

Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers AGM 27th April 2024 – Radcliffe-upon-Trent

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. In Memorium
3. Apologies for absence

The meeting will be adjourned at this point to allow the Bell Fund to hold its AGM.

4. Minutes of 2023 AGM
5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda
6. Presentation of 2023 Accounts (see Appendix 1)
7. Observations from the Officers' Reports (See Appendix 3)
8. Election of Guild Officers
9. Honorary Life Member
10. Annual Report
11. Any other relevant business (please make the chairman aware of anything being raised ahead of the meeting in order that he can structure this agenda item efficiently)

Appendix 1 – Accounts

General Fund — Income/Expenditure

District Income	2,757.92	District Expenditure	-
Guild Income		Guild Expenditure	
Donations	24.00	CCCBR subscription	130.00
Peal fees	118.50	CCCBR meeting expenses	185.81
Bank interest	60.75	Insurance	1,302.75
		Webhosting	247.77
		Annual report	728.01
		Training expenses	50.00
		Youth activities	128.92
		General	37.50
	2,937.17		2,810.76
		Surplus of income	126.41
Total Income	2,937.17	Total Expenditure	2,937.17

Analysis of District Income

	Bingham	Mansfield	Newark	North Notts	Nottingham	South Notts	Total
Subscriptions							
2023	522.00	489.00	316.00	261.00	853.00	288.00	2,729.00
Donations					28.92		28.92
Grand total	522.00	489.00	316.00	261.00	881.92	288.00	2,757.92

Fund Raising Account — Income / Expenditure

Income		Expenditure	
100 Club income	950.00	100 Club prizes	400.00
Uncashed cheque	12.50	Lottery licence	20.00
Bank interest	2.84	Donation passed to Bell Fund	3,500.00
Total	965.34	Total	3,920.00
Surplus of expenditure	2,954.66		
	3,920.00		3,920.00

Balance Sheets

	General Fund	Fund Raising		
As at 1 January 2023	8,795.94	3,508.38	NatWest Current a/c #1	1,051.41
Surplus of income/(expenditure)	126.41	(2,954.66)	NatWest Reserve a/c	7,870.94
			NatWest Current a/c #2	329.72
			NatWest Deposit a/c	224.00
As at 31 December 2023	8,922.35	553.72		9,476.07

Appendix 2 – Officers’ Reports

Preface

by Right Reverend Dr Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood

Once again, I am delighted to be writing a few lines of introduction for this year’s report. Thank you so much to all who are involved in this important ministry of bell ringing, proclaiming the presence of our churches and their worship and witness in local communities across the diocese.

The Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6th May was a significant moment in 2023, with bell ringers across the country embracing the opportunity to ‘Ring for the King’. I have no doubt that bands of ringers here in Southwell and Nottingham devoted a huge amount of time and effort practising for this momentous occasion. Thank you for all the behind-the-scenes investment in timing and teamwork, both of which I know from my own small experience of ringing are crucial to ensuring that the sound made in the bell tower travels out clearly in all directions across the community.

In the city of Nottingham, the bells at St. Mary’s in The Lace Market which had been silent for a time due to important and necessary structural work, rang out in time for the Coronation. And earlier this year, in the rural village of Car Colston, Bishop Paul dedicated the bells at St. Mary’s following restoration work which included the addition of two new bells. The bells in Car Colston had not sounded for 40 years, but they also were rung for the Coronation.

I hope that the nationwide recruitment drive which was launched has been a success and fruitful in welcoming newcomers of all ages to the joys and delights of bell ringing. It is a stimulating and rewarding activity, usually unseen and yet most definitely heard!

We are grateful for the faithful commitment of all our church bell ringers, who on numerous occasions over this past year have helped us mark significant life events and services across the Diocese, including heralding in the start of the New Year. Thank you for all you do to keep the bells ringing and in bringing people together.

With every blessing for year ahead,

Bishop Andy, March 2024

Librarian's Report

2023 has been a quiet year for the Library.

Memorial Service Sheets:

Colin William Reed † 23 March 2023

Brynley Alfred Richards † 7 May 2023

Gerald Norris † 8 May 2023

Dorothy Mavis Barber "Mavis" † 10 July 2023

Other Miscellaneous Additions:

The White House, Aston Munslow, Shrops. (the ancestral home of Fabian Stedman) promotional pamphlet and flyer

Guild AGM 10 June 2023 at Hucknall, Order of Service Sheet

South Notts. District AGM 29 Jan. 2023, Order of Service Sheet at St Mary, Clifton

Photo of St Mary's Nottingham Ringers - 2 October 1949

Details of All Saints, Cotgrave tower bell archive

During the year the Library's resources have been used to research three biographical queries.

The Guild website has up to date details of both the Primary Library Catalogue and the Reference Catalogue of Ringing Books and other ringing material. As always, please contact me to make any information request, to access an item held in the Reference Catalogue, to borrow an item from the Primary Guild collection or to donate an item to it.

Mary Stephens

Quarter Peal Report

This report is compiled from all the quarter peals published on *BellBoard* (<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk>) either rung in Nottinghamshire, or outside of the county but attributed to the Guild.

There has been a small increase (17) in towerbell quarter peals rung in the year, driven by a more than doubling of those rung in the Mansfield district. Overall, the 237 towerbell quarters within the county were rung at 69 different towers, an increase from the 61 in the previous year.

Peter England was the leading towerbell conductor, calling 28, followed by Philip Graves (20) and Tim Poole (19). Tim Poole was the leading handbell conductor (42) followed by Christian Brown (12).

The Coronation of King Charles III led saw 26 quarter successful quarter peals

The following resident members for their first quarter peals: David Benzies, Emma Biggs, Claire Goodger, Laura Kirby, Natalie van Kleef and Alistair Langton. Congratulations to them all, and thanks to those who have supported these ringers to reach these milestones.

Tim Poole

Education Officer's Report

The Education Committee comprises Education Reps from the six districts together with the Guild Ringing Master, plus any other members co-opted by the committee, we aim to meet quarterly to share ideas and discuss education programmes across the Guild.

The initial focus at the start of the year was on the survey of ringing in the Guild, the questionnaire was circulated to all members and approximately 75 responses were received. The Guild Education Committee met to discuss the results and whilst the survey spent some time trying to understand the demographic of ringers, I believe the most important question was what do people want help with. Top of the list, 54% of respondents asked for help with eight-bell ringing. In response to this the Nottingham District organised a series of Triples and Major Workshops at All Saints in the city and the Mansfield District now have monthly Triples and Major practices at various towers covering mainly plain methods which continues to be well supported. Bringing up the rear unsurprisingly was ringing on higher numbers at 18% but more surprising was improved handling (also at 18%); personally I have a dilemma with that one, in that poor handling (there is a lot of it around) limits the ability to ring accurately and consistently and progress. I believe it is definitely something we should pay more attention to.

The Guild continues to give financial support to members who wish to attend ART teaching courses, I believe that anyone involved in teaching learners should at least attend the M1 course which covers starting from scratch and eliminating handling errors from the start. Yes, I know there are many very good teachers who need absolutely no help teaching good handling, but there are also a number of others who think they are good teachers but could benefit from some additional tools, give it a try, it is good fun and a well spent day of your time.

Recruitment is variable across the Guild with some districts having very few new recruits, whilst others sometimes having more than they can handle, however there is quite a lot of teaching going on in clusters of towers, which is emerging as a good way to handle this. There is also a willingness of Guild members and officers to join practices on an ad hoc basis to give support where needed: please ask if you feel this would be helpful. More detailed information on the education activity taking place within the districts is provided by the district officers in their own reports.

The Education committee has recently allocated funds from the Guild budget to purchase a number of publications which will be distributed to district Education reps and or secretaries to give the opportunity for members to peruse what is available in print from ART and CCCBR to help with learning and improving our performances.

To conclude I am pleased to see that activity has increased over the last 12 months, and that there are a number of new ringers coming into the system, and I look forward to this continuing over the next 12.

Chris Glenton

Nottinghamshire Young Ringers

The Nottinghamshire Young Ringers (NYRs) have continued to meet to practice monthly throughout the year. We have visited a range of places, including Clifton St Mary's, East Bridgford, Hucknall, Sandiacre and Nuthall. Thanks to all the towers who have accommodated us.

There are usually six to eight Young Ringers present, with ringing including rounds and call changes, plain hunt and basic methods. Cake and/or biscuits are always available to keep the Young Ringers' energy levels up.

In July 2023, seven YRs from Nottinghamshire travelled to York to take part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC). The team rang some very credible six-bell call changes, and were placed 9th out of 17th. A great effort considering the relatively young age of the band and the fact that it is the first time the

NYRs have entered the contest. As well as the contest, the youngsters got to ring at a range of towers in and around York, including ringing on the mighty bells of York Minster. One of the ringers even tried her hand at ringing the 59cwt tenor! The 2024 contest is in London on July 6th, and we have entered again, ringing 6-bell call changes.

As preparation for the 2024 RWNYS, a band entered the first ever Midlands Young Ringers' contest in Loughborough in March 2024. The band came a very close second to Derbyshire, before enjoying the contrasting bells at Loughborough Bellfoundry and Loughborough Parish Church later in the day.

Our practices are open to all ringers aged 18 and under. Please encourage any YRs in your area to attend, and feel free to contact me (andrewwignell85@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the group or would just like to find out more.

Andy Wignell

Peal Report

During 2023 31 peals were rung for the Guild. These were rung in 14 different towers, of which 11 were in the Diocese and one mini-ring placed in a church.

The leading Guild towers for 2023 were West Bridgford with ten, Willoughby on the Wolds with seven and Rempstone with two.

The leading Guild peal ringers for 2023 were Lynda Lazzerini with 18, Ian Butters with 12, George Dawson with 11, and Paul Sharp and Peter England with ten. Peals were conducted by Ian Butters with 11, Nick Parkes with two, and Andrew Mills with one.

There were two first peals in 2023. Congratulations to Richard Thomas and Owen Peters.

The following milestones were reached:

George Dawson 1,900 peals and 60 years of peal ringing

Lynda Lazzerini 400 peals

Bill Shanks 50 peals for the Guild

Ian Butters 250 peals of Maximus and 250 peals on the tenor at West Bridgford.

Nick Parkes and Peter Lacy completed the Grandsire family from Doubles to

Maximus, with Nick also completing the family as conductor.

Congratulations to the band who rang 41 Spliced Surprise Minor at Kingston on Soar, of whom half were resident members of the Guild.

Gedling Delight Major and Quadring Delight Major were rung for the first time:

A peal was rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. Peals were also rung in memory of long-standing Guild members Philip Hudson and Colin Reed.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the conductors or organisers who forwarded fees and details promptly. I would also like to thank Rosemary Hayward for her constant help over my time as Peal Secretary in preparing the annual report.

Graham Hayward