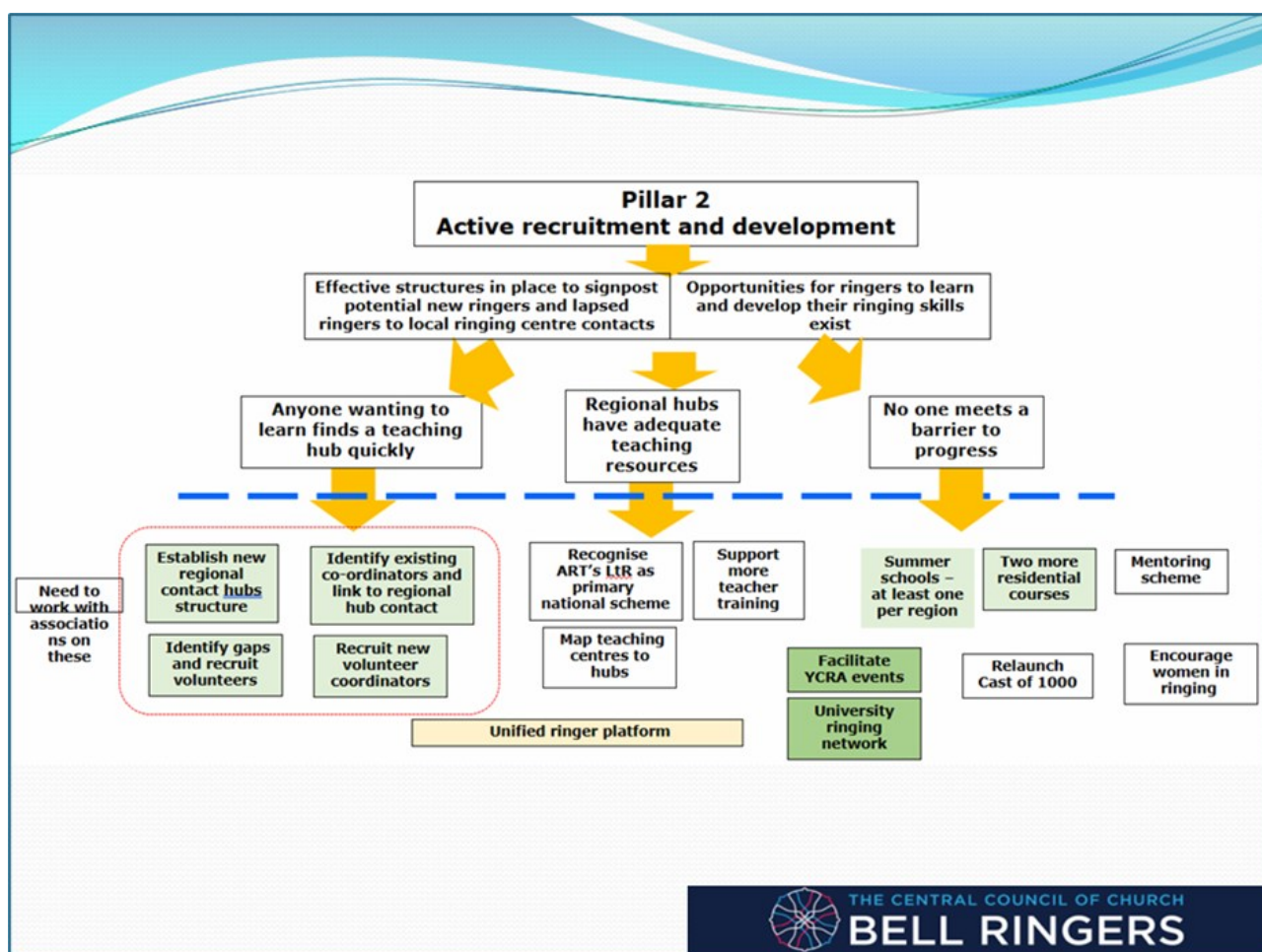
Ringling 2030

Recruitment and Development

1 Overview

It is three years since I became the Workgroup Leader of the then Volunteering and Leadership Workgroup. Now is a good time not only to report on this year's progress but also to take a longer view of how the Workgroups contribution to the Ringling 2030 is progressing. My assessment is the classic 'Curates Egg' one: some real successes and other struggling areas.

Ringling 2030 is an ambitious project. As a wake-up call I think it has already worked in the areas of Recruitment and Development. I am hearing of new recruits at many towers I visit and seeing reports in the RW and on-line of local ringing centre type activities. Whether this is because towers and ringing societies individually saw the need to react to a long-term decline that Covid exacerbated, or because of the Council initiative, is irrelevant: Ringling 2030 captured the Zeitgeist of the moment.



Ringling 2030 Recruitment and Development Workgroup activities mainly lie in Pillar 2 of Ringling 2030 a diagrammatic description of which is shown below.

As can be seen this and related activities in Pillar 1 and 3 represents a large body of work, especially when it is being delivered by volunteer effort. To date progress has been patchy. Where what an activity involves is clear and precedents exist, significant progress has

been made; other activities less so. I have concluded that our Workgroup has an elephant of a task, and the way to eat an elephant is in small pieces.

This means breaking down each activity into clearly defined tasks, methods of achieving them and with each task having relatively short durations. This will enable the recruitment of volunteers to contribute effort to start to finish tasks rather than the open ended and not always well-defined commitment

sometimes expected in the past. Progress has been slow for two main reasons:

- Firstly, the difficulty of finding Team Leads with the time and experience to undertake the task definition required. In a number of teams, Team Leads have found that they were unable to make the commitment necessary and have retired from those roles. Replacements have then had to be recruited and bedded in.
- Secondly because day to day Recruitment and Development can only be done locally, affiliated societies must be engaged in reviewing task definitions and subsequent task delivery. This has not been done to date in a bid to accelerate progress. However, without such engagement, the aims of activities will not be achieved. Despite the additional time needed, and effort by affiliated societies, engagement must happen at each step.

Thus, most Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development tasks are still in a detailed Project Definition Phase rather than a Project Delivery Phase.

Ringing 2030 activities are not the only ones that the WG engages in. There are a number of Business as Usual (BAU) activities that will be reported on below.

2 Priorities

The size of the Workgroups involvement in Ringing 2030 has meant that my available volunteer time has been insufficient to engage enough with Team Leads to drive all activities forward as fast as I would like. I therefore need to prioritize my focus so that solid progress can be made. That is: eat the elephant in small pieces.

It is clear to me that to successfully Recruit, Retain and Regain ringers (the 3R's objective), there must be an effective Ringing Development Infrastructure and that this can only be delivered locally. The Workgroup priority must be to offer advice, encouragement and support to grassroots development activity. This includes enabling networks of good practice and ideas. Neither the Workgroup nor the wider CCCBR structure has a monopoly of good ideas. My top priority must be Ringing 2030 Development related activities.

The other candidate for top priority was the Ringing Survey. Ideally you would start a project like Ringing 2030 from a known baseline 'State of Ringing' against which you can measure the effectiveness of the project. As that is not the case, a clear priority is to find out where we are, which is what the Ringing Survey is about. However, we appear to have a pretty good idea that ringing is in decline and that we need to start

doing something about it now. Focusing on the Survey ahead of Development activities would be like telling a seriously ill patient that necessary urgent treatment will not start until there is a proven measurement strategy in place.

3 Progress and planed work in individual areas

3.1 Development Support

3.1.1 Residential Courses

Following the establishment of the North West Ringing Course in 2022, Ringing 2030 activities included "Two more residential courses". The South West was chosen to be the first of these additional courses. As many will know, the inaugural South West course will be held at Millfield School in Street, Somerset from Friday 24th to Monday 27th October 2025. This will follow two years of work, ably led by Haley Young, gaining knowledge from other residential courses, investigating and viewing potential venues, setting up a limited company and preparing a business plan, including a cash-flow forecast, to support a successful bid for CCCBR loans to cover £24K of upfront costs. At the start of May applications opened for students and helpers. At the last count there were 120 student applicants for 40 places and 53 Helper applicants. A total of 64 helpers are needed, so the organising committee now have 5 months to get 11 more.

The North West course is now well established and will be held this year at Borwick Hall, near Carnforth, Lancashire from Thursday 7th to Sunday 11th August 2025. The CCCBR continues to offer support when needed.

After both courses and particularly this year's inaugural SW course, there will be an opportunity to Learn from Experience (LFE). The SW course venue has considerable scope for expanding the course over time. The challenge to this will be finding helpers. As ever thought will need to be given to succession planning.

It has been commented that Residential Course attendance needs a follow up strategy. Often students go away enthused by the progress they have made only to find there is a lack of opportunity in their locality to practice their new skills. Developing a strategy to address this issue will require the cooperation of affiliated societies.

3.1.2 Leadership Education

Addressing leadership issues is a sensitive subject. Criticizing leadership skills, however constructively, is like criticizing someone's driving. But a part of any leader's authority lies in their level of relevant expertise. Anecdotally, the number of tower captains/instructors capable of mentoring fledgling ringers up to a level where they can take off on their own into higher levels of ringing is diminishing.

Lucy Chandhail (leadership-ed@cccbbr.org.uk) has been progressing a number of initiatives to sensitively promote both leadership education and increased volunteering. These include: promoting ringers' involvement in National Volunteers Week (1st Week of June): Volunteering Workshop (trialled at the ART Conference, and next at the Essex course; Best Practice Leadership Stories (aiming to publish in Tower Talk and the Ringing World); Leadership Information hyperlinks; Interactive Leadership interviews with networking (new idea).

3.1.3 Growing Teaching Resource

To complement the work ART is doing to increase and improve ringing teacher resources, we are working to identify and encourage other potential ringing trainers. Equipping more towers with skilled ringers able to coach and mentor bands is a major challenge. In pursuit of this aim the Development Team Lead and her husband spent time planning how to identify where good non-ART teachers are to be found and who they are. This was approached by looking for knowledgeable representatives in all Guilds and Associations, who might be able to identify examples of good teachers on a local level. These people would then either act as intermediaries or be able to put us in contact with the teachers, so that we could gain permission to add them to a master list of good teachers which could be used to direct recruits on a nationwide basis. Subject to agreement of the named individuals, details would be passed to the Recruitment Team to aid the population of Recruitment Hub data. Workgroup members from both the Development and Recruitment Teams will further seek to engage with affiliated societies and ART to develop strategies to identify and increase teaching and coaching resources.

3.1.4 Business as Usual Activities

The distribution of handling posters and the sale of model bells as development aids continues. There is an ongoing need to regularly review and potentially increase the educational resources available from the CCCBR, these are an important component of our

development effort. Many documents look dated, and the content could also be reworked for on-line presentation. This will be part of our future BAU work.

3.2 Survey

Work on the survey stalled because the level of the Team Leaders work and other commitments, including supporting Youth Ringers for Ringing 2030 Workgroup. Martin Jones has now taken on the team leadership of the Survey Team. Work on a Survey Relaunch proposal is ongoing. This is a detailed proposal which now has to be reviewed, required effort estimated and any costs identified. The main stages of this proposal are: Pre-Launch publicity campaign; Review and assess pilot survey; Refocusing of goals; Review survey team membership; Revisit survey design/presentation; Plan relaunch; Relaunch; Conduct survey; Analyse and present results; Refresh team members and Repeat.

It can be seen that this is a significant body of work. The detailed approach to planning marks progress towards the improved business planning and costing called for as part of the Affiliation Fees motion passed at the 2024 CCCBR ACM.

3.3 Recruit, Retain, Regain

It has proved challenging to find and retain a team lead for this major activity. During the reporting period two team leads have felt unable to give the role the attention it needs. Currently this role is being shared. To overcome this the 3R's team will be split into 3 with myself providing overall direction.

One task that has seen recent progress is the Recruitment Hub. Whilst most recruiting is done locally, the CCCBR does get a number of enquiries about learning to ring. The Recruitment Hub's purpose is to connect potential recruits who contact the CCCBR to towers or ringing centres where they can be taught to handle a bell and then coached in further aspects of ringing. Affiliated societies have been asked to provide details of places willing and able to take on recruits. It has been agreed to start small with a manual system rather than building a complex automated 'computer dating' type system. This system will complement the matching of recruits to teachers currently done by ART. Work will be also needed to improve the website experience for potential recruits. The matching process should ideally be done by a paid administrator. Volunteer effort is not ideal for this role as it is highly subject to the vicissitudes of volunteer's lives which can lead to a slow response to an enquiry.

Retaining and regaining lapsed ringers is key to Ringing 2030. I have already noted the shortage of ringing coaches. We all know how slow the learning

process can be and therefore the benefits of Retain and Regain activities. The provision of a widespread development environment infrastructure and the promotion of good leadership are very important here. Whilst not being my top priority, finding both a Retain and a Regain team lead and developing programmes of work would be important first steps in supporting grass roots efforts.

4 Conclusions

I recently found a copy of 'An Elementary Handbook for Beginners in the Art of Change-Ringing' dated 1959 lying around in a tower. On the cover appear the

words 'Issued under the authority of the Council'. Perhaps in the past the Council could achieve things by diktat; not so now. Achieving the Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development Workgroup's objectives can only be done in concert with other ringing organisations. Affiliated societies and others will be asked to comment on our work as it progresses. They may also be asked to attend on-line conferences on specific topics. We will need your help in this.

Paul Wotton
Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development
Workgroup Lead



Technology for Ringing 2030

Scope

The Ringing 2030 Technology Workstream supports technology development to support the growth of ringing for Ringing 2030. The current focus is the creation of the Public Engagement & Recruitment Portal, and secondly the refresh of the University Ringing site.

Status: May 2025

The portal built with the branding from Yellow Yoyo and bold imagery is being finalised ready for deployment. The site has been built to present ringing to a wide external audience with an engagement portal which will be assigned to a suitable local ringing group. The portal includes content about the joy of ringing, it's history and the ringer journey.

The site is to be deployed to a scalable infrastructure to be future proof for when national events boast traffic.

Social Media accounts have been setup and linked to the portal, which can direct traffic and capture users.

Current progress is to the portal, is inhibited by the availability of resources to craft the base page designs, but this has now been completed.

Next Steps

The enquiry portal will further improved to develop the workflow for enquiries in ringing and reviewing success of those interested in ringing.

The engagement on social media and the website will be reviewed to identify the successes

Roadmap

Deployment -> Portal Improvement -> Internationalised Content -> Localised Content

New Events Portal

Martyn Bristow

Lead, Technology for Ringing 2030 WG



Ringling 2030 Environments

The transition from the Stewardship & Management WG to the new Ringling Environments 2030 is now complete. The scope of the new work group was extended to include the help desk functions. Unfortunately, in the transition the Westley Award was delayed and not run this year. The hope is to restart next year.

BAU activities

During the year, we have continued to provide advice for ringers, clergy and church authorities. I am grateful to Nina Bryne and Susan Healy who have taken over dealing with complaints about bells from Robert Wood, who retired from the role. So far this year they have responded to eight enquires. My thanks also go to David Roskelly and James Kircaldy for their ongoing support in handling enquires.

There have been some minor additions to the online publications, including information added on swift boxes as part of the belfry maintenance publication. To help find the online publications the links to them have been moved to under the Bells And Bellringing menu on the CCCBR website. I am particularly grateful for Robin Shipp who has continued to update the document, despite his desire to retire from the role. Anyone who is interested in contributing to any of the documents, please contact me.

Whilst promoting the documents at the DAC bell advisors conference it was encouraging that several have used the material on belfry maintenance as part of their local training and recommended the online publication to those present.

The ongoing focus is on the online publications with consideration being given to possibly adding the "Accidental Ringer" as a new publication. It is however recognised that online publications are not always easy to access, especially when doing bell maintenance, so to address this, some investigation will be done on whether the online material could be automatically used to update a printed publication, possibly using publishing on demand.

Members of the CCCBR Executive and Mark Ogden held their annual meeting with Ecclesiastical

Insurance in May.

Ecclesiastical continue to insure most of the churches with bells, although nation-wide pastoral reorganisation and church closures are leading some churches to insure elsewhere. There have been no significant or worrying claims in the last year. Numbers of claims relating to ringing and ringers remain low. Ecclesiastical Insurance continues to operate its Risk Advice Line, available to church members, with a current policy, to field queries about risk management.

Church Closures

At the end of last year Alison Hodge and Simon Linford presented their work looking at the risk of church closures and the consequential impact on ringing. They also presented some sample questions for societies to help assess the risk locally. Getting answers to these questions has been slower than desired, mainly because the risk of church closures is a sensitive issue for many. It is however clear that the underlying message is now generally acknowledged; this is especially true for societies that provide grants to augment or restore rings.

Simon has continued to provide a liaison with some of ringing's 'strategic partners' which are helpfully similar those he meets in his business life. These include the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), Historic England, and the Church Buildings Council. An annual meeting is held with HE and the CBC to discuss matters of mutual interest, and Simon is in regular contact with the CCT at the highest level. It is perhaps unsurprising that most discussions with HE and the CBC are around dealing with bells in closing churches, but this is of course an area where we have great interest, and all these bodies are cognisant of the issues. Bells in closing churches has featured in successive annual conferences of DAC bells advisers, and the conversation has moved on from how we save all bells, to how we identify the bells we really want to save, and what do we do with them?

The CCT can present interesting challenges. At the Chief Executive level, the CCT is very pro-ringing, seeing the value of getting people to visit the

churches in their care. They are however, like us, largely a volunteer organisation, and top-level strategy and policies when implemented at a working level seem to make ringing harder rather than easier. Fundamentally the CCT is a conservation charity with a reluctance towards change, or improvement of bell installations, so we need to understand their perspective. There is ongoing discussion over a revised CCT policy regarding ringing, with helpful input from those who look after CCT towers.

Simon has also established a relationship with the Festival Church Development Officer, who sees bellringing as a valuable aspect of the life of a Festival Church. Some churches which have been given Festival Church status have found that ringers have been found for the occasional festival services when previously there had been no ringing. Festival Churches have around five years to find new ways of being financially sustainable, and while ringing brings people in, helps maintain security and a sense of activity, its real value is if it can provide at least some financial contribution to the future of the building.

Throughout the year, through the many meetings the insight into the practical issues that need to be addressed have become much clearer. Some of the key areas are

- identification of bells to ideally save and how to reuse them
- the costs and practical issues associated with removal, storage and reinstallation
- diocesan or equivalent constraints including faculties, especially between the closure of a church for worship and confirmation of alternate use.

Realistically it will not be possible to save all rings and a key focus going forward will be to develop a strategy for identifying the bells at risk that we would want to save and how to reuse them. The closure process can be very quick, and unless there are already nascent plans for where to reuse bells, we can't assume we'll just be able to take them out and store them somewhere, as has happened in the past.

Professional Engagement

The Tower and Belfries Handbook is being reviewed, led by Paul Bailey, with the objective of producing a

summary or abridged version of that monograph, that will be accessible to professional architects and structural engineers. This together with other material collected will be shared with several organisations actively involved in bell/tower projects, to get feedback on how useful it is and what could be improved. It is also clear that although the work group focus is on towers and bells, much of the material is more applicable to a wider audience and consideration is being given to engagement with interested parties.

At the end of February Alan Frost, Gordan Breeze, Barry Johnson, Mark Regan, Ian Roulstone and myself met with Reza Salami from Birmingham University to discuss potential engagement on a new PhD proposal around tower dynamics. The focus of the work will be on safety and resiliency of church towers, considering climate change, developing a framework and guideline for assessment and policies in interventions, conservation, monitoring etc. In addition to discussions on how we could engage, the meeting also highlighted the wider applicability of the work. It also noted scholarly work on bell towers outside the UK.

Tower & Belfry
Ringing 2030 Environments
Workgroup

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

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

Belfry Projects

Running a bell project:

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

belfryprojects.cccbr.org.uk

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BELL RINGERS
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During the presentations, some results of laser scanning of towers and the use of 3D Accelerometers were shown. These tools have the prospect of being very helpful in diagnosis of problems.

We will continue to engage with Reza and his team.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the workgroup over the past year and who have provided specialist advice from their knowledge as

professionals and / or voluntary activities.

Please contact me if you may be interested in helping the Workgroup in any way.

Mark Ogden

Ringling Environments 2030 Work Group

mark.ogden@cccbr.org.uk



Technical & Taxonomy

The Technical and Taxonomy working group has continued to maintain libraries, collections, and ongoing projects, plus several new initiatives are in development and are scheduled for launch and rollout in the autumn and winter of 2025.

Compositions

The Compositions Team continues its work as usual while also seeking a new chair to lead the committee. The Compositions Library – complib.org – run by Graham John, continues to work on upgrades and user interface improvements and has grown to include over 75,000 compositions and upwards of 24,000 methods. The Council's Library for Variations and Calls – varlib.org – supported by Peter Hinton, also continue to grow and now contains over 5,900 Doubles Variations. The Compositions email (compositions@cccbr.org.uk) is always available, so please get in touch with any enquiries or for any advice you may need.

Methods

Methods Library

At the end of 2024, there were 24,295 methods recorded in the CCCBR Methods Library, an increase of 362 from the previous year. Additionally, there are four Dynamic methods defined descriptively (no change). A report of firsts in method for each ringing style (towerbells, handbells, keyboards, etc) in 2024

can be found on Complib

(complib.org/report?name=firstsinmethod&year=2024).

Six new methods rung in 2024 and a further six up to May 2025 did not qualify for inclusion in the CCCBR Methods Library: Four were not rung to a qualifying length (Framework 5.E.1.a) – St Aldate's Place Doubles, Clewer Minor, Rapid Rap Minor and Arthur Superstar Little Bob Minor; two were not rung to a true touch (5.E.1.d) – Demi-Double Dublin Alliance Minimus and NUSCR Ruined Our Evening Little Alliance Minimus; and two were not rung by an all-human band (5.E.1.g) – Denmark Surprise Royal and Moriarty Little Bob Sixteen.

The remaining four methods are clearly related to existing methods by extension or contraction, but there is no existing extension process that can define the relationship (Framework 5.E.1.e, 8.B.1) – St Radegund Jump Minimus, Frequently Slow Doubles, Offen Slow Doubles and Elliptic Jump Royal. The new extension process (EP4) currently being evaluated can relate the Doubles methods, and it may also be possible to expand its scope to include Jump methods. If this is successful and the process is adopted, these methods can be added to the library retroactively.

Rotations

Bands are increasingly wishing to separately name rotations of existing methods, with 46 already rec-

orded in the CCCBR Methods Library. While this was not permitted under the former Decisions of the CCCBR, the Framework for Method Ringing recognises that there are cases where separate naming of rotations may be beneficial, with New Grandsire given as a classic and historic example.

However, the current Framework doesn't provide any guidance on other beneficial cases for naming rotations, leading to debate among the Methods Team each time a new rotation is rung and named. After much discussion this past year, we have settled on the following approach:

We seek to balance (a) recording rotations in the Methods Library when there are good reasons for doing so, and (b) not recording them where they don't serve any useful purpose, and possibly could confuse ringers (such as all 11 rotations of Stedman being separately named). However, sensible requirements for (a) don't necessarily preclude (b). So we remain dependent upon ringers applying good judgement when naming rotations.

To date we have identified 7 cases where naming of rotations may be beneficial, and all existing named rotations fall into these categories:

1. Multi-hunt methods: the Grandsire / New Grandsire case.
2. When different rotations give starts that correspond to other methods: the Cloister / Bastow case. Cloister is Stedman quick sixes; Bastow corresponds to other Little Plain methods.
3. Rotation by an odd number of changes, swapping the handstroke / backstroke orientation: the Duck Berry case. The change in orientation makes the method seem different to ring.
4. When methods have hunt bell(s) with repeating path(s): the Dunholme Court / Wigford Court / St Mary-le-Wigford Court Minimus case. Although these are rotations, ringers need to know 3 different blue lines to ring them, justifying their separate naming in the Library.
5. When a method is spliced with a rotation of the

same method. In this case, naming both rotations facilitates the description of the composition, as well as enabling these names to be used by the conductor when calling this composition.

6. When variations have been named on different rotations of the base method. Recording all the rotations in the Methods Library gives consistency with the Variations Library.
7. When naming of rotations follows from method extension. E.g. X Minor and X Major have been rung and named, and a band now wants to ring X Royal, but there is already a Y Royal in the Library that is a rotation of X Royal. Recording X Royal in the Library as well as Y Royal ensures the full "X" method family is consistently represented.

When bands ring and name new rotations, we will generally ask them to (a) confirm they are naming a rotation intentionally, and (b) provide their reasoning for doing so, which will then be discussed among the Methods Team if needed. We also plan to include additional guidance on the naming of rotations in the next update of the Framework.

Method Extension Review

The team has not progressed the review of method extension processes this year due to lack of time and focus on other items. We aim to return to this in 2026.

Methods Team Members & Questions Arising

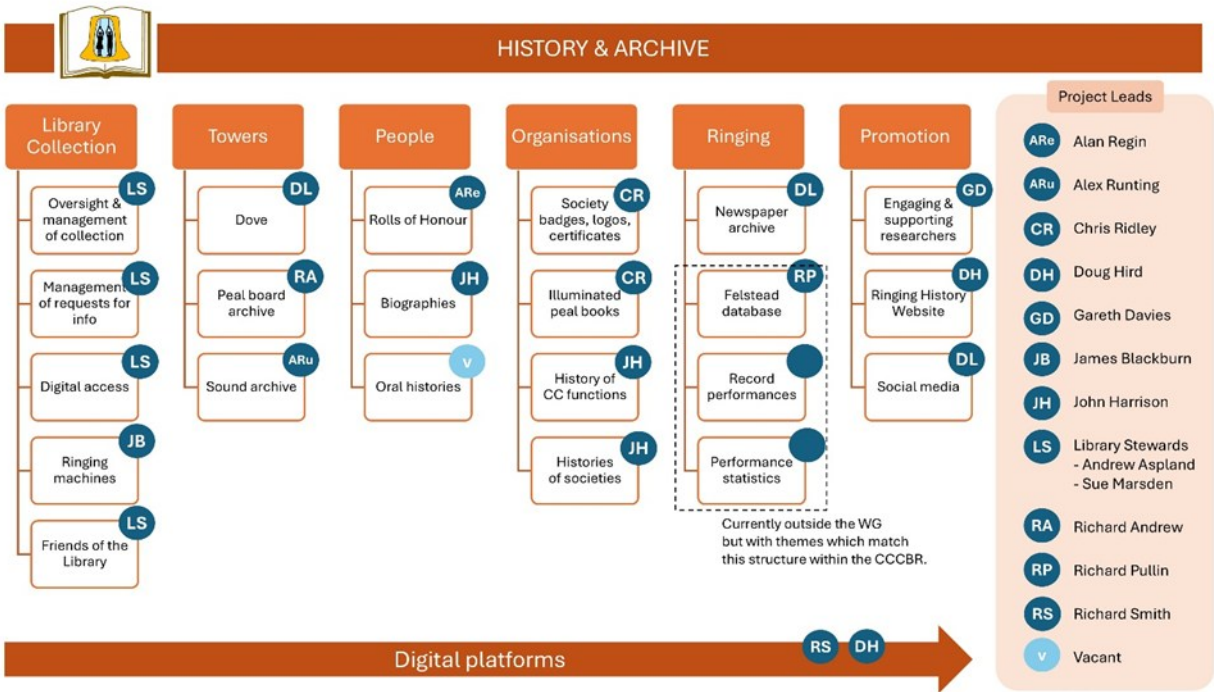
The Methods Team is lead by Tim Barnes, Graham John runs the process to extract newly rung methods from BellBoard, validate them, and then add them to the Methods Library. The other Methods Team members are: Adam Beer, Mark Davies, John Harrison, Peter Hinton, Don Morrison, Philip Saddleton, Natasha Williams and Robin Woolley.

The Methods team continues to respond to any queries raised about methods through social media and by email (methods@cccbr.org.uk).



History and Archive



Dickon Love was appointed the new Workgroup Lead by the Exec to succeed Chris Ridley at the September Council Meeting. His first few months were spent reviewing all the excellent work that the group has achieved and putting together ideas for how to continue the vision going forward. The overall structure of the group was re-described according to six main themes, all of which are supported by underlying digital platforms. Within each of the themes are a series of projects, each with their own project leader.



1. Library Collection

This area too has seen changes in leadership. Alan Glover stood down as Library Steward in 2024, to be replaced by Andrew Aspland and Sue Marsden. The Friends of the Library management has also passed to the Library Stewards following the retirement of Ian Self and Linda Georgiades from this work. Thanks go to all who have passed on the baton for their considerable work and achievements.

Library

	Andrew Apsland, Sue Marsden – Library Stewards (librarysteward@cccbr.org.uk)
	The Library Stewards are responsible for (a) oversight and management of collection, (b) management of request for info, (c) digital access, (d) Friends of the Library newsletter and administration.

(i) Library Collection

During the year the Library Collection was moved in its entirety to Loughborough and housed in the main archives of the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust. Some of the rarer and more valuable items are stored separately in the fireproof safe. The facilities available are being further developed and there is a room available with a large table for researchers of both the bellfoundry archive and the Central Council Library. There is much work to be done to check the catalogue against the material held, adding in location details and, in the case of the more historic material, reporting on its condition.

This excellent facility also houses other collections of material from such well-known names as Fred Sharpe, Tony Clayton and George Dawson. This presents us with the challenge of clearly identifying the source collection of all material, the possibility of a joint cataloguing system, but also the issue of duplication. I hope that we will be able to rationalise the various collections and make certain books freely available in the reading room.



The Library Stewards have been well-supported by the

Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust’s lead archivist, Kira Mills, who has overseen the move of the library collection into its new location. Kira has now moved on to a new role with the British Museum and we wish her well and owe her much thanks. At the time of writing, we await the appointment of her successor and also the announcement of the new director of the trust. Andrew is concentrating on keeping the annual reports and other periodical publications up to date. Sue is focused on new ringing publications and on other literary resources which focus on ringing. The digital publication of some association reports is welcomed from a distribution point of view but will leave a pale shadow on history – we hope to make printed copies of such reports and continue having them bound decade by decade, We were fortunate to receive a beautifully handwritten and illustrated peal book for the library, and we hope to produce an article for the Ringing World to share some of the highlights of this book.

- (ii) Library Collection Enquiries and Loans
- The move to Loughborough has changed the way in which researchers can make use of the material. Public access is very much easier now the collection is no longer in a private dwelling. However, the Library Stewards are no longer on site and have to make a journey in order to be able to answer an enquiry. Fortunately, Andrew has been able to answer some enquiries from his own personal collection!
- As the archive and various collections become more established, we hope that ringers will feel that the journey to Loughborough is one worth making to access the wealth of material available.
- (iii) Friends of the Library
- The newsletter and essay are in hand, but their distribution will take place at a time more suited to the working demands of the current Stewards. John Eisel has kindly contributed this year’s essay exploring the early band at Haworth, which is a fascinating account of competitive ringing in the West Riding.
- The number of friends remains static with 27 Corporate Members, 4 Honorary Life Members, 33 Life Members and 80 Members. The library’s only source of funding comes from the Friends and with only just over 100 of the membership contributing annually, and a subscription unchanged for many years we may need to promote our work to a wider audience. The costs associated with moving the library to Loughborough have reduced a healthy reserve to a working bal-

ance and, if the library is to develop its digital archive, further funding will be required.




Ringing Machines

	James Blackburn – Carter Ringing Machine Steward (james.blackburn@cccbr.org.uk)
	Provision for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Carter Ringing Machine and to seek opportunities to make it as widely known and appreciated as possible.

The Carter Ringing Machine has now been reassembled back at Taylor’s with a view to put it on display. A user guide to the machine is being constructed to that the machine can be run. Photographs are being taken and a video prepared as part of the permanent display.

2. Towers

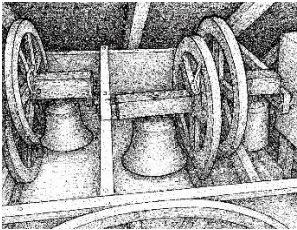

Dove

	Dickon Love, Tim Jackson, Tim Pett, Richard Smith – Stewards of the Dove Database (dove@cccbr.org.uk)
	Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Dove database. To seek opportunities to make the Dove database as widely used and appreciated as possible.
	Neal Dodge, Ryan Faulkner-Hatt, Kye Leaver (Dove Stewards) Scott Orr, Chris Pickford (Dove Consultants)





The work of the Dove Team is now included in this work group rather than Technical and Taxonomy. It is planned to use Dove as a door to the tower-indexed research in other H&A projects.





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.

(i) Key achievements

	Lightweight and portable full-circle rings The details of full-circle rings have been extended to include those under 1 cwt. We chose a definition for this category of full-circle ring based on weight alone, hence our decision to refer to lightweight full-circle rings rather than mini rings. Best thanks go to those who maintain the Mini-Ring Directory for sharing their data.
	Dating undated bells As part of an ongoing project to better reflect dates of bells which can't be dated by inscription or documentation, estimates for bells by known founders now default to their periods of activity, as far as we understand them to be.

(ii) A few coverage statistics (as at June 2025)

	Collections	01-Jan-24	01-Jan-25		24-May-25	
	All full-circle rings	8,045	8,064	+19	8,066	+2
	(At least 3 bells)	7,254	7,258	+4	7,257	-1
	(Of which lightweight)	109	129	+20	127	-2
	Carillons	15	21	+6	21	+0
	Chimes	7,126	7,377	+251	7,472	+95
	Display sets	55	63	+8	68	+5
	Insecure display	30	38	+8	40	+2
	Ancillary sets	1,713	1,722	+9	1,746	+24
	Total	16,984	17,285	+301	17,413	+128

	Bells	01-Jan-24	01-Jan-25		24-May-25	
	Standard	60,626	62,564	+1,938	62,907	+343
	Hemispherical	237	245	+8	249	+4
	Tubular	1,110	1,110	+0	1,128	+18
	Fragments	11	4	-7	51	+47
	Total	61,984	63,923	+1,939	64,335	+412

	Bellframes	01-Jan-24	01-Jan-25		24-May-25	
	Frames	9,092	9,597	+505	9,793	+196

(iii) Future work to take place in the next year

- Extend the scope of Dove to include bells in the Church in Wales.
- Continue development of the database to record when changes took place to bells and rings and reflect the transfer of bells and rings.
- Recording lost rings.

The target is to incorporate all the data that is required to drive the next printed edition. We plan to develop the timetable for this in the next year.

Finally, Dickon Love has been using the data in Dove to initiate a complete review of bells listed for preservation for the Bells Committee of the Church Buildings Council. The framework for this has been agreed in principle with just the detail to be agreed.

(iv) The Dove Team

The team continues to be led by Dickon Love, with Tim Jackson and Tim Pett as Dove Stewards. Richard Smith as the Lead Developer was also appointed the fourth Dove Steward in the course of the year. They are assisted by Dove Clerks: Neal Dodge, Kye Leaver and new joiner in the year, Ryan Faulkner-Hatt. 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.




Over the past year, members of this project have continued to load received photos to the group’s peal boards database, although progress has been not been as good as hoped for, due to ongoing health issues of some members of the group.

We have continued to receive a steady stream of peal board photos from various parts of England, particularly from areas such as Lincolnshire and more recently Gloucestershire, where Pat Halls has done a lot of work in coordinating the sending of photos to us. Significant numbers of photos have also been received from notable towers like Wimborne Minster and Ringwood.



An article appeared in the Christmas 2024 edition of the *Ringing World* giving an update on the Peal Board Recording Project and illustrated with several example photos received which recorded the first peals rung in towers such as Hatfield, Herts, St Paul’s Cathedral in London, and Quebec (St Matthew’s) in Canada. In addition to a request for more photos, the article also made an appeal for volunteers interested in joining our workgroup and helping to load photos to our database. As a result of this, we received an offer of help from Jim Bence from the Peterborough area, and he has now joined our workgroup and loaded a good number of photos to the database.

Looking forward, we are looking to shift the central repository to BellBoard, curated by this team to ensure quality, and we are grateful to members of the BellBoard Team with whom we are working.

Peal Board Archive

	RichardAndrew (richard.andrew@cccbr.org.uk)
	Establish a database of peal boards to contain photographs and other ancillary information that can be used to provide interest to those who like to browse what hangs on ringing room walls and provide information on analysis on e.g. old peal boards, peal boards erected for certain occasions, etc.
	Jim Bence, Cath Coleman



Sound Archive

	Alexander Runting (runtingaw@live.com)
	Establish an archive of sound recordings of rings of bells.

This is a new project that has not yet been launched. New functionality is planned for the Dove website to upload sound recordings of ringing on bells in different towers. This is to be centrally curated to ensure that the quality of both recordings and ringing is maintained. The recording of individual bells such as might be used for Wavanal analysis is considered out of scope for this project.




3. People

Rolls of Honour

	Alan Regin – Steward of the Rolls of Honour (rollsofhonour@cccbr.org.uk)
	Provision for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Rolls of Honour and search for opportunities to make the Rolls of Honour as widely used and appreciated as possible.

Just over 200 new names are to be added to the Great War Roll of Honour. We are also seeking a new ledger which includes the sourcing of materials, arranging the binding as well as writing out the entries. There has been a delay in this starting owing to circumstances with our usual supplier, but we are currently accepting this delay as we believe this is the right supplier for us to use.

Biographies

	John Harrison (biographies@cccbr.org.uk)
	To collect information of interest on ringers from the past and make available to the public for browsing and to researchers to support their activities.
	More team members sought



The main aim of biographies work is to enhance the growing collection of information about the lives of former ringers available from the ringing history website at: history.cccbr.org.uk/. It holds references to nearly 14,000 people including CC 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.

The policy of writing a full biography for all former Council members was impractical and has been superseded now that more information is accessible online.

Two thirds of former Council members who died in recent years have published obituaries and we aim to create a basic record for members with nothing published, using information that we hold or can readily access. Some 25 of the backlog have been added so far. We would welcome volunteer authors/researchers interested in biographies generally or in the lives of particular ringers. We would also welcome offers from any society or individual that has online material of biographic interest and would allow us to link to it from the history site. If you can help please contact John Harrison biographies@cccbr.org.uk for more information.

4. Organisation




Society Badges, Logos & Certificates

	Chris Ridley (chris.ridley@cccbr.org.uk)
	Establish an archive of the ringing society badges, logos and certificates together with a digital archive of their photographs, not confined to members of the CCCBR. To make the archive accessible to those taking an interest.

The archive continues to be maintained and added to under the expert curation of Chris Ridley. This is all accessed from the History website.

5. Ringing

Newspaper Archive

	Dickon Love (dickon@lovesguide.com)
	Establish an archive of newspaper extracts related to ringing, towers and ringers. To make the archive accessible to those who like to simply browse and those looking to conduct research on ringing, towers and ringers
	Chris Ridley

The archive is in place of newspaper extracts by John Eisel covering the period 1647 to 1845, which is a significantly larger collection of extracts than the material already published (around 40% more than previously published in the 5 volumes of *Order and Disorder*). Whilst the PDFs are currently searchable, the plan is to fully index these records so that they can be accessed either through *Dove* or the biographies pages of *Ringling History*. We are grateful to John for allowing this to be added.

6. Digital Platforms

Ringling History website

The principal portal for information gathered for this workgroup is found at <https://history.cccbr.org.uk> and is maintained by Doug Hird. Work has been taking



Doug Hird
(doug.hird@cccbr.org.uk)

place throughout this year to review the site, both in terms of the structure and security, and in terms of layout and presentation. A revamp of the presentation is in the works to reflect ever changing modern trends and compatibility with new device and format requirements.



You can purchase branded clothing and banners to use for recruitment and marketing events within your tower, association or area. Purchase items as they are printed, or customise it with your own group or website URL. The t-shirts alone are a great conversation-starter, and an opportunity to spread awareness of bellringing and why it is such a great adventure.

The branding is part of the Ringling 2030 strategy, designed to promote wider awareness of bellringing to people who aren't yet bellringers, and to substantially increase the number of new and active ringers. Each item you purchase will fund Ringling 2030 projects.

This portal is sponsored and run by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for ringers everywhere.



<https://wearebellringing.myshopify.com/>



BELLRINGING



Performance Analysis

The Peals Analysis

We have recorded a total of 3586 peals rung in 2024 and published by The Ringing World via Bellboard up to March 31st 2024, of which 2908 were on tower bells and 675 on handbells. There were three 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. The tower bell total is slightly lower than that in the Coronation year 2023 and remains 25% below the average for the four years before the pandemic.

	Tower bell	Hand bell	Simulated/ Distributed	Total
2024	2908	675	3+0	3586
2023	2990	637	2+0	3629
2022	2646	732	0+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 Ancient Society of College Youths is the leading affiliated society with 275 peals, followed by the Yorkshire Association with 231 peals, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild with 158. The leading society for handbell peals in 2024 was the Oxford Diocesan Guild with 74, followed by the Chester Diocesan Guild with 65 and the Hertford County Association with 58. 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 were five record peals rung in 2024, three on tower bells and two in hand.

Leading Towers

The following 47 towers had 10 or more peals in the year.

- 43 Huntsham
- 39 Sproxtton
- 34 Leeds, Cath S Anne
- 29 City of London, Garlickhythe
- 28 Lundy Island
- 23 Dordrecht, 't Klockhuys
- 22 Coseley
- 21 Birmingham, Cathedral S Philip
- 20 Cambridge, GSM; Uffculme, Piglet Ring
- 19 City of London, S Magnus the Martyr; East Huntspill, Little Orchard Tower; Milton, Oxon
- 16 Bishopstoke; Inworth

- 15 City of London, St Mary le Bow; Meldreth
- 14 Burton Latimer; City of London, Cornhill; Maidstone, All SS; Saltby; Ston Easton
- 13 Dordrecht, Grote Kerk; Thirkleby; Tulloch, Ringing Centre; Wadenhoe
- 12, Bristol, Cath; Marston Bigot; Middleton, Gtr Manchester
- 11 Basingstoke, All SS; Handsworth, S Yorks; Oxford, S Thomas; Strensall; Tulloch, The Last Tower; Worcester, Cath
- 10 Accrington; Aldeburgh; Birmingham, S Paul; Campton; City of London, Jewry; Edinburgh, S Cuthbert; Egham; Exeter, S Mark; High Wycombe; Keele, Woodlands; Rothwell, Northants; Sheffield, Cath SS Peter & Paul

Ten or more handbell peals were rung at the following locations in 2024:

- 66 Reading, 26 Redlands Road
- 41 Hitchin, 2 Orchard Road
- 34 Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End
- 28 Poynton, 2 Adlington Close
- 25 Willingham, 53 Covent Garden
- 22 Watford, 15 Harford Drive; Whimple, 17 Bramley Gardens
- 19 Peterborough, 5 Woodfield Road
- 17 Fleet, 20, Burnside
- 16 Macclesfield, 33 Sandringham Road
- 14 Aston Rowant, The White House
- 13 Bacton, 2 Pretymann Avenue; Willaston, 14 Park Road
- 12 Micheldever, 37 Northbrook; Northallerton, 19 The Green, Romanby
- 11 Portsmouth, 53 Fearon Road
- 10 Bristol, All Saints (Base of Tower); Yatton, 89 Wheatear Road

First pealers and firsts as conductor

105 ringers rang their first peal in 2024. This is the second lowest number in a normal (non-pandemic or non-war) year since 1895 and is the worrying continuation of a trend that goes back to the late 1970s as can be seen in the attached Figure 1.

There were 36 new conductors in 2024, ranging from Singles to Bristol S Royal.

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
2024	632	44	1444	391
2023	698	38	1569	406
2022	608	27	1446	361
2021	312	12	902	228
2019	702	41	1639	435

Overall, women comprised 30% of peal ringers and 10% of peal conductors in 2024 and the mean number of peals rung by women was 8.8 compared to 14.6 per male. The proportion of the 105 first pealers that was female was 38%, a little higher than in previous years and 11 of the 36 new conductors were female (31%) also higher. This is encouraging but the continued decline in numbers of first pealers overall is worrying for the future.

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

The Felstead Project (Richard Pullin)

Since last year's report, 60 existing peals have been amended on the Felstead Database of tower-bell peals, and 13 newly discovered peals added. Some peals have been moved to 'invalid' after reasonable evidence came to light showing them to be false. A few other peals had to be relocated to other towers (06/09/1908: Staunton-on-Arrow to Staunton-on-Wye, for example) following a more discerning examination of the records! Alterations like these obviously affect your home tower's peal total. Distressing though this may be, sentiment must not clash with accuracy!

Though most of the peal amendments were backed up by association annual reports and/or contemporary newspapers or ringing periodicals, in some cases the peal records of individual ringers and towers came to the rescue (such as 20/01/1975: Stanton Harcourt and 24/09/1898: Hemel Hempstead) as indeed did peal boards (23/12/1907: Oswestry, which previously went unrecorded). When sources contradict it can be very tricky deducing which one is correct. Kudos to Colin Turner for hypothesising that the first peal at Rodmell was probably a day earlier than previously thought, given that the incumbent reportedly served the ringers tea afterwards and would likely have had more spare time to do this on a Saturday than a Sunday! A peal of Maximus at Leicester Cathedral on 20/06/1970 was amended from 10 methods to 105 – quite a galling error if you'd been in that one. A number of the newly discovered peals were at Dewsbury and neighbouring towers, following research done by John Eisel in local newspapers.

In addition to John the other main contributors have been Jane Boden, Colin Turner and my 'line manager', Drew Craddock. My thanks to them and to everyone else who has contributed.

First peals in methods on Tower Bells.

- January
- 1 5070 Erin Sextuples W&P DG
 - 2 5056 Felicity D Major Lancs A
 - 9 5256 Council Of Charlatans TP Minimus Lincoln DG
 - 14 5088 Blacket S Major ANZAB
 - 17 5040 Creeton A Major Lincoln DG
 - 17 5152 Cheese Hill S Major Bath & Wells DA
 - 21 5066 Bus Pass D Major Guildford DG
 - 26 5040 Devonshire S Royal Devonshire G
 - 31 5040 Wollaton A Major Lincoln DG

February			21	5004 Causey Pike A Royal	Lancs A	June		
2	5040 Centenarian D Royal	Peterboro DG	29	5152 Around S Major	Around R	7	5065 Jenny`s Massive Lasagne S Major	G St Cuileain
3	5040 St Agatha D Royal	ASCY						
7	5096 Handsworth A Major	Yorks A	August					
13	5040 Anniversary TP Minimus	Lincoln DG	14	5152 Navenby D Major	Lincoln DG	October		
24	5152 Finedon D Major	Peterboro DG	20	5088 Eden D MajorV	Evesham S	14	5088 Bustardthorpe S Maximus	G St Cuileain
			21	5010 Wigtoft A Major	Lincoln DG			
March			22	5184 Wonford D Major	Devonshire G	November		
1	5040 Rothwell TP Royal	Peterboro DG	28	5088 Bell Heather D Major	Yorks A	19	5000 Althorpe D Royal	G St Cuileain
6	5184 Washingborough A Major	Lincoln DG						
9	5150 Revd Langdon Fulford D Major		September					
13	5040 Edenbridge A Major	Lincoln DG	4	5024 Mrs Wilson D Major	Peterboro DG			
17	5152 Terling D Major	Essex A	15	5040 Napalm TP Minimus	Lincoln DG	December		
19	5040 Rippingale TP Minimus	Lincoln DG	26	5040 Knoll Pins D Royal	Lundy IS	9	5042 Redemption D Maximus	G St Cuileain
20	5088 Equinox S Major	Bath & Wells DA	28	5040 Sutton Singles	Sheffield UG	12	5040 Silverstone S Royal	G St Cuileain
20	5040 Lancastrian A Major	Lancs A						
29	5040 Good Friday B Doubles	Peterboro DG	October					
31	5040 Resurrection D Royal	Bath & Wells DA	1	5040 Malaz A Major	S&N DG			
			4	5040 Ringstead S Royal	Peterboro DG	Record peals on Tower Bells		
			12	10080 Cross Two	Salisbury DG			
April			22	5148 Hollygate A Royal	Trent Valley A			
5	5040 Tixover TP Royal	Peterboro DG	23	5040 Horringer B Triples	Suffolk G	July		
6	5040 Taylor-Warwick A Major	SRCY	24	5040 Rosie A Major	Peterboro DG	12	10080 Stedman Singles	Salisbury DG
10	5010 Dunston A Major	Lincoln DG	30	5152 Horbling D Major	Lincoln DG			
11	5096 Jovium A Major	Lancs A						
13	5100 Cletherow A Major	Lancs A	November					
20	5040 Uplands TP Minor	Peterboro DG	1	5040 Ragsdale D Royal	Peterboro DG			
21	5040 Tony's Birthday TP Minimus		3	5056 Omnes Sancti S Major	Yorks A			
			12	5088 Jacobstowe D Major	Devonshire G			
23	5056 Jordangate A Royal	Trent Valley A	17	5040 Carlton Le Moorland TP Minimus		Record peals on Handbells		
24	5096 Hacconby A Major	Lincoln DG						
24	5152 Penistone D Major	Yorks A	18	5088 Ventnor D Major	Coventry DG	June		
25	5040 Fauxbos S Royal	ANZAB	20	5056 Fumitory D Major	Yorks A	29	28008 Minimus (3m)	St Martins G
28	5040 Vernet-les-Bains D Royal	Trent Valley A	20	5056 Maes Knoll S Major	Bath & Wells DA			
			20	5152 Long Bennington D Major	Lincoln DG	September		
May			28	5184 Greasley Castle D Major	Trent Valley A	17	13440 Bristol Surprise Major	ASCY
3	5040 Pytchley S Royal	Peterboro DG	29	5184 Parramatta S Major	ANZAB			
8	5184 Swaton A Major	Lincoln DG	29	5024 Marsh Harrier S Major	G&B DA			
11	5040 Church Brough TP Minimus	Lincoln DG						
16	5088 Gilmorton D Major	Trent Valley A	December					
26	5040 Steam Tug Challenge S Royal	Dordrecht S	1	5040 Thorpe Achurch TP Minimus	Lincoln DG			
28	5088 Irongate A Royal	Trent Valley A	1	5040 Grote Kerk S Royal	Dordrecht S			
28	5088 Fastlove D Major	Non	4	5152 Septingentis D Major	Lincoln DG			
29	5056 Bridport D Major	Devonshire G	10	5024 David Smith S Major	Devonshire G			
29	5152 Bishop Ryder's D Major	Lincoln DG	12	5056 Plantagenet D Major	Coventry DG			
31	5040 Whipton S Royal	Devonshire G	12	5088 East Northamptonshire D Major				
							Peterboro DG	
June			15	6000 CXXV TP Minimus	Lincoln DG			
6	5080 Overlord D Royal	Derby DA	17	5040 Zeals Row S Royal	S&N DG			
8	5080 The Ugly S Royal	Lundy IS	18	5160 Terling A Major	Lincoln DG			
15	5040 Lundy TP Royal	Lundy IS	20	5040 St Loyes S Royal	Devonshire G			
19	5184 Haines S Major	Bath & Wells DA	29	5090 Stonegate S Major	Yorks A			
25	5040 Yawthorpe D Royal	Trent Valley A	29	5040 Westborough TP Minimus	Lincoln DG			
30	5056 Canon's Farewell Major	Yorks A						
First peals in methods on Handbells								
July								
2	5152 Kinetic S Major	Peterboro DG	January					
7	5040 Sliced Bread Utterly Butterly TP Minimus		18	5090 Billingswell Ditch D Maximus	Oxford DG			
			Lincoln DG					
9	5184 Cowley Bridge D Major	Devonshire G	February					
14	5024 Pontefract Liquorice Festival D Major		6	5000 Wootton Rivers S Royal	G St Cuileain			
			Yorks A					
15	5184 Zinnia D Major	W&P DG	March					
19	5056 Burrington S Major	G&B DA	26	5000 Dumfries S Royal	G St Cuileain			
21	5152 Sarah D Major	Essex A	28	5040 Pollokshields S Royal	G St Cuileain			

Analysis of Peals by Method and Change on Year

	TOWER			HAND			SIMULATED			DISTRIBUTED			TOTAL		
	2024	2023	+/-	2024	2023	+/-	2024	2023	+/-	2024	2023	+/-	2024	2023	+/-
Sixteen	1	3	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	-2
Septuples	0	1	-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Fourteen	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1
Sextuples and Fourteen	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Sextuples	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Maximus															
Bristol Surprise	62	46	16	12	18	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	64	10
Spliced	32	26	6	7	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	29	10
Cambridge Surprise	36	38	-2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	38	0
Spliced Treble Dodging	24	15	9	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	17	13
Spliced Surprise	19	21	-2	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	26	-1
Yorkshire Surprise	14	18	-4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	18	-3
Zanussi Surprise	7	2	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	5
Lincolnshire Surprise	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	3
Orion Surprise	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1
Avon Delight	4	3	1	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
Other	13	9	4	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	18	7
Maximus	218	183	35	50	40	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	268	223	45
Cinques and Maximus	16	16	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	0
Cinques															
Grandsire	6	14	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	14	-8
Stedman	56	70	-14	16	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	81	-9
Plain Bob	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cinques	63	84	-21	16	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	95	-16
Royal															
Cambridge Surprise	65	69	-4	12	17	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	86	-9
Bristol Surprise	52	44	8	11	17	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	61	2
Yorkshire Surprise	53	62	-9	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	72	-9
Spliced Surprise	28	25	3	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	29	5
London No. 3 Surprise	30	24	6	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	25	7
Kent Treble Bob	2	1	1	16	22	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	23	-5
Lincolnshire Surprise	10	5	5	5	10	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	0
Swindon Surprise	9	12	-3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	-2
Plain Bob	7	7	0	2	3	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	-1
Spliced Treble Dodging	6	6	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	2
Other	90	84	6	16	18	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	102	4
Royal	352	339	13	84	103	-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	436	442	-6
Caters and Royal	7	9	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	-2
Caters															
Grandsire	40	50	-10	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	51	-11
Stedman	36	51	-15	5	8	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	59	-18
Plain Bob	0	4	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-4
Other	2	6	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	-4
Caters	78	111	-33	5	9	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	120	-37
Major															
Spliced Surprise	208	201	7	96	68	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	304	269	35
Yorkshire Surprise	137	125	12	41	46	-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	178	171	7
Bristol Surprise	139	135	4	38	23	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	177	158	19
Cambridge Surprise	100	102	-2	16	25	-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	127	-11
Plain Bob	32	26	6	27	31	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	57	2
Lessness Surprise	52	35	17	6	7	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	42	16
Superlative Surprise	37	30	7	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	39	7
Kent Treble Bob	3	0	3	42	37	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	37	8
London Surprise	35	32	3	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	37	4
Lincolnshire Surprise	25	30	-5	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	44	-5
Other	574	616	-42	54	52	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	628	668	-40
Major	1342	1332	10	349	317	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	1691	1649	42
Tripples and Major	4	9	-5	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	-6
Tripples															
Grandsire	43	35	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	36	8
Stedman	31	37	-6	5	8	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	45	-9
Plain Bob	23	25	-2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	25	-1
Other	3	4	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	-1
Tripples	100	101	-1	7	9	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	110	-3
Minor															
Surprise (2+m)	290	290	0	36	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	326	326	0
Spliced Surprise	112	102	10	28	17	11	0	1	-1	0	0	0	140	120	20
Other multi-method (2+m)	84	114	-30	22	30	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	144	-38
Treble Dodging (2+m)	43	58	-15	18	15	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	73	-12
Cambridge Surprise	36	42	-6	1	2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	44	-7
Spliced Treble Dodging	17	18	-1	20	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	26	11
Plain Bob	18	21	-3	8	21	-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	42	-16
Spliced Delight	6	9	-3	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	0
Spliced Treble Bob	4	4	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	4
Oxford Treble Bob	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Other	16	14	2	4	4	0	0	1	-1	0	0	0	20	19	1
Minor	626	672	-46	152	137	15	0	2	-2	0	0	0	778	811	-33
Doubles and Minor	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Doubles															
Grandsire	4	10	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	-6
Stedman	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4
Plain Bob	1	2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	-1
Other	71	103	-32	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	73	103	-30
Doubles	81	116	-35	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	83	116	-33
Minimus	13	7	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	13	6
Singles and Minimus	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Singles	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Two	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Grand Totals	2908	2990	-82	675	637	38	3	2	1	0	0	0	3586	3629	-43

Analysis of Peals by Society 2024

Society	Tower										Hand					Simulated					Grand Total							
	3	4	5	5/6	6	7	7/8	8	9	9/10	10	11	11/12	12	13	14	15	Total	2	5		Total						
Ancient Society of College Youths	0	0	1	0	2	6	1	8	6	1	28	17	4	51	0	0	0	225	0	1	2	0	0	50	0	0	0	275
Australian & New Zealand	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	
Barrow & District Society	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Bath & Wells Diocesan Association	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	4	1	0	8	0	0	5	0	0	0	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	
Bedfordshire Association	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	19	
Beverley and District Soc	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	
Cambridge University Guild	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	5	1	0	0	0	7	0	14	
Carlisle Diocesan Guild	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	
Central European Association	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	7	
Chester Diocesan Guild	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	21	0	2	0	3	0	65	0	0	86	
Covenry Diocesan Guild	0	0	1	0	9	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	
Derby Diocesan Association	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	11	0	0	3	0	0	0	42	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	44	
Guild of Devonshire Ringers	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	7	0	0	9	0	0	3	0	0	0	108	0	1	0	2	0	25	0	0	133	
Dorset County Association	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	
Durham & Newcastle	0	0	1	0	6	2	0	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	
Durham University Society Change	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	
Ely Diocesan Association	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	41	0	2	0	5	0	7	0	0	48	
Essex Association	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	
Four Shires Guild	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Gloucester & Bristol DA	0	0	1	0	9	4	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	5	0	0	0	6	0	0	57	
Guildford Diocesan Guild	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	2	1	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	44	0	2	0	1	0	18	0	0	62	
Hereford Diocesan Guild	0	0	6	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	34	
Hertford County Association	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	59	0	2	1	3	0	58	0	0	117	
Kent County Association	0	0	3	0	4	6	0	3	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	0	97	
Ladies Guild	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Lancashire Association	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	3	0	0	17	0	1	6	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	
Leeds University Society	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Leicester Diocesan Guild	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	24	
Lichfield & Walsall Archdeacons	0	0	1	0	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
Lincoln Diocesan Guild	0	1	1	0	9	1	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	77	0	5	0	1	0	21	0	0	98	
Liverpool Universities Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan	0	0	6	0	4	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	20	
Middlesex County Association &	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	23	
North American Guild	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	2	1	3	0	12	0	0	30	
North Staffordshire Association	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
North Wales Association	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Norwich Diocesan Association	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	1	0	12	0	0	20	
Oxford Diocesan Guild	0	0	3	0	2	5	1	4	3	0	5	0	1	5	0	0	0	84	0	0	0	4	1	11	0	0	158	
Oxford Society	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	6	2	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	9	0	10	0	0	28	
Oxford University Society	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Peterborough Diocesan Guild	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	6	2	0	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134	
Salisbury Diocesan Guild	1	0	6	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	3	0	5	0	12	1	2	42	
Scottish Association	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	1	0	0	15	0	0	45	
Shropshire Association	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Society of Royal Cumberland	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	5	2	4	21	4	3	27	0	1	0	124	0	1	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	128
Southwell and Nottingham	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
St Davids Diocesan Guild	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
St Martin's Guild	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	2	0	0	2	6	2	17	0	0	0	61	3	3	1	8	0	25	0	0	86	
Suffolk Guild	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	4	3	0	11	1	0	4	0	0	0	76	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	80	
Surrey Association	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
Sussex County Association	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	15	
Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Guild	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Truro Diocesan Guild	0	0	4	0	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
University of Bristol Society	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	14	0	0	20	
University of London Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	12	
Welsh Colleges Society	0</																											

Figures

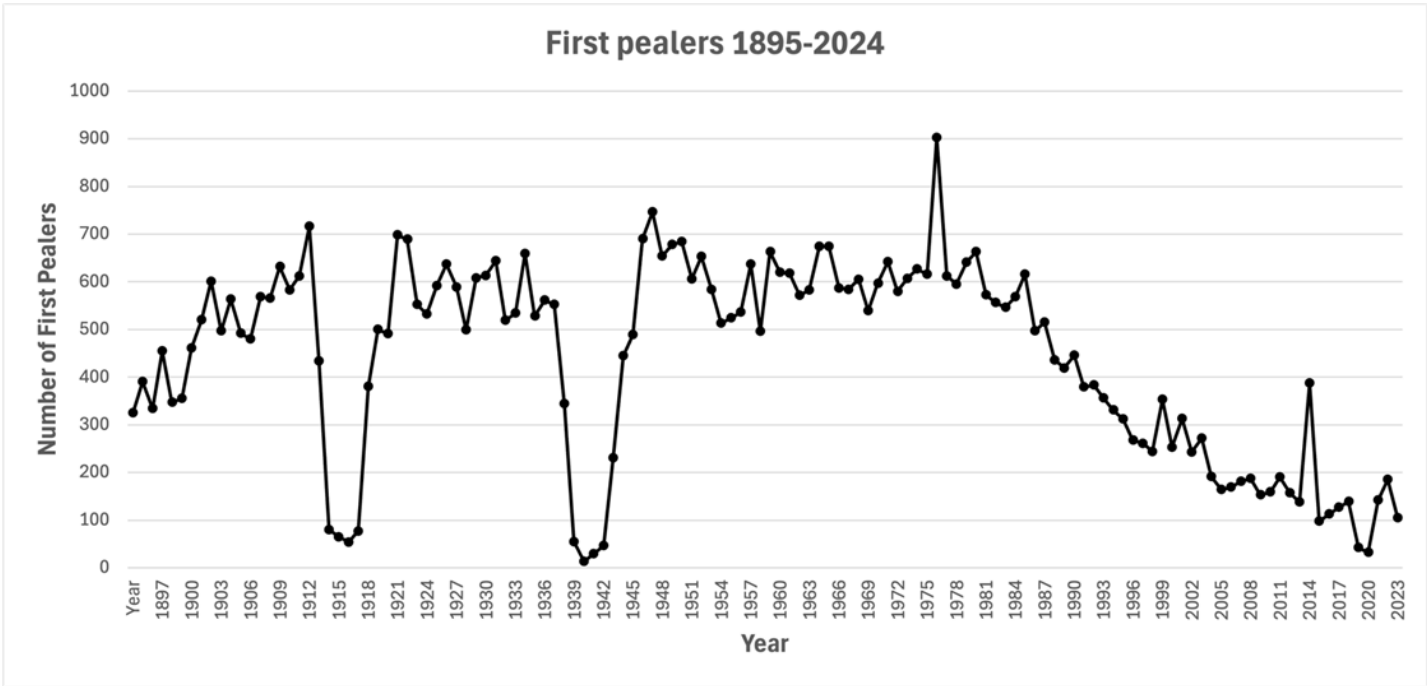


Figure 1 Decline in numbers of first pealers over nearly fifty years (Data source: www.pealbase.co.uk Accessed 2/7/2025)

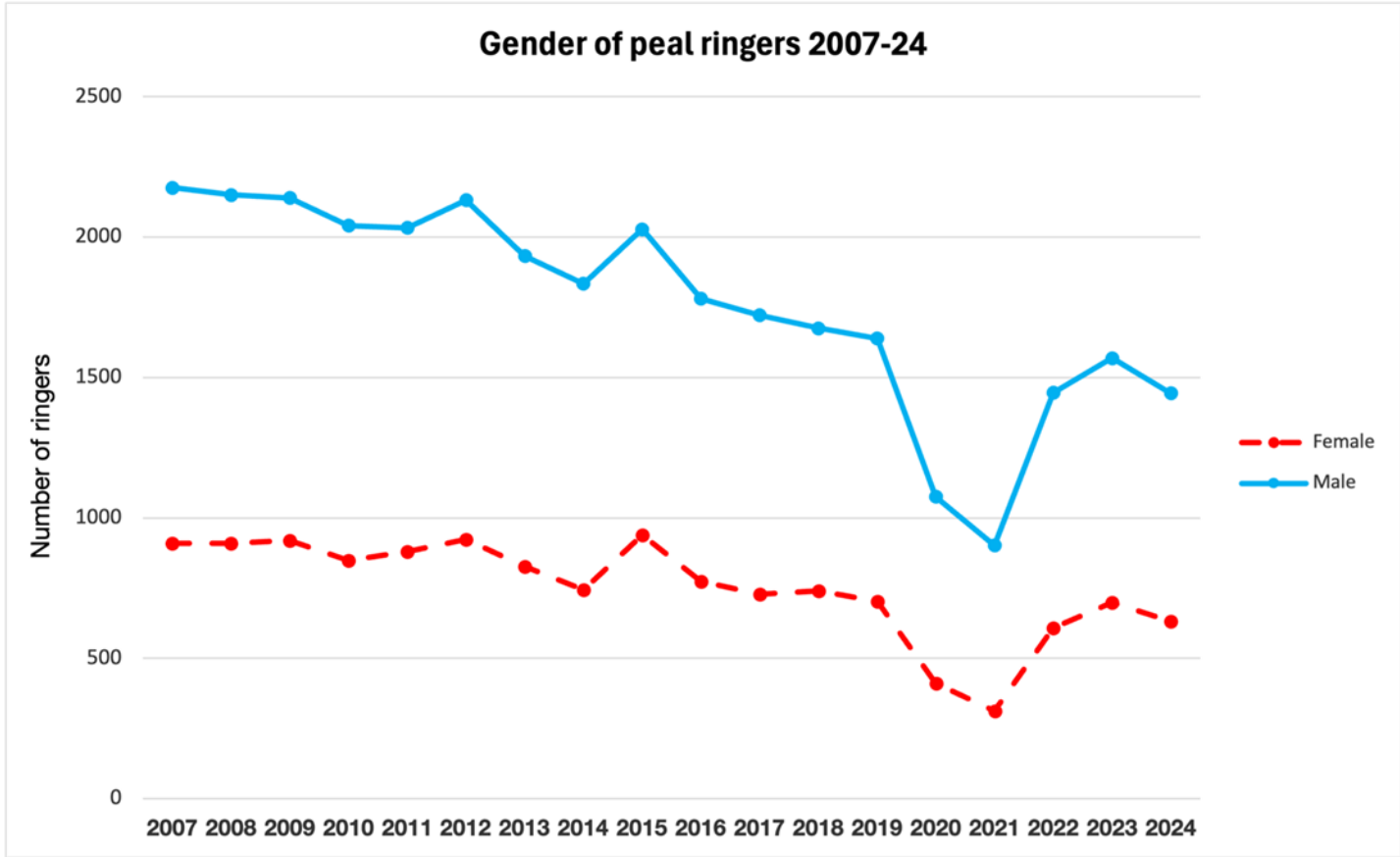


Figure 2 Gender of peal ringers 2007–24 (Data source: www.pealbase.co.uk Accessed 2/7/2025)

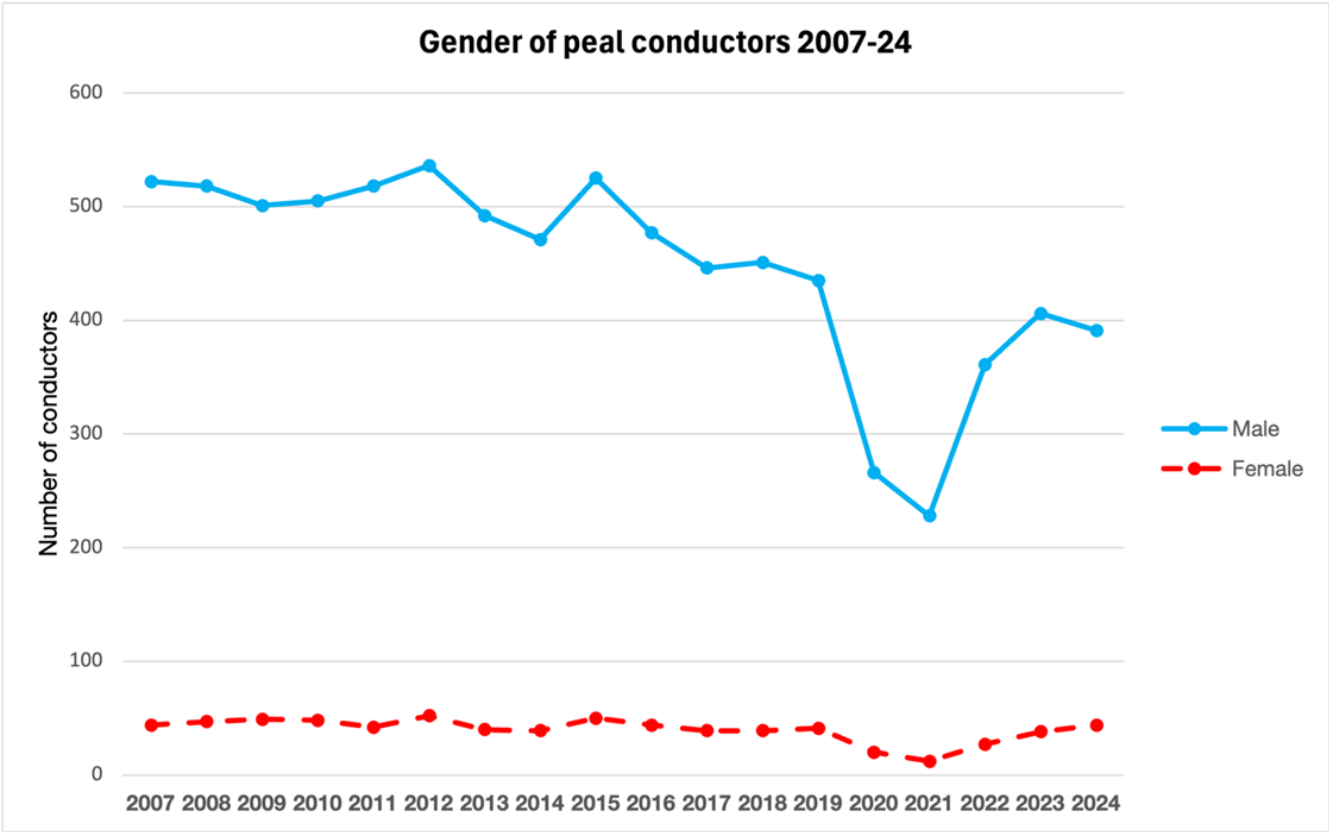


Figure 3 Gender of peal conductors 2007–24 (Data source: www.pealbase.co.uk Accessed 2/7/2025)

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 previous Performance Analysis for details of our approach. The data presented relate only to method ringing performances and (as in previous years) exclude those where at least one “bell” was rung by a computer rather than a human, those which were tolled or chimed and call-change performances of quarter peal length.

Of those analysed, there were 17420 performances published of between 1250 and 4999 changes, including 13 over 2500 changes (12 of which were on tower bells and 1 in hand). This is 8% greater than the total for 2023 and almost identical to the total in 2019, the last pre-pandemic year. Since 2024 was the year that followed the Platinum Jubilee, a Monarch’s funeral and the Coronation one might have expected to see a lull in activity so the increase is welcome.

The split of quarters between different stages is largely unchanged from 2023 with the exception of those on very low numbers (Minimus or lower) where totals have increased including a new fashion for quarters of singles not rung two in hand.

We have repeated the analysis of the gender of those ringing quarter peals during 2024. We reiterate that the limitations of the data mean that numbers are approximate as they are based purely on individuals given names as published.

In terms of proportion of the 115,611 Bells / handbell pairs rung, 63% were rung by males and 37% by females, exactly the same proportion as in each of the last three years.

The number of ringers claiming their first quarter peal in 2024 was 823 (vs 771 in 2023) a modest 7% rise. The gender split was 395 typically male names (48%) vs 428 typically female names (52%). The equivalent figures for 2023 were 393 (51%) male and 377 (49%) female. So that it appears that the rise in first quarters in 2024 was entirely due to ringers with female names.

A total of 2232 apparently different conductor names were involved in calling quarter and half peals in 2024 (vs 2153 in 2023) with the following gender split:

	Conductors		Performances*	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Male	1753 (79%)	1690 (78%)	15233 (87%)	14074 (87%)
Female	478 (21%)	463 (22%)	2395 (14%)	2239 (14%)

*NB Some quarters had more than one conductor

Regrettably, there has been no increase in the proportion of conductors who are female.

The gender analysis for quarter peals is both highly labour intensive and, being based on published names, also naturally prone to inaccuracies. It is also quite clear that the gender disparities are not changing in any way other than in first quarter pealers. We do not think the exercise should be repeated annually unless there are specific initiatives in place to improve the disparities.

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	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Two	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Singles	78	61	47	3	0	0	0	0	125	64
Singles & Minimus	2	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	4	5
Singles & Doubles	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Minimus	192	152	139	93	1	3	63	107	395	355
Minimus & Doubles	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2
Doubles	4838	4566	31	21	64	51	3	3	4936	4641
Doubles and Minor	27	20	1	1	0	0	0	0	28	21
Minor	3886	3643	463	482	56	42	238	220	4643	4387
Triples	1893	1703	21	21	15	0	1	8	1930	1732
Triples & Major	10	6	1	1	0	0	0	2	11	9
Major	2893	2591	637	646	14	26	144	216	3688	3479
Caters	559	445	13	13	1	3	1	1	574	462
Caters & Royal	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Royal	409	358	159	133	3	4	13	22	584	517
Cinques	213	175	4	4	0	1	0	0	217	180
Cinques & Maximus	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Maximus	230	202	24	20	2	0	0	2	256	224
Sextuples	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fourteen	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Septuples	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sixteen	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Multistage*	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Grand Totals	15256	13937	1545	1442	156	130	463	581	17420	16090



Analysis of Quarter and Half Peals by County / Country 2024

	Tower		Hand		Sim Sound		Dist.		Grand Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Africa	0	0	6	0	0	0	-	-	6	0
Aust & NZ	319	301	18	11	5	10	-	-	342	322
Bedfordshire	115	109	2	2	0	1	-	-	117	112
Berkshire	231	230	95	123	0	0	-	-	326	353
Buckinghamshire	148	136	11	9	0	0	-	-	159	145
Cambridgeshire	550	533	47	74	2	0	-	-	599	607
Channel Is	165	151	61	32	32	33	-	-	258	216
Cheshire	309	263	60	50	0	0	-	-	369	313
City & Greater London	477	576	8	12	0	1	-	-	485	589
Cornwall & Is of Scilly	126	120	4	4	0	0	-	-	130	124
County Durham	155	153	28	31	0	0	-	-	183	184
Cumbria	78	96	9	8	7	6	-	-	94	110
Derbyshire	343	345	9	29	21	19	-	-	373	393
Devon	480	362	38	37	0	0	-	-	518	399
Dorset	327	341	60	42	0	0	-	-	387	383
East Riding of Yorks	149	85	33	44	5	0	-	-	187	129
East Sussex	259	286	5	14	0	0	-	-	264	300
Essex	406	351	42	29	0	0	-	-	448	380
Europe	52	46	8	11	0	0	-	-	60	57
Gloucester & Bristol	776	703	12	8	0	0	-	-	788	711
Greater Manchester	81	78	5	6	0	2	-	-	86	86
Hampshire & I of Wight	654	513	60	56	2	1	-	-	716	570
Herefordshire	277	262	3	0	0	0	-	-	280	262
Hertfordshire	400	397	42	52	1	0	-	-	443	449
Ireland	65	17	0	0	0	0	-	-	65	17
Kent	849	739	23	27	0	0	-	-	872	766
Lancashire & I of Man	138	136	7	12	0	0	-	-	145	148
Leicestershire	236	162	59	34	0	0	-	-	295	196
Lincolnshire	452	417	8	13	0	0	-	-	460	430
Merseyside	125	104	1	0	0	0	-	-	126	104
Mid and W Wales	120	104	3	1	0	0	-	-	123	105
Middlesex	32	51	4	5	0	0	-	-	36	56
Norfolk	457	405	51	52	39	41	-	-	547	498
North America & Caribn	136	118	55	55	1	0	-	-	192	173
North Wales	80	69	0	0	14	10	-	-	94	79
North Yorkshire	350	347	0	48	0	1	-	-	398	396
Northamptonshire	239	220	0	3	0	0	-	-	239	223
Northumberland, T & W	83	64	2	3	0	0	-	-	85	67
Nottinghamshire	295	237	64	76	0	0	-	-	359	313
Oxfordshire	548	447	212	167	1	0	-	-	761	614
Rutland	27	11	0	0	0	0	-	-	27	11
Scotland	180	141	74	68	0	0	-	-	254	209
Shropshire	233	234	17	8	0	0	-	-	250	242
Somerset	880	803	18	24	1	3	-	-	899	830
South Wales	204	153	7	9	0	1	-	-	211	163
South Yorkshire	189	153	19	11	0	0	-	-	208	164
Staffordshire	201	199	17	17	1	1	-	-	219	217
Suffolk	439	431	42	28	0	0	-	-	481	459
Surrey	432	213	10	7	0	0	-	-	442	220
Warwickshire	191	259	62	55	23	0	-	-	276	314
West Midlands	230	238	7	9	0	0	-	-	237	247
West Sussex	189	171	7	1	0	0	-	-	196	172
West Yorkshire	175	214	11	12	0	0	-	-	186	226
Wiltshire	303	293	11	6	0	0	-	-	314	299
Worcestershire	301	350	37	5	1	0	-	-	339	355
"In transit"	0	0	3	2	0	0	-	-	3	2
Multisite	-	-	-	-	-	-	463	581	463	581
Grand Totals	15256	13937	1545	1442	156	130	463	581	17420	16090



Affiliated Society Membership Numbers

August 2025

Society	2024 members	2025 Members	2025 No. of Reps	2025 Vacancies
ASCY	672	667	4	0
Australian & New Zealand	344	399	3	0
Barrow & District Society	139	130	1	0
Bath & Wells	1654	1614	5	0
Bedfordshire Association	318	343	3	0
Beverley & District	223	224	2	0
Cambridge University Guild	225	225	2	0
Carlisle Diocesan Guild	213	232	2	0
Central European Association	31	29	1	0
Chester Diocesan Guild	810	898	4	0
Coventry Diocesan Guild	451	471	4	0
Derby Diocesan Association	629	653	4	0
Devon Association	600	600	2	2
Dorset County Association	144	177	0	2
Durham & Newcastle	527	524	1	3
Durham University Society	110	110	1	0
East Derby & West Notts	90	97	1	0
Ely Diocesan Association	695	714	4	0
Essex Association	1069	1133	4	1
Four Shires Guild	187	189	1	1
Gloucester & Bristol	1154	1195	5	0
Guild of Clerical Ringers	100	104	1	0
Guild of Devonshire Ringers	543	571	4	0
Guildford Diocesan Guild	626	652	3	1
Hereford Diocesan Guild	709	692	4	0
Hertford County Association	630	664	4	0
Irish Association	372	407	3	0
Kent County Association	1100	1135	4	1
Ladies Guild	442	477	3	1
Lancashire Association	715	750	4	0
Leeds University Society	134	138	1	0
Leicester Diocesan Guild	581	595	3	1
Lichfield & Walsall	358	361	3	0
Lincoln Diocesan Guild	664	690	4	0
Liverpool University Society	74	68	1	0
Llandaff & Monmouth	378	396	3	0
Middlesex Diocesan Guild	522	492	3	1

Society	2024 members	2025 Members	2025 No. of Reps	2025 Vacancies
National Police Guild	85	88	1	0
North American Guild	454	454	3	1
North Staffordshire	370	339	0	3
North Wales Association	249	247	2	0
Norwich Diocesan	508	499	3	1
Oxford Diocesan Guild	2200	2184	5	1
Oxford Society	75	75	1	0
Oxford University Society	120	120	1	0
Peterborough	942	977	4	0
Salisbury Diocesan Guild	1749	1471	4	1
Scottish Association	231	229	2	0
Shropshire Association	260	283	1	1
Cumberland Youths	886	917	4	0
South African Guild	32	32	1	0
Southwell & Nottingham	540	511	4	0
St David's Diocesan Guild	118	118	1	0
St Martin's Guild	271	270	2	0
Suffolk Guild	628	672	4	0
Surrey Association	578	573	4	0
Sussex County Association	1045	1032	5	0
Swansea & Brecon	106	104	1	0
Truro Diocesan Guild	714	720	4	0
University of Bristol	240	255	2	0
University of London	150	100	1	0
Veronese Association	300	300	2	0
Welsh Colleges Society	84	76	1	0
Winchester & Portsmouth	1129	1218	3	2
Worcestershire & Districts	614	614	4	0
Yorkshire Association	1489	1416	5	0

Small Societies

Guild of Railway Ringers	83	84	1	0
Lilliputters Guild	44	30	1	0
Open University Society	0	72	1	0
Sheffield Universities	0	40	1	0

Totals

Number of Ringers Represented – 2024	34481
Number of Ringers Represented – 2025	34983
% Change	1.45%

Council Membership 2025

	Reps	Vacancies	Total
Affiliated Societies	177	23	201
Small Societies	4	0	4
Ex-Officio	13	0	13
Fellows	4	0	4
Total Council	198	24	222

Data as at 9th August 2025

Some society names have been abbreviated due to space constraints in the table.