

ST MARTIN'S  
GUILD  
OF CHURCH  
BELL RINGERS  
EST. BIRMINGHAM 1755



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2018  
OFFICERS' REPORTS

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# TREASURER'S REPORT

TRACY STEVENS

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- £1804 of subs collected in 2018. 46 members have still to pay their 2018 subscription and 15 from previous years.
- Merchandising shows a profit of £128. We now hold very little stock as orders only take approximately 1 week to turn around.
- 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 £451 this year.
- Donations have been received from LVP and LM members who wish to donate their subscriptions to the BRF and a personal generous donation from a member to the general fund.
- The 100 Club has raised £1144 for the BRF this year £139 of this are donated prizes. We are administering the 100 club differently this year using a dedicated gmail account. This will enable the load to be shared and monitored by key individuals. We have a few numbers remaining for this year.
- BRF – The work on the clappers at Knowle is complete and they have now received their donation of £250 from the BRF. This will be shown in the 2019 accounts. The Sound control installation at Harborne is complete and working very well and they will receive their donation of £500 shortly. If any towers are undertaking any essential maintenance, consider asking for a donation from the BRF

## **Proposals will be put to the meeting for:**

### **Membership**

- Annual subscription to remain at £10 with 50% concession rate as per rules.
- New members proposed at the last Business meeting of the year £5 with 50% concession rate as per rules
- Associate membership currently equivalent to the annual subscription

### **Apportionments to:**

- BRF (currently 25% of full subscriptions collected)
- £75 to the library

### **Peal fee**

- To remain at zero

## Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2018

RECEIPTS		General	Peal	Library	Training Fund	100 Club	HJ Dinner	BRF	Total 2018	2017
Subscriptions 2018	Full	1804							1804	1441
	NRLM								0	150
Subscriptions 2019		120							120	0
Apportionments				75				451	526	435
Donations		178						207	385	4033
HJD Ticket sales 2018							3679		3679	3368
HJD Ticket sales 2019							405		405	0
<b>Merchandise Sales</b>		198							198	669
Interest								5	5	3
100 Club Subs						1868			1868	2212
Other Income		269							269	0
RWNYC									0	130
BRF from 100 Club								1005	1005	1260
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>2570</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>4084</b>	<b>1668</b>	<b>10265</b>	<b>13701</b>
PAYMENTS										
Apportionments		526							526	435
Guild Insurance		293							293	293
Donations		68							68	10064
Ringing World	- binding	0							0	44
	- advertising	68							68	0
Central Council:	- Fees	80							80	60
	- Library	10							10	10
	REPS Exp	174							174	0
Peal Book									0	0
Striking Competitions		115							115	50
Guild Activities		570							570	0
Library				45					45	137
HJ Dinner Expenses 2018							3273		3273	2735
HJ Dinner 2019 Deposit							800		800	0
<b>Merchandise</b>		70							70	803
Directory Printing									0	186
Meeting expenses / general admin		268							268	202
Other Expenses		477							477	234
100 Club Prizes						20			20	234
trfr to BRF						755			755	913
						1144			1144	1260
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>2720</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>4073</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8758</b>	<b>17426</b>
Increase/(decrease) in Funds		-150	0	30	0	-52	11	1668	1507	-3724
Opening Balance		2770	1243	115	234	204	1673	9403	15642	19366
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>2620</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1684</b>	<b>11071</b>	<b>17149</b>	<b>15642</b>
Cash and Bank Accounts							Deposits	Current	Total	Total
	General Fund Accounts						50	4191	4241	4361
	Bell Restoration Fund						10944	128	11071	9403
	HJ Dinner							1684	1684	1673
	100 Club							152	152	204
									<b>17149</b>	<b>15642</b>

Independent Examiners' Report										
We can confirm that the above statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the statement of balances held at that date in respect of each fund are an accurate summary of the accounting records.										
Stephen Horton					Thomas Horton					
2 January 2019										
Independent Examiner					Independent Examiner					

## Supplementary Information

<b>Membership at 31 December:</b>			
2018:	289 Members-(inc:4 LVP, 16LM, 29 Assoc)	46 Unpaid	
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	
<b>BRF funds committed:</b>		Knowle	250
		Harborne Sound Control	500
		£	<u>750</u>
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Summary analysis of General Fund:			
<i>Ongoing 'operating' income &amp; costs</i>			
Subscription income (excl BRF allocation)			1,473
Library			(75)
Insurance			(293)
Directory Printing			0
Ringing World			(68)
Central Council			(90)
Central Council Rep Expenses			(174)
Striking competitions			(115)
Guild Activities			(570)
Meeting expenses & general admin (venue costs, copying of meeting paperwork, newsletters, and postage)			(268)
			<u>(1,654)</u>
			(180)
<i>Discretionary' income &amp; costs</i>			
Merchandising			128
Sundry donations			110
Other Income (AGM catering, 6 Bell cake sale, Spice evening)			269
Other expenses (£351 badges with new logo, £96 Website host x 5yrs, £30 Flowers for outgoing HJD sec)			(477)
			30
Movement in General Fund			£ <u>(150)</u>
<b>Sales value of stocks held (Memo Only)</b>			
Clothing			108
Badges (Given to new members, not included in total value of stock)			
Mugs			
Books			320
			£ <u>428</u>
<b>Bank reconciliation</b>			
Balance per cash book			<b>4,191</b>
Less unpresented cheques			
Chq in hand			0
Cash in Hand			0
Balance			<b>4,191</b>
Balance per bank statements			
GF			4,191
BRF 30 Day			10,944
BRF			128
HJ Diner			1,684
General Dep			50
100 Club			152
			<b>17,149</b>

# 100 CLUB REPORT

LEO FIELDING

January 2018		August 2018	
Margaret Burling	£43.50	Margaret Burling	£39.00
James Ramsbottom	£13.05	Triona Jowett	£11.70
Andrew Stubbs	£4.35	Carl Jenkins	£3.90
February 2018		September 2018	
Robyn Tighe	£43.50	Chris Mills	£39.00
Richard Postill	£13.05	Andy Hardy	£11.70
Colin Baugh	£4.35	Andrew Stubbs	£3.90
March 2018		October 2018	
Colin Baugh	£43.50	Richard Postill	£39.00
Bernadette O'Dwyer	£13.05	Andrew Stubbs	£11.70
Chris Mills	£4.35	Mike Dodson	£3.90
April 2018		November 2018	
Michael Wilby	£39.50	Triona Jowett	£39.00
Tony Daw	£11.85	Steff Warboys	£11.70
Tony Daw	£3.95	Lyn Baxter	£3.90
May 2018		December 2018	
Mark Eccelston	£39.50	Andy Hardy	£39.00
Eleanor Linford	£11.85	John Warboys	£11.70
Will Bosworth	£3.95	John Fielden	£3.90
June 2018		Christmas 2018	
Rowena Shipley	£39.00	Mary Pipe	£77.04
Robyn Tighe	£11.70	Richard Lewis	£38.52
David Flint	£3.90	Rowena Shipley	£38.52
July 2018		Christine Barnell	
Steve Pugh	£39.00	Andrew Stubbs	£9.63
David Flint	£11.70	Olly Bouckley	£9.63
Arthur Reeves	£3.90	Renata Vodnickyte	£9.63
BRF total	£965.00		
Unused admin	£42.50		
Prizes donated	£139.19	<b>BRF total</b>	<b>£1,146.69</b>

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# RINGING MASTER'S REPORT

ARTHUR REEVES

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I was elected to this post 4 years ago; how time seems to fly by! I've been spending time recently reflecting on the journey of those last 4 years and thinking about the next steps for us as a Guild. When I first became Ringing Master, I said that I would approach the role more as a co-ordinator - directing activities but not leading (or even attending) everything. Partly, this was for practical reasons. I simply cannot commit the time to run all the things which go on in the Guild and there are many aspects of bell ringing where the expertise of others far outweighs my own. But there are also philosophical reasons too. This is our Guild and a flourishing Guild is one where we all work together to support, develop and challenge one another to be better than we would otherwise be. I am therefore very grateful to all those who have contributed to Guild events over the last few years. On a personal level, I am particularly grateful to those who have led practices or been proactive in organising Guild activities. There is always a risk of missing people when you start to name individuals, and I am conscious that significant numbers of people are actively involved in organising ringing every week at their individual towers. Thank you to all who have supported, organised or led Guild events and activities. But one person does stand out. Phil Ramsbottom has tirelessly organised monthly practices and quarter peals. Phil has also been on hand to lead practices when I have been unable to do so. I know several members have benefited from Phil's instruction and the time he has put in to organising a regular series of fixtures.

When I first became Ringing Master, my vision was that the Guild should be able to offer a "staircase" of opportunities from learning to ring through to developing ringing on 12. The range of monthly practices now regularly on offer goes some way to meeting this ambition, with regular focus practices on doubles, minor, surprise major and on ten. Of course, we still have some way to fully meeting this aim. But, with the above very much in mind, I'd like to focus the next 12 months on developing the support we as a Guild can give to members to run their own practices. I think this is important for two reasons. First, because it increases the pool of people who feel confident at running practices. Secondly, it also ensures that we can closely align the support the Guild can give to what members want. This is where the X Practice initiative has started to bear fruit. It is in its early days, but the idea of towers offering to host a practice of their choice – with Guild support – has seen members focusing on developing a skill of their choice.

At the AGM last year, Michael Wilby outlined a concern that the number of peals rung by Guild members was decreasing. He rightly signalled this as a concern, because peal ringing offers an important opportunity to improve ringing and striking over a sustained period of time. We committed to remedying this at the AGM with a Guild focus on monthly surprise major peals. Over the year, 10 peals were successfully scored as part of

this scheme alongside a significant increase in peals rung for the Guild by members. In fact, 2018 has seen the most peals rung for the Guild (73) for a good number of years. This is to be applauded. So for 2019, I'd like to continue the monthly guild peal programme but ensure we widen the repertoire of methods rung, particularly of triples, to increase participation of Guild members. A thank you to Alistair Cherry, Mark Eccleston, James Ramsbottom and Simon for helping to organise these and to the 10 different conductors. Well done to the 7 members who achieved firsts as part of this programme.

I have particularly looked to improve communication during 2018 to try and ensure that members were more aware of what was going on. The monthly email digest has served this purpose well, as have the regular updates Tracy Stevens has uploaded to our website. Looking forward, I'd like to use social media more effectively to reach members further.

The Guild has continued to be outward looking over the last 12 months. We have played host to several initiatives, including welcoming those who have achieved Level 5 of the ART scheme at the ART Masterclass and a "Project Pickled Egg" event. We have also visited other areas. The Brumdingers have travelled both to Worcester and London, as well as appearing in their own feature piece on the BBC. We have enjoyed a trip to Pershore and Mike Dodson once again led his very popular walking tour to the Droitwich area. Several of us enjoyed supporting the Birmingham 12 bell team at Cambridge and were proud to see them win the Taylor Trophy. Two Birmingham teams competed for the Tewkesbury Shield, a Guild band and the St Paul's band. Though we didn't bring the trophy home, St Paul's once again came close. Maybe 2019 will be their year? And James Ramsbottom led a cathedral team to a very close second place at the Inaugural Robert Smith 12-bell competition held at Melbourne.

One final reflection from me. When I wrote this last year, we were about to go through a significant change in the direction of the Guild. One reform was the way we finance Guild events. We increased membership fees, but made Guild events (excluding peals and quarters) free. I hope the range of opportunities on offer throughout the year has proved that your membership remains excellent value for money. As always, I am keen to hear from members about what we can do better.

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# DINNER SECRETARY'S REPORT

JENNY SUNTER

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After some deliberation the 2019 Henry Johnson Dinner is returning to the Banqueting Suite at the Birmingham Council House.

Alan Regin MBE is this year's Chair. Many of you will know Alan from his ringing career, and more recently through his work chronicling the loss of ringers through World War One and the body of peals and quarter peals in their commemoration.

The date for dinner is Saturday 23 February 2019 and the start time is 7pm, though the venue will be open from 6pm.

There will be a three course meal based on a set starter and dessert and a choice of main course. As usual there will be a pay as you drink bar.

Dress code will be "black tie optional" and the ticket price is £45.

The event has been advertised in Ringing World so that friends far and wide will not miss out on this opportunity.

Tickets are available from Chris Mills, Clare McArdle, Jack Page and Jenny Sunter.

If in doubt email jenny Sunter on [bells@brierleyhill.org](mailto:bells@brierleyhill.org)



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# ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

MARK ECCLESTON

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## New Accessions

*Catalogue no Title (and other bibliographic details)*

NA716	<i>A Touch of Class.</i> Alan Burbidge, 2017 (purchased)
NA717	<i>Exercises to Help Build Foundation Skills.</i> Birmingham School of Ringing, 2017 (gifted)
NA718	<i>Learning the Ropes: Teachers' Guide to Learning the Ropes.</i> Pip Penney (gifted)
NA719	<i>Order and Disorder 1840-1845: Newspaper Extracts About Church Bells.</i> Compiled by John Eisel, CCCBR, 2018 (purchased)
DVD720	<i>The Ringing World 2001-2017.</i> DVD (purchased)
NA721	<i>The Ringing World 2017</i> (issues donated by Clare McArdle, currently unbound)

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

- Digital copies of pages contained within a beautifully illuminated King's Norton peal book, recording 37 peals from 1892 to 1908 (copies stored on hard drive and supplied courtesy of Catherine Taylor and the King's Norton ringers)
- 2018 Henry Johnson dinner menu card
- Central Council Library newsletter 2018; and Essay No.25 'Ringing Out The Age' by J. C. Eisel

2018 has been a fairly quiet year for the Guild library, although the Ringing World DVDs are continuing to prove popular and have been borrowed by members on various occasions. Our hard copies of the 2017 issues of *The Ringing World* remain unbound. Our usual book-binders 'The Binding Place', located in Worcester, have recently closed for business. During 2019 I will identify another company to undertake the binding of our 2017 (and 2018) issues.

As in recent years, Clare McArdle has generously donated her copies of *The Ringing World* to the Guild library. This is very much appreciated and means library funds can be spent on other publications and conservation-related activities. Thank you, Clare.

There still remain a number of outstanding tasks in order to better conserve the materials held in the library. These activities include re-boxing and repacking materials into acid-free housings; and conversion of cassette tapes to digital format. The latter project was begun

<http://www.stmartinsguild.org>

during 2015 and, the Archivist's time permitting, it would be desirable to continue this project to ensure the long-term survival of non-paper based library materials.

As always, I encourage members to make use of the library. The Guild holds items suitable for new recruits as well as experienced ringers. There are printed books, DVDs, CDs as well as manuscript items. Most items can be borrowed. If any member is interested to learn more about the library, please contact me and I can provide further details of our holdings.

January 2019

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# SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

TRISH EVERETT

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The Church of England has continued to make safeguarding a key priority through 2018, with training material and courses updated as required.

A useful summary, particularly of training requirements can be found in the Ringing World, 21/28 December

The Guidance Note 3 – Child Protection in Bell Towers has not been updated since in October 2017, so that guidance remains current. It 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.

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.

The Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook can be found on line at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/Parish%20Safeguarding%20Handbook%20October%202018.pdf>

All appropriate safeguarding procedures and risk assessments were in place when the Brumdingers took part in the National Youth Competition held in London 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.

As I reported last year, the PCCs of St Mary's and St Anne's in Moseley required all groups to have safe practice guidelines in place for groups where there are children and young people, 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](mailto:trish_everett@hotmail.com)

Mobile: 07968 362501

Landline: 0121 449 1088.

<http://www.stmartinsguild.org>

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# CC REP'S REPORT

RICHARD ANDREW AND JAMES RAMSBOTTOM

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The 2018 Central Council meeting weekend, held at Lancaster University over the late Spring Bank Holiday weekend in May, had a rather different format from previous weekends. Instead of being based round a headquarters hotel with the main Council meeting being held on the bank holiday Monday, this time it was based in and around the campus of Lancaster University with the main Council meeting being split across two days.

The AGM of The Ringing World Ltd was held early on Sunday afternoon and was chaired by the Ringing World Chairman, Nigel Orchard. He thanked the Ringing World staff for their efforts, in particular Robert Lewis and Will Bosworth for continuing to produce a high-quality publication on a weekly basis. Regarding the future of the Ringing World, he did say that the Board were looking into the possibility of changing the frequency of publication from weekly to fortnightly in order to cut costs and also hopefully attract new subscribers. However, the Board would give at least 12 months' notice of any change to fortnightly publication if the decision was taken to do this.

The first session of the main Council meeting, held late on the Sunday afternoon included a report from Alan Regin, the Steward of the Rolls of Honour, who said that 112 new names were being added to the Rolls. There was also a report from the Stewards of the Dove Database, who reported that they had successfully completed the move of the on-line Dove database to the BellBoard website, where it should be on a more secure and reliable platform. They were also working on producing an updated printed version of Dove, as the last one was produced 6 years previously.

The remainder of the meeting, including the important decisions to be made on the main motion covering the proposed changes to the Council, was held on the Monday. Clyde Whittaker, who has been the coordinator of the team preparing the new Rules, introduced the Transition Motion which proposed the adoption of the Revised Rules and Standing Orders and went into great detail explaining their potential benefits. He thanked the Ringing World for publishing several articles about these and said that a number of Council members had responded with about 500 individual recommendations which had all been considered and fed into the rule revision process.

In the general discussion which followed, concerns were raised regarding the proposed Transition Motion and an amendment was proposed that the Council should refer the Revised Rules, Standing Orders and other provisions of the Transition Motion for consideration by an independent review group with a view to presenting provisions for adoption at next year's Council meeting. After substantial discussion by the meeting, with views expressed on both sides of the argument, this amendment was voted down and the original Transition Motion was then put to the vote, requiring a two-thirds majority in order to be passed. As 137 out of 162 members present voted for the motion, the two-thirds majority was comfortably exceeded.

This meant that all the Revised Rules and Standing Orders took immediate effect, to allow the new Council organisation to be put in place. Whereas the old Council structure basically consisted of about 15 committees with 6 officers and an Administrative Committee overseeing the organisation, the new structure now consists of 5 Workgroups initially, overseen by an Executive board of 8 trustees, 4 of whom are the main current Council officers (President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer).

In summary, the 5 new Workgroups and their principal areas of activity are as follows: -

**Volunteer & Leadership Workgroup: -**

Leadership, courses, teaching aids, books, centres, support networks.

**Historical & Archive Workgroup: -**

Historical records, library, biographies, ringing machines, Rolls of Honour.

**Communications & Marketing Workgroup: -**

All aspects of ringing PR – internal and external. Communications and marketing, including ringing publications and marketing material.

**Stewardship & Management Workgroup: -**

Bell installation and maintenance, tower organisation including safety, insurance, safeguarding, bell projects and redundant bells.

**Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup: -**

Methods, names and extensions, compositions, peal records (joint with historical group), computer technology in ringing.

One other effect of the changes is that the triennial nature of the Council is now abolished, so guilds and associations are free to elect their Council Representatives whenever and as often as they like. There has also been no change to the criteria used to determine how many CC Reps a particular guild or association is entitled to, so for now there is effectively no change in the size of the Council other than the fact that the class of Additional Members has now been abolished (there were only 4 of these prior to the meeting).

An update on the 'Ringing Remembers' project to recruit and train 1400 new ringers in memory of those ringers who died during the First World War was given to the meeting by Vicki Chapman, the CCCBR Project Coordinator for this. At this point nearly 600 new ringers had been registered. However, as we now know, the project gathered pace during the rest of the year, so that by 11<sup>th</sup> November 2,759 new ringers confirmed that they could ring rounds or were actively receiving tuition, so the project can be counted a major success. There was also a campaign to have as many churches as possible across the country ringing their bells open at 12:30 on Remembrance Sunday and a good number of our Guild's members participated in doing this.

Work has also continued on preparing a 'Framework for Method Ringing' which will be used to update and replace the relevant parts of the existing Central Council Decisions relating to method definitions, etc. once it has been completed. A progress report on this was given to the meeting by Tim Barnes, who is leading the team developing this new Framework. Over the past year there have been two main consultation exercises with the general ringing community, with the second consultation running until 30<sup>th</sup> November. Any changes resulting from this should now have been applied to allow v1.0 of the framework to be handed over to the CC Executive by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

As it is planned that future Council meetings will be held at a different time of year, the next meeting is to be held on the first weekend in September 2019 and will be based in central London, using conference facilities in London University.