



## Business Meeting

**Saturday 15th May 2021**

**Meeting held via Zoom from 10.00 hrs**

**Officers present:** Clare McArdle (CM, Master), Arthur Reeves (AR, Secretary), Tracy Stevens (TS, Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (ME, Archivist and Webmaster), Trish Everett (TE, Safeguarding Officer), Jonathan Townsend (JT, Public Relations Officer).

Approximately 32 members were present, including the above-mentioned Officers.

### Minutes

	Actions
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence</b> Apologies for absence were received from Phil Ramsbottom (PR, Ringing Master), Simon Linford, David Hull, Alison Edmonds, Jenny Sunter, Tim Sunter, John Rogers, Sue Rogers, Stella Tew and Gillian Stead.</p>	
<p><b>2 Approval of minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 9th January 2021 (Enclosure 1)</b>  Jonathan Townsend proposed the minutes as an accurate representation of the meeting. Chris Mills seconded. The minutes were approved by the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3 Matters Arising</b> <b>Amendment to the BRF rules</b> TS explained she'd like to bring this forward to the October 2021 meeting for ratification at the 2022 AGM. This is to allow proper processes with the Charities Commission to be followed.</p> <p><b>100 Club Apportionments</b> CM had liaised with 100 Club members. The majority were in favour of apportioning the 100 Club money to the General Fund to be ring fenced for training purposes or use towards one of the Guild projects. CM proposed that monies raised by the 100 Club should be apportioned to the General Fund and any profits at the end of the year would then be transferred to the 100 Club.</p> <p>This motion was proposed by Clare McArdle and seconded by Sand Cooper. The motion was carried.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>CM</p>

<p><b>4. Ringing masters report (Enclosure 2)</b></p> <p>In the Ringing Master's absence, a written report had been circulated prior to the meeting (Enclosure 2). CM highlighted the plans Phil Ramsbottom has and encouraged members to read his report. CM promoted a particular initiative, the Three Events Challenge. This initiative is designed to encourage and support members to organise their own events. Details of the challenge were shared and the initiative was launched.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>PR</p>
<p><b>5 Financial reports</b></p> <p>TS updated the meeting that the Bell Restoration Fund account stands at £24,799.30</p> <p>Tracy emphasised the money would be better spent on tower maintenance rather than sat in a bank account. TS and ME were holding a drop in session on May 15th to share ideas. TS emphasised that the BRF can support maintenance and applications were welcome.</p> <p>TS reported that the donations as part of the Henry Johnson online dinner event totalled £265.10. She thanked members of their generosity and thanked Jenny Sunter for promoting the scheme so successfully. The monies raised will be ring fenced for training or Guild projects.</p> <p>TS further reported that the Guild has been awarded an ART Award for Inspirational Leadership. This comes with a £250 financial award. TS passed her congratulations to the team, including past secretary Stella Tew, and asked for suggestions from members as to what the money could be spent on.</p> <p>CM thanked Vicky Wilby for writing the report which led to the award.</p> <p>TS reported that £170 had been raised from the bake off for our 2021 Guild charity, the Trussell Trust. TS thanked members and said the Guild would keep the charity open for donations for the upcoming year.</p>	
<p><b>6 Safeguarding Officers report</b></p> <p>TE reported that she had received no safeguarding queries or concerns since the last meeting.</p> <p>TE reminded members that she sits on the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. Clare Wesley, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, had reported positively on the Guild's engagement with safeguarding.</p>	

<p>TE proposed a Safeguarding Policy, which had been pre-circulated. There were no comments. Proposer: Jonathan Townsend. Seconder: Mark Eccleston. The motion was carried and the policy adopted.</p> <p>TE proposed a Social Media and Online Activities Policy to support Safeguarding activities online. There were no comments. Proposer: Tracy Stevens. Seconder: Chris Barnell. The motion was carried and the policy adopted.</p> <p>CM thanked TE, ME and AR for their work on creating both of the newly adopted policies, which will be uploaded onto our website.</p> <p>TE encouraged all members to carry out the C0 Safeguarding course, details of which have been circulated. Tower captains should carry out the Safeguarding Leadership training. This course is a prerequisite to carrying out that training.</p> <p>CM thanked TE for her work on the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and on promoting Safeguarding across the Guild.</p> <p>CM re-iterated to members that safeguarding is crucial in every walk of life and for all members. She was disappointed that only 14 towers had engaged with the Safeguarding Audit, a slight improvement on the 13 towers which completed the previous audit.</p>	
<p><b>7 Archivist Update</b></p> <p>ME reported that the 2019 and 2020 Ringing World's are at the binders.</p> <p>ME further reported that Chris Pickford had generously arranged for digital scans of our first five peal books to be made available online. They are B+W copies taken from microfilm surrogates what were made a number of years ago. Downloadable PDFs of the contents of these peal books are available on the SMG website.</p> <p>The 2020 SMG Year Book is available online and freely downloadable. The Guild will purchase a limited print run of the Year Book. The intention is to issue one free copy to each active Guild tower and one free copy to each new member elected during the coming year. In addition, any members who wish to have a hardcopy Yearbook (A5 colour), can purchase the volume for £5 (covering P+P)</p> <p>CM thanked ME for his hard work on the Year Books and expressed her delight in the return of the Year Book.</p>	

<p><b>8. Update from Ringing Recovery Champion</b></p> <p>AJ Barnfield stated his views were personal and not a formal statement from the Standing Committee.</p> <p>He explained the role of Recovery Champions and how they form a network. His view is that recovery is a process, not an event</p> <p>AJ talked of his view that the SMG was in a strong position for the early stages of recovery around forming a centralised centre, setting up a ringing school, coordinating centralised events.</p> <p>AJ emphasised how important it was to gain information from the ground. Initially, whether the tower is accessible and the bells in working order. Information would centre also on how many ringers are expected to return. His view is that it is key to keep data centrally. AJ asked for assistance with seeking this information, promoting more information methods.</p> <p>AJ marketed the use of the ART Ringing Toolbox in order to support engagement with grassroots ringers and their training and development.</p> <p>Clare promoted the CCCBR and ART presentations which had been hosted in the previous week and were available on the ART website.</p>																					
<p><b>9 Approval of New Members</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="153 1167 1203 1341"> <thead> <tr> <th>Member</th> <th>Tower</th> <th>Proposer</th> <th>Seconder</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Alistair Benford</td> <td>Edgbaston</td> <td>James Ramsbottom</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Berry</td> <td>Edgbaston</td> <td>James Ramsbottom</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hannah Johnson</td> <td>Edgbaston</td> <td>James Ramsbottom</td> <td>Phil Ramsbottom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Casey McLellan</td> <td>St Paul's</td> <td>James Ramsbottom</td> <td>Richard Jones</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All nominees were approved. Certificates, year books and badges will be provided in due course to welcome these as new members to the Guild.</p> <p>CM congratulated Casey McLellan and James Ramsbottom on their recent marriage. CM thanked James for maintaining links with BUSCR,</p>	Member	Tower	Proposer	Seconder	Alistair Benford	Edgbaston	James Ramsbottom	Phil Ramsbottom	Joseph Berry	Edgbaston	James Ramsbottom	Phil Ramsbottom	Hannah Johnson	Edgbaston	James Ramsbottom	Phil Ramsbottom	Casey McLellan	St Paul's	James Ramsbottom	Richard Jones	AR
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<p><b>9 AOB</b></p> <p><b>1. Cadbury Barn</b></p> <p>CM updated members on the Cadbury Barn project. A committee titled Pyramid Stage had been formed to support the next stages of the Birmingham University of Ringing at the Cadbury Barn in Manor Park. The intention would be a light ring of 8 next to the lodge. However, progress was determined by legal processes and outside of the Guild's control.</p>																					

<p>CM promoted the Lark in the Park on Saturday 3rd July. The intention would be to have a presence in the park (if the event is signed off by the council). CM asked for expressions of interests to volunteer on 3rd July for a couple of hours.</p> <p><b>2. Ringing Room donation</b></p> <p>Janet Horton questioned whether the Guild should consider a donation to Ringing Room, in recognition of the extensive use by Guild members (as individuals, towers, by the Ringing Master and Brumdingers). There was agreement that this was a worthwhile donation to make. CM to contact Ringing Room to offer a one off donation, with the Standing Committee empowered to decide on an appropriate amount to donate</p> <p>There were no other items of business.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p><b>10 Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Business meeting to be held on Saturday 9th October. A decision on where and how to hold the meeting would be decided in the future. CM asked members for views on whether there may be merit in online meetings versus physical meetings.</p>	
<p><b>11 Meeting Close</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 10.51am after which the results of the bake off were announced. CM thanked TS for organising the bake off and all those members participating.</p>	

## Enclosure 1

### Minutes of St Martin's Guild Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 9 January 2021 via Zoom.

The meeting began at 10.00, the Master, Clare McArdle, in the Chair. Standing Committee Officers also present were Arthur Reeves (Ringing Master), Tracy Stevens (Treasurer), Mark Eccleston (Archivist and Webmaster), Trish Everett (Safeguarding Officer), Stella Tew (Secretary)

#### 1. Attendance and apologies for absence

There were 60 members present, including the Officers. Apologies for absence were received from: Fran Dodds, Malcolm Paulson, Jean Willis and Ben Sassons.

#### 2. Remembering members who have died

Guild members were invited by Clare McArdle (Master) to spend a few minutes in silence in memory of Andrew Stubbs and Molly Barron, both of whom have died since the last AGM. (See addendum at foot of minutes for a summary of Molly Barron's ringing life)

#### 3. Minutes of the business meeting held on 3.10.2020

The minutes of the last business meeting held on the above date were agreed as an accurate record: proposed by Phil Ramsbottom and seconded by Arthur Reeves.

### Matters arising from the Minutes

#### 4.1 BRF Rules

This action related to minor amendments required to the BRF rules. As this action had not been concluded, Tracy Stevens agreed to pick up discussions this year, in advance of a future Business Meeting.

#### 5. Reports

Written reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting in a document entitled 'Officers' Reports'.

##### 5.1 Financial reports

###### 5.1.1 Treasurer

Tracy Stevens (Treasurer) presented the Guild's accounts and a written report.

**Guild Accounts** : Tracy referenced the balance sheet presented in the papers. She reported that the BRF was in a healthy position standing at £24,571, although it is not good practice to keep such a high level of funds on the balance sheet without plans for use.

Whilst there were a few projects in the pipeline, Tracy encouraged members to get in touch if any local initiatives might require financial support.

**Running costs:** Areas of increased revenue costs were highlighted for software. £250 per annum (pa) is required to run the website as well as Zoom to support meetings, webinars etc. at around £172 pa. (i.e. around £450 increase in annual expenditure). Tracy clarified that whilst these costs have been partly offset in the year by savings on room hire, when room hire restarts, Zoom costs will continue as new way of working given the proven benefits this year with improved access.

In the light of these increased costs to the General Fund, it is suggested that there should not be a 25% apportionment of subscriptions to the BRF this year.

In support of identifying projects for BRF allocation, Simon Linford indicated that the CCCBR will be encouraging Guilds to spend from their accounts. This is especially important as the pandemic will cause a fall in heritage funding support to towers and the tower and bell restoration industry will be in need of support through use of such funds.

#### **5.1.2 *Independent Examiners***

Steve Horton reported that both he and Tom Horton had reviewed the accounts for the year in detail. A few minor queries and points on presentation raised with Tracy had been dealt with satisfactorily. Steve Horton and Tom Horton therefore confirmed their assessment that the accounts were a true representation of the Guild's finances and commended the accounts to Guild members.

Thomas Horton proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Rowena Shipley and these proposals were carried by those present.

#### **5.1.3 *Treasurer's proposals***

##### **Membership**

- Annual subscription to remain at £10 with 50% concession rate as per rules.
- Associate membership currently equivalent to the annual subscription.

##### **Apportionments to:**

- £150 to the library in view of planned expenditure.

##### **Peal fee**

- To remain at zero.

The proposal was seconded by Olly Buckley and the motion was carried.

Clare McArdle thanked Tracy for her work throughout the year as Treasurer in support of the Guild.

#### **5.1.4 *100 Club***

Clare McArdle reported that the 100 Club was now fully subscribed with 100 numbers sold to members. The monthly prizes now stand at first prize of £50 per month, second of £15 and third of £5. The resultant funds were contributed to the BRF at a level of £1,400 for the year.

Tracy confirmed that renewal letters for the 100 Club would be going out shortly. As 'the will of the members' is required to support this, Clare requested support for its continuation and this was confirmed by members present.

Clare thanked members for supporting the 100 Club and invited any member interested in supporting the management and operation of the fund in future to get in touch.

In response to a question, Clare was positive about the potential for the club to be expanded in numbers over 100 and is happy to explore this.

Simon Linford enquired whether 100 club members would be happy to contribute if this was to support to a training fund. Clare agreed to take this issue to both Standing Committee as well as opening this suggestion for discussion with 100 club members.

Jon Townsend also commented that a fund would still be required for both training as well as bell restoration. Clare thanked him for this point and suggested this would also be considered in the discussions.

## **5.2 *Ringling Master***

Arthur Reeves (Guild Ringing Master) had submitted a written report.

Arthur expressed his enormous gratitude to all members for supporting Guild events during what has been a challenging year. As a Guild he considered that we have made the best of a difficult situation. Despite physical constraints and limited ringing opportunities he considered that there had been improved participation and engagement during the pandemic and lockdown periods thanks to the new online platforms Zoom, Ringing Room and handbells.

Arthur thanked the many members who had facilitated the training opportunities on offer. Membership has also increased significantly this year which seems to be a reflection of the fact that people are happy to buy into the values of the Guild. Arthur said that it had been a great privilege for him to have undertaken this role.

Clare McArdle and members present thanked Arthur for his support as Ringing Master.

## **5.3 *Henry Johnson Dinner Secretary***

Jenny Sunter (Henry Johnson Dinner Secretary) had submitted a written report.

Jenny reported that a decision had been made to book a different venue to the Council House for the 2021 dinner, although events with the pandemic had subsequently overtaken this. The Burlington Hotel had been booked for 2021, and they are now holding for 2022.

In view of this, the current proposal is now to replace the event with a virtual meeting and celebration. It is meant to provide a chance to toast Henry Johnson and have a virtual opportunity to meet with friends and fellow ringers on Saturday 27 February 2021. This has now been set up as an event on Eventbrite for interested ringers to register and book. There is one option for a free ticket and another option to book and also make a donation. Any funds generated from donations will go to the General Fund. A link to the event has been provided in the Officers' Reports for the AGM, as well as in the next Newsletter issued and is soon to be posted on the Guild Facebook page.



Note: Jenny recommended that people book as many tickets as they need for Zoom access. For example, if one family wishes to use three different devices to access the event via Zoom, three separate places will need to be booked.

The full programme can be accessed on the link for those people who prefer to have this available. There is also an option to contact Jenny as organiser through the link.

Clare McArdle thanked Jenny for the 2020 dinner organisation. Sincere thanks were also given to Gill Postill for chairing the event. Further, recognition was given to the planning work and preparation that Jenny had put in, earlier in the year, before the plans needed to be changed.

In response to a question from a member, Jenny agreed to explore the opportunity for using break out rooms at the event.

Arthur Reeves clarified that any funds donated could offer the opportunity to boost the General Fund or possibly raise some useful funds to upcoming projects such as the Kings Heath tower, Birmingham University of Bell Ringing or future training events.

#### 5.4 **Archivist**

Mark Eccleston (Archivist) had submitted a written report.

**Library** : Although it has not been possible to work at the Guild Library due to limited access to St Martin's, Mark reported that it had been possible to purchase the 26 printed items listed in the report. The majority of these had been from the Estate of John Illingworth – former member and Guild Secretary in 1980s. Items had also been acquired from the Estate of Andrew Stubbs. John Fielden was thanked for acting as point of liaison with Andrew's family in this exercise in support of Mark.

Many of Andrew Stubbs' archival papers related to his period on the Board of the Ringing World, his involvement in the Central Council, Oxford University Society and especially the Ancient Society of College Youths. Mark acted as a point of contact with those organisations to repatriate documents where required. He was then left with relevant printed publications and some archival materials relating to both St Martin's Guild and St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

**YouTube Channel**: For much of the last twelve months, Mark has focussed on creation of a digital archive via the medium of a dedicated Guild YouTube channel. This now hosts over 60 videos, largely from the training sessions run, but also including digitised content from the Library, e.g. oral history from cassette tape from Richard Jones, transferred before the medium becomes obsolete – e.g. interviews with Henry Fearn, Stephen Ivin and Alan Ainsworth. Recordings of hand and tower bell peals can also be found on the YouTube channel which is proving to be a great tool as a digital archive and to build corporate memory.

**Website**: Arthur gave a demonstration of the website as a result of work undertaken this year. Heritage and history have been a major focus for development and the website gives an opportunity for all members to access the library. Any further proposals or suggestions from members are welcome.

Clare McArdle thanked Mark for his tremendous work this year work as Archivist and for making the website more user friendly.

Clare emphasised the point that the Standing Committee would increase the use of the Website as a means of communication with say, meeting papers to be accessed there in the future rather than sent as enclosures via email.

### 5.5 **Safeguarding Officer**

Trish Everett (Safeguarding Officer) had submitted a written report.

Trish reported that the Church of England had continued to make Safeguarding a priority during the year by moving training online via zoom as well as updating material on their portal.

**Training** is available on three levels of Awareness, Training and Leadership. At the end of November, the Guild ran a successful event for bellringers which was well attended. The Church of England is reviewing who has attended and what is required in the future. Trish Everett is due to attend a Training Reference group on Tuesday 12.01.21.

**Ringling activities online** – in light of the extent of ringling activity on Ringling Room as well as online, Trish has developed a parental consent form for online activities for young ringers which is on the website for people requiring this.

**Safeguarding Audit of Towers** This was redone in Autumn 2020 following the last survey three years ago. A similar number responded as last time with 14 respondents.

Trish reported the results as follows, some of which showed an improved position: 12 Tower Captains have DBS, 10 involved in teaching have DBS, 12 have undertaken Diocesan Safeguarding training, 7 have a role description, 10 have been formally appointed by their PCC, 10 have registers of attendance, 12 have safeguarding information displayed in their ringling rooms and all 14 knew where and how to get safeguarding help and advice if required.

Trish also reported that she had provided ad-hoc support and advice when required and her contact details are referenced in the Safeguarding Report.

Clare McArdle gave thanks to Trish for all her work and especially for her work on training. Clare gave emphasis to the fact that there were 14 respondents out of 30-40 towers which was a concern. This would require a focus on the remaining towers next year with this high on the Guild agenda for 2021.

Simon Linford queried whether there were many Guild ringers represented on PCCs to raise the profile of ringers. Alternatively, better links could be forged through representatives to link with the churches.

### 5.6 **Central Council Reps**

James Ramsbottom and Richard Andrew had submitted a written report.

It had been a busy year for the CCCBR representatives and much activity had been focussed on ways to keep interest in ringling going as well as readiness for recovery when ringling resumes.

Clare McArdle gave thanks to both James and Richard who expressed their enjoyment of the roles and their active input on national working groups. This was also acknowledged by Simon as CCCBR President.

## Election of members 6.1

### **Full members**

The following full member was elected:

Name	Tower	Proposed	Seconded
Ben Sassons	St Mary's and St Margaret's, Castle Bromwich	Jean Willis	Jane Morris

### 6.2 **Life Vice President Proposal**

Clare McArdle expressed her pleasure in putting forward a proposal for Chris Mills to become a Life Vice President. This is an honour bestowed upon Guild members who merit it for outstanding service to the Guild. It had been supported by Standing Committee members.

The proposal made by Clare is attached in full in an addendum at the foot of these minutes.

This proposal for Life Vice President was fully endorsed and supported by those present with applause from those present.

## 7. **Election of Officers**

Following the annual process of confirming officers' willingness to continue for a further term, two officers were not seeking re-election to their roles: Arthur Reeves was standing down as Ringing Master and Stella Tew as Secretary. In addition, a nomination had been received for the hitherto vacant post of Public Relations Officer. All other officers were willing to stand for re-election.

Clare offered sincere thanks for all that Arthur had contributed to the Guild as Ringing Master over the last six years and highlighted some of his achievements as well as the support he had offered to Clare over his time in post.

She also thanked Stella for her assistance during the last year in fulfilling the role and associated activities.

The following officers and officials were elected:

Office	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Master	Clare McArdle		
Ringing Master	Phil Ramsbottom	Tony Daw	Arthur Reeves
Secretary	Arthur Reeves	Trish Everett	Stella Tew
Treasurer	Tracy Stevens		
Archivist	Mark Eccleston		
Safeguarding Officer	Trish Everett		
Webmaster	Mark Eccleston		
HJ Dinner Secretary	Jenny Sunter		
General Fund Trustee	John Anderson		
General Fund Trustee	John Fielden		
BRF Trustee	Tony Daw		
BRF Trustee	Don Finnemore		
Independent Examiner	Stephen Horton		
Independent Examiner	Thomas Horton		
Press Relations Officer	Jonathan Townsend	Mark Eccleston	Eleanor Linford

CC Rep CC Rep	Richard Andrew James Ramsbottom		
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Nomination of officers listed as continuing office for a further year was proposed by David Hull and seconded by Jonathan Townsend.

## **8. Guild Survey and Forward Look**

Clare McArdle presented the meeting with a powerpoint presentation of the results of the Tower Survey undertaken in Autumn of 2020. This had been carried out to determine the extent of the impact that the pandemic might have on future ringing across the Guild. It was intended to assess the state of the Guild before and after the pandemic and associated lockdowns.

The Survey went to all Tower Captains and Tower Contacts. The powerpoint is located on the Guild Website alongside the AGM papers.

The main conclusion on Guild aggregate numbers: Sunday ringing before pandemic -134 across the Guild. The assessment of likely levels of ringers returning after pandemic rose to 150 with the number put against likely loss to ringing over the next five years at around 50.

Standing Committee has discussed the potential support that can be given to towers by the Guild looking forward to a recovery phase. This is likely to take the form of support to carrying out risk assessments, recruitment workshops, marketing, social media and training. There was support at the meeting for central refresher workshops to run across the Guild rather than on an individual basis. However, it will not be possible to muster help to towers on a long-term basis as there may be too many places requiring support to have the capacity to send ringers in to help towers over an extended period.

At the same time, clustering between towers may help to cope with dwindling numbers in specific places. The new Ringing Master will obviously have ideas to bring forward on this issue.

In relation to this recovery period, the Guild has received a joint email from the CCCBR Recovery Group and ART looking to planning for the future of ringing. It is likely that there will be virtual opportunities and new resources from which many can learn. The proposal is to co-ordinate ideas and information with a proposal to identify ringing 'Recovery Champions' as part of a network across the country.

If anyone wishes to volunteer for this role on behalf of the Guild, please get in touch.

## **9. 2021 planned events**

Wednesday webinars are now booked till the end of March with a programme recently circulated.

In addition to this programme, the Standing Committee will be discussing ideas and welcome any input or suggestions. Consideration is being given to another Bake-Off event around Easter in view of the success of last year's as well as a possible Photo Competition.

## **10. AOB**

### **10.1 2019 Yearbook**

Clare reported that the last Guild Report was published in 2017. Following that publication there were perceived problems with GDPR but the fact that the report was no longer produced created a gap as this was previously recognised as an archive.

Mark Eccleston has drafted one for 2019 which is considered to fulfil the need for a useful historical record for the Guild. The intention is to have this as an online document to avoid a print run as a possible downloadable PDF for people to create their own copies. There could also be an option to produce one copy per tower for reference. As an attractive, outward facing document it could be used as a PR tool to attract new members and for stakeholders. In due course a 2020 version could be produced.

Members present gave positive feedback on the concept as well as style of the Yearbook and Mark was thanked for this initiative.

## **10.2 Guild Membership**

An email is due to go out regarding Guild Subscriptions and 100 Club. Different options will be available for method of payment. Anyone with difficulty in making payment at this time are invited to contact Tracy Stevens to let her know.

## **10.3 Steve Shipley**

Birthday greetings were offered for Steve Shipley and Rowena asked to pass these on.

### **11. Date of the next meeting**

This will be held via Zoom at 10.00am on Saturday 1 May 2021

*Note: This meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday 15th May 2021, beginning at 10am*

### **12. Meeting close**

The meeting closed at 12:00 midday

## **Enclosure 2:**

### Report for 15<sup>th</sup> May

Referring to my report in the last newsletter, we are now six weeks into the second quarter of the year and therefore six weeks away from Andrew Clark requesting material for the next newsletter. Instead of having to rack our brains then in an effort to remember what we were doing three months previously, can I please encourage you to think about your recent ringing related activities and send Andrew a few lines about it now whilst it's still fresh in the memory. Thank you.

Moving forward, there's a couple of things I'd like to share.

### Weekly focussed events

Whilst it's currently impossible to put a fixed start date on any of this, the plan is for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening events of previous years to be doubled up to provide a workshop or special practice every Wednesday except the 5<sup>th</sup> which can be a special arrangement. To cover a few key areas for development, the programme will look something like:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

Rounds and call changes with the option where possible for those who wish to have some bell handling analysis and refresher if necessary to prevent any bad habits creeping in.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

6 bell workshops covering a range of basic methods, alternative ways to look at methods, elementary splicing and a good grounding in basic method knowledge. These can alternate monthly between doubles and minor.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Treble dodging minor workshop focussing on a handful of base methods and developing the skills needed to vary the lead and half lead and also 'glue' parts of these together to create new methods.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Grandsire/Stedman caters/cinques focussed practice which will alternate caters one month, cinques the next.

It certainly isn't my intention to lead all of these so will be looking for support on this and assistance from other Guild members. From past experience I can't see this being a problem.

Whilst it may all seem fine having such a concentrated programme of events, even with practice nights thrown in for good measure, attending a workshop every four weeks doesn't really provide sufficient concentrated 'rope time' for those wanting to improve their skills. There is a need for a lot more ringing activity during the intervening weeks and this is where every Guild member can get involved.

### Three Events Challenge

The purpose of the Three Events Challenge is to introduce those who may not have previously done so, to the direct benefits of arranging their own ringing events. It's a simple idea where anyone can arrange three separate ringing events for whatever purpose they choose, eg. to focus on call changes, a method, striking, a quarter peal or just a general ringing session. Other than arranging three events, there are no rules. Anyone who feels this is a totally alien concept can if they wish appoint a mentor to help and guide them through the process. A completed challenge is rewarded with a yet to be designed certificate of achievement. I'll be publicizing this further during the coming months so please watch this space.

Other than that, the various Ringing Room sessions which have developed during the last year all seem to be carrying on unabated and still having fun. Also the Brumdingers are now ringing again on tower bells (lucky them!) which is encouraging news for all of us who are hoping to do likewise in some form or another in the not too distant future.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries regarding the above or if I can be of any assistance in general, - it's always a pleasure to hear from Guild members.

Phil Ramsbottom  
[phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk](mailto:phil.ramsbottom@live.co.uk)

Guild Ringing Master