# ST MARTIN'S M ESTABLISHED 1755

2017 OFFICERS' REPORTS

# STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

# The Standing Committee:

Simon Linford (Master), Arthur Reeves (Guild Ringing Master), Clare McArdle (Secretary), Tracy Stevens (Treasurer and Webmaster), Mark Eccleston (Librarian), Tim Sunter (PR Officer), Trish Everett (Child Protection Officer), Susannah Moore (BUSCR).

The Standing Committee have met four times since the 2017 AGM and discussed other matters as they arose.

#### Safeguarding

Clear guidelines on safeguarding, to comply with Church of England safeguarding policy, were issued to members.

Trish facilitated a bell ringer-specific safeguarding training session with the Birmingham Diocese in September which was attended by 25 members.

## PR

New publicity leaflets have been produced and are available to towers on request.

Tim has continued to push the use of social media as an effective communication tool – leading by example with his own success with recruitment and requests for help.

Towers were encouraged to take part in the Heritage Open Days in September.

## Youth ringing

There were some changes to the provision of ringing opportunities for young people during 2017. The monthly practices at St Paul's were discontinued after consultation with representativeness of all those involved. Sadly the team entered for the Ringing World National Youth Contest in July had to be withdrawn due to last minute drop out.

Brumdingers is a weekly practice for young ringers held at Moseley (St Mary) on Thursdays from 6.30 pm. Started by Simon Linford early in 2017 the practice is gaining momentum and currently sees 8 10-13 year olds making good progress.

# **Ringing World National Youth Contest 2017**

Much energy was expended by SC members preparing to host the RWNYC in July. The event was a complex and major undertaking but ran smoothly, much to the relief of the contest organisers. The success was largely due to the sterling work done by close on 100 Guild members who volunteered their services as stewards or strengthened bands to give the visiting young ringers a very positive impression of Birmingham.

# Midweek daytime practice

The practices have taken place most months this year on the third Thursday. In general the practices are held at St Mary's Moseley, with occasional visits elsewhere. Attendance has varied, but in the main they have been well supported and well received. Thanks to Phil Ramsbottom for running most of these and also for taking an initiative with other special practices and quarter peals.

# **Summer Walking Tour**

The walking tour, organised by Mike and Cynthia Dodson, proved a very popular and successful event this summer. Plans are underway for another one in 2018.

#### **ALEs**

The well-attended ALE in November visited St Peter's Wolverhampton and the rare Blakenhall.

#### **Bell Restoration Fund**

The BRF stands at £9,403. A payment of £10,000 was made to Castle Bromwich.

# **Membership system**

A membership system has now gone live on the website. The page is currently accessed from the 'Team' drop-down menu. There will be an option for manual payment for people who either do not use, or do not wish to use, PayPal. The system will send an email alert to a designated email address for approval before sending or approving the payment.

The system is planned to go live in time for the AGM on 6 January 2018.

# Rule changes

Simon has spent many hours consulting the membership and proposing a comprehensive revision to the Guild's constitution. Many of the revisions reflects the Guild's current activities, whist others seek to modernise antiquated procedures.

# **Guild Directory**

The Report and Directory was published in May. As in previous years a default copy was distributed to towers. Individual member copies were made available by request through tower contacts.

# **BSoBR** update

The School continues to provide good quality training on Saturday mornings. There has been a steady stream of recruits, many coming from enquiries via the website. With 23 students, the School is operating at almost full capacity.

Six students have graduated from the School this year. All of them have returned to the School as helpers and two of them have gone on to complete Association of Ringing Teachers' teaching modules and are now helping out by leading some of the sessions or teaching bell handling.

#### **BUSCR**

Susannah Moore has taken over from Jack Page as BUSCR rep on the SC.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

# TRACY STEVENS

- £1441 of subs collected in 2017. 24 members have still to pay their 2017 subscription and 12 from 2016.
  - PAYPAL has been used as a means of payment by 30 members this year which is an increase on last year.
- Merchandising shows a loss of £134, however we have increased the stock of books. We hold stock of £105 of clothing and Clare is always happy to take orders.
- Apportionments this is the sharing out of money from the general fund into the Library and BRF.At the 2017 AGM it was agreed that the library would receive £75.00 apportionment and the BRF would receive 25% apportionment of annual subs totalling £360 this year.
- Donations have been received from LVP and LM members who wish to donate their subscriptions to the BRF and personal generous donation from a member to the general fund. A £3820 bequest was gifted to the BRF from the estate of Brian Downie.
- The 100 Club has raised £1260 for the BRF this year. We have a few numbers remaining for this year. We are grateful to Leo and Bernadette for agreeing to take over the running of the 100 club and we are currently negotiating adding them as signatories to ensure the smooth processing of payments to prize winners.
- We hosted the RWNYC this year. Details of this will no doubt be covered in the Master's and Ringing Master's reports. A total of £130 has yet to be paid out to 3 towers as we are awaiting their payment details. Unlike the 12 bell final where profit was made from sales of food and beer, sales opportunities were very limited. The largest expense was providing 50 t-shirts for stewards, I'm pleased to report that the cost of the t-shirts was entirely covered by the sale of souvenir t-shirts. Overall the contest cost the Guild £190 £150 donation to St Martin's in recognition of their support on the day with extra staff, and £44 accommodation expenses associated with the hire of the Charmborough Ring.
- £10,000 was paid to Castle Bromwich towards their bell restoration project, Knowle have requested £200 from the BRF.

# Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2017

RECEIPTS		General	Peal	Library	Training Fund	100 Club	HJ Dinner	BRF	Total 2017	2016
Subscriptions	Full NRLM	1441 150							1441 150	1259 16
Apportionment s				75				360	435	465
Donations HJD Ticket sales		144		5			3368	3884	4033 3368	156 4457
Merchandise		669							669	186
Sales Interest								3	3	6
100 Club Subs Other Income		0				2212		_	2212 0	1856 1229
RWNYC		130							130	0
BRF from 100 Club								1260	1260	1078
Total		2534	0	80	0	2212	3368	5508	13701	10708
Receipts PAYMENTS										
Apportionment		435							435	465
S										
Guild Insurance Donations		293 64						10000	293 10064	281 342
Ringing World	- binding	44						10000	44	44
	- advertising	0							0	0
Central Council:	- Fees	60							60	60
	- Library	10							10	0
Peal Book									0	0
Striking Competitions		0			50				50	15
Library				137					137	238
HJ Dinner Expenses 2017							2735		2735	3261
HJ Dinner 2018 Deposit									0	525
Merchandise		803							803	107
Directory Printing		186							186	268
Meeting expenses / admin	general	202							202	257
Other Expenses 100 Club Prizes		234				913			234 913	0 783
trfr to BRF						1260			1260	1078
Total Payments		2332	0	137	50	2172	2735	10000	17426	7724
Increase/(decrease)	in Funds	201	0	-57	-50	40	633	-4492	-3724	2984
Opening Balance		2569	1243	172	284	164	1040	13895	19366	16383
Closing		2770	1243	115	234	204	1673	9403	15642	19366
Balance			. 2-7-5		257			7-100	.55-12	.,,,,,

Cash and Bank Accounts		Deposit	Current	Total	Total
	General Fund Accounts	50	4311	4361	4267
	Bell Restoration Fund	9280	123	9403	13895
	HJ Dinner		1673	1673	1040
	100 Club		204	204	164
				15642	19366

# Independent Examiners' Report

We can confirm that the above statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the statement of balances held at that date in respect of each fund are an accurate summary of the accounting records.

Stephen Horton	Emily Tamhne	3 January 2018
Independent Examiner	Independent Examiner	

# Supplementary information:

 Membership at 31 December:

 2017:
 261 Members-(inc: 4 LVP, 17 LM, 17 Assoc) 24 Unpaid

 2016:
 253 Members-(inc: 4 LVP, 14 LM, 22 Assoc) 38 Unpaid

 2015:
 247 Members-(inc 5 LVP, 14 LM, 17 Assoc) 11 Unpaid

 2014:
 253 Members-(inc: 6 LVP, 14 LM, 19 Assoc) 48 Unpaid

# BRF funds committed:

DRF fullus Committee.	£	
Summary analysis of General Fund:		
Ongoing 'operating' income & costs		4 004
Subscription income (excl BRF allocation)	( <b>7</b> E)	1,231
Library Insurance	(75)	
	(293)	
Directory Printing Ringing World	(186) (44)	
Central Council	(70)	
Striking competitions	(10)	
Meeting expenses & general admin		
(venue costs, copying of meeting paperwork, newsletters, and postage)	(202)	
	,	(871)
Discretionary' income & costs		360
Merchandising	(134)	
Sundry donations	` 8Ó	
Other Income	130	
Other expenses	(234)	
	£	(159)
Movement in General Fund		201
Sales value of stocks held (Memo Only)		
Clothing		105
Badges (Given to new members, not included in total value of stock)		40-
Mugs		105
Books	•	332
	* <u> </u>	542

Bank reconciliation		
Balance per cash book Less unpresented chequ Chq in hand Cash in Hand	es	4,311
Balance		4,311
Balance per bank statements	GF	4,311
	BRF 30 Day BRF HJ Diner	9,280 123 1,673
	General Dep	50
	100 Club	204 <b>15,642</b>

# 100 CLUB REPORT

# CLARE MCARDLE

January 2017		August 2017	
Bernadette O'Dwyer	£42.00	Leo Fielding	£42.00
Richard Andrew	£12.60	Jeff Webb	£12.60
Margaret Burling	£4.20	Brenda Thomson	£4.20
February 2017		September 2017	
Ruth Shepherd	£42.00	Mike Rigby	£42.00
Toni Baldwin	£12.60	Ruth Shepherd	£12.60
Triona Jowett	£4.20	Robyn Tighe	£4.20
March 2017		October 2017	
Mike Dodson	£42.50	Mary Pipe	£42.00
Tom Horton	£12.75	Rebekah Horton	£12.60
Jeff Webb	£4.25	Andy Hardy	£4.20
April 2017		November 2017	
Triona Jowett	£42.50	Richard Lewis	£42.00
Sarah Vernon	£12.75	Andy Hardy	£12.60
Tom Horton	£4.25	Jack Gunning	£4.20
May 2017		December 2017	
Will Davies	£42.50	Donated Anon	£42.00
Jeff Webb	£12.75	Ann Smart	£12.60
Donated Anon	£4.25	Eleanor Linford	£4.20
June 2017		Christmas 2017	
Angie Wakefield	£42.00	Jen Hickman	£80.56
Robyn Tighe	£12.60	Rebekah Horton	£40.28
Mike Dodson	£4.20	John Cranmer	£40.28
July 2017		Gill Postill	£10.07
Clare McArdle	£42.00	Janice Anderson	£10.07
Tom Horton	£12.60	Steve Pugh	£10.07
Janet Horton	£4.20	Janet Horton	£10.07
BRF total	£1,007.00		
Unused admin	£101.30		
Prizes donated	£151.25	BRF total	£1,259.55

# RINGING MASTER'S REPORT

# ARTHUR REEVES

January is commonly associated with the Roman God Janus, who was usually depicted as having two faces — one looking back to the past, the other to the future. He is symbolic of change; of being the overseer of transitions such the progress of one time to another, or of one vision to another. Janus comes to mind as I write this report, because I'm conscious of both the successes we have had over the last year (and indeed before), but also of the changes the Guild is potentially going to go through over the next.

# Looking backwards...

There is much for the Guild to feel proud of over the last 12 months. A busy diary of focus practices and quarter peals have continued to be the Guild's main techniques of developing ringing opportunities at a variety of levels. These have included 6 bell workshops which begin where the BSoBR finishes, Surprise Major practices, the 10 bell quarter peal programme and the occasional 12 bell practice or quarter. Attendance has been very solid at each fixture, indicating that these are hitting the areas that members want. Of course, we are always reflecting on what is offered (see below for more details!) and want to ensure that no member feels "missed out"; as always, get in touch if you have any ideas.

I am again very grateful for those who organise such practices. It means that a far greater range of opportunities can be offered than I could ever provide alone. In particular, Phil Ramsbottom has continued to offer a huge amount of his time, enthusiasm and initiative. Much of what I have mentioned above has both been masterminded and co-ordinated by Phil. Simon also goes above and beyond his role as Guild Master to extend ringing opportunities for others. So please do email me if you feel we are not offering something, but also feel free to get in touch to ask for support in putting something on that you are already organising!

Though not necessarily a "Guild event", the Monday night peals organised at St Philip's over the year by Jack Gunning, Jack Page and Dickon Love play an incredibly important role in progressing ringing on 12 bells, from which many members have benefited.

Youth ringing has changed focus somewhat this year, as most of our existing young ringers have grown up and moved away. Simon and a team have been successfully teaching a group of "Brumdingers" at Moseley each Thursday, and we are optimistic that they will soon be ready to put a team in for the Youth Contest. In the nearer future, they will be enjoying a trip to Worcester on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and to London in July. Hopefully, they will be joined by past St Martin's Youths too.

The Guild has hosted several events this year, including the "Yorkshire Tykes" young ringers for an outing around the City Centre towers, the National 12 bell Contest eliminator at the Cathedral and the National Youth Contest in July. Huge thanks to the many Guild members who supported at any of these events; they couldn't have happened without them! Guild members also enjoyed an outing to Bristol a few weeks ago, where we were warmly welcomed to ringing at the Cathedral, Christ Church and St Stephen's.

And last, but not least, Birmingham teams have been represented at three national striking contests and bought home two trophies: the Taylor Trophy, won the Birmingham 12 bell team, and the Worthington Cup won by St Paul's.

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I have also been welcomed at many Guild towers over my time so far as Ringing Master and I look forward to ringing with as many members as possible over the next 12 months.

# Looking forward...

I have recently emailed the mailing list with an outline of next year's regular line-up of events. I have said that I will email out a monthly "What's On", to try and ensure that our communication is clear and open to all members; so ensure you are signed up to the mailing list and the emails do not go to your junk! The regular monthly fixtures will include:

- Surprise Major practices, and sometimes Surprise Royal. (each 3rd Saturday, normally Edgbaston)
- 6-bell workshops (2nd Wednesday, St Paul's)
- 10 bell focus practices/quarter peals (Alternate 4th Tuesdays and Wednesdays, St Paul's)
- Brumdingers for young ringers (each Thursday, Moseley St Mary's 6.30pm
- Moseley mid-morning practice (3rd Thursdays, Moseley St Mary's from 10.15am)
- Surprise Major peal programme (Sunday afternoons, once a month)

# Janus: transitioning change...

Change can be exciting and exhilarating; it can also be unnerving, especially when things are going well anyway. Be assured that the changes we are proposing are certainly not designed to "rock the boat". See them more of an update, a way of bringing the Guild into the 21st century.

The St Martin's Guild has much to be proud of, I am confident that from the strong platform I have outlined above, coupled with the changes we are introducing, the Guild will continue to flourish and grow. I'm looking forward to it!

# PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

# MICHAEL WILBY

While peals are certainly not the be-all of ringing, they are arguably a good indication of the health of the higher-end of the exercise; the skills, stamina and enthusiasm required to ring them take time to acquire. With a total of just 49 this year, 2017 is the second lowest peal ringing year this century (ahead of 48 in 2014). Participation is at a low ebb with 90 members taking part, and the number of venues is at its lowest since 1950, with just 11 places recording a peal. St Philip's remained at the top of the list with 23 successful peals (several more unsuccessful ones too), and St Chad's was the only handbell venue (10). Leading peal ringers were again Mark Eccleston (40), followed by Jack Page (32), Paul Bibilo (28) and James Ramsbottom (21).

As can be inferred from the statistics, Monday night peals at St Philip's remain strong with many peals of Spliced Maximus being rung, interspersed with plenty of opportunities for aspiring members. A real breakthrough for the band came early in the year when Jack Page called the first of six successful peals of Pipe's "Particles" – a very complex peal of spliced composed of rule-based blocks of changes rather than methods. John Warboys' "Blue" peal of cyclic Spliced Maximus was rung for the first time at the first attempt: 6 new methods, composed some 10 years previously; further peals of the classic Cyclic Six were also rung.

It was great to see six first pealers in the list:Tom Horton and Roy Followell rang their first peals at Coleshill, and Sophie Keeble and Christine Barnell rang theirs at Harborne – both Grandsire Triples. Matthew King rang his – Stedman Cinques – at St Philip's, and joins a very select group that have rung their first peal on twelve: very well done indeed. The first peal on the newly augmented 8 at Castle Bromwich (Cambridge Major) saw Matthew Williams ring his first. It would be great to see you all ringing at least another peal!

Alistair Cherry called his first peal of Stedman – Cinques at the Cathedral, and in March, a midweek peal of Bristol Sixteen (the first such since 2009) saw Jacks Gunning and Page, and James Ramsbottom scoring their first on 16: well done all.

Rose Horton and Daniel Calvert rang their first peals of Stedman (Triples at St Paul's and Castle Bromwich respectively) and Rose also rang her first of Surprise Royal (Cambridge at St Philip's).

A rare fixture away from home in April saw a guild band visit the 72cwt twelve at Exeter to ring a peal of Bristol Maximus, and a St Paul's practice night band rang a peal of Cambridge S Royal, which included firsts of Royal for Angela Wakefield and Graham Kelly.

Following his untimely passing last year, some of his many friends visited Cardington, Shropshire to ring a memorial peal of Stedman Triples for Mike Lowndes, whose family still live there; Richard Grimmett conducting Thurstans' "Sleeping Beauty" composition. Rest in peace, Mike.

Looking back over the past few years, it is disappointing to conclude that peal ringing is now in poor health within the Guild. Despite this there are some real rays of light: six first pealers (up from none in 2016) is great news, and the St Philip's band goes from strength to strength and is being seen as exercise-leading once again. Away from these, there is relatively little peal activity and we desperately need to encourage this important aspect of the art if we are to continue to prosper as a centre of excellence.

# PEALS RUNG

No.	Rung	T/H	Location	Rows	Method
I	09-Jan-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Spliced Treble Dodging Maximus (5m)
2	12-Jan-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
3	16-Jan-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
4	19-Jan-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
5	05-Feb-17	Т	Coleshill, Warks	5040	Grandsire Triples
6	13-Feb-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5136	Bristol Surprise Maximus
7	20-Feb-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Stedman Cinques
8	02-Mar-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
9	04-Mar-17	Т	Cardington, Shropshire	5040	Stedman Triples
10	06-Mar-17	Т	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples
П	14-Mar-17	Т	Birmingham, St Paul	5120	Superlative Surprise Major
12	20-Mar-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5010	Spliced Cinques & Maximus (3m)
13	28-Mar-17	Т	Birmingham, St Martin	5058	Bristol Surprise Sixteen
14	01-Apr-17	Т	Exeter, Cathedral	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus
15	03-Apr-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
16	20-Apr-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
17	24-Apr-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5060	Spliced Maximus (6m)
18	30-Apr-17	Т	Harborne	5040	Grandsire Triples
19	08-May-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)
20	15-May-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Stedman Cinques
21	22-May-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
22	03-Jun-17	Т	Edgbaston	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
23	12-Jun-17	Т	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples
24	13-Jun-17	Т	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal
25	15-Jun-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
26	17-Jun-17	Т	Moseley, St Anne	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
27	19-Jun-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
28	26-Jun-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5004	Spliced Cinques & Maximus (2m)
29	03-Jul-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
30	10-Jul-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal
31	17-Jul-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)

32	27-Jul-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
33	21-Aug-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus
34	04-Sep-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5026	Stedman Cinques
35	07-Sep-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
36	09-Sep-17	Т	Castle Bromwich	5090	Cambridge Surprise Major
37	11-Sep-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus
38	14-Sep-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
39	25-Sep-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (10m)
40	28-Sep-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
41	10-Oct-17	Т	Castle Bromwich	5040	Stedman Triples
42	12-Oct-17	Н	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples
43	23-Oct-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)
44	29-Oct-17	Т	Birmingham, St Martin	5075	Stedman Cinques
45	30-Oct-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5001	Stedman Caters
46	13-Nov-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Orion Surprise Maximus
47	27-Nov-17	Т	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)
48	04-Dec-17	Т	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples
49	08-Dec-17	Т	Edgbaston	5152	Bristol Surprise Major

# DINNER SECRETARY'S REPORT

# STEPHANIE WARBOYS

I am pleased to report that the 129th Anniversary Dinner was chaired by Pip Penney. This honour was bestowed by the Guild in the light of her contribution in initiating and delivering a step change in ringing training nationally and internationally – modernising and professionalising best and actual practice within the exercise.

Once again held at the Birmingham Council House, 84 members, guests, friends and family sat down to dinner in the superb surroundings. When the meal, which was of the usual high standard, was over it was the responsibility of The Guild Master to propose the Church. Simon Linford, a son of the clergy himself, gave a concise, thoughtful and thought-provoking address. Father Barrie Scott of Perry Barr responded, reflecting on how times are changing for both the church and bell ringing communities. The customary hand bell ringing was a particularly well executed touch of Littleport Little Surprise Royal. The team was Jack Page, Stuart Hutchieson, Michael Wilby, John Warboys and Alistair Cherry.

Alistair Cherry then eloquently proposed the toast to the guests and visitors and Dickon Love replied with a clever and amusing analysis, juxtaposing the bell ringing culture and approach of London with that of Birmingham. He then moved on to propose the continued prosperity of the Guild. It was my great privilege to thank Dickon, who has achieved so much for the benefit of the national ringing community through his fund-raising and PR work and to then propose the health of the Chairman. Pip has been an inspiration and valued sounding board to many, including Clare McArdle in the establishment of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing. She persevered in the face of opposition from many parts of "the ringing establishment" and has been indefatigable in her approach and prodigious in her output; instrumental in the founding of the Association of Ringing Teachers ('ART'), having just stepped down as its first Chairman. It was an excellent opportunity to note the success at all levels within the Guild during the year and, in particular, the Guild's Learning The Ropes Level 5 achievers.

My special thanks this year go to Jenny Sunter for her excellent article about the Dinner for the Ringing World, titled "That was then, this is now". Throughout my period in office, I have been lucky to have the support of both Chris Mills and Clare McArdle, who are unstinting in their enthusiasm for the Dinner and in selling Dinner tickets. Their efforts underpin the ongoing success of this occasion and should not be overlooked. My thanks also go to Simon Linford for the beer arrangements.

This will be my last Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner report as I am stepping down from office at the January 2018 Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to remind members that Richard Jones — one of the most popular and respected members of the Guild - has finally relented and agreed to take the Chair for the 2018 Dinner, much overdue and I am really looking forward to it!

# LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

# MARK ECCLESTON

# **New Accessions**

Catalogue no NA677	Title (and other bibliographic details) Towers of Strength: a brief guide to 100 of the many bell towers around the county of Cornwall. Bob and Jan Gilbey, 2005 (gifted by Mike Dodson)
NA678	A History of Change Ringing in Scotland. Simon Aves, 2017 (purchased)
NA679	Bells in England. Tom Ingram, third impression, 1978 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA680	Clavis Campanalogia. Facsimile reprint with introduction by Cyril A. Wratten, 1975 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA68I	Grandsire. J. A. Trollope, reprint 1973 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA682	Standard Methods. Robert B. Smith, 1980 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA683	Discovering Bells and Bellringing. John Camp, 1975 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA684	Ringing World Compositions 1980. CCCBR, 1982 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA685	Collection of Minor Methods. CCCBR, 5 <sup>th</sup> edition 1975 (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA686	Ampthill Church Bells. C. J. Pickford (from the estate of Mike Lowndes)
NA687	From Rounds to Ropesight. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA688	Carry on Counting. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA689	How to Learn Methods. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA690	Come on! Listen to it! .Whiting Society (purchased)
NA691	Doubles or Quit. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA692	Universal System for Extents of T.D.Minor. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA693	Henry Williams: The Glasbury Bellfounder. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA694	A Compendium of Plain Doubles Methods. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA695	Asymmetric Plain Minor Methods Untangled. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA696	Untrodden Ground. Whiting Society (purchased)

NA697	Progress - A Scrapbook of Bellringing. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA698	The Gorbals Brass and Bell Foundry. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA699	The Part Time Bellfounders of Glasgow. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA700	Campanology on the Bingley Bells. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA701	Ringing Down 'Ere. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA702	Method Splicing, Part 1, Minor Methods - Chant. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA703	Yorkshire Tails - Bingley Bells & Ringers. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA704	Hereford Diocesan Guild History. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA705	Short Touches of Spliced Minor. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA706	Intermediate Spliced Treble Bob Minor. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA707	Advanced Spliced Treble Bob Minor. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA708	Spliced Treble Bob Minor Data Tables. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA709	The Harpenden Handbell Band. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA710	Plain Minor Method Splicing Tables. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA711	Treble Place Minor Splicing Tables. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA712	360 Treble Dodging Minor Grids. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA713	Ten Bells - Bells and Ringers Derby Cathedral. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA714	Glasbury Bells and Bellringer. Whiting Society (purchased)
NA715	The Ringing World. 2016 (subscription copy, bound)

In addition, the library has accepted receipt of the following archival material:

- Copies of Guild newsletters (also held electronically in PDF format)
- Central Council Library newsletter, 2017; and Essay No.24 'A Nineteenth-Century Notebook' by William Willans
- Guild minutes, agendas and meeting papers, 2017
- Guild Annual Report and Directory 2016-2017
- Papers of Mike Lowndes including audio recordings; typescript list of peals rung for the St Martin's Guild and predecessor societies compiled by Chris Pickford, January 1984; three files of compositions, computer print-out proofs, notes, method lines and correspondence
- Striking competition programmes including 2016 National 12 Bell Contest final held at Aston;
   2017 National 12 Bell Contest eliminator held at Birmingham Cathedral; Ringing World National Youth Contest held in London, 2016; and Ringing World National Youth Contest held in Birmingham, 2017

# Conservation

We have a supply of acid-free folders and boxes. Some archival material has been transferred into this, more suitable, housing although more work needs to be done. I will continue to focus on this work during 2018.

# Usage and research

I have received a modest, albeit regular, number of enquiries during 2017. Most of these enquiries have come from ringers outside the Guild – either undertaking their own personal research or preparing historical articles for publication in *The Ringing World*.

I encourage all St Martin's Guild members to make use of the library. We hold some fascinating materials – many of which can be borrowed. During 2017 the Guild has purchased a significant number of training books. Any Guild members and/or members of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing are very welcome to contact me if they'd like more information about the materials held in the library.

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# SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

# TRISH EVERETT

The Church of England continued to make safeguarding a key priority through 2017, with new training material being produced.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) produced a safeguarding update, available on their website:

https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Safeguarding-update-for-Ringing-World-September-2017.pdf

and is attached as an Appendix to this report. The Guidance Note 3 – Child Protection in Bell Towers was also updated in October 2017 and can be found using this link:

https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/GN3-Child-Protection-Issue-12-Oct-2017.pdf

As a reminder, DBS checks are required for Tower Captains, their Deputies, those who teach ringing to young people face to face and those who transport children as a formal arrangement, even if this is a one off.

No DBS checks are required for ringers in a general supporting role, unplanned one off teaching or deputising in an emergency or for transporting children as part of an arrangement between families.

Safeguarding training is required for Tower Captains, deputies and those teaching ringing. In September 2017 the Diocese of Birmingham provided C2 Safeguarding training, tailored specifically for bell ringers. It is pleasing to report that 25 ringers from the Guild attended that training, with others who were unable to attend that day undertaking training on other dates.

# **Safeguarding Training Day**



For those who have not yet attended training, details of courses are available on the Diocesan website, and are booked through the website:

http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/training/

All training is provided free of charge.

All appropriate safeguarding procedures and risk assessments were in place for the National Youth Competition held in Birmingham in the summer. Risk assessments and safeguarding procedures are also in place for the Brumdingers young peoples ringing group held weekly at St Mary's Moseley.

The PCCs of St Mary's and St Anne's required all groups to have safe practice guidelines in place, so these have been produced for bell ringing. If PCCs of other churches require these to be in place for bell ringing, we are happy to share what we have produced.

Support and advice on safeguarding issues has been provided when required.

Contact details for the Guild's Safeguarding Officer are:

Email: trish everett@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07968 362501 Landline: 0121 449 1088.

# PR OFFICER'S REPORT

# TIM SUNTER

This year has seen a real team effort in spreading the word about ringing and, in particular the excellence in ringing in Birmingham and the teaching of ringing. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts, they are truly appreciated.

Among the publicity activities undertaken by members this year are:

#### **New leaflets**

 The production of flyers promoting ringing, The Guild and the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing. Thanks to Clare McArdle for producing these. They are available to towers on request.

#### **BBC WM** interview

The 12 bell victory in June resulted in a request for to be interviewed to Mark Eccleston.
 Mark wasn't phased at all when the opening question was a request to show his muscles!
 A very positive image of bell ringing was created, and the key message regarding
 Birmingham being a centre of excellence in the art was driven home.

#### **Facebook and Twitter**

- The Facebook group continues to be the main source of information exchange between members
- Of course, the strength of any such website is derived from those who post and respond
  on it. So thanks to all of those people who have uploaded photographs, written posts and
  responded with comments perhaps making this the most up to date news source for
  Guild Members.

#### Newsletter

Andy Clark has taken over the production of the Guild Newsletter from Simon Linford
and is doing a sterling job of keeping members informed of local activities. Stories are
always welcome and if anyone has anything they think worthwhile then please get in touch
with Andy.

## **Ringing World**

The Ringing World has carried a number of articles either by Guild members, or celebrating their achievements. The articles have included:

- "A New Home for Hanley Bells?" Simon Linford, pictures by Michael Wilby Feb 2017
- 'That was then, this is now' The 129th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner by Jenny Sunter - March 2017
- "Youth Contest returns to Birmingham" by Linda Garton, June 2017
- "The 12-Bell Final at Southward Cathedral" June 2017
- "Yorkshire Tykes take RWNYC Whitechapel Trophy" July 2017
- "The 12-bell- today and tomorrow..." by Will Bosworth July 2017
- "The youth of today" (poem) by Lucy Williamson, July 2017
- "The story of 20,064 Splices Surprise Maximus..." by Rob Lee July 2017
- "Marking Don's 50 years of service at Aston Parish Church, Birmingham" by Nigel Cripps July 2017
- "RWNYC Birmingham 2017" by Peter Jasper July 2017

- "Put a peal length on it: Breaking the Maximus record at Alderney" October 2017
- "Learning the Ropes: The 2017 Masterclass" by Malcolm Creese October 2017
- "Record-Breakers on Alderney" November 2017

#### **Art Works**

The magazine of the Association Ringing teachers has carried articles on amongst other things:

- Learning the Ropes Masterclass, Birmingham November 2017
- New Tutor Profile (Clare McArdle) February 2017
- Foundations of Ringing

#### **Local Media**

Local media love local Stories which relate to the local community and haven't been published elsewhere. If you know your local media they are often willing to pick up news worthy events. A terrific example was in the Harborne, Edgbaston & Moseley Life hyper local newspaper, where Clare managed to get a full page spread "Ringing the Sounds of National Success" in its May addition.

# **Looking ahead**

The coming year offers opportunities for more publicity:

- BBC Music Day June
  - Although no date has been arranged for this year, 2018, there is almost certain to be a
    music day again in June. This is an opportunity go get your tower listed on the BBC's
    website and to link to your local community via twitter... why are your bells ringing?
    How can residents join in the fun?
- 12 Bell Saturday 23rd June, Cambridge
  - An event that has gained good coverage in the regional media over recent years, with
    the Birmingham Mail and BBC WM providing strong coverage of Birmingham's
    victories in recent competition. Everyone loves a winner and let's hope that this year's
    competition provides a similar opportunity to promote ringing.
- Royal Wedding Saturday 19th May
  - An event which is an opportunity to ring. A news release to the local media could attract publicity encouraging new ringers to engage with us. As a local interest what other ringing do your peal boards show celebrating royal occasions?
  - The Central Council are recommending ringing on 11th November, half muffled in the morning and open bells in the afternoon and evening.
- 100th anniversary of the end of the war
  - The Central Council are running a major campaign this year endeavouring to find new ringers to 'replace' the 1400 who lost their lives during the first world war.
  - In my local tower at Brierley Hill the peal boards record two such ringers. We will be integrating this with the Central Council's drive to recruit new members.
- Heritage Open Days 6-9th and 13th-16th September
  - Part of a national campaign...you can find out more on the website
  - https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/how-to-get-involved
  - To take part you will need to register...but Heritage Open Days can provide insurance for your activities. How about linking to your local Civic Society or history group to give tower tours and explain the history of local bell ringing?

# CC REP'S REPORT

# JAMES RAMSBOTTOM AND RICHARD ANDREW

There has been much activity in the Central Council this year. The annual meeting proved to be one of the liveliest in recent memory, and there has been much work done since then relating to the reshaping and reordering of the council.

Shortly after the annual meeting in 2016, the Council Review and Action Group (frequently shortened to CRAG) was formed, with the purpose of reviewing the work, image, effectiveness, strengths, weaknesses, benefits and goals of the council. This involved the engagement of ringers across the globe, asking them what they all thought of the current council and what they would want from a Central Ringing Organisation (CRO). These reviews and findings were published to the ringing community a month before the 2017 AGM, so that feedback could be obtained from ringers and passed on to their CC reps before the AGM. Feedback from members of the St. Martin's Guild was generally positive with the feeling that the proposals should be adopted by the council. One notable point raised was that the new proposals, although not perfect, were a great improvement on the current format of the council and allowed for further change once implemented.

The annual meeting took place at St. Andrew & St. George's church, Edinburgh, a location now used for meetings and events as well as worship, so an ideal location for the meeting. The findings of the CRAG report were voted in in full at the meeting, setting in motion the start of a major reform of the council. (More on this later in this report.)

Other notable changes include a reform of rules and decisions for peal ringing. The details in these changes are rather intricate, however there are a few important changes. One is that peals on simulators are now permitted (although the peal report must state that the sound was simulated). Another is that peals of Triples and lower stages may have more than 5040 changes, and need not be an exact number of extents. And another is that peals and quarter peals can now have a variable number of cover bells. Full details of the meeting minutes can be found via the following link:

# https://cccbr.org.uk/about/minutes/

The AGM also saw Chris Mew retire from the post of president. The new president of the CCCBR is Chris O'Mahony, of ANZAB.

Following the adoption of the CRAG proposals, the council has started restructuring itself to match the proposals. There was a general appeal put out to the ringing community for volunteers to join the new CRO, and both current CC reps of the St. Martin's Guild have volunteered for this. At the time of writing (Christmas 2017) the workgroups – which will replace the committees of the old council – are currently being formed.

The 2018 AGM will be hosted at Lancaster University by the Lancashire Association over the weekend of 26-28 May. The format for the weekend will be different to that of former weekends, and include seminars and workshops during the weekend and an 'adopt-a-tower' initiative for Sunday morning.