



COVENTRY DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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NEXT DEADLINE

31ST DECEMBER 2009

Editor Wanted!

Can I please remind you if you were at the 2009 AGM, or tell you either if you were not listening when you were there(!) or were not able to make it, that I am retiring as Newsletter Editor at the next AGM.

I feel that after about 15 years doing this "job" I am getting more than a little stale and that someone else should come into the editor's seat and breathe new life into the Newsletter.

I am, at the moment, still willing to be the person to whom articles are sent for publication on the website and the new editor would then simply have to "copy and paste" the articles and typeset the newsletter and then pass the printed copy to the District Secretaries for distribution to towers. I will give any ICT training that a new editor feels they need—just ask!

Mike Chester

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2009

10th Rugby District—pub lunch Dunchurch

17th Coventry District Outing—Northampton—ALL GUILD MEMBERS WELCOME!

NOVEMBER 2009

14th Rugby District—Church Lawford

31st Coventry/Warwick District—Skittles Evening at Snitterfield

DECEMBER 2009

12th Rugby District Carol Service—Bilton

19th Coventry/Warwick District Carol Service—Allesley

JANUARY 2010

16th Guild Quarterly Meeting—Bulkington

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How many of you took part in the "Heritage Weekend" recently? This was a nation-wide event run concurrently with the "Ride and Stride Day" on Saturday 12 September. The idea was to raise money by sponsorship and otherwise for the care and upkeep of our ancient church buildings. The reason for mentioning it here is because at many churches the ringers took the opportunity to open up their ringing chambers and belfries to the general public. This gave them an opportunity to explain to the uninitiated some of the mysteries and customs of our ancient art (or is it a science?). Certainly at the Cathedral the fascination could be seen on many faces, particularly by the youngsters, and some even had a go (under strict supervision!). The Cathedral bells can, of course, be viewed quite safely from the glass fronted viewing platform above the bells while they are ringing.

Perhaps some of those who saw what goes on in a tower will be attracted and can be encouraged to come along and take up ringing. We need to keep on recruiting more people to keep the bells ringing on Sundays and the Festivals. Some towers are thriving and others are struggling to keep the bells going.

Just a word of caution. Bear in mind the rules on Health and Safety and the Child Protection Regulations when showing round those who may not be familiar with the hazards which can be encountered. Common sense is all that is needed. Keep the bell wheels turning!

Michael Gray

MAIN ARTICLES

- *Ringing Competition*
- *Child Protection*
- *HWRC News*

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Ringling Competition Results

Judge Ian Unsworth, plus his sister judged the Ringling Competition Final, held at Exhall on Saturday 26th September. The results were:-

Call Changes

Whitnash A 93%

Monks Kirby 89%

Stoke B 85%

Whitnash B were a ringer short so rang with one from their A team and therefore were not placed.

Method Ringing

Warwick 97.1%

Stoke A 96.5%

Cathedral 96%

Southam 94%

Brinklow 93%

Bilton 88%

Viv Hopkins and helpers ran refreshments all through afternoon. They also had set up a camera in the bells and ran "The Craft of Bellringing" DVD, a well publicised PR exercise to try and get some recruits.

John Thornton Memorial

Ringers will be pleased to know that John Thornton of Warwick is to be remembered at St Mary's by the installation of a new flag pole to replace the one removed due to its unsafe condition.

A faculty has already been granted.



Learning to ring better and having fun at the same time are both important!

HWRC Courses

Upcoming courses at the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre include:-

Basic Maintenance - November 21st 2009

Tower Captain's Course - January 30th 2010

Please contact Graham Nabb for further details

Laura's First Quarter

Claverdon, Warwickshire, St Michael & all Angels

Thursday, 24 September 2009 (11)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Laura Taylor

2 Graham Nabb

3 Lucy Gwynne

4 Robin Green

5 Sue Marshall (C)

6 John Gwynne

First quarter peal: 1

HWRC News

Visit by Stoneleigh Tower

Many thanks are due to Graham and Sue for the hospitality and help given to Stoneleigh's ringers during their recent visit to The Harry Windsor Ringing Centre. The Stoneleigh band thoroughly enjoyed their evening at Kineton and were 'abel' (excuse the pun) to try their hand against a machine with no mercy, which did not flatter the more experienced!

My personal feeling is that this facility should be used as much as possible and that we should not be afraid to put our hands in our pockets to support such a valuable resource. A good night's fun can be had across a wide range of skills – even Ringing Parties can be catered for (at the Centre's discretion). The learning potential is enormous for all abilities and, of course, a big plus is that it cannot annoy the neighbours.

Sue and Graham are certainly very keen and they deserve all the support they can get from fellow Guild members. Some of the Stoneleigh band have individually taken advantage of this Centre for private tuition sessions – a pleasant surprise to me – and others seem to be following their lead.

Bob Taylor—Stoneleigh Tower

Kids in Charge - Early Success

Well done to Alexander Rogers (Pillerton Hersey) and William Taylor (Ladbroke) who rang their first rounds on the KIC day having first handled a rope only 8 days previously. Neither are teenagers yet. (they also cooked the Burgers quite well too...)



Kids in Charge - or
Ready, Steady,
Ring?!!

Handbell Practice

On 22/06/09 I wrote to the change-ringers list to say that I had experimented with ActionXL motion controllers as dummy handbells and had written some interface software to use them with Abel. I am pleased to say that trials with a small group of testers is now complete, and has been very successful.

During the trials we identified not only some improvements to the "Handbell Manager" interface software, but also some improvements to Abel, which Chris Hughes has now implemented. Abel's bell pictures now swing rather than flip instantaneously between strokes. This dramatically improves handbell "ropesight", and this together with the use of motion controllers for the physical feel of ringing handbells takes simulation of handbell ringing to a new level.

For more information on the Handbell Manager software and motion controllers (including a video of them being used with Abel) go to <http://www.changeringing.co.uk/handbellmanager/>

To download the latest upgrade of Abel, version 3.7, which also allows you to practise towerbell ropesight using moving rope images, go to <http://www.abelsim.co.uk/>

Graham Nabb

Child Protection - Guild Responsibilities

Members will be aware of the new legislation which partially comes into effect from October, 2009 one element of which is that the Guild has to ensure that training of young people is under the supervision of CRB checked adults.

In order to help the discharge of its responsibilities, I should be grateful if tower captains or secretaries could notify me of the names of those adults in local bands who have been CRB checked, this could include those who have been checked because of involvement of other church youth activities such as choir, youth group or Sunday school. Names please to Chris Mew on 01926 402273 or email mewsofwarwick82@tiscali.co.uk.

Warwick District News

We were approached by the Prayer Book Society to ring for their service at Honily on the 22nd July. The service was taken by Dr Christopher Cocksworth Bishop of Coventry . A quarter of bob minor was rung by members of the Guild prior to the service with ringing after the service. We were also able to ring on the 24th September for their meeting at Coughton.

There was a District picnic outing to Cropthorne, Gt Comberton and Emley Castle, on the 1st of August. The weather was poor and the attendance even worse. But the day was enjoyed by those that did turn up.

The meeting at Sutton under Brailes on the 5th September with a service, tea and meeting with further ringing at Brailes was again poorly attended.

We are as a committee about to form next year's calendar of events. With the poor attendance at most of the meetings this year it begs the question should we have any meetings this year?

Let there be no doubt there will be a full calendar of meetings and events this coming year 2010.

However I think its well worth considering, various questions surrounding the District Meetings in the future.

I do not propose to give any definitive answers to the following questions, but rather to try and stimulate some debate so that we can establish a workable well supported framework to take the Guild and the Warwick District forward.

What is the purpose of the Monthly Guild Business Meeting?

As I see it the main purpose of the Business meeting is to decimate information to the membership, and act as a conduit for the members to influence the Guild, and the election of new members. Also to give members the opportunity to socialize with other ringers and gain experience of ringing within a different environment, and to broaden their ringing skills.

With modern methods of communication the cross fertilization of information is now easily done without the need for a monthly meeting. Election of new member could be left until the Guild Quarterly where they are ratified anyway. Any question, problems, etc. could be debated within the whole Guild rather than at a local level, and then having to refer them to the main Quarterly Meeting for a final decision.

Therefore is there a case for only holding Bushiness Meeting Quarterly?

Should the monthly District Meetings be replaced by a monthly outing?

The Monthly meetings give members the opportunity to ring at different towers with different ringers. Being able to ring with more experienced ringers at all levels can only help everyone.

A meeting at a tower with few members or a lot of new ringers could help that tower bring on its ringers, therefore combining an outing with the possible training. Perhaps nominating a tower with identifiable needs, for example, a tower where members would benefit from a strong band ringing around them to help them improve, or individuals with needs that cannot be met within their own towers

Should there be a service at every meeting?

This is an emotive subject ,however one that needs to be aired. I would suggest that a service only at a Guild Quarterly and a Guild Carol service could be acceptable. This is perhaps an area which needs careful thought and discussion.

Should there be a tea at every meeting?

The main function of the tea is one of socializing, this is a major part of the monthly meeting for many members. Without a service and business meeting a monthly "outing" to towers ringing for an hour each would only cover a couple of hours do we therefore need a full afternoon "cucumber sandwiches" tea?

The Harry Windor Centre is doing great things on the training front , but should we be augmenting and strengthening that initiative with meeting dedicated to training , as some other districts and Guilds do. This perhaps is more in the remit of training within the Guild as a whole rather than at the District level, however we should not lose sight of the fact that training new ringers and bringing on existing ringer is the life blood of the Guild .It is an area where the district should become more active

I have posted these questions on the yahoo group for open discussion and I would be pleased to hear your views on any of the points I have raised. I hope that over the next few months we can arrive at a consensus ready for the 2011 diary of events, even if it is to maintain the Status Quo.

Tom Houghton